

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Palo Alto Unified School District



Volume 5, Issue 15

May 2023



Palo Alto: Enlightening Minds, Advancing Excellence



Board of Education



Jennifer DiBrienza
President



Jesse Ladamirak
Vice President



Todd Collins
Member



Shounak Dharap
Member



Shana Segal
Member



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

GET AHEAD

& TAKE COLLEGE CLASSES NOW

- Earn credits to transfer to UC, CSU & private universities
- Free tuition for current high school students
- Small classes & great professors

LEARN MORE AT
foothill.edu/hs

Thank You for Your Continued Support



Dr. Donald B. Austin
Superintendent
of Schools

I am thrilled to share with you the achievements of this school year in our district. It has been an eventful year on many fronts, and I would like to highlight some of the accomplishments that we have made in our priority areas.

In terms of Early Literacy, our students have demonstrated some of the largest gains in the entire state. This is a remarkable achievement, and it is a testament to the dedication of our teachers and the hard work of our students.

In addition to our focus on academic achievement, we have also made significant strides in our investments in Mental Health. This year, we shifted from a third-party to an in-house model, which has allowed us to provide better support to our students. We are proud of the progress we have made in this area, and we will continue to prioritize the well-being of our students in the future.

Furthermore, we have placed a great emphasis on recognizing and celebrating the contributions of our staff and teachers through our priority goal of *Serving and Celebrating Others* or *#Builders*. They are the backbone of our district, and we wanted to ensure that they know how much we value their hard work and dedication.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that school is not just about academics, but also about creating memories that will last a lifetime. We are fortunate to have a special place with a bright future, and we are grateful for such an engaged and supportive community.

To those who are leaving PAUSD this year, we wish you all the best in your future endeavors. For those who are starting their journey with us, welcome to our remarkable school district. Together, we will continue to improve public education and ensure the success of our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gracias por Su Apoyo Constante

Estimados Padres, Personal, y Estudiantes del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Palo Alto,

Estoy feliz de compartir con ustedes los logros de este año escolar en nuestro distrito. Ha sido un año lleno de acontecimientos en muchos frentes, y me gustaría destacar algunos de los logros que hemos logrado en nuestras áreas prioritarias. En términos de alfabetización temprana, nuestros estudiantes han demostrado algunos de los mayores avances en todo el estado. Este es un logro notable y es un testimonio de la dedicación de nuestros maestros y el arduo trabajo de nuestros estudiantes.

Además de nuestro enfoque en el rendimiento académico, también hemos tenido logros significativos en nuestra inversión en la salud mental. Este año hicimos el cambio de un modelo de una agencia externa a un servicio interno, lo que nos ha permitido brindar un mejor apoyo a nuestros estudiantes. Estamos orgullosos del progreso que hemos logrado en esta área y continuaremos priorizando el bienestar de nuestros estudiantes en el futuro.

Además, hemos puesto un gran énfasis en reconocer y celebrar las contribuciones de nuestro personal y maestros a través de nuestro objetivo prioritario de servir y celebrar a los demás o *#arquitectos*. Ellos son la columna vertebral de nuestro distrito y queremos asegurarnos de que sepan cuánto valoramos su arduo trabajo y dedicación.

Por último, quiero recordarles a todos que la escuela no se trata solo de lo académico, sino también de crear recuerdos que durarán toda la vida. Somos afortunados de tener un lugar especial con un futuro brillante, y estamos agradecidos por tener una comunidad tan comprometida y solidaria.

A aquellos que se van de PAUSD este año, les deseamos todo lo mejor en sus planes futuros. Para aquellos que comienzan su viaje con nosotros, bienvenidos a nuestro increíble distrito escolar. Juntos, continuaremos mejorando la educación pública y asegurando el éxito de nuestros estudiantes.

Gracias por su apoyo constante.

感谢您持续的支持！

亲爱的Palo Alto学区家长、教职员工、以及学生们，您们好！

很高兴跟大家分享我们学区在本学年的成就，今年在很多方面都有许多重要事迹，我特别想强调我们在各优先领域中的优异表现。

在早期读写能力方面，我们的学生展现出在全州的水平上取得某些方面最大的进步，这是一个了不起的成就，是我们老师的奉献精神和学生努力不懈的最好证明。

我们除了关注学生的学业之外，也在学生的心理健康方面投注非常大的心力。今年，我们从第三方模式转为内部模式，就是为了能够为学生提供更好的支持和协助。我们为这方面的进展感到自豪，未来我们也仍会持续将学生的福祉列为优先关注的项目。

此外，我们还透过「服务他人、颂扬他人」或「#建设者」的优先目标来展现我们对教职员工的认可和表扬其贡献的高度重视。他们是我们学区的骨干，我们要确认他们知道，他们的辛勤工作和奉献精神是多么受到重视。

最后，我想提醒大家，学校不仅只是教授课业之处，更是能让我们一辈子回顾留念的地方。我们何其幸运有这么个特别的地方，充满着光明远景，而且好感谢有这样一个融入参与和支持的社群。

我们要对即将离开PAUSD的您们各位，送上深深的祝福，祝愿您们未来的一切顺利。而对于即将加入我们开启共同旅程的各位，欢迎您们来到我们这个非常棒的学区。我们将共同努力，继续改善公立教育、成就我们的学生。

感谢您持续的支持！



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
PALO ALTO UNIFIED 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 and Mie Kawamura
COPY EDITOR: George Pinckney
Public Information Officer (Communications)
Office of the PAUSD Superintendent

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com 
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Palo Alto Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

This school year is quickly coming to a close. Dr. Austin begins this issue on page 3 with his message highlighting the many achievements this year.

We've included three word search contests on pages 13 & 20 (All ages may enter).

Our next issue is November 1.



Congratulations Class of 2023!

We're on a mission to improve financial lives!

Would you recommend your bank to your friends?

Stanford Federal Credit Union members do—more than half of our new members are referred.



Free checking, free ATMs, free first box of checks



High-rate 7-Month No Penalty Certificate

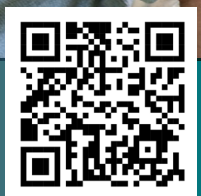


Rewards credit card with no annual fee and up to 3% cash back

Federally insured by NCUA



Join today and get \$100!



sfcu.org/bonus



**CALIFORNIA AND
NATIONAL SCHOOL TO WATCH AWARD**

Ellen Fletcher Middle

Awarded by:

**California Department of Education
and the
League of Schools**



**CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED
SCHOOLS AWARD**

**Juana Briones Elementary
El Carmelo Elementary
Lucille Nixon Elementary
Ohlone Elementary
Palo Verde Elementary**

Awarded by:

California Department of Education

Addison *Elementary School*

650 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5935 • addison.pausd.org



Jeff Downing
Principal

Embracing a New Normal

Over the past year, I have found myself continually referring back to the lessons I learned from reading *Who Moved My Cheese?* by Spencer Johnson. It is amazing how such a simple book can have such profound and lasting impacts on life. For those unfamiliar with the book, it is a story that follows four characters who encounter different challenges and changes in their

lives. Through their experiences, the book teaches readers the important lessons that relate to dealing with change and uncertainty.

The book emphasizes the importance of being adaptable, flexible, and open to changes, as well as the need to take action and not be afraid of comfort zones in order to achieve success and happiness. It also stresses

the importance of having a positive attitude and being proactive in the face of challenges and setbacks.

This outlook is an excellent description of what the 2022 – 2023 school year has been for Addison Elementary. We returned to school in the fall with a promise of some familiarity in response to how school should operate with COVID restrictions in the rearview mirror. This optimism was also met with new faces representing office staff, teachers, families, and a new principal. Each of these changes required flexibility and grace. The Addison community has risen to the occasion.

Our students arrive at school in good spirits, and evidence of learning can be seen in every classroom. There is a buzz of optimism that permeates the Addison campus, and we look forward to seeing what the future holds as we build on the new foundation created this school year.

Barron Park *Elementary School*

800 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/858-0508 • barron.pausd.org



Dr. Judy Argumedo
Principal

The Green Team

Barron Park's Green Team is led by a fifth grade teacher during lunch on Thursdays. The team consists of students from kindergarten to fifth grade. The Green Team is responsible for collecting the lunch bins, promoting recycling, and discussing ways to make Barron Park a

“green community.”

In February, Barron Park returned to using lunch trays that could be reused. Food Services placed several carts around the campus to help students organize the used trays. The Green Team students collect the carts during lunch period and return them to Food Services in the school's multipurpose room. During the monthly morning assembly on April 14, the Green Team performed a skit to remind students to compost and recycle as well as return lunch trays to the lunch carts. The students loved the skit, and it was a great introduction and a kick off to Earth Day (week) activities.



Duveneck *Elementary School*

705 Alester Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/322-5946 • duveneck.pausd.org



Leslie Crane
Principal

Gratitude

Gratitude is the act of appreciating and being thankful for the things we have, rather than dwelling on what we lack. It is crucial for our emotional and psychological well-being, because gratitude helps us cultivate a positive mindset and outlook on life. Expressing gratitude can take many forms, such as saying “thank you,” reflecting on the positive things in our lives, or performing acts of kindness. Regularly

practicing gratitude makes us more resilient to stress and setbacks, and we feel more content and satisfied with our lives. Gratitude also has many physical health benefits, such as improving sleep quality and reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety. It helps us build stronger, healthier relationships and fosters a sense of community and belonging.

In a chaotic world, practicing gratitude is a powerful tool for finding joy, peace, and fulfillment. We should all take time to appreciate the blessings in our lives and express gratitude to those around us.

El Carmelo *Elementary School*

3024 Bryant St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0960 • elcarmelo.pausd.org



Leonel Argumedo
Principal

Hidden Gems

In November 2022, El Carmelo Elementary launched its Hidden Gem Program. Hidden Gems are small recognition notes issued to students who exemplify El Carmelo’s four core values: Kindness, Safety, Respect, and Responsibility. Staff can award Hidden Gems to students throughout the school day, especially during recess and lunch, as a means of rewarding and encouraging safe and polite behavior.

Students can redeem their Hidden Gem notes for a prize from the principal or School and Family Engagement (SaFE) specialist during lunch on Fridays. In addition, students’ names are entered into a drawing. Thus far, the program has been a huge success. It has promoted positive student behaviors inside and outside of the classroom. It is almost impossible to recognize every good deed with a Hidden Gem note. However, students report that they are interested and involved, because being nice and kind makes them feel good, and because doing so is the Dragon way.



Ellen Fletcher *Middle School*

655 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-9810 • fletcher.pausd.org



Melissa Howell
Principal

Another Fantastic Year for Our Tigers

It is hard to believe that another school year is about to end at Fletcher Middle School. When you are reading this update, hopefully it finds you well and filled with joy and excitement as we move closer to the end of the school year!

We have had some unique accomplishments outside the classroom involving the entire school community (students, staff, families). Ellen Fletcher Middle was named as a California School to Watch in March. It will be a pleasure when the school accepts the National School to Watch Award in June. We have also become a Sustainability-themed middle school, with choice options for the years to come. Everyone at Fletcher is extremely excited and motivated in response to each of these honors.

The Tigers have had a fantastic year at Ellen Fletcher Middle School, and as principal, I am so proud of all our students and staff. Our students, teachers, and staff have seen so many beautiful accomplishments this school year. Many of us have made new and amazing friends and seen outstanding performances in sports and the arts. The team at Fletcher Middle created student-led clubs and had lots of fun along the way with special events, field trips, dances, and other celebrations.

So, as we get closer to the end of the school year, I want to celebrate our students' hard work and dedication. They have truly exceeded our expectations, and it has been an inspiration to watch them grow and learn. Together, we have created an environment where our students can thrive and achieve their full potential. As we look forward to our last month of the school year, Fletcher Middle will continue to celebrate even more growth!

Escondido *Elementary School*

890 Escondido Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94305 • 650/856-1337 • escondido.pausd.org



**Dr. Marcela
Simões
de Carvalho**
Principal

Planning Forward - Innovation at Escondido

Innovation is a buzzword that many are familiar with, but what does it really mean in education? Is it using technology in exciting ways? Is it changing the furniture to make content more accessible? Or is it an idea not yet thought of?

At Escondido, we believe that innovation in education is truly a mix of all these things. And while our teachers use many tools to increase student achievement, we also understand that there are innovative practices yet to be discovered. Therefore, we decided to turn to our students for suggestions, as their path forward will be lined with opportunities just now being realized.

Our fifth graders provided some thoughtful ideas that show real promise in the future. One fifth grader expressed

how classrooms could utilize technology, such as iPads, in order that students could quickly broadcast their work, and share it with their peers. Another spoke to the point that it would be great to have more students teaching students. As he noted, "Kids also like learning from other kids!" They went on to say how powerful it is to see another student succeed at a task, as it gives them confidence that they can reach that goal as well. Some other examples shared by students include letting students modify their desk areas to take ownership, to connect more days in the year with learning, and to find more ways for students to interact with other students.

Each of these ideas could have profound impacts on learning at Escondido. Teachers and staff are excited to move forward with them in mind. As we approach the end of this school year, it is important to remember that innovation is just one thought or conversation away. It does not matter whether you are 70, 40, 10, or even five-years of age.

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

Fairmeadow *Elementary*

500 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0845 • fairmeadow.pausd.org



Iris Wong
Principal

Spring Time is a Great Time!

We are well into the spring season, and there is still a lot of learning (and fun) to be had before June 1. As we gear up for the end-of-year activities, assignments, projects, and student assessments, Firebirds continue to incorporate time to “Serve and Celebrate Others” and have fun! We have whole-school assemblies where we provide opportunities for Student Council members to utilize their leadership skills. Recently,

the Student Council organized a service project supporting and providing the local community and families with gently used or new books, jackets, blankets, and shoes.

Fairmeadow school assemblies also include grade level student presentations and performances, as seen in the attached photo. We had the fun and great opportunity to see our kindergarteners serenade the school with Earth Day songs in their “earth hats.” Spring is also a great time to reflect upon and celebrate all of the accomplishments and gains our Firebirds made with the help and support of our amazing Fairmeadow teachers and staff.





Nikole Manou
Principal

Celebrating A Special Olympics Partnership

Each April, Greendell Preschool hosts a very special event, Young Athlete's Day. This one-day inclusive, exciting event

is part of the Special Olympics School Partnership Program. It helps emphasize the importance of promoting inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all members of the school community.

To prepare for this special day, our youngest learners spend several weeks practicing various sports skills including the improvement of dexterity used on the obstacle course and various physical activities including: soccer, bowling, track, throwing, and catching. These sports-related interactions are thoughtfully organized to provide all students with the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to promote and appreciate continuous inclusion, acceptance, and respect for all persons within the environment.

Young Athletes' Day holds a special place in our hearts as it brings together the entire school community, including our staff, students, and families. This event would not be possible without the tireless efforts and the commitment of the PAUSD coaches, staff, and family volunteers. The team at Greendell commends our students, knowing that this event aligns with PAUSD and its Promise to "Celebrate and Serve Others."



Frank S. Greene Jr. *Middle School*

750 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/494-8120 • greene.pausd.org



Sebastian Benavidez
Principal

Futures Coffee Cart at Greene Middle

Many of us look forward to the end of the school week. At Greene Middle School, we have a special reason to be grateful on Friday—it is Futures Coffee Cart Day! Each Friday, students in our Futures classroom bring a smile and

some extra treats to our staff with their mobile coffee “business.” As part of their community-based instruction, students take a field trip to shop for supplies and ingredients at our local market during the week. In the Futures kitchen, our young chefs follow recipes to prepare tasty items such as muffins, Rice Krispies Treats, and our famous coffee cake. Each Friday, these skilled baristas visit teachers and staff to accept orders and prepare personalized drinks while practicing monetary change distribution while having wonderful conversations. The Futures Coffee Cart is truly a highlight of the week at Greene Middle.



Students preparing the Futures Coffee Cart.

Henry M. Gunn *High School*

780 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/354-8200 • gunn.pausd.org



Wendy Stratton
Principal

Student Expression: Gunn Students Discover Their Voice Through the Hip Hop Culture

The Hip Hop Leadership Academy at Gunn High School involves approximately 20 students. Within the past two years, participants built a sense of community around discovering one’s voice through music and poetry. By delving into their own cultural identities, values, and life

stories, students have been able to explore multiple ways to utilize studio technology and the culture of hip hop to authentically express themselves. On April 26, five graduating seniors produced and courageously

performed their own creative works at Spangenberg Theatre during their culminating event of the year.

Student leaders, who designed the event from the ground up, hoped that participants would “leave with something new in their minds and hearts.” Their vision for the event is outlined “to define culture and community” by “harnessing the values of belonging, empowerment, and justice.” This first ever, three-hour event, entitled, *The People’s Cypher, Vol. 1*, included: guest speakers, poetry, music, hip hope performances, vendors, games, and food trucks. We are excited to continue cultivating culture and a sense of community at Gunn High through creative acts and through inspired student stories.

Herbert Hoover *Elementary School*

445 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/320-8106 • hoover.pausd.org



Jim Sherman
Principal

The Importance of the “Little Things”

The sounds of seagulls after lunch. Kindergarteners holding hands on their way to the office. Laughing and shrieks of joy at recess time. Kids gathered around an instructional assistant, intently listening to a story.

With the school year winding down, I find myself noticing the “little things” at school more and more. I would argue this connection is really the good stuff that happens each day at our wonderful school.

The kids will tell you that I talk about birds, the weather, and the things around us a lot. I tell them, just as my mom told me, that the world is a fascinating place, and we need to slow down and notice all of the wonders that it holds. Those wonders include each of our colleagues, classmates, and friends at school.

Our children will need to be strong readers, amazing mathematicians, and have a good understanding of those who came before us—but honestly, their ability to interact peacefully and successfully with people around them is what will truly make the difference.

The good news is our Hoover students do know how to get along with others and solve problems, and they demonstrate those skills each day. They do explore the world around them, whether that be searching in the grass for little friends or noticing the rainbows after the showers. Best of all, they are kind, caring and helpful people. These are children we know will grow up to change things for the better, wherever they go in life.

Our Hoover children will continue to contribute positively to the world, and they will, in turn, teach others how important all the “little things” around us are each day.



Jane Lathrop Stanford *Middle School*

480 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-5188 • jls.pausd.org



Christopher Grierson
Principal

Promoting Mental Health and Wellness

At Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School, promoting mental health and wellness is just as important as promoting academic progress. During the month of March, JLS Middle had several intentional wellness activities, including presentations and reminders showing how the many JLS staff members work together to provide a wide range of support services to our students. Here are three vignettes capturing our school's approach to coordinated mental health and wellness:

"Luz" is a new student this year, transferring to PAUSD in sixth grade. She is anxious and reported having headaches and stomach aches to our nurse, who in turn, noticed her symptoms are related to anxiety. Our nurse followed up with the counselor, who then supported Luz to join clubs like the Latino Club and the Creative Writing Club. Luz was also referred to our School and Family Engagement (SaFE) specialist for extra connection. Luz gradually felt better after being supported by many adults and is happier to have become involved in things she enjoys. She is more connected to the community.

"David," like many teens, showed low self-esteem and shared he was stressed about school. With more and more late arrivals and absences, our attendance secretary noticed David's changes in behavior and reached out to his counselor. David's team of teachers also noticed David's shift, and voiced concerns. As a team, they set up a Student Support Team (SST) meeting. After collaboration with his parents, the group agreed to explore the possibility of our school psychologist doing an assessment to ensure David is not experiencing other barriers or challenges. After these interventions, David and his family felt more hopeful with this support and a clear path forward.

"Sky" is a student who was flagged in our recent Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Panorama Survey. Sky indicated they were feeling lonely and disconnected. Our counselor quickly scheduled a check-in meeting. During their conversation, Sky shared that they had recently experienced a friendship blow out. After a few check-ins with their counselor and some parent outreach, everything was restored to normal.

For more information about our amazing school, visit our school website: www.jls.pausd.org

Lacrosse—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 Palo Alto in the subject line)

Entries must be received by June 15, 2023

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

ATTACK	NET
CLEATS	PLAYERS
COACH	RULES
CREASE	SCORE
DEFENSE	SHAFT
FIELD	SIDE LINES
GOAL KEEPER	STICK
HEAD	TEAMS
HELMETS	UNIFORMS
MIDDIES	
MOUTH GUARD	

G	M	W	E	U	S	D	C	Q	P	P	N	Z	G	S
K	O	K	H	S	R	E	Y	A	L	P	M	E	K	R
O	U	A	C	L	A	F	L	Z	T	A	Z	C	T	G
A	T	T	L	I	S	E	P	U	S	T	A	E	L	C
C	H	F	P	K	T	N	R	I	R	J	A	M	N	W
W	G	A	I	E	E	S	D	C	C	M	J	C	B	J
Z	U	H	V	E	M	E	J	Y	S	K	Q	S	K	G
O	A	S	R	C	L	I	P	I	Y	Y	S	F	H	H
V	R	E	T	I	E	D	A	E	H	M	S	I	C	T
V	D	L	N	W	H	D	W	Z	R	L	W	W	L	X
Q	E	E	S	U	K	I	H	O	F	O	G	Z	U	O
D	S	T	L	X	M	M	F	T	Y	M	C	M	G	O
H	I	W	G	D	J	I	Q	U	G	L	X	S	U	H
Z	H	R	D	R	N	Z	Y	M	K	L	F	B	W	I
H	N	L	R	U	O	J	V	K	B	J	D	Z	X	Z

Juana Briones *Elementary School*

4100 Orme St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0877 • briones.pausd.org



Kathryn Bimpson
Principal

A Year of Collaboration, Community, and Commitment at Briones!

This year, our staff and families gathered with the shared commitment of providing a strong, meaningful social, emotional, and academic experience for all students and a supportive environment for all staff and families.

Our staff collaborated to navigate new curricula and diagnostics to ensure student growth across the curriculum.

We opened a new Innovation Center. With vital help from hard-working parent volunteers, Briones brought back valued traditions. These traditions include: K - 2 performance assemblies, ABC Program, Unity Day, Inclusive Schools Week, Bike Rodeo, Friendship Trolley, Walk and Roll Week, Fall Festival, World Read Aloud Day / Read Across America Day, Math Night, Junior Museum, and Book Fair / Restaurant Night, and both an ice cream social and ice skating party. The school team is grateful for our community and honored to serve at Briones.



Lucille M. Nixon *Elementary School*

1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 • 650/856-1622 • www.lmnixon.org



Amy Sheward
Principal

Ongoing Early Literacy Work

At Nixon Elementary, the dolphins are a community of lifelong learners working to improve outcomes for all students. This year, we have focused on early literacy strategies such as small-group instruction.

During small-group instruction, teachers provide individualized attention to meet the needs of students. The intent is to target specific literacy skills such as phonics, fluency, and comprehension. This approach helps students progress at their own pace and still receive personalized support.

Recently, teachers and principals observed the excellent small-group reading instruction at Nixon. Observing instruction is a valuable tool for professional growth. By seeing and understanding how teachers implement various instructional strategies, an observer gains a deeper understanding of student learning and education strategies that work best for students. By observing teachers across different grade levels, other educators may identify patterns of effective teaching practices. They are also encouraged to share any gained insights with colleagues.

The 2022 – 2023 year has been an amazing year of learning and growth for all dolphins, including our teaching community!



First grade teacher, Courtney Smith, leads a small-group reading lesson as PAUSD principals and district leaders observe the classroom.

Ohlone *Elementary School*

950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-1726 • ohlone.pausd.org



Elsa Chen
Principal

Why the Farm?

Ohlone's farm provides opportunities for students to learn about the environment, sustainability, and agriculture in a hands-on way. They learn practical skills such as planting, harvesting, cooking, and caring for animals. The students learn where food comes from while learning what it takes to produce and cook the food. Ohlone students take pride in all of it! The farm allows students to connect with the earth and with one another in a way that cannot be replicated in a classroom.

Our parent volunteers are instrumental in maintaining the farm. They provide both guidance and expertise, and they also organize community events. The parents take care of the animals three times a day, 365 days a year. One of our most exciting community events is the Thursday Farmers Market, where the community comes together to sell produce and honey from the farm along with homemade treats.

The beauty of having a farm at Ohlone Elementary is not just the physical space, but also the connections and sense of community it fosters. We are proud to be a school community partnering to promote sustainability, responsibility, and connection with the earth.



Palo Alto *High School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3701 • www.paly.net



Brent Kline
Principal

Ignite2Unite at Palo Alto High

Recent participation in the Ignite2Unite program brought together more than 90 students in a day of activities aimed at defining and improving campus-wide culture. The event included an activity to name the student section at sporting events, which resulted in the name “Paly Ship” chosen by the students.

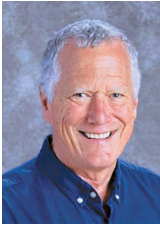
The students also had the opportunity to learn new chants and activities to use during sporting events. Palo Alto High is grateful to the staff members who joined and helped to make this event an inspiring success.

The Ignite2Unite program is an excellent example showing how schools can bring students together to promote a positive school atmosphere. The program provides a forum for students to voice opinions and take ownership of the school environment. Through events like this one, Palo Alto High continues to cultivate a sense of community and pride amongst students and staff.



Palo Alto *Adult School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3752 • paadultschool.org



Dr. Tom Keating
Principal

Free Health and Wellness Adult School Courses for District Staff

The Palo Alto Adult School is proud to continue its partnership with the PAUSD District Office by hosting the second series of free courses available to all PAUSD staff. These courses promote health, well-being, and a sense of community. The seed idea for the free classes for staff arose from a conversation with Superintendent Austin

during the pandemic. He asked, “How do we leverage the high-quality Palo Alto Adult School courses to promote the well-being of our district staff?”

The following spring classes began in April:

- Indian Dance Fitness Movement
- Tai-Chi
- Zumba
- Mixed Media Art
- Indian Cooking-Intro to Spices

The participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. True to the spirit and mission of the Adult School, students share that they enjoy meeting and making connections with staff from other schools and departments throughout the district while learning about and promoting healthy lifestyles.



Palo Verde *Elementary School*

3450 Louis Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-1672 • paloverde.pausd.org



Annora Lee
Principal

How PTA Made the Difference

This final School News message of the year is dedicated to our amazing Parent Teacher Association (PTA). It has been an honor working alongside such a selfless group of board members and parent volunteers.

Our PTA members made it their mission to keep the community connected this year.

That effort was no small feat, considering our campus has been temporarily relocated to a new site. In addition, the in-school-to-enrichment activities such as Noon Art and Games increased enthusiasm among students.

Palo Verde PTA also hosted many off-campus smash hits. Students are still talking about the Winter Wonderland Party, Skate Night at Winter Lodge, and the Science Festival. Plans are excitedly underway for our 2023 International Fair and Closing House Celebration. Such events have brought so much joy and

comfort to our community—two things that are so needed during this transitional period.

Through PTA, many of our students participate in a variety of enrichment opportunities. PTA organized activities such as Math Kangaroo, Reflections in Art, and the Spelling Bee. Who can forget the Palo Verde stage production of Alice in Wonderland? Because of a small army of volunteers, nearly 80 of our third, fourth, and fifth graders experienced the thrill of performing live and on-stage at Cubberley Theatre.

THANK YOU, PTA, for helping our Eagles soar to new heights, and for always making Service to Others the core of your work. The impact of all you are doing for students will be felt for years to come.



Walter Hays *Elementary School*

1525 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5956 • hays.pausd.org



Mary Bussmann
Principal

Walter Hays Elementary Celebrating 100 Years in Palo Alto

Walter Hays Elementary School, established in 1923, is pleased to announce the celebration of its centennial year. Palo Alto Unified School District's most continuous and oldest elementary school is a

vibrant center and fixture in the community surrounding Rinconada Park.

A commemorative reflection of this 100-year anniversary is planned for May 6, 2023. The wonderful Walter Hays community members including past and present students, parents, teachers, staff, and neighbors are invited to join in celebrating this commemorative experience. Our remarkable school has a long-standing history of academic excellence in our community while developing emotionally and socially resilient students.



The celebration is a part of this year's Palo Alto May Fete Parade, which takes place on May 6. The community is invited to join the celebration and walk alongside the centennial parade float. The excitement continues on the Walter Hays campus from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. This part of the celebration allows attendees to reconnect with old friends and colleagues.

Our core values, The Walter Hays Way, plays a key role in each student's development which supports

a safe and positive environment for all to learn and grow. Everyone is invited to join this great celebration of our amazing history, beginning in May.

Curious George Goes to the Zoo—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 Palo Alto in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **June 15, 2022**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Amazing	Leaves
Animals	Park
Climbed	Party
Curious	Rhino
Danced	Water
Fun	Wild
George	Wonderful
Giraffe	Zoo
Headquarters	Zookeeper
Hippo	

L	I	F	D	R	V	P	P	D	Y	L	F	G	F	H
L	U	F	B	E	L	E	A	V	E	S	S	L	X	E
N	S	F	U	P	B	N	E	R	T	Q	Q	B	Z	A
F	P	W	R	E	C	M	L	H	K	M	Z	V	Y	D
Q	W	A	T	E	R	L	I	D	C	X	B	T	Y	Q
P	I	D	D	K	D	P	G	L	G	Q	C	B	A	U
D	S	W	C	O	P	N	W	I	C	O	L	F	G	A
E	U	H	B	O	I	B	O	W	R	P	W	M	E	R
Y	H	G	V	Z	M	N	S	W	U	A	J	J	O	T
T	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	U	C	R	F	L	R	E
F	F	M	L	H	U	K	T	C	R	T	P	F	G	R
N	A	Y	R	W	O	Y	A	X	L	Y	F	S	E	S

Summer Fun—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 Palo Alto in the subject line.

Entries must be received by **June 15, 2023**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

BEACH	CHATTING
HIKING	ROAD TRIP
WALKING	HANGING OUT
JOGGING	SWIMMING
RUNNING	DIVING
READING	WATCH TV
TEXTING	IPAD
SKATING	GAMES
PICNIC	INSTAGRAM
SURFING	GEO CACHING
SHOPPING	

T	B	X	A	Q	A	P	V	M	B	A	V	X
A	Z	G	G	I	F	I	A	U	N	T	Y	L
I	I	G	N	I	F	R	U	S	H	B	B	N
T	F	A	I	I	G	T	E	C	C	M	E	H
T	I	M	T	A	D	D	T	V	Q	O	A	G
F	N	E	T	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	C	E
P	O	S	A	E	W	O	E	J	D	I	H	O
W	N	R	H	J	X	R	O	R	N	P	K	C
I	A	U	C	O	G	T	U	C	A	A	D	A
A	G	L	Z	G	P	N	I	Y	G	D	E	C
O	C	Y	K	G	N	P	G	N	I	K	I	H
A	N	S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G	B	I	I
G	B	I	N	N	N	V	G	N	Z	O	D	N
Z	I	G	W	G	I	G	Y	X	G	A	I	G
T	M	O	H	D	Y	J	D	Q	E	W	F	S