

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Little Lake City School District**



Volume 8, Issue 24

November 2022

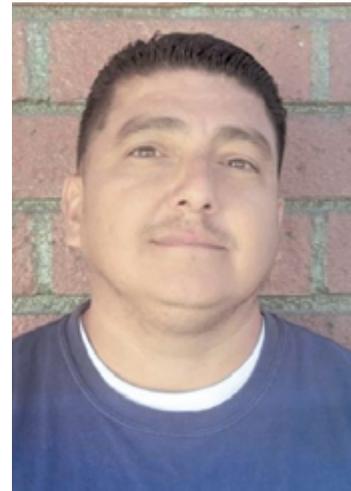
## Congratulations!

**Teacher of the Year  
Maestra del Año**



**Gicela Segura**

**Classified Employee of the Year  
Empleado Clasificado del Año**



**Aaron Trigo**

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## Dear Little Lake Families:

As we settle into autumn and prepare for the upcoming holidays, it's hard to believe that we are already at the end of the first trimester of the 2022-2023 school year. Thanks to everyone who is a part of our Little Lake School District community and who made the first three months of school a success. Our teachers and staff worked hard to welcome our students back to campus in August. We were excited to host Back to School nights at each school in September, where parents had the opportunity to learn what to expect this year. In October we held parent conferences that allowed families the opportunity to speak one-on-one with their child's teacher. During the last week of October our schools also participated in fun activities as they celebrated both Red Ribbon Week and Halloween.

As the end of the first trimester comes to a close and we enter into trimester II, I want to sincerely thank you for your continued support and engagement in your student's education. We are eager to see what successes this next part of the school year will bring. Should you have any questions or concerns throughout this school year, please do not hesitate to call the District Office at (562) 868-8241.

## Estimadas Familias de Little Lake



**Dr. Bill Crean**  
*Superintendent*

A medida que avanzamos en el Otoño y nos preparamos para los días festivos que están por venir, es difícil creer que ya estamos al final del primer trimestre del año escolar 2022-2023. Gracias a todos los que forman parte de nuestra comunidad del Distrito Escolar Little Lake y que lograron que los primeros tres meses de clases fueran un éxito. Nuestros maestros y personal trabajaron arduamente para darle la bienvenida a nuestros estudiantes al plantel escolar el pasado mes de Agosto. Nos entusiasmó organizar las Noches de Regreso a Clases en cada escuela en el mes

de Septiembre, donde los padres tuvieron la oportunidad de conocer lo que se espera este año escolar. En Octubre, llevamos a cabo conferencias para padres que permitieron a las familias la oportunidad de hablar personalmente con el maestro de su hijo. Durante la última semana de Octubre, nuestras escuelas también participaron en actividades divertidas al celebrar la Semana del Listón Rojo y Halloween.

Conforme nos acercamos al final del primer trimestre y entramos en el segundo trimestre, quiero agradecerles sinceramente por su continuo apoyo y participación en la educación de sus estudiantes. Estamos ansiosos por ver qué éxitos traerá esta próxima parte del año escolar. Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud durante este año escolar, no dude en llamar a la Oficina del Distrito al (562) 868-8241.



## Teacher of the Year Gicela Segura

The Little Lake City School District employs an outstanding staff of highly qualified and experienced teachers and classified staff members. Each day, they arrive at their classrooms or work locations prepared to perform according to district beliefs: Students First! Results Matter! and Whatever It Takes! It is my honor to highlight for readers of School News two of our district employees: Teacher of the Year, Gicela Segura and Classified Employee of the Year, Aaron Trigo.

Gicela Segura began her teaching career here in the Little Lake City School District in 2004 as a fourth-grade teacher at Lakeland Elementary School. The following year Gicela moved to teaching fifth grade. In 2007 Gicela became a third-grade teacher where she remained for the following 13 years. Gicela is currently entering her second year as the Lakeland Site TOSA (Teacher On Special Assignment), a position that allows Gicela the opportunity to support all teachers at Lakeland. In her 18 years here in the district, Gicela has distinguished herself as a highly skilled classroom teacher as well as a trusted teacher leader. Gicela is very passionate about what she does, believing that all students should be provided with the opportunity to strive and succeed at school and in life. As both a classroom teacher and current site TOSA, Gicela believes that enjoyment of learning is not simply a long-term goal, it is an everyday occurrence.

If one were to visit the district and ask about Gicela, one would hear comments such as, “She is a leader and a go to person for the staff.” “She is highly organized, prepared and ready to work.” “She always has fresh new ideas to encourage teachers.” “She is always ready to tackle anything that is put in front of her.” “She cares deeply about her student’s academic success and emotional well-being.” “She is a pleasure to work with.” “She always puts students first.” We are all proud to have Gicela represent the Little Lake City School District as the 2022 Teacher of the Year.



## Maestra del Año Gicela Segura

El Distrito Escolar Little Lake City cuenta con un sobresaliente equipo de maestros y de personal clasificado, altamente capacitados y con amplia experiencia. Cada día, llegan a sus salones de clase o lugares de trabajo preparados para desempeñarse de acuerdo con los ideales del distrito: ¡Los Estudiantes Primero! ¡Los Resultados Importan! y ¡Hacer lo que sea necesario! Es un honor para mí presentar ante los lectores de Noticias Escolares a dos de nuestros empleados del distrito: Maestra del Año, Gicela Segura y Empleado Clasificado del Año, Aaron Trigo.

Gicela Segura comenzó su carrera como maestra aquí en el Distrito Escolar

Little Lake City en el año 2004, como maestra de cuarto grado en la Escuela Primaria Lakeland. Al año siguiente, Gicela pasó a enseñar quinto grado. En 2007, Gicela se convirtió en maestra de tercer grado, posición en la que permaneció durante los siguientes 13 años. Actualmente, Gicela está iniciando su segundo año como TOSA (Maestra en Asignación Especial) de la escuela Lakeland, una posición que le permite a Gicela tener la oportunidad de apoyar a todos los maestros en Lakeland. En sus 18 años aquí en el distrito, Gicela se ha distinguido como una maestra de clase altamente capacitada, así como también como una maestra líder de confianza. A Gicela le apasiona mucho lo que hace, y considera que todos los estudiantes deben tener la oportunidad de esforzarse y tener éxito en la escuela y en la vida. Como maestra de clases y actual TOSA, Gicela cree que disfrutar del aprendizaje no es simplemente una meta a largo plazo, es algo que se da todos los días.

Si uno visitara el distrito y preguntara por Gicela, escucharía comentarios como: “Ella es una líder y una persona a quien acudir para el resto del personal”. “Es altamente organizada, preparada y lista para trabajar”. “Siempre tiene nuevas ideas para motivar a los maestros”. “Siempre está lista para enfrentar cualquier cosa que se le presente”. “Ella se preocupa profundamente por el éxito académico y el bienestar emocional de sus estudiantes”. “Es un placer trabajar con ella”. “Ella siempre pone a los estudiantes primero”. Todos estamos muy orgullosos de que Gicela represente al Distrito Escolar Little Lake City como Maestra del Año 2022.

## Congratulations Gicela Segura

## **Classified Employee of the Year Aaron Trigo**

Little Lake's Classified Employee of the Year is Aaron Trigo. Aaron joined the Little Lake City School District in 2006 as a Substitute Custodian. He later moved into the position of Warehouse Delivery Driver in 2008. In September 2021 Aaron moved into his current position of Warehouse Worker. Aaron also has the pleasure of working in LLCSD with his family. Aaron's wife, Monica Trigo, is a teacher at Lake Center Middle School and Aaron and Monica's two daughters attend Lakeview Elementary School. Although Aaron is a very quiet and humble individual, he has established himself as a valued and trusted member within his department as well as throughout the district at the many school sites and departments that he works with.

If one were to visit the district and ask about Aaron, one would hear comments such as, "He pays attention to detail." "He takes initiative on projects." "He goes above and beyond what is expected of him." "He knows how to adapt and is always a team player." "He knows the ins and outs of what is needed to successfully do his job." "He is always looking for ways to be more efficient." "He is well respected by each of the school sites." We are all proud to have Aaron represent the Little Lake City School District as the 2022 Classified Employee of the Year.

The Little Lake City School District is extremely fortunate to have employees of the caliber of Gicela Segura and Aaron Trigo. Both serve as worthy representatives of our proud district.



## **Empleado Clasificado del Año Aaron Trigo**

El empleado clasificado del año de Little Lake es Aaron Trigo. Aaron se integró al Distrito Escolar Little Lake City en el año 2006 como Conserje Sustituto. Más tarde ocupó el puesto de Conductor de Entregas del Almacén en 2008. En Septiembre de 2021, Aaron pasó a ocupar su puesto actual de Trabajador del Almacén. Aaron también tiene el placer de trabajar en LLCSD con su familia. La esposa de Aaron, Monica Trigo, es maestra en la escuela intermedia Lake Center y las dos hijas de Aaron y Monica asisten a la escuela primaria Lakeview. Aunque Aaron es una persona muy tranquila y humilde, se ha posicionado como un miembro

confiable y valioso dentro de su departamento, así como en todo el distrito en las distintas escuelas y departamentos con los que trabaja.

Si uno visitara el distrito y preguntara por Aaron, escucharía comentarios como: "Él presta atención a cada detalle". "Toma la iniciativa en los proyectos". "Va más allá de lo que se espera de él". "Sabe adaptarse y sabe trabajar en equipo". "Él conoce las particularidades de lo que se necesita para hacer su trabajo con éxito". "Siempre está buscando maneras de ser más eficiente". "Es muy respetado en todos y cada uno de los planteles escolares". Todos estamos orgullosos de que Aaron represente al Distrito Escolar Little Lake City como el Empleado Clasificado del Año 2022.

El Distrito Escolar Little Lake City es sumamente afortunado de contar con empleados del nivel de Gicela Segura y Aaron Trigo. Ambos son dignos representantes de nuestro orgulloso distrito.

## **Congratulations Aaron Trigo**

## Board of Education



**Hilda Zamora**  
*President*



**Manuel Cantu**  
*Vice President*



**Gina Ramirez**  
*Clerk*



**Gabriel Jimenez**  
*Member*



**Janet Rock**  
*Member*

Our goal, as the Board of Trustees in the Little Lake City School District, is to provide our students with a quality education that ensures their success.

Hilda Zamora, board president, was first appointed to the Little Lake City School District Board in July 2001 to fill a vacancy. She later ran for a Board seat and was elected in November 2001. Her current term expires in 2022. Her previous Board experience included serving as president, vice president, and clerk. She has been a resident of the district for 40 years and all six of her children attended Little Lake City schools, as did her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Mrs. Zamora also served on the district's Bilingual Advisory Council as a trainer. She was also nominated as a City of Santa Fe Springs, Citizen of the year. Mrs. Zamora's community involvement spans 30 years and includes serving on the city's Senior Advisory Committee, the Family & Human Advisory Committee, and the Santa Fe Springs Boxing Club. She also served as a city preschool instructional assistant for 26 years.

Mr. Manuel Cantu, board vice president, was first elected to Little Lake City School Board of Education in November 2020. His current term expires in 2024. Mr. Cantu is a lifelong resident of the City of Norwalk. He is a proud product of the Little Lake City School District having attended Cresson Elementary School, Lake Center Middle School and later graduated from Santa Fe High School. He continued his formal education attending Long Beach City College and Cal State University of Los Angeles where he majored in Business Management and Economics. Mr. Cantu raised two daughters in the City of Norwalk and both also attended Lakeland Elementary and Lake Center Middle Schools and Santa Fe High School. Mr. Cantu is a 35-year employee with the City of Santa Fe Springs and is currently a Program Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Division. Manuel is currently on the District's Business Services Committee and serves as the District's Board member on the Little Lake Educational Advancement Foundation (LLEAF). Manuel will continue to strive to ensure student safety, improve the district's infrastructure and promote the highest quality education for our students while promoting professional development for all faculty and staff.

Nuestra meta, como Consejo Directivo del Distrito Escolar Little Lake City, es proporcionar a nuestros estudiantes una educación de calidad que garantice su éxito.

Hilda Zamora, presidenta del consejo, fue nombrada por primera vez al Consejo del Distrito Escolar Little Lake City en Julio de 2001 para cubrir una vacante. Más tarde, se postuló para un puesto en el Consejo y fue elegida en Noviembre de 2001. Su mandato actual expira en 2022. Su experiencia previa en el Consejo incluye su servicio como presidenta, vicepresidenta y secretaria. Ha sido residente del distrito durante 40 años y sus seis hijos asistieron a las escuelas de Little Lake City, al igual que sus nietos y bisnietos. La Sra. Zamora también sirvió en el Comité Asesor Bilingüe del distrito como capacitadora. También fue nominada a Ciudadana del Año de la Ciudad de Santa Fe Springs. La participación de la Sra. Zamora en la comunidad se extiende por más de 30 años y comprende su servicio en el Comité Asesor Senior de la ciudad, el Comité Asesor de Familia & Servicios Sociales y el Club de Boxeo de Santa Fe Springs. También se desempeñó como asistente de instrucción en el preescolar de la ciudad durante 26 años.

El Sr. Manuel Cantú, vicepresidente, fue elegido por primera vez para el Consejo de Educación Escolar de Little Lake City en Noviembre de 2020. Su mandato actual vence en 2024. El Sr. Cantú es residente de toda la vida de la ciudad de Norwalk. Es un producto orgulloso del Distrito Escolar Little Lake City ya que asistió a la Escuela Primaria Cresson, a la Escuela Intermedia Lake Center y luego se graduó de Santa Fe High School. Continuó su educación formal asistiendo a Long Beach City College y Cal State University de Los Ángeles, donde se especializó en Administración de Empresas y Economía. El Sr. Cantú crió a dos hijas en la ciudad de Norwalk y ambas también asistieron a las escuelas Lakeland, Lake Center y Santa Fe High School. El Sr. Cantú trabaja para la Ciudad de Santa Fe Springs desde hace 35 años y actualmente es Coordinador de Programas para la División de Parques y Recreación. Manuel se encuentra actualmente en el Comité de Servicios Comerciales del Distrito y se desempeña

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 7

Gina Ramirez was first elected to the Little Lake City School Board in 2005 and again in December 2020. She is a lifelong resident of the City of Norwalk. Gina attended Cresson Elementary, Norwalk Christian and graduated from St. Paul High School. She continued her formal education and attended Cerritos College where she earned an Associates of Arts Degree in General Education while working full time as a Preschool teacher and Assistant Director. Gina's later went on to the University of La Verne and earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood education. Gina and her husband Rick raised their children in the City of Norwalk and all their sons attended Cresson Elementary, Lake Center Middle School and Santa Fe High School. Gina strives to ensure the students of the district receive the highest quality education while maintaining oversight and transparency.

Gabriel Jimenez, board member, was first elected to the Little Lake City School District Board of Education in November 2018. His current term expires in 2022. Mr. Jimenez is a product of the Little Lake City School District having attended Jersey Avenue Elementary School and Lake Center Middle School. Mr. Jimenez has been a local business owner since 2007. In addition to his participation in the school district, Mr. Jimenez has served on the City of Santa Fe Springs Heritage Arts Advisory Committee as well as serving as a City Planning Commissioner. Mr. Jimenez is also currently the head coach for the Santa Fe High School Junior Varsity Baseball team and co-founder of Cali Kings Baseball Organization out of Santa Fe Springs. Mr. Jimenez is a proud parent of three children, all having attended Little Lake Schools.

Janet Rock, board member, was elected to the Little Lake City School District Board in November 2011. Her current term expires in December 2024. Her previous Board experience (2001-2005) includes serving as president and clerk. She has been a resident of the district for over sixty years. In addition to her four adult children, Mrs. Rock's grandchildren have also attended Little Lake schools. Mrs. Rock has served as an instructional material specialist in two school districts, including Little Lake. Among her contributions to the district she notes implementation of a full-day kindergarten, participation in the Annenburg Project, and membership on the School Site Council and Strategic Planning committee.

como miembro de la Junta del Distrito en la Fundación para el Avance Educativo de Little Lake (LLEAF). Manuel continuará esforzándose por garantizar la seguridad de los estudiantes, mejorar la infraestructura del distrito y promover la educación de la más alta calidad para nuestros estudiantes, al mismo tiempo que se promueve el desarrollo profesional de todos los maestros y del personal.

Gina Ramírez fue elegida por primera vez para el Consejo Educativo de Little Lake City en el año 2005 y nuevamente en Diciembre de 2020. Ha sido residente de toda la vida de la ciudad de Norwalk. Gina asistió a la escuela Primaria Cresson, Norwalk Christian y se graduó de St. Paul High School. Continuó su educación formal y asistió a Cerritos College, donde obtuvo un título de Asociado en Artes en Educación General, mientras trabajaba de tiempo completo como maestra de preescolar y subdirectora. Más tarde, Gina fue a la Universidad de La Verne y obtuvo su Licenciatura en Artes en enseñanza de la primera infancia. Gina y su esposo Rick criaron a sus hijos en la ciudad de Norwalk y todos sus hijos asistieron a la escuela primaria Cresson, la escuela intermedia Lake Center y a la escuela Santa Fe High. Gina se esfuerza por garantizar que los estudiantes del distrito reciban una educación de la más alta calidad mientras mantiene la supervisión y la transparencia.

Gabriel Jiménez, miembro del consejo, fue elegido por primera vez al Consejo Educativo del Distrito Escolar Little Lake City en Noviembre de 2018. Su mandato actual vence en 2022. El Sr. Jiménez es producto del Distrito Escolar Little Lake City ya que asistió a la Escuela Primaria Jersey Avenue y a la Escuela Intermedia Lake Center. El Sr. Jiménez ha sido propietario de un comercio local desde 2007. Además de su participación en el distrito escolar, el Sr. Jiménez ha servido en el Comité Asesor de Artes del Patrimonio de la Ciudad de Santa Fe Springs, además de servir como Comisionado de Planificación de la Ciudad. El Sr. Jiménez también es actualmente el coach principal del equipo de béisbol Santa Fe High School Junior Varsity y co-fundador de la Organización de Béisbol Cali Kings de Santa Fe Springs. El Sr. Jiménez es un orgulloso padre de tres hijos, dos de los cuales han asistido a las escuelas de Little Lake y uno que actualmente asiste a una escuela de Little Lake.

Janet Rock, miembro del consejo, fue elegida para el Consejo del Distrito Escolar Little Lake City en el mes de Noviembre de 2011. Su mandato actual terminará en diciembre de 2020. Su experiencia previa en el Consejo (2001-2005) incluye su servicio como presidenta y secretaria. Ha sido residente del distrito por más de sesenta años. Además de sus cuatro hijos adultos, los nietos de la Sra. Rock también han asistido a las escuelas de Little Lake. La Sra. Rock ha trabajado como especialista en materiales de instrucción en dos distritos escolares, incluyendo Little Lake. Entre sus contribuciones al distrito, señala la implementación de un kínder de día completo, la participación en el Proyecto Annenburg y el ser miembro del Consejo Directivo Escolar y del Comité de Planificación Estratégica.

Thank you for reading *School News*.

The next issue is May 3, 2023

## LLCSD Family Resource Center

*By Monica Johnson,  
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services*

The Little Lake City School District is proud to have opened the Family Resource Center (FRC) at the beginning of this school year. The mission of the FRC is to eliminate barriers for all LLCSD students by providing comprehensive services to our most vulnerable populations and advocating for successful transitions, re-engagement, and social emotional awareness with the goal of empowering students to reach their potential and maximize higher educational achievement. The vision of the FRC is to be a support center for students and their families by providing assistance and enhancing the well-being of each individual across the community. The main goals of the FRC are: Remove Barriers, Sustain Stability, Inspire Lifelong Learners.

The FRC offers a variety of no-cost programs, resources, and case management for LLCSD students and families. For McKinney-Vento support, the FRC provides basic needs to students and families living in temporary housing to help remove barriers. For foster youth support, the FRC supports foster youth and caregivers with resources. For case management support, the FRC has bilingual Family Outreach Liaisons that provide case management to families and collaborate with community agencies to provide outside linkages and resources. For mental health support, the FRC meets the socio-emotional needs of students and provide support to families to help their children succeed through a variety of counseling services at LLCSD and referral services.

Additionally, families can pick up clothing, hygiene items, food and other items based on donations. With the collaboration of Giving Children Hope and other community agencies, the FRC provides a weekly food distribution to families that have expressed need. School supplies and backpacks are available on a need basis for students experiencing hardships.

The FRC provides variety of informative, psychoeducational, and interactive workshops throughout the school year to promote parent involvement, family engagement and community awareness. The FRC can also connect parents with career planning and adult education classes such as English as a Second Language, Adult High School Diploma, Career Technical Education, and much more through community colleges.

LLCSD is proud to provide these services and supports to our students and families to ensure their academic and social success.

## Centro de Recursos Familiares de LLCSD

*Por Monica Johnson,  
Superintendente Asistente de Servicios Educativos*

El Distrito Escolar de Little Lake se enorgullece de haber abierto el Centro de Recursos para la Familias (FRC) al comienzo de este año escolar. La misión del FRC es eliminar los obstáculos para todos los estudiantes de LLCSD con servicios integrales a nuestras poblaciones más vulnerables y abogando por transiciones exitosas, re-participación y conciencia socio-emocional con el objetivo de capacitar a los estudiantes para que alcancen su potencial y maximicen más logro educacional. La visión del FRC es ser un centro de apoyo para los estudiantes y sus familias para brindar asistencia y mejorar el bienestar de cada individuo en la Comunidad. Los principales objetivos del FRC son: Eliminar Barreras, Mantener la Estabilidad, Inspirar Aprendices de por Vida.

El FRC ofrece una variedad de programas, recursos y administración de casos sin costo para estudiantes y familias de LLCSD. Para el apoyo de McKinney-Vento, el FRC proporciona necesidades básicas a los estudiantes y las familias que viven en viviendas temporales para ayudar a eliminar las barreras. Para el apoyo a los jóvenes de crianza, el FRC apoya a los jóvenes de crianza ya los cuidadores con recursos. El FRC tiene enlaces bilingües que brindan administración de casos a las familias y colaboran con agencias comunitarias para proporcionar vínculos y recursos externos. Para el apoyo de salud mental, el FRC ofrece Apoyo de salud mental para satisfacer las necesidades socio-emocionales de los estudiantes y brindar apoyo a las familias para ayudar a sus hijos a tener éxito en LLCSD.

Además, Las familias de LLCSD pueden recoger ropa, artículos de higiene, alimentos y otros artículos según las donaciones. Con la colaboración de Giving Children Hope y otras agencias comunitarias, el FRC ofrece una distribución semanal de alimentos a las familias que han expresado su necesidad. Los útiles escolares y las mochilas están disponibles según las necesidades de los estudiantes que experimentan dificultades.

El FRC ofrece una variedad de talleres informativos, psicoeducativos e interactivos a lo largo del año escolar para promover la participación de los padres, la participación familiar y la conciencia de la comunidad. El FRC también puede conectar a los padres con planificación de carreras y clases de educación para adultos, como inglés como segundo idioma, diploma de escuela secundaria para adultos, educación técnica profesional y mucho más a través de colegios comunitarios.

LLCSD se enorgullece de brindar estos servicios y apoyos a nuestros estudiantes y familias para garantizar su éxito académico y social.



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# Little Lake Educational Advancement Foundation

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## To Enrich and Support

The mission of the Little Lake Educational Enrichment Foundation (LLEAF) is to enrich and support the educational programs of the Little Lake City School District through community fundraising, active involvement, and awareness of the district's and students' needs. Toward that end, LLEAF sponsors a Fourth of July fireworks sale every summer. The LLEAF Board of Directors would like to thank all of you who recently supported the foundation through your purchase of fireworks from our July 4 stand. The proceeds from the fireworks sale will be distributed to our teachers this fall in the form of classroom mini-grants up to \$1,500. Your support will be experienced directly by our students through educational enhancements such as field trips, library books, or special technology equipment. LLEAF looks forward to working with our partners in the community to help realize our mission in the coming year.

## Es Enriquecer y Apoyar

La misión de la Fundación Little Lake para el Avance Educativo (LLEAF, por sus siglas en inglés) es enriquecer y apoyar los programas educativos del Distrito Escolar de Little Lake mediante la recaudación de fondos de la comunidad, la participación activa y la sensibilización de las necesidades del distrito y de los estudiantes. Con ese fin, LLEAF patrocina cada verano la venta de fuegos artificiales del 4 de Julio. El consejo de Administración de LLEAF quiere agradecer a todos ustedes que recientemente apoyaron a la fundación a través de la compra de fuegos artificiales en nuestro puesto. Los ingresos de esta venta serán distribuidos a los maestros este otoño en forma de mini-becas por salón de hasta \$1,500. Su apoyo será experimentado directamente por nuestros estudiantes a través de mejoras educativas, tales como viajes de estudio, libros para la biblioteca o equipos especiales de tecnología. LLEAF espera con interés poder trabajar con nuestros colaboradores en la comunidad para ayudar a cumplir nuestra misión en el próximo año.



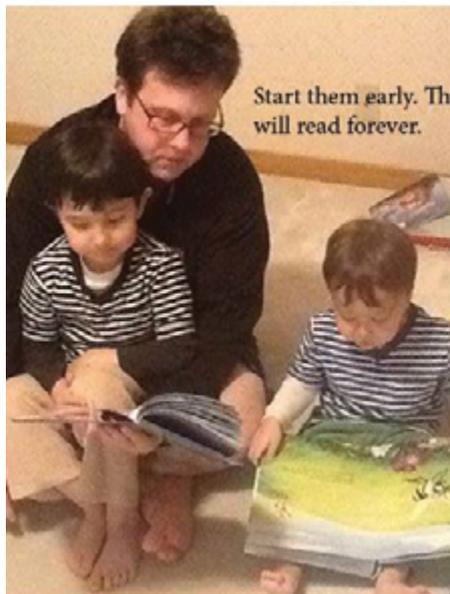
**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 8th year collaborating with the Little Lake City School District. There have been many changes over the year, but the one constant is focus on academic achievement. Dr. Crean begins this issue on page 3 honoring two of the district employees. Congratulations to the honorees.

We have included on page 20 our popular student book reviews. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for specifics.

Our next issue is May 3. In the meantime, Happy Holidays!



## School News Roll Call

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LITTLE LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# A class of its own.

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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.

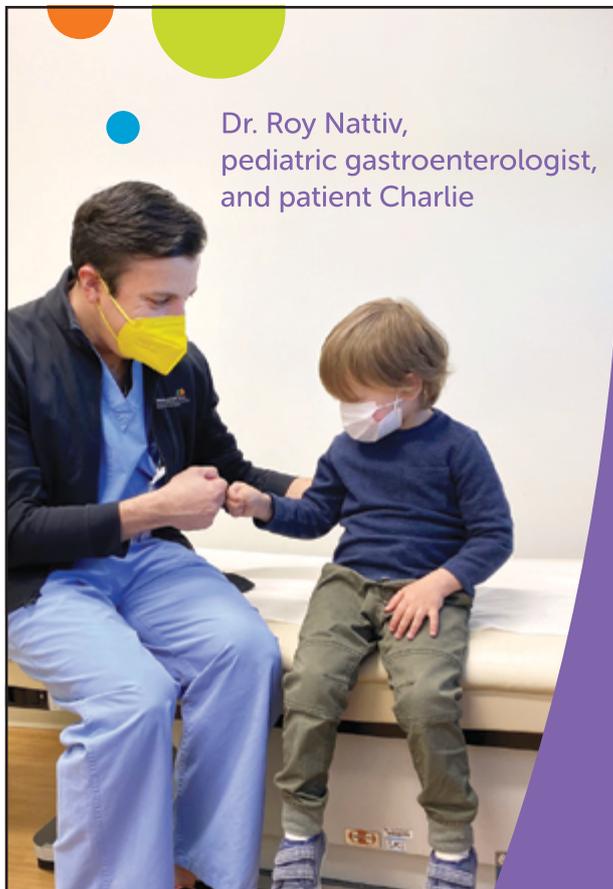
Nicotine is not the only harmful chemical that vape liquid may contain. Other harmful chemicals include:

- 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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**Erin Dunroe**  
*Principal*

### Let's Take a Break

After observing students' social-emotional needs last year Cresson decided to pilot a new strategy, calming corners. The Watson Institute describes a calming corner as a safe place in the classroom where a student can go for a short time to calm down using strategies pre-taught by the teacher. The calming corner is a comfortable place that has a rug or bean

bag as well as items to help students calm down such as stress balls, playdoh, and books. A grant from PIH helped fund professional development for 17 teachers as well as the materials needed to set up the calming corners. Students were taught how to use the calming corners at the beginning of the year and know how to use them in any classroom. All Cresson students enjoy their time in the calm down corner and after a few months we've seen a positive impact on students' social-emotional wellbeing.



**A student from Ms. Navarro's class using the breathing ball in the calm corner.**

## Jersey Avenue *Elementary*

9400 Jersey Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/948-3772 • [jersey.llcsd.net](http://jersey.llcsd.net)



**Denise  
Frenes-Gomez**  
*Principal*

It has been wonderful to have our first “normal” year since the start of the pandemic. We’ve been able to resume student assemblies and reopen our Coffee Club back on campus. We have also voted in our new ASB students for the 2022-2023 school year and have started a Kindness Club for the first time. Thanks to our counselor, Mrs. Delgado, and our TOSA, Mrs. Godinez’ efforts, we had over 80 students (2nd-5th grades) apply to be in the Kindness Club! Students will be able to help out in various ways around campus such

as morning and afternoon greeters, recess buddies, board game leaders, morning announcements, participating in random acts of kindness, and other monthly kindness activities. We are so excited to have so many students willing to participate and spread kindness across our campus.

I am also very proud to share that we have earned the PBIS Silver Award for the second consecutive year. Our PBIS Coach has done a fabulous job continuing to lead our PBIS efforts on campus and coaching our students to SOAR by showing Safety, Ownership, Achievement, and Respect.

We look forward to an amazing school year ahead!



## Lake Center *Middle School*

10503 Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-4977 • [lakecenter.llcsd.net](http://lakecenter.llcsd.net)



**Jack Sokoloff**  
*Principal*

### Principal's Statement

I consider it an honor and a privilege to be the instructional leader of Lake Center Middle School. This is my seventh year as principal of Lake Center Middle School.

My time growing up was spent not far from here. I was raised in Whittier and attended Longfellow Elementary School, Dexter Intermediate School and Whittier High School. After high school, I attended Rio Hondo College, University of California, Riverside and California State University, Long Beach. Prior to my time at Lake Center, I spent four years as the principal of Lakeland Elementary School, and before that, I was the assistant

principal at Lake Center for three years. Before coming to the Little Lake City School District, I also worked in the Long Beach Unified School District in various positions for about 10 years.

My love of middle school goes deep. Students at the middle school level still have a level of innocence, a sense of humor and a lot of energy. It is a privilege to work with the students of Lake Center Middle School. While at Lake Center, I will continue my belief that the relationships we make should forge a collective responsibility for the well-being of our children. Every child should feel supported and connected to the school and its culture. It is our obligation to ensure that this occurs. I would like to thank the Lake Center community for their positive, can-do spirit!

## Lakeside *Middle School*

11000 Kenney St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9422 • [lakeside.llcsd.net](http://lakeside.llcsd.net)



**Ana Gutierrez**  
*Principal*

### Making Connections

The 22-23 school year at Lakeside Middle School is off and running--and so are our kids! Our clubs and organizations have been engaging all of our students with fun events since school began.

During the month of October, our 8th grade WEB program hosted a hot chocolate and movie time event. Our ASB hosted a balloon toss, relay races (see photo) and a pumpkin decorating contest to show our holiday spirit. Our AVID students hosted a spirit week during which students dressed in school colors, wore pajamas and donned their favorite team's jersey. Our Cafeteria Manager sponsored a weeklong National School Lunch Week in which many students found stickers on their lunch trays that they redeemed for prizes. Our counselors encouraged kindness by asking students to pledge to be a buddy, not a bully. These activities help students make healthy connections with their peers, the faculty and to the school itself. Go Mustangs!



# Lakeland Elementary

11224 Bombardier Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-8887 • [lakeland.llcsd.net](http://lakeland.llcsd.net)



**Georgette Baltierrez-Manohorath**  
Principal

## Have a ROARtiffic year!

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. I am excited to begin my sixth year as principal of Lakeland Elementary School. I want to thank all of our parents and families for making the first few months of school a success.

Our teachers and staff have spent time reviewing rules and procedures with our students, and are now vigorously working to educate all of them. We have also started our Response to Intervention model, where student achievement data is used to ensure that instruction is tailored to each student's individual needs in English language arts and mathematics. Our teachers work hard to ensure that all of our students' needs are met and that we continue to provide a high-quality education.

As we presented during our Back to School event, we were awarded gold status for the implementation of our PBIS program. We are continuing our school-wide practice of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and are focused on teaching students their school-wide expectations and then rewarding them for their positive behaviors with weekly drawings for prizes.



The students win prizes by submitting their ROARS tickets. They can also win class prizes for Golden Tickets, which the classes may earn by demonstrating positive behavior as a whole. Students may also be selected to be the ROARtiffic Lion for the Month. ROARtiffic Lions are students who are chosen by their teachers because they exemplify what it means to be a Lakeland Lion. This means that these students are always Ready to learn, On task, Accepting of differences, Responsible, and Safe.

Every month, some of the students can be selected as ROARtiffic Lions. In addition, every class has implemented our new social emotional learning program. Each unit is focused on different topics such as bullying, accepting differences, emotion management, and problem-solving, to name just a few.

I am thrilled to begin this year with our tight-knit Lakeland community. The community's commitment to student success is evident from my interactions with our parents and staff members. Together we are dedicated to our students' social-emotional and academic success.

I look forward to an amazing school year.

## Lakeview *Elementary*

11500 Joslin St., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 • 562/868-8655 • [lakeview.llcsd.net](http://lakeview.llcsd.net)



**Kelly Love**  
*Principal*

### Annual Jog-a-Thon

Lakeview Elementary has a long standing tradition of participating in an annual Jog-a-thon. It was missed throughout the pandemic; staff, students and the community were excited to see it return this year! Students arrived by grade level to the basketball courts excited to see decorations and bubbles and the parent volunteers that came to support their classes! With the music pumping, students ran as parents and staff cheered them on. Each grade level had an assigned time to participate and jog as many laps as they could for their allotted time. Students worked to gain pledges during the weeks leading up to the event. Students laughed and squealed as parent volunteers squirted students with spray bottles to keep them cool as they ran. Once students completed the jog-a-thon, they were treated to a popsicle and some time to enjoy their friends in the shade. It was a positive event that had everyone in smiles throughout the day.



## William Orr *Elementary*

12130 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-7988 • [williamorr.llcsd.net](http://williamorr.llcsd.net)



**Rebecca Casillas**  
*Principal*

### Golden Bell Winner

We are very excited to share that William Orr has been announced as a 2022 CSBA Golden Bell Winner for our program, Celebrating Diversity with our Autism Focus Program! This award is given to honor the hard work and dedication of governing boards and district staff in creating innovative programs that improve student achievement and well-being in the state's preK-12 public schools. Our Autism Focus Program is both exemplary and innovative and has positively impacted our entire school culture, allowing us to celebrate diversity and function as ONE student body with a goal to be successful and caring citizens. Thanks to our fabulous, hardworking staff and to the support of our district and Board members, we are very honored to receive such a wonderful recognition. We are looking forward to receiving our award at the Golden Bell Ceremony in December.



# Paddison *Elementary*

12100 Crewe St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-7741 • [paddison.llcsd.net](http://paddison.llcsd.net)



**Dr. Lorena  
Martinez-Vargas**  
*Principal*

## Off to a Great Start

At Paddison, we strive to balance social-emotional well-being and academic rigor for each and every one of our students. The 2022-2023 school year provides us the opportunity to unite as a school community in support of our students. Everyone contributes to making this happen—students, parents, teachers, staff and other community members.

The first few months of school have flown by and we quickly transitioned from welcoming our students to settling into daily schedules. Our students and teachers have been hard at work, deeply engaged in teaching and learning. We can already tell that this is going to be a great school year and we will see all of our students meet and exceed academic goals as well as develop healthy friendships at school.

Congratulations to Kindness Week's poster winners - your artwork inspires us to walk out the Paddison way - Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Kind.





**Yasmin Ruiz**  
*Principal*

## Math Methodology

We have so many great things going on at Studebaker, but I am going to highlight fifth-grade math. Citing evidence in ELA has been a focus at Studebaker for the past three years. This school year, we have included citing evidence in math as a school focus. During one of my visits to fifth grade, I noticed that the students were learning about adding and subtracting fractions by estimating. Having been a fifth-grade teacher myself, I sat in on the instruction.

It is important for us to ensure that learning modalities are covered during instruction. The day before this lesson, the students were able to use their fraction tiles to explore fractions. In this lesson, the teachers used the Clothesline strategy to teach fractions. This gives those students who are visual learners the opportunity to see and understand the instruction and also to refer back to during independent work. Students are given a card, go up and place the card where they feel it belongs, and give an explanation. This allows for collaborative and engaging instruction. Clothesline strategy was also used to teach equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions.

I am so excited about all the learning that is happening in the classrooms! Fifth-graders, I am extremely proud of you!



## Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

### Teamwork

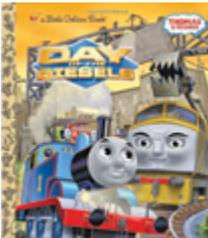
Title: *Thomas & Friends – Day of the Diesels*

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.



## Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

### Who Wants Freckles?

*Freckle Juice* is about a boy named Andrew who really wants freckles on his face. A girl in his class named Sharon says that she'll sell him a secret recipe for freckle juice that will give him freckles.



Will he buy the recipe and use it? Read to find out!

This book is very silly and easy to read. I liked this book and I think you will 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.

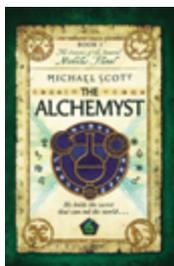
## Sourish's Review



Sourish M.

### The Future of the World of Magic...

Michael Scott, states, "He holds the secret that can end the world.." on the back of *The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*. The author has written this book phenomenally. He



describes every important detail, which blows away the reader and allows them to experience more of the world of magic. He slowly reveals the backstory of Nicholas Flamel which results in suspicion. The main characters are Josh and Sophie Newman, who work with Nicholas Flamel and Scathac, a mighty warrior. The Siblings have the rare gold and silver auras which powers them to protect everyone. Nicholas and Scathac help the two on their journey, the end is unpredictable, but one thing is certain, Dr. John Dee and Niccolo Machiavelli cannot have Josh and Sophie. The book is super exciting with amazing moments and I look forward to finding out the future of the Magical World!

Sourish M. is a seventh grader who is enthusiastic to learn more and experience new things. He likes Science and Reading, plays soccer, basketball, guitar, and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours coding and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

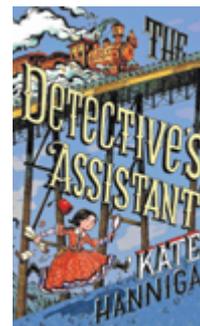
## David's Review



David H.

### Thrills and Surprises

*The Detective's Assistant* is a mystery book about Nell Warne, who is adopted by her Aunt Kitty, a detective that works for a detective agency, and the mysteries that they solve. One of the



mysteries they solve is a murder. This book shows how detectives solve crimes and the thinking behind it. It also contains a lot of historical facts so you are learning while you are entertained. If you want to read a good mystery novel, you are sure to love this book!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.