

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Ocean View School District



Volume 18, Issue 108

November 2022



Village View celebrates the kick-off of their new environmental science studies focused on the ocean.



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**Dr. Michael
Conroy**
Superintendent

Esports is a Popular Elective

OVSD is committed to creating student connections. We know that there is no better way to do this than to foster student engagement. Many students are interested in gaming and career pathways for jobs that may or may not already be in existence. In order to address this interest, Vista View Middle School created an esports elective for students two years ago. What are esports?

Simply put, esports are video games that are played in a highly organized, competitive environment.

In the esports course, students are taught the discipline of gaming on a team. This means that they spend 25 to 35 minutes engaged in strategic game playing. They learn about the characters in the games and have peers demonstrate the techniques or unique strengths of the

characters that help them win games. Some students act as game promoters and advertisers. Students also work on being a positive member of a team, using praise and encouragement for one another.

The Vista View program is taught by two teachers, Ms. Sella Lee and Mrs. Diane Cho. Mrs. Cho teaches a semester-long esports class to 6th graders, and Ms. Lee teaches a yearlong class with 7th and 8th graders. The classes are full, and Vista View had more than 80 students interested in taking the elective this year!

The first esports competition of the year started at the end of October and Vista View partnered with Esport Gaming Federation (EGF). The coach works with our teachers, coaches our students remotely, and hosts a tournament on a national level. This is a seven-week tournament, and so far, our students have done a great job competing against students on the east coast. Go Vista View Falcons!



Vista View Middle School students in the new esports lab.

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Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports Awards

By Gina Clayton-Tarvin, President, Board of Trustees

Eight Ocean View School District schools have earned awards from California Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coalition, recognizing their efforts to create a positive campus culture and increase student engagement.

PBIS aims to create a positive school setting through strategies that define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviors. Ocean View teachers closely monitor students' behavior, attendance, and academic performance, taking steps to provide additional support in each area as needed. The focus of PBIS is prevention, not punishment.

Ocean View is committed to providing students with positive learning environments where they feel safe, confident, and empowered to succeed. PBIS strategies help us support students academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally.

College View, Hope View, and Marine View earned a silver certification; and Lake View, Oak View, Star View, Vista View and Village View earned bronze certifications for their excellent execution of PBIS strategies. Congratulations to these outstanding schools!



PBIS award winning schools were recognized for their outstanding work at a recent Board Meeting.

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT

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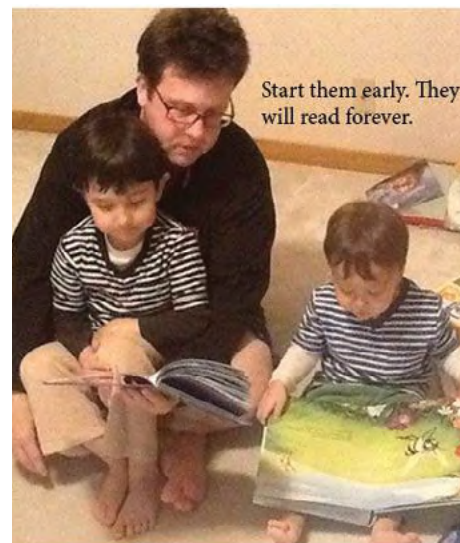
Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This year is quickly coming to a close and as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving I would like to express how thankful I am for the opportunity to collaborate with Ocean View School District. The education of our youth is important to everyone. Thank you parents for being involved in your child's education and thank you to the community for partnering with schools.

Our next issue is January 18, and we'll look forward to celebrating the arrival of a new year.

This issue is full of wonderful articles and pictures of happy faces. Enjoy!



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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.



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pediatric gastroenterologist,
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www.hbpl.org

Fun Fall Activities

By Melissa Ronning, Senior Youth Services Librarian

At the Huntington Beach Public Library, we are enjoying the change in seasons, and we are looking forward to some fun fall activities.

If you have not registered for our Cover to Cover Reading Challenge, it is not too late! Children ages 4 to 12 can earn up to 3 free burgers during this popular annual reading program! Pick up a reading log from any HBPL branch or enter your reading log on your Beanstack account at hbpl.beanstack.org. Read 15 books between October 1 and November 12 and follow the reading log instructions to redeem your log for burger certificates. Rewards can be picked up at any HBPL branch between Oct. 1st - Nov. 12th. Rewards will not be available after Nov. 12th. For more information, contact the Children's desk during normal business hours at (714) 375-5107.

We are celebrating DiNovember with a fun Dinosaur themed event on Monday, November 21st at the Central Library. Children ages 4-12 are invited to take part in dinosaur games, dinosaur crafts and other dinosaur activities. Drop in from 1:00-3:00 in our Talbert room for fun with dinosaurs!

Students ages 8-12 are invited to join our Wise Owl Tween Book Club and our Tween S.T.E.A.M. Team. The Wise Owl Tween Book Club meets every month to discuss a book and meet the author! November's pick is Kiki Kallira Breaks a Kingdom with a visit from author Sangu Mandanna. Tween S.T.E.A.M. Team is a club for tweens ages 8-12 that meets every second Thursday at 4pm. Join us for a S.T.E.A.M. activity or craft, hang out, have fun, and learn something new. Registration is required for our tween events.

Make sure to check out the Children's Library website @ www.hbpl.org for all of our programs and registration information.

City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov



Barbara Delgleize
Mayor

Greetings

This year has gone by so fast and sadly, my time as Mayor, as well as my time on City Council, is coming to an end. It's been my honor to serve the residents of Huntington Beach as Mayor this past year.

I truly believe that Huntington Beach is in a better place than when I joined City Council in 2014. To name a few accomplishments, I'm proud of our Navigation Center that has helped our homeless population, including Be Well HB which launched Orange County's first mobile mental health response in our town. The program is a mobile response team, composed of two crisis counselors who deliver in-community assessment and stabilization to residents experiencing mental health and substance use challenges, as well as other concerns that require a non-emergency response.

In addition, the City ranked by Wallet Hub as the 5th "Best City for People with Disabilities." I have always believed Surf City to be a City of inclusiveness as accessibility has always been a priority. We recently added more Mobi-Mats to the City's beaches and parks to improve access and usability. In addition, Surf City offers many services through the Senior Center in Central Park.

Lastly, one of my passions has always been to engage people with just how City Hall works day in and day out. I was so proud to start the Citizens Academy back in 2017 and to date, more than 100 people have participated in the program. I just kicked off the first Junior Citizens Academy to teach our youth about city government. More than 30 junior high school students will continue to learn about the inner workings of City Hall through 2023.

It's been an outstanding year serving you as Mayor. I thank you for the opportunity to have served you these past eight years!



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Sue Broderson
Coordinator
Child Development
Programs

Ready to Respond

Emergency drills are an essential component in our schools. Staff members need to be prepared to carry out their specialized duties, and our students need to know what to do in the event of an emergency.

Even though our preschool students are young, it is important that they also participate in these drills so that they all know what to do before, during, and after an emergency. Our emergency drills are scheduled at a variety of times each month so that our staff and students can always be prepared regardless of time or activity.

On October 20th, our preschoolers participated in the Great ShakeOut, an annual earthquake preparedness drill

held around the world. Our teachers made sure to prepare their students in a very non-threatening or scary way. For the Great ShakeOut, the students learn to become roly poly bugs. When they hear the word “roly poly” they drop to the ground, curl up into a ball, and cover their neck and head.

When they are given the all clear, they then evacuate to the playground. Our hope is that the children will feel more prepared and confident if an emergency occurs and they have practiced how to respond.

It is also good to know that all of our schools have safety plans that address emergencies, and these plans are available for the community to review at any time. We hope that all of our families continue to prepare for an emergency whether it is an earthquake, fire, or medical need. That way you can have peace of mind knowing that your family is appropriately prepared and ready to respond!



Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • www.ovsd.org/circle



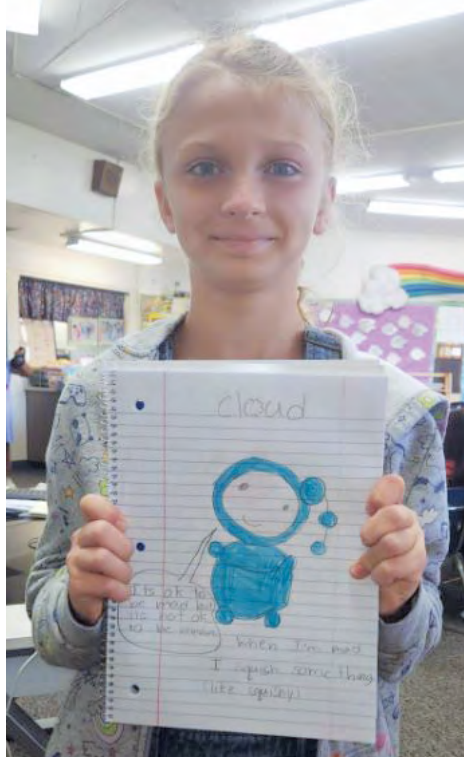
Jessica Haag
Principal

Feeling 'Blue?'

You are not alone!
Here at Circle View,
we normalize feelings
and help students to
identify how they feel
and what they need.
Whether you
are entering
Mrs. Cochlin's

speech room, Mrs. B.'s fourth-grade
classroom or meeting up with
Mrs. Swezea, our school psychologist,
you will most likely be asked how you
are feeling, and then some!

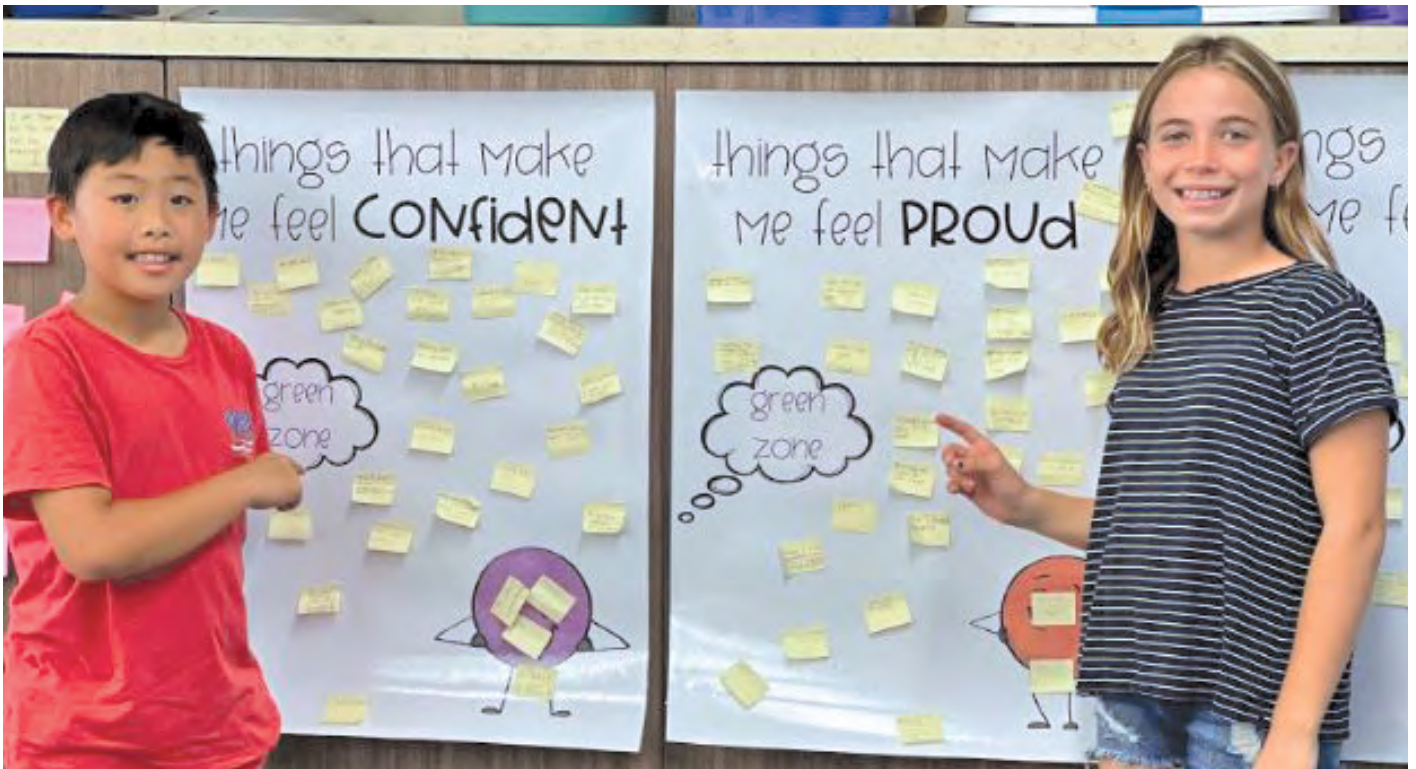
The Zones of Regulation help
our students to be honest with
themselves and provide tools that
can easily be implemented during
the school day. These tools help
our young learners manage those
big feelings that can sometimes
come our way. The four color zones
students learn to identify with are as
follows: green, yellow, blue and red.
They are taught that all zones are
normal!



A 3rd grader proudly showing off her Kimochi that can help a student who is mad.

In Mrs. Wegman's third-grade class, Kimochis are used to build emotional vocabulary. They are playful characters who help children identify with and express feelings. If students can communicate their feelings, then social skills tend to be strong, which ultimately helps build strong relationships—a big win for our overall school climate and culture! You might not be best friends with everyone, but you will know how to support a peer who may be in the red zone, aka angry.

The why! The green zone is known as the optimal zone of learning. You are typically in a calm state of alertness. While no one can be in the green zone at all times, it is nice to see students learning what that feels like and how best to stay there. Breathing, meditation, restorative practices, exercise, brain breaks, calming-down corners and a positive behavior system all contribute to this ultimate goal. Circle View teachers have adapted these practices and are proud to be a part of their young learners' emotional health.



Two 4th graders showcasing all the ways we can feel confident and proud.

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • www.ovsd.org/college



Elaine Burney
Principal

Great Start, Student Council!

Congratulations to our 2022–23 Student Council members! President Matthew Smith and Vice President Scarlett Palmer serve at the helm with Secretary Anelle Newsome and Historian Payton Winters. Our year is already off to a great start!

With Brielle Connolly and Myka Cooper acting as directors of communications, our students are well informed of all the great events each week with morning announcements. For the second year, we

have the position of school climate leads. Zoe Camacho and Maya Aguirre are working hard and in collaboration with our school counselor to bring social-emotional learning (SEL) messages, techniques for calm breathing, and positive social-emotional support strategies throughout the year as well as each week at our Friday Flag Assemblies. The Student Council also includes classroom representatives to ensure that all our students' voices are heard.

As a whole, the Council members help ensure that school spirit, student involvement, and student voice and choice are alive and well. We're so proud of all their hard work!



Golden View *Environmental Science School*

17251 Golden View Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • www.ovsd.org/golden



Lori Florgan
Principal

Big Buddy/Little Buddies are Off to a Great Start

Golden View has been working on building kindness among our students and building relationships within our classrooms. All students at Golden View spend time each week with peers of the opposite grade/age group. Students engage in reading with one another, do gardening or farm lessons together, environmental science activities, art lessons, or math activities. Having buddies builds the community up at Golden View and allows students to learn to trust and help one another out when needed. After the school day, you can find our buddies playing together at the park or waving hello to one another as they are passing by through the halls or on the playground. Golden View is a school where kindness and relationships are fostered every day!



Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org/harbour



Francesca Ligman
Principal

Spanish for All

Harbour View School is so proud to host the Ocean View School District's Dual Language Immersion Program, Spanish. However, we want ALL our students to be enriched with language opportunities. This year we have hired a Spanish Teacher to provide instruction to all our students, Kindergarten through fifth grade. The students will be engaged in lessons and activities building oral and written language

as well learning about Hispanic culture. Children's brains are programmed to learn and absorb language. Once a week of enrichment can be very effective. Spanish Language and culture are infused in the school's daily announcements, assemblies, and holiday celebrations. Research also shows that developing and learning another language deepens your understanding of your own language, improves academic vocabulary (cognates and Latin roots) and gives our EL students a time be the expert and build confidence. Students, staff and families are very excited to add Spanish to our curriculum at Harbour View!



Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • www.ovsd.org/hope



Christina Luckey
Principal

Outdoor Learning Fun

Hope View students are on the path to discovery! Starting in our kindergarten playground, pictured here, students at Hope View are building their balancing and even their social/emotional play as can be seen with these great steppingstones and fun activities to play. Students can be found shifting, rolling, and moving these stumps and having a great time. Even those building on the grass, also shown here, are getting

creative making seats, castles, and even floors to walk on. Our students have a chance to explore and grow both socially and emotionally while at play during recess and in the classroom. It's great to see our students zoom around on bikes and run and play all while being creative with their learning. Moving to the next playground is a big step and Hope View Hawks are ready to make this move towards the end of the year with these fun opportunities. When they get to the upper grade playground, also pictured here, the students are still given opportunities to balance and explore even as an older student on campus!



Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • www.ovsd.org/lake



**Jill
Van Der Linden**
Principal

Lake View Mobile Dairy Council

Some of our students' best learning opportunities come from examples and situations in real life. You could present vivid photos and videos of the exact same thing, but physical interaction seems to imprint the information so much better.

Last week at Lake View we had a visit from the Mobile Dairy Council, and a special guest, Cinnamon the Cow! Students at every age level were fully engaged as they learned about the difference between a Jersey cow and a Holstein cow.

For instance, did you know that a Jersey cow's milk has a higher fat content, which is perfect for butter or cream, and that the Holstein cow produces nine gallons of milk a day? The students also learned about the different physical features of the two cows and what the function of the tail is.

Our presenter worked on a farm, and wore cowboy boots and a hat. This only added to the experience! What made the biggest impact on our students was when the presenter sat down and milked the cow. The students were cheering their new friend Cinnamon on all the way. The Mobile Dairy Council will definitely be invited back next year!



Marine View *Middle School (6–8)*

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org/marine



Sara Schaible
Principal

Lunchtime Intramural Program

There is much excitement radiating through campus as Marine View welcomes back our lunchtime intramural program! The program is run by our intramural coordinator, Mr. Becker, with the assistance of students from our leadership class.

This past month, our teams have squared off against each other in some very intense and exciting games of volleyball. The sixth-grade advisement classes put together teams with their classmates, while the seventh- and eighth-graders opted to form their own teams. As the teams play each other,

spectators gather around the court to cheer and encourage their friends, classmates and some of our teachers playing alongside their students. Our leadership class keeps the students up to date regarding the schedule and results during our morning announcements.

Intramural play focuses on teamwork, collaboration, encouragement and working together. We have seen the camaraderie and teamwork ensue throughout the campus since we've implemented the program. During the school year, students will have the opportunity to participate in other sports including basketball, dodgeball and, for the first time, flag football and soccer through our intramural program.



Mesa View *Middle School (6–8)*

17601 Avila Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org/mesa



Jadyn Grunbaum
Principal

Eagles' Nest is Open!

This year, Mesa View is thrilled to have a well space open for our students and staff! Mesa View School and Ocean View School District value our students' and staff's physical and mental

health, and this year, we are showing it by opening well spaces at Mesa and Spring. Marine and Vista opened their spaces at the end of last year.

Our Mesa View Eagles came up with ideas last year on what should be in the space. And this year, we collected name ideas from students, and students voted on the top three names. They came up with The Eagles' Nest, and it describes a comfortable, homelike space where students can go to feel better, think more clearly, reduce anxiety, and booster their overall well-being. Students may choose to sit quietly in comfortable seating, or they may choose to engage in an activity aimed at reducing stress and anxiety, such as coloring, sand trays, art, puzzles or adding to the Gratitude Wall.

School and district staff and the Orange County Department of Education created this space using biophilic design and ideas from Mesa View students. Before we opened the space, we held class tours of the space and explained that this is a place for students to access and use tools to help them learn what calms them in times of anxiety and stress. Students were overwhelmingly thankful for the space, and they were excited to have a place like this on campus. And while we wish we didn't have the need for such a space, the reality is that we all have moments of extreme stress or anxiety. The Eagles' Nest is a wonderful tool for us to have to support our students' growth, comfort and ability to learn. Mesa Eagles, your nest is complete!



Oak View *Elementary (K-5)*

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • www.ovsd.org/oak



Jenna Landero
Principal

Mighty Owls Flock to the Beach!

This month we sent over 480 Mighty Owls to the beach for an exciting field trip with our Huntington Beach Lifeguards. Students received instruction on beach and water safety, followed up by water play, sand crab education, and picnicking on the sand prior to leaving for the day.

Hearing their squeals of delight filled the hearts of the lifeguards, teachers, staff and parents who were in attendance. For many of our students it was the first time they had been to the beach, for others, they conquered their fears of big water and waves. We are so happy to be able to give this experience to our students, enriching their background knowledge, conquering fears and being courageous!



Spring View *Middle School (6–8)*

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • www.ovsd.org/spring



Isis Ortiz
Interim Principal

Positivity

This year at Spring View, we are focusing on how being positive can take a tough day and change it into something they are proud and excited about. As part of the administrative team, we feel it is important that school is a positive, inclusive place for all students. Working with teachers and staff, we make sure students are rewarded for positive behaviors throughout their day at Spring View.

At Spring View, we encourage students and staff to participate in specific themed days. Tuesdays are known as Positivity Tee Tuesdays. We encourage students and staff to wear positive-saying T-shirts to school as a way to promote a positive mindset and attitude.

Wednesdays are known as College Shirt Wednesdays. We celebrate higher education and the goals of our AVID program by promoting various colleges throughout our states through the wearing of college T-shirts.

Fridays are ASB-themed spirit days. Spring View's Associated Student Body plans various spirit days throughout the year, promoting inclusivity among our students.

Another way that the Spartan staff is working on creating a positive school environment is by following our school motto, which is "Leaders Do the Right Thing!" As school staff encounters a student "doing the right thing," the student is given a LEAD card (Learning Together, Empowering Others, Achieving Goals, Discovering Our Potential) to use out our newly opened Spartan Store. This store is a place where students are able to get items like sketch pads, worms on a string or scented markers. All the items have different point values, which helps our students with concepts such as budgeting, planning and being resourceful.

The students are motivated to earn LEAD cards and have a positive mindset while they carry out their school day.



Spring View Students getting their rewards from the Spartan store.

Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

8411 Worthy Ln., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • www.ovsd.org/star



Paul Kraft
Principal

A Busy Season!

Star View School welcomed in the fall season with many engaging hands-on learning activities in every grade level. Kindergarteners and TK students graphed predictions on whether a pumpkin would sink or float in water, and then conducted experiments to test their hypothesis. Following the reading of the children's book *Creepy Carrots*, our first-grade students

also participated in a STEM project by working in teams to build fences to keep their "creepy carrots" in the patch.

The second-grade students worked in teams to engineer a perch for their puffball bird. The students worked collaboratively to plan and execute their designs within an allotted time. There were many innovative strategies and "re-engineering" to make a successful perch. Following a unit on the geographic regions of California, the third grade was busy creating an art project to show off their knowledge.

Fourth-grade students learned why leaves change colors in the fall. They then applied their learning to an art project and made leaf rubbings from the leaves they found on campus. Additionally, the fourth-grade students participated in a hands-on STEM project demonstrating their knowledge of forces and motion. Fifth-grade students created Thinking Maps to identify cause and effect relationships, and to compare and contrast figures in two literary texts. The students then used their Thinking Maps to write an informational essay.

Finally, our GATE fourth-graders built pyramid dioramas related to the novel study of *Babe the Gallant Pig*. GATE fifth-grade students used various materials to build paper mache teepees after studying the Native Americans of the Plains.

Along with this, our amazing PTO held its annual book fair, further enriching the educational experience for the students at Star View Elementary School.



Mrs. Flores and her students demonstrating force and motion.

Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org/village



Tami Benane
Principal

Inclusive School Environment

Village is a school of inclusion and equity. All students at Village are extended our study of Science to include Ocean Literacy / Marine Science curriculum. We are so excited about including the study of the Ocean.

Village View is focusing on adding Ocean Literacy to our NGSS curriculum. Our severely disabled students are included in the Ocean Literacy lessons and projects. We are very proud to provide an inclusive school environment at Village View. The month of October we are focusing on learning about lobsters. At the end of last school year we rescued a lobster in deplorable conditions from a school in El Segundo.



Sasha "Valentina" Isidoro is holding a lobster art project. Valentina worked hard to make her lobster with the help of our wonderful caring classroom aides in Mrs. Melanie Mazzs's class..

Toy Store Items–Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Ocean View 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 card to Barnes & Noble.!

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BALL GLOVE



Vista View *Middle School (6–8)*

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • www.ovsd.org/vista



Dr. Rasheedah Gates
Principal

Elective Courses

For the 2022-23 school year, we will be highlighting the electives at Vista View. Elective course offerings are important because the face of education is changing. Creating the *reason* for students to come to school every day is not a content-based lecture, it is not working out if a textbook, and it is not to be in sterile environments that lack inspiration. All schools and educators are at a pivotal moment as we create school cultures that attract students. It is evident that middle school students like to see their friends, have breaks with options to buy deliciously healthy food, attend the teachers' classes that are *so fun* they do not realize they are learning, and be a part of electives that are highly engaging. Take these things away, and you take away middle schoolers ability to thrive.

At Vista, we want our falcons to thrive! One area they are doing this is in our culinary arts elective. We offer two sections of culinary. One class is a 6th grade semester long course, and the second is a yearlong 7th – 8th grade course. Students have already learned food safety skills and are practicing their cutting skills with playdough. In the coming weeks, they will be focusing on planting, harvesting, and preparing meals around the food grown in our new garden. We will also have group cooking competitions with staff judges. Culinary arts are a focus for us because we welcome creating a space where students want to come to school, are engaged in learning platforms that are relevant for their generation, and create pathways for the jobs they will be a part of that do not yet exist. We are so grateful for our culinary arts teachers, classes, and the fun learning that gives students a reason to come to school. Vista Falcons, SOAR!



Students practicing their cutting skills with playdough.



Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org/westmont



Sharon Ahlman
Principal

Welcome to Westmont's Transitional Kindergarten!

We are thrilled to be having a Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classroom back on campus at Westmont Elementary School. The Ocean View School District is committed to having a TK classroom in every one of our elementary schools, and Westmont's TK program is going strong!

The TK program is one where four- and five-year-old students get a jump start on the important skills necessary to prepare them for the academic challenges in the coming years of school advancement. It is based on early childhood development standards, and the skills needed to learn reading, writing, and math.



We want our children to have this time to practice their fine-motor skills, and the students do that by using Playdough, beads, stickers, scissors, short pencils and crayons, and other materials that help them focus on strengthening those hand muscles necessary for writing, drawing, reading, creating, and keyboarding.

Just as our children grow and develop with crawling, pulling themselves up, walking, and running, the TK teacher and classroom aide provide them with centers based upon play and developing experiences. It is so important for our little ones to practice in the home center, the art center, the water tray, building with blocks, and engaging in early reading and writing activities.

Taking turns, sharing, playing on the swings and in the sandbox are all opportunities for our young students to have that symbolic play experience that is an important component for learning and developing the skills for success. It is a wonderful experience for the students, and a joyous place of learning to observe. We are so glad to have this program back to support the little ones in our community!



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 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.

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