

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District**

Volume 13, Issue 43

October 2023

## Welcome Back to School!



**Ms. Udabe's class is all thumbs up for the first day of school at Glazier Elementary.**



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## SUPERINTENDENT

Norwalk-La Mirada USD is preparing the citizens of tomorrow by providing the tools of success to meet the needs of the whole child both in and out of the classroom.

This year our District's theme is, "Let's Go for the Gold", which is a commitment to provide the best resources to unlock the full potential of our students and staff. This commitment has taken shape in the number of recent grants bestowed on the District, showcasing the bright future of our educational environments.

The \$2.2 million-dollar grant from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 will have a significant impact on District career technical education programs and dual enrollment partnerships. The \$4.9 million-dollar Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant will allow the District to expand partnerships with universities and colleges to increase the number of Master of Social Work interns who will be providing direct mental health services to our students. And finally, a \$6.8 million-dollar California Community Schools Partnership Grant will provide key funding in several areas including academic support, college & career readiness, and family leadership and support.

NLMUSD is also addressing the comfort and safety of our students in a warming world, using \$2.7 million dollars from the California Schools Healthy Air, Plumbing, and Efficiency Program to upgrade and repair HVAC and indoor air quality equipment throughout the District. These funds also allow the District to apply for future funding to replace air conditioning and heating equipment that are no longer energy efficient or are below possible future standards for ventilation.

It's an amazing time to be a part of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District! I invite you to follow @nlmusd on Facebook, Instagram, and X to keep up to date with the outstanding achievements of our students and schools.



**Dr. John M. Lopez**  
*Superintendent*

Norwalk-La Mirada USD está preparando a los ciudadanos del mañana brindándoles las herramientas del éxito para satisfacer las necesidades integrales del niño, tanto dentro como fuera del aula.

Este año el tema de nuestro Distrito es "Vamos por el oro", que es un compromiso de proporcionar los mejores recursos para desbloquear todo el potencial de nuestros estudiantes y personal. Este compromiso ha tomado forma en la cantidad de subvenciones recientes otorgadas al Distrito, que muestran el brillante futuro de nuestros entornos educativos.

La subvención de \$2.2 millones de dólares de la Ley de Asignaciones Consolidadas de 2023 tendrá un impacto significativo en los programas de educación técnica profesional del Distrito y las asociaciones de inscripción dual. La subvención de demostración profesional de servicios de salud mental de \$4.9 millones de dólares permitirá al Distrito ampliar sus asociaciones con universidades y colegios para aumentar el número de pasantes de Maestría en Trabajo Social que brindarán servicios directos de salud mental a nuestros estudiantes. Y, por último, una subvención de \$6.8 millones de dólares de la Asociación de Escuelas Comunitarias de California proporcionará financiación clave en varias áreas, incluido el apoyo académico, la preparación universitaria y profesional, y el liderazgo y apoyo familiar.

NLMUSD también está abordando la comodidad y seguridad de nuestros estudiantes en un mundo en calentamiento, utilizando \$2.7 millones de dólares del Programa de Eficiencia, Plomería y Aire Saludable de las Escuelas de California para actualizar y reparar equipos de HVAC y de calidad del aire interior en todo el Distrito. Estos fondos también permiten que el Distrito solicite fondos futuros para reemplazar equipos de aire acondicionado y calefacción que ya no son energéticamente eficientes o que están por debajo de posibles estándares futuros de ventilación.

¡Es un momento increíble para ser parte del Distrito Escolar Unificado Norwalk-La Mirada! Los invito a seguir a @nlmusd en Facebook, Instagram y X para mantenerse al día con los logros sobresalientes de nuestros estudiantes y escuelas.

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



## 2023 — 2024



## Board of Education



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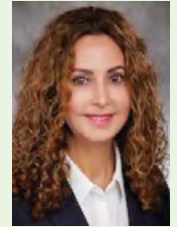
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Member

*By Chris Staples*

*President, NLMUSD Board of Education*

On behalf of the Board of Education, welcome to all our Students and Families back to our campuses for the 23/24 school year.

While our students enjoyed their summer break, it was a period of hard work and preparation for many NLMUSD employees. They dedicated themselves to repairing, upgrading, expanding their knowledge, and gearing up for the return of our students. Thanks to their efforts, we hit the ground running, witnessing our students excel and amaze us with their achievements.

Throughout the year, our students will have countless opportunities to make us proud, not only in classrooms but also on fields, courts, theater productions, band and choir performances, campus clubs and in various competitions such as SkillsUSA and Virtual Enterprise.

These diverse programs, combined with their classes, embody our motto: "Every Student, Future Ready, Our Promise!"

Our Wellness Centers have played a crucial role in supporting our students' mental health during the challenging times of COVID-19. These centers continue to be safe and welcoming spaces where students can find solace, whether for reading quietly, engaging in a game of chess or having a place to seek support and counseling. Recently, I visited one of our schools, and I was heartened to see the Wellness Center at full capacity, with students eagerly waiting outside. It's a testament to their recognition that they are safe and valued there.

Our community-supported Measure G projects are making steady progress, and we're in the planning stages for exciting new endeavors.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire NLMUSD Team, including teachers, classified staff, and administrators, for their unwavering dedication to our students. A special acknowledgment goes to Superintendent Dr. John Lopez for his steadfast leadership and commitment to our district.

With enthusiasm and optimism, let's embark on this school year together, knowing that we have a supportive community and an exceptional team working tirelessly for the success of every student.

*By Chris Staples*

*Presidente, de la Junta de Educación del NLMUSD*

En nombre de la Junta de Educación, damos la bienvenida a todos nuestros estudiantes y familias a nuestros campus para el año escolar 23/24.

Si bien nuestros estudiantes disfrutaron de sus vacaciones de verano, fue un período de arduo trabajo y preparación para muchos empleados de NLMUSD. Se dedicaron a reparar, actualizar, ampliar sus conocimientos y prepararse para el regreso de nuestros estudiantes. Gracias a sus esfuerzos, comenzamos a trabajar, viendo a nuestros estudiantes sobresalir y sorprendernos con sus logros.

A lo largo del año, nuestros estudiantes tendrán innumerables oportunidades para hacernos sentir orgullosos, no solo en las aulas sino también en los campus, canchas, producciones teatrales, presentaciones de bandas y coros, clubes universitarios y en diversas competencias como SkillsUSA y Virtual Enterprise.

Estos diversos programas, combinados con sus clases, encarnan nuestro lema: "Cada estudiante. Listo para el futuro, ¡Nuestra promesa!"

Nuestros Centros de Bienestar han desempeñado un papel crucial en el apoyo a la salud mental de nuestros estudiantes durante los tiempos difíciles de COVID-19. Estos centros siguen siendo espacios seguros y acogedores donde los estudiantes pueden encontrar consuelo, ya sea leyendo tranquilamente, jugando una partida de ajedrez o teniendo un lugar donde buscar apoyo y asesoramiento. Recientemente visité una de nuestras escuelas y me animó ver el Centro de Bienestar a plena capacidad, con los estudiantes esperando ansiosamente afuera. Es un testimonio de su reconocimiento de que allí están seguros y valorados.

Nuestros proyectos de la Medida G, apoyados por la comunidad, están logrando un progreso constante y estamos en las etapas de planificación de nuevos y emocionantes esfuerzos.

Extiendo mi más sincero agradecimiento a todo nuestro equipo de NLMUSD, incluidos maestros, personal clasificado y administradores, por su inquebrantable dedicación a nuestros estudiantes. Un reconocimiento especial para el Superintendente Dr. John López por su firme liderazgo y compromiso con nuestro distrito.

Con entusiasmo y optimismo, emprendamos juntos este año escolar, sabiendo que contamos con una comunidad solidaria y un equipo excepcional que trabaja incansablemente por el éxito de cada estudiante.

Julie T.  
Teacher  
Member Since 2006



# Our Members are unique.

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**Explore products and services  
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### **Summer Saver**

A high-yield savings account, currently 6.50% APY,<sup>1</sup> helps you set aside funds to get through the months you may not receive a paycheck.

### **School Employee Mortgage**

No Private Mortgage Insurance and low down payment option.

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Learn more about Membership at  
[schoolsfirstfcu.org/whyjoin](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org/whyjoin)

All loans subject to approval. **1.** APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rate is valid as of 09/01/2023, accurate as of the last dividend declaration date, variable and subject to change after account opening. Deposits by payroll deduction, direct deposit or automatic share-to-share transfer only. Minimum monthly deposit is \$1; maximum is \$2,000. New Summer Saver accounts are limited to current school employees; retired school employees are not eligible. One Summer Saver account per Membership. **2.** Available on select terms. Restrictions apply. Interest will continue to accrue during the skip payment period.

# Pillars for Success



## Superintendent Dr. John Lopez helps a student with math collections at Edmondson Elementary School.

The Pillars for Success in Norwalk-La Mirada is the roadmap that leads every student in the District toward college and career readiness. Developed by the NLMUSD Educational Services team and our educational partners, this framework features Data Driven Dialogue and Collective Efficacy as the foundation of our efforts, which are then supported by Social-Emotional Learning as a Lever for Equity and Academic Rigor & Relevance. These core areas drive the vision of our District to develop students that are prepared to succeed in college, careers, and participate positively in our community's civic life.

Data Driven Dialogue involves the integration of varied data sources, including student voices and attendance data, to provide common assessments. This data is used to improve student and staff experiences in our campus communities. Collective efficacy focuses on empowering teachers through the professional development process, building and enriching their leadership capacity.

The focused implementation of social-emotional learning acts as a lever for equity for students. In addition to integrating social emotional learning into the classroom instructional experience, Wellness Centers on secondary campuses play a pivotal role in supporting the whole child. Academic Rigor & Relevance gives teachers access to revised curriculum, training, and involves strategic revision of curriculum guides for high need areas. In addition, there is a focus on math through the adoption of new instructional materials and the strengthening of literacy foundations.

This framework is pivotal in the development of every graduate of Norwalk-La Mirada, preparing them for an evolving world by giving them the tools to succeed upon graduation.

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

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**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

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**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**

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[sunnydaylearningcenter.net](http://sunnydaylearningcenter.net)

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[inforequest@sunnydaylearningcenter.net](mailto:inforequest@sunnydaylearningcenter.net)

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11526 Rosecrans Ave.  
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**New this Year!  
Every student receives  
a commemorative  
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# COLLEGE & CAREER EXPO

**THURSDAY**      **NORWALK HIGH STADIUM**  
**OCTOBER 26**   **11356 E. LEFFINGWELL ROAD**  
**6PM - 8PM**      **NORWALK, CA**

- COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES
- APPLICATION & FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOPS
- FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE

# EXPO DE UNIVERSIDAD Y CARRERA

**JUEVES**      **ESTADIO DE ESCUELA NORWALK**  
**26 DE OCTUBRE**   **11356 E. LEFFINGWELL ROAD**  
**6PM - 8PM**      **NORWALK, CA**

- REPRESENTANTES DE COLEGIOS Y UNIVERSIDADES
- TALLERES DE SOLICITUD Y AYUDA FINANCIERA
- PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN ESCANEA EL CÓDIGO QR



NORWALK - LA MIRADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Every Student. Future Ready. Our Promise!





# 2023 NORWALK-LA MIRADA FUTURE READY EXPO

Free and open to the public, the Norwalk-La Mirada Future Ready Expo is a showcase of District TK-12 schools, preschool, and adult school programs and pathways. School principals, District staff, and NLM students will be on-hand to answer questions about instructional programs. The night also features live music, food, and demonstrations by students from Norwalk-La Mirada. No registration necessary. ***Prepare for the future with Norwalk-La Mirada USD!***



WEDNESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 8



6PM - 8PM



HOLIDAY INN LA MIRADA  
14299 FIRESTONE BLVD,  
LA MIRADA, CA 90638

# 2023 NORWALK-LA MIRADA EXPO LISTOS PARA EL FUTURO

Un evento gratis y abierto al público, la exposición Future Ready/Listos para el Futuro de Norwalk-La Mirada es una muestra de las escuelas TK-12 del Distrito y programas e itinerarios de escuelas preescolares y de adultos. Directores de escuela, Personal del Distrito y estudiantes de NLM, estarán disponibles para responder preguntas acerca de los diferentes programas de instrucción. La noche también contará con música en vivo, comida, y otras demostraciones por los estudiantes de Norwalk-La Mirada. No es necesario registrarse. ***Prepárese para el futuro con el Distrito Escolar Unificado Norwalk-La Mirada!***



MIÉRCOLES  
8 DE NOVIEMBRE



6PM - 8PM



HOLIDAY INN LA MIRADA  
14299 FIRESTONE BLVD,  
LA MIRADA, CA 90638



NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Every Student. Future Ready. Our Promise!

# Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/210-3990 / 15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3170 • [www.nlmas.org](http://www.nlmas.org)



**Mindy Chung**  
Director

## Lots of Opportunities in Healthcare

The Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School is enjoying a great start to the new school year. Adult learners from diverse backgrounds and ages are filling up career training classes in healthcare occupations such as Nurse Assistant (CNA), Medical Assisting, and Dental Assisting. With a variety of career fields to choose from, including Medical Billing and Coding which provides flexible hours and remote work options,

adult learners are returning for the short-term training and certification to join these in-demand and rewarding new careers. Through high quality instruction including hands-on practical training, NLMAS students are entering the work field fully prepared and ready to thrive. As Joseph Huerta, a recent pharmacy tech graduate shared, “Through the training received at NLMAS, I was fully equipped and confident to start my new position as a pharmacy technician at the Long Beach Memorial Hospital.”

Check out the Fall Course Catalog on [nlmas.org](http://nlmas.org) and join the many that have changed their lives for the better.



**NLMAS Medical Assisting Fall 2023 Cohort in classroom theory instruction.**

## Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/210-4205 • [www.nlmusdpreschool.org](http://www.nlmusdpreschool.org)



**Laurel Parker**  
Director

## Preschool Program

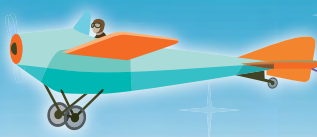
The Preschool Program started its 57th year of Head Start, beginning with the Toddlers and Twos in Early Head Start on Monday, August 14th at Ramona, and on Wednesday, August 16th in the Preschool classes at the rest of the sites. It was a smooth opening, with children and their parents happy and excited to be in class.

We have a variety of new offerings this year, including an extended day program at Ramona, as well as a tuition-based spaces available for families whose income is too high for Head Start or State Preschool.

NLMUSD is now the provider of services for the Columbia Early Learning site, which is on the grounds of the Los Angeles Office of Education Downey campus. It has three Preschool classes for 51 children, four Early Head Start classes for 32 children, and three Home Visitors who will each have 12 children on their caseloads.



**Columbia Early Learning center**



**APPLY TODAY! ¡APLIQUE HOY!**

# FREE High Quality Preschool\*

*Preescolar GRATIS de Alta Calidad\**

**NEW!**

**Now offering EARLY LEARNING full day services to infants & toddlers ages 18-35 months!**

**Recientemente abierto: ¡Servicios de día completo, aprendizaje temprano para bebés y niños de 18 a 35 meses!**

**¡NUEVO!**



**(562) 210-4205**



\*For qualifying families. Para familias que califiquen.

**We offer a variety of programs (Head Start, Early Head Start, and State Preschool) across multiple sites and at home for children ages 0 - 5.**

**Ofrecemos una variedad de programas en diferentes escuelas y en el hogar para niños de 0 - 5 años de edad.**



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*NIÑOS CON NECESIDADES ESPECIALES SON BIENVENIDOS*



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*NUTRICIÓN Y COMIDAS GRATUITAS*



**BUS SERVICE TO RAMONA AVAILABLE**  
*SERVICIO DE AUTOBÚS A RAMONA DISPONIBLE*

**Now providing free and fee-based early learning and preschool services to families living in Norwalk, La Mirada, Downey, Artesia, Cerritos and Hawaiian Gardens.**

**Ahora ofrecemos servicios infantiles y de preescolar gratis o con cargo a familias que residen en Norwalk, La Mirada, Downey, Artesia, Cerritos y Hawaiian Gardens.**

## Apply for Head Start!

Visit our website at [www.nlmusdpreschool.org](http://www.nlmusdpreschool.org), or scan the QR codes to begin the application process or call the preschool site closest to you for support.



**Apply Here**

## ¡Aplique Hoy Para El Programa Head Start!

Visite nuestro sitio web [www.nlmusdpreschool.org](http://www.nlmusdpreschool.org), o escanee el códigos QR para comenzar el proceso de aplicación o llame al sitio preescolar más cercano a su domicilio.



**Apilque Aquí**

## Preschool sites near you:

*Centros preescolares cerca de su domicilio:*

- Chavez (562) 210-4533
- DD Johnston (562) 210-3132
- Foster Road (562) 210-2835
- Gallatin Center at New Season Church (562) 928-7651
- Glazier (562) 210-2936
- Huerta (562) 210-4544
- Moffitt (562) 210-3704
- New River (562) 210-3820
- Nuffer (562) 210-4544
- Ramona (562) 210-4205
- Sanchez (562) 210-4366

**New site opening in Downey on July 1<sup>st</sup> at Columbia Center!**

*¡Abrimos nestro nuevo Centro Columbia en la ciudad de Downey a partir del 1 de julio!*

**NEW!**

**¡NUEVO!**



The programs serve all eligible children regardless of sex, race, religion, ethnicity, or disabilities, and refrain from religious instruction or worship. Los programas sirven a todos los niños independientemente de su sexo, raza, religión, etnia o incapacidad, y se abstienen de instrucción religiosa.

Facility License: #198015619, 198013856, 198009691, 191500784, 191570862, 198018086, 198018010, 198009693, 191595830, 198015222

## Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2500 • [www.bentonms.org](http://www.bentonms.org)



**Robin Ridgeway**  
*Principal*

### A Busy Planning Time

Benton Middle School, a Visual and Performing Arts Magnet, is busy planning its season of performances and exhibits. The Guitar and Chorus ensembles will be performing October 3, Advanced Band and Orchestra on October 6, and our beginning music students will participate in the national celebration of first performances in the Beginners

Take Flight concert on October 10. Students from the National Junior Art Honor Society will open the Benton Art Gallery for viewing before the concerts begin. The Benton Drama Department is in rehearsals for the fall performance of The Greek Myth Olympiaganza debuting in November. In addition to the arts, Benton students are also involved in conservation and the environment. Students in the Environmental Engineering class coordinate recycling efforts on campus and teach others about sustainable packaging and products. The Green Team meets after school

on Tuesdays and maintains the Restoration Garden with native water-wise plants. Earlier this year, the Green Team received a grant for milkweed plants and Benton has been designated as an official Monarch Butterfly Waystation. Benton students are learning, growing, and thriving.



## Corvallis *MS STEAM Magnet*

11032 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4125 • [www.corvallisms.org](http://www.corvallisms.org)



**Dr. Nancy Ruvalcaba**  
*Principal*

### Computer Science Essentials

This is our second year implementing Computer Science Essentials for our 8th grade students at Corvallis. The year-long course provides students with exposure to computational thinking, and conceptual fundamentals in the field of computer science. The course allows our Bulldogs to develop the tools and continue to develop their

tech confidence. Bulldogs engage in block-based programming that sets the foundation for students understanding text-based programming with languages such as Python. "Our 8th graders learn how to develop apps and websites and programs that help them understand the language of computing," Dr. Ruvalcaba, principal. Corvallis is excited to continue to support our feeder high school in supporting the development of computer science education and our Project Lead the Way program. Students who successfully complete Computer Science Essentials receive high school credit!



## Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2560 • [www.dollandes.org](http://www.dollandes.org)



**Dr. Lorena Sierra**  
*Principal*

### Storytelling as a Tool

Dolland students have stories to tell! At Dolland, we have taken a special interest in making school a place where student voices are heard. Through the implementation of Writers Workshop, students learn the elements of good storytelling. At the start of the year, we begin by introducing narrative writing to all students. Students spend time crafting their unique stories, and then we celebrate by sharing our stories with one another or with our buddy classes.

It has been amazing to learn about small and big moments in our students' lives, and they are invested in sharing who they are and what they have experienced. Using writing as a tool, we have found that our students expand their vocabulary to help them convey their experiences and captivate their audience. This has deepened their conceptual understanding of how writers use words as a powerful tool to convey a message. In addition, students use mentor text to analyze an author's choice of words or other crafting skills. They can then, in turn, integrate these skills into their own writing works.

Having a commitment to our writing program has

provided our students the opportunity to be heard. Writing is our platform to share who we are, and it has helped our students connect to school and boost their love for learning! Go Huskies!



**Students sharing their narrative writing.**

## Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2610 • [www.dulleselementary.org](http://www.dulleselementary.org)



**Shanti Gallegos**  
*Principal*

### Home and School Partnerships

Dulles values the home and school partnership and understands the importance of strengthening our school culture with positive family engagement opportunities. This year we will collaboratively design and implement a plan for family engagement with a school team of teachers and family partners. Our team plans to work with consultant Ron Mirr and other Cotsen school teams to explore research-based strategies, celebrate successes, and problem solve challenges together with the support of the Home and School Partnership Grant. This will help us to hone in and design an upcoming family engagement series that we will host at our school for families to attend. The purpose of this series is to provide families with strategies and resources that they can use at home to help support and strengthen student foundational learning skills. We want our families and school to come together to

support the success of our students. With the help of the Cotsen grant, we will increase opportunities for family engagement to work together to help our students succeed.



**Grade 1 teacher, Mrs. Mohacsi, connects with the Medina and Wheeler family.**

## Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2560 • [www.eastwoodelem.org](http://www.eastwoodelem.org)



**Darryll Ramsey Jr.**  
*Principal*

### Reading Buddies at Eastwood

Another year is off to a great start and we are excited for the different learning experiences students will have the opportunity to participate in. We are pleased to announce that reading buddies is expanding. In recent years, teachers have partnered with colleagues and organized reading buddies between the classes. For example, a 5th grade class will connect with the TK class once a week. The older students read books to their buddies in the younger class and utilize their classroom or the SEL Suite. For the older students, this provides an opportunity to be leaders and positive examples for the next generation of learners. For the younger, they have positive role models to form bonds with. Not only does this opportunity allow social connections grow, but it also engages students' passion and appreciation for literacy in an exciting way. We are excited to see this partnership grow. Read on!



**Reading Buddies in the SEL Suite.**

## Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4440 • [www.edmondson elementary.org](http://www.edmondson elementary.org)



**Sharon Stewart**  
*Principal*

### Beginning of the Year Event

Back-to-school night is always an important "beginning of the year" event, where parents and teachers have the opportunity to communicate and collaborate. This year parents, students, and families had a chance to learn about Edmondson's PTA and city resources from lots of different informational booths. Then, Principal Stewart had a full house in the MPR for the Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting. Before classroom visits started, teachers were introduced, and we thanked all parents for their ongoing commitment to the Mighty Eagle team. Classroom visits and teachers' presentations were an excellent opportunity for parents to get a sense of the classroom environment, the teacher's teaching style, and the curriculum that will be covered throughout the year. Edmondson's Back to School Night set a positive tone for the entire school year. Parents and teachers

came together, learned about each other, and formed a strong partnership that ultimately benefits the students and the school community as a whole. We are excited about a great school year ahead!



**Edmondson teachers welcomed students and parents into their classrooms to share important information, expectations, and ways we will work together as a team to ensure a successful school year for all of our Mighty Eagles!**

# El Camino High School

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3595 • [www.elcaminocarousel.org](http://www.elcaminocarousel.org)



**Mark Hunter**  
*Principal*

## Increased Graduation Rate

El Camino has steadily increased its graduation rate since coming out of the COVID 19 pandemic to start the 2021 school year. The 21-22 school year saw El Camino graduate 110 students overall, which doubled the number from the previous year during the pandemic. The number of total graduates rose to 133 for the 22-23 school year. The staff has worked tirelessly in collaboration to ensure that all students have a chance to graduate. The site hopes that the trend continues.



**El Camino 2023 graduate shake hands with Superintendent Dr. Lopez and Principal Hunter at the graduation ceremony on May 30, 2023.**

# Escalona Elementary School

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2745 • [www.escalonaelem.org](http://www.escalonaelem.org)



**Dr. Nnenna Okpara**  
*Principal*

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Escalona Elementary is revolutionizing attendance with our new #StriveForFive campaign. The school aspires to limit student absences to five days for the entire school year. To kick off this groundbreaking initiative, Escalona Elementary hosted a New Attendance Era family night, which was met with an astounding turnout from committed families. Why is attendance important? Research shows consistent attendance is the key to academic and social success. That's why Escalona Elementary is partnering with families to make this goal a reality. With helpful resources and tips, students will be prepared for success. Families are encouraged to join the journey and prioritize attendance for their children's academic achievement—a special

shoutout to the families for their unwavering partnership. Together, we can make everyday count as we strive for a bright future for every student at Escalona Elementary. Let's show the world the power of the #StriveForFive campaign!



**Escalona Elementary Launches #StriveForFive Campaign to Boost Student Attendance.**

## Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2790 • [www.fosterstars.org](http://www.fosterstars.org)



**Salvador Villagomez**  
*Principal*

### Expanding Social Emotional Learning

The importance and value of having robust social emotional learning experiences is clear. The whole child benefits when our academic instruction is complemented with integrated lessons dealing with understanding such topics as empathy, sympathy, loneliness, and more. Our teachers are conducting weekly lessons on a specified social emotional topic. In addition, our teachers are adding

morning greetings and social emotional transition strategies to help throughout the day. Our ESSS is also providing an additional weekly opportunity to learn valuable coping strategies when faced with challenges. Our wellness room is now up and running. Students visit the room filled with hands on calming activities, literature that is thematically relevant to situations they may encounter, and activities that help refocus their energies when things are not going so smoothly. Social Emotional Learning curriculum and experiences are making the Foster Road experience more enjoyable and allows our teachers and students to impact their academic growth even more.

Be a STAR, be Safe, Trustworthy, Accepting, and Respectful.



**Students engaged in our Wellness Room.**

## Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2840 • [www.gardenhill.org](http://www.gardenhill.org)



**Sarah Gilbert**  
*Principal*

### Kicking The Year Off Right!

Gardenhill came together for a positive start to our 23-24 school year! Students met their teachers and had a wonderful first day of school. That night, parents

attended our Back To School Event to participate in a PTA meeting, meet their students' teacher,

see their child's classroom, and get important information for a successful school year. Our awesome PTA hosted a "Back to School Bash" the following Friday, where families came together to enjoy games on the blacktop for some good old fashioned togetherness, with food options of course! The goal of renewing friendships after the summer break was fulfilled, and the learning going on in the classrooms is off to an impressive

start. This year also marks the 10 year anniversary of the legendary Gardenhill Garden! Our Garden Club and Mrs. Clock tend to our fertile garden that has been producing watermelon, pumpkins, squash, peppers and other fresh produce.



**Mrs. Warden and her K/1 combination class enjoying their first day of school.**



## Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-2890 • [www.glazierelementary.org](http://www.glazierelementary.org)



**Dr. Susan Newcomb**  
*Principal*

### Celebrating Another Milestone

We are so pleased to celebrate another milestone: This state-level recognition celebrates our continued commitment to collaboration and our work analyzing our systems to support ALL students during the 2022-23 school year. Our focus on establishing our schoolwide behaviors, maintaining them in positive and creative ways, and restoring as needed are the essential pieces of our work which ensures

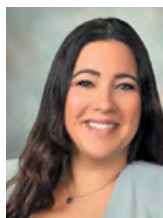
equity across our campus. It takes an entire team to reach this level of recognition: Through the leadership of every staff member at Glazier, we make sure that every Gladiator is supported on their individual pathway to success. This award also recognizes our family connections and community partnerships to embody our district's vision of "Every Student, future ready: Our promise." With continued expansion of our Playworks-trained Junior Coach program, plus immersion in Restorative Practices, we know that we will continue to build even more success across our campus during the 2023-24 school year!



**Glazier receives The California Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Recognition for the 2022-23 school year!**

## John Glenn *High School*

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3000 • [www.ighs.org](http://www.ighs.org)



### We Are Glenn!

Glenn High School may be small, but we are packed with incredible students and staff, supportive programs, and school spirit.

We launched the '23-'24 school year

with celebration of what makes our past, present, and future as Eagles, memorable and unique. Our theme this year is "We Are Glenn" and aims to have our staff, students, and alumni share their individual and collective identities. We are doing this through the "I Am Glenn Project," the use of Community Circles, and, of course, celebration of the many accomplishments our students and staff make.



**John H. Glenn High School is rich in history and tradition.**

# Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-2945 • [www.hutchinsonhawks.org](http://www.hutchinsonhawks.org)



**Jenny Bae**  
Principal

## Hutchinson Hawks Soar as STEAM Leaders

Hutchinson continues to be a leader in STEM education as we help our student develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will equip them to succeed in world driven by technology and innovation. In partnership with Cal Poly Pomona's College of Engineering, our students will participate in the nationally-recognized program Femineers that inspires and empowers our students to develop the confidence and skills needed to pursue majors and careers in STEM fields. We are looking forward to showcasing our students' work with creative robotics at Cal Poly's Femineer Summit this spring!

Also this summer, 33 Hutchinson Hawks participated in the La Mirada High School's Skills Trade Summer. With the support of Harbor Freight, and La Mirada High School teachers Brent Tuttle and Raul Pena, our students used engineering design and welding skills to design a barbeque and a cutting board. Students were also given Harbor Freight swag and \$200 in tools upon completing the course.

The highlight was when Telemundo TV interviewed Hutchinson Hawks about their experience! Our Hutchinson hawks continue to soar!



**Hutchinson 8th graders participating in Harbor Freight Program.**

## Johnston *Elementary School*

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3120 • [www.ddjohnstonelementary.org](http://www.ddjohnstonelementary.org)



**Dr. Krystal Jones**  
Principal

## L.A. County Teacher of the Year

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that our dedicated kindergarten/first-grade combo teacher, Mrs. Danielle Burson, has been honored with the prestigious Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year award. Amongst a highly competitive pool of educators, Mrs. Burson emerged as one of only sixteen exceptional winners. This recognition is a testament to her unwavering commitment, passion, and innovative teaching methods. Mrs. Burson is an integral part of our Johnston family. She goes above and beyond for her students, parents, and colleagues. Mrs. Burson is a member of our leadership team, a Cotsen fellow, and participates in many professional development opportunities. Her dedication to nurturing young minds and fostering a love for learning is truly commendable. Johnston is very lucky to have such a wonderful teacher. Please join us in extending our heartfelt congratulations to her for this well-deserved achievement.



**Mrs. Burson at the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year ceremony and luncheon.**

# La Mirada High School

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3315 • [www.lamiradahs.org](http://www.lamiradahs.org)



**Ben Webster**  
Principal

## Beyond Excellence

La Mirada High School has a very exciting school year planned! Our students are eagerly anticipating the completion of our athletic facilities this winter and spring—our new tennis courts opened Sept. 18 to students. LMHS has our WASC Accreditation scheduled for the end of February.

And our seniors are excited to return home for graduation. After a number of years of COVID and construction, we are starting to see a real growth in our programs. Our Band, Color Guard, Dance, and Cheer have some of the largest numbers of students we have seen in years.

But La Mirada High School is so much more than excellent athletic and arts programs. During this past year's Advanced Placement testing, La Mirada High School had its highest number of students taking Advanced Placement—students earning a passing grade of 3 or higher on at least one exam. For the current year, La Mirada has added AP African-American Studies, AP Pre-Calculus, and AP Physics, giving students 21 courses to choose from to earn college credit.

Speaking of college credit, this year is also our inaugural year for the Early College Program at La Mirada High School. Our 30 freshmen started their journey with a college counseling course and a Reading 101 course. Upon completion of this program, our Early College graduates will earn the equivalent of two years of college credits.

Thank you for your continued support of La Mirada High School.



# La Pluma Elementary School

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/210-3205 • [www.laplumaelementary.org](http://www.laplumaelementary.org)



**Maureen Bixby**  
Principal

## Focusing on the Positive!

The Panthers are off to a great start this year! We are looking forward to new experiences while also learning and growing together as a community. To ensure our students' academic growth, we began our year promoting an environment of positive interactions. At La Pluma, our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

is focused on the BIG 3: be safe, be respectful, be responsible. We embrace PBIS to create a positive school culture that will pave the way for academic success and build students of character.

We encourage positive character by recognizing students during our monthly assemblies. We also explicitly teach expectations during our Recess Rodeo. Students rotate through the different areas on our campus--the playground, hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, and restrooms--to set our expectations and encourage positive behavior. Students caught making good choices earn P.A.W. Power tickets.

This year, we are also excited to begin our Panther Store. Here students can spend their P.A.W. Powers on incentives provided by donations from our school community, and options such as extra recess with a friend, dance parties, and more. We are proud of our students and the positive difference they are making at La Pluma!



**5th grade students proudly showing their P.A.W. Powers earned.**

# Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3255 • [www.lamptonschool.org](http://www.lamptonschool.org)



**Anamaria Quiroz**  
*Principal*

## Counting Collections Room

Counting Collections is a powerful instructional strategy in TK-5th grade used to develop numeracy and foundational math skills in students. Recognizing its importance, Lampton has created a classroom solely dedicated for this purpose. This unique learning space offers an environment where students can immerse themselves in the art of counting, fostering a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts.

Our Counting Collections Classroom is designed to be resource rich. It is equipped with a wide variety of materials, from everyday objects like buttons and beads to more complex math tools like base-ten blocks. Students can choose materials that resonate with them, making math more engaging and accessible. Counting Collections empower students to explore, experiment, and develop mathematical fluency. Our goal is to provide students with hands-on experiences that promote critical thinking, problem solving, and number sense.

Our teachers and students delight in this new space, and we cannot wait to see all of the learning and mathematical growing that will take place in the Counting Collections Room!



**Mrs. Erickson, NLMUSD Math Mentor, works with students through a Counting Collections lesson. Working together they ensure that students' evolving needs are met and challenged.**

## Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3495 • [www.losalisosmiddle.org](http://www.losalisosmiddle.org)



**Tania Magana**  
*Principal*

## Welcome Back

We are excited to welcome back our Lobos at Los Alisos Middle School!

At Los Alisos, part of our culture is promoting Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as a proactive and evidence-based framework that offers several benefits at Los Alisos. Fostering an environment where respect, inclusivity, and a celebration our diverse community is as important as our academics. Our goal is to create a sense of belonging, and contribute to a safe, and welcoming school for students and staff. Los Alisos wants to continue fostering a culture of acceptance and kindness.

Our ultimate goal is to have a lasting impact on students and contribute to their success at Los Alisos.



## Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3650 • [www.moffittmax.org](http://www.moffittmax.org)



**Gabriela Galvez-Reyna**  
*Principal*

### Thoughtful Collaboration Leads to Successful Implementation

Moffitt teachers picked up right where they left off with Thinking Maps. All grades have introduced Circle Maps, Bubble Maps and are working on a Double Bubble. Teachers are using the maps to teach students how to think about a topic or idea and how to organize their thinking. Maps will be used to support writing, too.

At a recent staff meeting, teachers shared examples that had been created in all grades including TK. Teachers loved seeing the build in rigor across grades. Because students who were at Moffitt last year were familiar with Thinking Maps, they easily added additional information like sources of information and could apply the use of Thinking Maps across subjects.

Moffitt Elementary is off to a great start!



**Moffitt Teachers engaged in vertical collaboration around Thinking Maps to help students make connections between concepts, ideas, values to build understanding.**

## Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3710 • [www.morrisontigers.org](http://www.morrisontigers.org)



**Patrick Lazo**  
*Principal*

### Disaster Preparedness Assembly

On August 25th the city of Norwalk Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with Norwalk public safety came and visited the Tigers for a special assembly. Various members from the Office of Emergency management and public safety presented to all students during grade level assemblies regarding emergency disaster preparedness. This assembly covered various topics regarding different types of disasters that could occur anywhere. Students were provided strategies and resources to help be prepared when a natural disaster occurs. Students were also greeted by the Norwalk city mascot Rocky the racoon. Students were also provided opportunities to ask questions regarding disaster preparedness and some earned a disaster preparedness backpack. At Morrison we value our partnership with the city of Norwalk and

are grateful for the engaging presentation they shared for our students. Lastly, a third-grade student when leaving the assembly exclaimed, "I am prepared for natural disasters at home and at school."



**Ms. Silva and her first grade class poses for a picture with Officer Gomez and Rocky the Racoon.**

## New River *Elementary School*

13432 S. Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3770 • [www.newriverelementary.org](http://www.newriverelementary.org)



**Jody Gardner**  
*Principal*

### New River Earns an Award for PBIS Implementation

The California PBIS Coalition recently announced New River Elementary as a Silver Award recipient. This honor acknowledges our school's commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all students. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is an evidence-based approach to

improving school climate, behavior, and academic outcomes for all students.

Our school's commitment to PBIS principles can be seen in various aspects of our daily routines, including:

1. **Clear Expectations:** Behavioral expectations for students in all areas of the school are taught, reinforced, and celebrated.
2. **Recognition of Positive Behavior:** We emphasize the importance of acknowledging and reinforcing positive behavior. This positive reinforcement fosters a sense of

belonging and encourages students to continue making good choices.

3. **Early Intervention:** We use data to identify students who may need additional support and intervene early to provide the necessary assistance, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Congratulations to our entire New River community for this honor!



**New River's PBIS Team led by site PBIS Coach, Jennifer Amador, is honored to receive the Silver Implementation Award.**

## Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-3830 • [www.norwalklancers.org](http://www.norwalklancers.org)



**Dr. David M. Olea**  
*Principal*

### Purple and Gold Pride

Norwalk High School is excited to usher in a new era of Purple and Gold Pride as we embark on the construction of our new gymnasium. Thanks to Measure G and all those that supported this cause back in 2014, our current and future students will have state of the art facilities for competition, performances, and school activities for

decades to come. During our groundbreaking ceremony on September 6, 2023, members from the first graduating class of 1960 joined the celebration. They will be rededicating an original 1960 banner at our grand opening celebration. It was wonderful to see Lancers from all decades celebrating this moment in our school history. This new gymnasium in addition to our athletic fields will provide our school community with a new sense of pride while acknowledging and preserving our Lancer heritage.



## Nuffer Elementary School

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4060 • [www.nufferelementary.org](http://www.nufferelementary.org)



### Nuffer Elementary STEAM Academy is Off to a Great Start

The 2023-2024 school year is off and running. Our students have learned the routines and procedures to become great students. The Back to School Night/Information Faire was a

great event for our community as 70% of our families came out to visit the class and learn how to get their students involved in activities outside of school. We have been so excited to have formed our very first Girl Scout Troop out of Nuffer!

On September 7, the Los Angeles Rams with LA Care came out and provided all of our students with the NFL Play60 experience. Our students, staff and parent volunteers had the chance to run through football drills and obstacle courses for 60 minutes while learning the positive attributes of play.



Rampage teaching our students how to be ready to run.

## Sanchez Elementary School

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4315 • [www.sanchezelementary.org](http://www.sanchezelementary.org)



### Arts in the Classroom

We are thrilled to have received a \$90,000 grant three years ago. The grant allowed us to bring more of the arts to our students including performances, painting opportunities, tools to display artwork, training for teachers in the areas of art and social/emotional learning as well as many other art materials. We were also able

to purchase furniture to allow for diverse seating and the development of comforting spaces in our classrooms. In addition to those things, we added our beautiful wellness room that we named “The Cozy Castle”. While the grant that supported our TK through third grade students came to an end June 2023, we are thrilled to announce that we were recently informed that we were awarded another grant that will allow us to support our 4th and 5th grade students in the arts. We are looking forward to receiving the award so that we can continue to develop ways to support all our students with social emotional learning through the use of the arts.

Alicia Rubio  
Principal



Posing to announce our award with members from LACOE.

# Southeast Academy *High School*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4700 • [www.southeastacademy.org](http://www.southeastacademy.org)



**MSgt. Marty Schafer**  
*USMC, Director*

## Paying Tribute

Traditionally on the anniversary of 9/11 Southeast Academy Cadets pays tribute to the thousands of lives lost on September 11, 2001. For high school cadets 9/11 is no longer an experience

they lived, but a time in history to be learned. Vice Mayor Margarita Rios provide words of encouragement and her personal experiences of 9/11. In attendance NLUMSD – School Board Members, Superintendent Dr. Lopez, Assistant Superintendents Dr. Medrano, Dr. Cvar, Dr. Gotto and Mr. Santillan along with other district administration. Leadership cadets from Waite Middle School were also in

attendance. Southeast Academy cadets have a longstanding tradition of paying tribute to the memory of those who lost their lives as the result of 9/11, to ensure we never forget.



## Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/210-4370 • [www.waitemiddle.org](http://www.waitemiddle.org)



**Adriana Nakano**  
*Principal*

## Waite Panthers Shine!!!



Celebrating students' hard work and determination are valued at Waite MS. Panthers that earned levels 3 and 4 on the SBAC in ELA, Math or BOTH received special recognition. It's important to continue to nurture academic excellence. We encourage our entire school population to keep building a growth mindset and keep reaching for the stars! When you BELIEVE, you ACHIEVE! Keep up the great work. We are proud of you.





## Curious George Goes to the Zoo—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 NLMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **October 15, 2023**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Amazing	Leaves
Animals	Park
Climbed	Party
Curious	Rhino
Danced	Water
Fun	Wild
George	Wonderful
Giraffe	Zoo
Headquarters	Zookeeper
Hippo	



## 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put NLMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **November 15, 2023**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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



## Note-ables



Kate Karp

### Sing & Soar with Nanny Nikki

“Nanny Nikki” Rung, her ukulele and her two Dapper Dudes have cued up a musical outing for us! We’re going to dance at the playground, rock



to the beat, and learn some valuable lessons while we’re having the best time ever!

“Sing & Soar” is a dream of a collection of songs. Some will choke you up. Some will make you move. Each of them will leave you with a trail of earworms, and you won’t mind a bit.

The infectious ska rhythm on the opener, “The Beat,” introduces a celebration of street musicians who pound buckets and pails on the streets of Nikki’s native Chicago and who sometimes get run off by the police! “Yuk Your Yum” talks about not raining on someone’s parade. “Almost Made It” begins with being too late to get to the bathroom, but that’s just the attention-getter—it’s really about supporting your friends and yourself in never giving up on anything. “Playground Day” welcomes all children to play, no matter what they look like, where they come from, or how dirty they get.

The collection closes on a soft, thoughtful note with “I Can’t Hear the Moon.” Of course, you can’t. You can’t hear a smile, a touch or love, either, but you know they’re there.

Children deserve a nanny like Nanny Nikki, and so did we when we were little. We can all have one now!

“Sing & Soar” can be streamed on [Spotify](#) and [Amazon Music](#).

### A Gentle Halloween

Val Smalkin is an award-winning ventriloquist, musician, composer and performer, and you might wish that she were your fairy godmother or at least your babysitter or neighbor.

Ms. Smalkin understands the small kin—her pun, not mine—of the world and knows also that they often want to be reassured that the faces of perfectly nice people are behind those scary masks and that everything’s OK. Come to think of it, so do many of us larger kin, but it’s the really little ones that her CD “A Gentle Halloween” addresses.

The songs on the collection are great for preschool- and primary-age children and lend themselves well to movement, vocabulary and art. Children will hop and jump around to “I See You” and “Haunted House” while at the same time learn body and movement vocabulary. “Five Weird Witches” counts backward and teaches the concept of zero. The melodious “Jac O’Lantern” is pretty enough to be about Christmas and can inspire an art project or a pumpkin carving. Get out those electric-battery candles!

Of course, a couple of mildly creepy offerings might delight the brave kindergartner. “Dark and Light” is a good review of opposites, and “Skin and Bones,” a “there was an old woman” tale, has a great jump scare at the end!

“A Gentle Halloween” is available [at this link](#) or by emailing [info@sillygooseandval.com](mailto:info@sillygooseandval.com). It can be in your hands before you can say “Boo!”



### Songs Across the Pond

Could you use something light and friendly?

Children’s musician Brady Rymer and his English counterpart, David Gibb—from across the pond, you see—have teamed up for some lively ditties. It started when Mr. Gibb wrote a letter to Mr. Rymer telling him how much he enjoyed his music—soon, they went from pen pals to Zoom buddies, remotely writing songs about friendship, food, vocabulary and each other’s country’s music.

Title tune “Across the Pond” is the first song they wrote together, leapfrogging as one wrote a verse or a chorus and the other wrote the next one. Your Zoom classroom or your own family might try this for fun!

“Two Towns” describes the differences between and similarities of a typical U.S. city. You’ll get the idea of

“Roundabouts” if you’ve been in a traffic circle in the States—Long Beach and Orange both have one. “You Say This, I Say That” tells us whether we’re pushing a stroller or a pram and whether we need to use the loo or the bathroom!

And if “You Say This, I Say That” brings the Beatles to mind, you’re right on track. “Living in a Beatles Song” is a patchwork of phrases from Fab Four tunes, and the singers also sing songs by England’s Cat Stevens and the U.S.’s Sam Cooke.

The catchy “Summertime Soul” celebrates Mr. Gibb’s favorite season and Mr. Rymer’s favorite chord progression. You’ll want to sing along, and you can—printable lyrics to all the songs can be found [on this link](#).

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

## School News Roll Call Guest Columnists

### Ask Dr. Shari

#### Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



**Dr. Shari Sweetnam**

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](mailto:info@doctorshari.com), twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

### Positive Parenting

#### Homework



**Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel**

As an elementary school teacher, I soon found out that one of my challenges was to get my children to write down homework assignments and bring home the appropriate books or worksheets. Several years later, my (now 51 year old) son, Scott, was a master at forgetting his math book. I went to his school and asked his teacher if he would

photocopy some math problems that were longer than the assignments. Sure enough Scott forgot his math book that night! “No problem,” I said without a trace of anger. “Your teacher gave me these for you to do instead.” Scott lamented, “There are forty problems here and we only had twenty for homework!” Once again, without a trace of anger, “Bring home your math book and you will have twenty problems. Forget it and I have a whole stack of these worksheets.” The next day, Scott miraculously brought home his math book!

As a parent, it is wise to ask each child to tell you what their homework is and show you the school books or papers. When they are finished with their homework, they need to show it to you. Some parents will check the homework and make the child do parts of it over. As a teacher, I gave homework to see if they were understanding what I was teaching. It was my job to teach what they didn't understand.

Some children learn like school teaches, but some don't. Homework amounts may need to be adjusted for some children.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel is an author, taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. [ParentingSOS.com](http://ParentingSOS.com).

### Parent To Parent

#### A Helicopter Parent



**Jodie Lynn**

**Q.** I have been a helicopter parent for so long that my children, ages seven and nine, are extremely apprehensive of taking any risks in various activities or doing anything where they may get even slightly hurt or disappointed. What have I done and how do I correct it?

**A.** There have been overbearing and overprotective parents for years; don't beat yourself up too badly. It's easy for parents to go overboard when it comes to their kids. However, this can continue into college years and beyond, but it doesn't have to. Let go of this habit, even if it takes a lot of time; it's necessary. Your parenting style and the way you view your children will need to change. You'll need to allow them to get used to the idea that they can actually try things on their own and whatever the outcome, it's all going to be okay in the end. Go ahead and sign them up for things that they are truly interested in and will most likely do well at. A few successes will build their self-confidence and they will perhaps want to do more things that are new and different. Just be sure that you stop yourself if you think about interfering unnecessarily, even if you know that they're heading for something rough. It's the mistakes and bumps in life that we all learn from that make us stronger individuals, better able to handle future situations. We have to be allowed to fail.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)

## 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*

As we gear up for the upcoming school year, 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.