

FREE

School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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The Amazing Views of Legacy Magnet Academy



Tustin Unified School District's new Legacy Magnet Academy features incredible architecture and is a sight to behold day or night. The state-of-the-art middle and high school opened last fall and is focused on Technology, Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (TIDE). The school recently created a short video for people to "tour" its campus. Check out the video at <https://vimeo.com/497437410>. See story inside about Legacy Magnet Academy's dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on page 4.



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Our **safety precautions, high patient satisfaction scores** and **short wait times** make us a top choice for Tustin residents seeking emergency care. When you need an ER, we're right down the street with emergency physician onsite 24/7. Remember, we treat you, not seat you!

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In Touch with TUSD

Each year the Board of Education sets goals and priorities that guides the District's work. For the 2020-21 school year, there are two major areas of focus. The first is responding to the COVID pandemic by providing a safe working and learning environment, a hybrid educational program that provides choice to parents, and addressing the learning loss that has occurred since regular schooling was

interrupted in March 2020. The second major area of focus is ensuring all students in the District – regardless of race, religion, home language, gender or income – achieve at high levels and feel welcome and respected at school.

In response to this second area of focus, the District is taking many steps that includes a review of social studies and literature curriculum to ensure it represents a diverse set of experiences and perspectives, the creation of a high school ethnic studies course, and a review of District practices and policies that could unintentionally hamper the achievement of some students. An Equity and Justice Task Force has been formed that is helping with this review.

I want to thank the teachers, counselors, parents, students, classified staff, principals and community members who have volunteered to serve on this task force. They are listed below. They are committed to providing every student in TUSD with an outstanding educational experience. One of their first steps is to collect data from students, parents and staff about perceptions and experiences regarding diversity, equity and inclusion in Tustin Unified. I appreciate everyone who has participated in the surveys. The TUSD community will receive updates on the task force progress through future articles in the Franklin Almanac and *School News Roll Call*.

The TUSD Equity and Justice Task Force includes the following members:

Parents – Anna Abdou, Gina Arreola, Donna Marshall, and Jin Thatcher

Staff – Yesenia Barajas, Maurita De La Torre, Enrique Espinoza, Marisol Flores, Ray Hernandez, Maribel Herrera-Olmedo, Davina Leung, Gia Meade, Jorge Osorio, Deanna Parks, Olga Reardon, Katrina Shaw, David Smith, Keli Villegas, April Vu, Nicholas Warburton, Chandra Wran and Monique Yessian

Students – Valeria Bustos, Irene Hossain, Jose Lopez Gallego and Wismick Saint-Jean

Community Members – Margie Sepulveda and Javon Smith
I appreciate all their help and support. Go TUSD!



Mark Eliot

Director of Communications & Public Information

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TUSD News and Announcements

By Mark Eliot

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

Tustin Unified Holds Ribbon Cutting at Legacy Magnet Academy

The Tustin Unified School District held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony at Legacy Magnet Academy on November 18. The new state-of-the-art middle and high school is located in the Tustin Legacy development (near Tustin Ranch Road and Valencia Avenue).

The school is focused on Technology, Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (TIDE). Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, a limited number of people were invited to attend the ceremony. The school staff is led by Principal Dr. Jennifer Harrison.



Last November, members of the Tustin Unified School District Board of Education and Tustin City Council participated in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at Legacy Magnet Academy. Participants included, front row: TUSD Board Members Jonathan Abelow and Tammie Bullard, Tustin Council Member Letitia Clark, TUSD Board President Francine Scinto and Tustin Council Member Chuck Puckett; back row: TUSD Board Members Lynn Davis and James Laird, TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, Tustin City Council Member Austin Lumbard and Tustin City Manager Matt West.

Twelve TUSD Schools Named California Honor Roll Schools

Twelve schools in the Tustin Unified School District have been selected as 2020 Honor Roll schools by the Educational Results Partnership (ERP). They are Barbara Benson, Guin Foss, Hicks Canyon, Myford, Peters Canyon and Tustin Ranch elementary schools; Tustin Memorial Academy; Orchard Hills School; Tustin Connect Online and Blended Learning School; C.E. Utt Middle School; and Beckman and Tustin high schools.

TUSD's 12 Honor Roll schools were recognized for demonstrating consistent high student academic achievement. For the high schools, the Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness in students.

The ERP annually identifies and honors the highest performing public schools in California – approximately 2,568 this year. The Honor Roll schools are consistently raising student achievement and have made significant progress toward closing the achievement gap among all students.

The California Honor Roll program is supported by numerous businesses and organizations. A full list of the Honor Roll schools can be found at <https://dataportal.edresults.org/Metrics/HonorRoll>.

Tustin Unified Hour of Code Promotes Career in Technology

The Tustin Unified School District's Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code" and promote interest in this essential career field that automates the technologies we depend on every day. Since the launch of this initiative during Computer Science Education Week in 2013, the Hour of Code has reached millions of students worldwide. Tustin Unified has led a districtwide Hour of Code initiative since 2014 each December. Using apps on iPads and physical robots, students learn the logic and structure of coding using symbols and blocks before learning how to write code. The self-paced coding activities provided on the TUSD Hour of Code website then moves students into learning how to write code in the JavaScript, Python and html coding languages. It is TUSD's goal to provide all students with the opportunity to learn how to code.



Sycamore Magnet Academy seventh-grade student Hector Galeana Mejia displays his work during TUSD's Hour of Code.

TUSD 2021 Administrator of the Year Honorees Announced

The Tustin School Management Association has announced its 2021 Administrator of the Year Honorees. They have been nominated to represent the Tustin Unified School District in the 2021 Orange County Administrators of the Year Awards Program, sponsored by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17:

Secondary Principal of the Year – Michelle England, Principal, Foothill High School; Middle Grades Principal of the Year – Maggie Burdette, Principal, Columbus Tustin Middle School; Elementary Principal of the Year – Lauren Steinmann, Principal, Loma Vista Elementary School; Central Office Administrator of the Year – Karen Knudson, Coordinator of Elementary Education (K-5), Educational Services; Elementary Co-Administrator of the Year – Jaelyn Spangler, Assistant Principal, Orchard Hills School; Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year – Ryon Tanara, Assistant Principal, Tustin High School; Career Technical Education Administrator of the Year – Heather Bojorquez, Principal, C.E. Utt Middle School ; Special Education

Administrator of the Year – Jennifer Solano, Coordinator of Special Education, Special Education Department

Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year – Ali Del Castillo, Coordinator of Secondary Education (9-12), Educational Services; Continuation/Educational Options Administrator of the Year – Erick Fineberg, Principal, Tustin Connect K-12 Online Blended Learning School; Professor of Education – Kathie Nielsen, Retired TUSD Deputy Superintendent; and Technology Administrator of the Year – David Smith, Chief Technology Officer.

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 48th annual ACSA "Administrators of the Year and Friends of Education Awards" Dinner will be held in May. Region 17 represents 28 school districts in Orange County.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

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Happy New Year! It is often difficult to consider this a happy new year as we continue to live with the challenges of this pandemic. However, when you read the articles in this issue you will see there is lots to be happy about — educators are innovators.

In this issue you will read about students adapting to virtual and hybrid environments, a Virtual Parent Connection Circle, Saturday Sessions on campus, Recess Rentals,

a school garden, Lunch Bunch, a Virtual Talent Show, student forums, Online Learner Award, Cameras On Campaign, and so much more...it is a Happy New Year!

This is our 17th year publishing the TUSD *School News*. We have converted all of our publications to digital and the response has been excellent. Thank you for being loyal readers and supporters of public education.

Our next issue is May 12, 2021.

Be sure to enter our word search on page 27 (open to all ages).

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Arroyo *Elementary School*

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



Katy Sheyka
Principal

One Strong Mustang!

Arroyo Elementary School is honored to recognize student Trenton Cirigliano as our 2020-21 Every Student Succeeding Award winner. In July 2019, Trenton was diagnosed with a rare, fast-growing stage IV brain cancer. He went from being an active eight-year-old with dreams of becoming a “professional baseball player when [he] grows up,” to being immobile on the left side of his

body due to the tumor’s size and edema on the right side of his brain. Trent’s battle for recovery has included brain surgery, bouts of radiation and chemotherapy, and ongoing, rigorous physical and cognitive therapy. Throughout it all, Trenton and his family have remained determined to “wreck” his cancer, never entertaining the notion of giving up. Trenton is now in the fourth grade giving his all as an engaged and eager distance learner! Trent epitomizes what it means to be Mustang Strong, showing Strength of Mind, Body and Character even when life gets tough. #twreckscancer



Fourth-grade student Trenton Cirigliano is the school’s 2020-21 Every Student Succeeding Award recipient.

Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

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



Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

A Concert of Firsts for the Orchestra

The Beckman HS Orchestra has performed on many prestigious stages: Walt Disney Hall, Carnegie Hall, and Segerstrom Hall among others. However, performing their first concert this year at Beckman on December 17 was one of their most challenging, but also one of their most rewarding. In addition to being ready with their music, 20 students were masked, distanced, and screened before they went on

stage. The stage and all equipment were sanitized before the performance. Each student had their own equipment, and many were reading their music straight from their TUSD laptop, another first for the orchestra.

The orchestra performed music of the winter season: Skaters Waltz, Ukrainian Bell Carol, Winter from the Four Seasons, and music from the Nutcracker Ballet as well as music from film and TV favorites A Charlie Brown Christmas, Home Alone, Carol For Another Christmas, Anastasia, and Rodolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

This was the first concert orchestra students have performed with no live audience, which was a very strange experience and the first performance performed live on Facebook. The performance has already garnered 2,800 views on the Beckman HS Performing Arts Facebook and YouTube accounts. This was a tremendously positive experience for our students at Beckman. It provided them a slice of normal in their school experience.



Beckman High School Orchestra, under the direction of music teacher Jim Kollias, safely performs annual holiday concert for a virtual audience.

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



Jackie Christy
Principal

The Importance of Family Involvement in Students' Education

You may be surprised to learn that the highest predictor of student achievement is family involvement in their child's education. According to the National PTA, parents and guardians who are actively involved in their children's school community are more likely to improve their child's success in school. For this reason, Benson Elementary School believes that our community liaison is a vital component of our school success. The role of Benson's community



Benson community liaison Belen Vazquez plays an important role at the school.

liaison is to help develop school-family connections, support parents who speak another language, provide workshops for parents, and so much more! At Benson we have a new community liaison, Belen Vazquez. Mrs. Vazquez, her husband and 10-year-old son live locally in Irvine. She came to Benson from Nelson Elementary School and brings with her a collective understanding of the various roles needed to make a school successful.

Welcome Mrs. Vazquez!

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



Ashly McNamara
Principal

We're Feeling It!

Beswick Elementary School teachers are working hard to meet the needs of our students both academically and emotionally, keeping students engaged in learning, and bringing joy during this time. Teachers begin each day with a quick check in to monitor students emotional state using the Zones of Regulation. Students can share on their fingers how they are feeling to give the teacher a quick gauge of what is going on with the students in person and at home. Giving students a chance to think about their feelings and communicate them in a safe space helps them learn how their body reacts when they are feeling different emotions and learn appropriate ways to react.

Beswick counselor Katy Fernandez has been running lunch groups for students to connect with students over lunch each week to work on social skills. The most recent being; how to make positive friendships. To promote being at school and engaged in learning, we had a bike raffle for students who were here either on campus or online ready to learn. Students who earned the bikes were so excited!

At Beswick, we have also recently added a colorful mural painted by a very talented artist, Raymond Martinez, at the kindergarten playground. We have already seen how



Principal Ashly McNamara congratulates second-grade student Gianna Gavela-Quezada, who won a "ready to learn" bike raffle at the school.

it helps to bring joy to students while they play. We are aware of the need to teach the whole child and are working hard to keep students excited about learning and growing each day.

Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



Maggie Burdette
Principal

Building Community with Parent Circles

In November, Columbus Tustin Middle School launched its first virtual parent connection circle. This online offering was done to increase parent awareness of and exposure to restorative practices and social emotional learning.

The parent connection circles in November, December and January received very positive feedback from parents.

The primary purpose is to provide a space and process for parents to connect and build community. This is a different school year for all stakeholders and many people are dealing with negative impacts of increased isolation and uncertainty. Columbus Tustin wanted to provide an opportunity for parents to process our changed realities

alongside other parents. The pandemic has provided the unique opportunity to connect using the virtual platform outside of traditional school hours; this mode of communication is more accessible for many parents.

Parent connection circles are offered in English and Spanish and co-facilitated by our counselor and restorative practices coordinator. While connecting with each other through the circle process, parents are, in turn, more familiar with the circle process students and teachers use on campus to build community. A version of this same process is used to address some conflicts and other harms that may occur on campus.

Parent understanding and buy-in to this process increases its efficacy and strengthens the long-term community at Columbus Tustin. The school will continue to offer these monthly circles for parents throughout the school year.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Amanda Heineman
Principal

Bikes Bring Joy to Estock!

Over 75 third graders at Helen Estock Elementary School each received a free bike and helmet, thanks to the Bikes for Kids nonprofit foundation and the mountain bike club called The Dirtbags.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Bikes for Kids has selected an elementary school in the Tustin Unified School District and Estock was the only school in Orange

County to be chosen for the program. On December 11, all Estock third graders (virtual and hybrid) were surprised with brand new bikes to take home. Students and teachers were prepared for a “special assembly,” but had no idea what was to come. The surprise brought smiles and excitement as well as happy tears to our students, teachers and families.

The bike giveaway couldn't have happened at a better time. These lucky third graders received their bike just in time for the holiday break!



Third graders attended an outdoor school assembly where they found out each student will take home a brand new bike.

Foothill High School

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



Michelle England
Principal

Knights for Knowledge Step Up!

This fall, like many students in Hybrid education, Foothill High School Knights had to find their stride in their new ways of learning and going to school. While some students had trouble adjusting to the virtual and hybrid classroom environments, other students have flourished and are ready to help.

The Knights for Knowledge program, led by Assistant Principal Brett D'Errico, began four years ago and is comprised of an awesome group of Foothill students whose strengths are in a variety of content areas. In non-pandemic years, this team of students works together with tutors from Cal State Fullerton after school in classrooms that specialize in academic intervention across the span of subjects offered at Foothill. Through individual and small group tutoring, students who take advantage of the

program have found great success in expanding their skills in subjects they find challenging.

This year, Knights for Knowledge tutors' work has gone virtual, but they are still supporting their peers and have transitioned their interventions to the new format in order to keep all students and staff safe. In addition to our Knights for Knowledge student tutors, we have also had over 10 Foothill teachers step up to begin Saturday Sessions on campus to support students who are struggling. This format was piloted through a successful winter session, led by last year's Teacher of the Year, Rick McKinley, and has already helped 40 students get one step closer to graduation. Saturday classes will continue through April and will cover the full range of subjects offered at Foothill including elective courses.

With the support of Foothill's Knights for Knowledge tutors and teachers, we are seeing our learning community come together to adjust and thrive during this different way of teaching and learning.

Guin Foss Elementary School

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



Ray Hernandez
Principal

Help is Here!

Guin Foss Elementary School students and staff are excited to have AmeriCorps Fellow Gerry Artman at Guin Foss for a second year! Miss Gerry is actively involved in leading and supporting so many programs and activities on campus.

In an already unique time in history, Miss Gerry is making her own indelible mark. She coordinates the live streaming of our weekly flag assembly, which promotes community

and connection among all students. She guides students in researching and presenting alternative technologies to expand student experiences in our Innovation Lab.

Similar to last year, Miss Gerry has been a part of organizing student and family events such as our virtual Gingerbread House and Story Time and organizing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math days for kindergarten through fifth grade students.

She continues to build strong relationships with students and families and we are so grateful for the diverse supports she provides as an AmeriCorps Member.



AmeriCorps Fellow Gerry Artman makes connections and memories during a recent Gingerbread House and Storytime schoolwide event.

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

Recess – It’s the Simple Things

Heideman Elementary School’s reopening plan included the very important topic of recess. We had to be sure that safety protocols were adhered to. Plans included rotating zones by class and disinfecting equipment. We planned for what-ifs like students not adhering to masks or not staying in their zone.

It turned out that recess has been the most normal, joyful time of the day. Students independently follow all the protocols. They love the rotating zones and getting to try new things each week. We’ve added “recess rentals” where students can rent fun new equipment with their Roadrunner cards.

Students’ creativity has blossomed as they come up with their own new games to play in their zones. Recess is my favorite time of day. I love to go out and soak up the normalcy of our students’ laughter as they immerse themselves in the joy of play. Kids being kids. A lesson we could all learn for sure!



Fourth grader Isaiah Aguilar has fun learning to use the ankle skip ball, one of the school’s new “recess rentals.”

Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

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



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

Heritage Celebrates the TUSD Maintenance Team

Heritage Elementary School held its annual Maintenance Appreciation Day breakfast in November. The annual event began the first year the school was opened to thank the team for their work to transition the school to a STEAM elementary.

Maintenance and Operations worked tirelessly to install technology, move in furniture, redesign the library, and much more. In a typical year, Maintenance employees would have breakfast in the lounge and then join the students for the morning pledge, where the kids greet them with enthusiastic cheering and a message. This heartwarming event allows the students to see the exemplary Maintenance and Operations team and show their appreciation for these unsung heroes. This year to continue the tradition in a safe way our Parent Teacher Association held a breakfast

drive-thru with breakfast burritos, coffee, and treats. While we couldn’t celebrate the team in the typical fashion, we wanted them to know how much our community appreciates their hard work and diligence.



TUSD Maintenance and Operations employees drive through Heritage’s parking lot for a special breakfast treat.

Hewes *Middle School*

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



Eric Kilian
Principal

Positive Proactive Practices

During the launch of the Hybrid learning model in the fall, it was recognized that students need additional academic and emotional support to contribute to their well-being and connection to school. Making mid-flight adjustments, we quickly began planning to address their needs.

Hewes Middle School is proud to partner with Western Youth Services for the second year of student workshops. This five-week Social Emotional Learning (SEL) workshop series focuses on helping students learn ways to identify and communicate their feelings, develop problem solving skills, and learn strategies to help them build success in school and life even during unique times. These lessons, led by a trained WYS Instructor, are currently being delivered to all

sixth-grade students through P.E. class both in person and simultaneously through Zoom for students learning at home. This has truly been an outside of the box approach to meeting student needs during Hybrid learning. Lessons include 'breakout' rooms via Zoom for small group discussions and more small group connections. Our plan is to continue these workshops with each grade level.

In addition to this great work, our Hewes ASB students are excited to work with the Orange County Department of Education's Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) program to launch a school-wide MEME Challenge of anti-tobacco slogans. Selected memes will be displayed around the Hewes campus and posted on the school's Instagram account. This is sure to create positive engagement and momentum on campus for a good cause.

Go Highlanders!

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Deena Vela
Principal

Every Student Succeeds Recognition

Hicks Canyon Elementary School is proud to award Jordan Shorter the Every Student Succeeds Recognition for the 2020-21 school year.

His teacher, Rachele John, describes Jordan as always having a positive

attitude at school EVERY day. His optimistic and caring spirit have helped Jordan to persevere, despite his battle with numerous health issues over the past two years. Even when he wasn't feeling well, Jordan logged in daily to stay caught up with his classmates. Not only does he enjoy learning, but Jordan also loves to be involved in his community. He has served on the Student Council and participated in kindness projects both at school and in his neighborhood.

Jordan approaches every day with a smile and gives encouragement to both his peers and teachers. Jordan touches the lives of everyone around him and makes the world a brighter place because of his gentle kindness. Congratulations, Jordan – we look forward to seeing what you accomplish in the future!



Teacher Rachele John, student Jordan Shorter, Assistant Principal Courtney Smith and Principal Deena Vela celebrate the school's "Every Student Succeeding" award winner.

Hillview High School

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



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

New Teacher is a Great Fit at Hillview

Hillview High School is proud to announce that Zach Johnson has been hired to teach social studies. Mr. Johnson takes over for Kristine Wetzel, who will be working as a teacher on special assignment this spring.

Mr. Johnson was born in California and then attended college at the University of Arizona. After graduation he taught and coached basketball at a high school in Arizona and a short stint at Pima Community College.

Upon returning to California, Mr. Johnson coached basketball at Foothill and Orange high schools. Currently, he is head coach of the varsity basketball team at Northwood High School.

Zach's wife, Sarah, teaches third grade at Sycamore Magnet Academy.

Zach joins a great team at Hillview who understand that building relationships is the key to student success. His background as a coach makes him a great fit at Hillview. We are fortunate to have him on our staff.



Zach Johnson joins Hillview as the new social studies teacher.

Ladera Elementary School

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



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Principal

Restore, Renew, Refresh

The Ladera Elementary School community has always taken great pride in our beautiful school garden. When COVID-19 hit, with its accompanying restrictions to our school campus, our garden started to deteriorate. Without the consistent and skilled care of our volunteers, plants died, weeds grew, and the garden became almost unrecognizable to what it was just months prior.

Once our school community regained access to care for the garden, many parent and student volunteers literally rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Countless hours have been volunteered to bring the garden back to life, and now it is once again thriving with fruits, flowers, vegetables, and herbs. It has never been more beautiful and peaceful.

In a way, this garden transformation is symbolic of the efforts our staff and school community are investing to ensure that our students emerge from the pandemic stronger and better than before. Go Leopards!



Students Cora Nguyen, Violet Luu, Abigail Guo and Lucas Guo safely pose for a quick photo in front of the dirt-filled dump truck outside of the school garden.

Legacy Magnet Academy

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



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

The #TIDEosaur Takes the Win!

You can't deny the school spirit that has already firmly developed at Legacy Magnet Academy. As we entered into fall, the staff and students geared up and rallied around the upcoming Dino Detour with enthusiasm and a winning attitude. We started our running club, the LMA Wave Runners, and students and staff began their conditioning before and after school. We started "Dino Dash Tuesdays" with our entire staff wearing Dino Dash t-shirts from years past to get the word out and show our school spirit. We made banners for the front of our school and created our own 5K map that toured through the front of our campus while you ran. The energy and excitement were through the roof!

Legacy Magnet Academy is so excited to share that we received the honor of being the school with the highest participation for the Tustin Public Schools Foundation 2020 Dino Detour. Great job LMA, your spirit is unstoppable!



Tustin Public Schools Foundation Dino Detour Chairs Kristin Simpkins and Kate Kersten present the Dino Dash Trophy to Legacy Magnet Academy teacher representatives Erica Kelly, Steve Kelly and Principal Dr. Jennifer Harrison.

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Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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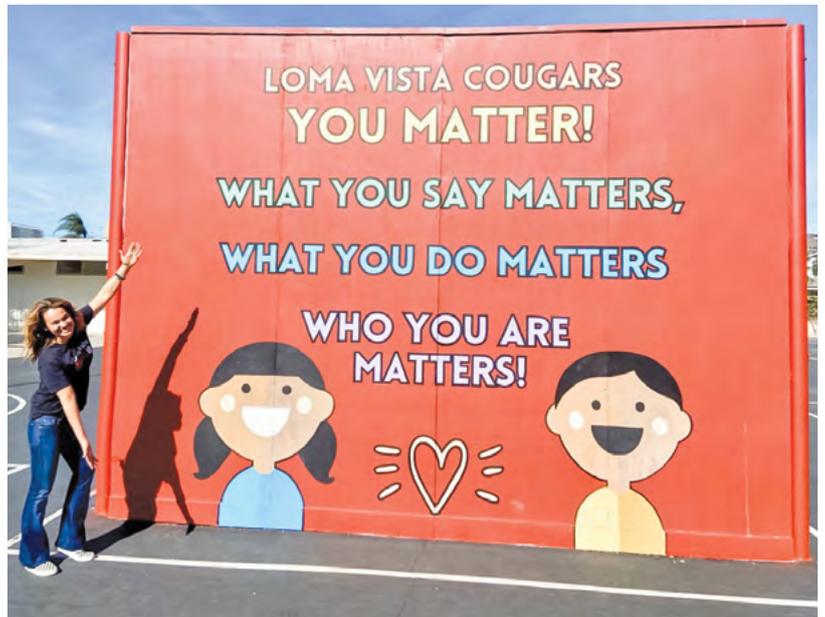


Dr. Lauren Steinmann
Principal

You Matter at Loma Vista!

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a cornerstone of Loma Vista Elementary School, in large part to the efforts of not only our teachers, but also our SEL Team, led by our counselor, Andrea Owen. Mrs. Owen is a licensed clinical social worker and offers a multitude of services and resources for our students and staff. Mrs. Owen

leads social skills groups, presents to classes on topics related to social emotional health, meets with students, has spearheaded a high school mentoring partnership program, and leads the “Cougar Coach” peer leadership group. Mrs. Owen is known for her warm demeanor and caring heart for students at Loma Vista. Her hugely popular “Lunch Bunch” groups went virtual after school closure in the spring, and she shares weekly tips for families with her “How’s it Goin’? with Mrs. Owen” addition to our weekly newsletter. We are so grateful for Mrs. Owen and her efforts and the PTO recently painted her



Loma Vista counselor Andrea Owen proudly poses with her popular phrase recently painted on the school’s handball courts.

popular saying as a mural on a handballcourt, “You Matter: What You Say Matters, What You Do Matters, Who You Are Matters!”

Myford *Elementary School*

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



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Student Council Can Do Virtually Anything!

Even though school looks a little different this year, Myford Student Council continues to bring us all together. They started the year by starring in Myford’s “Welcome Back” video which detailed all of the safety procedures in place for a safe return to school. They quickly elected their

officers and began planning out Spirit Days for all students. Representatives join other class Google Meets to make announcements so that all students are able to participate in school-wide activities.

Student Council has also created a virtual Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) student store for students to shop. Students can redeem their earned PAWS tickets for school supplies or novelty items. Student Council members then gather the items for pickup.

Currently, the Student Council is working on organizing a Virtual Talent Show and we can’t wait to see what they put on. They have seamlessly kept student activities going this year!



(back row) Student Council Co-Presidents Dania Pop and Aliana Manaloto; (front row) Secretary Tori Jang and member Natalia Ackerman

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W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



Shannon James
Principal

Nelson's PTO Rocks!

Nelson Elementary School parents make the difference! Although parent involvement has looked a little different this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) continues to make a tremendous and meaningful impact by bringing creative, family fun to our Tiger community. They have planned such fun events as our Merry Not Spooky Halloween

Drive-Through, Family Draw and Read-Aloud, Family Game Night, Family Movie Night, and Family Baking Night where they provided the ingredients to make a yummy fruit dump cake to 50 families. The PTO also continues to raise money to support our teachers and school programs through their restaurant nights, popsicle sales, and virtual fundraisers.



PTO Board Members Jean Roberts and Debbie Sanchez sell popsicles during their drive-through sale.

The Nelson PTO Board this year includes Kristie Panaguiton (President), Debbie Sanchez (Vice President, Fundraising), Diana Salinas (Vice President, Membership), and Jean Roberts (Treasurer). We're grateful to them for their leadership and for their willingness to devote time and effort towards our success. Go, Tigers!

Orchard Hills School

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



Student Engagement Equals Student Success

At Orchard Hills School we are maximizing hybrid and distance learning. Through our partnership with Stanford's Challenge

Success, we have launched student forums to hear the student perspective regarding learning during a pandemic. Two student groups discussed the strengths and barriers to our current learning environment. This data will be shared with all stakeholders to improve student connectedness.

We also launched our Cameras On Campaign as part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program. Counselors and administrators "Zoom surprised" classrooms to identify and recognize students with



Teacher Kristine Von Iderstein's leadership class supports the school's Cameras On Campaign.

cameras on. These students received a certificate for a free hamburger from a local fast food place restaurant. Our campaign continues this semester with weekly, monthly and quarterly raffles. Students are entered into these raffles by simply having their camera on during class. Administrators will be recognizing our weekly

winners with an "Online Learner Award" yard sign and monthly and quarterly winners with gift cards donated by our Parent Teacher Organization.

Peters Canyon Elementary School

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



Parents are Shouting Out

Peters Canyon Elementary School has the best families and students. This school year has come with its challenges, and the Peters Canyon families have supported our community by building up our staff members. The teacher/parent partnership is so important, and our families

wanted to make sure that the staff knew that they were cheering them on from a distance. Peters Canyon started a new tradition called Superstar Shout-Outs. Parents fill out a Google form and choose a staff member they would like to recognize and then write a short message about why they appreciate them. One of our Parent Teacher Organization members takes the message and makes it into a special certificate that gets hung on our office wall for all the staff to see. It makes such a difference to walk by a wall of positivity from our families. We are so grateful for the love and support. It keeps us going and what makes us #PCEstrong.



Kindergarten teacher Jessica Pinedo and kindergarten paraeducator Cathy Agnifilihold up their Peters Canyon Superstar Shout-Outs.

Pioneer *Middle School*

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Fitness, Health, and Wellness

Pioneer Middle School continues making fitness, health, and wellness a priority for our students. Despite the limited physical contact that teachers have with students, Pioneer's P.E. department continues to reach their goal of developing physically literate

individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and

confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. We continue to teach our students the benefits of being physically active, regardless if they are a distance or hybrid learners. Pioneer students complete a daily "sweat report" that records and monitors their progress toward personal goals in the areas of heart rate, endurance, and fitness.



Students safely participate in coach Jason Van Heerde's physical education program.



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Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Connection and Character

Last month it was Empathy. This month, Problem Solving. Red Hill Elementary School powers its social-emotional curriculum with a monthly character trait. Joshua Strong, our school counselor,

teaches in every classroom every month, either in-person or virtually. He teaches a lesson about that month's word, shows a brief video, and then facilitates a class discussion. And Wow! Those discussions! Where have you seen this trait in action? How does it make people feel when you use it successfully? Mr. Strong asks, and students fill the room with tremendous energy and fresh thinking, eager to share their experiences and insights, each student imagining how they will embody the word in the near future.

At the end of each lesson, he looks at the students and encourages them to reach out when necessary, to always find someone to talk with if needed. Next month the word is flexibility.



Counselor Joshua Strong teaches a social-emotional lesson to third-grade students in teacher Sheryl Harrison's class.

Sycamore Magnet Academy

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Monthly Community Food Distribution

Sycamore Magnet Academy has been very fortunate to collaborate with Second

Harvest again this year. With our partnership, we are able to hold a free monthly food distribution program to support the community with nutritious food. Families not only receive fresh fruit and vegetables, but also dairy products such as eggs, cheese, and milk. We also distribute shelf stable items such as canned goods, cereal, rice, etc. to our families.



Tustin High School 11th-grade student volunteer Itzel Medorio helps the school with its Food Pantry and Family Night programs.

Due to the pandemic, we hold a drive-through distribution in the school parking lot. For those families who do not have transportation, we offer a walk-up line. Parent volunteers help with the distribution and make sure all COVID-19 safety protocols are followed.

On average, we have 190 families who come through our pantry. We are able to reach over 400 children, 400 adults, and 30 seniors each month. We are grateful for the support of Second Harvest and our wonderful volunteers.

Tustin Adult School

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7395



Will Neddersen
Coordinator

Adults Ed Students Finding Success While Online

The 2020-21 school year for Tustin Adult School began uniquely different as our classes in ESL, Citizenship Preparation, Adult Basic Education in Reading, Writing and Math, and High School Diploma and Equivalency Preparation for GED have been online through Zoom or Google Meet. The

students who are attending have been working diligently to reach their goals.

In the first semester, we had eight students pass their oral interviews to be citizens of the United States. The majority of them were able to be vote in the recent elections.

In our High School Diploma program, we had 15 students complete classes to earn their high school diploma during the semester. Two students who had studied with Tustin Adult School passed their GED tests.

Classes are open enrollment, free of charge, and seek to help adults at all levels reach their professional and educational goals whether online or in person.



Tustin Adult School student Alan Merida celebrates his achievement of becoming a U.S. citizen.



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Tustin Connect *Online School*

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



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Students Shine Bright as School Celebrates its Five-Year Anniversary

Nationally ranked international cyclists, jujitsu champion, Ms. Teen California, #1 nationally ranked junior tennis player, Ducks junior hockey players, competitive dancers, published authors, artists on iTunes, TV actors, and nationally ranked fencers are just a few of the incredibly talented students that make up the Tustin Connect family. As

Tustin Connect celebrates five years of outstanding online blended learning, it is a perfect time to reflect on some of the special qualities and students that have led us to where we are today. As you can see, many of our students have unique lives outside of school and choose Tustin Connect for the flexibility. It has been a terrific option for those students interested in pursuing interests outside of school without sacrificing academic rigor and for our high school students remaining UC A-G and NCAA eligibility. Not all of our students have such colorful interests outside of school. Many of them thrive in a smaller setting and benefit from the 1:1 attention they receive. Regardless of the reason, it's been an awesome five years Mavericks!



Tustin Connect 15-year old sophomore Savannah Locke takes a break from her training as a gold medal winning fencer. The flexibility from Tustin Connect has allowed her to focus on her passion for fencing, competing and training with top athletes and coaches nationally and internationally, pre-COVID-19.

Tustin *High School*

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



Dr. Jon Tuin
Principal

Model United Nations Goes Virtual

Tustin High School hosted its 28th annual Model United Nations (MUN) Conference in November. For the first time ever the MUN Conference was held virtually and took place over a one-day period. Approximately 700 students representing over 25 high schools participated in

this year's event. The theme of the 2020 conference was "Decade of Action" with the focus on developing solutions for important issues facing this next decade. Through debate and collaboration, MUN students discussed a variety of international topics and current events. The annual conference is one of the top student led MUN conferences in the United States.

MUN is an academic program that offers an opportunity for students to simulate the activities of the United Nations organization. Students learn skills in researching, writing, negotiating, speaking

and debating. This program utilizes a four-year academic leadership curriculum where students compete at local, state, national and international levels.



MUN students participated in a virtual conference experience.

Tustin Memorial Academy

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



Brooke Carreras
Principal

A Standing Ovation for Julio Alonso

Julio Alonso recently received a “Standing Ovation” award from the Tustin Unified School District’s Executive Cabinet. Julio has worked in Tustin Unified for nine years and is the head custodian at Tustin Memorial Academy. Prior to coming

to Tustin Memorial, Julio served as night custodian at Robert Heideman Elementary School and Tustin High School. Julio takes great pride in the work that he does, and strives to make a positive impact on our students, staff, and community. In the morning, he greets students as they arrive to school, often the first on campus to wish them a great day. Prior to welcoming students back to campus in September, Julio and his family created a beautiful welcome back sign for the front of campus. Julio and his wife, Xochilt, have three boys, two at Tustin High School and one in preschool. Mr. Alonso is one amazing TMA Star!



Tustin Memorial Academy head custodian Julio Alonso displays his “Standing O” Award.

Tustin Ranch Elementary School

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

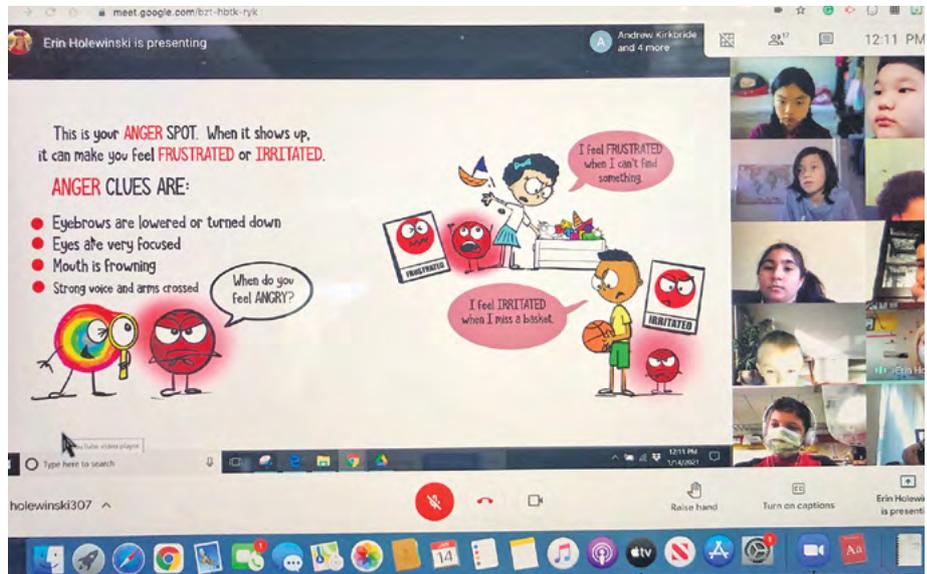


Kathi Denny
Principal

Social Emotional Learning on the Ranch

Tustin Ranch Elementary School is implementing Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) with intention and consistency. Students in all grade levels start their day with an SEL check-

in and are given tools to use that help them navigate their emotions in order to be the best versions of themselves each and every day! Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which students learn and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to understand and control their emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, create and keep positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. All Tustin Ranch staff have been trained in SEL and use consistent vocabulary and tools to address student needs throughout



Tustin Ranch students in Erin Holeywinski’s class learn about the Zones of Regulation through the read aloud, *A Little Spot of Feelings* by Diane Alber.

the whole school. Tustin Ranch gives parents SEL tips to use at home in our weekly newsletter and has a large collection of SEL books for both students and staff.



Heather Bojorquez
Principal

Falcon Fab Five

Intervention Wednesdays is a critical time for Utt Middle School teachers to address those struggling to connect and engage. According to *The Distance Learning Playbook*

by Fisher, Frey and Hattie, “Given the increased challenge that distance learning poses, it is crucial that [we] develop tools and systems so that [we] can actively monitor the number and quality of touchpoint interactions with each student on [our] roster,” (59). With this in mind, teachers chose their “FAB FIVE” students who needed extra support, attention and multiple touchpoints from their Wednesday advisory course during the fall semester. We recognized these students with a celebration much like our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) drive-throughs in which these students earned certificates



Utt Core teacher and PBIS member Marlene Beisel congratulates seventh-grade Fab Five student Theresa Montes for her dedication to Intervention Wednesdays during the first semester.

and video shout-outs from their teachers based on their commitment to the intervention Wednesdays and growth toward their FAB FIVE goals. We commend our Fab Five students’ growth and celebrate it wholeheartedly in front of the Falcon community.

Educational Services

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



Dr. Maggie Villegas
Assistant Superintendent

Teacher Professional Learning Pivots to a New Platform

Teacher professional learning continues on in the Tustin Unified School District amidst all of the challenges brought forth by COVID-19. Transforming to a virtual platform this year all teachers have been invited to engage with their colleagues in professional learning by participating in subject-based Learning Series.

At the elementary level there are four unique series being offered. The Humanities Learning Series will work to understand the components of Researcher’s Workshop and learn to plan guided inquiries and the integration of social studies content. The Culturally Responsive Teaching Series will examine support strategies for English learners through academic discourse, digital storytelling and collaborative structures. In the Math Learning Series, teachers will explore equity and mathematics, the home/school math connection, and

designing math instruction for all kinds of learners. In the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Learning Series teachers will work together to develop interventions for students in need of social, emotional or academic support. There are 83 teachers currently enrolled in the elementary learning series options.

At the secondary level the Learning Series options include a quarter-long miniseries focusing on PearDeck, Virtual Collaborative Structures, Visible Thinking Routines, Equitable Grading Practices and Inquiry, Literacy and Civil Action. Additionally, two special feature learning opportunities with the authors of “Developing the Innovator’s Mindset” with author George Couros and “Grading for Equity Online Course” with author Joe Feldman, are being offered. Currently there are 72 teachers participating in one or more of these learning opportunities. It is exciting to witness teachers finding innovative ways to continue to learn and grow together as professionals.

Kindergarten Readiness

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7592



Lauralee Cabibi
Principal

Welcome Nurse Diana

The Kindergarten Readiness Program is happy to welcome Diana Leclercq, R.N. to the Tustin Unified School District as the new School Readiness Nurse. Diana has a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Texas at Arlington. Prior to coming to Tustin Unified, Diana worked as a charge nurse in an assisting living facility and as a registered nurse at Orange County Global Medical Center working with mothers and their newborns. Most recently, she worked as a school nurse for Santa Ana Unified School District providing healthcare to students in TK through fifth grades.



As the School Readiness Nurse, Diana will complete vision, hearing and developmental screenings for all preschool students. She will also connect families with health care providers when a child fails a health screening to ensure each child obtains the care they need at the earliest point and enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

Nutrition Services

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



Teresa Squibb
Director

Tustin High Cafeteria Spotlight

Tustin High Cafeteria is led by Jacob Kranich who started with TUSD in 2010. He manages his kitchen along with his cook, Jose Ruiz. Both Jacob and Jose came to TUSD from the restaurant industry. Tustin's dedicated team of Nutrition Service Assistants help prepare, set up, and serve the meals to our students. Due to COVID-19, instead of cooking and serving hot meals to all students, many meals are packaged to-go to be heated at home.

Tustin High not only provides hot and to-go meals for the students at Tustin High, but they also prepare meals for Hillview High School and Legacy Magnet Academy students. In addition, they provide to-go meals for a few elementary schools and provide weekly curbside meal service for students enrolled in distance learning. Whether prepping meals to go home or serving meals hot, Tustin High School Cafeteria crew is ready to serve TUSD students.



A few members of Tustin High Cafeteria's team, Jacob Kranich, Veronica Luna-Serrano, Jose Ruiz and Debra Taylor, get ready to serve meals to the students.

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

Virtual Coding Competition

TUSD Robotics has innovated our programs this year in order to continue to learn and compete in virtual spaces. Students learned how to code virtual robots

using a new application called VEXcode VR. This program allows students to select different

“playgrounds” or game fields to draw on with a pen integrated into the virtual robot, navigate mazes using sensors, or move game objects around the field using electromagnets. After spending several weeks learning how to code, each school site held a competition to select six students to send to the quarter-finals. After a five-week bracket system, students from multiple schools competed against each other to determine who could be the first to complete coding

challenges while being broadcasted on YouTube Live. The students impressed the viewers with remarkable speed and precision while being cheered on by their peers and parents via the live stream. Congratulations to all of the finalists!



TUSD Robotics Lead and computer science and engineering teacher on special assignment Cari Williams (above, left) hosted an exciting Virtual Coding Competition for Tustin Unified elementary and middle school students.

Business Services

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



Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

The Fate of K-12 Education Funding in 2021-22

On January 8, California Governor Gavin Newsom submitted his 2021-22 state budget proposal to the Legislature for review. While certain segments of the state's economy have been struggling from the effects of COVID-19, Newsom's budget proposal indicates that high-income earners and the stock market are actually performing well, due to an increase in property tax, income

tax and sales tax revenues. As a result, the proposed budget reflects an increase in funding for K-12 education for the 2021-22 fiscal year. This brings a sigh of relief for Tustin Unified School District considering the 2020 Budget Act was indicating significant budget cuts to K-12 education in the multi-year projections.

Some of the key highlights from the 2021-22 budget proposal include the following:

- K-12 Proposition 98 funding to increase by approximately \$14.9 billion from 2020-21, bringing the new total of Proposition 98 funding to \$88.1 billion in 2021-22.
- \$4.6 billion for summer school programs to close the learning gap and combat the learning loss caused by COVID-19.
- An additional \$300 million for special education programs.
- A cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase of 3.84%.
- \$2 billion to reopen schools under the governor's Safe Schools for All Plan (See “Governor Newsom Unveils California's Safe Schools for All Plan” at www.gov.ca.gov).

It is important to note that these numbers are based on a proposed budget, and the governor will submit a May revision to the Legislature that reflects any changes in the state's revenues before the budget is finalized by June 15, 2021.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

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



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

2020 Dash Became a Dino-mite Detour!

The year 2020 called for the Tustin Public Schools Foundation annual Dino Dash to take a detour. A virtual 5K replaced the traditional bike and walk/run courses.

Thousands of participants still had a rawring-good time on a course of their own making this fall. Hewes Middle school teacher Anna Brandsma and her family put on their Dino Detour shirts and continued their annual tradition by creating a home course complete with finish line and race medals.

Creativity and commitment were key to this recreated event that benefited the Foundation and Tustin Unified schools. Special thanks go to Title Sponsor and TUSD Builder Balfour Beatty and the many community supporters who helped to keep up school spirit and make sure that funding continued for important programs in our schools.

In 2021, the Foundation looks forward to a special 30th year celebration of the Dino Dash on Sunday, November 7.



Hewes Middle School teacher Anna Brandsma and her family made a Dino Detour and finished strong.

Lacrosse–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)

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| ATTACK | MOUTH GUARD |
| CLEATS | NET |
| COACH | PLAYERS |
| CREASE | RULES |
| DEFENSE | SCORE |
| FIELD | SHAFT |
| GOAL KEEPER | SIDE LINES |
| HEAD | STICK |
| HELMETS | TEAMS |
| MIDDIES | UNIFORMS |

Congratulations

Sergio Gonzalez

winner of our November contest

Entries must be received by March 30, 2021

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



Word Search by Kai Coop

Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

Monsters aren't real...are they?

Percy Jackson's *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is a page turning book with tons of actions on mythological monsters and gods of Mount Olympus. It's also the start to the Percy Jackson series and what a



start it is! I've read this book before and I just had to read it again to say how much I recommend this to all tween readers. Most people have heard of the series but if you haven't, Percy Jackson is the main character who has trouble with school and is about to be kicked out. He also has dyslexia, or trouble with reading. As you go deeper into the story, things will happen that you would have never thought of, and it makes you wonder if it all is even real. Percy Jackson, *The Lightning Thief*, is a must read and Percy Jackson is waiting to start his adventure with you!

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to take care and play with Chewie, his dog.

Sean's Book Review



Sean

Middle School Can Change Your Life

Finding the Worm by Mark Goldblatt, is about a 7th grader, Julian Twerski, who attends McMasters Middle School. There, 9th graders are a real problem, as they are the bullies. Julian is seen



admiring a painting of a historical picture, and then is accused of messing it up! Julian's friend, Quentin, suffers from a tumor in his head, and due to this, is promised a visit from a famous baseball player. Another friend, Beverly, is constantly asking Julian to race her in running, but he always says no. This book has a lot of side stories that contribute to the main idea, making the book interesting, suspenseful, and funny. Mark Goldblatt did a great job connecting this book to his previous book, *Twerp*. In conclusion, *Finding the Worm* is really cool, but you should read *Twerp* before this, as you will have a much better time!

Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

Taegyung's Book Review



Taegyung K.

Being Normal

Title: *Wonder*

Author: R.J. Palacio

Do you think you are normal? What is being normal? This book is the story about the boy, August, who has facial



deformity and wants to be normal. He had surgeries many times and he couldn't go to school. When he becomes a 5th grader, his parents decide to send him to school. He often gets bullied by other kids at school because of his appearance, but he doesn't stop going school.

In addition, this book shows the stories of his family and his friends. You can read their stories as their views because it is written by multiple perspectives. So, you can know what they think and why they say or do that.

What will happen to August? How can he make a real friend? If you wonder, find out from the book, *Wonder*. Also, if you are looking for a warm-hearted story, this book is just right for you.

Taegyung K. is a 5th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to play video games, board games, and badminton with her family. She would like to be a person who is kind and helps others.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Positive Outlook

Ways to Make Sunshine is written by Renée Watson, a Coretta Scott King Award and Newbery Medal winner. The story is about a 10-year-old Ryan Hart who had to adjust to many changes in her life after her



father had lost his job. Her dad's new job did not pay as much as his old job, so her family had to move into a smaller house and must limit their spending. Ryan faced many challenges at this point of her life. With the help from her loving family and friends, she was able to see the positive sides of the changes. Ryan brought sunshine to her family and anyone around her by trying to be a good daughter, good sister, and a good friend.

Reading this book taught me to think positive. If we look at things positively, we can always find some good things even in the worst situation. I give this book 5 stars out of 5.

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

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