

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

**Covering the Fountain Valley School District**



Volume 20, Issue 117

May 2024

## Fountain Valley School District's 21st Annual Art Show



## ART Captured



# SUPERINTENDENT

## ART Captured: Fountain Valley School District's 21st Annual Art Show



**Dr. Katherine Stopp**  
Superintendent

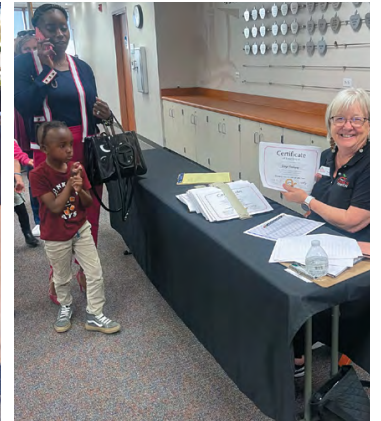
The Fountain Valley School District's 21st Annual Art Show is a celebration of creativity, showcasing the talents of students from all ten schools. The event features a variety of artwork, from paintings to sculptures, with some pieces receiving special recognition with blue ribbons.

Interactive art booths, sponsored by each school and staffed by FVSD personnel, offer attendees the opportunity to engage with different artistic techniques. Alongside the art, a selection of food trucks provides a range of refreshments for visitors to enjoy.



Live performances by all three middle school choirs add to the atmosphere, filling the air with music and enhancing the overall experience. And what would an event be without a photobooth? This art show had two! The event attracts a large turnout, with students, families, staff, and community members coming together to appreciate the creative accomplishments of the district's students.

Gratitude is extended to all those involved in organizing this event, which has become a favorite among the FVSD community, fostering unity and pride.





## ART Captured: Fountain Valley School District's 21st Annual Art Show

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*By Phu Nguyen, Board Member*

Congratulations to all our multilingual students! Fountain Valley School District serves over 550 students whose primary language is one other than English. Throughout the school year, FVSD teachers and Bilingual Instructional Aides work in partnership with families to support these students. In the spring, students identified as English Learners complete the Summative English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC) to measure the progress of their English language development.

Based on Summative ELPAC results, CAASPP results, and FVSD reading assessments, I am excited to share that FVSD reclassified 150 students to Fluent English Proficient status! This includes students with primary languages, such as Arabic, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

FVSD celebrates the achievement of these students, all of whom will be honored at their school and receive a Certificate of Achievement. We are very proud that our multilingual student population continuously demonstrates a strong performance in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)!



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

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[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Covering the  
**FOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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This school year is quickly coming to a close.

In this issue you will read all about the many activities students are focused on beginning with Dr. Stopp's article on page 2 all about ART Captured. How do you mix nature and technology? You'll find out in this issue. Perhaps you are interested in volcanoes — so are Fulton Middle School students on page 9. You should find a comfortable chair and just plan to read for awhile...

Our next *School News* issue is June 5.



Start them early. They will read forever.

## GLOBAL VISION OPTOMETRY Family Eye Care

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## 64th ANNUAL GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MAY 24 – 27, 2024



**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

**STRAWBERRYFESTIVAL.ORG**

## The Summer Reading Challenge is Coming Soon!

By Kimberly Tran-Hoang, Children & Teen Librarian

This year's Summer Reading Program for OC Public Libraries will run from June 17, 2024, through August 4, 2024. For Fountain Valley families, please look forward to July for a fun-filled month of performances! You can check out our calendar at [www.ocpl.org/libraries/fountain-valley](http://www.ocpl.org/libraries/fountain-valley)

Below are some highlights of upcoming programs:

### Teens

Animescapes (Anime Film Screenings for Teens & Adults)  
 – Third Saturdays at 2pm  
 Charcuterie Board Workshop – Wednesday, May 22 at 4pm

### Adults

Tech Help Hour: Second Tuesdays at 11am  
 Wire Wrapped Jewelry: Thursday, May 9 at 4pm  
 Learn how to artfully wrap wire around a stone to create a beautiful necklace! Registration is required.

We also have monthly book groups, classic movie screenings for adults, unique craft workshops, & more! Check out our Program Calendar.

### Children & Families

- Spanish Bilingual Storytime: Tuesday, May 28 at 4pm
- Vietnamese Bilingual Storytime: Saturday, May 25 at 11am
- Family Craft Night: Second Tuesdays at 4pm
- Movies at the Library: Final Thursdays at 4pm
- Unplug & Play: Fourth Saturdays at 2pm
- Painting with Watercolors with Claudia's Art Therapy: Tuesday, May 7 at 4:30pm

Learn basic watercolor art techniques including how to mix colors! Students will also be able to complete works of art using their watercolor skills. Registration is required as space is limited. Recommended for ages 7-12.

Collaborative Paint Night: Wednesday, May 29 at 4pm

Funded by the Intergenerational Grant, people of different generations will be paired up to paint on one project together. Registration is required.

We also have weekly Toddler and Preschool Storytimes, monthly painting workshops, movie screenings for families, and more! Check out our Program Calendar.

IAREF / Integem

## Camp Integem: #1 AI+AR Summer Camp

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

**Teacher/Student Ratio: 1:8**

**NVIDIA AI Partner**

**Age Groups: 5-8, 8-10, 10-14, 14+**

**Fully Accredited**

**Space/Nature Exploration**



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For kids ages 5-15

Monday-Friday

June 10th - August 19th

11th St. in Huntington Beach



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OR CALL US AT **310-910-9099**



## The Health Impact of Bullying in Kids

In today's world, 1 in 5 children experience bullying online or in person. As a frequently reported disciplinary problem in schools, it encompasses behaviors such as being the subject of rumors or lies, being made fun of, being called names, insulted, threatened with harm, experiencing physical harm, and social exclusion.

Bullying is characterized by deliberate and persistent behavior aimed at asserting power over others. Categorized as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), it represents potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on a person's development.

Bullying can impair cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development, and increase the risk of various health problems such as depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and substance abuse.

Often, bullying is dismissed as a childhood rite of passage. Children may feel reluctant to tell adults due to feelings of embarrassment, which is why recognizing the early signs of bullying is instrumental in preventing the potential long-term effects on a child's development. Research shows that early and consistent parental involvement and support is a protective factor against bullying and long term consequences.

Signs of bullying parents can look for in children include:

- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide
- Planning to "get back" at those who've wronged them

Caregivers recognizing the impact of bullying is often the first step. Open communication and creating an environment where children's feelings are acknowledged and expressed freely help build resilience and emotional well-being. Further, caregivers should initiate conversations with teachers to discuss concerns regarding a child's well-being.

Addressing bullying requires collaborative efforts between caregivers, educators, and health care professionals. Child psychologists and school counselors can provide interventions suited to a child's well-being.

Want to learn more? Please call (714) 377-6993 or visit [millerchildrens.org/stramski](http://millerchildrens.org/stramski).



**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](http://millerchildrens.org/care)**



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# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • [www.courreges.fvsd.us](http://www.courreges.fvsd.us)



**Lisa Tanita**  
*Principal*

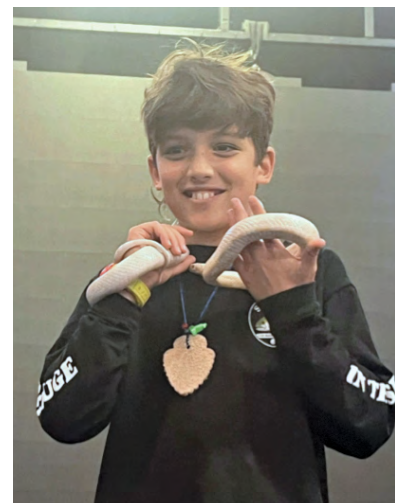
## Trailblazers of Tomorrow: Courreges Students Embrace Nature and Technology

In late February, our 5th graders went on an enriching outdoor education adventure at Three Oaks Outdoor Science School. Surrounded by nature, the students were immersed in hands-on learning, igniting their curiosity and passion for discovery. The students had an amazing time exploring the great outdoors and the wonders of science. A few highlights included snow on the ground, animal adventures, night hikes, and skit night. As they returned to their classrooms and homes, they carried with them a deeper understanding of the world around them and newfound self-confidence.

This spring, upper-grade students developed their technology and coding skills, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving. Programming robots, designing



and coding video games, students were empowered and challenged. Courreges' coding program is our commitment to nurturing future innovators, thinkers, and problem solvers. By empowering students to thrive in an ever-changing world, we ensure they are well-prepared for the challenges of the digital age.



# James H. Cox Elementary (K-5)

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • [www.cox.fvdsd.us](http://www.cox.fvdsd.us)



**Dr. Jennifer Ollila**  
Principal

## Science Camp and Celebrations!

In March the Cox Elementary fifth grade students explored the outdoors at Outdoor Science Camp. They spent three nights in the local mountains learning about our natural habitat, getting to know each other better, and interacting with animals, and proudly representing the Cox community.

Cox Elementary School is privileged to celebrate Ms. Taylor Valdez as our classified employee of the year. Taylor exemplifies the Fountain Valley School District core values



**Dr. Ollila and Ms. Taylor Valdez celebrate her classified employee of the year nomination.**



**Cox fifth grade students show they are ready to learn while at science camp.**

of prioritizing all students, having high expectations, committing to lifelong learning, and being a good teammate. Taylor's service to the Cox community as Behavior Intervention Assistant (BIA) is invaluable; she is knowledgeable about her work and uses this knowledge to support Cox school and community partners in growing students who are respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. Taylor is a joy to work with. She is knowledgeable about the school community and individual students. Taylor has a consistently positive attitude, a sense of humor, and a deep ethos of care for all students.



**Cox fifth Grade students pose for a group photo at science camp.**



# Harry C. Fulton Middle School (6-8)

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • [www.fulton.fvgsd.us](http://www.fulton.fvgsd.us)



**Jenny Salberg**  
Principal



**Molly Kuykendall**  
Assistant Principal

## Ms. Yang's Class Dives into the World of Volcanoes: A Fiery Adventure!

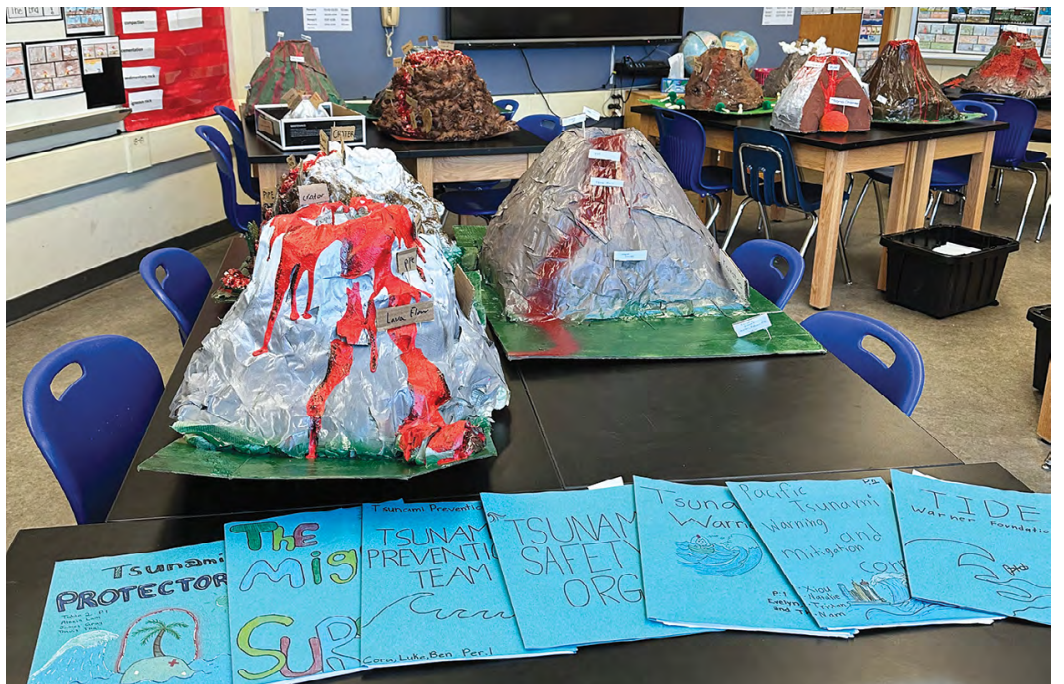
In Ms. Yang's classroom, the spirit of scientific inquiry is always bubbling over, and this time, it erupted into a fiery exploration of volcanoes! Armed with creativity and a variety of materials ranging from paper mache to foam

But the true highlight came the following day when the classroom erupted into excitement as students eagerly anticipated the climax of their volcanic adventure. They watched as eruptions of Diet Coke and Mentos or the gentle bubbling of baking soda and vinegar brought their volcanoes to life in spectacular fashion. Each explosive or quiet eruption was met with cheers and applause, proving that the study of volcanoes is as thrilling as it is educational.

insulation, students embarked on a week-long journey within the classroom to construct their very own model volcanoes in groups of 3-4 students. With newspapers, hot glue, paint, cardboard, tape, and other supplies at their disposal, each student unleashed their imagination to bring their volcano to life.

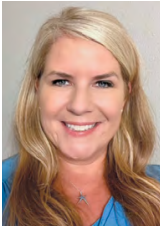
But the learning didn't stop there. In addition to crafting their masterpieces, students also delved into the depths of volcanic knowledge by creating detailed slideshows using Google Slides or Canva. These presentations allowed them to showcase their research on various aspects of volcanoes, including types, stages of life, age, formation, benefits to the environment, geohazards, and other intriguing facts.

As the culmination of their hard work approached, anticipation buzzed in the air. Fulton's Open House day arrived, and Room 19 transformed into a volcanic wonderland as the models were proudly displayed for all to see. Parents and visitors marveled at the unique construction of each volcano, a testament to the students' hard work and creativity.



# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • [www.gisler.fvsd.us](http://www.gisler.fvsd.us)



**Dr. Katherine Pavidis**  
Principal

## Celebrating Our Supportive Community

Our school thrives thanks to the incredible support of our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), the dedication of our families, and our commitment to one another.

The PTO goes above and beyond to enhance educational experiences and create a supportive atmosphere for both students and staff. Our families contribute to this vibrant environment by actively participating in school life and ensuring every student has the support they need.

One of our standout events is Abilities Awareness Week, an initiative that fosters understanding and support for diverse abilities through engaging workshops and discussions.

Additionally, our community comes together for fun and connection at events like the annual lunch on the lawn and exciting skate nights. These gatherings strengthen our bonds and enrich our school culture.

Together, these efforts showcase the strength and warmth of our community, making our school a beacon of support and camaraderie. Here's to more years of togetherness and collective growth!



# Kazuo Masuda Middle School(6-8)

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • [www.masuda.fvsd.us](http://www.masuda.fvsd.us)



**Cara Robinson**  
Principal



**Jessica O'Malley**  
Assistant Principal

Annually, Masuda Middle School hosts the interdistrict boys and girls basketball tournament. This year, all three middle schools (Fulton, Talbert, and Masuda) competed on yet another great day, full of tradition and school pride. Hosting the tournament allows for our student groups

to perform. This year, our Masuda band performed for the audience, as well as our cheerleaders and dance team. During the tournament, our classroom teachers rotated out to watch the competition along with their classes. Our student ASB leadership group organized the sale of spirit wear and spirit gear as a fundraiser. Parents showed up to visit and cheer on student-athletes. Annually, the boys and girls team winners earn bragging rights and display the district winners trophy.



# William T. Newland Elementary (K-5)

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • [www.newland.fvsd.us](http://www.newland.fvsd.us)



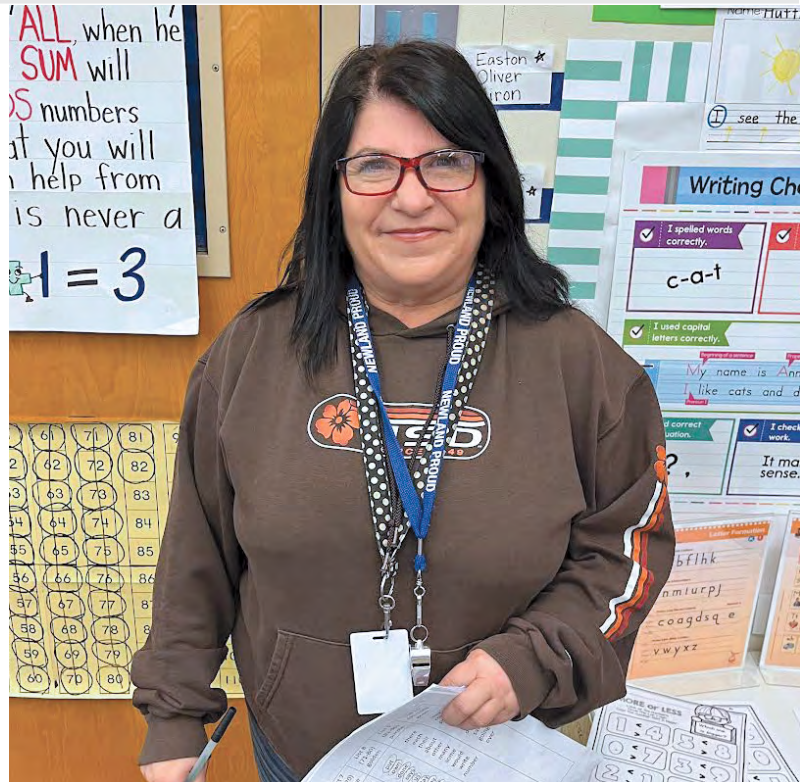
**Matt Ploski**  
Principal

## It Takes a Village...

Newland Elementary is thrilled to announce Julie Castro for recognition as the Classified Employee of the Year. Julie has consistently demonstrated exceptional dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm in her role, making her a truly deserving candidate for this award.

One of Julie's most admirable traits is her unwavering willingness to help others. Whether it's assisting a teacher with classroom tasks, supporting students during lunchtime, or lending a helping hand in the office, Julie is always eager to offer her assistance. Most importantly, Julie consistently demonstrates a genuine concern for the well-being and success of our students. She prioritizes the needs of our children above all else, always striving to create a nurturing and supportive environment where every student can thrive. Her dedication to doing what's best for kids is evident in everything she does.

Congratulations Julie!



# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • [www.oka.fvsd.us](http://www.oka.fvsd.us)



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

## Mrs. Cruz- FVSD Teacher of the Year 2024

Oka Elementary School is proud to announce, Mrs. Michelle Cruz has been chosen as Fountain Valley School District's 2024 Teacher of the Year! Michelle serves as a 3rd grade teacher and has demonstrated outstanding

dedication and impact throughout her 14 years of service. Renowned for her passion, she fosters a nurturing environment in her classroom, promoting a sense of community and academic growth. Michelle employs data-driven instruction, tailoring lessons to individual needs and ensuring high achievement rates. Beyond academics, she supports students' social-emotional development, through her inclusive and supportive approach. Michelle's leadership extends beyond the classroom as she serves as English Language Coordinator, Students of Service Lead Teacher, and Lunch Sports League Leader, enhancing school connectedness and spirit. Her exemplary qualities, including warmth, humility, and commitment, have made her a beloved figure in the school community. Michelle has also been recognized as one of the top 15 Teachers of the Year for all of Orange county.

We are extremely proud of Michelle Cruz's exceptional dedication to her students' success and contributions to the school community.



# Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K-5)*

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • [www.plavan.fvdsd.us](http://www.plavan.fvdsd.us)



## Plavan's Partnership with our Community

Plavan Elementary and our PTO have teamed up with our local Girl Scout Troop 21004 to provide exciting and interactive student-centered events for our school community.

**Dr. Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

The first event was by Girl Scout Nha Tran and her Gold Project "Up, Up, and Away!" on April 11th. Students at Plavan soared high as they explored 9 countries, delving into their rich history and culture.



Mark your calendars for two upcoming Girl Scout Gold Projects: Scout Audrey Tran's "I STEAM for Ice Cream!" on May 23rd, and Lydia Tran's "Step Into the Beat!" on June 7th. These projects promise to bring innovation, science, technology, and dance and rhythm to our students' learning experiences.

A big round of applause to our dedicated Girl Scouts, troop leaders, volunteers, and the Plavan PTO for their collaborative efforts in creating these enriching and enjoyable events for our students.



# Samuel E. Talbert Middle School (6-8)

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • [www.talbert.fvdsd.us](http://www.talbert.fvdsd.us)



**Jay Adams**  
Principal

## Classified Employee of the Year

Talbert is proud to honor Mrs. Yvonne Golf, Office Assistant, as our Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Golf has been a friendly face in our office for almost 10 years, and she has a welcoming attitude, making parents, students, and staff

alike feel valued and heard. She takes care of our students with warmth and compassion. She is patient, loving, and sweet, and she truly cares about our entire Talbert Community, all the while still maintaining remarkable efficiency.



We at Talbert are blessed by Mrs. Golf's calm nature and kindness. The entire Talbert community benefits from all that she has to offer and the efforts she extends! We are proud to present her as our Classified Employee of the Year on the basis of her outstanding contributions to the children (and adults) whose lives she touches daily.



# Hisamatsu Tamura Elementary (K-5)

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • [www.tamura.fvdsd.us](http://www.tamura.fvdsd.us)



**Chris Mullin**  
Principal

## Tamura Having a Ball with Noon League Sports

Tamura Elementary recently started noon leagues for our 3rd through 5th grade students. Elementary noon leagues offer a multitude of benefits for students. Firstly, they promote physical activity, helping children develop healthy habits early in life. Through organized sports and games, kids improve their motor skills, coordination, and overall fitness levels. These leagues also foster teamwork and sportsmanship, teaching children how to collaborate, communicate, and respect their peers.

Moreover, noon leagues provide a structured environment for children to release energy and reduce stress, enhancing their concentration and productivity in the classroom. Participation in these leagues can boost self-esteem and confidence as children develop new skills and achieve personal goals. Additionally, they offer a platform for socialization, helping kids form friendships and build a sense of belonging within their school community.

Tamura's noon leagues have been amazing to watch and an overall great success. We see the leagues play a vital role in promoting physical, social, and emotional well-being among students, laying the foundation for a healthy and active lifestyle.

