

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Garvey School District**

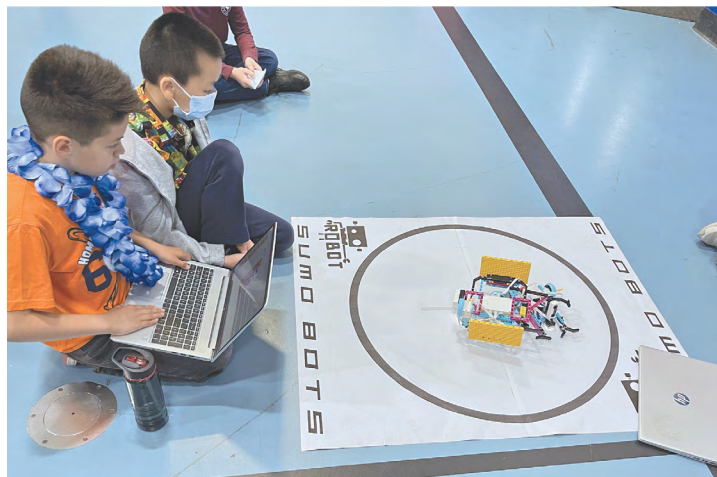


Volume 5, Issue 11

November 2023



**Nurturing the Whole Child**



**Developing Future-Ready Global Leaders**

**Making a Profound  
Difference!**



**Community Resources & Wellness Fair: Serving our Families & Community**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Maureen  
Chin**  
*President*



**Bobbi  
Brusech**  
*Vice-President*



**Paul  
Duran**  
*Clerk*



**Ronald  
Trabanino**  
*Member*



**Andrew J.  
Yam**  
*Member*

## Making a Profound Difference!



**Anita Chu**  
*Superintendent*

The Garvey Team welcomes the new school year with great anticipation and excitement as we renew our commitment to making a profound difference in the lives of our students, families, and community.

### Making a Difference in **Developing Future-Ready Global Leaders**

Leadership development is the heart of the District's vision. Despite the prevailing challenges over the past few years, we stay committed to attaining the Garvey vision of developing leaders – leaders who are academically competent, mentally and emotionally strong, and morally driven; leaders who can lead today and build tomorrow; leaders who can advance the local and global communities in both prosperous and turbulent times. To this end, our schools continue to refine the “Leader in Me” program to build a culture that fosters the growth of leaders through the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” Resources are dedicated to support high-priority students to unleash their potential and cultivate their leadership qualities. Academic and behavioral support staff, including intervention teachers and behavioral specialists provide differentiated services to students with learning and behavioral needs to ensure their success. A variety of research-based intervention programs are utilized to accelerate learning. In addition, the District is reinvigorating our signature academic programs, including the Dual Language Plus program and STEAM/Makerspace program, to promote global leaders with multi-lingual, multi-cultural, and cognitive competencies.

### Making a Difference in **Nurturing the Whole Child**

The new normal in the post-pandemic era has been marked by a concerning increase in social-emotional, mental, and behavioral challenges among students, particularly among the vulnerable populations. Through skilled behavioral, mental health and social-emotional staff, the District implements result-proven programs and introduces new research-based initiatives. School teams are strengthening the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system to support students with diverse

behavioral needs. Teachers, working in collaboration with counselors, continue to refine the implementation of the adopted social-emotional learning (SEL) programs. Schools are optimizing the purposefully designed “wellness center” to provide a physically and emotionally appealing environment for group and individual SEL activities. Social-emotional health surveys are used to identify high-need students for timely intensive support services. Most excitingly, Garvey has embraced the vision of “Capturing Kids’ Hearts,” a research-based transformational process that focuses on social-emotional wellbeing, relationship-driven school culture, and student connectedness. Garvey staff is committed to capturing kids’ hearts in order to gain access to developing their minds.

### Making a Difference in **Serving our Families & Community**

Garvey understands the importance of family in fulfilling the mission of developing the whole child. We are expanding a variety of support services to nurture the whole family. Through the partnership with community agencies, we offer ongoing parent education to build parent and family capacity in providing academic support at home, we conduct physical and mental health workshops to promote self-care practices and parents’ skills in ensuring their children’s wellness; we offer families on-campus health services, including vaccinations, dental services, and vision screening at the school-based clinic; we provide counseling services to assist families in addressing crisis situations; we gather physical resources for families in need. The Community Resources and Wellness Fair, held at the beginning of the school year, with the participation of over twenty community partners and hundreds of parents, exemplifies our commitment to bringing the “village” together to serve our families and community.

In the 2023-2024 school year, Garvey is committed to making a profound difference by building a happy and vibrant learning haven for all students, parents, and staff.

Please visit our schools’ and the District’s websites at [www.gesd.us](http://www.gesd.us) to learn more about our programs and services in supporting our students, and community and partnership opportunities.



# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Covering the  
GARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193  
**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**  
Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura  
**COPY EDITORS:** Kate Karp, Anna Zappia  
**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder  
**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison

 @SchoolNewsRC

 SchoolNewsRollCall

 SchoolNewsRollCall

24 YEARS

**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Garvey School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Welcome back to a new school year!  
This is our 5th year publishing the Garvey School District *School News*. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search games on page 15 (all ages may enter). Congratulations to Rachel Wibowo winner of our last contest. Our next issue is February 7.



## Child Development

7424 Newmark St., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3396



**Dr. Sandra Gonzalez**  
Director

### Strong Start, Bright Future!

Greetings! My name is Sandra Gonzalez, and I have the privilege of serving as the Director of Child Development for the Garvey School District. With over 20 years of experience in the field of early childhood education, I strongly believe that quality early learning instruction paves the way for a bright start and lasting success. I am extremely fortunate to serve in this capacity and at the opportunity to work with a great

team to serve the community's youngest. At the Child Development Office, our vision is to work collaboratively with parents and the community to establish a strong educational foundation in the lives of young children by providing enriching, stimulating, and engaging developmentally appropriate school readiness services that instill a love for learning. I look forward to continuing to partner with parents and the community in providing a continuity of services for pregnant women and children age's birth to five.

**THE DINOSAUR FARM**

- PLUSH
- TRUCKS, CARS & TRAINS
- GAMES
- SCIENCE
- CHILDREN'S BOOKS
- AND MUCH MORE!
- TRICERA-STOP BY FOR A DINO-MITE TIME!

1510 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030  
(626) 441-2767 | [www.dinosaurfarm.com](http://www.dinosaurfarm.com)  
Tuesday- Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5, Closed Mondays



# Arlene Bitely *Elementary School*

7501 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3318 • [bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://bitely.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Bonnie Landry**  
*Principal*

## Full STEAM Ahead!

It has been a wonderful start to our 23-24 school year. In my second year as principal here at Bitely, I have reflected on how far we have come as a school and worked with our staff and teachers to set goals for us moving forward. I look forward to seeing the great things our Scholar Bears will accomplish this coming year and beyond.

A little about me: Born and raised in Los Angeles, I have 13 years of experience as a middle and high school classroom teacher in Burbank Unified School District, and 8 years as a school and district administrator in Glendale, Arcadia and Garvey. I have served as an English Language Development Specialist, Vice Principal at Middle School and High School, and District Administrator overseeing English Learner Programs and Services for over 5,000 students. By far, though, Bitely is my favorite job as I work hard to ensure equity, access and family engagement for all.

Before school started, our teachers engaged in professional learning to prepare to deliver Garvey School District's new Coding and Robotics curriculum. With the support of our District Teacher on Special Assignment, Yoko Obata, our teachers grades 1-6 are working with our students on coding and robotics every week. We are so excited to help our students develop their 21st century skills.

Thanks to our wonderful PTA partnership, we have had some other exciting events on campus. Before school started, we hosted an Ice Cream Social to welcome families and students back to campus after the summer break and enjoy some good times and a sweet treat together. In addition, to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month, we had a Mariachi group play in our amphitheater, and welcomed a children's book author, Rene Colato Lainez, who read his books and talked about his journey as a Hispanic author and teacher.

This is only the very beginning of a great school year. Thank you so much for all of your support!



**Mariachi band kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrations at Bitely.**



# Dewey Avenue *Elementary School*

525 E. Dewey Ave., San Gabriel, CA 91776 • 626/307-3341 • [dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://dewey.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Denise Williams**  
*Principal*

## Welcome Back Dolphins!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Dewey Elementary School. My name is Denise Williams and I am entering my 4th year as principal. I have been in education for over 27 years. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development, a Master's Degree in Education, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential as well as possessing an Administrative Credential.

I have served the Garvey School District for the past 27 years as an elementary teacher, English Learner Interventionist, and Assistant Principal. I strive to lead Dewey Elementary in achieving high standards of academic achievement and growth. I am also looking forward to a new school year promoting a school culture that embraces diversity and inclusivity. Dewey creates a supportive environment where students feel comfortable fostering a

love for learning by encouraging a growth mindset among students. It is my ultimate goal to help every child feel safe and welcomed with energy and enthusiasm.

We are proud to offer the Spanish Dual Language Plus program at Dewey. Our program allows students the opportunity to develop simultaneous proficiency in both English and Spanish. Our students also receive an additional enrichment in Mandarin to enhance cultural awareness and appreciation of our diverse community. These students remain connected to their own language even while they experience a new one.

Dewey is also excited to offer a STEAM program. Our students are taught various educational technologies that enhance learning experiences utilizing multimedia resources, educational applications, and digital platforms to support personalized learning and engage students in interactive ways to develop 21st century skills.



**Kindergarten students in the Dual Language Plus program engaged in a Pair Share activity en Español!**



# Duff Language Magnet Academy

7830 Dorothy Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3344 • [duff.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://duff.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Valerie Sun**  
Principal

## Duff Dragons Do Great Things!

Welcome back to school, Duff Dragons! I am Dr. Valerie Sun, the proud, new principal of our growing 50:50 Mandarin Dual Language Plus Program. A native Mandarin speaker and a practitioner-researcher-advocate of dual language education, I am excited to lead our Duff staff toward our school goals and excellence.

We are off to a great start this school year with many successful events: Before school started, we installed a beautiful Chinese-themed mural with a dragon. A second mural with a Hispanic culture and arts theme will be installed before the end of 2023. On September 6, at Back to School Night, we had our first PTO fundraiser and also started our PTO Membership Drive; thirty-six families participated in the I Go to College event with UCLA Athletics on September 16 to watch the UCLA vs North Carolina Central football game; and we had a week long celebration of friendship with daily themed spirit wear during September 25-29. Lastly, we celebrated student excellence with our first in-person monthly Awards Assembly with students' parents on Thursday, September 28.

This year, fourth and fifth grade Dragons are ready to take on leadership roles by participating in the inaugural Dragon Student Council. Under the guidance of Mrs. Herrera, our counselor, and myself, student leaders will help make decisions for Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) rewards, spirit weeks, fundraising activities, among other student-related school business. We look forward to sharing their progress and helping them hone their skills.



**Parents waiting patiently to pick up tickets for their PTO fundraiser dinner.**

Throughout the day, students have been able to take advantage of our Wellness Room that was created last year. They have lessons on social emotional learning (SEL) with Mrs. Herrera and are able to use the room during lunch recess to relax and play games. The room is in high demand, especially by our upper graders!

There are so many more activities lined up throughout the school year. Be sure to check our school website and Instagram for the latest information. I look forward to a successful year with our staff and students and can't wait to see us grow to our capacity with 6th grade added in the 2024-2025 school year!



**Congratulations to the Students of the Month for September 2023!**



# Ralph Waldo Emerson *Elementary School*

7544 E. Emerson Pl., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3333 • [emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://emerson.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Vanessa Arevalo**  
*Principal*

## **Emerson Welcomes their new Principal, Ms. Vanessa Arevalo**

Greetings from Emerson Elementary School. I have joined the Bulldog community after having over 25 years of service to education. I have served in the capacity of teacher, resource specialist, district curriculum specialist, adult education vice principal, and elementary assistant principal, with the Baldwin Park Unified School District. Most recently I served as a high school assistant principal with the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District. I am focused on building community and ensuring that students and staff love coming to Emerson. Building community also includes parents and families to feel supported through their child's educational journey. I hope to do this by fostering a caring and supportive atmosphere, enhance the positive behavior interventions & supports (PBIS), and look

at developing ways to improve student achievement. Emerson has developed a monthly Monday morning kick off to celebrate staff and student achievements. This last month we highlighted student A. Garcia, who won the Reading is Fundamental bookmark contest and we highlighted positive attendance. Teachers have been developing their designated English Language Development (ELD) time blocks and intervention supports for students. Sixth graders have been working on their "Genius Hour" projects and are developing plans to fundraise for Science Camp. Emerson PTA helped with Back to School Night and held their annual spirit gear sale, so all kids can wear their Emerson Red. Emerson hosted its first Family Spirit night at Chick-fil-a and we look forward to having one each month to build community with our families.

I am excited for the new year as a Bulldog and thrilled to be part of the Garvey School District. I cannot wait to continue to plant the seeds of growth at the school site.



**We are proud Bulldogs!**



# Richard Garvey *Intermediate School*

2720 N. Jackson Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3385 • [garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://garveyint.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**David Alarcon**  
*Principal*

## **Rigorous Academic Standards and Student Enrichment Opportunities**

Hello, my name is David Alarcon and I am the Principal of Garvey Intermediate School. I grew up in Rosemead and it is my pleasure to serve Rosemead and the surrounding communities. This is my 6th year as principal at Garvey Intermediate and I have worked in the Garvey School District for 22 years. I am proud to lead such an amazing team of teachers and staff that are completely dedicated to the success of our students. We are very proud that Garvey Intermediate has shown academic growth on state and local testing in both English Language Arts and Math for the past two years. We hope to continue this growth and achieve even greater success through rigorous academic standards in all core subjects. We also offer a number of elective

enrichment classes aimed at peaking the interests of all students.

It's Mrs. McDonald's 3rd year at Garvey Intermediate School and her 26th year in Education. She continues to build strong relationships with staff, students and parents. She is looking forward to working more closely with PTA this year and bridging partnerships with local community members. She has already brought an IMPROV instructor to help our students find their voice and confidence in front of their peers. She will continue to expand on the ASB programs that have already been successful; including opportunities for more clubs and activities after school. She believes extracurricular activities are what motivates many kids to come to school and she loves being part of the "fun" at Garvey. She can barely remember the many years of other school mascots, and looks forward to being a Mustang for many years to come.

Mustang Pride!

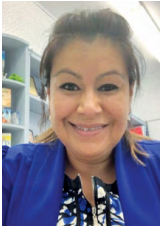


**Mrs. McDonald with students enjoying the Futboleros Soccer Show.**



# Hillcrest Elementary School

795 Pepper St., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3371 • [hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://hillcrest.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Laura Quintana**  
Principal

## Hillcrest Elementary School

Hello, my name is Dr. Laura Quintana, the proud principal of Hillcrest Elementary- a Leader In Me School. This year marks my 26th year in the field of education! I began my career as an Elementary School Teacher where I taught Grades 2 through 5. I also taught at the High School level U.S History and AP World History. I have served as an AVID Advisor, Instructional Coach, Program Specialist, High School Assistant Principal, and Middle School Principal. I hold a B.A. degree from Smith College, where I double majored in History and French Studies. I obtained my teacher credentials and Masters degree from Whittier College and a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University. I speak three languages, own two dogs, enjoy traveling, and love reading mystery and historical fiction books. I am a huge advocate for

instilling a passion for life-long learning and reading in all students. I firmly believe students need to be engaged in active learning everyday through Project Based Learning, STEM, interdisciplinary studies, and civic education.

At Hillcrest, we take pride in providing students with a rigorous curriculum and a variety of enrichment opportunities. Students can develop leadership skills and their creativity through Associated Student Body, Lighthouse Kids, Husky Ambassadors, after school clubs, and VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts). Hillcrest also takes pride in our distinguished Dual Language+ Program. Dual Language students spend half the day in Mandarin instruction and half the day in English instruction. Because we believe in the value and beauty of being a multicultural and multilingual community, our Dual Language students have the opportunity to learn Spanish. Hillcrest Elementary has a college and career going culture too! We are AVID Certified. Go Huskies!



**Hillcrest Student Leaders**



# Monterey Vista *Elementary School*

901 E. Graves Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91755 • 626/307-3300 • [mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://mvista.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Hing Chow**  
*Principal*

## Monterey Vista School is Ready for the 2023-2024 School Year

I would like to welcome the Monterey Vista School Community back for the 2023-24 school year. The staff and I are very excited as we start a new school year. My name is Hing Chow and this will be my 21st year as Principal at Monterey Vista and I enjoyed every second of my time there. Prior to this, I started my journey as a math teacher at Roger Temple Intermediate School and then moved on to become Assistant Principal at Temple. From there, I served as the Principal of John Marshall Elementary School and then to the district office before becoming a Monterey Vista Viking in 2003. My background is in Mechanical Engineering where I earned a BS and MS degree. My alma mater is the University of Nevada, Reno

(Wolf Pack) and Cal State LA (Golden Eagles). In my free time, I enjoy traveling (I've been to 30 states and counties), reading and watching baseball, football and basketball. In addition to this, I am also a proud husband and father to two lovely grown children who will turn 21 years old in 2023 and are proud alumnus of the Garvey School District. My daughter is an alumni of Monterey Vista and Garvey Intermediate and my son is an alumni of Bitely Elementary School.

I am so honored that you have entrusted your child at Monterey Vista where we have 551 students from Pre-K to 6th grade. We were recognized as being a California Distinguished School three times (2004, 2014 and 2020) and a National Blue Ribbon School two times (2004 and 2020). In addition to core academic programs, we also provide extracurricular activities such as Yearbook Club, Gardening Club, and other clubs to all of our students.





# Eldridge Rice *Elementary School*

2150 N. Angelus Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3348 • [rice.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://rice.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Judy Gonzales**  
*Principal*

## Greetings from Rice Elementary!

Welcome back to a year filled with amazing adventures! My name is Judy Gonzales, and I am the proud principal of Rice Elementary. I grew up in East Los Angeles and Montebello, the eldest of nine children and the first in my family to attend college. I received my Bachelor's Degree from UCLA and my Master's, teaching, and administrative credential from Cal State Los

Angeles. I have 33 years of teaching and administrative experience from preschool through 12th grade. I began my career as an elementary teacher, teaching first, second, and sixth grade before teaching 6th grade at the middle school. Further experiences include serving as a BTSA new teacher mentor; a teacher on special assignment coordinating migrant education programs, Title 1 parent involvement, and English Language Learner Teacher Training; administrator over preschool and before and after school care programs; high school assistant principal; and elementary principal. I am passionate about ensuring that every child who leaves our school does so confidently because they have the academic, communication, thinking, and social-emotional skills needed to pursue their dreams.

On a personal note, I love spending time with my husband of twenty-eight years, my three children, my "nephson", family, friends, and my Pitbull Achilles and Dachshund Coco. I enjoy traveling, hiking, reading, and exploring different foods and cultures.

At Rice School, we are driven to educate and inspire our students to develop academic, social-emotional, and problem-solving skills to prepare them for future success. We provide our students with a welcoming, safe environment, rigorous and exciting learning opportunities, a college-going culture, and a firm commitment to their well-being. Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports, PBIS, is firmly rooted in our school culture and guides our student behavior expectations in and out of the classroom. Our dedicated and hardworking team is committed to making this an unforgettable year for our entire school community!



**Enjoying Our PTA Read-A-Thon Picnic.**



# George I. Sanchez *Elementary School*

8470 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3368 • [sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://sanchez.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Gabriela Benitez**  
*Principal*

## Achieving Excellence Together

Every year, principals are faced with resetting their school vision and expectations of self for another new school year. How do I do better than the year before? What else can I do to raise achievement? What is that next level game changing strategy that I need to implement? As I reflect on expectations of myself, the one constant variable which returns year after year is my expectation that

all children are capable of growing in some way or another. Whether it be they mature socially-emotionally and/or excel in academics, my belief is that schools, districts and parents together assist in this journey. However, that being said, my micro lens for school improvement this year will focus much more on instruction and effective teaching strategies that produce better results for all students. Strong leadership in principals is important as is the

consistent support we receive from the district office, but the game changing effect lies within our teaching staff, they are and always will be the most important factor in effective schooling.

This year my work includes much more support in the area of classroom teaching, with a focus on lesson development, instructional goal setting and reflection on current practices. Additionally, I plan on revisiting how we build relationships with our hard to reach students so that instruction is always supported even with our hardest to reach students. My vision includes reinforcing a learning environment, where all staff are moved to school-wide professional development alignment and higher expectations of ourselves as professionals, of the families we serve and of course of our students whom we truly cherish. I have every confidence that this year will bring great results for our elementary school. Let's go Sanchez. We got this.



**Mrs. Sakamoto's TK students celebrate Principal's Day!**



# Roger W. Temple *Intermediate School*

8510 E. Fern Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3360 • [templeint.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://templeint.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Dr. Robert J. Boyd III**  
*Principal*

## Getting Our Groove Back

Hello, welcome back to Temple Intermediate School for the 2023-2024 school year. My name is Robert J. Boyd III, and I am proud to serve as the principal of Temple Intermediate School. This is my 24th year as an educator, and my 8th year as principal here. My passion is guiding students to a place of reasonable independence as they transition from elementary school to high school and beyond. The two years students spend at Temple Intermediate during this transition period is critical to their success after they exit.

We are beyond excited about the start of this school year, and the promise we see in the progress we have made since our return from the global pandemic a few years ago. Last year around this time, we were gradually returning to form as a dynamic learning community. Some of our flagship programs like ASB, NJHS, Music High Council, Drama Guild, Academic Competition Team, and History Day saw their return from a two-year absence.

Now in the 2023-2024 school year, those same programs have found their way back to full function, and we have more to come. Students and staff are walking the campus with smiles on their faces and feeling of being at “a second home”. As the principal of our school, I am proud and honored to announce that the Temple Intermediate School Knights are getting their groove back.



**Temple Staff honoring Ms. Sotero.**



**Temple Academic Competition Team (TACT) at MKHS Math Field Day.**



# Frances Willard *Elementary School*

3152 N. Willard Ave., Rosemead, CA 91770 • 626/307-3375 • [willard.garvey.k12.ca.us](http://willard.garvey.k12.ca.us)



**Jeff Maljian**  
*Principal*

## Developing our Future Leaders

I am honored to serve at Willard Elementary and in the Garvey School District for my 6th year. My passion is the education and growth of all students. I began my career in public education as a Kindergarten and 1st grade teacher, became an Early Intervention teacher, and then worked as an Academic Coach for teachers prior to beginning as Principal at Willard

in 2018. My passion is to help all students reach their potential as students and citizens. In addition, I find great joy in seeing all my teachers and staff build their capacity as professionals in order to have the greatest impact on our wonderful students and parents.

This year, my goal is to make it a year of developing the “whole child” as leaders at school and through building healthy relationships with each other and adults. We accomplished so much last year in our school and have a strong foundation to start upon this year. We are expanding opportunities for students as leaders this

year through our ASB: giving them more ownership in planning events and having a voice in shaping the culture of their school. We also are developing more leadership in our Student Greeters program: students become the “welcoming” person to all students and parents who enter our campus and build trust with our youngest students as they start their day. In addition, our Yearbook Club will be even more student-centered as the team shapes and develops a wonderful yearbook that will capture this amazing school year. Lastly, we began this year “Live Morning Announcements” where students from each class present our announcements every morning via Zoom. This gives students the opportunity to learn how to develop speaking skills in front of an audience, building their confidence.

The opportunities are endless and the potential is great this year because of the teachers and staff who pour their hearts into the lives of this school. Finally, we know that all we plan for is possible because of the support of the parents and that as a “team” we can have a lifelong impact on each of the children.



**Wildcats Come Together.**



## We Love Our Dogs 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Garvey in the subject line)

Entries must be received December 15, 2023

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a School News Roll Call card/dice game GAZUMP!

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Akita      | Pinscher       |
| Basenji    | Poodle         |
| Beagle     | Pug            |
| Bloodhound | Puli           |
| Boxer      | Retriever      |
| Bulldog    | Rottweiler     |
| Chihuahua  | Saint Bernard  |
| Chow Chow  | Samoyed        |
| Collie     | Shiba Inu      |
| Dalmatian  | Shih Tzu       |
| Doberman   | Siberian Husky |
| Great Dane | Weimaraner     |
| Malamute   | Xoloitzcuintli |
| Mastiff    |                |



## Musical String Instruments Word Search Contest

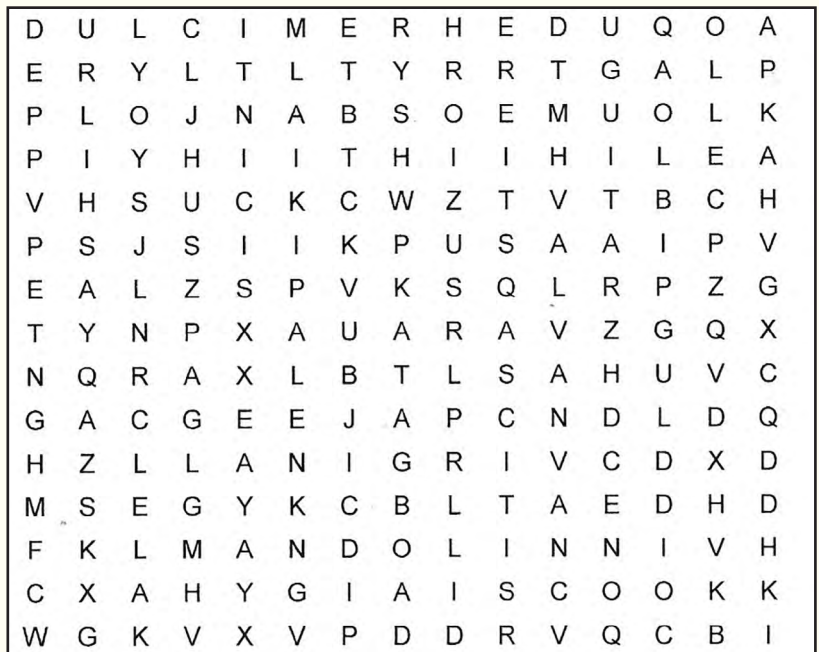
**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Garvey in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2023

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a School News Roll Call card/dice game GAZUMP!

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| BALALAIKA   | LYRE     |
| BANJO       | MANDOLIN |
| BASS VIOL   | ORGAN    |
| CELLO       | PIANO    |
| CLAVICHORD  | SITAR    |
| CONTRABASS  | UKULELE  |
| DULCIMER    | VIOLA    |
| GITAR       | VIOLIN   |
| HARPSICHORD | ZITHER   |
| LUTE        |          |





# Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu

## Empowering the Future: Integrating Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education to Prepare Students for Tomorrow

*By Jose R. Gonzalez, LACOE's Chief Technology Officer*



**Debra Duardo,  
M.S.W., Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

LACOE is leading the way to explore the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on education. This technological wave has the potential to reshape the way educators teach and students learn, and I'm eager to delve into the insights it offers.

AI introduces the possibility of enhancing education by providing educators with new insights and tools to create more efficient and personalized learning experiences. While there may be concerns surrounding AI, integrating it into the educational landscape could be a transformative step in preparing students for a future deeply intertwined with technology.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has taken a commendable initiative to empower educators with the knowledge and skills needed to harness the capabilities of AI. Our comprehensive training program, which includes workshops, webinars, and professional development sessions, and presenting at conferences demonstrates a commitment to demystifying AI and providing educators with a balanced perspective on its potential benefits and challenges. The ongoing training sessions offered by LACOE's Instructional Technology Outreach (ITO) team are particularly noteworthy, as they address crucial aspects like ethical considerations and strategies for leveraging AI to enhance student engagement.

LACOE's active participation in influential conferences like the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE), and Learning, Innovation and Technology in Education (LITE) further solidifies our dedication

to staying at the forefront of educational innovation. LACOE has made a mark by organizing an in-person inaugural AI Symposium, a testament to our commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of AI's role in education. The diverse panel discussions, featuring educators, government officials, administrators, and industry experts, underscore the collaborative effort required to navigate the integration of AI into education successfully.

It's clear that AI should not be viewed as a replacement for educators but as a powerful tool that can amplify its impact. AI's ability to provide insights, identify learning gaps, and personalize instruction has the potential to revolutionize the classroom experience. The emphasis on AI's capacity to enhance student engagement, creativity, and critical thinking aligns with the core values of education.

LACOE's approach of involving all stakeholders – parents, students, teachers, and administrators – in discussions about AI integration is praiseworthy. It reflects an understanding that responsible integration requires a collective effort. Furthermore, the focus on continuous professional development and the development of guidelines for AI usage underscores the importance of a well-informed and cautious approach.

This is an exciting journey to discover all aspects of AI and its benefits and challenges are vital. It will take collaboration between educators, institutions, and technology to shape the future of education. The responsible and thoughtful integration of AI has the potential to create a more dynamic and personalized learning environment for students, and LACOE is eager to provide many perspectives through the journey as educators navigate this transformative landscape.