

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Savanna School District



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November 2023



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What an amazing beginning we've had to the 2023-24 school year as we continue to prepare Today's Learners to be Tomorrow's Leaders! We couldn't be more proud of Mrs. Julie Martin, first grade teacher at Hansen School, who is our 2024 Teacher of the Year! We can't help but show

our excitement for the new and expanded programs in place this school year as we continue to meet the needs of our community. We're ecstatic about our new preschool program, B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners, that serves our youngest students; we currently have nearly 100 two-and three-year old students enrolled throughout the District. We're absolutely thrilled with our very successful after school program, W.I.N.G.S, that is serving nearly a third of our students each day after school. We're honored to continue to meet the needs of all of our students each and every day as we provide safe, supportive learning environments where students can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. We're privileged to continue to serve our community in a myriad of ways as we continue to support students and parents.

We're delighted that Mrs. Julie Martin was named as Savanna's 2024 Teacher of the year; she will be honored in a county-wide celebration in November. Mrs. Martin has impacted the lives of hundreds of students and their families in Savanna since 1995. She began her teaching career at Holder School where she taught kindergarten, second, third, fifth and sixth grades, including combination classes. In 2004, she transferred to Hansen School where she has taught kindergarten and first grades and where she continues to teach. Together, she and her team partner volunteered to teach 50 students in the kindergarten classroom at Hansen during a year when enrollment at that grade level was at an all-time high. Mrs. Martin has provided strong leadership throughout her tenure in Savanna, serving as a master teacher to many, including



Julie Martin
Savanna's 2024 Teacher of the Year

those who went on to be hired as teachers in Savanna. She's served as a grade level team lead, BTSA Mentor and the Hansen PTA Secretary. In addition, she's volunteered at the annual Reach the Reader night in various roles, Hansen's Family STEM Day, Holder's Family Math Night, and served on the School Site Council, Student Study Team, and site leadership teams. She has helped to coordinate Hansen School's jog-a-thon and dance-a-thon, and has been actively involved in the annual Hansen fall festival. Mrs. Martin, along with all of the other amazing teachers in Savanna, has had a

tremendous impact in our schools, on our students, and in our community; she's gone above and beyond during a challenging time in education and in our lives. We're proud that Mrs. Martin will be representing all of the outstanding teachers we have, demonstrating that Savanna truly is a special place to teach!

New for the 2023-24 school year, we're delighted at the success of the B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Academy, which stands for Build • Realize • Imagine • Grow • Harvest • Thrive, structured for two, three, and four-year-old children in both half-day and full-day formats. The B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Preschool is open to all children meeting the age criteria living within our boundaries. With the lack of affordable, licensed in Orange County, we're excited to be able to provide this opportunity for our parents and youngest children, ensuring a strong academic, social, and emotional foundation that will serve as a building block for their academic career. With an array of interactive learning activities focused on student needs and interests in a safe, secure, nurturing environment, our youngest learners are indeed gaining the skills necessary to be amazing Leaders of Tomorrow!

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 3

We continue to be inspired with the success of students in our after-school program W.I.N.G.S. which stands for Wonder • Inspire • Nurture • Grow • Succeed -- and our students have done just that throughout in the first trimester of school! With nearly a third of our students attending the program at each of our four schools, children are engaged in hands-on learning that is extending the school day through enrichment activities. From learning new sports to trying their hand at a variety of art forms, from learning to play violin in Savanna Strings to getting into character through acting classes, from joining voices through choral music to engaging in engineering lessons, from learning to program tiny robots to completing homework assignments, students are actively involved in a myriad of fun, interesting, and motivating pursuits. Open to all students enrolled at our schools, children enjoy having the opportunity to select clubs they wish to join, time to practice new skills, and help with homework. If you have a skill or talent you might want to share and teach to students in an hour-long club for four weeks, we invite you to contact Mrs. Phoenix Pineda, Program Coordinator, at 714-484-9026. It's not unusual for students to ask parents to pick them up later than planned so they can complete the activity they are involved in. Today's Learners are training to be Tomorrow's Leaders through the skills they are learning both in school and in W.I.N.G.S.!

As we continue to address the social-emotional development, safety, and well-being of students, the continued implementation of our social-emotional curriculum across all grade levels provides students opportunities to cultivate a growth mindset, recognize emotions, develop empathy toward others and practice problem-solving skills. Knowing that children thrive academically when their social and emotional needs are met, we've partnered with the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Orange County Department of Education to help meet these needs. Each school has embraced Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) implementation, ensuring positive behaviors throughout the campus. Successful partnership programs to involve parents in school activities will be enhanced as we continue to strengthen the home to school connections while allowing students and parents opportunities to flourish together. Realizing the importance of providing health professionals on our school campuses, we have expanded both our nursing and counseling staff on school campuses and in our W.I.N.G.S. program for the 2023-24 school year. A combination of a rich, well-rounded curriculum, highly qualified and caring staff and a long-standing commitment to excellence is ensuring that we prepare our students to meet the demands of an ever-changing global society.

Our Saturday Academy program has experienced enthusiastic participation from students in the first three sessions of the school year, with double the number of children participating over last year at the same time! Attendance at Saturday Academy provides the opportunity for a student to make up absences and to receive additional academic support. Knowing that good attendance at the elementary school level is the responsibility of parents, Saturday Academy is not punitive. Instead, students are exposed to engaging lessons as well as have the opportunity to participate in hands-on academic activities. We also offer a Parent Club during Saturday Academy where topics including effective communication, helping children say no to bullying, strategies for stress management, accessing community resources, art projects reflecting family togetherness, and more. Parents enjoy learning while their children learn, helping to ensure that our parents are equipped to help us raise up Tomorrow's Leaders!

Because student and staff safety are paramount, we are continually assessing the safety and security needs of our campuses and are proud of the systems we have in place. We have consistently undertaken measures to ensure the safety of our schools in the past and will continue to do so. Furthering our commitment to student and staff safety, additional cameras were added in a variety of areas throughout the District. While the cameras provide the ability for monitoring on an as-needed basis, there is no audio recording. We're extremely grateful that we've been able to complete much-needed enhancements that will provide students and staff with safe, secure facilities to meet the demands of 21st Century learning. These projects and more will impact our children's education and our community for generations to come.

We invite you to follow the excitement of learning on our FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SavannaSchoolDistrict/> where you will be able to see the many ways students and staff are engaged in educational activities and celebrating accomplishments on a daily basis!

Each day students have a new opportunity to learn and grow. Each day, we have the chance to create a world of possibilities. When I reflect on what makes a good school district a GREAT school district, I recognize that it is "people" opening doors of possibilities for our students; people like our staff who are committed to what they do each day to ensure student success that we can be proud of; people like our parents who provide the home support for our students so that they can reach their potential; and people like all those in our community who have contributed to our successes in so many ways. Because of all of the support from a wide variety of people in our community, the 2023-24 year is continuing to be a successful one in which we take tremendous pride; it is through these successes that we believe today's learners will be amazing future leaders!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Superintendent Dr. Sue Johnson begins her message on page 2 highlighting Savanna's Teacher of the Year for 2024, Julie Martin. Dr. Johnson's message continues with information about the B.R.I.G.H.T. Learners Academy and the W.I.N.G.S. after-school program. Savanna students have wonderful opportunities available to become Today's Learners and Tomorrow's Leaders.

Throughout this issue you will read about the many opportunities available as students enjoy learning.

As we will soon be celebrating Thanksgiving, I'd like to thank you, our readers, for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Students thrive when their parents and community are involved.

Our next issue is March 6.



Happy Thanksgiving from the School News Staff!

School News

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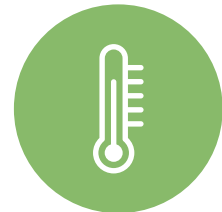
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Superintendent Dr. Sue Johnson at Hansen School Site

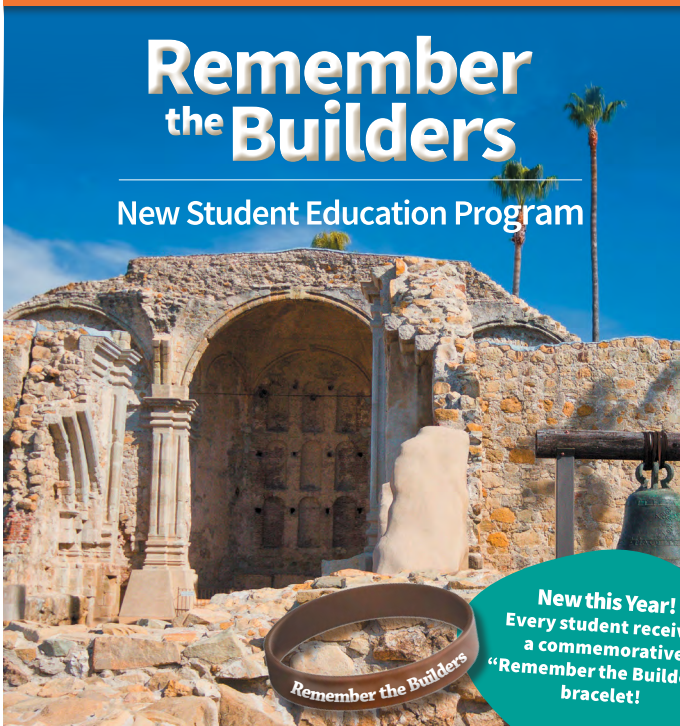


Board President, Mrs. Brown, and Superintendent Dr. Sue Johnson at Silverado Days Pancake Breakfast

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Lauren Stuart
Principal

Cerritos Cheetah's are ROARING!

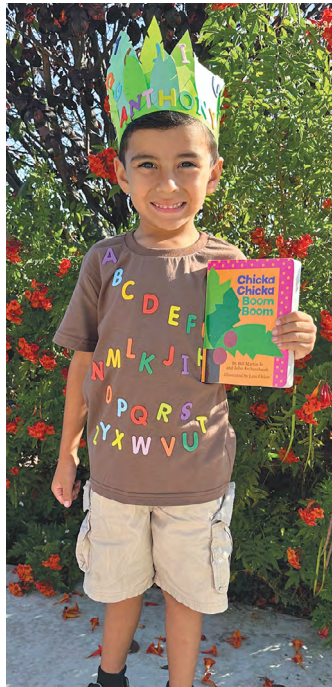
Cerritos Cheetah's started the school year off on the right foot and have continued to do so with our P.B.I.S. (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) Program. Our students R.O.A.R (Respectful, Organize, Accountable, and Resilient) daily through their positive behaviors. At the beginning of the school year, every student and teacher walked

the campus, station by station to reinforce all of the rules and expectations at Cerritos. The teachers and staff work hard to make sure that every student knows the expectations of the school. When a student shows us their best, they receive a ROAR card that can be redeemed for a variety of prizes from our ROAR cart. Upper graders are allowed to redeem their ROAR Cards for different activities or events throughout the year. The students have continued to make us proud and are earning their ROAR cards along the way by showing off their positive behaviors. Our Cheetahs continue to ROAR showing their very best behavior each and every day.

Fall into a Good Book

First graders at Cerritos celebrated their annual Book Character Day. Students and teachers dressed up as their favorite book characters. Students were then tasked with creating a thinking map about their favorite characters, character traits. The first graders then had the opportunity to present to the class and share all of the character traits they found in the story. The first-grade classes spent

several weeks focusing on using key details in a text to describe characters in a story. The event gave students a chance to practice all the skills they've been learning in class. Students were also exposed to new authors and books. Everyone had an amazing time sharing their favorite books and dressing up like the main characters in the stories.



Hansen School

1300 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3835 • www.savsd.org/school/hansen



Amy Slevcove
Principal

Hansen Families Enjoy the Annual Fall Festival

On October 25th, students, families, and staff celebrated the season during our Annual Fall Festival. This after school event invited the Hansen community to show off their Halloween costumes, play games for prizes, enjoy food and drinks, and even go home with a delicious dessert. Hansen School families-- past, present, and future--enjoyed

quality time with each other, whether it was playing a ring toss game, participating in the Cake Walk, or hoping to win an exciting raffle prize. The Hansen staff truly enjoyed seeing the big smiles on the students' faces as they showed off their costumes and shared their family photos taken at the Fall Festival photo booth. We understand the importance of the home/school connection, which is why our Fall Festival tradition continues to be a huge success year after year.



Creating Leaders at Hansen School

It is evident that our students are committed to the continued success of Hansen School. Their dedication to serve our student population and give back to the community is commendable. Led by Mrs. Estrada and Mrs. Jackson, several student candidates campaigned with posters and speeches in hopes of being a Student Council Officer. During our monthly school assembly, three of our hardworking Huskies were sworn into their role in front of their peers, demonstrating their commitment to serve as the Student Council President, Vice President, and Secretary. The Student Council Body is comprised of 25 students with representatives from all 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes. We are excited to see what our Student Council accomplishes this school year. Some of our upcoming activities include a schoolwide Pen Pal Program, Thankful Grams, and Random Acts of Kindness to name a few. At Hansen School we are dedicated to encouraging life-long learners and leaders.





Jason Blade
Principal

Saturday Academy Provides Many Opportunities

Saturday Academy is off to a flying start! Ten Saturday mornings throughout the school year, students from all Savanna schools are provided with the option to attend Saturday Academy. Our Holder Hawks have been taking advantage of the learning opportunities. In addition to a Saturday morning full of supplemental learning in the subjects of Math, Science, ELA, and Writing, students also receive breakfast and brunch, have a dedicated workshop/TLC block, and enjoy time with friends during reading buddies.



But wait, there's another perk! If a student has had any absences throughout the year, attending Saturday Academy will count as one made-up absence per Saturday Academy attended. This is a great opportunity for students to meet the qualifications for the Outstanding Attendance incentive this year. Each student with fewer than three absences and no tardies will be eligible to receive an Outstanding Attendance t-shirt and participate in a special field trip in the spring!

I'm proud of our Holder students who have been attending Saturday Academy to make up any absences or just to get in some extra learning. I'm equally proud of our teachers that have committed ten of their Saturdays to help our H.A.W.K.S remain Honorable, Accountable, Welcoming, Kind and Scholarly. The Saturday Academy is another example of the Savanna School District and our community working together to benefit our students. Well-done Hawks; see you next Saturday!



Celebrating Student Success

The Holder Staff had the opportunity to honor our students during the first trimester awards assembly. Teachers at all grade levels were able to recognize our fantastic Holder students for a variety of reasons including their athletic prowess, academic excellence, outstanding effort and amazing citizenship over the course of the first trimester. It was an awesome day for the Holder Staff to be able to celebrate our students' success with their family and friends.

 **Saturday Academy**

September 23, 2023	January 20, 2024
October 7, 2023	February 3, 2024
October 21, 2023	March 2, 2024
November 4, 2023	March 16, 2024
December 2, 2023	April 6, 2024

Saturday Academy is held at Hansen School from 8:00am to 12:00pm
Breakfast will be provided at 7:45 am

For questions:
Maria Manzano (714) 484-9022 (Spanish/English)
Ann Nguyen (714) 484-9020 (Vietnamese/English)

Twila Reid School

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3840 • www.savsd.org/school/reid



Maria Garcia
Principal

Bubble Fun Run

A fun fact about Twila Reid is that many years ago Twila Reid used to be a strawberry field! On October 25 the same field was used to unfold Twila Reid's very first Bubble Fun Run where all students participated; from preschool to 6th grade. Students and families worked hard to ensure funding for student activities throughout the 2023-2024 school year. All Reid Rams were held accountable and ran for 30 minutes to complete the laps they had pledged to run. Music, bubbles, laughter, high-fives and cheers could be seen and heard in our very own Twila Reid field as all students and staff enjoyed a different, yet fun-filled, morning. Thank you to all parents, students, staff for making the very first Twila Reid Bubble Fun Run a spectacular success!



Fall Festival at Twila Reid!

Fall is in the air at Twila Reid! Twila Reid School hosted their very first Fall Festival on Friday, October 27th. Families were able to access and participate an array of booths in our field without charge. Teachers, parent volunteers and the Western High School boys' basketball team graciously donated their time and ran the booths. Booths included games such as a pumpkin ring toss, a basketball toss, inflatable sport games, crafts, a cake walk, and a hula hoop challenge. Visitors were also able to enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and coffee. It was definitely a rewarding feeling to hear the sound of laughter and excitement, to socialize with parents and see families interacting with one another as well as to experience students running and playing with their peers throughout the event. The Fall feeling of crispness was accompanied by one of the most edifying feelings of collaboration and the overflow of love that was brought to Twila Reid's 2023 Fall Festival.



Fritzi Gragg
Preschool
Supervisor

BRIGHT Learners Academy Celebrates the Arrival of the Fall Season!

With the arrival of Autumn, Preschool students have been busy exploring pumpkins, leaves and seeds. These fall focused activities gave our youngest students an understanding of the changing seasons. Through this exploration, they were able to engage their senses by touching, smelling and even tasting the different parts of a pumpkin. Sensory experiences help preschoolers develop fine motor skills as well as expose them to textures and smells. Exploring pumpkins, seeds and leaves provided an opportunity for students to expand their vocabulary by learning the names of the different parts of a pumpkin and leaf. The students sharpened their observational



skills by becoming investigators as they explored the features of pumpkins and leaves, the different patterns on their skin, and the different shapes and sizes of pumpkin seeds and leaves.

On October 19th, 2023, Preschoolers participated in the Great Shake Out, an annual earthquake preparedness event. Emergencies can be frightening for young children. Practicing drills regularly helps familiarize children with school procedures, reduces fear in a real-life situation and builds their confidence. We are so proud of how our preschoolers were able to quietly line up and follow their teachers to their designated



evacuation site! They waited calmly until they were given the all clear to return to their classrooms.

Preschool students and teachers participated in Read for the Record on October 26th, 2023, the world's largest shared reading experience to celebrate children's early language and social-emotional development. This event builds an intergenerational community through reading by bringing millions of children and adults together as they read the same book on the same day. This year we read *With Lots of Love*, written by Jenny Torres Sanchez and illustrated by Andre' Ceolin.

Our preschool students are certainly experiencing a wide variety of learning experiences, leading them to a BRIGHT future!



W.I.N.G.S. After School Program

1300 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/484-9026 • <https://www.savsd.k12.ca.us/info/school-district/w-i-n-g-s--after-school-program>



Phoenix Pineda
Coordinator

Outdoor STEM

Students in our afterschool program, WINGS, have spent afternoons this Fall participating in STEM based activities. Our STEM activities are designed to help

the students of Savanna School District “Wonder” as they use problem solving, critical thinking and creativity to develop their projects. Wonder is the first word in our acronym W.I.N.G.S. as it has been an essential trait of all changemakers in history. We are helping to build the capacity of our students to wonder and then act.

Students of all ages participated in our annual rain gutter regatta races. Students analyzed a large assortment of materials to determine what they should use to build their vessel to have it not only stay afloat, but to also be propelled by the wind of a fan. Students then attempted to use the knowledge they had gained in their previous experience of boat building and apply it to building a boat centered around a single piece of a pool noodle.



Students race their creations!

WINGS students also took their STEM learning outside with a bit of chemistry! Students created two different types of bubble solution from scratch. As students designed their own bubble wands and went to work blowing bubbles, they were asked to analyze the difference in the two types bubbles. They were amazed when one of the bubbles could be held for long periods of time on a wet hand. Students instantly went to work trying to analyze what made the difference in their homemade creations.

After school time is a wonderful opportunity for students to get out of the classroom for learning and Fall is such a beautiful time in which to do it. Students in WINGS can get out, get creative, and sometimes get a little messy too!



Students found that they were able to hold some of their bubbles in their hand.

We Love Our Dogs Word Search Contest

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

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Savanna 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 | |

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Z	G	Z	T	F	R	X	S	U	E	L	D	O	O	P

Musical String Instruments Word Search Contest

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

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

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

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P	I	Y	H	I	I	T	H	I	I	H	I	L	E	A
V	H	S	U	C	K	C	W	Z	T	V	T	B	C	H
P	S	J	S	I	I	K	P	U	S	A	A	I	P	V
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M	S	E	G	Y	K	C	B	L	T	A	E	D	H	D
F	K	L	M	A	N	D	O	L	I	N	N	I	V	H
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