

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Westminster School District



Volume 19, Issue 113

September 2023

New School Year, New Strategic Plan, WSD INSPIRES!



SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

Lessons are in Full Swing

Westminster School District students are back in the classroom and lessons are in full swing. As we return to our schools, I am reminded of the strength, confidence, and excitement that is in store for all of students and staff. Our team continues to elevate in all areas for the district – ensuring our children receive a premier education.

We continue to prioritize student safety and cultivate a positive learning environment. This summer a plethora of improvements were made to various school sites including; modernized classrooms and playgrounds, better security fencing and cameras, and upgraded ADA classroom ramps.

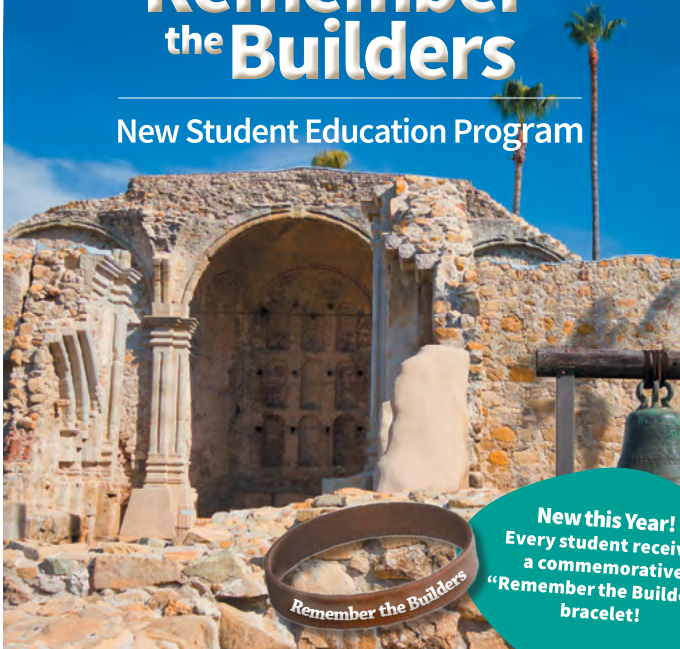
WSD also rolled out our new six-year Strategic Plan and district website which will help immensely with the marketing and promotion of WSD. Our goal is to implement the focus areas in the plan to ensure continuous improvement in all areas of District operations. This is a coherent roadmap that will provide guidance and direction for us over the next few years. This collaborative effort to create a new Strategic Plan is because of the involvement and partnerships from our community partners, staff, and parents.

Once again, welcome back to the Westminster School District for the 2023-2024 school year! Let us approach this year with a growth mindset, perseverance, and a shared commitment to the success of each and every student. Together, we will make this year unforgettable.

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2023 2024



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WSD INSPIRES! New Strategic Plan Rollout

By David Johnson, President, Board of Trustees

WSD INSPIRES!

WSD's new vision: Leading the way as the premier Pre K-8th grade school district in Orange County, CA by providing exceptional and innovative experiences where all learners thrive. In order to achieve this vision, Westminster School District worked with dozens of community members to create WSD INSPIRES!, an innovative six-year strategic plan. The plan aligns all elements of strategic planning into department and employee objectives with measurable goals to ensure optimal student outcomes.

WSD's is focused on strategy, growth, culture and continual improvement to ensure the best education possible for our students. WSD's consultant, Doug Domene, stated that our six Core Values that guide our strategic plan are the best that he's ever seen developed.

Ignite: We challenge and inspire all students to reach their highest level of achievement in order to thrive as confident, future-ready learners.

Connect: We engage across diverse communities by advancing educational opportunities to ensure student success.

Create: We foster a dynamic learning community that celebrates innovation and inspires intellectual curiosity.

Trust: We earn the confidence of the educational community and partner through accountability, transparency, and authenticity.

Elevate: We relentlessly pursue a growth-minded culture of excellence, perseverance, and self-discipline.

Model: We model servant leadership by supporting each other to create organizational health and inspiring excellence.



WSD's Board of Trustees, Executive Cabinet members, and Stephen M. R. Covey during Professional Development Day to kick off the new school year.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Neta Madison
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School News

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Welcome back to another new school year. This is always an exciting time for students to reconnect with old friends, meet new friends, meet their teachers and settle into a routine.

We are excited to be publishing the Westminster School District *School News* for 19 years and thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is November 1.



Happy Halloween

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Orange County Department of Education



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.

Orange County Department of Education
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Anderson Elementary (K-6)

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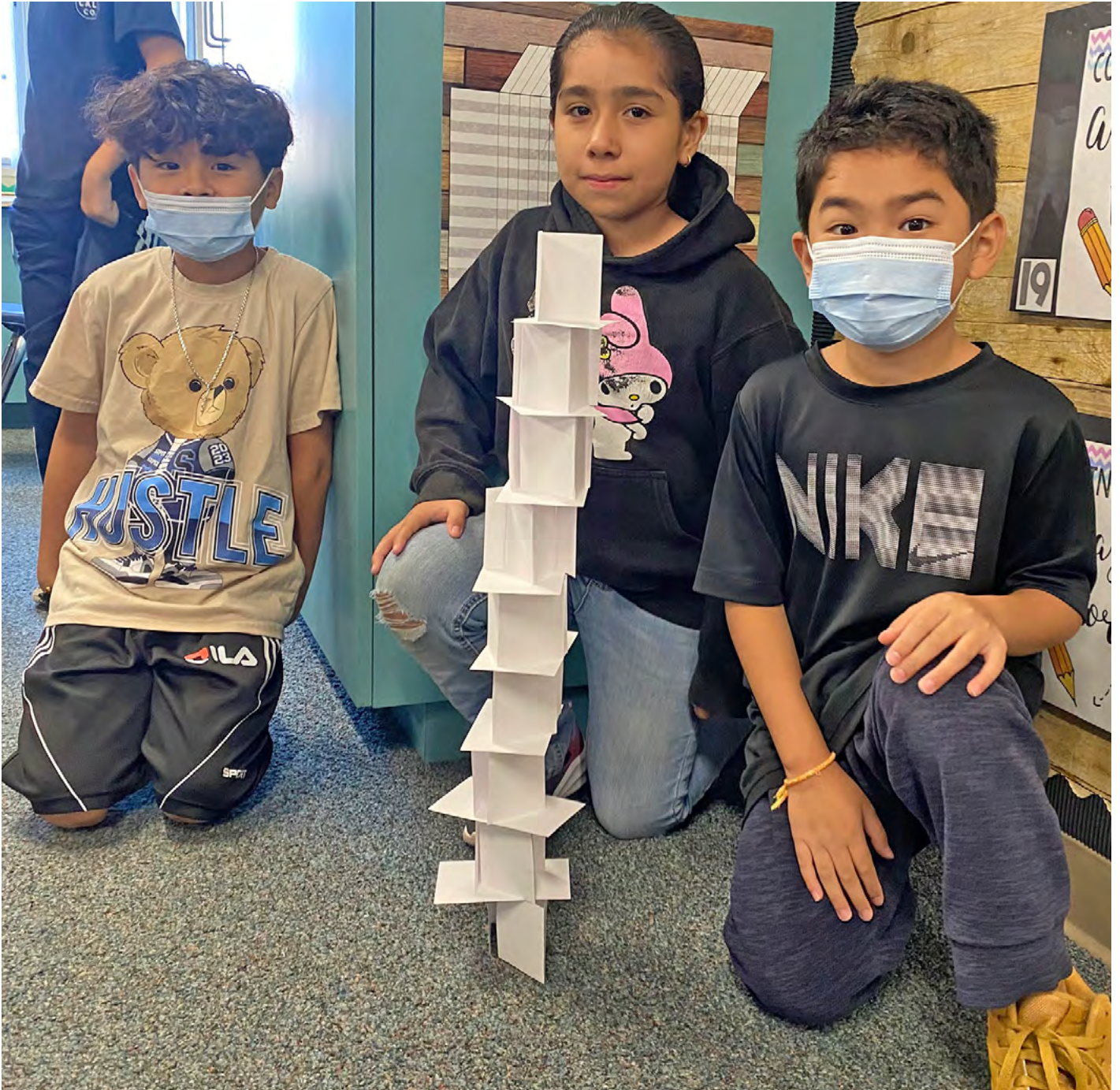


Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Building Excitement to Start the School Year

At Anderson Elementary School we are thrilled to welcome back our students, staff and families for the 2023-2024 school year. As teachers plan for the first days of school, the goal is always to engage and excite students to learn and grow. One excellent example occurred with the 5th Grade STEM (Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) projects the students completed the first week of school. One project challenged our young engineers to build index card towers in small groups. Students used creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills to build the tallest tower with their index cards. The students were all successful and each tower was unique. With a start like this to the school year, the months ahead are sure to be filled with amazing opportunities for advancement. Welcome Back Tigers!



Clegg Elementary (TK-5)

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Clegg Elementary School year!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to a new school year. I am extremely excited to begin my journey as the new principal at Clegg Elementary School. The staff and I are looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Here at Clegg:

We understand the work we do every day is important and it's critical we start every day with a clean slate and positive intent for every student.

- We understand our job goes beyond just the academics, it's imperative we pay attention to the education of the whole child including physical, civic and social emotional learning.
- We understand we must be intentional about communicating with families both our concerns and our celebrations for their child.

- We understand relationships are the avenue in which we can engage students in impactful learning opportunities that will prepare them to be successful adults.

Families, thank you for entrusting us with your student(s). It's not a job we take lightly. We encourage you to stop by anytime and volunteer or to visit us. You were their first and remain the most impactful teacher they will ever have and we look forward to collaborating with you in your student's educational journey.

Additionally, our goal is to encourage more parents to become involved with our School Site Council, PTA, and to volunteer either in or outside of the classroom. As you know, it takes a team of parents, teachers, and administrators to ensure the academic success of your child.

We are looking forward to seeing and working with you this year. Go Cougar Cubs!



DeMille *Language Academy*

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



April Derr
Principal

Off to a Spectacular Start

DeMille Language Academy, an award-winning Vietnamese Dual Language School, has had a spectacular start to the 2023-2024 school year. As students and staff returned to campus this fall, the school witnessed an atmosphere of enthusiasm and dedication that promises a year filled with learning and achievements.

One of the key highlights of this successful start has been the unwavering commitment of our teachers to enhancing their teaching practices. In the weeks leading up to the school year, our educators participated in rigorous professional development sessions aimed at refining their teaching skills. These sessions have equipped them with the latest pedagogical tools and strategies to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment for our students. The dedication of our teachers to continuous improvement is a testament to their passion for fostering academic growth.

In addition to the impressive commitment of our staff, DeMille Language Academy students showcased their exceptional talents in a memorable historical musical performance at The Union of Overseas Vietnamese Language Schools conference. This event not only



highlighted the artistic and linguistic abilities of our students but also strengthened our bonds with the wider community, which included teachers from all over the globe.

As we embark on this academic journey for the 2023-2024 school year, DeMille Language Academy remains committed to nurturing a learning environment that fosters excellence, creativity, and community engagement. We look forward to witnessing the achievements and growth of our students as the year unfolds.



Eastwood *Elementary* (K-6)

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



Kathryn Cox
Principal

Welcome, Mrs. Cox!

The hallways of Eastwood Elementary School have been buzzing with excitement since the start of the new school year on Aug. 29. Students, teachers and parents are thrilled to welcome Kathryn Cox as the newly appointed principal!

The first day of school is always a special occasion, but this year, it was particularly remarkable. With the sun shining brightly, the students and staff of Eastwood Elementary gathered to embark on a new academic journey. The morning began with a palpable sense of excitement as parents dropped off their eager students at the school's entrance. There was an air of anticipation as children, both new and returning, eagerly greeted their friends and teachers. The buzz of laughter and chatter filled the air, reflecting the joy of reuniting with classmates and the promise of new friendships.

During the first two weeks of school, Mrs. Cox embarked on an inspiring journey with the students, focusing on the importance of having a growth mindset. In her quest to instill this valuable trait in young hearts and minds, she chose the enchanting book *The Magical Yet* by Angela DiTerlizzi as the centerpiece of her lessons.

The Magical Yet is a heartwarming tale that encourages children to embrace the power of yet. It teaches them that setbacks and challenges are not failures but rather opportunities for growth. Through relatable characters and captivating storytelling, Mrs. Cox was able to convey this message to students of all ages from kindergartners to fifth-graders.

As Eastwood Elementary continues its journey through the school year under the guidance of Mrs. Cox, there is no doubt that the spirit of growth mindset will continue to flourish, creating a nurturing environment where every student can reach their full potential. With such a dedicated and passionate principal at the helm, the future looks bright for this remarkable school!



Mrs. Cox reads to Mr. Nakatsu's class at Eastwood.

Finley Computer Science Magnet School

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



Pam LeMieux
Principal

Innovation Academy

This September, Finley Computer Science Magnet launched its Innovation Academy, an initiative aimed at engaging students in technology and innovation while honing their design thinking skills. This immersive program, tailored for students in grades three through five, offers an exciting array of five-week modules, providing hands-on experience for all students.

The cornerstone of the Innovation Academy lies in its diverse offerings. From 3D printing to robotics, building and programming a computer from scratch, engineering design, and digital-media arts, students will be exposed to a wide spectrum of STEM disciplines, igniting their creativity and problem-solving abilities.

Principal Pamela LeMieux expressed her excitement about the program, saying, “The Innovation Academy embodies our teachers’ dedication to enriching our students’ educational journey. Fostering innovation from an early age is vital for future success, and we can’t wait to witness how this program inspires creativity and helps students discover their passions.”

Each module is designed to engage students in a real-life problem-solving task. The 3D printing module empowers students to turn their digital designs into tangible objects, while the robotics module encourages them to design, build, and program robots to complete various tasks. Building and programming a computer from scratch will unveil the inner workings of technology, and the engineering design module will teach students the art of innovation in practical applications. Lastly, the digital media arts module will enable young artists to explore their creativity in the digital realm.

Students are eager to dive into this unique educational experience. The Innovation Academy promises to be a springboard for future learning, nurturing a generation of creative thinkers, problem solvers, and inventors.

With the launch of the Innovation Academy, Finley Computer Science Magnet continues to expand its innovative program to prepare students for the challenges of the digital age, ensuring that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to thrive in an increasingly innovative world.

Toy Store Items–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 **October 15, 2023**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

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| BIKE | MARBLES |
| DOLL | CRAYON |
| TRIKE | PENS |
| BOOK | COMPUTER |
| LEGOS | DOLLHOUSE |
| SOLDIERS | BUGGY |
| BALLS | KITCHEN |
| BUBBLES | TEA SET |
| CROQUET | BAT |
| BLOCKS | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES | |



Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

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



Laura Urquhart
Principal

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school, Falcons! I am honored to be the new principal at Fryberger Elementary School, and to join the Westminster School District.

I recently served the Orange Unified School District as a classroom teacher, an instructional specialist, and most recently, as an elementary school principal. I am looking forward to utilizing my experience

in implementing academically rigorous learning environments and working with the teachers, staff, parents, and community to sustain and develop practices that will meet the needs of every student at Fryberger.

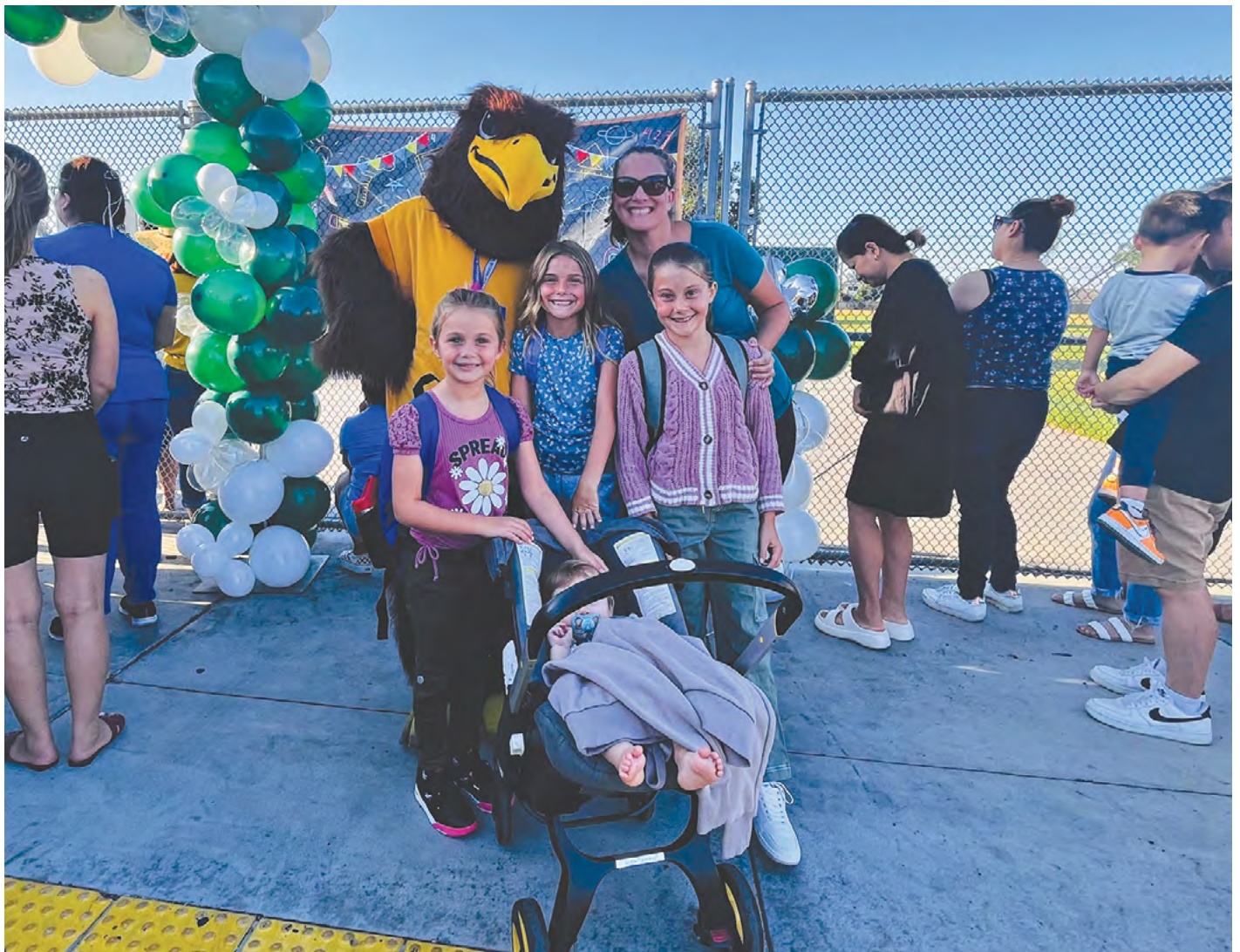
Our teachers have been preparing to make this the best year yet too, with rigorous academic standards taught at every grade level, and our Mind-Up and BRAVE social and emotional programs embedded within our daily activities. The entire Fryberger staff is dedicated to making a positive

impact on our students' academic achievements and their attainment of a lifelong love for learning. As a learning community, we welcome your questions, and ask that you become an active participant in your children's education.

Attendance is key to student success. A child who misses a day of school also misses a day of learning. Research indicates that regular attendance leads to academic success. Being late for school hurts learning too. A student who is consistently late every day could miss up to 30 hours of instruction during the year.

Your children's success in school depends upon their having a solid educational background—one that can only be gained through regular school attendance. So please make sure that your child attends school regularly and on time!

Once again, welcome back, and please know that I am honored that you have entrusted me with your children. I will do everything in my power to assure that every student at Fryberger is inspired to soar!



Hayden Elementary (K-5)

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



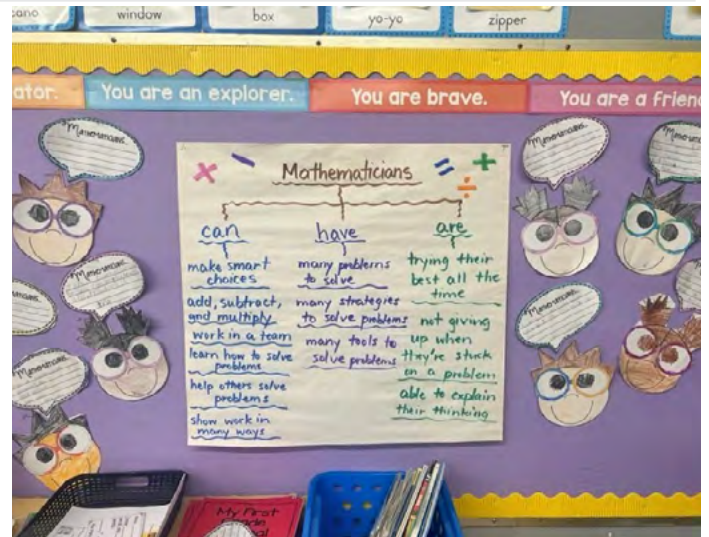
Wendy Baird
Principal

Promising Journey

The first day of school is always an exciting time, but for Hayden Elementary School, it marks the beginning of an innovative journey as we launch our inaugural year as a digital media and communications specialty school. With an emphasis on communication skills development, our mission is to equip students with the tools they need to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. Since we are in an era that is dominated by digital media and constant creativity, effective communication skills are more important than ever.

There is no denying that strong communication skills increase academic success. They enable students to articulate their thoughts, ask questions, and engage in meaningful classroom discussions. Our teachers are committed to providing learning opportunities for students to express their ideas, collaborate with their peers, and problem-solve. In addition to improving academic achievement, effective communication nurtures the social and emotional development of students. These skills will empower our students to express their thoughts and emotions in a manner that promotes self-confidence and self-expression.

We understand that teaching effective communication and digital media requires a comprehensive approach that engages students and adapts to individual learning styles. Our teachers are providing hands-on learning experiences and real-world applications through the use of



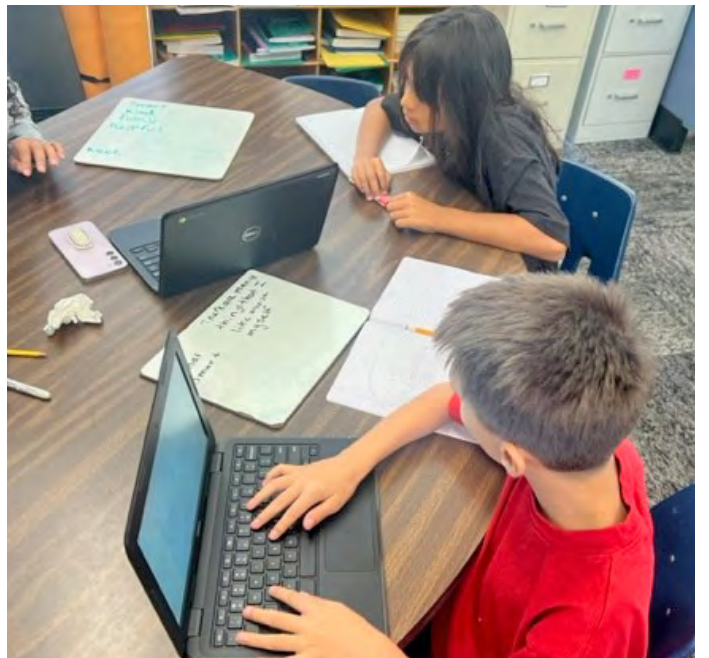
Becoming Better Writers Using Thinking Maps

our Innovation Lab. Through structured peer collaboration, our students are building positive relationships and teamwork. Our teachers are committed to using Thinking Maps, which are graphic organizers that help students organize their thoughts and ideas. Thinking Maps are highly effective to facilitate critical thinking and make it easier for students to structure their writing and oral communication.

By equipping our students with effective communication abilities, Hayden Elementary School is preparing them to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital age with confidence.



Students Collaborating for Writing Assignment



Students Using Digital Media to Learn Communication Skills

Johnson Middle School (6-8)

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



Daniel Owens
Principal

Amazing Opportunities for Learning

Johnson Middle School has had a wonderful start to the 2023-2024 school year, highlighted by the new and amazing educational opportunities that are now available. The staff at Johnson

has always found pride in being able to offer the most exciting and meaningful opportunities for our students. This year, with the addition of several new staff members with wonderful skills and experiences, we have been able to feature some new classes in finance, drama, global studies, life skills, and several critical thinking courses.



These new additions, along with the numerous other opportunities our students have -- such as robotics, video production, engineering, AVID, and art and music, to name a few -- have truly helped us to continue to be a school of opportunity and exploration. During their time at Johnson our students can also explore numerous other outlets with their elective classes, as well as several after-school clubs.

Within the regular content area we are also excited to be offering an ELD support program with a new upper-support teacher on campus, as well as the return of our district's ELD instructional support specialist.

There is no doubt that Johnson Middle School is ready for yet another great year. We can't wait for everyone to see the amazing things that our students will accomplish and experience.



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*

Behind the Scenes

Welcome to the 2023–24 school year at Land! It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone back, and we extend a warm welcome to all new families who join our school community.

The Early Education Department registration team is thrilled to be a part of the beginning of your child’s educational journey. Although the registration team does not work directly with the students, they are a vital part of getting them into

the classrooms. We want to take a moment to extend our gratitude to the team that works tirelessly behind the scenes: our preschool registration team!

Earlier this year, the registration team went out to almost all the elementary schools in the Westminster School District to inform our families in our community

about what to expect during the registration process. Since then, this team has worked diligently to help match each family with the best preschool program that suits the child’s needs and to provide resources or referrals when necessary.

This summer, we had the pleasure of having one of our preschool teachers, Mrs. Becerra, help out with the registration process. This was especially exciting because Mrs. Becerra was able to have a quick meet-and-greet with the students and their parents before school started.

When faced with new challenges, the Early Education Department registration team adapts quickly, and together they demonstrate an unwavering commitment to serving our students and their families. Without a doubt, this registration team has gone above and beyond to ensure that our school community enjoys an efficient registration process.



Meairs Elementary (K-5)

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

Be Your BEST!

At Iva Meairs Elementary School we start every year with our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) rotations for our students. Students visit five different stations as they travel around the school in grade level groups. At each station a teacher or administrator reviews the expected behaviors for that area of the campus.

The focus is on our three school rules, be responsible, be safe, be respectful. The adults presenting make sure to put a positive spin on everything. Changing the usual we don't do this to this is what we do. When students know what is expected it is less likely that there will be any problems on campus. Students visit the playground, bathrooms, office, hallways, and the lunch area. The drop off/pick up expectations are included at the lunch area. Later, when students visit the library for the first time, expectations are reviewed there too. Starting the year this way results in happy, safe students and staff!



Schmitt Elementary (K-5)

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



Sarah Nead-Rendon
Principal

Exciting Start!

We have had a busy first few weeks of school! Students participated in our PBIS rotation assembly. Teachers toured their students around the school to learn and be reminded about how we show we are safe, respectful, and responsible. We also introduced our new Roar Reward tickets and the incentives that students can earn when they collect their Roar Rewards for being safe, respectful and responsible. Students are excited to rise to the challenge and are saving their tickets for a trip to the treasure box, a new book, or lunch with the principal.



We got to meet and play some playground games with our new Playworks coach, Coach Blue. We are happy to have Playworks back with us again to support positive play at recess. Playworks also includes class game time where students work with our coach to learn sportsmanship and new playground games.

We also had a successful Back to School night and loved getting to meet some of our new Schmitt families. We are looking forward to many exciting events this year and partnering together with our families to help make our school year a success!





Robert Murdock
Principal

Path to Principal!

It is with great enthusiasm and a sense of homecoming that I announce my return to Schroeder, this time as your principal! My educational journey began in these very halls, where I initially served as a fourth-grade teacher, shaping young minds and laying the foundations for a lifelong commitment to education. Later, I also had the privilege of working with kindergarteners, cementing my belief in the transformative power of early education.

My professional path then led me beyond Schroeder to the wider Westminster School District, where I took on the role of an instructional support specialist (ISS). In this capacity, I had the honor of contributing to the growth and development of students across multiple schools, further fueling my passion for educational advancement.

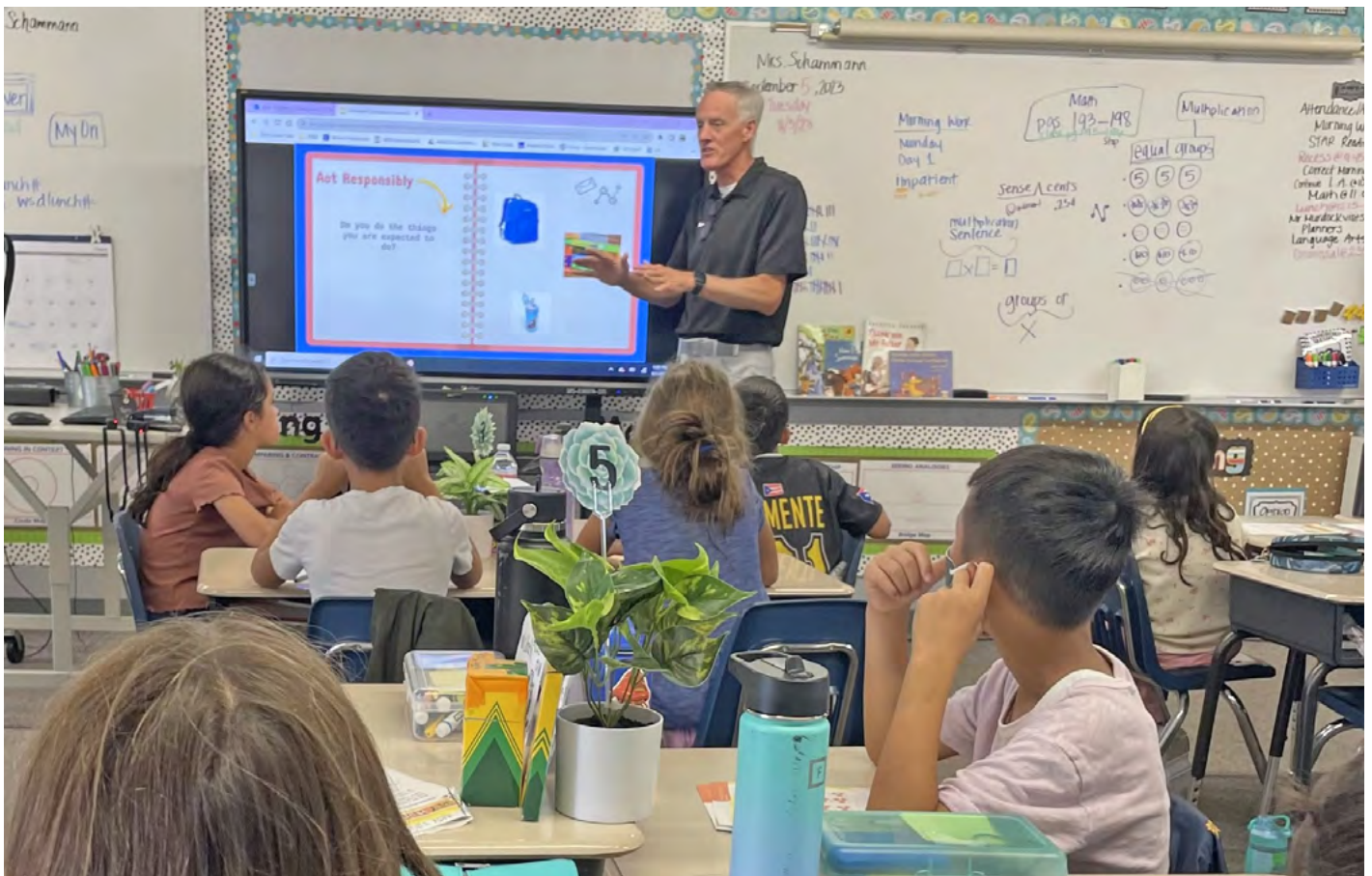
Eight years ago, I embraced the opportunity to step into school administration as the vice principal at Hayden Elementary School. This experience was instrumental in refining my leadership skills and strengthening my dedication to fostering a conducive learning environment for all students.

In my most recent role as the principal of Webber Elementary School, I witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that focused leadership can have. We achieved significant progress in student performance and fostered a thriving school culture.

My academic journey commenced at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), where I obtained my undergraduate degree, setting the stage for a fulfilling career in education. Subsequently, I pursued a master's degree at Azusa Pacific University, further refining my understanding of educational leadership.

Returning to Schroeder feels like a homecoming, and I am thrilled to continue my professional journey here as the principal. With a deep understanding of this unique educational community and a strong dedication to student success, I am eager to work collaboratively with each of you to elevate Schroeder College and Career Academy to new heights.

Together, let us embark on this exciting chapter, where our focus remains steadfastly on the growth, well-being, and achievement of every student.



Sequoia Academy *GATE Magnet Elementary*

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



Alisha Tardif
Principal

Back to School Night

Back to School Night at Sequoia Academy plays a vital role in fostering a strong connection and collaboration between home and school. This year's event began with Principal Tardif welcoming attendees and introducing Eagle staff to help parents and family members get to know who is supporting their children while at school as well as put names to faces and establish a sense of familiarity. The Parent Teacher Association was introduced, emphasizing the importance of family participation and involvement in school activities.



PreSchool Shows Parents How to Play

Sequoia Academy's focus on the home-to-school connection and building a strong teacher-parent partnership was evident throughout the night. Families were also provided with guidance on how they can help their children succeed and support learning at home to reinforce the importance of education. By providing valuable information, fostering relationships, and encouraging family involvement, Sequoia Academy ensured that parents left with lots of valuable information along with smiles on their faces and excitement for the year ahead. A positive tone was set for the 2023–24 educational journey, and Eagles will continue to SOAR!



PTA Recruiting Volunteers

Families then had the opportunity to visit their children's classrooms and gain insight into the daily classroom activities. Eagle teachers provided an overview of the classroom environment, including its ambience and organization. Families had the opportunity to observe what the classroom looks, feels, and smells like as well as sit in their children's seats. Eagle teachers provided an overview of the school day, and families learned about the teachers' methodologies. Information about classroom expectations, policies, grade-level standards and Sequoia Academy's educational approaches utilizing Depth and Complexity, AVID WICOR, Thinking Maps and STEA³M Academy were shared. Eagle staff took the opportunity to connect with parents and continue building trusting relationships, both of which are crucial for fostering open communication and collaboration throughout the school year.



3rd Grade Sharing about PBIS



Kinder Team Presenting to Parents

Stacey Middle School

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



Rick Nichols
Principal


Sparking Intellectual Growth

As we embark on a new school year at Stacey Middle School, I am thrilled to share some exciting highlights from our recent “Week of Welcome.” This special week was designed to ensure a smooth transition for both new and returning students as they embark on their middle school journey.

To cultivate a positive and inclusive environment, we recently organized a series of activities focused on building school spirit and forging connections among students, teachers, and staff. One of the highlights was our pep rally, where the entire school gathered in the gymnasium to celebrate together. Their energy and enthusiasm was contagious, and it set the perfect tone for the year ahead.



In addition to the pep rally, we also hosted several meaningful student assemblies during which we discussed our school’s core values, expectations, and goals for the upcoming year. These gatherings served as an important opportunity to align our collective vision and create a sense of unity within our school community.



WEEK OF WELCOME

Welcome to Stacey!
The goal today is to bond students to the school and the culture, and to get new students acclimated to the school. Finish the day with a Pep Rally!

AUG 29

Meet Your Teachers!
The goal today is for students to find all of their classes and meet all of their teachers and connect with one another. Early Out Schedule.

AUG 30

PBIS DAY
Students and staff work together to build a positive and cohesive school culture. Activities include reviewing school and classroom expectations and inspiring students to build a positive culture at SMS.

AUG 31

Step into Instruction
We step into instruction while connecting. Activities include an extended Homeroom schedule to allow for additional PBIS activities.

SEP 1

Inside the classrooms, our dedicated teachers have engaged their students in team-building exercises that encourage collaboration, effective communication, and problem-solving skills. Through these activities, our students have had the chance to develop meaningful relationships while also honing their ability to work together and support one another. We firmly believe that a supportive atmosphere can enhance student learning and ensure that everyone will feel valued and appreciated.

Furthermore, our passionate educators wasted no time in diving into instruction, igniting curiosity, and sparking intellectual growth among our students. By providing stimulating lessons, and fostering a love for learning, we aim to empower our students to reach their full potential.

Together, we can create an environment where our students will thrive and achieve great things. We are looking forward to an amazing 2023-2024 school year.



Warner Middle School (6-8)

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



Dr. Kenneth Lopour
Principal

ROCKS Week

Warner Middle School started the new school year with an incredible and memorable first week, known as ROCKS Week. This exciting event centered around reinforcing the school's core values of Respect, Organization, Courage, Kindness and Self-Control, setting the tone for an outstanding academic year ahead.

ROCKS Week was more than just the typical start-of-school orientation. It was a holistic approach to instilling values that go beyond academics and into the realm of character development. The week was filled with engaging activities, inspiring assemblies and meaningful classroom discussions that left a lasting impact on every student.

Respect was a major theme throughout the week. Students and teachers alike engaged in thoughtful conversations about the importance of respecting one another's differences, opinions and personal space. Organization was emphasized to help students become

more responsible and efficient learners. Lessons on time management, goal-setting and study strategies were integrated into the curriculum. Courage took center stage as students were encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and face challenges with bravery. Kindness was also a highlight, where lessons on fostering an atmosphere of empathy and compassion within the school community were given. Self-Control rounded out the core values, teaching students the importance of managing their emotions and impulses. Lessons on stress reduction, mindfulness and conflict resolution provided students with tools to navigate the ups and downs of adolescence.

What made ROCKS Week even more special was the infusion of fun into the learning process. Games, contests and team-building exercises created a vibrant and positive atmosphere, allowing students to bond with their peers and teachers while embracing these important values.

ROCKS Week was not just a celebration of the start of school. It was a celebration of the values that Warner Middle School holds dear and a promise to nurture these values in the hearts and minds of every student.

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 Westminster in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 16, 2023

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

Thank you Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics for sponsoring our Word Search Contests

www.BarkateNehiSmiles.com

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 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 |

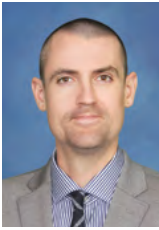


Congratulations to the Winners of our June Contests!

Tanya Wu and Sandra Villalva

Webber Elementary (K-6)

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



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Embracing the Webber Community

I am honored to introduce myself, Jonathan Edelman, as the new principal of Webber Elementary School. The warm welcome from our incredible teachers, dedicated staff, enthusiastic students, and supportive community has been truly heartwarming. Webber Elementary has quickly become my home, and I am excited to embark on this journey with you all.

One of my key passions in education is the promotion of arts opportunities for students. I firmly believe that the arts play a vital role in fostering creativity, self-expression, and well-rounded growth. Therefore, I am committed to expanding the art programs at our school to help enrich our students' educational experiences.

The first few weeks of the school year have been exceptionally smooth, thanks to the outstanding teamwork and dedication of our school community. I am deeply impressed by the dedication of our educators,

the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our families.

Looking forward, I think that building strong relationships within our school community is a top priority. I believe that strong connections are the foundation of a successful and nurturing learning environment. I am eager to get to know each member of our staff, every student, and all the families personally.

I am excited about the future of Webber Elementary School and the opportunities it holds. My commitment to excellence, my passion for the arts, and my dedication to fostering a sense of community will guide my work as your principal. Together, we will create an environment where every individual feels valued, supported, and empowered to achieve their fullest potential.

I am immensely proud to be part of the Webber Elementary School community, and am eagerly anticipating the journey of growth, creativity, and collaboration that lies ahead. Let us come together to make this academic year a memorable and successful one for all our students.



Willmore *Language Academy*

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



Tieumi "Domi" Ellis
Principal

Off and Running

We have had a great start to the school year! Our students were so excited to come back to learn and see their friends and teachers. Our families were also out taking First Day pictures with our Westminster Board of Trustee Tina Gustin-Gurney and Gerardo Martinez, the executive director of educational technology. We were so thankful for the district's support, as they both helped our students find their classes and welcomed them back to school.

As everyone gets back into their routines, we have been reviewing our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program (PBIS). Willmore students soar by showing Respect, Effort, and Pride. They also earn T-Bird Gold tickets that they can exchange for prizes. We are so fortunate to have our PTA collaborate with us to support PBIS!



Additionally, our Danza Club was invited to perform at the Moon Lantern Festival at the Asia Garden Mall. The students did amazingly well, thanks to the direction of Lulu Mejia Pedraza and Maestra Juan-Tapia. They danced to three songs from different regions. The first song is commonly referred to as the second Mexican national anthem, called El Son de la Negra. The second song is called La Raspa, which has origins in the state of Veracruz but is also danced in different regions.

The last song is called El Jarabe Tapatío, from Jalisco. The students were outfitted in the traditional clothing from Jalisco. The girls wore colorful and voluminous skirts decorated with lots of multicolored ribbons and flowers in their hair, whereas the boys wore the traditional "Charro" hats and bows worn by mariachis. Westminster represents a diverse community that embraces all cultures.





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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 Houdini 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.

Madeleine's Review



Madeleine J.

A Tough Relationship

Sisters by Raina Telgemeier is a graphic novel that's about herself. She wants a little sister, but when she finally gets one it's not how she expected at all! Her sister's name is Amara,



and when she was 2 or 3, they started to fight and argue all the time. Later, their mother had another baby named Will. A major event from the story was the family's road trip to Colorado to visit their cousins. I didn't think they would make it through the whole trip because they were fighting a lot in the car. I felt glad and surprised because they finally made it.

The author's writing style is narrative, because the story is from the narrator's point of view. I think you should read this book because there were a lot of exciting and thrilling adventures.

Madeleine is in 4th grade, and she likes to do martial arts, and she has a passion for drawing, swimming, making stories, and reading books.

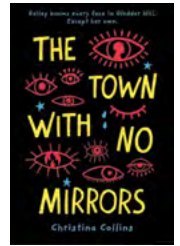
Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

What Do I look Like?

The Town with No Mirrors is a fiction written by Christina Collins. The book is about a 12-year-old girl named Zailey who lives in Gladder Hill, the town that doesn't allow the use of mirrors, cameras,



or any reflective items. Nobody talks about anybody's appearance. In her community, the words describing physical appearance such as ugly and beautiful are forbidden. Zailey is curious but never sees her own face, her reflection, or a photo of herself. Why does this town forbid the reflective items? Will Zailey ever see her own face? Is everyone in the community content with not knowing what they look like? What would our world be like without a mirror?

This book is very captivating, and I had a hard time putting it down once I started reading. It was an easy and fun read. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars and would highly recommend it to anyone.

Kailani is a 6th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and choreograph fun dances with her friends.

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.