

School News

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Covering the Westminster School District



Volume 19, Issue 111

May 2023

WSD Partners with City of Westminster for School Safety!





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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

WSD Partners with City of Westminister for School Safety!

Westminister School District (WSD) and the City of Westminister partnered to kick-off the Safe Routes to School Program. The initiative is spearheaded by the City of Westminister, after they received a grant from the Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. The goal is focus on providing safe routes for students to walk and bike to and from school. The City of Westminister is working with Alta Planning

+ Design, Inc. to survey infrastructure and roads around schools in Westminister over the next few weeks and months. It's imperative that we continue to prioritize our student's safety.

This ongoing collaboration between the City and WSD will ensure that our students and families have a peace of mind when heading to school and going home. The City and the consultant firm will work closely with the district to coordinate dates and times when they conduct walk-audits in the neighborhoods around the schools. The teams will be walking the routes that students use to travel to school and acknowledge any issues on the roads. The hands-on approach by the City and the district demonstrates their promise and commitment to the safety of the WSD Community. We are excited to be a part of this program that the City of Westminister has partnered with Westminister School District.



City of Westminister and WSD partner to kick-off Safe Routes to School program!

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Bilingualism is a Superpower!

By David Johnson, President, Board of Trustees

Westminster School District (WSD) in California is celebrating its 150th anniversary during the 2022-2023 school year and it has plenty to be proud of. The district was the first in the US to be desegregated, thanks to the landmark Mendez v. Westminster case in 1947. This set the stage for the Brown v. Board of Education decision that desegregated schools across the nation. Today, WSD is celebrating its commitment to multicultural diversity and specifically biliteracy as a superpower.

This month, students at Willmore Elementary in Westminster gathered to celebrate the school's Biliteracy Seal of Excellence award, presented by the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE). The award recognizes outstanding dual language immersion (DLI) programs that promote bilingual education and cultural understanding among students. Willmore Elementary, which offers a full immersion program in Spanish and English along with coding too; was one of only five schools in California to receive the prestigious award this year. This is an impressive feat, as most applicants receive recommendations for improvements over multiple years before winning the Seal of Excellence.

Principal, Tieumi "Domi" Ellis and Superintendent, Gunn Marie Hansen accepted the award on behalf of the school. Next month, WSD will celebrate this milestone again, but at DeMille Elementary, which won the same award for

Vietnamese/English dual language immersion. DeMille was the first Vietnamese DLI program in the state of California.

Dr. Ryna G. Garcia Ramos, a CABE regional representative, praised the students at the ceremony, saying, "Biliteracy is your superpower! You have a superpower! We have come a long way since the days when students of color had to attend a different school because of your language and heritage. This school district was the first to desegregate with the help of the brave Mendez family, and today we celebrate multicultural differences and biliteracy!"

The success of WSD's DLI programs is a testament to the district's long history of promoting desegregation and equal education. The Seal of Excellence awards highlight the impact of diversity, inclusion, and equity, valuing all students and their uniqueness. Board President David M. Johnson stated that "Students who study in two languages do so in history, math, science, and more, which develops their brains in arts and science so that they outperform others in both English and math. It is a super power."

In recent years, WSD dedicated their district offices, the Boardroom, and a gymnasium to honor the Mendez family. The timing of WSD's 150th anniversary and the dual language immersion awards highlights the power of education to promote diversity as an important part of education in modern communities. The dedication of leadership is a shining example of the district's vision to create tomorrow's leaders today.



Willmore Language Academy shines bright after celebrating their CABE Seal of Excellence award.



Mental Health in Children

By: Ioana Pal, Psy.D., clinical psychologist, Stramski Children's Developmental Center, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and self-harm among children have risen in recent years, and can have long-lasting effects on a child's physical, emotional, and social development.

Factors that can affect a child's mental health include genetics, environment, and life experiences. Common mental health disorders in children include anxiety disorders, depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and behavior disorders. These conditions can impact a child's ability to learn in school, interact with others, and develop healthy relationships.

Parents and teachers play a crucial role in promoting positive mental health among children. Some strategies for support include providing a safe and supportive environment, encouraging open communication, promoting healthy habits like exercise and good nutrition, and seeking help when needed.

Recognizing the warning signs of mental health issues in

children is important. These may include changes in behavior, mood, sleep, or appetite. Additionally, a child may express feelings of sadness, worry, or fear, have difficulty concentrating or completing tasks, or exhibit physical symptoms such as headaches or stomachaches. They may also isolate more than before.

It's important not to minimize their feelings. Children need to feel safe coming to parents with their issues, and as parents it's important to ask them how they feel if there is a change in behavior.

Early intervention and treatment can significantly improve a child's mental health outcome. Treatment options may include therapy, medication, lifestyle changes or a combination tailored to each child's needs. By supporting their mental health, we can help children develop into healthy, resilient adults.



Athena, Age 2



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This school year is quickly coming to an end and summer is right around the corner.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 27 (all ages may enter). Congratulations to Huong Huynh, winner of the March contest.

Please remember to include the library among your summer activities.

Have a wonderful summer. We'll be back with our next issue September 20 for another new school year.



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**Chi Charlie
Nguyen**
Mayor

Safe Routes to School

Last month, the City of Westminster kicked off the Safe Routes to School program, which promotes walking and bicycling safely to and from schools. The City received a \$500,000 grant that will be used to evaluate and study routes to and from all public schools within Westminster's boundaries to determine if infrastructure improvements, additional enforcement, safety education, and other tools are needed to ensure the

safety of students and their families. This study will also enable the city to qualify for and obtain funding for recommended improvements, as well as develop the first-ever Safe Routes to School Plan in Westminster. Parents, students, teachers, and all who are impacted by pedestrian safety are invited to participate in future walk audits and community workshops. I look forward to seeing the community participating in this important program. Special thanks to the Westminster School District for hosting our kick-off at Finley Elementary School.





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Anderson Elementary (K-6)

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsdk8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Special Olympics

On April 28, 2023, Anderson School hosted its 10th Annual Special Olympics. This was the first in-person event in three years. Under the leadership of teachers Christie Rogers and Erika Bradley, schools across the Westminster School District joined together to honor and celebrate our special students. A special treat for the day was the participation of Garden Grove Police Officers, including a K-9 officer. The

ceremonies opened in a moment of silence to commemorate the passing of four students. Westminster High School Drumline performed followed by the Sparkle Squad from Johnson Middle School. The running of the torch and the parade of athletes followed. Each athlete participated in eight different events with a live audience to encourage and cheer for the students. To close the event, each athlete received a medal. Special thanks to the support of our many volunteers, including the Huntington Beach Elk's Lodge. The entire event was an amazing success to honor the spirit that we are all capable.



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Clegg Elementary (TK-5)

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsdk8.us



John Staggs
Principal

A Positive Partnership

Clegg Elementary School recently hosted a highly successful APEX Fun Run on April 6th, and the school's Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) and staff are grateful for the overwhelming support that we received from both parents and the entire community.

The APEX Fun Run, a fundraising event, brought together students, teachers, and parents for a day of fitness, fun, and community engagement. Participants ran laps to raise funds for the school while also promoting healthy habits, positive character traits, and active lifestyles among the students.

The success of the event was made possible by the enthusiastic participation and generous contributions of our parents, who wholeheartedly supported the cause and encouraged their children to participate. The funds raised from the APEX Fun Run will be used by our PTA to provide field trips for every grade level at Clegg, allowing students to learn about their class topics in a setting outside of school.

The PTA and school staff express their deepest appreciation to all of the parents who volunteered, donated, and cheered on the students during the APEX Fun Run. Their support and dedication to the school's success are truly appreciated, and Clegg Elementary looks forward to continuing this positive partnership in future endeavors.



DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • demille.wsdk8.us



April Derr
Principal

Investing in Success

In April, DeMille's fifth-grade students had the opportunity to attend the TGR Learning Lab and participate in unique learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Over the course of four days, students participated in an immersive STEM-based field trip that provided a one-of-a-kind learning experience. The trip exposed students to STEM education and relevant careers while also developing an excitement for learning. The programming introduced students to project-based learning in subjects such as forensic science, marine biology, or biotechnology.

One of the unique aspects of the TGR Learning Lab is that while students learn from the educators, their teachers also participate in professional development. This allows

teachers to gain tools and best practices that they can apply in their classrooms, which ultimately benefits their students.

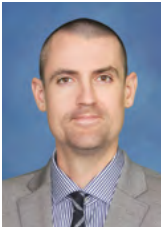
STEM education is becoming increasingly important in today's world. It is crucial to expose students to STEM at a young age so that they can develop a strong foundation for their future studies and careers. The experience at the TGR Learning Lab was undoubtedly an enriching one for DeMille's fifth-grade students. They were able to participate in hands-on activities that sparked their interest and curiosity in STEM. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for so many of our students.

In the future, we hope to continue to send more of our students on this amazing field trip so that they can take advantage of the unique learning opportunities that are available at the TGR Learning Lab, and further invest in their education and future success.



Eastwood *Elementary* (K-6)

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • eastwood.wsdk8.us



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Imagination Comes to Life

Eastwood Elementary students recently had the opportunity to showcase their writing skills with the arrival of “The Imagination Machine” assembly. This event allowed our students to watch their imaginative stories come to life through the talents of professional actors. In preparation for the assembly, students were asked to write stories that would be considered for live performance. After careful

consideration, a handful of stories were chosen to be acted out on the stage. The excitement among the students was palpable as they eagerly awaited the big day.

On the day of the assembly, the students gathered in the school’s multipurpose room to watch the performances. The actors from The Imagination Machine brought each story to life with lively performances, captivating the students’ attention and bringing a sense of wonder and excitement to the room. The assembly proved to be not only a fun and entertaining experience for the students, but also an educational one. It allowed them to see firsthand how their writing skills could be applied to real-life situations, and also showcased the importance of imagination and creativity.

The Imagination Machine assembly was a testament to the power of creativity and the importance of fostering a love of learning in young minds. It provided a unique opportunity for our students to have fun, while also gaining additional practice in writing skills, an essential aspect of their education. Overall, the event was a resounding success, with students eagerly participating in the writing process and enjoying the final performances. It was an inspiring and educational experience that is sure to leave a lasting impression on our students for years to come.



Finley Computer Science Magnet School

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • finley.wsdk8.us



Pam LeMuiex
Principal

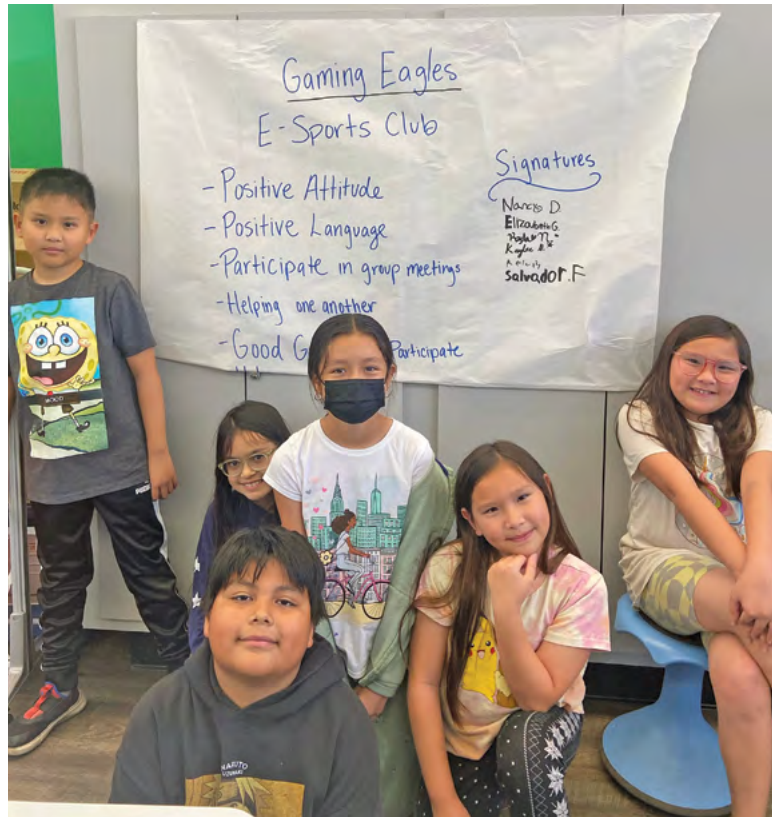
Bringing New Learning Opportunities

Finley Computer Science Magnet School is proud to announce its first esports team, an exciting new addition to the school's extracurricular activities. The team competes in online tournaments against other schools, providing students with a unique opportunity to develop teamwork, collaboration, sportsmanship, and other valuable skills.

Esports at the elementary level may be a relatively new concept, but it is gaining popularity nationwide. Many educators believe that competitive-wide gaming has the potential to improve our students' cognitive and social-emotional skills. Studies have shown that esports helps students develop their problem-solving, strategic-thinking, and decision-making skills, which are vital for success in school and the workplace.

Moreover, esports also provides an inclusive environment where students with different interests and backgrounds can come together and engage in a shared passion. The Finley Computer Science Esports Team offers students an opportunity to build meaningful relationships and create positive memories that will last a lifetime. "Watching the students support each other with encouraging words, high-fives, and strategizing is incredible," said Principal Pamela LeMuiex. "They have become more confident in the classroom as well."

Overall, the addition of an esports team at Finley demonstrates our school's commitment to providing our students with innovative, engaging, and inclusive opportunities that will prepare them for the future.



Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • fryberger.wsdk8.us



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Science and GATE Night

Our annual Science and GATE night was a success! Our hands-on science activities included 8 stations that included learning about potential and kinetic energy, gravity, inertia, the solar system, engineering and design, and chemical reactions. Our GATE students explained the solar system activity to fellow students and their families with an emphasis on focusing on the changes

over time when demonstrating the moon phases with oreo cookies. An emphasis on multiple perspectives was explained at the tower building station. Two lucky students won a prize for building the tallest tower. Our most popular stations were the cotton candy making and the STEAM/ playground activity. We also had a local agency that provided sea life and art activities for students to increase their knowledge of our local sea life. Science is our passion here at Fryberger and we love seeing past, present, and future students at our community events.



Hayden Elementary (K-5)

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • hayden.wsdk8.us



Mark Murphy
Principal

A Well-Deserved Honor

Hayden Elementary School has reason to celebrate, as Kaisa Johnson has been named as our Teacher of the Year. Johnson, who teaches fifth grade at the school, was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the school community and her exceptional work in the classroom. In addition to this honor, Johnson was also named the Westminster School District's Teacher of the Year, making this a double triumph.

Kaisa Johnson is known for her passion for teaching and her commitment to her students. She creates a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment where each student feels valued and supported. She is constantly finding new ways to engage her students in learning, and helps them develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

"Kaisa is an incredible teacher who truly embodies the spirit of teaching," said Hayden Elementary School Principal Mark Murphy. "Her dedication to her students is second to none, and she goes above and beyond to help each and every one of them succeed. We are so proud of her, and are thrilled to see her recognized as Teacher of the Year."

As Westminster School District's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Johnson was chosen from among a group of outstanding educators from throughout the district. This award recognizes her as an exemplary teacher who is making a difference in the lives of her students and in the community as a whole.

Ms. Johnson's achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of teachers everywhere. Her commitment to her students and her passion for teaching is an inspiration to all who know her, and we congratulate her on this well-deserved honor.



Johnson Middle School (6–8)

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • johnson.wsdk8.us



Daniel Owens
Principal

Open House

Johnson Middle School recently welcomed parents and families onto campus for its Open House. Staff and students were given an opportunity to showcase all of the amazing things they have worked on this year from their core content areas as well as the numerous enrichment programs they are involved in. Some wonderful highlights

were our 8th grade students reading their poetry and Science students showcasing their experiments. We also had our Annual GATE showcase prior to Open House. It was truly great to have families on campus enjoying the excitement and celebrating their students' accomplishments. It was even more wonderful to have our amazing and talented Johnson Warriors proudly displaying their hard work.



Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • land.wsdk8.us • 714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
*Executive Director,
Early Education &
Expanded Learning*

Teacher Spotlight

Land School would like to shine the spotlight on a very special teacher, Mrs. Beverley Schwendinger. This year Mrs. Beverley is celebrating her 37th year in the Westminster School District!

During her time here, Mrs. Beverley has worked at Eastwood Elementary, Schroeder Elementary, Sequoia Elementary, and Land. Mrs. Beverley has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, and holds a Master Teacher Permit from the Orange County Department of Education. She works with children ages 2.5- to 3-years-old, and her favorite thing about working with this age group is watching how quickly they learn, and seeing how excited they get when they are able to do something by



When Mrs. Beverley first started her career at WSD.

themselves. Mrs. Beverley is amazed at how different the children are, and she really cares and loves that about them.

Here is what Mrs. Beverley has to share about her journey into education: "At first, I chose the field of Early Childhood Education because it sounded like fun, but once I started learning about the needs of preschool children, I realized how important this job is. It is so much more than playing with children or 'babysitting'. I truly want to make a difference in their early years of school and hopefully give them a life-long love of learning."

Mrs. Norma shares her thoughts on Mrs. Beverley: "She is always so patient with the students. She takes care of each of their individual needs."

Mrs. Beverley has a strong relationship with both her students and their parents. She is enthusiastic, positive, and always smiling. We love having her be a part of our Land family!



Mrs. Beverley wears her winnie-the-pooh pajama for Pajama Day!

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdck8.us



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

The Ducks Are Back!

The Anaheim Ducks organization have come to Meairs for many years to teach the fourth graders how to play street hockey. Unfortunately, when COVID 19 hit we were no longer able to have them on campus. Now that the pandemic protocols have been lifted they are back and our fourth graders are so happy!

The Ducks organization brings all the equipment needed, sticks, pucks, nets, barriers and goalie gear. During a period of six weeks they spend an hour a week teaching the students how to play. For our Meairs students this is the first time they have ever been exposed to hockey other than what they see on television. They learned how to use their sticks, pass the puck and shoot at the goal. They learned basic rules of street hockey and were able to play games by the time they finished the program. They had so much fun that we now have some hockey fans on campus! We are so grateful to the Anaheim Ducks organization for bringing this wonderful program to our fourth graders.



Running drills.



Learning how to dress like a goalie, Learning how to be a goalie.

Schmitt Elementary (K-5)

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



Sarah Nead-Rendon
Principal

Achieving Our Dreams

Schmitt Elementary was excited to have invited our families on campus for our recent Open House event! We had a quick parent meeting to share with everyone all of the events that our PTA is helping with and sponsoring. This parent meeting was then followed by our GATE showcase, where we talked about the GATE icons and displayed our students' work and activities for their families to see.

Our students have been working hard all year, and it was great for the parents to come and explore our classrooms and look at all of the projects that the students have been working on. We also had a delicious dessert treat graciously provided to our families by our PTA.

This week we also celebrated College and Career week, led by our school counselor. Each day there were many activities to focus on. We wore our college gear, heard about the different kinds of careers, and created a plan to help us reach our college and career goals. Our kindergartners also celebrated the event by dressing up as their future career and sharing with their classmates what they wanted to be when they grow up.

Our theme for the week was, "Schmitt can get you there!" We know that by helping our students work hard

and establishing good school habits now, we can help them reach their college and career goals. We also had a booth at our Open House event for parents to meet our school counselor, Mrs. Katie Aldama, and take pictures with college pennants. We are proud of our Lions, and know that if they dream it and plan it, they can achieve it!



Schroeder College & Career Academy

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Dr. Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Third Distinction!

Schroeder College and Career Academy was named a 2023 California Distinguished School this year. The California Distinguished School program has been in existence since 1985, and this is the third time Schroeder has been recognized with this honor.

According to the California Department of Education (CDE) website, the California Distinguished School Award “remains one of the important ways to celebrate exceptional schools, districts, teachers and classified employees for their innovation, talent and success in supporting students.” We are so proud of our teachers, staff, students, parents and community members.

The entire Schroeder community plays an important role in this recognition, and we enjoyed celebrating this recognition with a schoolwide celebration assembly. At our assembly, first-graders spoke about their future career aspirations. In addition, teachers, administrators and students shared their reflections on what makes Schroeder special to them. The assembly concluded with the entire



student body singing a selection from the annual musical theater production, *Goin' Buggy*.

Following the assembly, we enjoyed a BBQ and Lunch on the Lawn with families. A great time was had by all. Congratulations, Schroeder Mustangs! Keep being amazing!



Sequoia Academy *GATE Magnet Elementary*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsdk8.us



Alisha Tardif
Principal

A Wealth of Opportunities

Sequoia Academy offers extensive and enriching learning opportunities for all students, including after-school programs.

After school, our students can participate in STEA³M-based programs including (but not limited to) robotics, running, directed drawing, choir, mathematics, and junior coaching. Sequoia's robotics teams recently completed five missions of increasing

difficulty in the Wonder League Robotics Competition, where they successfully designed solutions, coded with variables and functions, and created mission elements.

The third-grade robotics team competed in the Innovator Cup with robot aficionados, qualified for the invitation-only championship round, open to only 500 teams globally, and was selected for one of five People's Choice Awards! In December, the Running Club participated in the Run for a Claus event at UCI, where they ran a mile or 5K to help raise funds for The O.C. Marathon Foundation and the Salvation Army. For their culminating event, Kids Run the O.C., our students will run the final mile of a marathon with other students from around Orange County.

The Directed Drawing Club provides students with opportunities to express their artistic abilities and collaborate with peers on expressive pieces. Sequoia's choir learns to read songs from various genres, and then performs the captivating melodies at WSD's Choir Festival and Sequoia's Volunteer Tea.

The Mathematics Club focuses on various skills including fractions, decimals, percents, and algebraic expressions and inequalities. The mathematicians also concentrate on the life skill of explaining solutions through writing. Sequoia's Junior Coach program is a self-esteem building, responsibility teaching, and leadership training program. The junior coaches learn how to run a sports program by helping to maintain playground equipment, including distributing, collecting, and storing supplies, in addition to leading sports activities.

Thanks goes to our amazing Eagle Families for their continuous support of the educational and supportive programs that Sequoia offers all students. Families interested in scheduling a tour should contact the Front Office at (714) 894-7271.



3rd Grade Robotics Team



Mathematics Club



Running Club Run for a Claus



Directed Drawing Club

Stacey Middle School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsdk8.us



Wendy Baird
Principal

Hard Work and Commitment

Here at Stacey, we place a premium on RESPECT respect for self, respect for others, respect for learning, and respect for the environment. We also encourage our students to have a healthy respect for competition and showmanship.

In February, Stacey competed against the other two middle schools in our highly anticipated annual Westminster School District badminton tournament. One of our in-district rivals, Warner Middle School, hosted the star-studded event, and our Stacey students performed admirably and with good sportsmanship. We took first place in the doubles event, and finished second and third in both boys and girls singles, thus making Stacey the overall first-place team in WSD. Go, Cougars!

In March, we celebrated another victory. Our girls volleyball team also brought home the championship trophy! Even our esports team got in on the action. They competed in a local esports tournament against multiple Southern California schools and performed well.

For the past couple of years one of our school's focuses has been on implementing AVID (Advancement via

Individual Determination) school-wide. Our dedicated AVID Coordinator Kim Thach has paved the way for our school to be officially recognized as an AVID school-wide site for the 2022-2023 school year. We are ecstatic to have this designation, and it attests to the hard work of our staff and their commitment to quality instruction. This status is awarded to those sites that have met AVID's implementation expectations.

In March, we hosted our first annual College and Career Fair to support AVID's mission of preparing all students for college and career readiness and success in a global society. Multiple colleges, universities, and employers were invited on campus to share information about their schools and careers. Our students engaged with the vendors at each booth while also taking notes on their College and Career Passports.

We closed out March by inviting the families of our new incoming class of 2023-2024 to our campus. Our administrators showcased the variety of activities, supports, enrichments, and programs that we have to offer, including our new Spanish Dual-Immersion program. The event ended with a walking tour of the campus along with a meet-and-greet with a few teachers. It was exciting to meet the families of our future Stacey Cougars!



College and Career Fair.



E-Sports Tournament.



Badminton Champions.

Warner Middle School (6–8)

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kenneth Lopour
Principal

Building Tomorrow's Scientists!

This year, Warner Middle School increased its student participation in the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair (OCSEF) to 19 students, with nine projects submitted, resulting in Warner Middle School being the most decorated Middle School in Orange County, with 25 total county awards! Additionally, we have seven students with three projects moving on to the California State Science and Engineering Fair.

Our students' powerful display in the STEM fields is a direct result of participating in the Mentor Match program with Westminster High School MERIT students. Each Warner OCSEF project group was matched with multiple junior/senior mentors to guide, motivate, and engage through the OCSEF journey from project selection to project completion.

Having a mentor as a project coach helped our students by building equity and access for all students

no matter the parents' language ability, economic status or education levels. This was a for-student-by-student approach that enabled their success. Another bright moment at the OCSEF awards ceremony was when Travis Garwick, a science teacher at Warner Middle school, was named OCSEF Teacher of the Year in recognition of his dedication and commitment to student achievement.

Furthermore, Warner Middle School increased its student participation in the ExploraVision STEM competition by the National Science Teacher Association and a multinational electronics corporation. Warner Middle School had five students participating, with two projects submitted. The student project by [Donna Huynh](#) and Maryan Nguyen won for our region. Donna and Maryan are currently competing for the national competition against the other five regional winners for \$10,000 in scholarships.

As our students gain the competitive edge in STEM, they also gain power in achieving Westminster School District's mission statement: "Building Tomorrow's Leaders, Today."



Warner Middle School's Orange County Science and Engineering Fair Winners.

Webber Elementary (K-6)

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsdk8.us



Robert Murdock
Principal

Aladdin Musical

This month, the Webber community was thrilled to present our very own production of the musical Aladdin. All of the performances were sold out. Our teacher team, Mrs. Chamberlain, Mr. Monroe, Ms. Neavel and Mrs. Craig did an amazing job

of putting the show together. We had 50 students involved in the performance and production. From start to finish, the musical took 17 weeks to put together. Watching the growth and improvement of our students from the start of production all the way through the performances was fantastic. Our Webber Wolfpack is already looking forward to next year's production!



Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • willmore.wsdk8.us



Tiejumi "Domi" Ellis
Principal

Danza Club Showcased

Willmore Language Academy commemorated Mexican culture and heritage on Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo celebrates the Mexican Army's victory over France in the Battle of Puebla, during the Franco-Mexican War.

On May 5, 1862, the Battle of Puebla was a great symbolic victory for the 2,000 Mexican troops who fought against 6,000 French troops. Chicano activists wanted to raise awareness of the indigenous Mexicans' victory on this day. Today we celebrate the impact of Mexican-American culture in the United States with music, Mexican folk dancing, and traditional foods.

Willmore's Danza performers worked tirelessly all year to prepare for Cinco de Mayo. Led by Maestra Natalie Juan-Tapia and PTA parent Lulu Pedraz, our dancers have also performed at multiple events such as the Westminster School District's (WSD) 150th Anniversary Celebration, the WSD Academic Innovation Showcase, the CAFE Seal of Excellence Assembly, Multicultural Night, the Westminster High School Showcase, and Willmore's Cinco de Mayo celebration.



The district has shown their unwavering support with the ELOP, with funding to provide the multi-regional dresses and outfits to represent the regional dances, as well as provide an extra-curricular opportunity for our students through the Danza Club.

Ms. Juan-Tapia shares that the dances performed by the Willmore Danza Club at the Cinco de Mayo celebration are the "El Colás" from Veracruz, featuring the traditional

all-white dress and guayaberas; "Las Chiapanecas," featuring dresses with colorful flowers from the state of Chiapas; and a tribute to the native Nahuatl, with "El Xochipitzahuatl."

We are so proud of our Danza Club, and appreciate all of the hard work and dedication of Maestra Juan-Tapia, Sra. Lulu Pedraza, and our students.





Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Crazy Medicine

George's Marvelous Medicine by Roald Dahl is a really funny book about a boy, George, who has to give his mean grandmother her medicine one day. George decides that her medicine is not



strong enough because she takes it every day but she doesn't get any nicer. Then he swaps his grandmother's medicine with medicine he makes using crazy ingredients. Funny things start to happen! You'll have to read the book to see what they are. It will make you laugh!

Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.

David's Review



David H.

Father and Son

Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl is about Danny, who lives with his father, who runs a gas station. Danny's mom died when Danny was a baby. He loves his father and thinks he is the best father in the world. Danny's



father even taught him how to assemble a small car engine when he was 7! One night, Danny's father disappears and Danny goes out to find him. That's when Danny discovers his father's dark secret...

You'll have to read the book to find out more! I really liked this book because it has a lot of heartwarming moments, especially between Danny and his father. It also has many funny moments. I highly recommend this book!

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

Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

The Power of Magic

The Magic Tree House book series by Mary Pope Osborne is a #1 New York Times bestselling series. This book series is about a brother and sister named Jack and Annie. The two go inside a Magic Tree House that takes them through time to finish a mission.



In the *Magic Tree House – Merlin Missions #22 Hurry Up, Houdini!* they will travel back in time to 1906 to the Coney Island boardwalk in New York. They must find one of the greatest magicians of all time, Harry Houdini. While they are there, they put on a magic show to replace two absent magicians. They also use some magic to help them find Houdini. Will they find him? If they do, what secrets will they learn from him? I recommend you read this book to find out.

As much as this book is funny, it is also very educational. I hope that you will also learn about Houdini in this book and like it.

Aubtin is a 1st Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading, and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, music, computers, and trains. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

Maple's Review



Maple

A Dangerous Journey

Title: *The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone*

Author: Jaclyn Moriarty

Bronte is ten years old when her parents suddenly die. She lives with her Aunt Isabelle when she finds her parents' will. It says



that she must visit all ten of her aunts, except for Aunt Isabelle, and give them gifts. There is ancient magic in the will, and if Bronte does not do what it says, then her town, Gainsleigh, will be ripped apart. On Bronte's journey, many wonderful things happen, such as visiting a beautiful library and learning to speak some of the Dragon language. This book has fun mini quests, and some pretty big ones too. If you enjoy books about danger and tough girls, you will love this book. I adored this book, and I bet you will too!

Maple is in 5th grade. They love reading, petting their dog, and playing with their friends. They want to be a librarian when they grow up.

Eric and Eva's Review



Eric and Eva

We love to Read Bilingual Books

We enjoyed the book *Rene Has Two Last Names*.



The book was relatable to us. We have two last names. Just like Rene, our last names remind us of our grandparents.

The book made us happy.

There must be other kids like us with two last names. Our last names are long, but we love to have both mom and dad's last names to remind us of where we come from and our abuelos.

Eva and Eric are in a kindergarten Dual Language class. We are Twins! Which means we share a birthday together. We enjoy reading and learning. Eric likes math, playing baseball, dancing folkloricó, painting, and spending time with his family. Eva likes dancing folkloricó, crafts, fashion, shopping, and spending time with her family.

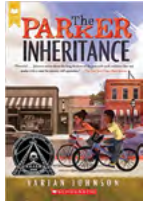
Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Solve Clues for \$40 million!!!

The Parker Inheritance is a part historical and part realistic fiction written by Varian Johnson. The book is about a 12-year-old girl named Candice who spends a summer in her grandmother's house in Lambert, South Carolina after her parents' divorce.



Candice makes friends with Brandon, an 11-year-old neighbor. The children found an old mysterious letter in Candice's grandma's attic. The letter states that there is a multimillion-dollar fortune for whoever solves the clues. Is this letter real? What is the purpose of the person creating the clues? Will Candice and Brandon succeed in solving the mystery of the letter?

This is a complex book to read. I think readers can experience fun, mystery, and suspense all in this book. It is over 350 pages long, but I can hardly put the book down. There is also plenty of history readers can learn by reading this book. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars and would highly recommend it to anyone who likes mystery and suspense.

Kailani is a 5th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and ride horses.

Day at the Beach – 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 Westminster in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2023

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

SUN BLOCK	SURF BOARD
TOWELS	FLOAT
SWIM SUIT	SHIRT
SUNGLASSES	SANDWICHES
UMBRELLA	SHORTS
HAT	CHAP STICK
FLIP FLOPS	FIRST AID KIT
PAIL	COOLER
SHOVEL	DRINKS
BLANKET	SNACKS
BOOK	



Congratulations to **Huong Huynh
Winner of our March Word Search Contest!**

Orange County Department of Education

OCDE's Continuous Commitment to Strengthening School Safety



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Our children deserve to learn and grow in safe and secure environments, where they can thrive academically and emotionally. And parents should be confident that when they send their children to school, they will return home just as healthy and happy as when they left.

Yet in too many instances, we have seen this social contract ripped apart by the devastating reality of school violence, leading to the familiar cycle of shock, grief and anger.

I wish I could say I had answers sufficient to prevent this country's next mass shooting. I do not. I can only extend my most heartfelt condolences to anyone impacted by senseless violence, and I can reaffirm here the sustained commitment of the Orange County Department of Education and leaders throughout our region to proactively protect our students and staff.

To give you some background, California schools are required by law to update their Comprehensive Safe School Plans each year. These plans outline each campus's planned responses to various crises, and they are routinely reinforced through site-level drills, including evacuations and shelter-in-place exercises.

Of course the strategies for promoting safety will vary by campus and are ultimately up to each district's locally elected school board and leadership teams, in partnership with teachers, families, staff, students and communities. But our department eagerly supports this work with trainings and workshops throughout the year, covering such topics as safe school plans, behavioral threat assessments, earthquake preparedness, resilience strategies and active-shooter behavioral indicators.

Meanwhile, OCDE works closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies to study everything from cyberbullying to how to best

secure school facilities. One key partnership worth noting is with the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, or OCIAC, which leverages the reach and resources of the Sheriff's Department, the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to detect, investigate and prevent criminal and terrorist activity.

OCDE and the Sheriff's Department also team up every summer to host the Safe Schools Conference with the California Department of Education. This three-day event brings together more than 500 educators and law enforcement personnel from throughout the state to discuss issues and trends related to campus violence, bullying, social media, human trafficking, gangs and substance abuse.

In the case of critical incidents impacting schools, OCDE's Crisis Response Network deploys psychologists, nurses, social workers and other personnel to support students and staff during and after emergencies. This team also conducts trainings for schools, youth service providers, parents and students.

Finally, OCDE champions positive school climates and anti-bullying through initiatives such as the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS, and our One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign, which kicked off in 2016 to promote character and amplify civility in our communities.

In Orange County, we view the pursuit of safer schools as a race with no finish line, and that means our commitment must be equally unwavering and enduring. New threats will continue to emerge, but so too will new technologies, strategies and best practices for protecting students and schools. Above all, we vow to stay vigilant and informed, work closely with our law enforcement partners, and adapt our approaches accordingly.

We owe our children and families nothing less.