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School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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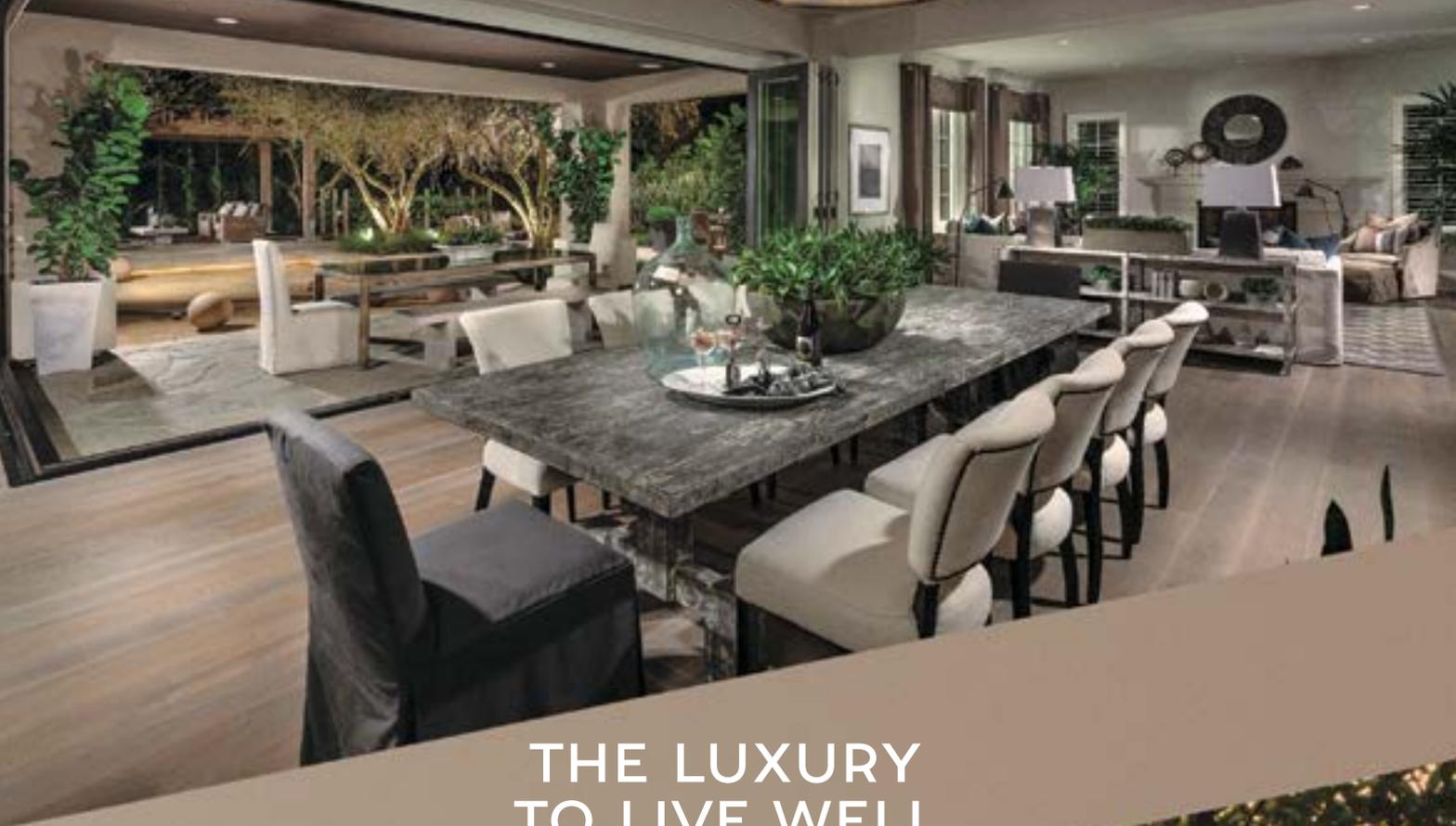
September / October 2017

A Salute to Education Icon Gerry Aust

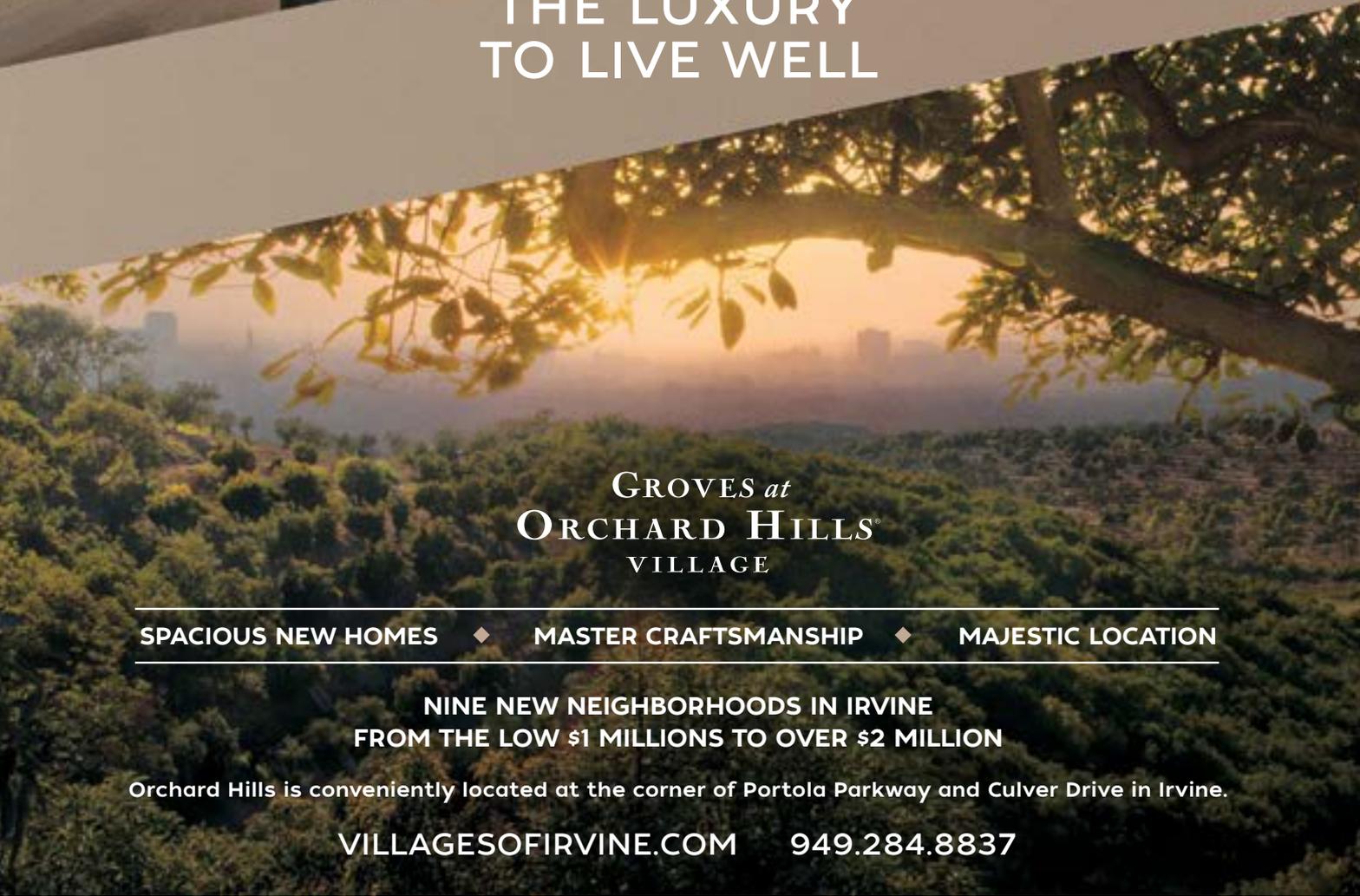


Retired TUSD educator Gerry Aust served as master of ceremonies at the Tustin Public Schools Foundation's Teacher of the Year Dinner for 16 years. Please see page 5 for his story.

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TUSD is Preparing Students to Thrive in the Future



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

The Tustin Unified School District had another outstanding school year in 2016-17 with gains in student achievement, expansion of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) programs; facility improvements; and community satisfaction.

TUSD continues to do well on every measure of student performance:

- More students took and passed Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams.
- Attendance increased.
- More students qualified for university entrance.
- The greatest academic growth came or economically disadvantaged students, narrowing achievement gaps.
- More students than ever are taking four years of math in high school.

The District also continues to make progress in student achievement in STEAM fields. This year, the District had two elementary schools, one middle school, and four high school robotics teams compete in the VEX World Robotics Championships. The schools representing the District were Orchard Hills School, and Beckman and Foothill high schools. Tustin High School's T-Tech Invention Team also competed in an invention competition this past summer

at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston. These accomplishments on the national and world stages are supported by a Districtwide shift to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that emphasize hands-on experiments and engineering.

These achievements have taken place in a Districtwide culture of collaboration, high expectations, and support. Teachers, administrators, and staff participated in a variety of professional development activities, online modules, coaching, and conferences to expand their knowledge and expertise.

School climates are positive for students: attendance rates are up, discipline referrals and suspensions are down, and parent satisfaction is high. A number of students attend a campus other than their home school, exercising parent and student choice options. Many parents report that teachers show a genuine care and respect for their child.

The District is experiencing success on many fronts. Much of this success is supported by the prudent business practices of the District. Facilities are well-maintained and capital improvements are made, efficiencies have been achieved in utility usage and internal practices, and budget reserves have been built to prepare for the next economic downturn. As a result, the District is in an excellent position to continue preparing students to thrive now and in the future. Go TUSD!

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For the latest information:

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Welcome back to another new school year. By now the students have settled into a routine and are focused on their academic goals.

Superintendent Franklin's message on page 3 brings you up to date on the District's accomplishments and forward thinking for this school year.

In this issue several of the schools welcomed new principals and share their enthusiasm for the start of a new school year.

We are pleased to introduce Rabina, our newest student columnist, whose first book review is on page 30.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices

as we promote the excellence in the TUSD. We post the current and archived issues on our web site. In addition, we have added a podcast of the Superintendent's message or highlights of the publication. On our web site just click on Podcasts. We also have a podcast labeled contest for the month. Listen for the word to email to be entered in the contest.

Our next issue is November 1. In the meantime, have a Happy Halloween!



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We are Ryan and Amanda Stack, the owners of your neighborhood Grocery Outlet! We recently moved to Tustin with our two young sons and we are happy to be part of this special community.

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We invite you to come in and try us out! Right now we are super stocked on back-to-school items that make packing your kids lunches fast and healthy.

We look forward to meeting our Tustin School community soon!

- Ryan and Amanda Stack



TUSD Retired Educator Gerry Aust was One of a Kind

*By Mark Eliot
Director of Communications &
Public Information*

There was and will only be one Gerry Aust for the ages. A retired teacher, activities director and school principal in the Tustin Unified School District, and longtime board member for the Tustin Public Schools Foundation, Gerry passed away August 12..He was 78 years young.

Gerry worked in public education for 39 years – 37 of those in the Tustin school district. He started his career as a junior high school teacher in Vancouver, Washington. Gerry came to Tustin in 1963 and, over the years, taught at C.E. Utt and Hewes middle schools, was activities director and assistant principal at Hewes, and served as principal of Arroyo and Marjorie Veeh elementary schools, and Columbus Tustin and C.E. Utt middle schools. Under his leadership at Arroyo, the school was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 1989-90. Gerry was also instrumental in reopening Utt School in 1994 and establishing the Applied Math and Science Magnet Program at Columbus Tustin School.

Gerry retired in 2000, but never really stopped working. He served as an interim principal or assistant principal at almost every school in Tustin Unified, including Barbara Benson, Hicks Canyon, Peters Canyon and Jeane Thorman elementary schools; Columbus Tustin, A.G. Currie and Pioneer middle schools; and Foothill and Tustin high schools. As interim assistant principal, he helped open Hicks Canyon School in 2004.

Gerry remained involved in state organizations such as the California Association of Directors of Activities (CADA) where he served on its state board for six years and was inducted in the CADA Hall of Fame. For 22 years, Gerry and his wife, Diane, volunteered to lead Tustin middle school students to Washington, D.C., shepherding over 2,500 students and making history and democracy come alive for them. Gerry's passion for his country is well-known; he was known as "Mr. Red, White and Blue."



Gerry Aust is seen with his wife, Diane – two longtime dedicated educators and well-known community volunteers in the Tustin Unified School District.

Among his many community service activities, Gerry served on the Tustin Public Schools Foundation (TPSF) Board of Directors for 17 years. He and Diane were involved in the Dinosaur Dash 2K/5K/10K race since it began 26 years ago and served as co-chairs of the annual event for two years. Gerry also served as master of ceremonies for the annual TPSF Teacher of the Year Dinner for 16 years and was Honorary Superintendent of the Foundation's Summer Academy program for elementary and middle school students. Gerry was a longtime member of the Tustin-Santa Ana Rotary

Club serving twice as its president and coordinating the club's high school scholarships program for many years. He served on the Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts' Encore Group supporting the arts in the community, was a board member for the Assessment and Treatment Services Center, served on the Tustin Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, and was involved in the Tustin Chili Cook-Off and Tustin Tiller Days. He was also an active member of Red Hill Lutheran Church.

Gerry received several honors over the years, including Tustin Area Man of the Year in 2005, Tustin School Management Association's Community Service Award in 2000 and 2009 for his contributions to the education of TUSD students, and Orange County Retired Administrator of the Year in 2012 by the Association of California School Administrators, Region 17, for his ongoing volunteer work in education and the community. In 2008, he co-chaired Tustin Unified's Measure L school facilities modernization bond campaign, which successfully passed.

Gerry is survived by his wife, Diane; sons, Eric and Brian; daughters-in-law, Beth and Dorothy; and five grandchildren. Both of his sons attended TUSD schools and graduated from Foothill High School.

Individuals can make donations to the Gerry Aust Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Tustin Public Schools Foundation at www.tpsf.net.

Gerry was a TUSD icon and he will be greatly missed.

TUSD New Briefs

By Mark Eliot

Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District

Tustin Unified Welcomes 24,000 Students

The Tustin Unified School District welcomed approximately 24,000 students for the 2017-18 school year. The first day of school was Aug. 22.

During the year, Tustin Unified will continue to focus on student achievement, student wellness, quality facilities, highly-qualified employees, fiscal responsibility and parent/community partnerships.

Several administrators joined TUSD or moved to new sites for the 2017-18 school year. New or newly assigned principals are: Katy Sheyka at Arroyo Elementary School, Ray Hernandez at Guin Foss Elementary School, Dr. Lauren Steinmann at Loma Vista Elementary School, Dr. Jon Tuin at Tustin High School and Dr. Dustin O'Malley at the new Tustin Connect High School (grades 9-12 online/independent study school).

New or newly assigned assistant principals are: Melissa Samson at Columbus Tustin Middle School and Dawn Lam at C.E. Utt Middle School.

Special dates and holidays during the 2017-18 school year include: Labor Day, Sept. 4; Veterans' Day, Nov. 10; fall recess, Nov. 20 through 24; winter recess, Dec. 25 through Jan. 5; Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 15; Lincoln Day, Feb. 12; Washington Day, Feb. 19; spring recess, March 26 through 30; and Memorial Day, May 28.

Additionally, there will be a staff development day (no students) on Oct. 30; and a teacher work day (no students) on Dec. 22.

The last day of school will be June 7 for grades K-12.

The 2017-18 calendar is posted on the TUSD Web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us.

For more information, call your local school or the TUSD Communications Office at (714) 730-7339. Individuals can also follow the District on Twitter: @TUSDschools and @SuptFranklin.

TUSD Holds State of the Schools Breakfast

The sixth annual State of the Schools Breakfast was held on Sept. 25 in the Sports Pavilion at Tustin High School. The event, co-sponsored by the Tustin Public Schools Foundation and Tustin Unified School District, celebrated TUSD's accomplishments and featured how the District is preparing students for success in college and careers.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin presented the keynote address, "TUSD – A Contagious Culture for Success." His topics included magnet programs, robotics and computer science, college and career pathways, advanced math and science programs, project-based learning, and educational technology, furniture and "wired classrooms." In addition, the District's new video, "Transforming Students' Lives," was shown and entertainment was provided by Tustin High School's ASB, Cheer Team, Dance Team and Marching Band.

By-Trustee Area Voting Map Adopted

The Tustin Unified School District Board of Education adopted a by-trustee area voting map at its July 10, 2017, meeting.

Here is an overview of TUSD's next steps during its transition to by-trustee area elections:

A petition was prepared and sent to the Orange County Committee on School District Organization requesting approval of the District's adopted map. Additionally, the District has filed its waiver request to the State Board of Education (authorization was provided via TUSD Board Resolution on June 26).

The County Committee held a public hearing on August 16 in the Board Room at the TUSD Administration Center regarding the school district's proposed transition. The District made a presentation to the committee. The County Committee unanimously approved the District's map.

The State Board of Education (at either its September 13-14, 2017 or November 8-9, 2017 meeting) will hopefully approve the District's waiver. Thereafter, the District will file the new/approved map with the Orange County Registrar of Voters for use during the November 2018 election.

The election timing will be as follows: Areas 3 and 5 in 2018, and Areas 1, 2 and 4 in 2020. The by-trustee area voting map can be found on the Home Page at the TUSD Web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us.

For more information, contact the Tustin Unified Communications Office at (714) 730-7339.

School Cafeterias Get a Gold Star in Food Safety

The Environmental Health Division of Orange County has given the Award of Excellence to the school cafeterias at Columbus Tustin, Currie, Pioneer and Utt middle schools; Orchard Hills School; and Beckman, Foothill and Tustin high schools. Only schools with cooking kitchens are eligible to win this award – all eligible schools were recognized.

The award is given to establishments in recognition of consistently protecting the residents and visitors of Orange County through excellence in food safety and sanitation at the food establishment.

The Award of Excellence Program was implemented in 1999 in an effort to encourage food establishments to strive for excellence in food safety and sanitation practices, and to recognize those who succeed. Award recipients included those establishments meeting eligibility as determined by a review of the establishment's inspection reports.

The inspection reports from these cafeterias indicate that the food handling practices and overall sanitation at their facilities were outstanding during the past year, according to TUSD Nutrition Services Director Teresa Squibb.

TUSD Breaks Ground on New Building at Heideman School



TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, Heideman PTO Co-President Wendy Aguilera, Tustin Council Member and Orange County Department of Education Trustee Beckie Gomez, Heideman Principal Sean Lindsay, TUSD Board of Education President Jonathan Abelow and TUSD Board members Tammie Bullard and Francine Scinto participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for Heideman School's new classroom building.

The Tustin Unified School District broke ground on a new classroom building at Robert Heideman Elementary School on July 18. School board members, community leaders, District administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students attended the ceremony.

The two-story building is 19,000 square feet and features 12 classrooms, a staff workroom, restrooms, stairs and an elevator.

"There is definitely a buzz of excitement in the air about our new classroom building," Heideman Principal Sean Lindsay said. "The teachers, staff and students can't wait to begin using the new classrooms."

The building was designed by HMC Architects and is being built by Balfour Beatty Construction. The project costs over \$7 million and is being funded through the Measure L modernization program, special reserve funds and developer fees. Construction will be completed in spring 2018.



Rendering of Heideman School's new classroom building.

For more information, call Heideman Elementary School at (714) 730-7521 or TUSD Communications Office at (714) 730-7339.

Arroyo *Elementary School*

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



Katy Sheyka
Principal

New Year, New Team Members

The new school year brings new team members to Arroyo! Katy Sheyka is the new school principal. She has been in education for 22 years, which includes 14 years as an elementary teacher, two years serving as a TUSD intervention teacher on special assignment, and six years as an elementary principal.

Mrs. Sheyka served as the principal of Loma Vista Elementary School for six years prior to her assignment at Arroyo. Under her leadership, the school was recognized as a California Gold Ribbon School, California Title I Academic Achievement School, a Campaign for Business Education Excellence (CBEE) Honor Roll School, and a California Silver Medal PBIS school.

Arlene Lopez is the new school secretary. Mrs. Lopez has worked at Arroyo for the past six years as a noon duty supervisor, an instructional aide, and the school's office assistant. Mrs. Lopez's knowledge of the Arroyo community and the inner workings of the school office, in addition to her strong work ethic and positive, enthusiastic attitude, make her the perfect fit for the position.

Michael Ann Pevehouse is Arroyo's new health clerk. Mrs. Pevehouse is a well-respected member of the TUSD community. Her experience includes six years as a health clerk in two TUSD schools. This past summer she also served as office support at the Tustin Summer Academy.

Combined, these passionate new team members bring 34 years of experience in educational settings. Together, they are looking forward to ensuring a safe, welcoming, and nurturing learning environment for the Arroyo Mustangs.

Contest!

This student is somewhere in this publication. When you find him, email the **page number** to:



Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put TUSD in the subject line

Your entry must be received by Oct 15, 2017.

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a GAZUMP card/dice game.

Congratulations to **Sue Robishaw**

Winner of the June Word Search Contest!

Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

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



Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

Link Cru Leaders

Beckman High School is looking forward to another great year in 2017-18. During the past summer and continuing through the first few weeks of school, teachers, staff and students have been working on many exciting programs and projects throughout the school year. I will be sharing more news in the months ahead.



Beckman freshmen participating in Link Cru, a yearlong orientation program.

All freshmen at Beckman take part in a yearlong orientation program called Link Cru. Link Cru is a high school transition program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. The curriculum trains mentors from our junior and senior classes to be Link Cru leaders to serve as positive role models to our ninth-grade students.

Link Cru leaders are mentors and student leaders who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school and help facilitate freshman success.

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



Jackie Christy
Principal

Community Leads to Success!

What makes a school great? At Barbara Benson Elementary School, we believe it's a combination of things that make a great school: highly trained teachers, a sense of community, rigorous standards, student engagement and parent involvement, just to name a few. At Benson School, we have teachers providing instruction to students in transitional kindergarten up to fifth

grade, including special day classes that serve the needs of students with special needs.

Benson teachers and staff form strong bonds with all students, even those who are not in their own classrooms. These emotional connections ensure that students feel safe and confident at school. At Benson Elementary,

reaching rigorous standards is evident by our many awards: California Gold Ribbon, Title 1 Academic Achievement, and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence award. We continue to develop best instructional practices to ensure that we are preparing our students to be successful 21st century learners. This is made easier with our one-to-one iPad initiative, which allows students to learn, create and share with others as well as practice reading and math skills at their specific level.

Finally, a large part of the success at Benson comes from our parent involvement. With a robust Parent-Teacher Organization, our Parents in Action fitness program and ongoing parent-education opportunities, we understand the value in working as a team to support the success of all students at Benson School!

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



Stephanie Yang
Principal

Got STEAM? Bobcats Do!

Beswick Elementary School is excited to begin the design and implementation of our "Bobcat Den" STEAM Lab this fall. This new Den will support the growth of 21st-century learning by providing a Makerspace, STEM Lab, and Technology Lounge for all students in grades K-5.

The Bobcat Den provides zones for independent work, collaboration, and whole-class activities. Visits to the Bobcat Den will provide opportunities for students to develop their critical thinking skills as they collaborate to solve problems, create, engineer, and design.

Staff and community partners have contributed to the recycled raw materials stocked in the Makerspace, and our wonderful Tustin Public Schools Foundation provided Beswick with a generous grant that helped fund the technology and robotics supplies that will be used in the Bobcat Den. Students will be able to engage with electronic building block, or coding technology.



Beswick teachers collaborate and code a Beebot during a summer training focused on engaging all learners.

Once the Bobcat Den is fully equipped, students will have access to laptops, 3D printers, green screens, and so much more! Our teachers are already digging into the new technology that their students will soon be getting their hands on, and they are ready to engage!



Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



Maggie Burdette
Principal

Welcome, Mrs. Samson!

Columbus Tustin is excited to welcome Melissa Samson as our new assistant principal! Mrs. Samson worked in public education for 15 years at Kraemer Middle School in Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. She began her career as a math teacher. She has served Kraemer as Math Department chair and Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) coordinator.

Most recently, she has been working as their activities director and color-guard instructor.

Under Mrs. Samson's leadership, the Kraemer ASB has received the Outstanding Leadership Program three times from the California Association of Student Leaders. She was also recognized as one of Placentia-Yorba Linda's Aspiring Leaders.

Mrs. Samson has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree in educational administration from Concordia University in Irvine.



New Assistant Principal, Melissa Samson, welcomes Andrew Cleary Floresto the first day of school!

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Ready to Go!

Principal Erick Fineberg enters his fourth year as the proud principal of A.G. Currie Middle School. A graduate of U.C. Irvine and UCLA, Mr. Fineberg brings a wealth of knowledge, high expectations, and a commitment to insure that all students learn at the highest level. He has taught at Long Beach, Irvine and

Capistrano school districts before joining Tustin Unified School District eight years ago. Under his leadership, Beswick, Currie and Thorman were named California Distinguished, Gold Ribbon and Title I Academic Achievement schools. Mr. Fineberg looks forward to the new school year leading the Currie staff as they continue to focus on building strong relationships with students, taking academic risks engaging in a rigorous curriculum. Currie will continue focusing on strong Professional Learning Communities that lead to academically and emotionally successful students. With a focus on writing skills, students promoted from Currie are well equipped to tackle the challenges of high school and beyond.



Currie students Grace Aguilera, Alondra Garcia Garcia, Leslie Rojo, Itzel Armijo, Ximena Castro and Emily Ward celebrate the first week of school with Principal Erick Fineberg.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



Wendy Hudson
Principal

New Faces and New Spaces!

Estock Elementary welcomed its students back to school in August.

Several new student places on campus have been created to make school life even better than before. Our fifth-graders now have their own “Senior Quad” for lunch recess! This is

their own space where they can spread out on the grass and have the freedom to choose a spot to eat and mingle with friends. The students were thrilled to see their new area and have loved being able to use it!

Our Collaboratory opened up on the first day of school for all students. Designed to inspire creativity and collaborative work, the children have loved experimenting with the new technology. Located outside between the library and the Collaboratory, another new space was added that contains beautiful red tables and benches that will allow teachers and students to bring the learning outdoors.



Estock fifth graders enjoy their new “Senior Quad.”

Our sense of community is strong at Estock. Now our students have new spaces in which to gather, work, and play.

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Foothill *High School*

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



Dr. Michael Williams
Principal

A Running Start!

Foothill High School is off to a wonderful start to the 2017–18 school year! We welcomed in our new Knights with a splash!

These Knights were greeted with an opening Link Crew orientation on the Friday before school started. Foothill teachers and Link Crew leaders Mike Lee and Ross Goldman trained over 80 junior and senior Link Crew mentors who will each encourage

eight to 10 freshman mentees throughout the year. They will inspire their mentees to connect to Foothill through engaging in high academics, developing great friendships, finding ways to serve and lead, and making a Difference at Foothill Daily. Not only did we focus on the freshman getting off to a running start but also our fantastic Foothill teachers and ASB directors David Waibel and Mike Lee kicked off opening day with a Welcome Back Assembly and closed the week with an Electric Sight and Sound Knight Dance!



Foothill students and staff started the new school year off on the right note.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



Ray Hernandez
Principal

Making SMART Decisions

This year, Guin Foss Elementary School welcomes a new principal, Ray Hernandez.

Mr. Hernandez is in his 17th year in education, which includes five years as an administrator. Most recently, Mr. Hernandez

was the assistant principal at Utt Middle School.

The staff at Guin Foss believes that the elementary school years are the most important foundational years of schooling. We are committed to assuring that our students will not only enjoy these years, but will also leave Guin Foss ready to thrive in middle school and beyond.

The Guin Foss philosophy is to challenge students with rigorous standards and engage them with instructional strategies supported by technology. Staff members will lead our students to be “SMART” and to make SMART decisions (which stands for



Principal Ray Hernandez and Guin Foss students get ready for a fabulous year ahead.

Safe, Motivated, Academic, Responsible, and Teamwork).

Our students are expected to study hard and do their best to take advantage of the great educational opportunities available to them at Guin Foss School. Go, Dolphins!

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

15571 Williams St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7521



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Developing Lifelong Learners

When people think of elementary school, they typically think of academics—the three R's, let's say. But there is a deeper curriculum that's vital to the success of all learning. Skills such as focus, perseverance, empathy and self-regulation need to be taught and nurtured. In a fast-moving, innovative 21st century world, these

skills are particularly important for students to develop into lifelong learners. At Heideman, we've put into practice strategies that teach and nurture these "inner skills."

At Morning Meetings, students sit in a circle to discuss a question of the day or possibly a classroom issue. They learn to listen, understand, and problem-solve, and they also learn about one another. Teachers learn about their students' interests, challenges and dreams.

Mindfulness is growing as a regular practice in classrooms. You'll see teachers leading students through breathing or yoga exercises. Students develop awareness, attention and self-control.



Heideman teacher Debra Bessen's students participate in yoga time in the classroom.

Our specialty: Orthopedics **Zachary's specialty:** Volleyball Ace

Our specialists are the leaders in children's health care.

For months, Zachary was experiencing hip pain. An x-ray revealed a bone tumor and Zachary was referred to Dr. Amy Williams at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, who diagnosed him with Ewing's sarcoma. Dr. Williams is one of the only doctors in California who specializes in both pediatric orthopedics and bone tumors. Dr. Williams performed a limb salvage surgery to completely remove the cancerous tumor while preserving Zachary's leg. After chemotherapy, radiation and rehabilitation guided by Miller Children's, today, Zachary is standing tall.



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Zachary, 15-years-old,
*Miller Children's
Bone Tumor Patient*
South Bay Resident



Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7339



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

Student Council Promotes Friendship

The Heritage Elementary Student Council has added a new feature to our playground: a buddy bench. A buddy bench is a place where students congregate if they would like to make a new friend. This helps children build friendships, create new playmates, and feel included at school.

The Heritage Student Council raised all of their own funds for the bench through school-wide activities and fundraisers, such as bake sales at the family dance and STEAM game night. With the support of their volunteer advisers Pia Lewis and Sarah Winn, the students selected this service project to help create a lasting impact on our Heritage student body.

The Student Council painted the bench with handprints, and selected a shady place for it to be installed on the playground. The Council, which has representatives from each class in the second through fifth grades, builds student leadership opportunities and empowerment among the elementary grade students.



Heritage student council members Melanie Salazar, Addison Ozols, Katelyn Yu, and Myles McBride show off the new friendship bench, donated by the student council.

Hewes *Middle School*

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



Eric Kilian
Principal

Like New!

Welcome to the 2017–18 school year at Hewes! After a summer chock-full of construction projects and upgrades, it was awesome to have students return to campus and bring the “life-blood” back to school.

Some of the major projects and upgrades over the summer include exterior painting of the entire school; new classroom furniture for students in all classrooms; new energy-efficient A/C units for the entire school—you may have seen or heard the helicopter dropping off the rooftop units; new collaborative, modern student furniture in the library funded by our Hewes PTA; staging of solar shade structures, on which the work is to commence soon; ongoing landscapes upgrades; and the Hewes PTA-sponsored redesign of our cafeteria area.

As we begin the 51st year at Hewes with our phenomenal



Hewes students in teacher Carter Mokhtari’s CORE class are enjoying the new furniture.

students and like-new facilities, we aim to continue living out our educational mantra of “Rich past. Bold future.” Let’s make this the best year yet at Hewes! Hewes 2.0, let’s go for it!

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Deena Vela
Principal

A Lot of "NEW"

Hicks Canyon welcomes another exciting "new" school year!

This year our Hicks Canyon teachers welcomed new and familiar faces into their 21st-century flexible seating classrooms. These learner-centered rooms are designed to accommodate different teaching and learning styles, which may include individual study and reflection, peer discussions, small-group work, teacher-directed instruction, and student

presentation. Hicks Canyon teachers and students enjoy learning in these "new" spaces!

New to our school are also two amazing librarians, Mrs. Cochran and Mrs. Yonowitz. Both have worked hard to extend our flexible learning into our "new" library space! The students are overjoyed to check out books and relax as they read their favorite titles.

Other "new" spaces to Hicks Canyon are the iLab 1.0 and iLab 2.0 which the students visit each week to work on STEM activities and projects using the engineering design process. Everyone is excited about the "new" 21st-century transformation at Hicks Canyon!



Hicks Canyon teacher Tiffany Cruz's second-grade students get to work in their flexible seating classroom.

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Ladera Elementary School

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7505



High Hopes!

On the first day of school, Ladera students and teachers took to the halls to add their hopes for the new school year to the new whiteboard walls in our new Collaboration Spaces. It was exciting and rewarding to see what amazing hopes everyone has for the coming year.

Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

Fifth-grade teacher Megan Donovan wrote, "I hope my students have a great year and realize they are capable of so much!"

From Traci DiLellio, third- and fourth-grade teacher, we read, "I hope that my kids have fun while learning."

Ladera students had great hopes as well. William wrote, "My hope is to help people," Naudia said, "I hope that this year, I will make a new friend," and Dylan added, "I hope to make passion projects about dinosaurs because when I'm an adult, I'll be a paleontologist."



Ladera students add their hopes for the year to the school's Collaboration Space in the 400 wing.

It is clear that these Leopards are going to have one fantastic year!

Hillview High School

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7356



Making a Difference

It is hard to believe I am entering my 12th year as principal of Hillview High School! Over the years, I have come to realize that Hillview is the most misunderstood school and the best-kept secret around.

Students come to Hillview because they are deficient in credits. Contrary to popular belief, students are not referred to Hillview for discipline issues. In fact, Hillview has one of the lowest suspension rates in the district. Since we are much smaller—about 200 students—staff and students are able to develop good rapport. The students know the entire staff really cares about them, and in return, the students want to work for them.

Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Hillview's diploma is equivalent to the comprehensive high school's diploma, since all students have to earn 230 credits in order to graduate. Some students earn enough credits to return to the comprehensive high school, but the majority chooses to remain in the smaller environment.

After graduation, many of our graduates go on to community college. The counselors from the community colleges come and speak to our students, and the entire senior class visits the various college campuses.

I am very appreciative of the community groups that assist Hillview High, including the Kiwanis Club, Tustin-Santa Ana Rotary Club, the Soroptimist Club, Tustin Public Schools Foundation and the Book Club. Their support truly makes a difference at the school.

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Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Lauren Steinmann
Principal

New Year, New Principal!

The new school year is off to a great start at Loma Vista Elementary School. The beginning of the year always brings lots of new things: backpacks, supplies, grade levels, and at Loma Vista this year, a new principal!

Dr. Lauren Steinmann is joining the Loma Vista Cougar family with over 13 years of experience in education, and all at Tustin Unified. She started her educational career as a teacher at Peters Canyon Elementary

School. From there, Dr. Steinmann became one of the first digital learning coaches, assisting teachers in the successful implementation of educational technology at schools across the district. She later joined the Educational Services team as a teacher on special assignment specializing in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in the elementary schools.

Dr. Steinmann holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona, a multiple subject teaching credential from San Francisco State University, a master's degree in educational administration from Concordia University, and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Steinmann is thrilled to be joining a thriving and energetic school community. "Loma Vista is a leading-edge school, and I am so proud and honored to be working alongside an amazing staff and parent community for continued success for all of our scholars," she said. Follow along with the daily events, successes, and happenings at Loma Vista on Instagram and Twitter: @teamlomavista. Go, Loma Vista Cougars!

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Myford *Elementary School*

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



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Making a Difference

This year our Myford students and staff members came back to a new look that is bright, beautiful, and sends the message that our school is a welcoming place to be!

This summer our Tustin Unified School District staff worked hard to replace the worn carpet from when Myford first opened. Even more impactful is that our new furniture allows for flexible seating and increased collaboration. Gone are the individual desks and assigned seating. Now our students are able to take ownership for their learning and find the work space that best suits them.

Fourth-grader Katelyn Yoo remarked that, "I think the seating is good, because even though you might be tempted to sit by your friends, it's nice to be able to choose where you work best." The students also shared that they enjoy

being able to sit where there's more sunlight, or where they're comfortable or can learn best.

We know that student choice is key to a strong learning environment!



Students in Myford teacher Hannah Nydam's second grade class enjoy finding their favorite place to do their reading work.

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



Melinda Smith
Principal

Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners

The Nelson Elementary School staff opened the 2017–2018 school year to welcome students from Kindergarten Readiness through the fifth grade.

We are thrilled to have the campus buzzing with the enthusiasm that our students bring. Over the summer, our teachers attended special trainings

to get ready for the new year, while the campus also underwent a few upgrades which included fresh paint in the front office and on our lunch tables.

We also have new carpet and furniture throughout the school. The new furniture provides more opportunities to offer flexible seating to match instructional shifts and meet the needs of our diverse learners.

In Reading Workshop, students routinely read around the room, which is one example of flexible seating. They choose their preferred seating, which enables flexible groupings for instruction. We find that students who are offered a choice in

seating attend longer and are more engaged.

Thank you for your support of our educational programs. We are off to a great start!



Students in Carrie Smaker's first grade class have opinions about where they concentrate best.

Orchard Hills School

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



Cindy Agopian
Principal

New Staff Members

Orchard Hills School is pleased to introduce new staff members to our campus. We have two veteran teachers joining our fifth-grade team. Dave Dattola comes to us from Nelson Elementary School, and Amy Jones comes to us from Arroyo Elementary School.

We also have some new faces on our middle school campus. Teaching mathematics is Marissa Parker, and teaching science is Henry Nguyen. Erin Hart is teaching strategic reading, Core 6, and Core 7. We are also very fortunate to have a new counselor on our team. Christine MacInnis will be working at Orchard Hills four days a week.

As the year begins, we are hopeful that our students will have a year filled with both academic and social growth. As a staff, we continue to work with students to encourage a growth mindset, being mindful in their thoughts and actions and discovering their element.



Orchard Hills School's new staff members are Marissa Parker, Erin Hart, Amy Jones and Dave Dattola.

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Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Brooke Carreras
Principal

Reading Time is Family Time

Peters Canyon Elementary has launched its first Family Book Club. Here families will have the opportunity to read a chapter book with their children to help foster a love for reading in their home.

All ages are encouraged

to participate at their own level, and a variety of strategies are provided to parents to both support their developing readers and foster a joy of reading. Families who participate will receive a free copy of the book *The Lemonade War*, by Jacqueline Davies.

Our desire is to start each school year moving forward with a shared

reading experience. At the end of the month our readers will gather together to celebrate our first Family Book Club by enjoying lemonade, sharing our favorite characters and events in the story, and by making a “Lemonade Stand” picture frame for each family.



Peters Canyon teacher Susan Lee's second-grade students display the book, “The Lemonade War:”
(f) Ben Choi, Brandon Nguyen, Charlotte Brookes, Siouxsie Garcia, Chaewon Yoon, Koen Bansil, and Ian Chen;
(m) Ian Truong, Peyton Lau, Shan Kincaid, Maya Austin, Camryn Johnson, Alexia Billard, Ava Schrank, and Jugaad Takkar;
and (b) Bayla Fedich, Audrey Lara, Andrew Ramos, Grady Tucker, Mrs. Lee, Victoria Aguilera, Jasmine Wanlass, Cameron Karpontonis and Rachel Busch.

Pioneer *Middle School*

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Pioneer – Where Everyone Belongs (WEB)

Pioneer Middle School welcomes our 2017-18 sixth grade students with the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) transition program! This program makes students feel comfortable throughout their first year of middle school. Through this nationally recognized middle school transition

program, 65 members of Pioneer's eighth-grade class were trained at the end of last year, and during this summer, to act as positive role models, mentors, and teachers who guide sixth graders to discover what it takes to be successful in middle school.

Pioneer's new WEB program hopes to enhance anti-bullying efforts, reduce discipline issues, and increase school safety, while creating an improved school climate and a greater sense of connection to the entire school

community. As a result of the training that Pioneer's PTO sponsored, school counselors, Staci Koski and Melanie Miranda, are developing student leaders who facilitate meaningful and purposeful activities designed to promote social and academic success.



Pioneer's sixth-grade students attend the school's WEB assembly.

Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



Will Neddersen
Principal

Looking to Innovate

The 2017–2018 school year is going to be filled with innovation. Over the summer, Red Hill Elementary School's teachers read *The Innovator's Mindset*, which shared a message of unleashing learning through creativity. We are working to bring innovation into current practices as well looking for new opportunities to deepen learning for all!

Red Hill's instructional focus will continue with Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) in math and Balanced Literacy for English/language arts. Students will also be challenged with different Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) tasks throughout the year in our lab. We are looking forward to seeing what our students will create!



First-grade students creating a PicCollage while interviewing each other.

Also, two new teachers have joined the Red Hill staff, Mary Ann Bryan and Rosanne Mann. We welcome them to our team of innovators!

A key point made in *The Innovator's Mindset* is the importance of continually building relationships. Be on the lookout for all the ways the Red Hill community is building those relationships!



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Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

Inspiring Grit in the Classroom

The Thorman Elementary School Panthers are off to great start! We are all about grit this year: passion and perseverance to stick with problems until we solve them. Science proves that grit is the most important characteristic to have to succeed. We are inspiring grit in the classroom, on the playground,

and in our Panther Innovation Station. Our grit continues with Kerri Braun, our awesome instructional coach, supporting all teachers in using evidence-driven strategies to know our students and increase rigor and learning. Watch out for #ThormanGRIT!

Our year started with Back-to-School Night the night before school started, easing first-day jitters, as students had met their teachers and knew where the classrooms were. We are ensuring that our Panthers are well-rounded with the Pacific Symphony Class Act program and the Meet the Masters art program.

This year is going to be a good one!



First-grade teacher Mabel Huddleston and her students Sophia Esteban and Alex Orozco show their #ThormanGRIT T-shirts.

Tustin Connect *Online School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7395



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Administrator

Welcome Back, Mavericks!

We are excited to start the new school year and to welcome our new and returning Tustin Connect students. Tustin Connect serves a talented and diverse student body of K–12 students that includes elite athletes, actors, dancers, gifted children, traveling families and other students that desire a more personalized and flexible learning environment.

Tustin Connect has successfully served K–8 students since 2015, and now we have expanded to offer a flexible online education for high school students. Tustin Connect opened its fully accredited college-preparatory high school for the 2017–18 school year, and we warmly welcome our inaugural class of freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Tustin Connect is a school of choice and is available for any interested K–12 student. Enrollment is available throughout the school year as space permits. Interested families can learn more and request an appointment and tour by visiting www.tustinconnect.org.



Tustin Connect students Lucas Lin and Luke Cantafio collaborate on their first week of self-paced assignments.

Tustin High School

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



Dr. Jon Tuin
Principal

Welcome, Dr. Jon Tuin!

Tustin High School is thrilled to welcome Dr. Jon Tuin, who was appointed as the new principal. He has worked in education for 33 years, for the past eight years as principal of Larkin High School in Illinois. Tustin's new principal has roots

in Orange County. He is a graduate of Saddleback High School and began his career as a math teacher at Valley High School. During his career, he has also worked as a college career counselor, high school associate principal, elementary principal, and teacher. In addition, he has also coached football, wrestling, basketball and track.

Dr. Tuin has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wheaton College in Illinois, a

master's degree in education and counseling from Northern Illinois University, and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Loyola University in Chicago. Our Tiller family is looking forward to an exciting first year with Dr. Tuin!



Tustin High Principal Dr. Jon Tuin poses with the THS Girls' Volleyball Team: Paige Cutwright, Casey Gallagher, Allison Zamora, Crystal Millar, Amanda Zamora, and Jasmin Montoya.

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Tustin Memorial *Academy*

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Sharon Maeda
Principal

Reaching for the Stars

Tustin Memorial Academy is off to an exciting start to the new school year!

Our students and families attended a celebratory Back-to-School Night event to welcome and set the stage for a fabulous year ahead. This year's themes are "Innovative

Mindset" and "Start with WHY." Scholars

will be focusing on new ways to think outside the box and ponder the "WHY" behind their thinking.

Congratulations also goes to our entire staff for their dedication and recognition as a Gold Medal Implementation award winner from the California PBIS Coalition (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports). This recognition reflects excellence in the measurement

of fidelity and efforts in implementing a system that reinforces student behavior expectations in a positive and empowering way.

TMA's collaborative culture and desire to grow continues to thrive, and will be integrated with authentic experiences across content areas this year. TMA students are excited to "reach for the stars and beyond!"



Tustin Memorial Academy kicks off the new school year at family Back-to-School Night.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Our First TK Class

Tustin Ranch Elementary School is excited to welcome teacher Annette Cuccarese and her new class.

Transitional Kindergarten, often referred to as TK, is an exciting educational opportunity for children who turn five years of age between September 2 and December 2. It is the first phase of a two-year

kindergarten program that uses age-appropriate curricula aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

Transitional Kindergarten acts as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten, and is designed to provide our youngest learners with the pivotal skills and experiences they need for success in kindergarten.

With an emphasis on oral language development, literacy immersion, and number sense, TK provides collaborative experiences

that promote cooperation, self-confidence, self-regulation, and healthy attitudes about school and learning.

The standards, curricula, and teacher credentialing requirements in Transitional Kindergarten are different than those in preschool.

Transitional Kindergarten is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, is an academic program, and is taught by fully credentialed teachers. Welcome!



Tustin Ranch teacher Annette Cuccarese gets to know her TK class.

C.E. Utt Middle School

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



Dr. CK Green
Principal

The Enjoyable Years

This year, Utt Middle School welcomes back Principal Dr. C.K. Green for his second year of leading the Falcons. Dr. Green looks forward to “leading the charge” of meeting the school’s “Mission and Vision.”

The Mission of the Utt Middle School teachers and staff is to prepare students to succeed in a rapidly changing world. The school’s Vision is that through the combined efforts of staff members, parents, students, and the community, our students will become global citizens equipped with strong 21st-century skills.

The staff at Utt Middle School believes that the middle school years can be the most enjoyable of all for children. Utt hopes that its students will not only enjoy these years, but also greatly profit from them.



Look up in the sky! Students, along with their teachers, watched the solar eclipse on August 21 as part of a science lesson.

To start off on the right foot for the sixth-graders during this 2017–2018 school year, our “Where Everybody Belongs” club welcomed these incoming students to an orientation which included a science lesson on the recent solar eclipse.

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Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

To Be, Belong, and Become

Marjorie Veeh School welcomed back hundreds of smiling students and families on the first day of school, and the excitement and energy is still being felt around campus!

Our staff and students continue to shine as they dive right into an engaging and rigorous curriculum.

Our teachers recently planned “Get to Know You” activities centered on growth mindset and campus norms. They also kicked off the year with STEM challenges and campus tours for our new TK and kindergarten students.

Adding to our Veeh family, we welcomed three more Spanish dual-immersion classes. Our wonderful Veeh PTA also began the year by welcoming the teachers back on their first day with a delicious lunch. We are all looking forward to an outstanding year of supporting our students’ achievements!

We’re also looking forward to getting to know our families better at Back-to-School Night. The 2017–2018 school year is looking bright.



Veeh students Rodrigo Arevalo, Alondra Guerrero and Shymaa Desoky are eagerly on their way to learn.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

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Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Tustin Summer Academy

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation hosted its sixth-annual Tustin Summer Academy at Orchard Hills School, presenting educational enrichment programs for Tustin Unified School District students in grades K–8. Summer Academy 2017 provided a variety of programs ranging from popular robotics and STEAM courses to new offerings like Comic Creators and Spanish Readers Theater.

Designed and taught by our own TUSD educators to help expand knowledge and nurture creativity and curiosity, the Summer Academy courses were also made for fun. With no grades, homework, or tests, a typical course was more “activity” than academics. On the last day, the students presented an interactive showcase tour for parents and supporters to admire their projects.

On August 12, the Tustin Public Schools Foundation lost a dear friend and wholly dedicated board member, Gerry Aust. Gerry served TUSD for 37 years as a teacher and school principal,

and was active on the TPSF board for the past 17 years, most passionately as honorary superintendent of the Summer Academy and chair of the annual Dinosaur Dash fundraiser. His lasting impact on the Tustin community is immeasurable.



A student in the Summer Academy presents her project on the final day – Showcase Day.

Business Services

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



Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

Energy Savings

Tustin Unified School District staff continues to work on capital-improvement projects. With each respective construction or renovation effort, there is a focus on sustainability and conservation.

Dozens of landscaping projects have been completed recently, which brought forth a new look for many sites and also significant

water savings from installation of low water-consuming products.

Construction of new solar carport/shade structures at 15 sites is scheduled to begin this fall, and the district anticipates close to \$20 million in savings over the next 25 years. The energy behavior-modification program that started over four years ago has resulted in a cost avoidance of over \$3 million to date.

Finally, staff completed work on new exterior lighting and HVAC unit replacements at various schools, using Proposition 39 funding this summer. The highlight of the project was new unit deliveries via helicopter at Columbus Tustin, Hewes and Utt middle schools.



Air conditioning equipment being replaced at Utt Middle School

Educational Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 309



Kathie Nielsen
Chief Academic
Officer

Soaring to Success

Summer school in TUSD was a great success. The elementary students in grades two through five attended a summer learning opportunity that provided them with six weeks of strategic reading and writing instruction, all embedded with activities that encouraged the development of an “I can do it” growth mindset. It also helped them find the joy and pleasure in reading and writing.

Tustin’s best instructors also provided demonstration lessons in the summer school classrooms, and a learning lab for their fellow colleagues through a unique teacher development academy.

Tustin Unified middle school students also soared on the wings of flight at Columbus Tustin Middle School, which hosted their summer school for the district. Students had the opportunity to practice academic skills while building

their own hot air balloon, balsa wood airplane, and fully functioning bottle rocket.

In addition, the students also visited the Tustin Hangars, the Lyon Air Museum, and the Space Shuttle Endeavor. Interacting with veteran war pilots, engineers, and physicists from ExoAnalytic Solutions, they learned first hand about flight, which also provided real-life applications for math and English Language Arts (ELA).

The high school summer program took place at Foothill High School, and served approximately 3,000 TUSD students in two sessions. Credit recovery and various advancement and enrichment opportunities were in full swing as the students worked hard to gain credits toward graduation. They could also improve their overall grade-point averages, or get ahead to be able to participate in additional activities and programs. Special Education Extended Year programs also took place at the site.

Overall, it was a very successful summer for TUSD students!

Nutrition Services

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



Teresa Squibb
Director

New Professional Standards

As part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA), the USDA has established minimum hiring requirements for some and training requirements for all school nutrition employees. Continuing education has always been important for Nutrition Service's staff. Continuing education provides our staff with the tools to provide healthy meals that meet all the standards.

At the beginning of this school year, all Nutrition Services staff went through training, which covered a wide array of topics such as meal guidelines, food safety, employee safety and customer service. Throughout the year, staff undergoes training focusing on learning the new USDA meal requirements and food-safety topics.

Nutrition Services continues to offer Meatless Monday to our elementary and middle school and Mostly Meatless

to our high schools. Nutrition Services makes it easy for students to try a variety of meat-free meals. Freshly made macaroni and cheese, homemade cheese enchiladas, nacho bowls and grilled-cheese panini are a few of the entrees available to students.

Numerous school districts, including LAUSD and SDUSD; colleges; restaurants; communities; and hospitals have joined Meatless Monday to help people reduce their meat consumption by 15 percent to improve personal health. On average, Americans consume eight ounces of meat per day—45 percent more than the USDA recommends. Going meatless once a week can reduce the risk of chronic conditions like cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity.

All breakfast and lunch menus are now available on your favorite devices through an app called My School Menu, available in IOS and Android.

Technology in TUSD Schools

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



Dr. Grant Litfin
*Assistant
Superintendent,
Administrative
Services*

A New Way of Learning

As a part of the TUSD Connect Instructional Initiative, Tustin Unified's Information Technology Department distributes and collects around 24,000 student and teacher devices each year. This process is a significant undertaking

that the group has made appear fairly effortless.

As part of this process, the IT Department conducts physical inspections of each device, performs routine maintenance and software updates, and makes sure that every student is ready to digitally embark upon a new school year. The TUSD Connect Initiative and Measure "S" have made sure that all district students have a way to collaborate, communicate, think critically, and be creative in a digital space.



Eighth-grade students at Columbus Tustin Middle School take time to set up their District-issued iPads.

Having exposure to this 21st-century way of learning has contributed greatly to academic success, an increase in rigor, and higher levels of engagement at each grade level. It is truly an exciting time to be a teacher, student, and community member involved with Tustin Unified.

Please Drive Safely — Students are Back in School!

Note-ables



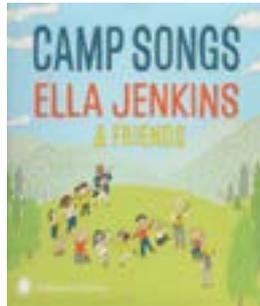
Kate Karp

Camp Songs

Camp songs are very dear to Ella Jenkins, the national children's-singalong treasure who at 93 is still performing. She cherished songs that her brother brought home from Boy Scouts and had always wanted to record a camp-song CD.

For this project, Jenkins assembled a literal band of brothers and sisters who have veritable campground DNA: Kate and Tony Seeger, nephew and niece of the legendary Pete Seeger, and Judy Seeger, the late folk singer's wife. A team of musicians, children, parents and teachers rounds out the rounds, spirituals, campfire singalongs, protest songs and just plain silliness.

Camp Songs opens with Jenkins's harmonica and the round of all rounds, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Following are 24 more familiar and yet-unheard numbers: "This Little Light of Mine,"



"Down in the Valley"; "Sipping Cider Through a Straw," and the hilarious but complicated round "One Bottle of Pop." On "The Hill Was Steep and Tall," Jenkins relates how she reluctantly signed up for a hike with some campers and

then got hopelessly lost.

You may know that Woody Guthrie had written "This Land Is Your Land" as a protest song and might have wondered about it. One of the two sociopolitical verses not sung at school is included here—good fodder for a social studies lesson.

Our school districts provide numerous school-year camping opportunities and field trips, and there are scout gatherings and youth groups who are going to love these songs.

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



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2017 FALL REGISTRATION

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Rabina's Review

A Book with a Purposeful Moral

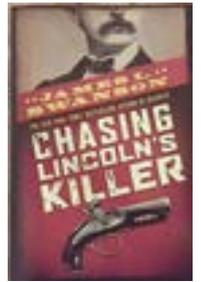


Rabina K.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer {

By: James L. Swanson

People seemed so bright to the new leadership but, after the Civil War, everything had changed. A few men were furious about the South's loss.



They had decided it is time

for revenge. John Wilkes Booth and his crew were planning to plant a bullet in President Lincoln's head for months after the Civil War. On April 14th, 1865 the bullet finally flew, causing President Lincoln's death. After that, a new trial began, chasing John Wilkes Booth.

This book shows the reader that there are more than one perspective, so one should never make assumptions based on an incomplete story. The author unearths the truth about John Wilkes Booth's motive to kill the president. With the facts and personal opinions provided by the author in the story, I think this book will surely make the reader think. I give this book nine out of ten stars.

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



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Novelist – 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 Tustin in the subject line.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| COMPUTER | BROWSER |
| EDITOR | GOOGLE |
| IPAD | INTERNET |
| SPELLCHECK | BING |
| PRINTER | ASPIRIN |
| PUBLISHER | KEYBOARD |
| NOTEPAD | TELEPHONE |
| READERS | WIFI |
| PENCIL | IMAGINATION |
| IDEAS | |
| PEN | |

Congratulations to: Sue Robishaw
Winner of our June Word Search Contest!

Entries must be received by October 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!



Lucy's Book Review



The Only Road

Author: Alexandra Diaz

Life in Jaime's small Guatemalan village is pretty peaceful, excluding one group: the Alphas. Drug dealers that ask for

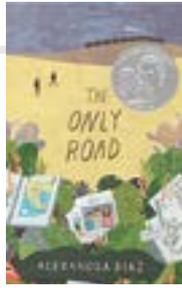
'favors' and new recruits. If

you refuse, you die. So when Jaime's beloved cousin, Miguel, is murdered for that very reason, the whole family is devastated. And the death comes with something else: a request for Jamie and Miguel's sister Angela to join them.

The only way Angela and Jamie can escape is to leave Guatemala, and that might be harder than it seems. Train hopping, refugee churches, immigration officials, and lost dogs are all part of their journey, and hopefully they can make it to the other side. The U.S. is promising safety, but the road to get there isn't.

I really enjoyed this book. It talks about serious topics while still keeping the mood as light as possible. Five of five stars are well earned in this wonderful story.

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



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