

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Centralia Elementary School District



Volume 17, Issue 66

March 2024

Centralia Leading the Way



San Marino Student Leaders and Read Across America Participants



Dysinger Student Leaders and
CIS Jennifer Shirley



Aimee Valle Danbrook Teacher of the Year
Nominee and Superintendent
Norma E. Martinez

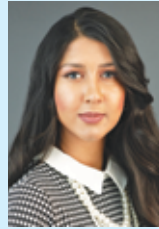
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Luis Flores
President



Art Montez
Vice President



Lamiya A. Hoque
Clerk



Henry Charoen
Member



Elizabeth A. Gonzalez
Member



Norma E. Martinez
Superintendent

Building Excellence Together

As we enter our last trimester, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our Centralia Elementary School District (CESD) community. At CESD, we believe collaboration between educators and parents is essential for the success and well-being of our students. As partners in your child's education, we share a common goal to provide students with the

tools and opportunities they need to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. One of the cornerstones of our approach is open communication. We understand that you entrust us with your children, and we take that responsibility seriously. We are committed to keeping you informed about your child's progress, upcoming events and any important updates from the district. Additionally, we value your input and encourage you to actively participate in your child's education. Your involvement makes a difference! Together, we create a supportive learning environment where every child feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential. As we look forward to the remainder of the school year, I'm filled with optimism and excitement for what lies ahead. Together we will continue to strive for excellence, foster a love of learning and prepare students for success in school and beyond.

Centralia Elementary School District offers a diverse range of programs aimed at enriching students' educational experiences and fostering the whole child's development. Some of our stand-out programs include:

STEM Education Initiative: A strong emphasis is placed on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Through hands-on learning experiences, students engage in critical thinking, problem-solving and creativity, preparing them for success in an increasingly stem-focused world.

The Arts: We have invested mightily in the arts program. Thanks to the overwhelming public support for Proposition 28 we have been able to hire credentialed teachers to provide high-quality arts education programs to all our students. Four of our schools have music-focused arts programs and the other four schools have visual and dance performing programs.

Dual Immersion Program: Our DLI program provides students with the opportunity to become bilingual biliterate in English and Spanish. The program promotes cross-cultural understanding and prepares students to thrive in a global society. Enrollment is being accepted for grades K-3 for the coming year.

Special Education Services: We are committed to providing high-quality special education students services to students with diverse learning needs. These services include individualized education plans, specialized instruction and support services to ensure that every student receives a quality education tailored to their unique abilities. We are proud to host the regional program for our deaf and hard-of-hearing student population in north Orange County.

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE): The GATE program provides enriched and accelerated learning opportunities for students who demonstrate exceptional academic abilities through differentiated instruction and specialized programming. GATE students are challenged to reach their full potential and pursue their passions.

Social Emotional Learning Initiatives: The district prioritizes the social and emotional well-being of students through comprehensive initiatives. These programs are built to teach essential life skills such as empathy, self-awareness and responsible decision-making. We create positive school environments where all students feel supported and valued. Each school in our district has a mental health professional and a dedicated team ensuring a positive school climate.

After School Enrichment Programs: Through our Expanded Learning and Opportunity Program (ELOP), we offer a variety of after-school enrichment programs designed to complement the academic learning and interest of our eligible students. This may include sports, arts, crafts, music or technology providing them with more opportunities for exploration, creativity and socialization outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Parent and Community Engagement: We recognize the importance of involving parents and the community in the education process. Through workshops, events and volunteer opportunities we engage parents in their child's education to foster a strong sense of community involvement

On behalf of our Board of Education and all district staff, I thank you for your continued support, partnership and trust. Together we can do anything!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Superintendent Norma E. Martinez begins this issue with her message on page 2. She begins with the importance of communication. Our *School News* motto is Education+Communication=A Better Nation. As you read her article it makes you want to be back in the classroom. So many programs for students' success.

This issue has so many beautiful pictures of students having fun learning from the classroom to the after school programs. You'll want to find a comfortable chair and plan to read for awhile.

Have a fun Spring Break. We'll be back with our next issue May 8.



summer camp oasis

June 3 - Aug. 9 9 am - 3:30 pm

Daily Academic Review

STEAM Games

Field Trips

Arts & Crafts

Water Games

Weekly Chapel

DAILY, WEEKLY & UNLIMITED RATES
Discounts Available for 2 or More Children in Family or Prepaid Unlimited Summer Program

LUNCH & SNACK CART SERVICES

EXTEND DAYCARE
Available from 6:45 am - 6:00 pm

TK - 8TH GRADE (AGES 4-14)
Open to All Schools

Click Here to Register Online

QUESTIONS?
Click Here to Email Us

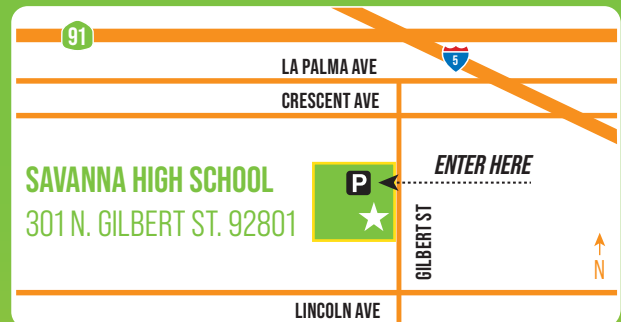
Community Resource Fair + EV Test Drive

A FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT



SATURDAY, MARCH 23 • 10 AM - 1 PM
SAVANNA HIGH SCHOOL

- TAKE AN EV FOR A SPIN
- GET A FREE FOOD WASTE KITCHEN PAIL
- FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING
- FUN ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS



ANAHEIM.NET/RESOURCEFAIR



Buena Terra *Elementary School*

8299 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3220 • bt.cesd.k12.ca.us



Bianca Marchese
Principal

Celebrating Excellence in Education

Buena Terra is the proud recipient of the 2023 National Blue Ribbon Award as an Exemplary High Achieving School. Our superintendent, principal, and a teacher representative flew to Washington, DC to accept the award. We had a wonderful time celebrating with 353 schools from across the nation. We were one of only 33 schools in California who were awarded this prestigious honor!

On December 15, we celebrated with a school-wide assembly where we were presented accolades by local elected officials. Students proudly wore their new Blue Ribbon t-shirts as they danced and cheered with celebration sticks. The community showed up to celebrate with us too!

Our staff's passion for education, tireless efforts and commitment to excellence set a high standard for Buena Terra students to achieve. It's through their inspiration and guidance that students accomplish all their goals. Our families are also instrumental to our success. Their



involvement, encouragement and partnership help us to create a nurturing environment that fosters this academic excellence. Our students are the heart and soul of Buena Terra. This achievement reflects their hard work, curiosity and resilience. They bring their best to their classrooms each day.



Centralia Elementary School

195 N. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/228-3210 • ct.cesd.k12.ca.us



Enrique Romero
Principal

Special Education Leaders

Centralia Elementary School has developed a robust special education program that is continuing to excel with a team of specialized professionals to build inclusive experiences for our leaders! The intricacies of creating professional learning communities to provide spaces of collaboration and shared expertise to design learning

opportunities for our students in a variety of forms has helped to transform the programming at our school.

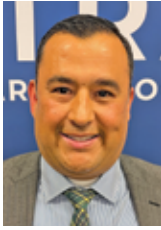
The shared partnership supporting one another with various stakeholders and service providers allows for intentional relationship building and supports individual student needs. With a team built with an all-hands-on-deck approach, the Centralia Leaders can access shared experiences in support of their least restrictive environment. Identifying a balance between classroom support and intentionally creating spaces for inclusive opportunities ensures that our leaders can thrive to reach their highest potential.

The variation of programming experiences for our leaders has allowed our leaders to maximize their achievement. This includes social-emotional/ behavioral support, smaller class size models for specialized academic instruction, push-in model opportunities with resource support, and push-in and pull-out models for specialized speech and language support. The program design for special education is grounded in inclusivity and ensuring access for each of our leaders at Centralia.



Danbrook *Elementary School*

320 Danbrook St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/228-3230 • db.cesd.k12.ca.us



Danbrook University: Empowering Families as Teachers and Learners

This year Danbrook launched Danbrook University! Based on the belief that families are their child's first teacher, Danbrook's Literacy

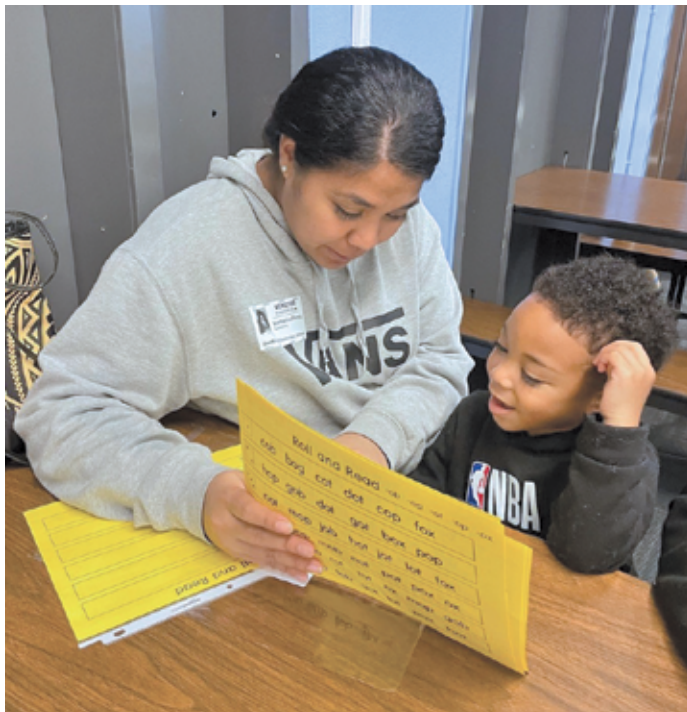
Hugo Rios
Principal

Coach, Julie Ellis, developed workshops that focus on foundational literacy skills. Each week, caregivers drop off their children in the morning and meet in the MPR for a 30-minute workshop to learn a skills-based activity to support learning at home. The workshops are bilingual, and parents play the games with each other to practice and gain confidence as adult learners. This year we will provide 18 workshops that cover topics like letter names, sight words, reading fluency, writing, and more.

Danbrook University has been popular, with an average attendance of 22 caregivers per session. In surveys, 100% of participants have said they feel confident in using these activities at home with their children. One mother, Maria said "I love how I can get new ideas on how to help my child do better in school. He is a little low in reading and this is helping me a lot...he has gone up in sight words and now with his fluency. I know for sure that what I am learning here is really going to help my child."



An important part of Danbrook University is building capacity and empowering parents to be leaders. In trimester two we asked parents if they would be interested in co-planning and co-facilitating the next workshop series. Three mothers volunteered and met with the literacy coach to support the planning of the next workshop. Another parent leader expressed a passion in writing and will co-plan and co-facilitate our T3 workshop series on writing genres. Moving forward, we want to create an accessible online platform with tutorials on activities for the home, develop a course catalog for Danbrook University workshops, and continue to build parent capacity as facilitators!



Dysinger *Elementary School*

7770 Camellia Dr., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3240 • dy.cesd.k12.ca.us



Susan Ungaro
Principal

Dysinger's Exciting Superintendent's Cup Journey

As the proud principal of Dysinger School, I am thrilled to announce our inaugural participation in this year's prestigious Superintendent's Cup. This esteemed competition marks a significant milestone for our institution, especially as our 5th and 6th-grade students delve into the fascinating realm of cybersecurity.

Through our esteemed partnership with Cypress College, our students have had the invaluable opportunity to immerse themselves in the intricacies of cybersecurity. Every Friday, our budding cyber enthusiasts gather for rigorous practice sessions, honing their skills and expanding their knowledge under the guidance of experienced mentors, Coaches Mrs. Rulison and Ms. Kamhi.

Dysinger School has already made waves in the competition, having competed in two exhilarating contests hosted at Cypress College. Our school is proudly represented by two formidable teams: Team CUPS and Team Eclipse. Despite the friendly rivalry between these

two teams, the spirit of camaraderie and support runs deep within our school community. Each member of both teams uplifts and encourages one another, fostering an environment where collaboration and teamwork thrive.

The Superintendent's Cup serves as an exceptional platform for our students to cultivate essential 21st-century skills. Beyond mastering the intricacies of cybersecurity, they develop critical thinking, problem-solving and communication abilities—skills that are indispensable for their future success in an increasingly digital world.

At Dysinger School, we believe in nurturing well-rounded individuals who are not only academically proficient but also compassionate and supportive members of their community. Our participation in the Superintendent's Cup exemplifies our commitment to providing our students with diverse and enriching educational experiences that prepare them for the challenges of tomorrow.

As we continue on this exhilarating journey, I am immensely proud of the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by our students, educators, and mentors. Together, we are forging ahead with confidence, eager to leave our mark in the realm of cybersecurity and beyond.



Los Coyotes *Elementary School*

8122 Moody St., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/228-3260 • lc.cesd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Tammy Keces
Principal

Bridging the Gap from School to Home

Last year Los Coyotes hosted a family math night where parents learned how to better support academic learning at home. It was such a success that parents insisted on another family night. Overwhelmingly parents wanted to learn how to support their students Social Emotional Learning (SEL) at home.

At Los Coyotes we are currently working to shift PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) practices to focus more on motivating students' academic learning through positive behavior. By partnering with families, we hope to deepen the support our students receive by building a greater understanding around the conversations about feelings, emotions and effective communication skills. This can be impactful both in their academic development and social and emotional well-being.

SEL Family Night was led by our Los Coyotes Family Engagement Team. This included Principal Dr. Tammy Keces, our Cotsen school mentor and several classroom teachers. The night began in the Multi-purpose Room (MPR) where Principal Keces led participants through the process of hosting family meetings. After this, families attended two additional breakout sessions. In one classroom families were taught how to help students solve problems at home by creating a "Wheel of Choice". The second classroom focused on regulating emotions by using cool-down spots to create a calm space in the home, similar to the ones experienced in their classrooms. The hope is to reinforce the strategies learned in the classroom at home.

After all, parents and caregivers are our child's first teachers. They are key in helping to build their social and emotional well-being. We've seen how the SEL programs used at Los Coyotes are effective in building students' skills. These programs are proven even more effective when extended into the family home. By working with families and caregivers, we hope to develop more trusting relationships with our students to further strengthen the bonds between school and home.



San Marino *Elementary School*

6215 San Rolando Way, Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3280 • sm.cesd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Alejandro Cisneros
Principal

Student-Led Playground Fun

The natural leaders on the playground are the kids, not the adults. While the students may have less life experience, they often have deeper insights into the needs and the happenings on the playground.

The Junior Coach and Conflict Manager Student Leadership Program is designed to build self-esteem, teach responsibility, and develop leadership skills. It is an exciting opportunity for students to have a leadership role and positively impact their school. Our San Marino junior coaches meet after-school once a month where they discuss the current culture of recess and lunch at San Marino and learn ways to make positive changes during school. They have many roles and responsibilities and they take them all very seriously.



Our junior coaches encourage the use of rock, paper, scissors to help solve problems quickly so everyone can continue playing games. They teach students to tag using light “butterfly fingers” to keep students safe. Each coach gives high fives and say “good job, nice try” when a student gets out during a game to model good sportsmanship.

They ensure that everyone knows the rules of a game so every student can feel included and welcome. They help school staff set up and put away equipment to ensure there is no play time lost. Of course, they set a positive and playful tone on the playground so everyone is having fun.

They are student leaders who are motivated to develop and practice their leadership skills while making San Marino a safe, more playful, and more inclusive place for all students. We couldn't do the work without their help!





Andy Long
Principal

Celebrating Diversity at Miller

At Miller Elementary School students are thriving. In the past month, we have celebrated kindness and the Lunar New Year, while also learning about history through music. We have begun our Jr. Coaches program at recess, continued to grow our musical talents during VAPA time on Fridays, learned to code during Design Thinking Lab, and of course honed our academic skills through intentional goal setting between students, parents and teachers.

On January 10th, many Miller families, along with families around the world celebrated the Lunar New Year. At Miller, our students were fortunate to have a small group of parents, along with Miller staff, work to help with this celebration. Students began their day on January 9th with a school-wide assembly where they learned a little more about the holiday and were encouraged to

share with their classes and peers about how they may celebrate at home. Once in class, students were treated to a special Red Envelope with a gift inside and viewed a special presentation done by parents. In this presentation, students learned about the holiday while parents taught students how to do a special craft project, which they did with their teachers. Lastly, students and staff were interviewed for our weekly Miller broadcast. They shared with our school and community how they celebrated the Lunar New Year at home and why it is important to them and their families.

At Miller Elementary School we are fortunate to have students, families and staff that believe in our student's academic success and their social-emotional well-being. The Miller community knows that in order for students to achieve and excel we must teach and practice respecting the rights and backgrounds of others, as well as being considerate in the actions we take and the words we use. In turn, our students will thrive as part of our community.



Raymond Temple *Elementary School*

7800 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3290 • rt.cesd.k12.ca.us



Shawn Stuht
Principal

Raymond Temple Cultivating Leaders

Raymond Temple Elementary School is a beacon of student leadership and community development, exemplified by its outstanding Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) Program. Comprising 15 dedicated student leaders, the PAL program goes above and beyond to cultivate a culture of support, care and safety within the school.

These PAL peer leaders serve as catalysts for positive change, utilizing various strategies such as mentoring, conflict resolution, cross-age teaching and peer assistance to foster a welcoming environment for all students. Their commitment to service learning and prevention activities further reinforces the school's ethos of inclusivity and support.

In addition to the PAL Program, Raymond Temple Elementary also boasts the Playworks Junior Coaches Leadership Program, aimed at instilling self-esteem, responsibility and leadership skills among students through engaging playground activities. This initiative not only promotes active leadership but also contributes to a vibrant and dynamic school atmosphere.

Furthermore, the school's Green Team Leaders play a pivotal role in promoting sustainability and environmental consciousness among students. By championing sustainable practices and overseeing the maintenance of three flourishing gardens on campus, these leaders not only enhance the school environment but also provide valuable education on green strategies and environmental sciences.

Raymond Temple Elementary School's dedication to student leadership and community involvement sets a high standard for fostering a supportive and inclusive school environment. Through initiatives like the PAL Program, Playworks Junior Coaches Leadership Program, and Green Team, students are empowered to make a positive impact within their school community and beyond, ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future for all.



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.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the

CENTRALIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT



@SchoolNewsRC



SchoolNewsRollCall



SchoolNewsRollCall

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193 • www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC

Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated.

Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of

School News Roll Call. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content.

The Centralia Elementary School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop

562/493-3193 • schoolnewskay@gmail.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:

Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura

COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison