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School News

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Covering the Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach City, Ocean View, and Westminster School Districts

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 91

JUNE 2019

Establishing a Blue Print for Ocean View's Future

By Julie A. Jennings, Public Information Officer, Ocean View School District

The Ocean View School District Blue Print launched this year to clearly communicate our values, priorities, and practices. The months-long process of creating *The OVSD Blue Print* was exciting and inclusive, involving more than two dozen individuals from throughout our stakeholder communities – teachers, parents, classified staff, and administrators.

The resulting one-page document is meant to serve as a foundation for all that we do in Ocean View. Presented for adoption by our Board of Trustees in January, it includes three Core Values: *Innovation, Integrity, and Equity*. *The OVSD Blue Print* also spells out seven tenets, which summarize our overarching goals and operational practices. These seven tenets are:

1. Learners will achieve and develop the skills to live productively in a changing society with confidence, compassion, and enthusiasm for life-long learning.
2. Learners are offered innovative, unique programs to enrich and magnify their learning experience.
3. Learners are provided an engaging environment that encompasses the whole child, including safe learning experiences and secure campuses.
4. Positive and respectful interactions are fostered with all students, staff, and families.
5. Two-way communication is practiced and valued, allowing for honest feedback, direction, and guidance.
6. District resources are unified in order to maximize funds, support equity, and ultimately support student success.
7. Staff are valued for their expertise and are provided current and purposeful growth opportunities.

Although each of the seven tenets is an important piece of today's Ocean View, the first tenet's focus on student achievement and development is critical to our daily purpose and practices. On a regular basis, our students and teachers are asking deeper questions about a variety of subjects as part of the learning process. Students are being encouraged to make choices in their own learning to boost confidence and engagement, while teachers are guiding them to make connections between the classroom and real life.



Village View Elementary students proudly demonstrating their learning, which involved designing solutions and creating DOK projects.

Ocean View classrooms are not just about recall and concepts. Our teachers are now actively teaching all students to ask deeper questions using strategic thinking and extended thinking, also known as Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Levels 3 and 4. How can this knowledge justify the answer (DOK 3)? How else can this knowledge be used (DOK 4)?

Students from preschool to middle school get to demonstrate their knowledge and skills with creative tools and critical communication skills, including public speaking. It is thrilling to watch! If learning is exciting for students, and we continue our commitment to offer innovative, individualized instructional programs, then all students can achieve their best with enthusiasm for lifelong learning. This is why we are here.

We are excited about the good work we are doing on behalf of our Ocean View families and look forward to our ongoing efforts to bring *The OVSD Blue Print* to life!



Ocean View Preparatory Preschool students build & explore with materials & shapes. (please see page 11)

Superintendents

Fountain Valley



Dr. Mark Johnson
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Huntington Beach City



Gregory Hauk
pages 8–10

Ocean View



Dr. Carol Hansen
pages 11–15

Westminster



Dr. Cyndi Paik
pages 16–20



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President, California Association of Orthodontists



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Covering the:
**FOUNTAIN VALLEY/ OCEAN VIEW
HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Another successful school year is coming to a close. Thank you for being loyal readers and including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue September 11 when school will be back in session.

Have a wonderful summer. On pages 21 is library information for summer programs. On page 22 are student book reviews to help with your book choices.

If you missed any issues, we post current and archived on our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com. You may also sign up to receive digital copies emailed to you.

Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center

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Autism: Why Early Identification is Important

According to a 2018 report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), an estimated one in 59 births in the U.S. has autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Currently, more than 3.5 million Americans live with an ASD.

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?

ASD is a complex developmental disability with signs that appear during early childhood. Because it impacts individuals differently across a variety of behaviors, it is called a “spectrum condition.”

Behaviors associated with autism can include: delayed learning of language, difficulty with conversation and eye contact, poor motor skills, sensory sensitivities, lack of spontaneous or make-believe play, and persistent fixation on parts of objects.

What causes autism?

The generally accepted belief by researchers is that autism is caused by abnormalities in brain structure or function. Brain scans of children with autism and who do not have autism show differences in the structure and shape of the brain. Heredity, genetics, medical problems and environmental factors may also play a role in brain development that results in autism.

Why is early identification of autism important?

According to the CDC, Autism is treatable and although individuals will not “outgrow” the condition, studies show that early diagnosis and intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes.

What can parents do if they are concerned about their child's development?

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the CDC have developed a list of behaviors and Signs and Symptoms as part of the “Learn the Signs. Act Early” initiative. Parents of children up to five years old can track their child's development milestones and have an evaluation by a multidisciplinary team if they have concerns.

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Is Your Child At Risk for Unintentional Drowning?



Aileen Imai,
Injury Prevention
Coordinator,
Injury Prevention
Program,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Every day, about 10 people die from unintentional drowning. About one in five people who die from drowning are children 14 and younger. And for every child who dies from drowning, another five receive emergency department care for non-fatal submersion injuries.

These non-fatal drowning injuries can cause severe brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities, such as memory problems, learning disabilities or permanent loss of basic functioning.

Drowning Prevention

With summer around the corner, it's important to keep water safety top of mind. Children need a designated chaperone at all times. Formal swimming lessons reduce the risk of drowning. Yet even when children have had formal swimming lessons, constant supervision and barriers, such as pool fencing to prevent

unsupervised access, are still important.

Never leave a child in the water without adult supervision, no matter how shallow the water. And at no time should you consider that a flotation device will protect or save your child if you step away or are distracted, even for a moment.

In addition, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) performed by bystanders has been shown to save lives and improve outcomes in drowning victims. The more quickly CPR is started, the better the chance of improved outcomes. In the time it takes for paramedics to arrive, CPR skills may save a child's life.

The Injury Prevention Program at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach cares about keeping kids safe. That's why we focus on providing safety education to children and families in our community.



Orthodontics Matters



Dr. Andrew Harner
Orthodontist

Crooked Teeth and Bad Bites

Many parents wonder why their child's teeth don't come in perfectly straight. While genetics certainly plays a role in the size and position of the teeth and jaws, there are environmental factors that also affect tooth and jaw alignment. Below are some of the most common environmental factors.

Thumb-sucking – to prevent thumb-sucking, I recommend parents use a pacifier for their infants if necessary. Remember, at least a pacifier can be taken away once the child is a bit older. However, if your child already has a thumb-sucking habit, there are several strategies that can help them quit. Most success comes when habit reminders are used and when the child is motivated to quit themselves.

Tongue thrusting or improper use of the tongue during speaking and swallowing – speech therapy and/or myofunctional therapy may be necessary in combination with orthodontic treatment to help address and correct poor tongue posture/function.

Premature loss of baby teeth or loss of tooth structure due to cavities. Baby teeth are like placeholders for the permanent teeth. If baby teeth are lost early, then the space for the permanent teeth may be lost and crowding results.

Airway problems causing mouth-breathing. Mouth-breathing as a result of allergies, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, or other nasal issues, can negatively affect the size of the upper jaw. If you notice that your child cannot close his or her mouth for more than two minutes without gasping for air, then strategies to establish normal breathing should be undertaken.

All of the above environmental factors can affect jaw size and position and the alignment of the teeth. Early recognition of the effects of environmental factors on the developing jaws and erupting teeth can help prevent more serious orthodontic problems in the future.

Dr. Andrew Harner is the Past-President of the California Association of Orthodontists. He is an orthodontic specialist and maintains a private practice in Huntington Beach. He has served on the Board of the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists and is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists.

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Community Partners #FVSDDriven to Ensure Students have the Very Best

One of the great things about being part of the Fountain Valley School District Community is the ability to form strong partnerships with businesses and outside organizations. For years, FVSD has been partners with service groups like Rotary, Kiwanis, FV Women's Club, and our Schools Foundation.

In addition, we have formed great relationships with local businesses. Most recently, we have partnered with a national bank and national book retailer on one of their initiatives, Reading is the Way Up. Over the last two years, these two groups have donated over 6,000 books and over \$20,000 to four of our elementary schools. Last year, they donated to Gisler and Tamura Elementary Schools and this year they selected Cox and Newland Elementary Schools. These resources are being



Students from Cox Elementary join Principal Patrick Ham and Superintendent Mark Johnson in thanking our community partners for their generous support of our schools.

used to provide our students with a literacy program that is second to none! And, it is one more way that our community partners demonstrate how they are #FVSDDriven to ensure our students have the very best!!

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Monster Concerts

By Lisa Schultz, Member

In May, students who participate in Fountain Valley School District's and Fountain Valley High School's instrumental music programs come together to celebrate in Monster Concert. Monster Concert is a signature event for showcasing the musical talents and skills of our elementary, middle and high school students.

This year, FVSD had over 400 students perform, making it the largest performance in our district's history. Moreover, FVHS added over 250 students from their band, pageantry and orchestra programs, bringing the total student participation to over 650 students. Dr. Steve McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services in FVSD, stated, "This was the best Monster Concert ever! Our students were exceptional, and the cumulative impact of students playing an instrument over multiple years was evident at every level."

A special thank you goes out to our middle school Music Directors, Mr. Adamiak, Mr. Covacevich, and Mr. Lamantia, all of whom take our music programs to the next level! Additionally, a big thank you to FVHS Director, Mr. Irons and his team for their continued support of our programs.

It is clear that our district is #FVSDDriven to provide our students with an education that is filled with experiences that go well beyond the classroom!

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.courreges.fvdsd.us



Chris Christensen
Principal

One of the Finest

Courreges Elementary School is proud to select Mischel Li Bunao as our 2019 Classified Employee of the Year! Mischel has been a valued staff member at Courreges for seven years. She currently serves as our Food Services cafeteria worker.

Mischel always provides service with a smile. She goes above and beyond in many ways to create a warm and inviting cafeteria experience for our students. Mischel comes to work each day with an infectious smile on her face which brightens the lives of every child and staff member with whom she interacts.



Mischel is a wonderful contributor to our school, and is both dedicated and reliable. We are thus honored and privileged to name Mischel Li Bunao as our Courreges Elementary School's 2019 Classified Employee of the Year!

James H. Cox *Elementary (K-5)*

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.cox.fvdsd.us



Dr. Patrick Ham
Principal

4th & 5th Grade Cox Olympic Games

With the help of our terrific parent volunteers and the amazing Noon Duty Staff, I was able to host the inaugural Cox Olympic Games on April 26th. More than 240 4th and 5th grade students participated in the following events: 100 Yard Dash, ¼ Mile, Softball Toss, the Triple Jump, and Free Throw Shooting contest.

Students learned the importance of competition and the spirit of sportsmanship in the process.

I was so impressed with the level of encouragement and the amount of fun we all had in the process. Special thanks to all the parents volunteers, especially Ms. Edith Chavez and Mr. Brian Schunck for your support. Congratulations to all our medalists and future Olympians who were recognized on May 13th during our whole school Monday Morning Assembly. Go Eagles!!!



Derrick Johnson and Juliane Montiel earn the Gold for the 100 Yard Dash 5th Grade.

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

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • www.fulton.fvdsd.us



Dr. Kevin Johnson
Principal



Jennifer Kajdasz
Assistant Principal

A Force of Positivity

Fulton Middle School is proud to announce Ms. Elizabeth Hogrebe as its 2019 Fulton Teacher of the Year. Aside from her dedication in the classroom,

Ms. Hogrebe has also served our Fulton community with passion. Over the course of her career she has taught social studies and math, and she also leads the Peer Assistance League on campus.

Ms. Hogrebe also serves on our Fulton Leadership teams, and is an indispensable member of our staff. She is the very definition of “collaborative” both on campus and throughout the community. Largely due to her leadership, our Fulton students have contributed over \$60,000 to various community charities.

Elizabeth is keenly aware of the impact that her work has on our students’ lives. She teaches them to be responsible and contributing citizens, while also allowing them to become their uniquely contributing selves. Our students love Ms. Hogrebe because while she makes their learning challenging, she always keeps it fun. She is a force of positivity, and her energy is contagious!

Mrs. Hogrebe defines Fulton’s “students first” approach to all activities conducted across campus. She fights tirelessly for what is best for our students, and goes far out of her way to make sure they get it. Ultimately, Elizabeth Hogrebe always makes students her No.1 priority. Fulton could not be more proud to have her as a valued member of its staff.



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.gisler.fvdsd.us



Erin Bains
Principal

Camp Read-A-Lot

Gisler held its second annual Literacy Night in May with the theme of “camping.” Gator students and family members joined us for a night of fun and reading. Students were able to rotate through various stations set up and run by teachers, which included family games, making puppets, and a bookmark.

The students also filled out Mad Libs and amused their friends and family. Two other popular activities were s’more making and the “Reading Under the Stars” event, where blankets and tents were set up for the students to gather. Each student also received a Gisler Gator flashlight!



This year we added our fifth-graders reading aloud their favorite stories to an audience. It was a fun night to get our community together and focus on the different aspects of literacy. A big thank-you goes out to everyone who made this event successful!

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6-8)*

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masuda.fvdsd.us



Jay Adams
Principal



Matt Ploski
Assistant Principal

Congratulations, Mrs. Lew!

Masuda is proud to honor Mrs. April Lew, instructional bilingual aide, as our Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Lew’s peers all state that she is amazing at interacting with our language learners here at Masuda! She is nurturing and supportive; she is an asset to every classroom in which she works. Mrs. Lew truly cares about our Monarchs and strives to meet all students at their own levels—pushing them onward and upward.

We at Masuda are blessed by Mrs. Lew’s positivity and work ethic. The entire Masuda community benefits from all that she has to offer and the learning she nurtures. We are proud to present her as our Classified Employee of the Year on the basis of her outstanding contributions to the lives of the children—and adults—whose lives she touches daily.



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

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.newland.fvdsd.us



Christopher Mullin
Principal

Teacher of the Year

It is with great pride that Newland presents its Teacher of the Year nominee, Nicole Roquemore. Mrs. Roquemore exemplifies the virtues of a wonderful teacher. She truly loves her students and has a deep respect for the profession. Not only is Mrs. Roquemore an amazing teacher, but she is also one who is part of everything that makes Newland great.

One of Newland’s teachers said of Nicole Roquemore, “Nicole exhibits many qualities of an outstanding teacher. Her dedication to her students and their success is evident in the smile on her face and her thoughtful and purposeful lesson planning. When working with her students, she always has a positive attitude and truly listens to their needs. Having taught kindergarten for many years, Nicole has been able to craft her instruction to meet the needs of each and every one of her students!”



Another teacher simply stated, “Nicole is awesome!” Nicole Roquemore is an exemplary teacher, and one that Newland is proud to nominate for Teacher of the Year.

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.oka.fvdsd.us



Erik Miller
Principal

Selfless and Caring Leadership

Oka Elementary School's Wolfpack takes great pride promoting the importance of being a team. We have seven character attributes we focus on to help students further develop as they move through elementary school, and we are proud to highlight the initiative and compassion our students are showing. Our students are jumping into areas where they can help.

Currently, Oka is collecting non-perishable food items, including peanut butter, jelly, pasta, cereal, rice, and beans, to help local families. This food collection has been led by one student, fourth-grader Chloe Gordon, in partnership with a local organization that directly helps hundreds of families in our community by providing food and meals during non-school periods of time. Chloe decided to take on this project because she wanted to help others. Her caring heart and willingness to make a positive difference in the lives of others symbolize the teamwork spirit that Oka is all about.

Thank you, Chloe, for being a true leader of the pack!



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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.plavan.fvdsd.us



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Scientists and Campers

Plavan Elementary School's fifth-grade students and their teachers recently returned from a week-long adventure to Arrowhead Ranch Science Camp. The students departed early Tuesday morning and were on the go until Friday afternoon. They participated in daily hikes and learned about zoology, botany, astronomy, and more.

The counselors and naturalists at the camp all have college degrees in various areas of science. They are professional and knowledgeable and made learning fun through games, storytelling, and discovery. Thanks to these excellent leaders, the experience brought out the best in our scholars and opened their minds to learning outside their classroom walls.



Miss Reza and Alexa Gameros were a great team at science camp!

The students were especially excited about conquering their fears on their night hike, and they loved learning about astronomy, including information about constellations, planets, and Greek mythology.

Our students returned to school with new knowledge, new friendships, amazing memories, and a true feeling of accomplishment. We are extremely proud of our scientists and look forward sending another group next year.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.tamura.fvdsd.us



Kathy Davis
Principal

Congratulations, Ms. DiCorpo!

Louise DiCorpo is Tamura's choice for this year's Employee of the Year! Ms. DiCorpo consistently goes above and beyond to help students. She is willing to do whatever is needed of her. When she is put into extremely difficult situations with a student, she steps up and helps in whatever way she can.

Ms. DiCorpo's patience, flexibility and knowledge are exceptional. She models excellent behavior-intervention strategies, and she uses evidence-based practices effectively to promote academic and functional-skill acquisition. She also works to develop a rapport with her students and goes out of her way to find activities to do inside or outside class that are both meaningful and enjoyable. She is truly a pleasure to work with, and we feel very fortunate to have her on the Tamura Team.

Ms. DiCorpo has a special place in her heart for children with special needs. She is a stellar employee!



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

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbert.fvdsd.us



Jennifer Morgan
Principal



Molly Kuykendall
Assistant Principal

Award Season

As award season comes to a close, we would like to recognize several people at Talbert Middle School. There is a lot to celebrate at Talbert!

Our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) crew, led by Ms. Robin Parker, won Outstanding PAL program out of 125 PAL programs across the country. Mrs. Ashly Robinson received a grant from the California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) Harbor Beach Division.

Our music program, led by Mr. Sean Adamiak, shined bright during the Monster Concert, and five of our own T-Bird artists won Best in Show during the Fountain Valley School District Art Show.

One of our incredible instructional assistants, Debbie Garcia, won Classified Employee of the Year. And we can't forget several months back when we announced that our phenomenal physical education teacher, Gary Petrilla, was named Certificated Employee of the Year.

Another special shout out to Talbert Cheer for their fantastic season! As you can see, not only do our T-Birds shine bright in all things academic, they also soar to new heights in extracurriculars as well! We are so proud of entire Talbert community for a successful 2018-2019 school year!

Huntington Beach City School District

8750 Dorsett Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/964-8888 • www.hbcasd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory Haulk

Support Education: Volunteer

There is a lot of misinformation going around in this nation in regards to the effectiveness of public schools and what happens at schools on a daily basis. I am fortunate to have worked in public education for 30 years and witness firsthand the incredible teaching and learning that happens each and every day. But don't take my word for it—find out for yourself. Volunteer.

One of the best partners that schools have is their Parent Teacher Association (PTA). I encourage you to attend a meeting and ask where they need help. Too many feel that if they attend a meeting and volunteer, it is a lifelong commitment, and that is absolutely not true. Let your PTA group know that you are interested in volunteering—let them know the things you are comfortable doing and how often you can help. We have some parents who can volunteer once a year for an hour. Fantastic—we can always use volunteers to set up for a special event, glue artwork in frames, or help count laps at a jog-a-thon. Those are just some of the one-time opportunities.

When you volunteer, you too will begin to see the amazing things that are going on in your neighborhood school. Then, the next time that you hear a rumor about a school or an opinion piece on the news, you will have a much better idea of what is happening in our schools. Come and volunteer and become a part of the excellence that is happening at all of our schools, each and every day.

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Sensory Play

Play is essential for children's development and early learning. Play helps children develop and improve their gross- and fine-motor skills, coordination and concentration. It also provides an opportunity to work cooperatively and collaboratively with others—to use all their senses to discover and explore their environment, and to develop their imagination, creative thinking and ability to problem-solve and experiment with solutions.

Research indicates that a stimulating, sensory environment is likely to make a significant difference in a person's lifelong learning ability. Information enters the brain through firsthand experiences with things, people and feelings, based on sensory input—vision, hearing, touch, smell and taste.

Ethel R. Dwyer *Middle School*

1502 Palm Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-7507 • dms.schoolloop.com



Christa Glembocki
Principal

Honoring Hard Work

Dwyer Middle School has had a wonderful spring season, winning several statewide awards. In February, we were invited to apply for the California Distinguished School Award because of our high academic achievements.

Along with this nomination was the opportunity to apply for an Exemplary Program distinction. Dwyer was awarded both as a California Distinguished School and for having an Exemplary Arts Program. Dwyer is one of 162 other Distinguished Schools and one out of only 10 in all of California to be named as having an Exemplary Arts distinction!



Mrs. Glembocki accepted the Exemplary Arts Award along with her Assistant Principals, Mrs. Cronin and Mr. Smith

In addition to these prestigious awards, the Dwyer community came together in March to vote our school into winning a \$25,000 grant sponsored by the State Treasury Department. Everyone in our community truly worked so hard to help us get over 10,500 votes and win this grant for our new STEAM labs and gymnasium. This feat took a lot of grit!



At a recent parent-education session, adults experimented with simple sensory recipes such as moon sand and fluffy slime, and discovered the calming effect that sensory play offers. Contact us at earlychildhood@hbcasd.us to learn how our free State Preschool Program supports children through sensory play!

John H. Eader *Elementary*

9291 Banning Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-2451 • www.eader-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Carolyn Beck
Principal

An Amazing Vocal Music Program

Eader is very proud of its amazing vocal music program. Music Director Ms. Nelda Alvarez has developed performances for every grade level that focus on the social studies standards.

For instance, our students in third grade can tell you everything you ever wanted to know about Huntington Beach. A family favorite is the song The Huntington Beach Pier. Several schools in our district also teach the songs created by Ms. Nelda to their third-grade students. Her creative genius is admired throughout HBCSD.



Eader Glee Perform Sunshine, Rainbow and a Unicorn in Chinese

Ms. Nelda also leads our incredible Glee Chorus. Sixty-five fifth-grade students spend their lunch time learning popular songs to share at performances for our community and families. Recently our Glee students learned a popular song in Chinese to sing to our visitors from Tianjin, China. The Chinese students loved their performance!

Our vocal music program makes Eader a special school for students.

Huntington Seacliff *Elementary*

6701 Garfield Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/841-7081 • www.seacliff-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Michael Andrzejewski
Principal

Run the OC

The Huntington Seacliff Elementary School Kids Run the OC program began three years ago as part of our effort to support students' need for movement and to provide another engaging life activity opportunity. Coordinated by parent volunteer Rachel Dorfman, 95 students participated in a variety of activities that equated to running the first 25 miles of the Orange County (OC) Marathon. Those activities included running and movement games geared toward developing balance and coordination.

For the final mile of the marathon, students met at the Orange County Fairgrounds and ran with the other OC Marathon participants. Following the completion of the 26 miles, students were awarded medals for their efforts.

Thirteen percent of the students at Seacliff participated in Kids Run the OC. As is evidenced in our participation numbers, there was great enthusiasm for this program amongst our students.



Seacliff students prepare for running the final mile with a before-school practice session.

Dr. Ralph E. Hawes *Elementary*

9682 Yellowstone Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8302 • www.hes-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Julie Jennings
Principal

New Learning Spaces

Hawes Elementary School recently journeyed through a construction project funded by Measure Q. Through this bond, our classrooms and learning areas were transformed into 21st-century learning spaces.

By June, every classroom will have mobile furniture and enhanced technology, including a large, interactive flat panel, a massive projection screen that allows for multiple fingers on the board simultaneously, amplified sound, and one-to-one devices.

In second through fifth grades, the dry-erase surface desks can fold and move easily. Student chairs have wheels, and, in upper grade classrooms, students have the option to sit on wobble stools. Our library and music rooms were also renovated to match the classrooms, with soft seating, mobile furniture, and enhanced technology.

Our students are excited and will be engaged by the activities that we can now integrate! By September, construction will be completed and a permanent fence will be installed around the campus.

Thank you to Measure Q for these amazing upgrades! #Constructionrocks #Newlearningspacesforall #BeHawesome

S. A. Moffett *Elementary*

8800 Burlcrest Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/963-8985 • www.moffettschool.com



Forest Holbrook
Principal

Honoring Ms. Carlton

Moffett Elementary and the Huntington Beach City School District are proud to announce fifth-grade teacher Marissa Carlton as Moffett's Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Carlton has taught at Moffett Elementary for 12 years and during that time has become an essential part of her school, district and community.

Mrs. Carlton is not only respected by her peers but is also loved by her students. When asked about Mrs. Carlton, her students smile, their eyes light up, and they happily share what a wonderful teacher they have. They love that Mrs. Carlton "makes learning so fun and exciting!" and that she "makes learning fun each and every day."



These themes of "fun" and "excitement" are not lost on her colleagues, as she has earned the reputation of a teacher leader, one whom other teachers are also excited for and feel fortunate to work with and learn from. There could not be a more deserving teacher of this award, and Moffett Elementary could not be more proud of Mrs. Carlton, our Teacher of the Year.

Joseph R. Perry *Elementary*

19231 Harding Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-3348 • www.perry-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Dr. Renee Polk Johnson
Principal

Our Teacher of the Year!

The teachers and staff members at Perry Elementary are very proud to announce that Mrs. Angelique Martinez has been selected as our Perry Teacher of the Year!

Mrs. Martinez is currently a kindergarten teacher at our school. She also serves as the site ELA/ELD primary grades coach in addition to being our Perry Yearbook chair. Mrs. Martinez is also the parent of two Perry students.

Mrs. Martinez loves teaching, and it shows. She is an exceptional educator who goes above and beyond to create a warm and welcoming environment for each of her kindergarten

students. Mrs. Martinez is also passionate about best first instruction, and is experienced in providing differentiated instruction to a diverse population of students.

Mrs. Martinez has exceptional classroom management skills. She has excellent interpersonal skills too, which she uses to build strong relationships with our students, parents, and colleagues to help build a stronger sense of community. We are extremely proud to recognize Mrs. Angelique Martinez as our Teacher of the Year!



John R. Peterson *Elementary*

20661 Farnsworth Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-1515 • www.pes-huntington-ca.schoolloop.com



Dr. Constance Polhemus
Principal

Developmental Asset Framework

Researchers have learned a great deal in the past several decades about elements in the human experience that have long-term, positive consequences for young people. Factors such as family dynamics, support from community adults, school effectiveness, peer influence, values instruction, and social skills have all been identified as contributing to healthy development. These different areas of study are typically disconnected from each other. But the framework of Developmental Assets steps back to look at the whole—to pull many pieces together into a comprehensive vision of what young people need to thrive.

In addition to roots in scientific research on adolescent development, the assets grow out of three types of applied research: positive youth development, which highlights core processes and dynamics in human development that are foundational for healthy growth; prevention, which focuses on protective factors that inhibit high-risk behaviors, including substance abuse, violence, and dropping out of school; and resiliency, which identifies factors that increase young people's ability to rebound in the face of adversity. The current list of Developmental Assets includes 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that influence choices young people make and help them to become caring, responsible adults.

Because of its basis in youth development, resiliency, and prevention research and its proven effectiveness, the Developmental Assets framework has become one of the approaches Peterson Elementary School has implemented to improve outcomes in the lives of their students. There are many ways you can build assets in the children and youth around you. Whether they're in your family, school, or our community, you can use the 40 Developmental Assets to create a better world for young people.

Agnes L. Smith *Elementary*

770 17th St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-1469 • www.smithelementary.com



Debbi Randall
Principal

Physical Fitness

At Smith Elementary School, we take pride in being healthy and physically fit.

Each morning our students are invited to participate in the 100-Mile Club. They run laps while listening to music to help get their bodies ready to learn. In addition, each spring our upper-grade students also have the opportunity to participate in the World Fit program, which promotes a positive attitude toward fitness, and the opportunity to hear an Olympian speak about the positive effect of fitness on their life.



A culminating activity each year for all students at Smith is the Jog-a-Thon. This event invites families on campus to support their students as they run or walk for 20 continuous minutes. Each class dresses in their class colors. It is a festive event with music and medals for all students at the completion of the event. At Smith, we believe that fitness and health are important to student wellness.

Isaac L. Sowers *Middle School*

9300 Indianapolis Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-7738 • www.isms.schoolloop.com



Dr. John Ashby
Principal

A Day in the Life

Each year, all Huntington Beach City School District schools give an annual school report at a Board of Trustees meeting during the school year. This year, 33 students volunteered to create and design our school report as an interactive experience called "A Day in the Life of a Sowers Viking." This experience centered on our whole-child approach to teaching that was the focus of our state-recognized California Distinguished Schools application. Here is an excerpt from the report that was written by seven Sowers teachers:

"Sowers Middle School utilizes a whole-child approach, including integration and alignment across curriculum with state standards, nurturing school climate and student learning while ensuring that each child will be healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged for long-term success in college, career and civic life. This model program addresses the unique needs and motivators students require in order to learn. It is important to educate students with opportunities that develop them into empathetic leaders. In addition to focusing on academic achievement, Sowers strives to develop well-rounded individuals—students who are enthusiastic learners and have distinctive learning opportunities to address their academic, social and emotional growth."

To bring this approach to teaching and learning to life, students, faculty, and families transformed the Board room with 24 "classrooms." We invited Board members and district officials to go "back to school" by moving through six, two-minute "periods." During these short periods, Board members interacted with students, who spoke about Sowers courses, programs, or activities they are passionate about. During "lunchtime," those in attendance were also treated to a performance of "Redemption Song" by Sowers musicians and a live sketch by a Sowers artist.

We are so proud of our students who participated! Go, Vikings!

Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2551 • www.ovsd.org

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Practicing Our Core Values in OVSD's Blue Print

With the conclusion of our five-year strategic plan rapidly approaching in 2019, it is my intention as Superintendent to clearly communicate the values, goals, and practices of today's Ocean View School District. The new *OVSD Blue Print* was adopted by our Board of Trustees earlier this year, following an exciting and collaborative committee process with representatives from each of Ocean View's many stakeholder communities. Our first task – succinctly establish our core values – what is it that we stand for in OVSD? After much input and discussion, the committee decided upon the following three core values: Innovation, Integrity, and Equity. These values are intertwined with the tenets of the Blue Print.

Innovation. Ocean View schools offer innovative, unique programs that enrich and magnify students' learning experiences. The knowledge and skills they attain will serve them in all aspects of their lives and futures.

Integrity. We hold high expectations for achievement from all students. We do this by adhering to rigorous standards and by practicing consistency in our instructional programs, methods, and interactions.

Equity. We value and support Ocean View's diverse student population by providing individualized instructional programs and seeking opportunities to stimulate learning for all children. We also unify District resources to maximize funds in an equitable manner to support the success of all students.

We will be sharing more information about the *OVSD Blue Print* in the coming school year to ensure that our students, families, and staff understand and experience our values, goals, and practices.

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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OVSD's Blue Print Tenet #1: Achievement

By John Briscoe, President

If you want to know why hundreds of individuals work and volunteer in the Ocean View School District, consider our new *OVSD Blue Print*, created over several months by a committee of school and community stakeholders and adopted by our Board in January 2019. It lays out seven specific tenets and three core values, all of which represent Ocean View's beliefs and purpose. Achievement is at the forefront of the first tenet of OVSD's Blue Print: Learners will achieve and develop the skills to live productively in a changing society with confidence, compassion, and enthusiasm for life-long learning.

In Ocean View, we believe all students can achieve and develop critical, real world skills that can be used throughout school, college, and the career paths they choose. One of the ways we do this is by offering a well-rounded, rigorous curriculum and by teaching critical skills in writing, speaking and collaboration. We offer innovative programs, like STEAM, visual and performing arts, and environmental science, so students can explore and learn through a more specific lens.

OVSD offers a Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) magnet program for students who meet GATE criteria. Our program provides: A six-year, research-based continuum from elementary school through eighth grade; Award-winning GATE and California Distinguished Schools, Circle View Elementary and Mesa View Middle; Focus on meeting the learning styles of all students; Safe, nurturing, and growth-minded environments

Our most recent California Dashboard results show that Ocean View students are surpassing Orange County and state averages in both mathematics and language arts. With our Blue Print in place, we are reinforcing our commitment to guiding all students in achieving their best.

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

6692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/845-5000 • www.ovsd.org/pleasant



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
Director of
Child Development
Programs

Going Deeper

I recently spoke with Ocean View Preparatory Preschool educator Rekha Powar about Level 4 Depth of Knowledge (DOK) lessons in her classroom. "My goal was to build and explore with materials and shapes prompted by using open-ended questions. The children built a tower while counting and practicing one-to-one correspondence and number recognition.

Students built a structure using various materials and made observations about and compared the materials used. The children also built a structure for their favorite bugs, observing by comparing and measuring materials as they built their bug habitats. Some of our key vocabulary included length, height, weight, build, materials, and shapes.



Scarlett and Finley demonstrating deeper thinking with DOK 4.

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Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • www.ovsd.org/circle



Jessica Haag
Principal

High Levels of Thinking

Circle View Elementary School's teachers employ varied teaching strategies and practices to ensure that all students progress academically and socially. The most influential Ocean View School District (OVSD) practice our school has embraced to positively impact student learning entails pushing our students to understand subject matter at a deeper level. The goal is for every teacher at every grade level to engage students in subject matter demonstrations that illustrate knowledge at the deepest level, called Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Level 4.



Kindergarten students can creatively and collaboratively demonstrate their learning; Valentino and Finley from Mrs. Tilton's class.

Over the past year, the work of our Kid-Centered Authentic Literacy (KCAL) teacher leaders has spread to all classrooms through district-wide professional learning. Across OVSD, students have been participating in demonstrations of learning that culminate in DOK 4 work samples.

We strive to develop student demonstrations that highlight high-levels of learning using authentic literacy and active student engagement. DOK 4 Student Demonstrations require students to apply their knowledge through designing a solution or creating an argument using learning as evidence.

We are so proud of our students' efforts!

Golden View *Elementary (K-5)*

17251 Golden View Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • www.ovsd.org/golden



Lori Florgan
Principal

Golden View Makes the News!

Golden View Elementary School recently partnered with the Orange County Department of Education's Inside the Outdoors to highlight the school's new environmental science program and film an episode for Public Cable Television Authority's show, "Orange Slices." In celebration of compost awareness, students and staff, along with Principal Lori Florgan and Teacher Jill Dowd, had the opportunity to film live at Golden View's 2.5-acre Environmental Learning Facility. The episode highlighted the new Environmental Science Program and Golden View's Project

Zero Waste efforts. Golden View is proud to offer rigorous academic instruction while integrating Environmental Science literacy. Go check out the link below to see the "Orange Slices" episode on YouTube, <http://bit.ly/goldenviewstory>.



First grader talks about learning about recycling with "Orange Slices" producer.

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • www.ovsd.org/college



Elaine Burney
Principal

Celebrating Art with Small Paintings Project

Through a contract with the John F. Kennedy Center, College View fifth graders were excited to participate in a comprehensive visual art series of seven sessions from VSA OC.

Our Wildcats learned the elements of art by working with a wide range of materials and mediums, ranging from watercolor to modeling clay. Through freedom of expression, our students developed an overarching theme to correspond with the diverse and unique materials used in each session.

Thanks to the wonderful work by the teaching artist, Michelle Nazzareno, this hands-on experience will be an art program our students will never forget! It is evident that these students not only inspired one another, but also their teachers, school, and community.



Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org/harbour



Dr. Joy Harris
Principal

Learning Worldwide Through Play

May 3 was a special day at Harbour View Elementary School! Five writing superstars joined students from Mesa View Middle School to share their winning contest entries from the One World Play Project, an organization focused on outreach through the power of play to more than 60 million children all around the world.

With news crews and reporters from CNN International and the Los Angeles Times, this social-impact organization visited our site for an assembly to celebrate our partnership with children in South Africa to learn about how kids play, interact, and compete in different places. Our purposeful mission to teach students that relationships matter is the cornerstone to our growing character-education program, and this experience is a strong demonstration to this commitment.



Harbour View Elementary School partners with One World Play Project to connect South African and local students.

Student representatives from every grade level shared their thoughts on the importance of play and sportsmanship, and they were honored with individual scholarships. Harbour View and Mesa View Schools were each granted a \$1,500 scholarship focused on further development of writing in the curriculum.

As Harbour View moves forward with our focus on character development on and off the playground, we are excited for this opportunity to continue next year as global learners.

Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • www.ovsd.org/hope



Paul Kraft
Principal

Soaring into Summer

Hope View Elementary School is bustling with activity this spring at every grade level! In kindergarten, our students participated in a recycling unit and learned about the many ways to help the environment, which included Earth Day activities and a campus beautification event. The first-graders took part in an Animal Planet unit, which included creating a digital project and venturing to the Shipley Nature Center for hands-on learning about local plants and animals.

In social studies and English language arts, our second-graders had a blast researching and sharing information about famous Americans. Students demonstrated their learning by dressing in character for parents and family at the annual “Wax Museum” event. Classrooms buzzed with excitement as students built and tested their pinewood derby cars for an upcoming special event.

Our third-grade students enthusiastically partook in a math project aligned to Ocean View’s math curriculum. All students created a survey using their own questions, gathered and interpreted the data, and used the information to create four different types of graphs.

Our Hope View fourth-graders completed a Gold Rush unit in social studies, and are gearing up for a field trip to Irvine Park for a culminating Gold Rush tour. Meanwhile, our fifth-graders studied the American Revolution and the fifty United States with a special “Walk-Through the American Revolution” presentation in which they dressed in character and presented information about Colonial life during the Revolutionary War. Their digitally created “State Reports” are on display for all to enjoy.

Finally, all of our Hawks are preparing for the Spring Sing Concert scheduled for the end of May.

Marine View *Middle School (6-8)*

5682 Tilburg Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org/marine



Sara Schaible
Principal

Be Kind

Marine View recently celebrated Kindness Week! This annual school-wide campaign encourages students to engage in random acts of kindness, and promotes an anti-bullying environment on campus and within our community.

We kicked off the week with a school-wide assembly around the theme of “Be The Nice Kid.” Throughout the week our Mariners reflected on what kindness looks like in various places, including on our campus, in the community, at home, and online.

Our students also reflected on the ways in which they have shown kindness to others, and made “kindness commitments” for the future. We also demonstrated how to show kindness and respect on social media, and challenged everyone to go “social media-free” for 24 hours. Mariners who were “caught” being kind during the week were given Kindness Tickets for a raffle.



Marine View halls are lined with Kindness Week shirts created by students.

In collaboration with the Huntington Beach Youth Shelter, our students also created kindness T-shirts, which are displayed throughout the hallways. We definitely believe “In a world where you can be anything, be kind!” And that is exactly what the Marine View community did!

Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • www.ovsd.org/lake



Jamie Goodwyn
Principal

Spreading Kindness in April

During the month of April, Lake View Elementary School celebrated kindness. A special activity was conducted each week to spread the message of being kind to everyone.

With our focus on the quote “In a world where you can be anything, be kind,” our monthlong activities began with the entire school acknowledging April 2 as National Autism Awareness Day. We wanted to celebrate everyone’s differences by allowing students to volunteer in Lake View’s special day classes.

Volunteers helped students with special needs to read books, complete assignments, and play educational games. The month of kindness also included a video created by our fifth-grade Girl Scout Troop, the planting of pinwheels for Orange County’s The Raise Foundation, pay-it-forward kindness acts, and painting rocks to install in the front of our school as a lasting reminder that kindness is important at Lake View.



Students celebrate kindness and have fun doing it!

After a month of kindness activities that included permanent reminders to be kind, Lake View is going to have a wonderful end to the school year.

Mesa View *Middle School (6-8)*

17601 Avila Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org/mesa



Randy Lempert
Principal

Learning and Exploring

Mesa View’s elective choices offer many opportunities for our students to explore a wide range of exciting topics while also engaging in hands-on learning.

The Exploratory Wheel allows students to take three to four elective classes throughout the academic year. Students can experience a wide range of courses from learning Spanish to learning how to code. They can even learn about nutrition or gardening with the dedicated volunteers in our Mesa View garden.

In our STEM exploratory classes (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics), students work in collaborative teams to problem-solve scientific challenges and learn to think like engineers by building bridges, structures, rockets, and catapults. Another STEM-focused opportunity that our students can experience in the Exploratory Wheel is robotics. Through this class, students can work on fundamental computer skills, write code, and program robots with a variety of challenges. The Wheel is great way to hone skills that are needed to become college and career ready.

Another class that our students can take is focused on public speaking. Here they can research topics, create presentations, and present their findings to the whole class.

Our teachers have been empowered to develop a curriculum that gets our middle school students engaged in learning. Their excitement transfers directly to the students’ love for their Exploratory Wheel classes. At Mesa View, we are dedicated to our students learning and having fun in the Exploratory Wheel.

Oak View *Elementary (K-5)*

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • www.ovsd.org/oak



Jenna Landero
Principal

Final Touches on the New Gym

Oak View Elementary is getting a new gymnasium! We are so excited to see the progress every day as the construction crews put the finishing touches on the outside of the gym and complete the interior. Complete with a courtyard of beautiful trees, concrete planters for additional seating and an outdoor shade structure for lunch, the new gym will provide a true center for the Oak View community to use during the day and night for school and community activities. The interior has a full-size basketball court, bleachers and a performance stage. We recently purchased new sports equipment for the gym, including volleyballs, basketballs, and even yoga mats! We cannot wait to see it completed this summer.



The new gym will feature an indoor sports court, stage, outside courtyard, and shade structure.

Spring View *Middle School (6-8)*

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • www.ovsd.org/spring



Jason Blade
Principal

Science in Action

As part of her lesson on energy teams, Spring View teacher Nancy LaRusch is teaching her eighth-grade science class about designing, building and testing solar ovens. Students enjoyed creating these solar ovens and testing their knowledge of light rays and heat waves as well as their ability to focus that energy on an enjoyable purpose—melting s'mores.

After testing their ovens, students compared the data to determine which ovens worked best, and why. They looked at their own data as well as the data from other teams to decide how they would change their design to maximize the sun's rays. After analyzing the data, teams must now design and develop a product that they will "take to market," using the lessons they learned from the previous designs. Teams are preparing to present their data and new products to their peers.



Students demonstrate using solar oven energy to make s'mores.

Oak View *Preschool & Pre-K*

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/843-6938 • www.ovsd.org/oakpre



Nicole Baitx-Kennedy
Director of Child Development Programs

A Day in the Life at Oak View Preschool

Students explore, develop language, create, socialize, and have fun! Our outside environment includes structures to build gross motor skills and support collaborative activities. We have a "buddy bench" where children can sit if they would like to meet someone new; other children will know that they are open to sharing their time and are able to join them. Pop into

Mrs. Yezmin's class and you may be able to join a round of "Freeze Dance."

Check out Mrs. Norma's class and you can see our youngest groups reading and discussing books in story time. If you want to explore the insect world, feel free to join Mrs. Shelia's class when they share about the parts of an insect's body. Ms. Kathy's class is ready to work on vast, vaporous, very creative volcanoes. Students recently worked on the letter V and had an opportunity to watch "lava" explode as baking soda and vinegar were mixed in their prehistoric volcano model.



Prehistoric volcano models "explode" with baking soda and vinegar.

Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

8411 Worthy Ln., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • www.ovsd.org/star



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Fun at Star View's Draw-Along Art Evening

During the day, Star View Elementary School students participated in highly interactive, fun-filled art assemblies packed with Visual and Performing Arts standards, as well as cross-curricular benefits for students' math skills. Each child created pieces of artwork, which they then took home to share with family members. Students also had the opportunity to return to school in the evening with family members for a "Draw-Along Art Evening." All participants engaged in the art assembly, guided by presenter Kyle Tiernan. In the end, everyone walked away with three unique pictures. A few students were thrilled they won artwork created by the presenter. Parents, teachers and children all loved the experience.



Students enjoyed making unique artwork during recent VAPA assemblies.

Village View *Elementary (K-5)*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org/village



Francesca Ligman
Principal

The Guardian of Village View

Our Village View students and staff members hosted a touching flag assembly on April 26th to pay tribute to retired Ocean View School District employee Everett Whitney, who passed away earlier this year.

At the assembly, our staff and students also revealed a new art project. Over several weeks, each Village View student painted an individual rock in bright colors around the theme of *Only One You*, a book by author Linda Kranz. The rock art will now permanently surround our school's central dolphin statue.



Village View's new artwork surrounds its central dolphin sculpture and memorial.

Mr. Everett will always be the guardian of Village View, and this dolphin sculpture serves as a memorial for him. Members of Mr. Whitney's family also attended the ceremony, as did many members of the Ocean View facilities team, who helped build the display.

We wholeheartedly support this project, and the book's beautiful messages, which reflect our values and reinforce Ocean View's theme of "Relationships Matter!"

Vista View *Middle School (6-8)*

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • www.ovsd.org/vista



Dr. Connie Mayhugh
Interim Principal

Nearing the End

During the month of April, the Vista View Middle School community said goodbye to Principal Scott Mooney. We wished him the best of luck in his new opportunity. He will be missed! I am excited to be serving as the interim principal for remainder of the year. I have had the chance to see many of our students in action in their classrooms, during Open House presentations, and around the campus during nutrition and lunch.

Our Open House was very successful. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to visit classrooms, to chat with teachers, and to see the engaging activities that students have participated in throughout the school year. We had performances from our outstanding drama program, our instrumental music programs, and our student choir. Our PTSO hosted a very successful book fair and silent auction. Thank you to all of the groups that helped to make our Open House such a successful community event.

Before you know it, end-of-the-year activities and promotion will be upon us, and we will say goodbye to another class as they move on to new opportunities in high school.

Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org/westmont



Susan Broderson
Principal

Pioneers in Modernization

As we conclude this year, Westmont Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Academy can fondly look back at the year and congratulate ourselves on being pioneers in the modernization movement. We packed our school last June and journeyed across Beach Boulevard to the new Ocean View School District Interim Campus, formerly Sun View Elementary School. This was our new home while our site was being modernized. This fall, when we return to our beautiful new campus, we will have sparkling new classrooms with modernized furniture and technology. Our VAPA

Academy is blossoming with new band, dance, and keyboarding rooms and a new stage where we can showcase our talents.

It is important to remind ourselves of the good times we had at the interim campus, including our Fall Parade and flash mob, Special Person's Day, Literacy Picnic, Winter Festival of Music and Art, musical production of "The Lion King Kids," Color Run, Ball Drop, Handwriting Contest, police memorial speeches, volunteer appreciation performances, and so many more special events.

We wish our colleagues at College View Elementary School a wonderful year during modernization in 2019-2020. We're excited to be going home.



Students enjoy the annual ball drop event.



Lynn Tran, MD
Family medicine



John Wang, MD
Internal medicine



Cynthia Powell, PA-C
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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Cyndi Paik

California School Employee of the Year

The California Department of Education has named Debbie Watkins from our Nutrition Services Department, a California Classified School Employee of the Year! Debbie has worked for us for over 25 years as a cook in our Central Kitchen where we prepare over 7,500 meals a day. Debbie is responsible for preparing meals for all the children with special diets in our district. This is a huge responsibility as these diets are medically necessary and feeding these students the wrong foods could pose significant health risks. Debbie does not take this responsibility lightly. She is detailed, focused and accurate and she makes sure that the food is always prepared correctly. We have more than 50 special diets that Debbie prepares and delivers for students each day. Debbie knows these students by name and has even memorized their dietary restrictions and needs. She cares for them as if they were her own children. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Debbie on this incredible state-wide honor!



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Warner Archery Champions

By Khanh Nguyen, President

The Warner Middle School Archery Team had a stellar season! The team was only established three years ago and this year the team took 2nd place in the State Championships! The Archery Team is comprised of 22 boys and girls and is led by Warner teachers Elizabeth Sweet and Travis Garwick. Throughout the season the top 10 members compete as a team but in the National Championships that were held in both Chula Vista and Florida simultaneously, team members have to compete individually. I am delighted to announce that Ryan Huynh, a 7th grader at Warner placed 5th in the nation and Sarah Le, an 8th grader at Warner placed 13th in the nation. This is a tremendous accomplishment and the entire team has made the District and the City of Westminster proud! Way to go Warner Archery Team!



Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsdk8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Science Olympiads

Congratulations to the Anderson Science Olympiad Teams! The two Anderson teams consisted of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students who worked together to compete against other Orange County elementary schools in a variety of science events.

The events included mystery liquids, pasta bridges, gunk and more. Working together every week after school, under the direction of coaches, Mrs. Bui, Ms. Dodosh, and Mrs. Okura-Schooley, the teams prepared for each event through study, practice and hands-on activities. With the goals of increasing science knowledge, creating of love of science, and having fun, the Anderson teams really worked hard and earned Silver and Bronze Medals. Great work Anderson Science Olympiads!



Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsdk8.us



John Staggs
Principal

STEAM Magnet Program

We are all excited at Clegg about the amazing things taking place in our STEAM Magnet Program. The mission of our program is to provide our students with 21st century learning that develops creative thinkers, collaborative learners, effective communicators and productive members of a global society. Students experience learning activities appropriate to their skill and age levels reflective of both district-adopted curriculum and supplemental programs to provide students with STEAM-enriched learning experiences.

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. By incorporating the teaching methods and activities we are focusing on, we provide opportunities for our students K-5 to become creative, independent thinkers and responsible, collaborative learners.

We have two different showcases over the course of the year in which students share their STEAM projects with community members. Our first showcase took place prior to the holiday break in December, and the second showcase took place schoolwide at our Open House in April. The students really enjoy showing off all of their hard work, and parents are amazed at the work their students are doing. We are also very excited about our STEAM lab, where students are engaged in coding, robotics and other challenging activities that take place biweekly for each class. We are always looking at ways to enhance our program and are looking forward to seeing what our students will create in the upcoming school year.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • eastwood.wsdk8.us



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Choose Your Own Learning Adventure

The second-grade students in Room B4 at Eastwood Elementary School love coming to class, especially every Friday. That's because their teacher Andrew Nakatsu goes above and beyond by using technology to engage the children in a review of the concepts and standards taught that week.

Mr. Nakatsu is a self-proclaimed 1980's movie buff. When you walk into his classroom, he proudly displays student work samples and achievements. Among them are Star Wars and Back to the Future posters and memorabilia.

Mr. Nakatsu pulls from his love of movies to inspire a weekly interactive adventure game that increases student participation and mastery of content. In these adventures, the students are the main characters of the game. Each student has their own speaking role and opportunity to answer questions in order to progress the story.

Questions vary from simple vocabulary review, to GATE concepts from the stories they read during the week. This includes concepts like, "Give examples of three states of matter to pull the sword from the stone." Or, "Solve by regrouping to summon Zeus, the God of Thunder." The students are also given opportunities learn animation and other computer skills by creating their own adventure games on Google Slides.

When asked about how he finds the time to create such elaborate opportunities for his students, Mr. Nakatsu replied, "I really enjoy it. I think I'm just a big kid!" Our students look forward to this event every week because it creates an atmosphere that promotes creativity, technology, and teamwork.



DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • demille.wsdk8.us



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Vietnamese Culture Club: A Passport to Learning

DeMille Elementary has been a Vietnamese Dual-Language Immersion (VDLI) school since the Fall of 2015. The VDLI program has grown from two Kindergarten classes to 12 VDLI classes ranging from Pre K through 3rd grade with two 4th grade classes opening in the Fall 2019. As we have grown, we have recognized that appreciating culture is an important aspect of learning a language. This year our VDLI parents and teachers, started the Vietnamese Culture Club. This club is dedicated to spreading awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the Vietnamese culture, its people, diversity and values. Our

Vietnamese Culture Club is open to all DeMille students. The 70 plus members have performed songs, dances and fashion shows at various community events. Based on the enthusiastic reception and feedback from the local community, it's clear that learning a new language and culture has the potential to grow minds and lives.



Finley *Computer Science Magnet School*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • finley.wsdk8.us



Raul Olivas
Principal

We don't play, We make Minecraft

We have entered our 3rd Cycle of Computer Science for the year and we're focusing on how Minecraft allows our students to learn the proper syntax associated with programming their computers. The methods for accomplishing such tasks occurs in the classroom via content area integration and with additional support in the Innovation Lab by our Computer Science Coach provided by Code to the Future organization. An example of what our Eagles are accomplishing include using JavaScript commands to teach their "agent" to build the necessary items



or structures for their Minecraft world. The amount of knowledge and creativity that our students, ranging from Kindergarten to 5th grade, have shown is truly awe-inspiring. We're excited to continue to demonstrate our skills to our families and school community.

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • fryberger.wsdk8.us



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Fond Farewell

By Delynda Le, Fifth-Grade Student

I have been lucky to be here at Fryberger for the past five years. One thing that makes our school great, besides the amazing teachers, are all of the activities we have to participate in. We have many things like the Jog-A-Thon, Fifth-Grade Captain's Challenge at a hockey arena, Third-Grade Egg Drop, Student Council Skits, fun assemblies, mindfulness activities in our classrooms, Spirit Week/Yellow Ribbon, choir and many more.

I am a fifth-grade student here at Fryberger Elementary and feel lucky that I was able to be the Student Council president this school year. I have not only helped but also enjoyed many of the fun activities. One of the very neat activities coming up at the end of the month, especially for fifth-graders, is our Fifth-Grade Camp. We can't wait to go zip-lining, go on hikes, swim, and learn about the outdoors.

Another activity we have had is our after-school science club, called STEM Club, where students from first through fifth grades have learned about engineering and kinetic energy and have created robots and roller coasters.

Additionally, we have a Character Counts assembly every month to award one student from every class who shows good character. I think Character Counts assemblies are a good way of showing appreciation to the students in my school who follow the rules and have good character.

Since I am a fifth-grader, this is my last couple of months at Fryberger. I am happy that I have so many great memories here. I know that while I am leaving, the students that I'm leaving behind will continue to have as much fun as I did.

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • johnson.wsdk8.us



Daniel Owens
Principal

Vital Link Presentations

Johnson Middle School was able to host Vital Link Presentations on campus for the 5th year in a row. The event is sponsored by the Orange County United Way and Destination Graduation. Vital Link is a non-profit organization that provides learning opportunities for students to explore careers in science. This year students were able to explore hands on exhibits showcasing technology driven careers. Student's had an amazing time learning about new and interesting career paths in the area of robotics, video production, automotive design and the medical field.



Our AVID students were also able to work alongside the presenters to help showcase the careers to all of Johnson students and guests throughout the day.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • hayden.wsdk8.us



Mark Murphy
Principal

A Great Evening

Hayden Elementary has a diverse population with many different cultures that contribute to our great school and community. These amazing cultures were on full display last month at our annual International Night.

Our International Night gives students and families an opportunity to share their traditions in the form of dance and music. We had many students and community members perform traditional dances, play instruments, and sing in their native languages.



This great evening could not have taken place without the help of some amazing people. Our amazing after-school program is led by Susan Lopez and our fabulous PTA. We thank them for all their support. I would also like to thank all of the families that came out to support this terrific community event, and look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us
714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



Beverlee Mathenia
Executive Director,
Early Education
& Expanded
Learning



Reagan Lopez
Executive Director,
Student Services

Our School Readiness Nurse Honored

Cathi Hacker, the school readiness nurse at Land, was named "School Readiness Nurse of the Year" by the Orange County School Nurse Organization (OCSNO). This well-deserved honor was awarded to Nurse Cathi in recognition of her several years of service to both the preschool children at Land and throughout the district.

Cathi works with children and families to ensure that all of their health needs are being met. She provides routine screenings for hearing, vision, and dental requirements on over 800 children in the Early Learning programs. She also serves on the Early Learning Child Success Team to help identify and deliver needed resources to students and their families, and provides teacher-education related to health concerns in the classroom.



Nurse Cathi is a wonderful example of being a strong advocate for children. She is always seeking to meet the needs of our families and setting our young ones on the road to school success. We are certainly fortunate to have her on our Land School team!

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdk8.us



Kathy Kane
Principal

Running Club

Every February marks the start of the Meairs Running Club. Students meet weekly with the coaches to prepare for the Kids Run the OC (KROC) final mile that is held in May. The goal of the KROC program is to inspire children to fitness.

This year, 53 students signed up to take part in the 10-week program. The coaches use the training program provided by KROC, sponsored by the Orange County Marathon Association. The running club played games and ran the mile every week, hoping to be able to better their time as the weeks passed.



On May 4, about 10,000 students from all around Orange County descended on the fairgrounds for the final mile. Students that completed the program received a marathon medal just like those that ran the OC Marathon on May 5. Our students were definitely inspired and plan to participate again next year.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

ESP and STEAM

This year Schroeder Elementary School's Extended School Program (ESP) focused on the different aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) by conducting various activities for each grade level.

Our kindergarten and first-grade students decided to code a robot mouse. The goal for the students was to code a step-by-step path for the robot to navigate through an obstacle maze, where it had to obtain the cheese on the other side. Students learned to problem solve and to use both critical and analytical thinking to make the programming work.

Second-graders did research on how arcade game machines are made. After finding out the history behind them, they used electronics kits to design and program their own circuit boards. They then used these circuit boards to play interactive games.

Third- and fourth-graders learned all about drones. While assembling the drones, the students learned their many functions, such as flight control and how the propellers help with the aerodynamics of flight. They also learned math, physics, and science by observing the flight path of the drones.



Our fifth- and sixth-graders created a movie using digital tablets and plastic building blocks. Our creative movie makers learned how lighting, sound effects, and using different camera angles can bring mini plastic figures to life.

Students in our ESP program have fun while learning and being creative!

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Running the OC

Mr. Gerlach and Ms. Elliott donated countless hours to training Schmitt Elementary School students to participate in the Kids Run the OC program. This 10- to 12-week program promotes an active and healthy lifestyle and helps to prevent the onset of child obesity.

During the program, the students practiced

after school as these teachers guided them through stretching and exercising. At the end of the 10 weeks, students had accumulated the equivalent of 25.2 miles of fun exercise. They then joined the OC Marathon to run the final mile, crossing the finish line with other participants.

It was great to see so many other teachers attend the event to help and cheer on our team. I look forward to having more students participating in the 2020 Kids Run the OC.



Sequoia *Academy*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsdk8.us



Michelle Watkins
Principal

We Are Family

Excitement filled the air. As each student drew, you could hear cheers and see hugs as people rushed to their House locations to be warmly welcomed by those who were already there!

Every part of our school culture now flows through the lens of the House system. That sense of camaraderie and identity is part of what we at Sequoia Academy are trying to develop. Sequoia students and staff members work closely to build strong bonds that will allow them to feel connected like a family while at school.



The House system gives children the opportunity to interact with the teachers they normally would not. This helps to create smaller communities within the larger community, where scholars can make stronger connections within our school family.

This sense of inclusion and engagement can have academic benefits as well as social and emotional ones. When children are really excited about school they are happier and tend to learn more. We are so excited to be building a stronger community within our Sequoia family.

Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsdk8.us



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Youth Art Contest

By Isabella Gonzalez, Student – 7th-Grade Journalism

Stacey Middle School students Lujayn Hussein, Kathy Nguyen, and Chloe Flores were all winners in the Westminster Youth Art Committee's Youth Art Contest this spring. Lujayn and Kathy tied for first place, and Chloe received second place. Their artwork was displayed on April 13 at the Westminster Community Services and Recreation Department and for the following week at the Westminster Community Services Office.

The theme was "Spring Festival," but the students' subject matter was personal choice. Lujayn drew her art to express happiness. Kathy drew a role model of hers, and Chloe chose her subject to express diversity.



All of the contestants are 8th-grade students in Mrs. Karsh's advanced art class and have enjoyed drawing for a very long time. Mrs. Karsh said, "Kathy, Lujayn, and Chloe are talented and creative students whose beautiful drawings reflect their artistic focus and dedication. I am so proud of them!"

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsdk8.us



Vanessa DeSantis
Principal

Theme Days

Webber School began its year-end countdown on Monday, May 13th. Each day until June 18th had a special theme. When we started on Monday it was Stuffed Animal Day, where our students and teachers brought their favorite stuffed animals. We had one teacher, Domi Ellis, come in a complete bunny suit, which her students loved.

On Tuesday, May 14th, the theme was "bubbles." The classrooms were out blowing soap bubbles at recess, or during outside time provided by each teacher. Wednesday was "Bad Hair Day." Children came with colored hair, decorated bangs, and other varieties of hair decoration. Other themes included Pajama Day, Lollipop Day, USA Day, Reptile Day, etc.



These fun-filled days organized by our teaching staff have been enthusiastically received by our students, and we are seeing widespread participation.

Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsdk8.us



Tiffany Harville
Principal

Realizing Dreams

At Warner Middle School, we begin our year by encouraging our students to set both personal and academic goals. One of our goals is to help our students identify their strengths and weaknesses as they develop a sense of where they want to go and how they plan to get there. It is important for our students to understand the value of their education and work hard to achieve their personal best throughout the year.

Each year students take a state test that provides them with an opportunity to demonstrate all they have learned.

Understanding the results of this test and celebrating their success allows our students to participate in this season of testing with a growth mindset and a feeling of empowerment. Reflection is a crucial piece in developing a culture where student agency is valued.



As our Wildcats continue to grow, it is our job to help these students realize their dreams by guiding them to understand how to achieve them.

Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • willmore.wsdk8.us



Dr. Nicole Jacobson
Principal

Cinco de Mayo!

Our dedicated Willmore community came together to celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Friday, May 3rd! Students, staff, and parents were dressed in the traditional colorful clothing, and were thrilled to watch their peers sing and dance. The Cinco de Mayo celebration included performances by several classes and groups of students. The staff also enjoyed a delicious lunch donated by our wonderful supportive PTA and parents for everyone to celebrate together.

At Willmore, we equip our students with critical thinking skills across all curriculum areas by incorporating languages, coding, and digital literacies. We empower all students as they explore their passions so that they are future-ready with options for college, career, and global leadership. Our Willmore Thunderbirds are engaged, equipped, and empowered to pursue their passions and lead in a globally diverse community!

We are so proud to give them the opportunity to learn Spanish, English, and coding in our successful Dual Language Immersion Academies in the Westminster School District.



1st Grade Dual Immersion students performing for our celebration

Huntington Beach Central Library

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



Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services

It's Showtime @ Your Library

Our library's summer reading program is June 22 - August 3. Children, teens and adults can register online at hbpl.beanstack.com or at any HB library branch. Participants can earn points by reading or by doing special activities. Paper reading logs will be available at all branches or you can choose to use your online reading log.

Our summer fun starts with a kick-off celebration on Saturday, June 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Central Library. There will be shows, food and crafts. This year's summer reading program theme is It's Showtime @ Your Library. Children earn points and prizes by reading. Once children reach 60 points, they will earn a coupon good for a free book at our Used Book Sale.

Two special shows held during the reading program will be a free Harry and the Potters evening concert on July 31 and an open audition Talent Show on Aug. 3

There will be lots of exciting activities happening in our library during the summer for children and tweens; Friday films, Tuesday Talents @ 2:00, Ukulele Lessons, Coding Club, Tween Book Club, Open Lab Maker Space, Special Programs and our annual Stuffed Toy Sleepover. For more information about our programs, go to hbpl.org, kid's stuff and/or visit the Friends of the Children's Library of Huntington Beach Facebook page. You can also pick up a bi-monthly children's events calendar at the Central Library Children's Desk.

There's no reason to stop reading when the summer reading program is over. Children can register and take part in our online Summer Reading Raffle. Starting August 4 through September 8, children can earn a virtual raffle ticket for every 10 points they earn by reading for a chance to win a variety of prizes. The goal is to keep reading all summer long.

Westminster Library

8180 13th St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-5057 • www.ocpl.org

By Anna Dress, Children's Services Librarian

Toddler Time every Tuesday at 10:30am. Songs, stories & play for children 1-3 years old.

Book Babies every Thursday at 10:30am. Baby lapsit and playtime for children 0-1 year old (or until they are walking).

Preschool Storytime every Wednesday at 10:30am.

Family Storytime every Saturday at 10:30am. Join us every week for stories, songs, and a craft. Preschool Storytime is for children 3-4 years old, and Family Storytime is for all ages.

***There will be a storytime break during the month of June—all regular storytimes will start again in July. See you then!**

Summer Library Challenge – "It's Showtime at Your Library!"

June 17-July 28. Visit the library this summer to pick up a reading log and get prizes for the time you spend reading! There are programs for children, teens and even adults! Pick up a calendar or check online for a full listing of free special events and performances.

Lotería: Saturday, June 8, 3:00-4:00 pm. Ven a Jugar Lotería para adultos y niños (7 años en adelante). Come play Mexican Bingo! Practice your Spanish and win prizes. This new monthly program presented en español is fun for the whole family!

VolunTEENS: If you need volunteer hours for school, church, boy/girl scouts, or just to look good on your college application, come to the library! You must be at least 12 years old to volunteer.

Teen Advisory Board: The TAB is a group of teens who meet once a month to help plan programs and give valuable input about what books and magazines to order for the teen section. A fun way to have a say about what goes on at your library (and get volunteer hours)!

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Books Link Worlds



Katrina D.

The Invisible Library is a peculiar story centering on a cryptic Library that is filled with millennia of knowledge from hundreds of dimensions. Tending to this massive collection of information is a number of Librarians whose sole purpose is protect these paperback treasures. They also have to collect new stories from across multiple worlds, whether it's a scroll from Viking times, a novel from a secret society or just a cookbook for trolls, these books all have one thing in common — the library must have them, no questions asked. And for all of her life, Irene has accepted the Library's beliefs. But now, as she seeks out the mysteriously stolen book of fairy-tales, Irene and her partner Kai realize there's more to the Library than meets the eye. With delightful world building, contraptions and a giant centipede, this book is perfect for bibliophiles as a whole.

Katrina gives this book four out of five crescent moons.

Katrina is a junior in high school who enjoys sketching, reading and writing as much as she loves watching cartoons. Katrina hopes to be an author, an accomplished biologist and an animator some day very soon.



Sibling Rivalry



Richard J.

The Lemonade War

The is a book about the difficulties of a brother/sister relationship. The older brother Evan and his younger sister Jessie are complete opposites

of each other. The brother is people-smart and the sister is math-smart. They start a competition on who could make the most money selling lemonade after Evan gets mad that Jessie is going to skip a grade and be in the same class with him. He feels that not only his kid sister is too smart for her age, but being in the same class with him she will embarrass him in front of his friends. The battle is on! However, after all this they both end up learning a good lesson about the undeniable value of teamwork. I like this book because it kind of relates to me and my sister. We often disagree with each other, but we always work better together. I give this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.



Princess X gets an A+!



Bailey

Princess X is an awesome book with a great story line and interesting illustrations.

May's life hasn't been so great since her best friend Libby died in a car accident. Her favorite memory is drawing comic books with Libby. Their character was named Princess X. Years after the accident, May sees their Princess X on a sticker! She sets up to find out who else knows about Princess X.

This book is full of adventure, mystery, and even comic books inside! The clues to follow keep you hooked. The author made the situation in the book feel realistic and like it fit in the modern world.

I would recommend this books to upper grade students and middle school kids. I rate it 5 out of 5!

Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.





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Encouraging Teens to Read for Pleasure



The amount of time that teens spend reading for pleasure has declined a lot over the past few years. Whether this is due to the rise in short-form reading, the prevalence of multitasking, time spent with screen media, or other factors is unknown.



Fortunately, we do know the way to encourage readers of any age: Keep books in the house, set aside daily reading time, and read yourself. For teens specifically, it may help to tap into whatever they're passionate about. From music and fashion to video games and the Victorian era, if you can name it, there's a book about it.

In a world filled with entertaining diversions, it can be difficult for teens to find reading material that really motivates them to read. Check our reviews (you can sort our book reviews by age, genre, and topic).

Here are some more ideas:

- **Try an ereader.** Ereaders offer your teen a bit more independence, flexibility, and privacy. And they're great for travel.
- **Consider humor.** Some teens just need the funny.
- **Draw inspiration from pop culture.** Late-night comedians, musicians, and even software developers (think Steve Jobs) are great subjects (or authors!) for teen reading because they're relevant to teens' lives.
- **Insist that they read the book before seeing the movie.** If they want to see a story on the big screen, hand them the book first.

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Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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