

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the La Habra City School District



Volume 9, Issue 25

October 2022



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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AT LA HABRA: KIDS COOKING CLASS  
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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: MINI MONSTERS DANCE PARTY  
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## Opening our Schools for Student Success



**Dr. Mario A. Carlos**  
*Superintendent*

The beginning weeks of a new school year always bring great excitement as we start to set our routines, establish a positive school culture, and create safe and caring learning environments. Our staff is working diligently to challenge our students academically and nurture them to become their best, now and for the future. We are partnering with our families to work together to support, mentor, and guide our students to success.

We are fully aware that difficulties both academically and socially may arise

throughout the school year. Working together with a positive mindset and support for our students will help our scholars overcome these challenges and help to build resilient future leaders.

We thank you in advance for communicating with your children about your academic and behavioral expectations for their success this year. Take the time to talk to your children after school to ask how school is going for them. The lines of communication with our principals, teachers, and staff are open if any challenges or concerns present themselves. This year we welcome you to join us to “Think Big and Shine Bright” for our students’ success!



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

### Welcome Back to a New School Year

Superintendent Dr. Mario A. Carlos begins this issue with his message on page 3 highlighting the importance of communication. (Our *School News* motto is Education+Communication=A Better Nation.)

As you read the articles in this issue you can feel the excitement of students being back in the classroom.

We've included our popular student book reviews on page 11. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for specifics.

This is our 9th year collaborating with the La Habra City School District. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is February 8, 2022.



## School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
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# School Readiness

301 W. Las Lomas Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2386

[www.lahabraschools.org](http://www.lahabraschools.org)



**Debbye Viveros**  
Coordinator

## Early Learning

Early Learning is building strong children and families through an emphasis on improving student's communication through play. Our children and families had an amazing start to the new school year! Our preschool students are back in their

classrooms working hard on their individual goals. They are learning with their

friends about the routines of school. It is so exciting to see how much they have grown!

School Readiness has moved to Walnut Elementary School and is available to the children and families of La Habra. Our free classes are offered virtually and in-person daily to support families in nurturing the whole child. Be sure to visit our calming corner in the classroom to learn strategies that support your child's social emotional development.

Over fifty families started our Readiness on the Road program located at

Hillcrest Health and Wellness Center. Ms. Adriana provides engaging music and movement activities to support children's gross motor development through rhythm and rhyme. Families are able to access important community resources and the food pantry after class.

Our Early Learning children and families are shining bright this year!



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## Arbolita (TK—6) Visual & Performing Arts Academy

1001 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2352 • [www.lahabraschools.org/arbolyta](http://www.lahabraschools.org/arbolyta)



**Jennifer McCully Rodriguez**  
Principal

### A Magical Opening to School

Another successful start to the school year!! The staff and students of Arbolita Visual and Performing Arts Academy are excited to get back to learning. The evening before school started, our families gathered together to Chalk the Walk, leaving inspiring messages for our students on the sidewalks leading up to school for the first day!! Even our alumni joined the fun! On the first day of school, Arbolita staff rolled out the red

carpet for our students, and showing their commitment maintaining that fun and positive atmosphere.

This year, we are focusing on Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures to help increase engagement in the classroom. Arbolita teachers are also emphasizing on our school wide focus which is writing, specifically “Arbolita students will communicate using precise academic language in order to demonstrate understanding and transfer to evidence-based conversations and writing tasks.” To help our staff with this project, we are receiving training in Fetzer writing strategies. We are so excited for all the learning this year!



**Arbolita staff rolled out the red carpet for our students to return to school!**

## El Cerrito (TK—6) Code to the Future (Computer Science)

1051 N. Hillside, La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2340 • [www.lahabraschools.org/elcerrito](http://www.lahabraschools.org/elcerrito)



**Deanna Putnam**  
Principal

### Look out 2022-2023 School Year!

Here come the El Cerrito Scotties! This school year El Cerrito Elementary is looking forward to building relationships with our community. We are providing many opportunities for students and families to make connections and have fun. El

Cerrito has sponsored many events in order to provide outreach to our families. From ice cream socials to food giveaway opportunities, the community has and will have many opportunities to gain access to our school's resources. We want our students and families to know that we are all part of a school family.

We are pleased to introduce our new principal Deanna Putnam to the La Habra Community. Mrs. Putnam has been with the La Habra City School District for 28 years and attended El Cerrito as a child. She looks forward to working with the El Cerrito School family in this new role.



**El Cerrito Elementary is building relationships and making connections with the La Habra Community!**

# Imperial (6—8) International Baccalaureate & Visual Performing Arts

1450 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2344 • [www.lahabraschools.org/imperial](http://www.lahabraschools.org/imperial)



**Erik Bagger**  
Principal

## Accomplishing the Mission Impossible

Imperial Middle School kicked off the school year with the theme of “Mission Possible!” The mission was to get back to doing all the things that make middle school a fun and engaging environment for students. Since none of our students have gone through a normal school year at IMS, families and students were challenged to find all the different ways they can get involved at school and get back to high levels of learning.

Last Spring, IMS celebrated its official authorization as an IB world school and in August, IMS was notified that it had achieved Silver recognition from the California PBIS coalition. These awards signify that IMS is focused on higher levels of learning in a safe environment. Since the adoption of the IB middle years’ program, IMS has seen a steady increase in student test scores since 2015 growing the number of students reaching proficiency by over 140% in English and Math. Science achievement has also doubled since 2019.

Since the start of the school year, IMS has seen tremendous growth in student and parent involvement. Our PTA involvement has soared with a 300% increase in

membership from last year. Our first ASB sponsored dance was attended by over 300 students which represents two thirds of the school population. Imperial Middle School is well on its way to accomplishing the mission possible.



## Ladera Palma (TK—6) Dual Immersion Academy

2151 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2348 • [www.lahabraschools.org/laderapalma](http://www.lahabraschools.org/laderapalma)



**Dr. Rosa Murillo**  
Principal

## Dual Immersion Academy

Welcome y Bienvenidos to the 2022-23 school year! At Ladera Palma Dual Immersion Academy, we are excited to have



such a large community of bilingual, bi-literate and bicultural learners. This year, we are thrilled to be able to offer TK to 6th grade classrooms.

Since returning from the summer break, our school has been a whirlwind of activities to welcome back our students and families. Kinder and TK Orientation gave students an opportunity to meet their teachers and gave our parents a brief orientation on procedures and protocols for our youngest students. The first day of school was a wonderful success with the entire school community pitching in to make sure it was a happy day for all! Back to School Night was packed with families where PTA and several community partners were in attendance to provide resources and information to support our families.

Since the start of the new school year, our students have learned so much already like our PBIS behavioral expectations and rewards. Learning in TWO languages can be challenging but our students and teachers are making it happen, and we are eager to continue this positive educational journey into the school year.



# Las Lomas (TK—6) Entrepreneur Exploration & Music/Art

301 Las Lomas Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2353 • [www.lahabraschools.org/laslomas](http://www.lahabraschools.org/laslomas)



## Creating Opportunities for Student Success

The Las Lomas staff were so excited to welcome our students back to a new school year!

**Pam Cunningham**  
Principal

Academic success and positive social emotional learning for all of our students continues to be a focus as we begin the year. All our teachers started off the year by reviewing student data to design high quality lessons that engage the students in the learning process and promote the important deep learning skills of character, citizenship, collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. In partnership with our wonderful PTA we have been able to provide a balance of fun and informative events to help our families become an



**Differentiated Instruction – 5th Grade, Mrs. Goellrich**

integral part of their child's academic success and school community. We are off to a fantastic start!

# Las Positas (TK—5) International Baccalaureate

1400 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2356 • [www.lahabraschools.org/laspositas](http://www.lahabraschools.org/laspositas)



## Las Positas Lion's Market

Las Positas is an IB PYP World School, and one of our missions is to develop caring, compassionate, and active global citizens who take local actions. On Monday, September 19th, the 5th grade team partnered with The Gary Center in providing a Las Positas Lion's Market demonstrating a perfect example of the IB motto: "Think Globally, Act Locally." Thanks to their generous donations and the concerted efforts of the 5th grade team, Las Positas' students shopped and filled their bags with a variety of items. The fifth grade students will continue to host the monthly market throughout the school year setting up the items and helping younger students shop.

This school year, IB learners will experience first-hand the importance of helping others. We plan to have students help pack backpacks to give out to other community groups. We hope to spark caring advocates who show compassion by helping others!





## Sierra Vista (TK—6) College Pathways-No Excuses & Music/Art Exploration

1800 E. Whittier Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2359 • [www.lahabraschools.org/sierravista](http://www.lahabraschools.org/sierravista)



**Anna Rosales**  
Principal

### A New Look for Sierra Vista Elementary

Sierra Vista Elementary welcomed over 400 families this school year onto our college/career bound campus. Families and students were greeted by a new look to our classrooms and our indoor and outdoor learning spaces. Here are some of the changes:

we updated some of our classrooms, integrating flexible seating and varied options in which to learn. Then we proceeded to our hallways and exteriors, creating visual reminders of what is expected while on campus, while also incorporating unique outdoor learning spaces for students and small groups. All these options offered indoor and outdoor learning support to ALL of our students and their individual learning styles and needs. We then moved onto our shared learning spaces, such as our library, with varied seating options and filled with our school focused goal setting.

Finally, the part the students seem to love the most, our new outdoor play areas, where during our students' recess and lunch times, they can engage in physical activities while working on social skills. All these new changes to our learning environment have not only impacted the physical look of our campus, but have lead us on a road to build student success!



## Walnut (TK—6) STEAM Academy/AVID

625 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2369 • [www.lahabraschools.org/walnut](http://www.lahabraschools.org/walnut)



**Dr. Alma Noche**  
Principal

### Off to a Great Start

Walnut STEAM Academy began the school year by involving both students and their families. The staff welcomed families a few days before school officially began with the Annual Meet the Teacher event. This event allowed parents and students to step on campus, find their classroom, and meet their teacher. This practice, that has been implemented in the past few years,

lowered the anxiety level for many students as they were able to meet their teachers and prepare themselves for the upcoming school year. Teachers prepared their students by passing out school supplies or a supplies list. Other teachers gave encouraging messages to their students with a small trinket to enjoy. Some teachers communicated different ways that families can connect with them on a daily basis. This event set the tone for the year by showing families that Walnut STEAM Academy wants to partner to ensure student success.



# Washington (7-8) Project Lead the Way/Engineering/Music

716 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/960-2374 • [www.lahabraschools.org/washington](http://www.lahabraschools.org/washington)



**Greg White**  
Principal

## An Exciting Journey Ahead

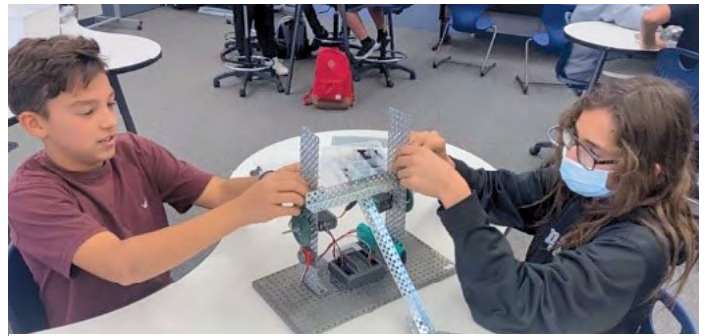
Exciting changes are afoot here at Washington Middle School this school year! Enhancing our science and technology strand, and we added two periods of Esports to our schedule. We are remodeling and modernizing our Esports and Project Lead the Way computer labs, and simultaneously building a studio with digital editing equipment for our visual communication class.

We added a third dual language immersion (DLI) class in science to our core classes for our DLI students. Now all of our DLI students have a 50/50 language model offered in English and Spanish.

Our Visual and Performing Arts are thriving. We now offer advanced theater arts and intermediate band as these programs continue to grow. Our theater arts program is in the process of joining the International Thespian Society.

These enhancements will help our students find a place to belong and excel at WMS!

We invite you to join us in this exciting journey!



**Theater Arts and Project Lead the Way**



## Orange County Department of Education



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

Back to school season has begun, and while the last few years have taught us valuable lessons about making predictions, it is noteworthy that this is the first new school year since 2019 to start without strict requirements for face coverings or contact tracing, bringing us closer to a more traditional school experience.

Moving forward, we must continue to be mindful of the less visible impacts of the pandemic, and our schools are well-equipped to do this. As students return, we know that many will be in need of accelerated learning, social-emotional interventions, counseling and access to wrap-around mental health services.

School employees who have been on the front lines also need support, stability and grace. And of course our families need expanded learning opportunities, robust communication from their schools and districts, and access to resources.

Certainly the last school year posed extraordinary challenges, and no two experiences were quite the same. Many of our students, families and school employees endured illness, disruption and personal loss on a scale that is unimaginable. Yet we also heard incredible stories of resilience, innovation and achievement in 2022.

At Westminster High School, for example, four students who were concerned about declining bee colonies were honored for their proposal to create a probiotic that can strengthen bees against insecticides. Earlier in the year, our own OCDE educators set up schools for about 60 newly arrived Afghan children whose families were forced to flee their home country after assisting U.S. troops or holding other positions that compromised their safety.

In districts and charter schools across the county, our students earned county, state and national recognition for devising solutions to real-world problems. They produced mental health videos, built highly innovative smartphone apps, designed electric vehicles, partnered with industry leaders for work-based learning opportunities, and expressed themselves through the visual and performing arts.

The success stories are too numerous to list here, but I would be remiss in not mentioning that two of California's five Teachers of the Year for 2022 were from Orange County, as were four of the state's top nine Classified School Employees of the Year.

Although this past school year tested us in so many ways, I am beyond proud of our schools for continuing to provide exceptional experiences for students and opportunities for them to shine. As we head into another fall, the sky's the limit on what we can accomplish together. Let's take care of one another and make it a great year.

## Aubtin's Review



**Aubtin M.**

### Teamwork

Title: *Thomas & Friends – Day of the Diesels*

Author: Christopher Awdry

On the Island of

Sodor, Thomas the tank engine and Percy the small engine are best friends. When Belle; the fire engine comes, she becomes Thomas's new friend.

Percy feels very left out. Percy goes to the Diesel Works to see if the Diesels want to make friends with him. Percy leads the Diesels to the Steam Works, when he discovers that Thomas is held prisoner in the Diesel Works. What will happen to Thomas? Will Percy save him? I recommend you read this book to see what happens.

I learned about friendship, teamwork and cooperation from this book. I hope you will too. You will find great pictures in this book.



Aubtin is a 1st Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, and music. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

## Penny's Review



**Penny**

### A Wish Gone Awry

Book Title: *Best Wishes*

Author: Sarah Mlynowski

Becca is having a terrible day. Her best friend Harper decided that she didn't want to be friends with her. But after her terrible day, a mysterious package

arrives for Becca in the mail. It turns out to be a bracelet with magic powers. Becca wishes that she could have a lot of friends, and the bracelet makes her wish come true. But then everybody wants to be her friend. The kids in her class, the teacher, even her mom! Everyone who reads this book will laugh at all the funny adventures and twists that this book has.

I give it a ten out of ten hearts.

Penny is a 5th grader who loves to read. She enjoys eating ice cream and petting her dog. She wants to be a librarian when she grows up.



## Yoona's Review



**Yoona C.**

### Friendships

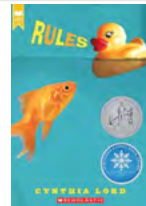
Title: *Rules*

Author: Cynthia Lord

Catherine is a 12 year old girl that is talented in drawing. She has a brother named David.

David is diagnosed with autism. David and Catherine's mom would go to OT. Catherine would sometimes come to. That's

where Catherine met a friend called Jason. Jason is a teenage boy in a wheelchair that can't talk. They first meet when Catherine is bored and draws Jason. Jason catches her and tells his mom with his communication book. Jason's mom gets angry, but that soon leads to Catherine making word cards for Jason. Catherine also meets another person named Kristi. Kristi is a "cool" girl as said by Catherine. At first, Catherine is embarrassed to tell Kristi she has a brother that has autism and a friend who is in a wheelchair. Will Catherine learn to value good friendships? Will she find out what is truly important to her? Read to find out!



Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

## Daniel's Review



**Daniel H.**

### Dragon Masters

In *Fortress of the Stone Dragon* (Dragon Masters #17) an evil wizard named Astrid is trying to rule the world and someone must stop her! Dragon Masters Drake and Mina, with their dragons Frost and

Worm, must get to another Dragon Master, Caspar, and his dragon Shaka (the Stone Dragon) to get help to defeat Astrid. This story had a lot of action, dragons, and magic. I really liked this book because it was fun to read. You should read this too!

Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.



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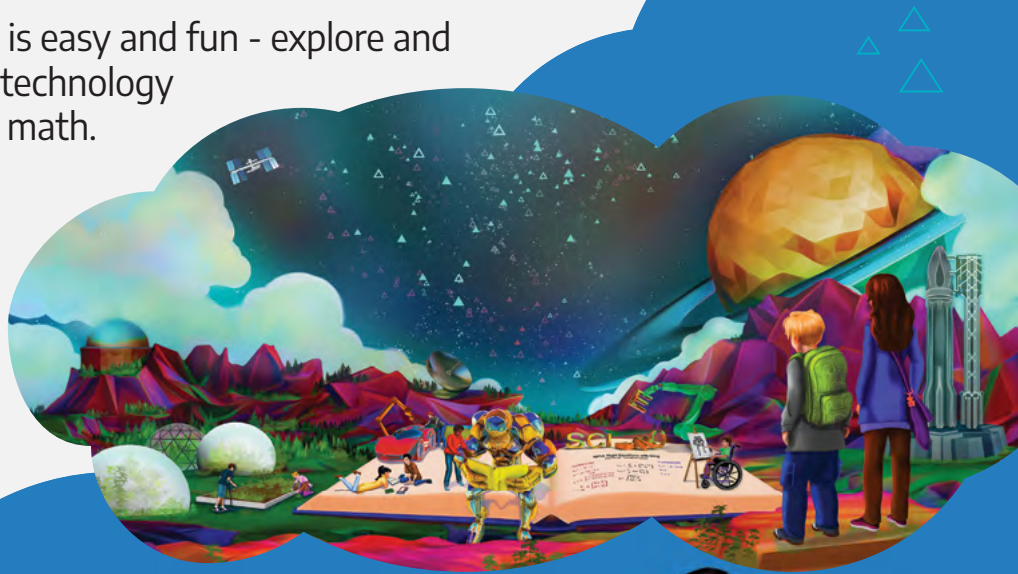
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