

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Westminster School District



Volume 19, Issue 115

January 2024

WSD Thrives in Community Engagement!



Students crowd around Warner Middle School to learn more about their robotics during the Academic Innovation Showcase.

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

Westminster School District continues to thrive in our community connections by extending our outreach beyond our own community. Part of the District's Strategic Plan focuses on WSD fostering and cultivating strong relationships. We continue to actively engage with our community members through district sponsored events and collaborating with the City of Westminster at various activities and celebrations.

It is also the first year that we have gone beyond Westminster to participate in other city events. The heartwarming participation of our choir students from Anderson and Meairs in the City of Garden Grove's Winter in the Grove event in December was incredible. Families, staff, and students were thrilled to participate in the

celebration and get in the holiday spirit during this time of year.

As superintendent, I am extremely proud of the continued participation from all school sites. This month I attended my first Academic Innovation Showcase at Stacey Middle School. The event serves as a testament to our goal to become the premier Pre K - 8 district in Orange County. Our pursuit to achieve that will come to fruition as we continue to follow the Strategic Plan roadmap. There is much focus on innovation, diversity, and academic achievement, as we are committed to shaping the future of our students and the communities we are privileged to serve.

I look forward to attending more community and district events as WSD continues to celebrate additional awards and accolades.



Meairs Elementary School choir students sing at Garden Grove's Winter in the Grove event during the holidays.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Frances
Nguyen**
President
Area 4



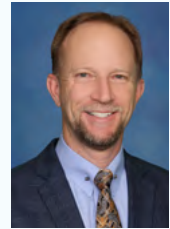
**Jeremy
Khalaf**
Vice President
Area 5



**Khanh
Nguyen**
Clerk
Area 3



**Tina
Gustin-Gurney**
Member
Area 2



**David M.
Johnson**
Member
Area 1

Board of Trustees Reorganization!

By Frances Nguyen, President, Board of Trustees

During the most recent Board meeting, the Board of Trustees conducted a reorganization. Frances Nguyen was selected as the new Board President where she will serve from December 2023 – December 2024. This is Mrs. Nguyen's second time as Board President during her tenure at Westminster School District on the Board of Education.

Frances Nguyen also advocates for the Scouting movement; she was the past Girl Scout Leader and Boy Scouts leader dating back to 1983. Later, Frances Nguyen was chosen to be the first Vietnamese American as the Chairperson for Boy Scouts of America - El Capital District of Orange Council.

Presently, Frances Nguyen is adjunct faculty at Santa Ana College, teaching Vietnamese Business Interpretation and Translation. Frances Nguyen & family has resided in Westminster for nineteen years and the Golden Trophy business has been in Westminster for twenty-four years.

Supporting small businesses and teaching the next generation to become future leaders and good citizens are her primary goals. After seven years with the School Board, Frances Nguyen has reached her goals in building the Westminster School District to be the first to implement the Vietnamese Dual Immersion Program in a school district in the State of California.



WSD's Board of Trustees and Superintendent pose for a photo after the reorganization.



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 Lulhere Children's Village
Outpatient Specialty Centers from the
South Bay to Orange County

City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311
www.westminster-ca.gov



Chi Charlie Nguyen
Mayor

We are halfway through the school year, and it has been an incredibly exciting and busy few months with community events in Westminster. These events provide opportunities for our local students to showcase their artistic talents, performing at events like our Fall Festival, holiday tree lighting ceremony, and annual Black April ceremony in commemoration of the Fall of Saigon in 1975.

As we approach our Tét Parade this year on February 10, we are delighted to have many students, bands, and performers from local schools registered to participate in the parade. A huge heartfelt thank you goes out to the Westminster School District for being our parade Title Sponsor, and continuing to support education and enrichment among our youth.

Safe Routes to School efforts continue as we inch closer to developing the city's first Safe Routes to School plan -- a plan that ultimately identifies the safest pedestrian paths to school throughout the city, and solutions to make routes safer. Walk audits at various schools have been completed where our team gathered feedback from parents, school officials, and administrators.

Moving ahead into the Lunar New Year, I wish you all an abundance of good health, prosperity, and good fortune.

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



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop

562/493-3193 • schoolnewskay@gmail.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

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



Netragrednik

Happy New Year!

The holidays are over and this new year is off to a great start as you will read in this issue. Topics include goal setting, 3D printing, eSports, exploring career paths, student council, and so much more.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on pages 20 & 23.

If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for information.

Our next issue is March 13.

Happy Valentine's Day
from the
School News Staff!



YOU'RE SWEET

Anderson Elementary (K-6)

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsdk8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Student Leadership

Each year, Anderson's 4th, 5th and 6th grade students are invited to run for a student council office. Students must complete an application, create campaign posters and give a speech to the voters, their peers. Completing this difficult process shows leadership skills in any student that runs for office. After all of the campaigning, all 4th, 5th and 6th grade students cast their ballots and elect their representatives. These

elected student council officers, along with representatives from each classroom, meet regularly and lead several programs at school. Student council takes a leadership role in Red Ribbon Week, the Ghoulish Gathering and Spirit Days. Congratulation to this year's officers.

- President: Jayden Truong
- 1st VP: Guadalupe Rojas
- Co-2nd VP: Zeph Asuega (Not Pictured)
- Co-2nd VP: Emily Truong
- Secretary: Evelyn Gonzalez
- Treasurer: Chi Le



History Depot



Learn about
World History
US History
Videos • Art • Music
Study Habits

FREE
Enjoy!
History Buffs
Teachers
Students

HistoryDepot.com

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 Excellent References
License # 304311437
www.SandrasTLC.com Member OC Child Care Assoc.

Clegg Elementary (TK-5)

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsdk8.us



Mark Murphy
Principal

Chains of Dreams

At Clegg Elementary School, a spirit of ambition and camaraderie has taken root as students usher in the new year with a unique and inspiring initiative. The young minds at Clegg have embarked on a collective journey of goal setting, turning aspirations into a tangible symbol of unity.

The process began as students penned their individual goals on strips of paper.

From personal milestones to community-minded objectives, the dreams varied widely, reflecting the diverse ambitions of the student body. These strips were then interlinked, creating a chain of aspirations that symbolized the interconnectedness of their dreams.

The symbolic chains found a home on the school's trees, transforming the campus into a living testament to the power of collective determination. Each goal, no matter

how big or small, became part of a larger narrative that emphasized mutual support and encouragement.

A pivotal figure in this transformative project was the school counselor, Mrs. Pass. Her guidance and support played a crucial role in helping students articulate their goals and weave them into the vibrant tapestry of shared dreams.

Some of the goals showcased the breadth of aspirations within the student body, ranging from achieving a black belt in martial arts to fostering a sense of community by memorizing every student's name. Other goals included spreading happiness and the commitment to read 20 books.

Clegg Elementary's initiative not only promotes personal growth but also fosters a sense of community and cooperation. As the chain of goals adorns the school's trees, it serves as a constant reminder that, together, the students can uplift and empower one another to reach new heights in the coming year.





April Derr
Principal

Vietnamese Dictation/Spelling Competition

Students in our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program studied and prepared for many weeks with their teachers to participate in the Vietnamese Dictation/Spelling Competition hosted by the Union of Overseas Vietnamese Language Schools (TAVIET) on January 13, 2024. It was the second year our students represented our school at this competition. We had 12

students from Grades 3-4 compete in Level 1 (Ages 8-9); 15 students from Grade 4-6 compete in Level 2 (Ages 10-11); and 5 students from Grade 6 compete in Level 3 (ages 12-13). Many of our students placed in the top levels. In Level 1, our students placed 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. For level 2, our students placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. And in level 3, they placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. They will be receiving their trophies and cash prizes during the Tết Festival at OC Fairgrounds in February. Congratulations to our amazing students for showing their outstanding knowledge and skills in the Vietnamese language. What an accomplishment!



Students preparing for the exam.



Students in the VDLI program, teachers, and parents at the competition.



Administrators, teachers, and TAVIET leaders.

Eastwood *Elementary* (K-6)

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • eastwood.wsdk8.us



Kathryn Cox
Principal

A Heartwarming Celebration of Community

Eastwood Elementary School's Annual Holiday Night, organized by our dedicated Eastwood PTA, proved to be a heartwarming and festive community affair. This free event has brought together families, volunteers, and special guests to celebrate the holiday spirit in a joyful atmosphere for over 20 years.

The evening kicked off with a delightful dinner spread, featuring pasta, pizza, salad, and rolls, generously provided for all attendees. The culinary delights set the stage for an evening filled with camaraderie and holiday cheer. Volunteers from various regions, including the Westminster High School MERITS Club, The Girl Scouts of Orange County, alumni, and parents, all came together to make the event a resounding success.

The highlight of the night was the presence of special guests, including the beloved Santa Claus, Mickey and Minnie, the Grinch, and more. Children and adults alike reveled in the opportunity to interact with these festive characters, creating lasting memories.



The event featured an array of engaging activities for everyone. Craft stations allowed participants to try their hand at ornament-making, cookie decorating, and coloring. A special station dedicated to letter writing provided a heartfelt opportunity for attendees to send warm wishes to both senior citizens and deployed soldiers, spreading the holiday joy beyond the event itself.



A perennial favorite at Eastwood Elementary's Annual Holiday Night is the train tour around the campus. Two trains chugged along, delighting attendees of all ages and adding a touch of enchantment to the festivities.

The evening also showcased the talents of Eastwood's students with musical performances that captivated the audience. However, the true spirit of the event shone through its commitment to giving back. Eastwood Elementary School's Annual Holiday Night serves as a

platform to support the CHiPs for Kids Toy Drive, sponsored by the California Highway Patrol. This year the event collected an impressive 500 toys, which were distributed in the North Orange County Area to families in need, ensuring that the holiday season was brighter for many.

The success of this community-driven initiative reflects the power of coming together to spread joy and make a positive impact during the festive season.





Pam LeMueix
Principal

3D Vision

Finley Computer Science Magnet students are diving into the exciting world of 3D printing as part of their curriculum in the school's Innovation Academy. The course not only introduces students to the fundamentals of computer science but also empowers them with hands-on experience in the rapidly evolving field of additive manufacturing.

As part of a recent project, students were presented with a captivating design challenge that required them to employ their newfound knowledge of 3D printing. The challenge aimed to harness their creativity and problem-solving skills by tasking them with creating innovative solutions using this cutting-edge technology.

To tackle the design challenge, students utilized the design thinking process, a methodology that encourages empathy, ideation, and prototyping. This approach allowed

them to explore diverse perspectives, brainstorm ideas, and iterate through solutions. The emphasis on design thinking not only nurtured their technical abilities but also honed their collaborative and critical-thinking skills.

For the practical implementation of their ideas, the students turned to Tinkercad, a user-friendly and powerful online platform for 3D design. Tinkercad provided them with the tools needed to translate their conceptualized solutions into tangible, three-dimensional models. The software's intuitive interface enabled even those new to 3D printing to bring their visions to life.

Through this hands-on experience with 3D printing, Finley Computer Science Magnet students in the Innovation Academy are not only learning the technical aspects of the technology but are also developing essential skills that will serve them well in the ever-evolving landscape of computer science and innovation. This immersive learning journey is equipping them with the tools they need to become future leaders and creators in the field.



Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • fryberger.wsdk8.us



Laura Urquhart
Principal

Fryberger's Own Mrs. Vu-Tran Wins the 'Transform Your Classroom' contest.

In a spectacular transformation, Fryberger Elementary School welcomed a revamped and vibrant classroom, all thanks to the perseverance of Mrs. Vu-Tran in the "Transform Your Classroom" competition. Sponsored by The HON Company and OES Office Furniture, the makeover turned Vu-Tran's vision into reality, creating an inspiring learning space at the heart of our amazing school.

A dedicated educator for 30 years, Mrs. Vu-Tran, a reading specialist at Fryberger, shared her dream-come-true moment during the unveiling on December 4, 2023.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity, she marveled at the innovative learning environment she was now able to provide for her 78 students in grades kindergarten through second grade.

Mrs. Vu-Tran's commitment to her students led her to enter the competition. Her victory not only signifies a personal achievement but also underscores the power of educators' visions to shape engaging and dynamic classrooms. The makeover brings new life to Fryberger, showcasing the impact of innovation in education. We are so proud and grateful of our amazing educators here at Fryberger!



Hayden Elementary (K-5)

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • hayden.wsdk8.us



Wendy Baird
Principal

Winter Holiday Spirit

At Hayden Elementary School, the winter season brings a special kind of magic to our school as students and teachers come together to celebrate the joy of the holidays. From festive decorations to heartwarming activities, our school transformed into a winter wonderland.



Kid's Club Toy Drive



ESP Students Warm Clothing Drive

We kicked off the holiday season by having two donation drives to support local families. Our Kids Club collected toys for a local youth shelter, and our ESP students collected over 500 warm clothing items to donate to those in need. Our PTA created a beautiful holiday display on our stage, and students had the opportunity to take holiday photos with their friends.

Our students had a blast during our Winter Wonderland Spirit Week, dressing up to show their holiday spirit and participating in holiday games and activities. At our student-awards ceremony, we honored our remarkable students who have achieved outstanding success in their academic pursuits and demonstrated dedication to their overall growth.

Lastly, one major highlight of the holiday festivities was the winter music performance. Our students melted our hearts as they sang classic holiday songs. All these winter activities created lasting memories that have fostered a sense of community, creativity, and joy.



Winter Music Performance

Johnson Middle School (6–8)

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • johnson.wsdk8.us



Daniel Owens
Principal

Warrior eSports Program

Johnson Middle School has taken an exciting step into the digital realm by introducing a new eSports program, gearing up students for friendly yet competitive battles against other middle in the district with a goal to compete in local Orange County District events. This new program not only taps into the growing world of competitive gaming but also emphasizes the educational advantages that come with eSports.

The eSports program at Johnson Middle School is focused on becoming a platform to foster crucial skills.

Students engaged in eSports develop strategic thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities. The competitive nature of eSports encourages students to enhance their concentration, reflexes, and decision-making under pressure. Additionally, the program opens avenues for students to explore potential careers in the gaming industry, including game design, management and broadcasting.

As Johnson Middle School joins the ranks of schools embracing eSports, it sets the way for a high-level educational experience that combines technology, competition and skill development. This program not only engages students but also prepares them for a future where digital literacy and teamwork are indispensable.



Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • land.wsdk8.us • 714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



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

Language Development in Early Education

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

The early foundations of language development begin in the earliest stages of life, when infants begin to communicate through cries, coos, and facial expressions. Here at Land, we recognize the importance of embracing the journey that our infants will be taking towards learning how to communicate effectively.

Our Infant Instructors engage with the early learners from the moment they arrive from home until they leave. They do this by singing, reading, and actively talking to them to help expand their language skills. Our instructors also label various items around the classroom in order to help the children make a connection from the written word to the physical object.



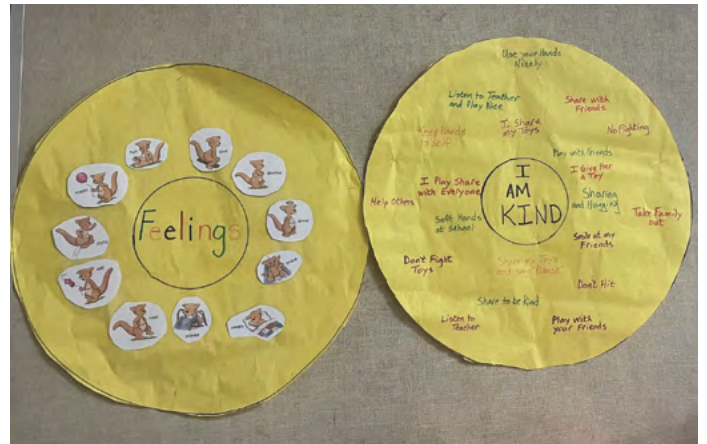
Language Arts activity in our dual English and Spanish Classroom.



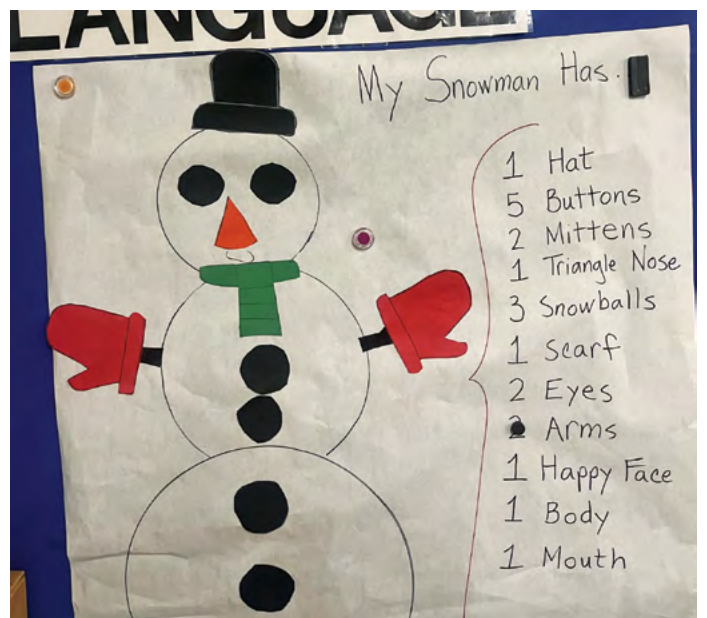
Toys are labeled in English and Spanish to help students make connections.

Ms. Mai and Ms. Ramos both shared their experiences in working closely with our students to help support language development skills. “As Early Education Instructors, we encourage the children in language development by asking open-ended questions such as who, what, where, why, and how. This helps the children to think and build their language skills. We encourage the children to communicate with peers and adults, and we also use several visuals to help support those children who have limited language skills.”

The thing that makes our WSD’s Infant Toddler Program so special is that not only are we developing English language skills in our youngest learners, we are also building biliteracy in Spanish and English. We are honored to bring language and culture to our classrooms, building on all of the wonderful experiences in both languages.



Students learned to connect their feelings with words and images.



Holiday Language Arts Activity

Meairs Elementary (K-5)

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

Student of the Month Awards

Every month the teachers at Iva Meairs Elementary School pick one or two deserving students to receive the Student of the Month Award. These awards are usually presented on the last day of the month.

Our students anxiously wait for the names to be called to see if they have received the award for their class. Each month the awards are given for different reasons, and our teachers have the freedom to choose what trait or area of improvement they are honoring. During the month of December the students were honored for their kindness, responsibility, and cooperation.

In previous months, students have been honored for academic achievement, overall improvement, and determination. Choosing the different traits or academic areas each month opens the door for all of our students to have an opportunity to be recognized throughout the year. Not only do the students get a beautiful certificate, their pictures are also sent out to the entire Meairs community through our Seesaw app.

As you can see by the happy faces pictured here, being chosen to receive the Student of the Month Award brings a smile to everyone's face! Congratulations to all of the Eagles who have been honored as a Student of the Month in 2023. We can't wait to see who will be honored as we continue into 2024.



Happy faces of the Students of the Month

Schmitt Elementary (K-5)

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



Sarah Nead-Rendon
Principal

Exploring Artistic Talents

Schmitt Elementary School recently welcomed back the Art Masters Academy. This program helps to enrich our students' education with hands-on artistic experiences. The focus of this particular session was on the renowned artist Henri Toulouse-Lautrec.

Our students participated in a lecture about Toulouse-Lautrec's life and his contributions to the art world. They sat captivated as they learned about the artist's unique style and the historical context of his works. This lecture set the stage for the immersive art experience that followed.

Each class showed their eagerness and inspiration as they met with our school's art coach to embark on a journey through an art lesson designed to mirror Toulouse-Lautrec's techniques. The students followed the coach's direction by first drawing and then painting their artwork, just like the art master they had learned about.

The children were excited about using their creativity to explore their artistic talents. The Art Masters Academy not only allows students to learn about a variety of artists, it also fosters a deeper appreciation for the world of art. Bringing this program back to Schmitt Elementary was a



huge success, and was well appreciated by all. Students, teachers, and parents alike celebrated the return of a program that not only educates but inspires!

The revival of the Art Masters Academy at Schmitt Elementary is important in helping to nurture well-rounded individuals with a passion for creativity, and it also provides a wonderful opportunity for our budding artists!





Robert Murdock
Principal

A Collective Spirit of Support

In a heartwarming ceremony at the Westminster Educational Leadership Association's "Every Student Succeeds Breakfast," fifth-grade student Nick Benner was recognized for his outstanding resilience and academic achievements despite facing major difficulties in his home life.

The Every Student Succeeds Breakfast, an annual event that brings together students, educators, and family members from every school in the district, became the stage for celebrating Nick's inspiring journey.

Nick's journey at Schroeder College and Career Academy has been marked by challenges, but his positive attitude and determination have set him apart. In a poignant speech, Mr. Murdock, the principal of Schroeder College and Career Academy, highlighted Nick's academic prowess and his ability to maintain a positive outlook in the face of adversity.

Behind Nick's success is the crucial role played by his parents, who were also acknowledged during the ceremony. Their unwavering support and efforts in providing a nurturing environment for Nick have contributed significantly to his ability to overcome obstacles. The audience, including Superintendent Dr. Hansen, and Trustee Tina Gurney, joined in expressing gratitude to Nick's parents for their instrumental role in his journey.

The Every Student Succeeds Breakfast served as a platform to celebrate not just individual accomplishments but also the collective spirit of support within the Westminster School District and the larger community. Nick's story resonated with the attendees, and reminded everyone of the power of resilience and the positive impact that a supportive community can have on a student's journey.

In his address, Mr. Murdock emphasized the importance of recognizing and nurturing each student's potential. Nick's recognition at the Every Student Succeeds Breakfast will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact, inspiring students and educators alike to persevere through challenges and celebrate each other's triumphs. Schroeder Academy congratulates Nick!



Sequoia Academy *GATE Magnet Elementary*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsdk8.us



Alisha Tardif
Principal

Appreciation Day

In a heartfelt tribute to the Westminster Police Department (WPD) and School Resource Officer (SRO) Engelberto Delgado, Sequoia Academy gathered on Jan. 11 during a special flag

assembly dedicated to School Resource Officer and Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. The entire Sequoia community, including students, staff, and families, united to express their gratitude for the unwavering dedication and tireless commitment shown by our local law enforcement.

The assembly began with a student leading the Pledge of Allegiance, where all Eagles recited the eloquent words and showed their appreciation of our freedoms. The assembly buzzed with energy as Sequoia students, staff, and community members cheered, praised, and shared special words to honor the Westminster Police Department and School Resource Officer Engelberto Delgado, who consistently exemplify the highest standards of service, uphold the law with distinction, and embody the essence of



Thank You Law Enforcement

community stewardship.

Known affectionately as Officer Beto at Sequoia, SRO Delgado is described by students as a “rock star,” a “role model,” and a “happiness maker.” Students shared quotes and the positive contributions, guidance, encouragement, and support provided by law enforcement, along with notes of courage and bravery, highlighting the positive impact law enforcement has had on shaping the lives of Sequoia Eagles.

The tribute extended beyond Officer Beto as Sequoia Academy also honored family members in law enforcement, presenting them with certificates of appreciation amid loud cheers from the audience. The overwhelming turnout for the morning assembly served as a testament to the exceptional contributions made by the Westminster Police Department to the Sequoia community and Sequoia Academy’s profound gratitude for the noble role models they provide for Sequoia families. The event concluded with a collective commitment to continue following in the footsteps of these dedicated professionals in service to the greater good.



WPD & Sequoia Eagle Student



SRO Beto and Kinder Eagle



Sequoia Flag Assembly for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



Sequoia Eagles Thank WPD

Stacey Middle School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsdk8.us



Rick Nichols
Principal

Exploring Career Paths at Lunch

Imagine that tucked between the peanut butter and jelly lies a hidden doorway, one not to Narnia, but to a world of endless possibilities – the world of careers!

Tucked into our school lunch breaks, short bursts of exploration can indeed open this doorway to reveal a dazzling buffet of options for curious young minds. These lunch-sized adventures can hold the power to ignite passions and inspire paths for teenagers who are navigating the crossroads of middle school.

The Career Exploration Session hosted by AVID provides an invaluable opportunity for middle school students to delve into the diverse and dynamic world of potential careers. Each session serves as a gateway for young minds to investigate various career paths. That's because each month our AVID program hosts a special career exploration session for students to explore during their lunchtime.

Representing the Westminster Police

Department, Officer Steven Vo and his Explorers recently allowed our students to learn firsthand the daily responsibilities of police officers, detectives, and other law enforcement professionals, in addition to interacting with the officers, asking questions, and gaining mentorships.

This event actually went beyond the uniform and offered an understanding of the diverse skill sets that are required in the field. The WPD also emphasized the importance of education and continuous learning. Our students learned about the educational requirements, specialized training, and the department's ongoing commitment to professional development. This insight empowered them to set their educational goals and understand the academic pathways which can lead to a rewarding career in law enforcement.

As our students began to see the connection between their lunch break explorations and their future selves, the fog of "What do I want to be?" began to lift. And that, my friends, is the magic of our lunchtime adventures – not choosing a plate forever, but tasting a buffet of possibilities and letting your passions take flight.



Warner Middle School (6–8)

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kenneth Lopour
Principal

Something to Celebrate!

Warner Middle School is bursting with pride as our dedicated staff and students continue to achieve remarkable success in both academics and extracurricular pursuits. The culmination of our first trimester brought a wave of accolades, with over 525 students receiving recognition through either the prestigious Faculty Award for those with a GPA between 3.0 and 3.5 or the esteemed Principal's Award for

those earning a remarkable 3.5–4.0 GPA. This remarkable achievement underscores the incredible dedication and hard work exhibited by our students, with well over half our total student population earning academic honors—a testament to their unwavering commitment to excellence.

Adding to our celebrations, Warner recently hosted its biannual Growth Celebration, a vibrant event dedicated to honoring students who have demonstrated growth on our math and English language arts benchmark tests.

These district exams provide invaluable insights into our students' academic progress throughout the year, serving as crucial tools in our preparation for the upcoming statewide tests. The Growth Celebration is a special occasion where certificates are awarded to each student who has exhibited growth, followed by a delightful treat and a lively party during lunch.

This year's event was particularly noteworthy, with an impressive 570 students demonstrating growth on this key academic indicator. This represents an astounding 70% of our student population! This Growth Celebration highlights the collective determination of Warner Middle School to foster a learning environment that not only recognizes academic achievements but also celebrates continuous growth and improvement.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, the Warner Middle School community couldn't be prouder of our students' dedication, hard work, and achievements. These milestones not only showcase their academic prowess but also reinforce the spirit of unity and success that defines our school culture.

Constellations Word Search Contest

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 Westminster in the subject line)

Entries must be received by February 15, 2024.

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

Thank you to Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics for sponsoring our Word Search Contest!

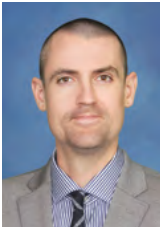
www.BarkateNehiSmiles.com

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|
| AQUARIUS | GEMINI | SAGITTARIUS |
| AQUILA | HERCULES | SCORPIUS |
| ARIES | LEO | TAURUS |
| AURIGA | LIBRA | URSA MAJOR |
| BOOTES | LYRA | URSA MINOR |
| CANCER | ORION | VIRGO |
| CANIS MAJOR | PEGASUS | ZODIAC |
| CAPRICORNUS | PERSEUS | |
| CASSIOPEIA | PISCES | |

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

Webber Elementary (K-6)

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsdk8.us



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Magical Showcase

In a dazzling display of academic brilliance and creative flair, the outstanding students and dedicated educators of Webber Elementary School took center stage at the Westminster School District Academic Innovation Showcase. This prestigious event brought together schools from across the district, providing a platform for each institution to showcase its unique strengths and successes.

Webber Elementary, renowned for its commitment to nurturing artistic creativity alongside academic achievement, captivated attendees by highlighting its exceptional visual and performing-arts school specialty. The showcase offered a captivating glimpse into the diverse artistic talents of Webber's students, emphasizing the school's dedication to providing a comprehensive and enriching education.

Among the notable highlights was the captivating presentation of the school's academic programs, with special emphasis on the esteemed Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) initiative. AVID, designed

to equip students with essential skills for college and career success, stood out as a testament to Webber Elementary's commitment to academic excellence.

Adding a touch of enchantment to the showcase, Webber Elementary proudly featured its performances based on productions by a famous film studio. Last year, the stage was adorned with the enchanting tale of Aladdin, and this year, the spotlight shone on the beloved classic, 101 Dalmatians. These performances not only showcased the artistic talents of the students but also underscored the school's dedication to providing unique and memorable experiences for its community.

We take immense pride in the representation of Webber Elementary at the Academic Innovation Showcase. The event allowed us to showcase our visual and performing arts programs, highlight the success of the AVID initiative, and share the enchanting magic of our performances, creating lasting memories for our students and community.

Webber Elementary School's participation in the Westminster School District Academic Innovation Showcase celebrated academic and artistic excellence, embodying their staff's commitment to providing a well-rounded education that empowers students to shine across all facets of their potential.

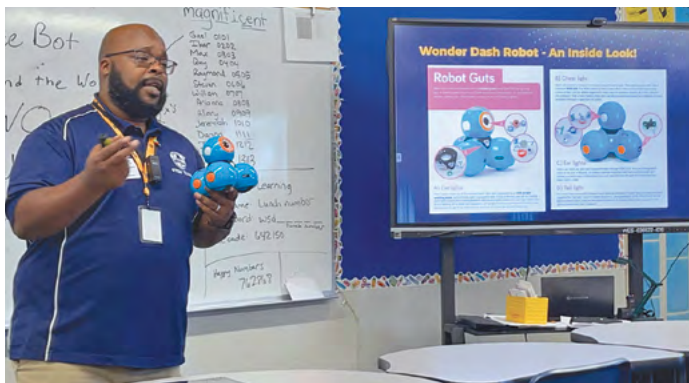




Tieuemi "Domi" Ellis
Principal

Thunderbirds Code!

In an era dominated by technology, where digital literacy is as vital as traditional language skills, Willmore Language Academy is paving the way for students to embrace coding as a language. The annual Hour of Code initiative has become a cornerstone in this journey, introducing students to the world of programming and fostering a mindset that treats coding as a language in its own right.



The Hour of Code, a global movement organized by Code.org, transcends traditional language barriers, offering students the opportunity to explore the universal language of programming. At Willmore Language Academy, where students learn Spanish, this initiative adds a unique layer to the curriculum, encouraging students to view coding as an additional language skill.

Just as learning Spanish opens doors to diverse cultures and perspectives, coding opens the door to a world of problem-solving and creativity. The Hour of Code is a dedicated time for students to immerse themselves in the logic and language of programming, navigating through interactive lessons that make coding accessible and engaging.



The parallels between coding and traditional languages are striking. Both involve syntax and structure, requiring learners to communicate effectively within a set of rules. However, coding offers a distinct advantage—it empowers students to become creators, designing digital solutions and bringing their ideas to life.

At Willmore Language Academy, the integration of coding has been supported by the Orange County Department of Education STEM curriculum specialist Omar Shepard and Westminster School District educational technology specialist Andrew Osborn to align with the school's commitment to equipping students with versatile skills for the future. Willmore's computer science leads Michelle Magpile and Kristin Pyle ensure the highest level of implementation by continually learning and improving our practices by annually attending the CUE Conference, Computer-Using Educators. Beyond fostering a love for coding during the Hour of Code, the school offers continued support for those interested in delving deeper into the world of programming through robotics programs.

By treating coding as a language, Willmore Language Academy is not only preparing students for the digital age but is also instilling a sense of curiosity and adaptability. As students embrace coding alongside Spanish, they are not just learning to code—they are also unlocking a new language that transcends boundaries and opens doors to endless possibilities in the modern world.

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.

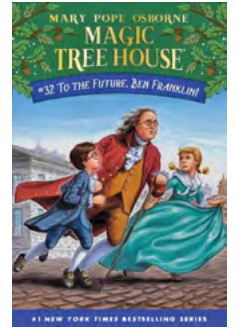


As much as this book is funny, it is also very educational. I hope that you will also learn about Houdini in this book and like it.

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 Westminster in the subject line)

Thank you to Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics for sponsoring our Word Search Contest!
www.BarkateNehiSmiles.com

Entries must be received by February 15, 2024.

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

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





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