

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the La Habra City School District**



Volume 10, Issue 29

February 2024

## Arbolita Elementary Students Embrace College Dreams at UCLA's "I'm Going to College" Fair





# What's wrong with the “average” credit card? **A whole lot.**



The average credit card<sup>1</sup>



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\$99 – \$150 Annual Fee

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APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Subject to credit approval.

<sup>1</sup> Sources for national average rates and fees. Average APR source: Forbes Advisor Weekly Credit Card Rates Report. Annual fee source: NerdWallet Is A Credit Card Annual Fee Worth It? Balance transfer fee source: Bankrate What is a balance transfer fee? Here is everything you need to know. Cash advance fee source: Experian What Is A Credit Card Cash Advance Fee? <sup>2</sup> SchoolsFirst FCU's credit card program features a range of variable interest rates based on a variety of factors, including the applicant's credit rating. As of 11/01/23, Inspire Mastercard rates range from 13.75% - 17.90% APR; Rewards Mastercard rates range from 15.00% - 17.90% APR; and School Employee Mastercard rates range from 11.75% - 17.90% APR; Share-Secured 13.90% APR. Rates are subject to change, are variable and subject to increase after account opening. School Employee Mastercard, Inspire Mastercard and Share-Secured Mastercard foreign transaction fee: 2% of the transaction amount in U.S. dollars, includes internet transactions made when you are in the United States, but the merchant processes the transaction in a foreign country. Rewards Mastercard has no foreign transaction fee. Visit [schoolsfirstfcu.org/creditcard](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org/creditcard) to see disclosures for Inspire Mastercard, School Employee Mastercard, Share-Secured Mastercard, and Rewards Mastercard.



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### Guiding through our Four District Priorities

February has arrived and with it excitement in sharing how we continue to highlight our student academic progress through our District-wide 4 priorities. Our commitment from day one remains strong in focusing on Tier I Instruction, building strong relationships, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for all students, and having strong leadership.

Tier I Instruction is central to our mission of providing high-quality education for all students. By emphasizing evidence-based practices and personalized instruction, we ensure that each child receives the support they need to succeed academically. Our goal is to empower students to reach their full potential and become lifelong learners.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) stand as foundational pillars in our educational approach. We are dedicated to creating an environment where every student feels valued and respected, regardless of background or identity. Through fostering a culture of understanding and acceptance, we aim to cultivate a community where diversity is celebrated and inclusion is embraced.

Strong leadership is essential for guiding our District toward its goals. We prioritize leadership development at all levels, empowering educators and administrators to lead with vision, integrity, and compassion. By fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation, we aim to inspire positive change and continuous improvement.

Lastly, relationships are at the heart of our educational community. We recognize the importance of building strong connections between students, teachers, families, and staff. Through open communication and mutual respect, we strive to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every individual feels valued and supported.

As we move forward, I invite you to join us in our commitment to these priorities. Together, let us work toward creating a school community where every child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support.

### Guiando a través de nuestras Cuatro Prioridades del Distrito

Febrero ha llegado y con él la emoción de compartir cómo seguimos resaltando el progreso académico de nuestros estudiantes a través de nuestras cuatro prioridades del distrito. Nuestro compromiso desde el primer día sigue siendo sólido al centrarnos en la Instrucción de Nivel I, construir relaciones sólidas, la Diversidad, la Equidad y la Inclusión para todos los estudiantes, y tener un liderazgo fuerte.

La Instrucción de Nivel I es central en nuestra misión de proporcionar educación de alta calidad para todos los estudiantes. Al enfatizar prácticas basadas en evidencia e instrucción personalizada, aseguramos que cada niño reciba el apoyo que necesita para tener éxito académico. Nuestro objetivo es empoderar a los estudiantes para que alcancen su máximo potencial y se conviertan en aprendices de por vida.

La Diversidad, la Equidad y la Inclusión (DEI) son pilares fundamentales en nuestro enfoque educativo. Estamos dedicados a crear un ambiente donde cada estudiante se sienta valorado y respetado, independientemente de su origen o identidad. A través de fomentar una cultura de comprensión y aceptación, aspiramos a cultivar una comunidad donde se celebre la diversidad y se abrace la inclusión.

Un liderazgo sólido es esencial para guiar a nuestro distrito hacia sus metas. Priorizamos el desarrollo del liderazgo en todos los niveles, capacitando a educadores y administradores para liderar con visión, integridad y compasión. Al fomentar una cultura de colaboración e innovación, aspiramos a inspirar cambios positivos y mejoras continuas.

Por último, las relaciones están en el corazón de nuestra comunidad educativa. Reconocemos la importancia de construir conexiones sólidas entre estudiantes, maestros, familias y personal. A través de la comunicación abierta y el respeto mutuo, nos esforzamos por crear un ambiente de aprendizaje de apoyo e inclusivo donde cada individuo se sienta valorado y respaldado.

A medida que avanzamos, los invito a unirse a nosotros en nuestro compromiso con estas prioridades. Juntos, trabajemos hacia la creación de una comunidad escolar donde cada niño pueda prosperar académicamente, socialmente y emocionalmente.

Gracias por su continuo apoyo y colaboración.



**Dr. Mario A.  
Carlos**  
*Superintendent*



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



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Covering the  
**LA HABRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Happy New Year!

The new year is well underway and students are focused on their goals. In fact, throughout this issue you will read about goal setting. Imperial Middle School's theme is "In it to Win it" and they state their goals for the year in their article on page 11. On page 14 Las Lomas students express their academic and behavioral goals. The bottomline is all teachers are focused on success for their students. Of course, parental involvement in their child's learning process is important and it starts with attendance.

Our next issue is April 17.



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THE CITY OF LA HABRA PROUDLY PRESENTS:

# #LAHABRARACES FAMILY FUN RUN

2024 SATURDAY  
MARCH 9, 2024 @ 7:30 AM

5K WALK/RUN \$30

1K KIDDY RUN \$20

50 YD. DIAPER DASH \$15

Registration fees will increase by \$5 on March 2, 2024.

"RACE FOR THE GOLD"

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LHRECREATION@LAHABRACA.GOV



Mobile Children's Museum



Move More, Eat Healthy



## SUMMER CONCERTS

JULY 11, 18, 28  
AUGUST 1, 8

7:00 - 8:30 PM  
PORTOLA PARK

## 4th OF JULY CELEBRATION

LIVE MUSIC MUCH MORE

4-9 PM

LA BONITA PARK  
1440 W. WHITTIER BLVD.

## SPRING FAMILY EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Helicopter Easter Egg Drop at 9:30 a.m.

PRE-SALE WRISTBANDS: \$5  
DAY OF EVENT WRISTBANDS: \$6

Wristband includes:  
Egg Hunt, Balloon Artist,  
Face Painting Booth,  
Inflatable Attractions,  
Game Booths, Craft Booths, &  
The Children's Museum  
Mobile Museum

- Free Family Health Fair hosted by the La Habra Family Resource Center
- Community Farmer's Market hosted by the La Habra Collaborative

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH  
8 A.M. - 12 P.M.  
@ LA BONITA PARK  
1440 W. WHITTIER BLVD.

This event is not affiliated with the La Habra City School District. The School District does not endorse or sponsor the activity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

FOR EVENT UPDATES follow us at:  
 La Habra Recreation Division  
 La Habra Recreation Division  
 @LaHabraRec  
 www.lahabracaca.gov

La Habra Host Lions Pancake Breakfast: \$6

## EGG NIGHT LATE NIGHT EGG HUNT

Friday, March 29, 2024  
7 to 8 p.m.  
\$10 per person  
Open to kids ages 7-13 years

La Bonita Park \* 1440 W. Whittier Blvd.

Pre-registration is required. Tickets will not be available at the event.

Register Online

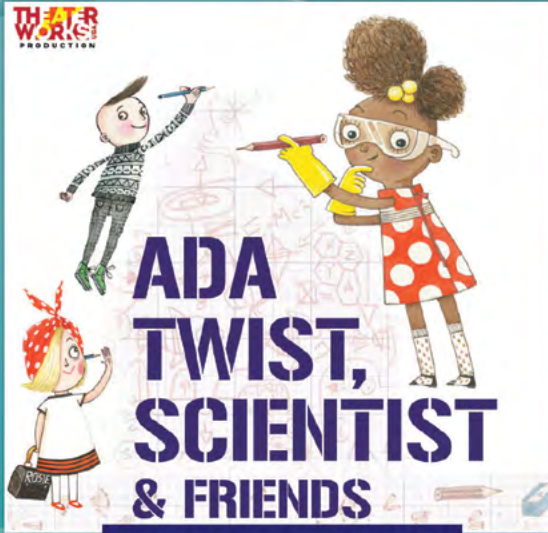
For more information, call, 562-383-4200 or visit www.lahabracaca.gov



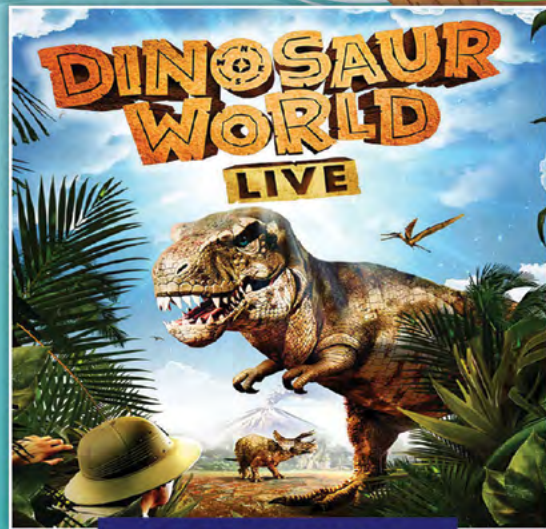


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# Health, Wellness, and Family Engagement

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## Empowering Parents: Reflecting on the Success of “I am a Parent, I am a Leader” Academy

To foster a stronger partnership between families and the La Habra City School District, our first parent engagement Academy workshop titled “I am a Parent, I am a Leader”, led by Maria Rosales, saw resounding success, marking a pivotal moment in our parents’ commitment to collaborative education. The workshop, held on January 30th and 31st, aimed to empower parents by recognizing their pivotal role in their children’s education and fostering a sense of leadership within the parent community. Through the interactive workshops, discussions, and activities, parents were encouraged to embrace their potential as leaders in their children’s educational journey. One of the key highlights of the sessions was the open dialogue between parents. Parents shared their experiences, concerns, and aspirations while providing valuable insights and resources to support parental involvement in their children’s learning process. As we meet weekly, we’re excited to build upon the momentum generated by the first “I am a Parent, I am a Leader” workshop and continue to cultivate meaningful partnerships between parents, educators, and students.



**Jessica Stout-Ryder**  
Lead

## Empoderando a los Padres: Reflexionando sobre el Éxito de la Academia “Soy Padre, Soy Líder”

Para fomentar una asociación más sólida entre las familias y el Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de La Habra, nuestro primer taller de la academia de participación de padres titulado “Soy Padre, Soy Líder”, dirigido por María Rosales, fue un rotundo éxito, marcando un momento crucial en el compromiso de nuestros padres con la educación colaborativa. El taller, celebrado los días 30 y 31 de enero, tuvo como objetivo empoderar a los padres reconociendo su papel crucial en la educación de sus hijos y fomentando un sentido de liderazgo dentro de la comunidad de padres. A través de talleres interactivos, discusiones y actividades, se animó a los padres a aceptar su potencial como líderes en el viaje educativo de sus hijos. Uno de los puntos destacados de las sesiones fue el diálogo abierto entre los padres. Los padres compartieron sus experiencias, preocupaciones y aspiraciones al tiempo que proporcionaban valiosos conocimientos y recursos para apoyar la participación de los padres en el proceso de aprendizaje de sus hijos. Al reunirnos semanalmente, estamos emocionados de construir sobre el impulso generado por el primer taller “Soy Padre, Soy Líder” y continuar cultivando asociaciones significativas entre padres, educadores y estudiantes.





# Extended Learning Opportunities Program

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2305 • [www.lahabraschools.org](http://www.lahabraschools.org)

## La Habra City School District After School Basketball League

As part of our Extended Learning Opportunities Program, the La Habra City School District and Breakthrough Sports are offering a free after-school sports program for 6th graders. This program is a great way to engage students in physical activity and teamwork. All schools will come together to engage in a friendly basketball competition, culminating in a tournament at Sonora High School on March 9th. The winner of the inaugural La Habra School District Championship Trophy is yet to be seen!

The La Habra City School District Afterschool Basketball League, custom web page will likely provide a centralized platform for participants and fans to stay updated on the latest stats, rankings, and highlights. Keep your eyes open for information on soccer season, which starts the week of April 15!

<https://www.breakthroughsports.org/lahabra>



**Emily Flesher**  
Director

## La Liga de Baloncesto Extraescolar del Distrito Escolar de La Habra

Como parte de nuestro Programa de Oportunidades de Aprendizaje Extendido, el Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de La Habra y Breakthrough Sports ofrecen un programa deportivo extracurricular gratuito para los estudiantes de sexto grado, que es una excelente manera de involucrar a los estudiantes en la actividad física y el trabajo en equipo. Todas las escuelas se unirán para participar en una competencia amistosa de baloncesto, culminando en un torneo en la Escuela Secundaria Sonora el 9 de marzo. ¡Aún está por verse quién ganará el Trofeo del Campeonato Inaugural del Distrito Escolar de La Habra!

Es probable que la página web personalizada de la Liga de Baloncesto Extraescolar del Distrito Escolar de La Habra proporcione una plataforma centralizada para que los participantes y los fanáticos se mantengan actualizados sobre las últimas estadísticas, clasificaciones y aspectos destacados. ¡Mantén tus ojos abiertos para obtener información sobre la temporada de fútbol, que comienza la semana del 15 de abril!





# School Readiness

301 W. Las Lomas Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2386 • [www.lahabraschools.org](http://www.lahabraschools.org)

Serving Early Learners and their families is a priority for the La Habra City School District. Early Learning serves over 500 children and their families in the District and throughout the city of La Habra. One way that we reach out to the community is through Readiness on the Road. In collaboration with First Five Orange County and the La Habra Collaborative, families attend Readiness on the Road at the Hillcrest Health and Wellness Center on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Our amazing School Readiness Community Liaison, Ms. Adriana, leads our children and families in a music and movement class. Upon completion of the class, families receive a take-home activity to extend the learning in their homes.

The La Habra Collaborative allows all families to shop at the store for food, diapers, and other necessities. Multiple community agencies are on-site to link our families to valuable resources in La Habra and throughout Orange County. Our awesome Early Learning Teacher on Special Assignment, Paty Perez Barba, has created a reading path where families can scan codes to access online read-alouds.

Early Learning is grateful for the collaboration with community agencies to ensure that our children are ready for Kindergarten and beyond!



**Debbye Viveros**  
*Director*

Servir a los aprendices tempranos y sus familias es una prioridad para el Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de La Habra. El Aprendizaje Temprano atiende a más de 500 niños y sus familias en el distrito y en toda la ciudad de La Habra. Una forma en que nos conectamos con la comunidad es a través de “Readiness on the Road” (Preparación en el Camino). En colaboración con First Five Orange County y La Habra Collaborative, las familias asisten a “Readiness on the Road” en el Centro de Salud y Bienestar Hillcrest los miércoles a las 10:00 am. Nuestra increíble Enlace Comunitaria de Preparación Escolar, la Sra. Adriana, lidera a nuestros niños y familias en una clase de música y movimiento. Al completar la clase, las familias reciben una actividad para llevar a casa y ampliar el aprendizaje en sus hogares.

El Colaborativo de La Habra permite que todas las familias compren alimentos, pañales, y otras necesidades en la tienda. Varias agencias comunitarias están en el lugar para vincular a nuestras familias con recursos valiosos en La Habra y en todo el condado de Orange. Nuestra increíble Maestra de Aprendizaje Temprano en Asignación Especial, Paty Perez Barba, ha creado un camino de lectura donde las familias pueden escanear códigos para acceder a lecturas en voz alta en línea.

¡El Aprendizaje Temprano está agradecido por la colaboración con agencias comunitarias para asegurar que nuestros niños estén listos para el kinder y más allá!



**Music and Movement**  
**Música y Movimiento**



## New Year, New Goals!

2024 is off to a great start at Arbolita! We had an amazing December filled with learning, activities, and fun! Since returning from winter break, we have motivated our Arbolita students to do their best on the iReady second diagnostic in reading and math with individual and class incentives! Our focus is on student growth from the first to the second diagnostic in both subjects. Students have opportunities to win pizza parties, extra recess, fidgets, squishies, and other items by spinning our prize wheel! The number of times they spin is based on their percentage of growth. Our 5th and 6th graders are also able to earn Bee Bucks based on their percentage of growth. Our students are looking at their iReady lesson and diagnostic data, tracking it, and celebrating their growth. They are excited to share their results with adults on the playground and at home. Attendance also continues to be a goal for us at Arbolita. In our first week back, we found we had a few days with less than 5 students absent! Additionally, two classes had 100% attendance for the first week back! We continue to celebrate our classes and students for their great attendance by promoting the importance of being present to learn and grow! We appreciate all our family and community support as we continue to inspire our students to reach their full potentials and continue to grow into productive citizens!



**Jennifer McCully Rodriguez**  
Principal

## ¡Nuevo Año, Nuevos Objetivos!

¡El 2024 ha comenzado de manera excelente en Arbolita! Tuvimos un diciembre increíble lleno de aprendizaje, actividades y diversión. Desde el regreso de las vacaciones de invierno, hemos motivado a nuestros estudiantes de Arbolita para que den lo mejor de sí en el segundo diagnóstico de iReady en lectura y matemáticas, con incentivos individuales y grupales. Nuestro enfoque está en el crecimiento estudiantil desde el primer hasta el segundo diagnóstico en ambas materias. ¡Los estudiantes tienen oportunidades de ganar fiestas de pizza, recreo adicional, juguetes antiestrés, squishies y otros artículos al girar nuestra ruleta de premios! La cantidad de giros se basa en su porcentaje de crecimiento. Nuestros estudiantes de quinto y sexto grado también pueden ganar “Bee Bucks” según su porcentaje de crecimiento. Nuestros estudiantes están revisando sus datos de lecciones y diagnósticos de iReady, haciéndole seguimiento y celebrando su crecimiento. Están emocionados de compartir sus resultados con adultos en el patio de recreo y en casa. La asistencia también sigue siendo un objetivo para nosotros en Arbolita. ¡En nuestra primera semana de regreso, descubrimos que tuvimos algunos días con menos de 5 estudiantes ausentes! ¡Además, dos clases tuvieron un 100% de asistencia la primera semana de regreso! ¡Continuamos celebrando a nuestras clases y estudiantes por su excelente asistencia, promoviendo la importancia de estar presente para aprender y crecer; ¡Agradecemos todo el apoyo de nuestras familias y la comunidad mientras continuamos inspirando a nuestros estudiantes para que alcancen su máximo potencial y sigan creciendo como ciudadanos productivos!



**Students are excited about spinning the iReady incentive wheel!**  
**¡Los estudiantes están emocionados por girar la ruleta de incentivos de iReady!**



# El Cerrito (TK—6) Code to the Future (Computer Science)

1051 N. Hillside, La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2340 • [www.lahabraschools.org/elcerrito](http://www.lahabraschools.org/elcerrito)

## Every Day Counts at El Cerrito!

Exciting things are happening in 2024 at El Cerrito Elementary School! We are starting off the new year with engaging activities for students and families including:

- The Fairytale Ball for Grades TK through 2
- Lunch with a Loved One
- Buck-a-Book
- Class Act presentations from our Pacific Symphony musician, Dr. Andy Honea

We are striving to reach our goal to improve student attendance and engagement! At El Cerrito, we stress the importance of coming to school every day! We share messages during the daily announcements, and every Friday we celebrate school attendance with raffles and prizes for all students with perfect attendance for the week. The class(es) with the top attendance each week also receive a Best Attendance banner and Scottie Dog plushy to display in their classroom, along with extra recess with Mrs. Putnam. Students with perfect attendance are recognized at our Trimester Awards Assemblies and the End of the Year Awards Assembly.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff for making El Cerrito a fun place for students to go to every day! Your efforts make the difference!



**Deanna Putnam**  
Principal

## ¡Cada Día Cuenta en El Cerrito!

¡Cosas emocionantes están sucediendo en 2024 en la Escuela Primaria El Cerrito! Estamos comenzando el nuevo año con actividades atractivas para estudiantes y familias, que incluyen:

- El Baile de Cuentos de Hadas para los grados de TK a 2
  - Almuerzo con un ser querido
  - Buck-a-Book
  - Presentaciones de Actuación de nuestra música de la Sinfónica del Pacífico, el Dr. Andy Honea
- ¡Estamos esforzándonos por alcanzar nuestro

objetivo de mejorar la asistencia y participación estudiantil! ¡En El Cerrito, enfatizamos la importancia de venir a la escuela todos los días! Compartimos mensajes durante los anuncios diarios, y cada viernes celebramos la asistencia escolar con rifas y premios para todos los estudiantes con asistencia perfecta durante la semana. La(s) clase(s) con la mejor asistencia cada semana también recibe(n) una bandera de Mejor Asistencia y un peluche de Scottie Dog para exhibir en su salón, junto con recreo adicional con la Sra. Putnam. Los estudiantes con asistencia perfecta son reconocidos en nuestras Asambleas de Premios Trimestrales y en la Asamblea de Premios de Fin de Año.

¡Gracias a nuestros estudiantes, familias y personal por hacer de El Cerrito un lugar divertido al que los estudiantes pueden ir todos los días! ¡Sus esfuerzos hacen la diferencia!





## In it to Win it: Imperial Middle School's 2024 Goals!

As we welcome the new year at Imperial Middle School, we're set for an exciting journey marked by growth, innovation, and triumphs. Our theme, "In it to Win it," embodies the collective spirit propelling us towards greatness. Let's delve into the incredible goals for the coming year!

### 1. Expanding Flex Period Offerings:

Imperial Middle School is dedicated to providing students with ample opportunities for academic and personal excellence. To enrich the learning experience, we're expanding our Flex period offerings, introducing targeted interventions like tutoring, workshops, and mentorship programs. Our aim is to empower every middle school student on their educational journey.

### 2. Leveling Up with E-Sports:

Imperial Middle School proudly announces the launch of our E-Sports program, catering to students' modern interests. This initiative not only supports their gaming passion but also fosters teamwork, strategic thinking, and sportsmanship. In its early stages, we aspire to see our E-Sports teams competing in the prestigious MSEL (Middle School E-Sports League). It's about embracing the evolving sports landscape and providing students opportunities to shine in their digital arenas.

### 3. Sporting Success Continues:

With a rich history of sporting achievements, Imperial Middle School anticipates an exciting season of Boys Basketball and Girls Soccer. Student-athletes, dedicated and sportsmanlike, aim to make us proud. Let's unite as a school community to cheer on our teams and celebrate victories on the courts and fields.

"In it to Win it" is not just a theme; it's a rallying cry uniting us in our pursuit of excellence. In 2024, students, teachers, parents, and staff will make it a year of growth, achievement, and unforgettable moments at Imperial Middle School.

Here's to a year of winning and embracing endless possibilities! Go, IMS Knights!



**Erik Bagger**  
Principal

## ¡En Pos de la Victoria: Objetivos del 2024 de la Escuela Intermedia Imperial!

Al dar la bienvenida al nuevo año en la Escuela Intermedia Imperial, nos preparamos para un emocionante viaje marcado por el crecimiento, la innovación y los triunfos. Nuestro lema, "En Pos de la Victoria," encarna el espíritu colectivo que nos impulsa hacia la grandeza. ¡Sumergámonos en los increíbles objetivos para el próximo año!

### 1. Ampliación de Ofertas en el Período Flexible:

La Escuela Intermedia Imperial se dedica a proporcionar a los estudiantes amplias oportunidades para la excelencia académica y personal. Para enriquecer la experiencia de aprendizaje, estamos ampliando nuestras ofertas en el Período Flexible, introduciendo intervenciones específicas como tutorías, talleres, y programas de mentoría. Nuestro objetivo es capacitar a cada estudiante de Intermedia en su viaje educativo.

### 2. Avanzando con E-Sports:

La Escuela Intermedia Imperial anuncia con orgullo el lanzamiento de nuestro programa de E-Sports, atendiendo a los intereses modernos de los estudiantes. Esta iniciativa no solo respalda su pasión por los videojuegos, sino que también fomenta el trabajo en equipo, el pensamiento estratégico y la deportividad. En sus primeras etapas, aspiramos a ver a nuestros equipos de E-Sports compitiendo en la prestigiosa MSEL (Liga de E-Sports de Escuelas Intermedias). Se trata de abrazar el panorama deportivo en evolución y brindar a los estudiantes oportunidades para destacar en sus arenas digitales.

### 3. Continúa el Éxito Deportivo:

Con una rica historia de logros deportivos, la Escuela Intermedia Imperial anticipa una emocionante temporada de Baloncesto Masculino y Fútbol Femenino. Los estudiantes atletas, dedicados y deportivos, aspiran a enorgullecernos. Unámonos como comunidad escolar para animar a nuestros equipos y celebrar victorias en las canchas y

campos. "En Pos de la Victoria" no es solo un lema; es un grito de guerra que nos une en nuestra búsqueda de la excelencia. En 2024, estudiantes, maestros, padres y personal harán de este un año de crecimiento, logros, y momentos inolvidables en la Escuela Intermedia Imperial.

¡Brindemos por un año de victorias y abracemos posibilidades infinitas! ¡Vamos, Caballeros de IMS!



**Students showcasing their products at the Cosmetic Convention.  
Estudiantes presentando sus productos en la Convención de Cosméticos.**



# Ladera Palma (TK—6) Dual Immersion Academy

2151 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2348 • [www.lahabraschools.org/laderapalma](http://www.lahabraschools.org/laderapalma)

## Aiming for Bi-literacy!

At Ladera Palma, we strive to meet ALL of our students' needs across all areas! Learning all academic subjects in Spanish can be challenging under any circumstances; however, achieving bi-literacy in two languages is one of our school goals. Our team of teachers, along with our MTSS TOSA (Multi-Tiered System of Supports Teacher on Special Assignment), Mrs. Maurin, uses data to identify our students' academic needs in both languages and then forms small groups to assist them. Our teachers conduct small group sessions in their classrooms every day to address our students' needs. They are supported by our educational and instructional assistants, and sometimes volunteers, who collaborate to cater to our students' academic requirements. Groups that require additional support are provided further intervention by teachers or aides based on academic data. Students are offered multiple opportunities to listen, speak, read, and write in two languages daily!



**Dr. Rosa Murillo**  
Principal

## ¡Alcanzando la Alfabetización Bilingüe!

¡En Ladera Palma, nos esforzamos por satisfacer todas las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes en todas las áreas! Aprender todas las materias académicas en español puede ser desafiante bajo cualquier circunstancia; sin embargo, lograr la alfabetización bilingüe en dos idiomas es uno de nuestros objetivos escolares. Nuestro equipo de maestros, junto con nuestra Maestra en Asignación Especial del Sistema de Apoyo de Múltiples Niveles (MTSS TOSA), la Sra. Maurin, utiliza datos para identificar las necesidades académicas de nuestros estudiantes en ambos idiomas y luego forma grupos pequeños para ayudarlos. Nuestros maestros realizan sesiones de grupos pequeños en sus aulas todos los días para abordar las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes. Son apoyados por nuestros asistentes educativos e instructores, y a veces voluntarios, quienes colaboran para atender los requisitos académicos de nuestros estudiantes. Los grupos que requieren apoyo adicional reciben intervención adicional por parte de maestros o ayudantes basada en datos académicos. ¡Los estudiantes tienen múltiples oportunidades para escuchar, hablar, leer y escribir en dos idiomas todos los días!



**Mrs. Maurin in a small reading group.**  
**Aquí está la Sra. Maurin en un pequeño grupo de lectura.**



## Students Set Goals for the New Year

With the new year comes the opportunity to start with a blank slate and set goals that will make the remainder of the year fantastic. The students at Las Lomas are doing just that, setting academic and behavior goals. After interviewing the students about their goals, here is what they had to say:

“I am going to listen to the teacher and follow the rules on the playground.”

“I am going to practice learning my multiplication facts, complete my iReady minutes each day, and try my best on my diagnostic to meet my goal.”

“I want to raise my grades, do my homework, turn it in, and pay better attention in class.”

As you can see, the students have some great academic and behavioral goals for the remainder of the school year. The teachers and support staff will be working hard to help them accomplish these goals.



**Pam Cunningham**  
Principal

## Los Estudiantes Establecen Metas para el Año Nuevo

Con el nuevo año llega la oportunidad de comenzar con una pizarra en blanco y establecer metas que harán que el resto del año sea fantástico. Los estudiantes de Las Lomas están haciendo justo eso, estableciendo metas académicas y de comportamiento. Después de entrevistar a los estudiantes sobre sus metas, esto es lo que tenían que decir:

“Voy a escuchar al maestro y seguir las reglas en el patio de recreo.”

“Voy a practicar aprendiendo mis tablas de multiplicación, completar mis minutos de iReady cada día y hacer mi mejor esfuerzo en mi diagnóstico para alcanzar mi meta.”

“Quiero mejorar mis calificaciones, hacer mi tarea, entregarla y prestar mejor atención en clase.”

Como pueden ver, los estudiantes tienen algunas metas académicas y de comportamiento excelentes para el resto del año escolar. Los maestros y el personal de apoyo trabajarán arduamente para ayudarles a alcanzar estas metas.





## Increasing Student Attendance

Las Positas staff loves seeing our students at school every day. We have been communicating with parents the importance of school attendance through school newsletters, parent conferences, School Site Council meetings, and school events. Knowing that absences can cause children to fall behind in school, we want families to have access to resources and support and to prioritize their child attending school every day. There are so many engaging and motivating activities and learning happening every day at school. These experiences cannot always be duplicated or made up if students miss their first best instruction at school.

To encourage students to attend school every day, Las Positas recognizes the classrooms with the highest attendance for the week. On Monday mornings, we announce the top classroom with the highest attendance, and that class receives a special certificate, and Roary the Lion or Hello Kitty will join their class for the whole week! Some classrooms have been visited multiple times since the start of the school year. Students have been so proud to showcase this accomplishment, and Roary and Hello Kitty would love to be able to visit every classroom on campus before the end of the school year. We are continuing to collaborate to further incentivize student attendance.



**Dr. Suena Chang**  
Principal

## Aumento de la Asistencia Estudiantil

El personal de Las Positas se complace en ver a nuestros estudiantes en la escuela todos los días. Hemos estado comunicándonos con los padres sobre la importancia de la asistencia escolar a través de boletines escolares, conferencias con padres, reuniones del Consejo Escolar del Sitio y eventos escolares. Sabiendo que las ausencias pueden hacer que los niños se queden rezagados en la escuela, queremos que las familias tengan acceso a recursos y apoyo, y que den prioridad a que sus hijos asistan a la escuela todos los días. Hay tantas actividades atractivas y motivadoras, y aprendizaje que suceden todos los días en la escuela. Estas experiencias no siempre se pueden duplicar o recuperar si los estudiantes se pierden su primera y mejor instrucción en la escuela.

Para fomentar que los estudiantes asistan a la escuela todos los días, Las Positas reconoce las aulas con la asistencia más alta de la semana. ¡Los lunes por la mañana, anunciamos la clase superior con la asistencia más alta y esa clase recibe un certificado especial, y Roary the Lion o Hello Kitty se unirán a su clase durante toda la semana! Algunas aulas han sido visitadas varias veces desde el inicio del año escolar. Los estudiantes se han sentido muy orgullosos de mostrar este logro, y a Roary y Hello Kitty les encantaría poder visitar cada aula en la escuela antes del final del año. Continuamos colaborando para incentivar aún más la asistencia estudiantil.



**5th graders in Mrs. Kumar's class celebrating their attendance achievement.  
Estudiantes de quinto grado en la clase de la Sra. Kumar celebrando su logro de asistencia.**



## No Excuses University School

As a No Excuses University School, we are dedicated to the success of our students. We understand that this commitment involves addressing the WHOLE child. Therefore, in January, as the new year begins, we reaffirm our No Excuses University (NEU) belief. We emphasize the need to refocus our efforts and eliminate excuses to become the best versions of ourselves.

This process starts by establishing behavior and learning expectations for all students—clearly defining, modeling, and holding our school community accountable for becoming dedicated and respectful learners. We believe that a strong, clear behavior system sets the foundation for effective learning. This week involved various learning activities designed by our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Team. These activities were then implemented by our classroom teachers and school-wide support staff. The week culminated in our older students modeling what they had learned for our younger students.

Throughout the week, students were acknowledged and rewarded for their efforts, allowing them to demonstrate their renewed sense of responsibility. Initiating 2024 with this focus has empowered our students to be more driven in achieving their goals for the remainder of the school year. We believe that as students experience success in their behavior, it will positively impact all areas they strive to achieve in!



**Anna Rosales**  
Principal

## Escuela de la Universidad Sin Excusas

Como escuela de la Universidad Sin Excusas, estamos dedicados al éxito de nuestros estudiantes. Entendemos que este compromiso implica abordar al NIÑO ENTERO. Por lo tanto, en enero, al comenzar el nuevo año, reafirmamos nuestra creencia en la Universidad Sin Excusas (NEU, por sus siglas en inglés). Enfatizamos la necesidad de enfocar nuestros esfuerzos y eliminar las excusas para convertirnos en las mejores versiones de nosotros mismos.

Este proceso comienza estableciendo expectativas de comportamiento y aprendizaje para todos los estudiantes, definiendo claramente, modelando y responsabilizando a nuestra comunidad escolar para que sean estudiantes dedicados y respetuosos. Creemos que un sistema de comportamiento fuerte y claro sienta las bases para un aprendizaje efectivo. Esta semana involucró diversas actividades de aprendizaje diseñadas por nuestro Equipo de Intervenciones y Apoyo a Conductas Positivas. Estas actividades fueron luego implementadas por nuestros maestros y personal de apoyo en toda la escuela. La semana culminó con nuestros estudiantes mayores modelando lo que habían aprendido para nuestros estudiantes más jóvenes.

A lo largo de la semana, los estudiantes fueron reconocidos y recompensados por sus esfuerzos, lo que les permitió demostrar su renovado sentido de responsabilidad. Iniciar el 2024 con este enfoque ha empoderado a nuestros estudiantes para estar más motivados en alcanzar sus metas durante el resto del año escolar. Creemos que a medida que los estudiantes experimentan el éxito en su comportamiento, impactará positivamente en todas las áreas en las que se esfuerzan por lograr.





## Level Up!

This year, Walnut STEAM Academy's focus is to "Level Up!" Walnut is creating an environment that nurtures students' strengths and overall development in academics as well as in social skills. Wildcats are "leveling up" during the day and after school by participating in various activities. In addition to small group interventions during the school day, dedicated teachers are also using data to create small groups to support Math, Language Arts, Language Development, and decision-making in after-school classes during "Wildcat Cave." During our "Wildcat Cave," teachers continue to push students to their highest potential, often creating individualized learning plans. Teachers incorporate practical life skills like communication, critical thinking, and responsibility for both academics and their future careers.



**Dr. Alma Noche**  
*Principal*

## ¡Subir de Nivel!

Este año, el enfoque de la academia Walnut STEAM (por siglas en inglés) Academy es «¡Subir de Nivel!» Walnut está creando un entorno que fomenta las fortalezas de los estudiantes y su desarrollo integral tanto en lo académico como en las habilidades sociales. Los Wildcats están "subiendo de nivel" durante el día y después de la escuela participando en diversas actividades. Además de las intervenciones en grupos pequeños durante el

día escolar, los maestros dedicados también utilizan datos para crear grupos pequeños que respalden las áreas de matemáticas, artes del lenguaje, desarrollo del lenguaje y toma de decisiones en clases después de la escuela durante la "Wildcat Cave". Durante nuestra "Wildcat Cave", los maestros continúan impulsando a los estudiantes hacia su máximo potencial, a menudo creando planes de aprendizaje individualizados. Los maestros incorporan habilidades prácticas para la vida, como la comunicación, el pensamiento crítico y la responsabilidad, tanto en lo académico como en sus futuras carreras.





## Setting the Course for Success

At Washington Middle School, the start of a new calendar year brings excitement as hopes rise for what the future holds. With fresh enthusiasm and a renewed sense of purpose, WMS will continue to embark on our course for success. 2024 will be a year where we continue to enhance student engagement, cultivate a positive campus culture, and elevate academic achievement.

Our PBIS team has been brainstorming some wonderful ideas for our upcoming PBIS celebrations. We are starting winter sports, while our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) will continue to provide various levels of support to help our students achieve academically. We continue to celebrate our students' success as they rise to the challenge of rigorous academic curriculum. And as always, Patriots at Washington Middle School will continue to be ready, responsible, and respectful.

Please join us in this exciting new year as, together, we help all students succeed!



**Greg White**  
Principal

## Trayectoria Hacia el Éxito

En la Escuela Intermedia Washington, el comienzo de un nuevo año calendario trae emoción mientras las esperanzas se elevan por lo que el futuro depara. Con entusiasmo renovado y un sentido de propósito revitalizado, WMS continuará embarcándose en nuestra trayectoria hacia el éxito. El 2024 será un año en el que continuaremos mejorando la participación estudiantil, cultivando una cultura positiva en el campus y elevando el rendimiento académico.

Nuestro equipo de PBIS ha estado generando ideas maravillosas para nuestras próximas celebraciones de PBIS. Estamos comenzando deportes de invierno, mientras que nuestro Sistema de Apoyos de Múltiples Niveles (MTSS), por sus siglas en inglés, continuará brindando diversos niveles de apoyo para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a alcanzar logros académicos. Seguimos celebrando el éxito de nuestros estudiantes a medida que enfrentan el desafío de un riguroso plan de estudios académicos. Y como siempre, los Patriotas en la Escuela Intermedia Washington seguirán estando listos, siendo responsables, y respetuosos.

¡Únete a nosotros en este emocionante nuevo año mientras, juntos, ayudamos a que todos los estudiantes tengan éxito!



**Students celebrating their academic success with Mrs. Geldon and Mrs. Meili**  
**Estudiantes celebrando su éxito académico con la Sra. Geldon y la Sra. Meili**



## 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](mailto:SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com)  
 (Please put LaHabra in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **March 31, 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 |



## Whole Health Everyday 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](mailto:SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com) (Please put La Habra in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **March 31, 2024**  
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| ALKALINE | MINERALS   |
| ALMONDS  | NATURAL    |
| APPLES   | NOURISH    |
| CARROTS  | NUTS       |
| CHICKEN  | PROTEIN    |
| FIBER    | SALMON     |
| FRUITS   | SEEDS      |
| HEALTH   | VEGETABLES |
| HUMMUS   | VITAMINS   |
| KALE     | WATER      |
| LEMONS   |            |





## Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent*



**Dr. Ramon Miramontes**  
*Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs*

Here's a common question we hear: Why are you called the Orange County Department of Education when other county offices of education across California are known as, well, county offices of education?

The answer takes us back to a decision

made under the leadership of Dr. Robert Peterson, who served as county superintendent from 1966 through 1991. Early in his tenure, Dr. Peterson proposed changing the name of the then-Orange County Schools Office to the Orange County Department of Education, saying it was more in line with other county departments.

It was also reflective of the organization's expanding role. Our office had evolved into an agency that coordinated academic programs and provided technical and special services to all school districts, according to a resolution. The change was approved in March 1969.

This spirit of evolution and adaptation has been the hallmark of the Orange County Department of Education since its inception almost exactly 135 years ago.

On March 11, 1889, California Gov. Robert Waterman signed a bill that led to the formation of Orange County — and the office that would become OCDE. An annual report from 1890 documented a combined enrollment of 3,426 students, served by a total of 34 districts — though some operated less than six months out of the year. Total annual expenditures for the entire county were less than \$65,000.

Fast forward to today. Under the leadership of current County Superintendent Dr. Al Mijares, our department now supports nearly half a million students and approximately 600 schools as a cornerstone of Orange County's educational community.

Our role is multifaceted, yet it can be understood through two primary functions:

First, we provide direct instruction to our county's most vulnerable student populations through our Alternative Education and Special Education divisions, the latter of which includes our newly rebranded "Connections" schools.

Second, OCDE offers a comprehensive suite of services to local school districts. These range from meaningful training opportunities and high-speed internet access to legal and fiscal guidance, payroll systems, Local Control and Accountability Plan assistance and approval, student enrichment and much more.

When districts face hurdles in meeting specific performance goals on the California School Dashboard, OCDE and other county offices of education are also called upon to provide targeted support. This process, known as differentiated assistance, complements districts' own efforts to ensure that students' needs are met.

As we continue to grow and adapt, it's important to underscore that OCDE's core principles have remained unchanged. Driven by a commitment to empower all learners, we approach our roles not merely as administrators of the Orange County Department of Education but as stewards of a legacy of service and continuous improvement that dates back over a century.

Change is more than a chapter in our history. It is the very essence of our DNA. And it will be the engine that propels us forward, fueling our journey toward a brighter, more innovative and prosperous Orange County.