

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Vista Unified School District

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FEBRUARY–APRIL 2018

## SUPERINTENDENT

By Linda Kimble, Ed.D.



I am excited to join you as Superintendent of the Vista Unified School District. Fantastic things are happening in Vista, and I'm pleased to join in the wonderful work. I have been a superintendent for fifteen years, and have had the pleasure of working with students from preschool age through high school, adult school, and have overseen unique programs such as early college high school, ROP, and more.

Great things are happening in Vista! Our work in ensuring each student has relevant, useful, engaging experiences in reading, writing and math through exciting programs is making a difference for each child. School to college and career focus helps each student consider their next steps and begin to engage with the world outside of school.

Students are the focus of our work in Vista, and it is a priority to make student-centered learning a reality. Choice is key to our success, and we're proud to offer many options for parents and students to meet the unique talents and abilities of each student.

Thanks for the warm welcome to Vista! I'm looking forward to meeting each of you in the near future.

## Grateful for Community Support

By Jacqueline "Kiko" Bispo,  
Family Engagement Network Lead, Innovation  
Department

Happy New Year and Halfway-Through-The-School-Year!  
What a fun year it's already been!

On November 2nd, the FACE Network put on our 2nd Annual Dia de Los Muertos ("Day of the Dead") celebration, with over 1,080 school and community members attending! It was a beautiful gathering to honor loved ones passed and celebrate various cultural traditions. We played Lotería (Mexican Bingo) for hours, with many students going home with new backpacks, meal certificates, and so many other great prizes! Along with lots of laughter, everyone who played practiced Spanish & English as we went back-and-forth with Lotería terminology (Learning + Literacy + Laughter + Love - we had it all!) With great community support, families went home with free books, local resources, and delicious treats! Families also enjoyed face painting, arts activities, a mini film festival learning about Dia de los Muertos, and an *ofrendas* room to share stories, pictures, personal items, and offerings to honor loved ones. It was a beautiful celebration of culture and community unity!



Mom and her two girls enjoying some Loteria fun after face painting, snacks, and videos!

We are so thankful to work in a school district filled with so much love and fabulous collaboration. Through December 2016, the FACE Network has collaborated with schools, community partners, and parent groups to help coordinate over 550 events, meetings, and workshops for parents and families across the district, with over 11,000 attendees. These include activities such as: Technology Workshops; Cyber Safety, Attendance, and Literacy presentations; parent institutes; Cafecitos/Coffee with the Principal; Watch DOGS volunteers; PTA meetings and English-Spanish conversation sessions, Family Reading events, and so much more! [www.vistausd.org/parents](http://www.vistausd.org/parents)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



Rich Alderson  
President

### The School Budget

In the State of California, the budgeting process for funding our schools is quite complex. A short review of the process may be helpful to frame the circumstances we are now facing and how a state as rich as California can continue to face budget shortfalls for many programs but especially education. First, the education portion of the state budget is usually nearly 60% of the overall state budget. While that percentage is not unusual, California is not the largest contributor in the US to its public schools. Many states allocate much more of their state budgets to education. Many of these states have significant portions of local property taxes committed to education. In California, education is funded through the legislative process and can be greatly affected when the state is having financial problems. As we all remember from the Great Recession in 2008, state funds for education were reduced significantly as we weathered the financial storm which has taken several years to recover

our funding levels. Even today, California schools are not back to 2008 levels of funding when we look at funding adjusted for inflation. We are back to approximately 93% of 2008 levels. We are hopeful that the state will continue to increase funding levels to bring us back to full funding in the near future.

This brings us to today's education budget in the state and how we get our money to operate educational programs. The past few years have seen the state legislators try to provide more local control of funding for schools through the Local Control Accountability Program (LCAP). This effort by the state is designed to permit school districts to customize programs to meet the needs of individual communities. The state also provides additional funding for specific student groups: English-learners, foster youth and economically-disadvantaged students. The state also has an elaborate accountability system which can be viewed by parents and community members to see how your local school or district is doing compared to other school throughout the state.

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# City of Vista Office of the Mayor

200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-1340 • [www.cityofvista.com](http://www.cityofvista.com)



**Judy Ritter**  
Mayor

## Happy New Year!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2018. Vista is a community dedicated to forging stronger partnerships and providing the best possible experiences for students. I look forward to the many partnerships between the Vista Unified School District and the City that will provide a better city to students, their families, and the community in the upcoming year.

The positive effects a healthy lifestyle creates in a community is near to my heart. The City has made great strides in investing in healthier and active lifestyle options for Vista residents this past year. I encourage students, parents, and teachers to make sure you get out and about and discover different parts the city in 2018—there's always something new and inspiring popping up around every corner. Vista has much to offer, providing a fantastic education in itself!

I hope this New Year brings renewed continued prosperity to our country, state and especially to our city and schools. As we begin 2018, I look forward to the exciting challenges the year ahead will bring to Vista and especially to our senior high students. Please feel free to contact me at [info@cityofvista.com](mailto:info@cityofvista.com) with your suggestions about our city.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

A new year always brings such a feeling of hope and renewed focus on goals. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* in your reading choices as we bring you the excellence directly from the classrooms.

To start the year off we welcome Dr. Linda Kimble, Superintendent. Her enthusiasm jumps right off of the page in her message on the front cover as she continues the focus of student-centered learning. It is going to be a great year!

Our next issue is May 16.

# School News

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

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbara Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:** Charlene Erb

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder

**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison

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**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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# Counselors Unlock True Potential

Tony Morrow has one goal for the students of Fallbrook High School—graduate ready for what comes next. With his guidance, young scholars and families put their plans for the future into action.



Fallbrook High School, College and Career Counselor: Tony Morrow '11, M.A.Ed. '12

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# Vista Education Foundation

236 E. Broadway, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-8268 • [www.vistaedfoundation.org](http://www.vistaedfoundation.org)



## Making the World a Better Place

By Brad Peterson, President

2018 rolls in with lots of changes, hopes for accomplishing new goals and the dedication for making the world around us a better place. Our support of the teacher-student relation is alive and well at Vista Education Foundation. We are always looking for ways to deepen student involvement in the learning process.

VEF recently signed an agreement with the Moonlight Youth Theater to provide funding for the Internship program we started 3 years ago. This funding will allow the students of VUSD to sharpen their skills in the Arts – both in production and design. Also VEF is committed to providing growth opportunities for our students in the Arts, Technology, Scholarships and Internships. Our view is that a large percentage of our students will benefit from skills learned from direct contact with the business community, from hands on projects and continuing their education beyond high school.

So what does VEF have planned for the near future? First we have our annual Heroes Gala which is on April 13 and will be held at Cal State San Marcos. We will be honoring many educators at this event and spotlighting student art work as our centerpieces. We will continue to offer donations to all schools in VUSD for the Arts and Technology. So get your requests in!

To close I would like to welcome aboard our new superintendent. VEF looks forward to a strong relationship with the leader of our district. We have an opportunity to meet Dr. Kimble and I am excited to share our vision for our district.

Our website is currently under repair but should be back up and running very soon. Our Newest board member, Josh Eckle, is working hard to make it a new and interesting site.

## VUSD Innovation

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)

### New Research Partnership

By Robert Crowell, Service Learning and Community Partnerships Lead

At Vista Unified, we are committed to Students at the Center. This commitment leads us to some exciting and important news. This fall on the campus of Vista Unified, we will open a new research-practice center called ICERP, which stands for the International Center for Education Research and Practice. Our ICERP partners, the University of California at San Diego and the San Diego Workforce Partnership, will be located right here on campus in the Vista Innovation Center.

ICERP has two critical missions that are both dedicated to keeping our students at the center. The first is neuroscientific research about how our brains develop and how we learn best. Findings from neuroscience research already influence teaching practices. Now, thanks to ICERP, Vista Unified will learn more and be able to shorten the time it takes to turn quality research into better practices in our classrooms. This is the first permanent on-campus research initiative of the UCSD Graduate School of Education.

The second ICERP mission is to ensure that our students are ready for successful careers here where we live. Another first, as part of ICERP, the San Diego Workforce Partnership will now have a North County location. Our students will have access to more internships, new career-ready programs and career counselors on campus! For example, work sectors like advanced manufacturing, clean energy, health care, information and communication technology and life sciences have a lattice of careers available for students to learn about and explore, using our Service Learning program at the elementary schools, the Talent Cities model at the middle school level, and the Career and Technical Education pathways at the high school level.

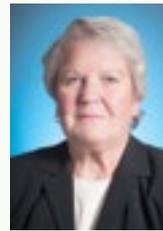
Stay tuned for more updates!



## Board of Education



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### BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1

The amount of funding for each school district in the state is determined by many factors but is primarily based upon the number of students enrolled in the district. School districts in the state receive approximately \$9000. Per student. This amount varies somewhat across the state but is a good baseline for determining funding. In Vista, our annual budget is nearly \$240 million to educate approximately 22,000 students.

Employee compensation is also an important element of any school district budget. As we develop the budget each year, evaluating the needs of our employees is quite critical. Hiring and retaining the best individuals possible is of paramount concern in VUSD. We work closely with our employee groups to ensure that Vista has an outstanding staff throughout our district. Since 2008, the board has attempted to restore our compensation levels and ensure that our employees are valued. With state funding never assured, this effort is always a challenge. Recently, we have been able to increase employee compensation to attempt to keep pace with the financial demands we know everyone is facing today. The Board has great respect for everyone involved in our district and value their efforts to create a positive educational environment for all children in Vista.

## Vista Unified Council of PTAs

836 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



### New Beginnings

By Kim Hilder, VUCPTA VP Communications

Having shed the former name of Del Norte, we're already into the New Year with our new Council name!

The VUCPTA would like to send a warm welcome to our new superintendent, Dr. Linda Kimble. We will be hosting our fourth annual "Dessert with the Superintendent" on Thursday, February 22 from 6–7:30 pm. The event will be held at VUSD's Vista Innovation Center at 836 Olive Avenue. We encourage all of our VUSD families to join us.

One of the PTA's goals is to promote family and community engagement. We do this not only in our schools, but also in our VUSD community as a whole. This year the Council has continued to strengthen our connection with VUSD's Family and Community Engagement Center as we support each other's activities throughout the year.

At our recent PTA Holiday Luncheon and Food Drive, we collected hundreds of pounds of food and items for our selected charity, the Vista Teen Outreach. This wonderful organization works tirelessly to send food home with those VUSD middle and high school students who are in need.

Our National PTA Reflections Art Contest is a program that encourages expression and creativity through various forms of art. Of the 70 different entries from VUSD students, there were 27 that moved on to the third round of judging at the Ninth District PTA, and this was against entries from San Diego and Imperial Counties. These entries received 11 Recognitions, nine Honorable Mentions, five Awards of Merit, and two Awards of Excellence, which have been sent to Sacramento for the state level of competition. Congratulations to all of these creative students!

We continue to encourage creativity and community engagement in our schools and district throughout the year. We wish for you all a happy and healthy 2018.

# Alamosa Park *Elementary*

5130 Alamosa Park Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/940-0700 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Cindy Anderson**  
*Principal*

## Engineering is Elementary (EIE)

Alamosa Park Elementary students are learning how things work and becoming our future engineers through the Engineering is Elementary (EIE) curricula. In fact, we are finding that our Alamosa Hawks are natural born engineers who are fascinated with building things and taking them apart to see how they work. Even our youngest students in the Extended Transitional Kindergarten class are building towers and learning how engineers work. Engineering encourages complex thinking

and builds science and math skills as students apply what they know to solving an engineering problem. In addition to doing the engineering the EIE program has students reading stories and keeping an engineering notebook which allows integration of engineering and science into language arts. This next year EIE will be expanded so that every student has the opportunity to experience real-world, hands-on engineering at all grade levels.



# Alta Vista *High School*

1575 Bonair Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-3775 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Dr. Susan Ford**  
*Principal*

## Extra Curricular

In addition to preparing students for the next step in their education and careers, Alta Vista High School has a wide range of extra-curricular and training opportunities for students. AVHS has a thriving sports program, and Alta Vista staff led in the development of a north county rugby league. Students also participate in leadership opportunities and community service activities like ecology and horticulture. Some of our students travel to Foothill Oak Elementary School to read to Vista elementary school students. In February, Alta Vista will participate in Rachel's Challenge-a nationwide program that helps students create a school wide climate of acceptance and support for all students.



**Students in the AVHS horticulture program**

# Beaumont *Elementary*

550 Beaumont Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-4040 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



## Exploring New Territory!

There is much to be excited about at Beaumont this school year! We have new and dedicated administration, teachers and support staff! We are also exploring the mindset of personalized learning as well as revamping our behavior system to better fit restorative practices, which helps our students become empathetic and compassionate people.

To help our students explore as well, we have begun offering organized soccer games at lunchtime! Not only will our students get instruction on the rules of the game using new equipment but they will also learn the importance of working as a team through receiving character education from male and female role models and coaches. Also, our Theater Club will be performing the Alice in Wonderland musical this spring to enrich our school with performing arts.

There have been many changes this school year at Beaumont, but some things remain the same. We remain dedicated to our focus on literacy. You can certainly feel the enthusiasm as students are given more choice in reading selections. Students are engaged as they demonstrate growth and progress. Teachers are focused on having frequent one-to-one conferences with students in order to know their students' needs and to monitor growth.

Parents and families continue to participate in our quarterly Family Reading Days, sharing in the excitement of reading. On Family Reading Days, you cannot help but be inspired by family and community members who donate their time reading to students in our reading gardens, classrooms and playgrounds. This Beaumont tradition is another testament to our dedication to remaining focused on literacy.

We continue to strive for improvement in providing a relevant and outstanding education for our students. This is our commitment while maintaining time-honored traditions that help keep us grounded in our community and Parent Awareness Nights.

At Beaumont, we will continue learning and exploring together!

# Bobier *Elementary*

220 W. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8501 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Dr. Jenifer Golden**  
*Principal*

## Wonderful Parent Leaders

Bobier Elementary School is off to a great start in 2018! This month we would like to thank the parents and families at Bobier. We have a new tradition of honoring our parents for volunteering. When you walk into the Bobier office you'll see three beautiful plaques with the names of parents who serve on School Site Council, English Language Advisory Council (ELAC), and PTA in addition to their classroom volunteerism.

At Bobier our families have created a wonderful culture that makes our school a home away from home for our students. We would especially like to thank our new PTA Board. President Crystal Pacheco is an absolute visionary and great parent leader, and she has truly helped take our PTA from good to great. PTA is supporting teachers and parents with a new Bronco store, where students can earn school money to buy gifts, supplies, and spirit gear. The store also helps students to learn concepts such as delayed gratification, responsibility, and cost-benefit analysis.

At Bobier, students are constantly caught being good, and it pays to work hard. PTA purchased a school shirt for every single student so that all students can feel like they belong. PTA has also helped to make our annual Harvest Festival an even bigger success, with more quality activities this year. Gadir Shalabi is our treasurer, and Belen Lopez is our secretary.

On ELAC, we have a wonderful Board: President Aracely Hernandez; Vice President Rosa Contreras; Secretary Reyna Barrera; District Representatives Alejandra Sumano and Veronica Arenas; and Members Roberta Venegas and Lina Luis. Many of our ELAC members are highly trained, thanks to the Parent Leadership Institute led by our parent liaison, Mrs. Nancy Ramirez. We are grateful to Linda Guerrero and Sherry Opacic for bringing this program to our campus. Our ELAC group went with their children on a bus to University of California, San Diego last year as part of their focus on making college a realistic opportunity for their children.

## Breeze Hill *Elementary*

1111 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92081 • 760/945-2373 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Lori Higley**  
Principal

### Coyote College

This January, Breeze Hill Elementary School began a new session of Coyote College. Breeze Hill has offered the Coyote College afterschool program for the past three years. This year, we are offering an exciting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) class, where fourth- and fifth-graders explore physical science Next Generation Science Standards through experiments and presentations.

Coyote College is also offering math and language arts classes for students in third through fifth grades. The students will be reading and writing about many different nonfiction topics using Achieve 3000. Math will include brushing up on skills as well as having fun with math through games!

Finally, Breeze Hill will be starting a Scrabble Club. Students will be learning about the game and then compete in a district-wide tournament in March.

We look forward to more fun and educational offerings in the future!

## Casita Center *Elementary*

260 Cedar Rd., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-8442 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Laura Smith**  
Principal

### Our Steel-Drum Band

Casita Center has a steel-drum band! The vision began last spring when changes to the distribution of Supplemental Education Services funds required struggling students to receive enrichment in addition to tutorials. Principal Smith formed a partnership with a local music studio to create a steel-drum band, culminating in a performance at the Moonlight Amphitheater.

The confidence gained from the experience inspired Principal Smith to apply for a grant from the Vista Education Foundation to allow all interested fourth- and fifth-grade students to sign up for Casita Center's steel-drum band, resulting in 30 enthusiastic students performing at the school's December Celebration and again at the AVO Playhouse for parents and the community.

Listening to fellow students perform has generated an interest in learning how to play these bell-like instruments, which were invented on the island of Trinidad during World War II. Steel drums, or pans, are carefully crafted from 55-gallon oil drums and include all 12 notes on the chromatic scale.



## California Avenue

215 W. California Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-4870 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Rachel Schmidt**  
Principal

### Celebrating Collaboration

The district's values of respect, trust, and collaboration were exemplified at California Avenue School this past November. The Lara family, whose daughter Sophia attends the school, made the generous decision to donate their Make-A-Wish gift to Sophia's elementary classroom.

Sophia is a remarkable young lady who loves her family, teachers, and music. She was born with Pallister-Killian Syndrome, a genetic disorder which hinders physical and mental development. Sophia has cerebral palsy and epilepsy, experiences seizures, and had surgery last year to remove a tumor. But rather than take a family vacation or renovate their own home, the Lara family wished to donate Sophia's gift because of the time that Sophia spends at school each week, as



**The Lara family prepares for the Make-A-Wish reveal.**

well as to benefit Sophia's classmates and to bring awareness to PK Syndrome.

In November, the Make-A-Wish Foundation spent a weekend building a new storage shed. They also donated equipment for Sophia and her classmates, and augmented the sensory room. This collaboration between the Lara family, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and our school will enrich the lives of Sophia and her classmates, and many other children, for years to come.

## Empresa *Elementary*

4850 Avenida Empresa, Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-8454 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Dr. Cheree McKean**  
Principal

### Site Beautification Team

"You are creative"! "You are courageous"! "You are braver and stronger than you think"! These are just a few of the positive messages meant to inspire students when they showed up for school last Tuesday. Thanks to two creative first grade teachers along with volunteers from North Coast Church the planned surprise was part of Empresa Annual Site Beautification Day. Teachers Ms. Rivera and Ms. Roldan along with 40 volunteers worked to create walls of inspiration and artistic beauty in students' and teachers' restrooms. When asked the best part of participating in a day of transformation, Ms. Rivera said, "I was so excited about planning this event and for the students to come to school and see the change. I just couldn't wait to see their expressions when they arrived this morning. Their smiles made it worth



**Volunteers from North Coast Church adding beauty to Empresa's campus.**

# Foothill Oak *Elementary*

1370 Oak Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-3458 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Sandra Ceja**  
*Principal*

## Leader in Me

Foothill Oak is excited to receive the “Leader in Me” grant. All students TK-5th are receiving instruction on the Seven Habits for “Leader In Me.” These habits give students solid instruction in how to be more successful, not only in school but in life. We teach students to Be Proactive, Put First Things First, Begin with the End in Mind and much more. Students use these habits to set goals in Reading and Math. Foothill Oak students created Student Leadership Teams that include MPR Set Up Team where students help with assemblies, Birthday Team, Garden Team and Student Assistance Team where students volunteer time to help others. Our “Leader In Me” Grant helps Foothill Oak students realize they don’t have to wait to grow up to be a leader, they already are!



Foothill Oak MPR Set Up Team members getting food ready for San Diego Food Bank Outreach at FHO.

# Hannalei *Elementary*

120 Hannalei Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6248 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Tracy Zachry**  
*Principal*

## Learning Technology Together

At Hannalei Elementary School, we are proud to be a welcoming place for all. Not only do we support the whole child, we include the families as well.

A few years ago, our community liaison, Lili, Gonzalez, created technology classes for our parents. These classes help them understand how to use the technology that their children are using in class, as well as how to communicate with their children’s teachers through e-mail. The classes filled up fast, and the word got out to sign up and learn!

Now in our third year, we have parents teaching other parents how to send e-mails, create résumés, type, browse the Internet, use the Parent Portal, communicate more effectively with their children’s teachers. They even create lessons to teach each other using Google Docs. These classes are held two days per week—and we have a waiting list!

We are lucky to have such involved parents!



# Grapevine *Elementary*

630 Grapevine Rd., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8329 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Rafael Olavide**  
*Principal*

## Dual-Language Immersion

Would you like your child to learn to speak, understand, read, and write in English and in Spanish while attending school? Is your student starting kindergarten next school year? If so, Grapevine Elementary School may be the school for you!

We are planning to open a dual-language immersion track in kindergarten next school year for families interested in their children learning in English and Spanish. Our dual-language program will be built on three pillars: bilingualism and bi-literacy; high academic achievement; and cross-cultural competence. Students in this program will be able to speak, listen, read, and write proficiently in two languages while they are in school. Students in a dual-language model will be bilingual and bi-literate.

Also, we will offer a program that ensures high academic achievement for our students. They will be able to excel in mathematics, science, social studies, language arts, physical education, music, and art, in both languages of instruction. Finally, students in dual-language programs will learn to value the similarities and differences in each other; instead of identifying them as obstacles to overcome, they will be viewed as opportunities to connect.

We are staunch supporters of dual-language immersion models of instruction, and we want to provide this opportunity to the students of Grapevine and Vista Unified School District. Anyone interested in our dual-language immersion program can apply, so please contact our school to receive additional information.

# Lake *Elementary*

4950 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/945-5300 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Krista Berntsen**  
*Principal*

## Sharing Experiences

Lake Elementary student Lauren Atherton had the opportunity to share her learning perspective at the state capitol in Sacramento. At a conference on Student Centered Learning, Lauren described her personalized learning experiences and shared what she thought was important to learn and grow in school.

When asked how personalized learning shaped her thinking about the future, she stated, “When learning is personalized and I can set goals to achieve, it helps me focus on what I’m good at and what I need to work on. This makes me a better student, and I have opportunities to think about how my learning can connect with what I want to do for my career.”

Lauren shared several powerful experiences, including leading her parent conference by sharing her strengths, feedback and goal setting, and collaborating with peers on projects that were co-created with the teacher and which allowed for voice and choice in the classroom.



**Lauren Atherton**

## Madison *Middle School*

4930 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-0176 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Steven Bailey**  
*Principal*

### To Better Serve

Marsha Bielawski, or “Mrs. B” as many of my students call her, is an EL resource teacher at Madison Middle School. This is her second year of working for the Vista Unified School District. She has 10 years of experience in teaching high school English and ELD in various other school districts.

Marsha grew up next door in Carlsbad, but moved north after high school to attend Humboldt State University. She later met her husband, who is a naval doctor. She started her

journey teaching in Hawaii and Virginia. In Virginia she had two boys 15 months apart, and then took six years off from teaching to be at home with them. Four years ago life brought her back home again, and she ended up back in Carlsbad where she grew up.

Through the years, Marsha has fallen in love with educating English learners. She feels honored to get to work with and advocate for our EL students and their families. She looks forward to continuing the effort to develop better programs for them, and to also help our wonderful teachers here at VUSD better serve these students.



**Marsha Bielawski**

## Mission Meadows *Elementary*

5657 Spur Ave., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/630-7884 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Dr. Bill Porter**  
*Principal*

### Once a Mustang, always a Mustang!

On December 7, 2017, a wildfire broke out in the San Diego north county area threatening the communities of Bonsall, Oceanside, Vista, and Camp Pendleton. Over 10,000 residents were under mandatory evacuation. Dr. Erin English, a former Mission Meadows principal, and her family were sadly one of the families who lost their home due to the fire. With this loss, came the loss of a 60-year family tradition of someone dressing up as Santa on Christmas Eve to pass out presents to the children. Sadly, their family Santa suit also perished in the fire.

On Christmas Eve, someone from Mission Meadows visited their rental home in Bonsall looking very much like Santa Claus to help normalize things for Dr. English and her family by helping them continue their 60 year family tradition.



## Maryland *Elementary*

700 North Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6675 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Carol McKane**  
*Principal*

### Holiday Celebration

This holiday season, families at Maryland Elementary were treated to Holiday celebration. Students performed traditional holiday songs and displayed art throughout the school.

The students performed songs from Mexico, Hawaii, Australia, and Germany. After the performances, students “visited” each classroom to see the art displays.

Maryland faculty and staff conceived this event to build school and family relationships. We welcomed the families on campus early to make everyone feel welcome. Everyone was pleased with the tremendous turnout as parents came by the hundreds to enjoy the event. There are plans to grow and improve the event every year and to continue to develop the partnership with parents.



## Mission Vista *High School*

1306 Melrose Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/758-6800 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Nicole Miller**  
*Principal*

### Fall Accomplishments

With the beginning of the spring term, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all of the accomplishments from the fall.

- The release of the Smarter Balanced Assessment data indicated our students were again scoring at the top of the county for English, with math not far behind.
- We had athletes and teams participate in CIF post-season competitions in Cross Country, Girls Golf, Field Hockey, and Girls Volleyball, and we hope to continue the trend through the winter season. We are so excited that our Girls Field Hockey team won San Diego Section in Division 1!
- Our fall play, *The Crucible*, was recognized by the California Educational Theatre Association, and our students were asked to perform a scene at the CETA Annual Conference.
- Academically, we celebrated over 400 students earning a 4.0 or higher GPA in the previous term and were thrilled that over 70% of our students are enrolled in honors and Advanced Placement courses.
- We are completing work on curricular pathways and will be introducing a new course for students to create their own personal learning that is designed for their strengths, interests, and values.
- We continue to add courses and programs for our students, including Astronomy, Project Lead the Way Digital Electronics, Creative Writing 3, French 3, AP Computer Science Principals, and AP Studio Art for Digital Photography.
- We were awarded the Magnet Certification – Demonstration School, an award given to only 10 schools in the country, by the Magnet Schools of America.

# Monte Vista *Elementary*

1720 Monte Vista Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-0410 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Charlene Smith**  
*Principal*

## Design Thinking and Service Learning

Students at Monte Vista Elementary School students used empathy and their design-thinking skills as they worked collaboratively across grade levels in a challenge-based learning project to make crayons and coloring books for children through Operation Hope.

First-graders coordinated a school-wide effort to create posters and collect used crayons from around the school. Then they engaged in a design-thinking process to create and test molds made from recyclable materials to make new crayons from old crayons. Still other students designed and created custom containers for the new crayons. Second-graders conducted research to determine the number of children at Operation Hope, as well as their ages and genders. They then sorted the crayons made by the first-graders and organized them into the new containers. Third-graders designed hand-drawn coloring pages and cardboard covers for the coloring books. Fourth- and fifth-graders separated the coloring pages by theme and leveled the sets by age appropriateness using the research conducted by the second-graders.

In December, students presented the new crayons and coloring books to the children living at Operation Hope in Vista. Children are excited to meet with Nicole Ketcher, a representative from Operation Hope, to see how they can further support the children. They hope to continue to build this community partnership.

This service-learning project provided the opportunity for students to think critically and be collaborative and creative. They learned important lessons about serving others and felt really good about themselves in the process.

# Murray *High School*

215 N. Melrose, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-2502 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Mike Sterner**  
*Principal*

## A Real 'Plus'!

*By Dulce Hernandez, Erica Rezendiz and Mario Crawford*

Imagine coming to a school where all students and teachers get along! Doesn't sound so difficult, does it? Thanks to the PLUS Team here at Major General Raymond Murray High School, we have been able to bring students together to discuss the various issues we face daily on our campus.

We try to have four forums each school year. We realize how uncomfortable it can be to sit next to people you've never met, so we start our forums with a few icebreakers. When students directly participate with one another, they then get more comfortable with one another. After this occurs, we then start to transition to more detailed topics that require teamwork.

We have small groups to dissect the problems we feel are big and impact our student life here. We then return to the larger group to come together and discuss the main topics of the smaller groups. PLUS's main focus is to bring together student leaders and try to help others, engage them, and hopefully make them feel welcome!



# Olive *Elementary*

836 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-7129 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Stephanie Vasquez**  
*Principal*

## Innovation-Based Preschool

We are excited to announce that our Vista EES Innovation Early Education Preschool has officially opened!

Our new Vista EES (Educational Enrichment Systems) Innovation Early Education Center proudly serves families who have children that are 2, 3 and 4 years old. The new preschool recently opened its doors on the Vista Innovation Center campus, adjacent to Olive Elementary School, in January. EES is a nonprofit child development agency that provides superior early education programs to families at a free or a reduced cost, based on need.

We are pleased to introduce Abbey Canum as the director of the center. Ms. Canum has worked in the field of early education for the past 13 years. The past five years have been served working with EES.

"At the EES Vista Innovation Early Education Center, we will be modeling a Montessori-inspired concept to provide continuous educational flow into Olive's pathway of educational excellence," Ms. Canum said. "As the director of the Innovation Preschool, I plan to help increase the sense of community for all our learners and families and develop a smooth transition for children through a strength-based approach into elementary education."

It's an exciting opportunity for our local and school community here at Olive Elementary to be able to partner with Educational Enrichment Systems and collaborate with our teams as a model P-3 school within the Vista Unified School District. Together, we are bringing new opportunities to our families and children that we serve by offering services prior to entering kindergarten to increase school readiness. The work being done in Vista USD through the P-3 Initiative promotes a continuous learning pathway for children and families. It also emphasizes the essential role of parents as first teachers.

For further information or questions regarding future enrollment in Vista's EES Innovation Early Education Center, contact our office.

# Rancho Buena Vista *High School*

1601 Longhorn Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/727-7284 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Chuck Schindler**  
*Principal*

## Well-Rounded Opportunities

The Arts Department has been very active at Rancho Buena Vista High School (RBV) this fall, giving our students the opportunity to showcase their talents and extend their artistic expression. Our drama productions of "Remember My Name" and "Dear Edwina Jr." were spectacular, with the "Dear Edwina Jr." cast presenting four matinees for many district elementary students this year. The RBV Marching Band and Color Guard performed in the California State Band Championships and placed seventh overall.

RBV is excited to be moving towards more personalized learning for students. To this end, all ninth-grade students have devices and are working in a one-to-one learning environment. RBV has expanded the lab biology program to include biotechnology and forensic biology. These courses allow students to choose the sciences they are interested in. The goal of developing the personal learning environment is to make learning relevant and to give students opportunities to apply their learning to solving real-world problems. We look forward to expanding these opportunities to all students over the next several years.

Part of a student's education at RBV is building important is building important character traits. Our Respect the Ranch Code of Conduct emphasizes the traits of responsibility, integrity, and commitment. These Code of Conduct traits are highlighted each month in the announcements, and staff members nominate students for Respect the Ranch recognition when they exemplify these character traits. Our Respect the Ranch Code of Conduct reminds students of the importance of practicing these traits to prepare them for success in college and a career.

Through our focus on arts and academics, the implementation of personalized learning, and the Respect the Ranch Code of Conduct, all Longhorns have the opportunity to gain a well-rounded education that prepares them well for the future.

# Rancho Minerva *Middle School*

2245 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-4500 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Juan Ayala**  
Principal

## Symposium

On December 15, 2017, three students from Vista Unified were invited to participate in a panel in Sacramento, CA., at the California Department of Education, the symposium focused on improving outcomes through student centered learning and teaching. Samantha Garcia shared how personalized learning has helped support her education and has developed her skills as a self directed learner.

She said, "It was a great honor to be able to share with so many people about my school and education."



**Samantha Garcia, Giselle Santos Serna, and Laura Atherton**

# Roosevelt *Middle School*

850 Sagewood Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/726-8003 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Heather Golly**  
Principal

## Art and Academics

Roosevelt Middle School is proud to have a strong tradition of incredible fine and performing arts programs. With our new Artful Learning model, we not only celebrate these strengths, but also build on them.

Over the years Roosevelt has provided thousands of students with a superior experience in music education. Our choral program has had the distinguished honor of being selected to perform at state CMEA and ACDA conventions in both Sacramento and Ontario. Director Beverly Taylor has taught at Roosevelt for 23 years, and was recognized as CMEA's "State Choral Educator" in 2009. Nearly 300 students participate in five levels of choir, including a 40-voice men's chorus and a 100-voice mixed choir. This year the top group has been invited to perform at a festival at Chapman University that is specifically designed to challenge the state's premier performing ensembles.

Roosevelt's art students are also performing at increasingly high levels. They recently completed a collaborative class mural project covering the topic of homelessness in their local community. The murals reveal the face of a homeless individual from Brother Benno's in Oceanside, an organization for which RMS students are fund raising. Art students are also currently learning about hand lettering and poster composition, and are looking forward to the upcoming clay unit in the spring.

For over 25 years the Roosevelt band has been known as one of the top middle school bands in San Diego County. No other band has seen consistent excellence for this long. Both the Wildcat Band and Concert Band have earned unanimous superior festival ratings for more than two decades. The Band currently has 250 members, and it continues to grow and thrive under the leadership of Director Greg Anderson.

We are excited that Artful Learning further incorporates these strengths into our academics and artistic culture here at Roosevelt.

# Vista Academy *of Visual & Performing Arts*

600 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/941-0880 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Benjie Walker**  
Principal

## A New Principal

Our Vista Academy students wrapped up 2017 by showcasing their talents. The PTO-sponsored Fall Showcase featuring our conservatory was a huge success! Our students sang, danced, and acted their way into the hearts of all who attended. We look forward to their upcoming spring musical, *Wonka, Jr.*

With the new year came administrative changes at Vista Academy. Benjie Walker, our former assistant principal, was named our new principal. "I am honored to take on my new role as principal of Vista Academy," she said. "This school has been on an amazing transformational journey, and I am thrilled to lead this outstanding team forward as we continue to develop a program that is impacting students everyday."

Benjie Walker is in her nineteenth year in education, and her ninth year in Vista Unified. She spent 12 years as a classroom teacher in the elementary and middle schools before becoming an instructional coach, and then an administrator. When not at school, Benjie spends her personal time with her husband of 18 years, Bill, and their son Joshua, who is a freshman in high school.

Melanie Paliotti was selected as the new assistant principal of Vista Academy. In her twenty years in education Melanie has taught kindergarten through high school, as well as college courses. Over the last several years she has also worked as the Magnet/IB PYP Coordinator at Vista Academy (International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program). Melanie is honored to serve the Vista Academy community in her new role.

If you are looking for an International Baccalaureate Primary Years program with a focus on arts integration and learning through inquiry, Vista Academy is the program for your child. Vista Academy is currently accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. The application window will remain open through February 23, 2018.

# Temple Heights *Elementary*

1550 Temple Heights Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/631-6242 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Kim Morton**  
Principal

## Cooking with STEAM

We are "Cooking with Steam" at Temple Heights. Hi, my name is Sue Blew, and I am a second grade teacher at Temple Heights. I started a culinary arts program after school to help students develop their academics through the love of cooking. We are a Leader In Me School and two of my former students (Gianna Barella and Scarlett Chavez), wanted to learn and share their love of cooking by becoming Action Leaders for this program (The Incredible Edibles). We are running three, six week courses with

eighteen students, and we are creating recipes from different countries around the world. My Action Leaders have planned meals from Italy, Mexico, Japan, and Switzerland. The children use a variety of fresh vegetables from our gardens, and they are learning new culinary terms and techniques. Stay tuned as students share how to make these wonderful meals on our school website. Buon Appetito!



## Vista *Adult Transition Center*

325 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/758-3400 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Chris Altona**  
*Principal*

### Needs Grow, We Expand

The Vista Adult Transition Center is into its fifth year of existence. When the idea for the school was conceived, there were not truly any models from which to draw. Each district is charged with maintaining some form of adult transition program (ATP) for its students with disabilities who are 18 to 22 years old and who have not earned high school diplomas. However, few have devoted sites that are ideal for this growing population. Our fortune came as a result of a shift in policy and funding that left the old Sierra Vista High School campus open for restructuring.

With a focus on providing a haven for students preparing to enter adulthood, stakeholders met and took the first steps toward creating a successful, unique place.

The VATC campus is physically twice the size it was at the start. As our population grew, we housed two classes in our multipurpose room and two classes each in several single classrooms. When some of our students were off campus for their work experiences and college attendance, this was not much of a problem. When all were necessarily on campus, though, our space was far from enough to accommodate so many young adults. Thanks to the foresight of our district's leadership, VATC now encompasses the campus that until last school year housed Vista Visions Academy. Each of our classes now has its own classroom space, and our multipurpose room is a place for physical education, assemblies, music and dance.

Interested in some of the many goings-on based out of Vista Adult Transition Center? We frequently post on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/VistaAdultTransitionCenterVUSD/>. Our students are thriving in our expanded adult transition hub in the domains of postsecondary education, vocational/career/work skills, domestic living skills and community interactivity. This is all thanks to Vista Unified School District for its spectacular support of our transition-aged youth!

## Vista Magnet *Middle School*

151 Escondido Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5766 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Steve Post**  
*Principal*

### It Takes Villages...

One truly unique characteristic of Vista Magnet Middle School is our school schedule focused on collaboration and student support. Vista Magnet utilizes an innovative schedule that provides daily collaboration time for every teacher and structures classes in small groups we call Villages. These aspects of our schedule are critical to student success and our high-achieving school culture.

Vista Magnet teachers have a daily professional-learning-community (PLC) period for teacher collaboration in addition to the typical daily prep period for teacher planning time. Consistent teacher collaboration is a requirement of the International Baccalaureate (IB), and Vista Magnet has always surpassed this goal thanks to the daily PLC period. Teachers have PLC and prep periods scheduled back to back for maximum efficiency, and teachers share common prep and PLC periods with all grade-level partners. As a result, teachers have time to work collaboratively every day with their grade-level colleagues to design a unified curriculum, reflect on student progress, and continually learn together.

Another feature of our school schedule is the Village model, which joins teachers and students in small groups for maximum student support. A Village is composed of a math teacher, a science teacher, and a teacher in charge of "language and literature" and "individuals and societies." All students are assigned a Village, and each grade level has three Villages of approximately 95 students each. This model allows teachers to focus on smaller groups of students that are all shared with Village colleagues. Village teachers are empowered to create interdisciplinary learning experiences, work together to support student growth, and respond as a team if student challenges arise. Through these unique features of our schedule, Vista Magnet educators continually work together to maintain our successful school culture we describe as "student centered and teacher led."

## Vista *High School*

1 Panther Way, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5611 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Anthony Barela**  
*Principal*

### Year's Highlights

Happy New Year! We are in full swing with the start of the second semester. I wanted to relate some of the highlights from the year thus far.

VHS hosted educators from around the nation in October to highlight VHS as the epicenter of educational change reform. Vista High School was also featured in a number of national publications this fall and winter, showcasing our journey as a super-school. As part of the change reform, VHS had a student invited to Sacramento at the State Department of Education and spent the day as part of a panel showcasing the work we are doing at our site.

Continuing to showcase excellence, the VHS marching band finished second in its division for the entire state of California and earned a silver medal! The Volleyball team appeared in the division 3 CIF championship for the first time in school history.

We will begin tours for prospective parents of new students in January and will also continue to run parent focus groups. Please check our website for details.

I would like to thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a wonderful 2018! We are Vista every day!

## VIDA *Vista Innovation & Design Academy*

740 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-7115 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Dr. Eric Chagala**  
*Principal*

### Coming Together

Often times routines and schedules can change, but the Lilac Fires impacted our VUSD families, and even closer, our VIDA staff and students. With the quick response from the VUSD district office and administrators we were able to ensure safety and support for our families.

The Lilac Fire not only impacted our homes and lives, but also disrupted our school events and many planned activities were cancelled. After the fires, the VIDA staff came together to discuss setting the VIDA Design Expo for a different date. The staff wanted to support VIDA students and the hard work and effort they put into their projects. It is this dedication and passion of the staff that makes VIDA a special place. The VIDA Design Expo was a tremendous success and students were proud to share their hard work.



# Vista Visions *Academy*

1575 Bonair Rd., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-4785 ext. 90000 • [vva.vistausd.org](http://vva.vistausd.org)



**Dr. Susan Ford**  
*Principal*

## Independent Study

Vista Visions Academy is an independent study school of choice for students in grades 6-12. Located at 1575 Bonair Drive near the Vista Unified district office, the school offers a personalized approach in a small school setting. Students receive support from credentialed teachers who meet at least weekly with all students, and students also have the opportunity to work at the school under the supervision of teachers several times a week. Students at VVA complete coursework in an online curriculum and may also meet with teachers for individual or small group support. Students may enroll at VVA at any time, and new enrollments are welcome. Information is available at the VVA website at [vva.vistausd.org](http://vva.vistausd.org).



**VVA students working on individual assignments.**

# Vista Adult School



510 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92081 • 760/758-7122 • [www.vistaadultschool.org](http://www.vistaadultschool.org)



**Liz O'Shea-West**  
*Principal*

## Removing Barriers

Vista Adult School is committed to providing WASC with accredited, high-quality classes to local adults. We offer low-cost, short-term career training in many high-demand occupations such as medical, information technology, business and culinary arts. We provide free classes for high school diplomas, English as a second language (ESL), citizenship and high-school-equivalency-exam preparation for GED, HiSET and other tests. We additionally offer classes at different locations in our community, such as ESL at the Vista Library and at the Vista Adult Transition Center on Bobier Drive.

Offering free or low-cost education locally is not always enough to get adults to pursue their educational goals. Adults returning to school face many fears and obstacles. Vista Adult School has an extensive student-support program to assist adults with their return to school. We offer a smaller school setting than the community colleges, which allows our staff to make personal connections with students. The Student Support Team provides guidance and extra support when needed. Our Student Transition Center and Open Computer Lab allow students access to technology, the internet, educational materials and tutoring. And once students are ready, our staff can help with the transition to college or with securing employment.

Vista Adult School is working hard to remove barriers for adults who want to return to school. Our newest support service is the addition of a free child-care program. The child-care program runs in the morning and evening hours and allows our students to bring their children with them to school. While the parents are in class, their children are being well taken care of and learning new things each day. We provide the children in our center with high-quality child care, arts and crafts, educational activities and time to play.

# Career Technical Education

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • [www.ctevista.org](http://www.ctevista.org)



**Kelly McKinney**  
*Coordinator CTE*

## Looking to the Future

February is CTE Month! This occasion gives us an opportunity to celebrate the value of CTE along with the achievements and accomplishments of the many CTE programs across the country.

What sets CTE apart from the district's other classes are the real-world experiences that our students are receiving through hands-on course work, partnerships with local businesses, and in many cases, the chance to earn college credit while in a high school class. There are 20 outstanding CTE teachers in our district who offer expertise in their industry sector, and can also mentor our students in areas that will prepare them for a career.

Another celebration for our CTE program is the new CTE logo that was introduced in January. This logo was designed by a graphic design student at Mission Vista High School. Students from all three high schools also recently attended the regional SkillsUSA competition on January 27th.

We are proud of our expansion to middle school exploration programs, our outstanding high school programs, and our connection with the local community colleges. There is so much to learn about our programs, and we are always looking for members of the community to serve on our advisory boards. Please contact James Hayes ([jhayes@sagesandiego.com](mailto:jhayes@sagesandiego.com)) if you are interested in learning more about our advisory.

## Contest!

The people pictured below are in this publication. When you find each one put the page number beside their picture, add the numbers to find the total and email the **total** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Please put Vista in the subject line.



Page # \_\_\_\_\_



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**Entries must be received by March 30, 2108**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

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email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Vista in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **March 30, 2108**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- |           |              |              |
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