

School News

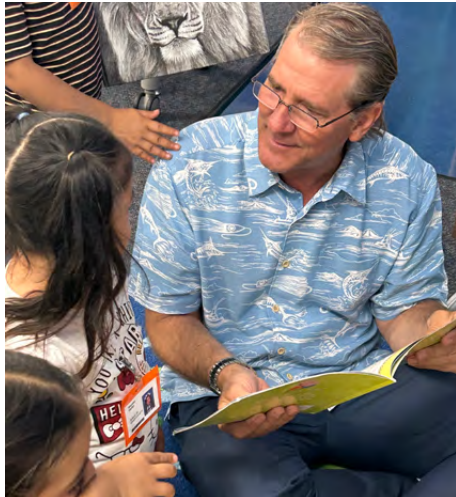
Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Fullerton School District



Volume 11, Issue 32

February 2024



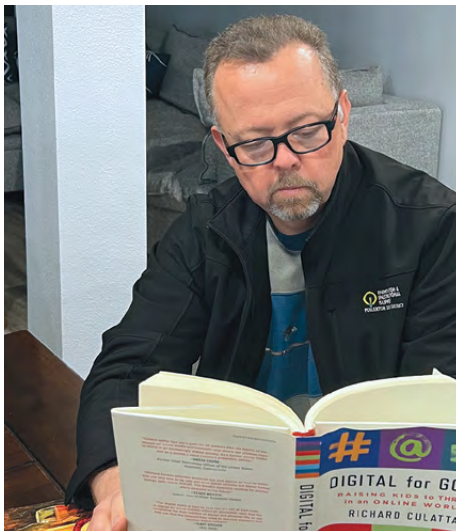
**Superintendent
Dr. Bob Pletka**
shares his love of reading

World of Wonder Literacy Challenge

#fsdlearns



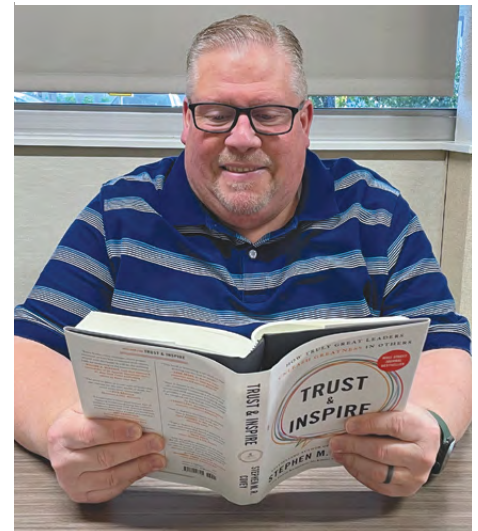
**Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Rob Coghlan**
fits in reading time



**Assistant Superintendent
Jeremy Davis**
enjoing the Literacy Challenge



**Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Adaina Brown**
reading before a meal

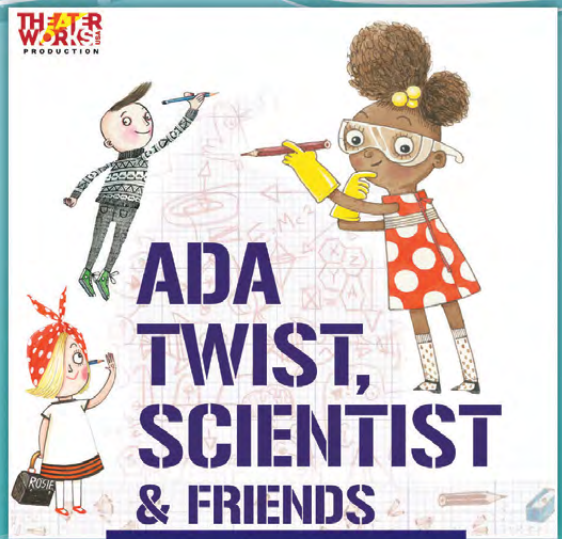


**Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Chad Hammitt**
joined the Literacy Challenge



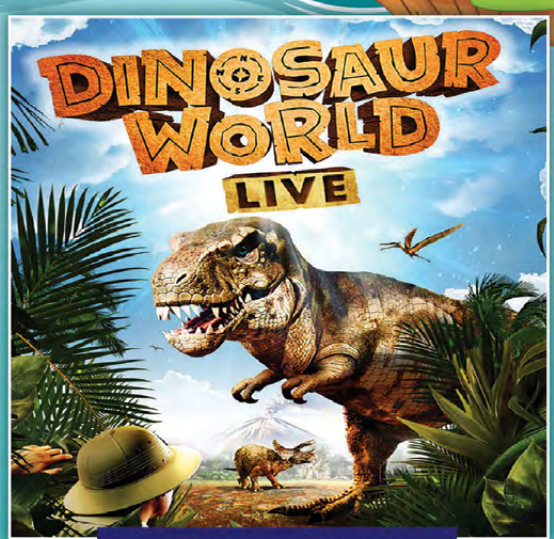
LA MIRADA THEATRE

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

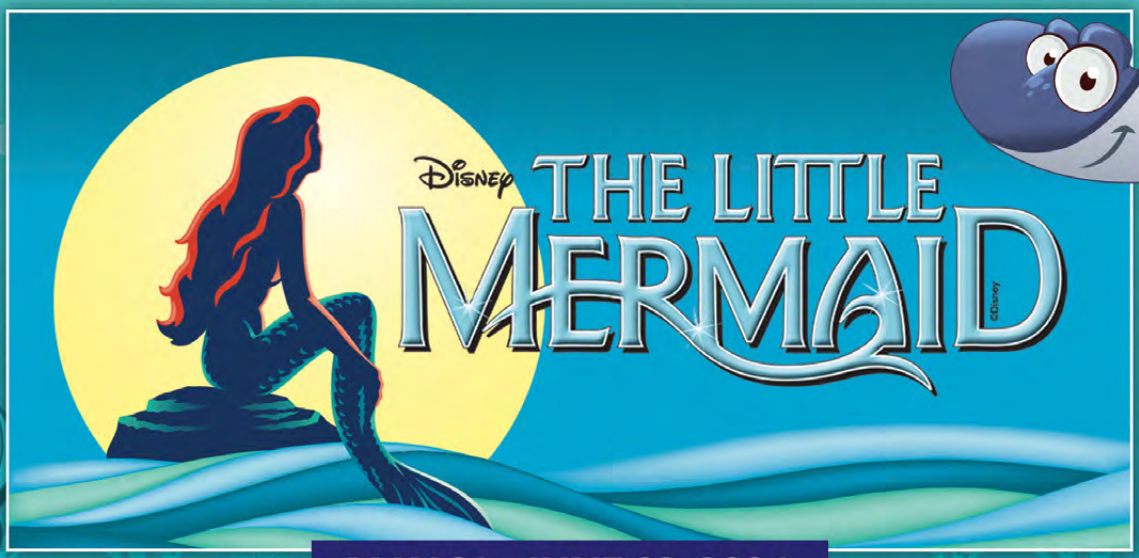


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Two Fullerton School District Teachers Awarded Region 11 California League of Educators Teachers of the Year



Dr. Bob Pletka
Superintendent

Katie Bezayiff, teacher at Maple School, was awarded the Region 11 California League of Educators (CLE) 2024 Elementary Teacher of the Year. As if that weren't enough, Mucio Vidales, teacher at Nicolas Junior High School, was awarded the Region 11 California League of Educators 2024 Middle School Teacher of the Year. Both award recipients were recognized for their 'why' they became educators.

The CLE Teachers of the Year is awarded annually to California elementary, middle, and high school educators who exemplify educational excellence. As the nominees selected to represent Region 11, which includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Ms. Bezayiff and Mr. Vidales will present at the annual CLE Conference held in March to vie for the State Teachers of the Year honor.



Katie Bezayiff



Mucio Vidales



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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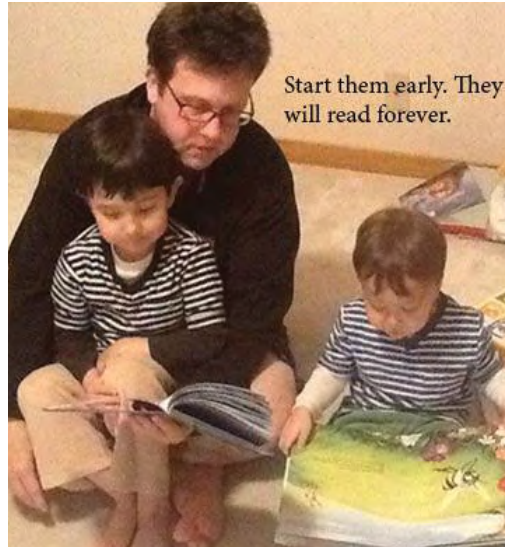
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By now I hope your new year is off to a great start and you are well on your way to your resolutions, if you made any. Including reading in your daily habits is a perfect way to begin. Children look to their parents as role models and instilling the love of reading at an early age is a gift.

Superintendent Dr. Pletka begins this issue highlighting the District's "World of Wisdom Literacy Challenge."

Our next issue is April 3.



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

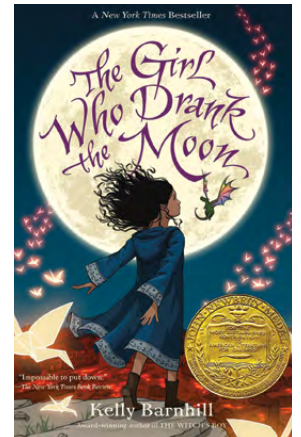
secrets and unresolved tensions that lurk beneath the surface of seemingly happy families. Using nuanced characters, Berne skillfully examines the complexities of love, betrayal, and forgiveness.

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.



The Enchanting Power

The Girl Who Drank the Moon, authored by Kelly Barnhill, captivates readers through its enchanting and spellbinding storyline. The book delves into the life of Luna, a young girl who unknowingly possesses magical abilities. As Luna's powers begin to flourish, she becomes entangled in a battle between good and evil, navigating through a world filled with secrets, danger, and unwavering bravery. Barnhill skillfully weaves together themes of love, sacrifice, and the ultimate power of belief. This beautifully written tale leaves readers entranced and contemplating the infinite possibilities of the human spirit. A must-read masterpiece deserving of a 4.3/5 star ranking



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

World of Wonder Literacy Challenge



Dr. Bob Pletka
Superintendent

In January, Fullerton School District (FSD) launched the “World of Wisdom Literacy Challenge,” a unique initiative aimed at defeating indifference and fostering a love for reading in our

students. Reading is a vital skill that not only enhances academic performance but also opens doors to new worlds, ideas, and perspectives. FSD encourages parents to engage with their children in nightly reading and shared literacy tasks.

In this challenge, students from 3rd to 6th grade embark on an adventure through the seven realms of the World of Wisdom, harnessing the strengths of the seven guardians. The students engage in nightly reading, complete literacy tasks, and collect trading cards. Each week, they can earn 10 points per trading card extension challenge, culminating in a final challenge that allows them to earn 30 points and complete their journey.

Our Fullerton community plays a crucial role in this endeavor. FSD is grateful for the support our readers receive, and to add to the excitement, various locations around the city offer bonus bookmarks. These bonus bookmark locations can be found on the gameboard, and if you're unable to get a bookmark at a location, students can take a picture and send it in - we'll make sure they receive it. Students contribute to the overall Fullerton School District points by scanning the QR code on the window clings at these locations. Our collective goal as a District is to reach 100,000 points!

Not to be forgotten, students and families in all grades are encouraged to participate in the 40 Day Family Reading Challenge! This initiative is designed for everyone – students and families alike – to discover the joy and



Superintendent Dr. Bob Pletka
reading to Students

benefits by reading together. This challenge encourages everyone to integrate reading into our daily lives. Whether it's a novel, a magazine, or a children's book, the goal is to explore, share, and grow through the diverse worlds that reading opens up for us. We encourage the family to devote 15 to 30 minutes of reading together each day and/or read to your children daily.

Reading is a cornerstone for educational and personal development. It strengthens family bonds, builds empathy, and improves cognitive skills. Notably, reading physical books before bedtime is proven to enhance sleep quality, which is vital for our well-being.

Innovation and challenges help to inspire students, teachers, parents, staff, and the community to foster their love for learning. Working together,

Fullerton School District is proud to share the benefits of these initiatives and the everyday hard work of everyone in the District. With the recent release of the Fall 2023 California Dashboard, FSD is pleased to share that FSD ranks in the top 21% in ELA and in the top 18% in Math compared to all school districts in California (and there are over 900 Districts in California). Additionally, in comparison to similar school districts, FSD ranks in the top 10% in ELA and Math. In appreciation of the hard work of students, families, and staff, FSD is able to proudly share that ALL FSD Schools, ALL grade levels, and ALL subgroups have made growth from August to December 2023.

Personnel Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • www.fullertonsd.org



Dr. Chad Hammitt
Deputy
Superintendent

Champions for Children Block Party

Usually held at different times throughout the year, Fullerton School District (FSD) put innovation to the test and combined the Champions for Children informative workshops with the Community Block Party. The result, a gathering of over 1,200 families to learn, celebrate, and provide input to the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

The event offered twenty different learning opportunities for families, ranging from Social Media Safety to The Beauty of Diversity to Building a Wind-Powered Car. Attendees were also treated to performances by FSD students who sang and danced in multiple languages. Another resource to attendees was the community fair providing access to over 30 community organizations who had information booths for families. The



Champions for Children Block Party was not only an event jam packed with information and resources for families but it also served as an opportunity for the FSD community to gather, enjoy student performance, and get to know other FSD families.

See **PERSONNEL SERVICES** • Page 7



“The Hub” Resource Center Opens and Impresses

Amid a crowd impressed with the organization and vast supplies, Fullerton School District (FSD) hosted the grand opening of The Hub, a resource center located at Valencia Park School, created to provide essential support and resources to Fullerton School District families in need. The Hub opening included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and guided tours of the facility allowing attendees to witness firsthand the positive impact on the community.

The Hub will offer vital free services including free clothing, hygiene products, school supplies, and access to vital community resources in one convenient location. The foremost goal is to offer invaluable assistance to families with utmost respect and empathy. The Hub aims to support and empower families in their journey towards success. The Hub is a true example of community collaboration. The items in the Hub are a combination of donations from both the Fullerton School District staff and the Fullerton community. In addition, the adaptation of space and purchase of supplies came from American Rescue Plan Homeless Children and Youth (ARP-HCY) funds.

The intent of The Hub is to make resources available to all FSD families in need, and therefore, most items are received as donations. However, specific items that are available only for families experiencing homelessness have been purchased utilizing ARP-HCY funds. Based on limited funding, The Hub is happy to accept monetary support from the community along with donated goods.



The Hub is currently open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by appointment only. To access resources and items, families must be accompanied by school site Social Service Assistants (SSAs) or District Community Liaisons during their appointments.

“We are excited to share this moment with you and showcase how The Hub will serve as a beacon of hope and catalyst for positive change. Together, let’s make a difference in the lives of families in need,” stated Rossana Fonseca, Director, SEL and Family Supports for Fullerton School District.



Acacia Elementary School

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • www.fullertonsd.org/acacia



Rachel McCormick
Principal

STEAM Lab

At Acacia, we have invited our Pandas to dive into the dynamic realm of our Acacia STEAM Lab, where our students are weaving magic with circuit boards! Our Acacia Pandas have been on an electrifying journey, seamlessly merging creativity and technology as they meticulously assemble and code circuit boards, transforming abstract concepts into tangible creations.

These budding engineers are not just building circuits; they're learning how to build a future where possibilities are limitless. The flicker of lights is not just a visual spectacle; it's a testament to the transformative impact of coding. Through lines of code, our STEAM stars navigate the digital landscape, unlocking the potential of technology. Our teachers support our students by embracing hands-on learning and bringing circuits to life! Throughout the year, our tech-savvy students continue to illuminate the path to a future driven by curiosity and innovation.



3rd grade students complete circuit board challenges.

Beechwood School

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • www.fullertonsd.org/beecewood



Hannah Lim
Principal

Arts at Beechwood School

Beechwood School provides multiple opportunities for our students to participate in visual and performing arts. Our community always looks forward to watching our students participate in our annual musical, band and orchestra, and choir performances.

Every year, the Beechwood Foundation, partnered with Stagelight Performing Arts, sponsors a schoolwide musical. This year, our K-8 students performed *The Little Mermaid Jr.* at the Curtiss Theatre to 3 sold-out performances for each cast. We were so proud to see our Bobcats showcase their versatile talents by singing, dancing, and acting in their various roles.

Our Beechwood Orchestras and Band, under the purview of Mrs. Mary Louise Uys, and Choir, directed by Mrs. Christine Lee, held multiple concerts and performances this year. Band and Orchestra performed at one of our Flagpole Assemblies, held a standing-room only Winter Concert at Fullerton Free Church, and played in front of the school to welcome parents and students as they walked onto campus in the morning. Our elementary and middle school choirs performed at different events such as Beechwood's Barnes and Noble Night, FSD Champions for Learning, and with the Fullerton High School's Choir concert.

Beechwood is grateful for the creativity and artistic gifts of our students!



Commonwealth *Elementary School*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • www.fullertonsd.org/commonwealth



Jean Summy
Principal

Breakfast in the Classroom

Commonwealth Elementary School is the first school in Orange County to participate in Breakfast in the Classroom!

With the help of Michael Burns, Director of Nutrition Services and the No Kid Hungry Program the Commonwealth staff launched this unique initiative in October 2023. We all benefit from a healthy breakfast and this program allows all students to enjoy

breakfast in the classroom among friends as part of the school day! As each school day starts, students enjoy breakfast as they do quiet reading and writing activities, morning warm ups and listen to announcements as teachers take attendance and begin instruction. Students take on leadership roles of delivering and returning food and materials to the classroom. It has been very successful! Breakfast in the Classroom has been linked to higher attendance, better attention spans and grades, fewer disciplinary issues, and of course fewer hungry students.



Fern Drive *Elementary School*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • www.fullertonsd.org/fern



Julie Lucas
Principal

Through the Imagination of our Falcons!

On January 25th, at Fern Drive Elementary, excitement buzzed through the air as students eagerly gathered for The Imagination Machine assembly, a magical event funded by our dedicated Fern Drive PTA. The auditorium echoed with laughter and anticipation as the talented performers from The Imagination Machine brought to life stories crafted by Fern Drive's own students. The assembly

turned the spotlight on creativity, weaving the imaginative tales into captivating skits that unfolded before the wide-eyed audience. As the characters danced across the stage, students marveled at the transformation of their written words into vibrant performances. The experience not only entertained but also imparted valuable lessons on the essential elements of storytelling. Through this collaborative journey of imagination, Fern Drive students discovered the power of their words and the enchanting drama that brings stories to life.



Robert C. Fisler School

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • www.fullertonsd.org/fisler



Dr. Kimberly Benaraw
Principal

Robert C. Fisler & Team Kids for Community Partnership

Team Kids is a non-profit organization that enables children to make a positive impact on the world through creative service initiatives conducted at home, school, and within their community. Fisler has been partnering with Team Kids to organize weekly school-wide challenges, leadership meetings, and the Team Kids carnival to raise money for one organization.

Our Team Kids challenge kicked off with supporting animal welfare by collecting gently used blankets and towels for our local animal shelter, our second challenge was to collect canned and non-perishable food for Families Forward, and our third challenge was an art supply drive to collect art supplies and kindness notes to drop off at CHOC. For four weeks our student led leadership team worked tirelessly to host our annual Team Kids carnival. Our whole school came together to enjoy student created games and activities, and together raised \$270 for OC Animal Care!



Golden Hill *School for Creative & Performing Arts*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • www.fullertonsd.org/golden



Dr. Neil Anderson
Principal

Literary Haven

Golden Hill has recently made a significant investment of over \$10,000 in new library books, igniting a fresh wave of enthusiasm for reading among students. The infusion of diverse and captivating titles has transformed the library into a literary haven, offering an array of choices to cater to varied interests and age groups. Students now have access to a

rich tapestry of knowledge, fostering a love for reading that extends beyond the classroom. The investment not only enhances academic resources but also cultivates a culture of exploration and curiosity. Teachers report heightened engagement in class discussions, and students are visibly excited about discovering new worlds through literature. Golden Hill's commitment to literacy underscores the value placed on education and the pivotal role reading plays in shaping well-rounded, informed individuals.



Hermosa Drive *Elementary School*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • www.fullertonsd.org/hermosa



Dr. Caroline Llewellyn
Principal

Focus on Kindness

Hermosa Drive is kicking off the New Year with a focus on kindness. Our entire school is participating in the Great Kindness Challenge. The month of January will be filled with engaging activities, such as spirit days, thoughtful notes, daily kindness quotes, art projects, and spontaneous acts of kindness both within the school and at home. We are so thankful to be the recipient of the Kindness

Grant awarded by the Fullerton Education Foundation. Their gracious grant supports Hermosa Drive's January kindness initiatives.

At Hermosa Drive, we know that kindness, gratitude, and empathy are all important attributes for our health and happiness. During lunchtime, we reinforce kind behaviors by featuring an act of kindness. This year, students: made friendship bracelets, and wrote kindness cards to staff and family members. Our Hermosa Hawks enjoy putting kindness into action during our recess time. We love celebrating kind behaviors!!



Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • www.fullertonsd.org/ladera



Dr. Bill Lynch
Principal

“Mean Girls Jr.”

Ladera Vista Junior High School for the Arts will be presenting the Broadway musical, “Mean Girls Jr.” with performances on February 29 and March 1st, offering both matinee and evening shows. Our staff, parents and Fullerton community will be treated to a show that is packed with keen wit, an undeniably catchy score, and a sincere message for everyone. Our all-student backstage crew keep the production running. LVA is also very fortunate to have a dedicated and involved

group of parent volunteers to help support the production in all phases, including costume and set design.

The student cast and crew comes exclusively from Ladera Vista Productions (LVP), our musical theater production class. LVP also includes our “Triple Threat” students, which includes students who take a dance, a choir, and a theater class in their student schedule. Students interested in joining the LVP program or other advanced performing arts electives can find information about auditions on our school website. Tickets for the performances are open to the public and available on our website.

Ladera Vista School of the Arts Presents

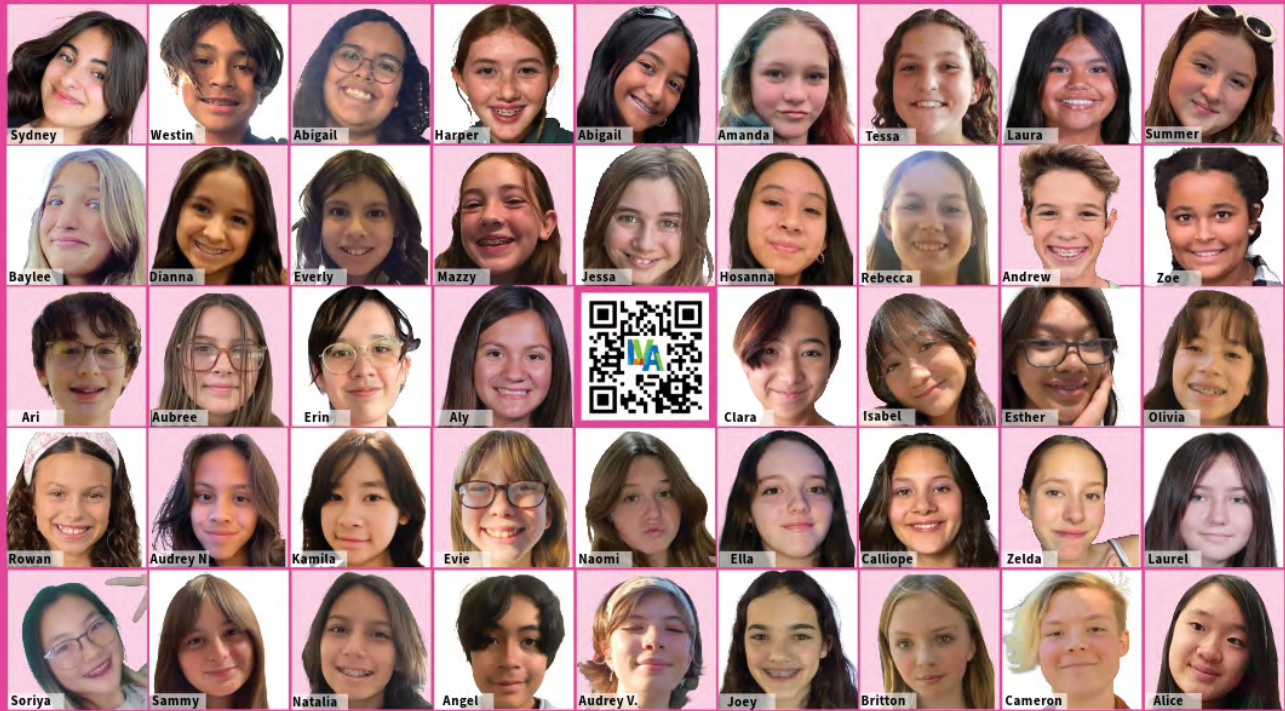


MEAN GIRLS JR.



Damian Matthew Dubei	Janis Juliette Fiber-Ostrow	Cady Erin McLaughlin	Regina London Molino	Gretchen Aubrey Duncan	Karen Brynn Throop	Aaron Elias Fritz
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Ensemble



Laguna Road Elementary School

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • www.fullertonsd.org/laguna



Stephanie Guppy
Principal

Family STEAM Night

Every year the Laguna Road community comes together for Family STEAM Night! This is an opportunity for students and their parents to experience hands-on, inquiry-based activities. Our STEAM teacher, Ms. Paik, with a team of Laguna Road teachers, planned and designed a fun night of exploration. Students excitedly came to school in the evening and went from classroom to classroom with their friends

and family. Laguna Road teachers facilitated activities in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Throughout the night, students were making parachutes and building catapults, towers, and human circuits. They also experimented with robotics, drones, a marble run maze, lava lamps, balloon chemistry, and bouncy balls. They made coding bracelets, clay fossils, bubble wrap paintings, and sand art. The night was a huge success due to our parent support and the Laguna Road staff. We had an amazing night of community, exploration, learning, and fun!



Maple Elementary School

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • www.fullertonsd.org/maple



Anthony Abney
Principal

Maple School Embraces Environmental Science and Project-Based Learning

In an era where environmental consciousness is more critical than ever, Maple School has taken a significant step forward by adopting a new focus on environmental science and project-based learning. This innovative approach is empowering students to become the change-makers of tomorrow, actively addressing environmental challenges in their school and community.

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is at the heart of Maple School's new initiative. PBL is an educational approach that encourages students to tackle real-world problems through hands-on, collaborative projects. At Maple, students are harnessing the power of PBL to solve environmental science problems, and the results are nothing short of remarkable.

One shining example of this initiative is the fourth-grade class's mission to combat high levels of food and plastic waste generated by the school cafeteria program. This Spring, these young environmental champions will be taking on this daunting challenge head-on. They recognize that food and plastic waste not only harm the environment but also squander valuable resources.

Maple School's environmental science and project-based learning focus extend beyond the cafeteria project. Students across all grade levels are actively engaged in exploring local environmental issues, conducting research, and collaborating with their peers to implement meaningful change.

This educational approach not only equips students with a deep understanding of environmental science but also instills in them a sense of responsibility towards the planet. By actively participating in projects that address real-world problems, Maple School students are becoming environmentally conscious citizens who will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the world.





Jose Varela
Principal

Every Student Succeeding

Nicolas would like to spotlight our Every Student Succeeding recipient, Maximus Frausto. Maximus was honored during this year's Every Student Succeeding ceremony on Thursday, January 25th at Ladera Vista Junior High School. Maximus is also a member of Dr Pletka's Rising Stars. But most importantly, Maximus is an amazing young man. Even though he has

experienced multiple setbacks and let downs in his young life, he continues to do well in school and attends daily. He has nearly perfect attendance and has a 3.5 grade point average. He is a member of the Nicolas' Avid Team, which is a very demanding class. Maximus is cared for by his grandparents, who live in Pomona. That's right, Pomona. Maximus gets up every day at the crack of dawn and is present at school daily. He only has 2 absences all year long. When you think of strive and determination, you think Maximus. He is that type of guy.



Orangethorpe *Elementary School*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • www.fullertonsd.org/orangethorpe



Deborah Bennett
Principal

Orangethorpe Steps Up to the Challenge

Kids Heart Challenge is a fundraising, service-learning program that provides lessons, tools and activities to support both the mental and physical well-being of students, families and staff. On January 16, 2024, Orangethorpe staff and students participated in the 2nd annual kick off assembly for the challenge and were introduced to the new heart heroes. The heroes represent things such as, moving more, hands only CPR, eating

smart, being a leader and sleeping more and students have the opportunity to earn them through donations.

Additionally, the students are encouraged to complete Finn's mission. Finn is a 3rd grade student who has had multiple heart surgeries since birth but is leading a healthy life despite his operations. The mission for students includes donating to the American Heart Association, watching videos on how to complete hands on CPR and understanding the warning signs of a stroke. All the activities are completed at home with parents to encourage involvement from the entire family.



Pacific Drive *Elementary School*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • www.fullertonsd.org/pacific



Laurel Estrada
Principal

Market Day

In an exciting culmination of integrated learning, Pacific Drive 3rd graders in Ms. Smith's class participated in Market Day that brought together math, social studies, and art skills. The scholars delved into economic concepts, exploring the dynamics of producers versus consumers and distinguishing between goods and services.

Armed with creativity, students crafted their own goods. The learning experience extended to budgeting

and marketing, as each student was responsible for managing a budget and selling their items. On Market Day, the 3rd graders were responsible for providing change, applying their math skills in real-world scenarios.

The event culminated with students calculating their profits, providing a practical application of economic principles they learned. Market Day was not only an engaging educational experience for students, but also an occasion for parents and staff members to support the innovative endeavors of our young entrepreneurs by 'purchasing' items at Market Day.





Robin Mundschau
Principal

Being Purposeful

Parks was excited to host California State Senator Josh Newman, who recently spoke with our 8th Grade Language and Composition class regarding pursuing action in government, advocating for important causes, and advising our students who plan to present information to the City of

Fullerton about the Fullerton School District's Tiny Home project. Senator Newman provided the students with a wide array of resources, and graciously answered their many questions. Being Purposeful is one of our Park's pillars, and working to serve our community and those around us is an amazing purpose that our students are learning by example.



Raymond *Elementary School*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • www.fullertonsd.org/raymond



Cristina Centeno
Principal

Raymond's Terrific TLMA

Raymond Elementary is proud to highlight the contributions of Ms. Amber Morrell, our esteemed Technology, Library, and Media Assistant!

Every week, Amber engages with students from grades TK-6, aiming to introduce them to the diverse collection in Raymond's library. She has diligently worked to update the books, bridging gaps between fiction and non-fiction.

In addition to her regular duties, Amber founded the Library Club, inspired by a Girl Scouts student. This club

encourages students to actively participate by organizing shelves, labeling books, and creating captivating displays.

Amber is also an author. Her first book, "The Alchemy of Letting Go," was published in April 2023. Students have enthusiastically enjoyed participating in discussions about Amber's book.

Expressing her fondness for her role at Raymond, Amber noted her thankfulness that the library is a treasured community space, fostering a positive atmosphere for everyone involved.

Thank you, Amber, for all that you do!



Richman *Elementary School*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • www.fullertonsd.org/richman



Kristen Holm
Principal

"Finding Nemo, Kids"

In its first year, Richman Elementary School's ACTS (Aspiring Creative Theatre Students) is set to make a splash with their upcoming production of "Finding Nemo, Kids." Our cast of 66 enthusiastic students have been working 4 hours a week to bring the magic of the ocean to our MPR. Rising to the challenge, student actors are creating background decor and props, designing choreography, and making staging and blocking decisions.

Sofia, playing Nemo, expresses her joy in being part of the musical, stating, "I like being in a musical because you get to sing and dance! You get to escape from reality and use your imagination!" Jocelyn echoes the sentiment,

sharing, "My favorite thing is practicing with my friends and learning about being on stage." Isaiah, playing Marlin, highlights the valuable lessons learned through theatre, stating, "I love having the opportunity to be a part of the play and learning that when you make a mistake, you can try again."

These testimonials emphasize the importance of Arts at Richman! Theatre not only provides a platform for self-expression but also fosters teamwork, resilience, confidence, and creativity. Richman Elementary's commitment to the Arts not only enhances the overall educational experience, but also nurtures well-rounded individuals prepared to face the challenges of the future. Don't miss the chance to dive into the enchanting world of "Finding Nemo, Kids" and witness the incredible talents of our ACTS students!



Noemi Rodriguez, Jazmin Herrera, and Jocelyn Estes spent their Saturday painting sea life for the Finding Nemo Kids Musical.

Rolling Hills *Elementary School*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • www.fullertonsd.org/rolling



Lindy McNutt
Principal

Rolling Hills Attends Camp High Trails!

For four days in January, our 6th grade students attended Outdoor Science School with Camp High Trails. OSS provides a transformative experience for students, fostering personal growth through outdoor education. Nestled in the woods, the camp focuses on building meaningful relationships among students, creating a sense of community that extends beyond the classroom. The curriculum is designed to incorporate group challenges, encouraging

teamwork and problem-solving skills. Students engage in various outdoor activities that promote independence and self-discovery, fostering a sense of responsibility and confidence. Through hands-on experiences, Camp High Trails aims to instill a love for nature, enhance scientific understanding, and create lasting memories that contribute to the holistic development of each student. Rolling Hills has an established relationship with the camp and we love to return each year. We are grateful to Mrs. Dyer, Mrs. Cleary, Mr. Williamson, and Ms. Guardamondo for supporting our students through this wonderful opportunity!



Sunset Lane *Elementary School*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • www.fullertonsd.org/sunset



Dr. Tracy Gyurina
Principal

Thank You Parent Volunteers

Sunset Lane Elementary School extends heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated parent volunteers whose unwavering commitment enhances the educational journey of our students. In a recent celebration of diversity, parents from a few of our classrooms organized a vibrant cultural connection, spotlighting the Korean Seollal (Lunar New Year). The event was a delightful showcase of unity, where the rich tapestry of our community was

celebrated through shared traditions. Parent volunteers took the lead in organizing activities, showcasing the essence of this special Korean holiday. A highlight of the festivities was the preparation and enjoyment of traditional Korean dishes like kimbap and japchae, creating a sensory experience that enriched the cultural celebration for our students and families. This event not only fostered a sense of community, but also provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn about and appreciate the diversity that makes our school so special. We are so thankful for our beautifully diverse Sunset Lane community!



3rd grade students making kimbap with our amazing parent volunteers to celebrate Korean Seollal (Lunar New Year).

Valencia Park *Elementary School*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • www.fullertonsd.org/valencia



Dr. Guillermo Muñoz
Principal

REFLEX Math and VP

Valencia Park 2nd-5th grade students participated in a Reflex Challenge before the winter break. The results were announced and Valencia Park won in all grades across the district! That means that our students had the highest green light percentage, highest fluency gain, and highest usage of Reflex for the entire district! Way to go

Valencia Park! Teachers received a gift from Reflex to celebrate their success!

The winning classroom at Valencia Park was Mrs. Carol Phillips' 3/4 combo class!!! Reflex personnel came and announced in person in front of her class!

Stay tuned for a new monthly Reflex Challenge starting in February! The winning class will have their name on the bulletin board and a Crab trophy to keep in their class for the month!



Woodcrest Elementary School

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • www.fullertonsd.org/woodcrest



Christopher Wilkins
Principal

Heartwarming Gesture

In a heartwarming gesture, Woodcrest Elementary students received an abundance of gifts and donations from a local credit union's. Holiday Helping Hands Project. Members of the credit union provided every Woodcrest student a gift before winter break, creating an atmosphere of joy and gratitude. The act of kindness extended beyond gifts, as

the project also included a remarkable \$1,000 donation and essential science camp supplies. The credit Union inspired by the festive spirit, transformed the Woodcrest community Space into a captivating winter wonderland. Principal Chris Wilkins and FSD Board President Leonel Talavera expressed overwhelming gratitude for the benevolence, highlighting the positive impact on the school community. This thoughtful initiative undoubtedly made the holiday season brighter for Woodcrest Elementary.



MyConnectAcademy

1460 E. Rolling Hills, Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2862 • www.fullertonsd.org/Academies



Lindy McNutt
Principal

MyConnect Brings Students Together!

The Primary Homeschool Program offered by MyConnect Academy and Mrs. Aldridge provides a unique and enriching educational experience for our students. While the majority of the learning takes place at home, students eagerly anticipate their weekly visit to the campus, fostering a sense of connection and camaraderie. Every Wednesday, students enjoy a dynamic blend of instruction, snack time, recess, and library activities in a flexible classroom

setting. This on-campus day not only supplements their academic journey but also offers a valuable opportunity for social interaction. Students relish the chance to engage with peers, teachers, and staff, creating a supportive community atmosphere. Beyond the students' interactions, this weekly gathering serves as a platform for parents to connect, exchange ideas, plan play dates, and share successful homeschooling practices. The Homeschool Program at MyConnect Academy strikes a harmonious balance between individualized learning at home and the social benefits of a shared on-campus experience.

