

School News

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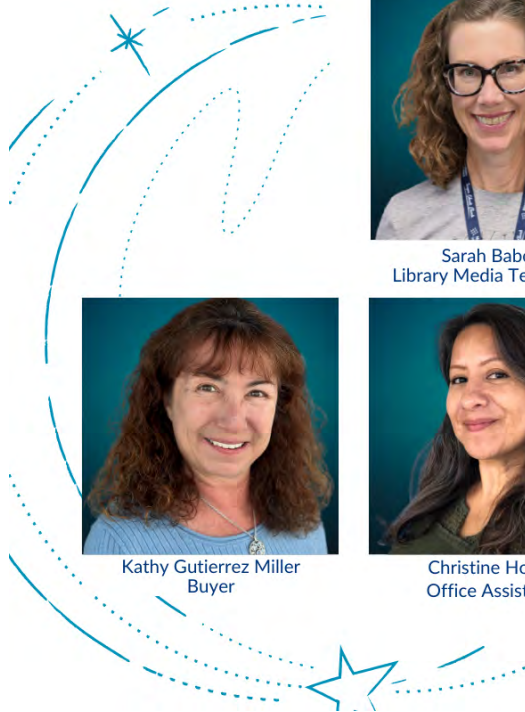
Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Volume 20, Issue 107

April 2024



2024 EMPLOYEE *Excellence Awards*



Sarah Babovic
Library Media Technician I



Kristyn Day
Teacher, Elementary



Kathy Gutierrez Miller
Buyer



Christine Holguin
Office Assistant II



Jon Lindfors
Teacher, Secondary

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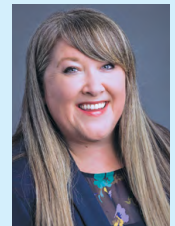
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Employee Excellence Sets Foundation for Student Success



Dr. Wesley Smith
Superintendent

Each year, the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) Board of Education recognizes district employees who go above and beyond their job descriptions. The five recipients of the 2024 Employee Excellence Award exemplify the district's mission to inspire, educate, and elevate, which is fundamental to our student success. By fostering a positive and supportive environment throughout NMUSD, our staff empowers students to reach their full potential. We believe cultivating

a culture of employee success leads to the success of our students and our schools.

Through their exemplary dedication and outstanding contributions, our Employee Excellence Award winners embody the spirit that defines our school district. Their achievements serve as a source of inspiration, highlighting the remarkable talent and commitment evidenced throughout our Newport-Mesa team.



Sarah Babovic
Woodland Elementary

Sarah Babovic, the library media technician at Woodland Elementary, uses every opportunity to share her enthusiasm for literature and learning with students. She is a vital part of the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team, helping to build a positive school culture in which students thrive.



Christine Holguin
Engagement, Partnerships, Expanded Learning

When Office Assistant Christine Holguin joined the Engagement, Partnerships & Expanded Learning Department, she quickly became its backbone. She took on the additional responsibility of managing enrollment into our after-school program, Project Kidz Connect, and was instrumental in the registration process for Expanded Learning Enrichment Opportunities.



Kristyn Day
Andersen Elementary

At Andersen Elementary, Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Kristyn Day creates an engaging learning experience with each child in mind, supporting their individual needs, whether with additional attention, targeted instruction, an allergy-free snack, or simply a reassuring smile.



Kathy Gutierrez Miller
Purchasing

In the Purchasing Department, Buyer Kathy Gutierrez Miller ensures the often-complicated process for purchasing supplies or equipment results in meeting the needs of our staff and students. She handles even the trickiest requests with a friendly smile and expert efficiency.



Jon Lindfors
Costa Mesa Middle/High School

For more than 30 years, Teacher Jon Lindfors has encouraged music students at Costa Mesa Middle and High School. The welcoming, inclusive environment he cultivates for his students extends to their families, as he consistently stands ready to support young musicians.

We celebrate the remarkable efforts of these exemplary staff members and countless others. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the whole Newport-Mesa team, our district continues to thrive, as evidenced by our award-winning schools, including Corona del Mar High School and Estancia High School, which were recently recognized as 2024 California Distinguished Schools, and Early College High School, which was named a National Blue Ribbon School and a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

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Covering the
NEWPORT-MESA

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Wesley Smith begins this issue with his message on page 3 highlighting the recipients of the 2024 Employee Excellence Awards.

This issue has articles on many topics including a Mobile Dairy Classroom, a new Intramural Basketball Team, Family Science Night, Lunch & Book with a Loved One, and so much more...

On pages 7 and 9 the libraries have information about the many programs they offer for all ages.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 27 (all ages may enter). Congratulations to Valentina Saskaske, winner of our March contest.

Our next issue is May 29.



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City of Costa Mesa



John Stephens
Mayor

Earth Day Festival

Since this has been an exceptionally wet winter, I know everyone is like me and happy to see spring has arrived!

April is a great month to get outside and enjoy the outdoors. Baseball season is in full swing so if you get a chance, go catch a Costa Mesa Little League or Costa Mesa Pony baseball game and support our local youth sports.

April is also Keep America Beautiful Month, April 4-9 is National Wildlife Week and April 19-23 is National Environmental Education Week. April 14 is National Gardening Day and of course April 22 is Earth Day.

For the third year in a row Costa Mesa is planning an Earth Day Festival at City Hall this year on Saturday April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Last year's event was a huge success with a tree planting, food trucks and tables, kids activities, booths sponsored by local colleges and organizations and of course a huge globe that commemorates the day.

I look forward to seeing you all there at City Hall, which is located at 77 Fair Drive in Costa Mesa! Have a great spring!

77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/754-5107
www.costamesaca.gov

City of Newport Beach



Will O'Neill
Mayor

Inclusive 'Passion Project' Sparks Positive Change

I visited Newport Coast Elementary School recently to visit with a sixth-grader completing her "passion project." Before we sat down for an interview about women in politics, other students told me about their passion projects too. Which gave me the opportunity to recount to them how they can change the world, or at least the world of those around them.

Five years ago, a NCE sixth-grader completed her passion project by attending a Newport Beach City Council meeting to advocate for a more inclusive swing in our City. Her older sister had developmental disabilities that made holding on to a swing difficult, but ADA swings with plastic restraints could help. Newport Beach had none, but she offered a solution.

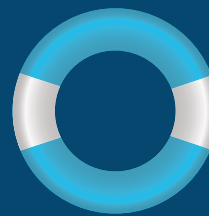
That solution, a brand new swing, exists now at Coastal Peak Park (20403 E. Coastal Peak), thanks to her advocacy. And once our eyes were opened, we haven't stopped. San Miguel Park is going through redesign right now to make our city's first all-inclusive park. All thanks to a spark of civic participation from a NCE passion project. God bless the Portillo family!

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Read Across America Day 2024 – All Week Long!

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue had the honor recently to read to students in our local schools, in honor of the Annual Read Across America Day and highlighted by our strong partnership with NMUSD!

Dan Stefano
Fire Chief

This year, Victoria and Wilson Elementary Schools were the first two schools we visited, along with our partners from CMPD.

CMFR looks forward to Read Across America Day, every year! The opportunity to share the importance, value, and passion of reading with children is a treasured community engagement that CMFR is always thankful to be a part of.

We are even more grateful for our amazing NMUSD educators, coaches, administrators, and staff who have positive impacts on our children, our community, and our future, every day!

P.O. Box 1200, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 • 714/754-5106



SUMMER FUN HAS BEGUN!

SUMMER 2024

jccoc.org

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949.435.3400
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Newport Beach Public Libraries



Christine Chapel
Children's Librarian,
Mariners Branch,
Newport Beach
Public Library

Ready, Set, Library! The Newport Beach Public Library is ready and set to celebrate National Library Week April 7 through April 13! This week is jam-packed with fun and enriching programs. Please be sure to visit and attend some of these special events!

Butterfly Habitat Arrival - Central Library Monday, April 8 -- Spring has arrived and we're celebrating with some new insect friends at the Library! Stop by the children's desk at the Central Library beginning April 8th to watch caterpillars as they go on a journey to becoming butterflies.

Recycled Book Art - Balboa Branch Wednesday, April 10, 3-4:00 p.m. It's National Library Week! Join us for some creative upcycling at the Balboa Branch as we make cute arts & crafts from recycled books.

Bark: Read To A Dog - CDM Branch Thursday, April 11 4-5:00 p.m. Come visit the CDM Branch and read to a dog! Young readers can read a book they choose with a trained furry friend.

Magician California Joe - Mariners Branch

Saturday, April 13 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Join Explorer Magician California Joe on a magical journey around the world!

In addition to these wonderful programs, our story-times, which include Books & Babies, Toddler, Pre-School, Songs & Stories, and Family Story-times, will have special guest readers including City dignitaries and other local leaders. Fun for all!

Looking forward to celebrating libraries with you at the Newport Beach Public Library!

For more information, check the children's calendar at newportbeachlibrary.org

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660

949/717-3800 • www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids

Mariners Branch 1300 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660

949/717-3838

Balboa Branch 100 East Balboa Blvd., Balboa, CA 92661

949/644-3076

Corona Del Mar Branch 410 Marigold Ave., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

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Barry Steinmetz, M.D.,
medical director,
Gastroenterology & Nutrition
Center, MemorialCare
Miller Children's & Women's
Hospital Long Beach

Shielding Little Tummys: Foods to Safeguard Against IBS Flare-Ups

Children living with irritable bowel syndrome face distinct dietary challenges. Certain foods may aggravate IBS symptoms, leading to discomforts like cramping, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and constipation.

The unpredictable flare-ups associated with IBS can disrupt a child's daily life, making it challenging to participate in activities they enjoy or attend school on a regular basis. However, adopting appropriate dietary strategies can significantly reduce IBS symptoms and enhance a child's quality of life.

To mitigate symptoms, children with IBS should limit their intake of gas-producing foods, such as cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, dried peas and lentils. By avoiding these foods, children can prevent uncomfortable symptoms and flare-ups. Steering clear of lactose, caffeine, and carbonated beverages can also minimize gas, cramping, or diarrhea. Encouraging the intake of small, frequent meals, and ample fluids can further support your child's digestive health.

During periods of intense flare-ups, adhering to a low fiber, low residue diet (which limits other foods that can stimulate bowel activity) can offer relief from abdominal pain and diarrhea. Opting

for easily digestible foods like plain white rice, white breads, corn or flour tortillas, plain cooked pasta, or tender, well-cooked meats, poultry, fish, and eggs can be beneficial to alleviate or prevent symptoms. Urge children to drink more fluids, including electrolyte solutions, clear broths or diluted fruit juices to make up for loss of water when diarrhea is a symptom.

Since every child's IBS triggers can be unique, it's important to monitor your child's symptoms after meals to identify specific problems in foods. Consulting with a pediatric gastroenterologist can help identify alternatives to triggers and ensure a well-rounded diet.

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital has a dedicated Gastroenterology & Nutrition Center that helps children and families diagnose and manage IBS symptoms. Having a dedicated pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition Center ensures that children with IBS receive specialized care tailored to the unique needs of children with this condition.

For more information, call (562) 933-5437 or visit millerchildrens.org/gastroenterology.



Pablo, Age 6



At 11 months, Pablo was fighting for his life.

Today, he's got six candles on his cake.

Failing organs. Eight months in a coma. Fighting for every breath. At 11 months old, this is what Leukemia brought Pablo. The one bright spot, he was at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital where a team of top doctors, nurses, and specialists helped save his life. For over a year in the PICU, our highly-trained staff never stopped caring for Pablo and his family. **Caring is our calling.**

Learn more at millerchildrens.org/care

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Costa Mesa Public Libraries



Sarita Dangond
Branch Manager,
Costa Mesa
Donald Dungan
Library



Vivian Strabala
Branch Manager,
Costa Mesa
Mesa Verde
Library

Costa Mesa Libraries, part of OCPL, are community hubs, connecting people to essential services and resources and building communities of lifelong learners.

OCPL helps our communities learn, explore, connect and have fun!

For the Love of Reading – Read 100 books, 100 days, or 100 hours in 2024 to earn badges throughout the year!

LIBRARY OF THINGS – You have access to much more than books with OCPL's Library of Things collection, including games, backpacks and recently added musical instruments.

California State Library Parks Pass – Check out for three weeks a free State Parks vehicle-day use pass!

KINDERGARTEN READINESS OC Public Libraries has compiled resources and designed programs to support our families in getting ready for school.

DISCOVER & GO Explore Orange County museums and attractions through this exciting partnership between OC Public Libraries and local cultural institutions.

Costa Mesa - Donald Dungan Library
Native American Cultural Presentation on Saturday, April 6 at 1pm. Join us as we celebrate indigenous culture with a dance performance by Native American Family Dance Group. Additional programs can be found here:

Donald Dungan Library Calendar >>



Costa Mesa - Mesa Verde Library
Family Magic Show on Saturday, May 4th at 11:00am to celebrate Star Wars Day. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a “Star” studded magical performance on the library lawn with a special visit from Darth Vader!

All ages welcome. No registration required. Additional programs can be found here:

Mesa Verde Library Calendar >>



OC Public Libraries

www.ocpl.org

Costa Mesa-Donald Dungan Library

1855 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/646-8845
Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm / Fri - Sun 9am – 5pm

Costa Mesa-Mesa Verde Library

2969 Mesa Verde Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/546-5274
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SCAN ME

Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • adams.nmusd.us



Dr. Joe Erven
Principal

Mobile Dairy Classroom

Adams Elementary recently had a delightful visit from the Mobile Dairy Classroom, organized by the Dairy Council of California. This interactive learning experience brought Cinnamon, a gentle dairy cow, to the Adams Elementary school

grounds, much to the excitement of the students.

The Mobile Dairy Classroom offers a unique opportunity for students to learn about the dairy industry and the process of milk production firsthand. During the visit, students gathered around Cinnamon and watched as a dairy farmer demonstrated the process of milking. They learned about the importance of dairy farming, the nutritional value of milk, and the care involved in raising dairy cows. This

hands-on experience not only engaged the students but also helped them develop a deeper appreciation for where their milk comes from. The Mobile Dairy Classroom visit was not only educational but also a memorable experience for all involved. It provided students with a rare opportunity to connect with agriculture and understand the journey of milk from cow to table.



Roy O. Andersen *Elementary (K-6)*

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • andersen.nmusd.us



Dr. Tiffany Lewis
Principal

Congratulations, Ms. Day!

Congratulations to Kristyn Day, Andersen's outstanding educator, on her 2024 Employee Excellence Award! She is one of five recipients.

As some students' first connection to school, Ms. Day, a transitional kindergarten teacher, understands the importance of creating a positive, nurturing environment from the start. She creates an engaging learning experience with each child in mind, regularly communicating with parents about their children's successes and her efforts to make school a joyful place every day. Parents have commended Ms. Day for her role in supporting students' individual needs, whether with additional attention, targeted instruction, a food allergy-free snack, or simply a reassuring smile.

In nominating Ms. Day, one parent said, "Ms. Day was always a wealth of information every time I interacted with her. We attribute my son's huge improvements in his first experience in elementary school entirely to his relationship with Ms. Day."



Ms. Day presents each student with a gift at the end of the school year: a personal letter noting how important they are to her plus a binder highlighting their progress and special classroom memories. As a testament to the welcoming school culture that Ms. Day creates, another parent reported that her child regularly requests to review the binder so that she can relive her fond memories of her time with Ms. Day.

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • backbay.nmusd.us



Dr. Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

Intramural Basketball Team

A salty breeze rolling in from Newport's Back Bay serves to refresh students during their lunchtime practice at Back Bay High School. The ambience is fitting, as Newport Mesa Unified School District's alternative education school seeks to provide a fresh start and new opportunities for students with diverse challenges.

Driven by high aspirations, staff here are committed to empowering students to find their purpose. This newfound change in school culture and climate is driven by more than a dozen new initiatives at BBHS to support student well-being and success, including entering the OC Alternative Ed Sports Intervention Program League.

"You cannot put a price on providing hope to the youth, the future of our generation—it is our moral imperative to provide our students with the best tools so they can have a chance at success," a staff member said.

The news of the new intramural basketball team was received with excitement and curiosity by the school. The majority of these students had not been a part of a sports team before. For many, it became a new way to connect and create friendships with their peers.

The coaches take advantage of opportunities during practices to intertwine basketball and life lessons. Student athletes have responded well to the challenges of competition and accountability. Game day was a spectacle that exhibited a culture shift that is tangible at BBHS. All staff and students were courtside cheering and supporting the team, a first-time school spirit experience for many.

While the final scores of the season games did not

reflect wins, there were numerous wins off court. Students made memories they will have for the rest of their lives. The approach of providing hope for the youth and seeking opportunities to make a difference is a buzzer beater that BBHS is well known for.



California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • california.nmusd.us



Dr. Jason Kunczewicki
Principal

Family Science Night

To kick off the final trimester of the year, the California School Educational Foundation (CSEF) hosted their annual Science Night. At our Science Night, students participated in the following activities:

Reptile Encounter: Students had the chance to get up close and personal with fascinating reptiles. They touched scaly skin, learned about different species, and discovered how these cold-blooded creatures adapt to their environments.

Fossil Dig Adventure: The budding paleontologists embarked on a fossil hunt! Armed with brushes and tools, they unearthed ancient treasures, mimicking real-life excavations.



Coding Exploration: In the tech corner, kids dived into coding activities. They programmed, created animations, and solved puzzles. Learning computational thinking skills was both fun and educational.

STEAM Stations: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) stations buzzed with activity. Students designed circuits and experimented with chemical reactions. Creativity and problem-solving were at the forefront.

This evening event was a huge success! We are always appreciative of the parent support, especially when it coincides with academic success!

College Park *Elementary (K-6)*

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • collegepark.nmusd.us



Alice Formanek
Principal

All School Read

College Park participated in our Third Annual All School Read in March! This enriching event, sponsored by the College Park PTA, is designed to build a community of readers within our school. Every student received a copy of the same book – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – and families were encouraged to read together for about 15 minutes each night. College Park teachers and staff members recorded themselves

reading different chapters of the book so that students and parents could follow along each night.

Teachers planned book trivia and discussion questions to keep students excited about the book. We also had a whole school chocolate factory building contest where students designed their own chocolate factories which were displayed in the MPR. We're so grateful for our amazing PTA who helped the school come together to promote the power of reading. We can't wait for our school movie night at the end of the month where we watch the movie together and compare the book with the film!



Corona del Mar *High School (7-12)*

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • cdm.nmusd.us



Dr. Jake Haley
Principal

Saint Patrick's Day the CdM Way!

By Zoe Teets, 12th-grade student

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday that originated in Ireland and is celebrated on March 17, the death date of St. Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints. It was a day traditionally commemorated with religious services and feasts in honor of St. Patrick, and when Irish immigrants brought this holiday to the United States, it evolved into a celebration of Irish culture. Americans pack this day with parades, lucky charms, and all things green. Leprechauns and shamrocks have become known as the symbols representing this Irish religious holiday.

Many companies celebrate St. Patrick's Day in their own way. Restaurants and coffee establishments offer treats like green milkshakes, luck-themed drinks, and corned

beef and cabbage. Other companies sell St. Patrick's Day-themed merchandise and offer special deals and promotions on various products, including clothing, decorations, and party supplies. Ride-sharing companies offer discounts and promotions for rides to and from St. Patrick's Day events or parties to encourage safe transportation.

Some CdM students, getting into the festive spirit, also celebrated St. Patrick's Day this year. Junior Kaitlin Prendergast planned on dressing up in a green outfit and having fun spending time with her family. Junior Kimia Arana also planned on spending the day with her family, going to a local St. Patrick's Day-themed party. Other activities CdM students might have participated in to celebrate this Irish holiday included watching a parade and going to an Irish-themed restaurant. Many elementary schools also celebrated this holiday by having their younger students build leprechaun traps!

Costa Mesa *High School / Middle School (7-12)*

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • cmhs.nmusd.us



Dr. Dipali Potnis
Principall

Annual Costa Mesa Cabaret

Our annual Costa Mesa Cabaret was held on March 13th and 14th under the direction of Mr. Lindfors and Mr. Batarseh. This is an amazing event that includes our Jazz Band, Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble, and Madrigal Choir. Our students put their heart and souls

into these performances and several of our students had solos and they were talented, confident, and amazing. During the event, our newest member of the administrative team, Mr. Waldram, performed a solo. We also were excited to see that in the final performance, there were students from the jazz band and entire vocal department performing together.



We also want to share some appreciation for the students that were serving our school community refreshments. The community got a night of beautiful music, with desserts and hot chocolate. We thank our talented programs for bringing us together for a night of fun!

Davis *Magnet (K-6)*

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • davismagnet.nmusd.us



Stacy deBoom - Howard
Principal

PALS Spreading Kindness!

We LOVE our PALs (Peer Assistance Leadership) program and students!! The PALs program is an invaluable asset to our school, fostering empathy, support, and kindness among students all year long! Recently, our PALs hosted “Kindness Era,” a week dedicated to spreading positivity and compassion throughout the school community. During this special week, PALs members take the lead in organizing various activities and initiatives designed to promote kindness and

inclusivity. From simple acts of organizing kindness grams, themed dress-up days, kindness challenges each day and a dance party with the goal is to create an atmosphere where every student feels valued and supported.

Overall, Kindness Era Spirit Week was more than just a series of events—it’s a reminder of the power of kindness and the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive environment within our school. Thanks to the dedication of all the PALs members and the amazing advisors Mrs. Holman, Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Galen, these initiatives continue to inspire positive change and cultivate a culture of compassion that extends far beyond a single week.



Early College *High School (9-12)*

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • earlycollege.nmusd.us



Dr. David Martinez
Principal

Busy Times Ahead!

The time between our Presidents Day Break—Feb. 16–20—is always a busy time for ECHS before we head into our spring break on March 25–29. It's a time when we hold information sessions at the middle schools and host onsite events for the parents, such as information nights and campus tours.

However, our biggest communitywide outreach event is our ECHS Spring Carnival, which was on March 16. This event is hosted by our outstanding ECHS PTSA volunteers with the support of our ASB and local



community partners. We did provide several fun games for our attendees as well as several of our students conducting performances.

After our spring break, we will be holding another Student Shadow Day on April 12 for students who are interested in attending ECHS during the upcoming 2024–25 school year. Families interested in having their child participate in a half-day or full-day Student Shadow Day need to call our school office on weekdays from 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at (714) 424-7990 to sign up. Applications for the upcoming 2024–25 school year are due May 3.



Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • eastbluff.nmusd.us



Dr. Jennifer Heckert
Principal

"Spreading Kindness Like Confetti!"

Otters were on the run at the recent Eastbluff Jog-a-Thon! With great thanks to our E-DADS, Eastbluff students from TK through sixth grade arrived at the field showing their school pride. Corona del Mar High School cheerleaders and drumline added to the excitement along with our Otter

mascot. Our fleet-of-feet students enjoyed their beautiful surroundings thanks to the new wind screens that extend across two large fence areas on campus. Eastbluff's PTA underwrote this campus improvement project. It projects our sense of school pride and belonging. This year's jog-a-thon theme and parent organization commitments reflect Eastbluff's constant aspiration to be a school where every student feels valued. Eastbluff PRIDE is strong!



Otters stand out with new windscreens!

Horace Ensign *Intermediate (7-8)*

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • ensign.nmusd.us



Samantha Payne
Principal

Career Day

Ensign had the pleasure of experiencing a career day on February 28th in our gym. Lisa Snowden helped us to organize an event with the support of Coastline ROP and Vital Link. The gym was organized into stations and booths that were highly engaging and interesting to our students. Our Ensign CTE (career technical education) teachers hosted a human anatomy booth and a

robotics booth. We also had Newport Harbor High School representation with their culinary program, Tar TV, gaming and DECA. We had members of the armed forces, our local law enforcement and EMTs as well. Students moved through the gym during their PE period guided by a “passport” that asked for signatures from each booth they visited. The students loved this opportunity to explore career options and begin thinking more in depth about what comes next. We are all looking forward to our career day next year.



Estancia *High School*

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • estancia.nmusd.us



Michael Halt
Principal

Welcoming our Future Eagles to the Nest

In March, Estancia High School welcomed the class of 2028 at our Future Eagle Night. Future Eagles and their families walked the red carpet as they were greeted by spirited ASB leaders, Link Crew leaders, and Estancia cheerleaders. After a presentation in the Main Gym about the many benefits of attending Estancia High School, families were able to get information about the

various academic, athletic, and activity programs offered at Estancia High School and join Estancia teachers and student leaders on campus tours. The following week, 8th grade students at TeWinkle Middle School visited Estancia High School for a move-up experience during the school day. Estancia's ASB coordinated a short assembly for the students which included student speakers representing the four Career Technical Education pathways offered at Estancia High School, Lyceum Academy, AVID program, Drama program, Music program, and athletic programs.

Harbor View *Elementary (K-6)*

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • harborview.nmusd.us



Randy Lempert
Principal

Celebrating a Spirited Jog-a-Thon!

The sun-kissed campus of Harbor View Elementary School reverberated with energy as students, parents, and community members all rallied together

for our annual Jog-a-Thon. This vibrant event, held on February 27, showcased the fantastic spirit of our Harbor View community.

From kindergartners to sixth-graders, everyone sprinted, jogged, and skipped around the campus, all fueled by camaraderie and Harbor View pride. Their cheers echoed across the campus, creating memories that will last a lifetime. Behind the scenes, a dedicated crew of parents put in countless hours to help make the event happen. They cheered, handed out water, and encouraged every lap. Their commitment exemplifies the heart of our Harbor View community, and we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to these unsung heroes.



Local community members, including the City of Newport Beach firefighters and Crystal Cove state lifeguards, also joined in the festivities by lining the track with banners and cheers. Their presence uplifted our runners and reinforced the bond between school and neighborhood. We thank each neighbor, business, and friend who stood by us.

At the end of the day our Viking students had another spirited experience. The 2024 Jog-a-Thon wasn't just about running, it was about resilience, teamwork, and the magic of coming together. Harbor View Elementary, you've outdone yourselves!

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • kaiser.nmusd.us



Matt Broesamle
Principal

Flag Deck Assembly

In a dazzling display of youthful energy and musical prowess, Kaiser Elementary School's modern band took center stage at a recent flag deck assembly. Composed of budding musicians from grades 4, 5, and 6, our modern band electrified the crowd with their dynamic performance, showcasing their musical talent and youthful exuberance.

As the opening chords sounded, excitement rippled through the audience. Students cheered and clapped along, their enthusiasm mirroring the infectious energy

emanating from the stage. Led by their dedicated music teacher, Mrs. Hanson, the band performed the song with precision and passion, demonstrating the result of months of hard work and rehearsals.

The performance not only entertained but also inspired, highlighting the importance of music education in fostering creativity and self-expression. As the students unleashed their talent, they also conveyed a powerful message about the value of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. We are proud to be able to offer modern band, along with several other extracurricular experiences for our students. Go Knights!



Killybrooke Elementary (K-6)

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • killybrooke.nmusd.us



Laura Taylor
Principal

101 Dalmatians Jr.

Killybrooke Elementary Theater's rendition of 101 Dalmatians Jr. opened to a resounding success, boasting a sold-out opening night that left audiences enthralled. Students from grades 3 to 6 poured their hearts into the

production, dedicating 17 weeks of hard

work under the guidance of teachers, school staff, and the PTA. Such dedication paid off as the demand for tickets skyrocketed, prompting the addition of an extra matinee performance due to the original shows being sold out. Even before the grand opening, excitement rippled through the school as students performed during two dress rehearsals for their classmates. As the

curtain closed on the canine caper, Killybrooke Elementary Theater extended a heartfelt thanks to all who attended, wagging their tails in appreciation for the overwhelming support. It was a barking success that left tails wagging and hearts warm. After all, who knew that 101 Dalmatians could steal the spotlight so effortlessly?



Killybrooke students in full costume for their dress rehearsal.

Abraham Lincoln Elementary (K-6)

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • lincoln.nmusd.us



Dr. Kristin DeMicco
Principal

Read Across America

At Lincoln Elementary we celebrate reading every day, but we could not pass up the opportunity to elevate the celebration by highlighting Read Across American Week at our school.

We are especially grateful to our Newport Beach Police Officers who generously took the time to read aloud to eager students, fostering

a strong sense of community engagement and encouragement for literacy. In addition, our amazing Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) sponsored a BMX assembly to inspire our Lincoln students to strive for their best. This event not only showcased impressive BMX skills but also conveyed a powerful message of perseverance and determination, urging students to pursue their passions. Through these engaging activities, Read Across America Week not only celebrates the joy of reading but also serves as a platform for fostering a culture of enthusiasm for learning and personal growth among students.



NBPD helps Lincoln Elementary celebrate Read Across America Week.

Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • mariners.nmusd.us



Antoinette Coe
Principal

Imagination Machine Staff

Creativity flourishes at Mariners Elementary, thanks to the collaborative efforts of our PTA!

Most recently, our students were treated to an enriching performance by the Imagination Machine staff.

During the performance, students were captivated as the

Imagination Machine staff brought our student written stories to life. Selected stories, meticulously crafted by our talented students, were performed by professional actors accompanied by lively music and captivating costumes. Witnessing their narratives come alive before their eyes was an unforgettable experience for all.

In addition to the excitement of seeing their stories performed, the selected student authors were honored with certificates of writing achievement, recognizing their creativity and dedication to the craft of storytelling.

The assembly wasn't just about entertainment; it was a valuable educational experience that seamlessly blended laughter, joy, and learning. It exemplified Mariners Elementary's commitment to nurturing creativity and fostering a love for learning among our students.

GO MARLINS!



Monte Vista Independent Study(7-12)

<https://montevista.nmusd.us>



Dr. Racquel Stephens
Principal

Accomplishments to the End!

Monte Vista is in full swing with the end of the third quarter approaching. Our secondary students in independent study have had the opportunity to take two enrichment classes this spring. Our middle school students are learning coding, programming, and mobile app creation through the Dreams for Schools STEM program. They are exploring

game development, algorithms, coding, and debugging! Both high school and middle school students have an enrichment opportunity through the Segerstrom Arts Teach program. Students have six art workshops that began in March and continue through April, focusing on Chinese brush painting with a resident artist from Segerstrom.

Seniors at Monte Vista are working through their senior projects, with many seniors identifying community issues

such as food insecurity, homelessness, discrimination, and mental health topics. They are working on projects to help address those issues and will present their research and project findings over the next two months.

Our students at Monte Vista have so many accomplishments to be proud of! Our students have exemplified our CLIMB values of collaboration, leadership, integrity, motivation, and belonging. Many of our seniors are actively working toward postsecondary plans and goals, including community college, four-year universities, trade schools, and careers.

Monte Vista students will be celebrating promotion and graduation in June. Our eighth-graders will be celebrating their promotion on June 5, and our 12th-graders will be celebrating their graduation on June 6. This will be the first promotion and graduation at Monte Vista since the school moved to the Presidio Learning Center in Costa Mesa. We look forward to the end of the school year as we celebrate all the accomplishments of our students!



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Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • nce.nmusd.us



Heather Darrow
Principal

HOWLING Experience

At NCE, our students are honorable, organized, and wise leaders. Their integrity inspires trust, their planning ensures efficiency, and their wisdom guides them toward success. As our students strive for

HOWLING excellence, their dedication does not go unnoticed. They earn HOWL cards by exhibiting they are HONORABLE, ORGANIZED, and WISE Leaders on campus. Whether it is acknowledgement from teachers or commendations from support staff, students take pride in earning HOWL cards daily, which they can use to purchase privileges such as lunch with the principal! This special occasion is not just a meal; it is a symbol of recognition and appreciation. It is a chance to dialogue, where stories are exchanged, and bonds are strengthened. It is a moment



to reflect on the values that make great leaders on our campus, and to inspire others to follow in their footsteps. It was a pleasure having lunch with a few NCE Coyotes!

Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • newportel.nmusd.us



Amanda Estrada
Principal

Beauty and the Beast Lights Up the Stage!

The enchanting tale of Beauty and the Beast came alive on our school stage recently, and what a spectacle it was! Three sold-out performances left audiences spellbound as our talented cast and crew of 43 students transported us to a world of magic and wonder.

Participating in the arts offers numerous benefits for students. Not only do they develop creativity and confidence, but they also learn teamwork, discipline, and communication skills—all of which are essential for success in school and beyond.

A huge round of applause is due to our director for their dedication and guidance, as well as the parent volunteers whose tireless efforts backstage ensured smooth performances. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our school foundation, whose

funding made this production a reality. We extend our deepest gratitude to them.

As the curtains close on another remarkable production, let's celebrate the power of the arts in our school community and look forward to more magical moments to come!



Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • nhhs.nmusd.us



Sean Boulton
Principal

From the Stage to the Mat

By Jack Alvino and Nick D'Elia

Ryan Agzour, a senior at Newport Harbor High School, has taken full advantage of our school's varied course offerings during his four years. In this excerpt from the Beacon Broadcast podcast, Ryan talks to seniors Jack Alvino and Nick D'Elia about his time with the choir and wrestling programs.

How has your time been here at Harbor overall?

It's been fantastic. I think Newport Harbor and Newport in general is a great place to live. You get the beach so close, and there's a lot of fun activities to do with your friends.

Have you been in choir your entire career?

Even more so. My entire time at Ensign is six years.

How has that been?

It's been pretty unique. We went to New York last year, and we sung at Carnegie Hall, which is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Is there anything special you've learned in choir that you feel like you wouldn't have learned anywhere else?

Team camaraderie and team spirit. You have so many different people. One of my friends is on the swim team. Another is on water polo. You've got a guy doing football. And they're all super-unique. I appreciate the connections I made through it.

Are there any other activities you've participated in at Harbor that benefited you?

I really loved my wrestling experience. That was a lot of fun. The wrestling team was really good at introducing me to Newport Harbor. I joined as a freshman and I continued on as a sophomore, and during that time I feel like my confidence went up because in wrestling it's kind of one-on-one. You don't have a team to really support yourself with. It's just you and the other guy, trying to get them on the ground. I think that inspired a lot more confidence in me.

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • newportheights.nmusd.us



Terri Clarke
Principal

NHES Family Partnerships!

This school year, we have enhanced our focus on school-to-home partnerships and

offering opportunities for families to engage with their students on campus during the school day. In fall, we hosted our first "Math Morning." In early March

as part of Read Across America Week, NHES invited our families to join us in our second annual "Book Buddy" event! Families were encouraged to come to campus and participate in reading activities with their students, focusing on the love and importance of reading. Families included parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles from out of town, cousins from across the county, you name it. Teachers provided reading activities from cuddling up with a good book to practicing sight words to playing word games across the pages. We had over 150 family members participate and the energy buzzing through the air was electric across campus. Families left with enthusiasm to continue the

reading engagement at home and students were thrilled to share their school experiences with their loved ones. Next up: "VIP Lunch Date" in spring!



Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • paularino.nmusd.us



Annalisa Schwartz
Principal

Supporting Student Attendance

This school year at Paularino, we are committed to supporting our school attendance by increasing daily attendance as well as decreasing tardiness. Students who attend school consistently have better academic outcomes. They have more opportunities to learn, participate in class discussions, and complete assignments. Consistent attendance sets the foundation for lifelong learning. School is not just about academics; it's also a place where students build friendships, learn social skills, and develop emotional resilience.

Regular attendance ensures that students benefit from these important aspects of their education. Attending school prepares students for the future. Whether they aspire to higher education, vocational training, or entering the workforce, regular attendance teaches responsibility,

time management, and commitment. When students attend school regularly, they contribute to a positive and vibrant school community. Their presence enriches classroom discussions, extracurricular activities, and school events.

Paularino Elementary School is committed to supporting student attendance, and we have implemented several incentives to encourage regular school attendance. Weekly, we calculate attendance by classroom. The top two classes with the best attendance for the week will receive a 10-minute extra recess on Friday. Students work hard to achieve this prize. Monthly, students who maintain good attendance throughout the month will be eligible for a certificate and rewards. We want our students to feel motivated and recognized for their commitment to attending school.

Regular school attendance is so important to build healthy habits for the future, not just being at school each day ready to learn. With increased attendance, our Panthers will achieve more in school and in life!

Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • pomona.nmusd.us



Cindy Pedroso
Principal

A Busy Time

Springtime is a busy time of year at Pomona filled with activities and rigorous learning opportunities. Our spring enrichments are in full swing from sports, STEM and dance. We look forward to the dance performances as students take the stage with pride and confidence. Our six graders are packed and ready to experience science camp. These experiences allow students to make some core memories that they will share for years to come.

It is so hard to believe we have done so much already this school year and we have still some much more. Right around the corner students and families will have opportunities to engage in fun family events with jog-a-thon and the Spring Carnival. It has been wonderful to continue to add enrichment opportunities for our students in addition to raising the bar in their academic experiences. Our goal continues to focus on creating an environment in which all students can thrive in. #Pomonapride



Everett A. Rea *Elementary (K-6)*

661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • rea.nmusd.us



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Enrichment Before and After!

One of the many things that make Rea Elementary an exceptional school is the variety of ways we engage students in learning and enrichment opportunities, including activities beyond the instructional day. Our extended-day programming provides an opportunity for students to expand upon the outstanding educational program provided during the school day.

When the bell rings at Rea, it signals the end of the formal school day and the beginning of exciting after-school programs. Boys and Girls Club is our on-campus partner, providing after-school care every school day until 6 p.m. At Boys and Girls Club, students complete homework and participate in a variety of classroom and playground activities.

There are several after-school enrichment programs for students to choose from. Our Heritage Language Spanish classes meet on Tuesdays. Upper-grade students can apply

to participate in the AVID After School Academy to learn about college, hear guest speakers talk about their careers, and go on field trips to explore career options. Students in grades three through six have the opportunity to participate in the annual school play, with vocal music, acting, and dance experiences. The teacher team that leads the school play each year also hosts monthly Art Club experiences for students, which include hands-on art projects.

Another popular after-school program is the Rea Elementary Dance Program, provided through our partnership with Active Learning. Students learn Baile Folkloriko and hip-hop dance after school three days each week. There are several dance performances throughout the year that are hosted at school as well as at community events. Students can also participate in before-school programs, including School Band and Robotics.

We are proud of the wide array of high-quality before- and after-school programs we offer to engage, inspire, and equip students at Rea to be successful and well-rounded individuals!

Sonora *Elementary (PK-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • sonora.nmusd.us



Mia Doidge
Principal

Reading Achievements

Sonora Eagles are soaring high with their reading achievements for this year!! Thirteen students ranging from grades third thru sixth were recognized for reading more than 2,000,000 words and an instructional reading level of 7.0 and above since enrolled at Sonora. These students were recognized at our Eagle Rally and presented with a special gold folder,

which represented the Golden Dragon award. This allows them to check out any book their heart desires from our library!

Our amazing librarian, Mrs. Chan, has the biggest heart for kids and books and helps to instill a love of reading in our students! She interacts with students every day and helps guide them to find books, challenge their reading level, and helps with our trimester recognition of students and AR goals. We can't wait to see how much more our young readers will achieve!



Charles W. TeWinkle *Middle School (7-8)*

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • tewinkle.nmusd.us



Dr. Ixchel Sanchez
Principal

Where Everyone Belongs

TeWinkle Middle School recently extended a warm invitation to the families of current and prospective students to join in our Future Trojan Night hosted on March 7th in the school gymnasium. This event had a significant turnout of about 300 attendees, all eager to delve into the multitude of opportunities that

are awaiting our seventh- and eighth-grade students.

The evening began with the introduction of our school's staff members, and we also shined a spotlight on TeWinkle's broadened selection of elective courses. Teachers and students alike enthusiastically shared their insights into the various programs, including the Associated Student Body (ASB) experience, the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, green architecture, journalism, Medical Detectives, music, robotics, Spanish, the visual and performing arts, and more.

The caring culture of our school community was exemplified through an engaging performance that featured the administration and counseling staff dressed



as Care Bears. Following the presentations, attendees were encouraged to explore our carnival-themed open house, where each department hosted interactive displays. The history department, adorned in medieval garb, provided a photo booth, while our English instructors embraced *The Outsiders* theme with attire that was reminiscent of characters from the novel.

The science department offered stress-relief tools, and Spanish teacher Dilsa Urriola Delgado delighted visitors with traditional Mexican treats. The math department engaged participants with an estimation challenge, and the counseling department invited guests to contribute to a "TeWinkle Blooms" exhibit by decorating flowers with various coping skills.

This event was an unforgettable evening, one brimming with enthusiasm as students and educators shared their TeWinkle experiences. It was also a great success in spotlighting the outstanding programs that are available at our school, and the inclusive environment that characterizes TeWinkle as a community where everyone is valued and belongs.

Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • victoria.nmusd.us

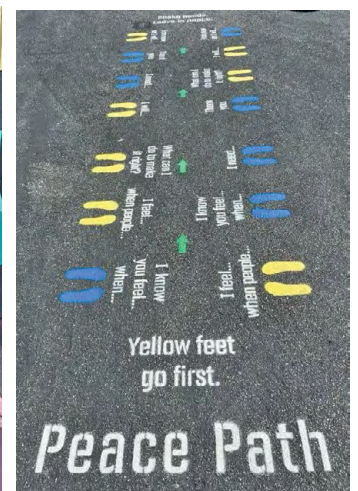


Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal

The Peace Path!

The Victoria Voyagers have embarked on a new, student led model to resolve conflict, one step at a time – The Peace Path! At Victoria, we believe that minor conflicts can be solved quickly, peacefully, and often with minimal involvement from adults. This is what the Peace Path is all about. It is a guide for students to engage in respectful dialogue

when solving a problem, using I statements and active listening. For the past three months, 30 Victoria student leaders from grades 3-6, carefully chosen by teachers and staff, were trained to be Peacemakers. Peacemakers are tasked to help facilitate those walking the Peace Path and support students in finding positive solutions. The hope is that the Peace Path will empower students to find productive and thoughtful ways to settle their own disagreements fairly.



Whittier Elementary (K-6)

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • whittier.nmusd.us



Dr. José Montaña
Principal

Lunch with a Loved One and Ballet Contempo

During Valentine's Day, Whittier Elementary School hosted an amazing event where family members had the opportunity to have lunch with their students on the field. "Lunch with a Loved One" was a tremendous success, attracting more than 268 visitors to our campus. Participants enjoyed lunch with their students, engaging activities, and the beautiful weather. We collaborated with Whittier's PTA, Beyond Athletics, Juegos y Sonrisas, Active Learning, and several parent volunteers to ensure the event's success.



Additionally, at the beginning of February, our students had the privilege of witnessing and experiencing an incredible dance performance by The Ballet Contempo group. The dancers showcased various Latin American dances and provided a historical context for each dance. Notably, students not only observed the performance but also actively participated. Great things are happening at Whittier Elementary School!



Wilson Elementary (K-6)

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • wilson.nmusd.us



Lorena Rubio
Principal

Lunch and a Book with a Loved One!

To mark the culmination of Read Across America Week we wrapped up with our delightful Lunch & Book with a Loved One event! It was heartwarming to witness our students and their loved ones come together to share in the joy of reading. Our families' overwhelming positive feedback reaffirms the importance of fostering a love for learning and strengthening family bonds within our community.

We're thrilled to be hosting another Lunch & Book event in May! Save the date and join us for another memorable experience aimed at making learning a joyful journey for our students. Our parents' participation and enthusiasm truly make a difference in our school community, and we can't wait to create more cherished memories together.

We thank our Wilson families for their continued support, and let's keep the Wildcat spirit alive!



Woodland *Elementary (K-2)*

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • woodland.nmusd.us



Kim Maxwell
Principal

A Focus on Health and Wellness!

Woodland students have been busy with many exciting events during our recent focus on health and wellness. With Healthy Choices Week, the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge, and our annual Jog-a-Thon, Woodland has been abuzz with energy and enthusiasm!

Healthy Choices Week kicked off with a burst of energy as students participated in dress-up days and activities that promoted mindfulness, healthy sleep habits, friendship, and physical activity. Our PFO volunteers led recess activities, including chalk art, recess games, and an obstacle course. The students even enjoyed smoothies from a local store! We appreciate the support of these volunteers in helping our students engage with these healthy activities.

Another health-focused highlight was our participation in the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge. With a focus on raising awareness about heart health, and supporting the mission of the American Heart Association,

this program is both educational and charitable. Our students also attended a kick-off assembly to learn about heart health, and then participated in fund-raising activities that raised nearly \$4,000 for a donation to the American Heart Association.

Culminating our celebration of health and wellness was our annual Jog-a-Thon. After six days of on-campus hype this much-anticipated Jog-a-Thon took place on March 27th. With smiles on their faces and determination in their hearts, our students ran as many laps around the course as they could. Fun music and movement challenges kept things exciting as the children danced and skipped around the course.

The Jog-a-Thon is one of the PFO's primary fundraising events, and the generosity of our Woodland community never ceases to amaze me! With this support the PFO can continue to fund our assemblies, field trips, two support teachers, and so much more!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these events. Together, we are shaping a brighter, healthier future for our Woodland Elementary students.

Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • web.nmusd.us/departments/nutrition-services



Todd Hatfield
Director

Learning about Food Choices

*By Pam Williams, MPH, RD
Nutritionist*

The human body is amazing! It can achieve many tasks and learn from its experiences. One factor that contributes to this process is what we eat. Food affects mood, energy, gut biome, and learning.

Dozens of experts have highlighted why we should eat well, and also learn how to eat well. Learning how to eat well gives students the tools they need to properly nourish their future.

Traditionally, students learn to eat at home. Parents show children how to make choices by the choices they make themselves. Taking children to grocery stores and role-playing with them about how to choose or adopt healthy eating practices can go a long way to a healthy future.

School cafeterias are another way in which we can influence healthy eating habits. Every meal served will help students to see and taste healthy foods. When they go through our lunch line they can see colorful produce, milk,

proteins, and whole-grain choices for them to make. In addition, they also learn about what they are eating when they are encouraged to try new foods.

Another component to learning about healthy eating is nutrition education in the classroom. Some students in our district have learned about the food guide called MyPlate. This guide shows them that a healthy plate includes fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, and dairy. This helps them identify produce as pineapple or artichoke; grains as millet and teff, and proteins as fish and tofu. Some students have also learned how to read a label to help make healthy choices.

What is the value of students learning about food choices? Research shows that the right food ingredients can help our children get up and show up to school. Once they are in the classroom their learning can then begin. Healthy meals also help students focus on their lessons.

Learning about healthy eating matters because it can empower children to nourish their futures by the choices they make. Do you want to learn more? Please visit www.myplate.gov.

Early Childhood Education

2985 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



Michelle O'Neill
Coordinator

Preparing for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten

It has been a fun year over at Sonora Preschool in Mrs. Corona classroom. We have seen much growth in our preschoolers! The teachers and staff have been hard at work helping to prepare our students for Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten. Building friendships is an important part of child development and our daily lessons. We

encourage all the children to interact with their peers and school staff. They have learned to self-advocate, problem solve, and communicate. We have also seen tremendous growth in the areas of social interactions and fine and gross motor skills. Our students are excited to come to school to learn and play. While we only have our preschoolers for a short time, we feel that the foundation we can provide is invaluable and leaves an impression on our children that they will carry with them as they move through their educational career.



Lacrosse—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 NMUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by May 15, 2024

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

Contest Sponsored by Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics
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| HEAD | STICK |
| HELMETS | TEAMS |
| MIDDIES | UNIFORMS |

Congratulations
Valentina Sakaske
winner of our March contest

G	M	W	E	U	S	D	C	Q	P	P	N	Z	G	S
K	O	K	H	S	R	E	Y	A	L	P	M	E	K	R
O	U	A	C	L	A	F	L	Z	T	A	Z	C	T	G
A	T	T	L	I	S	E	P	U	S	T	A	E	L	C
C	H	F	P	K	T	N	R	I	R	J	A	M	N	W
W	G	A	I	E	E	S	D	C	C	M	J	C	B	J
Z	U	H	V	E	M	E	J	Y	S	K	Q	S	K	G
O	A	S	R	C	L	I	P	I	Y	Y	S	F	H	H
V	R	E	T	I	E	D	A	E	H	M	S	I	C	T
V	D	L	N	W	H	D	W	Z	R	L	W	W	L	X
Q	E	E	S	U	K	I	H	O	F	O	G	Z	U	O
D	S	T	L	X	M	M	F	T	Y	M	C	M	G	O
H	I	W	G	D	J	I	Q	U	G	L	X	S	U	H
Z	H	R	D	R	N	Z	Y	M	K	L	F	B	W	I
H	N	L	R	U	O	J	V	K	B	J	D	Z	X	Z

Orange County Department of Education

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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.