

School News


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Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



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February 2024

 **OPENING IN
FALL 2024**

**Orange County
School of Computer Science**
www.pylusd.org/ocscs

(Please see page 4.)

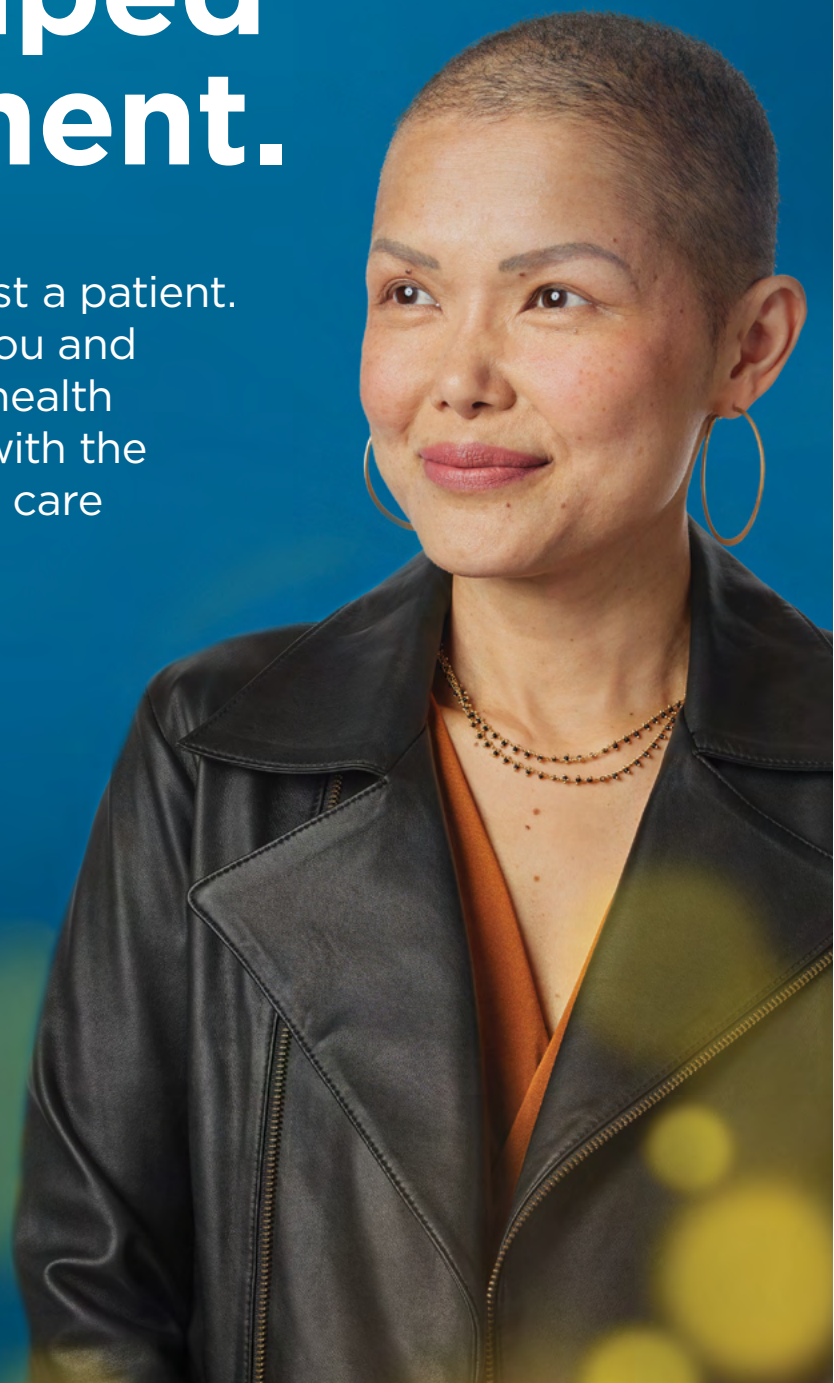
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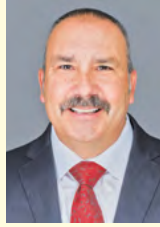
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Advancing All Students Toward Diplomas and Careers in PYLUSD



**Dr. Alex
Cherniss**
Superintendent

I would like to highlight one achievement that I am most proud of since joining the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Before I arrived, many of our students with special needs who were approaching the end of 12th grade and the achievement of a high school diploma would instead enter our Adult Transition Program, Venture Academy. They would never receive a diploma but would receive work experience and job training until the age of 22 and earn a certificate of completion upon finishing the program.

Beginning this year, these same students are now earning their diplomas! With the creation of our new Advance Program, our special needs students are being provided extra instructional support and opportunities to earn credits at El Camino Real High School. Students are paired with staff members who take the time to learn their stories and commit to helping them be the best versions of themselves. They are supported every step of the way as they work toward completing their graduation requirements and preparation for college and a career.

Our first three students in the Advance Program graduated with their high school diplomas on January 24, 2024. The ceremony was a moving testament to the hard work and determination of our

students, and I was honored to be a part of it alongside our supportive staff and the graduates' loved ones.

This new investment in helping our students with special needs find success does not stop there. Mrs. Renee Gray, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services, recently shared more information about the Advance Program and our new special education school-to-work program, Placentia Linda Upward Success, at a recent Board Meeting. You may view her presentation in its entirety on the district's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@placentiayorbalindausd.

It is my vision that we grow these programs significantly in future years and offer all students an opportunity to earn a diploma from PYLUSD!



Orange County School of Computer Science Charter Coming to PYLUSD

From the District

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is pleased to announce the opening of the Orange County School of Computer Science at Bernardo Yorba. The Orange County School of Computer Science, or OCSCS, was unanimously approved as a conversion charter school by the Board of Education in December. It will be the first charter school to exist in PYLUSD boundaries, opening at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

“The establishment of the OCSCS will be a game changer for public education nationwide, and PYLUSD is at the forefront of this cosmic shift of what and how we teach students,” shared Superintendent Dr. Alex Cherniss.

It will be the mission of OCSCS to improve student learning and achievement while equipping students with essential skills and attributes necessary to be active and competitive leaders. The school will implement its own curriculum designed by OCSCS teachers in all subject areas. Students will experience a learning model based on mastery of content and skills with an application of computer science elements in history, science, and an elective class.

OCSCS will partner with the nation’s leading computer science immersion educational platform, Code to the Future, to implement a comprehensive curriculum, training, and coaching system for teachers to provide students with computer science instruction.

In addition to other core content classes like mathematics and English language arts, students will participate in a school-wide graphic arts elective featuring computer science principles and design thinking. Other electives will also be offered in the areas of instrumental music, student leadership, and Spanish literature for Dual Language Academy students. Flexible time called “targeted engagement cycles” has been built into the school schedule to allow students to explore, design, and get additional support.

Students will be given a computer to use as a part of their schooling but they will not be behind screens the entire day. They will continue to have access to hard copies of texts and engaging, in-person instruction from highly qualified, credentialed district teachers.

Students and families interested in OCSCS are encouraged to learn more and enroll for the 2024-2025 school year today! More details about the school can be found online at www.pylusd.org/ocscs.

**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA
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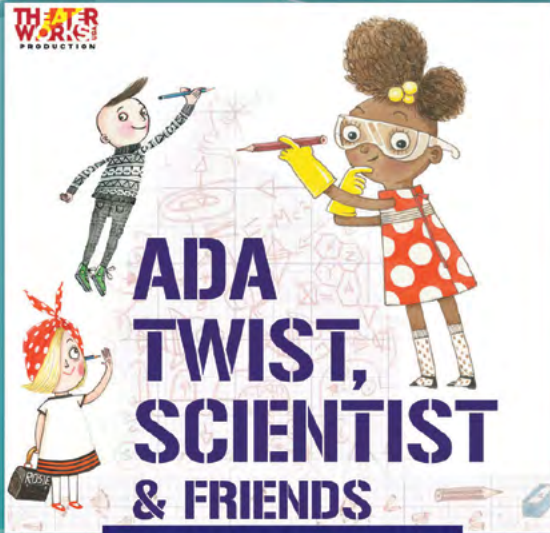
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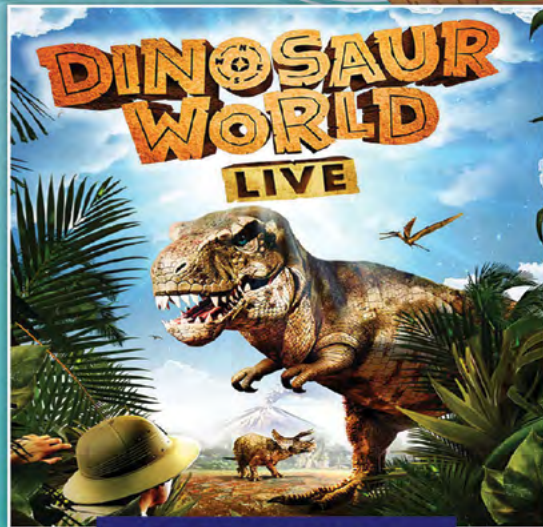


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R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylud.org



Giselle Nguyen
President

The REACH Foundation, an education nonprofit supporting PYLUSD students, provides enrichment programs and events that offer greater exposure to 21st century learning skills in Academics, creativity through the Arts, and healthy lifestyles through Athletics. We believe these three pillars aid students to reach their highest potential. On March 17, 2024, the REACH Foundation proudly presents its 12th Annual

Shamrock 'n Run—a vibrant and energetic community gathering fostering health and well-being, uniting our

community through a 5K, 2K, and challenging Square Obstacle course.

Over the years, thousands of students, families, educators, and community partners lace up their sneakers and contribute to a brighter future for Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District students. Every step taken is a stride towards student empowerment. The proceeds from the Shamrock 'n Run supports the Middle School Track Meet, Educator Grants, and various REACH Foundation programs. Become an integral part of a movement that uplifts education, arts, and athletics in 34 schools.



Bernardo Yorba *Middle School (7-8)*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



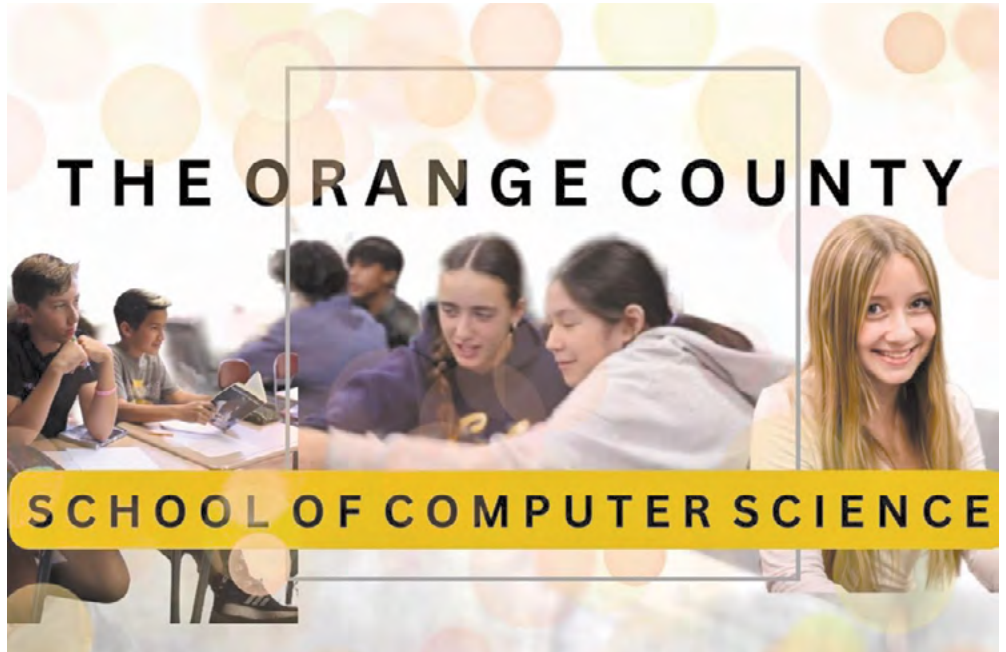
Beth Fisher
Principal

BYMS Welcomes the Orange County School of Computer Science

On Tuesday, December 12, 2023 the PYLUSD Board of Education took action to unanimously support the version of BYMS to a district-affiliated charter school, the Orange

County School of Computer Science at Bernardo Yorba. We are pleased to announce that our school offers an innovative learning model with Computer Science Immersion at the forefront. At the heart of what we offer is an intentional and targeted focus on student learning. Our flexible schedule and transparent curriculum allows students and families to have clarity on learning expectations, so students can

not only acquire content knowledge and skills, but also use the learning gained at OCSCS to apply and create! To find out more visit www.pylusd.org/ocscs. Priority enrollment is open through Friday, February 16, 2024.



Brookhaven *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



Laura Fisher
Principal

Fostering Positive Character Traits

Brookhaven Elementary School is not just a center for academic learning but also a nurturing ground for developing positive character traits among its students. Our school places a strong emphasis on highlighting character traits that go beyond the textbooks, aiming to shape well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to society.

One of the key character traits emphasized at Brookhaven Elementary is respect. Teachers and staff work tirelessly to create a respectful and supportive environment where students learn to understand and appreciate the perspectives of others. In addition to highlighting the importance of the character trait, Mrs. Fisher conducts classroom read alouds about the trait of the month. At the end of the month, teachers nominate students who exemplify the trait of the month. Students are then recognized with a certificate, backpack tag, and a restaurant certificate.

Through a holistic approach to education, Brookhaven is shaping the future by instilling values that will serve its students well beyond their school years. The commitment to traits such as respect, caring, and trustworthiness sets a foundation for a community of individuals who will undoubtedly make a positive impact on the world.



Mrs. Fisher with a few of our "Caring" award recipients for the month of December.

Bryant Ranch School (TK-5)

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Bryant Ranch Opens New Preschool

On October 16th, 2023 Bryant Ranch opened its doors to our youngest learners! Our preschool serves students from ages 2.9 to 4 years old. Preschool provides a safe, welcoming, and

enriching environment for all students to be successful. The program was developed to ensure all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential and enter kindergarten or TK ready to learn. Our dedicated preschool staff work hard to ensure that high-quality interactions occur daily.



Since our grand opening, our classes continue to grow. Bryant Ranch Preschool serves 49 students and counting! Our preschool students recently enjoyed an on-campus field trip, where they learned about different animals and creatures. This December, the preschool had their first ever Winter Performance, where our Explorers shined on stage. We are excited to provide this amazing opportunity to our community and to watch our program grow.

Buena Vista Virtual Academy (K-12)

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026 • www.buonavistavirtual.org



Meeting Creative Challenges

Niche, the website that helps match people to schools, recently recognized Buena Vista Virtual Academy as the 10th best public online high school in the United States, and the fourth in California!

Buena Vista Virtual Academy is a WASC-accredited school with fully online and hybrid in-person and online options. We serve student-athletes, actors, and artists, as well as those students who are traveling the globe, dealing with medical concerns, or who want to accelerate their progress by taking concurrent high school or college classes. Our unique one-course-per-four-week format allows high school students both scheduling flexibility and the opportunity to graduate early.



One thing that makes Buena Vista awesome is its teachers. For example, Mrs. De Friese, the high school hybrid program teacher, recently had her students participate in the Adobe for Education's Creative Challenge contest in November. Her students used the AI features in Adobe Express to create a unique alter-ego creature creation. The students got to explore their personalities and unique interests while also creating a fun image. All of the student participants received a red beanie with the Adobe Express logo as their prize.

It is no wonder that Niche recognized Buena Vista as one of the nation's top schools.



El Camino Real High School (Continuation High School 9-12)

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • www.ecrhs.pylusd.org



Scott Mazurier
Principal

Beyond Academics

At El Camino Real High School (ECRHS), our commitment goes beyond academics – we nurture the holistic growth of our students. We support students not just within the classroom but in every aspect of life. ECRHS recognizes the importance of fostering mental and physical wellness, and to achieve this, we've forged meaningful partnerships with esteemed organizations such as the Navy, Army, Job Corps, and the American Banking Association. Our Leadership class has been at

the forefront of organizing engaging events, from crafting a beautiful ofrenda during Dia De Los Muertos to hosting an annual week-long holiday boutique. Additionally, initiatives like maintaining our Care Closet and organizing end-of-quarter and semester celebrations showcase our dedication to providing opportunities that celebrate the whole student. We take pride in our community collaborations, creating a space where students can express love for each other and extend it beyond our school's doors.



ECRHS Care Closet

El Dorado High School (9-12)

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org

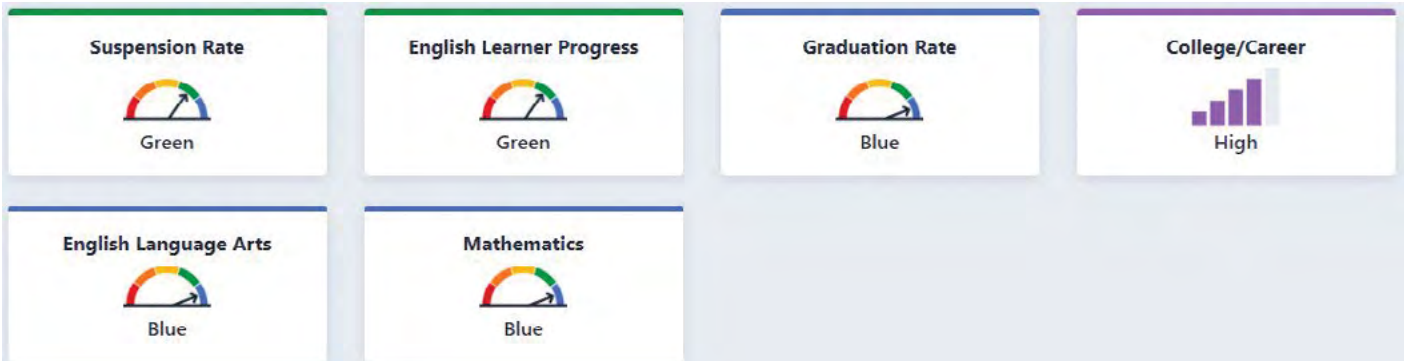


Joey Davis
Principal

Dashboard

The state of California's data review or "Dashboard" for El Dorado is very positive. In the visual you can see that green or blue is the highest level of achievement. Academically we saw growth in both Language Arts and Math. The percentage of students who met or exceeded the standards in both subjects grew by about 7% from the 2022 CAASPP to 2023. Other areas of interest included graduation rate, suspensions, English

learner progress and college/career readiness. All of these areas remained consistent or improved slightly from 2022 to 2023. Another area of importance is attendance. Since the pandemic, our attendance rates have been lower (meaning more students are absent daily) but it has been slowly improving. It is an obvious challenge to teach and support students who don't attend classes on a regular basis. While students who are sick with a fever or other symptoms should stay home, we want to encourage students to attend school daily. El Dorado High is proud of all of our students' achievements.



Esperanza High School (9-12)

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



Jeff Giles
Principal

Fine Arts Gallery

Esperanza High School is thrilled to have opened the first ever, designated Fine Arts Gallery in the history of PYLUSD! The Gallery, housed in our library, provides a permanent space for creative voices and

artistic skills to shine. The inaugural art exhibit is a great representation of our students' skill, creativity and story, and it showcases their personal experiences through writing and visual



art. Ceramics teacher Kevin Kowalski and art teacher Lynn Magnin were instrumental in bringing their artistic vision to life for the benefit of Esperanza students, parents and staff. The Esperanza Fine Arts Gallery is the perfect complement to the Esperanza Permanent Art Collection which features purchased student artwork since 1987.

Fairmont Elementary School (TK-6)

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Anne San Roman
Principal

Celebrating Success

Fairmont teachers, staff, students, and community believe that all students can learn and succeed. We have created a culture of caring and collaboration, and we recognize students for their efforts and motivation. Students are recognized monthly for outstanding citizenship with Principal Awards. Each trimester students have the opportunity to be recognized for showing Improvement, Academic Excellence, and

Citizenship. We work to support student achievement by differentiating learning for every learner and maintaining a safe and positive learning environment thorough small groups, intentional partner talk, and explicit learning objectives. We also continue to support student-leadership opportunities through our Student Leadership, Junior Coaches, and PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership). Fairmont Falcons are working Together Toward Tomorrow!



George Key School (Special Education) / Venture Academy (Adult Transition Program)

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.georgekey.org/ 701 East Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7178 • ventureacademy.pylusd.org

Rebecca Allan, Principal

George Key School had a very busy December including the annual Sunrise Rotary Christmas Party, in which our community partner, Sunrise Rotary of Yorba Linda provides a visit from Santa and gifts for each student. George Key teachers and staff were treated to a yummy lunch and a great time was had by everyone!

George Key will be celebrating Valentine's day with a family craft activity. We will be celebrating Random acts of Kindness week, on the week of 2/19 along with our friends at Golden Elementary. We are also looking forward to our parent activity night on 2/29/2024, which includes a presentation by Helping Hands from the John Wayne Airport on how to make traveling with a child with special needs a great experience for all. George Key continues to provide fun activities for our students with the help of our community partners!



Venture has been busy with their new video production class. They are videotaping, writing, editing and producing "Venture Adventures" for our school campus. Students are doing a great job talking about current events or upcoming school events.

Venture is also participating in a new district-based program called Placentia Linda Upward Success (P.L.U.S) the goal of this program is for venture graduates to be ready and employable by the Placentia Yorba-Linda School district in an entry level job! We have already celebrated our first student in this program, Anallely Jimenez, who works as an instructional slide in our district. Way to go Anallely and Venture Academy!



Glenknoll Elementary School (TK-6)

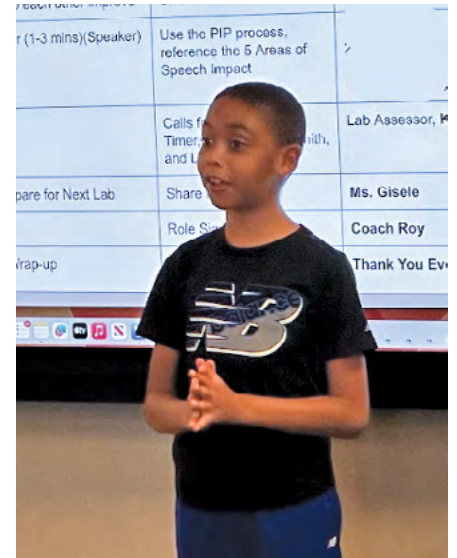
6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



Terry Mulcahy
Principal

Students Learn to Speak with Confidence

Sweaty palms, butterflies in your stomach. These are some of the feelings we get when we have to speak in public. Public speaking is one of the most common fears people have. Fifteen Glenknoll Elementary students learned to be comfortable and confident when speaking in front of a group of people this year. They participated in a class offered after school at Glenknoll by the REACH foundation. Communicating with Confidence taught principles of public speaking and gave students lots of practice in speaking in front of a group. Every student gave at least two speeches, and some gave as many as 17! Students were from different classes in grades 4-6 and most didn't know each other at the start. Some of the students were so shy at the beginning of the class they had trouble talking to



their teachers and other adults at school. Being able to confidently self-advocate is a key skill that contributes to a student's success in school. All of the fifteen students who took this class learned to be confident speakers who can introduce themselves to people they are meeting for the first time, and advocate for themselves with confidence.

Glenview Elementary School (TK-6)

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Viridiana Fraga
Principal

Glenview Bulldogs' Ole' All Day!

On January 16th, the 6th-grade Spanish dual language academy students at Glenview Elementary participated in the first-ever dual language program shadow day at Bernardo Yorba Middle School. The Spanish Dual Shadow Day allowed our students to experience a day in the life of a dual-language middle school student. Our Bulldogs were partnered with their 7th-grade

peers who matriculated from Glenview to Bernardo Middle School this school year. Throughout the day, the students followed their shadow partners' middle school schedule



and participated in transitioning from class periods, to break, and to lunch together. Several Bulldogs experienced a Science class taught solely in Spanish. Additionally, to prepare our students for the Orange County School of Computer Science (OCCS), our students experienced a Code from the Future coding activity. In partnership with the Bernardo Yorba Linda Middle School team, Glenview Elementary is dedicated to ensuring our students are successful beyond their years as a Bulldog. We are excited for our students to transition successfully to OCCS for the 2024-2025 school year.

Golden Elementary School (TK-6)

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



Kristin McDonald
Principal

Golden's Elementary Science Night is Electrifying!

Golden Elementary's Annual Family Science Night was a resounding success. Thanks to our generous PTA and our dedicated and hardworking teaching staff, our Golden Eagle Families were invited to join in for a night filled with exploration, STEM, laughter, and community! This high-

energy, interactive night is always a beloved event and such a fun way to invite our families onto campus. The night included student volunteers from our former Golden Eagles who love to come back and help from Kraemer MS, Tuffree MS, Valencia HS, and El Dorado HS - making this a true community night! The event buzzed with excitement as families engaged in a myriad of challenging STEM activities such as building roller coasters and towers, launching catapults, identifying fingerprints, and so much

more. The night also included captivating animal and electric shows. This memorable night not only showcased Golden's commitment to science education and STEM, but it also served as a testament to the power of community and discovery! What a special night exploring and making memories!



Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Michael Young
Principal

VAPA Programs

December celebrations at Kraemer were inspired by generosity and our amazing VAPA programs. For the past 5 years, our partners at Placentia Presbyterian have generously donated Target gift cards to 100 families in need at Kraemer. PPC's outpouring of support inspired our ASB/Peer leader students to promote

a collection campaign, providing soap, detergent, sheets, and blankets supplies to our district's Family Resource Center. To add to this magic, VAPA programs showcased the exceptional talents of student performers. Evening performances throughout the month culminated into an electric spirit assembly

where Jazz Band, Performing Band, Vocal Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Dance Team, & Colorguard put on an amazing show! Before winter break, students also participated in a holiday chalk art contest and kept alive a nearly 60-year tradition at Kraemer dubbed "March the Halls". Our marching band plays holiday music while marching through campus while "special guests" throw candy canes to onlookers.



Lakeview Elementary School (TK-5)

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lakeview.pylusd.org



Stephanie Given
Principal

Voice, Choice and Agency: Bringing Students' Writing to Life!

Lakeview hosted "The Imagination Machine" in January to showcase outstanding writing by our Lions. Students submitted a creative writing piece, each of which was read by the company of professional actors and

musicians. Eight pieces were then selected and performed with live narration, music and props at our assemblies. Narrators highlighted writing elements such as the antagonist-protagonist relationship, character development, and the impact of a setting on the plot. Students and staff were seen belly-laughing, screaming with excitement, and proudly applauding each recognized author. Bringing

students' writing to life has been a hallmark at Lakeview through these assemblies, publishing parties, and authors' showcases. Congratulations to this year's selected writers: Luc T, Jaxon K, Zachary N, Brandon Y, Elliott P, Megan S, Chloe L for their individual stories, and Mrs. Nicholson's class for their collective writing. Go Lions!



Linda Vista *Elementary (TK-5)*

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lindavistaelementary.org



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

You Can't Spell LOVE without LV: A Culture of Caring and Collaboration

Linda Vista's mission is, "We will strive to create a safe and nurturing environment that promotes kind words and actions, high academic expectations, and personal growth for all students." This year we have focused on revamping our school wide Positive Behavioral interventions and Supports (PBIS) by continuing and also creating new opportunities for students to practice kindness and lead their school community. Three examples of our caring culture and collaboration include our LV



Student Council, Big and Little Buddies, and Lead Lions. Our student council, which consists of upper graders, supported our Toys for Tots Community Service Project and school spirit days. In addition, our Big and Little buddies, which includes our 2nd graders and Preschoolers, are working together to help each other learn and also work on social skills that are imperative for teamwork. Finally, our Lead Lions, which consists of 4th & 5th graders, have volunteered to help support and lead all over campus in order to make LV the best place to be! From our library, to classrooms, to the gardening club, and more our Lead Lions are true leaders and scholars.

Mabel Paine *Elementary School (TK-5)*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.mabelpaine.org



Geoff Smith
Principal

Family Math Night

Mabel Paine's inaugural Family Math Night on January 25th was a resounding success, with many families in attendance and active participation at over 10 different math-themed stations. The stations covered a variety of concepts, such as graphing, multiplication, division, geometry, number sense, fractions, addition, and subtraction. Each station was manned by a teacher or



student leader who served as a "math ambassador." Teachers planned and collaborated to ensure the stations addressed different concepts. The goal of the event was to showcase the significance of math in our daily lives and demonstrate that learning math can be enjoyable. We hope our students and their families will recreate these activities at home and gain

a deeper appreciation for the importance of math. Mabel Paine remains committed to helping our students grow in mathematics. We hope to have another Family Math Night in the future!



Melrose Elementary School (TK-5)

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • melrose.pylusd.org



Janice Weber
Principal

AVID Family Science Night

On Thursday, January 18, 2024, approximately 50 Melrose Marlin 3rd-grade students and their families attended AVID Family Science Night in the gym! Over 100 people were in attendance. This special evening was planned by our 3rd-grade teachers, Mrs. Mora and Mrs. Nelson, to inform

and engage families in AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) strategies. AVID Strategies include Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR). The purpose of AVID is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society by embedding these best practices throughout the school day and across the curriculum. Mrs. Mora presented information about AVID and current Valencia High School AVID Scholars shared testimonials about how AVID has helped them in school with notetaking and

organization. The second half of the evening, students and families engaged in Collaboration and Inquiry with magnets across several Science stations such as A'maze'ing Magnets and A Day at the Races!



Morse Elementary School (TK-6)

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morseschool.net



Kelly Farrell
Principal

Celebrating Excellence

The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as families gathered at Morse Elementary for a special evening dedicated to celebrating the achievements of their English Learners. A special Awards Ceremony was held, as reclassified students were recognized for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Proud parents, siblings,

and extended family members filled the seats, all eager to witness their child's accomplishments being recognized on stage.



In addition to the awards, the evening featured a "Jukebox Bingo" Family Night, where families, staff, students, and community members gathered in the MPR for a night filled with friendly competition and excitement. Participants were given a bingo card and markers, numbers were called, and the room echoed with cheers and groans as students and their families eagerly marked their cards. The prize table included an array of toys, books, and goodies.

Morse's combined Awards Ceremony and Family Night not only celebrated our students' academic achievements, it also fostered a sense of community and pride within the school. The event served as a reminder that education is a collaborative effort between teachers, students, and families.



Parkview Home School (TK-12)

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050 • www.pylusdparkview.org



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Education Grant

Parkview is the proud recipient of an Education Grant from the Placentia Chamber of Commerce. The primary objective of the “InnovateCommerce” is to integrate 3D printing and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) into our school curriculum with a specific focus on fostering business and commerce skills. This program aims to empower students with the technical proficiency to

apply CAD in the context of product design, prototyping, and entrepreneurship, preparing them for future careers in business and commerce. The integration of 3D printing technology into our school’s program aligns with our mission to provide innovative and practical learning experiences for our students, particularly in the fields of business, commerce, art, and STEM. The acquisition of a 3D printer will serve as a valuable tool to expose our students to real-world applications and foster creativity, problem-solving skills, and entrepreneurship. We are thrilled to begin this new program!



Rio Vista Elementary School (TK-5)

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • www.riovistaschool.org



Brandon Frank
Principal

Winter Festival

In December, Rio Vista held our first-ever Winter Festival and AVID Family Night. With an emphasis on the many cultures that make up our world and our community, families participated in lots of themed games and activities to fill their “passport” which granted them access to fun prizes, and an ornament-making station where Leopards learned

what year they are going to graduate from high school. With the support of our PTA and staff volunteers, we hosted nearly 700 Rio Vista community members of all ages. There was great food provided by one of our Rio families, tons of raffle prizes donated by community partners, and even a special visit by Santa, who made himself available for families to take pictures. It was an incredible event, and adults and children alike were asking if we plan to do it again next year (which is a resounding yes!).



Rose Drive *Elementary School (TK-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Trisha Gray
Principal

Building Community

Building community is essential to the foundation of a school that embraces all students. At Rose Drive, there are many opportunities for students to get involved and have a voice.

One club at Rose Drive is the Kindness Club, which is headed by our education specialist, Miss Becker. The Kindness Club meets monthly and creates opportunities to do kind deeds at school. In December, they created light bulbs, shared ways in which they can light up the world with kindness, and placed them around the school. In January, our focus character trait is kindness, so students are focused on creative ways to engage in kind deeds throughout the month.



Gardening Club



Kindness Club

Another engaging opportunity for students to be involved in the school is our school Gardening Club. Students in grades three, four, and five each have raised gardening boxes where they plant, cultivate, and pick fresh vegetables. Our garden also features a certified Monarch Waystation. Being a part of the Garden Club allows students to participate in the overall development of the wellness of the school. Mrs. May does a great job of engaging students and sparking interest in environmental sciences.

Additionally, our Team Roadrunners are composed of fifth- graders, our oldest students at Rose Drive. Together with Mrs. Willey, Team Roadrunners work on ways to bring our school together. This year, they came up with the idea to sell grams to students and help raise money for the training of a fellow student's therapy dog. The team has developed spirit days, or dress-up days, to help unify the school and show school spirit.

These important groups are just a few ways in which we build the positive school climate of Rose Drive. Go Roadrunners!

Ruby Drive *Elementary School (TK-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.org



Lisa Carmona
Principal

Joy and Gratitude Spread at Ruby Drive

"I have never had real Legos!", "I have always wanted this!", "Thank you so much!"

As the entire student body of Ruby Drive Elementary received holiday gifts from generous Esperanza High School students, statements similar

to these were exclaimed in every classroom. On this special day, joy and gratitude permeated throughout



campus. From Legos to Barbies, no child hesitated to open the packaging to start playing with their gift! The kind EHS students gave of their time as they engaged in play

and winter activities. A tremendous impression was left on the hearts of the Ruby Drive children, as on this day, older students cared about them and showed it not only through tangible gifts, but also through the gift of spending quality time together. Ruby Drive deeply appreciates our partnership Esperanza High School!



Sierra Vista *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.sierravistaelementary.org



Debbie Kojima
Principal

Focused on Communication

At Sierra Vista, an area of focus is communication and writing across the academic disciplines. From transitional kindergarten through the 6th grades, our Sierra Vista Eagles are immersed in developmentally

appropriate instruction, programs, and strategies to equip our scholars with the communication skills that they need to collaborate, critically think, as well as convey understanding with the world around them. From encouraging our youngest writers with verbal sentence stems to communicate their understanding, to incorporating district adopted programs such as Step Up to Writing or Document Based Questions in our older scholars - Sierra Vista Eagles are equipped with the tools and strategies

to communicate their learning and understanding in their academic careers and beyond! We are so proud of their hard work!



A writer in Ms. Olson's class shares her piece with an authentic audience after publishing their narrative writing in class.

Topaz *Elementary School (TK-6)*

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topazschool.org

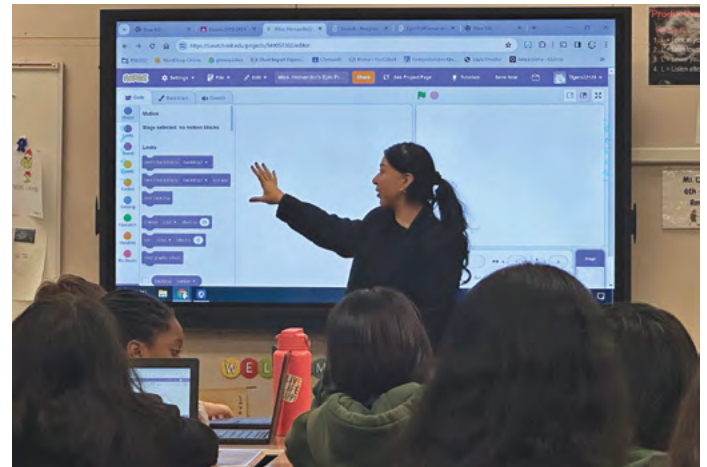


Eva Matthews
Principal

Closing Out 2023 and Our 2024 Beginning

Our Topaz Tigers were over the moon this Christmas! We are extremely fortunate to be the recipients of Fairmont Elementary's PTA toy drive. Once the Principal's office was transformed into Santa's Workshop, this year we were able to give a toy to nearly 270 students. We thank Fairmont's PTA and the many donations that made our students dreams come true.

We were also very excited to return for the new year and begin our partnership with Code to the Future. Our 6th grade students have begun their seven week coding session and have enjoyed getting to create and code their characters and game through Scratch. This introduction to coding is supporting the transition to an outstanding



opportunity our 6th graders will have when choosing to attend the Orange County School of Computer Science (OCSCS), next year.

This week we celebrate Kindness Week with many activities lead by our Topaz Student Leadership team and counselor, Ms. Castro. Beyond events in and outside of the classroom, this is a great opportunity to present students with social stories and scenarios that can speak to acts of kindness occurring daily at Topaz.

Travis Ranch School (TK-8)

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

In the Spotlight

Travis Ranch School recently came together to see students from TK all the way up to 8th grade perform in the musical production of *The Addams Family*. What an incredible way to celebrate the arts and showcase our many talented students across the school! Throughout the process of auditions, rehearsals, and performances, students explored outside their comfort zones, overcame performance fears and

expressed themselves in new ways. The performing arts challenge students to think outside the box, problem-solve, and work together towards a common goal. This, in turn, helps students to build confidence, self-esteem and communication skills. We are so thankful to our outstanding PTA for supporting the performing arts and making this experience possible. Likewise, we are grateful to be able to watch such an outstanding production at the district's state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center. This will certainly be an experience our students will take with them for years to come.



Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



David Okamoto
Principal

A Special Place

As I sit down to write this, the first semester is ending here at Tuffree Middle School. Being my second year as principal here, I continue to be proud to be a part of this fantastic school!

This semester, we have seen our students shine both inside and outside the classroom! Our theme this year, "LEVEL UP!" is being demonstrated each and every day by our teachers, staff, and students!

Our CA Dashboard has revealed a few areas that I am very proud of. To start, our English learner progress is very strong. I attribute that to our hardworking teachers and

students. We also have seen a decrease in our suspension data, in which I am grateful to see restorative practices demonstrated not just with our school administration but inside our classrooms as well. When you walk around campus each day, there is a special feeling. Our culture here is one of the best that I have had the chance to work at, and with this being the fourth school that I have worked at in my career, I know that this is a special place!

There is little doubt that middle school does provide its challenges, but I will say that the overall experience that students have here at Tuffree does a great job of not only preparing students for high school but also for whatever comes post-high school!

Go Falcons!

Tynes Elementary School (TK-6)

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.johnotynes.org



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Student Leadership Program

Tynes Elementary offers students many opportunities for students to feel like they belong at Tynes. One way students feel connected is through our Student Leadership program. Our student leaders meet each week to plan spirit days and community outreach.

Our Student Leaders helped create posters and collect food for our school-wide canned food drive dedicated to supporting the PYLUSD Family Resource Center. After collecting the food, our Student Leaders helped separate and bag the items to donate. In addition to community outreach, our student leaders plan various dress-up days and engage in leadership lessons!

Our student leaders also promote positive play through Fun Fridays. Every Friday, our student leaders facilitate the big playground games.

They support students as they play Sorry, Checkers, Connect Four, and more. Students dance and sing to music played during lunch recess. Our dedicated student leaders create a positive environment for all students to enjoy!



Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.valadezacademy.org



Dr. Christa Borgese
Principal

Mix It Dances

Valadez Middle School Academy (VMSA) has not only been learning a lot in the classrooms and working hard at making academic progress, but we have also been having a lot of fun thanks to Mrs. Poling and her leadership classes. With the guidance of Mrs. Poling, ASB and Pride Connection (PC) collaborate to plan special lunch

time activities and games, celebrate dress up weeks, and decorate the multipurpose room for our Mix It Dances. This past Thursday afternoon, we held our second Mix It dance where students had the chance to enjoy a fun DJ and dance, participate in the photo booth, play games such as yard Jenga and Connect Four, video games, Foosball

and more! Students and staff had a blast! This week, leadership has planned daily dress up days to recognize Kindness Week such as "Powered by Kindness" (wear a super hero shirt) and "Peace, Love, and Kindness" (wear tie dye). Students will have an opportunity to make friendship bracelets at lunch and more! Thank you to Mrs. Poling and her leadership students for taking Pride in Valadez and creating such fun moments for us all to remember.



Valencia High School (9-12)

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Tiger Success!

One of the pathways in Valencia High School's Val Tech Academy is Business and Financing. On January 20, 2024, students from VHS' Val Tech, IB, Cambridge, and non-Academy classes joined forces at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Section Leadership Conference at Cal State Fullerton. Participating schools included Fountain Valley, Oxford, Troy, Verbum Dei, Yorba Linda, and many more.

Valencia's Tigers achieved unprecedented success in showcasing their outstanding talents. Collectively, these young leaders garnered more than 75 medals and placed second in Sweepstakes behind perennial powerhouse Oxford Academy.

Competing in everything from broadcast journalism to economics to public speaking and supply chain management, the team was focused and came away with the hardware.

VHS captured 11 first-place events, including Madison Low (10), Eric Chang (9), and Konhee Lee (9) in Sales

Presentation; Surina Borbor and Allison Risner in Broadcast Journalism; Celeste Paik (12) in Insurance and Risk Management; Emi Sasajima (10) in Intro to Business Communication; Leana Sung and Evelyn Yao (10) in Intro to Event Planning; Sabrina Mercado (9) in Intro to FBLA; Nika De Silva (10) in Intro to Financial Math; Angela Yao (9) in Intro to Information Technology; Alisa Chang (10) in Intro to Public Speaking; Evan Park (11), Krish Patel (11), and Eric Pham (11) in Sports and Entertainment Management; and Miya Zhu (9) in Creed.

Valencia has historically had tremendous success in the area of economics with a number of national Top 10 finishes and a national champion. This year, four students placed in the Top 10 at SSLC. Congratulations to seniors Clarissa Sung (2nd), Aina Pan (4th), and juniors Elliot Fields (6th) and Arlen Bang (10th) for demonstrating the strong preparation they received in their economics classes.

Good luck to the Tigers as they compete in the State Leadership Conference in April. VHS will be taking more qualifiers to the state competition than ever before. Go, Tigers!

Van Buren Elementary School (TK-6)

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



David Cammarato
Principal

Advancing Education with AVID

Van Buren Elementary School is excited to implement Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies during the 2023-24 school year. AVID strategies enhance student engagement, foster academic achievement, and promote college and career readiness. Our school has targeted these strategies this year, employing AVID methodologies to propel students toward success.

AVID, a college-readiness system, focuses on equipping students with the skills and habits necessary for academic excellence. At Van Buren, the integration of AVID strategies is a testament to our commitment to providing a supportive and enriching learning environment. One key aspect of AVID is the emphasis on critical-thinking skills, collaboration, and inquiry-based learning. Teachers are incorporating AVID methodologies into their lesson plans, encouraging students to think critically and engage in meaningful discussions.

One hallmark of AVID is its structured approach to note-taking, known as Cornell Notes. Our students are

taught this method in our upper grades, teaching them to organize information, identify key concepts, and review material effectively. As a result, students develop strong study habits that are invaluable in their academic journey.

Moreover, AVID strategies promote collaborative learning. Our teachers promote students working together on projects, sharing ideas, and collective problem solving. This collaborative approach not only enhances academic understanding but also nurtures essential interpersonal skills that are crucial in the real world.

In alignment with AVID's goal of college and career readiness, our school is working toward bringing college awareness through promoting College Wear Wednesdays and through a dedicated college corner in each of the classrooms.

As we move forward with AVID strategies, the impact on our school community is evident. Students are more engaged, motivated, and better equipped for the challenges that lie ahead. By embracing AVID, our school is not only shaping academic success but also fostering a culture of lifelong learning and self-determination among its students.

Wagner Elementary School (TK-6)

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.wagnerwildcats.org



Kyleen Fennema
Principal

Wagner Wildcats Walk through History

Wagner teachers know that history is more than a list of dates. It's a journey through time, an adventure in perspective taking, and a challenge to understand context. To support meaningful learning, upper grade Wagner Wildcats get to walk through history!

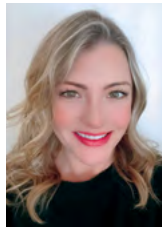
Students explore time periods relevant to their grade's history standards through games, creative expression, and teamwork. Students immerse themselves in vocabulary, maps, timelines, events, and historical figures. The experience culminates in a day filled with role playing, encouragement, and competition as they show their skills and learning. Students love the experience, teachers love the excitement students show, and parents enjoy coming to watch the adventure. Check out our

6th graders who recently got to experience Ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome through an imaginary tour of the ancient civilizations. Up next? Our fifth graders take a turn and dive into the American Revolution!



Woodsboro Elementary School (TK-6)

7575 Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • [woodsboro.pylusd.org](http://www.woodsboro.pylusd.org)



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Adventure at Camp

Woodsboro Elementary's 6th graders embarked on a thrilling adventure at camp near snowy Big Bear, creating lasting memories and fostering valuable skills.

A total of 58 students embraced the great outdoors, immersing themselves in various activities.

One standout was the survival hike, where students collaborated to construct shelters capable of withstanding diverse weather conditions and simulated earthquakes. This engaging STEM activity not only brought out their creativity but also honed their communication and problem-solving skills.

Another highlight was the animal adaptations hike, conducted at night for added excitement. Through interactive games like "Little Deer Can You Hear Me?" students discovered

how animals utilize their senses to survive in the wild. They also learned how animals create bioluminescence by chewing lifesavers to create sparks! Woodsboro's sixth-graders delighted in both the educational and entertaining aspects of their camp journey.



Yorba Linda Middle School (6-8)

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



Paige Stills
Principal

Future Bobcat Week

Yorba Linda Middle School hosted its first annual “Future Bobcat Week”. Future Bobcat Week demonstrates our collective commitment to preparing students for their futures. During Future Bobcat Week, students

participated in schoolwide college

and career lunchtime activities and spirit weeks. Teachers taught schoolwide lessons and presented on the college that they attended. Students also learned about the academies offered within our four comprehensive high schools. Students also took career surveys to identify which careers matched their skills and interests. Future Bobcat

Week concluded with career speaker day, in which students selected two career presentations of their choice. Over 20 career speakers presented to our students and represented a wide variety of industries and professions. AVID Ambassador students were key-leaders during the event and helped welcome our career guests onto our campus.



Yorba Linda High School (9-12)

19900 Bastanchury Rd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Dr. Richard Dinh
Principal

College and Career Day

On Wednesday, December 20th, the Yorba Linda High School PTSA hosted its College and Career Day, a special event which included the entire student body of 1,600 students.

This marked the first time that Yorba Linda High School has had such an activity since 2019. College and Career Day allowed our students to learn about different careers from over 50 presenters who represented a variety of occupational sectors, including business, engineering, medical, and law enforcement.

The event was a success. One student commented that, “I liked the wide variety of speaker options! I had a hard time choosing just three people to hear from because they were all so interesting!”

Additionally, the speakers were also very informative, and they provided our students with the detailed information and insight they will need to pursue their various career paths. Another student remarked that, “There were many different careers that you could choose from, and I was able to see the differences between the careers I am interested in.”

Our teachers also found value in the event. One noted, “It’s good for our students to hear from people in other careers. It’s especially meaningful to have former YLHS students come back and share.”

Thank you, PTSA and Career Day speakers for dedicating your time to speak to our students and expose them to multiple career paths. This experience elevated their awareness of the importance of planning for a future career, and the opportunities that are available to them in the community.

Go, Mustangs!



The Selfie

Back in the far past, when one wanted an image of oneself, one hired an artist. There was a rumor that because these artists charged by the limb, the term *it costs an arm and a leg* came about. If one could not afford an artist, the practice of silhouettes became popular. This was the tracing a shadow of a profile on a piece of black paper and then cutting it out to frame. The 19th century saw a breakthrough with the photographic camera that produced an image on a plate of glass.

These first cameras required one to sit or stand very still for a long period to expose the plate. Therefore, the old tin plates never showed one smiling, for the smile would not hold and would distort the final result. Photographers were used during the Crimean War in the 1850s and were widely used during the American Civil War. Most of the battlefield photo plates were too graphic for the public, so the glass plates were used to make greenhouses.

The next big jump in the camera came with the Eastman Company and paper film. Eastman-Kodak produced the Brownie Box camera that was affordable. The camera was sent off for development and later turned into a disposable

camera. The next innovation was the Polaroid camera with self-developing film. The photos always had one person left out of the picture, so the time delay was invented to take everyone at the same time. The camera operator would set the timer and then run to get into the picture frame. Each new change allowed for a faster image and development, so that today, we have the digital age.

The digital camera allows one to take still shots and motion film with the same device. This new invention created a fad—the selfie. One would hold out their arm and take a picture of themselves. Then, people felt that their arms were not long enough, so the selfie stick was invented. Social behavior shifted from respect of someone else's photo to a craze of “photo-bombing” other people's photos. Another craze has people taking photos of the meals and other items the photographer thinks others might want to see.

So, smile! Now there are cameras everywhere!

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to substitute, tutor and consult. www.HistoryDepot.com



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