

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Westminster School District



Volume 19, Issue 114

November 2023

## WSD Stays Connected with the Community



Spanish Dual Language Immersion Students Perform During the City of Westminster's Fall Festival



When You Imagine Their Future...  
Imagine a Beautiful Smile!



We always treat your children like they are our own!

**DAMON** SMILE  
More than straight teeth™

INBRACE

 invisalign®

**invisalign** | teen



**BarkateNehiSmiles.com**

*Newport Beach • Ladera Ranch • San Clemente*

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen**  
*Superintendent*

Westminister School District (WSD) continues to showcase incredible talent and dedication to our students every month. Our students in the Spanish and Vietnamese Dual language attended and performed at various community events; three weekends out of four in September. Those included: Moon Lantern Festival, Fall Festival, and the Mid-Autumn Children's Festival. These students practiced their dances and singing for countless hours to ensure they are prepared for every event. Their commitment and

relentless efforts in the classroom and for extracurricular activities truly embodies the WSD INSPIRES! mentality. We are proud that all of our students who participated in these events last month.

Over the next few months, our school sites will have opportunities for outreach within our community and in surrounding cities as well. WSD is committed to bolstering enrollment and provide an inclusive environment where they can all thrive in their educational career. We look forward to bringing in more world leaders and helping them elevate to the next level.



**Westminister Police Officers and City Officials greet Eastwood Elementary School students during National Walk & Roll to School Day.**

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**David M. Johnson**  
President  
Area 1



**Frances Nguyen**  
Vice President  
Area 4



**Jeremy Khalaf**  
Clerk  
Area 5



**Tina Gustin-Gurney**  
Member  
Area 2



**Khanh Nguyen**  
Member  
Area 3

### Westminster School District Partners with Local Law Enforcement

*By David M. Johnson, President, Board of Trustees*

At Westminster School District, the physical and mental well-being of our students is a top priority. During National Walk & Roll to School day this year, police officers from Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, and Westminster Police Department partnered with the district and participated in this nationwide campaign. The goal of the event was to encourage students to live a healthy lifestyle and to walk and bike to school periodically.

This was the first time in WSD's history where we coordinated a tri-city collaboration and had at least one

police officer at every school site throughout the morning. Students were all smiles and giddy when they were greeted by our local heroes. There was a strong sense of camaraderie and extra security when law enforcement was at the school sites. It was a good way to show students that our police officers are here to protect; but can also have genuine conversations with the boys and girls.

With all this fun and enjoyment, it is still a good reminder to families that WSD continues to lead the way in Orange County on school safety. Our ongoing collaboration with the three Police Departments is a direct result for why we receive gold standard response times.



**Huntington Beach Police Officers greet Clegg Elementary School students during National Walk & Roll to School Day.**

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193  
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:  
Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura

COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

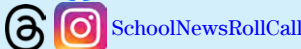
SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder  
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



@SchoolNewsRC



SchoolNewsRollCall



SchoolNewsRollCall



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

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



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



562/493-3193  
[kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)



Netragrednik

Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen begins this issue on page 3 highlighting the importance of community outreach.

This year is quickly coming to a close and we will soon be celebrating Thanksgiving. I have many reasons to be thankful and included are you, our readers, who continue to support public education. For 24 years we have been publishing *School News* and bringing you information directly from the classrooms. Readers may sign up on our website to receive issues from the districts of their choice. Interest in public education is at its highest in our years of publishing. I sold real estate for many

years before founding *School News* and every buyer asked what the schools were like in the community they were considering. Even if they didn't have children, buyers knew the quality of the schools set the standard for the quality of the community and would determine their selling price. We are all stakeholders in the future of our children.

We have included a word search contest on page 24 and student book reviews to help with your children's book selections.

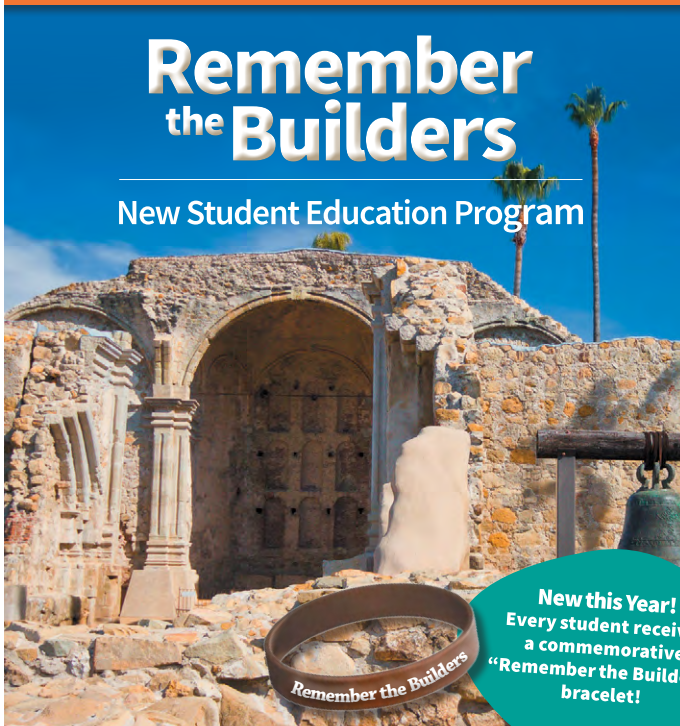
Our next issue is January 24.

Happy Holidays from the *School News* staff!

## PLAN YOUR FIELD TRIP NOW at Historic Mission San Juan Capistrano

### Remember the Builders

New Student Education Program



New this Year!  
Every student receives  
a commemorative  
"Remember the Builders"  
bracelet!

### NOW BOOKING FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!

Experience the Mission's New  
Youth and Student Audio Tour  
"If These Walls Could Talk"

FREE Funding for up to 150 Students  
Per Day and Mission Matters  
(Schools must apply)

FREE Bonus Video Library with  
EVERY Booked Field Trip (\$150 Value).

Book Online Today  
[MissionSJC.com/book](http://MissionSJC.com/book)



GLOBAL VISION  
**OPTOMETRY**  
 Family Eye Care

We offer  
**Myopia  
 Management  
 with OrthoK or  
 soft contact lenses or  
 eye drops.**

Contact our office  
 for more details.

\*Mention this Ad for  
**\$200 off** Myopia  
 Management  
 package.

- Eye Exams -  
Glasses & Contact Lenses
- Full Optical - Name Brands  
& Fashion Eyewear
- Medical Eye Exams -  
Red/Dry/Pink Eye
- Minor Eye Injuries/  
FB Removal
- Lasik/Cataract Consult
- Corneal Topography &  
Retinal Photos
- Myopia Management
- In House Lab Available  
Glasses Ready Same Day!  
(SV, Rx in stock only)

Insurances we accept:

VSP, EYEMED, SPECTERA, MES, SUPERIOR, DAVIS, VBA & more

**STEPHANY VONG, O.D AND ASSOCIATES**

18569 Main St.,  
 Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
 (Located in the 5 Points Plaza)  
**(714) 780-2008**

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



**City of Westminster Office of the Mayor**

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311

[www.westminster-ca.gov](http://www.westminster-ca.gov)



**Chi Charlie  
 Nguyen**  
 Mayor

The school year is underway, and I'm excited to share updates regarding the city's efforts to develop safer options for pedestrian and bicycle safety as our youth continue to walk and bike to school. Earlier this year, we kicked off our "Safe Routes to School" program – a grant-funded initiative to study routes to and from schools in Westminster. Now that school is back in session, staff is resuming education and outreach events, including walk audits where staff and traffic

experts engage with parents and other stakeholders for feedback.

When it comes to our children and families walking to and from school, whether you're a pedestrian or a motorist, safety is the number one priority. That's why this year, on the first day of school for the Westminster School District, our Westminster Police traffic unit and school resource officers teamed up with the cities of Cypress, Seal Beach, and Los Alamitos to conduct traffic education and enforcement at various elementary and middle schools. Officers focused on violations pertaining to the safety of the children and parents walking to school. A total of 49 citations and a nearly equal number of warnings were issued to motorists.

As our kids return to school, this is a reminder to drive safely and be aware of your surroundings during drop-off and pick-up times.

Visit the city's website for update on "Safe Routes to School" and other efforts to enhance and improve safety.

**Grandma,  
 Why Do You  
 Have Cracks  
 In Your Face?**

Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.



By Kay Coop  
 Illustrated by Melanie Florio

Now  
 Available on  
**AMAZON  
 & BARNES  
 AND NOBLE**

**Sandra's TLC Child Care**

*Licensed Loving Child Care • 6 Weeks and Older*

Monday to Friday • Evenings • 24 Hours

- Pre-School / Toddler Programs
- Fun Home with Large Play Yard
- Nutritious Meals & Snacks



Call Sandra (562) 756-1750

[www.SandrasTLC.com](http://www.SandrasTLC.com) Excellent References

License # 304311437  
 Member OC Child Care Assoc.

# Anderson Elementary (K-6)

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • [anderson.wsdk8.us](http://anderson.wsdk8.us)



**Kim Breckenridge**  
Principal

## Library Revamp

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.

—Charles W. Eliot, former president of Harvard University

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Anderson School, with a grant from Access Books, rehabilitated the library with over 1,500 new donated books and inspiring murals. Access Book volunteers, Community volunteers, and Anderson volunteers transformed the library into a haven of knowledge and imagination. The new books not only expanded the literary options for students but also cultivated a love for reading among them. The generosity of Access Books has given the Anderson students the vision to explore new worlds through the pages of the new books.

The vibrant murals that now grace the library's walls serve as a testament to the commitment to foster creativity and inspiration. The positive changes in the school

library have not only enriched our physical space but have also had a profound effect on our students' educational experiences. Now, every student who visits the Anderson library will find a "just right" book that is interesting and will help the student increase their literacy. The Anderson library revamp helps all students meet the goal of reading at or above grade level.



# Clegg Elementary (TK-5)

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • [clegg.wsdk8.us](http://clegg.wsdk8.us)



**Mark Murphy**  
Principal

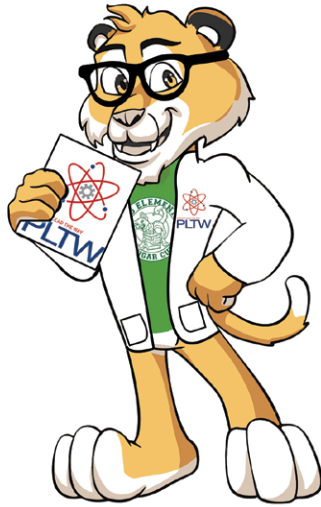
## Project Lead the Way

We are excited to share with you some of the wonderful initiatives that are happening at our school as we strive to motivate, prepare, and support every child on their journey to STEM success.

One of our key programs, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), is instrumental in achieving this goal. PLTW is making a significant impact on our students' educational experience, and we would like to take this opportunity to tell you all about it.

What is Project Lead the Way? PLTW is an innovative program designed to foster and nurture our students' interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) from the very beginning of their educational journeys. It is a comprehensive curriculum that not only introduces students to the exciting world of STEM, but also keeps them engaged and motivated to explore these subjects further.

For our students in grades TK-5, PLTW Launch is the heart of our STEM curriculum. It is an engaging hands-on program that taps into the natural curiosity and exploratory nature of children. The curriculum is designed to make learning feel like play, which will help foster a love for STEM that can carry them into the future. By participating in PLTW Launch, our students become eager, confident, and well-prepared problem solvers.



Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is a vital part of Clegg Elementary School's mission to prepare our students for the future by instilling in them a love for STEM. We are proud of the progress that we are making with this program, and can't wait to see the incredible STEM journeys that our students will embark upon. Much credit goes to several of our teachers who have been leading the program, and have helped with training their fellow staff members. A special thank-you goes to Mrs. Drees, Mrs. Kresge, and Mrs. Roth for their roles in establishing and promoting PLTW.





# DeMille Language Academy

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • [demille.wsdk8.us](http://demille.wsdk8.us)



**April Derr**  
Principal

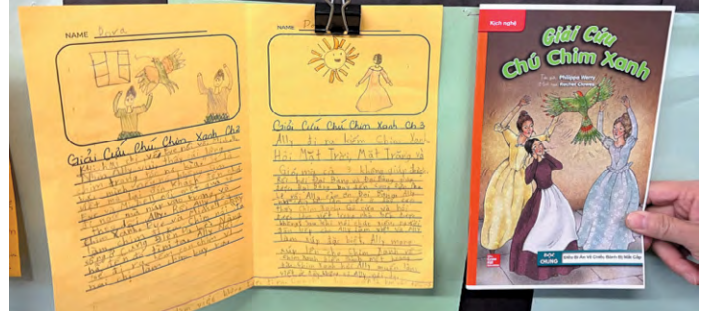
## Our Scholars are Writers!

The DeMille Language Academy is an award-winning Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion (VDLI) School. Our students take pride in being able to express themselves in English and Vietnamese. They do this through performances, but more importantly, in the products they create to showcase their learning.

Our teachers strive to empower all students to express themselves in the Vietnamese language as well as in English. The Vietnamese teacher and English partner-teacher work in tandem with the standards and the curriculum to ensure that their students learn grade-level content in both languages. Teachers use strategies such as bridging, Thinking Maps, and other activities to help support the students in making connections between the two languages.

Students are expected to listen, speak, read, and write in both languages to show their understanding of the language and the grade-level content in all subject areas.

In the picture below, students were asked to write, in Vietnamese, an opinion essay about their favorite candy for Halloween, or a response to text from a Vietnamese text, and to show the different states of matter using a model and explanation in Vietnamese. The students also use both languages to show math concepts and how to problem-solve.



Our students are working towards proficiency in both languages, in all subject matters, to earn their pathways to biliteracy awards as they progress through the VDLI program.



# Eastwood Elementary (K-6)

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • [eastwood.wsdk8.us](http://eastwood.wsdk8.us)



**Kathryn Cox**  
Principal

## Transforming Education: Thinking Maps Rollout

In a groundbreaking move, the Westminster School District has embraced a six-year strategic plan focusing on the promise to revolutionize the way students approach learning. At Eastwood Elementary School, located at the heart

of this transformative initiative, students from grades TK-6 are experiencing the power of Thinking Maps, a dynamic set of graphic organizers designed to guide students from brainstorming to the final written product.

The Thinking Maps rollout at Eastwood Elementary is a district-wide endeavor aimed at enhancing students' critical thinking and writing skills. Over the course of eight weeks the students will be exposed to different types of Thinking Maps, each focusing on a specific aspect of the writing process.

Week one kicked off with the Circle Map, a tool that encourages students to define and brainstorm ideas. Students learned to identify key concepts and generate ideas, providing them with a solid foundation for any writing task. Teachers noted an immediate improvement in students' ability to articulate their thoughts and ideas.

In the second week, students delved into the Bubble Map. This graphic organizer helps students describe objects or concepts with precision and detail. It encourages them to focus on specific attributes, aiding in the development of rich and detailed descriptions. Students



**Final product of the work of  
1st grade Thinking Maps.**

found this tool particularly useful when working on descriptive writing assignments.

Week three brought the Double Bubble Map into the spotlight, teaching students the valuable skill of comparison and contrast. This tool proved instrumental in fostering critical thinking as students analyzed similarities and differences between various subjects. The Double Bubble Map not only honed their writing skills but also promoted a deeper understanding of the content they were exploring.

The most recent addition to the curriculum was the Tree Map in week four. This map guides students in classifying information and organizing their thoughts

systematically. By categorizing information and identifying relationships between concepts, students were better equipped to structure their writing effectively.

The impact of the Thinking Maps rollout has been substantial. Students are not only improving their writing skills but also developing essential critical thinking and organizational abilities. Teachers have reported increased engagement and enthusiasm among students, and parents have praised the initiative for its positive effects on their children's education.

The Westminster School District's Thinking Maps rollout at Eastwood Elementary School is a testament to the district's commitment to providing students with the tools they need to succeed. As students continue to progress through this innovative program, the future of education at Eastwood looks better than ever, with promising outcomes and enhanced writing skills on the horizon.



**1st grade students in Ms. Santos's class use Thinking Maps to have academic discussions.**



**Pam LeMueix**  
Principal

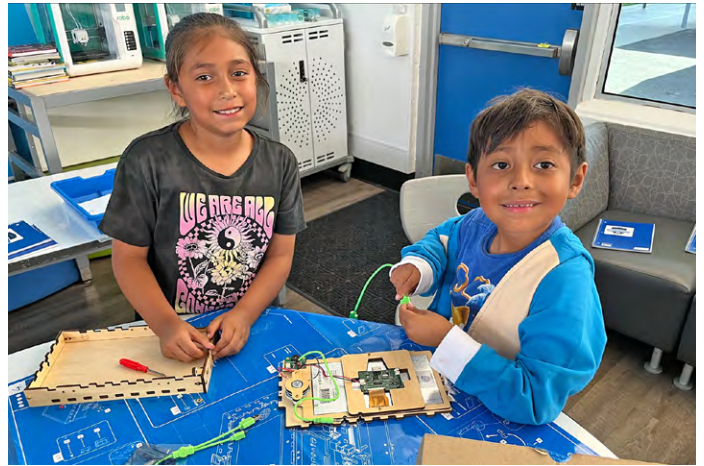
## Coding Through Gaming

Students in Finley's Innovation Academy are achieving remarkable feat! Third-grade students are not only building computers from scratch but are also mastering the art of coding in the virtual realm of gaming.

The journey begins with the computer kits, which contain all the necessary components to build a computer that functions with the gaming system. The third-graders dive headfirst into the world of electronics, assembling motherboards, connecting wires, and fitting components together. The hands-on experience not only teaches them about hardware but also nurtures problem-solving skills.

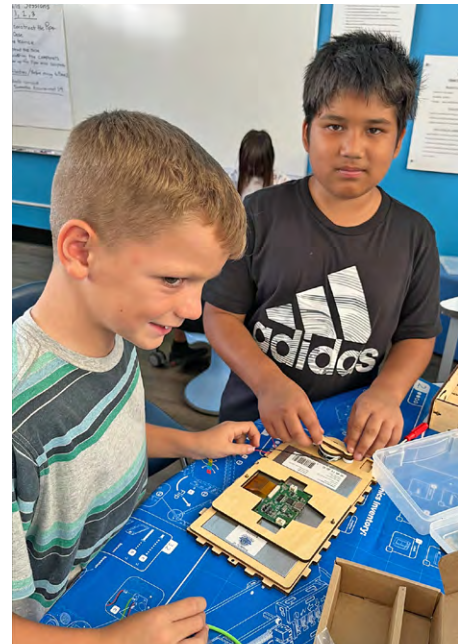
Once their computers are up and running, the student teams delve into the world of coding. Their gateway to creativity is a beloved virtual-universe game. Our third-graders learn the ropes of coding by customizing and enhancing their virtual-universe experience.

Programming in the system offers a unique blend of fun and education. Third-graders use block-based coding to manipulate their in-game environment, creating structures, modifying gameplay mechanics, and even introducing new challenges. This not only ignites their imagination but also enhances their logical thinking and problem-solving abilities.



What sets this program apart is the dual focus on both hardware and software. Students not only understand how computers work from the inside out but also gain the skills to make them do what they want through coding. It's a holistic approach to tech education that empowers these third-graders to be the creators and innovators of tomorrow.

In Finley's Innovation Academy, our third-graders are proving that age is no barrier to tech proficiency. Their journey through building specialized computers and coding in a gaming system is a testament to the limitless potential of engaged and inspired learners.





**Laura Urquhart**  
Principal

### Student Council Elections

It's that time of year again when students have the opportunity to step up and make a difference in our school community! The Fryberger annual Student Council Elections are currently in full force, and we are excited to have our third-through-fifth-graders participate in initiatives that promote civic responsibility and active participation in our school community.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn about the democratic process, leadership, and civic responsibility. We believe that teaching our students about civic responsibility is not only important for their personal development but also for the betterment of our community and society as a whole.

This year, we will be electing passionate and dedicated students to take on the roles of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, publicity officer, and environmental safety officer. Students who are interested in serving on Student Council should submit an application, campaign, and participate in a town hall event where they all give a speech in front of the rest of the voting body. All third-through-fifth-graders will then have the chance to vote on whom they want to represent them.

At Fryberger, the Student Council plays a crucial role in our school community, giving students the opportunity to become leaders and make a positive impact on our school environment. These young leaders will represent their fellow students and work together to enhance the overall elementary school experience.



# Hayden Elementary (K-5)

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • [hayden.wsdk8.us](http://hayden.wsdk8.us)



**Wendy Baird**  
Principal

## Promoting a Positive Environment

Here at Hayden Elementary School, we believe that fostering a safe and supportive school environment is paramount for student success. Our school community has fully embraced Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which is an evidence-based program that instills a positive and respectful school culture and climate. Key components of our PBIS

program are setting clear expectations and reinforcing and rewarding positive student behavior.

At our Welcome Back Assembly, our students celebrated Hayden's core values, which are respect, responsibility, and readiness to learn. During the first week of school, our students engaged in PBIS mini-lessons that set behavioral expectations for areas around campus. Our daily video announcements highlight monthly character traits. We reward students who exemplify this character trait with yellow slips, which are used like cash at our weekly Hayden Hawk Nest store, and our green slips, which are used in our weekly raffles. Additionally, every Friday, each teacher selects one Awesome Hawk from their class who models our core values, and we feature them in our video announcements.



**Hayden Hawk Nest Store Shopping.**

As we continue to embrace PBIS, we are looking forward to seeing the continued positive changes that PBIS will bring to our school. We are laying the foundation for a respectful and supportive learning environment by committing to clear expectations and celebrating positive behavior.



**Students Collaborating on Respect.**

## Johnson Middle School (6–8)

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • [johnson.wsdk8.us](http://johnson.wsdk8.us)



**Daniel Owens**  
*Principal*

### Promoting Inclusivity and Unity

Johnson Middle School is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and unity among its student body and one of the shining examples of this commitment is its cheer team. The cheer program gives every student a chance to shine, regardless of their background or ability. Johnson believes that every student should have the opportunity to be part of a supportive school group.

In addition to its inclusive cheer team, Johnson Middle School extends its philosophy of inclusion across all aspects of student life. Our special education students participate in afterschool sports and clubs. Johnson also welcomes all students into their amazing electives offered throughout the day. Johnson Middle School is committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse community where every student can thrive and feel like they belong. Celebrating diversity is a huge part of Johnson Middle school and it prides itself on being a community that celebrates differences and empowers all students to reach their full potential, both in and out of the classroom.



# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • [land.wsdk8.us](http://land.wsdk8.us) • 714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



**Nicole Baitx-Kennedy**  
Executive Director,  
Early Education &  
Expanded Learning

## Off to an Amazing Start

*By Karina Montes, Community Liaison - Early Education and Expanded Learning*

Land school has had an amazing start of the school year kick off. Students are learning self-awareness, how to cope with their emotions, and how to resolve conflict. These skills are crucial for the students to strengthen their developmental growth and future success. One of our newest preschool teachers, Mrs. Leo, shares the social emotional art activity that her students created. Mrs. Leo read several books to her

students to help the students start thinking about who they are and also to help expand their class discussions. At the end, the children created their own self-portraits!

The National Walk and Roll to school day was a total success here at Land. Officer Stouffer joined us in making sure students were safe as they walked to school with their families. The students were very excited to see Officer Stouffer specially when he handed them a sticker.

We are so excited to create many more memories with the young learners and to continue to provide a safe, nurturing and positive learning environment to help build a strong foundation for future success!



**Officer Stouffer joined us on National Walk and Roll School Day.**



**Mrs. Leo's class created self-portraits.**

# Meairs *Elementary* (K-5)

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • [meairs.wsdck8.us](http://meairs.wsdck8.us)



**Dr. Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Running for a Claus!

As the holiday season approaches, the Meairs Run Club members are lacing up their sneakers and getting ready for an exciting event that promises to spread festive cheer throughout our community. The school's dedicated Run Club, comprising enthusiastic students and supportive staff, is diligently preparing for the upcoming Run for a Claus.

This annual holiday run has become a beloved tradition, uniting students, teachers, and families in the spirit of giving and health. Participants will don Santa hats, elf

costumes, and other holiday-themed attire as they embark on a fun run through the UCI campus.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Run Club members have been diligently training to improve their stamina so they can run the students' one-mile run or the 5K. The Run for a Claus isn't just about physical fitness; it's also about teaching our young ones the values of community, kindness, and the joy of giving.

The anticipation is building, and our school's Run Club is all set to make this holiday run a memorable and heartwarming experience for all. So, join us in spreading the holiday spirit and cheering on our young runners as they Run for a Claus and light up the season with joy and goodwill!





# Schmitt Elementary (K-5)

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • [schmitt.wsdk8.us](http://schmitt.wsdk8.us)



**Sarah Nead-Rendon**  
Principal

## Book Fair Time!

We were excited to welcome our annual book fair back to Schmit! This is an eagerly anticipated event at our school—every year, students are filled with excitement as

they prepare to dive into new and exciting literature. It coincides with parent conference week so that families have multiple opportunities to stop by the fair and shop together.

Our students can hardly contain their enthusiasm when they see the Book Fair truck pull up to the school. New books awaken our students' curiosity—they are stepping-stones to reaching our students' reading goals. Reading lays the foundation for lifelong learning, and with the help of our Book Fair volunteers, we are able to offer this opportunity again. Through reading, students not only expand their vocabulary and comprehension skills but also develop critical-thinking and analytical abilities. It enhances their



creativity and broadens their worldview. Students who read regularly show improved concentration, communication skills, and empathy.

The Book Fair not only fulfills our students' desire for new books but also supports them with their overall learning journey. We are so glad that we can partner with our families to provide this event for our students!





**Robert Murdock**  
*Principal*

## Nurturing Well-Rounded Individuals

The Schroeder College and Career Academy orchestrated a dynamic month of engaging events that emphasized health, safety, and strong family-school relationships.

Kicking off the month was the eagerly awaited “National Walk, Bike, or Roll to School Day.” This event witnessed a surge of enthusiastic students pedaling their bikes and donning roller skates, promoting lots of physical activity and eco-friendly commuting.

Officer Taylor Davoren, a distinguished police officer from the Huntington Beach Police Department school and community outreach, addressed parents on the importance of ensuring a safe and secure environment around the school premises. Officer Davoren’s insights shed light on the critical role that responsible behavior and traffic awareness play in the overall safety of the student community.

Later in the month, the Schroeder College and Career Academy hosted “Lunch On The Lawn,” an event that brought together hundreds of parents in a strong show of support for their children’s education. This event underscored the vital role that parents play in fostering a positive academic environment. Families gathered in sharing meals and experiences, thus reinforcing the bond between the school and home. This gesture underscored the importance of parental involvement in shaping the future of their children.

The success of these events speaks volumes about the commitment of Schroeder College and Career Academy in instilling the values of physical fitness, road safety, and the crucial partnership between the school and parents in nurturing well-rounded individuals. The Academy looks forward to hosting more events in the future that will continue to enrich the lives of its students and community.



# Sequoia Academy *GATE Magnet Elementary*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • [sequoia.wsdk8.us](http://sequoia.wsdk8.us)



**Alisha Tardif**  
*Principal*

## Walking and Rolling!

Sequoia Academy's celebration of National Walk and Roll to School Day on Oct. 4 was a vibrant celebration of physical activity, advocacy for safe routes to school, and strengthening community partnerships. The event brought together a diverse array of community members, including Sequoia Eagle Families, prominent local figures, and supportive members of the Westminster community. It was a morning filled with joy and enthusiasm as everyone gathered to emphasize the significance of healthier and safer school communities and ventured through our Silly Walk Zones.



**Eagles Walking into School**



**Smiling into School**

The smiles and positive energy that radiated throughout the morning were a testament to the goal of Sequoia's Walk and Roll to School Day, encouraging a healthier, safer, and more connected Sequoia Family. The collaboration among school, local government, and families exemplifies the power of collective effort in fostering values of physical fitness, environmental stewardship, and safety awareness. Sequoia Academy extends its heartfelt gratitude to all who participated, setting a cheerful tone for the day and inspiring the community to prioritize the well-being, safety, and education of our students and families.



**WPD Hopping into School**

One notable attendee, Westminster's Mayor Chi Charlie Nguyen, demonstrated his commitment to promoting healthy living and sustainability at Sequoia Academy. Manuel Cardoso from the Westminster School District, Officer Dejong, and Commander Weber from the Westminster Police Department, along with the Westminster Fire Department, showed their shared belief in the educational value of our initiatives and the positive impact they can have on the community's youngest members. Eagle Families, community members, and transportation and city officials joined in the festivities, engaging in various forms of "Walking and Rolling" to school in Sequoia's Silly Walks Zones where they walked, zigzagged, jumped, skipped, hopped, danced, and even popped bubbles!



**Safe Routes to School Partnership with Sequoia Eagles Families**



**Amazing City of Westminster Officials Support Sequoia Academy**

# Stacey Middle School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • [stacey.wsdk8.us](http://stacey.wsdk8.us)



**Rick Nichols**  
Principal

## Dual Immersion at Stacey

Stacey Middle School is proud to announce the addition of our Spanish Dual Immersion Program. This is an exciting leap forward for cultural diversity and education. The program offers our students the opportunity to become bilingual and culturally literate, which will help prepare them for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

The students in this program receive instruction in both English and Spanish, which allows them to become proficient in both languages. In the Dual Immersion program, starting in the seventh grade, the students take a Spanish 3 elective class as well as a core curricular class, social studies, that is taught completely in Spanish. Our program maintains academic rigor and follows the same curriculum and state standards as traditional programs.



The Dual Language program also incorporates cultural elements related to the Spanish language. This includes the study of literature, history, and the traditions of Spanish-speaking cultures. Cultural immersion helps students better understand the people and societies associated with the language.

Our students recently learned two traditional Spanish dances to the songs *El Rascapetate* and *Las Chiapanecas*. We were honored to be invited to have the students perform these dances at the Moon Festival and the Westminster Fall Festival. The audience was mesmerized by the talent of our students as they performed these two dances, which represented a variety of cultures and highlighted the diverse backgrounds of our students.

Additionally, our school was recently visited by the Español Club of Westminster High School, who came to visit Stacey to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with us. The Westminster High students shared the history of Hispanic Heritage Month with the students and performed beautiful dances.

We are excited to watch the Dual Language program grow and develop at Stacey Middle School. We understand that being bilingual offers our students several advantages in terms of personal development and practical benefits in life. We believe that the implementation of this program and its cultural celebrations promises to leave an indelible mark on our campus, and will foster greater global understanding and appreciation in our students.



# Warner Middle School (6–8)

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • [warner.wsdk8.us](http://warner.wsdk8.us)



**Dr. Kenneth Lopour**  
Principal

## Peer Assistance Leadership

The Warner Wildcat family has had a great start to the year. Students are continuing to learn in the classrooms while we are all having some great fun, too.

Our students have been enjoying the fall weather and are looking forward to the upcoming holiday season. We continue to operate many amazing programs that provide students with engaging learning opportunities and create a welcoming

campus culture. One such program is our Peer Assistance Leadership (P.A.L.) program. There are over 50 students in this course who work to create a positive campus culture through activities, trainings, conflict mediations, and a variety of other actions and activities. One program they operate is a lunchtime drop-in program open to all students. This program is intended to help those who may have difficulty making friends, fitting in, or socializing or who may spend much of their

free time at school alone. PAL provides a welcoming space for all students to go during lunch to make new friends, have fun, and learn to enjoy their school even more. They have operated this program for many years, and it has certainly made this campus a better place for everyone.

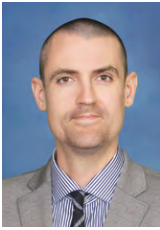
Another wonderful program at Warner is our school's Robotics Program, which includes an Introductory and an Advanced Robotics class. Our Advance Robotics team participates in First LEGO League (FLL) competition as well as doing microcontroller programming and 3D printing. These activities include the use of learning in science, technology, engineering, and math through exciting hands-on learning. Participants gain real-world problem-solving experience through a guided, global robotics program, building a better future together. They apply skills in competition while building confidence and problem-solving skills. This program has been operating since 2016, and many of these students have continued their STEAM education into high school and beyond.



**P.A.L. students presenting to our Board of Education.**

# Webber Elementary (K-6)

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • [webber.wsdk8.us](http://webber.wsdk8.us)



**Jonathan Edelman**  
Principal

## Welcoming Students with Morning Smiles

At Webber Elementary School, our student council members have a unique responsibility that sets a positive tone for the entire school day. Every morning these young leaders gather at the front of the school to join our principal in a heartwarming ritual that brightens the day for our students and staff members alike.

Our student council members take their positions at the entrance of the school ready to welcome their fellow students as they arrive. With warm smiles and much enthusiasm, they open car doors and greet their peers with a cheerful, “Good morning!” This simple yet meaningful gesture not only spreads positivity throughout the campus, it also fosters a sense of community and togetherness.

Webber places a strong emphasis on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Students are encouraged to practice their “PAWS” each day, which means practicing self-control, acting responsibly, working and playing safely, and showing respect. These principles are at the core of our school’s values, and they help create a safe and respectful environment for learning.

In an effort to promote empathy and kindness throughout the school, our Webber students are also taught to be caring and compassionate towards one another. Welcoming their peers with a friendly greeting each morning aligns perfectly with this philosophy, and it reinforces the importance of treating others with respect and consideration.

Principal Edelman recently expressed the significance of this morning ritual, stating, “What better way to start the day than with a warm greeting and a ‘good morning’ from one of our leaders on campus? It sets a positive tone for the entire school day, and reminds us all of the importance of kindness and respect.”

The student council members take their roles seriously, and understand that they are setting an example for their peers. Their dedication to spreading positivity and creating a welcoming atmosphere at Webber Elementary School is truly commendable, and it has had a lasting impact on our school culture.

In a world that can often feel rushed and hectic, the simple act of greeting each other with a smile and a friendly “good morning” reminds us all of the power of small gestures of kindness. At Webber Elementary School, our student council’s morning routine serves as a shining example of how a warm welcome can make a big difference in the lives of students and staff members alike.



# Willmore *Language Academy*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • [willmore.wsdk8.us](http://willmore.wsdk8.us)



**Tieumi "Domi" Ellis**  
*Principal*

## Hispanic Heritage Month

At Willmore Language Academy, we honor and celebrate diversity daily as a dual-language immersion school. During Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, we honor and celebrate the rich history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

This special month was commemorated in a vibrant and educational way. In class, students learned about influential Hispanic Americans and their remarkable achievements. The highlight of our celebration was a visit from the Westminster High School (WHS) Spanish Club, who came to share their knowledge and enthusiasm about Hispanic Heritage Month.

The event began with an insightful presentation by the students from WHS Spanish Club. They spoke about the significance of this month, emphasizing the diverse cultures and traditions that make up the Hispanic and Latino communities. The Spanish Club members organized a series of engaging activities for our



students. Art stations were set up, allowing the children to unleash their creativity and craft colorful artworks. A spirited game of bingo brought both fun and learning as students matched the flags of various Spanish-speaking countries. The most exciting part of the event was the dance activity, where everyone was encouraged to learn a traditional dance. Laughter and smiles filled the room as students and visitors danced to lively music, showcasing their enthusiasm for embracing diversity and celebrating the rich tapestry of Hispanic cultures.

This celebration at Willmore Language Academy not only offered students a chance to learn about this vibrant culture but also provided an opportunity for community



connections, fostering a deeper understanding of diversity. It was an event that left a lasting impact on our students, inspiring them to appreciate and respect the many cultures that make up our nation's colorful mosaic. The visit by the Westminster High School Spanish Club was a fantastic example of how we can come together to embrace and honor the richness of Hispanic Heritage during this significant month.



## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Heartwarming and a Bit of a Mystery!

The "*Superteacher Project*" is a novel written by Gordon Korman. The book is about a teacher at Brightling Middle School. Mr. Aidact is a hard-working teacher who seems to have solutions to all problems.



He seems like he knows it all and can do it all. Although he is a new teacher at this middle school, he quickly becomes popular because of many impossible things he has done. What makes Mr. Aidact so smart and strong? What makes him so special? How is he different than the other teachers? What are the impossible things does Mr. Aidact do that make him popular?

This is a fun novel to read. It is very heartwarming with a bit of a mystery. The author wrote from many viewpoints of different characters. Once I started reading, I had a hard time putting the book down. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

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.

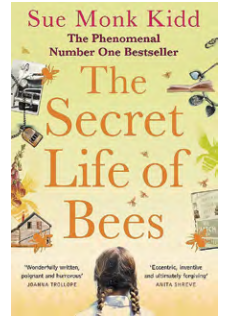
## Tegan's Book Review



**Tegan Y.**

### A Buzzworthy Book

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd is a sublime literary masterpiece that captivates the reader from the beginning with its rich and beautifully descriptive



words, immersing the readers in the lush Southern setting. Readers sympathize with 14 year-old Lily who learns self-love and worth through the supportive Boatwright sisters. These characters are thoughtfully crafted and relatable, each with their own unique voice and personal journey. We are engrossed with the wise, enigmatic beekeeper August and of course, the resilient Lily. The book elicits a range of emotions, from sadness to joy, and from heartache to hope, leaving a lasting impact on the reader. This exceptional work of fiction is a must-read for teens and overall I rate this book a 4.3 out of 5.

Tegan is a sixth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, writing, and reading.

## We Love Our Dogs Word Search Contest

Thank you **Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics** for sponsoring our Word Search Contests  
[www.BarkateNehiSmiles.com](http://www.BarkateNehiSmiles.com)

**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 Westminster in the subject line)

**Entries must be received December 15, 2023**

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

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

