

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Savannah School District



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School is Fun Year Around

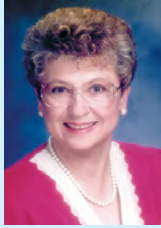


W.I.N.G.S. students enjoy beach field trips during Summer Camp.



Reid Preschool students enjoying Ms. Suzy's puppet show.

Board of Trustees



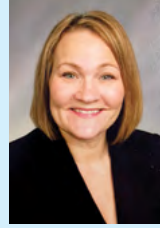
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Welcome to the 2023-24 School Year!

We have much to celebrate as we look forward to the coming school year in preparing Today's Learners to be Tomorrow's Leaders! We're excited to begin the 2023-24 school year strong, continuing to focus on helping our students to achieve their potential with our commitment to continuous learning and unwavering excellence. With so much to look forward to,

we've been excited to welcome students back to school!

As we continue our focus on academic excellence for our students, we will enhance our concentration on the implementation of our English Language Arts/ English Language Development and Mathematics programs, ensuring the needs of all of our students, and especially our second language learners, are met. Working to ensure students have foundational skills upon which to build is a priority for the 2023-24 school year. A combination of a rich, well-rounded curriculum, highly qualified and caring staff and a long-standing commitment to excellence is ensuring that we prepare our students to meet the demands of an ever-changing global society and help to shape the workforce of tomorrow.

We're excited to move into the second year with our new science curriculum. We witnessed plenty of excitement as science was brought to life through relevant, real-world problems; students learned a considerable amount as they investigated scientific phenomena, engaged in collaboration and discussion, and developed models or explanations in order to arrive at solutions. The engaging, captivating lessons sparked many students' curiosity and ignited their passion for learning. They are truly on a path toward becoming the next generation of scientific minds and engineering enthusiasts as we prepare Tomorrow's Leaders!

The launch of our all-new W.I.N.G.S. Program in 2022-23 was a tremendous success, providing an opportunity for nearly 600 students across the District a safe, engaging, and fun environment for extending their learning and participating in activities they may not have otherwise experienced. The level of student engagement was

overwhelming as W.I.N.G.S. staff helped to connect children's in-class learning to after school activities in which they gained new skills, participated in a myriad of sports and relevant activities, completed homework assignments, and built lasting friendships and bonds. We're grateful that we've been approved to provide the supper program to our W.I.N.G.S. students, ensuring their nutritional needs are met. Through these experiences, we are further ensuring our students are prepared with 21st Century skills.

We're thrilled to introduce our all-new Preschool Program that began August 7! The B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Academy, which stands for Build • Realize • Imagine • Grow • Harvest • Thrive, is structured for two, three, and four-year-old children in both half-day and full-day formats. The program provides children with a balanced early literacy curriculum in which they have an opportunity for independent play, structured learning activities that help build critical thinking skills, self-reliance and confidence and the chance to make new friends while having fun! Research has shown that high-quality school readiness programs help support student development and academic achievement by developing pre-academic skills that emphasize literacy and numeracy, while fostering exploration and creativity. The goal of the district is that our youngest children are provided with an introduction to the structure and support a school environment provides while preparing them for success in Transitional Kindergarten and beyond.

Because student and staff safety are paramount, we're continually assessing the safety and security needs of our campuses and are proud of the systems we have in place. We have consistently undertaken measures to ensure the safety of our schools in the past and will continue to do so. Furthering our commitment to student and staff safety, additional cameras were added in a variety of areas throughout the District. While the cameras provide the ability for monitoring on an as-needed basis, there is no audio recording. We will continue with the implementation of programs to provide staff with immediate, real-time access to all the information and tools they need to

help ensure the safety of students and staff in an emergency situation. We're extremely grateful that we've been able to complete much-needed enhancements that will provide students and staff with safe, secure facilities to meet the demands of 21st Century learning. These projects and more will impact our children's education and our community for generations to come.

As important as the physical safety and security of our campuses is, the social-emotional security our students need is critically important. We are continuing with the implementation of our social-emotional curriculum, that was first piloted at our Title I schools and endorsed by teachers for District-wide implementation. Through these lessons, students are learning to cultivate a growth mindset, recognize emotions, develop empathy toward others and practice problem-solving skills. Knowing that when our staff thrive, our students thrive, the Social Emotional Learning Task Force has met over the summer to redesign the implementation of the adult version of the curriculum as we continue to support staff in this essential area. Our partnership with Care Solace will continue to provide an additional layer of care for our staff, students, parents, and community to connect with mental health



Board Members Dr. Zambrano, Mrs. Karanick, and Mrs. Brown join Reid Principal Mrs. Garcia and me with backpacks filled with school supplies thanks to the Anaheim Rotary Club.

care providers and substance use treatment centers twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. With Care Solace, families and staff gain access to a myriad of personalized support services quickly and confidentially with multilingual teams of providers.

Knowing that children thrive academically when their social and emotional needs are met, we've partnered with the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Orange County Department of Education to help meet these needs. Each school continues to embrace Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) implementation, ensuring positive behaviors throughout the campus. With the support of the Orange County Health Care Agency, we will offer access to personalized teletherapy where mental health providers will deliver evidence-based, goal-oriented care to students. Realizing the importance of providing health professionals on our school campuses, we have expanded both our nursing and counseling staff on school campuses and in our W.I.N.G.S. program for the 2023-24 school year.

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 6



Buena Park Noon Lions and Board Members serve pancakes and sausage to Savanna staff at Welcome Back breakfast.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

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Welcome back to another new school year. This is always an exciting time for students to see old friends, make new friends, meet their teachers and settle into a routine learning to be tomorrow's leaders.

This is our 17th year publishing the excellence from the Savanna School District and we thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is November 8.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



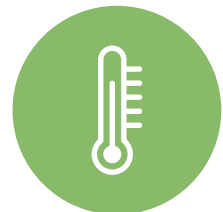
2023 — 2024



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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.

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BRIGHT LEARNERS ACADEMY

Now Accepting Applications for children residing within District boundaries:

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- Available at each school
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<https://www.savsd.k12.ca.us/info/school-district/preschool>



SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 3



Dr. Sue Johnson
Superintendent

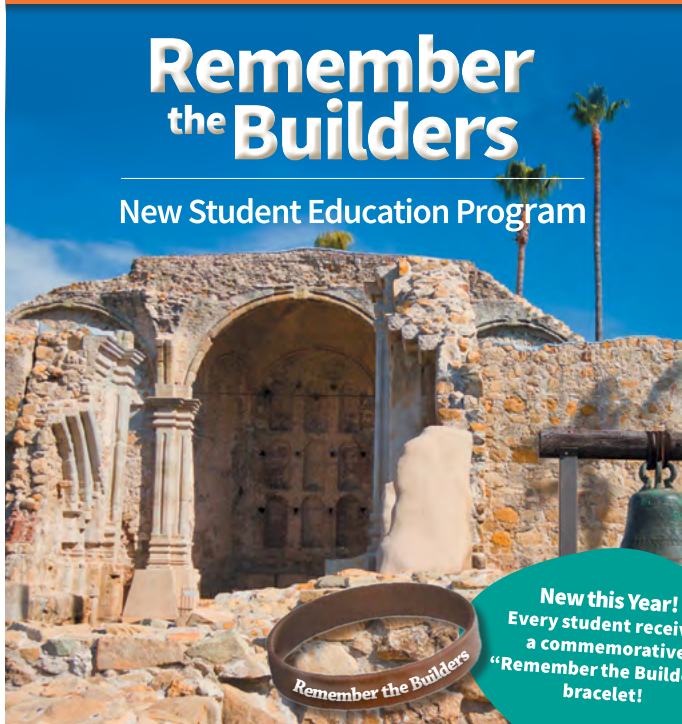
Our Summer Academy program provided academic support and enrichment programs for over 500 students this summer; students were immersed in lessons to help them recoup any potential learning loss in fun, engaging ways. In addition, we had nearly half of those enrolled in Summer Academy stay for our W.I.N.G.S. Summer Camp where they participated in a variety of sports, crafts, games, and STEM challenges each day, finishing each week with a field trip to further enhance their learning experiences! Staff in these two programs did an outstanding job of ensuring that we're helping Today's Learners to become Tomorrow's Leaders.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to thank our community for their support of our schools that continues to allow us to make a difference in the lives of students. As we look forward to an amazing school year, I can't help but say proudly that Savanna School District truly is a special place to be as we ensure that Today's Learners become Tomorrow's Leaders!

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Cerritos School

3731 Cerritos Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3830 • <https://www.savsd.org/school/cerritos>



Lauren Stuart
Principal

Organized Games and Soccer Clinic

Kickball, soccer, and dodgeball began at Cerritos School as part of their organized games in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades during their lunch recess. Mr. Cedano, a 6th grade teacher at Cerritos, organizes the games. Mr. Cedano organized an assembly to showcase what organized games was all about. He held trainings for referees and players. During these trainings, he shared information

on topics such as team work, sportsmanship, fairness and attendance. Organized games were created to keep students engaged and active during lunch recess.

In addition to organized games, our school counselor Mr. Martinez started a soccer clinic during morning recess. All students in grades four through six are invited to participate. Each session focuses on a different skill or new technique. It's a great way for students to practice their skills before playing in games; this also provides each student extra playing time while having fun.

Cerritos Staff and Students Practice Teamwork

Staff and students gathered together to kick off the year with their first flag ceremony. Each class joined together to sing the patriotic song of the month and Happy Birthday to all of our students and staff that celebrated birthdays over summer. To recognize Cheetahs who ROAR with school

pride, our sixth-grade helpers raffled off PBIS prizes for students who demonstrated their ability to be Respectful, Organized, Accountable, and Resilient. Each month students and staff are asked to focus on a specific character trait with those displaying the trait throughout the month given a special award at the next Flag ceremony. During the month of September, the school focused on teamwork. Our 6th grade teacher Mrs. Harbeck organized a fun balloon toss to showcase teamwork; the teachers worked together as teams to exemplify teamwork for the students.



Both photos students are participating in organized games and serving as referees.



Amy Slevcove
Principal

Hansen's School P.R.I.D.E is Stronger than Ever

At Hansen, our students take P.R.I.D.E in all they do by displaying the following schoolwide characteristics: Politeness, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Enthusiasm. These five simple, but mighty attributes are what drive our Positive Behavior Invention and Supports (P.B.I.S.) program. As we welcomed back our TK-6th grade students, we started the year off with a P.B.I.S. Kick Off Assembly. Our goal is to promote a positive school community and get students excited about embracing these five characteristics. We also established school norms by offering a school P.B.I.S. tour, where students visited several areas around the campus and learned how to create a safe and inclusive environment on the playground, in the cafeteria, the library, and the classroom, to name a few. Our P.B.I.S. incentive program allows students to earn PRIDE cards and turn them in for prizes and experiences. It is evident that our Huskies truly know how to show their P.R.I.D.E.!



Mrs. Estrada hands students their prizes for earning PRIDE cards for modeling our five schoolwide quality characteristics.



Mr. Curtis teaches his students how to show their PRIDE in the multi-purpose room during the P.B.I.S. tour.

Attendance Matters!

One of the essential keys to your child's academic success is attending school regularly. Help them show their P.R.I.D.E. in learning by prioritizing their attendance!



After learning how to get involved in our school community, fathers and father-figures enjoyed a pizza dinner with their children at Hansen School.

Building Community Involvement

Parent and guardian involvement is critical in establishing a positive school culture. Studies show that parental involvement not only enhances their child's academic performance, but also has a positive influence on student attitude and behavior. At Hansen, we are excited to welcome fathers and father-figures to the campus to serve as male role models to our young students. These cleared volunteers will assist in a variety of roles including parking lot and campus safety patrol, working with students in the classroom, and refereeing our organized games at recess. We know that their presence will have a long-lasting influence on our Huskies and community.

Holder School

9550 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/236-3840 • <https://www.savsd.org/school/holder>



Jason Blade
Principal

Working Together to Strengthen Our P.B.I.S. Community

At Holder, the staff is working together to revisit and strengthen our existing Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) practices. The goal being to build on an already strong PBIS foundation to create the best possible learning/working environment for the Holder students and staff.

During the first week of school the PBIS team, with the help and support of teachers and classified staff members on campus, conducted PBIS rotations. As the students rotated from location to location, they were explicitly taught the expectations in each area--whether that be the classroom, the lunch area or the playground. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and clarify any misunderstanding. As a result, every student and staff member can articulate the expectations and how to be successful in any given location.

A part of our PBIS plan is looking for ways in which students can help other students while on campus. A great example of this is having our upper grade students help guide and mentor our Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. The upper grade students have the opportunity to demonstrate what it means to be a part of the Holder Community and our younger students have the opportunity to meet new friends on campus and feel a sense of community at their new school.

It is our belief that when staff and students have common expectations and we are all working together to create a safe, healthy environment, it sets the stage for everyone to be successful and ensures that our students are meeting their true Holder Hawk potential.

Make School Attendance a Priority!

One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: coming to school every day. Make attendance a priority!



Holder School's upper graders serving as morning helpers in walking kindergarten and transitional kindergarten students from breakfast to their playground.

Twila Reid School

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3840 • <https://www.savsd.org/school/reid>



Maria Garcia
Principal

Bunch a Lunch Wellness Center Established

So many great opportunities are unfolding at Reid! One of these remarkable opportunities is our Bunch a Lunch Wellness Center. Reid is fortunate to have two counselors readily available to support our students' mental health needs for the 2023-24 school year. Because of this, we are excited to announce and present our

Bunch a Lunch Wellness Center. During lunch, students have the opportunity to visit with a counselor who is hosting a designated space filled with array of table top

games. Games, such as Hungry, Hungry Hippo, Jenga, Uno, Connect Four, etc., that are simple and available for students to play; all of these games require interaction between students and the counselor. These games also enhance working collaboratively, are developmentally appropriate, and FUN! Students are welcome to come and join these games after they eat their lunch when a counselor is readily available to help facilitate conversations, encourage friendships, check-in, and allow students a place to just be.

In addition to running the Bunch a Lunch Wellness Centers, throughout the day our counseling team continues to provide counseling to students in sessions as well

as facilitate social-emotional groups that cover different topics. This year our two counselors will be split between primary and upper grade. Mrs. Ham, our primary grade counselor, will also lead topics such as Friendship Skills Groups or Self-Concept groups with primary students. Mrs. Patel, our upper grade counselor, will lead topics such as Social Skills, Developing Friendships and Spreading Kindness with groups of upper grade students.

Our counselors have been an integral part of our successful team at Reid and we are excited to watch our students thrive with Bunch a Lunch this year at Reid School.



Upper Grade students develop friendships and practice kindness strategies during Lunch a Bunch!



Primary students learn collaboration and teamwork skills during Lunch a Bunch.



Mrs. Han and Mrs. Patel are excited to open the doors to the Reid School Bunch a Lunch Wellness Center!



Fritzi Gragg
Preschool
Supervisor

BRIGHT Learners Academy Welcomes 2 and 3 Year Old Preschoolers!

It has been an exciting first month at Bright Learners Academy in the Savanna School District! Preschool children have been eager to learn and make new friends. Our early education team has been focusing on establishing nurturing relationships with the children. Teachers are focusing on social emotional skills such as social and self-awareness, relationship building and

learning to share. During small group activities, teachers observe each child to assess children's interests in order to develop curriculum plans that are engaging to all children and build on the skills that children have already mastered.



Bright Learners have worked on an "All About Me" unit where children created self-portraits using a variety of art materials. Favorite areas for children to engage in play are the dramatic play area and light table. The children enjoy exploring light and how it reflects through a variety of materials. The children also enjoy reading books together in the library area.

It has been a joy for the early education team to watch children develop friendships with their peers, develop communication skills and grow more confident each day. We are excited to see the growth and development that will take place with each child in the coming months!



Early education teachers are also focusing on classroom rules, problem solving and conflict resolution to set a solid foundation for the school year and the children's upcoming primary years. A consistent daily routine creates a safe and predictable environment for young children. Teachers are focusing on children learning the different parts of the daily routine such as handwashing before and after meals, morning circle time, small group activity time, sharing, clean up time and outdoor play.



W.I.N.G.S. After School Program

1300 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/484-9026 • <https://www.savsd.org/info/school-district/w-i-n-g-s-after-school-program>



Phoenix Pineda
Coordinator

The Halls are Alive with the Sound of Music!

Savanna's after school time has never sounded sweeter! Savanna School District has a long-standing commitment to music education. In 2022-2023 school year, we moved the Savanna Strings program to our after-school WINGS program. This allowed students to remain in class during the school day as well as increase their music class from one hour once per week to one hour twice per week. As we kickoff the 2023-2024 school year, we're excited to say the number of students enrolled has grown by nearly 50% and we have added additional musical experiences for the students in Savanna Strings!



The program will kick off with our first ever Music Day Camp. Savanna Strings instructors, as well as our local junior high music teacher, will lead students through a series of stations designed to teach and review important music basics while creating a fun way for students across the district to create comradery. Professional musicians will join students during class throughout the year. These musicians will share their experiences and knowledge with students. The Savanna Strings students will also have opportunities to participate in several music field trips during the school year. These experiences take place on Saturday mornings where students and their families are invited to watch a professional symphony performance geared toward children. We're so pleased that Savanna Strings exposes violin students to the opportunities music holds!

The Savanna Strings program provides engaging violin instruction for beginning through advanced students. Beginning students begin by learning to read music notes and violin basics including how to hold a bow and how to take care of their violin. Beginning students will develop their skills over the course of several months that will enable them to perform several songs by the end of the school year. Experienced violin students will continue to cultivate their skills in order to perform a more advanced repertoire. The Savanna Strings program will culminate with an amazing display of student talents at their final performance on April 22, 2024.

