

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

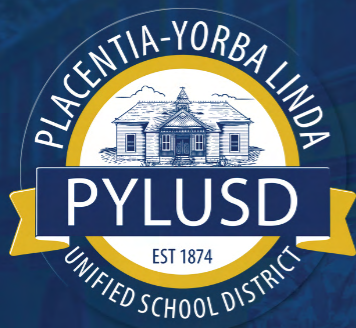
Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District



Volume 17, Issue 48

November 2024

Unveiling PYLUSD's First Digital State of the District Report



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

POP QUIZ

**When you're looking for an auto loan,
what's most important?**

- A)** Getting a rate among the lowest.
- B)** Taking summers off from payments.¹
- C)** Financing with the Credit Union
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- D)** All of the above.

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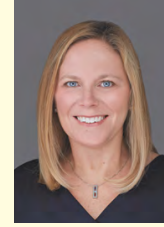
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Unveiling PYLUSD's First Digital State of the District Report



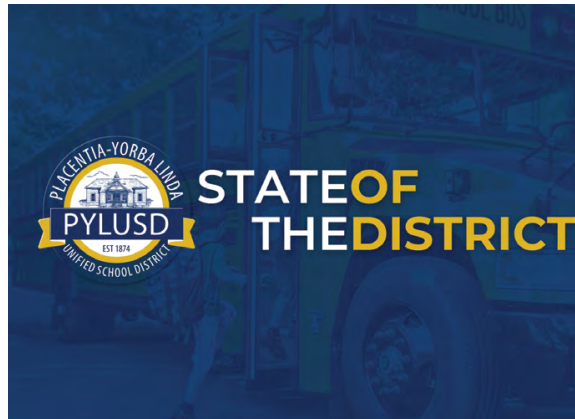
**Dr. Alex
Cherniss**
Superintendent

As Superintendent of the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District, I am thrilled to introduce our district's first-ever [Digital State of the District Annual Report](#).

This groundbreaking, magazine-style report offers an interactive and immersive experience,

featuring clickable links, embedded videos, and a user-friendly layout that allows our community to explore the state of our district like never before.

Through this innovative format, we provide a transparent snapshot of where we stand today, while also shining a spotlight on the inspiring path we're forging for the future of education. Inside, you'll find key achievements, exciting initiatives, and bold plans that highlight our commitment to excellence. This report is more than just a summary—it's a celebration of the strides we're making together.



One of our most notable achievements this year is our enrollment growth. With 22,786 students currently enrolled, we have exceeded budget projections by 480 students, marking a significant turnaround from previous trends of declining enrollment. This is a testament to the incredible work of our staff, the support of our community, and the growing reputation

of PYLUSD as a leader in educational excellence.

I invite you to explore the full State of the District presentation on our District's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@placentiayorbalindausd, where you can delve deeper into our district's vision, accomplishments, and aspirations for the future.

Together, we will continue to make PYLUSD a destination district—one where families are eager to enroll their children, confident that they will receive the best education possible.

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylud.org



Giselle Nguyen
President

Enriching Educational Experiences

The REACH Foundation is committed to enriching the educational experiences of students in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD). Our mission is to inspire, engage, and support students through collaboration with PYLUSD and community partners. We focus on the pillars of Academics, Arts, and Athletics, providing programs that help students develop critical thinking, communication, creativity, and leadership skills.



Students discussing How to Reduce Plastic Wastes in the Ocean.

Programs like First Lego League Robotics, Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs, and the High School Internship Program nurture communications and innovation. Since 2020, the Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs have empowered hundreds of students across 12 schools, building skills in public speaking, leadership, and empathy. By offering real-world learning, we prepare students to thrive academically, socially, and personally.

With the support of professionals, volunteers, educators, and partners, the REACH Foundation ensures every student has the tools and opportunities needed to reach their highest potential.

Programs like First Lego League Robotics, Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs, and the High School Internship Program nurture communications and innovation. Since 2020, the Communicating with Confidence Learning Labs have empowered hundreds of students across 12 schools, building skills in public speaking, leadership, and empathy. By offering real-world learning, we prepare students to thrive academically, socially, and personally.



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Orange County Department of Education

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

AI Signals a New Era for Teaching and Learning in Orange County



Dr. Stefan Bean
Superintendent

As an eighth-grader, Ibrahim Memon from Tustin's Legacy Magnet Academy began working on an AI-powered app designed to allow rideshare drivers to keep 100 percent of their fares.

Today, Ibrahim is a high school junior. And his app? It's operational in Seattle.

Ibrahim's story highlights the extraordinary potential of Orange County's young innovators, especially when supported with cutting-edge educational tools like artificial intelligence. And his success is a prime example of the outcomes we hope to encourage and nurture at the Orange County Department of Education through our own AI initiative.

We already know that AI in schools is about more than just the adoption of a new technology. It signals a transformative shift in how we educate our students, and there's no choice but to embrace it.

Indeed, to quote the Borg from Star Trek, "Resistance is futile" — but I don't mean that in a menacing way. The fact is this wave of technology is already here, and now it's up to us to harness it responsibly and strategically to enhance educational outcomes for all learners.

So far, the feedback we've seen from introducing AI in classroom settings has been highly encouraging. These emerging technologies not only make learning more interactive but also tailor instructional experiences to individual needs, making education more effective and engaging. Survey data shows a 90 percent satisfaction rate among students participating in AI-driven activities.

That said, the foundation of our strategy must be to support educators. That's why OCDE will be advancing AI fluency programs and comprehensive professional development opportunities to help make teachers' work more efficient and to maximize the impact of their instruction. Additionally, we will be promoting collaborative environments where students and teachers can explore the potential of AI together, fostering inclusive and innovative educational spaces.

Our Vision and Goals

At the Orange County Board of Education meeting on Sept. 4, our staff outlined a new strategic vision for the integration of artificial intelligence and the empowerment of students and staff. This wasn't about mandating a new direction, but rather supporting our districts and scaling up the innovative work many are already doing.

As we stated at that meeting, we envision a future where AI revolutionizes education, unlocking unprecedented

opportunities, and we are committed to harnessing its transformative power responsibly to enhance learning, inspire innovation and prepare every student for success in college, careers and beyond. By embedding ethical principles into our AI initiatives, we strive to create an educational environment where technology uplifts humanity, fosters creativity and builds a brighter future for all.

That's the overarching vision, but clear, measurable goals will be essential to ensure that OCDE's AI initiative achieves its intended objectives and enhances educational outcomes.

By 2025, for example, our target is for 90 percent of local districts to adopt ethical AI guidelines that promote responsible use across all educational settings. We also commit to holding regular meetings throughout the year to review progress and adjust strategies to make sure our efforts remain aligned with our broader educational objectives. Additionally, we want to work closely with district leaders to guarantee that all students have access to advanced technologies.

The Road Ahead

Wes Kriesel and Kunal Dalal, who joined OCDE in late 2023 as administrators of AI and innovation, are already providing direct support to our 28 school districts, and they're working in collaboration with Dr. Sabba Quidwai of Designing Schools. Last year, Dr. Quidwai led numerous sessions under the OC AI Forward banner, which brought together local superintendents and other educational leaders to drive this important conversation.

We are also partnering with OC Workforce Solutions and the Orange County Business Council to align our efforts with workforce demands so that students are on track for fulfilling, in-demand careers, and we are actively seeking support from local colleges and universities. Notably, 71 percent of industry leaders already say they prefer candidates with strong AI skills.

As county superintendent, one of my top priorities is to ensure the responsible integration of AI technologies within our educational framework, because we know that those who are adept at harnessing its potential will find themselves at a distinct advantage.

But this initiative isn't merely about adapting to the needs of the future — it's about actively shaping it. Through our collective efforts with our districts and other educational partners, we can and will continue to position Orange County as a leader in educational innovation, one that is actively preparing our students for success in an increasingly AI-driven world.

Brookhaven *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



Laura Fisher
Principal

Brookhaven School Earns GOLD PBIS Recognition

Brookhaven School has received the prestigious GOLD PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) award for its outstanding work in enhancing Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports last year. PBIS is a framework that promotes positive student behavior through a multi-

tiered approach. Tier 1 provides universal supports for all students, while Tier 2 focuses on targeted interventions for students needing additional help.

Brookhaven students benefit from the PBIS program by ensuring students have clear expectations at school that are explicitly taught, frequently modeled, and practiced throughout the year. Our students have the opportunity to attend "Lunch Bunch," skills groups, or receive a check-in/check-out throughout the day.

Principal Laura Fisher expressed pride in the school's efforts, stating, "I am so proud of the work our school has done to support our students utilizing the PBIS model."



Brookhaven's Bear Hug Store is a hit with the students!

Bryant Ranch *School (TK-5)*

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Shannon Robles
Principal

BR Preschool Celebrates 1 Year

Bryant Ranch Preschool has officially been open for one year! Our preschool serves approximately 83 students. It's exciting to have the youngest Explorers on campus. Our staff works collaboratively to ensure we have a wonderful and

beneficial program. Students are progressing in social skills and fine motor development. TK and Kindergarten students also attend the after school program offered at our preschool. Principal Robles and Director Dr. Perez work very closely to assure that our preschool students are welcome on campus and a part of our student community. Our Preschool Explorers are invited to our

wonderful family events sponsored by our PTA such as Trunk or Treat, Literacy Night and Movie Night. We love seeing them in their Explorer spirit wear on Fridays! The benefits of preschool can benefit students for many years to come and we are proud to offer this to our families.



El Camino Real *High School (Continuation High School 9-12)*

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • www.ecrhs.pylusd.org



Gina Aguilar
Principal

College and Career Readiness

El Camino Real High School has had an outstanding start to the school year. One area of focus for our staff this year is college and career readiness. This summer, 70% of our teachers and our entire administrative team were trained in AVID at the AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, CA. Teachers focused on AVID instructional strategies in their content

area while administrators learned about schoolwide college and career readiness initiatives. Teachers are enthusiastic about integrating more AVID practices into their instruction.

In addition, all students are taking a course called EDGE in order to earn elective credits. This course focuses on academic intervention and college and career readiness. One element of the course involves using a program called Find Your Grind. In this college and career readiness program, students participate in interactive lessons

focusing on exploring career pathways, creating a career plan and portfolio and working through units aligned to the Future Ready Framework. Ultimately, students will have an exit plan upon graduation.

Finally, in November, El Camino students will participate in a schoolwide field trip to Sofi Stadium where they will tour the facility through an academic lens, focusing on the elements that go into building a state-of-the-art venue, their sustainability commitment and the steps taken to limit their carbon footprint, their vast technology systems that operate the stadium, the architectural and engineering side of the build, and much more. After lunch and some activity time on the field, students will participate in a career panel with employees from all facets of operations in order to learn about their pathways to their respective careers. In addition, to this field trip opportunity a Career Day, job fair and several college and career focused field trips and guest speakers are being planned based on the specific goals and interests of our students.

El Dorado *High School (9-12)*

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



David Okamoto
Principal

Preparing for the Future

Here at El Dorado High School we aim to provide the best overall experience for your student in order to prepare them for the next level of their education. For me, not only as the school's principal, but also as a former El Dorado parent myself, I know that what we offer our students is fantastic. Whether it's in the area of Academics, Activities, Arts, or Athletics...there is something here for

your student in one or perhaps all four of these areas to get involved! This year our theme is, "SET THE TONE!" When thinking about the start of the school year that we have had, in relation to the "Four A's" that I've listed above, we are off to a great start!

Academically speaking, at El Dorado, our AP students performed very well with an increase of our pass rate from the previous year, earning the Honor Roll Distinction from College Board! There are so many ways to get involved with activities here at El Dorado. Our school culture continues to be at the top of the list when people talk about their experience here at El Dorado with a strong ASB program and various clubs and activities to help our students connect to each other as well as to our school.

Our performing and visual arts departments provide an amazing experience for our students with a variety of course offerings along with teachers that are passionate about their content! Finally, our athletic programs are very competitive and our coaches provide not only insight into their sport, but also help prepare our students to be athletes with character whether in victory or defeat. As you can see, I am proud to be the principal here and I know that here at El Dorado, we "SET THE TONE!"



Esperanza High School (9-12)

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



Loan Sriruksa
Principal

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

The Esperanza Aztecs have been busy with the new school year! This is true especially for seniors Matthew Hoang and Shivali Sharma. These two amazing seniors are National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. They placed in the top 1% of all PSAT takers in the nation

and have submitted their applications to become finalists and qualify for \$26 million in scholarships.

Shavali is in the Computer Science pathway. She hopes to attend USC and major in Computer Science and International Relations to become a policy ambassador with the US Government. She credits her success to her perseverance and support from her family and friends.

Matthew is in the Medical Sciences Academy. He hopes to attend UCI and major in Biology to become a dentist. He credits his success to the supportive teachers at

Esperanza. "The quality of education at Esperanza is something you don't come across everyday."



Fairmont Elementary School (TK-6)

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Anne San Roman
Principal

Art for All

Fairmont Elementary is known for its rich tradition in the arts, including instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, and theater. This year we are ecstatic to have an elementary art teacher, Mrs. Gabriel, bring a visual arts curriculum to our K-6 students. The goal for this year is to have Mrs. Gabriel teach six lessons, two each trimester while focusing on the CA standards for visual art, with an emphasis on the elements of art. This month, students are learning about one of the elements of art, color. In kindergarten and first grade,



students are learning primary/secondary and warm/cool colors. In second and third grade, students are learning complementary colors, and students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade are learning about tertiary and analogous colors.

While creating their waves and rays of sunshine, students in the upper grades found the perfect trio of colors (analogous colors) to create a harmonious appearance. I love the creativity and joy it brings to our young artists. I can't wait to see what's next! Go, Falcons!

George Key School (Special Education) / Venture Academy (Adult Transition Program)

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.georgekey.org/ / 701 East Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7178 • ventureacademy.pylusd.org

Rebecca Allan, Principal

George Key is looking forward to celebrating Halloween with a parade, haunted house and decorating pumpkins.

George Key students and staff are happy at being able to use their new garden provided by community donors including both labor and materials! Our beautiful sensory garden is amazing and is designed for students with complex needs. Thank you to our community for your support of our very special students!

Venture Academy is proud to introduce our new Coffee cats coffee cart! Our adult transition students are learning to make and sell coffee including buying materials, figuring out overhead taking inventory, marketing and deciding how to use their profits!



The students love working with school and district staff and enjoy learning all of the work skills they are learning. Venture Coffee Cats are the best!



Glenknoll Elementary School (TK-6)

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



Terry Mulcahy
Principal

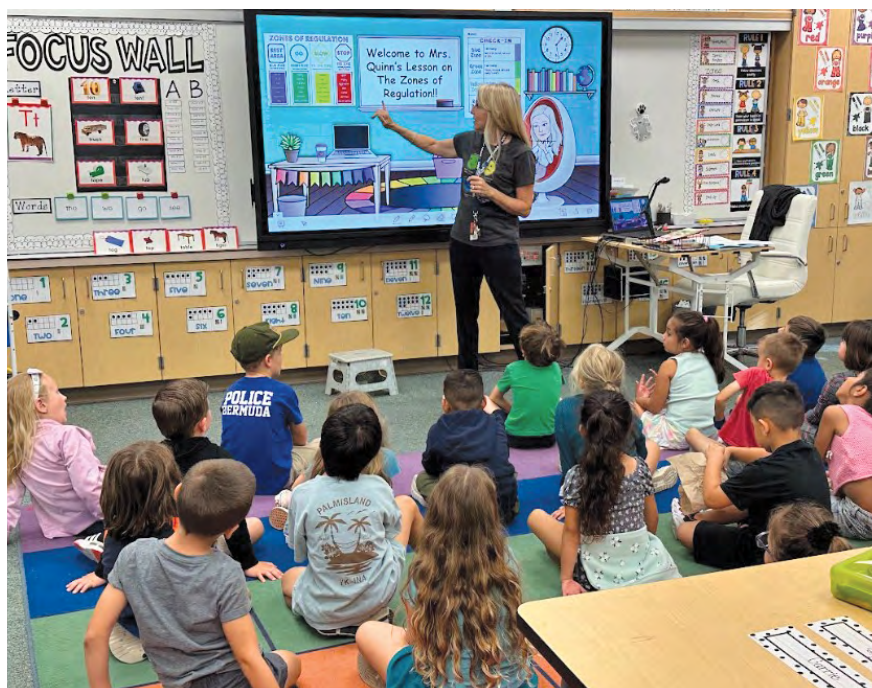
PBIS Support: Zones of Regulation

Glenknoll is proud to have earned Gold Recognition from the California PBIS

Coalition. We provide structures and support for our students so they can make Glenknoll a place where everyone feels like they belong. We practice PAWS - Practice your personal best, Act

Responsibly, Work and play safely, and Show respect. Students are recognized for demonstrating desired behaviors in all areas of our campus (like only using kind words). We also teach positive social and emotional skills through Zones of Regulation. Our Registered Behavior Technician, Mrs. Quinn, teaches emotional regulation lessons in every classroom at the beginning of the year. What can you do if you are in the blue (sleepy or bored) zone to get into the green (ready to learn) zone? What if you are in the yellow (silly

or anxious) zone? What about the red (angry or terrified) zone? By learning to recognize and respond positively to our emotions, we make Glenknoll a great place to learn!



Glenview *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Viri Fraga
Principal

¡Yo Hablo Español! at Glenview Elementary

Glenview Elementary is proud to announce the launch of the school's first Spanish Language Development intervention program. Glen's SLD Academy is designed to support Spanish Learners and serves 76 students in grades 2 through 6, providing them with essential language skills to thrive academically in a bilingual setting.

The program, taught by dedicated dual language educators at Glenview, aims to enhance students' proficiency in Spanish while fostering a love for the language and its cultural richness. The program focuses on listening and speaking skills, utilizing a variety of teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles.

At Glen's SLD Academy, the staff believes that real, spontaneous speech with explicit implementation of research-based strategies is the key to mastering any language. Instructors at Glenview immerse



students in dynamic language experiences, empowering them to speak Spanish confidently while embracing cultural diversity through everyday conversations.

Parents and guardians have expressed overwhelming support for the program. Erica Perez, a Glenview parent, stated, "As parents of two DLA students, we are excited for this academy, and are very thankful for the teachers and administrators who made this happen."

As Glenview Elementary continues to foster an inclusive learning environment, Glen's SLD Academy stands as a testament to the district's commitment to serving the diverse needs of its students. The program not only prepares students for academic success but also equips them with valuable skills for their futures.

Together, let's celebrate the power of bilingualism and the vibrant community at Glenview Elementary!



Golden *Elementary School (TK-6)*

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



Kristin McDonald
Principal

We Are Golden!

Golden Elementary continues to strive for excellence in all areas, and we cannot do it without our amazing community! This year's theme "We Are Golden" embodies our focus on all things excellent at Golden, and that includes our community. Education works best when our families are committed and supportive, so one important thing we do is intentionally invite our

community to activities on campus as often as we can. The goal is once a month at least! We have already invited parents to eat lunch on campus during Lunch with a Loved One, and two weeks ago we held a Family Movie Night. Both events were highly attended by families, and it provided the opportunity to come onto campus and connect with other families. Students loved eating a special lunch with their loved ones on the grass, and families were excited to safely come onto campus to be part of their child's day. The feedback was positive, and our school looks forward to creating more opportunities to

organize, connect, and build a strong Golden Community where we can all work together in partnership to support all of our Golden Eagles! Up next is our Annual Halloween Parade! We take every opportunity to make sure our commitment to our students and community is at the next level because ... WE ARE GOLDEN!



Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Matthew Callaway
Principal

AVID Showcase

Kraemer Middle School, an AVID National Demonstration School, successfully hosted its AVID Showcase on Tuesday, October 15th. The event drew over 65 educators, including representatives from various school districts and AVID administrators from across Southern California.

Visitors had the opportunity to observe classroom tours, participate in student panels, and engage in collaborative sessions. These experiences highlighted Kraemer's strong commitment to fostering college and career readiness through the use of AVID strategies. The showcase was a celebration of the dedication of Kraemer's staff, students, and community. Feedback from attendees emphasized the high level of instruction, student engagement, and school culture. This successful event truly demonstrated the powerful role AVID plays in transforming student learning and achievement at Kraemer Middle School.



Lakeview Elementary School (TK-5)

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.lakeview.pylusd.org



Stephanie Given
Principal

Sunshine Squad Ready to Spread Cheer to All

Lakeview opened the 2024-25 school year with a new crew of twenty-seven 4th and 5th grade students ready to spread cheer and kindness to our community! This philanthropic student leadership group plans events and activities that help ensure all

students feel they belong and are safe at school. For their inaugural meeting, students filled out post-it notes with positive affirmations that were stuck to the windows outside of Mrs. Vlastnik's classroom, one of the Lead Teachers. Students can take a note if they need a boost during the day! The next event is our S"book"tacular Reading Party in the MPR for Halloween. Sunshine Squadders (squad+members) will be reading S"book"y books in the MPR. Following will be our Friendsgiving event where all new Lakeview Lions are invited to a private event where they will play games, eat snacks and get to know each other.



Linda Vista *Elementary* (TK-5)

5600 S. Ohio St., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7200 • www.lindavistaelementary.org



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

Linda Vista's Learning Lab is Transformed

Leonardo Da Vinci once said, "Learning never exhausts the mind," and for Linda Vista we are hoping to instill a love of lifelong learning for all our students. One way we are achieving this is through the transformation of our new computer lab. The new LAB at Linda Vista is off to a great start! This trimester our computer room was transformed into an innovative space using flexible seating, tables, storage, chrome books, robots, engineering, video production,

and more. Our LAB inspires group collaboration, innovative thinking, hands-on learning, and future STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) careers. This month students have been focusing on Digital Citizenship with our computer specialist, Mrs. Barnes and we are looking forward to Computer Science Education week in December where students will be able to code, use robots, and critically think in our student centered Lab. Our LAB is a wonderful new and engaging learning space for all students and we will continue to provide collaborative and innovative STEAM activities for all our scholars.



Mabel Paine *Elementary School* (TK-5)

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.mabelpaine.org



Kristi Coonan
Principal

Every Mustang, Every Day

Our theme this year at Mabel Paine Elementary is "Every Mustang, Every Day." We are focused on differentiated, small-group instruction in our classrooms to continue to give each student what they need to achieve excellence.

Theme days are alive and well at Mabel Paine. This year we have begun "Motivational Mondays" in which we ask all students and staff to wear motivational



(kindness, positive, etc.) t-shirts in order to promote a sense of community and kindness to start our week! In addition, to support our AVID strategies, we are wearing "College and Career" shirts on Wednesdays to promote a college and career-bound mindset.

To end our week, we wear Mabel Paine Spirit Wear on Fridays! We are committed to empowering each other to reach our highest potential. Our theme days inspire all Mustangs to achieve excellence in an encouraging, caring community.



Melrose Elementary School (TK-5)

974 S. Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • melrose.pylusd.org



Janice Weber
Principal

Hello Week Activities

In the spirit of CLUB Marlin (Connect, Learn, Understand the Possibilities, Believe in Yourself) and to build social inclusion and community, Melrose Marlin's were welcomed back to school and participated in a series of Hello Week activities in September! Inspired by the Sandy Hook Promise, our school counselor, Mrs. Laura Cadavid, created activities for teachers to implement with students in five minutes or less each morning! Students were encouraged to make new friends by wearing nametags and sporting wacky socks. They learned strategies for what to do if they see someone alone and ways to be a helper. Students were given tips on how to have kind conversations and give compliments. At recess, students and staff signed our names to a "Start With Hello" poster. We recognize the importance of helping students feel seen and experience belonging and acceptance. Our Start With Hello Week was an extension of our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) implementation and evidence of our Marlin High Fives of being Respectful, Responsible, Helpful, Kind, and Safe in action!



Morse Elementary School (TK-6)

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morseschool.net



Kelly Farrell
Principal

Morse Celebrates National Walk to School Day

On October 9, Morse Elementary Wildcats proudly participated in National Walk to School Day, bringing together over 200 students, families, and staff for a fun and energetic start to the school day. The event aimed to promote physical activity, build community spirit, and emphasize the importance of safe walking routes to school.

Officers from the Placentia Police Department joined students and families on their morning walk and helped ensure a safe environment for all participants. Along the way, there were plenty of smiles, conversations, and enthusiasm as the Morse community embraced this national initiative to encourage healthy habits and reduce traffic congestion around the school.



Morse Elementary is proud to be part of National Walk to School Day, demonstrating the school's commitment to student health and safety while strengthening connections between families, staff, and the local community. Go Wildcats!



Orange County School of Computer Science at Bernardo Yorba (7-8)

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



Beth Fisher
Principal

Our Inaugural Year

Orange County School of Computer Sciences is proud to celebrate the launch of our inaugural year, serving nearly 800 students. Our innovative, mastery-based approach empowers students to excel as creators, collaborators, and leaders. With programs like C-STEM through UC Davis, robotics, and computer science are seamlessly integrated into science, math, and electives. Our state-of-the-art Innovation Lab—developed with Garner Holt Education through Imagination—offers hands-on experiences in animatronics, engineering, video production, entrepreneurship, and eSports. Supported by passionate educators, our students are not just learning—they're leading, preparing to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The future starts here!



Parkview Home School (TK-12)

2189 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7050
www.pylusdparkview.org



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Future Ready Meetings

Through The America College Application Campaign® (ACAC) Parkview and BVVA will hold Future Ready meetings for seniors and early graduates beginning in November. The purpose of the program is to help students break down the steps of the application process and remove barriers so each senior and early graduate has the opportunity to apply to a two-year, four-year, and/or trade school before graduating. We look forward to giving our students the tools they need to prepare for the future.

This year, Parkview School welcomed over 100 student athletes to the Universal Sports Institute. USI is a free, customizable athletic and academic development experience for student-athletes in grades 3-12. USI athletes

Buena Vista Virtual Academy (K-12)

4999 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7026
www.buenavistavirtual.org

have the opportunity to not only take their academic courses through independent study but students may also take up to two courses and participate in athletics at one of the district's comprehensive schools—El Dorado, Esperanza, Valencia, or Yorba Linda high schools. As students enter the program, they complete a safety training, baseline, conditioning, and metabolic assessment. Each student has a profile that enables the athletes, their parents, and the staff at USI to track their progress closely over time. Students work on their individual fitness goals to optimize sports performance with experienced coaches and instructors. By integrating evidence-based practices, personalized coaching, and holistic approaches, we empower athletes to sharpen their minds, optimize their performance, and thrive in competitive environments. Come check us out and apply today! usi.pylusd.org

Rio Vista *Elementary School (TK-5)*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • www.riovistaschool.org



Brandon Frank
Principal

Walk to School Day

On October 9th, Rio Vista Elementary School celebrated Walk to School Day as a connected neighborhood. Hundreds of students met at various starting locations around the community, joining PTA volunteers, members of the Anaheim Police Department, and special guests Steve Faessel (our Anaheim City Council Representative) and Marilyn Anderson (our School Board Trustee). Excitement abounded as students walked to school with their friends and families, and they were especially excited to interact with our law enforcement partners. Participating students were given special stickers in the shape of Sheriff's badges which they were eager to wear and show off all around campus. Not only did our community come together to celebrate this wonderful event, but we also secured our long-awaited crossing guard to keep students and families safe at our busiest intersection. Thank you to our PTA and our special guests for making Walk to School Day an amazing success!



Rose Drive *Elementary School (TK-5)*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Trisha Gray
Principal

Character Counts at Rose Drive

At Rose Drive Elementary, we believe that true success is achieved not only through academic excellence but also by fostering strong character traits. Our school motto, "Reach for the STARS," encourages students to strive for their personal best, especially in the area of character development. Each month, we focus on a specific character trait such as kindness, responsibility, perseverance, or respect. Through classroom discussions, activities, and role modeling, our students are given the tools to embrace these traits and make them a part of their daily lives. At the end of each month, we come together as a school to celebrate the growth and achievements of our students in a special character awards assembly. One student from each class is honored for embodying that month's character trait. This recognition

is an important reminder that the development of good character is just as important as academic success. At Rose Drive, we are committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals who not only excel in their studies but also contribute positively to their community by being kind, respectful, and responsible citizens. We are proud of our students and excited to see them continue to "Reach for the STARS" by becoming the best versions of themselves!



Ruby Drive *Elementary School (TK-6)*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.org



Lisa Carmona
Principal

Ruby Drive PTA has the Most Successful Fundraiser in School History!

With the vision of establishing a family-supported Jog-A-thon, the Ruby Drive PTA had its most successful fundraiser in school history. After raising over \$32,000, teachers, staff, and Ruby scholars danced, jogged, and walked around the track to lively music and an enthusiastic MC. This event brought out the whole community to

support and to celebrate a two-week long pledge-drive. Ruby Drive families proudly surpassed the earnings goal which made the event even more celebratory and unifying! All money raised will fund field trips, assemblies, campus beautification, and other enrichment opportunities for our scholars throughout this school year. Culminating this event were delicious ice pops, prizes, and even a DJ Glow Party. What school spirit this event generated, bringing our school staff, students, and the community together for such a joyous event of movement and merriment.



Sierra Vista *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.sierravistaelementary.org



Debbie Kojima
Principal

Sierra Vista Loves Our Parent Partnerships

Sierra Vista values the partnerships that we have with our parent community and the Sierra Vista PTA. These partnerships are an integral part of the success of our learning community. These countless volunteers do everything from decorate our school for special events, plan and organize fun community events, raise funds for the

benefit of our school, as well as volunteer their time in and out of the classroom. We are so very grateful to our parent community that continues to donate their time and talents to help our Eagles continue to SOAR to success! It truly takes a village!



Trunk or Treat really helps to build community and have fun as a school family. Parents and students help to sell concessions at our Movie on the Lawn Event to raise money for our sixth graders to go to camp!



Sierra Vista greatly values our PTA volunteers! Our PTA has an annual ceremony recognizing outstanding staff and parent volunteers within our school community! We love our community!



Movies on the Lawn are always a success! In September, Sierra Vista Families enjoyed watching Shrek, which also coincides with our school play, Shrek Jr.

Topaz *Elementary School* (TK-6)

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topazschool.org



Dr. Bilma Bermudez
Principal

Topaz Music Academy

The Music Program at Topaz Elementary School is thriving, engaging students in a diverse range of musical experiences that enrich their learning and foster a love for the arts.

Kindergarten to 3rd Grade: Our Tigers are introduced to music fundamentals. They explore theory, basic vocal techniques, and various musical styles via interactive songs, games, and movement. Students dive into rhythm reading and solfege, using fun manipulatives like scarves, rhythm sticks, shakers, and musical cups to enhance their learning.

4th to 6th Grade: Students choose from choral, strings, or band. In strings, they learn how to hold their instruments, identify parts, assemble them, and perform techniques like slurs. Band students focus on developing a consistent tone while mastering the concert Bb Major Scale and reading rhythms that include whole notes, half notes, and quarter notes.

We emphasize the importance of playing music collaboratively, allowing students to create melodies and harmonies together. Our program offers a progressive

learning experience: from 4th grade onward, students can either specialize in one instrument for three years or try a different instrument each year.

We are grateful for our dedicated and passionate music teachers: Ms. DiSchiavi, Mr. Estrada, Mr. Stamp, and Mr. Llewellyn, who inspire our students to explore and excel.



Travis Ranch School (TK-8)

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Building Community Through Play at Travis Ranch School

At Travis Ranch TK-8, fostering a strong school community is a top priority, and our middle school leadership students are leading the charge! Recently, they organized an exciting intramural basketball tournament during lunch, which saw impressive participation from both students and staff. The success of this event has sparked enthusiasm for a forthcoming wiffle ball tournament, ensuring continued fun and engagement.



On the elementary side, high school students took the opportunity to connect with our younger learners during recess. Cheerleaders, football players, ROTC members, and dancers visited to promote an upcoming football game, sparking excitement and building relationships.

These initiatives not only encourage physical activity but also strengthen bonds across grades, making Travis Ranch a welcoming and vibrant community. As we celebrate these efforts, we look forward to more collaborative events that bring our students together through play!



Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



Sarah Barton
Principal

Level Up

Tuffree Middle School has found the secret sauce for success: Combining adults on campus who are dedicated to their craft together with programs that are proven to work, and topping it off with after school activities students are

excited to attend. The proof is in the pudding, when looking at test results from the 2023-2024 school year. Tuffree's CAASPP scores rose by 7.73% in ELA and 9.07% in math. This is a testament to the number of hours teachers were willing to put in outside of normal school hours tutoring students, as well as math intervention classes implemented during the school day to emphasize the focus on academics. Indeed, the success of the previous programs are serving as a springboard for the current scholastic season. The 2024-2025 school year is well underway, and along with expanding on the previous academic successes, the fact that there have been zero suspensions for the first quarter highlights the focus that teachers and administrators place on building and maintaining relationships with individual



students, as well as showcasing how fully embracing the PBIS model can impact a school site in a positive way. Beyond academics and student mentoring, there are after school avenues for each student to express themselves and feel like they belong. From the strong athletic programs, enthusiastic dance and color guard troupes, and groups like Esports Club, Fishing Club and Multicultural Club, there is a place for everyone. Tuffree instrumental music sets the standard for others to follow, with 35% of the student population learning an instrument. The teachers and staff could not be prouder of the work that they put in to live out the school rally cry of "Level Up," each and every day.



Tynes Elementary School (TK-6)

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.johntyn.es.org



Dr. Christa Borgese
Principal

Off to an Exciting Start

The Tynes Tigers have had an exciting start to the 2024-2025 school year! We kicked off the year by warmly welcoming our students with lively music and homemade signs at the entrance. Since that memorable first day, we've hosted our PBIS assemblies

and rotations, and it's been wonderful to see our students embody the "PAWS-R" principles each day: Positive Attitude, Act Responsibly, Willing to Learn, Safe Choices, and Respect.

Our PBIS Prize Cart is thriving, allowing students to exchange their "PAWS-R" cards for fun items like small toys, passes, and treats. Our Student Council is also in full swing, having organized exciting

dress-up days for Red Ribbon Week. A special thanks to the Tynes PTA for making our Family Movie Night on the field a great success, strengthening our community bonds.

Tiger teachers and students are eager for a fantastic year ahead!



Tiger teachers and students are eager for a fantastic year ahead!

Valadez *Middle School Academy* (6-8)

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.valadezacademy.org



Will Truong
Principal

Connecting with our Valadez Familia

Our theme at Valadez Middle School Academy this year is to support every Eagle, every day in setting and reaching their academic and personal goals. We have continued to engage our families as educational partners through in-person gatherings and digital communication. One new partnership we've established this year is with the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), which provides in-person and digital Zoom workshops to raise awareness about the value of STEM and learn how to increase their children's engagement in STEM. These interactive workshops provide families with a way to engage in STEM activities and learn how to support their students' critical thinking at home. With our team's concerted efforts, we hosted sixty-five families in person and twenty-four families through Zoom. With our monthly Coffee with the Principals meetings, PTA-sponsored Trunk-or-Treat & Dia De Los Muertos events upcoming, we're excited to continue to strengthen our community connections.



Valencia *High School* (9-12)

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Valencia High School's Event Broadcasting Program Setting the Standard

One thing about the pandemic - it did spawn some creative opportunities in schools. As sports and activities resumed in late 2020 and early 2021, we had a need to be able to broadcast events in real time to avoid having a crowd in a theater, gym or stadium. Our Tiger Tube Video production class, under the direction of teacher Rodney Boaz

rose to the challenge and began live-streaming these events. Over the past two years this fledgling broadcasting program has become the standard that the CIF recently highlighted in a "Behind the Broadcast" segment circulated to all Southern Section schools.

Fueled by Mr. Boaz' vision and some timely CTE grants and PYLUSD funding for equipment, the Tiger Sports and Event Network (TSEN) has become the envy of Orange County. Our students now do live play by play and analysis, sideline reporting, multiple camera angles, instant replay, real-time data graphics, interesting statistics and just about anything else you might see

on ESPN. The control room is capable of handling feeds directly from Bradford Stadium, the gym and theater and is an exciting place to be when a broadcast is underway. You will hear student directors calling out "cut to camera three," "sideline report on Cam 2 in 30 seconds," "bring up score bug," "replay ready," and more. The energy is intense.

TSEN is an exciting blend of ValTech, CTE, real-world work experience and connections to CSU Fullerton. One thing is certain - Valencia's TSEN students will be Future Ready.



Behind the Broadcast Feature Video

Van Buren *Elementary School (TK-6)*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



**David
Cammarato**
Principal

Collaborative Commitment

It's remarkable how many people come together to create a positive, fun, and enriching learning environment at Van Buren Elementary School. I'd like to take a moment to recognize those who make our school such a great place to learn!

Our dedicated support staff—including secretaries, custodians, aides, noon supervisors, and others—play a crucial role in our school's success. Often, they are the first point of contact for many, and their hard work behind the scenes keeps the campus running smoothly. Their positivity and commitment set a welcoming tone that resonates throughout the school.

Van Buren's teachers are among the best. They are passionate educators, committed to using data and best practices to enhance their teaching and impact student learning. The Van Buren staff remains deeply committed to

student success. This year, we are focused on differentiated instruction, AVID strategies, and targeted after-school interventions to provide personalized support for each student.

Our PTA is made up of incredible parents who volunteer countless hours to support our school through fundraising and community events. From the PTA pancake breakfast and family movie nights to Restaurant Nights, Red Ribbon Week, and our annual Trunk or Treat, these events foster connections within our community. Many more exciting activities are planned to further strengthen our community spirit and bring families together beyond the school grounds.

This collaborative effort has helped our students overcome challenges, feel valued, and develop a genuine love for learning. The exceptional start to this school year, driven by the dedication of parents, teachers, and staff, has set a high standard of excellence that will continue to shape our journey forward.

Wagner *Elementary School (TK-6)*

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.wagnerwildcats.org



Kyleen Fennema
Principal

Wildcats Helping Wildcats: Community and Service Thrive at Wagner

The Wildcat spirit is alive and well at Wagner Elementary! This small school has a big heart and finds strength in the connections forged between its students and the sense of belonging in our community. From the Kindness Crew's "buddy zone" at recess to the reading buddies program pairing fourth-graders with kindergarteners, Wildcats are always looking out for one another.



Kindness Crew

The Student Valet team ensures each day starts with a friendly welcome, while the Lunch Crew works to keep the table area ready for all. Sixth Grade Helpers apply for jobs to support younger wildcats, and all students are invited to share "shout outs" that highlight others in our weekly video assemblies.



Student Valet



Lunch Crew

Through these initiatives and more, Wagner Elementary cultivates a culture of empathy, responsibility, and community. It's a place where every Wildcat has the power to make a difference, and the support of their school behind them.

Go Wildcats!



Reading Buddies

Woodsboro *Elementary School (TK-6)*

7575 Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • woodsboro.pylusd.org



Rachael Collins
Principal

Annual Move-A-Thon

On October 4th, the Woodsboro community gathered for the PTA's annual Move-A-Thon fundraiser, bringing together students, parents, and local businesses in a day full of fun and fitness. The event featured activities like

dodgeball, dancing, an obstacle course, and a chance for students to experience what it's like to be a police cadet. The Move-A-Thon engages students in one hour of sustained physical activity, promoting health and wellness while supporting the school.

Mr. Lauder's Kindergarten and First grade class stood out with their enthusiasm, earning special recognition for their efforts.

The success of the fundraiser was made possible by the hard work of the event's organizers, dedicated parent volunteers, local

law enforcement, and generous contributions from local businesses. Woodsboro is truly fortunate to have such supportive partners in the community.

Thanks to everyone involved, the event was not only fun but a meaningful way to support our students and school! Way to go, Woodsboro!



Yorba Linda *Middle School (6-8)*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



Paige Stills
Principal

Looking Forward to an Exciting Year

We are thrilled to welcome our students and staff back to school for another exciting year of learning, growth, and community. This year, we are emphasizing Every Bobcat, Every Day! The first few weeks of the school year have kicked off with energy and success, thanks to our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiatives, which are working to build a

positive and supportive environment for all students. These initiatives aim to reinforce respectful behavior, foster a culture of kindness, and ensure everyone feels safe and valued on campus.

Our Week of Welcome was a huge success, filled with activities designed to help students get to know each other and feel more connected to our school. From team-building exercises to a schoolwide pancake breakfast, the week promoted a sense of belonging that we hope will carry throughout the entire school year.

In sports news, we are incredibly proud of our YLMS volleyball teams. Both the girls' and boys' teams brought home the championship. Their hard work and teamwork paid off, and we are proud of their accomplishments.

Academically, we are excited to share that last year saw significant gains. Our students showed a 7% overall growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and 6% in math. These improvements are a testament to the hard work of both students and teachers. We are excited to build upon the growth in this school year.

Looking forward, we are excited to announce the creation of our first Middle School Principal's Advisory Committee. This committee will give students the opportunity to share their insights and ideas to help us maintain a safe, respectful, and academically challenging environment. It will focus on important topics such as attendance, student behavior, and coursework, ensuring that student voices are heard and valued.

Yorba Linda High School (9-12)

19900 Bastanchury Rd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Bird Potter
Principal

Future Ready Day

The 2024-2025 school year is off to a fantastic start, as the Mustangs returned to campus with renewed energy and enthusiasm, ready to promote our core values of Service, Teamwork, Achievement, Mastery, Passion, Ethics, Dedication, and Excellence. We eagerly anticipate a school year filled with opportunities that encourage every student and staff member to engage deeply with the rich offerings at Yorba Linda High School.

On Tuesday, October 15th, Yorba Linda High School hosted Future Ready Day. The event featured inspiring speakers from many college and career paths and offered students a unique opportunity to explore their future possibilities. Students took time to listen to career speakers, fill out college applications, visit with college representatives, and more! Future Ready Day was a huge success, and we would like to thank our wonderful PTSA for helping to coordinate this impactful event. We would also like to thank the many speakers and college representatives who came to campus to meet our students. Your time is invaluable and appreciated.

Go Mustangs!



Leadership Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put PYLUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2024

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

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T	S	T	R	O	N	G	W	I	L	L	E	D	R	T
V	G	O	Y	N	R	O	L	E	M	O	D	E	L	D

How Fast Do I Read?

When I was first taught to read, the instruction was to point to each word with my finger and say each word out loud. Later, I was told to stop using my finger. Finally, I was told to stop saying the words out loud. At that time, I was considered a good reader.

In reality, I was a slow reader. I continued to pronounce each word mentally, which slowed my rate of reading down. Teachers would assign reading based on an average reading speed for that grade level. If the grade level considered 150 words per minute the average and I read at 75 words per minute, the assigned reading took me twice as long as for others in the class. My reading speed was never considered a factor. The only evaluation was simply that I could read.

To improve your reading speed, consider that when you look around a room, you do not mentally say each item you see. Your mind processes that information. When reading, you need to break the habit of saying each word mentally and instead let your mind automatically process the information. This procedure will help you improve your fluency:

Begin by determining the number of words you read per minute. This can be done by reading for one minute and then counting the words you read. An average fourth-grader should read 150 words per minute (wpm), and a high school student should read 250 wpm. After establishing a basis, go back to the beginning.

Use a bookmark or a ruler to guide your eyes on a line. Then, quickly read for five minutes without saying each word. This will help you to break the habit of saying each word as you read. You may want to repeat the same sentence or paragraph several times.

Do this exercise for five to 10 minutes each day, and you will increase your wpm in 30 days. The better one reads, the better they will do in life. Most books are written for people who can read 200 wpm. Slow readers get bored! Students that read fast cut down on homework time, which allows for other studies or leisure.

Average Words Per Minute

- 6–7 years old: 53–111 wpm
- 7–8 years old: 89–149 wpm
- 8–9 years old: 107–162 wpm
- 10–11 years old: 139–194 wpm
- 11 to 14 years old: 150–204 wpm
- 14 to 18 years old: 200–300 wpm
- 18–23 years old: 250–350 wpm
- Adults: 220–350 wpm

D.H.Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to tutor and consult.
www.HistoryDepot.com

Presidents' Day

Why do we celebrate the third Monday in February as Presidents' Day? On that day, we celebrate all the United States presidents. We often associate Presidents' Day with the first president, George Washington, born Feb. 22, 1732, and the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, born Feb. 12, 1809.

Washington was the American version of Cincinnatus, who gave up the dictatorship in Early Rome. When King George III heard that, it was reported that he said, "Washington would be the greatest man in the world." It was during Washington's presidency that the framework of the structure of the United States government and economic system were established. The two-party system was taking shape, with Federalist as one party and Anti-Federalist, under Thomas Jefferson's opposition to the federalist, as the other.

By 1824, the two parties emerged in a contest election between John Q. Adams and Andrew Jackson. Then in 1828, Jackson won the presidency and expanded the electorate to the common man, and the two parties drifted further apart over the issue of the expansion of slavery.

The election of 1860 was won by Abraham Lincoln, and the Southern slave states tried to withdraw from the Union and sparked the Civil War. It was during this war that Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863, pointing out that the American experience began in 1776 with the Declaration of Independence. "Conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal"—these simple words changed America from "are independent states" to "is a unified nation."

During the short speech, Lincoln did not refer to the elite but to those who "gave the last full measure of devotion." By 1860, the nations had won independence from monarchies and returned to monarchist governments. America was the last hope "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

One president gave us an America of the people, and the other made a course correction that is still in the process of carrying on the experiment in democracy.



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Ask Dr. Shari



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Buckle Up! AI is Ready for Takeoff!

Let's face it. Over the past 15 years, younger generations have become our go-to technology experts. They quickly mastered new tech and guided us through the intricacies of smartphones and gadgets. As a generation, we were initially behind, but we embraced our young leaders, provided they stayed in their lane, of course. However, we've now reached a point where basic tech knowledge is widespread, leading to a new division driven by the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

There's no question that AI is a transformative force, more impactful and game-changing than any previous technology. While excitement and fear about its potential abound, one thing is certain: AI's growth will undoubtedly affect everyone, and this is a crucial point to understand.

My focus is on embracing how AI can push advancements that enhance various aspects of life. Yet, there's a new cultural evolution to consider, viewed through the lens of 'Innovation vs. Digital Distraction.'

AI is opening new doors previously unexplored, serving as a conduit for the expression of unique ideas. It inspires deeper thinking, boosts creativity, and helps develop more innovative solutions. Witnessing its ability to supercharge growth and productivity is truly mind-blowing.

Yet, not everyone embraces or pays attention to its potential. The divide is no longer between young and old, but between those motivated to learn and those content to serve as mere data sources for AI, buried in social apps and entertainment.

Like it or not, AI is becoming a critical factor in personal and societal evolution, marking a significant new chapter in our technological journey. Now more than ever, we must understand this movement while making a concerted effort to unplug, step away from the machines, and fortify our personal relationships and experiences.

Just remember whatever social experiences you believe that you are having online will be less and less "human derived." My hope is that it will allow us to more clearly delineate and respect the need for each aspect of life during this new phase of evolution driven by AI.

Lessons of POWERFUL Communication

At no time has the ability to communicate effectively been more important. There is no question that the political atmosphere of recent years has degraded us and demoralized us. "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all" seems to be an archaic ideal as we watch grown adults spew pointless negativity on a regular basis.

If we want to stop the degradation of society, one of the most important changes we can affect, is to upgrade our standards of interaction. Children desperately need models of good behavior, and constructive communication, more than ever.

Following are 5 skills that every child and adult must learn in order to be powerful communicators:

Listen: Even if you do not agree, hear people out, gain an understanding of a person's values as they speak. Never talk over people. Don't interrupt. Affirm that you have heard their thoughts, and then you can share your view with the expectation of the same courtesy. People react more calmly, and are more inclined to listen, when they feel they have been heard.

Ask: Don't claim to have the answers. Get a depth of clarification on their views that contradict your own. Accept that people have different value systems. You will never change a person's mind by imposing your values

on them; this only creates defense and negativity. If you want to share an opposing view, do so respectfully, acknowledging that you understand and accept that your partner in the conversation might feel differently.

Avoid Negative Energy: Proper communication is neither negative nor dramatic. A productive conversation stays respectful at all costs. An agreement to proceed productively, is core to powerful communication. Respectfully end a conversation that seems to be turning negative, and agree to reconvene when the atmosphere is calmer.

Maintain Integrity: Don't falsify or exaggerate. If you stray from truth, your communication will be weak, and your informational value will be lost. Even one incident of falsification can destroy a person's credibility.

Develop Mastery: Commit to communicating powerfully until it is habitual. Master communicators listen, ask questions, operate with respect, maintain integrity and avoid negativity and drama. Like the mastery of any important skill, it takes practice.

We can make an enormous difference by committing to these simple standards.

Please share your stories of how you and your children practice to be powerful communicators. ss@doctorshari.com

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LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam