

School News

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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

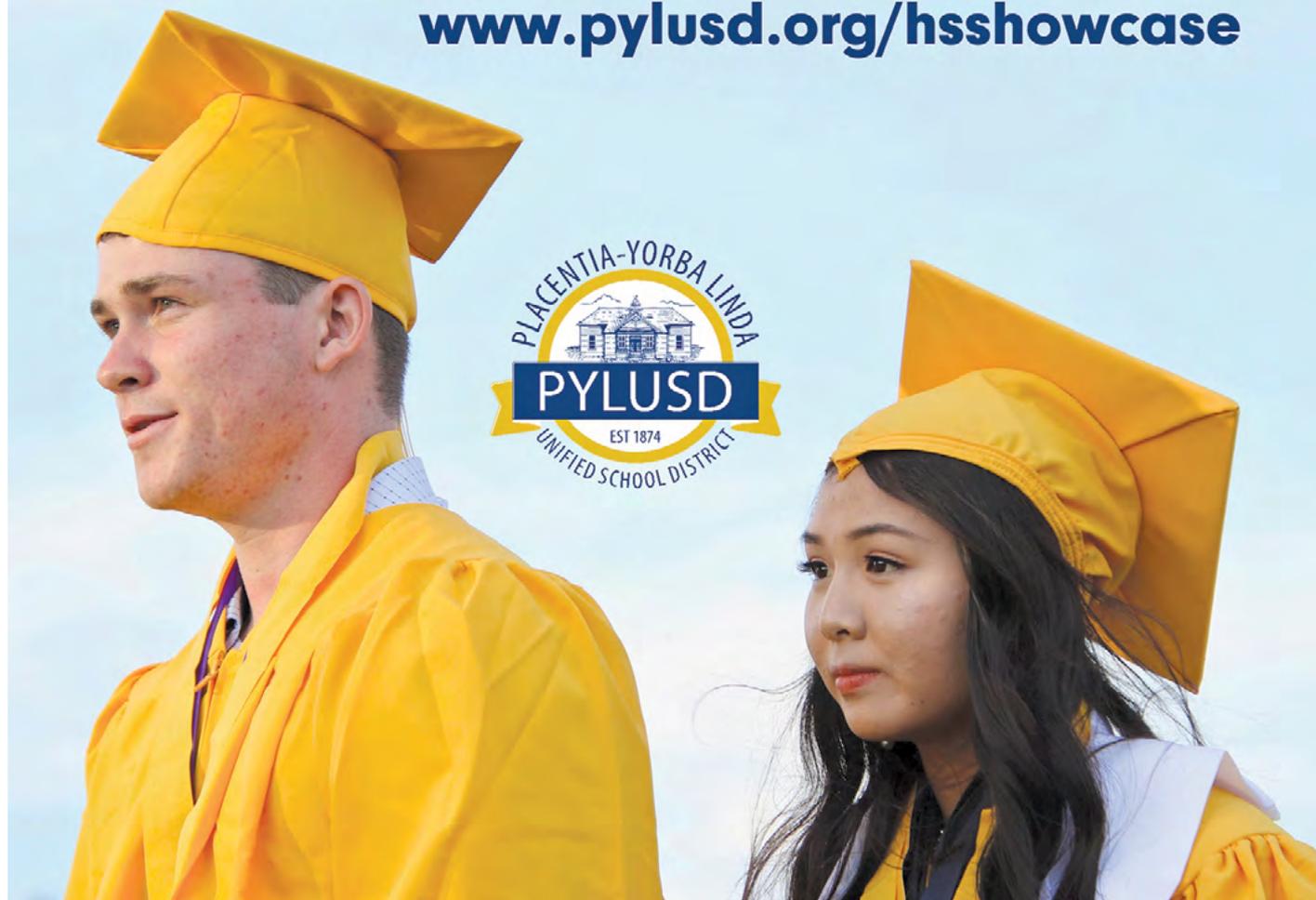


Volume 15, Issue 42

November 2022

High School Showcase 2022

www.pylusd.org/hsshowcase



Discover PYLUSD During High School Showcase Events
(please see page 4)

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Fairmont Celebrates 50 Years Together in Excellence



**Dr. Mike
Matthews**
Superintendent

Fairmont Elementary School in Yorba Linda recently celebrated a noteworthy milestone—its 50-year anniversary. The campus first opened its doors in 1972 on a portion of the large Mexican Land Grant awarded to Don Bernardo Yorba, a prominent California landowner and the city of Yorba Linda's namesake.

The week included a long list of festivities including a 70s dress-up day to pay tribute to the decade Fairmont opened and a special morning assembly

for all to enjoy. It was an honor to be a part of the ceremony and hear from Principal Anne San Roman as well as former and current staff members, alumni, parents, and students. Each shared messages about the keen sense of family and longstanding commitment to academic excellence at their beloved school. It was a perfect example of a truth that I see in every school in our district—our schools have been outstanding for a long time. Our former students come back to Placentia and Yorba Linda so that their children can attend our schools. Our graduates get their teaching credentials, and so often seek to give back to the district that helped them on their way. Throughout my career, I have never seen a community so full of multi-generational legacies. The words spoken and the proud smiles at this Fairmont celebration exemplified this spirit perfectly.

"We believe here at Fairmont Elementary that every child can achieve success," said Principal San Roman. "We

are all still learning and will continue to work and learn to help cultivate the most important resource we have—the children we educate that will be our future leaders and some of whom in another 50 years will be standing here."

Any day that begins with kindergarten students singing You're a Grand Ole Flag is going to be a great day. It got better from there. Students from every other grade level, transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, took turns performing an original song or chant that illustrated their Fairmont Falcon pride. After the assembly, attendees gathered in the school's multi-purpose room to continue the festivities and look at photos and memorabilia from across the decades.

Fairmont's 50th-anniversary celebration offered a timely reminder of how a school can change through the years and maintain the same feel of excellence and care that has been there all along. It also offered time to reflect on our organization's rich history, which dates back to 1874 with a one-room schoolhouse established by pioneers.

Through bravery, hard work, and dreams, these pioneers paved the way for our present-day award-winning Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. All of this was brought about by the untiring efforts of educationally minded settlers who were visionaries, and who truly valued education. And though it was Fairmont celebrating this year, I know that each of our schools could tell a similar, compelling story.

Congratulations to Fairmont for 50 years of "Together in Excellence!" And let's all keep on moving forward and building a great community together.

Congratulations Fairmont Elementary School 50 Years "Together in Excellence"

Discover PYLUSD During High School Showcase Events

From the District

Students gain the advantage of an outstanding education in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Each year, the district invites prospective students and families to discover the academic, athletic, activity, and art-based opportunities unique to its high schools. Each high school showcases its campus and programs during its respective evening event. This year's schedule includes an event on November 9 for Valencia High, December 1 for El Dorado High, December 7 for Yorba Linda High, and December 14 for Esperanza High. All events begin at 6 p.m. and more information is available at www.pylusd.org/hsshowcase.

Unique to PYLUSD high schools are robust career technical education (CTE) programs, known as CareerLink Academies and Pathways. These programs allow high school students to see the real-world relevance and applicability of their curriculum, gain new industry-specific skills, liaise with professionals in their area of interest, engage in internships and job training in their fields, and earn credits and certifications that facilitate their transition into the workforce or collegiate programs of study.

The district boasts six CTE Academies and 14 CTE Pathways for the 2022-2023 school year. CareerLink Academies include Digital Media Arts and ED Law at El Dorado High School, Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing and Medical Sciences at Esperanza High School, Val

Tech at Valencia High School, and Mustang Business at Yorba Linda High School. Across the district, CareerLink Pathways provide courses focused on an array of industry sectors such as education, food service and hospitality, construction, and more.

For instance, it is the mission of Esperanza's Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing Academy to teach students about applicable careers through industry software and technology, certification, field trips, internships, and job shadowing. Academy instructors equip students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training to succeed in future careers. Whether students choose to pursue engineering or manufacturing courses, or both, they are trained in safety and introduced to basic concepts and skills before working on real-life projects around Esperanza's campus and the community. Students in this Academy live their motto "from concept to product," which is undeniable as you walk Esperanza High School's campus and see custom Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing creations all over!

The Aztec Engineering and Manufacturing Academy is just one example of how PYLUSD prepares students for high-demand and high-wage careers of the future through a multitude of career technical education opportunities. Each high school will share more information about its CTE Academies and Pathways at its upcoming showcase events. We hope to see you there!

R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylusk.org



Melina Michaels
President

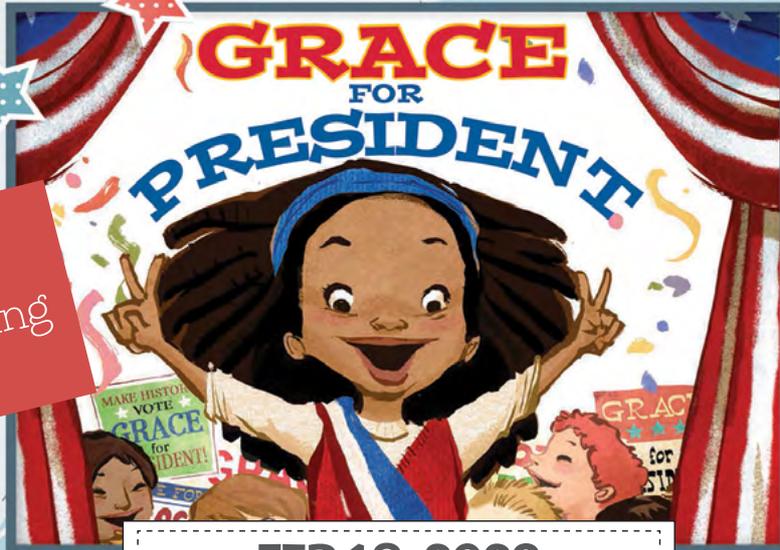
Experience Your Environment – Find, Observe, Share

Did you know the largest coastal redwood grove in Southern California is in our own backyard? The redwood grove at Carbon Canyon Regional Park is a local favorite and was featured during the REACH Foundation's Experience Your Environment nature hike in October. PYLUSD students and families learned about the local fire cycle, native and non-native plants, the drought and the local watershed. Inside the Outdoors, an award-winning environmental education organization administered by OCDE, facilitated the nature hike through the picturesque 124 acres park. We encourage everyone to continue to Find, Observe, and Share what they see in nature in their neighborhood, backyard or at a local park. The REACH Foundation has an online PYL Community Field Guide of plants and animals we observe that students can contribute to. Learn more at www.reach4pylusk.org.



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Dr. Matthews begins this issue with his message on page 3. Congratulations to Fairmont Elementary School celebrating 50 years. This is our 15th year collaborating with the PYLUSD to publish their *School News*. The district has a history of former students returning to teach in the

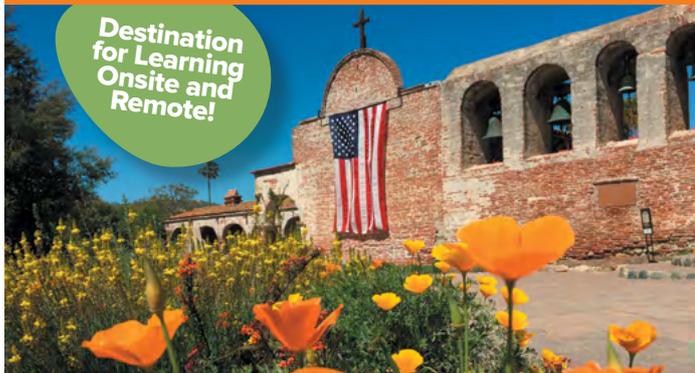
district, which speaks well for the district and community. I will not be surprised to learn that a former student is now writing articles for *School News*.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is February 8.

Happy Thanksgiving from the *School News Staff*

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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



Beth Fisher
Principal

Matadors Make it Happen

This fall marks the launch of a new and exciting adventure for Bernardo Yorba Middle School: College level classes offered at our school. We have partnered with

Fullerton College to offer the first ever college course offered at any of the 6 PYLUSD middle schools. This fall our students are taking “Introduction to Game Design.” As we are very much in a technologically based world, we are also pleased to have a partnership with a non-profit organization to offer a non-college level course called “Introduction to Web Design.” We are preparing our learners to lead in a highly competitive, technological, and global society.



Brookhaven *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



Laura Fisher
Principal

Hands-On Science

What is the best way to learn about science? At Brookhaven we know it's hands-on! Brookhaven teachers in grades first through fifth are trying on the newly adopted TWIG Science curriculum. TWIG Science boasts hands-on, interactive learning connected to the Next-Generation Science Standards, which states students should do science to learn science. Our

Brookhaven students will go through science modules throughout the school year. Each science module begins with an essential question that sparks the students' thinking and then follows with driving questions within the modules that increase in complexity. Students are then taken through the lesson sequence of spark, investigate, report, connect, and reflect. Students are also exposed to STEM careers throughout the modules. This fourth grade student is making a car with safety features to protect a raw egg from breaking! He and his classmates will be learning about energy of motion and how energy is transferred.



Bryant Ranch School (TK-5)

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Shannon Robles
Principal

We Love Our Bryant Ranch Community!

Bryant Ranch has a strong sense of community and it shows in the pride our students, staff and families take in our school. Our staff and PTA work diligently to assure students feel a sense of belonging and families are welcome. Every event we have is highly attended and it's wonderful to see the connection between home and school.

We kicked off our year with a Meet and Greet, which was highly attended by new and returning families. What a great way to welcome our students back! Another highly attended event was our Donuts with Dads/Grown Ups.



The smiles on the faces of our students while they enjoyed their morning with family was priceless. Our Book Fair was another huge success, and promoting the love of reading is a top priority. We look forward to continuing our year with high community involvement.

Buena Vista Virtual Academy (K-12)

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.buenavistavirtual.org



Jamie Jauch
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead

Buena Vista Virtual Academy students are going full STEAM ahead into the 2022-23 school year with optional Dreams for Schools online coding and engineering classes, and in-person STEAM Friday events. Students K-5 are learning how to code using Ozobots and Scratch. And students K-12 are engaging in fun arts and crafts that they can take

home and enjoy. Young learners benefit from the support of older students who serve as mentors and role models. Buena Vista Virtual Academy offers online, independent study learning in a supportive and caring environment. We encourage students to get involved, explore their interests, and collaborate with peers while learning in a flexible environment.



BVVA Student Helping Younger Student Learn to Code



Teacher Supported Student Centered Learning at BVVA



Learning is Fun at BVVA

El Camino Real High School (Continuation High School 9-12)

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • www.ecrhs.pylusd.org



Scott Mazurier
Principal

Changing a Narrative

At El Camino Real High School, we are changing the narrative in our students' education and lives. Individualized academic support, trauma-informed practices, student-first wellness philosophies and a commitment to working with at-risk youth are only a few of our core values that allow us to create a culture of acceptance with an emphasis on growth mindset. Our goal is to meet our students where they are by providing them with opportunities to be successful in every aspect of life. We believe that we are much more than a credit-recovery program, and we intentionally and strategically create systems of support that will allow our students to endure their challenges, live their values, and continue to push for their best on a daily basis.



Jada Aguilar and Luna Olguin

their motivation, and show a strong sense of self, much like Coach Inouye-Perez's message. We are proud of our students and that they consider ECRHS as "a home, a family, and a place where they are safe and supported."

For example, on Oct. 5, ECRHS had two students, Jada Aguilar and Luna Olguin, represent the Raptors at PYLUSD's fifth annual Women in Industry event. Keynote speaker Coach Inouye-Perez of UCLA Softball shared her message on mindset as follows: "We don't fear failure. We look at it and flip it."

Jada and Luna represented their peers well in this inspirational experience geared toward empowering the next generation of leaders. Jada and Luna both epitomize our students' ability to show resilience, reclaim

El Dorado High School (9-12)

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



Joey Davis
Principal

A New Course Being Offered

El Dorado High School is excited to be able to offer Multi Cultural Studies to our students this year. In this new course, students can discover the importance of celebrating the beliefs and values of diverse cultures!

Here are some of the goals for the course:

- Investigate the histories, cultures and contributions of diverse groups
- Reflect on students' cultures and identities
- Study how your personal story is represented in local and US history
- Expand on learning rooted in respect and empathy within our diverse society
- Build a deeper sense of belonging to school and our community
- Explore the diverse cultures and histories of local community members
- Learn about your ancestry and the journey that built your culture and identity
- Visit and participate in local community practices and traditions



We thank our teacher, Mrs. Bremer, and her students as well as all the other PYLUSD staff who created this course.

Esperanza High School (9-12)

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



Jeff Giles
Principal

Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month

September was Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month, and in spirit of that, Esperanza's Medical Sciences Academy's HOSA club hosted a donation to raise money for custom gowns that will be given to children with cancer. The organization we worked with was Brave Gowns, which provides bright, fun, lively designed gowns curated for children's personalities as opposed to the usual drab blue ones. Their goal is to provide some joy and strength in a child's life in what is otherwise a sad time for them. Each class at Esperanza received an envelope with a patient's name, their disease, and the gown they wished for. The donation goal was \$25 for each class, but many raised much more. In total, \$1,406 was collected, which will provide 56 gowns to pediatric cancer patients. This incredible school-wide contribution will go a long way in helping bring some smiles and excitement to these strong fighters!



Fairmont Elementary School (TK-6)

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Anne San Roman
Principal

50th Anniversary

The week of October 17-21, Fairmont Elementary School in Yorba Linda celebrated its 50-year anniversary. To kick off the celebration, students and staff members dressed in 70s attire to pay tribute to the decade Fairmont opened on Tuesday, October 18. Then on October 19, a special morning assembly for students, staff, families, and members of the community was held on campus.

Former principals and assistant principals, staff members, alumni, and parents shared messages about the strong sense of family that is present at Fairmont as well as the longstanding commitment to academic excellence. Students from each of the grade levels—transitional kindergarten through sixth grade—then took turns performing a special song or chant that exemplified their pride in their school.

On Thursday, October 20, Fairmont then hosted a 50th anniversary-themed afterschool carnival for all to enjoy. The events were made possible in large part by the school's supportive PTA. Congratulations and happy anniversary, Falcons!



Rebecca Allan, Principal

Learning for All Ages!

George Key is a public school in the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District. Our school supports students ages through 22 with complex needs. Our team of dedicated teachers and staff support students to help them achieve their highest levels of independence.

We believe all students can learn. We focus on student communication and literacy skills to assist each student reach their potential. Last month, we celebrated our Students of the Month and also prepared for our Halloween celebration. The celebration included a schoolwide parade, visits through our “haunted house” and gathering treats from each class. Lots of fun as we wrapped up the month of October!

Venture Academy is a program within the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District. We provide educational and job training services through a student’s IEP as part of their transitional program. Students participate in job training, mobility training, recreation and leisure services, and job coaching. Our program is a bridge to post-high school training and career readiness. Recently, Venture Academy formed a student choir. The students enjoy weekly practice and look forward to their upcoming concert performance in December! Way to go, Venture Wildcats!

Glenknoll Elementary School (TK-6)

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



Terry Mulcahy
Principal

Student Leadership Creates Belonging

A sixth-grade student in a blue vest is turning a jump rope for a line of first-graders who can’t wait to play with her. The little ones look up to their upper-grade companions much like a big sister or big brother. Other students in a blue vest are playing handball with the second-graders and teaching them good sportsmanship.

These students helping other students are members of the Glenknoll Elementary Peer Assistance Leadership program. This program gives our sixth-graders the opportunity to develop leadership skills, connect with their peers in a helping capacity, and learn good team-building and problem-solving skills.

Teachers Amy Huhn, Danielle Miller, and Jessica Leonard give these students the invaluable opportunity to grow as strong peer leaders on campus. Students who want to become PAL leaders must apply and be selected for the program. They then donate their own recess and lunch time to provide this service to their peers.

Everyone benefits from this great program. The younger students have role models, the upper-grade students build confidence as leaders,



and all of the students have an opportunity to create a strong sense of connection and belonging to their school community. When students feel that they truly belong, they are much more likely to reach their full potential at school.



Glenview Elementary School (TK-6)

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Jane Roh
Principal

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at Glenview Elementary School!

We opened the school year with over 660 students in TK - 6th grade. We are very proud that our Dual Language Academy is now at full capacity, with two classes each in Kindergarten - 6th grade. Our theme for this year is “Bulldogs belong and believe.” Every month, we will focus on a different aspect of our core beliefs, including “Bulldogs believe all students can learn,” and “Bulldogs embrace every challenge.” This theme will inspire us to greatness and set the vision for the year.

On Wednesday, October 12, we celebrated National Walk and Roll to School Day. The campus was open to families and that morning, students and their loved ones were able to walk and talk together on the blacktop. We are looking forward to many fun events and opportunities to engage with our community this year!



Glenview students and families celebrating “Walk and Roll” to School Day.

Golden Elementary School (TK-6)

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



Kristin McDonald
Principal

Golden Engages Parents in Building Community

This year at Golden, we strive to “Be Golden” which means we want our school community to be excellent, be inquisitive, be kind, and be inclusive. One way we build this culture is to engage our parents in activities at school. This

school year we have already invited parents to eat lunch on campus during Lunch with a Loved One and we held a Family Movie Night. Both events were heavily attended by families, and it provided parents the opportunity to come onto campus and connect with other families. Students loved eating a special lunch with their families on the grass, and families were excited to safely come onto campus to be part of their child’s day. PTA sponsored our first Movie Night where families came



Movie Night

out to watch DC Super Pets on the blacktop for no charge. Everyone had a wonderful time and we look forward to creating more opportunities to connect and build a strong Golden Community where we can all work together in partnership to support all of our Golden Eagles!



Lunch with Loved Ones

Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Michael Young
Principal

Kraemer Klub Rush!

Near the end of September each year, Kraemer hosts an exciting “Club Rush” event for all students during both lunches. Our main quad is decorated with balloons and staged with tables by our amazing ASB.

Eager students visit the tables learning about all the amazing

extracurricular opportunities we offer. Clubs are offered in addition to our exceptional performing arts programs and contemporary elective course offerings. This year those clubs include: Cyber Patriots, Dungeons & Dragons, You Be the Chemist, Fellowship, Recycling, Guitar, Basketball, Intramural Sports, Anime, Diversity, Distance Running, NJHS Tutoring, Hip Hop, & Theatre. Every day at KMS,

we seek to engage every student by offering a wide range of opportunities connecting students with our positive culture and learning environment. All KMS clubs are made possible with the exceptional devotion of our talented KMS staff who serve as advisors, coaches, and mentors for each and every club. #KraemerStrongerTogether



Lakeview Elementary School (TK-5)

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lakeview.pylusd.org



Stephanie Given
Principal

Lakeview Sunshine Squad Spreads Kindness

Returning with a rebrand to our Lakeview Student Leadership Team this 2022-23 school year is the SUNSHINE SQUAD, formerly Glee Club. Led by Mrs. Genna Olson and Mrs. Shannon Vlastnik, two dedicated

and positively radiating teachers, meet

with fourth and fifth grade students weekly during recess to collaboratively organize and provide activities that promote and spread kindness to Lakeview and our extended community. Students who are chosen for the Sunshine Squad must demonstrate leadership skills, responsibility, kindness, and a willingness to help others. Upcoming activities include monthly spirit days, fundraisers for local charities and on-site

holiday activities like this week’s BOOktacluar event where students read aloud Halloween holiday books to younger students. Next month, Sunshine Squad will be hosting a Friendsgiving with all our new-to Lakeview students. We look forward to the many ways our Sunshine Squad spreads kindness throughout our community and grows in their leadership skills!



Linda Vista *Elementary (TK-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lindavistaelementary.org



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Making a Difference

As we embrace the start of another school year, we are excited to offer leadership opportunities to a new group of students. At Linda Vista, it is our goal to foster a learning environment that is safe, inclusive, supportive, inviting and nurturing. I continue to be very proud of the way our students and staff come together to live out this mission.

One way we seek to accomplish this goal is through the work of our Lead Lions, who

have made a huge impact across campus already this school year. This special group of fifth-grade students applied and were selected to volunteer during recess to serve in various roles that include peer mentors on the playground, classroom tutors and teacher's aides.

We have been so impressed with the responsibility and leadership skills these students have demonstrated. They are helping our younger Lions feel a sense of connection and belonging through their work as mentors. Their eagerness to give back to the school and their commitment to developing their leadership skills offers a vision of their future success.



Mabel Paine *Elementary School (TK-5)*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.mabelpaine.org



Geoff Smith
Principal

Student Leadership Group

Mabel Paine is thrilled to have a flourishing student leadership group. This is a brand new program started this school year by our two fifth grade teachers. Students who were interested in joining this

program had to fill out an application and interview with these teachers. Students selected to serve on leadership have taken on various roles around campus such as: directing students and parents in the car line, assisting students on the playground, facilitating special events at recess, carrying out weekly student announcements, and organizing unique welcome activities for new students. These student leaders have had such a positive impact on campus and have allowed students as well as parents to feel safe while being at Mabel Paine. We are excited to see this group continue to flourish and help enhance the educational experience for the Mabel Paine community. We look forward to seeing future leaders develop through this wonderful program!



Melrose Elementary School (TK-5)

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • melrose.pylusd.org

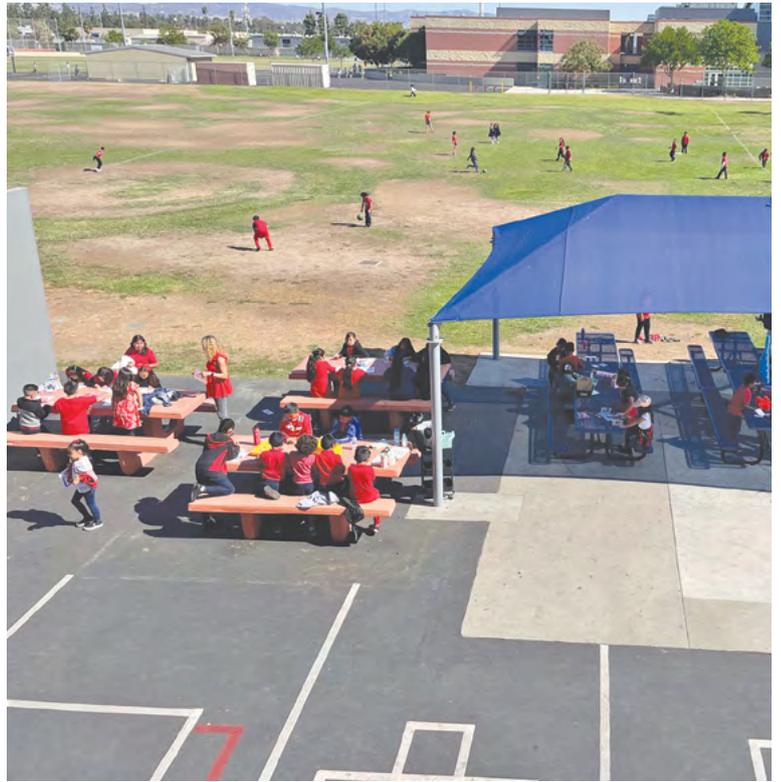


Janie Yoo
Principal

Positive Behavior

Melrose Elementary School is committed to implementing our school wide Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports plan focused on social, emotional, and academic outcomes for all students. As part of our plan, we provide multi-tiered systems and support during unstructured time. We contracted with Pure Games who uses

sports to help students make meaningful connections with each other while building skills and character. The Coach introduces a new grade appropriate game each week, reviews the rules, and assigns tasks. We also have our Wellness Team provide arts and table games during recess as an alternative activity. Our Registered Behavior Technician leads social groups to help students make connections with each other. Students who are following our High Five Rules are recognized weekly and we have a raffle pull monthly to share a treat with the principal. Providing students choices, adult supervision, and incentives during unstructured time reduces conflicts and increases students' enjoyment.



Morse Elementary School (TK-6)

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morseschool.net



Kelly Farrell
Principal

STEMming the Year Off Strong

Our Morse Wildcats kicked off the school year with some fun and stimulating STEM activities! The first- and second-graders were recently presented with the “Spaghetti Marshmallow Tower Challenge.” Here they were given sticks of dry spaghetti, one marshmallow, one yard of tape, and then instructed to build in 15 minutes the tallest possible tower that would support their marshmallow.

Throughout the process these primary students were practicing a design process which included thinking, prototyping, and doing. It was amazing to hear their collaborative conversations and thought processes, and to see it all come to fruition as they tested their marshmallow on top of their tower!

Our third- and fourth-graders were also asked the question: “Can you build a house that the Big Bad Wolf can't blow down?” They were then assigned one of three building materials: straw (plastic straws), sticks (Popsicle sticks), and bricks (sugar cubes), and were given the

option to choose their “mortar” of either tape or playdough. Each team member was also given the opportunity to draw and then explain their design to the rest of the group.

The students first decided which aspects of each design they liked the best, and then they put them all together to form their final house design (little did they know that the Big Bad Wolf was Mrs. Leiva's hair dryer!) The children had a great time working with their team members on the project. They didn't even realize that they were also thinking critically and problem-solving while having so much fun!



Parkview Home School (TK-12)

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • www.pylusdparkview.org



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Local Heroes Visit

Parkview students in kindergarten through fifth grade had a special visit from the Placentia Fire Department. This was an early Red Ribbon Week assembly for our Panthers. The firefighters gave a presentation on making healthy choices and how students can help in the community.

They also demonstrated how to use lifesaving tools and had a race between two firefighters, showing how they have one minute to get their gear on for an emergency call. Before leaving, each student eagerly received a red fire hat, stickers, and had the special opportunity to sit in the fire truck. We thank our local heroes for the work they do and the time they spent with us at Parkview.



Rio Vista Elementary School (TK-5)

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • www.riovistaschool.org



Brandon Frank
Principal

Invested in Meeting Student's Needs

Rio Vista Elementary School is committed to maximizing learning for all students, and this year we are heavily investing in a robust intervention team to meet the learning needs of students in Math and Language Arts. Two Academic Support Teachers (AST) and two Response to Intervention (RtI) teachers are working closely with classroom teachers and our Instructional Coach to tailor data-driven interventions targeted to gaps in specific skills. Our Intervention Team is already showing great progress, and our students are highly engaged in their small-group instruction. We are incorporating PYLUSD Signature Practices and AVID instructional strategies in these groups as well as across the campus in every classroom. At Rio Vista, we believe that ALL means ALL, and we will continue to invest in meeting the needs of every student!



Students use kinesthetic learning techniques to practice writing in their small intervention group.

Rose Drive *Elementary School (TK-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

Library Learning Hub

Reading and providing students with opportunities to read more books and grow is an important part of being a Roadrunner Scholar. Research strongly indicates that when children have access to good libraries that foster critical thinking and communication, they thrive in their reading skills.

This year, we are updating our library to include more books, flexible seating, and new student-centered areas such as a felt-board nook, goldfish pets and book recommendations. In addition,

our new librarian, Jessica Draper, is collaborating with our leadership team to help develop a schoolwide reading program and a reading book club for all students. Students continue to check out books at their reading Lexile reading and are encouraged to read in a variety of genres. Schoolwide, we encourage students to read various books that stretch their reading to include fiction and nonfiction books so that students are utilizing the skills they learn in class to read and comprehend.

A love of reading is key to student success and lifelong learning here at Rose Drive.



Read and Grow



Library Helpers

Ruby Drive *Elementary School (TK-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.org



Lisa Carmona
Principal

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Motivate our Scholars

Ruby Drive's PBIS Kick-off was full of enthusiasm. School-wide behavior expectations were explicitly discussed among students and



staff while touring campus together. At each location (e.g. cafeteria, library, hallways, playgrounds, and classrooms) the conversation centered around Ruby P.R.I.D.E. (Punctual and Prepared, Respectful, Integrity, Dependable, Everyone Safe). This focused event was to help prevent unwanted behaviors while providing universal support to create an environment where all students can succeed. As a result, the Ruby Drive P.R.I.D.E. cards are a hot commodity! As scholars earn them for eliciting the qualities of P.R.I.D.E across campus, one can decide if they will shop at the PRIDE Store for a fancy pencil or eraser, or save up for big ticket items such as "Game Table" or "Principal for a Day". With PBIS in full gear at Ruby Drive, the excitement and motivation is undeniable.



Sierra Vista *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.sierravistapta.com



Jacquie Bluemel
Principal

Food Drive

Student Leadership at Sierra Vista has been a new and welcome addition to the campus. Under the guidance of Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Hendry, student leaders at Sierra Vista sponsored a Food Drive to help families in our community. With the help of their teacher leaders, these leadership students created a promotional

video to share with each class about what items to bring to school. They traveled to each classroom to collect and sort items that were donated. The generous families at Sierra Vista donated cereal, oatmeal, canned goods, rice, and much more. In total, over 1000 items were collected and taken to the Family Resource Center to be distributed to the neediest families throughout our district. Way to go, Eagles!



Student leaders at Sierra Vista help to organize over 1000 donated food items during the school's Food Drive.

Topaz *Elementary School (TK-6)*

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topazschool.org



Eva Matthews
Principal

School Year Kicked Off with a Bang

Topaz Elementary is home to the Tigers! We have kicked off the 2022-23 school year with a bang. We welcomed back more than 430 students on our first day of school. We continue to hold outstanding partnerships with GRIP (Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership) together we support the social emotional needs of our students and

encourage parent participation, like our morning greeters. In September, the Assistance League of Fullerton funded Operation School Bell. This amazing program affords several of our families many basic needs and clothing for the entire school year. In the month of October, we are preparing for our 2nd Annual Trunk-o-Treat, Red Ribbon Week, and our Public Safety Day. Looking forward to sharing updates in the next issue.



Travis Ranch School (TK-8)

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Dr. Taylor Holloway
Principal

Celebrating Meeting Expectations

The 22-23 school year at Travis Ranch School is off to a great start! In Elementary School, we continue to celebrate our students regularly for meeting academic and behavioral expectations. Our monthly Spirit Rallies have been a success with students practicing school-wide behavior expectations and rewarded for displaying them. They even compete in games as mixed grade

level teams for exciting prizes. On the Middle School side of campus, we continue to focus on sustaining a positive school culture and climate. All students have been divided into teams which have become mini-communities on campus and a place for our students to connect with one another on a deeper level. The positive outcomes have far exceeded our expectations! We look forward to continuing to see our students report increased levels of happiness on campus as we maintain a safe and respectful school environment. Keep up the great work Trailblazers!



Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



David Okamoto
Principal

Highlighting the 'Intangibles'

Tuffree Middle School is a fantastic place to be! To quickly list recent awards, Tuffree has been named a Gold Ribbon School, a 2022 National Forum

to Accelerate Middle School Reform and a California School to Watch, a 2021 California Distinguished School, and a 2021 Gold Medal PBIS School. We were also awarded the 2020 California PBIS Community Cares top award.

That said, awards are an indicator of something much deeper going on here. The people that make up this community are tremendous! As the new principal at Tuffree, I could not be prouder to be part of the Tuffree family of students, teachers, staff and parents. Tuffree first opened in 1968 and has been educating middle schoolers for over five decades now in this part of Placentia.

I can attest as a former parent of two students that went



to Tuffree Middle School that both had an excellent experience at Tuffree, which beyond a shadow of a doubt has helped shape who they are today. My personal vision is that all students can say that they had an excellent experience when they promote from Tuffree to further their education in high school and beyond!

Each day, we reinforce our three core values of respect, responsibility

and teamwork on campus. You can see these words around campus, in our announcements, and posted in the classroom. When students are asked about our values, *respect*, *responsibility* and *teamwork* are the words that are the immediate response.

To conclude, our academics, programs and systems shine, but it is the "intangibles" that make Tuffree great. It is my profound honor to serve as principal here at Tuffree Middle School! Go Falcons!

Tynes Elementary School (TK-6)

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.johnotynes.org



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Fun Friday!

Fun Fridays are back and better than before! Every Friday, students have the opportunity to participate in more activities. During Friday lunch recesses, Mrs. Gray brings out the sound system for a dance party with jump ropes. Students sing along while they dance and jump to the beat. Large outdoor games are brought out to the playgrounds each Friday. Students line up each week to play Connect Four, Toss Across, and Dominos to name a few.

Also, each Friday, the Prize Patrol sets up in the hallway to recognize students that have earned Tiger Tickets as part of our schoolwide PBIS. Fun Fridays is a way to celebrate the diligent work of students each week. Tynes continues to be a fun place to be, especially on Fridays!



Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.valadezacademy.org



Dr. Christa Borgese
Principal

Read for the Record Day

On Thursday, October 27th, the Valadez Middle School Academy Eagles were proud to host the Rio Vista Elementary Leopards and the Melrose Elementary Marlins for the national Read for the Record Day. Each year Read for the Record brings together millions of adults and children as they read the same book on the same day, building an intergenerational community through reading. VMSA 8th graders buddies up with Rio Vista's and Melrose's 1st graders to read this year's book *Nigel and the Moon* written by Antwan Eady and illustrated by Gracey Zhang. After reading the book, the students all participated in literacy and math activities related to the theme. A fun time was had by all!



8th grade VMSA students with their 1st grade SuperHero buddies.

Valencia High School (9-12)

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Valencia High School Thrives as Academic Powerhouse

Valencia High School is proud to announce that 12 seniors are among the top 1/2% of students in the nation to receive the honor of 2022 National Merit Scholar Semifinalist: Rohan Bhalodia, Jonathan Chao, Dylan Chen, Calvin Hong, Camille Ives, Junhyuk Jeon, Joseph Kim, Jason Mo, Nathan Nguyen, Brooklyn Pagaza, Mancheon Park and Ruth Simon. 22 additional students scored in the top 5% in the nation

and qualified as 2022 National Merit Commended Students.

Eight students were awarded The College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Award: Cera Mallory, David Harman, Dayanara Anaya, Emmy Lopez, Giacomo Carter, Nicolette Pena, Pablo Gonzalez and Thomas Scullin.

And finally, VHS is proud to announce a record 80 students were awarded International Baccalaureate (IB) Diplomas last spring, by far the most IB diplomas of any Orange County High School. 160 students earned the Val Tech Diploma including 50 dual IB/ValTech. Two AVID students also earned IB diplomas.



Valencia High School 2022 National Merit Commended and Semi Finalists.

Van Buren Elementary School (TK-6)

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



David Cammarato
Principal

One Team Growing Together

The 2022-23 school year is off to a great start! Our theme this year is "Positive Impact," and each part of our school showcases this theme. Van Buren exemplifies this message, and our school is filled with positive people working together to make a difference for the community that we serve.

Our staff takes pride in providing our students with an outstanding education that highlights high standards and strong academics with an emphasis on helping students find success. Teachers at Van Buren value the relationships that are built and the role they play in building connections with students and families. The students at Van Buren take ownership of their learning and enjoy showing off their school spirit. They are excited to be a part of this

school, and this is demonstrated by their participation in our school's valet service, morning announcements, school-spirit events, dine-out nights, Red Ribbon Week and many other activities.

Van Buren's parents are among the best! They invest their time, energy and talent right back into the school. We are thankful for their support for our school through investing in our PTA, volunteering in our classrooms, supporting our school from home, and helping provide great community events.

Our PTA has already raised over \$40,000 for our upcoming Jog-a-thon. These funds provide assemblies, field trips, supplies and many family-focused school events that bring all of our stakeholders together.

Author and speaker John Maxwell once said that "one is too small a number to achieve greatness," and Van Buren is a shining example of that!

Wagner Elementary School (TK-6)

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.wagnerwildcats.org



Janice Weber
Principal

Kindness Crew

Led by Wagner teachers, Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Kiblinger, Wagner's Kindness Crew is a leadership team of 4-6th graders that work together to spread kindness and inclusion on the playground. It is made up of four committees:

Playground Pals, Communications Committee,

Crafty Crew, and Game Gurus. The Playground Pals walk around the playground to include students that are playing alone and to help solve problems. Communications Committee spreads kindness through words of affirmation. They make posters about school events, write letters, and write kind words around campus. Crafty Crew provides students with sensory play opportunities such as

kinesthetic sand and playdough, reading in the reading garden, and making arts and crafts. The game gurus set up games on the playground for students to play altogether. The four committees work as peer mentors to spread the Wagner Ways of being respectful, responsible, ready, and safe.



Woodsboro Elementary School (TK-6)

7575 Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • www.woodsboro.pylusd.org



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Fall is in The Air!

Woodsboro celebrated its annual Fall Festival on Thursday, October 20. This family event started with a costume parade for all the children, including future and past Woodsboro students, followed by the costume contest winners announced. Families were then able to enjoy game booths with prizes while listening and dancing to our DJ who played crowd

favorites throughout the event. White Oak Barbecue served a variety of mouthwatering dishes. The evening ended with the ultimate crowd pleaser - "Trunk or Treat." Our community members creatively decorated their trunks in multiple ways, including spooky favorites, Little Mermaid, Hocus Pocus, big top circus, and You're the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown themes. All of our students and families look forward to this exciting outdoor event each year that is sponsored by our amazing PTA and supported by many others. We thank all of the fabulous volunteers for their hard work!



Yorba Linda Middle School (6-8)

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



Greg Kemp
Principal

Building Relationships through Activities

Yorba Linda Middle School kicked off the year with their Week of Welcome, a fun filled week of building relationships and forming a strong, positive school culture.

This week sets the tone for the year

as we strive to empower our students for future success. Our Bobcats experienced a motivational speaker, PBIS activities, and even ate pancakes made by their teachers! Leadership classes have been hard at work serving our campus and running activities to ensure every student knows they belong at YLMS! On Friday, October 21st, we hosted our Family Picnic where we welcomed our Bobcat Families to have lunch on campus with their students. We love seeing our families and building connections

with our community. We are wrapping up the quarter with our Red Ribbon Week, where students dress up according to a theme each day and take a pledge to say NO to drugs! The campus has been buzzing with excitement as students come to school looking forward to the day's activities.



Yorba Linda High School (9-12)

19900 Bastanchury Rd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Dr. Richard Dinh
Principal

Connected Community

To start the 2022-2023 school year, the Mustang community of students, staff, and parents are “getting connected” and demonstrating pride, spirit, and excellence.

Student involvement data shows that over 90 percent of our student body has joined a school club and attended a school dance or athletic event. In addition, a record 75 student clubs were established along with

1,110+ students who attended our Homecoming Dance. The *O.C. Register* also voted “The Stable” as the top student cheering section in Orange County for their sportsmanship and spirit.

Excellence in academics: YLHS was also recently recognized for our Advanced Placement exam scores from the 2021-2022 school year. From the OC Register:

“Yorba Linda administered 1,083 exams in 27 subjects for an 88 percent pass rate, up from last year’s 86 percent

pass rate on 1,072 exams in 24 subjects. The average global, national, and California pass rates for AP hover in the 60 percent range.”

Excellence in athletics: All fall sports, cross country, football, women’s golf, women’s tennis, women’s volleyball, and men’s water polo all had exceptional seasons, and many are continuing into the month of November in the CIF playoffs.

Excellence in arts: Yorba Linda High School’s Musical Theater performance of *Carrie* earned rave reviews from students, parents, and community members, including judges from the Spirit of Macy Awards, a group that recognizes excellence in musical theater. Band and Color Guard had a great showing in the Kennedy Field Tournament, earning a combined first place.

Our Mustang community is off to a great start, and we look forward to continuing to showcase our achievements in academics, athletics, and the arts, and get more students connected!

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.

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628

714/966-4000

www.ocde.us