

School News

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Covering the Westminster School District



Volume 20, Issue 116

March 2024

WSD Electrifies the Community During Lunar New Year!



The WSD community showed up in full force during the annual Tet Parade.



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Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

As we reflect on the vibrant celebrations of the Tet Parade, Tet Festival, and Lunar New Year festivities that have taken place across our district over the past month, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude. These events not only brought our community together but also provided a wonderful opportunity for us to embrace and celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes our district so unique.

The Tet Parade, with its colorful floats, traditional music, and spirited performances, was a sight to behold. I am proud that WSD was the title sponsor of the parade this year; with our students leading off the Opening Ceremony with their incredible performance. It was heartwarming to see students, staff, and families come together, showcasing the unity and strength of our community. The Tet Festival enriched our understanding and appreciation of Vietnamese culture, offering us a glimpse of the arts, language, and traditions. Students and staff from our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program, showed up in full force to perform and support at the WSD booth. The Lunar New Year celebrations, marking the beginning of a new

year on the lunisolar calendar, were filled with joy and hope, symbolizing new beginnings and the promise of a prosperous year ahead.

At the recent California Association of Bilingual Education Conference (CABE), Westminster School District showcased the dedication and talent of its students, staff, and team. Our staff presented at various workshops, our students delivered captivating performances, and our Board members presented the Republic of Vietnam flag to the CABE team as a symbol of unity and cultural appreciation. We are proud of our community's active involvement in this event, highlighting our commitment to bilingual education.

These celebrations are a testament to the vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community we have together. I want to extend my thanks to everyone who played a part in organizing and participating in these events. Your enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication have made these celebrations a success. I am continually impressed by the talent and commitment of our students, staff, and families, and it is a privilege to be a part of such an inspiring district.

As we look ahead, let us continue to celebrate our diversity and support one another. I look forward to attending many more events this year.



Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program Students take center stage and showcase their talents at the annual CABE Conference.

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WSD Excels During the CABE Conference!

By Frances Nguyen, President, Board of Trustees

As the proud Board President of Westminister School District, I am thrilled to share our incredible experience at the California Association of Bilingual Education Conference (CABE). This event was not just a conference; it was a celebration of our community's diversity, talent, and commitment to bilingual education. Our participation highlighted the WSD INSPIRES! spirit of Westminister School District, showcasing our students' performances, staff presentations, student artwork, and a significant cultural moment with the presentation of the Republic of Vietnam flag.

Our students from DeMille Elementary, Stacey Middle, and Warner Middle School took the stage with performances that demonstrated their hard work and dedication to the dual language immersion programs.

WSD's staff and parents also had the opportunity to shine, delivering presentations that highlighted the innovative approaches and successes of our bilingual education programs and Strategic Plan. Their expertise and passion for providing resources and information to the community ignited meaningful conversations and sharing best practices with educators from across the state.

A moment that brought the conference full circle was the Board Presentation of the Republic of Vietnam flag. This gesture was deeply meaningful for our Vietnamese American community, reflecting our district's respect for and recognition of our diverse district.

I look forward to participating in CABE's 50th Conference next year, where WSD will be the first Vietnamese Chapter in the state. We will also celebrate our Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion Program's 10th Anniversary. There is so much work to do but a lot to celebrate once we achieve those accolades!



WSD's Board of Trustees presents the Republic of Vietnam flag to the CABE Conference.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 20th year publishing the excellence from the Westminster School District. Technology has rapidly changed curriculum and AI has burst upon the scene bringing more changes; however, the one consistency is the focus on academic success. Thank you for continuing to support public education.

Our next issue is May 1.



**Happy
Birthday
Dr. Seuss**



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Anderson Elementary (K-6)

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsdk8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Sixth Graders Reach New Heights

Anderson Elementary School's sixth grade students attended Outdoor Science School at Camp Mile High Pines, February 21 – 23, 2024. During their three day stay, the students participated in team

building activities, science lessons and physical activities. The students were able to experience snow, many of them for the first time. Students hiked in the snow, made snowballs and created snowmen. Students learned independence and were taught proper etiquette in the dining hall. Students built relationships with each other and their cabin leaders. One of the highlights was the climbing wall. Students wore harnesses and reached for new heights of accomplishment. Many students were able to climb the entire wall and ring the bell at the top. It was a fun, educational experience that the students will never forget!



Clegg Elementary (TK-5)

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsdk8.us



Mark Murphy
Principal

Congratulations, Mrs. Okura!

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Okura for her exceptional achievement in being bestowed with the esteemed title of Clegg's Teacher of the Year! This recognition, conferred upon her by her peers, stands as a testament to her outstanding dedication and significant contributions to the field of education.

Mrs. Okura's remarkable ability to establish a strong rapport with her students is truly commendable, playing a pivotal role in the overall success of her instructional endeavors. Through her unwavering commitment, she ensures that her students remain consistently engaged and empowered throughout their educational journey.

Her passion for teaching shines through in every aspect of her work, inspiring not only her students but also her colleagues. Mrs. Okura's innovative approaches to pedagogy create an enriching learning environment where students thrive academically and personally.

Beyond her role as an educator, Mrs. Okura serves as a role model, embodying the qualities of excellence, compassion, and dedication. Her impact extends far beyond the confines of the classroom, shaping the lives of those she touches with her wisdom and guidance.

We wholeheartedly congratulate Mrs. Okura on this well-deserved honor and express our deepest gratitude for her unwavering commitment to nurturing the minds of future generations.



DeMille *Language Academy*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • demille.wsdk8.us



April Derr
Principal

Celebrating!

In February, we celebrated the Tet-Lunar New Year at DeMille! We kicked off the year of the dragon celebration by participating in the Tet parade with the City of Westminster. Families and staff walked the parade dressed in traditional Ao Dai. Our students in our Vietnamese Culture Club (VCC) also performed at the parade's opening ceremony. That same weekend, our

New Year Culture Day at our site to learn more about how different Asian communities celebrate the Lunar New Year. Supported by our parent volunteers, students were able to participate in various stations throughout our multipurpose room created by our teachers. These stations included arts and crafts, games of luck and skill, a cultural display including musical instruments, traditional dress, and customs, calligraphy, photo areas, and food. What a wonderful time of togetherness for our community as we celebrated the Lunar New Year!



Tet Parade - City of Westminster



Students playing a game of chance at the Lunar New Year Culture Day



Lunar New Year Culture Day

Eastwood *Elementary* (K-6)

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • eastwood.wsdk8.us



Kathryn Cox
Principal

Celebrating History at the Living Museum

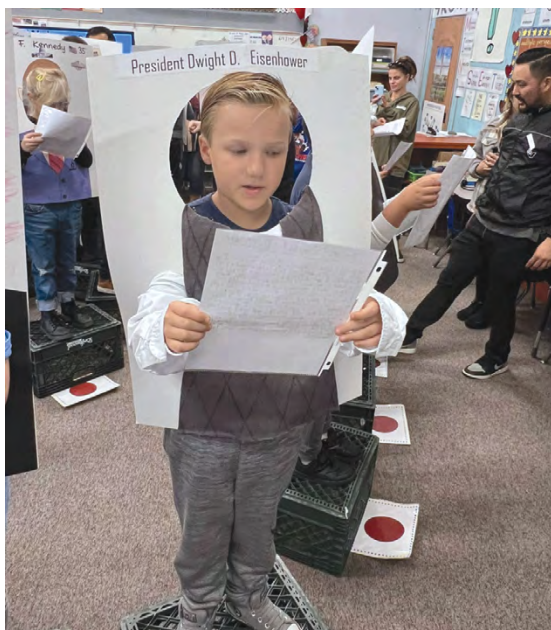
For the past five years Ms. Weber's second-grade classroom at Eastwood Elementary School has hosted a remarkable event known as the Living Museum. This innovative educational experience aims to cultivate student confidence in researching key facts, developing expository writing skills, and enhancing public speaking abilities, all while paying tribute to past presidents.

The concept behind the Living Museum was to create a safe and supportive environment for our students to showcase their learning. Instead of presenting in front of a large audience of parents, each student reported their findings simultaneously. To prepare for the event, the

students were randomly assigned a library book about a president and then tasked with creating a Thinking Map to organize key facts. They then crafted speeches in class that were based upon their Thinking Maps, and also designed poster board costumes that represented their assigned president.

In the classrooms the students practiced their speeches individually, first with a partner and then at home with their families. Finally, during the Living Museum exhibition, the parents were invited to witness the magic unfold as their students stood like statues on milk crates waiting to "activate" their speeches when a button was pressed.

The Living Museum at Eastwood Elementary School not only celebrates history, it also nurtures essential academic and interpersonal skills in our young learners, making it a cherished tradition for all involved.





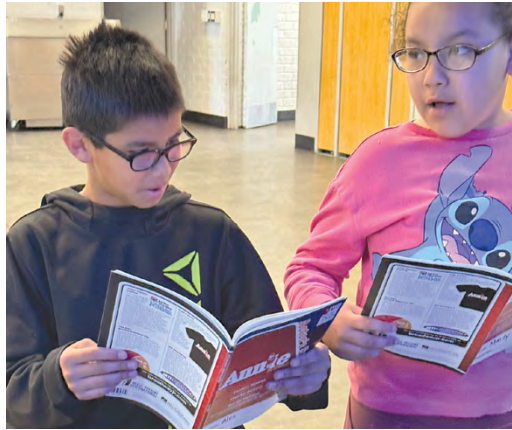
Pam LeMueix
Principal

Our First Musical!

Excitement fills the air at Finley Elementary School, as the curtains are soon to rise for the school's very first musical theater production! The spotlight shines on a group of talented young performers as they bring the story of "Annie KIDS"

to life. This monumental moment marks a significant milestone in the school's history, showcasing the transformative power of musical theater for students.

Under the guidance of their dedicated directors, Stephanie Perry and Lisa Tarkanian, the students have been rehearsing tirelessly to perfect their roles and stagecraft. Mrs. Perry emphasizes the profound benefits of musical theater, saying that "participating in a production like 'Annie KIDS' allows students to develop confidence, teamwork, and creativity. It's an invaluable experience that fosters personal growth and lifelong skills."



For many students, including first-time performer Lara, stepping onto the stage has been a thrilling and nerve-racking experience. Lara, who plays Annie in the production, shared her excitement, saying, "I never thought I would have the courage to perform in front of an audience, but being part of 'Annie KIDS' has given me the opportunity to overcome my fears and discover that I love dancing and singing."

As the countdown to opening night begins, Finley Elementary School buzzes with anticipation, ready to dazzle audiences with the timeless story of "Annie KIDS" and showcase the incredible talents of its students. We are excited to share their journey of self-discovery and personal growth that will leave a lasting impact for years to come.



Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • fryberger.wsdk8.us



Laura Urquhart
Principal

After-School Enrichment

Fryberger Elementary, located in the heart of Westminster, is not just a school—it's a place where students are encouraged to explore their interests and talents beyond the classroom. One of the ways Fryberger Elementary nurtures growth in its students is by offering a wide range of after-school clubs. These clubs provide students with the opportunity to delve deeper into subjects

they are passionate about, learn new skills, and build lasting friendships.

Popular clubs like Maker Space and Lego Robotics provide hands-on learning in engineering and programming. The Chess Club develops strategic thinking, while the Karaoke Club fosters confidence and self-expression. For physical activity, the Health and Fitness and KROC Running clubs promote fitness and goal setting. The Gardening and Cooking clubs teach culinary skills and healthy eating habits. The Augmented Reading Club blends technology with reading for an immersive experience. Finally, the Art Club nurtures creativity through various artistic techniques.

Our after-school clubs, which are mostly led by Fryberger's amazing staff members, play a crucial role in nurturing growth in its students. By offering a wide range of clubs that cater to different interests and talents, Fryberger Elementary ensures that every student can thrive and excel. These clubs not only enrich the lives of students during their time at Fryberger Elementary but also equip them with valuable skills and experiences that will have a lasting impact in the years to come.



Hayden *Elementary* (K-5)

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • hayden.wsdk8.us



Wendy Baird
Principal

Lunar New Year Activities and Celebrations

We understand that schools play a crucial role in shaping young minds and fostering a sense of inclusion among students. One powerful way to achieve this goal is by incorporating cultural traditions and activities into lessons and activities. Since many of our families celebrate the Lunar New Year, we recently used this as an opportunity to celebrate their cultural traditions to help foster respect, empathy, and inclusion.

In classrooms all around Hayden Elementary, our lessons and activities were buzzing with the Lunar New Year spirit. From learning about Vietnamese customs to diving into the meaning behind the celebrations, our students got a real hands-on experience. Our fantastic and creative PTA even set up a photo opportunity with an incredible backdrop, and they also provided traditional Vietnamese dress-up clothing for the photo shoot!

Another memorable experience for our students was having Westminster High School's Vietnamese American Culture Club (VACC) perform for the entire school. Dressed in colorful and beautiful Vietnamese attire, these performers wowed our students and staff members with their traditional Vietnamese drumming and dancing, including a mesmerizing lion dance. This performance was extra-special for our school because many of the performers were former Hayden students.

The Lunar New Year celebrations culminated with a special opportunity that also included our families. Along with the other schools in the Westminster School District, many of our families participated in the City of



Lunar New Year Celebrations

Westminster's annual Tet parade. It was heartwarming to see our families fully immersed in this experience proudly representing our school and culture.

Hayden is a school that embraces diversity and cultural traditions to help foster a sense of belonging, empathy, and respect for all individuals. We seek to create an inclusive environment where all students can feel valued and represented. By embracing cultural diversity, our school plays a vital role in nurturing the next generation of global citizens who are equipped to thrive in an increasingly interconnected and multicultural world.



Tet Parade



Lunar New Year Performance

Johnson Middle School (6–8)

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • johnson.wsdk8.us



Daniel Owens
Principal

Literacy and Leadership

Johnson Middle School is proud to be a part of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), whose purpose is to uplift the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship among students. The goal of helping to develop the knowledge and skills to become well-rounded student leaders is achieved through community service hours and numerous support events throughout the year.

Recently, the Johnson NJHS took part in spreading the joy of reading by spending valuable time at our

feeder schools as part of the celebration for Read Across America week. This annual event, held in March, aims to encourage the love for reading and celebrate the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. The NJHS members embraced the opportunity to connect with younger students. Wearing their NJHS attire and familiar Dr. Seuss hats and ties, they brought enthusiasm and friendship to the classrooms they visited.

The visits to the elementary schools not only benefit the younger students but also allow the NJHS members to develop essential leadership and mentoring skills. Serving as role models, they emphasized the importance of education, literacy, and community involvement.



Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • land.wsdk8.us • 714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development

Darcy Spicer, *Coordinator Early Education*

Read Across America the Preschool Way

A love of literacy starts in the early years, and no one knows that better than the Early Education children and staff at Land School! The school site celebrated a week of literacy fun for Read Across America during the week of March 4-8. Each day had an entertaining theme tied to a book by Dr. Seuss. For instance, Monday was the day to wear red and blue to go along with the classic Seuss book *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. Land School serves children from four months old to five years old, and even the young infants and toddlers got into the spirit by painting with red and blue colors. The Spanish Dual Language Immersion classes enjoyed reading the Spanish version of the stories, like *Un Pez, Dos Peces*, *Pez Rojo*, *Pez Azul*. The week culminated in children creating Cat in the Hat hats and enjoying some green eggs and ham. Land School loves literacy!



Meairs Elementary (K-5)

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

We Love Physical Education!

At Meairs Elementary School we focus on the whole child. One way in which we do this is to provide our students with ample time for exercise and play.

Twice a month our students spend an hour with Westminster School District physical education teachers. This group of dedicated individuals come prepared with lesson plans and equipment for our students from both TK and kindergarten and all the way up to the fifth grade.

The students look forward to these special days with great anticipation. That's because they know they will get



to experience a fun-filled time in learning new games and skills. On the weeks that we do not have this team visiting our school, our teachers still make sure to get their students outside and moving for additional PE time.

To round things out, we also offer special activities for our upper-grade students. Grades three through five can join the Meairs Running Club where they are able to participate in professional runs in December and May. Our fourth-graders can also participate in a street hockey program through the Anaheim Ducks, as well as a baseball program with the Los Angeles Angels. We keep our kids moving at Meairs!



Schmitt Elementary (K-5)

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



**Sarah
Nead-Rendon**
Principal

Spreading Love and Kindness

The celebration of Kindness Week was a heartwarming event that helped to spread friendship, compassion, and positivity throughout our community. Kicking off on February 13th, the festivities included a week-long challenge that included Kindness Black-Out Bingo and other activities that were designed to complete kind acts at both school and at home.

These interactive games encouraged our students to perform various acts of kindness, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie. The participants also completed their various acts of kindness for a chance to submit full bingo cards that they could exchange for prizes provided by our PTA, further incentivizing participation and spreading the message of kindness throughout the community.

During the week of February 13-16, we all came together to participate in various kindness activities. On February 14th, as the world celebrated Valentine's Day, our students were encouraged to dress in the colors red, white, and pink

to symbolize their commitment to spreading kindness. It was a day filled with heartfelt gestures, from exchanging kind words to performing small acts of generosity, all echoing the spirit of Valentine's Day.

The following day, February 15th, brought an opportunity for our students to express their gratitude and appreciation by writing notes to friends and loved ones. Additionally, a special note was written to honor our district's school resource officer, Officer Delgado, recognizing his dedication to the safety and well-being of our school community.

February 16th was "Team Up for Kindness Day," where students proudly sported their favorite team jerseys that symbolized unity and solidarity in spreading kindness. It was a day that focused on celebrating diversity and recognizing the importance of teamwork in fostering a culture of compassion.

In essence, Kindness Week reminds us of the transformative power of compassion and empathy, inspiring individuals to make a positive impact through simple yet meaningful acts of kindness. It was a week to focus on spreading love and kindness in every interaction.



Schroeder College & Career Academy

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Robert Murdock
Principal

The Westminster Tet Parade

Schroeder Academy, along with several other schools in the Westminster School district, proudly marched in the annual Westminster Tet Parade on February 10th! Onlookers cheered as a vibrant procession of our students and adults adorned in traditional attire paraded through the streets on this wonderful Saturday morning.

Ten enthusiastic students and six dedicated adults represented Schroeder Academy, all showcasing our school's sense of spirit and cultural diversity. From colorful banners to lively cultural performances, our Schroeder contingent added to the festive atmosphere of the parade to help celebrate the rich heritage of our community.

Participation in events like the Westminster Tet Parade not only fosters a sense of pride and belonging among our students, it also strengthens community bonds. This event provided an opportunity for our students to engage with their cultural roots and promote unity and understanding among diverse groups within the district.

Schroeder Academy also recently hosted a heartwarming event on February 29th, our Read Across America Lunch On The Lawn activity. The school campus was transformed into a whimsical setting as our families gathered together to celebrate the joy of reading. The iconic Cat In The Hat played the role of host by welcoming



approximately 300 of our parents and family members to join their children for a delightful lunch. Amid the festive decorations and cheerful ambiance, the families all enjoyed some quality time together sharing stories and laughter.

This great event served as a testament to Schroeder Academy's commitment to promoting literacy and family involvement in education. By bringing our families together in such a joyous atmosphere, we aim to foster a love for reading and learning that will go well beyond the classroom.



Sequoia Academy *GATE Magnet Elementary*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsdk8.us



Alisha Tardif
Principal

Enthusiastic Celebration of Reading!

Sequoia Academy kicked off Read Across America Week with a day to celebrate our favorite activity—reading! Read Across America Week is celebrated annually around the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss and also honors the diversity of learners at Sequoia Academy. It motivates and brings awareness to the importance of every child in every community being a reader, which is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong, successful learners.

To promote literacy and community involvement at Sequoia, guest readers were invited and welcomed from around the community, where they ventured into



Board Member David Johnson
reading to Sequoia Eagles

classrooms across the campus to read books aloud and share about the important role each guest plays in or around the Sequoia community. We welcomed members of the Westminster and Stanton city councils, the WSD Board of Education and superintendent, the WSD cabinet and district office staff, Westminster Police and Fire departments, Orange County Fire Authority, and Miss Taiwan California. Students, staff, and guest readers were also encouraged to dress as Dr. Seuss characters or wear Dr. Seuss clothing.

Eagle Scholars were excited not only to have guest readers join them in class but also to have the chance to show off their Dr. Seuss gear and the amazing scholarly attributes that make Sequoia an amazing school!



Board Trustee Tina Gustin-Gurvey
& Eagle Student



Guest Readers from around Sequoia's Community



Thank you amazing readers!

Stacey Middle School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsdk8.us



Rick Nichols
Principal

Spellbound Moment!

The battlefield was set with 130 spellers, each a champion in their own right, converging at Orange Coast College for the Orange County Spelling Bee. They faced a daunting 25-question gauntlet that tested not just spelling but the mettle of their vocabulary as well. From this, 27 semifinalists emerged, their eyes set on glory, ready to tackle the oral round that would crown one among them as

the champion.

The air was thick with the tension of competition as words like *supercilious*, *tussock*, and *breviloquence* were hurled into the arena, challenging the spellers to wield their knowledge like swords, battling not just one another but also the very limits of their abilities.

“*Discretionary*, adjective, meaning ‘subject to individual judgment.’”

Katelyn Nguyen, a seventh-grade student at Stacey

Middle School, walked to the stage. She reached for the microphone.

“D-I-S-C-R-E-T-I-O-N-A-R-Y.”

“That is correct!”

Katelyn emerged victorious in the 20th round as the Orange County Spelling Bee Champion. This victory was not just a personal milestone but also her golden ticket to the illustrious Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The *Orange County Register* graciously offered to cover her journey to this esteemed event in May. Katelyn is the first ever WSD student to accomplish this feat!

A seasoned warrior of the lexical arena, Katelyn recounted her rigorous preparation: a daily dedication of one to two hours poring over the “Words of the Champions” study guide. This was a family crusade, with her loved ones delving into the depths of Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary for pronunciations, marking each misstep, each falter, only to revisit them in a relentless quest for perfection.



Warner Middle School (6–8)

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsdk8.us



**Dr. Kenneth
Lopour**
Principal

Kid Conference

The Warner Wildcat family continues to have a great year! Our second semester is coming to a close, and our students have been performing admirably in the academic realm. We continue to have many amazing programs that provide students with engaging learning opportunities and create a positive and welcoming campus culture.

One such program is our annual Kid

Conference, which is a conference created “by kids for kids” that Warner has been hosting for over 20 years. Our site leadership groups, which include ASB, PAL, and Yearbook, work to create a specialized day that focuses on student mental health and personal success. There are specialized activities designed for each grade level. The sixth-grade sessions are centered on teamwork and communication.

Students will participate in group activities that require

verbal and nonverbal communication to be successful. Seventh-grade sessions center on the questions *Who am I, and what is my place in the world?* These activities focus on student self-esteem and positive peer relations. Eighth-grade sessions focus on what will happen in the future at high school. There are four sessions, each designed by students at Westminster High School, that demonstrate all the amazing programs our students can participate in when they matriculate to the high school level. The day culminates with an all-school assembly hosted by the various performance groups at Westminster High School. This is a longstanding and amazing event at Warner that we look forward to every year.

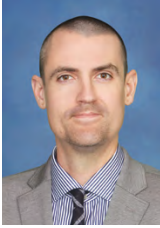
Another wonderful program is our school’s esports elective. On March 22, we will host our second annual esports tournament, called the Warner Middle School Esports Cup, where we will invite even more schools from around Orange County. We will livestream the event, and we know a great time will be had by all!



Mr. Garwick and his team at an esports competition on February 24th 2024!

Webber *Elementary* (K–6)

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsdk8.us



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Exploring Nature's Classroom: Webber 6th Graders Embark on a Science Adventure

In a whirlwind of snowy adventures and scientific exploration, Webber 6th graders recently embarked on an unforgettable journey at science camp. For many of these young scholars, the trip marked their first encounter with a snow-covered landscape, sparking a sense of excitement and amazement.

From adventure filled forest hikes to cozy evenings in rustic cabins, each experience left a lasting memory and admiration for the natural world. The laughter of newfound friendships echoed through the woods, as students bonded over shared adventures and late-night campfire stories.

Beyond the scenic views and pristine beauty, students also had the chance to get hands-on with biology, taking their understanding of nature to a whole new level. Guided by expert educators, students conducted field studies, examined ecosystems up close, and studied living creatures in their natural habitat.

After their thrilling science camp adventure, Webber 6th graders came back with cherished memories and a deeper appreciation and love for nature and learning. For these students, science camp was more than just a trip, it sparked a passion for exploration and learning that will remain in their hearts.



Willmore *Language Academy*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • willmore.wsdk8.us



Tieumi "Domi" Ellis
Principal

The WSD Shines

As a California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) Seal of Excellence school, this past month saw Willmore Language Academy proudly host several school

visits from our fellow CABE educators.

The recent CABE Convention spotlighted our Danza Club's mesmerizing Folklorico performance. The Westminster School District also shared with the group its insights on how to build a successful district-wide dual language immersion program. We were also able to showcase our unique dual Spanish and coding program. These recent CABE visits offered outside educators a first-hand look at how Willmore seamlessly integrates language learning and coding into the curriculum to create a unique and empowering educational experience for our students.

As the opening performance, our Folklorico dancers showcased the rich cultural heritage of our school in front of 7,000 attendees from all over the country. Their performance served as a testament to our school's dedication to fostering a sense of cultural pride and appreciation among its students.



Collaboration and knowledge-sharing took center stage at the Convention. As a highlight, the Westminster School District presented "Paving the Way to Successful District-wide Dual Language Immersion Programs." Drawing upon the guiding principles of dual language, this presentation covered the essential aspects of program development such as program structure, curriculum, instruction, assessment and accountability, staff quality and professional development, family and community engagement, and support and resources.

We will continue to remain committed to educational excellence through our active participation in the CABE Convention. These collaborative efforts between our dual schools, the DeMille Language Academy, Stacey Middle School, and Warner Middle School--along with Superintendent Dr. Gunn, Marie Hansen and the Educational Services Department, and the Westminster School District--exemplify the transformative power of innovative educational practices. We are setting the stage for a future where bilingualism and educational excellence go hand in hand.



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 or 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

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 Westminster 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.

BAROMETER	ICE STORM
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CIRRUS	SLEET
CLOUD	SNOW
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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 Westminster in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2024

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Congratulations to **Tanya Wu and Vince Newman**
 Winners of the January Word Search Contest!