

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

**Covering the Hawthorne School District**



Volume 14, Issue 76

May 2024



## STEAM in Action



## Board of Trustees



**Luciano Aguilar**  
*President*



**Dr. Eugene Krank**  
*Vice President*



**Cristina Chiappe**  
*Clerk*



**Vicente Bravo**  
*Member*



**Sergio R. Mortara**  
*Member*



**HAWTHORNE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# Discover Our Preschool Program

**A high-quality program  
designed to provide a  
strong foundation for  
children's learning and  
development**

*Give your child the foundation  
they need for lifelong learning.  
Enroll today!*



## PROGRAM BENEFITS

- **Fun Play-Based Learning**
- **Stimulating Outdoor Activities**
- **Creative and Imaginative Play Areas**
- **Small Classes with Experienced and Dedicated Staff**
- **Flexible Schedules to Suit Your Needs**  
Choose between AM (8:30–11:30) or PM (12:15–3:15) three-hour sessions to suit your family's schedule

## ELIGIBILITY

- **Children turning 3 or 4 years old on or before Sept. 1st**
- **Families must qualify based on state income requirements** — we will help you check your eligibility!

## ENROLL NOW

**Contact us for more info and to  
kickstart the enrollment process:  
Site Supervisor: Helen Belloso**

- ✉ [hbelloso@hawthorne.k12.ca.us](mailto:hbelloso@hawthorne.k12.ca.us)
- ☎ (310) 676-1934
- 🌐 [preschool.hawthornesd.org](http://preschool.hawthornesd.org)



## STEAM in Action

In the Hawthorne School District, we always strive to ensure that our programs and initiatives are current, engaging, and designed to prepare students for the opportunities of tomorrow. Nowhere is this more evident than in our focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Across all of our schools, students are exploring these areas both within and beyond the school day. They are investigating, collaborating, designing, coding, creating, performing, and more. While these activities are typically taking place within our classrooms, our annual HSD STEAM Expo provides an opportunity for students to showcase their learning and talents for all to see. This year's expo was held on Saturday, April 13th at Prairie Vista Middle School and it was our largest one yet. Well over 2,000 students, family members, and partners came together for an outstanding celebration of all things STEAM. The annual event serves as a forum to celebrate our students and engage with our community, and we hope to see it grow even larger in the years to come.



**Dr. Brian Markarian**  
Superintendent

## STEAM en Acción

En el Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne (HSD), siempre nos esforzamos por asegurar que nuestros programas e iniciativas sean actuales, atractivos y diseñados para preparar a los alumnos para las oportunidades del mañana. En ninguna parte es esto más evidente que en nuestro enfoque en Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Artes y Matemáticas (STEAM). En todas nuestras escuelas, los alumnos exploran estas áreas dentro y fuera del horario escolar. Investigan, colaboran, diseñan, programan, crean, actúan y mucho más. Si bien estas actividades

suelen tener lugar dentro de nuestras aulas, nuestra exposición STEAM anual del HSD ofrece una oportunidad para que los alumnos muestren su aprendizaje y talentos para que todos lo vean. La exposición de este año se llevó a cabo el sábado 13 de abril en la Escuela Secundaria Prairie Vista y fue la más grande hasta ahora. Más de 2,000 alumnos, miembros de familia, y socios se reunieron para una celebración sobresaliente de todas las cosas STEAM. El evento anual sirve como un foro para celebrar a nuestros alumnos y participar con nuestra comunidad, y esperamos que crezca aún más en los próximos años.



**200+**  
degree & certificate  
programs to explore

Whether you're preparing to transfer, train for a career, or learn a new skill, we have what you need to make your next move.

Learn more at  
[www.elcamino.edu/explore](http://www.elcamino.edu/explore).

Don't delay. **Start today.**

El Camino  
College 



Los Angeles County  
Office of Education

KAISER PERMANENTE

**THRIVING SCHOOLS**  
a partnership for healthy students, staff & teachers



# WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING

*Come join us to:*

- ✓ Learn about Hawthorne School District's Wellness Policy
- ✓ Provide valuable input & support implementation of nutrition & wellness efforts
- ✓ Get your questions answered about school meals
- ✓ Taste test new items for the menu!



**TUESDAY  
4**

**JUNE 2024**

**3:30 - 4:30 PM**



Prairie Vista MS  
Cafeteria

**13600 Prairie Ave**



RSVP to:

**[janzaldo@Hawthorne.ca.k12.us](mailto:janzaldo@Hawthorne.ca.k12.us)**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## 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)**



MILLER CHILDREN'S & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL LONG BEACH  
CHERESE MARI LAULHERE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE  
OUTPATIENT SPECIALTY CENTERS  
FROM THE SOUTH BAY TO ORANGE COUNTY



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Neta Madison*  
Netragrednik

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
**HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [schoolnewskay@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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 Hawthorne School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

This year is quickly coming to a close and students are focused on their academic goals. This issue highlights the STEAM Expo.

We have included student book reviews on pages 18 & 19 to help with reading choices this summer. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for information. Your child could write a review of each book being read this summer and email them to me.

Our next issue is June 5..



Start them early. They will read forever.

**PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS**

THEATER • GUITAR • FILMMAKING • MORE  
...coming soon to a stage near you!  
**(310) 827-8827**

Ask About Our Discounts

**Barbie Musical**  
**Greatest Showman**  
**Matilda**  
**Mary Poppins**

**THE BEST**  
Parent Recommendation  
L.A. Parent **Winner BEST CAMP in LA!**

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

Camps in: Redondo Beach RPV  
West LA El Segundo Valley

IAREF / 

**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 AI Partner**       **Fully Accredited**

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

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

[camp.integem.com](http://camp.integem.com)      Save **\$50/week**  
[support@integem.com](mailto:support@integem.com)      use code: **NEW24**  
408-459-0657      

# Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • [bcms.hawthornesd.org](http://bcms.hawthornesd.org)

## BCMS Scholars Shine in STEM Activities

Bud Carson Middle School continues to foster a culture of innovation and excellence in STEM education, as evidenced by the recent achievements of our scholars. Huskies participating in the CSUDH-sponsored Coding Club invested weeks of skill building in robotic technology by programming Sphero BOLTs. Also, many BCMS students showcased their creativity and ingenuity at the South Bay Invention Convention, with Divine E. standing out and receiving the prestigious “Judges’ Choice” recognition.

Additionally, at the MESA Day event at USC, our scholars placed 2nd and 3rd in the Cargo Glider competition. Congrats to Charlie, Lenny, Divine, and Daniel!

Moreover, many scholars from BCMS actively participated in the STEAM Expo, where they displayed their talents in designing and creating interactive games encompassing science, technology, engineering, and math. This event highlighted their academic prowess, collaborative spirit, and problem-solving skills. We commend all of the following students for their dedication and exemplary performance. Their enthusiasm and accomplishments inspire their peers and illustrate the exceptional educational opportunities provided at our STEM Academy. Bud Carson remains committed to nurturing the next generation of innovators and problem solvers through hands-on STEM activities, ensuring students are well-equipped for the challenges of tomorrow.



**John Paterson**  
Principal

## Los Becarios de BCMS Brillan en Actividades STEM

La escuela secundaria Bud Carson continúa fomentando una cultura de innovación y excelencia en la educación STEM, como lo demuestran los logros recientes de nuestros estudiantes. Los perros esquimales que participan en el Coding Club patrocinado por CSUDH invirtieron semanas en desarrollar habilidades en tecnología robótica mediante programación PERROS Sphero. Además, muchos Los estudiantes de BCMS mostraron su creatividad e ingenio en la Convención de Inventiones de South Bay, donde Divine E. se destacó y recibió el prestigioso reconocimiento “Elección de los jueces”.

Además, en el evento del Día MESA en la USC, nuestros estudiantes obtuvieron el segundo y tercer lugar en la competencia Cargo Glider. ¡Felicitaciones a Charlie, Lenny, Divine y Daniel!

Además, muchos académicos de BCMS participaron activamente en la STEAM Expo, donde mostraron sus talentos en el diseño y creación

de juegos interactivos que abarcan ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas. Este evento destacó su destreza académica, espíritu colaborativo y habilidades para resolver problemas. Felicitamos a todos los siguientes estudiantes por su dedicación y desempeño ejemplar. Su entusiasmo y logros inspiran a sus compañeros e ilustran las excepcionales oportunidades educativas que ofrece nuestra Academia STEM. Bud Carson sigue comprometido a formar a la próxima generación de innovadores y solucionadores

de problemas a través de actividades prácticas de STEM, garantizando que los estudiantes estén bien equipados para los desafíos del mañana.



**HSD 2024 STEAM Expo**  
Exposición VAPOR HSD 2024



**MESA Day - Cargo Glider Competition**  
MESA Day - Competencia Avión de carga

## Koalas On The Move: From Fundraising to Field Trips

The Eucalyptus school community has been thrilled with the return of study trips this academic year, opening new and exciting opportunities for all of our Koalas. Thanks to dedicated fundraising by our amazing families, we've been able to provide enriching experiences beyond the classroom walls, enhancing learning through hands-on exploration. Among the destinations visited by Eucalyptus students are the California Science Center, where they had the chance to explore the wonders of science and technology, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, offering insights into marine ecosystems, and the captivating L.A. Zoo, where students connect with wildlife and conservation efforts, firsthand. These experiences not only deepen our understanding of STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) but also instill a sense of curiosity, discovery, and environmental responsibility. Eucalyptus remains committed to giving our students a well-rounded education with opportunities outside of the classroom to prepare them for the challenges and adventures of the future.



**Mike Goldstein**  
*Principal*

## Koalas está en Movimiento: T De la Recaudación de Fondos a las Excursiones

La comunidad escolar de Eucalyptus ha estado encantada con el regreso de los viajes de estudio este año académico, abriendo nuevas y emocionantes oportunidades para todos nuestros Koalas. Gracias a la dedicada recaudación de fondos de nuestras increíbles familias, hemos podido brindar experiencias enriquecedoras más allá de las paredes del aula, mejorando el aprendizaje a través de la exploración práctica. Entre los destinos visitados por los estudiantes de Eucalyptus se encuentran el Centro de Ciencias de California, donde tuvieron la oportunidad de explorar las maravillas de la ciencia y la tecnología, el Acuario Marino Cabrillo, que ofrece información sobre los ecosistemas marinos, y el cautivador Zoológico de Los Ángeles, donde los estudiantes se conectan con la vida silvestre y esfuerzos de conservación, de primera mano. Estas experiencias no solo profundizan nuestra comprensión de las materias STEAM (Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería, Artes y Matemáticas), sino que también inculcan un sentido de curiosidad, descubrimiento y responsabilidad ambiental. Eucalyptus mantiene su compromiso de brindarles a nuestros estudiantes una educación integral con oportunidades fuera del aula para prepararlos para los desafíos y aventuras del futuro.



**Ms. Sanderson's 4th graders get an up-close look at the mysterious underwater world, at the California Science Center.**

**Los alumnos de 4to grado de la Sra. Sanderson ven de cerca el misterioso mundo submarino en el Centro de Ciencias de California.**



# Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8184 • [hmsa.hawthornesd.org](http://hmsa.hawthornesd.org)

## Aviators Represent at District STEAM Expo

HMSA loves Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics! Many of our high school aviators volunteered at the Hawthorne School District's STEAM Expo held on Saturday, April 13 at Prairie Vista Middle School. There were so many engaging booths, community resources for families, student art showcases and performances across all grade levels.

We had many volunteers representing HMSA at the expo. Two of our very own, Juliana G., grade 11, and Alejandro B., grade 10, specifically volunteered at the ST Math booth and Alejandro served as JiJi, the ST Math mascot. JiJi brought smiles to many faces and received a special shout out from the company's education success manager.

"It was a really cool experience and so much fun," Alejandro said, "the best part was seeing so many kids run up to see JiJi with their big smiles!"

Kathy Carbajal, MTSS Principal, shared, "As always, HMSA student volunteers truly shined at the STEAM expo! With over 2000 attendees, their support with setting up, assisting vendors, welcoming families and managing STEAM games was invaluable!"

We are always so proud of our high school students, representing the Aviator Way and serving the community. Keep up the good work Aviators!



**Dr. Anakonia Matsumoto**  
*Principal*

## Los Aviadores Representaron en el STEAM Expo del Distrito

¡HMSA ama la ciencia, la tecnología, la ingeniería, el arte y las matemáticas! Muchos de nuestros aviadores de la escuela secundaria se ofrecieron como voluntarios en la STEAM Expo del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne celebrada el sábado 13 de abril en la Escuela Intermedia Prairie Vista. Hubo muchísimos puestos interesantes, recursos comunitarios para familias, exhibiciones de arte estudiantil y presentaciones en todos los niveles de grado.

Tuvimos muchos voluntarios representando a HMSA en la exposición. Dos de los nuestros, Juliana G., grado 11, y Alejandro B., grado 10, se ofrecieron específicamente como voluntarios en el stand de ST Math y Alejandro sirvió como JiJi, la mascota de ST Math. JiJi hizo sonreír a muchos rostros y recibió un reconocimiento especial del gerente de éxito educativo de la empresa.

"Fue una experiencia realmente genial y muy divertida", dijo Alejandro, "¡la mejor parte fue ver a tantos niños correr para ver a JiJi con sus grandes sonrisas!"

Kathy Carbajal, directora de MTSS, compartió: "¡Como siempre, los estudiantes voluntarios de HMSA realmente brillaron en la exposición STEAM! ¡Con más de 2000 asistentes, su apoyo con la instalación, la asistencia a los proveedores, la bienvenida a las familias y la gestión de los juegos STEAM fue invaluable!"

Siempre estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros estudiantes de secundaria, que representan el estilo Aviator y sirven a la comunidad. ¡Sigan con el buen trabajo Aviadores!



## Hawks are Great Neighbors

Hawthorne Middle School is fortunate to have Washington Elementary across the street, giving HMS Hawks a unique opportunity to engage with younger students as they mentor our young neighbors.

HMS Hawks crossed the street to host Washington Wildcats in the cafeteria. To celebrate “Read Across America”, 7th-grade and 8th-grade AVID students were introduced to Transitional Kindergarten students to select a book for the older students to read.

In another collaboration, Accelerated Math and Algebra 1 HMS students guided 5th-grade Washington students to solve an escape room problem about baking apple pies in observance of Pi Day (3-14-24). The questions included calculations to determine the costs of ingredients and quantities required to make the pie. Through the activity, the pairs worked with fraction and decimal operations. The older students were encouraged to help the 5th-graders persevere through the problems and solve them on paper to show their thinking. Answers were inputted into their Chromebooks to open a new clue. Fifth-grade students earned a Pi sticker and a fruit-flavored treat at the end. After the students “escaped the room,” the 5th-graders had time to ask questions about middle school.

“Helping the 5th-graders from Washington was something that made me a bit nervous. However, when I met my 5th grader I knew it was going to go well,” said Katelynn Ortiz, 8th-grade student.



**Martha Castellanos**  
*Principal*

## Los Halcones son Buenos Vecinos

La escuela secundaria de Hawthorne tiene la suerte de tener la escuela primaria Washington al otro lado de la calle, dándole a HMS Hawks una oportunidad única de interactuar con estudiantes más jóvenes mientras ayudan a nuestros jóvenes vecinos.

HMS Hawks cruzaron la calle para recibir a los Washington Wildcats en la cafetería. Para celebrar “Read Across America”, los estudiantes AVID de séptimo y octavo grado conocieron a los estudiantes de Kindergarten de Transición para seleccionar un libro que los estudiantes mayores les leyeran.

En otra colaboración, los estudiantes de Accelerated Math y Algebra 1 guiaron a los estudiantes de quinto grado de Washington para resolver un problema de escape sobre cómo hornear pasteles de manzana en conmemoración del Día Pi (14/03/24). Las preguntas incluían cálculos para determinar los costos de los ingredientes y las cantidades necesarias para hacer el pastel. A lo largo de la actividad, los pares trabajaron con fracciones y decimales. Los estudiantes mayores ayudaron a los alumnos de quinto grado a perseverar en los problemas y resolverlos en papel para mostrar su pensamiento. Las respuestas se ingresaron en sus Chromebooks para abrir una nueva pista. Los estudiantes de quinto grado obtuvieron una calcomanía de Pi y al final una postre de fruta. Después de que los estudiantes “escaparon del salón,” los alumnos de quinto grado tuvieron tiempo de hacer preguntas sobre la escuela secundaria.

“Ayudar a los alumnos de quinto grado de Washington fue algo que me puso un poco nerviosa. Sin embargo, cuando conocí a mi estudiante de quinto grado supe que todo iba a ir bien”, dijo Katelynn Ortiz, estudiante de octavo grado.



**Katelynn Ortiz guides 5th grade student through virtual Escape Room activity.**

**Katelynn Ortiz guía a un estudiante de quinto grado a través de la actividad virtual de Escape Room.**



**Daniel Scott reads to TK student Alainha Felix Vallecillo during Read Across the Street.**

**Daniel Scott le lee a Alainha Felix Vallecillo, la estudiante de TK, durante Read Across the Street.**

## STEM Starts in Kinder at Jefferson

After a three-week unit on an Engineering Challenge named Design a Beaver Dam, Jefferson's kindergarten students embarked on a practical application of their new knowledge. Ms. Uribe's class spent three weeks learning about how plants, animals and people change their environment to meet their needs. They were then tasked with constructing a dam. They gathered in table groups with the following household materials: a pan for the lake, popsicle sticks for logs, toothpicks for sticks, marbles representing rocks, and modeling clay as mud. Through trial and error, they worked together, experimenting and using their imagination to design dams that were capable of stopping the flow of water from one side of the pan to the other. Through each trial and error, students persevered with a little encouragement from their classmates and their teacher. The construction of dams served as evidence of the power of hands-on learning, igniting curiosity and inspiring creativity in the classroom.



**Esau Berumen**  
*Principal*

## STEM comienza en Kinder en Jefferson

Después de una unidad de tres semanas sobre un reto de ingeniería llamado Diseña una presa de castores, los alumnos de preescolar de Jefferson se embarcaron en una aplicación práctica de sus nuevos conocimientos. La clase de la Sra. Uribe pasó tres semanas aprendiendo cómo las plantas, los animales y las personas cambian su entorno para satisfacer sus necesidades. Luego se les encargó la tarea de construir una presa. Se reunieron en grupos de mesa con los siguientes materiales domésticos: una cacerola para el lago, palitos de helado para los troncos, palillos de dientes para los palos, canicas para representar las rocas y plastilina como barro. Mediante el método de prueba y error, trabajaron juntos, experimentando y utilizando su imaginación para diseñar presas capaces de detener el flujo de agua de un lado al otro del recipiente. En cada prueba y error, los alumnos perseveraron con un poco de ánimo de sus compañeros y de su maestro. La construcción de presas sirvió como prueba del poder del aprendizaje práctico, encendiendo la curiosidad e inspirando la creatividad en el salón de clases.



## Never Too Young

After listening to the story “How to Trap a Leprechaun,” Ms. Wennekamp challenged her kindergarten students to build a trap to catch the sneaky leprechaun who keeps stealing all the gold. Each student was given paper to plan their design for a trap. They then chose partners and built a trap together, combining aspects of each person’s design. Students used simple tools and materials such as scissors, tape, and craft sticks. The student engineers constructed their traps considering factors such as stability, strength, and functionality. Then they shared their design with the class explaining how it worked. Each trap was placed around the class to see if one of them could catch a leprechaun. Unfortunately, leprechauns are very sneaky, so we don’t know if we’ll ever catch it, but we do know that students are never too young for STEM.



**Mytress Middleton**  
Principal

## Nunca Demasiado Joven

Después de escuchar la historia “Cómo atrapar a un duende”, la Sra. Wennekamp les propuso un reto a sus alumnos de jardín de infantes a construir una trampa para atrapar al astuto duende que se sigue robando todo el oro. A cada estudiante se le dio papel para planificar su diseño de una trampa. Eligieron a un compañero y construyeron una trampa juntos, combinando aspectos del diseño de cada persona. Los estudiantes usaron herramientas y materiales simples como tijeras, cinta adhesiva y palitos

para construir la trampa. Los estudiantes de ingeniería construyeron sus trampas considerando factores como la estabilidad, la fuerza y la funcionalidad. Después de terminar, compartieron su diseño con la clase explicando cómo funcionaba. Cada trampa se colocó alrededor de la clase para ver si una de ellas podía atrapar a un duende. Desafortunadamente, los duendes son muy astutos, por lo que no sabemos si atraparemos alguno, pero sí sabemos que los estudiantes nunca son demasiado jóvenes para STEM.



**Kindergarten Students in Ms. Wennekamp’s Class**



**Leprechaun Trap**

**Los estudiantes de jardín de infantes en la Sra. Wennekamp’s**

**Trampa de Duende**

## STEM and the Arts

It's fantastic to see students engaging in both STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and the arts! Events like "Pre-MESA Day" and Regional competitions at USC provide valuable opportunities for our MESA students to apply their knowledge and skills in mathematics, engineering, and science to real-world challenges. Winning awards for projects like the Cargo Glider, Moon Base, Crime Scene Science, and MESA Machine demonstrates their dedication and creativity in these fields.

Equally impressive is the participation of Panthers in advanced dance, piano, band, and orchestra at the HSD STEAM EXPO. The integration of arts into STEM education, creating the STEAM framework, enriches students' learning experiences by fostering creativity, expression, and interdisciplinary thinking.

Celebrating the achievements of both STEM and arts students showcases the diverse talents and interests within the school community. It also emphasizes the importance of a well-rounded education that nurtures both technical proficiency and artistic expression. Congratulations to all the students involved!



**Wendy Ostensen**  
*Principal*

## STEM y las Artes

¡Es fantástico ver a los estudiantes participar tanto en STEM (Ciencia, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas) como en las artes! Eventos como el "Día Pre-MESA" y las competencias regionales en la USC brindan valiosas oportunidades para que nuestros estudiantes de MESA apliquen sus conocimientos y habilidades en matemáticas, ingeniería y ciencias a desafíos del mundo real. Ganar premios por proyectos como Cargo Glider, Moon Base, Crime Scene Science y MESA Machine demuestra su dedicación y creatividad en estos campos.

Igualmente impresionante es la participación de Panthers en danza avanzada, piano, banda y orquesta en la HSD STEAM EXPO. La integración de las artes en la educación STEM, creando el marco STEAM, enriquece las experiencias de aprendizaje de los estudiantes al fomentar la creatividad, la expresión y el pensamiento interdisciplinario.

Celebrar los logros de los estudiantes de STEM y de artes muestra los diversos talentos e intereses dentro de la comunidad escolar. También enfatiza la importancia de una educación integral que fomente tanto el dominio técnico como la expresión artística. ¡Felicitaciones a todos los estudiantes involucrados!



**MESA students compete at USC!**

**¡Los estudiantes de MESA compiten en la USC!**

## Spreading Empathy and Understanding: Ramona School's Celebration of Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month

In March, Ramona School embraced a vital initiative – Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month – with enthusiasm and purpose. The aim was clear: to educate our students about cerebral palsy, foster empathy, and celebrate inclusion. At the heart of this effort was an inspiring individual who not only shared his story but also brought joy and laughter to our school community.

On March 11, Ramona School welcomed a special guest, DJ Danny Wolf, whose presence illuminated the cafeteria with positivity and resilience. As someone living with cerebral palsy, DJ Danny's visit was not just an event; it was an opportunity for our students to witness firsthand the capabilities and spirit of individuals with diverse abilities.

The day began with an impactful assembly tailored for our 3rd-grade students. DJ Danny captivated the audience with his infectious energy and storytelling through his assistants offering insights into his journey with cerebral palsy. Through his words, students gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with cerebral palsy and the importance of inclusivity and support.

Following the assembly, DJ Danny hosted a lively and inclusive dance party during recess, open to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Laughter filled the air as students danced alongside DJ Danny, breaking down barriers and fostering connections. It was a celebration of diversity, resilience, and the power of unity.

Beyond the excitement of the day, the impact of DJ Danny's visit resonated deeply within our school community. Students not only learned about cerebral palsy but also developed empathy and respect for individuals with diverse abilities. They witnessed firsthand that differences should be celebrated and that everyone deserves to be included and valued.

Looking ahead, Ramona School eagerly anticipates future collaborations with DJ Danny Wolf. His visit was not just a one-time event but the beginning of an ongoing dialogue about inclusion and acceptance. By continuing to engage with individuals like DJ Danny, we reinforce our commitment to creating a school environment where every student feels seen, heard, and supported.

As we reflect on our celebration of Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month, let us carry forward the lessons learned and the connections made. Together, we can build a more inclusive and compassionate community, where diversity is embraced, and empathy flourishes.

Let Ramona School's celebration serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration, reminding us all that kindness, understanding, and acceptance can truly change the world, one dance party at a time.



**Marisa Stewart**  
*Principal*

## Difundir Empatía y Comprensión: Celebración del mes de Concientización Sobre la Parálisis Cerebral en la Escuela Ramona

En marzo, la Escuela Ramona adoptó una iniciativa vital: el Mes de Concientización sobre la Parálisis Cerebral, con entusiasmo y propósito. El objetivo era claro: educar a nuestros estudiantes sobre la parálisis cerebral, fomentar la empatía y celebrar la inclusión. En el centro de este esfuerzo se encontraba una persona inspiradora que no solo compartió su historia sino que también trajo alegría y risas a nuestra comunidad escolar.

El 11 de marzo, Ramona School dio la bienvenida a un invitado especial, el DJ Danny Wolf, cuya presencia iluminó los pasillos con positividad y resiliencia. Como alguien que vive con parálisis cerebral, la visita de DJ Danny no fue sólo un evento; fue una oportunidad para que nuestros estudiantes fueran testigos de primera mano de las capacidades y el espíritu de personas con diversas habilidades.

El día comenzó con una asamblea impactante diseñada para nuestros estudiantes de 3er grado. DJ Danny cautivó a la audiencia con su energía contagiosa y su narración sincera, ofreciendo información sobre su viaje con parálisis cerebral. A través de sus palabras, los estudiantes obtuvieron una comprensión más profunda de los desafíos que enfrentan las personas con parálisis cerebral y la importancia de la inclusión y el apoyo.

Después de la asamblea, DJ Danny organizó una fiesta de baile animada e inclusiva durante el recreo, abierta a estudiantes de 3.º, 4.º y 5.º grado. Las risas llenaron el aire mientras los estudiantes bailaban junto a DJ Danny, rompiendo barreras y fomentando conexiones. Fue una celebración de la diversidad, la resiliencia y el poder de la unidad.

Más allá de la emoción del día, el impacto de la visita de DJ Danny resonó profundamente en nuestra comunidad escolar. Los estudiantes no sólo aprendieron sobre la parálisis cerebral sino que también desarrollaron empatía y respeto por las personas con diversas habilidades. Fueron testigos de primera mano de que se deben celebrar las diferencias y de que todos merecen ser incluidos y valorados.

De cara al futuro, Ramona School anticipa con impaciencia futuras colaboraciones con el DJ Danny Wolf. Su visita no fue sólo un evento puntual sino el comienzo de un diálogo continuo sobre inclusión y aceptación. Al continuar interactuando con personas como DJ Danny, reforzamos nuestro compromiso de crear un ambiente escolar donde cada estudiante se sienta visto, escuchado y apoyado.

Mientras reflexionamos sobre nuestra celebración del Mes de Concientización sobre la Parálisis Cerebral, llevemos adelante las lecciones aprendidas y las conexiones establecidas. Juntos, podemos construir una comunidad más inclusiva y compasiva, donde se acepte la diversidad y florezca la empatía.

Dejemos que la celebración de la Escuela Ramona sirva como un faro de esperanza e inspiración, recordándonos a todos que la bondad, la comprensión y la aceptación realmente pueden cambiar el mundo, una fiesta de baile a la vez.

# Washington Elementary

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • [washington.hawthornesd.org](http://washington.hawthornesd.org)

## STEAM Expo

By Jennifer Gonzalez and Quynh Nguyen

Students at Washington Elementary School have been busy playing games they independently designed and built. Beginning in February, the GATE and MCL students in third, fourth and fifth grade were presented with their task. Their job was to design a carnival game to be displayed in the Inventor's Alley as part of the district STEAM Expo. First up was designing a game that was playable and winnable. Students worked in small groups and through trial and error, three unique games emerged. Next up was the building piece. Students were provided upcycled materials by the Two Bit Circus Foundation. Using their creativity and imagination students brought their designs to reality. Students not only participated in the engineering and design process, but also continued to use their collaborative skills as they worked together to ensure the success of their game. On the day of the expo, students proudly displayed their games and enjoyed watching other students playing them.



**Akila Jones**  
Principal

## Exposición de Vapor

Por Jennifer González y Quynh Nguyen

Los estudiantes de la Escuela Primaria Washington han estado ocupados jugando juegos que diseñaron y construyeron de forma independiente. A partir de febrero, se presentó su tarea a los estudiantes GATE y MCL de tercer, cuarto y quinto grado. Su trabajo consistía en diseñar un juego de carnaval que se exhibirá en Inventor's Alley como parte de la STEAM Expo del distrito. Lo primero fue diseñar un juego que fuera jugable y que se pudiera ganar. Los estudiantes trabajaron en grupos pequeños y, a través de prueba y error, surgieron tres juegos únicos. El siguiente paso fue la pieza de construcción. Los estudiantes recibieron materiales reciclados de la Fundación Two Bit Circus. Usando su creatividad e imaginación, los estudiantes hicieron realidad sus diseños. Los estudiantes no solo participaron en el proceso de ingeniería y diseño, sino que continuaron usando sus habilidades colaborativas mientras trabajaban juntos para garantizar el éxito de su juego. El día de la exposición, los estudiantes exhibieron con orgullo sus juegos y disfrutaron viendo a otros estudiantes jugarlos.



Students designing the games presented at the STEAM EXPO

Estudiantes diseñando los juegos presentados en STEAM EXPO

### Celebrating National Engineers' Week

On February 23, 2024, during National Engineers Week, York Elementary's GATE and MCL students immersed themselves in a dynamic event orchestrated by LAX and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). Engineers Matthew and Albert ignited students' curiosity with insightful Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) presentations, followed by interactive activities. The students enthusiastically explored the physics of sound and soundproofing techniques and also participated in a marshmallow and spaghetti tower challenge. Engaging directly with the engineers, York students posed questions, displaying an eagerness to learn. Grateful for the experience, students expressed their thanks through heartfelt letters and colorful illustrations. This initiative not only cultivated a deep-seated passion for STEAM but also served as a catalyst for inspiring the next generation of innovators and problem solvers, laying the foundation for their future endeavors in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics!



**Gina Cardillo**  
Principal

### Celebrando la Semana Nacional del Ingeniero

El 23 de febrero de 2024, durante la Semana Nacional de Ingenieros, los estudiantes GATE y MCL de York Elementary se sumergieron en un evento dinámico orquestado por LAX y Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA). Los ingenieros Matthew y Albert despertaron la curiosidad de los estudiantes con interesantes presentaciones de ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería, arte y matemáticas (STEAM), seguidas de actividades interactivas. Los estudiantes exploraron con entusiasmo la física del sonido y las técnicas de insonorización y también participaron en un desafío de torres de malvaviscos y espaguetis. Al interactuar directamente con los ingenieros, los estudiantes de York plantearon preguntas y mostraron entusiasmo por aprender. Agradecidos por la experiencia, los estudiantes expresaron su agradecimiento a través de sentidas cartas y coloridas ilustraciones. Esta iniciativa no solo cultivó una pasión profundamente arraigada por STEAM, sino que también sirvió como catalizador para inspirar a la próxima generación de innovadores y solucionadores de problemas, sentando las bases para sus futuros esfuerzos en ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería, arte y matemáticas.





# Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771 • [zd.hawthornesd.org](http://zd.hawthornesd.org)

## ZD STEM

By A. Morales, Assistant Principal

Zela Davis School's contribution to the HSD STEAM Expo this year was two-fold and phenomenal!

First, two of our second-grade classrooms designed and created carnival game boards using the scientific method (Investigate, Research, Hypothesize, Observe, Test, & Conclude). Teachers and students worked tirelessly to make the best carnival game boards. Some parents were amazed to learn that the games had been created by second-grade and not middle school children! Next, our STEM coach arranged a partnership between BCMS and ZD students to create video games. This group also used the scientific method to develop video games having the middle school students serving as mentors for the elementary school students. Our students did an outstanding job working in collaborative groups!

We are so proud of our ZD Rockets!



**Miguelina Lopez**  
Principal

## ZD STEM

Por A. Morales, Subdirectora

¡La contribución de la Escuela Zela Davis al HSD STEAM Expo este año fue doble y fenomenal!

Dos salones de segundo grado diseñaron y crearon tableros de juegos de carnaval utilizando el método científico (Preguntar, Investigar, Hipótesis, Observación, Prueba y Conclusión). Maestras y alumnos trabajaron incansablemente creando los mejores tableros de juegos de carnaval. ¡Padres fueron sorprendidos al saber que los juegos habían

sido creados por estudiantes de segundo grado y no por estudiantes de secundaria! La entrenadora STEM organizó una asociación entre los estudiantes de BCMS y ZD para crear videojuegos. Este grupo también utilizó el método científico para desarrollar videojuegos teniendo a los estudiantes de secundaria como mentores de estudiantes de primaria. ¡Nuestros estudiantes hicieron un trabajo tremendo en grupos colaborativos!

¡Estamos muy orgullosos de nuestros ZD Rockets!



**Carnival Games by 2nd Grade Students**

**Juegos de Carnaval, alumnos de 2º Grado**



**Older student mentoring younger student in student created video game.**

**Estudiante mayor asesora estudiante pequeño en videojuego**

## Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

### Survive the Fire!

Title: *I Survived – The Great Chicago Fire, 1871*

Author: Lauren Tarshis

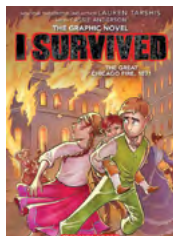
*I Survived* book series is a #1 New York Times bestselling series.

The series is about different children who survive famous (and deadly) historical disasters.

In this book, Oscar Starling is forced to move to Chicago with his mother and live with a man named Mr. Morrow after his father died in a storm. But shortly after he arrives, Oscar encounters a huge and deadly fire. In addition to that, Oscar needs to help two orphans named Jennie and Bruno. Will Oscar survive the fire and save Jennie and Bruno? I recommend you read this book to find out.

This book is historical, educational, and also hilarious. I hope that you will like it and learn about The Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed hundreds of people.

Aubtin is a 2nd Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading, and drawing. He also likes sports, trains, cars and computers. He cares a lot about his family and friends.



## Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

### Is Growing Apart Part of Growing Up?

*Jake and Lily* by Jerry Spinelli is a novel about twins.

Jake and Lily have always been close and have always done everything together. When they turn 11 and in middle school, their parents tell them it's time to separate bedrooms.

Jake starts spending more time with the boys while Lily is devastated and feels abandoned. Why can't twins keep being a shadow of one another forever? Is it expected for twins to do separate things and hang out with different friends when they get older? Will Jake and Lily get to spend a lot of time together ever again?

There is a lot of heartfelt and funny moments in this novel. I can relate since I am in middle school and I personally know a few pairs of boy/girl twins. Reading this book makes me think of those friends with their twins. Some struggle to separate from their twins while others still want to have them around and still want to do everything with their twins. I give this book 5 stars.

Kailani is a 6th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and choreograph fun dances with her friends.



## Keanu's Review



Keanu

### Are Dinosaurs Real?

*Dinosaurs Before Dark*

is the first book in the Magic Tree House series by Matt Berman. This book is about a brother Jack and sister Annie. The story takes place in

a magic tree house. Jack and Annie go back to the past when the dinosaurs were still alive. Was this adventure real or just a dream? Will the dinosaurs treat Jack and Annie nice? Will the dinosaurs hurt Jack and Annie? Will Jack and Annie be stuck in the past or will they come back to the real time to see their parents again?

I like this book because I like dinosaurs and I like adventure. It would be fun if my sister and I can go back in time and see dinosaurs like Jack and Annie. I give this book 5 stars. This book is for anyone, especially the ones who love adventures and dinosaurs.

Keanu is a kind-hearted kindergartener who loves to play. Basketball, soccer, and parkour are his favorite activities. Being in a Spanish Dual Immersion Program, he loves to read books in both English and Spanish.



## Madeleine's Review



Madeleine J.

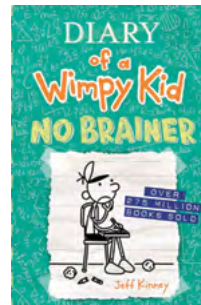
### Greg's Hard Life

"No Brainer" is book #18 from the exciting series "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by Jeff Kinney. The characters are always the same in this series — Greg, his parents, brothers

Rodrick and Manny, and his best friend Rowley. Greg has a "hard life" because he had to change schools. His old school ran out of money and had to shut down. Greg wanted to go to a private school, but eventually he had to go to a public school worse than his old one.

The author's writing style is narrative because he describes a lot about characters and allows us to picture it in our minds. Also, the illustrations allow readers to better understand what's going on. I think you should read this book because it's funny and the characters do silly things.

Madeleine is in 4th grade, and she likes to do martial arts, and she has a passion for drawing, swimming, making stories, and reading books.



## Sourish's Review



**Sourish M.**

### The Battle of Survival!

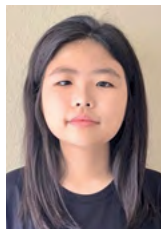
Have you ever wanted a Video game to be real? *Dragon Ops*, a book written by Mari Mancusi that demonstrates this exact topic! It shows the main character Ian Rivera, a video



game enthusiast ,his sister Lili, and his cousin Derek get invited to play Dragon Ops, an augmented virtual reality video game theme park. However, as soon as they had approached, their time there would be more dangerous than before. This book is very suspenseful and keeps you on your toes! It shows the development of characters, the adventure of a lifetime, and incorporates the fantasy aspects, wishing it was real. The author displays familiarity to previously known topics as well as uses vivid visualization of being in a virtual reality world. The journey these heroes have to face is difficult but in order to triumph in their battle, they must pursue to end Arteus, the Dragon of Fire.

Sourish M. is an eighth grader who is enthusiastic to learn and understand how the world works. He likes Science,Engineering, Reading, swimming, plays soccer, Basketball, Guitar, Viola and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours in nature and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

## Taegyong's Book Review

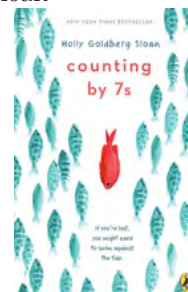


**Taegyong K.**

### Gifted or Not

Title: *Counting by 7s*  
Author: Holly Goldberg Sloan

Willow Chance is adopted, but her parents love her intensely for who she is. In Kindergarten, tests confirm she is gifted. But when a



teacher gives her class a standardized test the first week of middle school and Willow scores 100 percent, she is sent to the principal's office for cheating. In turn, the principal assigns Willow to attend sessions with a behavioral counselor, Dell Duke, who hates children. When Willow meets Mai Nguyen, who soon becomes her friend. Since Willow has no known relatives, she's forced to reside with Dell Duke until she can find a foster home. As Mai takes matters into her own hands, the story takes a charming turn. "Counting by 7s" is a thoughtful story about dealing with losses and coping with being different than others. It's both heart-wrenching yet beautifully crafted at the same time.

Taegyong K. is a 8th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

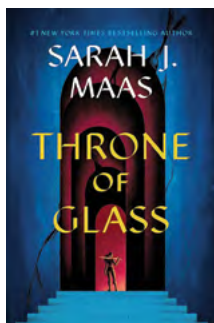
## Tegan's Book Review



**Tegan Y.**

### Fatal Game

*Throne of Glass* by Sarah J. Maas is a captivating fantasy novel that follows the journey of an assassin–Celaena Sardothien–as she competes in a deadly tournament to



win her freedom. The development is rich and immersive, drawing readers with intricate details and characters. Celaena is a fierce protagonist, whose strength and vulnerability make her a compelling and relatable heroine. The plot is full of twists and turns, keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the very end. Overall, *Throne of Glass* is a thrilling and addictive read that will leave readers eagerly anticipating the next installment.

I give *Throne of Glass* a rating of 4.9/5 stars for its engaging storytelling, well-crafted characters, and exciting plot. Sarah J. Maas created a vivid and enthralling world that will appeal to fans of fantasy, a must for anyone looking for a read with a strong female lead.

### A Fierce Intrigue

*Crown of Midnight* by Sarah J. Maas is the gripping second installment of the *Throne of Glass* series. This book follows assassin Celaena Sardothien as she navigates a dangerous world of politics, magic, and betrayal. While Celaena grapples with her own demons, she struggles to find her place in a world that seeks to control her. As Celaena uncovers dark secrets about her past and faces new enemies, she must decide where her loyalties truly lie. The fast-paced plot, complex characters, and unexpected betrayals make this a read that will keep you glued.

The author's writing is a work of art and the world-building is rich and immersive, Maas paints a fantasy realm filled with magic and intrigue. Thus, *Crown of Midnight* is a satisfying continuation of the series that will leave readers eager for more. I rate it 4.7/5 stars.



Tegan is a sixth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, writing,and reading.

# Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu

## Fostering Environmental Stewardship at LACOE



**Debra Duardo,**  
**M.S.W., Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

As we celebrate Earth Month this April, the Los Angeles County Office of Education is proud to champion a range of innovative initiatives that empower students, educators and communities to become leaders in environmental stewardship.

### **Learning by Doing: Immersing Students in Nature's Classroom**

Nature serves as our greatest classroom, and Our Outdoor and Marine Science Field Study unit provides unparalleled opportunities for students to connect with the natural world. The cornerstone programs, the Outdoor Science School and the Marine Science Floating Lab, offer immersive, hands-on learning experiences.

Fifth and sixth graders can embark on a transformative journey at the Outdoor Science School, a residential program nestled in the San Gabriel Mountains. This five-day adventure fosters a deep appreciation for nature through exploration, experimentation and connection with the local ecosystem.

Meanwhile, the Marine Science Floating Lab takes students on a thrilling exploration of the vibrant marine life in San Pedro Bay. Through a combination of scientific instruments and close observation, students uncover the wonders of the ocean and its crucial role in our planet's health. Both programs are testaments to the power of learning through direct experience in nature.

### **Building a Greener Future: Empowering Educators and Schools**

The History-Social Science unit supports districts and schools who wish to submit and apply for the Green Ribbon school designation. The unit also provides opportunities to learn about civics engagement, combining History-Social Science content with science for students to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement.

The STEM Science unit complements these efforts through a range of customized workshops for schools and districts. These interactive sessions delve into Environmental Literacy, Climate Change solutions and Sustainable Materials use. By equipping educators with knowledge and resources, we empower them to integrate environmental principles into the curriculum, fostering a generation of environmentally conscious citizens.

### **Collaboration for a Sustainable Future: The Green Schools Symposium**

Our annual Green Schools Symposium serves as a vibrant hub for educators, administrators, and sustainability enthusiasts. This event offers a platform for sharing best practices, learning from sustainability experts and discovering innovative approaches to creating eco-friendly schools. Workshops on sustainable facilities management and advancements in green technology showcase the dynamic possibilities of a greener future for our schools.

These initiatives are just a glimpse into our unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability. By fostering a culture of environmental awareness and action within our schools, we empower students and educators to become stewards of our planet, building a brighter and more sustainable future for generations to come.