

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Centralia Elementary School District



Volume 17, Issue 67

May 2024

CESD Celebrates Another Exceptional Year



Centralia Elementary School District Office Moves Back To Its Permanent Home

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Luis Flores
President



Art Montez
Vice President



Lamiya A. Hoque
Clerk



Henry Charoen
Member



Elizabeth A. Gonzalez
Member



Norma E. Martinez
Superintendent

As the 2023-2024 school year comes to an end, I take the opportunity to reflect on the progress and achievements of our district. It's been a privilege to serve as Superintendent and I am proud of the exceptional programs and dedicated staff across all our schools for their work at meeting the diverse needs of our students.

This year, we introduced an intervention teacher at each school to enhance our phonics and literacy programs for Grades TK-1 as well as provide intervention support for our students who are behind in Grades 2-6. Our schools now feature mental health and school climate teams to ensure every student receives the necessary mental health support and a positive school experience. Additionally, we launched an afterschool math intervention program aimed at students requiring extra help in mathematics and strengthened our afterschool programs through ELOP funding, which supports homework help and enrichment activities.

After-school programs were also strengthened this year with ELOP funding to continue supporting additional learning and enrichment activities. We launched an

afterschool math intervention program focused on students requiring extra mathematics help. We also rolled out a dynamic visual and performing arts program across all schools in line with our commitment to a comprehensive arts curriculum. Our initiatives at Danbrook, Centralia, Raymond Temple and San Marino Schools have continued to deepen our ties with local communities.

Additionally, we have several accolades to celebrate this year. Buena Terra was named a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School. Aimee Valle earned the prestigious Teacher of the Year award while Ms. Priscilla Flores was honored as Classified Employee of the Year. Raymond Temple was recognized with a Silver level CA Green Ribbon Award, and all our schools were celebrated as PBIS award winners, showcasing our commitment to positive behavioral interventions and supports.

Finally, we moved back to our updated district office building. I'm so proud to say that this project was funded through facilities funding and not taxpayer bond money. Together, we have not only met challenges but have set benchmarks for excellence in education. Here's to continuing our journey ahead of learning and success!

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • schoolnewskay@gmail.com
ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193
CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:
Emily Ung and Mie Kawamura
COPY EDITORS: Kate Karp, Anna Zappia
SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193 • www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Centralia Elementary School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent



Dr. Ramon Miramontes
Deputy
Superintendent
of Instructional
Programs

Once confined to science fiction, artificial intelligence has broken through to our reality, flashing its potential to transform industries and our society in ways never before imagined. And schools are no exception.

AI isn't just knocking on classroom doors anymore, it's inside, and we are already discovering how it can make learning more engaging,

interactive and tailored to the needs of each student. At the same time, it's clear that there must be safeguards in place, along with proper guidance from educators to ensure we're leading students along the path to becoming responsible digital citizens.

At the Orange County Department of Education, we are not spectators in the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence — we're active participants. Through strategic partnerships, pioneering initiatives and professional development, we're striving to harness AI's potential to

See OC DEPT OF ED • Page 4

64th ANNUAL

GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MAY 24 – 27, 2024

2024 GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
64TH ANNUAL
CELEBRATING OUR HOMETOWN

FREE CAKE FRIDAY
SATURDAY PARADE
CELEBRITIES
FREE CONCERTS
CONTESTS
FANTASTIC FOOD
GAME BOOTHS
VENDOR BOOTHS

CARNIVAL RIDES
RIDE ALL DAY FOR ONE LOW PRICE

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN
BETWEEN EUCLID ST. & MAIN ST.
[#ggstrawberryfest](https://www.instagram.com/ggstrawberryfest)

STRAWBERRYFESTIVAL.ORG

OC GREEN EXPO
EV TEST DRIVE

JUNE 8 10 AM-2 PM

DOWNTOWN ANAHEIM
201 W. Center Street Promenade

FREE Family Event • Raffles & Prizes • Drive the latest EVs • Learn about sustainable living

anaheim.net/greenexpo

IAREF / Integem

Camp Integem: #1 AI+AR Summer Camp

In-Person (16 Locations, Ages: 5-18)

Teacher/Student Ratio: 1:8 **Age Groups: 5-8, 8-10, 10-14, 14+**

NVIDIA NVIDIA AI Partner **OWASC** Fully Accredited

Space/Nature Exploration **AR Coding & 3D Game Design**

AI & Robotics with AR **Digital Art, 3D & Animation**

camp.integem.com
support@integem.com
408-459-0657

Save **\$50/week**
use code: **NEW24**



uplift our schools, districts and communities. We've also committed to acting intentionally and responsibly to ensure the use of this powerful technology aligns with our core values and serves the best interests of students.

Our work in this digital arena began last year with the launch of OC AI Forward, a countywide initiative with support from Dr. Sabba Quidwai of Designing Schools and our local district superintendents. Monthly sessions have promoted the exchange of knowledge and best practices among local education leaders, creating a unified and collaborative approach to AI.

In 2023, OCDE also hired two new administrators of artificial intelligence and innovation. Wes Kriesel, a former high school English teacher, and Kunal Dalal, an education technology advocate from Silicon Valley, are working with our staff and the districts we serve, envisioning a future where AI assists in customizing educational content to enhance engagement and improve learning outcomes.

As Kriesel and Dalal shared in a recent interview, their work goes beyond simply showing other educators how to use new tech. Instead, they want to shift perspectives by changing the way teachers view and embed AI into their lessons.

"We are in the business of humans," Dalal said. "That means we have the opportunity to reconnect with the human element of what we do and let the bits and bytes be managed by the AI model."

Looking ahead, OCDE is gearing up to host its first "Student AI Summit: For Youth, By Youth" on April 25 in Anaheim. This event, which will feature dynamic presentations and interactive sessions, is expected to draw more than 600 students who will get to share their views on AI's evolving role in their lives and education.

Through this surge of innovation, it's important that we are vigilant about the potential for misuse and abuse — and remember that these considerations aren't exclusive to AI. In fact, similar challenges emerged with the introduction of other educational tools, from calculators to computers. Even something as innocuous as notebook paper can become a distraction when folded into an airplane and sent aloft.

But here's the thing: These tools aren't going away. That means we must be deliberate and thoughtful in our approach to using and teaching them, relying on shared ethical values and standards for what is right and wrong.

Using AI wisely transcends merely learning new technical skills. It's about fostering good digital citizens who approach technology with integrity and character. While AI-enabled personalized learning has the potential to transform education, our responsibility extends beyond academics. We also have an obligation to keep students safe and help them grow into responsible and caring humans.

That vision is what drives us forward at the Orange County Department of Education, and it's a future we're committed to building together.

summer camp oasis

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

Daily Academic Review **STEAM Games**

Arts & Crafts **Field Trips** **Weekly Chapel**

Water Games

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

LUNCH & SNACK CART SERVICES

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

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

Click Here to Register Online **QUESTIONS?** Click Here to Email Us



Buena Terra *Elementary School*

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



Bianca Marchese
Principal

Celebrating Arbor Day: Planting Trees for a Greener Future

As this school year draws to a close, we find ourselves swirling in the bustle of all of the end of year activities. As April drew to a close, we also found ourselves immersed in the spirit of Arbor Day, a time-honored celebration of trees and the vital role they play in our lives. Originating in Nebraska in 1872, Arbor Day unites communities in a shared commitment to nurture and preserve our precious green spaces.

This Arbor Day, as we reflect on the importance of trees, it's crucial to recognize the many benefits they provide us and the planet. From purifying the air we breathe to providing habitat for countless species, trees are silent guardians of our environment, tirelessly working to sustain life in all its forms.

One of the most impactful ways we can honor Arbor Day is by rolling up our sleeves and getting our hands dirty—quite literally—by planting trees. This act is not merely symbolic;

it is a tangible step towards building a healthier, more sustainable future for generations to come. Every sapling we nurture today will grow into a towering oak or a majestic maple, enriching our landscapes and enhancing biodiversity. Several students in our afterschool program worked side by side with the City of Buena Park Public Works Department to plant bottle trees along the perimeter of the school.

But perhaps the most profound impact of tree planting lies in its ability to foster a sense of community and interconnectedness. Arbor Day celebrations bring people together, transcending barriers of age, ethnicity, and background, as communities join hands in a shared

By involving our students in hands-on planting activities, we not only instill in them a deep appreciation for nature but also empower them to become stewards of the environment, equipped with the knowledge and skills to tackle pressing environmental challenges.

In the words of American poet Joyce Kilmer, “I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.” Let us honor these words by sowing the seeds of a greener, more vibrant world this Arbor Day and beyond.



Centralia *Elementary School*

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



Enrique Romero
Principal

Visual Arts Leaders at Centralia Elementary

Centralia Elementary School has infused a love for the art throughout our school this year! Each of our leaders has had the opportunity to engage in a variety of arts programming this year that has brought forth creativity embedded within our academic programming. Our team of four

artists led this work at our school to ensure our leaders were engaged in rigorous arts programming, both visual arts and performing arts. Particularly the work led by our Centralia Elementary School artist, our leaders have been thriving in this area! Many of our

artists entered the Anaheim Public Utilities 33rd Annual Student Water Conservation Poster Contest with the theme “Being Water Wise Is...” to be featured in their calendar and throughout their website. Four of our leaders were chosen! They were also invited to a special reception and feature at the Anaheim Ducks game to celebrate their accomplishments! The focus on integrating the arts into academic programming has created opportunities for our leaders to expand on their educational experiences at Centralia Elementary School. Their dedication to trying new experiences and tapping into multiple modalities has and will continue to pay off as leaders in this world! Their creativity continues to inspire us and those around them as Artist Leaders! Way to go!



Danbrook *Elementary School*

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



Hugo Rios
Principal

Danbrook Garden's Green Debut

In a celebration of community and green innovation, Danbrook Garden officially opened its community garden on Monday, April 22nd. The grand opening event was a testament to collaborative efforts, showcasing the fruition of planning and unwavering commitment to sustainability. Danbrook Garden stands as an oasis, from lush greenery to vibrant floral displays; every corner of the garden exudes an aura of natural beauty, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in nature. Thanks to Mrs. Hughes' grant writing, Danbrook

was able to partner with Sprouts to bring this garden to life.

The grand opening ceremony commenced with a vine-cutting ceremony, attended by Board Member Lamiya Hoque, Superintendent Martinez, students, and parents. The Danbrook team expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the realization of this visionary project, including Jim Evens, Director of MOT, and Dr. Dominic Nguyen. The school garden has not only enriched Danbrook's landscape but has also forged bonds of unity within the school community. Principal Rios stated, "We hope this garden continues to grow and nourish our school and students so that inspiration flourishes year after year."



Dysinger Elementary School

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



Susan Ungaro
Principal

Dysinger Dragons Shine Bright

Dysinger Elementary School has a dedicated team that works hard to support students and families toward success. During our March Board Meeting, Principal Ungaro recognized several individuals who have gone above and beyond this year.

Mrs. Noelle Garcia, a Dragon parent involved in multiple committees such as the School Site Council, Report Card, LCAP, Parent Leadership Academy, and PTA, expressed her appreciation for the school's progress and community engagement. She highlighted exciting initiatives like the weekly broadcast and the House of Dragons, noting significant growth and positive changes within Dysinger and the broader community.

Michelle Kamhi, a seasoned Sixth Grade teacher with 20 years of experience, is known for her passion for teaching and her ability to connect deeply with everyone she meets. Michelle is not only knowledgeable but also shares her expertise generously, inspiring her colleagues and students with her positive attitude and team spirit.

Marina Dyer, our Health Clerk, is exceptionally dedicated to the well-being of our students. She goes beyond routine duties to ensure their comprehensive care, connecting personally with each student and their families, and fostering a supportive and trusting environment in our school.

Cecilia Hinojosa, who leads our Neighbor Resource Center, is always ready to assist families in need. Her ability to connect with vital resources has made a significant impact on our community.

We also celebrated seven of our students for their academic and social progress. These students exemplify the spirit of perseverance, positivity, and determination.

We are incredibly proud of our Dragon family and their ongoing contributions to making Dysinger a supportive and thriving community.



San Marino *Elementary School*

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



Laura Hartgrave
Interim
Principal

San Marino Students Become Authors

San Marino Elementary School proudly celebrates the literary achievements of its budding authors who participated in the innovative Write Brain program. These young minds delved into the realms of creativity, channeling their imaginations onto paper with fervor and enthusiasm. Now, they stand not just as scholars, but as published authors - their words memorialized in the pages of a real book.

Under the guidance of dedicated teachers and the Write Brain initiative, these students embarked on a journey of self-expression while honing their writing skills and nurturing their unique voices. From imaginative tales to heartfelt narratives, each book reflects the diverse perspectives and boundless creativity of its young author.

The accomplishment of becoming a published author is no small feat, and for these students, it signifies not only

a personal triumph but also a testament to the power of education in fostering creativity and confidence. Their books serve as tangible evidence of their hard work, dedication, and unwavering belief in the power of their own stories.

As these young authors proudly shared their published works with their peers, families, and community at our Author's Fair in April, they inspire others to embrace their creativity and pursue their dreams. Through their words, they remind us all that age is no barrier to achievement and that every voice, no matter how small, has the power to make a difference.

The Write Brain program has not only enriched the literary landscape of San Marino Elementary School but has also empowered its students to believe in themselves and their ability to shape the world through their words. As these young authors continue to write and share their stories, they illuminate the path for future generations of writers, leaving an indelible mark on the literary world and beyond.



G.B. Miller *Elementary School*

7751 Furman Rd., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/228-3270 • ml.cesd.k12.ca.us



Andy Long
Principal

Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.
— Helen Keller

April was Autism Acceptance month, and in recognition of those in our world who live with Autism we chose to spend our month celebrating the beauty in thinking differently and embracing our community. We had the privilege of meeting a young man, Matthew Kenslow, who spoke to our community about more than growing up with Autism, but also

the power of teamwork, the importance of resiliency, and embracing difference.

In addition, we were able to celebrate adults in our community and recognize the contributions they have made in our school. We would like to congratulate Mrs. Roberts, Mr. Fairchild, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Craig and Mrs. Marcoly for being recognized by the Miller PTA with

Honorary Service Awards. These outstanding individuals have each left an impact on students and their families that will continue to inspire our community. We are honored to recognize Ms. Peterson and Ms. Baffoe who are part of our Autism team at Miller and were recognized by the Greater Anaheim SELPA for their contributions and the impact they make in the lives of students with disabilities. Lastly, we are proud to celebrate two parents, Mrs. Angela Hernandez and Mrs. Diane Ocegura. They have served on the Miller School Site Council, English Language Advisory Committee and PTA for several years and continue to give time and time again to support our students.

“Together, we can do so much” is too true. People like this, and so many more, have inspired our students to never quit. Our students continue to prove to themselves and the rest of us that with teamwork, resilience and through embracing differences nothing is beyond their reach.



Special recognition also goes out to our March Attendance winners, in Mrs. Mathias' class.

Raymond Temple *Elementary School*

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



Shawn Stucht
Principal

It's Easy Being Green

Raymond Temple School is proud to announce we have received the Silver 2024 California Green Ribbon Schools Award. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, highlighted the achievements of 20 schools, 14 districts, and two county offices of education, identifying them as innovators in the development of programs that emphasize resource conservation while promoting health and environmental education. Our school is celebrated among these honorees for our outstanding commitment to environmental excellence.

At Raymond Temple, our green initiatives include exploring the connection between science, technology, engineering, and math across subjects. We recognize the importance of teaching our young scholars that all life is interrelated, no matter how the world changes. Our reliance on Earth's natural resources to provide us with nourishment, oxygen, and water is contingent on our actions today. Raymond Temple embraces the

endless innovative possibilities of the future and learns what is fundamental to sustaining a healthy, vibrant, and environmentally conscious life.

We began our environmental science programs five years ago and are proud of what has been accomplished in this time. Across the campus, you will hear and see examples of classrooms that intersect traditional common core curriculum through real-life environmental experiences including our three gardens. These efforts not only support the physical and educational well-being of our students but also prepare them to tackle global challenges like climate change and local issues such as water quality and food insecurity. Raymond Temple's journey towards winning the Silver California Green Ribbon has been marked by diligent and innovative efforts aimed at transforming the school into an eco-friendly sanctuary.

Principal Shawn Stucht graciously received the CA Green School Silver Award alongside Centralia Superintendent Norma Martinez and Lead Staff Gardeners, Marguerite Vu and Elia Doiron, at the California Green Ribbon Awards Ceremony on April 30, 2024 in Claremont, California.



Day at the Beach –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 Centralia in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2024

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

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| SUN BLOCK | SURF BOARD |
| TOWELS | FLOAT |
| SWIM SUIT | SHIRT |
| SUNGLASSES | SANDWICHES |
| UMBRELLA | SHORTS |
| HAT | CHAP STICK |
| FLIP FLOPS | FIRST AID KIT |
| PAIL | COOLER |
| SHOVEL | DRINKS |
| BLANKET | SNACKS |
| BOOK | |



CAMPING–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 Centralia in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2024

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

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| MAP | FOOD |
| BOOTS | SNACK |
| JACKETS | BEDROLL |
| COMPASS | MATCHES |
| GPS | FLASHLIGHT |
| BACKPACK | FLARES |
| THERMOS | CELLPHONE |
| KNIFE | CAMERA |
| TENT | BUGSPRAY |
| BLANKET | COT |
| WATER | |

