

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Hawthorne School District



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A Community Schools District



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HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT



NO TIME FOR BREAKFAST AT HOME?
¿NO HAY TIEMPO PARA DESAYUNAR EN CASA?

We've made it easy for your student to enjoy a healthy breakfast at school.

School breakfast is proven to improve student behavior, test scores, and attendance, so don't let your student miss out on the most important meal of the school day!

Hemos hecho que sea fácil para que su estudiante disfrute de un desayuno saludable en la escuela.

Se ha demostrado que el desayuno escolar mejora el comportamiento de los estudiantes, los resultados de los exámenes y la asistencia a la escuela, así que no permita que su estudiante se pierda la comida más importante del día escolar!

ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF A WELL BALANCED SCHOOL BREAKFAST FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS

DISFRUTE DE LA CONVENIENCIA DE UN DESAYUNO ESCOLAR BIEN BALANCEADO Y GRATIS PARA TODOS LOS ESTUDIANTES FOR ALL STUDENTS

This institution is an equal opportunity employer
Esta institución es un proveedor que brinda igualdad de oportunidades.

HSD – A Community Schools District

The Hawthorne School District is proud to be a member of California's Community School Partnership Program (CCSPP). A community school is a "Whole-Child" school improvement strategy where the school district and schools work closely with families, staff, and students. Community schools partner with community agencies and organizations to align community resources to improve student outcomes.

With ten of our schools qualifying for the CCSPP, we are now hiring teachers and community liaisons to help make our Community School Program a reality for our families. Each school will work to implement a unique school plan tailored to their individual school community. These plans, and the services associated with them, will be refined with input from a school-based Community School Advisory Council. This model will result in the implementation of a wide array of programs and services, such as a health service center that will soon be opened at York School, expanded dental and vision screenings at all schools, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes that will soon be offered throughout the District.

When we (schools, families, community partners, and more) work together, our kids win. That belief is the foundation of the Community Schools Model and we cannot wait to offer these services (and more) to you and your family!



Dr. Brian Markarian
Superintendent

HSD – Un Distrito Escolar Comunitario

El Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne se enorgullece de ser miembro del Programa de Asociación de Escuelas Comunitarias de California (CCSPP). Una escuela comunitaria es una estrategia de mejoramiento escolar "Whole-Child" donde el distrito escolar y las escuelas trabajan estrechamente con las familias, el personal y los estudiantes. Las escuelas comunitarias se asocian con agencias y organizaciones comunitarias para alinear los recursos de la comunidad con el fin de mejorar los resultados de los estudiantes.

Con diez de nuestras escuelas que califican para el CCSPP, ahora estamos contratando maestros y enlaces de la comunidad para ayudar a hacer de nuestro Programa de Escuelas Comunitarias una realidad para nuestras familias. Cada escuela trabajará para implementar un plan escolar único adaptado a su comunidad escolar individual. Estos planes, y los servicios asociados a ellos, se perfeccionarán con las aportaciones de un Consejo Asesor de la Escuela Comunitaria basado en la escuela. Este modelo dará lugar a la implantación de una amplia variedad de programas y servicios, como un centro de servicios para la salud que pronto se abrirá en la escuela York, la ampliación de las revisiones dentales y oftalmológicas en todas las escuelas y las clases de inglés como segunda lengua (ESL) que pronto se ofrecerán en todo el distrito.

Cuando nosotros (escuelas, familias, socios de la comunidad, y más) trabajamos juntos, nuestros hijos ganan. ¡Esa creencia es la base del Modelo de Escuelas Comunitarias y estamos ansiosos por ofrecer estos servicios (y más) para usted y su familia!



CALLING ALL 3RD-12TH GRADE STUDENTS

ART CONTEST



Artwork by Rue Hawkins - Birney Elementary (2023)

INSPIRE YOUR COMMUNITY TO ADOPT
WATER CONSERVATION AS WAY OF
LIFE THROUGH THE
"BEING WATER WISE IS..."
ART CONTEST

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FOR CONTEST DETAILS, VISIT

WESTBASIN.ORG/ARTCONTEST

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Ioana Pal, Psy.D.
licensed clinical psychologist,
Stramski Children's Developmental
Center at Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital Long Beach

Recognizing & Mitigating Toxic Stress in Kids

In today's world, 1 in 3 children face the challenge of toxic stress – a complex interplay of environmental, personal and physical factors that impact their well-being. Recognizing signs of toxic stress in kids and empowering parents with proactive strategies is crucial in helping children achieve positive mental health. Some examples include prolonged exposure to domestic violence or other stressors in the home, abuse, neglect, financial or other instabilities.

Navigating the challenges of modern life can be intense, especially for children experiencing an elevated level of stress. Stressors like excessive device use, prolonged indoor activities and exposure to distressing news increase anxiety. Limited resources or witnessing parental hardships in a challenging economy can add a layer of stress. These stressors may resonate more with parents, emphasizing the need for support and understanding with children.

Recognizing the early signs is instrumental in preventing the potential long-term effects of toxic stress on a child's development. Toxic stress can impair cognitive, emotional, social and physical development, and increase the risk of various health problems later in life, such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression, and substance abuse.

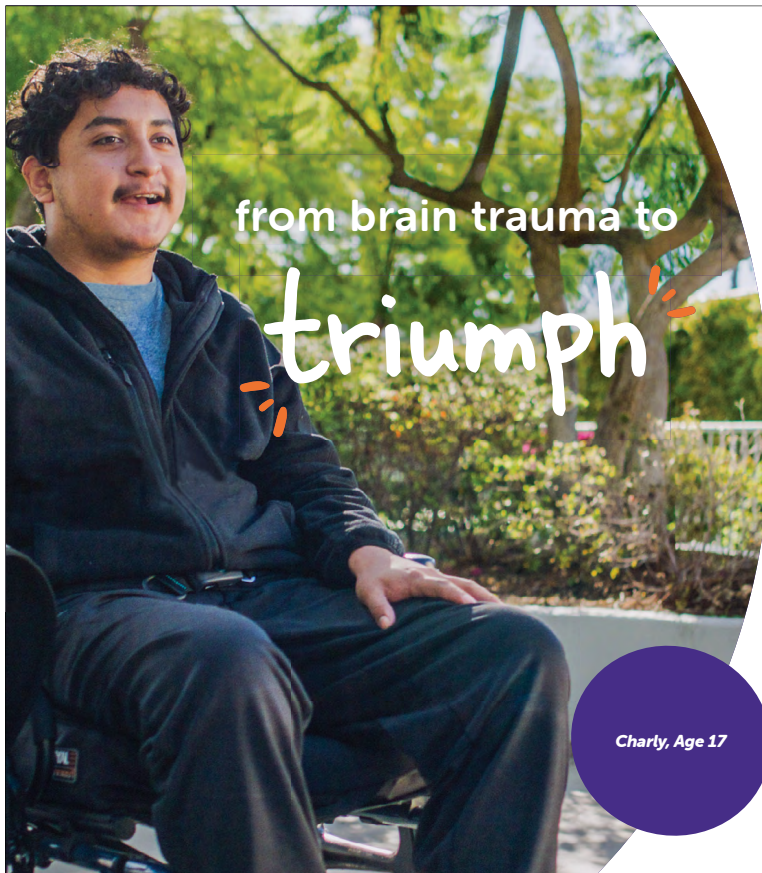
Signs of toxic stress in children include:

- Difficulty with learning, or regression in behavior and skills
- Irritability, anger, fear or withdrawal
- Trouble sleeping or eating
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches
- Low self-esteem or confidence

Caregivers who recognize stress factors that may impact a child's well-being is often the first step. Open communication and creating an environment where a child's feelings are not only acknowledged, but also expressed freely, help build resilience and emotional well-being. Addressing toxic stress involves incorporating stress-reducing activities into daily routines, such as mindfulness practice, outdoor activity, healthy boundaries, and family time.

Seeking professional support is essential. Pediatricians, child psychologists and school counselors can provide interventions suited to a child's unique circumstances and well-being.

MemorialCare's Stramski Children's Developmental Center helps children and families understand and manage toxic stress. Call (714) 377-6993 or visit millerchildrens.memorialcare.org/locations/stramski-childrens-developmental-center to learn more.



Charly, Age 17



It takes a village.

Charly suffered a fall while biking — a severe brain trauma that threatened his life. Until Miller Children's & Women's Hospital helped his brain heal. Our therapists helped him walk and talk again and our highly specialized pediatric team dedicated themselves to his recovery. Because we knew, to lift Charly back up again, it would take a village. So when we watched Charly walk the stage at high school graduation — supported by his physical therapist — we knew he'd only keep going.

Learn more.

millerchildrens.org/care

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach
Cherese Mari Lauthere Children's Village
Outpatient Specialty Centers from the
South Bay to Orange County

School News

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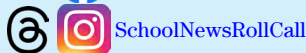
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Happy New Year!
This is our 14th year publishing the excellence from the Hawthorne School District. The curriculum may change, but the commitment to students is always consistent.

Dr. Brian Markarian begins this issue with his message on page 3

introducing the Community Schools Model. As he says, "Working together, our kids win."

Be sure to enter our word search contest on pages 19. (All ages may enter.) We had so many entries last issue that I awarded three winners.

Our next issue is March 13.

EVERY CHILD PLAYS



Please see
our ad
on page 17



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Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • bcms.hawthornesd.org

Celebrating Success and Continued Family Involvement

We are thrilled to announce that our school has been recognized with the prestigious Schools to Watch designation by the California League of Schools. This national network includes over 600 schools in 17 states, and we are proud to join the elite list of schools (approximately 77 schools in California out of over 7,000). To achieve this recognition, our school underwent a rigorous application process, which included a thorough review by experienced middle-grades experts. Following the successful review, we hosted a validation visit that confirmed our commitment to excellence in education. As a result, we are officially recognized as a California School to Watch. BCMS extends our sincere gratitude to the students, families, and partners who participated in our focus group, contributing to the validation of our outstanding school programs. The family input was invaluable, and we are excited to announce that due to the success of our last family forum, we plan to host another opportunity to generate more input and discussion regarding our school community on February 27th. Thanks to our ongoing family involvement and support, we look forward to celebrating continued achievement together as a proud Bud Carson Middle School community.



John Paterson
Principal

Celebrando el Éxito y la Participación Familiar Continua

Estamos encantados de anunciar que nuestra escuela ha sido reconocida con la prestigiosa designación Schools to Watch de la Liga de Escuelas de California. Esta red nacional incluye más de 600 escuelas en 17 estados y estamos orgullosos de unirnos a la lista élite de escuelas (aproximadamente 77 escuelas en California de más de 7000). Para lograr este reconocimiento, nuestra escuela se sometió a un riguroso proceso de solicitud, que incluyó una revisión exhaustiva por parte de expertos en grados intermedios. Luego de la revisión exitosa, organizamos una visita de validación que confirmó nuestro compromiso con la excelencia en la educación. Como resultado, somos reconocidos oficialmente como una Escuela a Seguir de California. BCMS extiende nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a los estudiantes, familias y socios que participaron en nuestro grupo focal, contribuyendo a la validación de nuestros destacados programas escolares. El aporte de la familia fue invaluable y estamos emocionados de anunciar que debido al éxito de nuestro último foro familiar, planeamos organizar otra oportunidad para generar más aportes y debates sobre nuestra comunidad escolar el 27 de febrero. Gracias a nuestra continua participación y apoyo familiar, esperamos celebrar juntos los logros continuos como una comunidad orgullosa de la escuela secundaria Bud Carson.



CALIFORNIA
SCHOOLS TO WATCH
HIGH PERFORMING MODEL MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Schools to Watch announces the good news to BCMS
Schools to Watch anuncia las buenas noticias a BCMS

Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • euc.hawthornesd.org

Family Resource Center

By Ms. Richardson and Mr. Goldstein

The native plants in the Eucalyptus Friendship Garden are not the only things putting down roots on campus these days! Since November, staff members have been cultivating a “Community School” at Eucalyptus. Room 14 will be the new “Family Resource Center”, a space where parents, guardians, grandparents, and more can find resources to help their students thrive. The “F.R.C.” will provide the fertile soil from which the seeds of family engagement and involvement can grow. As the Community School takes root, there will be more opportunities for after school enrichment activities and academic supports for students, as well as workshops and classes for parents. It’s imperative that families are a part of the decision-making process. Together we can better determine what our families need to continue to steadily grow. Stay tuned for more information about our Family Resource Center, located on the East campus in room 14!



Mike Goldstein
Principal

Centro de Recursos Familiares

Por Ms. Richardson y Mr. Goldstein

¡Las plantas nativas en el Jardín de la Amistad de Eucalyptos no son las únicas que están echando raíces en el campus en estos días! Desde noviembre, los miembros del personal han estado cultivando una “Escuela Comunitaria” en Eucalyptus. El salón 14 será el nuevo “Centro de recursos familiares”, un espacio donde los padres, tutores, abuelos y más podrán encontrar recursos para ayudar a sus estudiantes a prosperar. El “F.R.C.” proporcionará el suelo fértil del que podrán crecer las semillas del compromiso y la participación familiar. A medida que la Escuela Comunitaria se arraigue, habrá más oportunidades para actividades de enriquecimiento después de la escuela y apoyo académico para los estudiantes, así como talleres y clases para padres. Es imperativo que las familias sean parte del proceso de toma de decisiones. Juntos podemos determinar mejor lo que nuestras familias necesitan para seguir creciendo de manera constante. ¡Estén atentos para obtener más información sobre nuestro Centro de Recursos Familiares, ubicado en el campus Este en el salón 14!



“Welcome to the Eucalyptus Family Resource Center”
“Bienvenidos al Centro de Recursos Familiares de Eucalypto”

Hawthorne Math & Science Academy

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8184 • hmsa.hawthornesd.org

HMSA Alumni Day

On January 18 and 19, Hawthorne Math and Science Academy (HMSA) held an Alumni day in the afternoon for the students. Alumni from the classes of 2021, 2020, 2018, and 2017 came back to campus and shared their experiences of being a student at HMSA, job and college experiences, life outside of high school, and overall advice. Students appreciated the tips on how to survive HMSA and successfully balance academic and social schedules. A reception was held for the alumni following the presentations where teachers could reconnect with their former students, catch up, and enjoy light refreshments.

Ms. Villa shared, "It is always so exciting to welcome our alumni back on campus. It's funny that they cannot wait to graduate but when they come back to visit, they always say how they miss HMSA."

Words of wisdom from an alumni shared, "— for those worried about college, don't be. You will be okay!"

We are so proud of our alumni as they make their MARK in the community.



Dr. Anakonia Matsumoto
Principal

Día de Ex-Alumnos de HMSA

El 18 y 19 de enero, Hawthorne Math and Science Academy (HMSA) celebró un día de exalumnos por la tarde para los estudiantes. Los exalumnos de las promociones de 2021, 2020, 2018 y 2017 regresaron al campus y compartieron sus experiencias como estudiantes en HMSA, experiencias laborales y universitarias, la vida fuera de la escuela secundaria y consejos generales. Los estudiantes apreciaron los consejos sobre cómo sobrevivir en HMSA y equilibrar exitosamente los horarios académicos y sociales. Después de las presentaciones se llevó a cabo una recepción para los ex alumnos, donde los maestros pudieron volver a conectarse con sus antiguos alumnos, ponerse al día y disfrutar de refrigerios ligeros.

La Sra. Villa compartió: "Siempre es muy emocionante darle la bienvenida a nuestros ex alumnos al campus. Es curioso que no puedan esperar a graduarse, pero cuando regresan de visita, siempre dicen que extrañan a HMSA".

Un exalumno compartió palabras de sabiduría: "Para aquellos preocupados por la universidad, no lo estén. ¡Vas a estar bien!"

Estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros ex alumnos ya que dejan su MARCA en la comunidad.



Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • hms.hawthornesd.org

HMS Family Resource Center Coming Soon

By Julie Brown, Community Schools Teacher on Special Assignment

The Hawthorne School District was awarded the Community Schools Grant to increase support and services to Hawthorne families. Community schools are designed to provide services that integrate academics, health services, and community involvement to address social, emotional, and physical health needs.

Hawthorne Middle School will benefit from this funding, which will be used to create a Community School and Family Resource Center on our campus. The HMS Family Resource Center will offer adult education classes, parenting workshops, and a variety of resources and services. The Center will also facilitate opportunities, awareness, and communication between school staff and outside agencies to help parents stay informed and involved in their child's academic journey.

We are very grateful to have this opportunity to create our Community School and look forward to announcing the opening of our HMS Family Resource Center soon.



Martha Castellanos
Principal

Próximamente el Centro de Recursos Familiares de HMS

Por Julie Brown, Maestra de Escuelas Comunitarias en Asignación Especial

El Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne recibió una subvención para escuelas comunitarias con la meta de aumentar el apoyo y los servicios a las familias de Hawthorne. Las escuelas comunitarias están diseñadas para brindar servicios que integran lo académico, los servicios de salud y la participación comunitaria para abordar las necesidades de salud social, emocional y física.

Hawthorne Middle School usara estos fondos para crear una escuela comunitaria y un centro de recursos familiares en nuestro campus. El Centro de Recursos Familiares de HMS ofrecerá clases de educación para adultos, talleres para padres y una variedad de recursos y servicios. El Centro también facilitará oportunidades, concientización y comunicación entre el personal de la escuela y agencias externas para ayudar a los padres a mantenerse informados e involucrados en la carrera académica de sus hijos.

Estamos muy agradecidos de tener esta oportunidad de crear nuestra Escuela Comunitaria y esperamos anunciar pronto la apertura de nuestro Centro de Recursos Familiares de HMS.



Julie Brown, Community Schools Teacher on Special Assignment is currently working on converting HMS Room 1 into the Family Resource Center.

Julie Brown, maestra de escuelas comunitarias con asignación especial, está trabajando actualmente para convertir el salón 1 de HMS en el centro de recursos familiares.

Mr. Berumen's Introductory Letter

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome I've received since joining the Jefferson family. Your kindness and hospitality have made my transition truly delightful.

Let me share a little about myself, I have been a member of the Hawthorne School District family since 1997. My career began as a long term substitute teacher at York Elementary School. After one month as a substitute teacher, I became the 7th Grade Life Science teacher at Hawthorne Middle School.

In 2003, I became the first Biology teacher at the Hawthorne Math & Science Academy, HMSA. During my last year of teaching Biology at HMSA, I received the school's Teacher of the Year award. In 2007, I became the assistant principal of HMSA, and in 2010 I became HMSA's third principal. In 2016, I was awarded the Hawthorne School District's Roger G. Bly Leadership Award.

I earned my Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Occidental College. I then earned my teaching credential and a Master's degree from National University. In 2004, I went back to school to earn my administrative credential and second Master's degree in Educational Leadership from California State University Northridge.

I have been married for 22 years and a father to three children. In my free time, I enjoy being a spectator at my children's games and watching the Dodgers. Recently, I re-read *The Martian* by Andy Weir and *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell.



Esau Berumen
Principal

Carta de Presentación del Sr. Berumen

Quiero expresar mi más sincero agradecimiento por la cálida bienvenida que he recibido desde que me uní a la familia Jefferson. Su amabilidad y hospitalidad han hecho que mi transición sea realmente placentera.

Permítanme compartirles un poco sobre mí. He sido miembro de la familia del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne desde 1997. Mi carrera comenzó como maestro suplente a largo plazo en la Escuela Primaria

York. Después de un mes como maestro suplente, me convertí en maestro de ciencias biológicas de séptimo grado en la escuela secundaria Hawthorne.

En el 2003, me convertí en el primer profesor de biología en la Academia de Matemáticas y Ciencias de Hawthorne, HMSA. Durante mi último año enseñando Biología en HMSA, recibí el premio de Maestro del Año de la escuela. En el 2007, me convertí en el subdirector de HMSA y en el 2010 me convertí en el tercer director de HMSA. En el 2016, recibí el Premio al Liderazgo Roger G. Bly del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne.

Obtuve mi licenciatura en Matemáticas en Occidental College. Luego obtuve mi credencial de docente y una maestría de la Universidad Nacional. En el 2004, regresé a la escuela para obtener mi credencial administrativa y mi segunda maestría en Liderazgo Educativo de la Universidad Estatal de California en Northridge.

He estado casado durante 22 años y soy padre de tres hijos. En mi tiempo libre, disfruto ser espectador de los juegos de mis hijos y ver a los Dodgers. Recientemente, releí *El marciano* de Andy Weir y *Valores atípicos* de Malcolm Gladwell.

Happy Valentine's Day
from the
School News staff!



Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • kornblum.hawthornesd.org

The Amazing Math Race

Kornblum Elementary's "The Amazing Math Race" on December 7th, 2023, was an outstanding success! Over 132 students and their families participated in this thrilling event, showcasing the community's commitment to math education. The engaging math race featured six challenges aligned with Kinder-5th grade Common Core Content Standards, fostering collaborative learning among families. The event was led by Mrs. Langsdale, the math coach, and organized by the math night committee. This event not only enhanced math skills but also strengthened family bonds.

The enthusiasm was palpable, with families actively participating in each activity. The presence of our local access cable tv channel captured these memorable moments, ensuring a wider community could share the joy. Kudos to everyone involved in making "The Amazing Math Race" a resounding success, reinforcing Kornblum Elementary's dedication to quality education and community involvement!



**Mytress
Middleton**
Principal

The Amazing Math Race

¡La increíble carrera de matemáticas de la escuela Kornblum el 7 de diciembre de 2023 fue un éxito extraordinario! Más de 132 estudiantes y sus familias participaron en este emocionante evento, que muestra el compromiso de la comunidad con la educación matemática. La carrera de matemáticas presentó seis desafíos alineados con los Estándares de Contenido Básico Común de jardín de infantes a quinto grado, fomentando el aprendizaje colaborativo entre las familias. El evento fue dirigido por la Sra. Langsdale,

la entrenadora de matemáticas, y organizado por el comité de la noche de matemáticas. Este evento no sólo mejoró las habilidades matemáticas sino que también fortaleció los vínculos familiares.

El entusiasmo era palpable, con las familias participando activamente en cada actividad. La presencia de nuestro canal de televisión por cable de acceso local capturó estos momentos memorables, asegurando que una comunidad más amplia pudiera compartir la alegría. ¡Felicitaciones a todos los involucrados en hacer de "La increíble carrera de matemáticas" un éxito rotundo, reforzando la dedicación de la Escuela Kornblum a la educación de calidad y la participación comunitaria!



**Kornblum families prepare to begin "The Amazing Math Race!"
Las familias de Kornblum se preparan para comenzar "The Amazing Math Race."**

Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1003 • pvms.hawthornesd.org

Family Involvement, Resources, and Opportunities

We are very excited to announce that PVMS is in the process of becoming a Community School. Funding from the Community Schools grant will provide support, resources, and services to our PVMS families and community members.

We will be able to provide services that integrate community involvement, health services, and academics while focusing on addressing the needs of our families related to social, emotional, and physical health.

Our new Family Resource Center at PVMS will offer workshops, adult education classes, college and career readiness, student enrichment interventions, as well as a variety of resources and services. This Family Resource Center (FRC) will also provide support to help facilitate opportunities, awareness, and communication between school staff and outside agencies to help parents stay informed and involved in their child's academic journey.

We are very grateful to have this opportunity to create our Community School and look forward to announcing the opening of our PVMS Family Resource Center very soon.



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Participación Familiar, Recursos y Oportunidades

Estamos muy emocionados de anunciar que PVMS está en proceso de convertirse en una escuela comunitaria. Los fondos de la subvención de Escuelas Comunitarias brindarán apoyo, recursos y servicios a nuestras familias y miembros de la comunidad de PVMS.

Podremos brindar servicios que integren la participación comunitaria, los servicios de salud y lo académico mientras nos enfocamos en abordar las necesidades de nuestras familias relacionadas con la salud social, emocional y física.

Nuestro nuevo Centro de Recursos Familiares en PVMS ofrecerá talleres, clases de educación para adultos, preparación universitaria y profesional, intervenciones de enriquecimiento estudiantil, así como una variedad de recursos y servicios. Este Centro de recursos familiares (FRC) también brindará apoyo para ayudar a facilitar oportunidades, concientización y comunicación entre el personal de la escuela y agencias externas para ayudar a los padres a mantenerse informados e involucrados en el trayecto académico de sus hijos.

Estamos muy agradecidos de tener esta oportunidad de crear nuestra Escuela Comunitaria y esperamos anunciar muy pronto la apertura de nuestro Centro de Recursos Familiares PVMS.



PVMS Families Engaging in an AVID Workshop
Familia de PVMS Participando en un Taller de AVID

Winter Wonderland

Ramona School's Winter Festival: A Delightful Tradition for Decades

On Friday, December 1st, Ramona School transformed into a winter wonderland as the much-anticipated Winter Festival unfolded, marking yet another successful year of celebration. The festival, a beloved tradition for decades, drew a large and enthusiastic crowd, creating an atmosphere of joy and community spirit.



Marisa Stewart
Principal



One of the highlights of the event was the impressive array of student performances, showcasing the incredible talent across all grade levels. From heartwarming musical renditions to captivating dance performances, the students left the audience in awe, adding a touch of festive cheer to the air.

The festival grounds were abuzz with various attractions for attendees of all ages. Local vendors set up enticing food booths, offering a delightful array of treats and flavors. Families enjoyed creating free holiday crafts that they could take home and enjoy.

For the younger attendees, there were pony rides and a charming train ride, providing endless smiles and laughter. The star of the show, Santa Claus, made a special appearance for photos, creating magical moments for children and families alike.

Organized by the dedicated Ramona PTA, the Winter Festival once again proved to be a fantastic showcase of community engagement and support. The PTA's commitment to fostering a sense of togetherness was evident in every aspect of the event, from the well-coordinated activities to the warm and welcoming atmosphere.

As the festival wrapped up, attendees left with hearts full of holiday spirit and memories to cherish. The success of Ramona School's Winter Festival is a testament to the enduring tradition and the community's commitment to creating festive moments for generations to come.

For those eager to continue the celebration, the Ramona website is the go-to source for information on future events. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming gatherings and festivities, ensuring that the spirit of community and joy remains alive throughout the year.

Ramona School's Winter Festival is more than an event; it's a cherished tradition that brings the community together, fostering connections and creating lasting memories. Here's to many more years of festive celebrations at Ramona School!

¡El Paraíso Invernal

Festival de Invierno del Colegio Ramona: una encantadora tradición desde hace décadas

El viernes 1 de diciembre, la Escuela Ramona se transformó en un paraíso invernal mientras se desarrollaba el tan esperado Festival de Invierno, marcando otro año exitoso de celebración. El festival, una tradición querida durante décadas, atrajo a una multitud numerosa y entusiasta, creando una atmósfera de alegría y espíritu comunitario.

Uno de los aspectos más destacados del evento fue la impresionante variedad de actuaciones de los estudiantes, que mostraron el increíble talento de todos los grados. Desde conmovedoras interpretaciones musicales hasta cautivadoras actuaciones de danza, los estudiantes dejaron asombrado al público, añadiendo un toque de alegría festiva al aire.

El recinto del festival estuvo repleto de diversas atracciones para asistentes de todas las edades. Los vendedores locales instalaron atractivos puestos de comida que ofrecen una deliciosa variedad de delicias y sabores. Las familias disfrutaron creando manualidades navideñas gratuitas que podían llevarse a casa y disfrutar.

Para los asistentes más jóvenes, hubo paseos en pony y un encantador viaje en tren, regalando infinitas sonrisas y risas. La estrella del espectáculo, Papá Noel, hizo una aparición especial para las fotos, creando momentos mágicos para los niños y las familias por igual.

Organizado por la dedicada PTA de Ramona, el Festival de Invierno una vez más demostró ser una muestra fantástica de participación y apoyo de la comunidad. El compromiso de la PTA de fomentar un sentido de unión fue evidente en cada aspecto del evento, desde las actividades bien coordinadas hasta el ambiente cálido y acogedor.

Al finalizar el festival, los asistentes se marcharon con el corazón lleno de espíritu navideño y recuerdos para atesorar. El éxito del Festival de Invierno de la Escuela Ramona es un testimonio de la tradición duradera y el compromiso de la comunidad de crear momentos festivos para las generaciones venideras.

Para aquellos ansiosos por continuar la celebración, el sitio web de Ramona es la fuente de información sobre eventos futuros. Estén atentos a las actualizaciones sobre próximas reuniones y festividades, asegurando que el espíritu de comunidad y alegría permanezca vivo durante todo el año.

El Festival de Invierno de la Escuela Ramona es más que un evento; es una tradición preciada que une a la comunidad, fomenta conexiones y crea recuerdos duraderos. ¡Por muchos años más de celebraciones festivas en la Escuela Ramona!

Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • washington.hawthornesd.org

Family Resource Center

Washington Elementary School is proud to announce the opening of our Family Resource Center! The Family Resource Center is located on Washington's campus in room 6 and will offer many resources and opportunities for parents, families, and our students. The FRC is where you will find Ms. Angela Adams, our Community School Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), and Ms. Gema Cruz, our Community Liaison; both ladies speak English and Spanish. Ms. Adams and Ms. Cruz will work closely with families to help connect students and families to resources and support in the community that Wildcat families may need. More information about the types of services and resources available from the Washington Community School team will be shared with the Wildcat family in the weekly newsletter coming in February 2024. Ms. Jones, the principal, is excited to offer this resource to our families and welcome Ms. Adams and Ms. Cruz to Washington School!

Parent and family volunteers will also work in the Family Resource Center. At the beginning of the school year, Principal Jones held a volunteer orientation where families were encouraged to get involved and help the school however they could. As a volunteer, you are able to help Washington School for one day or multiple days in an ongoing manner. Volunteering is all about community building and is a terrific way to connect with teachers, staff, and other families. Volunteering makes a difference in your student's education by giving back to the school, showcasing your skills, and providing a sense of purpose and community. If you are interested in volunteering with the school, please pick up a volunteer packet from the office and learn more about how you can help.

Washington School welcomes Ms. Adams and Ms. Cruz, our Community Schools Team!



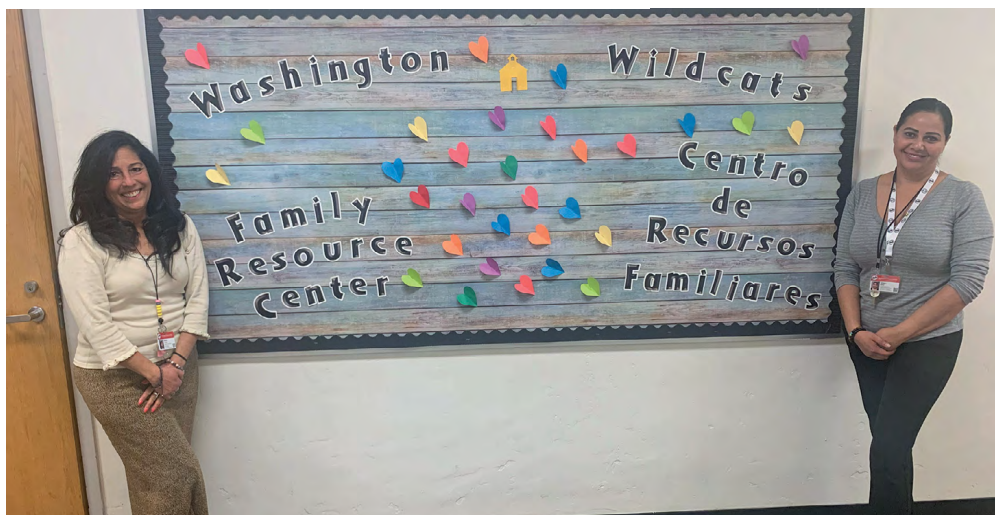
Akila Jones
Principal

Centro de Recursos Familiares

¡La Escuela Primaria Washington se enorgullece de anunciar la apertura de nuestro Centro de Recursos Familiares! El Centro de Recursos Familiares está ubicado en el campus de Washington en el salón 6 y ofrecerá muchos recursos y oportunidades para los padres, las familias y nuestros estudiantes. El FRC es donde encontrará a la Sra. Angela Adams, nuestra maestra de escuela comunitaria en asignación especial (TOSA), y la Sra.

Gema Cruz, nuestra enlace comunitaria; Ambas damas hablan inglés y español. La Sra. Adams y la Sra. Cruz trabajarán estrechamente con las familias para ayudar a conectar a los estudiantes y las familias con los recursos y el apoyo en la comunidad que las familias Wildcat puedan necesitar. Se compartirá más información sobre los tipos de servicios y recursos disponibles del equipo de Washington Community School con la familia Wildcat en el boletín semanal que se publicará en febrero de 2024. La Sra. Jones, la directora, se complace en ofrecer este recurso a nuestras familias y les da la bienvenida. ¡Sra. Adams y Sra. Cruz a la escuela Washington!

Los padres y familiares voluntarios también trabajarán en el Centro de Recursos Familiares. Al comienzo del año escolar, el director Jones llevó a cabo una orientación voluntaria donde se animó a las familias a participar y ayudar a la escuela en todo lo que pudieran. Como voluntario, puede ayudar a la Escuela Washington durante uno o varios días de manera continua. El voluntariado tiene que ver con la construcción de una comunidad y es una excelente manera de conectarse con maestros, personal y otras familias. El voluntariado marca la diferencia en la educación de su estudiante al contribuir a la escuela, mostrar sus habilidades y brindarle un sentido de propósito y comunidad. Si está interesado en ser voluntario en la escuela, recoja un paquete de voluntariado en la oficina y obtenga más información sobre cómo puede ayudar.



¡La Escuela Washington le da la bienvenida a la Sra. Adams y a la Sra. Cruz, nuestro equipo de escuelas comunitarias!

Engage, Learn, Connect

In our recent math workshop, families were treated to a spectacular showcase of collaborative learning, emphasizing the vital role of math education beyond the classroom. Participants immersed themselves in collaborative play, dot talks, and crafting math games, creating an atmosphere of shared exploration. During the workshop, families had an opportunity to demonstrate some of the unique teaching methods from their native countries, adding a global touch to our celebration of diverse learning.

But the excitement doesn't stop there! At York, family engagement workshops covering a variety of topics are held frequently. Check the weekly bulletin and marquee for upcoming activities. We hope that you will join us for upcoming events, where families can continue the adventure of learning together. These workshops promise not only educational value but also strengthen the bond between school and home. Let's build a community of learners and continue the journey of collaborative education!



Gina Cardillo
Principal

Involucrar, Aprender, Conectar

En nuestro reciente taller de matemáticas, las familias fueron testigos de una espectacular exhibición de aprendizaje colaborativo, enfatizando el papel vital de la educación matemática más allá del aula. Los participantes se sumergieron en el juego colaborativo, charlas de puntos y la creación de juegos matemáticos, creando una atmósfera de exploración compartida. Durante el taller, las familias tuvieron la oportunidad de demostrar algunas de las metodologías de enseñanza únicas de sus países de origen, añadiendo un toque global a nuestra celebración del aprendizaje diverso.

¡Pero la emoción no termina aquí! En York, se realizan frecuentemente talleres de participación familiar que abarcan una variedad de temas. Consulta el boletín semanal y el letrero luminoso para conocer las próximas actividades. Esperamos que te unas a nosotros en los próximos eventos, donde las familias pueden continuar la aventura del aprendizaje juntas. Estos talleres prometen no solo un valor educativo, sino también fortalecer el vínculo entre la escuela y el hogar. ¡Construyamos una comunidad de aprendices y continuemos el viaje de educación colaborativa!



Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771 • zd.hawthornesd.org

Family Involvement

By A. Morales, Assistant Principal

This school year, Zela Davis School has offered several different parent workshops/meetings and family events for our Rocket families to participate and be involved in our school community.

One of those family events offered was our Family Math Night on November 16, 2023. The turnout was amazing! We hosted approximately 500 students, parents, family members, and staff at this event! Families enjoyed a night full of math activities for grades TK-5th, raffles, and utilized the West and East campuses. If parents had lower and upper grade children, they had the opportunity to work with both by taking turns, as the activities were designed to be engaging, yet short enough for parents to work on different activities with their children.

We look forward to providing more opportunities for family involvement!



Miguelina Lopez
Principal

Participación Familiar

Por A. Morales, Subdirectora

Este año escolar, Escuela Zela Davis ha ofrecido varios talleres/reuniones para padres y eventos familiares para que nuestras familias de Rockets participen y se involucren en nuestra comunidad escolar.

Uno de esos eventos familiares ofrecidos fue nuestra Noche de Matemáticas Familiar el 16 de noviembre de 2023. ¡La participación fue increíble! ¡Recibimos a aproximadamente 500 estudiantes,

padres, familiares y personal en este evento! Las familias disfrutaron de una noche llena de actividades de matemáticas para grados TK-5, así como rifas, y utilizaron los campus Oeste y Este. Si los padres tenían hijos en grados diferentes, tuvieron oportunidad de trabajar con ellos por turnos, ya que las actividades estaban diseñadas para ser atractivas, pero lo suficientemente cortas para que los padres trabajaran con sus hijos.

¡Esperamos continuar brindando oportunidades como esta!



**Math Night sign by school community.
Cartel Noche de Matemáticas por la comunidad escolar.**



**Math Night – Family Participation
Participación familiar -Noche de Matemáticas**



The United States Youth Volleyball League's mission is to provide every child between the ages of 7 and 15 a chance to learn and play volleyball

in a fun, safe, supervised environment. One of the main tenets of the program is to encourage children to do their best with their abilities. With an emphasis on positive reinforcement, the program seeks to build confidence and self-esteem in each child.

USYVL was founded in 1997 in Southern California with 139 players. Today that number has grown to more than 15,000 players annually, nationwide. This phenomenal growth reflects USYVL's commitment to a healthy competitive sports atmosphere and the development of responsible individuals. Several of our USYVL participants have advanced on to play at the NCAA level.

What makes USYVL tick?

USYVL was founded on community involvement and support. Volunteer staff members are instructed on the best way to organize their site. The foundation of USYVL is the "Site" or basic community program. Each Site is headed by a Site Director who conducts the framework of USYVL's philosophies, rules, regulations, and bylaws.

Everyone Helps Out — USYVL is a volunteer organization with more than 5,000 parents, many of them working as coaches, assistant coaches or administrators. It's not unusual to find two, three, or more children in the same family playing at a USYVL site while Mom and Dad serve as coach and assistant coach. USYVL can be a total family experience!

What will your child get out of USYVL? While the program teaches children the skills necessary to excel in the sport of volleyball, the focus remains on participation, cooperation, sportsmanship, responsibility and, of course, fun!

Action — Strength, endurance and improved coordination result from the weekly activity of the program. Furthermore, a season of league games is sure to provide plenty of exciting volleyball action.

Skills — Skills are taught using technically correct methods for peak performance and safety.

Teamwork — The USYVL is a family-oriented program where parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends are strongly encouraged to become involved. Parents and volunteers assist with coaching, registration, check-in and equipment set-up.

EVERY CHILD PLAYS • USYVL.ORG



El Segundo at Washington Park

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 - Saturday, June 1, 2024

Wednesdays: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

& Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Torrance at Towers Elementary School

Thursday, April 11, 2024 - Saturday, June 1, 2024

Thursdays: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

& Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



Boys and Girls ages 7-15

Registration price includes a t-shirt



Plan Ahead & Save

Early: \$150 due by 03/01/24*

*with discount code 25SP24

Late: \$200 until 04/01/24

register
today!
usyvl.org



USYVL Non-Profit #77-0460698

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Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

The Power of Magic

The Magic Tree House book series by Mary Pope Osborne is a #1 New York Times bestselling series 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 the *Magic Tree House – Merlin Missions #22 Hurry Up, Houdini!* they will travel back in time to

1906 to the Coney Island boardwalk in New York. They must find one of the greatest magicians of all time, Harry Houdini. While they are there, they put on a magic show to replace two absent magicians. They also use some magic to help them find Houdini. Will they find him? If they do, what secrets will they learn from him? I recommend you read this book to find out.

As much as this book is funny, it is also very educational. I hope that you will also learn about Houdini in this book and like it.

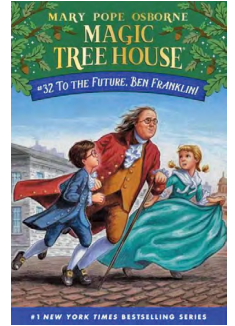


Back to The Future

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

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.

Good Dental Health 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: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com
 (Please put HAW in the subject line)

Entries must be received by February 15, 2024.
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Breads | Eggs | Milk |
| Brushing | Examination | Nutrition |
| Cereals | Fish | Orthodontist |
| Checkup | Flossing | Pediatric |
| Daily | Fluoride | Sugar |
| Dairy | Fruits | Tooth |
| Dentist | Guidelines | Vegetables |
| Development | Healthy | Water |
| Diet | Meat | Whole grains |

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

Congratulations to:
Katelynn Ortiz, Robert Ortiz, Sylvia Gabra
Winners of the November Contests!

Sourish's Review



Sourish M.

The Fight in Magic...

A magical world, what could go wrong? The book *We Rule the Night* by Claire Eliza Bartlett shows life in a magical world where people are looked down on and superiority defies laws. Two main



characters Revna and Linné both experience unfair treatment based on their appearance. This is an action packed, suspenseful, and emotional book! You are able to experience the book through the eyes of both of the protagonists with imagery and well descriptions. The author has slowly revealed the paths for Revna and Linn that have intertwined and form a relationship that is shown throughout the book. Revna and Linne go through many challenges and their future is undecided. They both have gone through the effects of war and are forced to understand each other in ways to help them survive. This fantasy book provides an experience of many emotions and shows the true fight in magic!

Sourish M. is an eighth grader who is enthusiastic to learn and understand how the world works. He likes Science, Engineering, Reading, swimming, plays soccer, Basketball, Guitar, Viola and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours in nature and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

Theme Park Mystery

Title: *Belly Up*

Author: Stuart Gibbs

Theodore "Teddy"

Fitzroy isn't your average 12-year-old. Teddy and his family live at one of America's biggest theme parks, "Funjungle". He

could've lived a "normal" life pranking people if Henry the Hippo hadn't suddenly died. The park claims Henry died of natural causes; Teddy knows that isn't the truth. With the help of Summer McCracken, the daughter of the theme park's creator, Teddy slowly uncovers the secret of Henry's death. After he realizes that someone murdered the hippo, it seems like someone's trying to prevent Teddy from reaching a conclusion. By whatever means necessary. Author Stuart Gibbs brings us a humorous mystery that sets a serious mood, but also makes you laugh as well. Although the secret behind Henry's death should be brought to light, is the truth worth going belly up?



Taegyong K. is a 8th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Looking for My Long-Lost Sister

The One and Only Bob is a sequel novel to the award winning and bestselling novel *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. This book is about Bob, the independent and stubborn stray dog who was previously abandoned.



Bob had gone through many traumatic events since he was a small puppy. He is searching for his sister who got separated when they were just a few days old. Bob's best friends, Ivan and Ruby join him in his adventurous journey to search for the sister. Where will Bob and his friends start their search? Is Bob's sister still alive? What will Bob and his friends encounter during the journey? Will the search be smooth, or will it be too dangerous for them? Will they find Bob's sister?

There is a lot of heartfelt and warm moments and excitement in this novel. Reading this reminds me to appreciate and treasure true friendship and family. I give this book 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.

Unseen Connections

In *The Ghost at the Table*, Suzanne Berne explores the intricate dynamics of family relationships. Set during a Thanksgiving gathering, the story delves into the hidden secrets and unresolved tensions that lurk beneath



the surface of seemingly happy families. Using nuanced characters, Berne skillfully examines the complexities of love, betrayal, and forgiveness.

The novel introduces us to an observant 7-year-old girl, Susie, who becomes our guide to the dysfunctionality of her family. From Susie's perspective, we witness the fragile balance between her siblings, the strained interactions between her parents, and the invisible presence of a deceased sister, whose ghost still haunts their lives. Berne's exploration of family secrets and their impact is both compelling and heart-wrenching. With a gripping storyline, Berne writes a poignant novel that forces readers to confront their own understanding of family dynamics and the power of secrets. I rate this captivating story a 4.4/5.

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

Los Angeles County Office of Education

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

New Guidance for Mandated Reporters in Los Angeles County

By Alicia Garoupa, Chief of Wellbeing and Support Services, Los Angeles County Office of Education



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

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is creating a framework and catalyzing a movement alongside critical partners to transform the mandated reporting process for educators in Los Angeles County to better support historically underserved children, youth, and families.

New training is taking shape to help mandated reporters make

better decisions when it comes to determining whether a situation constitutes a ‘reasonable suspicion’ of reportable child abuse or neglect.

Mandated reporters are individuals who have regular contact with children as part of their job, such as teachers, social workers, healthcare providers, law enforcement officers, and childcare providers. The push for improved training has been accelerated locally by the [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors motion](#) to create the “LA County Mandated Supporting Initiative” in May 2023. The initiative aims to reform how Mandated Reporters report general neglect cases, improve training, and enhance systems for supporting vulnerable families.

The training is being developed in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles County Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee and other key partners. The aligned effort is supported by the county board of supervisors and philanthropy, including critical support from the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation and the Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.

General neglect is the most common allegation reported to the LA County Child Protection Hotline. However, the vast majority of allegations are not substantiated according to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. Inaccurate reporting resulted in the child welfare system’s oversurveillance and harm of marginalized communities of color. The reports made by educators were also found to be the least likely to be substantiated among mandated reporter types. Over reporting and oversurveillance have dire consequences, causing fear, stress, trauma for

families, leading them to lose trust in public entities, such as schools and disrupting the relationship between families and Mandated Reporters. In other words, some reports may actually do more harm than good.

To limit overreporting of families whose needs can be met outside of child protective services agencies, AB 2085 narrowed the legal definition of general neglect to only include circumstances where the child is at substantial risk of suffering serious physical harm or illness and provides that general neglect does not include a parent’s economic disadvantage (i.e., poverty). Eliminating inaccurate reports of general neglect is a key goal of AB 2085 and understanding that poverty does not equal neglect is crucial.

LACOE leaders and representatives from aligned partners have been introducing the mandated supporting framework to various audiences and networks. These meetings drive awareness of the underlying problems, establish improved educator training as a solution, drive early adoption and support regional implementation over time.

The first broad training for mandated reporters was offered to about 700 participants in November 2023 and covered strategies to help improve Mandated Reporters’ capacity to make more accurate, consistent, and equitable decisions about whether to report to the Hotline, or to connect a family to community-based resources.

More focused training will be offered in 2024 that includes sector and discipline specific content to address distinct mandated reporter groups (e.g., educators, law enforcement, health care providers). Additionally, LACOE aims to hold a regional convening in 2024 to continue to raise awareness and build momentum around the mandated supporter concept and aligned implementations strategies. LACOE continues to strive to build regional capacity relevant policy among educators and districts around important changes in law and policy, including AB 2085, and accelerate our call to action to collectively ensure student safety and evolve the mandated reporter process in service to our children, youth, and families. LACOE will provide more details on upcoming training and guidance for Mandated Reporters in 2024.