

# School News



*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Ocean View School District**

Volume 20, Issue 118

June 2024

## Ocean View School District Honors Its Volunteers of the Year





**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)**



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## SUPERINTENDENT



### Enriching Education through Community Partnerships

Ocean View School District takes great pride in fostering connections with our community partners to continually offer exceptional opportunities for our students. These partnerships not only enrich our students' learning experiences, but also benefit the community.

**Dr. Michael Conroy**  
*Superintendent*

Wing Lam, owner of Wahoo's Fish Taco, visited Mesa View Middle School's gardening class and used the students' harvested vegetables and herbs to create a delicious pico de gallo. Gaining real-world skills through these experiences is invaluable.

Our ongoing partnership with the Surf City Optimist Club recently celebrated the winners of the Ocean View School District/Optimist Essay & Oratorical Contest. Members of the Optimist Club also visit school sites to teach kids how to play marbles, fish, and race pinewood derby cars, to name a few.

Lake View Elementary hosted a career day featuring several community members, including representatives from the Huntington Beach Fire Department, a local fashion designer, a City Councilmember, and a Netflix marketing team member.

The Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee visited both Hope View Elementary and Mesa View, presenting them with checks to support arts education. At Village View Elementary, WK Kellogg, in collaboration with the local Albertsons and Vons, donated 200 books from Random House and gifted the Dolphins a check for \$2,500.

Ocean View School District is deeply grateful for the support from our community partners. Together, we continue to create enriching and memorable experiences for our students, helping them to thrive both academically and personally.

## Board of Trustees



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## Ocean View End Of Year

*By Jack C. Souders, Board President*

The 2023-2024 school year has been filled with remarkable accomplishments and memorable moments. We have seen our students excel academically, grow socially, and flourish creatively, thanks to the combined efforts of our exceptional teachers, staff, parents, and community members.

Our students have demonstrated outstanding academic growth and achievement this year. From the inquisitive minds in Transitional Kindergarten discovering the joy of learning, to our 8th graders preparing to transition to high school with a strong academic foundation, our commitment to excellence has shone brightly. We are proud of our students' accomplishments, in daily lessons, classroom projects, and of course on standardized tests.

Our open houses and family nights have been a resounding success, fostering a strong connection between home and school. These events provided invaluable opportunities for parents to engage with their children's learning environment, meet with teachers, and witness firsthand the incredible work happening in our classrooms.

Notably, this year, OVSD, for the first time ever, hosted a district-wide art festival, which brought together students, families, and local community members in celebration and support of visual, performing, and industrial arts, our students, and their incredible talents.

Overall, the success of this school year is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and students. Our teachers have gone above and beyond to provide engaging and innovative instruction, thereby fostering a love of learning in their students. Our students, in turn, have demonstrated resilience, curiosity, and a commitment to their education. Together, they have created an inspiring and supportive learning environment.

As we reflect on the achievements of this year, we look forward to building on this success in the coming school year. We remain committed to providing a high-quality education that nurtures the academic, social, and emotional growth of every student. With continued support and partnership between our community and staff, we will make the Ocean View School District a place where every student can thrive.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



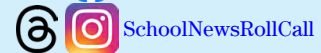
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Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your activity choices. On page 5 the Huntington Beach Public Library highlights their free programs. Also, the City of Huntington Beach has many programs to enjoy.

Our next issue is September 25.



Start them early. They will read forever.

## Summer Surf Camps

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# Huntington Beach Public Library

7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/374-5338 • www.hbpl.org

## Adventure Begins at Huntington Beach Public Library!

By Laura Jenkins, Senior Youth Services Librarian

Summer Reading Program runs from June 22 through August 10! Get ready for exciting events, literary adventures, and plenty of programs designed to spark creativity. At the center of every Summer Reading Program, though, is the Summer Reading Challenge, which encourages kids to read more during their time away from school. Research has shown that reading over the summer prevents summer reading loss, and that students read more when they can choose materials based on their own interests. Join the Summer Reading Challenge and tackle summer learning loss head-on - and earn prizes along the way, too!



Families make caterpillar crafts at the 2023 Summer Kickoff Carnival. This year's Carnival takes place Saturday, June 22, from 10am – 2pm at Central Library.

## City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553  
[www.huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov)



**Gracey Van Der Mark**  
Mayor

### School is Out for Summer!

As another great school year comes to an end, it's time to get out the sunscreen and hit the beach! Huntington Beach will host a number of great events again this summer.

Our 4th of July Parade – “Through the Decades” the City’s 120th annual parade, will be featured on KABC, Channel 7. Launched in 1904, the first Huntington Beach 4th of July celebration commemorated the arrival of the first electric passenger train linking

the area with Long Beach and Los Angeles, attracting 50,000 people to the celebration. 120 years later, the annual tradition annually attracts more than 500,000 attendees.

Next, the Vans US Open of Surfing comes to town August 3-11. New entertainment spectacles this year include Nitro Circus Full Throttle FMX and live music. And save the date for this fall as the Pacific Airshow returns Oct. 4-6, 2024.

I want to congratulate everyone on successful school year. See you at the beach!

Attend the FREE Summer Kickoff Carnival on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central Library to sign up for the challenge and start your summer off in style. There will be games, shows, food, special performances, and more. We hope to see you there

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# Child Development Programs

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach • 16692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach • 8251 Heil Ave., Westminster • 714/847-2551 X 1107 • [www.ovsd.org/domain/1652](http://www.ovsd.org/domain/1652)



**Sue Broderson**  
Coordinator

## So Much Growth and Change

Excitement was in the air! After working hard to learn our ABCs, counting letters, learning to share and keeping our hands to ourselves, learning how to hold a pencil correctly, cutting, pasting, and painting, and learning how to be a kind friend, it was finally time to show off our work to our families.

Oak View's preschool students were proud to be bringing their families to our beautifully decorated classroom that displayed the tremendous growth each child had accomplished during the year. As the students bounced from display to display, the parents laughed and basked in their children's accomplishments.

Preschool is the gateway to a lifetime of learning, and our preschool students have achieved so much in one year. At the beginning of the year some of the students had struggled to let go of a familiar adult at drop-off, but by the end of the year they were running to the classrooms to hug their teachers!



The relationships are deep, and lifelong for many. For most of the staff at Oak View Preschool the commitment to educating children runs deep. Some educators started as parents and found their calling in helping little ones grow and develop. Their love for nurturing young learners is evident years later when these students return to visit after graduating from high school, or even bring the next generation to preschool.

These are the times that validate educators for all of the little things they do to support the whole child. So thank you, Ocean View Preschool staff, for your many years of service in providing engaging and enriching instruction for the Huntington Beach community. You are what makes our children flourish!



# Circle View Elementary (K-5)

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • [www.ovsd.org/circle](http://www.ovsd.org/circle)



**Jessica Haag**  
Principal

## Outdoor Learning!

Our Circle View Eagles have been learning and progressing so much this school year. We also like to take our learning outside the four walls of our classrooms with fun field trips. In just the past few weeks, our 4th graders visited Mission San Juan Capistrano and saw so much that they had studied in their Social Studies books, our 3rd graders went to the Wetlands, our 2nd graders visited Shipley's Nature Center, and our 1st graders went to the Cabrillo Aquarium. And our TK students visited the Golden View Farm—right here in our own school district! They learned more about plants and animals and saw so many that they have never seen with their own eyes before. We are so thankful to our Circle View PTO for their fundraising efforts so our students can have all these experiences. And, of course, to our Circle View teachers who do all the planning and organizing.



Students at Various Field Trips

# College View *Elementary (K-5)*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • [www.ovsd.org/college](http://www.ovsd.org/college)



**Allen Mendrin**  
*Principal*

## Engaging Our Families

College View Elementary is not just a school—it's a vibrant community where families play an integral role in their children's education. With a variety of engaging activities and events, the school ensures that families are actively involved in their children's learning journey.

From the annual Halloween parade to Family STEM night and Family Read on the Lawn, there is always something happening at College View. These events not only foster a sense of community but also provide valuable opportunities for parents to engage with their children's education.



I've always highlighted the importance of parent engagement, stating, "The success of our students is not possible without the support of their families. That's why we always strive to encourage great family-engagement activities and events."

The sense of community at College View extends beyond the classroom, with families actively participating in various school activities. These events not only strengthen the bond between families and the school but also create lasting memories for students.

Many parents tell us that this is a great way to spend quality time with their children and be actively involved in their education.

By promoting parent engagement through a variety of activities and events, College View Elementary is creating a supportive and inclusive environment where every family feels valued and involved in their children's education.





# Golden View *Environmental Science School*

17251 Golden View Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • [www.ovsd.org/golden](http://www.ovsd.org/golden)



**Lori Florgan**  
*Principal*

## Golden View's Apex Color Run Was Off and Running!

Golden view's PTO recently organized a successful fundraiser in collaboration with Apex Leadership Co., a group dedicated to nurturing future leaders by helping students develop various leadership traits. The fundraiser not only met our financial objectives but also ignited a profound sense of school spirit among students, staff, and parents alike. This year's theme, "POWER," was a culmination of weeks of meticulous planning and enthusiastic participation from all teachers. Spearheaded by our school's Parent-Teacher Organization and supported by dedicated volunteers, the fundraiser aimed to raise funds for field trips, educational experiences, environmental programs, and farm support initiatives. The fundraiser culminated with a vibrant color run, where volunteers enthusiastically doused students with colorful powder as they ran laps. This event was an overwhelming success, as our school met its financial goal while providing an enjoyable and memorable experience for our children.



# Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • [www.ovsd.org/harbour](http://www.ovsd.org/harbour)



**Francesca Ligman**  
*Principal*

## Kindergarten Diving into Marine Science

Our kindergarten team at Harbour View planned a new unit to match the science standards of living things and how they adapt to their environments. Students started off by creating themselves as scuba divers as they began this adventure of the vast ocean. The class then ventured into the underworld of the sea, studying various habitats along with the sea life that supports

it. Sharks, sea stars and many more were explored and researched collaboratively. Students were challenged further to select a specific species to dive deeper and learn about their adaptations. The teachers guided them through the reading, and structured writing with the students' providing the facts. Each student had an amazing, individualized report written with pride and excitement. The teachers at Harbour View are increasing rigor and autonomy to student learning at the very start of their educational journey!



# Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • [www.ovsd.org/hope](http://www.ovsd.org/hope)



**Christina Luckey**  
*Principal*

## Overnight Field Trip

Hope View's overnight field trip was another tremendous success! Students relished the opportunity to learn in the great outdoors, immersing themselves in nature while taking their education to the mountains. The enthusiasm and energy from learning away from the traditional classroom were truly inspiring!

After returning, several students shared their excitement, describing the camp as "amazing" and "super fun." They even praised the camp food, noting it was delicious. From archery and a high ropes course to the fascinating dissection of a squid, our students elevated their learning experiences to new heights.

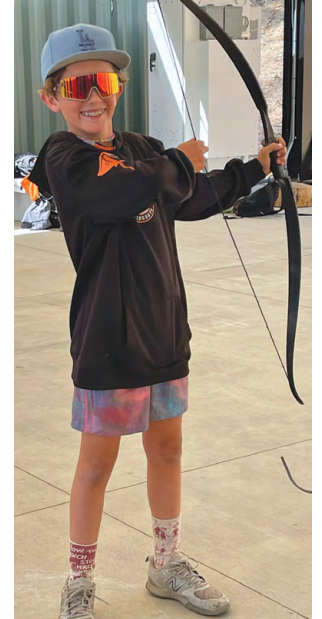
Our upcoming fifth graders are eagerly anticipating next year's camp, inspired by the fun and educational adventures this year's campers enjoyed in the great outdoors.



**Group pauses for a memorable photo opportunity.**



**Students honing their archery skills.**



**Bula, our guide dog greets a camper while in the learning classroom.**



**Mrs. Paulino, Mrs. Sjogren, along with Bula our guide dog, and Miss Yamaguchi accompanied their classes on this adventure. According to them, the learning was constant and incredibly engaging.**

# Lake View Elementary (K-5)

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • [www.ovsd.org/lake](http://www.ovsd.org/lake)



**Jill Van Der Linden**  
Principal

## Promoting Student Leadership

Student leadership is a priority. Fostering student voice and involvement in school gives children ownership and connection. At Lake View, we have a student council that is made up of six students. We also have student ambassadors who hold positions of leadership. We have approximately 30 more students who serve as technology, garden, safety, buddy, and SEL ambassadors.

These students have been instrumental in helping to keep our campuses safe, green, tech savvy, and happy. The garden ambassadors recently replanted our garden along with assembling tables. We will be using the garden this week at our volunteer “breakfast in the garden” event. The tech ambassadors have also been working with our new photography teacher in helping to prep cameras and set up folders to store photos.



Our safety ambassadors improve student behavior at recess by positioning themselves at key locations when the bell rings. The teachers have

noticed a measurable improvement in student behavior!

The SEL ambassadors help teach and support our school's PBIS expectations. They play games with the younger students that explicitly teach what respect, responsibility, and safety look like in all of our school settings.

The beauty of having students in these leadership roles is that they can grow in confidence and feel empowered, while the overall culture of our school also improves and becomes healthier.



# Marine View Middle School (6-8)

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • [www.ovsd.org/marine](http://www.ovsd.org/marine)



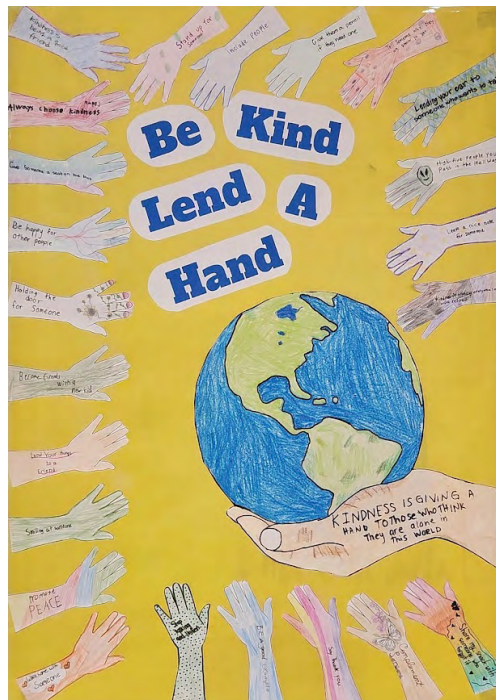
**Sara Schaible**  
Principal

## Annual Kindness Week

The first week of May brings our annual Kindness Week at Marine View. Throughout the week, students participated in various activities to promote and spread kindness throughout our campus and community. The week started off building a Kindness Quilt where students designed a square with a positive and kind message, all the squares were joined together to create



a Marine View Kindness Quilt. The week continued with various activities such as creating friendship bracelets at lunch, an advisement class door-decorating contest, as well as kindness challenges that promoted our motto of “Do Good, Be Good” around our campus and community. The positive energy and compliments radiated the campus during this week and have continued throughout the month!



# Mesa View Middle School (6-8)

17601 Avila Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • [www.ovsd.org/mesa](http://www.ovsd.org/mesa)



**Jady Grunbaum**  
Principal

## A New and Improved Mesa View

As we close out the year, excitement is growing for our current and incoming students to set foot back on the Mesa View Campus -- or for many, to set foot there for the first time. This year Mesa View was transported to an interim campus -- formerly Sun View Elementary -- and we have certainly made the best of being at "Camp Mesa," as we have called it this year.

The year has been full of activities, assemblies, and business as usual at our amazing GATE Magnet school. But as we see glimpses of both the planning and updates of the original campus, we are anticipating an amazing start to the 2024-2025 school year as well. If you have driven by Mesa View lately (off Avilla Lane) you might not notice all that has been done. Unlike other projects in the city, we are utilizing existing structures, and so all of our buildings still look intact from the outside. But they have been completely gutted and reimagined on the interior.

At this time the rooms have been built out, the electrical fittings installed, and the drywall is up. Exterior structures, like a new shade structure, are built, and the space has been prepped for new concrete and landscaping.



The school will have a beautiful Mission Style design, and will provide our students, staff, and families with a fresh look for our high-performing and studious school community!

There will be outdoor spaces for learning, a new food service facility serving freshly made and ready-to-serve meals, a new media/library center, and state-of-the-art classrooms. The facility is getting a complete overhaul, and we anticipate being blown away by the beauty and functionality it will provide to ensure that our students can have access to all they need to be prepared for the future.

Pictured here are some of the approved renderings that show what our classrooms and interior and exterior spaces will look like this fall. Camp Mesa is fun, but so is going back to a newly modernized home!



# Oak View Elementary (K-5)

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • [www.ovsd.org/oak](http://www.ovsd.org/oak)



**Jenna Landero**  
Principal

## Dancing into Summer!

As the school year draws to a close, Oak View bids farewell with a glittering finale: the “Disco Fever” Spring Dance, a celebration of family, community, and the joy of coming together. Students and families alike flocked to the event, ready to groove to the funky beats and bask in the warmth of shared laughter and camaraderie.

Hosted by Oak View’s dedicated Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO), the gymnasium was transformed into a dazzling disco wonderland, adorned with shimmering decorations that set the stage for an unforgettable evening. The air buzzed with excitement as families arrived, dressed in their grooviest attire and ready to boogie the night away.



The spirit of fun and fellowship permeated every corner of the dance floor, where students and parents alike showcased their best dance moves, letting loose and embracing the rhythm of the music. Laughter filled the air as families bonded over friendly competitions and engaging games, forging memories that would be cherished for years to come.

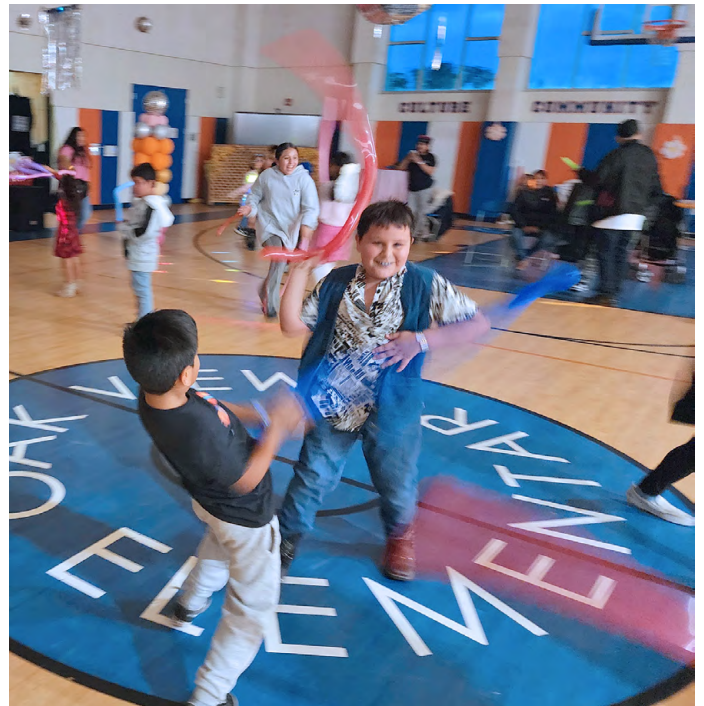


A heartfelt thank you goes to the professional photographers who captured precious moments, freezing time in a series of family portraits that would serve as cherished mementos of this special evening.

As the night drew to a close, Oak View stood united, a testament to the power of community and the enduring

bonds that connect us all. Through events like the “Disco Fever” Spring Dance, Oak View reaffirms its commitment to nourishing the roots of family and school and cultivating a culture of inclusivity, belonging, and shared joy.

As we bid farewell to another school year, let us carry the spirit of unity and celebration with us, knowing that as long as we stand together, our community will continue to thrive and flourish, dancing into the bright promise of a new season fueled by the love and support of one another.



# Spring View Middle School (6-8)

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • [www.ovsd.org/spring](http://www.ovsd.org/spring)



**Isis Ortiz**  
Principal

## Celebrating Our Legacy

Spring View Middle School has committed to make this year a yearlong series of events to commemorate its rich history and celebrate its students as Spring View prepares to close its doors for good at the end of this academic year. The celebrations organized by the school's administration and staff aimed to honor the school's 59-year legacy of educational excellence and community building.

Spring View opened in 1965 as a kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school and remained a K-8 School until 1992. Spring View was then transformed into a sixth-through-eighth-grade middle school. Over the past 59 years, many events have been held to celebrate the Spring View community. The pine tree in our front quad was planted the first year the school was opened in 1969, and it has seen many students, staff, and neighbors come and go out of the front doors. Over the past 59 years, it has grown strong and become a focal point of our campus, reminding us that we all start out small but can grow to become a strong, tall force.

There are many things that we would like to remember from Spring View, like our amazing game room that was opened by one of our former teachers; our woodshop electives, where students make cutting boards for Mothers Day; our amazing sports program, which included archery this year; and our Spring View Gym. This year, our focus has been on making this last year as positive and festive as possible.



Throughout the year, the staff, student body, and PTSO planned various activities to keep the celebratory spirit alive. Students participated in many fun assemblies that included team building through drumming put on by a teamwork organization, getting up close with some outdoor animals with our amazing animal assembly, outdoor inflatables through a fund-raising organization, and school events such as Spartan Lunch on the Lawn with families, monthly themed spirit days, a community service project with our TK-K reading buddies from College View Elementary, and for the first time, participation in Unified Sports by our students in special programs. Spring View has had a longstanding commitment to building relationships and community.

The decision to close Spring View Middle School was prompted by declining enrollment and has been met with mixed emotions. However, the students, staff, and administration have been working this year to ensure that the legacy of Spring View will be preserved. Our Leadership class has been creating our Spartan News to document the unique history of Spring View Middle School and forever will be posted on our YouTube channel.

As Spring View Middle School enters its final chapter, the celebrations serve as a testament to the enduring impact of education and community. The yearlong tribute ensures that while the building may close, the memories and values it fostered will remain vibrant in the hearts of all who walked its halls.





# Star View Elementary (K-5)

8411 Worthy Ln., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • [www.ovsd.org/star](http://www.ovsd.org/star)



**Jeanne Bentley**  
Principal

## Sweet Celebration of Reading!

Reading exposes us to new ideas, information, and perspectives. It expands our understanding of the world around us. Through this process, we build vocabulary and improve language skills essential for effective communication.

This year at Star View, our students set a goal to read a million minutes. In a fun and engaging twist, I challenged the school: if the goal was met, I would let the students create one giant Principal Ice Cream Sundae. And on May 8, the school was transformed into a carnival of flavors

and laughter. I was adorned with layers of creamy vanilla, rich chocolate, and sweet strawberry ice cream. Drizzles of gooey sauces and a rainstorm of sprinkles covered me with color and sticky delights. To top it off, cherries and whipped cream adorned their sweet creation.

Later that day, parents and grandparents attended a family literacy workshop to discuss the importance of reading with their children. Reading tips and a new book for their child were shared. Later in the day, families were welcomed onto campus for a reading and pizza day. Families spread blankets on the grass and enjoyed a book with loved ones. It was a reading celebration for the entire school community.



# Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • [www.ovsd.org/village](http://www.ovsd.org/village)

## Open House

*By Candy Plahy, Interim Principal*

Village View Elementary School's Open House was a huge success! The evening started with a PTO-sponsored pizza dinner, ice cream, and a silent auction where students could win the chance to be the Teacher of the Day, Principal of the Day, Front of the Line Pass, and many other staff positions that were highly sought after. Students also had the opportunity to donate gently used or new shoes to those in need. It was great to see the generosity of the Village View Community. Once these festivities ended, the classroom doors opened wide to welcome families to explore all the fantastic learning inside each room at Village View. Students excitedly shared their classroom projects, writing, artwork, and more. Parents were treated to a student-led tour and a moment to feel their excitement and pride over the work they had accomplished this year. Teachers had worked diligently to make the classrooms a showcase

of student work, and the evening represented the hard work and true collaboration between the fantastic staff and incredible parents. It is hard to believe it is already time to move into the end-of-the-year activities.



# Vista View Middle School (6–8)

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • [www.ovsd.org/vista](http://www.ovsd.org/vista)



**Dr. Rasheedah Gates**  
*Principal*

## Joy and Confidence through Movement

At Vista View Middle School, nestled in the heart of Ocean View, a remarkable transformation has been taking place in the realm of physical education, thanks to the visionary efforts of Mrs. Wood, the school's Dance PE teacher. In spring 2023, Mrs. Wood conducted a survey among students, aiming to gauge their interests and preferences. The results were illuminating: there was a resounding consensus among the

student body for a greater emphasis on dance within the curriculum.

Responding to this demand, Vista View embarked on a pioneering journey at the start of the fall semester in 2023, introducing not just one but two sections of Dance PE. This bold move reflected the school's commitment to providing diverse and enriching opportunities for its students. Little did they know that this decision would herald a wave of enthusiasm and achievement within the student community.

Under Mrs. Wood's guidance, students embraced the art of dance with fervor and dedication. Over the course of the academic year, they flourished in ways that extended far beyond the confines of the dance studio. Through approximately 10 performances that encompassed district events and engagements beyond Ocean View, these young dancers found themselves on a transformative journey of self-discovery and growth.

One of the most profound impacts of the Dance PE program has been its role in helping students find their joy. Many students discovered a passion for dance they never knew they had, relishing the opportunity to express themselves through movement. Mrs. Wood's class became a sanctuary where creativity was celebrated and individuality was nurtured.



Moreover, the program proved to be a powerful antidote to the fear of performing that often plagues young minds. Through regular rehearsals and performances, students learned to confront their apprehensions head-on, gradually building confidence with each step they took on stage. Mrs. Wood's unwavering support and encouragement played a pivotal role in empowering her students to overcome their insecurities and embrace the spotlight with grace and poise.

Central to the success of the Dance PE program was the sense of camaraderie and teamwork that permeated every rehearsal and performance. Students learned the importance of collaboration and mutual support as they worked together to perfect their routines and lift each other up in moments of doubt. Bonds forged in the dance studio transcended the confines of the classroom, fostering a spirit of unity and belonging among the student body.

Perhaps most gratifying for Mrs. Wood and her students has been the outpouring of positive feedback they've received from both adults and peers alike. Parents and teachers marveled at the transformation they witnessed in their children and students, noting the newfound confidence and self-assurance that radiated from them. Meanwhile, peers cheered one another on enthusiastically, celebrating everyone's successes with genuine warmth and admiration.

In essence, the Dance PE program at Vista View Middle School has become a shining example of what happens when students are given the opportunity to thrive in lanes that bring them joy. Through Mrs. Wood's passion, dedication, and unwavering belief in her students' potential, the Vista Falcons have soared to new heights, embodying the spirit of courage, resilience, and unity. As they continue to dance their way through life, they serve as a testament to the transformative power of education that goes beyond textbooks and classrooms, nurturing the mind, body, and soul.



# Westmont Elementary (K-5)

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • [www.ovsd.org/westmont](http://www.ovsd.org/westmont)



**Diana Bianco**  
Principal

## Westmont School Proudly Presents... Aladdin!

This year Westmont students put on their latest Disney Musical, Aladdin! As a VAPA school, Westmont prides themselves on their outstanding performances, and this year was spectacular! With

more than 40 students casted in various roles, and plenty of rehearsals, both during the school day and beyond, the team put in hundreds of hours to ensure crowd pleasing performances. There were wonderful props and scenery, costumes and professional make-up. All of which added to the talent of

the students who performed for over 1,000 guests. With 4 evening shows and 2 day time performances, the students never disappointed their audiences. We are so proud of the students and staff who made this show so magical!

