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School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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TUSD Celebrates Classified Employees of the Year



Robert Heideman Elementary School community liaison Veronica Rivas is congratulated by Heideman students for being named the Tustin Unified School District's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. (Please story on page 5.)

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School-Business Partnerships Contribute to Student Success



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

Schools and businesses are working together to benefit students, teachers, and the entire Tustin Unified School District community. Successful partnerships can be found throughout the school district. One example is Tustin Unified's annual Principal for a Day program, where local business owners and community leaders serve as "Principals for a Day" in all schools throughout the District. This year's event was held on April 17 during TUSD's 29th annual Educational Partnership Week, April 16-20.

"Principals for a Day" is a hands-on opportunity for local business and community leaders to learn about the issues, challenges and accomplishments in public education as they take on the role of school administrators.

Each participant shared the role of school principal and performed various daily duties, such as visiting classrooms, meeting with students and teachers, attending staff meetings, reviewing budgets and participating in other activities.

The 2018 "Principals for a Day" included:

Elementary schools:

Dr. Sharon Sutton, Arroyo School; Jim Salzetti, Barbara Benson School; Dr. Allan Bernstein, Benjamin Beswick School; Matt West, Helen Estock School; John Gambardella, Guin Foss School; Rand Scherff, Robert Heideman School; Jonathan Abelow, Heritage School; Sona Shah, Hicks Canyon School; Bill McInerney, Ladera School; Peter Chang, Loma Vista School; Donald Wagner, Myford School; Letitia

Clark, Nelson School; John Wende, Peters Canyon School; Michael Hickman, Red Hill School; Mike Shaghnessy, Jeane Thorman School; Christine Petty, Tustin Memorial Academy; Chuck Puckett, Tustin Ranch School; and Beckie Gomez, Marjorie Veeh School.

Orchard Hills School: Mike Hamel.

Middle schools: Austin Lombard, Columbus Tustin School; Joseph Kazemi, Currie School; Bud Henry and Eulynn Gargano, Hewes School; Al Murray, Pioneer School; and Joe Villado, Utt School.

High schools: Traci Fahimi, Beckman; Glenn Kashima, Foothill; Jeff Herrell and Matt Hudack, Hillview; and Charles Celano and Alicia Berhow, Tustin High.

Tustin Connect (K-12 Online) and Adult Education: Kathy Ellis.



TUSD's Principals for a Day gather for a "Class of 2018" photo at the District Administration Center.

I wish to thank these community leaders and all our school-business partners for their support in helping TUSD students prepare for college and career, become involved and caring citizens, and meet the future needs of the global workforce. Together, we can help Tustin Unified students achieve success!

Go TUSD!



Mark Eliot

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@TUSDschools and @SuptFranklin

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Another school year is coming to a close. Thank you for continuing to include *School News*

among your reading choices. Our next issue is September 26. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your activity choices. On pages 30-35 in this issue are student book reviews, lots of summer camp/activity choices and a word search contest on page 29. Enjoy!

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TUSD Celebrates 2018 Classified Employees of the Year

By Mark Eliot
Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District

Veronica Rivas, community liaison at Robert Heideman Elementary School, has been selected as the 2018 Classified Employee of the Year by the Tustin Unified School District. Rivas was chosen based on her significant contributions to the District and community.



Heideman Principal Sean Lindsay, left, and Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, congratulate Veronica Rivas for being named TUSD 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

“I’m proud and honored to be chosen as the District’s Dedicated Employee of the Year and represent the dedicated and hard-working school employees in TUSD,” Rivas said. “It is very rewarding working with the Heideman staff and parents, and making an impact on our students every day.”

Rivas has worked at Heideman for three years and was recognized for going “above and beyond” for the students and staff at the school, especially her work and support with the Tustin Police Department’s Run with a Cop program and Turkey Bowl, and Parents in Action group. She also organizes parent classes, arranges community speakers for parent nights, volunteers for many activities and events, and founded and coaches the school’s first-ever Speech and Debate Team. Heideman will host its first Speech and Debate Tournament on Sunday, May 20.

“Veronica has a special heart for the students and families at Heideman,” Principal Sean Lindsay said. “She continually reaches out to the families and builds relationships to help those in need. She is a passionate advocate for our school community and is very deserving of this honor.”

The 21st annual awards program recognizes classified or support services employees whose contributions to TUSD have proven to be outstanding. The award is given to a classified employee who provides valuable services to their school and contributes to a positive instructional environment.

The other TUSD school/work site nominees include:
District Administration Center: Michael Segura, Warehouse delivery person for Nutrition Services.
Maintenance and Operations: David Hinojoza, locksmith.
Elementary Schools: Maria Bloor, paraeducator (instructional aide), Arroyo; Cara Elms, paraeducator, Benson; Ziggy McBride, paraeducator, Beswick; Tamara Stella, paraeducator, Estock; Linda Carter, library media technician, Guin Foss; Veronica Fernandez, paraeducator, Heritage; Guisela Garcia, office assistant, Hicks Canyon; Nancy Titterud, school secretary, Ladera; Sandra Nuñez, school secretary, Loma Vista; Cari Knezevich, paraeducator, Myford; Rick Kammerman, night custodian, Nelson; Jenny Scott, Health Services clerk, Peters Canyon; Kimberly Sento, Nutrition Services assistant, Red Hill; Esther Andrade, office assistant, Thorman; Lynn Pomije, paraeducator, Tustin Memorial Academy; Laura Hall, office assistant, Tustin Ranch; and Norma Bailey, school secretary, Veeh.

Orchard Hills School: Tony Vu, day custodian.

Middle Schools: Maria Mazuca, office assistant and health clerk, Columbus Tustin; Teresa Kegel, paraeducator, Currie; Fernando Galvan Rios, lead night custodian, Hewes; Stephanie Narez, school secretary, Pioneer; and Carlos Ortega, paraeducator, Utt.

High Schools: Trisha Primrose, paraeducator, Beckman; Melissa Wood, office assistant/receptionist, Foothill; Maria Aviles, school secretary, Hillview; and Jason Linnen, technologist, Tustin.

Rivas and all school/work site nominees were honored by the TUSD Board of Education at a special recognition ceremony, “Classified Celebration at the Courtyard,” on May 21 at the District Administration Center.



TUSD Classified Employee of the Year Veronica Rivas poses with a group of second-grade students in teacher Cathy Lien’s classroom at Robert Heideman Elementary School.

TUSD News and Announcements

*By Mark Eliot, Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District*

Orchard Hills and Tustin Memorial Academy Selected as 2018 California Distinguished Schools

Orchard Hills School and Tustin Memorial Academy have been named 2018 California Distinguished Schools by the California Department of Education. Nearly every elementary school in TUSD has been named a state distinguished school or a California Gold Ribbon School in the past two years.

Orchard Hills and Tustin Memorial are among 287 elementary schools in the state and 43 Orange County public schools that were named as California Distinguished Schools.

The 2018 California Distinguished Schools Program recognizes California elementary schools that have made exceptional gains in implementing academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Schools that applied were eligible based on their performance and progress on the state indicators as described on the California School Dashboard. Indicators include test scores, suspension rates, and English learner progress. Schools were also eligible to apply for a California Exemplary Program Award in Arts Education, and/or Physical Activity and Nutrition Education. Tustin Memorial Academy was named a 2018 Exemplary Program Award recipient in physical activity and nutrition.

The Distinguished Schools award rotates each year between elementary schools and secondary schools. Schools earning the Distinguished School title agree to share their “signature practices” with other schools and serve as mentors to other educators who want to replicate their work.

Carrie Murillo and Joanna Vandal Named Semifinalists in O.C. Teachers of the Year Program

W.R. Nelson Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Carrie Murillo and Tustin High School AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher Joanna Vandal have been selected as two of 15 semifinalists for the Orange County Teachers of the Year program. As semifinalists, Murillo and Vandal moved to the next level in the Teachers of the Year interview process at the Orange County Department of Education. The annual awards program recognizes outstanding teachers who have displayed extraordinary teaching, creativity and excellence at their

school and community.

Murillo and Vandal represented the Tustin Unified School District in the 2018-19 Orange County Teachers of the Year Program. Murillo was named TUSD Elementary (grades K-5) Teacher of the Year and Vandal was selected as TUSD Secondary (grades 6-12) Teacher of the Year. Both teachers were honored at the Tustin Public Schools Foundation's 24th annual Teachers of the Year Dinner on May 18 and will be recognized at the Orange County Teachers of the Year awards dinner on November 2.

Luz Arellano and Julie McGinis Honored as Orange County Counselors of the Year

Beckman High School counselor Luz Arellano and Foothill High School counselor Julie McGinis are among nine local school counselors who were honored through a new awards program established by the Orange County Department of Education in partnership with the College Board and OC Pathways.

OCDE's Counselor Recognition Program was launched this year to highlight the county's top counselors and their contributions to student success. Awards were handed out in three separate categories, each with their own unique criteria — K-8 Counselor,



Foothill school counselor Julie McGinis, left, and Beckman school counselor Luz Arellano display their certificates of recognition at the O. C. Board of Education meeting.

OC Pathways Counselor and College Board Counselor. This year's winners were announced during National School Counseling Week and introduced at the Orange County Board of Education meeting on February 14.

Arellano received the College Board Counselor Award. The College Board is a national nonprofit organization that connects students to college success. McGinis received the OC Pathways Counselor Award. The OC Pathways initiative connects educators and industry leaders to prepare students for advance college and high-demand careers.

Patty Ellis Receives Orange County Classified Employee of the Year Award

Helen Estock Elementary school secretary Patty Ellis has been named Orange County 2018 Classified School Employee of the Year. She is one of six finalists for the O.C. Classified School Employee of the Year program and was recognized at the Orange County Board of Education meeting on April 11. She is the first-ever in Tustin Unified School District history to be named a county classified employee of the year.

Ellis was nominated in the “Office and Technical”



Helen Estock school secretary Patty Ellis, left, shows her certificate of recognition with Principal Wendy Hudson at the Orange County Board of Education meeting.

category. She moves on to the California Classified School Employee of the Year program

Tustin Unified nominated Ellis for the 2018 Orange County Classified School Employee of the Year program. She was selected as TUSD’s 2017 Classified School Employee of the Year last spring and represented the District in the Orange County Department of Education program. The goal of the program is to recognize the professional efforts of exemplary classified school district employees.

Three TUSD Administrators Recognized as Orange County Administrators of the Year

Tustin Ranch Elementary School Principal Tracy Barquer Tustin Unified School District Chief Personnel Officer Dr. Chuck Lewis Chief Personnel Officer, Director of Elementary Education Maggie Villegas and Tustin Ranch Elementary School Principal Tracy Barquer have been named 2018 Orange County Administrators of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17.

Lewis was selected as Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year. Villegas received the prestigious Tracy Gaffey Award for mentoring other administrators, dedication to the profession, and appreciation of the work and importance of educational leadership. Barquer was named Elementary Principal of the Year. In addition, Barquer was selected as a state finalist for ACSA’s Administrator of the Year awards. Only 25 individuals will be chosen for state recognition throughout California, representing candidates from all 19 ACSA regions. State winners will be announced later this month.



Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, TUSD Board President Tammie Bullard, far right, and Luis Reyes, representative for Congresswoman Mimi Walters, congratulate Tustin Ranch Elementary School Principal Tracy Barquer, TUSD Chief Personnel Officer Dr. Chuck Lewis and Director of Elementary Education Maggie Villegas for being selected as 2018 Orange County Administrators of the Year at a recent school board meeting.

All three administrators were honored at the 45th annual ACSA “Administrators of the Year and Friends of Education Awards” Dinner on May 7. ACSA annually recognizes outstanding administrators for their leadership skills, professionalism, creativity, innovation and commitment to a quality education. Region 17 represents 28 school districts in Orange County.

Arroyo Elementary School

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



Katy Sheyka
Principal

Taking Pride in Her Work

Arroyo Elementary School is proud to recognize Maria Bloor as its 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

Mrs. Bloor is an incredible para-educator who works in various classrooms to help support all of our students with their Individualized Education Programs, and in all academic areas. While her schedule

can be complicated and full, Mrs. Bloor never complains. She maintains a positive attitude toward our entire school community each and every day.

Mrs. Bloor takes great pride in getting to know her students, and takes careful consideration when working with them. She goes to great lengths to meet their needs and ensure their success, always seeking additional resources or incentives as needed.

Mrs. Bloor is also a collaborative, extremely dependable, and consummate team player who regularly checks in with our general education staff to ensure that she is doing all that she possibly can for our Mustangs. She is a true example of what it means to be Mustang Strong.



Arroyo's Classified Employee of the Year Maria Bloor is always ready to help students, staff and parents.

Arnold O. Beckman High School

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



Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

Making a Special Effort

Congratulations go to Trisha Primrose. She is Beckman High School's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. Trisha has worked in the TUSD for 18 years, and is an invaluable extension of the classroom who currently serves as a para-educator in our Special Education Department.

Trisha is very visible, friendly, and provides a strong presence in and out of the classroom. Her students both respect and adore her.

Trisha also provides extra support, and facilitates our academics in the special education and general education classrooms. She also collaborates in the English Department, where she helps to implement accommodations and strategies. She provides extra support not only to our special education students, but also assists with the general education population so that everyone can be successful.

Trisha encourages positive communication as a tool to enhance student learning and self-esteem. As one of her fellow educators put it, "Trisha is the kind of para-educator that every teacher would love to have in their classroom. If something needs to be done, she will take care of it without being asked. Her dependability, warm personality, and great rapport with students are all part of her strengths."

Congratulations, Trisha!



Beckman Classified Employee of the Year Trisha Primrose (with flowers) is congratulated by Special Education teachers Joy Havrisik, Misty Moon and Kristine Prinz.

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



Jackie Christy
Principal

One Among Many

At Benson Elementary School, we have so many staff members who go above and beyond for our students that it is always a challenge to choose just one for our Classified Employee of the Year! This year, we would like to celebrate Cara Elms.

As a special-education paraeducator, Mrs. Elms works with many of our students on reading, writing and math skills throughout the school day. Mrs. Elms always jumps in to help any student or staff member in need. She cares about each student's social and emotional well-being and academic success. She is a lifelong learner who always wants to learn more about how to help each student she works with. Benson Bears are lucky to have such a supportive and caring member of our staff!

Congratulations, Mrs. Elms, on being Benson's Classified Employee of the Year!



Principal Jackie Christy and specialized academic instructor Laura Leon-Banos celebrate Benson Classified Employee of the Year Cara Elms, center.



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Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



Stephanie Yang
Principal

Ensuring Students Succeed in School

Congratulations to Beswick Elementary School's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year, Ziggy McBride! Since joining Tustin Unified School District (TUSD), Ziggy has gone above and beyond to support all students, both within and outside the scope of her role.

Without hesitation, Ziggy is willing to step into any supporting role and ensure our students and teachers have what they need to succeed. She is passionate, compassionate, and so very caring. Ziggy fulfills her duties and goes above and beyond by putting in extra effort and time to provide the best for all of our students.

With Ziggy at Beswick, we are the lucky ones!

From organizing a toy drive giveaway for our families to bringing in an engaging "covered wagon" curricular experience for our fourth-grade students, Ziggy always steps outside her role to enhance our ability to serve. In addition to supporting our students, Ziggy has supported our school-wide transition from PTO to PTA, which connected our school with exciting new programs and opportunities for fund-raising. She is always willing to share ideas, she serves as our TUSD Coordinating Council president, and so much more!



Beswick Principal Stephanie Yang and students pose with the school's Classified Employee of the Year, Ziggy McBride (with flowers).

Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



Maggie Burdette
Principal

Right at Home

Columbus Tustin Middle School is excited to announce that Maria Mazuca has been selected as this year's Classified Employee of the Year. Maria has been an employee in the Tustin Unified School District for the past 24 years. Maria began her career

she supported in years past are now parents with children attending our school. In her spare time, Maria loves going to movies, doing crafts, and spending time with her family and dogs.

We are so proud of you, Maria!

at Utt Middle School. Then, the following year, when Columbus Tustin re-opened, she was selected as the health clerk/office assistant. Maria still serves in that position today, working tirelessly to answer phones, help parents, and take care of sick and injured students.

Maria always has a smile on her face and makes everyone feel right at home. She enjoys working with our community because many of the students



Columbus Tustin health clerk/office assistant Maria Mazuca was surprised with her recognition as the school's Classified Employee of the Year by (left to right) her daughter Katherine, husband Fred, son Patrick, and Principal Maggie Burdette.

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



Erick Fineberg
Principal

A Shining Star Ensures Student Success

Currie Middle School is excited to recognize Teresa Kegel as its 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. Teresa has spent the last 11 years as a para-educator with the TUSD. During this time she has worked with a number of students across multiple sites throughout the district.

Mrs. Kegel joined Currie this year. Her unbounding energy, positive disposition, and selfless nature has made a significant impact on our staff, community, and the students she works with. As a support person for a visually impaired student, Mrs. Kegel works tirelessly to ensure that they have everything they need to be successful in the classroom. She provides braille, magnifying equipment, and enlarged print along with classroom support.



Currie paraeducator Teresa Kegel poses under her Jungle Creation in the library, with her husband Chris, staff and student Sunil Paudel.

Additionally, Mrs. Kegel actively shares her artistic side in creating breathtaking displays throughout the office, library, and classroom areas. Like her artwork, Mrs. Kegel's personality brightens up a room. She has made Currie a brighter place!

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Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



Wendy Hudson
Principal

Celebrating Excellence

Estock Elementary School is pleased to recognize Tamara Stella as our 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. Ms. Stella has worked at Estock for four years as a classroom paraeducator. This year she provides classroom support for two fourth-graders in Nora Gallo's class.

In addition to providing academic support, Ms. Stella customizes homework so that her students better understand the skills and strategies presented. Mrs. Gallo reports that Ms. Stella "has an optimistic and encouraging attitude every day and brightens our room with her beautiful smile and great sense of humor."

Ms. Stella also works for a company that shops for and delivers food to the elderly. She always has a kind word for her customers and serves as a source of encouragement to them.

Thank you for your service to Estock, Ms. Stella!



Estock teacher Nora Gallo and Principal Wendy Hudson surprise paraeducator Tamara Stella (center) in her classroom.

Foothill *High School*

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



Dr. Michael Williams
Principal

Doing Things the Knight Way

Our Foothill High School office assistant Melissa Wood is an efficiency machine that never stops! But she will always take the time to say hello and connect with our students, staff, and parents in a very meaningful way.

We all feel seen and appreciated when interacting with Melissa. She is quick to smile, laugh, and offer an encouraging word of support. As our first point of contact, Melissa makes everyone at Foothill look better. She is always positive, professional, and prompt in dealing with any problems that might arise. Moreover, she is also incredibly organized, patient, and an invaluable resource to the Foothill community.

No matter what you ask of Melissa, even something beyond the purview of her responsibilities, she will not only find a way to answer your request, but will do so selflessly and kindly. We are so grateful and honored to have Melissa Wood represent Foothill as our 2018 Classified Employee of the Year!



Foothill assistant principals Dr. Adam Hernandez and Michelle England, and Principal Dr. Mike Williams congratulate the school's Classified Employee of the Year, Melissa Wood (with balloons).

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



Ray Hernandez
Principal

Engaging Students through Storytelling

Guin Foss Elementary School is recognizing and celebrating Linda Carter, our library media technician, as 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. For years, she has been engaging students through storytelling, which brings books to life.

Mrs. Carter has sparked and set ablaze many academic minds by providing bountiful access to literature. Whether through the ever-popular book fairs she coordinates and runs or the weekly visits to the school library, she always makes sure our students walk away with a good book.

The library garden, personally maintained and groomed by Mrs. Carter, stands as a visual representation of how much her efforts have helped academic minds and hearts bloom over the years—20, to be exact! And she does all of this with a contagious smile on her face—a smile we will all miss, as she will be retiring at the end of this school year.



All eyes were on Linda Carter as she made baseball come to life through her famous storytelling. This day she was sharing through a historical non-fiction book on baseball to fifth-grade students.

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Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Connecting with the Community

Veronica Rivas is Heideman Elementary School's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. In her capacity as community liaison, Veronica serves our school as a passionate advocate for students and their families and as a dedicated partner to Heideman's educators. She has a special heart and vision for her work, which elevates our entire learning community.

Veronica's accomplishments are many. She is lead coordinator for our special partnership with the Tustin Police Department for the Run with a Cop and Turkey Bowl programs. She recently established a new partnership with the Argumentation and Communication Leadership Academy to start Heideman's first-ever speech and debate team. She brought Parents in Action here two years ago to create a team of parent volunteers, who now run games for students during lunch recess. She coordinates all volunteers and works closely with families. The list goes on and on; she is continually expanding her vision of what is possible at Heideman.



Heideman community liaison Veronica Rivas is proud to be selected as the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

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



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

Supporting Student Learning

Heritage Elementary School is proud to announce Veronica Jimenez-Fernandez as our Classified Employee of the Year. As a classroom paraeducator, Miss Veronica supports the education of the students in teacher Tara Pauley's transitional kindergarten (TK) class.

Miss Veronica is a positive and professional member of the Heritage community. She supports student learning through providing small-group interventions and teaching in the TK room. Miss Veronica also teaches English language development to our first- and second-grade students.

Miss Veronica is an extremely active member of the Heritage team. This year, Miss Veronica led the coordination and testing for the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). She spent countless hours of her personal time preparing for the assessments and has meticulously tracked all students taking the test, as well as conducted the many of one on one assessments. She is the first to lend a hand and takes great pride in a job well done.

Heritage Elementary is fortunate to have Miss Veronica on its team!



Heritage Principal Beth Rabel Blackman and transitional kindergarten teacher Tara Pauley surprise Veronica Jimenez-Fernandez at a recent school activity.

Hewes *Middle School*

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



Eric Kilian
Principal

Helping Shine in the Community

Fernando Rios Galvan is our school's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year! But this title alone does not account for all that he does for our Hewes community.

As a school custodian, Fernando starts his day with a smile at the gate and an enthusiastic greeting to our staff and students. From there he assists the plant manager in ensuring that our Hewes campus glistens in the sunlight and shines under the night lights. He does so by overseeing all of our night-time activities, which can range from regular school functions to outside community use.



Hewes Principal Eric Kilian honors custodian Fernando Rios Galvan as the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

Hewes is a highly sought venue for various activities, and which Fernando readily supports. He continues to assist our weekend functions as well, and actively focuses on our Hewes vision. Fernando is proactive in ensuring that our school remains clean, safe, and secure. He is definitely an up and comer in the TUSD, and no doubt has a great future!



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Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Deena Vela
Principal

Having the Can-Do Attitude

Congratulations to Guisela Garcia on receiving the honor of being named as Hicks Canyon's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year! Guisela is the school's office assistant. Her work ethic, can-do attitude, and attention to detail makes her definitely one of a kind.

Guisela takes on many responsibilities at Hicks Canyon, and is an active member of the TUSD community. She is part of the board for the Beckman High School Educational Fund, and is responsible for their publicity. She is also a member of the Orchard Hills GATE Community Advisory Committee, and serves as a representative for Hicks Canyon on the Superintendent's Classified Advisory Committee.

Guisela also volunteers her time as a fund-raising and logistical support person for Beckman's Mock Trial Team. She is even a team mom for the Orange County Club Model United Nations (MUN). We want to thank Guisela for all of her hard work here at Hicks Canyon, and in the community!



Guisela Garcia receiving Classified Employee of the Year honors for Hicks Canyon.

Hillview *High School*

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



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Teaching Financial Literacy

One of the most important skills a high school student can learn is financial literacy. The students at Hillview are fortunate to be getting a tremendous amount of support in this area.

All of our seniors participate in the "Bite of Reality" assembly put on by a local credit union. Each student is given a personal statement that includes family, monthly income, and bills, and they are required to go to various stations to take care of their financial obligations for the month. This program is a huge eye-opener for our students, and they come to appreciate how hard their parents work each month to pay the bills.

Our students also take two online classes in personal finance. Topics include credit, savings, investing, budgeting, higher education, and renting vs. owning.

A special thanks goes to teachers Lazlo Berzsenyi and Erik Eidenmuller for helping prepare our students for the "real world."



Hillview teacher Erik Eidenmuller helps senior Victor Cervantes create a family budget.

Ladera Elementary School

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



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

Above and Beyond

Ladera Elementary is pleased to announce that school secretary Nancy Titterud is our Classified Employee of the Year. Ms. Titterud exemplifies what it means to be an exceptional employee, colleague, team member and friend.

Ms. Titterud comes in to work early every single day and doesn't leave until the job is done to her satisfaction. She will do just about anything for anyone, and goes above and beyond her job duties each and every day. She is kind and compassionate toward our students and families, and is a huge support to our staff. She brings teachers a doughnut on their birthdays, makes special treats for all classified staff at each holiday, and helps out with all of our PTO fund-raisers, giving both of her time and her money.

Ms. Titterud truly is a gem among gems, and we are so grateful for all that she has done to support the Ladera staff, students, families and community!



Ladera was proud to honor Nancy Titterud, Classified Employee of the Year.

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Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



Dr. Lauren Steinmann
Principal

Helping Students and Staff Thrive

The Loma Vista Elementary School community is so proud to recognize our school secretary, Sandra Nunez, as our Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Nunez has been at Loma Vista for two years, but she has the knowledge and expertise of a seasoned veteran.

Mrs. Nunez is positive, helpful, and proactive with staff, students, and families and always has a smile on her face and a warm greeting for anyone who enters the front office. Mrs. Nunez is the queen of effective and reliable communication and will go out of her way to help anyone in need. In addition to her amazing office skills, Mrs. Nunez heads up the staff social committee and helps to arrange a variety of activities and events.

Her fellow staff members shared, “She always gives 200 percent!” “She has a great rapport with all staff and families,” and “She cares deeply about Loma Vista and makes sure everything runs smoothly.”

It is a gift to have a such a dedicated, caring, compassionate individual at our school. Her efforts are invaluable, and she truly deserves this honor. Thank you, Mrs. Nunez!



Principal Dr. Lauren Steinmann recognizes Loma Vista Classified Employee of the Year Sandra Nunez.

Myford *Elementary School*

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



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Creating Learning Spaces

Cari Knezevich has had an incredible impact, not only on our kindergarten program but across the school as well. Cari is a kindergarten paraeducator, but she is so much more. She goes above and beyond for all of the students at Myford Elementary School.

Cari has undertaken many projects through her own initiative. Here are just a few: organized zones for the kindergarten yard; organized special activities for recess time; painted and beautified the hallway to create a learning space; recommended improvements, including materials and equipment for student learning; and organized the Guided Reading lending library.

Cari also works with students in other grade levels to help them reach benchmarks, and she communicates with the entire grade-level team. Her supervising teacher, Danielle Clawson, refers to Cari as her partner teacher, and that is truly what she is—an educator at heart.

We are so proud to recognize Cari as our Classified Employee of the Year!



Myford paraeducator Cari Knezevich works with students in the learning space she created in the classroom.

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



Melinda Smith
Principal

Taking Pride in Work

Nelson Elementary School is pleased to recognize night custodian Rick Kammerman as our 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. An integral member of the Nelson pride, he is extremely resourceful, repurposing things to make the school function more efficiently. He keeps our campus clean and safe. He routinely anticipates

and proactively addresses classroom needs and has assisted in numerous campus-improvement projects.

When we have Parent Teacher Organization events or Family Nights, he takes on additional duties to ensure that they run smoothly. Every year, he helps decorate cars for our Trunk or Treat event. During the holidays, he acts as Santa's helper by moving and rigging new adventures for the Elves on the Shelves in each classroom. The students and staff look forward to the creative places the elves show up next.

Mr. Kammerman's kind demeanor and beautiful smile are infectious. He demonstrates pride in his job every day!



Night custodian Rick Kammerman is posing in front of the custodial door that is covered with notes of congratulations.



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Orchard Hills School

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



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Being Respectful and Giving to Others

Orchard Hills School is proud to announce custodian Tony Vu as our 2018 Classified Employee of the Year!

Tony has worked the night shift at Orchard Hills for the past eight years, and was recently appointed to work the day shift.

Our students, parents, teachers, and staff members cannot say enough kind words about Tony. He greets everyone with a smile and helps anyone who needs his assistance. He is out and about all the time keeping our campus clean and tidy.

Tony is such a great guy that the day after the announcement of his award, he brought donuts to everyone to show his gratitude and appreciation!

That's the kind of guy Tony is. He is kind, respectful, and giving to others. We appreciate Tony Vu, and Orchard Hills is a better place because of him.



Orchard Hills Assistant Principal Mai Huynh, Head Custodian Amador Espinoza and Principal Cindy Agopian recognize custodian Tony Vu (with balloons) as the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

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Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Brooke Carreras
Principal

A Hero Behind the Scenes

Meet Jenny Scott, our 2018 Classified Employee of the Year at Peters Canyon Elementary School.

Jenny has served as Peters Canyon's health clerk for three years. Every day she tends to our scholars when they get hurt on the playground, or are returning to school from being sick, or even just those who need a dose of her bright happy smile and tender loving care.



Jenny showers Peters Canyon with tender loving care every day!

Jenny has a calm and gentle spirit, and she so beautifully supports our parents when they are called up because of a suspected broken arm or possible allergic reaction. Outside of school, Jenny is also a busy mom and wife. Her daughters both attended Foothill High School, and her oldest is now at UC Berkeley.

In addition, Jenny is involved in her local church. She is a true gem, and we are proud to honor her service at Peters Canyon School.

Pioneer *Middle School*

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Connecting to the Community

It is with great honor and pleasure that Pioneer Middle School recognizes Stephanie Narez as Pioneer's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. Ms. Narez has been a Wildcat for the past six years. She was Pioneer's counseling tech for two years and for the past four years she has been a secretary at the school. Stephanie's patience, attention to detail, and friendly connections are admired by everyone who comes into contact with her.

It is rare to find a person such as Ms. Narez. She takes pride in her work and dedicates countless hours beyond her work day to balance ASB's budget and clearing attendance to recapture attendance dollars for our district. It is with great pleasure that we honor Ms. Narez for these contributions to the Pioneer community of learners.



School secretary Narez is honored as Pioneer's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

Have a fun summer!

Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



Will Neddersen
Principal

Meeting Nutritional Needs

Congratulations to Kim Sento for being named Red Hill Elementary School's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year. Miss Kim is our cafeteria's nutritional services assistant. She has been part of the Red Hill team for two years.

Miss Kim was selected by staff because of her willingness to do all she can for students to meet their nutritional needs. She helps students who are regular visitors to the cafeteria, especially those who say they are hungry, by discussing their meals and finding ways to feed them. Miss Kim also works with the office to communicate to parents when a child's lunch account needs attention or a child is not eating lunch.



Red Hill Nutritional Services assistant Kim Sento is proud to be named the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

Many might not see the work Miss Kim does, but we all appreciate it. Red Hill is fortunate to have Miss Kim as a part of our team!

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

Helping Others with a Positive Attitude

Amid the craziness of a large office that supports two schools, you will find calm. This comes in the way of our office assistant, Esther Andrade, who is Thorman's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

Esther is in the second year of her position, and is always seeking new answers and ways to accomplish her job with thoroughness, efficiency, and a smile. When a task comes along that she hasn't done before, Esther looks at it as a challenge to take on with an incredibly positive attitude. Once she learns it, she is then ready to help others who want to learn too.



Thorman School office assistant Esther Andrade is always ready to help students, staff and parents.

Esther also happens to be an extraordinary cook, and often brings her culinary delights to share with our staff. You will find Esther helping at many of our school's evening and weekend events, too. Her family is part of the fabric of our school as well. Esther is a very important part of our staff, and we are lucky to have her!



Tustin Adult School

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



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Coordinator

Getting Things Done for Students

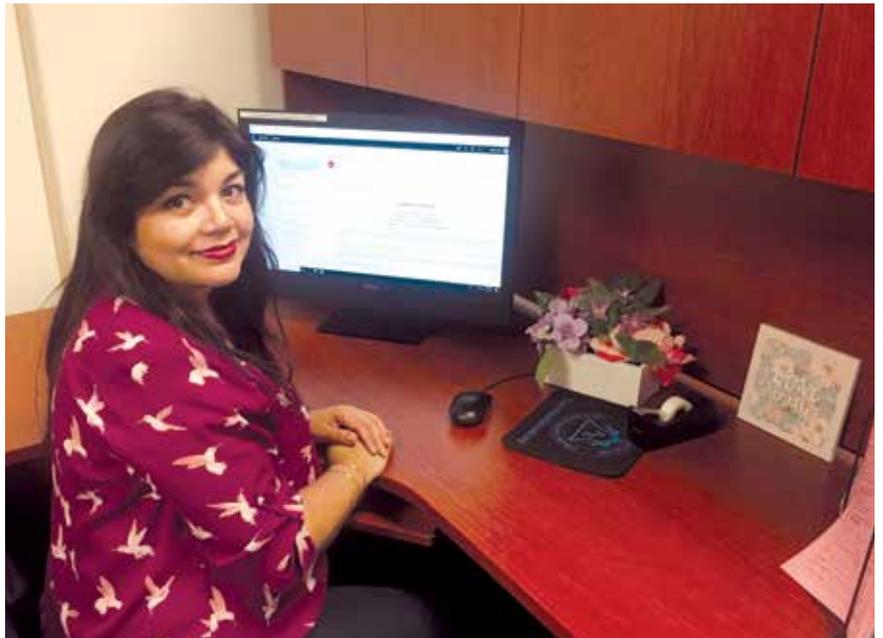
The Tustin Adult School is fortunate to have a dedicated staff to help support our adult learners in the Tustin Unified community.

One of our support staff members who has made a significant contribution to adult education is our office assistant, Zoila Reyna. Zoila has worked diligently with

the Adult School for the past four years. She has consistently demonstrated an outstanding work ethic, a positive attitude, and high levels of skill as an office assistant.

Zoila assists with the ongoing registration and enrollment of our Tustin Adult School students. She inputs and tracks attendance and enrollment data, and also coordinates appointments with our school counselor. She provides excellent service to everyone who walks into the office, and always maintains a professional, calm, and positive demeanor.

Zoila gets things done for our adult students with integrity, care, and respect for all. Thank you, Zoila, for your dedicated service!



Tustin Adult School office assistant Zoila Reyna working at her desk.

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Tustin Connect *Online School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/430-2052



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Principal

Outstanding Support Staff

Tustin Connect is fortunate to have a dedicated and skilled support staff to help ensure that our students have a highly effective blended-learning education. One support-staff member who has made significant contributions to student learning is our paraeducator Jennifer Lobato. Ms. Lobato has worked with

Tustin Connect for two years, and prior to joining our staff, she worked in Tustin Unified as an AVID tutor.

Ms. Lobato works together with our amazing Tustin Connect teachers to provide students with individualized and small-group support when they are on campus for lab hours and collaborative-learning days. Not only does Ms. Lobato provide excellent academic support for students but she also has a warm and positive demeanor that enables her to quickly establish rapport with students.

Thank you, Ms. Lobato, for your dedicated service to Tustin Connect and Tustin Unified! You make a significant impact every day.



Paraeducator Jennifer Lobato supporting seventh-grade Tustin Connect students Luke Cantafio (front) and Caden McCarville (back).

Tustin *High School*

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



Dr. Jon Tuin
Principal

Saving the Day with His Technology Skills

Tustin High School is pleased to announce Jason Linnen as its 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

Mr. Linnen has been working at Tustin High for four years as the school's technologist. He works with all aspects

of technology at the school, including repairing and updating computers, consultations, installations, and connectivity issues. It truly takes someone who has a passion for technology to do this job!

Jason also works diligently with our staff and students to make sure that everything regarding technology runs smoothly. As one staff member stated, "He comes to the rescue when called!"

Of course, we all know that technology always breaks down at the most inopportune times when we need

it the most. But once Mr. Linnen is called upon he saves the day! Jason does an amazing job in keeping everything running smoothly, and he knows how to anticipate when technology may become problematic. Tustin High is fortunate to have Mr. Linnen.



Tustin High Principal Dr. Jon Tuin along with ASB students Sydney Pham and Michelle Negrete celebrate technologist Jason Linnen as the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

Tustin Memorial *Academy*

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



Sharon Maeda
Principal

Making a Difference for Students

Tustin Memorial Academy (TMA) is proud to recognize Lynn Pomije as our 2018 Classified Employee of the Year! Lynn has worked at TMA as a paraeducator for the past five years. She has not only led small groups in English language development, math, and language arts, but she also encourages all students to constantly persevere and believe in themselves.

Lynn makes a difference each and every day. She truly cares about the students and staff, and she is always positive and eager. Additionally, Lynn has a special talent for creating incredible anchor charts and visuals, which teachers have utilized, laminated, and cherished. When one walks into a classroom where Lynn serves, Lynn's positive presence is felt in many ways—from her kind demeanor to her chart masterpieces on the walls.

Lynn also serves as a volunteer in various capacities with a group that focuses on helping others.

Congratulations to Lynn on this special honor!



Tustin Memorial Academy paraeducator Lynn Pomije is proud to be selected as the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Giving Back is Her Calling

Tustin Ranch Elementary School's students, teachers, and parents are busy celebrating our amazing office assistant, Laura Hall. Laura is our school's Classified Employee of the Year. She has done an outstanding job serving at the front desk of the school office with a smile and handling all attendance and enrollment.

Laura has served the Tustin Ranch community as a parent, as the director of the Child Development Center, and now as our office assistant. She is an active member of the city of Tustin, serving on the Board of American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) and caring for her three amazing children. Her customer service, efficiency in multi-tasking, and love for children make her the ideal school employee. Ms. Laura said, "I love the Tustin community and giving back."

Tustin Ranch wishes to celebrate this talented and hard-working staff member. Congratulations, Ms. Laura!



Tustin Ranch office assistant Laura Hall received flowers for being named the school's Classified Employee of the Year.

C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



Dr. CK Green
Principal

Making Special Moments

Utt Middle School has many great employees on campus. For 2017–2018, Carlos Ortega stands out as Utt's Classified Employee of the Year for his special skills and dedication to his students as a Special Education behavior interventionist.

Mr. Ortega has been a behavior interventionist with Tustin Unified School District for seven years. In this role, he cares for students in one of our Special Day Classes. While he primarily works with one on one with a specific student, Mr. Ortega goes above and beyond by providing his services to all of the students in our Special Day Class program. His care is evident; he shows exceptional patience with all of the students he works with. Mr. Ortega makes all moments teaching moments for the students.

Congratulations to Carlos Ortega, Utt Middle School's Classified Employee of the Year!



Principal Dr. CK Green, community liaison Adriana Rodriguez and parent volunteer Kalleen Yeaw surprise Carlos Ortega (with balloons) as Utt Classified Employee of the Year.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Creating a Welcoming Environment

Marjorie Veeh's Classified Employee of the Year for 2018 is school secretary Norma Bailey!

Mrs. Bailey has worked in the Tustin Unified School District for about 18 years, and has been at Veeh since 2016. As school secretary, she supports our school principal, teachers, staff, students, and parents. She implements and maintains all of the office's records and supports our school registrations. She also maintains our school calendar, activities, and programs, and ensures that all of our supplies and equipment are ordered.

Mrs. Bailey is one of a kind. She is meticulous about completing her secretarial duties effectively and with distinction. She also receives countless compliments and acknowledgements from our staff, parents, and stakeholders for creating a helpful and welcoming environment at Veeh.

Mrs. Bailey always makes sure that all of our teachers have the supplies they need, and that our parents are both welcomed and immediately assisted with a smile.



School secretary Norma Bailey receives flowers from Principal Rafael Plascencia for being named Veeh's 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

Business Services

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



Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

TUSD Gets Ready for Summer Projects

Tustin Unified School District staff will be managing or directly performing over 100 maintenance and construction projects across 29 schools this summer. Most work will be completed over the break and a few will continue into the new school year. Each respective project varies in scope and complexity and ranges from a few hundred dollars to about \$1 million for improvements at Heideman Elementary School.

The maintenance work includes:

- Carpet replacement at Arroyo, Beswick, Heideman, and Hicks Canyon
- Perimeter fencing at Arroyo, Benson, Nelson, Thorman, and Tustin Memorial Academy; Currie Middle School; and Hillview High School
- Exterior painting at Hillview
- Playground replacement at Ladera, Myford, Nelson, Peters Canyon, and Tustin Ranch
- Slurry and striping at Heritage, Hicks Canyon, Ladera, Myford, Orchard Hill; and Beckman, Foothill, Hillview, and Tustin high schools

Solar work across 15 District schools is also moving full speed ahead with the majority of carports and shade structures now complete and a few remaining sites scheduled for completion this summer.



A majority of solar shade structures and carport projects, such as the one seen above at Pioneer Middle School, have been completed with a few remaining sites scheduled for this summer.

Educational Services

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



Kathie Nielsen
Deputy
Superintendent

Pathway for Future Success

For the past four school years, the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) has recognized graduating high school seniors with the prestigious State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB). Students are considered biliterate when they develop academic and language proficiency in both their primary language and a second language. The SSB program prepares students for global citizenship in a multicultural and multilingual world and

promotes development of language and cross-cultural appreciation.

TUSD currently awards students the SSB in four languages: Spanish, Mandarin, French, and Latin. Students are honored with tier 1 recognition by receiving a State Seal of Biliteracy Certificate and an official notation of biliteracy on their high school transcripts. Tier 1 recipients can also pursue tier 2 honors by passing an oral examination. Additionally, tier 2 honorees receive a medallion to wear at graduation.

Since 2015, 1,736 scholars have received biliteracy honors through this growing pathway in TUSD!



World Language teacher Graciela Valdez congratulates Tier 2 State Seal of Biliteracy recipient Andrea Lopez at Beckman High School's graduation.

Nutrition Services

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



Teresa Squibb
Director

Going the Extra Mile

The Tustin Unified School District Administration Center recently selected Michael Segura as its 2018 Classified Employee of the Year.

Michael has been with the District for a short time, but he has made a big impact. He is the warehouse delivery driver for Nutrition Services, and is responsible for receiving,

delivering, and tracking the Nutrition Services supplies at the warehouse.

Every day he transports meals to schools and delivers supplies to our kitchens. His main objective is to ensure that all of our cafeterias and kitchens have the supplies they need to operate and serve our students.

Michael has taken the initiative to implement projects that improve our warehouse operations. He increased delivery accuracy and efficiency by reorganizing and

labeling all Nutrition Services supplies at the site. He has also helped out when the unexpected has happened. The refrigerator at a school broke down, but Michael saved the cafeteria's cold food by transporting it to another site. Michael is a key component to our Nutrition Services Department.



Chief Financial Officer Tony Soria, Nutrition Services Coordinator Jim Kamuran, Nutrition Services Director Teresa Squibb and Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin congratulate Michael Segura (with balloons) for being named the District Office Classified Employee of the Year.

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

New Zealand Visitors

Having friends from around the world isn't uncommon these days. Technology allows for and helps with the development of professional learning networks all over the world.

On April 12, a group of 13 educators from New Zealand came to tour the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD). They visited Loma Vista and Hicks Canyon Elementary Schools as well as Orchard Hills School.

Time was also spent talking with district-level personnel to get TUSD's perspectives on learning and leading.

The visit to the school sites was a highlight for the group. They were able to see students of all ages learning at high levels and passionate educators enabling and supporting all students.

As the day came to a close, our visitors spent time sharing their final thoughts with other members of their group. As Innes Kennard, one of the New Zealand educators, said, "We started the day off as fellow educators and ended the day as friends."



New Zealand educators gather to hear Hicks Canyon Elementary School students (left to right) Chase Loscialpo, Shayan Emam, and Brandon Yacker share their learning.

Kindergarten Readiness

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



Lauralee Cabibi
Coordinator
School Readiness

The "Joy" of Preschool

The Kindergarten Readiness Program participated in the district's Classified Employee of the Year program by selecting a staff member who demonstrates outstanding service. This year, we are proud to announce that Joy Green was nominated to represent the Kindergarten Readiness Program.

Joy has been a paraeducator in the preschool class at Veeh Elementary School since 2016. Prior to joining Tustin Unified

School District, Joy worked in a private preschool program for over five years. She has a bachelor's degree in child development.

Joy is being recognized for her patience, kindness, and gentle nature in teaching preschool students. She is especially gifted in working with students who need additional encouragement and support throughout the day. She is proactive in learning new strategies to assist students and is always looking for ways to help our youngest learners succeed.

For those reasons and many more, Joy is our Kindergarten Readiness Program 2018 Classified Employee of the Year!



Birds –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.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| FINCH | CARDINAL |
| ROBIN | EAGLE |
| COWBIRD | HAWK |
| PHEASANT | FALCON |
| CHICKEN | TERN |
| QUAIL | SEA GULL |
| DOVE | PELICAN |
| PIGEON | WREN |
| TURKEY | SWAN |
| DUCK | BUZZARD |
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Lucy's Book Review



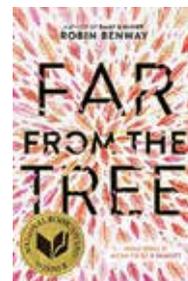
Lucy Davis

A Powerful Read

Far From the Tree, By Robin Benway

Family doesn't always mean that you're bonded by blood. In fact, Grace, Maya, and Joaquin depend on that saying. All three were taken in by strangers when they were young, building relationships with people they barely knew. So, learning that the three of them are siblings is not something they would've expected. All three have gone through trying experiences, and soon they realize that having each other in life is the greatest gift of all. Through pain, joy, laughter, and love, the three begin to learn the true meaning of family.

I enjoyed this book for a multitude of reasons. I feel that the author brought forth a great message: that family will always be there for you even when you don't realize it. It's honest, raw, heartfelt, and simply a powerful read. I will warm you: it contains strong adult language and situations, but definitely worth the read for ages 13 and up. Five out of five bookworms.



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

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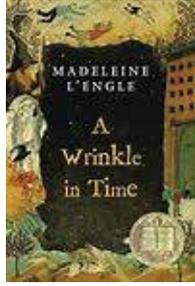
Rabina's Review



Rabina K.

An Impactful Book

A Wrinkle in Time is a kind of science fiction, as the characters in the story travel thru time and space to go to fifth dimension. But there is plenty in the book that touches humanities. The



heroin of the story is a lonely girl who conquers her negativities and weaknesses to fight against 'IT', the darkness and brings her dad back to earth from fifth dimension. The story has a happy ending with the whole family united together on earth.

Meg has a sense of herself as somebody who does not fit in. It is the struggle all of us face, to be ourselves despite the overwhelming pressure to be like everyone else. This battle in Meg comes to an end when Mrs. Whatsit tells them that life is a sonnet. You all are given the form but you have to write the sonnet yourself.

I give this book a five star rating.

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



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Richard's Book Review



Richard J.

The Phantom Toll Booth

This book starts with a boy named Milo being incredibly bored. One day after coming home Milo finds a toll booth in his room. He decides to go through to see what would



happen. Suddenly he finds himself in the land beyond, in a town full of creatures, which wouldn't go anywhere or do anything until the time keeper - a dog named Tock- scares them into getting on with their lives. Milo befriends Tock the dog. Together they go through a great adventure. They meet King Azaz, who rules over letters and words, and other magical creatures.

I liked this book because it is strange, but fun. Milo learns great lessons that make him appreciate different things in life. I recommend reading this book to understand the great story where so many magical things happen. I give this book 5 out 5, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

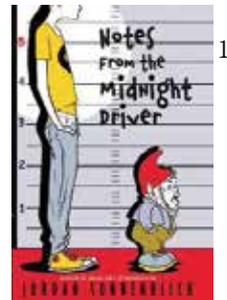
Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

One of My Favorite Books

Notes from the Midnight Driver is about year old Alex Gregory. One night, Alex was left alone at home and rampages through



his dad's alcohol cabinet that was still full even though his dad no longer lived with Alex and his mom. He gets drunk and drives to his dad's house. A couple houses down, Alex crashes into a yard. He is taken by the police and passes out. At his trial the Judge decides that community service is better than jail. He's assigned to an old man, Solomon, who is always grumpy and lives in a nursing home.

Gradually they help each other. In the end, Alex is even able to reunite Solomon with his daughter.

I would give this book five stars without hesitation. It is an amazing book with an amazing theme. It's definitely one of my top 10 books.

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

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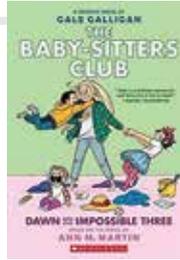
Unforgettable Books



Sofia Atoofi

The Baby-Sitters Club

Dawn Schafer is moving from sunny California to freezing Connecticut. She is eager to accept her first big job as a babysitter in the Baby-Sitters Club. But things don't go exactly as



expected. Taking care of three kids whose mom seems too busy to even care about is a hard task. And getting along with the leader of the club, Kristy, isn't as easy as it looks, either. But Dawn finds a way to steer through all these obstacles and makes joining the Baby-Sitters Club a success.

I really liked this novel because it teaches you about responsibility yet in a fun and interesting way. I rate this comic book 4 out of 5 stars, because the drawings were very detailed and funny.

Sofia is a fifth grader who loves writing. When she isn't submerged into a book, she enjoys doing gymnastics, acting, and singing. Her favorite kind of books are informational books, as she loves learning about new topics. She wants to become a writer or designer when she grows up, and hopes to someday publish a book, called Painting a Path, which she wrote for a school competition.



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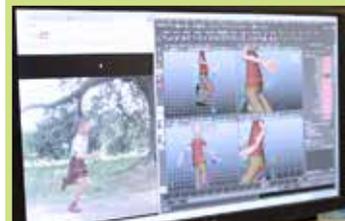


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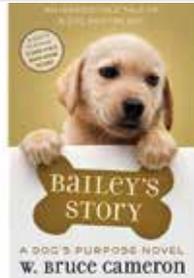
B is for Book



Bailey

Stirs Your Emotions

Bailey's Story
 by W. Bruce Cameron
 is one of my favorite
 books so far. It
 definitely warmed my
 heart.



The moment Bailey is born, he is looking for a purpose. He falls into the hands of many people. But the moment Bailey leaps into Ethan's arms, he knows he's in the right place. Going to the farm and playing with the flip is just the first part of Bailey's purpose. Will Bailey realize that, even with the bad things that happen, he must stay true to the boy he loves?

I had not read a book like this one! The point of view surprised me and there are many funny quotes. I can relate to the characters' actions and thoughts to my life. My favorite component of this book is that it is well written and stirs your emotions. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.

I give this 4 1/2 stars out of 5. Bailey is a 6th grader that likes to read fantasy and daydream about adventure when she isn't dancing ballet or playing with her friends and siblings.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

Never Take for Granted

If I Were You is a book that relates to everyone, because we envy each other oftentimes. In the book, a girl named Katie wants to live the life of her supermodel best friend, Melody. Secretly,

Melody wants to get away from the life of her mom whose only focused on the intake of her carbs. Both girls wish this on a bus and suddenly, they've switched bodies. At first, they're excited. They can't wait to live the life that they've craved! But, as time progresses, both of them learn that each other's lives are not as easy as it looks. Melody's parents never talk to each other, and Katie's twin stepbrothers are a handful. They realize that their lives were meant to be their own.

I rate this book a five out of five stars, because it showed me how you should never take your life for granted.

Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.



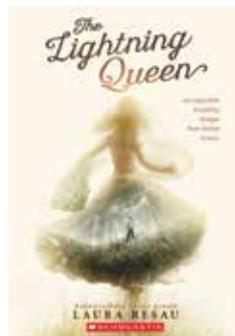
Sophie's Choice



Sophie O.

Lightning Queen

This book is filled with hope and determination made by the characters. One of my favorite things is that the author based the book off



of something that does happen between the Rom people and other cultures. Among the best of friends, you'll see that even after death you shouldn't give up happiness. The author's presence is felt through

the presence of the description of the characters and the scenes. You'll notice that people you thought you hated in the book change their characteristics with the help of Teo. Although I love all the characters I'm pretty sure my favorite person is Esma Queen of Lightning. She is strong spirited, happy, and strong-willed. This book will take you on an adventure of your own as you follow along with the main character's many adventures.

Sophie Olko is a 5th grader who loves to read and write her own stories. She enjoys soccer, loves to bake, act, draw and sew. One day she would like to have her own baking show.



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