

School News

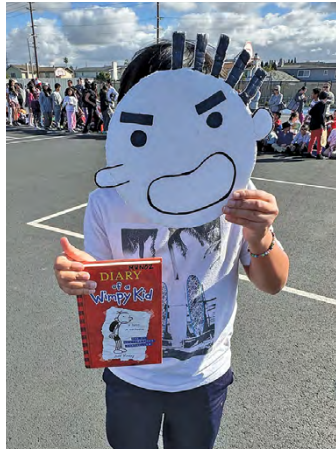
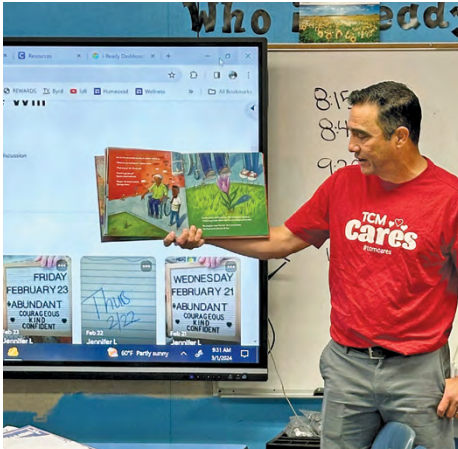


Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Ocean View School District

Volume 20, Issue 116

March 2024



Pages Come to Life in Ocean View School District with Read Across America Celebration





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SUPERINTENDENT



A Celebration of Reading in OVSD Schools

Ocean View School District made reading an enjoyable experience through its celebration of Read Across America Day.

Dr. Michael Conroy
Superintendent

Under the sun, reading buddies enjoyed the outdoor setting, turning the joy of reading into an exciting adventure. The sight of engaged students, laughing and smiling, created an atmosphere of joy and happiness. Several schools extended invitations to relatives, providing bonding moments over a shared book or two.

At Oak View Elementary, Teacher Created Materials (TCM) Cares volunteers delved into the pages of the books, bringing stories to life through creative projects that captivated the imaginations of learners. Activities such as crafting paper airplanes and decorating pots for planting flowers and vegetables added an interactive and hands-on dimension to the celebration. TCM not only contributed to instilling a love for reading, but generously donated backpacks filled with books to each student.



Numerous festivities graced elementary schools across the District, including spirit dress-up days where characters from cherished books came alive in classrooms. Star View Elementary took it a step further, organizing a character parade to showcase their enthusiasm for literature.

Beyond the lively atmosphere and creative expressions, the celebrations emphasized the benefits of reading. The day's events highlighted that reading goes beyond academics; it serves as a gateway to imagination, empathy, and a lifelong love for learning. Ocean View School District's celebration is a testament to the power of storytelling and how it shapes young minds, while building the joy of reading.



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Kay Coop
 Founder/Publisher



This our 20th year publishing *School News* directly from the Ocean View School District. The years may change, but the focus on academic excellence is consistent. Of course, reading is the foundation for success. Dr. Michael Conroy begins this issue with his message on page 3, A Celebration of Reading.

This issue is full of wonderful pictures of students having fun while learning. Enjoy!

Our next issue is May 1.



**Happy Birthday
 Dr. Seuss!**

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Embracing Diversity: Ocean View School District's Inclusive Celebration of Lunar New Year

By Jack C. Souders, Board President

Ocean View School District is committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse environment that honors the various cultures within its community. This dedication was proudly displayed earlier this year during the Lunar New Year celebrations, which spotlighted the rich traditions of Asian cultures.

Festive school assemblies honoring the Lunar New Year featured traditional dances, educational history lessons, and captivating Dragon and Lion Dance performances. The dragon symbolized attributes of power, strength, and good fortune. Students joined in by presenting vibrant red envelopes to these symbolic creatures, conveying well wishes and luck for the upcoming year. This immersive event showcased students and staff from various cultural backgrounds, proudly dressed in cheongsams and Tang suits, exemplifying unity amidst diversity in the District.

Across the District, individual classes went above and beyond to infuse the Lunar New Year into their daily curriculum. Educators seamlessly integrated cultural festivities into lessons, art projects, and a range of activities, providing students with insight into the importance of this occasion. Such an approach enhances the academic journey and underscores the District's dedication to fostering cultural appreciation among its students.



A personal highlight for me was participating in Westminster's Tet Parade with fellow Board members, Vice President Patricia Singer and Clerk Gina Clayton-Tarvin, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Conroy. This was a great opportunity for the District to connect with the Asian community and continue to forge lasting relationships. One of my favorite things about this year's Lunar New Year Parade were the dragon dancers, who demonstrated a phenomenal level of artistry. Their subtle movements really make the dragons come alive and seem real. Even when they are resting and waiting for the parade to begin they are in character. This year it was especially fun to watch since it is the year of the dragon.

The District's positive approach, from school-wide assemblies to leadership participation in community events, shows its dedication to creating an educational environment that embraces diversity. Through such initiatives, Ocean View School District continues to nurture a community where every student feels valued and respected, building a generation that appreciates and celebrates differences.

Child Development Programs

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach • 16692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach • 8251 Heil Ave., Westminster • 714/847-2551 X 1107 • www.ovsd.org/domain/1652



Sue Broderson
Coordinator

Enrichment Begins Early!

If you are looking for pure bliss, you don't need to look any further than our kinders during dance class. These excitable littles love movement, music, and dancing! As part of our after-school enrichment program offered at all elementary sites, students have the opportunity to participate in dancing, learning to skateboard, art exploration, sports, and STEM activities.

Students are able to participate in any of the activities offered as part of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. All enrichment activities are free for students who meet eligibility. Students are provided with all materials needed to participate in an activity, whether it's a skateboard, art supplies, or robotics. Students participating in our sports programs learn the skills needed to play a sport such as basketball. Coaches work side by side with students as they learn to dribble or shoot baskets.

Watching students delight as they develop skills over time and show off their talents in friendly games is very rewarding for students and their coaches. Ocean View School District is proud to be able to offer such a variety of creative and fun activities that our students love and thrive when doing.



Circle View Elementary (K-5)

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • www.ovsd.org/circle



Jessica Haag
Principal

Showing Up is 80 Percent of Success!

At Circle View, we strive for our students to feel safe, respected, and celebrated. We want all of our students to progress and grow, and the best way to do this is to be at school!

We have taught our Eagles that if you can be at school, we want you at school. Our students have also been taught that sometimes they can't be at school and the good reasons why not. Such as, there are

often little aches and pains that we can have that do not really prevent us from being at school, and that we miss them when they are not here!

We have also informed our families about this as well. When we are at school there are teachers who can check in with us, staff members who are here to help and listen,

friends to play with, and lots of people to help out in lots of different ways. Our Eagles are strong, have grit, and show resilience.

We celebrate our outstanding attendance individually with special attendance certificates, and we have a new school-wide goal. We are also going to have a school celebration if our overall cumulative attendance is over 96 percent at the end of the school year!

Our reward for this achievement was also chosen by our students. We value student voice and choice. Each class brainstormed, we narrowed down the ideas, and then we had a final vote.

We can't wait to see if we reach our goal in June and earn this extra-special reward. So far our school-wide attendance has been great, and our cumulative year-to-date attendance is 96.59 percent. Let's do this!



Circle View Kindergarten students in Mrs. Peters' class with their awards certificates.

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • www.ovsd.org/college



Allen Mendrin
Principal

The Content is Alive!

College View students in 4th grade were introduced and allowed to actively participate in a lively retelling of California's rich history. Through the use of games, music, and storytelling, history comes alive!

Walk Through California is a program that focuses on major events that shaped our great state of California. Drama, dance, games, and music support students' listening

skills, vocabulary development, history and geography standards. A large topographical map of California is built, at the end of the presentation by the presenter and students, for students to experience California's geography hands-on. College View students had fun, were engaged, and made memories that they will remember for a lifetime.





Lori Florgan
Principal

Project Zero Waste

Mrs. Conton's and Ms. Connally's classes led a zero waste project to learn about food waste. During the first week of this project, the students weighed their lunchtime trash to discover that the two classes alone produced 26 pounds of trash.

The students wanted to find a way to reduce lunchtime waste in order to help the earth. Here are some ways they started packing waste-free lunches with their families:

1. Sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruits, veggies, and treats were packed in reusable containers instead of plastic baggies.
2. Cloth napkins were used instead of disposable napkins.
3. Reusable forks and spoons were used instead of plastic utensils.
4. Reusable drink containers were used instead of plastic bottles.
5. Reusable lunch boxes were used instead of paper or plastic bags.



The students who got school lunches brought their own reusable lunch boxes, reusable napkins and reusable utensils so they did not have to take the disposable ones provided by the school.

Students made decisions about what to recycle, what to put in the compost, and what to throw away. After three weeks, the students reduced their waste from 26 pounds to 4 pounds!

The classes wanted to share their findings with other students at Golden View to encourage others to take action through civic engagement opportunities. To do this, they decided to make posters about ways to pack a waste free lunch, and shared these ideas with their other classes at Golden View.



Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org/harbour



Francesca Ligman
Principal

Spreading the LOVE of Reading at Harbour View

The week leading up to Read Across America, our PTA organized a “Once Loved Book Exchange.” Families were asked to donate their gently used books that were once favorites to pass on to students to give that book a second home. The school collected books for 3 days and approximately 1,600 books were delivered,

sorted, and displayed for students to choose a new book to take home and love! Our primary age classes received two books! The students were so excited to take home a new book. All in all, every student went home with a new book or two to read and freshen their home library. This all culminated with a picnic on the field. Classes met with cross-age class buddies on the grass, sat on a towel or blanket and read together with their “once-loved” books. The leftover books were donated to our school library and classroom libraries.



Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • www.ovsd.org/hope



Christina Luckey
Principal

A Million Minutes!

Hope View students are encouraged to read nightly, and currently the school is collectively working on reading a million minutes by May. This is no easy task, but the students are off to a great start!

Encouraging a love of reading doesn't stop here. It continues to grow as students read weekly with their reading buddies, during our weekly Bark Therapy dog visits, and during our trimester visits with Reading with Relatives in the primary grades. Building in the time for reading buddies provides younger students with an opportunity to hear a



more experienced reader read with fluency and practice reading aloud. The more-experienced readers get to work on their literacy skills as they talk through a book with their younger readers.

Instilling a love of reading along with learning is very important, and our students couldn't enjoy these days more!



Captured here are a couple of reading buddy classes. Mrs. Broussard's fourth graders are reading with Ms. Smith's second grade reading buddies as well as Ms. McLaughlin's TK class is pictured here reading with relatives.

Lake View Elementary (K-5)

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • www.ovsd.org/lake



Jill Van Der Linden
Principal

Turtle Love

At Lake View, we have some beloved turtles that live on our site in a pond. Every day as they walk down the hallway our students stop by to visit the turtles. The names of our turtles are Leo, Einstein, and Little Bean.

Over the winter break, one of our turtles got sick and passed away. As you would expect, our students and staff members were devastated about the passing of one of our precious turtles. We also realized that we were not very prepared to care for our turtles if they needed medical help.

Service projects are very important at Lake View, and we recognized that our turtles were in need of some

help. And so we started a special turtle fund donation competition between our classrooms.

The students have been so excited to bring in this change to help the turtles. Throughout this time they have shown so much kindness and concern towards our turtles. One suggestion made by a few students was to install a turtle camera near their pond. This way they would be able to livestream the turtles from their Chromebooks. With some of the funds we received we were able to install a turtle-cam, and now our students can see the turtles live in their classrooms.

This was a wonderful opportunity to teach our students that they can make the kind of changes that will have a positive impact on our environment. Needless to say our turtles are doing well, and we were recently given a new little baby turtle to join our Lake View family!



Marine View Middle School (6-8)

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org/marine



Sara Schaible
Principal

Performing Arts Galore!

Marine View offers a special program that is unique to our school: our bi-annual musical!

This year we were thrilled to bring Mary Poppins Jr to the stage. This tradition started back in 2015 with Marine View's production of High School Musical Jr, and it continued over the years to include Seussical Jr, Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr, Guys and Dolls Jr, and Matilda Jr.

Our goal with these musical events is to provide access and involvement in the performing arts to our students, school, and overall community, and this goal is met 10-fold at Marine View. Aside from the producing team, which is made up of several of Marine View's faculty and staff members, these productions are entirely student-driven. The students gain access to the performing arts by becoming cast members, stage crew members, sound and lighting crew members, and set builders and ushers.



This year over 100 of our students came out to audition and fill the roles of 46 casting spots, with another 30 students filling the roles of our sound and lighting crew, set design crew, and stage crew. The stage radiated with singing, dancing, laughter, and applause this past weekend as our cast and crew members took to the stage. The cast and crew debuted their talent over the course of six shows throughout the weekend, all of which were headlined by our very own Marine View Rock Band!

Our audiences initially attended the musical to see their family and friends perform, but they ended up taking home a lasting exposure and love for the performing arts. Marine View is one of the only middle schools that offers this full-fledged arts experience!



Mesa View Middle School (6–8)

17601 Avila Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org/mesa



Jady Grunbaum
Principal

Shop Strong at Mesa!

Here at Mesa View, even while at an interim school site, we are still proud to continue offering our industrial technology courses, which includes traditional woodshop classes as well as more digital arts components for students at all grade levels.

This year we also added a year-long advanced industrial technology course for our seventh- and eighth-grade students. Projects have included cutting boards and experimenting with epoxy fills, mini bats, rings, pens, a mirror, and more! The students are learning valuable life



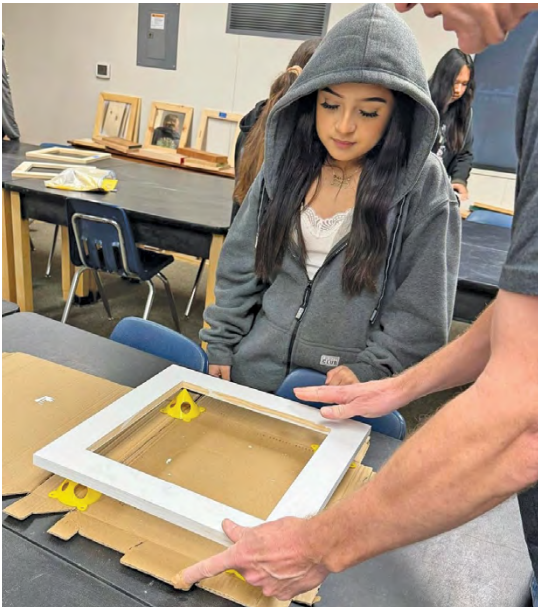
skills and finding passions they may not have otherwise known they have. It's an amazing way for them to work with their hands, develop confidence, and utilize math and science in real-life applications.

We are also playing around this year with a CNC machine, one of two that we will have next year at our newly modernized Mesa View site. In addition, with three lathes, our students are now able to explore creative wood-working projects as well. It's quite amazing the detail and skill-level that these students have developed in such a short period of time, and how well they have been able to explain all that they have learned.

This year, teacher Brett Hardy has revamped our "woodshop" into a 21st-century career and technical

introduction for our middle school students, with web design, 3-D printing, and a variety of wood-working and carpentry skills. He has also hosted two shop Open House Nights where parents and families can come and use the tools alongside our students to showcase what they have learned. Come out and see what's going on at the shop on April 16th, and check the Mesa View calendar for updates!

The Mesa View Shop is a wonderful place where our students are exploring career pathways and creating some amazing usable items along the way.



Oak View Elementary (K-5)

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • www.ovsd.org/oak



Jenna Landero
Principal

Students Shine

March has come in with a bang as we kicked off this month with the opening weekend of our 2nd Disney Musical, Winnie the Pooh Kids!

In our second year of the grant, we had over 65 students join us this year creating magic together in the Hundred Acre Wood since October. Performances ran over two weekends with crews of amazing make-up and hair artists and a dedicated team of teachers and parents who helped make the magic happen!

While theater arts provide life changing experiences and opportunities for our students by giving them a sense of community and belonging, it also improves their literacy and academic reading skills through the arts. We enjoyed watching our student who started out as hesitant readers

and speakers, shine in the show with beautiful speaking and reading skills.

Our Mighty Owls are one talented group of people, and we are so thankful to our community's support throughout this process! We are looking forward to next year when we take on the Lion King!



Spring View Middle School (6-8)

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • www.ovsd.org/spring



Isis Ortiz
Principal

Helping Families Build Relationships

Spring View administrators recognize the importance of family involvement in supporting student success. By fostering partnerships between families and schools, our school is able to create a supportive environment that promotes academic achievement and student well-being.

Last year, when Assistant Principal Mr. de Lachica and I became administrators at Spring View Middle School, our main focus was on making sure that we encouraged strong relationships with our families. One of the activities that we were able to introduce was our fabulous “Lunch with a Spartan” event. We know that family involvement is crucial to the success of our middle school students in supporting both academic and emotional development. We emphasize the need for strong family-school partnerships during this critical period.

As many people know, research highlights the benefits of family engagement, including improved grades, good attendance, and positive attitudes towards school. In addition to traditional involvement, inviting families to share lunch with their students also fosters strong relationships and provides a first-hand experience of our school environment.

Lunch with a Spartan is time when families are invited on campus to have lunch with their children. Everyone is encouraged to bring blankets and chairs to sit on the Spring View lawn and enjoy food from either home or takeout. Spartan families are also able to play giant yard games such as Connect Four, Corn Hole, and Jenga. Best of all, we like to open up our famous game room with its variety of vintage pinball and video games for all to enjoy.

During our most recent sixth-grade Lunch with a Spartan we had over 50 percent of our families come out and enjoy themselves. We are looking forward to our next successful lunch event for our seventh- and eighth- graders in the months to come.



Star View Elementary (K-5)

8411 Worthy Ln., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • www.ovsd.org/star



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

Annual Tet Celebration

On February 6th, Star View Elementary celebrated the Year of the Dragon. Despite the downpour and outdoor amphitheater, wind and rain could not extinguish the excitement of our annual Tet celebration.

Families, students, and staff excitedly arrived at school in the

colorful traditional dress of the “ao dai,” a flowing silk tunic with pants. Tet is especially significant because many of our families are Vietnamese. We celebrated the Lunar New Year and the importance of diversity and inclusion in our Vietnamese-American community.

The Vietnamese American Culture Club from Westminster High School performed in costume with drama, drummers, dancers, and dragons. Li xi (red envelopes) were given to the student winners of our art competition. We were fortunate to have Dr. Conroy, Ocean

View’s Superintendent, participate with us. Mrs. Audrey Tran, a retired Star View teacher, shared a cultural presentation where we learned about traditional foods, how best to serve tea, and cultural priorities of respect, love of learning, and loyalty to family. The day ended with a Vietnamese feast, art projects, games, and literature.



Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org/village



Sharon Ahlman
Interim Principal

Learning through Play in TK!

At Village View Elementary, Mrs. Sleger's transitional classroom learns through symbolic play. Opportunities to play and create using a variety of materials are vital components in the unique development of every growing child. Through play, young learners explore the world around them, develop social skills, enhance their cognitive abilities, and foster their imaginations. Play

allows children to experiment, make mistakes, and learn from them in a safe and supportive environment. It also promotes problem-solving skills, resilience, and emotional regulation, setting a solid foundation for their future academic success.

Encouraging creativity in a TK classroom sparks children's curiosity and innovation. When children engage in creative activities such as drawing, painting, building, or storytelling, they hone their communication skills, express themselves, and build confidence in their abilities. Creativity fosters critical thinking and divergent problem-solving skills, preparing children to navigate a dynamic and ever-changing world. By prioritizing play and creativity in her TK classroom, Mrs. Sleger lays the groundwork for a lifelong love of learning and self-expression in her young students.



Vista View Middle School (6-8)

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • www.ovsd.org/vista



Dr. Rasheedah Gates
Principal

Exciting Tech Innovations!

In a landmark achievement, Vista View Middle School has successfully completed the first semester of its inaugural Computer Tech class, leaving an indelible mark on the school's academic landscape. The class, comprising 12 talented students primarily in sixth grade, has been on a transformative journey, creating captivating content for a cutting-edge

video wall that showcases their technical prowess.

Under the guidance of their dedicated instructor, Danielle Staton, the students have not only embraced the world of technology but have also demonstrated remarkable creativity and teamwork. The video wall, a focal point of the school's main corridor, has become a dynamic platform for showcasing student-made videos, slideshows, and eye-catching flyers.

One of the highlights of the first quarter was the creation of student-made videos that reflect the diverse interests and talents of the class. From informative presentations about historical events to

entertaining videos on birthdays and important events for the month, the students have captivated the entire school community and made the video wall a popular destination for both learning and leisure.

In addition to videos, the students have crafted visually stunning slide shows that highlight key concepts learned in the Computer Tech class. These presentations not only serve as a testament to the students' understanding of the material but also provide an engaging visual experience for

all who pass by the video wall. The ultimate best part is that all the content is student generated!

The class has even ventured into graphic design by creating vibrant and informative flyers. These visually appealing materials not only promote upcoming school events but also showcase the students' newfound skills in graphic communication. For instance, in the recent past, students highlighted Lunar New Year and selling Valentine's Day grams.

As Vista View continues to embrace the integration of technology into its curriculum, the Computer Tech class stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when students are given the tools and guidance to explore the digital frontier. Vista Falcons SOAR!



Westmont Elementary (K-5)

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org/westmont



Diana Bianco
Principal

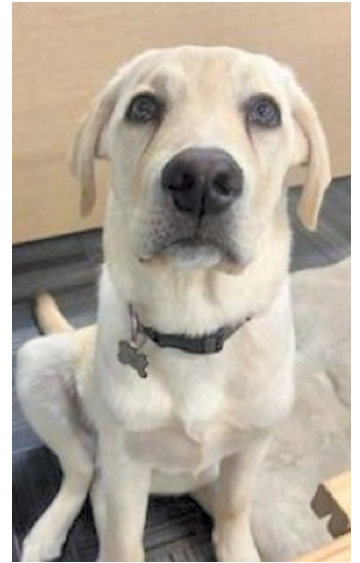
Power of a Dog

When was the last time you walked onto a school campus and were greeted by a dog? Well, one of the things that makes Westmont School unique is that we have a golden Lab named Vegas. Vegas has been placed

at Westmont to train to be a service dog used to support visually impaired individuals, families with children who have autism, veterans with PTSD or mobility issues, and facilities such as hospitals, schools, police departments, and courthouses.

At Westmont, the staff and students have fallen in love with Vegas and enjoy being greeted by his wagging tail and sweet puppy kisses. He has become such an integral part of our school, as he has been helpful with students who have experienced social-emotional trauma or behavioral challenges. Spending just a few moments with Vegas seems to help students and staff feel more calm and comfortable when they need just a little support.

The power of a dog is extraordinary and therapeutic. We are so grateful to have the experience of a guide dog on our campus and know that Vegas is changing lives with his support.



Note-ables



Kate Karp

Magic Beans

“Once upon a time, there were magic beans thrown away onto the dusty ground” begins the poem in Magic Beans’ liner notes. That’s the spirit of this collection by songwriter/musician Eric Herman and his spunky backup band, the Puppy Dogs, aka Dave Pettey and Ben Macy.

The songs are a riotous take on being a young person or the parent of one, especially an opinionated, annoying, know-it-all and downright likeable youngster with a fertile imagination and a knack for getting into trouble. He puts “Google Eyes” on everything from European landmarks to dad’s laptop—“I mean, it said Google, right?” Did you unfailingly trust your older sibling no matter how much trouble it got you into? “My Brother” will hit a chord. “Stinker,” which this child certainly is, tosses out contradictory statements about behavior: he won’t be afraid of the dark if you put on the light, he’ll be patient if he doesn’t have to wait.



The songs aren’t all about shenanigans. “Merry-Go-Round” is a metaphor for life and the planet, both of which go round and round and up and down. “Remember” tells how the same child helps his beloved grandma go through dementia. “Go” tells where your imagination can take you if you’re in a bad mood or a rut, which is the point of the collection.

The melodies are catchy and as imaginative as are the lyrics, which you can find, along with videos and other goodies, [right here](#).

Remember, there’s no ground too dusty for planting and growing our Magic Beans!

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

Leadership Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com (Please put Ocean View in the subject line)

Entries must be received by June 15, 2024

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

Thank you Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics for sponsoring our contests.

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**Congratulations to Errin Simkins
Winner of the January Word Search Contest!**

Note-ables



Kate Karp

Sing & Soar with Nanny Nikki

“Nanny Nikki” Rung, her ukulele and her two Dapper Dudes have cued up a musical outing for us! We’re going to dance at the playground, rock to the beat, and learn some valuable lessons while we’re having the best time ever!

“Sing & Soar” is a dream of a collection of songs. Some will choke you up. Some will make you move. Each of them will leave you with a trail of earworms, and you won’t mind a bit.

The infectious ska rhythm on the opener, “The Beat,” introduces a celebration of street musicians who pound buckets and pails on the streets of Nikki’s native Chicago and who sometimes get run off by the police! “Yuk Your Yum” talks about not raining on someone’s parade. “Almost Made It” begins with being too late to get to the bathroom, but that’s just the attention-getter—it’s really



about supporting your friends and yourself in never giving up on anything. “Playground Day” welcomes all children to play, no matter what they look like, where they come from, or how dirty they get.

The collection closes on a soft, thoughtful note with “I Can’t Hear the Moon.” Of course, you can’t. You can’t hear a smile, a touch of love, either, but you know they’re there.

Children deserve a nanny like Nanny Nikki, and so did we when we were little. We can all have one now!

“Sing & Soar” can be streamed on [Spotify](#) and [Amazon Music](#).

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

Weather Words Search Contest

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

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|------------|--------------|
| BAROMETER | ICE STORM |
| BLIZZARD | MIST |
| CELSIUS | RAIN |
| CIRRUS | SLEET |
| CLOUD | SNOW |
| CUMULUS | SQUALL |
| CYCLONE | STEBER |
| DEW | STEVENS |
| DUST STORM | SWARTHOUT |
| FAHRENHEIT | TEBALDI |
| FOG | THERMOMETER |
| FROST | THUNDERSTORM |
| HAIL | TORNADO |
| HUMIDITY | TRAUBEL |
| HURRICANE | TYPHOON |
| HYDROMETER | VANILLA |

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The Yo-Yo

Some believe the yo-yo originated in China. However, the first mention of the yo-yo is in Greece around 500 B.C. It is also found in pictographs in Egyptian-temple wall art. Philippine hunters used a rock with a 20-foot string to hit their prey in trees in the 16th century. Wherever the yo-yo originated, it has become a global fascination.

The yo-yo is said to be the second-oldest toy in the world, next to the doll. It is a toy that has a calming effect on the user. The French court played with the yo-yo (*joujou de Normandie*). Marquis de Lafayette toyed with the yo-yo. Napoleon and his troops played with it before the battle of Waterloo as well, as it was a favorite of the Duke of Wellington. There is a National Yo-Yo Museum in Chico, and wooden parts can be found online.

This country saw its first patent in 1866 by an Ohio company, but the toy remained obscure until 1916 in an article in *Scientific American* titled "Filipino Toys." When Pedro Flores, an immigrant from the Philippines working at a hotel in Santa Monica as a bellhop, played with his yo-yo during his lunch break, a crowd would gather around and watch. He started making yo-yos and had two factories by 1929.

A businessman named Donald F. Duncan on a trip from Ohio to California saw the yo-yo and bought Pedro's company in 1929. Then in 1932, Duncan was given the trade name yo-yo, forcing competitors to use other names for the toy. It was Duncan who introduced the slip-string that allowed the yo-yo to "sleep." He set out on an advertising campaign with the Hearst newspaper company that increased paper circulation and sales of yo-yos.

Then in the 1960, with television and mass advertising, the yo-yo had a resurgence in sales and interest. However, the Duncan family lost a trademark case in 1965 and sold the company. Yet between 1960 and the 1990s, the yo-yo saw many innovations with the new technology that saw another resurgence in the 1990s. On April 12, 1985, the yo-yo went to space on the Discovery Shuttle. The toy needs gravity to work—you can guess the result!

Today, the yo-yo is providing more than entertainment for young enthusiasts. It is also a way for our troops to relax and take their mind off the stress of the job they have been sent to do. In 2008, Senator John McCain asked for people to send yo-yos and stress balls to the troops. There are several organizations that send yo-yos to the troops. As we get older and can no longer do what we used to do, there is still something that we can do that will make a difference.

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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.