

School News

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Covering the Fullerton School District



Volume 11, Issue 31

October 2023



Welcome Back to School



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Big Smiles All Around to Kick Off School Year



Dr. Bob Pletka
Superintendent

The smiles and high energy was contagious as the 2023-24 school year kicked off for all schools in Fullerton School District. From the young transitional kindergarteners to veteran 8th graders, students were excited to see friends and start off the school year. All trepidation of new students and meeting new teachers was quickly forgotten as schools welcomed students with fun, upbeat signs, activities, and staff.

“It was a great first day at Acacia. Students were welcomed with a yard sign and a Photo Booth. Parents had an orientation meeting in the MPR, and students enjoyed a great day,” shared Rachel McCormick, Principal at Acacia

School. Also contributing to the excitement and activities, Woodcrest School Principal, Christopher Wilkins, shared photos of students enjoying a bubble welcome and navigating lunch provided by FSD Nutrition Services. Not to be left out, even our junior high school students were greeted with fun activities.

Adding to the celebratory mood, Fullerton School District is pleased to be named the *Parenting OC Reader's Choice 2023 Best North Orange County School District*. This honor is especially notable because it is awarded by the citizens in Orange County. “This achievement is in recognition to all staff in FSD who work tirelessly to innovate, inspire, and educate our students as well as engage our families. This is a great way to start off the 2023 school year,” shared Dr. Bob Pletka, Superintendent.





Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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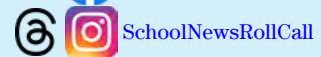
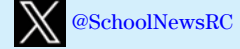
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Welcome back to a new school year. This is always an exciting time for students reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, meeting their teachers and settling into a routine. Long gone are the chalk boards and

This is our 11th year publishing the excellence from the Fullerton School District. Each issue always includes articles from the Superintendent and every school in the district. We are grateful for

educators and consider it a privilege to bring you the news directly from the district and classrooms. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on page 27. (All ages may enter.)

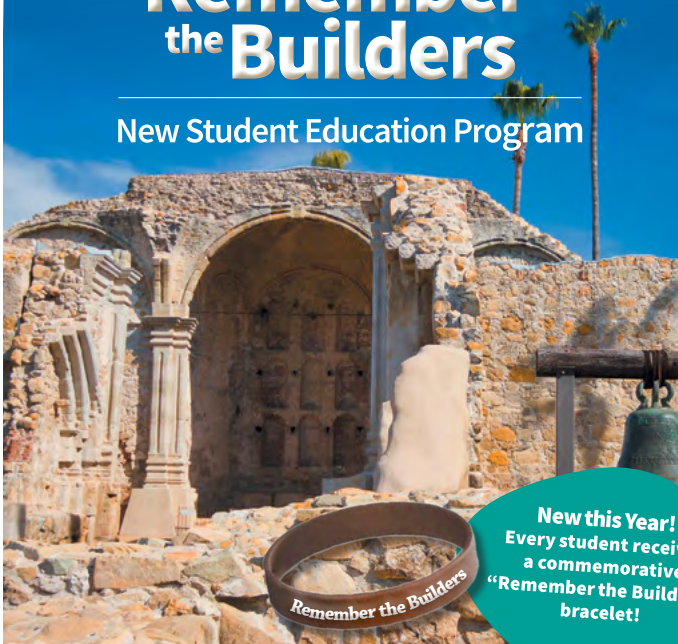
Our next issue is February 7, 2024... yes 2024! In the meantime, let me be the first to wish you and your families Happy Holidays!



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Dr. Rob Coghlan
Assistant
Superintendent

Back to School 2023: Who's in Your Crosswalk?

Fullerton School District (FSD) students returned to campus for the 2023-24 school year on Monday, August 14, 2023. Greeting students and motorists are signs around the community reminding families of safety and posing the question, 'Who's In Your Crosswalk?'

The new signs include images of School District Staff, City Officials, Community Partners, and, most importantly, STUDENTS, using crosswalks. The signs are a plea for motorists to be aware of the crosswalks and especially those using the crosswalks.

Last year, a student was struck in a crosswalk and dozens of others have been the victim of near-misses due to unsafe driving behaviors. Fullerton School District is asking everyone in the community to pay attention for the safety of everyone in the community. This is a reminder to be aware of the additional pedestrians and motorists that accompanies the return to school and to respect and follow crossing guard instructions.

A new staff addition to Fullerton School District is Luna, the HAWK in the CROSSWALK, who helps encourage people to be safety wise and watchful. Luna will be visible where there is an indication that unsafe driving behaviors have been observed around FSD Schools.

FSD is thankful for our partners in this collaboration, FSD Board of Trustees, Superintendent, and Executive Cabinet, City of Fullerton Mayor and Councilmembers, Fullerton Fire Department, City of Fullerton Streets and Operations, and Fullerton Police Department.

As a reminder, here are 10-key Back to School Traffic Safety Reminders to talk to students about when walking and biking to school.

1. Pay attention to traffic conditions - put your phones down and your heads up. Never cross the street distracted. No texting or talking on the phone or having headphones on – don't miss what's happening on the street.
2. Never run out into the street or cross between parked cars. Darting into the street accounts for the majority of child pedestrian fatalities.
3. Avoid mid-block crossing.
4. Always cross street corners where there are traffic signals, designated crosswalks and stop signs. If your crosswalk is equipped with a RREB (blinking sign), push the button and wait until traffic has stopped/cleared before entering the crosswalk.
5. Always look left, right and left again before crossing the street. Always make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
6. Always walk on sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing oncoming traffic.
7. Beware of cars that are turning or backing up.

If walking when it's dark or hard to see, wear bright-colored clothes, and carry flashlights or wear reflective gear.

Never wait for the school bus in the roadway – stay on the sidewalk.

If a crossing guard is present, follow their instructions – they are working for your safety.



Personnel Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • www.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Chad Hammitt
Deputy Superintendent

New Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

Fullerton School District is excited to welcome Dr. Adaina Brown as the new Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. Dr. Brown comes to FSD from Los Angeles Unified



School District where she served as the Local District Superintendent (West).

Dr. Brown received her Bachelor's of Science Degree from UCLA, a Master's of Science Degree from CSU Dominguez Hill, a Master's of Arts from National University, and her Doctorate of Education from UCLA. In a career spanning a little more than 20 years, Dr. Brown has served as Teacher, Principal, Community of Schools Administrator, and Local District Superintendent for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

During her tenure with LAUSD, Dr. Brown created STEAM partnerships with CSU Dominguez Hills, Tesoro/Andeavor, Shell, City of Carson, and WestPoint Military Academy. She also established a Career Technical Education (CTE) program that includes pathways such as Engineering and Architecture, Biomedicine, and Computer Programming. Dr. Brown created a Community of School (COS) education group and funding it to include community members, local business partners, and corporations. She also focused on community partnerships through college and career expos, and monthly coffee with parents and the community.

Dr. Robert Pletka, FSD Superintendent stated, "Dr. Brown is a visionary leader who deeply cares for children with a vast array of educational and community experiences, and FSD is excited to have her join our team to continue our District's tradition of student achievement, community partnerships, and high interest and innovative educational programs." Dr. Brown will begin with FSD on September 15, 2023 succeeding Dr. Julianne Lee, who left FSD to take the Superintendent position at the Buena Park School District.



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Acacia Elementary School

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • acacia.fullertonsd.org



Rachel McCormick
Principal

Welcome Back to School

It was a wonderful start to the 2023-2024 school year, as we welcomed new and returning families to Acacia. During the first week of school, we showcased our expectations for our students during our PBIS assemblies. Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) is a program that is designed to teach students school wide expectations as

well as support students who may need additional support. At Acacia, we are honored to be recognized by the California PBIS Coalition for implementation at the highest Platinum level for the third year in a row. Acacia students know the 3 R's; Respectful, Responsible, and Ready, and can earn "Pawsitive Pandas" for following the expectations. When a class earns 40, they receive an extra recess. We are excited for this school year, and hope all our students are just as excited as we are!



TK and K students participate in our PBIS Assembly.

Beechwood *School*

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • beechwood.fullertonsd.org



Hannah Lim
Principal

New Rink Reveal

Beechwood had a great start to the new school year. We were able to welcome our Bobcats and community back with a block party hosted by our generous PTSA. In addition, our middle school team focused on creating connections with their students with an event called, “SELapalooza”. Each teacher hosted a station related to an interest of theirs and students were able to complete ten rotations during the SEL-inspired event.

On August 28th, Beechwood School was honored to host a celebration ceremony and big “reveal” of the latest collaboration between Fullerton School District and the Anaheim Ducks/ Middle School NHL Players Association grant for the donation of a rink. FSD staff, alongside Anaheim Ducks Dignitaries, such as the Honda Center DJ, Jo Jo, and Wild Wing, attended the event. After the ceremony, our students were able to participate in an inaugural scrimmage to commemorate the new rink. The Beechwood Bobcats look forward to enjoying the new rink for many years to come!



Commonwealth Elementary School

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • commonwealth.fullertonsd.org



Jean Summy
Principal

Disney Musicals in Schools Program

Commonwealth Elementary School is thrilled to announce that we have been selected as one of five Orange County Schools to participate in Disney Musicals in Schools program through the Segerstrom Foundation! Teachers were invited to a hands on training workshop at the Segerstrom Concert Hall where we experienced motivating and fun techniques to use with

our own students back at Commonwealth. The 17 Week program will allow us to build our own sustainable theater program, including third through fifth graders in acting roles, and sixth graders in backstage and technical theater craft. We also plan to include all grades in the creation of scenery and decorations around the plays' setting...it's The Jungle Book Kids! We will of course be studying jungle animals, like our favorite, the TIGER! Students will begin in September with an Introducton to Musical Theater and end with performances in March.



Fern Drive *Elementary School*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • fern.fullertonsd.org



Julie Lucas
Principal

Fern Falcons Earn the PBIS Platinum Award Once Again!

Fern Drive Elementary, known for its commitment to creating a positive and inclusive school environment, has received the prestigious PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Platinum Award for the 2022-23 school year.

PBIS is a nationally recognized framework that promotes a culture of respect, responsibility, and safety within schools. Fern Drive Elementary's dedication to implementing PBIS strategies and fostering a supportive atmosphere has not only enhanced the overall school climate but has also positively impacted student behavior and academic achievement.



Receiving the PBIS Platinum Award once again is a testament to Fern Drive's unwavering commitment to promoting positive behavior and providing students with the tools they need to succeed. Congratulations Falcons, for this well-deserved recognition!

This achievement highlights Fern Drive Elementary's ongoing dedication to providing an outstanding educational experience that prepares students for success both in and out of the classroom.

Robert C. Fisler *School*

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • fisler.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Kimberly Benaraw
Principal

Patriot's Day

Every year, our Fisler community honors the heroes from September 11th by holding a Patriot's Day assembly. During the assembly, our Navigators took time to remember the lives lost, while proudly honoring all the heroes and first responders who selflessly supported our country in our time of need. We had a musical performance by our students and assistant principal, heard

encouraging words from our community partner Team Kids, and presented our Fullerton Police Department with posters of appreciation. Our Fisler students worked with Team Kids to write encouraging notes of gratitude to share with first responders. Even though September 11th occurred over two decades ago, our Fisler community always takes the time to remember the heroes and lives lost on that fateful day. Their legacy will be a beacon of hope for our future, reminding us that in the face of adversity, we can come together to overcome any challenge.



Golden Hill School for Creative & Performing Arts

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • golden.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Neil Anderson
Principal

Exciting News: Golden Hill School Strikes a Musical Chord with \$10,000 Grant!

Golden Hill School for Creative and Performing Arts has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Philharmonic Society of Orange County as part of their Strike Up the Band grant program.

This incredible grant will play a pivotal role in enriching our students' musical education. Specifically, it will help us expand our musical instrument inventory, benefiting

our talented 5th and 6th graders. With these funds, we will be able to provide even more opportunities for our young musicians to explore and excel in the world of music.

Music is not just about playing notes; it's about fostering creativity, teamwork, and self-expression. This grant aligns perfectly with our school's mission to nurture artistic talents and inspire young minds.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Philharmonic Society of Orange County for their generous support. Together, we are harmonizing the future of our Golden Hill students.



Hermosa Drive *Elementary School*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • hermosa.fullertonisd.org



Dr. Caroline Llewellyn
Principal

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hermosa Drive Elementary School is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, from Sept. 15th - Oct. 15th. We are excited to honor and embrace the rich cultural tapestry of Hispanic and Latinx traditions. Our Hispanic Heritage Month began with a Ballet Folklórico assembly. Students had the unique opportunity to watch and participate in traditional dances and educational lessons. Our assembly was engaging and a reflection of the school's commitment to cultural diversity.

Hermosa Drive's commitment to its vision to be the most inclusive, family-friendly community school that prioritizes high academic standards and kindness at its core, invites parents to play a pivotal role in organizing

cultural events. During lunchtimes, students worked with parent volunteers to create cultural arts or crafts such as papel picados. In addition, our community is excited about working collaboratively to create an Ofrenda in honor of Dia de los Muertos at our annual fall festival. These hands-on experiences allow the entire Hermosa Drive community multiple opportunities to celebrate and honor Hispanic cultures.

Throughout the month, our classroom teachers are planning activities that will also play a significant role in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Teachers design lessons that focus on Hispanic culture, history, and contributions. Some examples are book studies, Hispanic art, food, and cultural events. Hermosa Drive's vibrant Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations are a testament to our dedication to creating a nurturing and inclusive environment for all.



Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • ladera.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Bill Lynch
Principal

“LVApalooza”

At Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts we focus on our four core values of A.R.T.S - positive Attitude, showing Respect, being Thoughtful and striving for Success. With a focus on building lasting relationships and community on campus this year, Ladera Vista Junior High hosted our annual “LVA-Palooza”. Students were placed into coordinated teams by Advisory to travel through week long rotations geared towards building knowledge of campus expectations and school-wide community building.

Throughout the year we will continue to foster positive relationships and build character towards our A.R.T.S. core values. Students who demonstrate positive behaviors aligned with our A.R.T.S expectations have the opportunity to earn PBIS tickets and purchase prizes from our PBIS store.

Another way we encourage students to demonstrate Spartan ARTS is with our Super Spartan Quarterly celebrations! Each quarter, teachers select one student who best demonstrates Spartan A.R.T.S.! Students receive certificates, special treats, and enjoy an elongated break!



Laguna Road *Elementary School*

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • laguna.fullertonsd.org



Stephanie Guppy
Principal

STEAM at Laguna Road

The start to the 2023-2024 school year has been full of hands-on learning! In just the first month of school, every student at Laguna Road has visited our STEAM Lab. Our new STEAM teacher, Ms. Paik has provided a hands-on, inquiry-based, curiosity driven classroom. From making solar ovens to edible soil cups, students have participated in fun and educational learning! Each class

will visit the STEAM Lab once a week or every other week for STEAM lessons that enrich their grade level science standards. TK and kindergarten are currently learning how to think like a scientist. First and second grade are learning about animals, biodiversity, and habitats. Third graders are studying fossils, and fourth grade is preparing to dissect owl pellets and squid. Our STEAM program enables us to provide enriching learning experiences so that students are equipped to apply their learning in a way that makes an impact in their community.



Fourth graders making a solar oven!

Maple *Elementary School*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • maple.fullertonisd.org



Anthony Abney
Principal

Maple's 100th Anniversary Year

Maple Elementary School is proud to announce its 100th-anniversary celebration, marking a century of unwavering commitment to education and community. As we look back on our rich history, we are also looking ahead to an exciting future with a renewed educational vision.

Our new vision, "To provide a curiosity-driven, impactful education to our students through project-based learning, advocacy, environmental science, and immersive experiences," represents a bold step forward. Maple is dedicated to fostering a love for learning

while equipping our students with essential skills and knowledge to make a difference in the world.

One of the highlights of our anniversary celebration is the unveiling of six stunning biome-themed grand murals adorning our school buildings. These incredible works of art not only enhance our campus's aesthetics but also serve as a "third teacher" to our students as well as spark curiosity about the natural world.

These murals are a testament to our commitment to making learning inspirational and engaging. We believe that by nurturing a sense of wonder and discovery, we can empower our students to become active, informed, and compassionate global citizens.





Jose Varela
Principal

Nicolas Palooza was a Hop, Skip and a Jump

On Friday August 18th, Nicolas's students and staff participated in the first annual Nicolas Palooza. Everyone had a blast. Students represented various colleges as they wore their new Nicolas Spirit College shirt. The colleges represented were UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach and Chapman University. The Nicolas Dance

Team Kicked off the event with an amazing display of moves. Each set of colleges selected a group of students to participate in the Balloon Hop Challenge. The Cal State Fullerton team came out victorious. They then got the opportunity to challenge the team composed of classified and Certificated staff. The students were victorious. But overall, this was a great opportunity to build teamwork and a great way to set off the school year. Everyone had a wonderful time.



Orangethorpe Elementary School

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • orangethorpe.fullertonsd.org



Deborah Bennett
Principal

Caps for Kids

September is childhood cancer awareness month. To honor children battling cancer, Orangethorpe staff and students participated in Caps for Kids. Through this program, our students learned the valuable lesson of giving to others who need extra support, instead of just thinking about their own needs.

On September 6, 2023, for a donation of one dollar, students and staff could wear

their favorite hat throughout the school day. Aside from the fact they were helping other children, students were excited because they could wear their hats inside the classroom (something that is not usually allowed). The event was successful with many students asking when we could do it again. Overall, Orangethorpe raised \$460. This money will be donated to Caps for Kids, who in turn provide children battling cancer with caps signed by their favorite athlete, singer, actor or other famous person. This is an extremely worthwhile cause and a great example of children helping children.



Pacific Drive *Elementary School*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • pacific.fullertonsd.org



Laurel Estrada
Principal

Computer Science Excellence

At Pacific Drive, a Computer Science Pathway school, students use multiple modalities including apps, robots, and web-based platforms to strengthen their computational thinking skills. Coding is embedded into projects that integrate Common Core and NGSS standards. Students in fifth grade and younger use Scratch or Blockly to block code. This year, fifth and sixth graders will use Apple Swift

(an industry level coding language) to transition from block-coding to text-coding. Teachers will engage in professional development and coaching with an Apple consultant. Sixth graders are excited to participate in the Congressional App challenge. In addition, two classes are participating in a project with UC Irvine to teach students a coding curriculum that incorporates culturally relevant themes. Angel (grade 6) says, "I'm learning that I can fix codes that aren't right by debugging them. I can't wait to learn more!" Coding is truly alive at Pacific Drive!



Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • parks.fullertonsd.org



Robin Mundschau
Principal

Off to Amazing Start

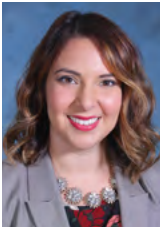
The 2023-2024 school year is off to an amazing start. Students, teachers, and staff spent the first week connecting with students, learning #TheParksWAY through PBIS, and building relationships in Advisory groups. Students got to know one another through identity portraits, teachers got to share about themselves, and everyone

learned our school wide expectations setting the stage for an amazing year. We ended the week with a school wide assembly where each Advisory group competed in different activities, teachers competed to win points for their group, and at the end we all came together to show school spirit. We continue to show that school spirit by celebrating weekly spirit days on Advisory Wednesdays.



Raymond *Elementary School*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • raymond.fullertonsd.org



Cristina Centeno
Principal

Raymond Art Fence Covering

Raymond School is thrilled to unveil an exciting new addition designed to warmly welcome our families. Thanks to the creative vision of local artist and parent Ms. Carla Roque, the generous financial support of our PTA, and parent Isael Alavez with Izzy Graphics, our TK and Kindergarten area now boasts an inviting fence covering that radiates community spirit.

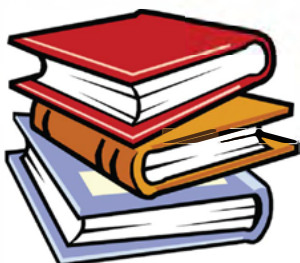
Ms. Roque, known for her vibrant and imaginative artistry, skillfully crafted this masterpiece. Through playful colors and charming designs, the fence covering creates an atmosphere of inclusivity, embracing all who enter our school grounds.

We hope this new fence covering is a daily reminder of our strong, supportive community and that Raymond is more than just a place of learning. It is a home where every child's journey is nurtured and celebrated in a safe and loving environment.

Join us in thanking Ms. Carla Roque, PTA, and Mr. Alavez for this new addition to our campus!



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



2023 — 2024



Richman *Elementary School*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • richman.fullertonsd.org



Kristen Holm
Principal

Richman Elementary's Student Council: Leading with Heart and Empathy

Richman Elementary's student council's vision is to promote positivity, promoting student empowerment, empathy, and community engagement. With an unwavering commitment to fostering "voice, choice, and student advocacy," they lead by example.

This school year our student council will take on service projects that embody empathy in action. From food drives to park clean-ups, they will extend a helping hand to the community, and following our school's theme, "Empathy is Everything!" This not

only benefits those in need but also instills a sense of civic responsibility in the young leaders of tomorrow.

Spirit days will be organized to bring joy and unity to our school. Themes like "Crazy Hat Day" and "Superhero Day" will allow students and staff to express their creativity and build connections beyond the classroom. The beautification efforts within our school exhibit their dedication to creating a positive learning environment.

Moreover, their letters of gratitude to community members serve as a reminder that appreciation goes a long way. Richman Elementary's student council isn't just an organization; it's a heartwarming embodiment of empathy, actively engaging and inspiring us all to make a difference.



Richman's 23-24 Student Council

Rolling Hills *Elementary School*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • rolling.fullertonsd.org



Lindy McNutt
Principal

PBIS Rotations

The Rolling Hills school year started off with one of our essential components of the back-to-school experience with PBIS rotations led by some of our sixth grade students. These rotations were a great way for our sixth graders to develop their leadership skills as they guided the rest of the students through conversations about how Roadrunners can demonstrate positive behavior. Students learned

about respectful communication, responsible decision-making, and how to demonstrate kindness towards peers and adults on campus. It was a way for the Rolling Hills community to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for students. Rolling Hills believes these rotations are a way to set the tone for our Roadrunner Way: be kind, be safe, be responsible. Our goal was to lay the foundation for a successful year and empower students to be active participants in maintaining a positive school environment. Our Roadrunners are off to a great start!



Sixth grade leaders running PBIS Rotations at Rolling Hills!

Sunset Lane *Elementary School*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • sunset.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Tracy Gyurina
Principal

The ART of TEACHING

Through professional development opportunities provided by the Cotsen Foundation for the ART of TEACHING fellowship, teachers at Sunset Lane have sought to deepen their understanding of best practices in Social Emotional Learning (SEL). One approach that has sparked a significant shift in how teachers approach SEL in their classrooms is the Holding Space protocol, developed by Revey CEO and founder, Arlene Casimir.

This research-based, trauma-responsive pedagogy is the practice of being present and supportive for someone while they express their thoughts, feelings, or experiences in a whole-group setting. During Holding Space, students are taught to listen without judgment and provide affirmations, creating a safe environment for open communication. Teachers have used it during morning meetings, closing meetings, or after recess. It has enriched the students' SEL experiences and empowered them to become more confident, empathetic, and socially adept individuals, building a stronger foundation for their personal and academic growth.



Valencia Park *Elementary School*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • valencia.fullertonisd.org



Dr. Guillermo Muñoz
Principal

Cultivating Lifelong Readers

Growing Readers and kids who LOVE school is a cherished goal at VP School. We're excited to share how we're achieving this mission!

Our New Librarian is a published author who is inspiring our young readers by sharing her journey through the world of writing and publishing. Her infectious passion is igniting the curiosity of our students, revealing the magic of books.

Our dedicated PTA is hosting Book Fairs to bring the joy of reading closer to our students and enhance our classroom libraries.

Our recent Western Themed Spirit Day brought the Wild West to our school, with students donning cowboy hats and boots, embracing the fun tradition.

Expanding Horizons: Spanish Literature

We're promoting inclusivity by adding Spanish books to our classroom libraries, allowing students to connect with classic literature in their native language.

At VP School, the "GOOD TIMES" are abundant as we cultivate lifelong readers.



Woodcrest *Elementary School*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • woodcrest.fullertonisd.org



Christopher Wilkins
Principal

Platinum PBIS

Woodcrest is excited to be awarded a Platinum PBIS school for California for the second year in a row. Woodcrest has taken great strides in developing a sustainable PBIS program. Teachers and students have seen the benefits of improved school wide and classroom behaviors which fosters an improved learning environment for all. Woodcrest has established the PAWS slogan: “Practice respect, Act responsibly, Work together and be Safe.”



Woodcrest has established school wide expectations and procedures, as well as programs that support peer coaching, collaboration, and teacher mentoring. Having our school allocate resources and work together as a collective unit towards Positive Behavior Supports is creating a nurturing and safe environment for all our students.

MyConnectAcademy

1460 E. Rolling Hills, Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2862 • fullertonisd.org/Academies



Lindy McNutt
Principal

Our MyConnect homeschool students took their first field trip. The students from Mrs. Alonzo/Jariwala’s class went to the September 11th Memorial hosted by a local resident and firefighter. This pre-arranged trip was a way for students to hear the history and account of the September 11th attacks on the US. Mr. Townley presented the students with information about the historical event and the meaning behind each part of the memorial. The students were given the opportunity to ask questions both about the memorial and the reasons why it is important to set up the memorial each year. It was a very meaningful experience for our students as it was their first collaborative field trip with one another since the start of the school year. Thank you to both teachers and Mr. Townley for providing a space for students to connect with one another over a powerful moment in history.



Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent



Dr. Ramon Miramontes
Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs

In the Star Wars universe, whenever a spacecraft makes the jump to light speed, the stars outside the cockpit stretch out into luminous streaks. It's a mesmerizing visual of acceleration that brings to mind the dizzying advancement of

technology here on planet Earth — and the urgent need for educational systems to keep pace.

With artificial intelligence poised to reshape workplaces and society at large, the Orange County Department of Education is moving ahead with an ambitious initiative that will evaluate and determine the best approaches for integrating AI into teaching and learning. This could include more personalized learning, real-time feedback for students and teachers, or the automation of routine tasks, allowing educators to focus more on matters that demand human insight, judgment and creative thinking.

While the outcomes have yet to be determined, we do know this won't be a solitary endeavor. Led by our Educational Services division, OCDE is taking the first steps of a collaborative journey that will involve school district leaders, industry partners, educators, parents and students. And we envision it taking place in three distinct phases.

The first phase will seek to elevate AI literacy and leadership, establishing a common understanding and terminology in Orange County. The second phase will develop strategies and an implementation plan in collaboration with leaders of the county's 28 independent school districts. Finally, a third phase will evaluate our efforts, gather data and plan for the future. OCDE's commitment to continuous improvement and

community engagement ensures that the feedback loop will remain open, fostering a culture of learning and adaptability.

OCDE has long sought to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to emerging technologies, but AI represents something we haven't quite seen before. These newer tools simulate human intelligence, enabling computers to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive abilities. As such, they have the potential to impact just about every aspect of our work and lives, from teaching and learning to health care, transportation, media, energy, finance and customer service.

While ChatGPT and other publicly available services aren't perfect, remember that they are programmed to learn from us, which means they can and will evolve exponentially. In other words, the examples we see today are the worst versions we're going to encounter moving forward.

Preparing students for an AI-driven future isn't just about passing along technical skills. It's about teaching adaptability, critical thinking and ethical decision-making. By integrating AI literacy across educational settings, OCDE and our partners will be able to equip students with the capacity to navigate an increasingly complex world without losing those traits that make us uniquely human, like kindness, character and artistic expression. And through community engagement, we can pursue a shared vision for AI that aligns with our local values and needs.

The need for education to remain in stride with technology is undeniable, and the Orange County Department of Education has long been a leader in this arena. But collaboration is the key to what lies ahead. That's how we'll ensure that the next generation isn't just ready to embrace the challenges of an AI-driven world, but that they're poised to drive innovation, forge new paths and contribute meaningfully to a future that's constantly in motion.

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 2nd Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading, and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, trains, cars and computers. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

Tegan's Book Review

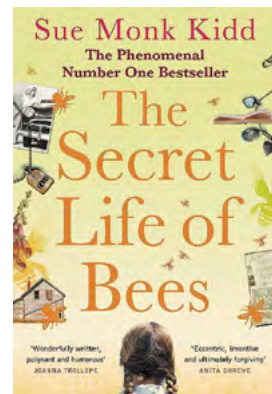


Tegan Y.

A Buzzworthy Book

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd is a sublime literary masterpiece that captivates the reader from the beginning with its

rich and beautifully descriptive words, immersing the readers in the lush Southern setting. Readers sympathize with 14 year-old Lily who learns self-love and worth through the supportive Boatwright sisters. These characters are thoughtfully crafted and relatable, each with their own unique voice and personal journey. We are engrossed with the wise, enigmatic beekeeper August and of course, the resilient Lily. The book elicits a range of emotions, from sadness to joy, and from heartache to hope, leaving a lasting impact on the reader. This exceptional work of fiction is a must-read for teens and overall I rate this book a 4.3 out of 5.



Tegan is a sixth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, writing, and reading.

Halloween Word Search Contest

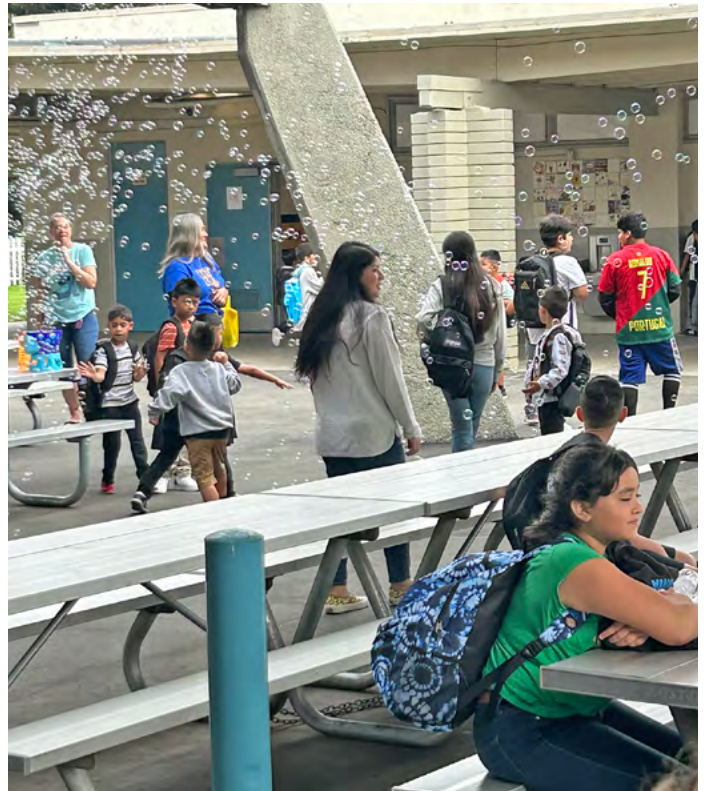
Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Fullerton in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 30, 2023

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

BLACK CAT	HALLOWEEN
CANDY	JACK O LANTERN
CARVE	MUMMY
CEMETERY	SKELETON
COSTUME	SPIDER
DECORATIONS	SWAMP CREATURE
FRANKENSTEIN	TRICK OR TREAT
FRIGHTFUL	VAMPIRE
GHOST	WEB
GHOUL	WEREWOLF
GRAVE	WITCH
HAUNTED HOUSE	ZOMBIE





Happy to Be Back in School and Ready to Learn!

