

# School News

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**Covering the Garden Grove Unified School District**



Volume 7, Issue 13

November 2022

## GGUSD Students Soar Toward Success





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## SUPERINTENDENT

### Students Thrive with Expanded Supports

As I visit schools, I am so pleased to see staff, students and parents beginning the year with a renewed sense of optimism for all that we will accomplish together. Even before we returned, staff was busy this summer providing exciting educational summer programs to more students than ever before (7,000+ students) as well as engaging in robust professional development. On the first day back, our school teams welcomed students back to school with red carpets, photo stations, balloons, and high-fives!

Students are benefitting from an array of new and expanded academic (Goal 1) and social-emotional (Goal 2) support programs. The increased age expansion for Transitional Kindergarten was quite popular. In GGUSD, our expansion allowed students born between September 2, 2017 through April 1, 2018 to attend TK as well as those born between April 2, 2018 and June 30, 2018 at campuses where space allowed. We are pleased to serve more 4-year-olds than ever before. Students from TK-12 are taking advantage of new before and after school intervention and enrichment learning programs intended to supplement the outstanding instruction provided by GGUSD teachers. Our schools also celebrated when SBAC scores came back and showed that GGUSD students outperformed the county and state average!

In support of Goal 2, district-wide, we exponentially expanded our ASPIRE social work program, and are hosting more Choose Wellness events for both students and staff, as well as providing increased education around online safety. New this year, GGUSD opened four new Family Resource Centers for a total of five, one in each trustee area. These Family Resource Centers serve as hubs that connect families to services and supports that help families thrive.

Both our academic and social-emotional supports equip students for lifelong success (Goal 3). Due to a new state requirement that the instructional day cannot begin before 8:30 a.m., all 7 of our comprehensive high schools are providing before-school academic supports beginning at 7:15 a.m. to give students more opportunities for mentoring/tutoring. We are expanding the Freshmen Success Initiative which helps engage struggling students during their first year in high school, connecting them to the support they need. And we are moving forward with our focus on dual enrollment courses which give high school students a head start on college.

Through all that we do, we will continue to care for students as if they are our own children. That's the Garden Grove Way!



**Dr. Gabriela  
Mafi**

### Los Alumnos Prosperan con la Expansión de los Apoyos

Cuando visito las escuelas, me encanta ver al personal, los alumnos y a los padres de familia que comienzan el año con un sentido renovado de optimismo para todo lo que lograremos juntos. Incluso antes de que regresáramos, el personal estuvo ocupado este verano, proporcionando emocionantes programas educativos de verano para más alumnos como nunca antes (más de 7,000 alumnos), así como participando en un desarrollo profesional sólido. El primer día de regreso a clases, nuestros equipos escolares les dieron la bienvenida a los alumnos de regreso a la escuela con alfombras rojas, estaciones para tomarse fotos, globos y choques de manos!

Los alumnos se están beneficiando con la expansión de una nueva variedad de programas de apoyo académico (Meta 1) y socioemocional (Meta 2). El aumento de la expansión de la edad para el Kínder de Transición (TK) fue bastante popular. En el GGUSD, nuestra expansión permitió a los alumnos que nacieron entre el 2 de septiembre de 2017 y el 1.º de abril de 2018, asistir al TK, así como aquellos que nacieron entre el 2 de abril de 2018 y el 30 de junio de 2018, asistir a los planteles en los que había cupo disponible. Nos complace brindar servicios como nunca antes a más niños de 4 años de edad. Los alumnos del TK al 12.º grado están aprovechando los nuevos programas de intervención y aprendizaje de enriquecimiento antes y después del horario regular de clases, destinados a complementar la excelente instrucción proporcionada por los maestros del GGUSD. Nuestras escuelas también celebraron cuando los puntajes del Consorcio de las Evaluaciones Smarter Balanced (SBAC) fueron publicados y mostraron que los alumnos del GGUSD ¡superaron al promedio del condado y del estado!

En apoyo a la Meta 2, en todo el Distrito, expandimos exponencialmente nuestro programa de trabajo social ASPIRE, y estamos organizando más eventos de Elije el Bienestar tanto para los alumnos como para el personal, así como también brindamos una mayor educación en torno a la seguridad en línea. Este año, el GGUSD abrió cuatro nuevos Centros de Recursos para Familias para un total de cinco, uno en cada área de representación. Estos Centros de Recursos para Familias sirven como centros que enlazan a las familias a los servicios y apoyos que ayudan a las familias a prosperar.

Tanto nuestros apoyos académicos como los socioemocionales preparan a los alumnos para el éxito de por vida (Meta 3). Debido a un nuevo requisito estatal de que el día de instrucción no puede comenzar antes de las 8:30 a.m., todas nuestras 7 escuelas secundarias integrales están brindando apoyo académico antes del horario regular de clases a partir de las 7:15 a.m., para brindarles a los alumnos más oportunidades en el programa de mentores o tutoría. Estamos expandiendo la Iniciativa del Éxito

*See Page 4*



**Dr. Gabriela Mafi**

*Superintendent*

## Học Sinh Đạt Những Bước Tiến Vượt Bậc Nhờ Có Thêm Sự Hỗ Trợ

Khi đến thăm các trường học, tôi rất vui khi thấy các nhân viên, học sinh và phụ huynh khởi đầu niên học với ý chí cùng nhau hoàn thành mọi việc trong tinh thần lạc quan mới. Ngay cả trước khi tựu trường, mùa hè này các nhân viên vẫn bận rộn thực hiện các chương trình học hè thật hào hứng cho nhiều học sinh hơn bao giờ hết (hơn 7,000 học sinh) đồng thời tham gia chương trình tu nghiệp chuyên môn hữu ích. Vào ngày khai giảng, các em học sinh đã trở lại trường trong sự tiếp đón của đội ngũ giáo viên và nhân viên cùng với các sinh hoạt như trải thảm đỏ, quầy chụp hình, bong bóng và những cái đánh tay chúc thành công!

Học sinh được hưởng lợi ích từ rất nhiều chương trình hỗ trợ học tập mới (Mục tiêu 1) cùng các chương trình hỗ trợ về mặt cảm xúc, giao tiếp (Mục tiêu 2). Việc nói rộng độ tuổi tham gia Chương Trình Mẫu Giáo Sơ Học (TK) trở nên khá phổ biến. Tại GGUSD, việc mở rộng chương trình vườn trẻ tạo điều kiện cho trẻ em sinh trong khoảng thời gian từ ngày 2 tháng 9 năm 2017 đến ngày 1 tháng 4 năm 2018 theo học chương trình TK. Những em sinh trong khoảng thời gian từ ngày 2 tháng 4 năm 2018 đến ngày 30 tháng 6 năm 2018 cũng có thể tham gia chương trình tại những trường còn chỗ trống. Chúng tôi rất hân hạnh được phục vụ thêm nhiều trẻ em 4 tuổi hơn bao giờ hết. Học sinh lớp TK- lớp 12 của GGUSD đang tận dụng các chương trình bổ túc hoặc học thêm vào trước và sau giờ học nhằm hỗ

trợ cho những bài giảng xuất sắc trong lớp của giáo viên. Các trường cũng tuyên dương thành quả điểm khảo sát SBAC và điều này cho thấy học sinh GGUSD của chúng ta vượt trội tỷ lệ trung bình của các học khu trong Hạt Orange và tiểu bang.

Nhằm hỗ trợ cho Mục Tiêu 2, học khu đã gia tăng gấp bội số lượng nhân viên phục vụ cho chương trình công tác xã hội ASPIRE, tổ chức thêm nhiều buổi hướng dẫn Chủ Đề Sống Lành Mạnh dành cho cả học sinh và nhân viên, cũng như gia tăng việc hướng dẫn học sinh cách giữ an toàn trên mạng. Trong niên học mới này, GGUSD đã mở thêm bốn Trung Tâm Hỗ Trợ Gia đình mới nâng tổng số thành 5 trung tâm, mỗi khu vực ủy trị có một trung tâm. Những Trung Tâm này đóng vai trò giới thiệu các dịch vụ và nguồn hỗ trợ nhằm giúp các gia đình phát triển vững mạnh.

Cả hai chương trình hỗ trợ về mặt học tập và cảm xúc-giao tiếp tạo hành trang cho các em được thành công trên đường đời (Mục Tiêu 3). Do luật mới của tiểu bang yêu cầu ngày học phải bắt đầu sau 8:30 sáng, cả 7 trường trung học phổ thông của học khu đều có các chương trình hỗ trợ vào lúc 7:15 sáng nhằm tạo cơ hội cho những em cần được hướng dẫn/dạy kèm thêm. Chúng tôi cũng đang mở rộng Chương Trình Giúp Học Sinh Lớp 9 Thành Công nhằm giúp đỡ và cung cấp sự hỗ trợ cần thiết cho những em gặp khó khăn trong năm đầu tiên khi bước lên bậc trung học cấp II. Chúng tôi đang hướng tới việc đặt trọng tâm vào các môn học song trình nhằm tạo bước khởi đầu thuận lợi cho các em khi vào đại học.

Trong mọi nỗ lực thực hiện, chúng tôi sẽ luôn chăm lo cho các em học sinh như chính con cái của mình. Đó là Đường Hướng Garden Grove!

CONTINUED • From Page 3

de los Alumnos del Noveno Grado, la cual ayuda a que participen los alumnos que están pasando por dificultades durante su primer año en la escuela secundaria, para que tengan acceso a los servicios de apoyo que ellos necesitan. Y estamos avanzando con nuestro enfoque en los cursos de doble inscripción que les brinda a los alumnos de la escuela secundaria una ventaja para la Universidad.

A través de todo lo que hacemos, continuaremos cuidando a los alumnos como si fueran nuestros propios hijos. Eso es ¡A la Manera de Garden Grove!

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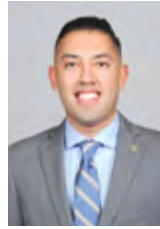
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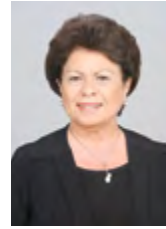
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### Strengthening School Safety

Year after year, our Board of Education and district leaders take a close look at how we can continually strengthen school safety. We have a multi-layered approach that includes campus facility security features, technology, safety assessments and trainings, mental health and wellness programs, and partnerships with local and national law enforcement. The tragedy that occurred in Uvalde Texas brought school safety protocols to the forefront and we want to assure families that it has and will always be a priority in our district.

- GGUSD has a safety plan in place at each of our 67 schools. The plans are reviewed and revised each year to help strengthen our level of preparedness. Each school carries out several emergency drills every year that include the active shooter lockdown drill. Students and staff have received training in safety protocols recommended by law enforcement.
- District leaders meet regularly to review district plans, resources, and systems. GGUSD uses REMS, a web-based rapid responder system that maintains critical information about our schools needed in an emergency. Over the last few years, GGUSD has made \$100 million in security upgrades including panic hardware, safety alarms, and security fencing.
- GGUSD has a collaborative and trusted partnership with each of the local police departments that serve the district's seven communities and approximately 40,000 students. Thanks to our partnership with the Garden Grove Police Department, we have 5 highly-trained School Resource Officers who dedicate each and every day to keeping our schools safe.

When it comes to student safety, school districts can never be too prepared. Most importantly, we have wonderful staff, students, and parents – who are the eyes and ears on our school sites. Later this month, we will be launching a new anonymous reporting program called StopIt that allows students, parents and staff to report suspicious activity online or via phone or mobile app. More information on that will be coming soon. Please remember that if you see something, say something.

### Fortalecimiento de la seguridad escolar

Año tras año, nuestra Mesa Directiva de Educación y los líderes de Distrito analizan de cerca cómo podemos fortalecer continuamente la seguridad escolar. Tenemos una estrategia de varios niveles que incluye características de seguridad para las instalaciones de los planteles, tecnología, evaluaciones de seguridad y capacitaciones, programas de salud mental y bienestar, y colaboraciones con las agencias del orden público local y nacional. La tragedia que ocurrió en Uvalde, Texas, llevó a los protocolos de seguridad escolar a la vanguardia y queremos asegurar a las familias de que siempre ha sido y seguirá siendo una prioridad en nuestro Distrito.

- El GGUSD tiene un plan de seguridad establecido en cada una de nuestras 67 escuelas. Los planes son examinados y revisados cada año para ayudar a fortalecer nuestro nivel de preparación. Cada escuela lleva a cabo anualmente varios simulacros de emergencia que incluyen el simulacro de un cierre de emergencia debido a un francotirador activo. Los alumnos y el personal han recibido capacitación en cuanto a los protocolos de seguridad recomendados por las agencias del orden público.
- Los líderes del Distrito se reúnen regularmente para revisar los planes, recursos y sistemas del Distrito. El GGUSD utiliza REMS, un sistema de respuesta rápida basado en la web que mantiene información crucial sobre nuestras escuelas la cual es necesaria en una emergencia. En los últimos años, el GGUSD ha invertido \$100 millones en actualizaciones de seguridad que incluyen hardware de emergencia (panic), alarmas y cercas de seguridad.
- El GGUSD tiene una asociación colaborativa y confiable con cada uno de los departamentos de policía locales que brindan servicios a las siete comunidades del Distrito y a aproximadamente 40,000 alumnos. Gracias a nuestra colaboración con el Departamento de Policía de Garden Grove, tenemos 5 oficiales de recursos escolares altamente capacitados que se dedican todos los días a mantener seguras a nuestras escuelas.

*See Page 6*



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Tăng Cường Hệ Thống An Toàn Trường Sở

Từ năm này sang năm khác, Hội Đồng Giáo Dục và ban điều hành học khu luôn xem xét kỹ lưỡng những phương cách nhằm liên tục tăng cường hệ thống an toàn trường sở. Chúng tôi kết hợp nhiều phương pháp bao gồm các đặc điểm bảo vệ an ninh khuôn viên trường, phương tiện kỹ thuật, đánh giá và huấn luyện biện pháp an toàn, các chương trình chăm sóc sức khỏe và tinh thần an vui cũng như sự hợp tác với cơ quan công lực địa phương và quốc gia. Sau khi xảy ra thảm kịch tại Uvalde, Texas các quy định về an toàn trường sở được xem là tối quan trọng. Mong quý phụ huynh an tâm là vấn đề này đã và vẫn luôn là ưu tiên hàng đầu đối với học khu chúng ta.

- GGUSD có kế hoạch phòng bị an toàn cho từng trường trong tổng số 67 trường của học khu, đồng thời xem xét và sửa đổi hàng năm để việc phòng bị được chu đáo hơn. Hàng năm, mỗi trường đều thực hiện nhiều cuộc tập dợt để đối phó trong trường hợp khẩn cấp, kể cả trường hợp cấm cổng khi xảy ra những vụ nổ súng. Học sinh và nhân viên đã được hướng dẫn thực thi các quy định phòng bị an toàn theo hướng dẫn của cơ quan công lực.
- Ban điều hành học khu thường xuyên họp để duyệt lại các kế hoạch, các nguồn hỗ trợ và hệ thống tổ chức của học khu. GGUSD sử dụng REMS, một hệ thống

ứng phó nhanh và lưu giữ trên mạng những dữ liệu quan trọng của các trường học để sử dụng trong trường hợp khẩn cấp. Trong vài năm qua, GGUSD đã chi trả \$100 triệu để nâng cấp hệ thống an ninh bao gồm thiết bị thoát hiểm, hệ thống báo động và hàng rào an toàn.

- GGUSD được sự hợp tác chặt chẽ và đáng tin cậy của các sở cảnh sát địa phương phục vụ trong bảy khu vực của học khu và cho khoảng 40,000 học sinh. Nhờ có sự hợp tác với Sở Cảnh sát Garden Grove, chúng tôi có 5 Cảnh Sát Hỗ Trợ Học Đường nhiều kinh nghiệm hàng ngày tận tình giữ an toàn cho các trường học của chúng ta.

Khi nói đến sự an toàn của học sinh, các khu học chính đều coi trọng sự phòng bị. Điều quan trọng hơn hết là sự hỗ trợ của quý phụ huynh, các em học sinh cùng đội ngũ nhân viên của chúng tôi - những người luôn theo dõi tình hình tại các trường học. Vào cuối tháng này, GGUSD sẽ lập một chương trình báo cáo ẩn danh mới có tên StopIt (Chấm Dứt) nhằm tạo điều kiện cho phụ huynh, các em học sinh và cộng đồng có thể báo cáo qua ứng dụng lưu động, trang mạng hoặc đường dây khẩn cấp những hành động khả nghi. Chúng tôi sẽ sớm thông báo thêm chi tiết về chương trình này. Mong quý vị cần nhớ là hãy thấy gì thì nên báo cho biết.

*From Page 5*

Cuando se trata de la seguridad de los alumnos, los distritos escolares nunca pueden estar lo suficientemente preparados. Lo más importante es que tenemos un personal, alumnos y padres de familia maravillosos, que son los ojos y los oídos en nuestros planteles escolares. A finales de este mes, lanzaremos un nuevo programa de reportes anónimos llamado StopIt, el cual permite que los alumnos, padres de familia y personal reporten actividades sospechosas en línea, por teléfono o por medio de la aplicación móvil. Pronto recibirán más información sobre eso. Por favor recuerden que si ven algo, digan algo.



**The City of Garden Grove, in partnership with Republic Services, has launched the new Organics Recycling program, enabling single-family residents to place all food waste, food-soiled paper, and yard waste in their brown organics cart.**



**ggcity.org/organics-recycling**



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## Vaping in School Age Children



**Inderpal S. Randhawa, M.D.**  
medical director,  
Children's  
Pulmonary  
Institute,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

There has been a growing trend of vaping, or smoking e-cigarettes, among teenagers the past few years and more recently there has been a spike in school-age children starting to vape.

Vaping is only marginally regulated in the U.S., causing teenagers and children to regularly use vape products and oils incorrectly. The bright packaging and sweet flavors can tempt kids and teens, many of whom end up staying hooked due to the addictive nicotine inside the vape liquid. This combination can result in serious, life-threatening respiratory events.

Nicotine is not the only harmful chemical that vape liquid may contain. Other harmful chemicals include:

- Ultrafine particles that can enter the lungs
- Flavorants such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease
- Volatile organic compounds
- Heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead

While vaping is still relatively new, the long-term side-effects of these chemicals are still being researched and discussed throughout the healthcare community. These harmful chemicals can cause side effects like coughing, dry mouth or throat, nausea, and headaches, as well as affect the development of the brain and cause nicotine addiction.

It is important to talk to your child about the dangers it may cause in both short- and long-term use. By educating yourself first, it becomes easier to educate your children. Maintaining a dialogue about vaping, where both you and your child can ask questions, will help you be effective in preventing your kids from vaping now and in the future.

For more information call (714) 377-6993 or visit [millerchildrens.org/pulmonary](http://millerchildrens.org/pulmonary).



Dr. Roy Nattiv,  
pediatric gastroenterologist,  
and patient Charlie

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

Welcome back to a new school year. By now students have settled into their routines and happy to be back in their classrooms.

Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi's message begins on page 3 on the subject of new and expanded academic and social-emotional support programs.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 47 (all ages may enter).

This is our 7th year collaborating with the GGUSD. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is May 10.

Happy Holidays!



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## Orange County Department of Education



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

Our country has long likened its drug prevention efforts to a war, marshaling resources at the local, state and national levels to disrupt the production, distribution and consumption of illegal substances.

But the rise of fentanyl represents a dark and deadly new battlefield that is like nothing we've ever seen before, forcing us to rethink the rules of engagement.

Two factors make this synthetic opioid exceedingly dangerous. First, fentanyl is incredibly lethal at roughly 50 times stronger than heroin and about 100 times more powerful than morphine. Second, many of fentanyl's users don't even know they're taking the drug because it's often hidden in counterfeit pills made to look like common prescription opioids or other medications.

There is also little in the way of quality control in the manufacturing process, meaning doses can vary wildly. Fittingly, "One Pill Can Kill" is the name of the campaign launched by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to reduce America's fentanyl supply.

"The DEA confiscated over 20 million counterfeit pills in 2021," says Stephan Lambert, OCDE's coordinator of prevention education. "If you buy a pill from anywhere other than a pharmacy, you should assume that it's fentanyl. It's virtually impossible to tell what is counterfeit, and

it's not worth the risk. When tested, 42 percent of those confiscated pills had a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl."

In Orange County alone, the number of fentanyl-related deaths skyrocketed to 717 in 2021 from 57 just four years earlier. That's an increase of over 1,100 percent, and fentanyl fatalities now account for more than three-quarters of all overdose deaths. At the same time, drug poisoning cases have emerged as the leading cause of accidental death in Orange County, mirroring national rates.

These sobering statistics should command the attention of our entire county. To that end, the Orange County Department of Education is working closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to make sure educators and families have the tools and resources needed to help combat this crisis. On Nov. 4, both agencies will be joined by Orange County Superior Court Judge Maria D. Hernandez for a special Fentanyl Forum set to cover a range of topics, including fentanyl's impacts, how to talk to young people, and how to respond to drug overdoses and poisonings.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and distracted by the countless challenges we face at any given moment. And there's a narrative that young people tune out

*See OC DEPT OF ED • Page 47*

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## Positive Parenting

### What's Next Parents?



**Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel**

After a year of changes in school schedules, the parent may ask, "Now what is my role as their parent?"

See that a child does follow-up homework each day. Most teachers have information as to what is required of each child on the computer. Have the child show you what work is to be done. If help is required, choose a time that's best for you. Otherwise, have the child show you completed work before the media is used again.

Have a "just us" ten minutes to talk. What was your favorite thing today? What happened that was new today?

**LISTEN!** As a teacher and family consultant, my instinct is to jump to "fix it" when a problem is presented. Allow the child to solve the problem. "Suzie called me a name today." Response: "Wow, that probably didn't feel good. What did you do?"

Plan family gatherings. It is easy for all family members to retreat to individual spaces. Emotional health is often strengthened from a feeling of belonging. Make kindness a non-negotiable rule and glue all your family experiences together with love.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel is an author, taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. [ParentingSOS.com](http://ParentingSOS.com).

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## Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

### Teen Drinking

**Q.** Now that my husband and I have returned to the office, we think that our 16-year-old may be having friends over and engaging in drinking alcohol. We've noticed certain bottles of liquor are either missing or maybe diluted. We haven't approached our son yet because we wanted to see if you had some pointers to try and keep things from becoming an explosive situation.

**A.** Your son will probably try to dodge the discussion as well as deny drinking. To make the most of the conversation take some time to think about the issues you want to discuss before you talk with your son. Consider how he might react and ways you might respond to his questions. Be as prepared as you can for various scenarios. Avoid shaming him, especially since it may backfire, and be ready for him to claim that the two of you are setting an example by having alcohol in the house. Parents influence their teens, and sometimes even younger kids, when it comes to alcohol consumption. The old saying, "Do as I say and not as I do," will be exactly what he may bring up first. If it gets out of hand or doesn't give you the results you want, then a counselor may be able to help. Whatever you do, start this process as soon as possible and approach it with patience and love but also assertiveness.

### A Helicopter Parent

**Q.** I have been a helicopter parent for so long that my children, ages seven and nine, are extremely apprehensive of taking any risks in various activities or doing anything where they may get even slightly hurt or disappointed. What have I done and how do I correct it?

**A.** There have been overbearing and overprotective parents for years; don't beat yourself up too badly. It's easy for parents to go overboard when it comes to their kids. However, this can continue into college years and beyond, but it doesn't have to. Your parenting style and the way you view your children will need to change. You'll need to allow them to get used to the idea that they can actually try things on their own and whatever the outcome, it's all going to be okay in the end. Go ahead and sign them up for things that they are truly interested in and will most likely do well at. A few successes will build their self-confidence and they will perhaps want to do more things that are new and different. Just be sure that you stop yourself if you think about interfering unnecessarily, even if you know that they're heading for something rough. It's the mistakes and bumps in life that we all learn from that make us stronger individuals, better able to handle future situations.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)

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## Alamitos *Intermediate School*

12381 Dale St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6101 • [alamitos.ggusd.us](http://alamitos.ggusd.us)



**Ivy Trac**  
*Principal*

### Parent Welcome Committee

At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents. At Alamitos Intermediate, we are grateful and fortunate to have the support of our parents who continue to make

the campus a safe and welcoming place to be for our students. The Alamitos Parent Welcome Committee are 20 parents who have signed up to be "Parent Greeters" on campus before school during student drop off and after school during student pick up. Alamitos' Parent Greeters are there to greet students and members and help any student who may be in need. You can find our Parent Greeters on campus with their orange vests and official Alamitos nametag! We want to thank Mrs. Montes and her team for their help in supporting Alamitos and our community!



**Parents volunteer each day to serve as greeters to ensure students feel safe and welcome on campus.**

## Allen *Elementary School*

16200 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6228 • [allen.ggusd.us](http://allen.ggusd.us)



**Dr. Andrew Heughins**  
*Principal*

### Allen is Modernized!

This August, Allen Elementary returned to campus as modernization was finishing up from a summer of construction on our permanent buildings that included new air conditioning, lighting, and new cabinetry in our main office. Allen also added new curtains for our stage and a shade structure for our kindergarten playground

In addition to our modernization, Allen has added several important assets to promote Goal 2 of the GGUSD Strategic Plan. Many of our families have been able to take advantage of the Boys and Girls Club after-school program that is now onsite. Boys and Girls Club provides free childcare, help with homework for our students, and fun activities until 6:00 p.m. every day. They are in the process of expanding the program to meet the needs of even more of our families. Allen has also been fortunate to have on campus this year the ASPIRE program, which offers school-based mental health and counseling services for our students.

At Allen we continue to work to improve our facilities and services for both students and families!



**Recent modernization upgrades to Allen Elementary include a remodeled front office.**



## Anthony Elementary School

15320 Pickford St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6104 • [anthony.ggusd.us](http://anthony.ggusd.us)



**Tyleen Perez**  
Principal

### Supporting the Whole Child

Anthony Elementary School students are off to a great start this school year. Students and parents were all smiles on the first day as the Anthony staff welcomed them back to school. Students were especially excited to see the new playground structures which will provide a variety of new and fun play experiences. Students were also eager to visit the Friendship Cafe, where students may go at recess to play games, puzzles and do art with their friends. At Anthony Elementary, we focus on social and emotional wellness, because we believe children learn best when they feel safe and happy at school. In addition to social emotional wellness, we will also continue our focus on the high quality academic instruction that Anthony is known for. At the heart and soul of our school is our amazing teachers and staff members who work together to ensure that all students are learning and making progress toward

their academic goals. To meet the needs of our students, our entire teaching staff takes great pride in doing targeted intervention to provide extra instruction for those students needing learning support. With everything we have planned, it is going to be another successful year at Anthony School!



**Anthony Elementary School students pose for a photo on the school's new play structure.**

## Barker Elementary School

12565 Springdale St., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6164 • [barker.ggusd.us](http://barker.ggusd.us)



**Michelle Askew**  
Principal

### New Faces Welcomed to the Barker Community

As the start of a new school year begins, the Barker community welcomes new staff members at our annual Ice Cream Social and Back to School Barbeque. Barker has been fortunate to have the addition of Miss Coleman, teaching kindergarten, Mrs. Rey teaching a 3rd/4th grade combination class, Mrs. Kuonen teaching fourth grade, and Ms. Bell teaching sixth grade. We also have a new principal Mrs. Askew, known to many of our families, having served as the principal of Enders Elementary for the past ten years. In addition to new staff this summer, Barker received three new portable buildings that will allow for lower class sizes this year and a new shade structure in our TK/ Kindergarten play yard.

One area Barker will emphasize this school year is the promotion of Goal 2 of the GGUSD Strategic Plan, which includes

our students' socio-emotional well-being and our school climate. To assist in fostering Goal 2, Barker has many extracurricular programs including Academic Chess, Art Masters, the Traveling Scientist, Young Rembrandts, Boys and Girls Club, after school academic interventions, and our Accelerated Reader Club.



**Barker Lions' sixth graders help serve families during the school's Back to School BBQ event.**

## Bell *Intermediate School*

12345 Springdale St., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6466 • [bell.ggusd.us](http://bell.ggusd.us)



**Stephanie Bartlett**  
*Principal*

### The Roadrunner Way

Each year we dedicate time to set the expectations on campus because we believe it is vital for our scholars to know that all of their actions create ripples that affect those around them. Our ASB Leadership class celebrated with a week of activities that revolved around “The Roadrunner Way!” to show that we are all connected. Each day Bell had a fun activity to ensure

our scholars knew the expectations of “What it Means to be a Roadrunner” so we could build a positive, inclusive environment where everyone can succeed. Roadrunners accepted the challenge and took the time to discuss how their actions, words, thoughts, and intentions could ensure that Bell continues to be a No Place for Hate campus. On the final day, Roadrunners shared three ways that they can strive to make Bell a better place. We are proud of all that we have accomplished together as Bell has been a PBIS and No Place for Hate School for the last three years.



**Students showcase what it means to be connected during a fun school assembly.**

## Bolsa Grande *High School*

9401 Westminster Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6424 • [www.bolsagrande.org](http://www.bolsagrande.org)

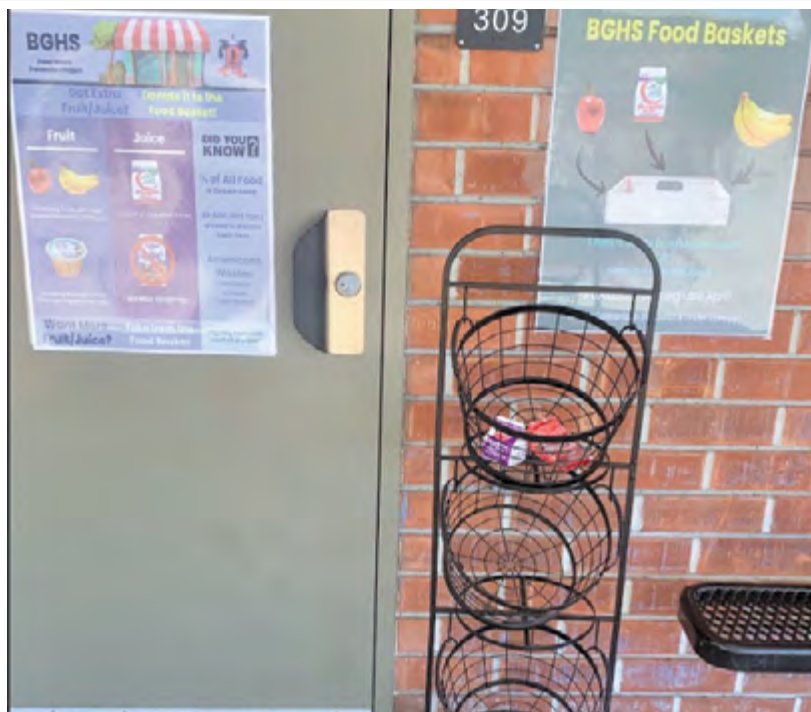


**Tracy Conway**  
*Principal*

### Student-Inspired Solutions

BGHS Food Baskets is a new program at Bolsa Grande aimed at decreasing the amount of food waste on campus. BGHS Food Baskets was initiated by Bolsa Grande student John Nguyen

who conducted research on food waste for his AP Research class. John discovered Bolsa students discarded a large amount of uneaten food at each mealtime. This research inspired a call-to-action, prompting John to establish the Food Basket program. Students can find multiple basket locations to deposit uneaten food from their school meals, or they can pick up something from the basket. This program is a true example of what happens when students connect learning to real world applications!



**Bolsa Grande students use the new Food Baskets to discard unwanted and unused food to ensure it does not go to waste.**



## Brookhurst *Elementary School*

9821 William Dalton Way, Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6556 • [brookhurst.ggusd.us](http://brookhurst.ggusd.us)



**Dianna Rangel**  
*Principal*

### **Celebrating Our Brookhurst Scholars!**

This September, volunteers from a local church teamed up with our Brookhurst PTA to gather donations to be used as future rewards for our students. Students are excited to be acknowledged for their efforts in building scholarly habits and contributing to a No Place For Hate School. Aside from our Student of the Month Assemblies, our students are acknowledged for their daily efforts when they earn Dazzling Dolphin tickets. These tickets will be turned in for fun prizes this October! We are very fortunate to have an amazing PTA. We are also very proud of our Brookhurst scholars!



**Brookhurst's 2022-23 Student Council organizes the school Dolphin Store to be opened in October!**

## Bryant *Arts Academy*

8371 Orangewood Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6451 • [bryant.ggusd.us](http://bryant.ggusd.us)



**Dr. Tanya De Leon**  
*Principal*

### **Celebrating Unique Opportunities in the Arts**

Bryant Elementary teachers and staff are proud to welcome back our students with a variety of programs to support learning and engagement. Our Mariachi and Rock Band after school programs are entering their third year in existence. We partner with world-renowned Mariachi Sol De Mexico de Jose Hernandez, Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove, and Little Kids Rock to offer unique cultural and performing arts opportunities. Our student groups have performed at Open House as well as community festivals in Garden Grove.

Bryant is an AVID certified elementary school that helps prepare students to be successful leaders in middle school. Our 6th graders attend Outdoor Science Camp and also participate in GGUSD's College and Career Mentoring Program, which outlines a pathway for lifelong success. This year, Bryant earned a Pivotal Practice Award from the California Department of Education for our creativity and dedication in serving our community during the pandemic.



**Bryant Mariachi students proudly showcase their instruments at our annual Open House.**

## Carrillo *Elementary School*

15270 Bushard St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6230 • [carrillo.ggusd.us](http://carrillo.ggusd.us)



**Mark Vosper**  
*Principal*

### Nurturing Student Kindness

We are excited to get back to what makes Carrillo Elementary such an amazing place. This year, we started our second year of PBIS. We've continued to build upon setting high expectations, reinforcing positive behaviors, and revisiting how we can demonstrate R.O.A.R. (Respect, Ownership,

Attitude, and Responsibility). Our teachers attended various professional developments this year where they focused on developing lessons that encouraged high student engagement. Carrillo students are learning through collaboration in small groups and productive discourse that encourages creativity, problem solving, and security of knowing that mistakes are welcomed with a growth mindset. With

the new classes opening to 4-year-olds, we welcomed over 20 new Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students into our expanded TK program. Our TK and Kinder students were excited to see the new shade structure over their Kinder playground. Our wonderful Carrillo parents are enjoying the Parent Education classes we are providing in four different languages. It's great to be back!



**Carrillo students learn the power of kindness and care for others as part of the school's PBIS program.**

## Carver *Early Childhood Education Center*

11150 Santa Rosalia St., Stanton, CA 90680 • 714/663-6437 • [carver.ggusd.us](http://carver.ggusd.us)



**Brian Ball**  
*Principal*

### Back in Full Swing!

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) at Carver, Heritage, and Skylark shifted to a FULL 6 hour day of school. The extended school day is another positive step towards our overall goal to prepare our learners so they will experience

many successes in Transitional Kindergarten/ Kindergarten and beyond. From our first day of school this year, our students have been learning and adapting to all of the routines and structures of a typical school day, which includes eating breakfast and lunch at school, learning in whole and small groups, and learning through direct and often exploratory instruction. With our focus on the whole child, we also provide opportunities for our young learners to continue to grow in their social emotional development. This is already shaping up to be a great 2022-23 School Year!



**Students enjoy socializing and playing in small groups.**



## Clinton Corner *Family Campus*

13581 Clinton St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6298 • [cfc.ggusd.us](http://cfc.ggusd.us)



**Emma Druitt**  
*Principal*

### Supporting Early Learner Success

We were so excited to welcome our new preschoolers to the 2022-2023 school year! We added more classrooms for our 3-year-old students in addition to our classrooms for 4-year-olds. Our wonderful educators spent time over the summer to strengthen teaching strategies designed to promote academic and personal growth for 3-year-olds. Our staff is looking forward to guiding and nurturing both their academic growth as well as their social interactions and development. Our classrooms are well-equipped with developmentally appropriate activities and materials to address the needs of all our students. We know this will be an absolutely great year!



**Students express their creativity through art.**

## Clinton *Elementary School*

13641 Clinton St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6146 • [clinton.ggusd.us](http://clinton.ggusd.us)



**Jason Shabet**  
*Principal*

### A Great Start

Clinton Elementary is excited to start the new school year with several positive developments. Our students managed to perform very close to our Pre-Covid SBAC scores last school year. This is quite an accomplishment considering the significant gains that were made prior to the pandemic and all of the obstacles that were placed in front of us during the past two years. It is a testament to the hard work of teachers, students, and the parents of Clinton! To start this school year, our TK and Kinder students were happy to see the installation of a new shade structure that completely covers their playground. This was definitely appreciated during the recent heat wave that struck Orange County! In addition, our students in first through sixth grades were also treated to a brand new playground that completely upgrades their choices during recess time. It's going to be a great year at Clinton.



**Clinton students are all smiles on the school's new playground structure.**

## Cook Elementary School

9802 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6251 • [cook.ggusd.us](http://cook.ggusd.us)



**Sherry Sanborn**  
Principal

### Promoting Positive Behavior

Students at Cook Elementary School kicked off the new school year learning what it means to R.O.A.R. during our first year of implementing Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (P.B.I.S)! Cook teachers and staff explicitly taught, discussed, and role-played our positive behavioral expectations with

students in all areas of the Cook campus. Students learned how being responsible, organized, accepting, and respectful can earn them “Lion Loot” for their positive behaviors at school. During our first Friday Spirit Assembly in August, students were excited to use their “Lion Loot” for raffle prizes and unique student experiences. We’re looking forward to a great school year as our Cook Lions R.O.A.R. on campus.



**Principal Sherry Sanborn announces the prize winners during the school's PBIS Assembly.**

## Crosby Elementary School

12181 West St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6346 • [crosby.ggusd.us](http://crosby.ggusd.us)



**Kristine Levenson**  
Principal

### Healthy Choices

Crosby is thrilled to be one of 22 schools in Garden Grove Unified School District that is participating in the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) this school year. The FFVP was created to improve children's diets both

at school and at home, increase the variety of foods available to students, and create healthier school food environments. The program focuses on providing students with fresh



**Crosby Elementary students enjoy snacking on fresh fruits during the school day.**

fruit and vegetables, as snacks, outside normal breakfast and lunch hours during the school day. Beginning in August, our students have been provided with a fresh fruit or vegetable at recess on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The students are really enjoying the program, and we are pleased to have this opportunity to provide them with fresh produce.



## Doig *Intermediate School*

12752 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6241 • [doig.ggusd.us](http://doig.ggusd.us)



**Juan Alvarez**  
*Principal*

### Supporting Student Success

The beginning of this school year has been an exciting one for Doig Intermediate as students and parents were happy to return to school. This school year our students will continue to have tremendous support academically.

Our students will have access to after-school tutoring during Spartan Hour with a designated teacher and

ninety minutes of additional support with our AVID tutors. The AVID tutors will work in supporting our students through collaborative study groups. All of these extended learning opportunities are in place to address any learning loss from the past two years. In addition to academic support, we have Project Kinship, Boys and Girls Club Counseling, and ASPIRE counselors addressing the mental health needs of our students. As part of our work to equip ALL students with the academic and personal skills for lifelong success, our instructional team will focus on supports to help re-designate our English language learners. Our teachers are excited to provide the support needed to help our Spartans thrive!



**Students enjoy playing games with friends as a way to get a brain break in and connect with classmates.**

## Eisenhower *Elementary School*

13221 Lilly St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6401 • [eisenhower.ggusd.us](http://eisenhower.ggusd.us)



**Beth Cusimano**  
*Principal*

### Engaged Parent Community

Eisenhower parents and families are dedicated, hard-working, and integral in the success of our school. They work alongside

our staff to support students in many different ways including academics, fine arts, and school

events. Some help in classrooms, assist with our Disney musicals, fundraising, school pictures, or help with our school garden. Others serve on committees such as PTO, SSC and ELAC. Thus, it is no surprise that our families were warmly welcomed by a large number of our parent/family volunteers at Back to School Night. We are continually grateful for their help and support! New this year, interested parents will receive

parent education and leadership development training with Padres en Acción/Parents in Action program, followed by parents leading structured games at lunch recess when they are available to do so.



**Eisenhower parent leaders volunteer at the school's Back to School Night to welcome families to the school and create a warm, welcoming community.**



## Enders *Elementary School*

12302 Springdale St., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6205 • [enders.ggusd.us](http://enders.ggusd.us)



**Michelle Rushall**  
*Principal*

### Fostering Family Engagement

After a summer of being modernized, Enders Elementary School opened the school year with new air conditioning in the classrooms and offices. Students were thrilled to be back on campus. The

Enders PTA and Sixth Grade Boosters scheduled many fun events such as a PTA Membership Drive, KONA Ice, Skate Night, and spirit wear sales. The PTA also hosted Enders first Schoolwide Grandparents and Special Persons' Day. The event was a huge success. The PTA set up tables and passed out treats to all of the students. Children invited grandparents, aunts, uncles, and special friends and neighbors. Families traveled from all over the county and state to be part of the event. One special TK boy even had one set of grandparents fly in from Monterey, California.



**Enders Elementary families enjoy the first schoolwide Grandparents and Special Persons' Day to help foster school connectedness.**

## Evans *Elementary School*

12281 Nelson St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6558 • [evans.ggusd.us](http://evans.ggusd.us)



**Adam Bernstein**  
*Principal*

### Connecting with Families

The Evans community began the school year with a fun family barbeque on a recent sunny Friday afternoon! Parents and family members were invited to come

onto campus and have lunch with their children. Hundreds of family members attended and enjoyed eating a hamburger BBQ lunch that was freshly prepared by the Garden Grove Unified School District's Food Services Department. Students and family members from kindergarten through sixth grade enjoyed the food, music, games and good times together! We're looking forward to our next family barbeque on Cinco de Mayo!



**Evans Elementary families spent time connecting and building community during the school's recent barbeque.**



## Excelsior *Elementary School*

10421 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6106 • [excelsior.ggusd.us](http://excelsior.ggusd.us)



**Dr. Jennifer Carter**  
Principal

### Campus Beautification

Excelsior Elementary was fortunate to participate in the Give to Grow Create program. Over 90 employees of Safran Cabin and their family members volunteered to help build a Zen garden/outdoor classroom, refurbish the vegetable gardens, build instrumental storage carts, and paint several murals around the school including the playground. The students enjoy learning and relaxing at the Zen garden/outdoor classroom and playing on the colorful playground. The Excelsior staff, students, families, and community are grateful for all the hard work and volunteer hours the Safran Cabin employees contributed to make Excelsior's campus a warm and welcoming environment for all students! Thank you to the Excelsior PTA and staff who also volunteered hours to support the beautification of our school!



**Students at Excelsior Elementary love their new outdoor learning space.**

## Faylane *Elementary School*

11731 Morrie Ln., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6253 • [faylane.ggusd.us](http://faylane.ggusd.us)



**Mike Ingalls**  
Principal

### Falcons Fly High

Faylane took a fresh schoolwide approach to Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and Wellness this year. Teachers at each grade level focused on a specific lesson each week. The first six weeks focused on kindness and next classes have embarked on Growth Mindset skills and the power of "YET." ("I have not learned that... YET.") ASPIRE Social Work leaders established a wellness room, and counselors, psychologists, and speech pathologists formed wellness groups to inspire social and emotional learning. The principal (and his dog) recorded weekly kindness and growth mindset Youtube videos. Positive Behavior Coaches (PBIS), PTA officers, GRIP leaders/ mentors (Gang Reduction Interventions and Partnerships), and even a new Canine

Literacy program involving 6 service dogs and 36 students: ALL were focused upon student wellness, positive social relationships and academic and personal growth. Our motto is "A Faylane falcon S.O.A.R.S." Many SEL supports are helping young falcons fly high!



**Faylane Elementary School opened a new Wellness Room to support student mental health.**

## Fitz *Intermediate Computer Science Academy*

4600 W. McFadden Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6351 • [fitz.ggusd.us](http://fitz.ggusd.us)



**Louie Gomez**  
*Principal*

### Ready for Success

We are excited to welcome our Fitz Falcons to the 2022/23 school year. The year began with a celebration of cheers and words of encouragement as students made their way onto campus and started another new and exciting

year. As in years past, we

welcomed returning and new students alike and our staff recognizes that they need to meet students where they are - not only academically but also social-emotionally. Additionally, Fitz is proud to announce a new program on our campus, Dual Language Immersion. Students in this program started learning Spanish in elementary school and

will now continue to hone those language skills in their intermediate education. We are excited to see this program not only progress and expand over the next several years but also encourage these students as they continue to grow in their Spanish language knowledge. Have a wonderful year Fitz Falcons!



## Garden Grove *High School*

11271 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6115 • [www.gghs.us](http://www.gghs.us)



**Todd Nirk**  
*Principal*

### Celebrating Student Success

Along with its championship CIF sports teams, high-achieving academics, and centenary tradition of Argo Pride, GGHS is also known for its active Performing Arts program.

This year, GGHS is hosting a collaborative high school musical, *The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition*. Students and directors from six different schools in the district will follow the Yellow Brick Road to Don Wash Auditorium to sing, dance, and tell a timeless story about finding strength from within. This one-hour show will be performed for the community on Nov 1, 2, 3, along with a special, invite-only dress rehearsal on October 28 for neighboring elementary and intermediate schools. This is the sixth year in a row GGHS has produced a musical and we are proud to be a leader in performing arts education!



**Students will take the stage at Don Wash Auditorium in November for a musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*.**



## Garden Park *Elementary School*

6562 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA, 92845 • 714/663-6074 • [gardenpark.ggusd.us](http://gardenpark.ggusd.us)



**Michelle Morales**  
*Principal*

### Inspiring Creativity and Confidence

On September 16, Garden Park students and staff celebrated Dot Day. With a focus on personal growth and creativity students read the story “The Dot”, written by author Peter H. Reynolds, and our teachers taught a variety of lessons encouraging students to trust

in their own abilities and inspire creativity. Students learned that bravery through art sparks one’s confidence and the belief in oneself. Students at every grade level wore polka dots to symbolize their courage, confidence and creativity. A few of the activities included Mrs. Selby, our kindergarten teacher, leading her students through various “dot” centers that ignited students’ imagination. Mrs. Boukris,

Transitional Kindergarten teacher, used the story “Ten Black Dots” to encourage our TK students to create their own “dot” art. Creativity and confidence is being cultivated at Garden Park!



**Transitional Kindergarten students showcase their “dot” art.**

## Gilbert *Elementary School*

9551 Orangewood Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6318 • [gilbert.ggusd.us](http://gilbert.ggusd.us)



**George Martinez**  
*Principal*

### Lunch Bunch

Gilbert Elementary School in combination with ASPIRE is excited to introduce a special lunch time activity for students called “Lunch Bunch.” Our amazing ASPIRE team hosts different activities allowing students to interact with each other by playing board games,

reading and discussing books, creating art projects and having the opportunity to talk to an ASPIRE counselor about subjects they are interested in. Up to 10 students are invited to participate daily giving them a chance to improve social skills, feel part of a group and have good old- fashioned fun! Each day, teachers select students to attend Lunch Bunch by handing out coveted lanyards allowing access to our state of the art Wellness Center. Our Grizzlies look forward to being selected to attend this extraordinary experience with a cool, dynamic group!



## Hare High School

12012 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6508 • [hhs.ggusd.us](http://hhs.ggusd.us)



**Lydia Machado**  
Principal

### Supporting our Scholars

This fall, Hare High School continues to find flexible and creative ways to support at-promise high school juniors and seniors on their journey to completing Garden Grove Unified School District's rigorous graduation requirements. The Hare team added an embedded 30-minute homeroom and tutorial to our daily schedule for 2022-23 to further support the academic needs of our students. To kick off this new plan, Hare faculty and staff committed to a two-week advisement lesson series where students and teachers first built community within homeroom classrooms, engaged in lessons to



**Students show their grades on the Aeries portal as part of their tutorial check-in.**

access Aeries, to understand transcripts, and graduation requirements, followed by training in weekly grade checks and goal setting through priority lists. Every Monday, students meet with their homeroom teachers to monitor academic progress and set weekly priorities for tutorial days. In our third week, Hare Huskies began to put the plan into practice with students, teachers and staff helping students to execute their priority lists in tutorial. We have already seen a great response from our students seeing the positive impact of their choices on their grades and we cannot wait to see what lies ahead!

## Hazard Elementary School

4218 W. Hazard Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92703 • 714/663-6403 • [hazard.ggusd.us](http://hazard.ggusd.us)



**Olivia Hufnagel**  
Principal

### Soaring to New Heights

Hazard Eagles know that building character and academic competence leads to great confidence in developing college and career readiness! This year, Dr. Mafi kicked off our College & Career Mentoring Program with an empowering assembly! Our sixth grade scholars learned that college and career readiness begins with hard work, a growth mindset, and a lot of heart! We will be soaring to new heights this year by bringing new enrichment programs and special events like Career Day that will continue to hone academic rigor, innovation, effective communication, and peer-to-peer mentoring. Our STEAM focus will include Lego Robotics, Minecraft Robotics, and Maker Engineering. In partnership with our Boys

& Girls Club, we will be honoring our cultural diversity by hosting our first talent show. Hazard is a special place to learn and grow. Our school also received Gold recognition for PBIS, a testament to our team's dedicated efforts to empower and equip our scholars to SOAR!



**Hazard students celebrate the school's distinction as a PBIS Gold School for its exceptional culture and climate.**



# Heritage Computer Science Immersion Academy

426 S. Andres Pl., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6108 • [heritage.ggusd.us](http://heritage.ggusd.us)



**Ryan Loberger**  
Principal

## Growing Together

September was Mental Health Awareness Month at Heritage Computer Science Academy. In addition to daily social-emotional learning lessons, students participated in a project to identify things that bring them

joy or calm feeling. Examples were petting a

cat, deep breathing, and playing with friends. These responses were collected and made into heart shapes for viewing in and around the office. The project was facilitated by our ASPIRE Mental Health Team. The ASPIRE team consists of a Social Worker and Mental Health Specialist who coordinate lessons, activities, services and support for students at Heritage. Multiple on-site groups work as a team to provide a

well-rounded experience for Heritage students. This high level of collaboration and support has led to Heritage being named a PBIS Platinum School for 2022, the second consecutive year. We are proud of the effort our students, parents, and staff put in to make Heritage the best place to learn and grow.



**Second grade students display their project to showcase what brings them joy.**

## Hill Elementary School

9681 11th St., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6561 • [hill.ggusd.us](http://hill.ggusd.us)



**Toby Vares**  
Principal

## Supporting Student Wellness

We are excited to welcome our Hill Hounds back for another exciting school year. Students and staff returned to school to a beautiful new Wellness Room. We will have our ASPIRE counselors available Monday-Thursday in the Wellness

Room for students who need to take a break, are in need of crisis support or a safe place to check-in. Our ASPIRE team will also offer Lunch Bunch groups for all students.

We are thankful that Hill has the staff and resources available to provide our students with quality and enriching after-school programs. After three years off, we are pleased to announce the return of the musical The

Lion King. Students in third through sixth grades have the opportunity to be part of the cast or crew. We are also launching an after-school Robotics program for fifth and sixth grade students using Lego EV3 Mindstorms. Go Hounds!



**Hill Elementary School opened a new Wellness Room to support student mental health and well-being.**

## Irvine *Intermediate School*

10552 W. Hazard Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6551 • [irvine.ggusd.us](http://irvine.ggusd.us)



**Holly Jefferson**  
Principal

### Hawks House

Irvine Intermediate had a great start to the 22-23 school year! Irvine scholars were welcomed with smiles, fist bumps and high fives. Hawks were introduced to the theme: “Hawks House!” A house is where you feel loved, wanted and a sense of belonging, and

we want every single person who walks onto our campus to feel like this is their house. This includes students, teachers, staff, parents, and community partners.

WELCOME HOME...



WHO'S HOUSE?



HAWKS  
HOUSE!

At Irvine, we want every student to take ownership of their Hawk's house. As part of PBIS, Irvine Hawks are expected to stay safe, offer kindness, act responsibly, and respect others while in the Hawk's House. You will frequently hear students around campus yell proudly “Hawk's House” when they hear a staff member ask “Who's House?” It has brought a lot of SPIRIT and PRIDE to our campus, helping to foster a positive school culture, inclusive of all. Welcome Home!

## Jordan *Intermediate School*

9821 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6124 • [jordan.ggusd.us](http://jordan.ggusd.us)



**Nick Clark**  
Principal

### Getting Students Engaged

To support GGUSD Goals 1 and 2, Jordan Intermediate has a robust extra-curricular program consisting of academic tutoring and clubs to meet all types of student interest. This year, we hosted our first “Club Rush” at lunch, where all clubs showcased their cause and recruited students to join.

Our student leaders organized the rush and it was a great time in the quad. Some of the clubs center on dancing, art, drama, technology and cultural heritage and appreciation. Both academic clubs and social clubs provide increased attendance to school, create school connectedness, and create a welcoming environment for students and staff.



Jordan Intermediate students check out the extracurricular opportunities including an after-school soccer program.



## Jordan Adult Transition Program

9915 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92844 714/663-6486 • [jordanatp.ggusd.us](http://jordanatp.ggusd.us)



**Tricia Chinn**  
*Principal*

### Showcasing Student Growth

Luis has been in our Adult Transition Program for a full four years, and he has grown into an excellent model of what an ATP graduate can achieve. Luis stated, “I am a student that wants to obtain a position where I can utilize my skills to perform above and beyond expected standards”. Luis has developed his skills starting with volunteering at the site

then moved to volunteering at Mark Twain and Walton Food Services. These valuable volunteer experiences helped Luis to develop his independence and workplace skills to advance to paid Workability positions at Marshall’s, Art Supply Warehouse, and 360 Barber Shop. These paid experiences have led Luis to his current work experience at Smart and Final and McDonald’s. Luis has developed such a strong work ethic and confidence; he acquired his McDonald’s job all on his own with the myriad of skills he learned and acquired through our Adult Transition Program. We are so proud of the amazing young man Luis has become and his accomplishments. He will be greatly missed when he ages out of our program this December.



## La Quinta High School

10372 McFadden Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6315 • [www.laquintahs.org](http://www.laquintahs.org)



**Adrian Lucero**  
*Principal*

### Supporting Student Wellness

La Quinta has opened the doors to its new WellSpace, designed and funded in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and CHOC. The room is furnished with strategies and tools for reducing stress and managing anxiety, including zen sand gardens, mindful coloring, music, mindfulness apps on iPads, and more. Open for walk-

ins before and after school, during break and lunch, the WellSpace is an oasis of calm for the entire community. LQ’s Restorative Justice experts from Orange County Human Relations and Project Kinship are housed in offices adjacent to the WellSpace making it the perfect location for community building circles. Teachers utilize the space during Wellness Wednesdays for quiet contemplation, yoga, or just a few minutes in a location that magically transports you off of campus and into a spa-like environment. Students and staff alike are benefitting from the school’s continued commitment to mental health and wellness in alignment with the District’s Goal 2.



**La Quinta High School’s WellSpace provides many outlets for relieving stress and anxiety including music.**

## Lake Intermediate School

10801 Orangewood Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6506 • [lake.ggusd.us](http://lake.ggusd.us)



**Denise Kirkman**  
*Principal*

### Culture of Kindness

Lake Intermediate is proud to be a No Place for Hate school. To kick off the school year Lake scholars participated in an inclusive activity led by the Anti-Defamation League. Students participated in discussions that led them to finding common traits and interests that brought them together. Students shared that they were excited to meet new people and to realize how many shared interests they had.

Valeri Huato said, "The takeaway for me today was finding things in common with other students and being able to discuss the kind of place we want Lake to be." America Juache said, "I enjoyed working with groups and getting to know people." One Lake scholar shared, "What I learned today was that if I were bullied, I would report it and that I would always stand up for others. It is important to treat others the way you want to be treated."

Lake is proud to follow the Dragon code with the emphasis on R for Respectful and N for Nice to Others. Lake is welcoming and accepting to all students so that everyone can learn in a safe environment.



## Lawrence Elementary School

12521 Monroe St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6255 • [lawrence.ggusd.us](http://lawrence.ggusd.us)



**Julie Kawai**  
*Principal*

### Promoting Positivity

Our Lawrence Roadrunners are starting off the school year strong! A focus on academic skills (Goal 1), Personal Skills (Goal 2) including socio-emotional learning and support, and lifelong success are at the forefront of our thoughts and actions. Schoolwide, we use Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS, as a framework for establishing consistency and positivity for our students. Our scholars do an amazing job with their focus on being respectful, being safe, and being kind in our learning environments and beyond. We were recently able to reinforce and celebrate student success with these traits by holding an assembly that focused on positive character traits and a fun performance by professional BMX riders. There was much energy and excitement as students watched the riders do backflips, ride backwards, and jump over their principal and teachers! We look forward to the exciting and engaging learning and experiences that this year will bring.



**Lawrence students attend an exciting character building assembly.**



## Lincoln Adult Education Center

11262 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove CA 92843 • 714/663-6291 • [ae.ggusd.us](http://ae.ggusd.us)



**M'Liss Patterson**  
*Principal*

### Variety of Free Classes

The Garden Grove Adult Education (GGAE) program offers a wide variety of FREE classes for anyone 18 years or older. Visit our website to register and view the classes we offer: [ae.ggusd.us](http://ae.ggusd.us). Now is the time to finish your high school

diploma, improve your English, or earn a certificate for job training. Many classes are taught through the Hyflex model of instruction which allows students the option to attend class in person or through Zoom from anywhere. Open enrollment continues through the semester for most classes. GGAE was recently honored with a Promising Practice Award at the CASAS conference for their partnership with OC Workforce solutions for providing adults the skills and support needed to gain better jobs. #yourfutureisbrightatggae



**The Garden Grove Adult Education Center earned a Promising Practice award for their partnership with OC Workforce Solutions.**

## Los Amigos High School

16566 Newhope St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6288 • [www.losamigoshs.com](http://www.losamigoshs.com)



**Amy Avina**  
*Principal*

### A Head Start on College

The Early College Academy juniors at Los Amigos High School spent the summer taking their ninth community college course. With the help of their AVID tutors, these scholars mastered

a Golden West College Chemistry or Geography course in just 8 weeks. Collectively, Los Amigos ECA juniors have earned over 1,900 units. Yes, they are entering their junior year having completed an average of 27 college units! This fall, these students have embarked on new territory, raising the rigor even more by taking their first dual enrollment/AP courses - AP Language and AP US History. We have no doubt they will lead the pack by achieving both GWC and AP success! Way to go, Lobos!



**Students in the Los Amigos Early College Academy earn high school and college credit at the same time!**

## Mark Twain *Special Education Center*

11802 Loara St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6050 • [marktwain.ggusd.us](http://marktwain.ggusd.us)



**Tricia Chinn**  
*Principal*

### Back to School

Our Back to School Day finally felt “normal” after the past few years.

Our teachers, staff, students, and families were able to

come together, celebrate, and showcase all of the great work and opportunities our students have at Mark Twain Special Education Center. We were pleased to welcome Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi to our event and students and staff enjoyed sharing about all of the terrific instruction and personal support occurring in our classrooms.



**Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi visited Mark Twain to see all of the great learning and growth happening this school year.**

## Marshall *Elementary School*

15791 Bushard Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6528 • [marshall.ggusd.us](http://marshall.ggusd.us)

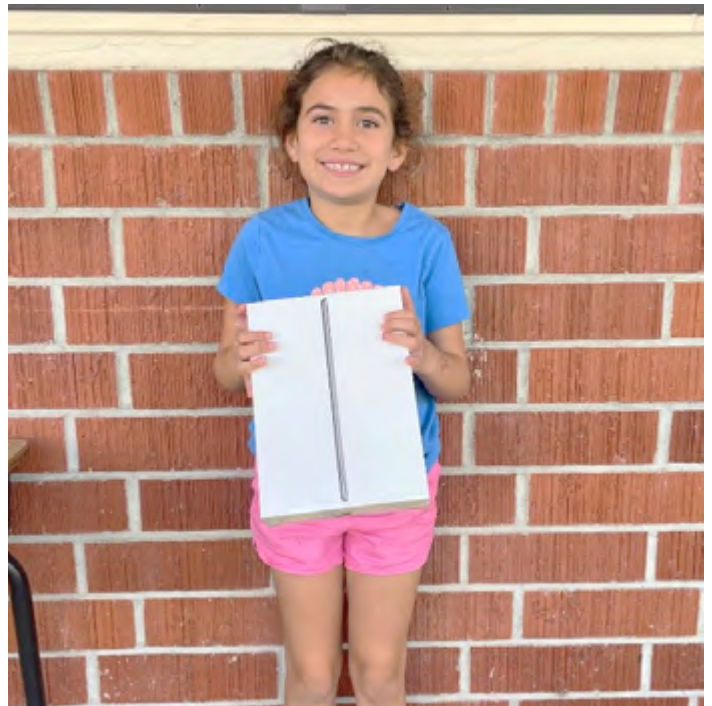


**Gurprit Dhillon**  
*Principal*

### Roadrunners Start the Year Strong

The Marshall Elementary Roadrunners began the 22-23 school year with many exciting events and activities. Students kicked off the school year with a fundraiser sponsored by our Parent Teacher Organization and raised a record \$15,100! Lucky students received iPads and many other prizes for their efforts. The TK/K playground is looking amazing thanks to

our updated playground structure completed over the summer. Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi, visited the entire sixth grade class to launch the College and Career Mentoring Program. The Marshall students are fortunate to have former Roadrunners mentoring them for their future success. Lastly, our Book Fair has brought many of our students great joy, offering popular books to help support after-school extended learning programs. Eight of our teachers will be offering extended learning in areas of reading comprehension, social emotional learning and other areas supporting GGUSD Goal 1 and Goal 2. Go Roadrunners!



**Marshall Elementary students recently won iPads as part of the school's PTO fundraiser event.**



## McGarvin *Intermediate School*

9802 Bishop Pl., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6218 • [mcgarvin.ggusd.us](http://mcgarvin.ggusd.us)



**Bill Gates**  
*Principal*

### Recognized for PBIS Success

McGarvin Intermediate School, the home of the Owls, recently earned “Platinum” level recognition by the California PBIS Coalition, the highest such level of recognition a school may earn, for its successful implementation of PBIS. Whoo! Whoo! This recognition

was made possible due to the hard work and strong belief of all stakeholders that positive behavior interventions and supports lead to academic and personal success for all students. To that end, McGarvin’s faculty and staff once again got to work at the start of this school year, launching our PBIS program with interactive presentations and a school assembly to develop students’ capacity to be W.I.S.E (Welcoming, Improving Every Day,

Socially Aware, and Ethical), qualities and characteristics that will lead to improved social, emotional, and academic outcomes as students gain clarity in what is expected of them to succeed, as well as how to intentionally enhance our learning community. Go Owls! Whoo! Whoo!



**McGarvin students attended an interactive assembly to learn about the school’s positive behavior expectations.**

## Mitchell *Elementary School*

13451 Taft Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6131 • [mitchell.ggusd.us](http://mitchell.ggusd.us)



**Carrie Bostick**  
*Principal*

### Everyone Belongs

As an MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) school, Mitchell teachers and staff continue to focus on supporting students’ academic growth as well as their social-emotional well-being. We are thrilled this year to have the ASPIRE System of Care at Mitchell in order to help us provide support

and interventions for students’ mental and social-emotional well-being! Four days a week, we have a member of the ASPIRE team, which includes a school social worker and a mental health specialist, on campus all day. In addition to providing counseling and mental health supports for individual students, the ASPIRE team provides classroom lessons for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). Most recently, they visited each classroom to teach a lesson on diversity and respect. The students discussed the importance of diversity and celebrating our differences. They also focused on how to be an upstander and inclusive. At Mitchell, everyone belongs!



**Mitchell Elementary School’s ASPIRE team provides classroom instruction to help students build a culture of kindness and respect.**

## Morningside *Elementary School*

10521 Morningside Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6328 • [morningside.ggusd.us](http://morningside.ggusd.us)



**Nathan Bellamy**  
*Principal*

### Supporting Student Growth

Morningside has taken our Extended Day Learning goals seriously! Morningside has a total of seven amazing teachers who will further assist our students before and after school in order to support students in reading, math and social skills. Our programs will address the needs of our students from kindergarten to sixth grade. Our goal is to meet our District Goals 1 and 2 of equipping students with the academic and personal skills for lifelong success. Morningside Elementary and our teachers have done a wonderful job fighting any learning loss that might have occurred during the pandemic and we came back stronger than ever to instruct our students. Thanks to our entire staff and our wonderful parents and students, our future is bright!



**Morningside Elementary celebrates a culture of kindness teaching students how to engage with each other and build friendships.**

## Monroe *Elementary Dual Language Academy*

16225 Newhope St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6264 • [monroe.ggusd.us](http://monroe.ggusd.us)



**César Loya**  
*Principal*

### Growing Strong

What an incredible first couple months of school at Monroe Elementary Language Academy. Our “Vecindad de MELA” has grown tremendously over the past few years. Our first cohort of bilingual and biliterate scholars have matriculated to the secondary level and are now receiving quality dual (Spanish) language instruction at Fitz Intermediate. It’s great to hear from our students and parents on

how well our scholars are doing there.

We are very fortunate to have a very strong parent community! Our PTA has organized some incredible events/experiences for our scholars – Movie Night, Meet The Masters, Walk To School Day, amongst others. Additionally, we will be organizing a Día de los Muertos altar, Trunk or Treat, Holiday Kermes, and much more!

Lastly, we are excited because we are in the process of opening

up a Wellness Room where our scholars will have the opportunity to voluntarily come into a safe environment during their lunch period and engage in positive mental health experiences with our trained school based mental health counselors – Mrs. Chavez and Mr. Rivas.

We are looking forward to an amazing school year! If you are interested in having your child join our exceptional Spanish Immersion program for Transitional Kindergarten/ Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year, please call our office. Our enrollment orientations begin in December.



**Monroe Elementary students and parents participate in Walk to School Day to promote safe driving near schools.**



## Murdy *Elementary School*

14851 Donegal Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6405 • [murdy.ggusd.us](http://murdy.ggusd.us)



**Marcie Griffith**  
*Principal*

### Traditions of Success

The 2022-23 school year is off to a great start at John Murdy Elementary! We are pleased to introduce our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Thao To. He is a wonderful addition to our team. We started this year with our first Mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

It was a great way to celebrate this important cultural holiday and kick off the year. 2022-23 marks the sixth year of our Vietnamese Dual Immersion program, which now includes students in transitional kindergarten through fourth grade. This also marks the 7th year of our Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. We are proud to be a California Distinguished School and excited to move forward in our commitment to provide all our students with a rigorous and

supportive academic experience that will prepare them for future success. To learn more about the wonderful things going on at Murdy Elementary, follow us on Facebook and other social media @murdyelementary.



**Murdy hosted a popular Mid-Autumn Moon Festival which featured several outstanding student performances.**

## Newhope *Elementary School*

4419 W. Regent Dr., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6581 • [newhope.ggusd.us](http://newhope.ggusd.us)



**Tanya Avina**  
*Principal*

### Supporting the Whole Child

Newhope Elementary was excited to welcome back our students including our new Transitional Kindergarten class. Teachers and staff spent the first few weeks focusing on positive behaviors around our three school wide expectations: Respect, Responsibility, and Safety.

Using Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for all students allows us to focus beyond academics, which includes supporting students' motivation, social-emotional wellbeing and fostering a positive school culture and climate. New to Newhope is our school-based social-emotional ASPIRE program which provides individual and group counseling in the areas of self-regulation, emotional support, and conflict resolution in addition to creating school wide lessons that help all students. Recently our students and staff created a post-it mural with kind messages to boost self-esteem and confidence.

In addition, our Newhope team is collaborating with OC GRIP which brings in local police officers to provide positive student mentoring and parent education on what is taking place in the neighborhood and focus on prevention.

This year we are implementing AVID elementary which prepares students for early college and career readiness. Students develop a growth mindset in addition to improving their organizational skills, collaboration with peers, and scholarly habits. Our College and Career Mentoring Program has returned to support sixth grade students with the skills needed to have a successful transition to intermediate school. We are proud to offer so many programs that support our students and families.



**Recently, students created a post-it note mural offering kind messages toward each other.**

## Northcutt *Elementary School*

11303 Sandstone St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/663-6537 • [northcutt.ggusd.us](http://northcutt.ggusd.us)



**Brian Ladd**  
*Principal*

### Upgraded Campus and Wellness Center

Northcutt Elementary scholars are off to a great start this school year with brand new AC units, lighting systems, and an improved, much larger multipurpose room for all of our school events. In addition to these exciting facility upgrades, Northcutt has just opened a new Wellness Center that students can utilize if they are in need of emotional support or just a safe place to calm their nerves. The Wellness Center is designed with the intent to provide all students with a comforting environment where they can learn to manage their emotions. Counselors will be managing the Wellness Center up to four days a week and will also be offering lunch time groups for students who might need additional time to learn important coping or emotional

regulation skills. The students have already toured the space and it is now fully operational and functioning on campus Monday through Thursday. We are extremely excited to have this space to offer social emotional learning for all!



**Sixth grade students take advantage of Northcutt's new Wellness Center.**

## Pacifica *High School*

6851 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6515 • [www.pacificamariners.com](http://www.pacificamariners.com)



**Steve Osborne**  
*Principal*

### SET SAIL at Pacifica High School

Pacifica High School is very proud of its 2022-23 SET SAIL program: Students Engaging in Tutoring, Socio-Emotional Wellness, Academics, Inquiry, and Leadership. The before and after school Pacifica Mariner SET SAIL programs include supervised open access to school facilities such as the library and Media Center, focused course-specific academic tutoring, school wide credit recovery, course-specific unit credit recovery, mental wellness, and college and career readiness and support. We opened the school year with Study Hall before school in the Media Center as well as a three week Algebra 1P Kickstart

academy. Additionally, we are currently offering a 9th Grade Scholarly Habits workshop series, as well as Biology and Physical Science tutoring. The SET SAIL offerings can be viewed at [bit.ly/setsailatphs](https://bit.ly/setsailatphs).



**Pacifica students attend a variety of before and after-school programs to support academic and socio-emotional success.**



## Paine *Elementary School*

15792 Ward St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6118 • [paine.ggusd.us](http://paine.ggusd.us)



**Charise Santana**  
*Principal*

### Roar with Positivity!

Thomas Paine Elementary School has always been committed to teaching and reaching every student, every day. For the 2022-2023 school year, the focus of this commitment has sharpened with the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and

Supports (PBIS) framework. PBIS aims to improve social, emotional, and academic outcomes through setting and teaching schoolwide expectations, positive reinforcements and data collection to make improvements. Paine's new school year began with a strong start to PBIS. School-wide banners and classroom posters defining expectations were prepared, displayed, and reviewed with mini-lessons from teachers. Keeping it simple and memorable, students learned that Paine ROARS when students are Responsible,

Organized, Always Kind, Respectful and Safe. Paine students know what appropriate behavior looks like, sounds like and feels like; no matter where they are on campus. PBIS at Paine is creating a positive school climate in which students learn, grow and thrive!



**Paine students are thrilled to be recognized for meeting school expectations by receiving ROARS tickets and other incentives.**

## Parkview *Elementary School*

12272 Wilken Way, Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6266 • [parkview.ggusd.us](http://parkview.ggusd.us)



**Ryan Baker**  
*Principal*

### Supporting Student Success

Parkview Elementary School students returned for the 2022-23 school year eager to learn and happy to see brand new play structures on both the Kindergarten and Primary yards. In their classrooms, each student found their own Chromebook

or iPad and will be using this technology daily in preparing presentations, reports, experiments and research. This access to technology, and high-quality instruction from their teachers, helps Parkview consistently outperform the county and state averages in both Math and English Language Arts on the annual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) test. In addition to annual academic success, this year will see a focus on student's mental health.

Our Wellness Center was opened in Room 21 and is staffed by licensed counselors ready to help our kids. We are extremely proud of all Parkview teachers and students and look forward to another successful school year!



**Students have fun on the school's new play structures.**

## Patton *Elementary School*

6861 Santa Rita Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92845 • 714/663-6584 • [patton.ggusd.us](http://patton.ggusd.us)



**Kai Chang**  
Principal

### Proud to Join Patton

As the new school principal, I am excited to join the Patton team and the Patton community! This is my first year at Patton and this is my 18th year as an elementary school principal in the Garden Grove Unified School District. I have proudly worked in public education for the

past 26 school years and I have taught many different grade levels at the elementary school level. My multicultural background has always helped provide me with the insight into the challenges and strengths that our culturally



diverse families bring to our schools. It is also my pleasure to share that Patton Elementary School has been recognized by the California Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Systems Coalition. The Patton team has earned this recognition for successful PBIS implementation at the Silver Level. This is the result of our team's continued efforts to develop school safety, positive behavior, and academic success.

## Peters *Elementary School (K - 3)*

13162 Newhope St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6085 • [petersk3.ggusd.us](http://petersk3.ggusd.us)



**Kyle Benham**  
Principal  
K-3

### Engaging Students and Families

Peters K-3 Elementary celebrated a wonderful return to the 2022-23 school year. The first day of school brought anticipation and excitement as parents walked students to classrooms, followed by Back-To-School Night a few days later. All students participated in the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) rollout where the school's expectations of being responsible,

respectful, and safe were explicitly taught in specific areas of the school (hallways, restrooms, playground, lunchroom). Character traits continue to be highlighted, and students are recognized and celebrated at monthly Super Kid Assemblies led by our third-grade student council members. This year, Peters K-3 is excited to offer Mental Health Support for students and a designated Wellness Room five days a week to support the social-emotional needs of all learners. All incoming TK/Kindergarten students received a Panda shirt courtesy of the PTO and Panda Spirit Fridays are in full swing... Go Blue! Students are looking forward to upcoming field trips

with TK/Kindergarten to see "Who Stole Christmas" and first through third graders traveling to Garden Grove High School to see "The Wizard of Oz." The annual pumpkin decorating contest is October 31 and the 3 Screens Assembly is coming in November. Thank you to all who joined the PTO to make all of these special events happen for students. Please be sure to stay up-to-date with the happenings at Peters K-3 by accessing the school website at <https://petersk3.ggusd.us/> and don't forget to read those Parent Square messages.



**Peters K-3 Elementary Student Council members show off their Panda Pride.**



## Peters *Elementary School* (4 - 6)

13200 Newhope St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6070 • [peters46.ggusd.us](http://peters46.ggusd.us)



**Stephen Yoon**  
Principal  
4-6

### Promoting Positivity

We had a terrific start of the new school year here at Peters 4-6! Students came back to school a little taller, with new back-to-school clothes, and with a big smile on their faces ready to learn.

This year, as a way of building a positive school community, we pledged to become a No Place For Hate school promising to treat everyone fairly, with kindness, so that everyone feels safe and happy at school. Rather than being a bystander to bullying, we pledged to stand up to hurtful behavior and support our classmates

by reporting it to a teacher. As part of our pledge, students traced their hand and wrote out their promise to build a positive and inclusive school culture. Together, we all have a “hand” in creating a No Place For Hate School!



**Students create a collage of colorful hands to show their commitment in lending their hand to create a safe No Place for Hate School.**

## Post *Elementary School*

14641 Ward St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/663-6354 • [post.ggusd.us](http://post.ggusd.us)



**Jamie Shippee**  
Principal

### Newly-Enhanced Campus

As the new principal of Post Elementary School, I was excited to welcome our students back for the 2022-23 school year! Over the summer, several campus projects were completed. Students are able to participate in a variety of physical education activities with the new volleyball courts, painted four square and handball courts. The upgraded blacktop allows upper grade students to stay organized during Mindful Mondays with numbered spots for yoga mats. Several classrooms had the opportunity to incorporate upgraded furniture to support student collaboration and academics in the classroom. The playground in the transitional kindergarten/ kindergarten area was upgraded with a new structure and new swings. All of the upgrades support students' social and emotional needs in and out of the classroom. The Post staff and I are dedicated to creating a positive school climate and ensuring all of our students stay safe and have a successful school year.



**Kindergarten students love the new playground equipment!**



## Ralston *Intermediate School*

10851 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6366 • [ralston.ggusd.us](http://ralston.ggusd.us)



**Feather Hocking**  
*Principal*

### Excited for the New Year

Ralston's teachers, staff, and the new Principal and Assistant Principal are excited to welcome back our students for the 2022-2023 school year. We are thrilled to expand and develop programs to meet our students' social, emotional, and

academic needs. Ralston's staff plans to expand our PBIS program to include support for students at all levels of the program. Encouraging and motivating students to be productive, positive scholars to achieve academic success. We will have a variety of clubs and afterschool activities to engage students beyond the school day. We are happy to welcome parents and family members to be involved with Coffee with

the Principals, our English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), School Site Council (SSC), and/or volunteering at our school events. Ralston staff are dedicated to creating a positive school climate, ensuring students are safe, thrive, and are connected to the school.



## Rancho Alamitos *High School*

11351 Dale St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6415 • [www.ranchoalamitoshs.com](http://www.ranchoalamitoshs.com)



**Mary Jane Hibbard**  
*Principal*

### Student Collaboration

Seniors had a unique opportunity to work with their younger peers thanks to the collaboration between Rancho's freshman and senior English teachers. As part of the first unit of study, senior English students researched opportunities they might consider pursuing after high school. Some researched information on colleges such as admissions rates,

tuition, and student life. Others explored various career opportunities including the salary, job expectations, skills required, and training needed. The senior students synthesized their research and created slide presentations. Freshman English students were invited to listen to the presentations as part of a mini College/Career Fair. This event provided seniors an opportunity to improve upon their interpersonal communication skills as the freshmen listened and asked questions. As a result of the collaboration, the freshmen were exposed to a number of new ideas about post-secondary paths they could take after high school.



**Rancho Alamitos High School seniors delivered a College and Career presentation to freshmen students as part of a fun collaboration among students.**



## Riverdale *Tech Academy*

13222 Lewis St., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6563 • [riverdale.ggusd.us](http://riverdale.ggusd.us)



**Chris Ash**  
*Principal*

### Apple Distinguished School

Riverdale Tech Academy has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for its innovative use of the iPad in the classroom and at home. Riverdale has implemented its 1:1 iPad program in which every student, transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, has an iPad to use

at school and home to enhance learning. All teachers have attended professional development and are certified as Apple Teachers. In the classroom, teachers create a learning environment where students feel comfortable showcasing their learning creativity. The iPad is used daily by students to create presentations, publish electronic books, produce movies, design posters, learn to code, and create a weekly news broadcast called Riverdale News. At home, students extend their learning with the iPad with projects that bring families together to learn.

Riverdale's core values of being empowered, innovative, and inspired are the driving forces behind our use of technology. To stay up to date on everything happening at Riverdale Tech Academy, follow us on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook @RiverdaleGGUSD



**Riverdale Tech Academy has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for its 1:1 iPad program.**

## Rosita *Elementary School*

4726 W. Hazard Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92703 • 714/663-6418 • [rosita.ggusd.us](http://rosita.ggusd.us)

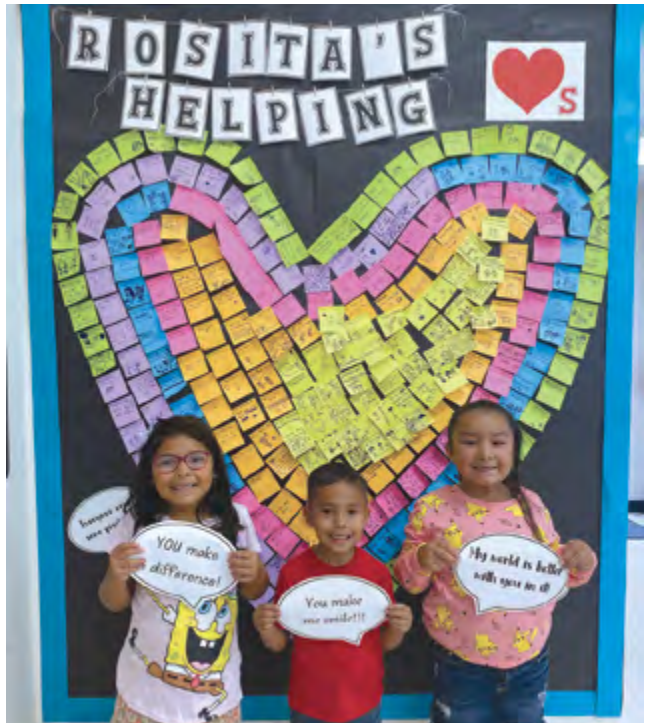


**Cheryl DeLos Reyes-Ruiz**  
*Principal*

### Helping Hearts

Rosita Elementary School has been recognized for successful PBIS implementation at the SILVER level. Our school is a recipient within the California PBIS Coalition's System of Recognition, reflecting excellence in the implementation of the core features of PBIS. Our tier 1 implementation of PBIS has

been successful due to teaming with our ASPIRE Social Workers and creating a "Rosita Helping Hearts" wall located in our MPR. All students TK-6 drew or wrote down positive affirmations promoting encouraging phrases to say to each other to help lift up our Rosita community. Rosita prides itself in creating a positive and welcoming culture and climate to ensure a safe place for our scholars, staff and community to learn. Rosita Roadrunners are proud of our silver recognition!!!



**Students showcase the new Helping Hearts wall and their commitment to kindness toward each other.**

## Russell *Elementary Language Academy*

600 S. Jackson St., Santa Ana, CA 92704 • 714/663-6151 • [russell.ggusd.us](http://russell.ggusd.us)



**Carol Haase**  
*Principal*

### A Multicultural Experience

Russell scholars and families kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating Mexican Independence Day with a school-wide assembly on Sep 16, 2022. Parents and family members were invited to participate in the Grito de Dolores (Cry of Dolores - The Mexican battle cry of war). Those in attendance were treated to many different aspects of Mexican and Latin American heritage. The Latinos Unidos leadership club presented the history of this special day in Spanish and English. They

performed a skit that made students and families laugh as they took on the roles of a grandma, a granddaughter and a grandson. Much to the delight of everyone in attendance, a beautiful Ballet Folklórico performance showcased the grace and strength of the Latin American peoples. As a surprise, each member of the Latinos Unidos, selected someone from the audience to come up and dance “La Raspa” with them. The Assembly concluded with a booming battle cry, the Grito de Dolores. Russell Language Academy prides itself on providing a truly multicultural experience for our scholars. This is just one of the many events designed to expose our scholars to different cultural events and customs.



**Students enjoy the school's Mexican Independence Day Assembly.**

## Santiago *High School*

12342 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6215 • [www.santiagohs.org](http://www.santiagohs.org)



**Christine Pijl**  
*Principal*

### Santiago's Back to School Night

Santiago celebrated an exciting Back to School Night on September 7, 2022. With the help of our parents, various student groups and clubs sold drinks, food, and items to support club funds for upcoming events. Santiago's JROTC, Choir, Band,

Cheerleaders, and Folklorico dancers greeted and entertained our families. Parents had the opportunity to visit each of their students' classes, learn about expectations and grading scales, and learn about academic support. In addition, parents had the chance to meet our counselors and support staff, learn about upcoming parent meetings and free parent education classes, and learn about our extended learning opportunities to support students

academically and socio-emotionally. Raffle tickets were provided to parents in each classroom for drawings at the end of the night. Lucky winners walked home with donated gift cards, Santiago t-shirts and bags, and one lucky student won a 2022-2023 Santiago yearbook.



**Santiago High School showcased its academic support and wonderful extracurricular programs at its Back to School Night.**



## Simmons *Elementary School*

11602 Steele Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6096 • [simmons.ggusd.us](http://simmons.ggusd.us)



**Jaemie Johnson**  
*Principal*

### Music that Inspires

We are so fortunate to be part of a school district that prioritizes not just academics, but the whole child in their endeavor toward a successful future. Our music teachers are part of an award-winning team and they help inspire our students to be their best every day. All Simmons

students participate in weekly classroom music, and upper grade students are offered the opportunity to join choral and instrumental programs during the school day. Studying music is known to support development of lifelong skills, increase academic performance, and provide an outlet for strong mental health and a productive growth mindset. Recently, our instrumental teacher, Mr. Winslow, brought his harp to school to play for students to get them excited about joining the music program this year. For many of our students and staff this was the first time that they had ever seen or heard a harp in real life.



**Mr. Winslow plays the harp to inspire students to join the music program.**

## Skylark *Preschool*

11250 MacMurray Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6336 • [skylark.ggusd.us](http://skylark.ggusd.us)



**Cammy Devereux**  
*Principal*

### Shining a Light on Inclusion

Skylark Preschool shines brighter now that our students are back to school and our special education classes are full-time which has afforded us more opportunities for inclusion on our campus. With fully inclusive recess-time, our students in all programs

are making friends and becoming a school family. Every Monday and Wednesday, squeals of delight can be heard coming from the multipurpose room as our preschoolers enjoy Young Athletes. Taught by GGUSD Adaptive PE teachers Marcia, Enrique and Brittany, Young Athletes is an inclusive physical education program focusing on both gross motor and social skills. Currently students are working on catching skills with scarves, butterfly nets, pom-pom balls, velcro gloves and balloons. With increased inclusion, Skylark Preschool truly shines brighter for all children.



**Nala, wearing her tutu, is dressed for the occasion working on her eye-hand coordination during Young Athletes Class.**

## Stanford *Elementary School*

12721 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6458 • [stanford.ggusd.us](http://stanford.ggusd.us)



**Jamie Wells**  
*Principal*

### Opportunities Abound

Stanford Elementary School provides exciting opportunities for our students. We are proud to be participating in the AVID Elementary Program school wide. Each class focuses on getting students on the path to college and helping them develop study and organizational skills. We're also offering the College and Career Mentoring Program (CCMP) for our sixth graders. CCMP is a special after-school program started by Superintendent Mafi to show students how scholarly habits, motivation, and hard work can lead to future success in life. Our mentors are current college students who previously attended Stanford. They deliver lessons and serve as positive role models and reaffirm the message to all students that college/career success and future life success are attainable goals. Stanford is continuing its participation in the Academic Pentathlon and last year created a Kindness Club. Perhaps most notably,

Stanford Elementary was recognized as a California Pivotal Practice School while also being recognized by US News and World Report as a top elementary school! A schoolwide culture of supporting one another, having a growth mindset, and taking on challenging tasks continues to propel our students to even greater achievements!



**Stanford Elementary sixth graders recently welcomed Superintendent Dr. Gabriela Mafi to campus for a presentation about the new College and Career Mentoring Program.**

## Stanley *Elementary School*

12201 Elmwood St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6484 • [stanley.ggusd.us](http://stanley.ggusd.us)



**Angie Balias**  
*Principal*

### R.O.A.R. with Pride!

At Stanley we take great pride in being Responsible, Organized, Accountable and Ready! We focus on recognizing positive behaviors and celebrating our students as they exemplify these traits in and out of the classroom. Our Stanley scholars and their teachers love to learn. This summer our dedicated teachers attended trainings with the District and UCLA to gain new insights on teaching science with engaging investigations and a wide variety of hands-on activities. Students in grades TK – 6 will gain a better understanding of scientific concepts throughout the year. Our students' learning extends beyond the classroom to our outdoor garden where students can take notes, track growth, and see science in action! Our teachers work closely together to provide lessons that enrich student learning and cultivate lifelong learners. It is clear why Stanley Tigers ROAR with pride!



**Stanley students master new science concepts in the school's outdoor garden.**



## Sunnyside *Elementary School*

9972 Russell Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/663-6158 • [sunnyside.ggusd.us](http://sunnyside.ggusd.us)



**Susie Dollbaum**  
*Principal*

### Platinum Status

At Sunnyside we PBIS! And we PBIS at a PLATINUM level. Congratulations to our amazing staff for implementing the most effective strategies that support students and increase success. We received the highest recognition from the California PBIS Coalition for achieving results – positive relationships, students knowing the procedures and routines, and teachers consistently reinforcing practices. The positive behaviors and supports in place ensure that all students know what is expected of them and the results of their choices. Incentives work to help students make good choices. When students sometimes make a mistake, we work as a team to help each individual think through what happened and provide an opportunity to make the situation right. The consequences are in line with the behavior and are always presented in a way that promotes learning. Each classroom displays the same schoolwide expectations and decision tree. Our acronym SHINE really exemplifies what Sunnyside is about.



**Sunnyside students demonstrate how to quietly carry their books from the library to their classrooms.**

## Violette *Elementary School*

12091 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6203 • [violette.ggusd.us](http://violette.ggusd.us)



**Sarah Van Dam**  
*Principal*

### Violette Expectations

Violette Elementary School has been awarded a Silver Award by the California PBIS Coalition for excellence in implementing PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). Our Viking expectations are We are Responsible, We are Respectful, and We are Kind. All school community members receive instruction and support to meet these expectations. Positive reinforcements include Super You tickets which are entered in a raffle at each monthly Viking Assembly and Class Dojo points which can be redeemed at the online Viking Store. Staff members regularly send "Happy Mail" home to inform the grown-ups of the great things our students are doing. Our behavior support team, consisting of our School Psychologist, School

Social Worker, Mental Health Specialist, Principal, and behavior support aides, meets monthly to evaluate the current needs of students and teachers. Our after school PEERS class offers social skills support for students as well. We are proud of our accomplishments!



**SSA Eva is distributing Super You awards to students who have been meeting the Violette Expectations: We are Responsible, We are Respectful, We are Kind on the playground.**

# Virtual Learning Academy

11262 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6291 • [vla.ggusd.us](http://vla.ggusd.us)



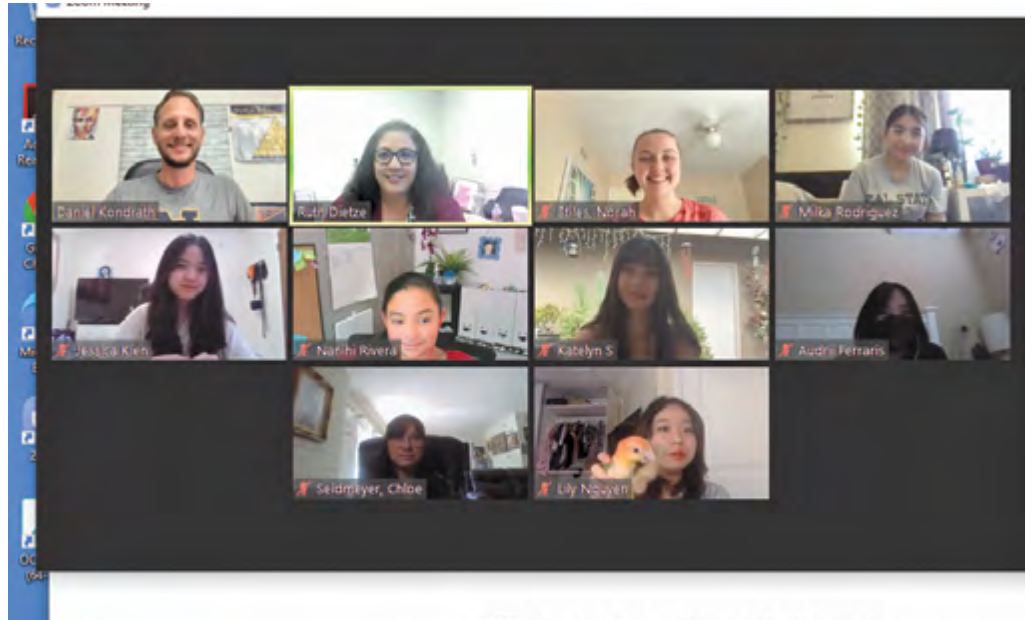
**Ruth Dietze**  
*Principal*

## Virtual Learning and Engagement

The Virtual Learning Academy students and staff are off to a great start! We held our first virtual Spirit Assembly where we celebrated our great start to

the year, participated in a Zoom activity and presented awards to our outstanding VLA scholars. It was great to get together as a large group to show our Phoenix Spirit and celebrate our students' success. Our Leadership club was introduced and they led an activity at the 7-12 assembly. They are busy planning more activities for the month of October which include a pumpkin carving

contest, community service projects, and mentoring our elementary VLA students. As you can see, we are off to another fantastic start at VLA!



**GGUSD's Virtual Learning Academy finds creative and fun ways to keep students engaged with school.**

## Wakeham *Elementary School*

7772 Chapman Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6407 • [wakeham.ggusd.us](http://wakeham.ggusd.us)



**Sarah Mershon**  
*Principal*

## Supporting Students

Wakeham Wildcats are so excited to be back in school! Our programs are up and running, and we look forward to a great year. We are developing our Wellness Room and staffing it daily with

counselors to support our students and staff. Our school library has gone through an overhaul. Under the direction of our new librarian and hundreds of new books, our students are experiencing the joy of borrowing, reading, and returning books. Teachers and staff are hard at work providing interventions and extension opportunities through classroom

instruction, extended day programs, and recess activities. Wakeham parents are excited to be back on campus. They are making decisions to improve the safety of our school, as well as organizing family events at Wakeham Elementary!



**Students are enjoying story time in the school's newly-enhanced library.**



## Walton *Intermediate School*

12181 Buaro St., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6040 • [walton.ggusd.us](http://walton.ggusd.us)



**Abbie Stirone**  
*Principal*

### Building Home School Connection

On September 15th, Walton Intermediate hosted its first Family Education and Fun Night. This quarter's focus was building parents' and students' capacity with using Parent

Portal and Google Classroom. Parents and guardians learned the different features on Parent Portal and how the progress tracking tool correlates with assignments on Google classroom. Parents were excited to learn about the "to-do" list on Google and how to set up weekly notifications on Aeries. After the education session, Walton families were then treated to a night of fun starting with nachos and root beer floats. To encourage ongoing communication and interaction with their children, parents were invited to participate in lawn games. Families enjoyed playing giant checkers, Jenga, badminton, soccer and bag toss. This family event is one of several quarterly events Walton is committed to hosting to build and strengthen the home school connection. The goal is to inform and have fun!



**Families enjoy playing giant Jenga at Walton's Family Education and Fun Night.**

## Warren *Elementary School*

12871 Estock Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/663-6331 • [warren.ggusd.us](http://warren.ggusd.us)



**Chris Holland**  
*Principal*

### N.E.H.S. Mentors

Warren is proud to have an active chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). NEHS is built upon four pillars, Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service. Each of our NEHS members have

maintained a GPA of 3.5, and receives all O's on their report cards. Warren's NEHS scholars have committed to giving back to the community by creating a student led mentoring program. Fifth and sixth grade scholars,



working with the principal and school staff, identify primary students who are in need of a mentor. NEHS scholars then meet with their mentees multiple times per week and support them with peer relationships, academics, as well as scholarly habits. Our mentoring program made such an impact in the 21/22 school year, that our NEHS scholars are already implementing it in the 22/23 school year.

## Woodbury *Elementary School*

11362 Woodbury Rd., Garden Grove, CA 92843 • 714/663-6461 • [woodbury.ggusd.us](http://woodbury.ggusd.us)



**Chris Francis**  
*Principal*

### Running toward Success

Woodbury is excited to be participating in the national 100 Mile Club again this school year! 100 Mile Club is centered around increasing childhood physical fitness by creating a fun and rewarding environment for running.

In addition to exercise, students build goal setting skills, resiliency, and a growth mindset as they accomplish goals they previously thought impossible. We know that students who run with us are healthier, happier and more connected to the school environment. Students who participate in the program are rewarded with an incentive at key milestones. On Thursdays it is great to see the students wear their 100 Mile Club

t-shirts proudly. Every month we celebrate 100 Mile Club achievement at our monthly Tiger PRIDE Assemblies. While it is a true team effort across the board, we give a big thanks to Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Hofer for coordinating the program. Run Tigers run!



**Woodbury students enjoy regular running with the school's 100 Mile Club!**

## Zeyen *Elementary School*

12081 Magnolia St., Garden Grove, CA 92841 • 714/663-6535 • [zeyen.ggusd.us](http://zeyen.ggusd.us)



**Gary Gerstner**  
*Principal*

### Taking Pride in School Community

We have enjoyed a great start to the new school year. Students came ready to learn and ready to do their best. Each student was welcomed by the principal and teachers as they entered the school

grounds. This year our students will be treated with a new playground and several new programs. We are kicking the year off with the free Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program where all of our students have the opportunity to receive a fruit or vegetable during their recess. In addition, authentic writing will be celebrated at our bi-monthly Author's Tea and million-word readers will be recognized during announcements and receive a t-shirt. Our students are proud of the school, their collective learning, and their community.







**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

well-intentioned warnings about drugs and peer pressure from adults. But our kids are listening. As we continue to model vigilance, I urge all Orange County families to look for teachable moments to talk to their children about fentanyl and the dangers of taking drugs from anyone other than a licensed medical professional.

These conversations will vary by age, but even young children can benefit from regular check-ins to dialogue about the pressures they're experiencing at school or what they're hearing from their peers. Regular chats can also serve as a baseline to track changes in a child's state of mind.

The fentanyl-related trends we're seeing are disturbing and disheartening, but they are not irreversible. When unified, millions of Orange County voices are powerful enough to communicate that we won't tolerate this poison in our communities and that one life lost is too many.

## Tyson's Book Review



**Tyson**

### Never Give Up

*Touchdown Kid* by Tim Green

Cory is an awesome football player from the Westside. He is 11 years old and is just moving into middle school, along with his friend, Liam. A well-known coach from HBS, an elite junior high school, is giving a scholarship to a player he thinks is good enough to play football there. If Cory gets it, he will get to live in a nice neighborhood with a host family in a cozy home, and play football, his passion. His best friend's brother isn't the nicest guy and pulls him into trouble. If he is late, he won't play. What will he do? This is his dream. Find out more about this crazy adventure and read *Touchdown Kid*. This book is great and pulls me in. I can relate a lot to this book and if you're an athlete, you'll love it. I'm not much of a bookworm and I rate it 5 out of 5 stars!



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

## Football 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put GGUSD in the subject line)



Entries must be received by **December 15, 2022**

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

Clipping	Personal Foul
Coach	Possession
Conversion	Quarterback
Cornerback	Roughing
Defense	Safety
Field Goal	Scrimmage
Flanker	Special Teams
Goal Post	Super Bowl
Interference	Tackle
Kicker	Tailback
Linebacker	Touchdown
Loss of Down	Yardage
Offsides	



**Congratulations to Jacqueline Mendez Winner of the May Word Search Contest!**



# Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop  
Illustrated by Melanie Florio



NOW AVAILABLE ON  
**AMAZON &  
BARNES AND NOBLE**

*Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?* Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.