

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

Volume 9, Issue 34

November 2023

Diverse Opportunities for Diverse Learners



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AVID Kicks Off Year with Tailgate Fun



Brinda C. Leon
Superintendent

AVID, which stands for Advanced Via Individual Determination, is a program designed for students from first-generation college-attending families. Its primary goal is to equip students with the skills and readiness needed for success in both college and their future careers. This program spans from elementary school to high school.

At Arovista Elementary, all students engage in activities that incorporate writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading to support their academic development. As students progress to Brea Junior High and Brea Olinda High School, they have the opportunity to enroll in AVID as an elective class. In this class, students focus on honing their organizational and study skills while also developing critical thinking and inquiry abilities.

AVID students actively participate in various activities throughout the year. These include weekly student-led study groups, semesterly college field trips, monthly motivational events, quarterly guest speakers, and research projects aimed at expanding their knowledge of college and career options. Notably, our AVID students are not only committed to academic readiness but also to community service projects. On average, they contribute 25 hours of community service annually and undertake a service learning project at each grade level.



The current year has already begun on a positive note for AVID. The program hosted its annual football tailgate event with the theme “This is what possibility looks like.” Over 150 students and their family members joined in for a night filled with fun, food, music, and games. We eagerly anticipate witnessing the continued success and growth of our exceptional students in the coming year!



Ask Dr. Shari



Dr. Shari Sweetnam


Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.



Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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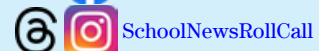
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does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

Superintendent Brinda C. Leon begins this issue with her message about AVID as an elective class. It is wonderful students perform community service, which they are likely to continue throughout their lives.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on pages 11 and 15 (all ages may enter).

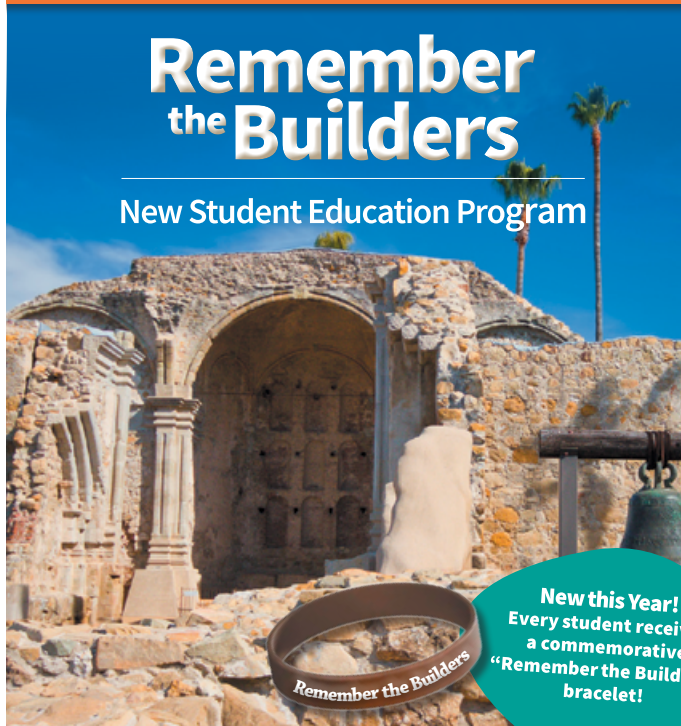
Our next issue is March 13, 2024. Happy Thanksgiving from our *School News* staff.



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Arovista Elementary School (K-6)

900 Eadington Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2185 • arovista.bousd.us



Eric Barrientos
Principal

¡Viva Viernes!

On the morning of Sept. 15, Arovista students and families made their way to campus, like any other day, except this day, they were greeted by a familiar scene in the main quad—the sight and sound of la familia Segura performing live music from around América Latina and inviting our Arovista community to participate. This kickoff event for National Hispanic Heritage Month sparked a series of weekly events that have become the staple of Arovista Elementary’s monthlong cultural celebration—the launch of ¡Viva Viernes! events for the 2023 school year.



In the following Friday mornings, our Arovista Allstars celebrated the richness of the Latiné community through a series of performances and spirit days. A local group, Taller Kurubina, brought the music of Puerto Rico known as la plena. Our community was invited to sing and dance in celebration of the Boricua culture. The following week, our Arovista staff led an El Grito competition with our students and staff in celebration of Mexican independence, followed by line dancing sessions of Caballo Dorado and the song “El Payaso del Rodeo.”

Our Arovista Student Council took the lead for the following ¡Viva Viernes! and sponsored a “Como la Flor” spirit day, with Selena-themed music playing in the morning and picture opportunities for students and families.

Friday, Oct. 13, marked the culmination of our Hispanic-themed celebrations, with Copali Copili Aztec Danza Group from the city of Pomona exposing our Arovista Community to the ancestral culture of the Native American people of northern and central Mexico. We look forward to our continued celebrations of the Latiné community in the years to come. ¡Hasta 2024, Allstars!



Brea Junior High School (7-8)

400 N. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7500 • bjhs.bousd.us

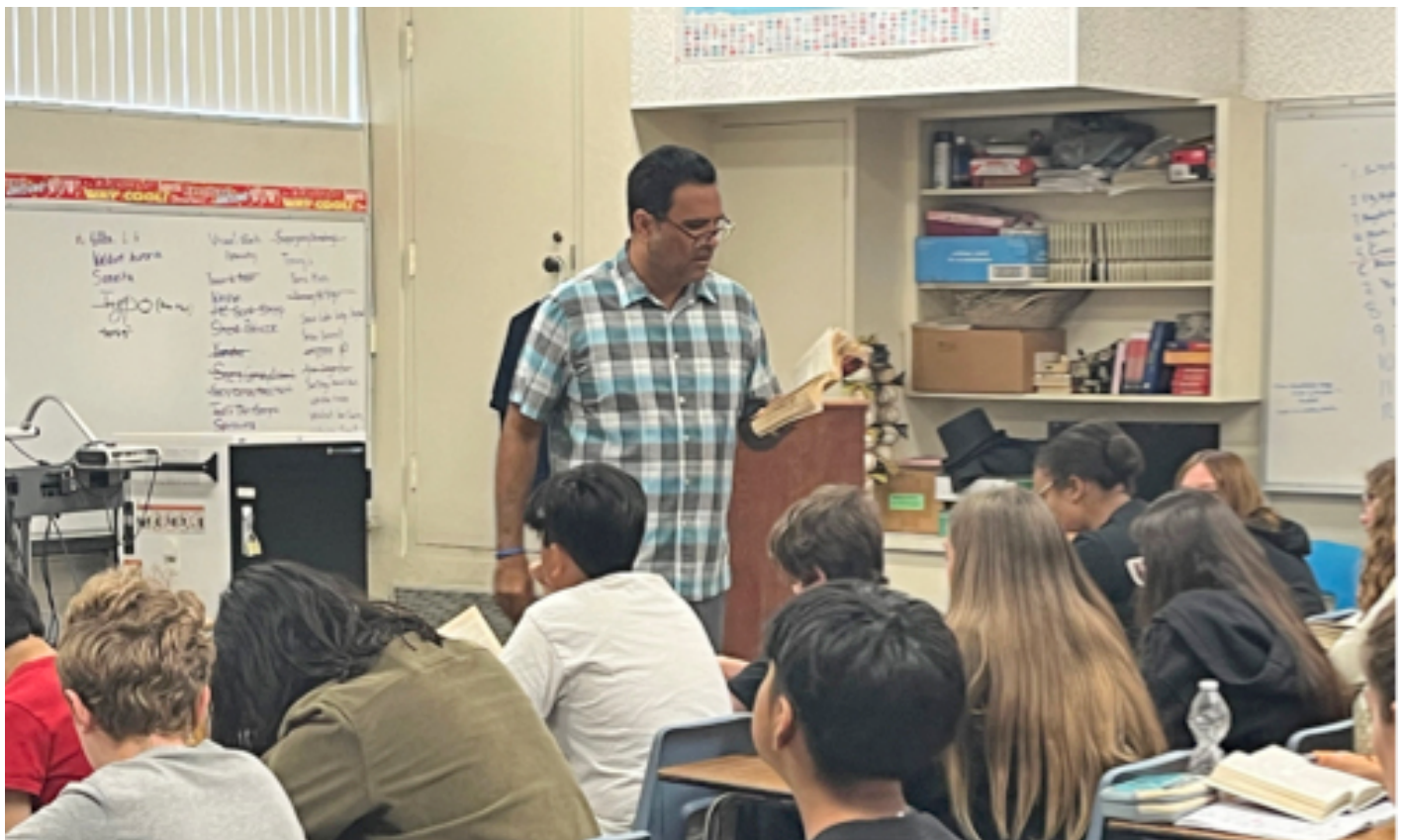
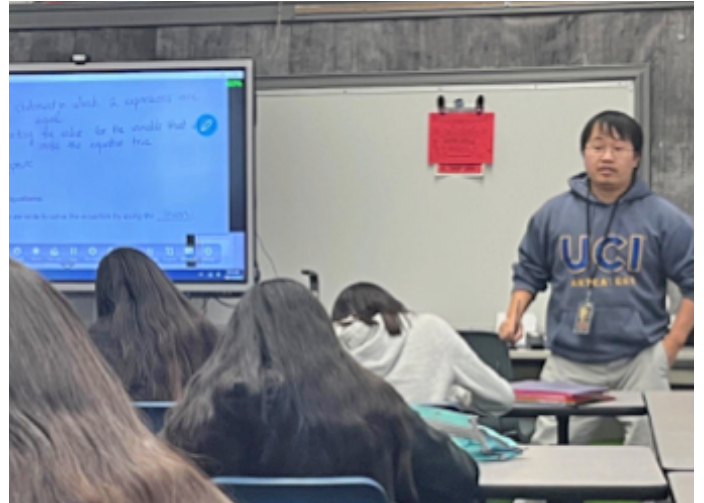


Sheri Cole
Principal

Problem of Practice

Brea Junior High School conducted the first Instructional Rounds process on October 17, 2023. Instructional Rounds is a process in education which mimics the medical model of problem solving. This process addresses an identified Problem of Practice in a school. The Problem of Practice is something staff identifies as an area that

should be addressed to support student learning. Teachers visit classrooms and write specific and non-judgmental observations. Depicted below is the debrief process wherein the teams shared observations as they relate to the Problem of Practice. The team then established patterns and wrote a final pattern statement. That statement was used to identify the next level of support for our educational stakeholders. This level of collaboration will support teaching and learning at BJH.



Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • breacanyon.bousd.us



Dr. Kristin Risberg
Principal

Brea Canyon High Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month in Style

Brea Canyon High School embraced the vibrant spirit of Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of exciting celebrations. The school quad dazzled with traditional decorations like ‘papel picado’ and a heartfelt ‘ofrenda’, paying homage to rich Hispanic traditions. Culinary delights included ‘fruta con tajín’, crispy churros, homemade tortillas accompanied by delectable fixings

for quesadillas, refreshing ‘salud hydration’ drinks, and tantalizing ‘paletas’.

But the festivities didn’t stop there! Students and staff indulged in lively games of ‘lotería’ and showcased their artistic flair in a face painting contest. The atmosphere was further electrified by the melodious tunes of a live mariachi band. To cap off the festivities, attendees swayed and twirled as they partook in energetic salsa dance lessons. The event was not only a celebration but also an immersive experience into the rich tapestry of Hispanic culture. Yes, we CANyon! Si, Se Puede!



Brea Country Hills *Elementary School (K-6)*

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • countryhills.bousd.us



Shelley Lopez
Principal

PBIS at Our School

This year Brea Country Hills Elementary was awarded the Silver Medal as a California PBIS Implementation School! Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports are utilized at Country Hills to explicitly teach behavior expectations in every area of the campus. Positive reinforcement of expected behaviors, along with restorative practices, ensure that students have a positive

atmosphere in which to learn and grow. Safety rules such as walking in hallways and staying seated during eating help keep students safe and happy, which is our No. 1 priority!

A new system of student rewards has also been implemented this year, and our student leaders have taken on their new role of “accountants” perfectly. The Cougar Credit Union exchanges all of that “Cougar Cash” they earn for coupons at the Prize Store.

These volunteers have taken on the responsibility to help explain the process to our youngest Cougars of counting out their Cougar Cash and how to utilize their coupons for a prize. Volunteer teachers are also helping the students in this new process, one that was the brainchild of fifth-grade teacher Mr. A. Our PBIS Team has worked together in rolling out the Cougar Credit Union, and so far it has been fantastic!



Student Leaders/Cougar Credit Union Accountants

Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • bohs.bousd.us



Dr. Josh Porter
Principal

The Brea Way

Student involvement and engagement is soaring to new heights, surpassing even our pre-pandemic levels!

We kicked off September with an incredible event called Club Rush, where over 100 campus clubs came together for four days of excitement. Club leaders enthusiastically shared information about their clubs and recruited new members, all with the aim

of making a positive impact in our community. It's truly heartwarming to see our students' eagerness to serve and contribute to the world!

Our academic competition teams, like Mock Trial and Robotics, are working tirelessly to prepare for their upcoming competitions. The response from students wanting to participate has been overwhelming, breaking all previous records. In the realm of sports, we are thrilled

to see multiple levels of participation in each program once again, and the support from our fans has been outstanding. Ticket sales for football games have reached an all-time high, creating an electrifying atmosphere! Even non-revenue sports, such as water polo, have been embraced by our passionate fans, filling our stands with excitement.

The performing arts department has also expanded its horizons, showcasing their talents in community parades, festivals, and competitions. Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated our annual Homecoming Dance, and it was a sight to behold with over 60 percent of our student body in attendance at the Artic in Anaheim.

This school year has truly started off on a fantastic note, and we are beyond thrilled to witness the increase in positive energy, community involvement, and student appreciation for one another. This is what we call the "Brea Way." It is the spirit of enthusiasm and unity that fills our school with joy!





Dr. Kristin Risberg
Principal

Merging Virtual and Physical Worlds with Engaging Activities

Brea Online Academy recently orchestrated two captivating in-person activities, offering a refreshing break from its virtual realm. The “Art Masters” session delved into the intricate world of cubist art. Elementary students, radiating enthusiasm and showcasing their inherent talent, crafted pieces that echoed the genius of Picasso. In a twist of innovation, our HIVE extended an invite for a hands-on STEM activity where

students assembled air cannons. The challenge was not just in the making, but also in using these cannons to knock down targets from a distance. The thrill of hitting the mark and the science behind air pressure combined to provide an enriching experience. These sessions also fostered collaboration and camaraderie among students, proving that the right balance of virtual and in-person interactions is pivotal for growth. Through these endeavors, Brea Online Academy emphasized that while virtual education has its place, the tangible, tactile joys of hands-on learning and experimentation are irreplaceable in cultivating holistic learners and luckily we are great at both.



Falcon Academy of Science & Technology (K-6)

650 N. Apricot Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-3908 • falcon.bousd.us



Dr. Jeannie Kim
Principal

SOARing!

Falcon Academy of Science and Technology (FAST) has been awarded platinum recognition for our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). At FAST, we believe in focusing on

the whole child—social, emotional, academic, and behavior—and we believe in helping to develop students with great character.

The principal and counselor went from class to class to present and reinforce the FAST PBIS matrix and clear schoolwide expectations. Through our PBIS, students have the opportunity to get nominated at our monthly SOAR



Awards Assemblies. We had our first SOAR Awards Assembly on Sept. 29, highlighting students who showed exemplary caring at FAST. Our students were nominated in October for showing trustworthiness.

We believe that our FAST students should be provided positive reinforcements for displaying SOAR behavior: stay safe, own your actions, act responsibly, respect everyone and everything. Thus, students are provided SOAR tickets when they are “caught” doing great things! Students then take these tickets and purchase items of their choosing weekly on our

SOAR cart. Our teachers share shout-outs for students on a weekly basis, and students are celebrated consistently through many different platforms for SOAR behavior!

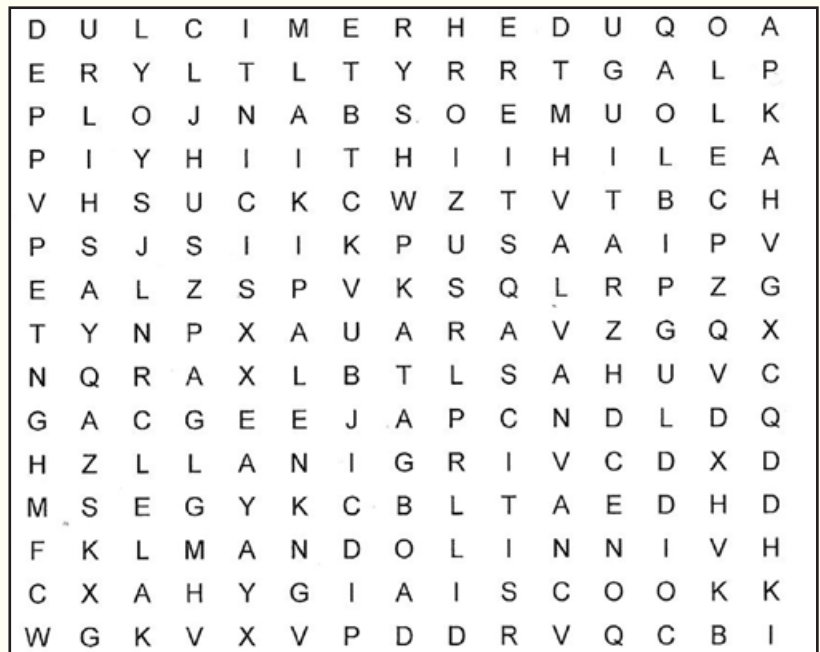
Musical String Instruments Word Search Contest

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 BOUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2023

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

- | | |
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| GITAR | VIOLIN |
| HARPSICHORD | ZITHER |
| LUTE | |





Erika Lopez
Principal

Exploring Future Endeavors

In a remarkable stride towards fostering career awareness and exploration, Laurel Elementary School proudly introduces its newest endeavor, LMTV! This initiative is breathing new life into the world of broadcasting and video production. LMTV provides our students with an exceptional platform to express their creativity and gain hands-on experience in video broadcasting.

LMTV is also revolutionizing the way in which our morning announcements are made. Diving headfirst into the world of TV and broadcasting, the response from our students has been nothing short of enthusiastic, as they eagerly write scripts, film segments, utilize green screens, and produce videos to bring our school community the “Leopard News.”

As a magnet school, our focus is to equip students with essential skills for the future, and the LMTV Club embodies this commitment. Mrs. Thorsen, the club’s

skilled adviser, has been instrumental in guiding the students through the intricacies of video production, offering her expertise to help them explore their talents and bring their ideas to life.

Laurel is also providing its students with an array of opportunities to explore various career pathways. The LMTV Club is just one of many ways in which we encourage our students to explore their interests and discover their passions. This early exposure to video broadcasting and production is a stepping stone towards preparing students for the exciting opportunities that await them at BJH and BOHS.

But LMTV is more than just morning announcements; it’s also a gateway to a world of creative expression and future career exploration. We look forward to seeing our students thrive in this new venture. The Laurel community is excited to see the LMTV flourish, and it looks forward to enjoying the Leopard News broadcasts by our talented students. Together, we are shaping the futures of our next generation of leaders!



Mariposa *Elementary School (K-6)*

1111 W. Mariposa Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-4916 • mariposa.bousd.us



Rick Torres
Principal

Family Affair

Many of us refer to our staff, students, and parents as the Mariposa Family, but many of them are actually related! It is a testament to how wonderful and close-knit our community is that we have teachers, playground supervisors, aides, and nutritional service workers who have their own children attending Mariposa. In many ways, this unique situation has created a warm and supportive environment for both the staff and the students. It's heartening to see teachers guiding not only their students but also their own children, instilling the same values of kindness, curiosity, and a love for learning in both their professional and personal lives.

One remarkable family is headed by Mrs. Samuelson, who has served in various positions, from PTA president to resident substitute teacher. Her daughters are Ms. Lentini, a new first-grade teacher, and Brooke, in her sixth-grade year. For them, Mariposa is certainly a home away from home.

The presence of parents among our staff not only strengthens the bond between the school and the families but also contributes to the sense of community that defines Mariposa Elementary. When a staff member is also a parent, they contribute both perspectives, which can be instrumental in discussions and decisions made for our school. In this unique and nurturing atmosphere, our students are not just learners but also cherished members of an extended family. We take pride in the fact that, at Mariposa, it will always be a family affair!



Olinda Elementary School (K-6)

3145 E. Birch St., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/528-7475 • olinda.bousd.us



Aubrey Lim
Principal

Science Enrichment

Our Olinda Eagles have kicked off a season of Science enrichment for all ages! Our upper grade Eagles have started Life Science with Mrs. Airan Jansen, who is currently working as a Program Administrator for the Department of Biological Sciences at Cal Poly Pomona.

Mrs. Jansen brings the fun and engagement with her for every lesson. Through exploration, hands-on experiments, interactive activities, and exciting lessons our Eagles dive into various aspects of life science, including biology, ecology, and environmental science. Our primary grade Eagles are currently participating in science lessons with Bionerds. The dedicated instructors bring knowledge and passion to these lessons, making learning fun and engaging for all students. Through interactive activities, students are working to uncover the wonders of bacteria, cells, and other tiny

organisms on a microscopic level while studying and observing sauerkraut! These programs are funded through the contributions made during Olinda's Jog-a-Thon and Membership drives. We are so thankful for both of these wonderful programs that enrich the learning and engagement of all our students.



The Yo-Yo

Some believe the yo-yo originated in China. However, the first mention of the yo-yo is in Greece around 500 B.C. It is also found in pictographs in Egyptian-temple wall art. Philippine hunters used a rock with a 20-foot string to hit their prey in trees in the 16th century. Wherever the yo-yo originated, it has become a global fascination.

The yo-yo is said to be the second-oldest toy in the world, next to the doll. It is a toy that has a calming effect on the user. The French court played with the yo-yo (*joujou de Normandie*). Marquis de Lafayette toyed with the yo-yo. Napoleon and his troops played with it before the battle of Waterloo as well, as it was a favorite of the Duke of Wellington. There is a National Yo-Yo Museum in Chico, and wooden parts can be found online.

This country saw its first patent in 1866 by an Ohio company, but the toy remained obscure until 1916 in an article in *Scientific American* titled "Filipino Toys." When Pedro Flores, an immigrant from the Philippines working at a hotel in Santa Monica as a bellhop, played with his yo-yo during his lunch break, a crowd would gather around and watch. He started making yo-yos and had two factories by 1929.

A businessman named Donald F. Duncan on a trip from Ohio to California saw the yo-yo and bought Pedro's company in 1929. Then in 1932, Duncan was given the trade name yo-yo, forcing competitors to use other names for the toy. It was Duncan who introduced the slip-string that allowed the yo-yo to "sleep." He set out on an advertising campaign with the Hearst newspaper company that increased paper circulation and sales of yo-yos.

Then in the 1960, with television and mass advertising, the yo-yo had a resurgence in sales and interest. However, the Duncan family lost a trademark case in 1965 and sold the company. Yet between 1960 and the 1990s, the yo-yo saw many innovations with the new technology that saw another resurgence in the 1990s. On April 12, 1985, the yo-yo went to space on the Discovery Shuttle. The toy needs gravity to work—you can guess the result!

Today, the yo-yo is providing more than entertainment for young enthusiasts. It is also a way for our troops to relax and take their mind off the stress of the job they have been sent to do. In 2008, Senator John McCain asked for people to send yo-yos and stress balls to the troops. There are several organizations that send yo-yos to the troops. As we get older and can no longer do what we used to do, there is still something that we can do that will make a difference.

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com

Toy Store Items—Word Search Contest

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From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
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BLOCKS	BALL GLOVE
KITES	

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Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent



Dr. Ramon Miramontes
Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs

Times and technologies may change, but ensuring students feel a sense of connection at school is just as crucial as ever. Arguably, it's never been more important.

I'm talking specifically about being involved with

clubs, sports, music and other activities that not only enhance personal growth but have also been shown to improve students' academic performance and their well-being.

Research from the National Institutes of Health tells us that when students feel connected to their school, they are less likely to feel anxious, sad or have thoughts of harming themselves. The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests these benefits are long term, leading to improved health outcomes into adulthood.

Now, let me introduce you to two OCDE programs that have a history of engaging students across Orange County: the Academic Decathlon and Pentathlon.

The Academic Decathlon was established in 1968 as the brainchild of former Orange County Superintendent Dr. Robert Peterson. Students take on 10 challenges, giving speeches, doing interviews, writing essays and answering questions in such subjects as art, economics, literature, math, music and social science. Think of this as a mental Olympics, culminating with the Super Quiz Relay, an exciting live competition.

For middle school students in grades six, seven and eight, OCDE offers the Academic Pentathlon. This is a five-event competition that focuses on fine arts, literature, math, science and social science, building up to its own Super Quiz Relay.

Both events bring students from different achievement levels together to compete, but it's not just about winning and losing. These are months-long endeavors that are equally about learning, growing and making the kinds of lasting friendships that emerge when students tackle challenges together. This year's decathlon theme is "Technology and Humanity," reflecting one of the most important issues of our time.

Scholarly competitions like the decathlon and pentathlon aren't the only options available. Public school students in Orange County can also connect through campus clubs, sports teams, career exploration programs, student government, community service projects, the performing arts, cultural clubs, peer mentoring, service learning projects and much more. Ultimately, it's about understanding the aptitudes and interests of each student and finding the activities that will most engage and inspire them.

So here's my call to action: As parents and educators, let's envision education beyond the classroom walls. Let's introduce each learner to activities that will help them truly belong to their school. Let's consistently inspire the next generation of leaders, thinkers and achievers to engage in transformative experiences that will enrich their lives and potentially impact their communities.

The connections they forge today will not only shape their current academic achievements but will also lay the foundation for more resilient, fulfilled and empowered individuals in the future.

For more information about the Orange County Academic Decathlon and Academic Pentathlon, or if your middle or high school is interested in starting a program, contact OCDE Coordinator Kristin Rigby at 714-966-4435 or krigby@ocde.us