

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



**Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District**

Volume 20, Issue 104

October 2023

## Student Board Members Take Their Seats with the NMUSD Board of Education



**Peyton  
Vovan**



**Jose  
Gomez**



**Brianna  
Garcia**



**Valeria  
Orozco**



**Victor  
Jimenez**



**India  
Howerton**



Please see Superintendent Dr. Smith's message on page 3.



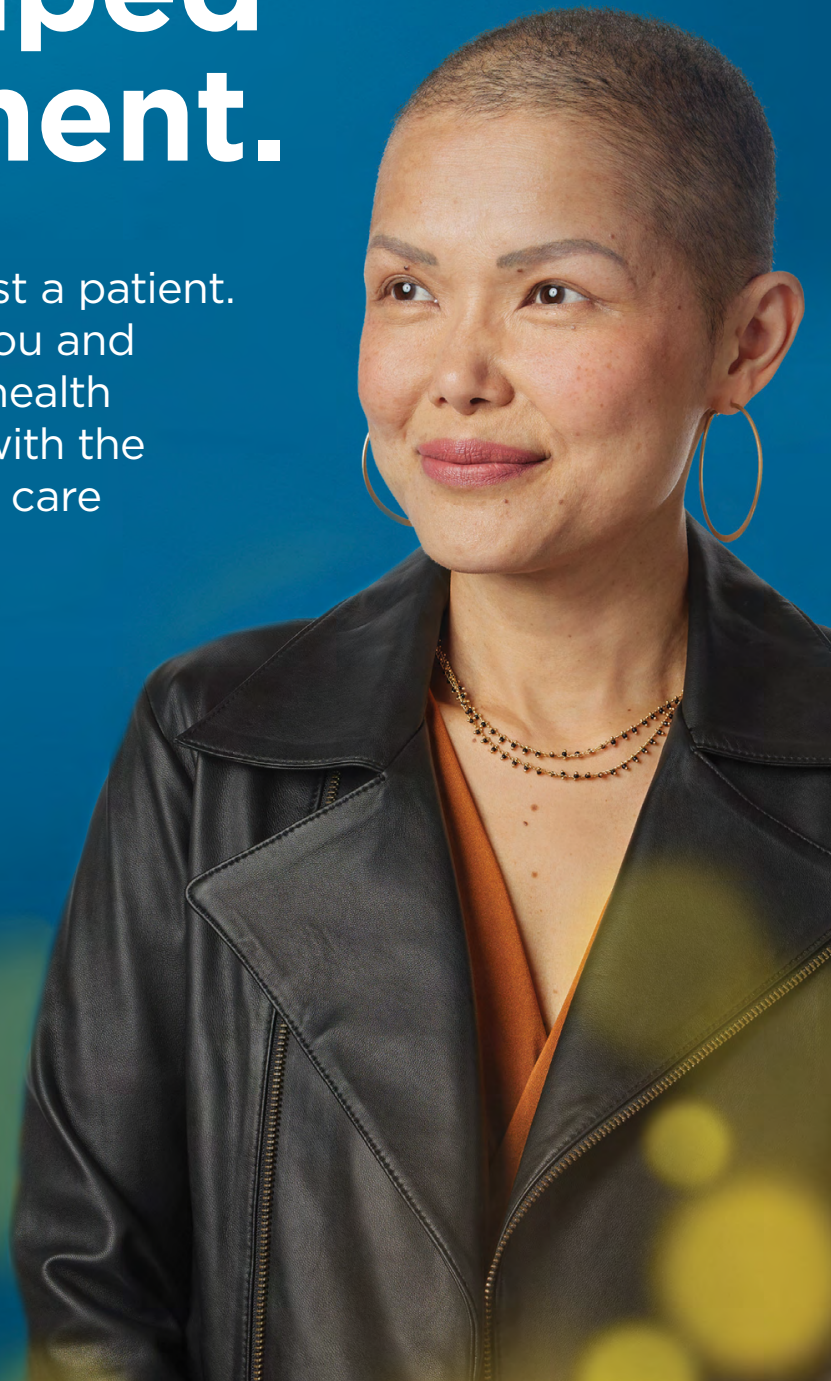
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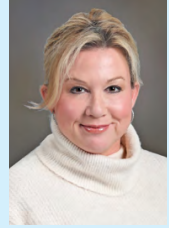
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## Student Board Members Take Their Seats with the NMUSD Board of Education



**Dr. Wesley Smith**  
Superintendent

Every year, one student from each of the six Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) high schools is selected to represent their peers as a Student Board Member working alongside the Board of Education.

The Student Board Member program provides opportunities for students to learn about local school governance and build important communication skills, rotating turns sitting at the dias alongside the board members, and reporting on topics of importance to their student populations. They also report on upcoming and past school activities, creating improved connections among our students, staff, District leadership, and the communities that we serve. Student Board Members also vote on Board agenda items; although their votes are preferential, thus non-binding, they are recorded in the official board meeting minutes.

This year's Student Board Members are Brianna Garcia (Newport Harbor High School), Jose Gomez (Estancia High School), India Howerton (Costa Mesa High School), Victor Jimenez (Early College High School), Valeria Orozco (Back Bay High School), and Peyton Vovan (Corona del Mar (CdM) High School). They are a diverse group of dedicated

students with so many different talents and interests. Above all, they want to represent the voices of their respective school communities. These students provide insightful feedback that helps the Board and our District make decisions to best meet their needs.

There is true value and importance in the student voice, and this is just one example of how we are creating improved connections between our students and the District to better serve them.



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Founder/Publisher



# School News

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

Covering the  
**NEWPORT-MESA**

**UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193

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**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder

**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



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**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193

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endorse the advertisers in this publication.

Superintendent Dr. Smith begins this issue with his message on page 3 highlighting the student board members. It is wonderful the students have this opportunity.

This is our 20th year publishing the excellence from the NMUSD. Thank you for continuing to include

*School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is December 6. In the Meantime, Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving. We are thankful for our NMUSD educators, parents and community.



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## City of Costa Mesa



**John Stephens**  
Mayor

Costa Mesa recently had some exciting news to share when it comes to local sports.

The first happened as the Costa Mesa Pony 10U team won the World Series championship in New Orleans, Louisiana. They played an 81-game season!!!

The nine boys on the team were coached by former-Angel, Adam Kennedy. The team claimed victory over a 10U team from Tijuana, Mexico.

To celebrate their victory, the city treated the players and their families to a rally at City Hall with food, games and live music. What fun it was to celebrate this achievement!!!

We also got news that Jake Knapp will receive his PGA tour card due to his outstanding play on the Korn Ferry tour. Jake starred for the Estancia golf team and then played for UCLA.

We look forward to rooting for him each weekend next year and will be honoring him at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Our Costa Mesa Pony team and Jake Knapp prove that dreams do come true for those who work hard to achieve them. Have a great school year!

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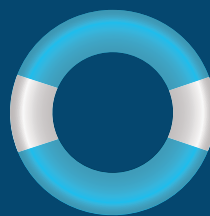
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## City of Newport Beach



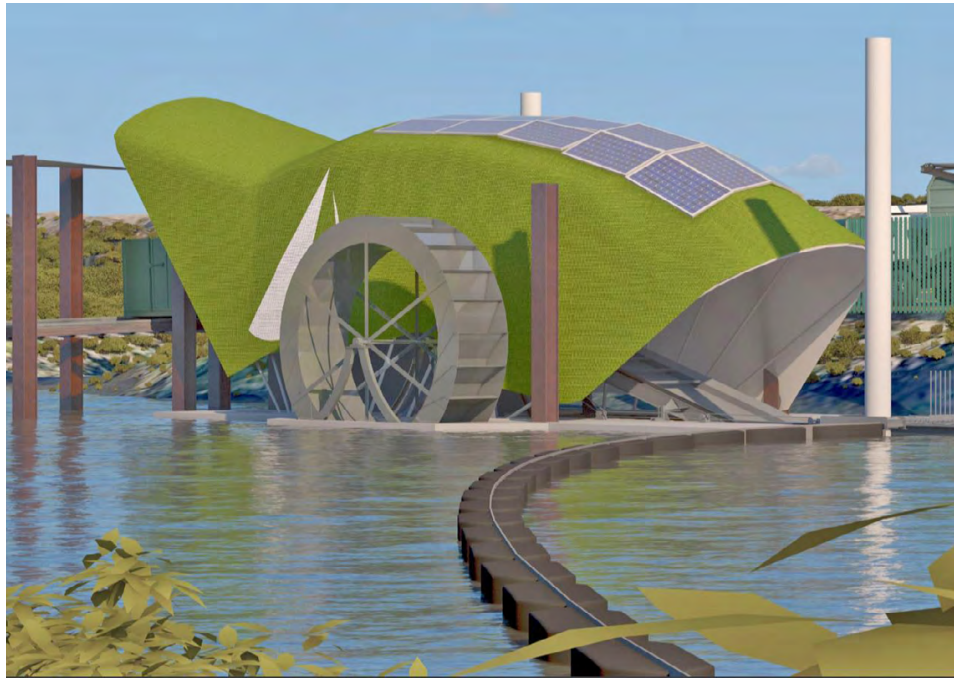
**Noah Blom**  
Mayor

The City of Newport Beach recently hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for an exciting project to stop trash from polluting Newport Bay, harbor and beaches.

The \$5.5 million system will be built in the San Diego Creek, just upstream from the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve. It uses a 14-foot wheel that spins using power from the river current or solar panels to scoop trash and debris onto a conveyor belt and into a standard trash dumpster for disposal.

The project is expected to capture 80 percent of the floating trash and debris from the San Diego Creek, estimated at 100 - 500 tons a year depending on the amount of rainfall.

We look forward to celebrating the completion of construction in late 2024.



100 Civic Center Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/644-3004  
[www.newportbeachca.gov](http://www.newportbeachca.gov)

## Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



**Dan Stefano**  
Fire Chief



Knowing how to respond in a time of crisis will go a long way to keeping you, your students and your family out of harm's way. Whether at school, home or at play emergency preparedness efforts and thoughtful emergency planning will help keep students and staff safe!

In 2023, our world today requires more vigilance and elevated situational awareness from all of us at all times; plan ahead and be prepared! Whether establishing a plan of action for an emergency or being alert to respond when something does not look right, the preparations you make now, will pay forward for years to come! Please take a look at ReadyOC - <http://www.readyoc.org/> and If You See Something, Say Something - <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>.



P.O. Box 1200, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 714/754-5106



# Newport Beach Public Libraries



**Christine Chapel**  
Librarian,  
Mariners Branch,  
Newport Beach  
Public Library

As you get back into the swing of school things, keep in mind Newport Beach Public Library's helpful resources online at [NewportBeachLibrary.org](http://NewportBeachLibrary.org).

## Booklists

Not sure what to read? [Check out our booklists!](#) From "realistic fiction" to "biography" reading assignments, our librarians have got you covered.

If you enjoy talking about a book after reading it, consider joining the Middle Grade Book Club that meets every third Thursday of the month at the Central Library.

## Student Resources

Be the most well-informed kid at school with our [databases at your fingertips](#). Explore science, biographies, geography, and much more. Find articles and information you can use in presentations and reports.

## eBooks, eAudiobooks, and Online Videos

Can't find the book or video you need for school? See if a copy is available from our digital partners. Check out Overdrive/Libby's [eReading Room for Kids](#) for books and audiobooks. [Kanopy Kids](#) has a wide variety of videos, which can be borrowed with an adult Newport Beach Public Library card.

## Media Lab

Working on a creative assignment? Visit the Media and Sound Lab at the Central Library! Design a brochure, edit a film, practice your coding skills, record your music and more with the specialized software and equipment available in the [Media Lab](#).

## Fun in-Person Programs!

Check our [calendar of events](#) for exciting craft programs, story times, Halloween celebrations, reading-to-a-dog opportunities, a video game developer visit, and more at your nearest Newport Beach Public Library (NBPL) branch.

## Reminder: Closures

All NBPL locations will close for Veteran's Day on Friday, November 10 and for the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24.

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949/717-3800 • [www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids](http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids)  
Mariners Branch 1300 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949/717-3838  
Balboa Branch 100 East Balboa Blvd., Balboa, CA 92661  
949/644-3076  
Corona Del Mar Branch 410 Marigold Ave., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625  
949/644-3075

# Costa Mesa Public Libraries



**Sarita Dangond**  
Branch Manager,  
Costa Mesa  
Donald Dungan  
Library



**Vivian Strabala**  
Branch Manager,  
Costa Mesa  
Mesa Verde  
Library

Costa Mesa Libraries, part of OCPL, are community hubs, connecting people to essential services and resources and building communities of lifelong learners.

OCPL helps our communities learn, explore, connect and have fun! Our programs explore arts, culture, health, civics, science, history and technology. Career and business resources

assist job seekers and small businesses. Online, library patrons access databases, research materials, stream videos, listen to ebooks and receive reference services and homework help via chat.

Systemwide programs: In-N-Out Cover to Cover Club October 7 – November 18, 2023 Children ages 4 to 12 who read five books will earn a free hamburger or cheeseburger. If the children are unable to read themselves, their parents or caregivers may read five books to them.

Kindergarten Readiness OC Public Libraries has compiled resources and designed programs to support our families in getting ready for school.

Discover & Go Explore Orange County museums and

attractions through this exciting partnership between OC Public Libraries and local cultural institutions.

Park Passes OC Public Libraries is partnering with California State Parks and the California State Library to offer free State Parks vehicle-day use passes, available for circulation at all branches of public libraries in California.

Please visit your branch in person or online at [www.ocpl.org/events](http://www.ocpl.org/events) for current programming information, including storytimes, author events, book clubs, and fun events for children, teens, and adults!

## OC Public Libraries

[www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

### Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library

1855 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

949/646-8845

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm

Fri - Sun 9am – 5pm

Check the calendar for all events

[Donald Dungan Library Calendar](#)



### Costa Mesa-Mesa Verde Library

2969 Mesa Verde Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

714/546-5274

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm

Fri – Sun 9am – 5pm

Check the calendar for all events

[Mesa Verde Library Calendar](#)





# Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • [web.nmusd.us/departments/nutrition-services](http://web.nmusd.us/departments/nutrition-services)



**Todd Hatfield**  
Director

## Rediscover MyPlate

By Pam Williams, MPH, RD  
Nutritionist

Fruits and vegetables are available to us. Choices are generally limited by region, but we can find additional plant foods that stir curiosity. Beyond the familiar like apples and broccoli, explore others such as starfruit or kohlrabi. Why include these foods?

Because they contain vitamins and minerals, fiber, water, mainly carbohydrates, and colors called, phytochemicals. These ingredients help give us energy and keep us going from day to day.

Grains are another group that give us energy, fiber, and vitamins and minerals. Foods such as rice, wheat, oats, barley, rye, millet, teff, and others can be included in

our diets. Explore them and these grains will help create delicious meals that support optimal health.

Proteins have a special role because they are the building materials for muscles, skin, hair and more. Getting protein from animal sources such as chicken, beef and seafood, and plant sources such as soy, nuts, and beans can help meet our needs.

The dairy group such as milk, cheese and yogurt, can offer calcium, vitamin D, and protein. We need these everyday to help build and maintain healthy bones, and teeth.

Other foods that we enjoy can be added to our diet. Try building a healthy diet for you and your family. And don't forget to encourage children and teens to eat nutrient dense foods found in our school's breakfast and lunch programs. Nutrition Services works hard to help build healthy bodies and healthy minds.

## Early Childhood Education

2985 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



**Michelle O'Neill**  
Coordinator

## Developing the Whole Child

We are excited to welcome our preschoolers to the 2023-2024 school year. Our preschoolers are immersed in age-appropriate research based early literacy instruction, explorations in science, math, and play. The preschool program carefully integrates teacher directed instruction with structured and independent play activities that promote social skills, physical

and cognitive development. Newport-Mesa USD has 12 preschool sites including tuition preschool, state part day and state full day preschool classrooms. Our preschool curriculum is based on developing the whole child. The teacher's lesson plans foster physical education, play and cognitive growth of each child. The Desired Results Developmental Profile is used to assess children's learning and development. This allows teachers to set goals for their student's individual growth and development. The preschool curriculum is aligned with California Preschool Learning Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks.



The classrooms integrate the following research-based curriculum: World of Wonders PK (English Language Arts & Math), Bridges PK (Math), Handwriting without Tears (Fine Motor) and Second Step (Social Learning/Play).

## Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • [adams.nmusd.us](http://adams.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Joe Erven**  
*Principal*

### **PBIS Implementation**

We are pleased to announce that Adams Elementary is being recognized for successful PBIS implementation at the SILVER level. Our school is a recipient within the California PBIS Coalition's System of Recognition, reflecting excellence in the measurement

of fidelity as well as our efforts in implementing the core features of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

As part of our PBIS system, we focus on positive character attributes according to Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success. Classroom lessons reinforce elements of the Pyramid of Success. Additionally, whole school assemblies feature character traits from Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success. Students were awarded at

our Flag Deck on September 29 for exemplifying Action and Alertness for the month of September. For the month of October, we will focus on the attributes of loyalty and friendship. Great Job Allstars!



## Roy O. Andersen *Elementary (K-6)*

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • [andersen.nmusd.us](http://andersen.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Tiffany Lewis**  
*Principal*

### **Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence**

Andersen Elementary School, a cornerstone of our community, is gearing up to celebrate its 50th anniversary! Since its inception in 1974, Andersen Elementary has been a beacon of learning, growth, and community spirit. Established in the heart of the Port Streets, Andersen Elementary School's strong commitment to academic excellence, holistic development, and community fostering has made it a beloved institution among students, parents, and educators.

Throughout the years, Andersen Elementary has evolved and adapted to meet the changing needs of its students. From embracing modern teaching methods to integrating technology into the curriculum, the school has remained at the forefront of innovative education. Its dedicated faculty and staff have consistently gone above and beyond to provide a nurturing environment where every student can thrive.

But it's not just about academics at Andersen Elementary. The school has always emphasized character development, the teaching of valuable life skills, and instilling a sense of responsibility and compassion in students. This holistic approach to education has helped to shape the kind of well-rounded individuals who will go on to positively impact their communities both here and beyond.

To mark this milestone, we have planned a range of special activities and events to last the entire year, and we want to make sure that our amazing alumni community can join in the festivities. If you or someone you know attended Andersen Elementary and would love to be part of this celebration, please fill out this form at <https://forms.gle/CX2vSLzM8NHJDK8A7>. Once we receive your details we will add you to our alumni mailing list and inform you about all of this year's exciting events.

This 50th anniversary is a testament to Andersen's enduring commitment to provide a top-quality education to its students, and we can't wait to celebrate with those who have been part of this journey. As we celebrate Andersen's remarkable past, let us also look forward to its bright future. Happy 50th anniversary, Andersen Elementary!



# Back Bay/Monte Vista High School

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • [backbay.nmusd.us](http://backbay.nmusd.us)



**Kirk Bauermeister**  
Principal

## Two Regional Occupational Programs

Back Bay High School is happy to have two Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) classes on campus this year. On Monday and Wednesday from 2:00pm – 5:00 pm, we host the Medical Core class. Throughout this course students will develop the skills and knowledge required for many different health careers. They learn about the

ethical and legal responsibilities of health care workers, safety, medical terminology, human anatomy and physiology. They also expand their knowledge of body systems and mechanics, standard precautions, and health and fitness. The students in this class are so excited to have real medical scrubs to wear to class each time.

The second course we are hosting is Administration of Justice. This course is provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. During this course, students learn the history, philosophy, ethics, and structure of the American criminal justice system. They are become familiar with the

education, training, and skills necessary to pursue careers such as police officer, federal agent, correction officer, and criminal lawyer. Having the opportunity to go on field trips with hands-on simulations such as fingerprinting and mock trials serves as real-life examples of the various careers available.



**Medical Core students in their "scrubs"**

## California Elementary (K-6)

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • [california.nmusd.us](http://california.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Jason Kunczewicki**  
Principal

## PBIS and Spirit Squad

California Elementary School has kicked off the year with a "Cougarrrific" step in the positive direction. Not only do we have a brand-new mascot, but our Cougars have an opportunity to earn the right to wear the mascot costume by earning "cougar bucks" through our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support

(PBIS) program. Students that show Respect, Responsibility, and a Readiness to Learn earn these cougar bucks and can spend 35 "bucks" and be the mascot at flag deck on Fridays, can do a "shout out" to their friends on our daily announcements, read with the Principal, or earn so many other incentives. California also has their "Spirit Squad" up and running again. These are 4th-6th grade students that show those PBIS traits and support morning announcements, Friday Flag Deck, and our recycling program. They also help at lunch with our smallest Cougars. We are off to a great start!





## College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • [collegepark.nmusd.us](http://collegepark.nmusd.us)



**Alice Formanek**  
*Principal*

### Amazing PTA

College Park has an amazing PTA who help build a strong community of parent involvement at our school. In August, the team organized a Saturday afternoon Back to School Social which included food vendors and a foam party which was a blast for the kids! Students and families were all smiles as they were welcomed to the new school year with this fun event.

Our PTA also just concluded a very successful fundraising event with their once-a-year Jog-a-thon fundraiser. The goal was to raise \$20,000 as a school and our families came in strong by collecting over \$30,000! Students earned prizes for their fundraising efforts and the PTA uses the funds to help pay for art programs, assemblies, movie nights, and many more enriching experiences for our College Park Cougars. We're so lucky to have a committed, kind, and hard working group of parents supporting our school!



## Corona del Mar *High School (7-12)*

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • [cdm.nmusd.us](http://cdm.nmusd.us)



**Jake Haley**  
*Principal*

### A Review Of The Returning Fall Concert Presented By The Music Department

*By Jessica Miramadi, Student - Grade 12*

With a great variety of music to listen to, the 2023 Fall Concert Autumn in the Air gave a preview of what audiences can expect from CdM's music programs this year. Both departments defied common misconceptions about choral and instrumental music through entertaining works; notable crowd pleasers included Notoriety's Nightmare Before Christmas Medley, Symphonic Band's The Dragon Lord, and Madrigal Singers Pentatonic Alleluiah. These works invited the audience to the world of music through a new lens. Mr. Jamora, Director of the Instrumental Department, comments that "It doesn't just give the audience a variety of music, it gives them a variety of musical philosophies," expanding on the vast processes one might expect from different ensembles.

For most of the students in the show, it is their first time performing at Corona del Mar. Senior Jasmine Jenkins, President of CdM Vocal Music's Concert Development and one of the leading coordinators of the event said "I remember the first concert I got to do my seventh-grade

year," further detailing that experience that launched her involvement within the program, "[and] each ensemble is slightly different each year, and that's pretty cool". Jenkins continues to stress the significance of the opening concert to the newer members of the program, which is found especially important this year with the recent influx in members; they aim to achieve a sense of community and inclusivity during these introductions.

The high level of musicianship exemplified during the many performances was seen through the overflow in seating—some listeners would even have to stand on the outskirts of the gym. "You definitely get more than what you pay for," says Senior Jacob Nguyen, a prominent member of both departments. Nguyen goes on to say the type of music performed is "not something, normally, that you would get... at a high school." Demonstrating talent and skill, these groups are also found traveling to festivals (sometimes at collegiate levels)—from local trips to Disneyland, and international trips to France, Spain, and more.

Overall, Autumn in the Air presented another impressive performance—expect nothing less from CdM's future shows.



## Costa Mesa High School / Middle School (7-12)

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • [cmhs.nmusd.us](http://cmhs.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
Principal

### You are a Piece of the Bigger Picture

A “Theme of the Year” grounds us in the work that we engage in as a collective community. This year, Mesa Nation wants to acknowledge that each member of the community is vital in the work that we do. As a result, the theme that was generated was, “you are a piece of the bigger picture.” The idea is that as a community, while we represent different stakeholder groups, such as student, staff, teacher, family member – that each member represents a piece of the puzzle. We are connected. We support each other. And each individual helps make us complete. During our staff professional development in August, our team drew on puzzle pieces in a way that represents who they are; acknowledging individuality. These puzzle pieces are displayed in our front office to represent how we make a whole. Teachers also engaged students in this work – which reminded students of their role in the Mesa Community. We are so proud of the ongoing connections that are fostered and created.



## Davis Magnet (K-6)

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • [davismagnet.nmusd.us](http://davismagnet.nmusd.us)



**Stacy deBoom-Howard**  
Principal

### Welcome Back AMAZING Davis Ducks and Families!

What a great start to the year! Our Ducks are back in full swing and working on following our 5 CORE Values. We are excited to share that Davis was named a Platinum PBIS Implementation School for the second time. This was accomplished by the collaboration between students, families, and staff. Some of our highlighted programs include our schoolwide support, including assemblies, read-alouds, and positive reinforcements. Our PALS student leaders plan a welcome-to-Davis breakfast for all new students and provide various activities and peer mediation during recess/lunch. Along with our big and little buddies who provide connection and support, older students serve as models for our younger students and teach them expected behaviors. In addition, consistent communication between



**PALS making new student welcome bags.**

school and home helps to strengthen the students' path to success. Way to go Ducks!



## Early College *High School (9-12)*

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • [earlycollege.nmusd.us](http://earlycollege.nmusd.us)



**Dr. David Martinez**  
*Principal*

### Off to a Great Start

ECHS held an opening day ceremony on our first day of school on August 9th to celebrate our very first student mural that was done by 26 students on the weekend of May 20-21. The inspiration came from Ariana Dionysian (Class of 2024). We plan to have our students paint the second mural the weekend of October 14-15.



in 23 years an NMUSD secondary school has received this national recognition!

Our Back-to-School Night occurred on August 31st as ASB ended the month of September by hosting our annual Blacklight Dance on September 29th.

In October, we look forward to our WASC accreditation visit occurring October 15-18th. ECHS will then immediately launch its Information Night sessions for prospective 2024-25 school year applicants and families on October 25th.

So far, the beginning of the school year is off to a great start! We learned of two awards we will be receiving later this fall. The first award announced in early September was our third PBIS Platinum Implementation Award (2019, 2022 & 2023). The second award announced in September is our very first U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon Schools Award (2023). The latter award is the first time



## Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • [eastbluff.nmusd.us](http://eastbluff.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Jennifer Heckert**  
*Principal*

### Eastbluff Otters are Artists!

During the 23-24 school year Eastbluff students are engaging in varied artistic learning experiences. One such experience is Recess Art! We are grateful to have art instruction available to all Eastbluff students. This year we are partnering monthly with Recess Art during lunch time recess. Students have opportunities to show their creativity with a different project each month. Last month we explored using various mediums to create unique masterpieces. Today we focused on making creative, emotion masks. Additionally, we are thrilled that each Eastbluff student receives bi-weekly art enrichment instruction in class with our amazing art teacher. Students are able to demonstrate their learning and creativity, express themselves, and just have FUN! Thank you to our school and community partners for these valuable opportunities!





## Horace Ensign *Intermediate (7-8)*

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • [ensign.nmusd.us](http://ensign.nmusd.us)



**Samantha Payne**  
*Principal*

### Ahoy!

Ensign would like to celebrate this year's sailing club. Ensign has had a sailing club for many years and it is currently being run by one of our ELA teachers, Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson has been the club advisor for the past four years and loves seeing our students become more comfortable on the water. The club meets right off of PCH by the Balboa Bay Club and works with the Orange Coast College School of Sailing and Seamanship. Students get into boats and are taught by the OCC volunteers the basics of sailing. The OCCSS receives a grant each year that pays for student sailing classes and our students pay just a small fee that gets them five sessions of sailing and a club t-shirt. The sailing center allows a maximum of 19 students and the club is always running at capacity. The club set sail for the first time last week and will meet four more times. This is a wonderful opportunity for your students and Ensign loves preparing our sailors.



## Estancia High School

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • [estancia.nmusd.us](http://estancia.nmusd.us)



**Michael Halt**  
*Principal*

### Eagles Off and Flying

The 2023-2024 school year got off to a great start at Estancia High School! Before the school year began, Estancia welcomed the class of 2027 at our Freshmen Welcome Day hosted by Link Crew. Estancia faculty members dressed in their class color shirts and nearly 50 Link Crew Leaders dressed in their Link Crew shirts greeted the freshmen as they entered the gym through a spirit tunnel. Freshmen Welcome Day is designed to be a powerful orientation day that makes freshmen excited and proud to be attending Estancia and allows them to begin developing relationships and strategies that will contribute to their success in high school. ASB leaders and Link Crew leaders greeted students on the first day of school and helped students locate their classrooms. Teachers greeted students at the threshold of their classrooms and focused on getting to know their students as individuals and

building community within their classrooms the first few days of school. The week concluded with seniors gathered in Jim Scott Stadium for their annual senior sunrise and our first Varsity Football game of the year which resulted in an Eagle victory.



**Estancia faculty pose for a photo in their class color t-shirts before they head to main gym for Freshmen Welcome Day.**



## Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • [harborview.nmusd.us](http://harborview.nmusd.us)



**Randy Lempert**  
Principal

### Meet Mr. Lempert

*By Gabriel Del Real, Outgoing Principal*

For the past three years, I have been honored to serve the incredible Harbor View Elementary School Community. Harbor View is a special place where students, staff, and parents come together to support all children as they learn and grow. Through this community, wonderful and powerful changes occur each day in the lives of our students.

As I transition to a new role serving NMUSD at the district-wide level, I want to introduce Harbor View's new principal, Mr. Lempert.

Mr. Lempert joins Harbor View with over ten years of experience as a principal at both the elementary and middle school levels. Most recently, Mr. Lempert has served the NMUSD community as principal at Whittier Elementary School. His positive and approachable personality, interpersonal skills, and knowledge of curriculum and instruction at the elementary and middle school levels will be a natural fit to continue the current positive momentum at Harbor View. Likewise, Mr. Lempert will bring his own expertise to further enhance the systems already in place at Harbor View. I am confident our staff and community will quickly find Mr. Lempert to be an excellent fit for our

school. He is excited to build new relationships at Harbor View, and his strengths as a leader will ensure Harbor View continues to provide students with an extraordinary educational experience.



## Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • [kaiser.nmusd.us](http://kaiser.nmusd.us)



**Matt Broesamle**  
Principal

### Student Council

The start of the school year brings so much excitement to Kaiser Elementary School. Our students have come back from summer break better than ever, and they are ready to make 23-24 the best school year yet!

One thing that a lot of our students look forward to each year is the opportunity to run for office in student council. This year we had 26 students run for the offices of

president, vice president, secretary and historian. All students in fifth and sixth grade are able to run for office. The students attend several meetings to gain a deeper understanding of what is expected of candidates that are running for office, and they also receive guidance from our student council advisor to prepare their speeches for the big day. It was evident that all our students put a lot of time and energy into preparing their speeches. We are so proud of all the candidates for having the courage to run for office in our student council. Go Knights





## Killybrooke Elementary (K-6)

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • [killybrooke.nmusd.us](http://killybrooke.nmusd.us)



**Laura Taylo**  
Principal

### Celebrating Unity and Excellence

The Killybrooke school blacktop buzzed with excitement in the early morning light during an event which marked a significant day of inclusivity and excellence. That was when our student government

representatives spearheaded a flag deck assembly to honor our buddy bench donors, Patrick's Purpose Foundation, and the Exchange Club of Newport Beach. They were also celebrating our school's Platinum level PBIS recognition.



**Representatives from community organizations present for the dedication of our Buddy Bench.**

and then presented the donors with handmade tokens of appreciation which acknowledged their substantial impact.

The latter part of the assembly celebrated our school's Platinum PBIS recognition, which is a testament to Killybrooke's dedication to providing a positive and safe learning environment. Everyone in the community cheered, and they particularly honored the PBIS coach, Mrs. Ray. Our staff members also made sure to commend the students' dedication to maintaining a positive atmosphere at Killybrooke.

This memorable first student-led flag deck assembly of the year underscored our school's commitment to enhancing student leadership opportunities. We also showcased the unity and positivity that is fostered by the PBIS initiative and our new buddy bench.



**Recognition for PBIS Platinum status.**

## Abraham Lincoln Elementary (K-6)

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • [lincoln.nmusd.us](http://lincoln.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Kristin DeMicco**  
Principal

### Enrichment Opportunities

This year we are incredibly excited about the enrichment opportunities available to our Lincoln students. Thanks to the

generosity of our Lincoln parents and community partners, all Lincoln students attend art classes in our art studio

every other week, and they also have the chance to participate in recess art one time per month. In addition, with the support of our Lincoln community, Leopards are once again receiving hands-on experiences with STEM in our technology lab. For students interested in music, we offer extra-curricular band and chorus to students in grades 4-6, and we will be adding a jazz band this year as well. After school theater classes are underway,



and students are currently preparing for their production of Lion King Jr. which will take place in January. We are off to a great start and looking forward to offering even more enrichment opportunities in the coming months.

## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • [mariners.nmusd.us](https://mariners.nmusd.us)



**Antoinette Coe**  
*Principal*

### Mariners' Pride

At Mariners Elementary, we teach our students to inspire, motivate, and make a difference. One of the ways in which we make a difference is by prioritizing our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This program focuses on being Positive, Respectful, acting with Integrity, showing Determination, and striving for Excellence (Mariners' PRIDE).

In the initial week of school, we dedicate time to explicitly educate our students on what these PRIDE expectations entail in the various areas across our campus. Throughout the academic year we then diligently monitor student behaviors, as well as provide reinforcement and a reminder of the expectations as needed.

To incentivize our students to demonstrate positive

behaviors throughout the campus, we also reward them with "PRIDE" slips. Every Friday our students have the chance to earn prizes through our school's PRIDE slip drawings, or they can pick a book from our book vending machine. Additionally, students are recognized with classroom flags or the weekly Marlin Award for demonstrating Mariners PRIDE during science, PE, library, and music pull-outs.

We firmly believe that the implementation of a well-designed and well-supported system will ensure that all students are afforded a positive, safe, and predictable educational environment. As a result, Mariners Elementary School was recognized by the California PBIS coalition for successful PBIS Implementation at the Platinum level, which is the highest level of recognition.

We are extremely proud of our students, staff, and community. Go, Marlins!

## Monte Vista Independent Study(7-12)

<https://montevista.nmusd.us>



**Dr. Racquel Stephens**  
*Principal*

### Back to School Night

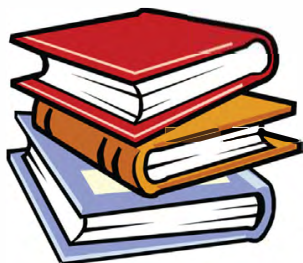
Monte Vista had its Back to School Night on September 11th. Our staff, students, and parents were excited to see our new space on Presidio Square in Costa Mesa. The parents of Monte Vista's middle school and high school students were able to meet the Monte Vista teachers and enjoy the independent study labs. The new space at Presidio includes two classrooms for independent study and a front office space for administrative staff. Parents

learned about the amazing things happening in independent study, including our expanded course catalog with A-G approved courses and high-interest electives, how to help their students work independently, and learned about the content support available for our students.

Our independent study students at Monte Vista have participated in in-person activities including homerooms, science projects, and collaborative projects. This month included the "egg drop" experiment in science where students constructed a protective case for an egg to be dropped, in the hopes it will be unbreakable! The students completed a lab report, along with claims, evidence, and reasoning all about their egg drop! The teachers at Monte Vista have made the curriculum come alive by using in-person instruction to supplement the student's independent learning.

Finally, the students and parents were introduced to our new mascot and logo – the Monte Vista Mountaineers! Go Mountaineers!

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



## 2023 — 2024







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## Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

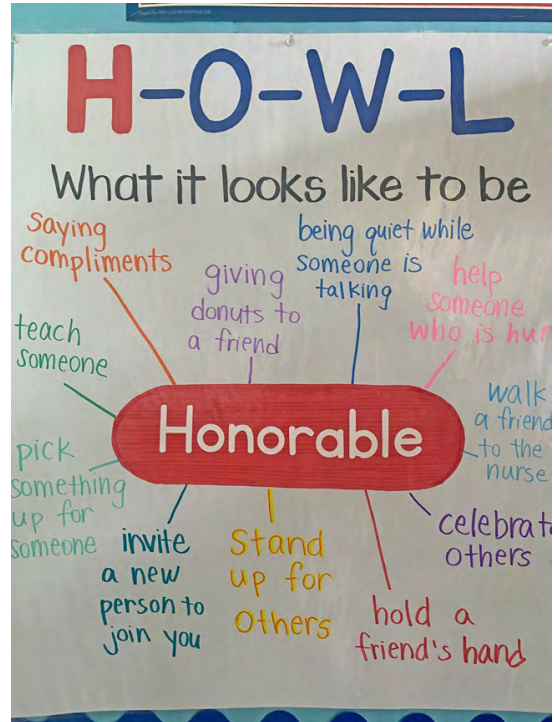
6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • [nce.nmusd.us](http://nce.nmusd.us)



**Heather Darrow**  
*Principal*

At Newport Coast Elementary, our students HOWL to success. HOWL represents our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) matrix, which helps students understand the behavior expectations throughout the campus. Our Coyotes strive to be HONORABLE, ORGANIZED, and WISE LEADERS. As part of our PBIS program, students receive HOWL cards whenever

a staff member “Catches a Coyote” demonstrating the appropriate behavior expectations. Students then have the opportunity to use their Coyote Cards to shop at the Coyote Store, which is always an exciting event for our students! As a Tier 2 support, each month teachers select students to be recognized for their demonstration of the HOWL focus of the month. These students are acknowledged at our Flag Deck assemblies for their commitment to HOWLing excellence! By providing PBIS for our students, it is our hope that the exceptional behavioral standards will carry on with our Coyotes as they move on to middle school. Way to go Coyotes!



**NCE students are HONORABLE, Organized, and Wise Leaders!**

## Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • [newportel.nmusd.us](http://newportel.nmusd.us)



**Amanda Estrada**  
*Principal*

### **One Team, One Dream**

Our theme this year is “One Team, One Dream”. At Newport El, we believe that students are best served when teachers, students, parents, and the community are all working together as one team with a common purpose helping students grow and thrive. We all have a part to play in this team, and we have big dreams for our students.

Throughout the year, we will be incorporating this theme through classroom discussions, school-wide activities, and monthly classroom read alouds.

We will explore the concepts of teamwork, how to treat and value our teammates, how to dream and set goals, and how to work hard to reach those goals.

One of our first school-wide activities was celebrating International Dot Day on September 15th. The Dot, a book by Peter Reynolds, is a story about a child who does not think she is good at art until she is inspired to give it a try. The book was read in each class and students discussed themes of creativity, teamwork, self-confidence and having a growth mindset. To celebrate Dot Day, we wore polka dots and created dot-inspired artwork. Ms Bauer’s students are pictured with their own copy of The Dot.





# Newport Harbor High School (9-12)

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • [nhhs.nmusd.us](http://nhhs.nmusd.us)



**Sean Boulton**  
Principal

## Freshman Feelings

*Introduction by  
Adrian Michaelsen,  
interviews by  
Adrian Michaelsen  
and Alexis Vanhorn*

Six weeks into the new school year, Newport Harbor High School's freshmen have begun to settle into a whole new campus. As a ninth grader myself, it has been a whole new experience for me. I have felt very included by the staff and the students, as I have enjoyed meeting new people. More specifically, I really liked Homecoming, as I was able to enjoy it with my friends and it was very different from the events at Ensign Intermediate School. But the biggest difference so far between middle school and high school is the schedule change. The block schedule is nice; on B Days, I don't start school until 10:00.

Even though most classes at Harbor are more difficult than at Ensign, they feel more entertaining and enjoyable to participate in. This has made me work harder because I want to learn more about the subject. This has made me a more productive version of myself as I put more effort into the work I do. But I sometimes wish that the way the high school is laid out is less complicated, as I am already thinking about what classes I am going to take next school year.

Overall, I have enjoyed the jump from middle school to high school, and I will continue getting used to the new scenario. I will try to enjoy the next four years of high school as much as I can.

Read on to hear from other ninth graders about their experience so far at Newport Harbor.

### **How has your freshman year been going so far?**

"It is going really good. I like that we have more freedom here and my classes are really nice. I'm able to interact with more people and get closer to my teachers, so I like that more." (Kimberly Leiva)

### **What are your thoughts on Newport Harbor so far?**

"I really like it, it's better than Ensign. I really like English. It's really fun." (Ella Butcher)

### **What's your favorite thing so far about your freshman year?**

"Having flexibility in classes, being able to have your phone, and flexibility with teachers." (Eli Cuevas)



### **What's your favorite thing about Harbor so far?**

"My favorite thing about Harbor is the classes, like Avid and ceramics." (Aileen Zalpa)

### **What has been your best experience so far in high school?**

"Joining wrestling because it has made me grow as a person." (Robert Riley)

### **How do you feel about the workload in high school?**

"It's pretty good, it's not too easy and it's not too hard. It's like perfectly even. Doesn't make me stressed at all." (Tosh Andrews)

### **What is the biggest difference between middle school and high school?**

"For me in middle school, there was a lot more homework and honestly it was more stressful. And then in high school, there is a lot more freedom, less homework. For me, it is a lot less stressful." (Daniela Acevedo-Schiesel)

### **How has middle school prepared you for high school?**

"I think it has done a horrible job except for me just getting used to different teachers, but that's kind of it. It didn't really prepare me. High school is way better." (Joseph Ehrlich)



## Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • [newportheights.nmusd.us](http://newportheights.nmusd.us)



**Terri Clarke**  
*Principal*

### Learning Lab

Newport Heights Elementary School started the school year strong with new faces, positivity & learning! We welcomed several new staff to our teaching & student support team, rounded out our “Learning Lab” team with part-time teachers & instructional assistants, and completed our staff with classified team members in our custodial crew and special education team.

Our entire NHES staff is dedicated to helping our students learn, engage in positive activities, and support healthy peer relationships. Our students have participated in Shark PRIDE rotations focusing on school expectations, joined together to celebrate our shark houses, celebrated student successes each week during Flag Deck, all while learning new things in the classrooms and building friendships at school. We look forward to a shark-tastic school year and all the ways we can continue supporting our NHES students’ successes!



## Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • [paularino.nmusd.us](http://paularino.nmusd.us)



**Annalisa Schwartz**  
*Principal*

### Positive Choice Incentives

Welcome to the 2023–24 school year! Our Paularino Panther staff has welcomed our students back to the new school year with a renewed energy to support each student so that they feel seen, heard, valued, and safe. Students entered the school year with excitement and curiosity for the new year ahead.

At Paularino, our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) utilizes Panther Paws based on positive choices of being Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn across the campus. Students strive to make positive decisions and learn how to become better Panthers. Students learn about the character pillars of Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, and Trustworthiness. When a student is

caught doing something outstanding as described by one of the character pillars, they are awarded a Panther Paw. Students then can place their Panther Paw in a drawing for an incentive such as a treat, a free book, a restaurant certificate, or a teacher experience. Panther Paws are then drawn on Fridays during our schoolwide Flag Deck assembly, and students are recognized for their positive character traits and given their prize.

More incentives will be added to encourage Panthers to make positive choices when at school and at home. This year, we are introducing a Panther Store where students can use their Panther Paws to purchase prizes on Fridays with our school counselor. We continue to find new ways to support our students in making positive choices.

We look forward to a wonderful school year. Keep it going, Panthers!



## Pomona Elementary (K-6)

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • [pomona.nmusd.us](http://pomona.nmusd.us)



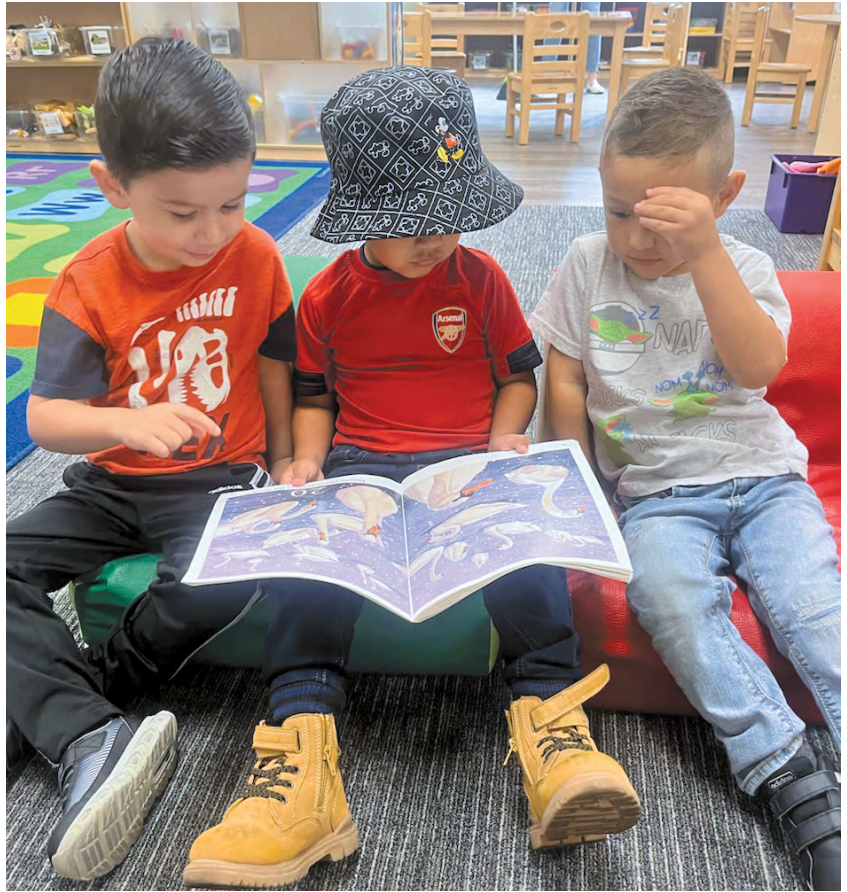
**Cindy Pedroso**  
Principal

### Wonderful Enrichment Opportunities

We had a wonderful start of the school year full of renewed energy and excitement. The staff continues to be dedicated to creating a warm and welcoming environment

while maintaining high expectations for all. Students have already had wonderful enrichment opportunities through fieldtrips and after school programming. Musical theater productions are already on their way as students prepare for the Wizard of Oz. This past Friday we celebrated students demonstrating respect and responsibility at flag deck surrounded by their families and peers.

Our continued goal is to elevate all the experiences for our students as we have a laser focus on continuous improvement. Teachers have been working diligently learning and improving their craft. We are looking forward to another amazing year for our panthers. #pantherpride



## Everett A. Rea Elementary (K-6)

661 Hamilton St, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • [rea.nmusd.us](http://rea.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
Principal

### Our Artists Thrive

The arts are important in the overall student experience at Rea Elementary. Research indicates that the arts have a positive impact on academic and social-emotional outcomes for students.

Our Rea students participate in music classes to learn vocal and instrumental techniques with a credentialed music teacher during the school day. In addition, they also learn the techniques of famous artists through the Art Masters program, and create art using the same style of the artist. The Art Masters program is funded by our Rea PTA. Our students can also opt to participate in additional artistic experiences before school, at lunch, and after school. Our school band practices before class on multiple days of the week as well.

We also provide the monthly Recess Art program for students during lunch. This provides them with an optional fun experience with their peers. Each year, Rea students in grades three to six also have the opportunity to participate

in a school play with vocal music, acting, and dance experiences. Last year, students practiced after school for six months to perform the show Frozen on two evenings to a full audience of families, classmates, and community members.

The teacher team that leads the school play each year also hosts monthly Art Club experiences for students (like hands-on art projects), as well as the annual Talent Show in the late spring.

Another popular after-school activity is the Rea Elementary Dance Program, which is provided through our partnership with Active Learning. Students can learn Baile Folklorico and Hip Hop dance after school three days each week. There are also several performances throughout the year which are hosted at our school and other community events.

It is wonderful to see our students thrive as artists. We look forward to seeing them continue in their endeavors as they enter into their middle school years with the exciting arts opportunities available at the district's middle schools and high schools.



## Sonora Elementary (PK-6)

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • [sonora.nmusd.us](http://sonora.nmusd.us)



**Mia Doidge**  
Principal

### Monthly Recess Art

This year at Sonora we are having monthly recess art with Mrs. Haley. This creative opportunity is open to all students in grades TK – 6. This engaging art program provides students with play-based opportunities in art. Mrs. Haley highlights the experience of what it feels like to make art rather than producing a finished product or end result. She combines a variety of elements such as line, shape, color, and texture. During her lessons she teaches students about the importance of risk-taking in creativity and in developing the appreciation of art as a lifelong skill. For this month, the project is Number Sculptures or Free Create. The idea is that numbers can tell a life story, where students can create number sculptures too. Students were working with materials that included wooden blocks and scraps, popsicle sticks, wiki stix, washi tape, and glue. We are able to foster students' artistic talents and additionally create opportunities for them to engage in positive social interactions with others.



## Charles W. TeWinkle Middle School (7-8)

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • [tewinkle.nmusd.us](http://tewinkle.nmusd.us)



**Ixchel Sanchez**  
Principal

### Back to School Night

TeWinkle Middle School held Back to School Night on Thursday, September 21st, which was a resounding success, fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration between parents, teachers, and students. The evening began with a warm welcome from the administrative team and our counseling department. Parents then had the opportunity to visit each classroom, where teachers provided insightful overviews of their curriculum, teaching methods, classroom expectations, and the class syllabus. The atmosphere was welcoming and engaging,



with teachers encouraging questions and dialogue. In addition, to classroom visits, there were informative sessions on various school platforms such as Schoolology and



Aeries as well as extracurricular activities and resources available to support students' academic and personal growth. This event not only ensured that parents felt well-informed and connected with their child's school experience but also set a positive tone for the school year ahead. We want to thank all our parents and community members for attending Back to School Night.



## Victoria Elementary (K-6)

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • [victoria.nmusd.us](http://victoria.nmusd.us)



### Commitment to Soar Above

Something I have always loved about education is the fresh sense of renewal that accompanies the start of each new school year. As the 2023-2024 school year kicks off our staff

has renewed their commitment to work diligently to provide all students with a challenging, relevant educational



program. We know this renewal is not unique to educators but applies to our students and families we serve. This year our opening day began with a commitment to the concept of *Kaisen* or continuous improvement. Our teachers will identify barriers to learning and implement incremental steps to improve student outcomes. This thoughtful, intentional approach to improvement embodies Victoria's belief—'together we soar above'. It's going to be a great year at Victoria....Go Voyagers!



## Whittier Elementary (K-6)

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • [whittier.nmusd.us](http://whittier.nmusd.us)



### A Collaborative Endeavor

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. It is with immense excitement and honor that I address you as the new Principal of Whittier Elementary School. As I step into this pivotal role, I am truly delighted to join this vibrant community of learners, educators, and dedicated parents.

My primary goal as your Principal is to foster an environment where every child can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. Education is a collaborative endeavor, and your involvement and support are fundamental to achieving our collective vision for the betterment of our students.

Over the coming months, I look forward to engaging with each and every one of you. Our Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is an essential partner in enhancing the educational experience for our children. I greatly value the insights, ideas, and active involvement of our parents and teachers in shaping the educational path of our students.

I am eager to listen to your perspectives, learn from your experiences, and work together to identify opportunities for growth and improvement within our school. Let's build a strong foundation of trust, communication, and shared objectives to ensure a successful and enriching journey for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Whittier Elementary School community and for your commitment to our students.

## Wilson Elementary (K-6)

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • [wilson.nmusd.us](http://wilson.nmusd.us)



**Lorena Rubio**  
Principal

### A Wildcat ROARS with Success!

I am the newest Wildcat, and I am so happy to have joined the amazing Wilson community! We began the year with a meet-and-greet with the new principal and a popsicle party. Soon after the school year started, we started celebrating and highlighting Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15. We kicked it off by celebrating the

independence days of various Hispanic countries, such as El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, which are celebrated on September 15, and Mexico's on September 16. Our community was invited to join in the celebration by wearing traditional clothing or the colors of their country's flag. Throughout the month, our students have been learning and expanding their knowledge of Hispanic Heritage through literature, art, music, and more! It has been a great beginning and we will have a successful year of teaching and learning!



## Woodland Elementary (K-2)

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • [woodland.nmusd.us](http://woodland.nmusd.us)

**Christine Anderson, Interim Principal**

### Off to A Great Start!

Woodland Elementary School is off to a great start! The Board of Education voted to hire full time school counselors at each elementary school site. Our counselor, Jodie Palmer, is working to support our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. She is also facilitating



**Ms. Jodie Palmer**

student play time to ensure all students are engaged during our outdoor play and recess times. In addition, she is using Restorative Practices to help build conflict resolution strategies and skills within our student population. We are very appreciative of this decision by the Board. Having a counselor on staff benefits all students! Go Dragons!



## Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

### Back to The Future

Title: *Magic Tree House #32 To The Future. Ben Franklin!*

Author: Mary Pope Osborne

Magic Tree House book series is a #1 New York Times bestselling series. This book series is about a brother and sister named Jack and Annie. The two go inside a Magic Tree House that takes them through time to finish a mission.



In this book, they will travel back in time to 1787 to help Benjamin Franklin sign the United States Constitution. They find a way to get close to him, which is delivering his lunch. They want to know about Ben Franklin, but he has a different idea. He wants to learn all about them! They take him to the present day, but Ben gets scared

by the machines. Can Jack and Annie get him to sign the Constitution? I recommend you read this book to find out.

This book is also educational and historical. I hope that you will like it and learn about Ben Franklin who was a scientist, inventor, businessman, diplomat and more.

Aubtin is a 2nd Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading, and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, trains, cars and computers. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

## Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

### What Do I look Like?

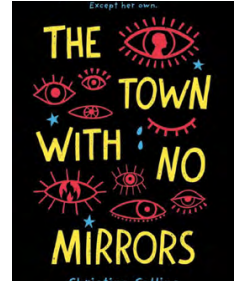
The Town with

*No Mirrors* is a fiction written by Christina Collins.

The book is about a 12-year-old girl named Zailey who lives in Gladder Hill,

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

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



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

## 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 NMUSD in the subject line)

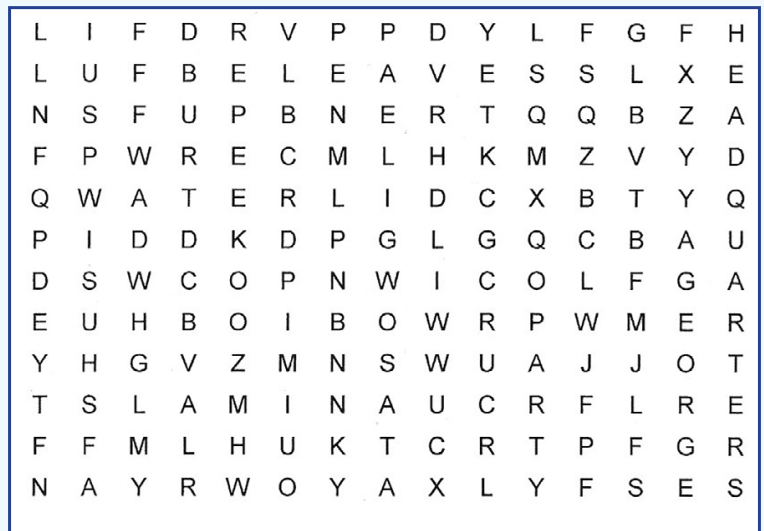
Entries must be received by November 15, 2023

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

Thank you **Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics** for sponsoring our contests.

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



# Note-ables



**Kate Karp**

## 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!”

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

## Halloween Word Search Contest

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





# Orange County Department of Education



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent*



**Dr. Ramon Miramontes**  
*Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs*

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

I'm talking specifically about being involved with

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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