

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Tustin Unified School District

Volume 16, Issue 76

February / March 2020

## Highly Distinguished Huskies!



Hicks Canyon Elementary School has been recognized as a 2020 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education. The school was honored for outstanding elementary education programs and practices. Hicks Canyon was awarded California Distinguished School for its vision of 21st century best practices and emphasizing student-centered learning supported by new technology in the classroom. Above, Hicks Canyon student leaders pose in front of the California Distinguished School sign: from left, sitting, Olivia B., Joelle Geffeny and Camila Albies; and standing, Taim Ballouzeh, Anika Chen and Alexandra Yacker. Well done, Hicks Canyon Huskies! See full story on page 14.

# THRIVE IN TUSTIN UNIFIED

## TUSD Meets Every Student's Needs

- Full-Day Kindergarten at All Elementary Schools
- \$135 Million Bond for Modern Technology
- Elementary, Middle and High School Robotics League and Competitions
- Tustin Connect K-12 Online School
- Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program
- Award-winning Performing and Visual Arts Programs
- Specialized High School Programs: Early College Program, International Baccalaureate and Model United Nations



**Full-Day  
Kindergarten!  
Enroll Now  
for 2020-21  
School Year!**

- Elementary, Middle and High School Music Programs
- Columbus Tustin Middle School Pre-International Baccalaureate Magnet Program
- 21st Century Classrooms and State-of-the-Art Facilities
- 1:1 Technology Devices for Students
- 13 College/Career Pathways at the High School Level

Visit Today and Explore the Options:  
[www.DestinationTUSD.org](http://www.DestinationTUSD.org)

# Bond Measure N – Safe and Quality Schools for the Future



**Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

## In Touch with TUSD

Students, teachers and staff in Tustin Unified schools do outstanding work every day. In many cases, that work is challenged by old and deteriorating facilities that don't lend themselves to the innovative and technology-based instruction that is common in our classrooms. Many of our schools are over 50 years old and were constructed long before today's world and needs could be imagined. Despite being well-maintained,

it's time we invest in our oldest school facilities to ensure student success and to protect our investment in the campuses.

In November, the TUSD Board of Education took action to place a general obligation bond (Measure N) on the March 3 ballot to improve the school buildings inside the School Facilities Improvement District (SFID 20-1) that includes all of the oldest schools in the District. The SFID excludes all neighborhoods that are paying Mello-Roos fees that built the schools in Tustin Ranch, West Irvine, Northpark, Orchard Hills and Tustin Legacy.

The bond projects focus on the elementary and middle schools in the District, although every campus within the SFID will have work completed. The projects focus on three areas:

## Student Safety and Well-Being

- Upgrade safety locks, security systems, surveillance systems, signage and fencing.
- Upgrade fire systems and alarm and communication systems.
- Modernize food service facilities, lunch shelters and sanitary facilities.
- Create student support facilities.

## Teacher and Learning Spaces

- Modernize existing classrooms.
- Create/retrofit innovation/hands-on learning labs.
- Renovate multipurpose rooms.

## Protecting Taxpayer Investments in school facilities

- Update building systems including HVAC, lighting, plumbing, and power/power conservation systems.
- Upgrade/repair infrastructure and utilities including natural gas, water, sewer, electrical and storm drain.

## Board of Education



**Francine Scinto**  
*President*



**Lynn Davis**  
*Vice President*



**Jonathan Abelow**  
*Clerk*



**Tammie Bullard**  
*Member*



**James H. Laird**  
*Member*

On March 3, voters within the SFID will be asked to answer the question:

**“TUSTIN SCHOOLS IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY MEASURE** – To improve student learning, provide safe/modern schools, repair/replace deteriorated roofs, plumbing, lighting and electrical systems, modernize science labs, improve school safety-security, replace aging portables with permanent classrooms, upgrade inadequate classrooms, by issuing \$215 million in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (\$12.4 million annually) while bonds are outstanding, be adopted, with mandatory audits, independent oversight, NO administrator salaries, and all funds staying local?”

I am proud to work in a District that supports its schools in many ways. In March, the community will have an opportunity to make an investment in students that will benefit their education, the community, and property values for years to come.

Go TUSD!



**Mark Eliot**

*Director of Communications & Public Information*

**300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780**

**(714) 730-7339**

Explore [www.DestinationTUSD.org](http://www.DestinationTUSD.org)



For the latest information:

**@tustinusd**



[www.tustin.k12.ca.us](http://www.tustin.k12.ca.us)



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



## Happy New Year!

We are celebrating 20 years publishing *School News* and that includes 17 years publishing the TUSD *School News*.

During the 20 years curriculum has changed in ways never imagined with the biggest change being technology. Gone are the blackboards, white chalk and erasers. Mentioning the 3 R's would bring a puzzled look and might be mistaken for Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. Discussing STEAM with anyone older than 60 would conjure up images of a

train or an iron, but the younger generation would instantly visualize test tubes and robotics. We have changed the format of most of our publications to glossy cover booklet, but our mission never changes: Education+Communication=A Better Nation. The one constant has been the focus on academics. It is a privilege to publish the excellence from the classrooms. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Enjoy your Spring Break and we'll be back with our next issue April 8, 2020.

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Covering the  
**TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** Leslie Rawlings  
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**  
Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder  
**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Tustin Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



"Quality Orthodontics  
In Old Town Tustin"

Braces and Invisalign treatment  
for children and adults

**Free New Patient Exams**  
**Free Panoramic X-Ray**



(714) 838-6464 • 500 S. C Street • Tustin, CA 92780

[www.drmeeksortho.com](http://www.drmeeksortho.com)

# TUSD News and Announcements

*By Mark Eliot*

*Director of Communications and Public Information  
Tustin Unified School District*

## TUSD Administrators of the Year Honorees Announced

The Tustin School Management Association has announced its 2020 Administrators of the Year Honorees. They have been nominated to represent the Tustin Unified School District in the 2020 Orange County Administrators of the Year Awards Program, sponsored by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17:

Secondary Principal of the Year – Dr. Donnie Rafter, principal of Beckman High School; Middle Grades Principal of the Year – Heather Bojorquez, principal of C.E. Utt Middle School; Elementary Principal of the Year – Mindy Smith, principal of Orchard Hills School; Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year – Sahra Tanikawa, assistant principal, of Beckman High School; Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year – Dr. Maurita De La Torre, Director of Personnel Services; Adult Education Administrator of the Year – Will Nedderson, Coordinator of

Adult Education; Business Services Administrator of the Year – Joslyn Crawford, Director of Fiscal Services; Pupil Personnel Administrator of the Year – Monique Yessian, Director of Student Services; Continuation/Educational Options Administrator of the Year – Tim O'Donoghue, principal of Hillview High School; and Valuing Diversity Award – Sean Lindsay, principal, of Robert Heideman Elementary School.

ACSA annually recognizes outstanding administrators for their leadership skills, professionalism, creativity, innovation, and commitment to a quality education. Orange County Administrators of the Year will be announced in the spring. The 47th annual ACSA "Administrators of the Year and Friends of Education Awards" Dinner will be held on May 11, at the Irvine Marriott. Region 17 represents 28 school districts in Orange County.

## Tustin Unified Teachers of the Year Celebrated by OCDE

The Tustin Unified School District's 2019 Teachers of the Year – Megan Venezia, third-grade teacher at Helen Estock Elementary School, and Stacy Colón, physical education teacher at Beckman High School – were honored by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) at its annual Orange County Teachers of the Year Dinner on November 1 at the Disneyland Hotel. Last spring, Venezia and Colón were named TUSD Teachers of the Year and represented the District in the 2019-20 Orange County Teachers of the Year Program. Venezia was selected as one of 15 semifinalists in the program.



**Tustin Unified School District 2019 Teachers of the Year  
Stacy Colón and Megan Venezia were recognized at  
the annual Orange County Teachers of the Year Dinner.**

## TUSD Hosts Magnet/Thematic Programs Meeting for School Parents

Nearly 500 elementary, middle and high school parents and families attended Tustin Unified School District's first annual Magnet/Thematic Programs Night on December 3 in the Columbus Tustin Middle School Activity Center. Tustin Unified is offering magnet/thematic programs focused on various areas of interest. As a complement to traditional course work, magnet/thematic programs provide students with an innovative learning experience while allowing them to pursue their unique interests. These programs include:

Kindergarten Readiness at various school sites (PreK); Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) at Heritage Elementary School (TK-5); Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) at Tustin Memorial Academy (K-5); Global, Media Arts & Communication (including Spanish Dual Immersion) at Sycamore Magnet Academy (TK-8); Pre-International Baccalaureate Magnet at Columbus Tustin Middle School (6-8); Blended Learning at Tustin Connect (K-12); and Technology, Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (TIDE) at Legacy Magnet Academy (6-12); opening grades 6-9 in fall 2020.

The event began with a welcome from TUSD Board of Education member Tammie Bullard and an overview from Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Maggie Villegas. Parents then had the opportunity to attend three sessions hosted by the specific school programs in which they were most interested.

For more information about the magnet and thematic program schools, visit TUSD's Websites at [www.tustin.k12.ca.us](http://www.tustin.k12.ca.us) or [www.DestinationTUSD.org](http://www.DestinationTUSD.org).

## Raising a Heart Healthy Family



**David Chun, M.D.,**  
Pediatric  
Cardiologist  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Making time to raise a heart healthy family can seem overwhelming, but a few simple lifestyle changes can help keep the entire family's hearts in the best shape. With childhood obesity rates higher than ever, it's important to encourage your children to live a heart healthy lifestyle to improve their overall health and decrease their risk for heart disease, high blood pressure and obesity later in life.

Tips to keep a healthy heart top of mind for your family:

- Encourage children to join in on planning and preparing meals to create fun, creative, heart healthy snack/meal ideas.
- Choose lean proteins such as skinless chicken, turkey or fish, and try incorporating plant sources of protein, such as beans, lentils, soy beans or tofu.

- Limit sugary sodas, juices and sports drinks.
- Keep a family calendar to plan out the week's family activities and plan for active weekends at the local park or beach and play active games.
- Encourage healthy eating and exercise habits for non-aesthetic reasons, such as overall physical, mental and emotional well-being.

When your infant, child or teenager is diagnosed with a heart condition, he or she will require specialized, cardiac care to meet his or her individual needs. The Children's Heart Institute at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach is one of the few programs in the region that provides comprehensive cardiac care for children throughout adulthood.

For more information about the growing Children's Heart Institute, visit [millerchildrens.org/GrowingHearts](http://millerchildrens.org/GrowingHearts) or call 800-MEMORIAL.

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806  
800-MEMORIAL • [millerchildrens.org/GrowingHearts](http://millerchildrens.org/GrowingHearts)



**Hudson, 5-months-old,**  
Children's Heart  
Institute Patient

Our specialty:

**Cardiac  
Intensive Care**

Hudson's specialty:

**Growing as Big  
as an Elephant**

At 1-week-old, Hudson's pediatrician detected a heart murmur and referred him to MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, where he was diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect, a hole between the heart's chambers. As Hudson grew, the hole also grew and Dr. Shaun Setty performed open-heart surgery to patch the hole. After receiving specialized care in the new Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit under the guidance of Dr. Constantinos Chrysostomou, Hudson is growing as big as a mighty elephant.



**MemorialCare™**  
Miller Children's & Women's  
Hospital Long Beach

800-MEMORIAL  
[millerchildrens.org/GrowingHearts](http://millerchildrens.org/GrowingHearts)

# Arroyo Elementary School

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



**Katy Sheyka**  
Principal

## Every Day We Get a Little Better!

At Arroyo Elementary School, we believe it is our collective responsibility to cultivate a kind, safe, and respectful school environment in order for all students to thrive, now and in the future. We strive to cultivate Strength of Character, Strength of Mind, and Strength of Body in all students.

For these reasons, our focus remains steady on growing self-regulating skills and social-emotional competencies in our Mustang Strong scholars. We do this by teaching students about the Zones of Regulations. The Zones help students become more aware of and independent in controlling their emotions and impulses, manage their sensory needs, and improve their abilities to problems solve conflicts. We all encounter trying circumstances that test our limits at times.

Teaching social competencies skills, such as self-awareness, will result in increased empathy and compassion in our students, supporting our goal of fostering a positive, inclusive school climate and culture for our Mustangs.



Fourth-grader Lola Ramirez points to the Zones of Regulations work in teacher Donna Anderson's class.

Let us know what your family needs to be healthy and harmonious!



**THE SANCTUARY**  
WELLNESS CENTER & YOGA STUDIO

- Over 35 Yoga classes weekly for everyone
- Massages from every tradition
- Holistic Doctors and healers to guide you with any health concern

**714-617-4593**  
505 West 1st Street, Tustin, CA 92780  
[www.awakensanctuary.com](http://www.awakensanctuary.com)




**ICONIC Dentistry**

We are a family-oriented general dental office with our own in-house specialty services.



Advancements in orthodontic sciences have come to the point where clear aligners (such as Invisalign®) can be used instead of traditional braces for most people. Imagine getting your teeth straightened without metal wires and brackets, in less time, and with fewer dentist visits!

Experience the all-new digital work flow of (1) scan, (2) design, (3) 3D print and lab fabricate, all done at one place.

As the new year starts, call now for a consultation **714-835-4441**

17501 Irvine Blvd., Ste. 101  
Tustin, CA 92780  
[icondds.com](http://icondds.com)

• Corporate Recognition  
• Promotional Products

**TUSTIN AWARDS**

**42 Years \*\*\***

Recognizing the Heart of a Champion!

[www.tustinawards.com](http://www.tustinawards.com)  
**714.247.2277**



## Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

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



**Dr. Donnie Rafter**  
*Principal*

### Welcome 2020 Students

Campus is buzzing as students returned this month from a homework-free and restful winter break ready to tackle second semester. While on break, our students reported that they enjoyed things like taking ski trips, watching the new Star Wars movie, hanging out with friends, binge-watching “The Office” and (most importantly) sleeping. As they return refreshed, students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades will jump right into planning and course selection for the 2020-21 school year. Course selection options will be shared with students at our bi-annual “Grade Level Meetings” and our counseling team will host “Counselor Coffees” to share the same info

with our parents. Thanks to the work of our counseling and district data teams, our students will have the opportunity to complete a digital four-year plan that shows their future course of study. While the underclassmen prepare for future years at Beckman, our senior class will move into their final semester of high school. They will work with their counselors and our Career Center to finalize their post-secondary plans and begin their transition to the next phase of their lives. On the activities side of things, our winter sports teams have finished out their pre-season and have begun league competition, while our spring sports teams have begun preparing for the beginning of their season in February. In our Arts department, students and staff are hard at work designing and building sets, choreographing dances, and finalizing musical scores for our upcoming performance of “Beauty and the Beast.”

## Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



**Jackie Christy**  
*Principal*

### Inclusive Physical Education Program

At Barbara Benson Elementary School, students are a part of a fully inclusive physical education environment where diversity is both recognized and welcomed.

Taught by our P.E. coach and facilitated by two of the District Adapted Physical Education teachers, students with ranging abilities participate together in a variety of activities and games modified to ensure success for all. Whether it's sportsmanship training or hand-eye coordination development, our inclusive physical education time is fueled by the belief that everyone has strengths and successful educational outcomes are enhanced by embracing our differences. This collaboration among students of differing ages and abilities reminds us that we can all learn from one another.

At Benson Elementary, we are truly a community of learners!



**Student Danna Aguilar, left, from teacher Jennifer Onstott's TK-second grade class, and student Samantha Barsky from teacher Melody Moran's second-grade class play a fun game at the school.**

# Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



## Full STEAM Ahead!

Beswick Elementary School's STEAM Challenges Lab has led students to create, collaborate, think critically, and communicate with their peers and teachers about their ideas.

**Ashly McNamara**  
*Principal*

In our last challenge, students were introduced to engineering by UCI Biorobotic Engineer Quinten Saunders, who came to Beswick to present his process of learning with the students. Students were then able to understand how robots can be critical to helping people build strength and in the recovery process after an accident. Students worked in teams using the design thinking process to empathize, research /ideate, plan/design, create/produce, test/evaluate, and improve/refine. It was amazing to see and hear the creative ideas that were generated through the process.

Thank you to our AmeriCorps VIP Fellow Evelyn Mejia and teacher on special assignment Kathy Okajima for their help to teach and support the students at Beswick School!



**AmeriCorps VIP Fellow Evelyn Mejia, left, helps Beswick second-grade students Logan Arevalo and Giovanni Montano work on a robotics project.**



# #1 IN UC TRANSFERS

[ivc.edu](http://ivc.edu)

[facebook.com/irvinevalley](https://www.facebook.com/irvinevalley)

[@MyIrvineValley](https://twitter.com/MyIrvineValley)

[@irvinevalleycollege](https://www.instagram.com/irvinevalleycollege)

[/MyIrvineValley](https://www.youtube.com/MyIrvineValley)

## Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



**Maggie Burdette**  
*Principal*

### **Girl Power**

Columbus Tustin Middle School has created a special after-school Girl's Circle that meets weekly. It is a structured support group to help foster resiliency and self-esteem in young women. The structure of the meetings are based on a Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) program that focuses on increasing positive connection, personal and collective strengths and competence in girls. The themes of meetings focus on

various topics girls or women experience in their lives, such as "Exploring Labels", "Expressing Myself", and "Cultivating Respect." The group is run using the circle model of restorative practices and activities consist of questions to guide the conversations and other interactive games targeting the topic of the day. The selection process consisted of teacher, staff and administrator recommendations along with individual interviews. We also looked at the students' discipline, attendance, and grades.

The Girl's Circle is facilitated by Columbus Tustin Restorative Practices Specialist Maggie Lauder and school counselor Yesenia Barajas.



**The Columbus Tustin Girl's Circle celebrated after the first meeting of the year with leaders Maggie Lauder (front left) and Yesenia Barajas (front right)**

## A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



**Rafael Plascencia**  
*Principal*

### **Cougars Incorporated**

Currie Middle School's Entrepreneurship class took "community building" to the next level by pitching their ideas for what types of new businesses would thrive in the City of Tustin.

Teacher Zachariah Samarin's class took their research and data to the Tustin City Council on December 17 to go over their findings. Students were given the responsibility to survey 50 Tustin citizens

about the needs and wants of their community as well as the task of interviewing both local small and big business owners.

In addition, students needed to research what spaces were available locally for companies to lease, the square footage of the area, estimated number of cars traveling through, proximity to neighborhoods, projected population in five years, and how new businesses would gel with already established businesses.

Tustin Council Members were impressed by the findings. A proud Mr. Samarin mentioned, "It's so exciting to see 12- and 13-year-old students do the work of adults."



**Students Jorge Luna and Christian Cervantes Bluitt attended the Tustin City Council meeting and presented their idea to have a community swimming pool built on an empty lot in the Tustin Legacy area.**

## Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



**Dr. Amanda Heineman**  
*Principal*

### Soaring with Social Emotional Learning

Helen Estock Elementary School hosted a “Social Emotional Learning Family Night” on January 16. The fun-filled night, organized by first-grade teachers Tonya Carrasco, Cindy Sakurai, and Eunice Tasser provided students and their families with an opportunity to learn about the Zones of Regulation and

schoolwide efforts to support Social Emotional Learning.

The evening focused on creating tools for regulating emotions within each zone. The four stations included making a rain stick, glitter calm jar, mindful bracelet, and strategy toolbox with coping skills. As students completed each station their “zone” card was marked and at the end of the night, students turned in their cards for books and pencils with encouraging messages.

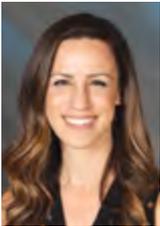
It was a night full of smiles as Estock Eagles soared with a strong school-home partnership! Estock wishes to thank Loma Vista Elementary School for their work in designing this event that has been replicated in various forms across Tustin Unified schools.



**Students and families gather with teacher Eunice Tasser to create calming jars during the school's Social Emotional Learning Family Night.**

## Foothill *High School*

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



**Michelle England**  
*Principal*

### Curricular Collaborations

This school year, Foothill High School's educational focus on engaging, real-world learning experiences has created huge opportunities in our classrooms and for students to achieve exciting feats. Our Career Technical Education Department has led the charge by finding unique connections within their content areas and core content as well as with one another. A prime example of this is with our culinary arts and film and

media arts classes and their production of “Sliced,” a high intensity cooking competition show. Students planned and produced the show which featured student cooking teams and mystery baskets of ingredients. Planning for production was intense and enjoyable as students worked together to problem solve with peers and teachers and their teacher leaders coordinated with each other. Teachers, counselors, and classified staff helped participate as guest judges.

We look forward to more of these exciting projects throughout the school year as teachers collaborate to give students real-world skills in engaging and exciting ways!



**Students are cooking up something special in the culinary arts class.**

## Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



**Ray Hernandez**  
*Principal*

### On Another Level

The Guin Foss Elementary School VEX Robotics Team has risen to another level this year. Led by Guin Foss' amazing teacher-coaches, Mrs. Rivera and Kristina Noriega, our dynamic Dolphins are moving from an in-district competition level to an out-of-district competition level. Our students and coaches have certainly risen to the occasion. You'll find them designing, engineering, coding, and collaborating every Tuesday and Thursday after school.

Their dedication will certainly pay off as they plan for competition on a new level and a new stage. The change in competitive landscape will certainly be an opportunity for our students to realize for themselves that they have the skills and abilities to compete alongside other well-established programs.

Guin Foss' long-term goal is to compete at the world level. Based on the growth these amazing dolphins have demonstrated so far, we are moving in the right direction. Go Dolphins!



**Robotics team members: Christopher Kronfle, James Phan, Ella Gonzalez, Nathaniel Cenci, Jay Bolanos, Selena Deocampo, Kristina Noriega, Yaneli Rivera, Gavin Lin, Harmony Jones, Jaden McHale, Adam Butler, and Kostas Feles.**

## Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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



**Sean Lindsay**  
*Principal*

### Glory and Leadership

We are filling the Heideman air with stories of student leadership. We are giving shout-outs to Roadrunners for demonstrating caring, thoughtfulness, politeness, courage, perseverance...and these are just a few examples of leadership qualities that are being encouraged and recognized

For example: Jessika took a risk and shared his connection between decimals and fractions during our number talk. Kataleya

has such a big heart with hugs included on a daily basis which gave her partner in reading a lift to the next reading level and inspired her partner to never give up. Brittney helped another student pack up when they were running late.

During our Friday Flag Assembly, Principal Sean Lindsay tells teacher-captured mini stories of leadership, one story for each student from each class. The gathered Heideman community applaud their accomplishments as each student rises and walks to the podium at the front. Awards are given. Photos taken. Glory captured.



**A group of Heideman Roadrunners recognized at a flag assembly by Principal Sean Lindsay for their demonstrations of leadership.**

## Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

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



**Beth Rabel Blackman**  
*Principal*

### Students Take the Stage

Heritage Elementary School is looking forward to its first theater production this spring. The third, fourth, and fifth graders are putting on the musical “Aladdin Jr.” Twice a week the students meet after school to rehearse for the production.

With the help of a team of teachers, parents, and an outside production company, students are actively learning their songs, lines, and choreography. In March the

students will also have a week of dress rehearsals, as part of “tech week.” Heritage’s teachers and Parent Teacher Association are working in partnership to offer this opportunity for students, many of which are engaging in theater for their first time. In addition to the full production for upper grade students, students in grades TK-2 are participating in theater workshops during the school day, in an assembly format.

Performing arts supports students in developing communication and social skills, along with their self-esteem, appreciation for the arts, and overall academic skills.



**Third, fourth, and fifth graders rehearse for their upcoming performance “Aladdin Jr.”**

## Hewes *Middle School*

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



**Eric Kilian**  
*Principal*

### Challenging Success, Increasing Balance

At the start of the year, Hewes Middle School became a member school of the Challenge Success program from Stanford University. Challenge Success partners with schools, families, and communities to embrace a broad definition of success and to promote student well-being and engagement with learning.

The Challenge Success Team at Hewes is comprised of students, teachers, counselors, administrators and parents.

Based on student survey feedback, it has become apparent that a break in homework could greatly improve the mental health of our students and increase PDF (playtime, downtime, family time). Therefore, we are piloting a two- fold homework policy. First, the Challenge

Success Team is encouraging teachers reflect on HW being assigned. Additionally, as a staff we have agreed to participate in at least one homework free night each month. In January, we are piloting two “HW Free Nights” to kick off this work.

Our hope is that families will plan in advance around these nights and spend some quality time together. Challenge Success recommends that families spend 25 minutes together five times a week as a means of fostering student well-being. We hope that on these evenings families can play a game, watch a movie, or eat a meal all together (PDF). At the very least, we hope it will relieve students of some stress and allow them to recoup some energy for the rest of the grading period.

As we deepen our work and understanding of the Challenge Success program, we will continue to communicate with our staff, students, and parents.

## Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



### **A 2020 California Distinguished School**

Congratulations, Hicks Canyon Elementary School, for being recognized as a 2020 California Distinguished School. California recognizes

outstanding education programs and practices in elementary schools. California uses a multiple measures accountability system to identify eligible schools based on their performance and progress on the state indicators as specified on the California School Dashboard (<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>).

Hicks Canyon Elementary was awarded California Distinguished



**Student Leadership poses in front of the 2020 California Distinguished School sign.**  
**(F) Olivia B., Joelle Geffeny and Camila Albies**  
**(B) Taim Ballouzeh, Anika Chen and Alexandra Yacker.**

School for its mission/vision of 21st century best practices. Hicks Canyon is the largest 1:1 iPad elementary program in TUSD. All Hicks Canyon stakeholders agree that there are specific skills needed for 21st-century global communication, social networking, and a world of new technologies. Teaching 21st-century skills equips students to think critically, communicate effectively as well as to become self-directed learners and problem solvers. Hicks Canyon teachers believe that mastering 21st-century skills prepares students to succeed in our constantly changing world and are emphasizing student-centered learning every day using the 1:1 iPads.

## Hillview *High School*

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



### **Math Teacher Adds to Her Career**

I want to publicly thank Hillview High School math teacher Lynda Chung, who will be leaving Hillview at the end of the year. Mrs. Chung has accepted a math teaching position at Tustin Unified's new Legacy Magnet Academy, which will open in August 2020. It will be exciting for her to help open a brand new school and be a part of a team creating the school's culture.

**Tim O'Donoghue**  
*Principal*

It is commonly said the most struggling students need the best teachers and Mrs. Chung has done an amazing job during her eight years at Hillview. Students who have failed algebra in the past are now passing and enjoy coming to math class. Mrs. Chung stated, "I have loved working at Hillview because the small school is a community where kids get to know you and trust develops. I have enjoyed working at Hillview where the staff is on board helping kids."



**Math teacher Lynda Chung, center, enjoys working with the students and staff at Hillview.**

## Ladera Elementary School

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



**Dr. Dustin O'Malley**  
Principal

### Egg Drop Challenge a Smashing Success

The character Humpty Dumpty from the old nursery rhyme learned a long time ago that falling eggs usually experience an unpleasant ending. Fortunately, dropped eggs at Ladera Elementary School have a much better fate thanks to the ingenuity of our little Leopard engineers.

All Ladera students in grades K-5 worked diligently in Leo's STEAM Lab to design a device that would protect an egg from the violent impact of being dropped from various heights. During the engineering process, students tinkered with different designs and materials and explored different scientific concepts such as air resistance, velocity, and force.

The day of reckoning finally came when the eggs were dropped. During each drop, the excitement in the air was palpable as students nervously witnessed the fate of their eggs. A record number of inventions survived the drop. We definitely have some future engineers among at Ladera. Go Leopards!



**Third-grade students Haily Kang, Arya Bhavsar, and Nathan Wong show off their invention for the Egg Drop Challenge.**

## Legacy Magnet Academy

15500 Legacy Road, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7339



**Dr. Jennifer Harrison**  
Principal

### Our Team is Growing!

Legacy Magnet Academy, Tustin Unified School District's new magnet middle and high school opening for grades 6-9 in fall 2020, is excited to introduce our first teaching staff members. Seven highly qualified and dynamic individuals, currently in TUSD, were selected to join the LMA team.

Our new team includes Traci DiLellio, Connect Coach; Jonny Parker, Career Technical Education teacher on special assignment (TOSA); David Bowers, teacher at Pioneer Middle School; Kris Posavec, Multi-tiered Systems of Support TOSA; Sarah Pflueger, teacher at Foothill High; Lynda Chung, teacher at Hillview High; and Roland Jones, Connect Coach and teacher at Tustin High. Each of these individuals brings a wealth of experience, talent and enthusiasm to the table, and they have already begun the work of planning for our incoming students.

Although they will each miss their current sites and roles, they are eager to begin working with the future innovators, creators, designers, and entrepreneurs of Legacy Magnet Academy!



**Legacy Magnet Academy staff tours the construction site, Traci DiLellio, Roland Jones, Jonny Parker, Kris Posavec, Sarah Pflueger, Lynda Chung and Jennifer Harrison. Not pictured, David Bowers.**

## Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



**Dr. Lauren Steinmann**  
*Principal*

### **Grit and Growth Mindset – One Mile at a Time!**

Loma Vista Elementary scholars are participating in the 100 Mile Club, a nonprofit organization which aims to promote healthy lifestyles for students.

The challenge for students is to run, jog or walk 100 miles over the course of the year. While this may seem daunting, Loma Vista students face it with grit and determination. Students set goals for themselves at the beginning of the year in order to help them meet 100 miles. Students run throughout the week with their class and teachers log laps for students which add to their total. Students also have the option of running laps before school or participating in PTO-sponsored monthly themed “fun runs.” Students learn the value of setting a goal and perseverance. In fact, several students have already met their 100-Mile goal and now aim to earn more miles!

We love the grit and determination of all our students!



**Students Max Brueseke, Jackson Carns, Rex Rossman, Ethan Brueseke and Trey Whitsell were recognized for reaching 100 Miles at a Friday Flag Assembly.**

## Myford *Elementary School*

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



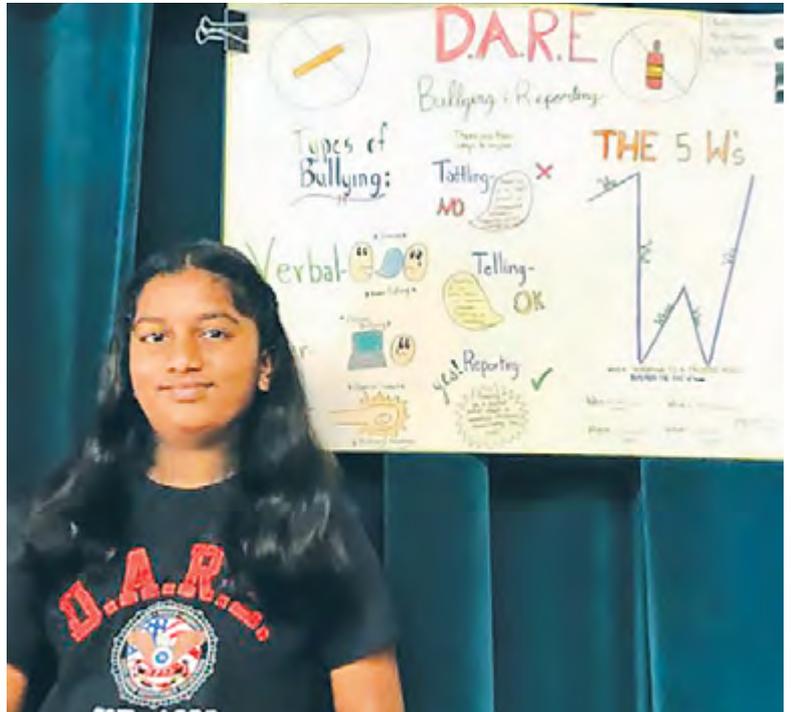
**Rena Fairchild**  
*Principal*

### **Fifth Graders D.A.R.E to be Great!**

Myford Elementary School fifth-grade students had the wonderful opportunity to partner with the Irvine Police Department and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. Irvine police officer Hom taught students about school safety, internet safety, community safety, and bullying awareness and prevention. Students also learned about the positive impacts of making good life choices along with the consequences of unsafe choices.

Students recently had their graduation ceremony during which they shared their personalized pledges. Some of the reasons they shared for committing to a drug-free lifestyle included: “In order to be a good role model for my siblings,” “To make my family proud,” and “To get a good education so I can lead a good life.” Students also shared their learnings through posters and essays. We’re confident these students are going to follow through with their pledges and lead amazing lives!

Students recently had their graduation ceremony during which they shared their personalized pledges. Some of the reasons they shared for committing to a drug-free lifestyle included: “In order to be a good role model for my siblings,” “To make my family proud,” and “To get a good education so I can lead a good life.” Students also shared their learnings through posters and essays. We’re confident these students are going to follow through with their pledges and lead amazing lives!



**Student and DARE contest winner Dhrithi Shatagopam stands by her poster depicting strategies for combating bullying.**

## W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



**Shannon James**  
*Principal*

### From Compassion to Action - Girl Scout Silver Award is GOLD

W.R. Nelson Elementary would like to thank Emma Chang, a member of Girl Scout Troop 3152 and eighth-grade student at Pioneer Middle School, for providing our school with one of her Kindness Carts.

To earn her Silver Award, Emma built three carts for schools in the community. The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette can achieve. This award recognizes girls who participated in a range of Take Action projects benefiting their communities. The cart Emma built for Nelson, filled with basic hygiene essentials and school supplies, will be placed in our Parent Community Room.

Emma's hope is that our students can discreetly obtain the items when needed. Her cart came especially handy for our fifth-grade students as they prepared for Outdoor Education. We would also like to thank TyRon Jackson for connecting us with Emma. Fun fact – Emma's mom, ThuThao, was a Nelson Tiger!



**TyRon Jackson, special education paraeducator at Myford Elementary School and founder of Operation Warm Wishes; Nelson Principal Shannon James; and Pioneer student Emma Chang present the Kindness Cart.**

## Orchard Hills *School*

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



**Melinda Smith**  
*Principal*

### Building Cultural Inclusivity

The Orchard Hills School community celebrates our diversity. With the support of our Parent Teacher Organization, Orchard Hills hosted our inaugural United Nations Day event, highlighting a different culture each year. This year, we celebrated the Diwali Festival of Lights. Food trucks provided authentic Indian cuisine, while students and families perused Diwali

cultural artifacts and participated in crafts. The main event began with a children's parade with students dressed in clothing representative of their cultures. The audience enjoyed performances showcasing traditional Diwali drumming and dancing. Orchard Hills drama students emceed. The atmosphere was electric with lots of energy and students waving lights to cheer on performers.

Orchard Hills will soon celebrate the Lunar New Year, honoring Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese cultures. Similar to our Diwali festival, there will be food trucks, crafts, cultural tables and lots of performers, featuring spectacular Lion Dancers, a children's orchestra, Taekwondo demonstration, K Bop group and more.



**Students Audrey Lee, Kailene Feng and Keira Benedict dress in traditional clothing and enjoy flavored ice at the school's Festival of Lights event.**

# Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



**Brooke Carreras**  
*Principal*

## Encouraging Engineers

Some people would say that kindergarten is a little young to be introducing the design and engineering process; however, that is exactly what our kindergarten teachers at Peters Canyon Elementary School are doing.

Teacher Stephanie Lemos and her student teacher Jessica Anguiano explained to the class that “Elf” needed a shelf to sit on so that he could watch the children for good behavior and report back to parents. The students researched shelving and discovered that the shelf needed to be sturdy enough to support ELF. Next, students designed and created their shelves using tongue depressors and clay. Each design was unique, which led to a rich classroom discussion regarding the various elements of each design that made it sturdy.

Teacher Dana Quebbemann’s students tackled the problem of holiday gift delivery. They researched, designed, and built parachutes as alternative transportation to keep gift deliveries on track.



**Kindergarten engineers Phoebe Phoung, Vivian Burhan, and Rose Javanbakht work on their classroom project.**

# Pioneer *Middle School*

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



**Tracey Vander Hayden**  
*Principal*

## Career Technical Education Pathways

Pioneer Middle School has made some amazing changes in the elective programs it offers all students. Pioneer has five CTE educators, who provide rigorous curriculum, engaging lessons, and 21st Century technology experiences on a daily basis through Graphic Design, Video Production,

Automation/Robotics, Medical Detectives, Project Code, Design and Modeling, Computer Science for Innovators and Makers, and Coding/Gaming.

An example of the amazing work our students are accomplishing is evident in the results of our last Robotics competition. Pioneer Robotics Teams won Tournament Champions, the Excellence Award, and earned first place in the Skills Challenge! All three of Pioneer

Robotics Teams now qualify for the State Championships. We are very proud of the choices that students will now have during the 2020-21 school year. All sixth-grade students can participate in a yearlong Automation and Robotics elective and join the seventh- and eighth-grade students in the grades 6-12 Robotics competitions.



**Robotics Team competes in a recent tournament.**

## Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



**Tracy Barquer**  
*Principal*

### Performing Arts Performs “Annie”

Red Hill Elementary School Performing Arts in partnership with Red Hill PTA was thrilled to share their fourth stage production. This year’s production was based on the Broadway musical “Annie.” This comes after Red Hill Performing Arts inaugural production of “The Jungle Book Kids” in 2017 followed by “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,” and “Aladdin.”

The Red Hill Performing Arts cast and crew included 85 first- through fifth-grade students led by Red Hill’s teachers, Teresa Edmisten, Kristen Montgomery, Sarah Cushing and Janelle Crain. Songs and dance routines such as “It’s a Hard-Knock Life” and “Tomorrow” were a part of the production. The student crew ran the sound and lights and supported the show with creation of the sets and props for the production. There were three sold-out evening performances and one matinee.

Red Hill Elementary enjoys building future artists with more opportunities to be on stage. Go Rockets!



**Students participate in a dress rehearsal for “Annie.”**

## Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



**Deanna Parks**  
*Principal*

### Dual Immersion Program Thriving

Can you imagine your child achieving biliteracy by fifth grade? That means proficiently speaking, reading and writing in two languages... well that’s what’s happening in our Spanish Dual Immersion Program currently in preschool through fourth grade and soon to expand up to eighth grade as

part of our transition with Currie Middle School to the all-new Sycamore Magnet Academy next year. Families can choose from the Dual Immersion or English programs. Both have a global perspective focus using project-based learning, media arts and technology. Model United Nations (MUN) is an incredible addition to upper grades.

The Dual Immersion Program is thriving and keeps growing. Parents and students are so glad TUSD made this a reality for them. In the words of one parent, “My first-grade son loves learning Spanish and is so motivated to teach the entire family. I am so grateful for this opportunity for him and us!”



**Students Earl Driscoll and Mateo Pulido from teacher Lilian Armijo’s first-grade Dual Immersion class work together on a STEM activity.**

# Tustin Adult School

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7395



**Will Neddersen**  
Coordinator

## Students Supporting Students

ESL teachers build lessons and opportunities for students to collaborate in class to master listening and speaking skills. The collaboration also allows students to think critically with each other as they discuss various topics.

For our citizenship students the topics are on questions that could be asked during their interview for naturalization. Students appreciate the opportunity to practice the interview process with teachers on campus. Yulin Yi was one of our citizenship students who just completed and passed his interview in early December. Yulin returned to his class and shared his interview experience the next day. Yulin then went a step further and on his own arranged to tutor others going through the citizenship process a few days later.

Tustin Adult School student outcomes focus on creating confident and effective communicators, critical and creative thinkers, independent and self-directed learners, and contributing community members. Yulin is a student who truly shows results of these outcomes!



**Yulin Yi, and tutors Dajiu and Fang in the citizenship class.**

## Tustin Connect *Online School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/430-2052



**Erick Fineberg**  
Principal

## Sewing Up for the Joeys

Tustin Connect's high school leadership class was moved by the wildfires in Australia and decided to take action. They collected fabric to create pouches for the joeys (young kangaroos) displaced by the devastation.

The students met over multiple days with sewing machines in hand to create the pouches. Students were able to make over 50 pouches that will be shipped directly to Australia where they will be utilized to support displaced kangaroos' babies. This is just one example of the tremendous impact our leadership class has made this year.

Not only are the students developing the soft skills to be successful in life and the workplace, they are also finding ways to make an impact on Tustin Connect's campus as well as across the globe.



**Students Mariela Ramirez and Alexis Curry show off their sewing skills as they create some of the Joey pouches.**

Way to go Mavericks! We are so proud of the work being done and the leadership they have shown.

# Tustin High School

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



**Dr. Jon Tuin**  
Principal

## Highlighting Mental Wellness in T-Town

*By Marissa Reyes,  
Office Assistant/Webmaster/Communications*

Tustin High is focused on successfully achieving our school's mission of fostering a supportive community for a diverse student population. We believe that students who feel valued and experience a sense of belonging are more likely to be successful in their future pursuits. Through school-wide mental wellness awareness, our mission enriches the overall educational experience for our Tillers.

We kicked off our Wellness Initiative with Mental Wellness Week. Every day focused on a different topic and provided coping strategies for students to use any time they are feeling stressed and overwhelmed.

The Wellness Taskforce continues to support students with mindfulness events on the first Monday of every month. Our themes have included Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude, Lend a Hand, and Spark Something New. With the support of student organizations and the THS PTO, we are creating an environment that supports the social and emotional needs of our students.



**Volleyball students lead a yoga routine for students on the THS stage during October's Wellness Wednesday event.**

# Tustin Memorial Academy

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



**Sharon Maeda**  
Principal

## Stars Shine through their "Only One You" Rock Garden

Tustin Memorial Academy scholars are shining through their schoolwide theme of "Make the Difference!" Student Council led a successful CHiPs for Toys drive, and now the entire school is launching

Team Kids, where upper graders will be leading donation drives and creating a kid-run carnival, with all proceeds going to the charity of their choice.

TMA also celebrated literacy through a schoolwide reading of the book "Only One You" by Linda Kranz. Through this book, all scholars learned to look for the beauty around them, to find their own special path, to reflect and grow from mistakes, to keep hope throughout their journey in life, to make a difference in the world, and to remember that there is "only one you in

this great big world." They culminated the experience with every student and teacher painting their own unique rock and creating a new rock garden for all to enjoy!



**Second and third graders contributing the new "Only One You" rock garden.**

# Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



**Kathi Denny**  
*Principal*

## Cool Coyotes Love Math

Tustin Ranch Elementary School continues to build on our signature practice of Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) math as we forge ahead into 2020.

In CGI, students are encouraged to apply a variety of problem-solving strategies in order to come up with a solution. Additionally, collaboration with fellow students and creativity in solving each CGI problem is encouraged!

Students use manipulatives, containers, writing and partner work to approach their work in completing Counting Collections, Number Talks, estimation activities to build number sense, writing in problem solving and more! In addition to CGI, staff and students focus on incorporating risk taking and developing mathematical thinking when approaching math problems.

Our Cool Coyotes know that they are all capable of learning math at high levels and our teachers work extra hard to support the development of strong math concepts and skills in all students!



**Students Christopher Pham and Penelope Miranda record their counting collections.**

# C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



**Heather Bojorquez**  
*Principal*

## Falcons Flip Success

Utt School is one of three middle schools in Tustin Unified School District taking part in a schoolwide program titled, Challenge Success. The goal of the program is to partner school staff, parents, students and local community to re-imagine a broader

definition for success that promotes student well-being and

engagement with learning.

In September, Principal Heather Bojorquez, school counselor Claudia Sermenogolly and a group of teachers, parents and students attended the Fall Conference at Stanford University. Upon return, the team examined both staff, parent and student input to identify steps that could be taken to better support students' engagement in

learning and emotional well-being. The decision to re-examine passing periods and the bell schedule led to a few changes: longer passing periods and the elimination of bells at the end of the period.

The Challenge Success team is excited to continue the work, along with the Utt community re-defines success for our Falcons.



**The Utt Challenge Success Team poses for a photo at the Stanford Conference: Robert Valdez, Kevin Olsen, Michelle Olsen, Elijah Owens, Natalia Garay Owens, Andrew Olsen, Mary Olsen, Heather Bojorquez, Shanelle Lasta, Alden Weaver, Claudia Sermenogolly and Marlene Beisel.**

# Tustin Public Schools Foundation

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



**Carol Burby Garrett**  
*Executive Director*

## TPSF Grants Many Opportunities

Did you know that the Tustin Public Schools Foundation provides grants to all Tustin Unified schools, and offers an opportunity for innovative project grants of up to \$2,500 each to all District teachers?

This year many of the funding requests were to enhance the District-wide social/emotional learning focus. Through Foundation funding, Orchard Hills School added a buddy bench and table for its elementary playground. They were also able to expand their efforts to help all students make good decisions, have a clear perspective and be ready to learn. This year's grant also created a Meditation Room to add to the previously funded Sensory Walk that offers students a space to self-regulate and advocate for themselves.

This opportunity at Orchard Hills and those offered at each TUSD school was made possible by generous donors to the Tustin Public Schools Foundation who choose to make a difference.



**Orchard Hills School teacher Molly Carlos' Advanced Art Class collaborates on the creation of the school Sensory Walk funded by the Tustin Public Schools Foundation.**

## Kindergarten Readiness

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7592



**Lauralee Cabibi**  
*Coordinator  
School Readiness*

## Dance of the Dragon

Learning about culture and diversity is an integral part of the Kindergarten Readiness curriculum.

As part of the preschool History-Social Science foundations, preschool students learn how different cultures within their community differ. Students explore cultural differences in language, clothing, food, and dance. They also learn about customs, including celebrations and holidays, of various cultures.

Earlier this school year, students studied the similarities and differences in how families celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza. In January, preschoolers learned about Chinese New Year. Students tried traditional Chinese foods, made Chinese lanterns, and received a lucky red envelope. Learning culminated with preschoolers participating in the traditional dragon dance, complete with a giant dragon costume! What better way to learn about Chinese New Year than to crawl inside the giant head of a dragon and parade around the classroom?

Joy was had by all as students learned about the festive celebration of Chinese New Year.



**Preschool students at Nelson Elementary School participate in the traditional Dragon Dance as they learn about Chinese New Year.**

## Business Services

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



**Anthony Soria**  
Chief Financial  
Officer

### Energy Conservation and Solar Projects

Energy conservation is becoming a crucial factor in today's world. Public and private entities are working diligently to improve energy efficiency in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and provide future energy cost savings.

In June of 2018, the Tustin Unified School District entered into an agreement with a construction company to implement different phases of solar panel projects consisting of carports and shade structures at various school sites. Currently, Phase 2 construction is underway at Arroyo, Guin Foss, Benson, Estock and



**A view of the solar canopy project at Arroyo Elementary School.**

Once the solar projects are complete, the District is projecting \$20 million in cost savings over the next 25 years.

Loma Vista elementary schools, and Tustin Memorial Academy. The second group of sites to undergo construction under Phase 2 will be Beswick, Heideman and Nelson elementary schools; Hillview High School and Education Support Center, which will commence in late January and into February (dates to be determined).

## Educational Services

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



**Maggie Villegas**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### Social Emotional Learning and Student Wellness

Developing Tustin Unified students' full potential through social and emotional learning (SEL) is critical to their development, as it directly correlates to their success and happiness as adults. Integrating these skills through students' academic development creates high-quality learning experiences that empower them to be to be engaged as contributors in their classrooms.

This year TUSD has continued to emphasize SEL and overall student wellness through new District programs and supports. Teachers at all levels have the opportunity to participate in the Social-Emotional Learning Academy and the Inclusion Learning Academy which provide a series of SEL professional development experiences throughout the school year. In the Academies teachers are being trained in the Zones of Regulation, the Working Clock, Check-In and Check-Out systems, and social thinking phrases and vocabulary. All teachers also have access to our behavioral support online site which has a wealth of resources to utilize in the classroom as well.



**Elementary teachers in the Social-Emotional Learning Academy are excited to create materials to use with their students.**

# Nutrition Services

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



**Teresa Squibb**  
Director

## New School Menu Items

When planning our menus, a variety of factors come into play:

Do the students like it? Does it meet our State and Federal requirements? What is the cost of the meal item?

Menu planning considers all three factors – planning a menu that students want to eat while meeting the State and Federal nutritional requirements while being in the price range. The District holds monthly cafeteria manager meetings to discuss current menus while planning and testing new recipes for its students. Managers create entrees and test the popularity in their kitchens. Student feedback is key in developing new recipe items.

Here are a few of the many new meal items Tustin Unified has added this year:

**Elementary** – Chana Masala, Teriyaki Chicken served with vegetable fried rice.

**Middle** – Chicken Ramen, Pork Carnitas Burrito, Orange chicken noodle bowl

**High** – Pork Tortas, made from scratch Chicken Alfredo, Pork carnitas burrito. Tustin High Rockin' Ceviche featuring Rock Fish.



**Tustin High School Chef special featuring Rockin' Ceviche.**

# 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

## Continuing the Coding Experience

Students in the Tustin Unified School District participated in the annual Computer Science Education Week's Hour of Code in December. For younger students it was an introduction

to coding and for those who participated before or continued from their previous experience it was a more enriching experience.

The Hour of Code's goal is every student should have the opportunity to code because it helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic, and



**Student Sebastian Garcia and a local web developer code together while students Austin Modine and Rachel Nuon code independently.**

creativity. If students start learning to code at an early age it will help ensure success in their future. A similar belief can be found in Tustin Unified as well. Problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity are fostered through various activities including coding.

Students at Tustin Memorial Academy showed great interest this year. Web developers from a local business came and shared how coding and programming is part of the automotive industry. The visitors made coding come alive for the students.

## Contest!

**Students Supporting Students** is the heading of one of the school articles in this issue. When you find it, email the **page number** to:

**Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com**

Please put TUSD in the email subject line.

Your entry must be received by March 15, 2020

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

## Tyson's Book Review



**Tyson**

### Never Give Up

*Touchdown Kid* by Tim Green

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



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

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

## Sean's Book Review



**Sean**

### Banned from Olympus

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

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



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



# Be a role model for your kids in 2020

**Find out if weight-loss surgery is for you.**

***Why choose us:***

- Multiple procedure options
- Nationally accredited
- Close to home
- Virtual support groups
- Pre- and post-operative care for long-term success



**Foothill Regional  
Medical Center**

**(714) 619-7700 ext. 3316**

**FOOTHILLREGIONALMEDICALCENTER.COM | 14662 NEWPORT AVENUE, TUSTIN**

# Tutoring Club

MATH | READING | WRITING | SCHOOL SUPPORT

## GIVE YOUR STUDENT'S GRADES A BOOST.

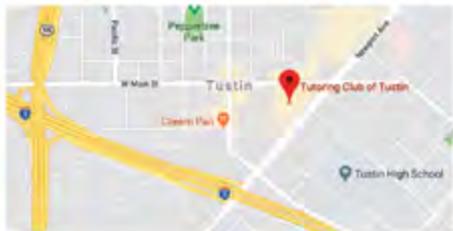


**CALL TODAY!**

**(949) 835-0383**

13721 Newport Ave STE 7, Tustin, CA 92780

[TutoringClub.com/TustinCA](http://TutoringClub.com/TustinCA)



With over 25 years of experience, we know that academic success requires study habits, accountability, and motivation. That's why we believe in:

- ✓ *Providing **mentorship***
- ✓ *Instilling **confidence***
- ✓ *Maximizing **potential***
- ✓ *Teaching **organization and study skills***
- ✓ *Fostering **self-motivation***

**WE TEACH COMMON CORE!**

**¡HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL! NOSOTROS PODEMOS AYUDARLOS!**

*Show this ad to get a **FREE** academic assessment!*