

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Fountain Valley School District**



Volume 20, Issue 118

June 2024



## A Dynamic Learning Environment



# Classroom and Supplies Loans

just for school employees



## 0% APR Loans

**Classroom Supplies Loan** - Certificated school employees can borrow up to \$1,000 to buy what's needed to keep students engaged.<sup>1</sup>

**Uniform Loan** - Classified school employees can borrow up to \$500 to buy clothing, shoes or tools needed to do their job well.<sup>2</sup>

## Computer Loan

School employees can borrow up to \$2,500 to buy laptops, printers, webcams and more at a lower rate than a personal loan.



**Learn more at [schoolsfirstfcu.org/supplies](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org/supplies)**  
**Not a Member? Join today at [schoolsfirstfcu.org/join](https://schoolsfirstfcu.org/join)**

APR = Annual Percentage Rate. All loans subject to approval. **1.** Available to certificated school employees with Membership in good standing. Rate quoted includes a 0.75% discount for automatic transfer payment. Requires at least one recently posted payroll deduction or direct deposit of at least \$100 into a SchoolsFirst FCU share account. Limit one per calendar year. **2.** Available to classified school employees with Membership in good standing. Rate quoted includes a 0.75% discount for automatic transfer payment. Minimum payment \$25/month. Requires at least one recently posted payroll deduction or direct deposit of at least \$50 into a SchoolsFirst FCU share account. Limit one per calendar year.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Steven Schultz**  
President



**Sandra Crandall**  
President Pro-Tem



**Dennis Cole**  
Clerk



**Phu Nguyen**  
Member



**Jeanne Galindo**  
Member

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Katherine Stopp**  
Superintendent

The 2024 Monster Concert was a spectacular success, showcasing talented musicians from all seven elementary schools and three middle schools within the Fountain Valley School District, as well as the Fountain Valley High School music department. The audience was mesmerized by outstanding band and orchestra performances, filling the stands with applause and cheers.

This remarkable event was made possible through our valuable partnership with the Arts & Learning Conservatory, which provides instrumental music instruction to students in grades 3-5. Special thanks go to Fountain Valley High School Instrumental Music Director Jackson Lai, and our dedicated Music Directors Rob Covacevich, Jeremy Lamatia, and Michael Miller for their unwavering support and guidance.

We are incredibly grateful to all the parents, guardians, family members, and friends who attended and supported our young musicians. Your presence made this event truly memorable.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

*By Jeanne Galindo, Board Member*

The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) is a key tool in enhancing student success. The LCAP outlines our district's goals, actions, and funding priorities to support academic achievement, student engagement, and overall student wellbeing.

The LCAP process values community input, and we've held forums and surveys to gather your feedback. Your contributions help shape a plan that truly reflects our community's needs.

The FVSD 2024-2025 LCAP focuses on continued support of resources for Positive Behavior & Intervention, school/classroom libraries, a district-wide PE Program, English Learner (EL) programs, and high-dose tutoring for ELs and students needing academic intervention. Additionally, we will expand technology resources, continue with Counselors and Behavior Intervention Assistants, and leverage one-time funding sources to compliment LCAP actions. To ensure a stronger home-school partnership, FVSD will work to better engage our families.

The FVSD LCAP embodies our dedication to fostering a dynamic learning environment for all students. Please visit our website and click here to learn more about FVSD and our LCAP. <https://www.fvdsd.us/apps/pages/LCAP>



**School News**   
Education + Communication = A Better Nation  
[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**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

 @SchoolNewsRC

 SchoolNewsRollCall

 SchoolNewsRollCall

**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 Fountain Valley School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



## Read, Renew, Repeat

Kimberly Tran-Hoang, Children & Teen Librarian

This year's Summer Reading Challenge will begin June 17 through August 4. Read for 20 days and check in weekly to get a prize! After your child has completed reading for 20 days, you get to choose a free book of your own choice and will be entered into an opportunity drawing.

Our Summer Reading Challenge is not just for children, but for all ages! Sign up online at [ocpl.beanstack.org](http://ocpl.beanstack.org) beginning June 1, or in-person on June 17.

Below are some highlights of upcoming summer programs:

### Children & Families

Spanish Bilingual Storytime:

Fridays, June 28 & July 26 at 11am

Vietnamese Bilingual Storytime:

Saturday, June 22, and Friday, July 19 at 11am

Unplug & Play: Fourth Saturdays at 2pm

Performer Tuesdays in July!: Every Tuesday after the 4th of July holiday will have a special afternoon performance from magicians to animals to STEM. Check out our Program Calendar for more details.

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

### Teens

Ice Cream 101 Workshop – Saturday, June 8 at 2pm

Animescapes - Third Thursdays, June 17 & July 15 at 4pm

We are looking for volunteers for our Summer Reading Program (ages 13-18). Ask for a volunteer form if interested and attend the orientation on June 4 at 5pm.

### Adults

Author Talk with John M. Borack:

Saturday, June 15 at 11am

Soapmaking Workshop: Tuesday, June 25 at 4pm

Michael Rayner Juggling Show:

Saturday, June 29 at 4pm

Author Talk with Nicola Harrison:

Thursday, July 11 at 5pm

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

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 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)  
support@integem.com  
408-459-0657

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

## Summer Surf Camps

Daily Private Lessons Also Available

For kids ages 5-15  
Monday-Friday  
June 10th - August 19th  
11th St. in Huntington Beach

SIGN UP AT  
[wavehuggers.com/reservations](http://wavehuggers.com/reservations)  
OR CALL US AT 310-910-9099



# Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • [www.ocde.us](http://www.ocde.us)



**Dr. Ramon Miramontes**  
Deputy  
Superintendent  
of Instructional  
Programs

It's always a pleasure to visit Orange County schools, but on May 2, my mode of transportation looked a little different.

On that day, I was one of several passengers riding on a bright yellow school bus to let six stellar educators know they had been named the 2025 Orange County Teachers of the Year.

Our bus driver dutifully transported OCDE representatives, camera crews, sponsors and reporters to local campuses, where we surprised teachers from five local districts and one community college — often walking straight into their classrooms to a soundtrack of applause and clicking camera shutters.

Surrounded by their colleagues, students and family members, the honorees were presented with an apple-shaped trophy and prizes from SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union. And just when the news couldn't get any better, Jenny and Jeff Gross from the Orange County Teachers of the Year Award Foundation told each winner they would also receive a \$25,000 check courtesy of the William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Family Foundation.

Emotions ranged from pure joy and complete shock to tear-filled eyes. Meanwhile, school leaders found unique ways to add a personal touch to the celebrations.

Rosanna Harshman of Huntington Beach High School in the Huntington Beach Union High School District was serenaded by an early morning marching band, accompanied by cheerleaders. Speaking of cheers, Joseph King of Hope School in the Anaheim Union High School District was cheered by the entire campus during a school-wide "Hopechella Music Festival." Katie Mayfield of Arbolita Elementary School in the La Habra City School District was surprised mid-lesson in her colorful classroom.

The other Teachers of the Year for 2025 are Cassandra Cabrera of Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School in Santa Ana Unified, Jordanna Jahn of Irvine Intermediate School in Garden Grove Unified and Keisha Cosand of Golden West College.

Each of these winners was selected following a rigorous review and multiple interviews conducted by a panel of educators and community members. And we're not done celebrating. On Nov. 1, they will be formally honored at a dinner gala at the Disneyland Hotel, and the TK-12 recipients will now have the chance to compete for California Teacher of the Year.

The day we announce our Teachers of the Year really is one of the most special days of the year, filled with celebrations that reflect the passion Orange County educators bring to their classrooms. It's a chance to show educators how much they're appreciated and to honor their profound and far-reaching impact on students' lives and our communities. Filling in for County Superintendent Dr. Al Mijares, I am incredibly grateful and proud to celebrate their achievements.

Oh, and to the school bus driver who smoothly navigated Orange County traffic and got us to each stop on time: five stars.




**Learn about**  
World History  
US History  
Videos • Art • Music  
Study Habits



**FREE**  
Enjoy!  
History Buffs  
Teachers  
Students

**HistoryDepot.com**

**GLOBAL VISION**  
**OPTOMETRY**  
*Family Eye Care*



**We offer Myopia Management with OrthoK or soft contact lenses or eye drops.**

**Contact our office for more details.**  
*\*Mention this Ad for \$200 off Myopia Management package.*

- Eye Exams - Glasses & Contact Lenses
- Full Optical - Name Brands & Fashion Eyewear
- Medical Eye Exams - Red/Dry/Pink Eye
- Minor Eye Injuries/ FB Removal
- Lasik/Cataract Consult
- Corneal Topography & Retinal Photos
- Myopia Management
- In House Lab Available Glasses Ready Same Day! (SV, Rx in stock only)

*Insurances we accept:*  
VSP, EYEMED, SPECTERA, MES, SUPERIOR, DAVIS, VBA & more

**STEPHANY VONG, O.D AND ASSOCIATES**  
18569 Main St.,  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
(Located in the 5 Points Plaza)  
**(714) 780-2008**  
[www.globalvisionoptometry.com](http://www.globalvisionoptometry.com)





**Jennifer Rodriguez**  
coordinator,  
Injury Prevention Program,  
MemorialCare Miller Children's  
& Women's Hospital Long Beach

## Playing it Safe on the Playground

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach offers tips to help keep children safe on the playground.

Visiting the playground is more than fun. It's an opportunity for children to develop physically, mentally, and socially through unstructured play. However, in the United States, approximately 200,000 children seek medical attention in emergency departments each year for injuries related to playground equipment.

The key to preventing playtime injuries is safety education. At MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, the Injury Prevention Program is dedicated to providing safety education to children and families in our community.

Playground safety tips:

- Supervision isn't negotiable; it's imperative
- Ensure playground equipment is suitable for your child's age
- Check for hazards such as broken equipment, sharp edges or protruding screws
- Teach children how to use equipment properly and avoid risky behaviors like pushing or shoving

"Even on safe, age-appropriate playgrounds, adult supervision is the best way to prevent injuries," says Jennifer Rodriguez, injury prevention coordinator, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach. "Nearly half of all playground injuries could be

avoided with proper supervision. It's crucial to maintain a visual line of sight with children at all times and be ready to intervene at any moment."

Avoid playgrounds with concrete footings, rocks or tree stumps. The safest surfaces around playground equipment are wood chips, mulch, sand, or mats made of safety-tested rubber.

"Concussions are a common injury on playgrounds," says Rodriguez. "I urge parents to learn the symptoms, and if you think your child has a concussion, seek medical attention right away."

Additionally, encourage children to drink water regularly, especially on hot days. Sunscreen and hats should be used to protect against ultraviolet rays, even on cloudy days. On sunny days, look for playgrounds that are in shaded areas as playground equipment can get very hot and can cause serious burns.

Finally, having a first aid kit handy is paramount; scrapes and bruises are bound to happen on the playground, but being prepared can help address minor injuries and prevent infection — keeping playtime on track.

To learn more, please contact (562) 933-9151 or visit [millerchildrens.org/injury-prevention-program](http://millerchildrens.org/injury-prevention-program).



**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



# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Lisa Tanita**  
*Principal*

## Spring Highlights: Celebrating Excellence and Diversity

In April, we had the pleasure of honoring Mr. Eric Sandler as our Classified Employee of the Year. Senor Sandler is our amazing dedicated Bilingual Aide. One of our teachers shared, "Eric is one of the kindest and hard-working aides that I have worked with in the past 20 years. He is always prompt, respectful, helpful and pleasant to be around. He is always positive and I have never seen

him without a smile." Whether he is assisting a student with school work or adjusting his schedule to help a new student from Paraguay transition to life in America, his unwavering commitment leaves a lasting, positive impact on our student's lives. Congratulations Mr. Eric Sandler on this well-deserved recognition!



This spring, our school community hosted our second Multicultural Night. A heartfelt thank you to our remarkable PTA and the entire school community, for their invaluable support in commemorating the rich tapestry of cultures that enrich our school. Students enjoyed traveling around the globe, immersing themselves in interactive displays and captivating performances from around the world.





# 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 Olila**  
*Principal*

## Multicultural Celebrations

On April 19th, Cox Elementary School hosted a vibrant Multicultural Fashion Show, celebrating the diverse backgrounds of its community. The fashion show has been an important part of school tradition for more than 50 years. We take great pride in our faithful ability to value each

other's cultures and individual traits. All of our children work together, play together, and learn together. Thanks to Ms. Klusmeyer's organization, the event featured enthusiastic participation from students and teachers, showcasing traditional attire and cultural pride.

The celebration of cultures continued with special assemblies in partnership with the Segerstrom Center for the Arts' Arts Teach Program. These assemblies included performances by professional dance troupes. Danza Azteca Xochipilli displayed traditional Aztec dances, Island Inspirations brought the lively dances of the Pacific Islands, and Arte Flamenco showcased the passionate art of Flamenco dancing. Each group also educated the students on the history and traditions behind their performances. Students were engaged to join in on the dancing!



**Cox students enjoying a presentation from Danza Azteca.**



**Cox students enjoying a presentation from Island Inspirations.**



**Cox students that are representing their cultural heritage in the Fashion Show.**



**Cox students enjoying a presentation from Arte Flamenco.**





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

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



**Jenny Salberg**  
Principal



**Molly Kuykendall**  
Assistant Principal

## Recognizing the Unsung Heroes: The Invaluable Contribution of Support Staff

In the bustling corridors and classrooms of our school, some unsung heroes tirelessly work behind the scenes, enriching our students' lives and ensuring our campus's smooth

operation. At Fulton Middle School, each member of our support team plays a crucial role in shaping our students' educational journey.



Instructional aides are the backbone of our classrooms, offering personalized attention and assistance to students with diverse learning needs. They provide crucial support to teachers, helping to implement lesson

plans and reinforcing concepts, thus fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment. Their commitment to nurturing the academic growth of our students is commendable and deeply appreciated.



Our campus supervisors ensure the safety and well-being of our students during school hours, maintaining order and discipline with care and compassion. They are the vigilant guardians of our school grounds, offering a reassuring presence and quick response to emergencies.

As we express our gratitude to each support staff member, let us remember that their contributions extend far beyond their job descriptions. Let us celebrate their invaluable role in shaping the lives of our students and express our heartfelt appreciation for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Fulton Middle School is truly blessed to have such remarkable individuals in our midst, and we are eternally grateful for their unwavering support and dedication.





# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Katherine Pavidis**  
*Principal*

## Recognizing Excellence

In a time when recognition and appreciation are more important than ever, Fountain Valley School District and the City of Fountain Valley take pride in celebrating the outstanding contributions of its staff members.

### **FVSD and the City of FV Special Education Teacher of the Year:**

Special education teachers play a vital role in supporting students with diverse learning

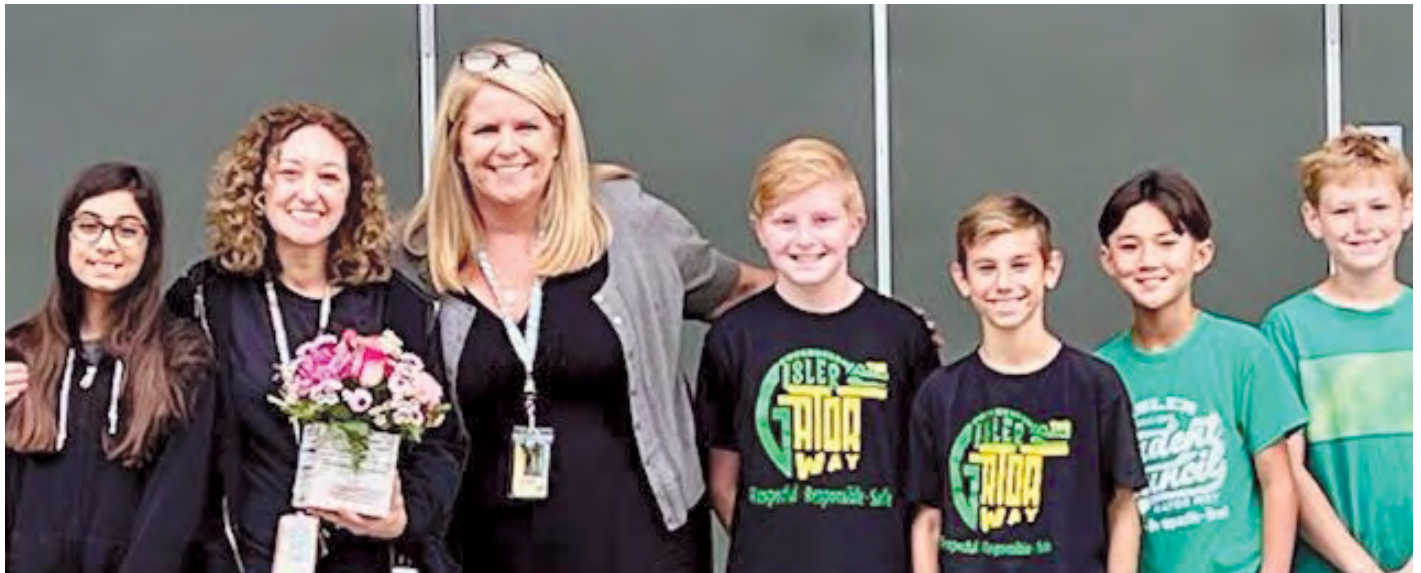
needs, and this year, Mrs. Lisa Diecidue, has been recognized as the FVSD and City of FV Special Education Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Diecidue is an exceptional educator whose commitment to inclusivity and student support is truly inspiring. Her unwavering dedication ensures that every student receives the resources they need to thrive. Her efforts have led to transformative changes in our school, securing grants for inclusivity and advocating for special education in curriculum development for all students in our district. Her passion and advocacy make her a valuable asset to our community, strengthening trust and fostering a supportive learning environment for all.

### **Gisler's Classified Employee of the Year:**

Mrs. Cathy Harris currently serves as an instructional classroom assistant in our transitional kinder program. Mrs. Harris has exceptional rapport with students, staff, and families. She has unparalleled work ethic and a positive demeanor that make her a standout in our school community. Placing students at the forefront, she embodies kindness, collaboration, and positivity. Her reliability, excellent communication, and positive attitude enrich our educational environment, creating a vibrant space for learning and teaching.



**Mrs. Cathy Harris, Classified Employee of the Year**



**Mrs. Diecidue FVSD/City of FV Special Education Teacher of the Year**



# Kazuo Masuda *Middle School*(6–8)

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



**Cara Robinson**  
Principal



**Jessica O'Malley**  
Assistant Principal

## Masuda's Future Monarchs!

Masuda is knee-deep in preparing for our incoming students for the fall of 2024! On May 15th, we hosted all incoming 5th graders and their parents for a special night orienting students to our program and hosting an ice cream

social! A large part of our school culture includes our three leadership groups —PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership), WEB (Where Everyone Belongs), and our traditional ASB (Associated Student Body). Each of these student groups presented to over three hundred audience members. Students also had the chance to win a variety of spirit wear/raffle goodies as part of our welcome! Cheerleaders greeted students and their families as they entered the door, they were given a raffle ticket and dished a bowl of delicious ice cream and their choice of toppings! Students asked questions, singed up for electives and heard from their leadership peers. What a great night celebrating our school here at Masuda!





# William T. Newland *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Matt Ploski**  
*Principal*

## Newland Dolphins' Imaginations Come to Life!

At Newland Elementary, we believe in the power of imagination to inspire and educate. Thanks to our supportive PTA, our students were thrilled to participate in a storytelling program designed to bring their creativity to life. Through Interactive sessions and creative writing activities, students had the opportunity to craft their own stories, explore new worlds, and share their unique voices. The culmination was a partnership with Imagination Machine, who selected stories to enact in front of the students and their parents. Watching the students' faces as their stories were brought to life was pure joy!





# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

## **Congratulations Ms. Jackie**

Oka is thrilled to honor Jackie Kap as our Classified Employee of the Year for 2024. She is recognized for her exceptional qualities of dependability, knowledge, productivity, and cooperation. As the lead food service person, Jackie is a cornerstone of reliability, ensuring tasks are efficiently completed

and offering invaluable support to colleagues. Her friendly demeanor and hardworking nature have made her beloved among students and staff, creating a welcoming kitchen environment filled with fun decorations, daily menus, jokes, and birthday wishes. Jackie's dedication extends to building positive relationships with students, greeting each by name, and fostering a sense of belonging. She also promotes hard work and perseverance, motivating students academically. Beyond her immediate duties, Jackie leads our district's Go Gold efforts for Pediatric Cancer Research, collaborating with schools and businesses. Her immense contributions make her a deserving recipient of this prestigious award.



**Ms. Jackie was surprised with a heartfelt school wide celebration to announce that she was employee of the year.**



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

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



**Dr. Patrick Ham**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating Plavan's Classified Employee of the Year – 2024!

Plavan's 2024 Classified Employee of the Year is the remarkable Mrs. Peggy Blydt-Hensen! Mrs. Peggy currently serves as our Transitional Kindergarten Instructional Assistant

in Mrs. Manthorne's TK classroom, where she works her magic. Colleagues commend her punctuality, dedication, and her remarkable ability to handle any situation with grace, professionalism, and a great deal of love for all our little 4 and 5-year-olds.

Mrs. Manthorne, our esteemed TK teacher who has been Mrs. Peggy's partner for over a decade, expressed how working with her for the past 11 years has been a delight. She lauded Mrs. Peggy's work ethic, attention to detail in preparing tasks, as well as her talent for engaging small groups of students, keeping them focused, redirecting when necessary, and tending to their needs with unparalleled care.



Every morning, Mrs. Peggy is the first staff member that our TK students and families encounter during drop-off. She exudes warmth, welcomes students and parents, and sets the stage for the inviting and inclusive atmosphere that our school is renowned for.

Notably, Mr. and Mrs. Hansen have raised three outstanding young men, all former Plavan students, who, like their parents, embody excellence in every aspect.

Congratulations to Mrs. Peggy – Thank you for establishing the tone and atmosphere of TK, the heart and soul of Plavan Elementary School!





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

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



**Jay Adams**  
Principal

## Talbert PAL Recognized as 2024 Outstanding Program for Orange County!

The Talbert PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership) Group is one of Talbert's most active electives. Advisor Robin Franks encourages PAL's

and their peers to make healthy life decisions and provide opportunities to create a supportive and safe school environment. Students learn decision-making skills, refusal skills to counter negative influences, communication skills, conflict management skills, how to be positive role-models, how to embrace social responsibility, and how to plan and implement service-learning projects.

This year, the PALs have completed some amazing feats! They have raised over \$4,000 for Pediatric Cancer Research, and \$400 for a family in need here in our Talbert Community. They brighten our teachers' days by helping in classrooms and brighten our campus with their uplifting posters.



During this past month, the PAL's have sponsored "Mental Health Week" activities to ensure that their peers are aware of the importance of being aware of and taking care of their own mental health and well-being! We had lots of fun activities from relaxing origami folding to hanging out with baby GOATS during lunchtime! (Both of which brought a big smile, for sure!)

We're so grateful for the difference these PAL's make on our campus and in our community on a daily basis!





# Hisamatsu Tamura Elementary (K-5)

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



**Chris Mullin**  
Principal

## Tamura Celebrates Robotics

Tamura recently held an end of year celebration for our robotics and coding club. Students were able to show off their work throughout the year to family, friends, FVSD Board members and administrators. Mrs. Hom and her staff did an amazing working with Tamura students and helping them learn the intricacies of coding and working with robots.

Introducing robotics and coding programs in elementary schools enables teachers to foster critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills at an early age. These programs provide hands-on learning experiences that engage our students in a way that traditional teaching methods sometimes cannot. By working with robots and coding platforms, Tamura students learn to approach problems methodically, develop logical reasoning, and experiment with different solutions. Studies show that this experiential learning helps our students understand complex concepts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics more effectively, laying a solid foundation for future academic and career pursuits.



Furthermore, early exposure to robotics and coding can help bridge the digital divide and promote inclusivity in technology education. As these fields continue to grow and dominate the job market, providing access to these programs ensures that all students, regardless of

background, have the opportunity to develop essential 21st-century skills. By normalizing the use of technology from a young age, students become more comfortable and proficient with it, which can inspire a lifelong interest in STEM fields. This not only prepares our Tamura students for future careers but also empowers them to be innovators and active participants in an increasingly digital world.

