

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Fountain Valley School District



Volume 18, Issue 109

January 2023



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By Jeanne Galindo, Board President

As I move into my new role as Board President, I am delighted to highlight how we have progressed on one of our five district priorities: “Provide safe, modernized, and productive learning environments.”



On November 8, 2016, the Fountain Valley School District Community came together and passed Measure O to modernize our aging school sites. Air climate and quality, science labs, technology infrastructure, upgrading

deteriorating roofs, plumbing, and electrical upgrades were part of the scope of this work. Completing these upgrades has resulted in fresh spaces for teaching and learning.



Many thanks to Christine Fullerton, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, Joe Hastie, Director of Maintenance and Operations, and district staff for all they did to deliver on these Measure O projects. We are grateful to our community for supporting public education and our Fountain Valley School District.



Dr. Katherine Stopp
Superintendent

In the face of tragedy and change, our FVSD community members and educational partners came together to support and encourage one another. On behalf of the Fountain Valley School District, I thank everyone who reached out to us to extend a hand and keep us in their thoughts and prayers.

We were most proud of our FVSD students who showed resilience. They filled our hearts with their vocal stylings, instrumental music, theatrical storytelling, and joy. We continue to celebrate all the young performers and the amazing staff members who created bright spots in our days throughout the month of December.

The first weeks of 2023 have been filled with much needed rain and hope in the air.

Here’s to a great 2023 for ALL!

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



562/493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



Netragrednik

Happy New Year!

A new year is always exciting with hope for a better tomorrow. As you read the articles in this issue you will be hopeful. Students are engaged and focused.

Readers often ask what the significance is of the chicken under the umbrella in this masthead. It is a simple cartoon my mother used

to draw for me when I was a child and I drew it for my children and grandchild. When I founded *School News*, I decided to use it as our mascot and named it Netragrednik — kindergarten spelled backwards.

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

Our next issue is March 19.

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
FOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung,
Mie Kawamura

COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

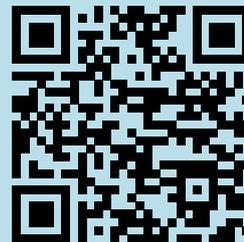
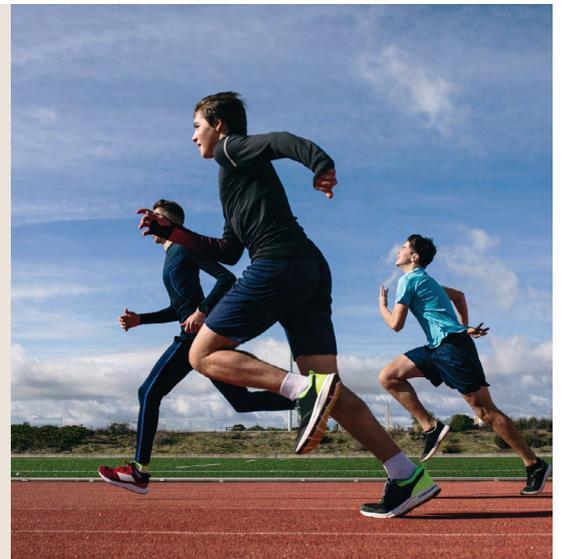
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Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

On a crisp December morning, the City of Westminster and the Orange County Department of Education celebrated the opening of a new park honoring the historic case of Mendez v. Westminster, which put an end to forced segregation in California's public schools while laying the foundation for the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark Brown v. Board decision.

City officials, local dignitaries, students and community members turned out in force for Mendez Tribute Monument Park's dedication ceremony, marking the completion of a five-year collaborative effort. But a few days before its official opening, I had an opportunity to preview the park with Sylvia Mendez, a civil rights icon whose story is central to the case.

Nearly 80 years earlier, in 1943, Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez sought to enroll Sylvia and her two brothers, Geronimo and Gonzalo, Jr., at 17th Street School, known then as "the white school." Despite being American citizens who spoke English — the family lived and worked on a Westminster farm — they were turned away and directed instead to Hoover Elementary, a campus designated for Mexican American children.

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Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeons Help Kids Heal Around Their Growth Plates



Torin Cunningham, M.D.
medical director,
Orthopedic
Center,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

The bones of adults and children share many risks for injury, but children's bones are unique. Children have areas of cartilage located near the ends of their bones called growth plates, which are the last parts of their bones to harden. Because of this, growing kids can have a unique injury called a growth plate fracture.

Growth plate fractures are most common in fingers, wrists, ankles, and feet, but even occur in knees. These injuries are more common in boys because girls tend to finish growing earlier than boys. The risk of a growth plate fracture peaks in adolescence and is usually due to competitive sports or recreational activities. If not treated properly, growth plate fractures can stunt a child's growth or lead to crooked or uneven limbs.

Fortunately, pediatric orthopedic surgeons are specially trained to help children heal correctly after they have suffered a growth plate fracture. These surgeons complete additional training to operate on growth plates and soft tissue, providing specific care for children's bone and joint disorders.

Besides growth plate injuries, pediatric orthopedic surgeons also treat a wide range of pediatric injuries to ensure children can heal and grow properly.

Pediatric orthopedic surgeons also specialize in caring for:

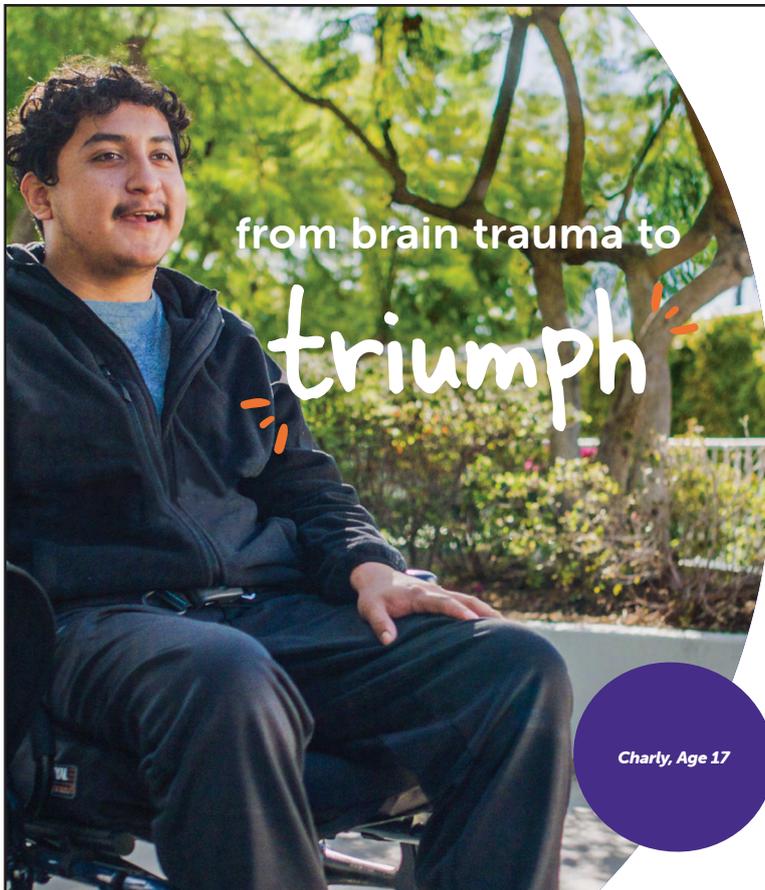
- Bone tumors
- Foot and lower extremities
- Hand and upper extremities
- Hip deformities and reconstruction
- Spinal deformities and scoliosis

At MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, the Orthopedic Center is dedicated to helping your children grow and heal from growth plate and other pediatric injuries properly.

For more information on pediatric orthopedic specialists, visit millerchildrens.org/ortho or call (714) 377-6993.



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Charly, Age 17



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Learn more.

millerchildrens.org/care

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach
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South Bay to Orange County

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.courreges.fvpsd.us



Lisa Tanita
Principal

Winterfest Groovy and Bright

December 3rd was International Day of Persons with Disabilities. It is a day where we raise awareness and encourage compassion & understanding. On December 15th one

of our local high school students born with Spina Bifida, shared his story with our students. Kumaka Jensen was recently featured on the cover of Scholastic Action magazine. Courreges students were inspired by his story of resilience and joy. He told the students, "Don't feel sorry for me, I just have wheels for legs." Students



were inspired by his grit and perseverance as he shared how he loves going to the skateparks and when he falls, he just gets back up and tries again. He now participates in WCMX (wheelchair motocross) and surfs. Students were inspired by his message of perseverance, kindness, bravery, and empathy.

December concluded with our amazing Winterfest sponsored by our PTA. This year's theme of "Groovy and Bright" incorporated the 70th day of school with a 70's vibe. Students spread peace and love through games, arts, and crafts. They also had the opportunity to go holiday shopping at the Candy Cane Shop.



James H. Cox *Elementary (K-5)*

17615 Los Jardines E, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.cox.fvsd.us



Cara Robinson
Principal

Thank You Mr. Adling!

Our school counselor, Mr. Adling, may be in his first year, but he has already made a huge impression on our students. He is not only beloved by our students, but he adds such a wonderful element to our school culture overall by adding activities and being forever present outdoors. It is hard to imagine Mr. Adling is ever in a bad mood. He is always positive, encouraging, and constantly helping our students and staff to see what's possible. Thank you, Mr. Adling, for being an immediate positive impact on our school culture!



Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6-8)*

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • www.fulton.fvdsd.us



Jenny Salberg
Principal



Molly Kuykendall
Assistant Principal

Fulton Science

Here in the Fulton Science Department we are in our second year of working with a board-adopted curriculum called “Amplify.” This program offers a range of great materials that includes articles, simulations, and hands-on activities. Our teachers have worked hard

to help supplement this learning experience by providing a rigorous and challenging learning environment that enhances the educational opportunities for all of our students.

For the sixth-graders, Amplify’s first unit is called “Geology on Mars.” This unit had the students investigating if Mars could be a habitable planet, and asked if there was any evidence that water once flowed on Mars.

After the students stated their claim and backed it with evidence, they then got to be engineers and work with a team of scientists to build the first structures on Mars. Each team represented a different country, and they each

competed to see which one could build the design first. The students overcame problems such as team members being poached by other countries and parts breaking down during the challenge. It was a fun, supplementary activity that showed everyone the importance of working together.

In the seventh grade, after finishing Amplify’s second unit, where we learned how molecules are metabolized in the body, the Fulton students then engaged in a two-week mini-unit on nutrition that helped to further expand on this knowledge and emphasize its relevance.

In the eighth-grade “Phase Change” unit, we started out with a lesson in matter where the students built ego rocket cars powered by vinegar and baking soda. They had to make claims about whether mass can affect the distance a rocket car travels, and then gather the evidence to support their claims.

Our eighth-graders also looked at dry ice versus regular water ice cubes. They investigated their claims, and then made observations using evidence from the lab and phase-change concepts learned from previous lessons. They then modeled the sublimation of dry ice in water by the presence of bubbles.



Students calculate calories from macronutrients in buzzer trivia.



Students showing off their Nutrition projects.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.gisler.fvsd.us



Katherine Pavidis
Principal

We Have School Spirit!

Yes we do! Our Gators rounded out 2022 with a strong dose of learning and school spirit.

The magic was ignited by our Gator Gallop in November. That was when dozens upon dozens of parents and family members descended upon our campus to cheer on their favorite Gator to a 30-minute jog around the track. The funds from this Gallop are already

in the pipeline for field trips, special programs, and instructional supplies for our classrooms. Thank you, families, for supporting our young scholars.

But the fun didn't stop on the track. No way! Our Gators from the first and second grades to the fourth grade began the holiday season by learning about holiday traditions from around the world with their very own

passports and classroom presentations. Learning comes in many forms, from reading, writing, speaking, and...singing! And so our very own Mr. Paule, the school's music teacher, also led the Gators through some great holiday tunes.

We couldn't officially close out the year without a campus visit from our favorite Green Guy. Our Gator mascot made its way around the campus to provide that last bit fun before we rang out the old year and welcomed in the new!



Our Gator community of parents and family members came together to support our joggers for our Gator Gallop in November.



4th graders dove into learning about holiday traditions around the world.



Gators galloped for a whopping 30 minutes with some cool tunes, cool air, and cheers from the crowd.



Winter Concert in full effect!

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masuda.fvzd.us



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Performing Their Hearts Out!

Masuda had a busy December practicing and performing holiday shows. Under the direction of Kristin Darrah, our drama class performed “The Last Stop till Christmas.”

With two casts, they held performances both during the school day and at night, welcoming parents and families. From performers to the tech crew, they all worked together to put on an exceptional play.

In addition, Sara Hughes led Masuda’s two choir groups to showcase their winter concert in school assemblies and at the Fountain Valley Tree Lighting Ceremony, and they had a guest appearance at a performing arts center with Fountain Valley High School. The songs were student selected and included holiday tunes such as “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” “Holly Jolly Christmas” and “Carol of the Bells.” They all sang their hearts out, impressing all their audiences.



Last but not least, on Dec. 13, Masuda’s media center was full of parents and families for the first indoor band and orchestra concert since 2019. Rob Covacevich conducted an amazing winter concert consisting of 92 students playing an array of instruments. From flutes and clarinets to saxophones and trumpets, the music filled the room with holiday cheer.



William T. Newland *Elementary (K-5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.newland.fvsd.us



Kathy Davis
Interim Principal

Presents for Puppies!

Another successful Presents for Puppies Drive took place this December in Mrs. Holliday's first-grade classroom. This is the fourth year in a row that my students and I have helped out the rescue dogs of Dachshund Paws and Pals of Southern California. Throughout the month of December, my students were encouraged to bring in donations like collars, food, bowls and toys for dogs living in foster care. They then placed their donations under our classroom Christmas tree where they were wrapped by the students at our annual holiday

wrapping party. This is one of the most exciting days of the year, as the children always have a blast wrapping the gifts all on their own. Once decorated with bows, colorful wrappings and thoughtful cards, the gifts were delivered to the rescue, where they provided many tail wags. This year, we wrapped over 100 goodies for the pups!

This project continues to grow in both size and love each year and has become a class favorite of the many Kindness Counts projects I run in my classroom. I am so proud of what these children have accomplished all on their own. They are learning to be loving, caring and compassionate young boys and girls, one Kindness Counts project at a time.



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.oka.fvgsd.us



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Techie Fun for Everyone!

Oka Wolfpack students in fourth and fifth grades have begun a new adventure! Each class will be participating in weekly hands-on sessions of coding and robotics led by the professionals from a coding academy. These opportunities will provide our children with an environment to explore, develop new skills, gain confidence, and work together with peers. Students will gain problem-solving, critical-thinking and STEM skills through interactive coding, game building, STEM, and robotic activities.

Technology plays an enormous role in our everyday lives and will continue to take on an even greater role in the future. As various technologies evolve to become more prevalent and accessible, the ability to create, comprehend, and manipulate these tools is becoming a critical, useful and necessary life skill. Just like math, science and literature, coding is a key aspect of understanding our technologically-advanced world.

Our students are having a blast exploring the coding and robotic worlds! They are challenging themselves to not only know technology but also to truly understand how it works.

We are very proud of our students' creativity and passion to challenge their thinking!



Mrs. Hopkin's 5th Grade Scholars celebrate as they successfully complete their first Moving Lego Robot.

Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K-5)*

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.plavan.fvdsd.us



Dr. Patrick Ham
Principal

2023 California Distinguished School

I am thrilled to announce that Plavan Elementary School have been recognized as a California Distinguished School for 2023!

The California Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools for their outstanding work around two main categories: 1) Exceptional student performance and 2) Closing the achievement gap.

Of the eligible schools, the ones that are recognized have exhibited excellent performance on all state indicators as specified on the California School Dashboard. The indicators include exceptional state assessment results, chronic absenteeism, suspension rates, and socioeconomic and subgroup data that show progress in reducing the achievement gap.

Plavan Elementary was one of 38 Orange County schools honored this year. This tremendous recognition is the

result of hard work, dedication, and collaborative diligence shown by our staff, school leaders, and our families to educate the “whole” child on our campus.

Congratulations to our staff, students, and families for achieving this prestigious honor!



OC DEPT OF ED • *From Page 5*



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Sylvia Mendez was just 8 years old at the time. She would later describe Hoover as “a terrible little shack” with dirt for a playground.

The Mendez family ultimately hired an attorney and teamed up with four other Orange County families who had similarly been denied access to their neighborhood schools. Their case, Mendez, et al v. Westminster et al, argued that 5,000

children throughout the county were unjustly harmed by unconstitutional segregation policies.

In 1946, U.S. District Court Judge Paul J. McCormick ruled in favor of the five families, and his decision was later upheld by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case ended on April 14, 1947 — one day before Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Seven years later, the Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional in its sweeping Brown v. Board decision.

Gonzalo Mendez died in 1964 at age 51, and his wife Felicitas passed in 1998 — but not before urging her daughter to share the family’s story far and wide.

On Monday, Nov. 28, bronze statues of Gonzalo and Felicitas were unveiled for the first time in the new quarter-acre park, which also features a large textbook monument and statues of two students, symbolizing the children impacted by the court’s decision. Surrounding these displays are drought-resistant plants, a dry creek bed

and interactive stations with content from OCDE’s staff of professional educators, who also developed lesson plans and activities for teachers.

As the towering likenesses of her parents were revealed, Sylvia Mendez and her siblings stood front and center. Other invited guests took photos and applauded.

“I’m just so happy,” Sylvia said. “I know my mother and family are looking at us from heaven, and they are so happy. Thank you for honoring them.”

In this season of gratitude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mendezes, along with the Estrada, Guzman, Palomino and Ramirez families, all of whom fought for access and equality on behalf of generations of students they would never meet. As Felicitas Mendez said, they were taking action not just for their own children, but para todos los niños — for all children.

The Mendez case is worth celebrating because it broke new ground not just for Orange County but for our entire nation, broadening and strengthening the principles on which this country was founded.

Now and forever, Mendez Tribute Monument Park will serve as a space to gather behind shared values, to reflect on those principles, to revisit a watershed moment in our history and to learn more about the everyday Americans who made it possible.

For more information on Mendez Tribute Monument Park, along with lesson plans and activities, visit www.mendezpark.org.

Samuel E. Talbert *Middle School (6–8)*

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbert.fvsd.us



Jay Adams
Principal



Brandon LoMonaco
Assistant Principal

Counseling Department

Talbert is very proud of our counseling program, made up of Mrs. Cheyenne King, our Counselor, and Mrs. Angie Urrutia, our Guidance Technician. Especially in this post-pandemic period, Social-Emotional Learning, health/wellness, and academic concerns are at the forefront of our students'/families'

needs. Within the FVSD, we work to help meet those needs and provide all with the supports they need to successfully move forward. Our counseling department meets with students and families on an individual basis for the following: academic goals/grades and organizational concerns, interpersonal relationship concerns, bullying (in person and/or cyber), college/career, self-harming behaviors, suicidal ideation, and other concerns as they arise. They also work proactively with students in the classrooms and help with online resources, such as their popular Counseling Corner series. We are so grateful for all that they do on an ongoing basis to help our T-Birds to be their very best selves!



Ms. Urrutia and Mrs. King make a great team!

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.tamura.fvsd.us



Christopher Mullin
Principal

Tamura Students Sing to Family and Friends

For Tamura, music continues to be an essential part of enriching all areas of our school. Recently, Tamura hosted a day where we were able to show off our choir and band to our community. We were able to start with a number of pieces performed by our band constructed of 3rd – 5th grade students. Our choir teacher, Mrs. Kimberly Robles, then conducted songs with each grade from Transitional Kindergartners through 5th

grade singing. The whole performance peaked, ending with every student singing to the packed house of family and friends. For Tamura, we have always been a school that has prided itself on exposing students to art and music. As educators, we know early introduction to music is a building block for life-long learning and social success. Studies have found that exposure to music in school increased social skills, civic involvement, volunteerism, philanthropy, and support of other art forms. For us at Tamura, the performance was a great opportunity to show off our skill to our community who loved it.

