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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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New Heritage School, School Nurse of the Year and More!



Students at Helen Estock Elementary School become FBI Cyber Girls (story on page 10)



Tustin High receives NFL Golden Football from Tiller alumnus and Super Bowl participant DeShaun Foster (story on page 5)

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Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

Love is an action verb – you don’t always have to feel it, you have to do it. I am thankful for the love that Tustin Unified teachers, principals and staff have for our students and I see evidence of it throughout the District.

I am thankful for the hours of preparation that teachers dedicate to preparing lessons that will provide students with meaningful experiences. I’m thankful for the teacher who makes sure a hospitalized student gets her lessons and maintains contact with her classmates. I am thankful for the teacher who provides transportation for

a homeless student to the Summer Academy because she knows it can change his life. I am thankful for the TUSD staff who help feed the hungry. I am thankful for the staff who provide short term foster care to families in crisis. I am thankful for the care that teachers, counselors, and staff provide to students who are in emotional pain. I am thankful for teachers and staff who provide classrooms and school environments where students are safe and respected – regardless of their ethnicity, home language, economic status, or sexual identity. I am thankful for teachers who provide challenge and support for students to realize their unlimited potential.

I am thankful that Tustin Unified is full of doers – and that love abounds.

TUSD Names Principal for New Heritage Elementary School

By Mark Eliot, Director of Communications and Public Information

The Tustin Unified School District announced Beth Rabel Blackman, principal of Helen Estock Elementary School, has been appointed principal of the new Heritage Elementary School, which will open this fall. Heritage will be a science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) Magnet school and will serve transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten through fifth grades. The school is located at Tustin Legacy.

“I feel honored to have the opportunity to lead Heritage as we build a state-of-the-art STEAM school,” Blackman said. “I am thankful for my years as principal of Estock School and feel fortunate to have been a part of the Estock community.”

Blackman has been in education for 12 years, including eight years as an elementary teacher and three years as an elementary principal. In the course of her teaching, she taught kindergarten through sixth grades, and was a teacher-leader in the implementation of Reader’s workshops and Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) math.

In addition to being a classroom teacher, Blackman has served Tustin Unified as a teacher on special assignment for science and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), overseeing the District inquiry-based science program and supporting the growth of Tustin’s AVID program.

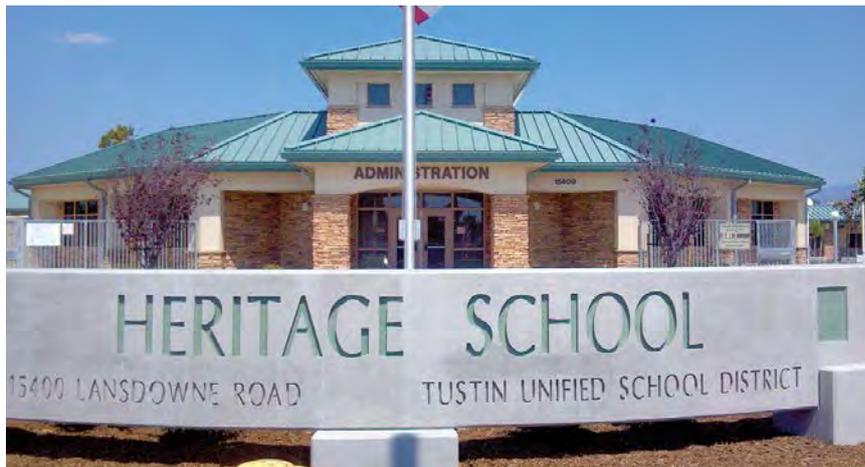


For the past three years, Blackman has served as principal of Estock as the school celebrated its 50th anniversary. Blackman is a fellow in the Costen Principal’s Technology Network and Los Angeles/Orange County School Leader’s Network. This year, Blackman was selected as TUSD’s Elementary Principal of the Year and will represent the District at the Orange County Administrators of the Year program, sponsored by the Association of California School Administrators, Region 17.

Blackman has a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of San Diego, a master’s degree in teaching from the University of California, Irvine, and a master’s degree in educational administration from Concordia University. She holds a strong belief that children learn best when provided inquiry-based learning with an emphasis on authentic reading, writing, problem solving and project-based learning.

“I plan to create a model STEAM Magnet school at Heritage Elementary by building strong relationships with parents, students, staff and community partners,” Blackman said. “Providing meaningful and engaging learning experiences will

be our top priority, while ensuring a safe and nurturing environment where students are encouraged to grow and create.”





Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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Cathy White Named 2016 Orange County School Nurse of the Year

By Mark Eliot
 Director of Communications and Public Information

Tustin Unified School District's school nurse Cathy White has been named 2016 Orange County School Nurse of the Year by the Orange County School Nurses' Organization.



Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, left, and Hillview High School Principal Tim O'Donoghue, who oversees the District's school nurses program, congratulate TUSD school nurse Cathy White for being named 2016 Orange County School Nurse of the Year.

White was selected for "her professionalism, dedication, outstanding leadership and superior nursing skills," as well as looking out for the health and well-being of students and staff at the schools. She was honored at the organization's winter conference on January 20 at the UCI University Club in Irvine.

White has served as a school nurse in Tustin Unified for more than five years. She is the District's second school nurse to receive this honor in two years. TUSD school lead nurse Lynn Rodgers was selected in 2014.

Tustin High School Receives NFL Golden Football

By Mark Eliot
 Director of Communications and Public Information

Tustin High Tiller alumnus, former NFL player and Super Bowl XXXVIII participant DeShaun Foster presented a coveted Golden Football to Tustin High School during half-time at the boys varsity basketball game on January 15 in the Tustin High Sports Pavilion.



Tiller alumnus and former NFL player DeShaun Foster presents NFL Golden Football to Tustin Head Football Coach Myron Miller.

The National Football League has been working with high schools across the country and awarding a Golden Football to each high school that has had one of their alumni participate or play in a Super Bowl. More than 3,000 players and coaches, and 2,000 high schools are participating in the NFL Super Bowl High School Honor Roll Program.

DeShaun Foster was a running back for Tustin High for four years, beginning in 1994, and graduated in 1998. He played college football at UCLA from 1998 through 2001. He then joined the NFL and played for the Carolina Panthers from 2002 to 2007, and San Francisco 49ers in 2008. The Panthers went to the Super Bowl in 2004. Currently, Foster is director of player development for UCLA football. He also has a foundation that supports student athletes at Tustin High.

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Mark Eliot

Director of Communications & Public Information
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Arroyo *Elementary School*

11112 Coronel Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Amy Jones
Principal

Class Act

We at Arroyo School place great value on arts education. As such, we are proud to say that we are a “Class Act School.”

Class Act is a program that is brought to us by the Pacific Symphony. It gives our students an opportunity to participate in the kind of musical experiences that they might not otherwise have access to.

Musician Carolyn Riley is a viola player from the symphony who comes to Arroyo to teach our students about our composer of the year. This year the chosen composer is Antonio Vivaldi, and our theme is “Forces of Nature!” Through the Class Act program our students not only receive classroom lessons, they also participate in a prelude assembly, as well as a BRAVO event where they can actually become the performers.

We look forward to a great year with Class Act. We know that our students will find it a memorable experience.



Class Act viola player Carolyn Riley teaches students about music composition.

Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

3588 Bryan Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-2900



Adele Heuer
Principal

Getting Involved in the Arts and Sports

Beckman High School is dedicated to creating involved citizens through its “Four A’s” philosophy: Academics, Arts, Activities, and Athletics.

We are actively encouraging our students to get involved in the various arts, athletics, and activity opportunities being offered outside of the classroom. Our students may join any of over 100 clubs at the school.

Beckman also competes in the Pacific Coast League, and

fields 25 different sports. This includes football, girls and boys cross country, girls and boys volleyball, girls and boys soccer, wrestling, girls and boys golf, and girls and boys tennis.

We also offer girls and boys water polo, girls and boys swimming, girls and boys lacrosse, girls and boys track and field, girls and boys basketball, girls softball, boys baseball, cheer, and a dance team!

In the arts we have many dramatic and musical performance opportunities, including plays, orchestra and band concerts, and choir. This year Beckman will be producing *The Wizard of Oz*, and will also be hosting its third annual Student Film Festival in the spring.



Beckman students are busy in school activities, the arts and athletics.

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

12712 Elizabeth Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7531



Deena Vela
Principal

Apple Distinguished Lighthouse School

Benson Elementary School was recently recognized as an Apple Distinguished Lighthouse School. At Benson, stakeholders created a mission to “engage all students with 21st-century skills to become responsible, well-balanced lifelong learners.” Project-based learning and the

21st-century practices of communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking are used on a daily basis. Outstanding teachers combined with cutting-edge technology engage students to step away from traditional learning paradigms to demonstrate content knowledge.

This transformation away from traditional classrooms to a student-centered learning experience is powering innovative learning experiences at this school. The learning has become personalized, and the responsibility has

shifted from the teacher to the students. The Benson staff looks forward to the partnership with the technology firm sponsoring the award and to visitations from educators all over the world to demonstrate 21st-century best practices.



Second grade students Skype and learn from other students.

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Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

1362 Mitchell Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7385



Eileen Delaney
Principal

A Dancing Snowflake

Two days a week Christine Hoelker teaches physical education for the Tustin Unified School District. Beswick Elementary is thrilled to have her on every Tuesday, and Estock School welcomes her every Friday.

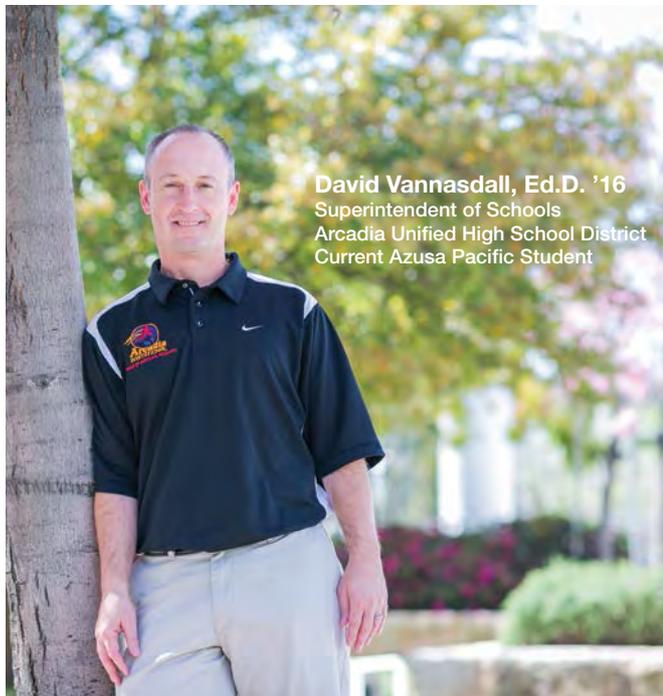
After a 13-year run performing for a local attraction, Christine began her teaching career in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District. That was 12 years ago. Since that time she has taught in both the Fullerton and Newport-Mesa School Districts. She has taught physical education in the kindergarten through eighth grades, and health classes at the junior high level.

Christine earned her Bachelor of Science degree in kinesiology and health promotion at California State University, Fullerton, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in communications. She enjoys keeping active by running, strength training, and yoga. She also loves to share her enthusiasm for fitness and health with her students.

Christine resides in San Clemente with her husband, twin 7-year-old boys, and a 9-year-old daughter.



Christine dancing at last year's Christmas Parade at Disneyland.



David Vannasdale, Ed.D. '16
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Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

17952 Beneta Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7352



Maggie Burdette
Principal

Robotics Program

It all began in 2013. Fifty-seven Columbus Tustin sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students became “robotics pioneers,” representing the first TUSD middle school to participate in a California regional tournament. Columbus Tustin teams competed against 40 other teams, 13 of which were high school teams. The school took home four top awards that year.

This year, TUSD hosted its first California qualifying tournament in January at Orchard Hills School. We’ve come a long way and have learned so much about the world of robotics. This year, Columbus Tustin’s four teams designed, built and programmed their own robots. Points were scored during a 15-second autonomous—no remote control—period, and for the last 105 seconds, students used a remote control to perform specific tasks on the 12-foot-by-12-foot competition field.



Columbus Tustin Robotic Students preparing for competition!

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7360



Erick Fineberg
Principal

More than Just 3 R’s

Currie Middle School has spent the past few years strengthening their academic programs and elevating the core academic instruction and learning of its students. Currie has done so quite successfully and has received multiple recognitions along the way, including the California Gold Ribbon Award and Title I High-Achieving Award.

As students have grown academically in the content areas, there is also a continued focus on enrichment and expanding the expertise of the students. With that in mind, Currie has expanded the course offerings, which include band, foreign language, STEM-design and modeling, robotics, medical examiners/CSI, Spanish, band, art and two courses uniquely offered at Currie: Model United Nations and Entrepreneur.

The students have flourished by being part of these courses and are coming out of Currie prepared for the challenges of high school and beyond like never before.



Currie entrepreneur student Sebastian Rivera takes part in a mock interview with local engineer Jeff Braun as he puts his newly-learned interview skills to the test as part of the Entrepreneur class.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7390



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

FBI Cybergirls!

Over 50 fourth- and fifth-grade girls from Estock Elementary were initiated as “Cyber G-Girls” by the Orange County Regional FBI. The afternoon program taught the girls about Internet safety and cyberinvestigation, and introduced students to possible careers in the FBI.

The program was spearheaded by Special Agent in Charge Gina Osborn, who leads

the local cyber- and computer-crimes division. Osborn is a 20-year veteran of the FBI and an alumna of Helen Estock Elementary. The program was largely led by female FBI agents with a mission of inspiring the Estock girls to both learn about cyber-safety and, more importantly, to inspire them to pursue college and careers and to realize if they work hard and make good choices, they have many options for their future.

G-Girls is a term referring back to the G-man, or government man, a term used to describe special agents of the FBI.



Estock upper grade students learned from FBI agents about internet safety, solving cyber crimes, and careers in the FBI.

Foothill *High School*

19251 Dodge Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/ 730-7464



Dr. Nick Stephany
Principal

Knights in Progress

Over the last two semesters, Foothill High School has started a new mentoring program, Knights in Progress. This new and exciting program is aimed at helping more students succeed in and out of the classroom. Knights in Progress has paired approximately 30

freshman and sophomore students

in need of support with junior and senior mentors. The mentors work with their students on organization, academics, and communication.

Under the guidance of Foothill counselors Julie McGinis, John Emaguna, and Jeff Bonds and supported by Orange County Sheriff Deputies Dan Villa and Mike Sakamoto, Knights in Progress has conducted many

activities aimed at educating and motivating students, including a college visit to University of California, Riverside, homework help, barbeques before basketball and football games, and after-school activities. So far, we have seen tremendous results. Grade-point averages are improving, behavior incidents have decreased, and a true sense of camaraderie can be seen on campus.



Foothill students participate in Knights in Progress mentoring program.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

18492 Vanderlip Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7552



Kelly Fresch
Principal

CHP Toy Collection

This winter, Guin Foss Student Council members sponsored our annual toy collection, seeking donations on behalf of the Orange County California Highway Patrol. Students across campus were encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys to the school office the first two weeks of December for the Toy Drive.

Over 100 gifts were collected by the generous Guin Foss Community.

Later that month, students dressed in their pajamas and presented the gifts to Chipper and members of the CHP, who pick them up annually and deliver them to needy families and organizations across the county, using a school bus. Our student body was proud to participate!

Our school community continues to open their hearts and give so willingly when asked, modeling for the student body the importance of sharing and kindness throughout the holidays and beyond. Our parents, students and staff alike are SMART—Safe, Motivated, Academic, Respectful Team Players!



Guin Foss Principal Kelly Fresch, far left, and fall Student Council members enjoy a photo op with Chipper from the CHP.

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Sean Lindsay
Principal

It's the Counting That Counts

Through a method called Counting Collections, Heideman Elementary School students are teaching us that, when it comes to learning math, it's counting that counts most.

Here's how it works: a small group of students is given a large collection of small objects. Paper clips, little rubber dinosaurs, straws...you name it. The students count all the objects, demonstrate or record the steps by which they counted, and then report the total amount. In other words, they count the collection.

By manipulating the objects and solving the problems that arise with any counting task, students are building number sense. Students with strong number sense can say numbers out loud, and they can also understand the meaning of numbers. They can visualize nine bananas or 58 pencils. They have firsthand knowledge that 10 objects can be divided into two groups of five and that two groups of 18 objects will make 36.

Experiencing numbers is what counts the most!



First graders Abigail Perez and J Ray Mendez are admiring their counting work.

Hewes *Middle School*

13232 Hewes Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7348



Eric Kilian
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead

The Hewes Middle School campus is beginning to transform with a focus on greener environments and a renewed appearance. Throughout the past year and a half, the school landscaping has been changing, with a focus on water conservation and drought-tolerant landscaping.

To help accomplish this, the Hewes Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) class competed in a green engineering project to transform a planter in front of the staff office into a blossoming, green, friendly landscape. Students competed through multiple phases, including drafting designs, evaluating drought tolerance and efficient use of water resources, and ensuring that the installation and upkeep costs were budget friendly. The winning project now stands as a beacon of the students' engineering talents, ensuring that our campus has a bright, environmentally friendly future.



New drought-tolerant landscaping at Hewes is good for the environment.

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

3817 Viewpark Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1878



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Transforming Math Learning

After training by Nick Johnson from the Orange County Department of Education, Hicks Canyon Elementary School teachers launched Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) in primary and upper grades, and they are watching the transformation the program has on children and math instruction. Engaging and hands-on, CGI Math helps children build a strong foundation for the future, based on their innate knowledge of math.



Hicks Canyon first grader Jack David in Rosario Meade's class works on solving a CGI word problem.

CGI emphasizes thinking and understanding, making it ideal to fit within Common Core State Standards. In CGI Math, students learn to solve math word problems with a variety of strategies. CGI requires excellent communication, both written and oral, between students and with the teacher. Students are active learners and explain their thinking, so every student has an idea and gets to share. Other favorite CGI components include counting collections and interactive games.

Math is now a favorite subject at Hicks Canyon.

Hillview *High School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7356



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Welcome, Leslie Hastings!

Welcome to Leslie Hastings, who is the newest member of the Hillview teaching staff! Because of increased enrollment, another teacher has been hired.

Hillview is lucky to have Mrs. Hastings join our all-star teaching staff. Mrs. Hastings started out teaching at Fremont Elementary School in Santa Ana, where she taught for four years. For the past 11 years, she has taught English, reading and social studies at Columbus Tustin Middle School.



Teacher Leslie Hastings is excited to work with students and staff at Hillview.

Mrs. Hastings is excited to come to Hillview to teach English and social studies because she can help young men and women, and provide the needed additional support so that students can reach their goals.

Mrs. Hastings has two adult sons, Adam and Austin, who attended school in the Tustin Unified School District. When not in school, she enjoys riding her horse, Kobe; spending time with her grandchildren; and gardening.

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Ladera Elementary School

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Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead!

Now, more than ever, it is imperative that educators prepare our students for 21st-century learning and careers. Ladera Elementary School takes this charge very seriously and is committed to offering increased opportunities for students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) careers.

Ladera is excited to announce the addition of a robotics club for fourth- and fifth-grade students. Robotics lead teacher Megan Donovan is meeting with over 30 students who hope to participate in the club. Thanks to the Tustin Public Schools Foundation, Ladera will have three robotics kits, for a total of 12 student spots. We are hoping to receive a fourth kit through Tustin Public Schools Foundation, allowing us to add an additional four students to the club. The club will meet on Thursdays at lunch and after school. Additionally, the Ladera PTO has funded a playing field and bank-shot game, which will help the Ladera Robotics Club better prepare for the district competition in May.



Ladera Robotic Club hopefuls Liam Hopkins, Ryan Okajima, Josie Wang, and Ava Stieler pose with a robot from one of our kits.

C.C. Lambert Elementary School

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7457



Deanna Parks
Principal

Student Mediators

By Laura Sewell, Counselor

Every day for the past 10 years our Lambert Peer Mediators have stood with their clipboards and Mediator shirts at recess time helping their peers resolve conflicts. One by one they independently help our students to calm down, talk with one another, and develop solutions to problems.

Not only do these Mediators assist others while on and off duty, they have also learned how to resolve their own conflicts, and have even developed good work skills like applying for a job, completing necessary training, and following a work schedule.

One fourth-grade boy recently remarked that, thanks to his Mediator, he is no longer being bullied. Someone was being unkind to him on the bus, and so he decided to see a Mediator to ask for some help. "I was so glad that she was there and wearing her Mediator shirt," he said. "I knew that she would help me." We thank our Mediators for being there!



Lambert mediators Jessica Sanchez, Nayeli Ramirez and Emily Morfin help resolve a conflict on the playground.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

13822 Prospect Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7528



Katy Sheyka
Principal

How Our Garden Grows!

The Loma Vista Garden Committee, parents, students and community members have worked tirelessly to bring what was once just a vision on paper to life. This fall, we had a blast with our first annual Pumpkin Chunkin' event. Our awesome Loma Vista Dads designed and built an incredible catapult, and students

engaged in a pumpkin-launching contest, estimating and measuring the distances of each flying pumpkin. Next year, student teams will engage in a catapult design and engineering contest.

This winter, community members came together to dig trenches, install an irrigation system, lay footing for the perimeter wall, and build over a dozen planter boxes. The garden will provide students with hands-on learning experiences while studying the basics of horticulture, life sciences, water conservation and much more. Watch us grow on Facebook at LV Garden Learning Center!



Students help a Loma Vista dad release the Pumpkin Chunkin' catapult.

Myford *Elementary School*

3181 Trevino Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1875



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Parent Volunteers Step Up

Myford wouldn't be the amazing school it is without the contributions and dedication of so many parent volunteers. We have many parents who give of their time and talents to make the school a thriving community for all.

Last month, the Myford staff went through a safety-training session with the Irvine Police Department. We recognized that we

have many procedures in place to keep our students and staff safe, but we wanted to do more! In order to increase the layer of security on our campus, we asked that our parent volunteers step up to help supervise the campus while they're here with our students. Our hope was that we would get a small group of parents to agree to this, especially during morning. The response, however, was overwhelming! To date, we have over 150 parents who have checked out a volunteer lanyard and agreed to help our students.



Myford's parent volunteers get ready for morning supervision.

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

14392 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7536



Melinda Smith
Principal

Nelson Parents are Engaged

Nelson hosted its first annual Parent Forum and Social in December. There were over 250 parents in attendance. The purpose of the event was to gather important feedback from our parent stakeholders, and to give them an opportunity to connect with the other parents.

We first held small-group sessions to gather feedback in three areas: perceptions and expectations, communication, and the issues we face in the education of our children. Our rooms were teeming with adults. We also provided a taco dinner, and then ended the evening with a holiday performance from our upper-grade chorus led by Elizabeth Robinson, as well as a kindergarten sing-a-long choreographed by Melanie Siqueiros.

Nelson is also hosting parenting classes through a course that is designed to

help our parents understand and manage their children's development, while also learning the skills they need to deal with challenging behavior. We have enthusiastic and involved parents here at Nelson.



Nelson parents connecting at school's first annual Parent Forum and Social.

Orchard Hills *School*

11555 Culver Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/730-2078



Dr. Michael Williams
Principal

STEM Culture

Orchard Hills School is now enjoying its sixth year and building wonderful programs in many departments. One area that is drawing much attention is the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) focus, which many of our students are experiencing and enjoying. We currently offer STEM elective courses

in seventh and eighth grades, with plans for growth in every direction.

Thanks to the Tustin Public Schools Foundation, robotics is beginning to take off in fifth grade, with the creation of VEX IQ teams, which feed our four competitive middle school robotics teams. We have 12 robotics kits students can use with their fifth-grade electronic tablets. The STEM focus has begun to shift into the core content areas as well, and more STEM elective options are being considered for the 2016–2017 school year.

We are very proud to host the Tustin Unified School District Robotics Tournaments on our campus, and we are creating a rich STEM culture here at Orchard Hills.



Orchard Hills School students prepare for robotics competition.

Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

26900 Peters Canyon Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7540



Brooke Carreras
Principal

Spreading the Spirit of Giving

This past holiday season our PCE scholars experienced the gift of giving to others.

As Walt Whitman said, "The habit of giving only enhances the desire to give." We want our scholars to develop the habit of giving while they are

still young so that they will learn early on how to make a difference in the world.

Through the leadership of teachers Becky Salazar and Joy Uchida, our student council recently organized a coat drive to collect warm clothing for the One Warm Coat Foundation. The students collected over 500 coats that will be distributed to our local families in need. The fourth-graders made pillows, blankets, and holiday cards for WISEPlace, a transitional program that assists women in crisis.

The student council is also collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly for the Orange County Food Bank, to be provided to underprivileged children throughout Orange County.



Peters Canyon Student Council collects warm coats for the One Warm Coat Foundation.

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Pioneer Middle School

2700 Pioneer Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7534



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Future Engineers

The start of the New Year has given Pioneer Middle School much to celebrate. In January, Pioneer's Science Olympiad students participated in the regional Science Olympiad Invitational. Pioneer captured first place in the Rube Goldberg device competition, titled Mission Impossible. The Rube Goldberg machine is a device that is deliberately engineered to perform a simple task through a chain reaction.

Pioneer also earned sixth place in the Crave the Wave competition. Coach Kristin Zebe, who is in her second year at Pioneer, is thrilled with the results and looks forward to the next regional competition.

Pioneer's Robotics Team is also experiencing competitive success. After spending many hours both inside and outside school designing and building an agile robot that was able to quickly maneuver and complete several tasks, Pioneer placed sixth. Thank you to Coach Matt Ireland for working with our future engineers!



Pioneer students Supriya Kotnani, Ethan Vien, and Brandon Chen earn medals at the Science Olympiad Invitational.

Red Hill Elementary School

11911 Red Hill Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7543



Will Neddersen
Principal

Making a Difference

Red Hill is working to develop these "three R's" in its students: Respect, Responsibility, and building Relationships! We know that when our students exhibit these characteristics it can make for a positive impact at our school.

The student council is now working to have our students take these three R's out into the community. One of the executive board members is focused on community service. Individuals work with a committee to find new ways for our students to support each other. The goal is to help them understand that what they do for others can have a positive impact.

During Halloween, our students supported the Operation Gratitude Candy Collection. Red Hill students filled over three trash cans full of candy, which was then sent to our

soldiers. During the Thanksgiving holiday, the student council also held a canned food drive for Operation Warm Wishes: Unity in the Community.

This food collection supported families in need at Peppertree Park. In December, our students again teamed up with Operation Warm Wishes to supply items such as pancake mix and jam for a special holiday breakfast.

There is much more that our students are planning to do as the year proceeds. The student council has recently been encouraging our students to support the Great Kindness Challenge. This event gives the children one week to complete 25 to 50 different acts of kindness in the community.

During this week, they will also be working to create notes of encouragement to pass on to our community members. Red Hill students are working hard to make a positive impact!

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7364



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Welcome, Jackie Christy!

In January, Thorman welcomed new assistant principal Jackie Christy to the Thorman/Currie family. Staff, students and parents are excited to have her!

Mrs. Christy has worked in public education for 20 years, the past 11 in Tustin Unified. She started her career as an elementary teacher in the Anaheim City School District. She came to TUSD in 2005 as

a reading specialist at Tustin Memorial Academy (TMA). Two years later, she became a resource teacher at TMA and in 2010 joined Hicks Canyon School as a teacher on special assignment. She has served as assistant principal at Hicks Canyon for the past two years.



Jackie Christy shows off her new Thorman spirit shirt in the office.

Mrs. Christy's high energy, knowledge of curriculum and diverse experiences in schools, and being a mother of twin high school boys will be a tremendous asset to our schools. The Thorman/Currie community looks forward to Mrs. Christy and all that she brings!



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Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Administrator

Paperback Writers

All Tustin Connect Academy middle school students recently authored original novels as part of an ongoing fictional writing unit. The pieces range in length from novellas to lengthy novels and include such titles as *For the Sake of the Game* by Meilyn Ng, *Is There More?* by Lauren Stiles, and *Strange Speed* by Jalyn Cortez. Students

penned their novels based on their own creative ideas and received regular feedback and advice from their peers and teachers to help them refine their prose, character development, and plot.

Even though the novel unit is now over, many of the students are continuing to work on their novels during their free time. Students who previously lamented typical writing assignments are now confident and proficient writers who find satisfaction in the creative writing process.

Keep your eye out for these budding authors at your local bookstore or your favorite online retailer.



Tustin Connect middle school students Lauren Stiles, Abigail Catrina, Jaylyn Cortez, and Meilyn Ng share their novels with each other.

Tustin *High School*

1171 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7414



Christine Matos
Principal

Going to State and Disneyland

By Dalyn Baxter, Assistant Drum Major, THS Journalism

Directed by Michael Fisk, the Tustin High School Marching Band and Colorguard perform each year throughout Southern California, bringing in awards and trophies in multiple categories.

For the past three seasons they have earned a spot in the Southern California String Band and Orchestra Association

Championships, securing themselves as one of the top 12 bands in Southern California. This year the group received seventh-place out of 70 bands from throughout the region.

The Band was recently invited to perform at a local Southern California tourist attraction on December 16, and was proud to be a part of the season's festivities at a local resort.

"We dedicate so much time to becoming the best we can be," remarked trumpet player Ashley Saenz, when she was asked about what excited her about the invitation the most. "Being invited to play lets us know that we've succeeded."



Tiller Marching Regiment makes it way down Buena Vista Street at Disney's California Adventure Park.

Tustin Memorial Academy

12712 Browning Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7546



Wendy Hudson
Principal

Learning Outdoors

By Sarah Ton, Vy Le, Rosemary Yohannan and Malaika Fortes

In October, the whole fifth grade went to Outdoor Education. We went on a six-hour hike and learned about FWARPS, which

stands for *food, water, air, reproduction, protection and space.*

While on the hike, people heard The

Grandpa Tree story and had to pretend they were saplings growing into the Grandpa Tree by using poker chips as their resources of life. After dinner, everybody went to line dancing. Then, we went to astronomy class where we made a water-bottle solar system with flashlights. We did a survival course in which you build a shelter and learn what to do when you are lost. The thing you would do is STOP, which stands for *sit, think, observe, plan.*

The campfire night was our coldest night there. It was awesome! On our last day, the cabin leaders performed *The Lorax* skit. The skit was very cool, and the cabin leaders had some really funny costumes. The fourth-graders are sure to have the best time ever!



Tustin Memorial Academy students, from left, Dylan Phan, Ayden Padilla, Julia Reid, Ely Araujo and Kaitlyn Headrick get ready to go on their first hike of the day.

Tustin Ranch Elementary School

12950 Robinson Dr., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7580



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Creating in Three Dimensions

Our Tustin Ranch students are developing future-ready skills in the school's Creativity Den. This innovative space allows students to explore many different types of technological tools as well as a green screen.

The students say they hope to become mechanical engineers, computer programmers, and software developers. They are actively engaged in creating many exciting projects with their tools, including 3-D versions of our school mascot, Rocky the Cool Coyote. Entrepreneurial skills are blossoming as well, as our students actively develop specific business plans for their projects.

Enthusiasm for learning is at an all-time high. Our students are truly 21st-century learners who collaborate on wiki projects, build background knowledge through internet research, create animated stories, and then communicate with each other and their teachers on the district's learning management system.

Besides working on computer coding, programming mini-robots, and using the 3-D printer, our students are now anxiously awaiting for this spring's after-school Tech Club and first-ever robotics team.



Fifth-grade students David Jogiel and Samantha Kim watch the 3D printer in action.

C.E. Utt Middle School

13601 Browning ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7573



Dean Jennings
Principal

Community Service

The students of Utt Middle School are learning about community service. This past holiday season, the ASB class and Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) Club partnered in a canned-food and toy drive. Thanks to their leadership and the generosity of the students and parents, we fulfilled

over 200 gift wishes for local Tustin children and provided over 2,500 food items for local families in need.

This February, Utt's PAL club has set a goal to raise \$1,000 for Pennies for Patients, a fund-raiser benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. In addition, PAL students will be purchasing games, puzzles and playing cards to present to the residents of a retirement home in Tustin. Students will also spend some quality time with residents.

"I'm so impressed by the generosity of these kids and how they put the needs of others before their own," said teacher and PAL advisor Kris Posavec.



Peer Assistance Leadership student Cassandra Lopez delivers a Holiday Gram to a fellow Utt Falcon.

Marjorie Veeh Elementary School

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7544



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

Veeh Inventors Enter Competition

Veeh Elementary School was excited to send 10 students to the Invention Convention competition at Irvine Valley College in January.

The preparation began last November, when the students first wrote an essay about something that they would like

to invent. The project soon became hands-on, as students then built their inventions from scratch. Initially they were encouraged to fail. They then made changes until they felt that they had found the best result.

By completing the steps that follow, the students were also led through the steps of the Scientific Method. These are: ask a question, do background research, construct a hypothesis, test your hypothesis by doing an experiment, analyze your data and draw a conclusion, and then communicate your results.

Once their final project was complete, the students then created a poster board that detailed the history of their invention from idea to completed product.



Veeh's inventors: Leila Keftaro, Emma Rojas, Daniella Introssi, Estrella Rivera, Jocelyn Garcia, Lesley Jaime, Vanessa Galvez, Eli Reynoso, Katie McElroy, Jasmine Pacheco. Not Pictured Katie Cross, advisor.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

150 El Camino Real, Suite 140, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/832-6299 • www.tfsf.net



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

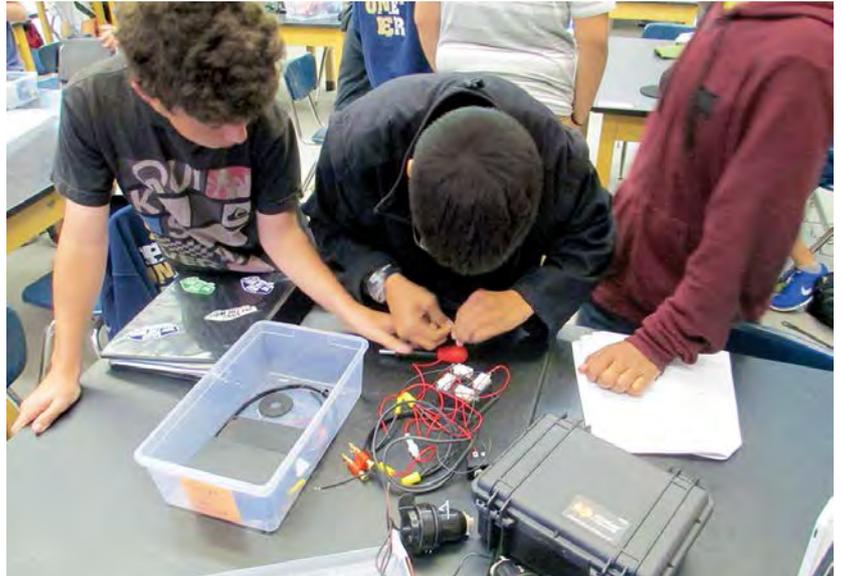
Grants for TUSD Teachers

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation has awarded grants to each school in the Tustin Unified School District through the Classroom and School Wide Grant Program. This year, grants will be awarded for programs such as Outdoor Education Science Camp, Fibo Art Academy, physical education, and more.

Funds will also be used for music, art, technology supplies, college preparatory programs, robotics, and library books. Board and community members will blindly review all submissions for the new Innovative Grant Program and begin awarding funds next month.

The Tustin Summer Academy scholarship application is now open! Scholarships will be awarded on a financial need basis, with both full and partial scholarships available. Applications are due April 15, 2016. Summer Academy will take place June 27–July 21 at Orchard Hills School. Your favorite Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM)

and technology classes will be returning, with a few new and exciting courses. Registration opens March 1. Scholarship and registration information can be found at www.tpsf.net/summeracademy.



As part of a TPSF grant, Pioneer Middle School students build a remotely-operated vehicle for the Ocean Institute in Dana Point.

Business Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 302



Anthony Soria
Chief Financial Officer

Under Construction

The Tustin Unified School District expects to break ground on over two dozen construction projects in 2016, with the majority of the work scheduled over the summer break. Architectural firms are working closely with the district staff to finalize designs and secure the necessary state agency approvals to move forward with each respective project. The scheduled work at Tustin High School, which is part of the campus master plan to be funded by

Measure L, includes a new two-story humanities building, a renovated entry/courtyard, a minor library and little theater remodel, a new weight training complex, and athletic field upgrades.

Other project highlights include: the installation of synthetic turf fields at Beckman, Foothill and Tustin High Schools; classroom modernization at Thorman Elementary School; gym/locker room renovation at Pioneer Middle School; and classroom additions at Arroyo, Estock and Heideman Elementary Schools. Last but not least, the district will work on several maintenance projects at various schools as part of the Deferred Maintenance Program this summer.



Rendering shows proposed entry improvements at Tustin High School.

Technology in TUSD Schools

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 306



Crystal Turner
*Assistant
Superintendent
Administrative
Services*

Robotics on a Roll

The Tustin Unified School District (TUSD), in partnership with the Tustin Public Schools Foundation (TPSF), created robotics programs at all six middle schools during the 2014–2015 school year. After four successful middle school VEX Robotics competitions last year, it became clear that there was a need to expand the robotics program offerings to high school and elementary schools. TUSD's

three comprehensive high schools began their programs in the fall and have participated in their first competition.

In December, TPSF funded elementary robotics! Each elementary school was given training for their coaches and four VEX IQ robotics sets. The program is best suited for fourth- and fifth-graders, and the interest has been incredible. In April, the elementary teams will have their first competition.

Meanwhile, the middle and high school teams will compete four total times this year, with the hope of making it to the state VEX Robotics championship.



Students at Ladera Elementary School build their robot.

Nutrition Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 342



Teresa Squibb
Director

Wellness Week and Menu App

The Tustin Unified School District's Wellness Committee is sponsoring its seventh annual Wellness Week, from March 7 to 11. During Wellness Week, schools hold their own Wellness Week events, and the district's Wellness Committee sponsors two student contests. Students can create their own video that spotlights student

wellness—the winners will receive a front-of-the-line cafeteria pass good for one year. In addition, elementary students can enter their favorite healthy lunches; the winning lunches are created and served in the cafeteria for everyone to enjoy.

The TUSD Nutrition Service Department's new My School Menu app is now available to download for both Apple and Android devices. The new app allows parents and students to view the menu for their school as well as nutritional values and components in individual items and meals. They can also manage how many calories, carbs and other nutrients are in the school meal.



Peters Canyon Elementary School student Ashton Kanegae shows his favorite healthy lunch as nutrition services assistant Ludmila Potter looks on.

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A Bit of History

Fluoroscope

By D.H. Coop

If you lived in the United States from the 1930s to the early 1950s, shopping with your mother was not an adventure for young children. The only thing for those of us who were young was getting into trouble by asking questions or wandering off and getting lost in the store. Yet, there was that one day that the shopping trip was a step into a world of wonder and amazement, and that was the trip to the shoe store.

The salesperson would take you over to a machine that measured your feet scientifically, measuring the length and width of your foot for the perfect fit. At the huge machine, you would stick your feet into the base, look into a view port at the top of the machine, and see with Superman vision the bones in your feet. Other children would stand around the machine waiting for a turn to see their feet or each other's hands. The machine was a place of wonder and excitement, and it often turned into a fight over who would be next.

Machines like these showed up in the 1920s for a variety of medical problems. The shoe fluoroscope was advertised as visual proof that fitting your child's feet with shoes was done with scientific precision. Early in the 1920s, concerns were raised about the exposure to X-rays. Yet, real concerns only came after the atom bomb



was dropped on Japan and radiation concerns became more evident. Real warnings were published in 1948. Then, in 1953, more warnings were reported, and the Food and Drug Administration placed a ban on the machines. Pennsylvania was the first state to ban the use of the machines in 1957. The one in use in the United States was in Boston in the 1970s.

I still have fond memories of visiting the shoe store and the machine that had nothing to do with the way my shoes fit. The only reason for the machine was to entice mothers and their children to the shoe store by giving us the thrill of seeing the bones in our feet, just like Superman.

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College 4 Less



Susan D. Marshall

Not Accepted To Your Dream School?

After the shock and disappointment fades there is a hidden secret many discover.

Did you know with a little work you can go to any college you want to? Pick a college, then work backwards. Sure you may have been rejected once, maybe twice, but that shouldn't keep you from taking classes there.

Look online. Many times there are online courses even degree programs available from your dream school. There are countless stories of students starting their degree online and finishing on campus.

Consider a transfer program. Many community colleges have transfer agreements and alliances with Universities. Find a transfer program that gets you where you want to go.

Look into extension programs offered by your dream college or through your community college. They may not be well advertised, but may be perfect for your situation. Two of my children discovered these programs unexpectedly. Although completely different programs; each program offered benefits that couldn't have been a better fit.

My daughter graduated after discovering the Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business and Management. The program she selected allowed her to work full time, attend classes in the evenings and on the weekends and offered a MJB option. Many of the students in her courses were already CEO's and business executives.

My son who always dreamed of and is now a commercial pilot, began attending MT. SAC; a community college. He discovered that he could attend classes on the Mt. San Antonio College campus every other Saturday and graduate within four years with a Bachelors in Business Management/Aviation Management from University of Southern Illinois.

Hidden treasures that may be just perfect for you.

In a previous column I wrote about the "Gap Year." The "Gap Year" for many college bound students is the answer. A gap year is usually taken before college or before going to graduate school. This can provide students with additional insight to their dreams and aspirations – whether it is AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, a mission trip or a program such as Outward Bound. The additional programs they can do after high school but before college even look impressive on college applications. Colleges have found that those who have had a gap year typically do not have the same level of freshman shenanigans and are successful driven students. Would the gap year help you?

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

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Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

Fabulous!

Listen, Slowly

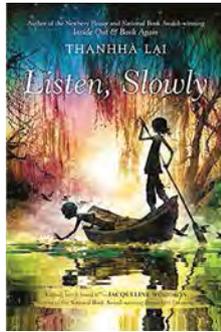
Author: Thanhha Lai

Summer has begun and Mai is looking forward to a beach-filled one. That is, before her parents ship her off to Vietnam with

her grandmother, who hopes to find her husband that has been missing since the Vietnam War. While in her home country, Mai discovers that Vietnam isn't just what she's learned from documentaries, but a place full of people and excitement. When she befriends Ut, it's a bonus to her trip. Mai and Ut develop a friendship that keeps the book interesting, as they conspire to help Mai's grandmother find her husband. I chose this book so that I could learn more about where my mom and grandparents came from, and I really enjoyed it.

I give this book four bookworms out of five because of its humor, love, and thoughtfulness.

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

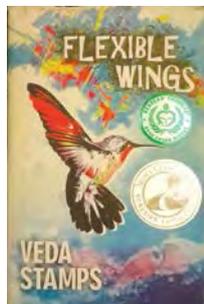
A Page-Turner

Flexible Wings is Veda Stamps' first full-length novel. The main character, Summer, wants to be on a swim team, but her parents are in the military and move around often.

When she's finally on a team, she doubts if she wants to participate. To make matters worse, her mom is deployed! Dad says that Grandma would come while Summer's mom is gone. Soon, Summer makes new friends, but fights with her younger sister, Emiko. To make up she throws a surprise party! But the party becomes a disaster when Emiko is unable to breathe because of a bee sting. Emiko does get better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!

I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!

Isabella is a fourth grader who loves to write based on her experiences fictionalizing them into stories that relate to young readers. Isabella wants to be an author of realistic fiction when she grows up. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.





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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Owl Singalong

Adult Beluga Grads whose younger lives were enriched by Raffi's music will be very happy, particularly if they're parents, teachers or involved in any way with children. The beloved artist and children's advocate emerged from a 12-year hiatus in 2014 with his collection *Love Bug*, and he's following up with another planet- and child-centered theme in *Owl Singalong*.

The album was inspired by Raffi's little grandniece, Lucie, and her owl stuffed toy and also by the chorus of live hooting critters in his backyard. Those birds open the title song, a jaunty little melody inviting us to sing along. Choruses of human children and one or two adults join in on standards such as "The More We Sing Together" and other beloved songs that he's monkeyed—or verb-formed other animal species—with: "The Lion Pokey" and "The Dog on the Bus" are rendered with Raffi's brand of gentle silliness that has always endeared him to children.

Raffi presents his versatile voice in so many different ways, whether it's imitating a gruff lion, crooning like Rudy Vallee on "See the Moon," or entertaining with Pete Seeger's celebrated retelling of the South African folktale "Abiyoyo."

And as always, Raffi will leave gentle lessons for little Belugas and Grads of any age: "Green Dream" is his wish for the future for all his young listeners. And from "I'm Not Small": "I carry the world on my back. When it turns, I'll turn, too."

So simple, so wise, and so very Raffi.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



Parent To Parent



Lice

While lice is usually more common among elementary school-age children, it is now being widely diagnosed in preteens to teens. In elementary school-age kids, they often times will use each other's comb or brush, especially the girls. At recess time or maybe during free-time, the girls will brush and play with each other's hair, thus making it easy to spread lice. Most high school students would have already been through this and know not to share combs or brushes or any hair accessories. However, what they have not considered is the potential dangers of taking selfies with friends or even perhaps strangers at an event, school, etc. While lice cannot jump, they can crawl from one head to another. Now, there is an entire line of lice prevention, elimination and removal products that are 100% natural, organic and pesticide free, so your kids can go off to school and not worry about head lice. They are doctor and nurse recommended and the products can be used daily without any concern of damage to your children's hair. See www.liceknowingyou.com for the complete line and more info.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing, and Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

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Orange County Department of Education



OC Pathways

On a cool December morning, in a historic airplane hangar at the Orange County Great Park, some of the region's top educators and business leaders gathered for a very special birthday party.

Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

OC Pathways, an initiative that brings together schools, colleges and businesses to create new career paths in targeted industry sectors, was celebrating its first year — and what a year it's been.

Over the past 12 months, more than 8,600 high school students have enrolled in OC Pathways programs, receiving career preparation in the fields of health care, biotechnology, engineering, advanced manufacturing, information technology and digital media. In our community colleges, more than 12,500 students have participated in OC Pathways coursework, earning roughly 600 certificates and 85 degrees.

Led by the Orange County Department of Education and Saddleback College, OC Pathways was launched in 2014 through a California Department of Education grant. Along with its efforts to partner schools and colleges with industry leaders, the project creates work-based learning opportunities for students — these include internships and mentorship — and it empowers educators with innovative teaching strategies.

In just the first year of this initiative, more than 2,500 students participated in one or more work-based learning experiences, and we have seen a 13 percent increase in the number of articulation agreements that allow high school students to receive community college credit for taking career technical education courses.

Moreover, OC Pathways has established 53 additional businesses partnerships that will help strengthen the 21st-century workforce.

On Dec. 2, these business leaders were among the 300 or so who gathered in the Great Park's Hangar 244 for a morning showcase that featured incredible displays from local schools, colleges and businesses, as well as video profiles of students who are on successful career tracks thanks to OC Pathways.

NASA astronaut Leland Melvin, who made two trips aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis, was riveting as our keynote speaker at the end. I was also honored to say a few words, joining Saddleback College President Dr. Tod A. Burnett, OC STEM Executive Director Dr. Linda Christopher, Orange County United Way president and CEO Max Gardner, and four very impressive high school and college students.

Thanks to the unparalleled levels of collaboration between Orange County's secondary and postsecondary partners, OC Pathways has already racked up more achievements than can be listed in this column, and we're just getting started.

Just think of what can be accomplished in year two.

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 Tustin in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2016**.

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

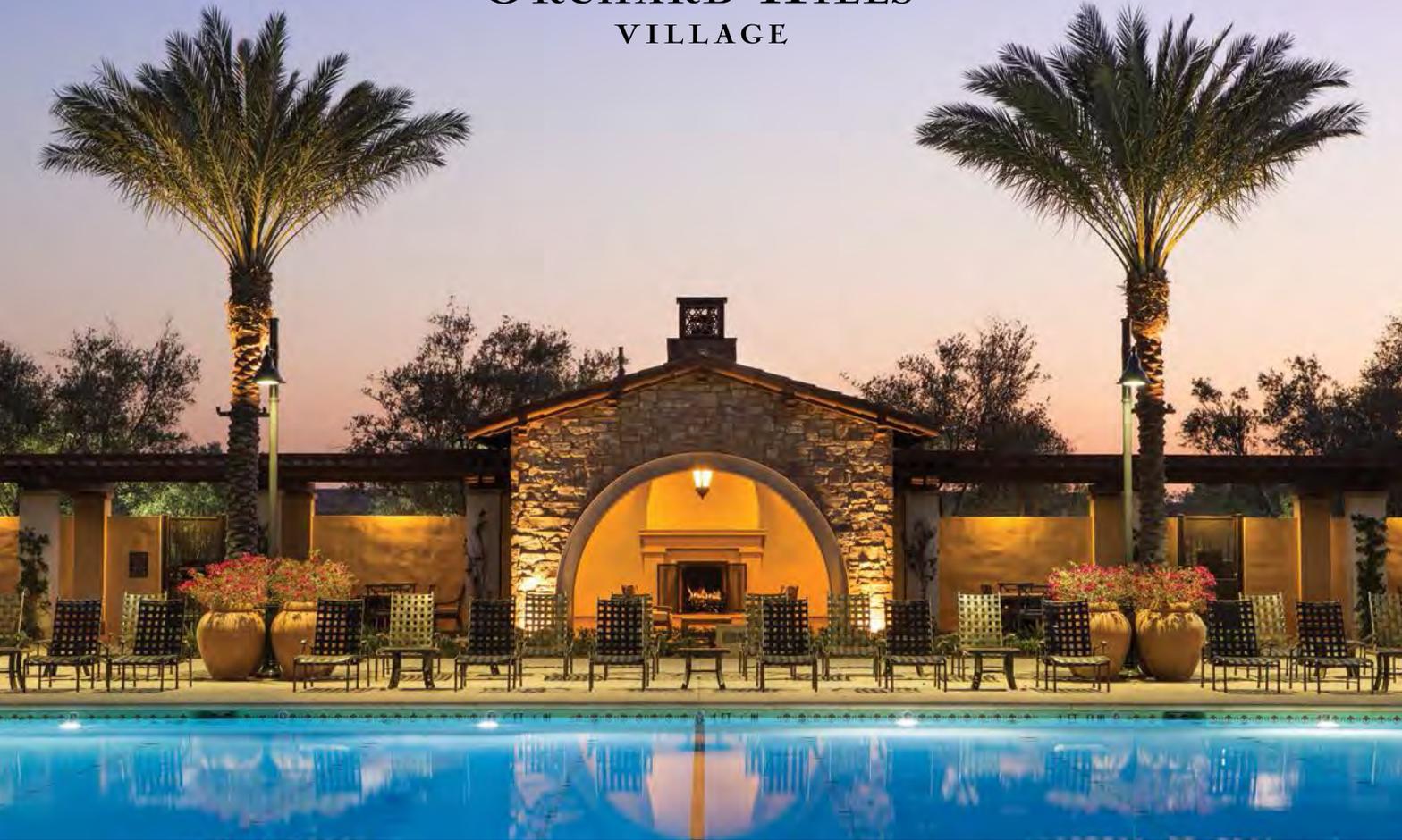
Under the Sea Word Search Contest

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
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| ANGELFISH | EEL |
| BARNACLE | FUGU |
| CLAM | KRILL |
| CLOWNFISH | LOBSTER |
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