

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Volume 15, Issue 43

February 2023



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Principal
Brookhaven



Shannon Robles
Principal
Bryant Ranch



Stephanie Given
Principal
Lakeview



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal
Linda Vista

CONGRATULATIONS!

BROOKHAVEN
BRYANT RANCH
LAKEVIEW
LINDA VISTA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

PYLUSD
PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

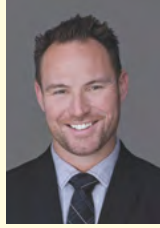
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Our Engaged Community Helps Students Succeed



Dr. Mike Matthews
Superintendent

One thing I wondered when I moved to PYLUSD, especially because I previously worked in smaller school districts, was how we connected and communicated with our various stakeholder groups. I can now say without question that we do this remarkably well, as our staff recognizes how vital an engaged community is to our success as an organization.

Learning about another thing that PYLUSD does exceptionally well does not surprise me one bit. It has been an often-repeated theme as I enter month eight of my first year. I have been impressed with every aspect of our organization, which provides the backbone every district needs so that high-quality instruction can occur in the classrooms. And our teachers, instructional staff, and school leaders are equally remarkable. As someone who has worked all over the state of California, everyone associated with PYLUSD should stand tall and be extremely proud of the great work that we do each and every day.

And that great work is made even better by the high-quality parental and community involvement that we have. Our school district recognizes that stakeholders play a vital role in the educational process. In the district's strategic plan, known as The PYLUSD Advantage, Focus Area 3.0 outlines five strategies for supporting an engaged

community. One of those strategies states that the district will provide opportunities for students, staff, parents, and community members to participate in advisory groups and committees that engage the decision-making process at the site and district levels.

Our district has several advisory groups that convene on a regular basis. This includes our Classified Advisory Group, Community Advisory Council, District English Learners Advisory Committee, High School Advisory Council, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified Council, Special Education Community Advisory Committee, and Teachers Advisory Council. The mission of each of these groups is to facilitate open communication between different stakeholders and PYLUSD staff for the benefit of our students.

Some of the topics discussed at these meetings include our instructional programs, student and staff wellness, campus safety, optimized resources, and more recently, our Local Control Accountability Plan, known as the LCAP. Parents, guardians, employees, and community members often take the opportunity to highlight exciting news from their students and school sites or share valuable feedback with district staff.

In closing, thank you to all of our community partners who have taken the time to share their input and support our efforts to help all of our students have the Advantage of an outstanding education here in PYLUSD.

Four PYLUSD Campuses Named CA Distinguished Schools

From the District

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) is proud to announce that four elementary schools—Brookhaven, Bryant Ranch, Lakeview, and Linda Vista—have been named 2023 California Distinguished School, the state’s top award for campuses.

“On behalf of the Board of Education, congratulations to our four elementary schools on this outstanding achievement,” Superintendent Dr. Michael Matthews shared. “This recognition reflects our district’s commitment to being a dynamic learning community that works to prepare all students for success now and in the future. Exceptional student performance and a focus on closing achievement gaps are only made possible through the dedicated work of our teachers, classified staff, and administrators coupled with the unwavering support of our community.”

To select California Distinguished Schools, the California Department of Education (CDE) used multiple measures to identify eligible schools based on their performance on the state indicators as specified on the California School Dashboard. Schools were selected through an analysis of data reported through the 2022 Dashboard, including assessment results, chronic absenteeism, suspension rates, and socioeconomic data.

The California Distinguished Schools award is celebrating its return this year after the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily suspended reporting of state and local student data. It rotates between elementary schools and secondary schools on an annual basis.

“California Distinguished Schools represent examples of not just excellent teaching, learning, and collaboration, but also highly successful, data-driven school efforts ranging from professional development for educators to mental health and social-emotional wellness strategies to address the needs of students and families,” State Superintendent Tony Thurmond shared in a press release.

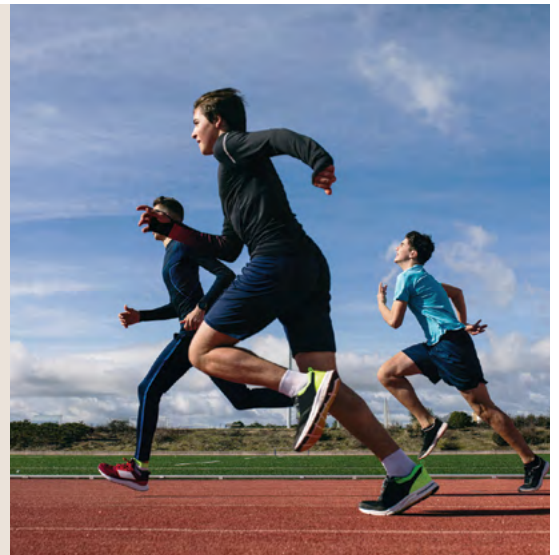
Brookhaven, Bryant Ranch, Lakeview, and Linda Vista elementary schools are no strangers to the title California Distinguished School, having earned the same distinction several times in previous years. Brookhaven received the award in 2012, 2002, and 1987; Bryant Ranch in 2006, 2002, and 1993; Lakeview in 2014 and 2008; and Linda Vista in 2006 and 1993.

Notably, Brookhaven, Bryant Ranch, Lakeview, and Linda Vista elementary schools are four of only 38 schools in Orange County and 365 schools in the state to receive the California Distinguished Schools award for 2023.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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Covering the
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Happy New Year!

Dr. Matthews begins this issue on page 2 with his message about the importance of an engaged community in the success of students.

In this issue you will read about the STEAM program, fostering the love of reading, the lunch bunch Golden Games, Outdoor Science, the

Kindness Challenge, and more...

We've included a few book reviews on page 23. Also, be sure to enter our word search contest on page 22 (all ages may enter).

As always thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is May 10.



Love to Read 

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R.E.A.C.H. Foundation

21520 Yorba Linda Blvd., Suite G503, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/323-9706 • www.reach4pylUSD.org



Melina Michaels
President

What's the Future of Robotics?

The REACH Foundation offers a new STEAM program to stimulate students' engagement and interest in robotics and coding. First Lego League offers a global competition that uses Legos to inspire youth through hands-on STEM Learning.

Students are encouraged to experiment and grow their critical thinking, coding, engineering, and design skills by building a robot, and engaging in research and problem solving through an innovation project. The program was piloted at Travis Ranch Elementary with 4th-6th graders in spring, 2022. In the fall, the Travis Trailblazers team advanced to the State Regionals and were recognized with the All-Star Rising Award and a 3rd place Core Values Award. In 2023, the REACH Foundation is proudly expanding the program to include three schools: Fairmont, Woodsboro, and Travis Ranch.



Bernardo Yorba Middle School (7-8)

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



Beth Fisher
Principal

BYMS Builds a Strong Language Academy

On Wednesday, January 18, 2023 Bernardo Yorba Middle School officially launched their Dual Language

Academy preview. With around 150 people in attendance, current students and families from Glenview had the opportunity to understand the program model and make-up, meet the Academy Professors (teachers), and experience snippets of various after school Latin cultural clinics that will be offered in the spring. BYMS teachers and local community partners proudly hosted interactive experiences to showcase upcoming after



school clinics. Some of our community partners include local artist Pablo Damas and our very own district Chef Orlando Luevano. Our students enjoyed a performance and their own practice of Baile Folklórico. We are proud of the program and partnership that BYMS is making with students, parents, and community!



Brookhaven *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Laura Fisher
Principal

Academics—and Then Some!

Brookhaven is honored to be named one of the 2023 California Distinguished Schools. We are one of four schools within the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District to earn this distinction this year. We are proud of the work that our Brookhaven staff and students have committed to last year.

In addition to our amazing test scores, Brookhaven has a culture of caring, teamwork and personal growth. Our beautiful garden is a third-grade project started to create a warm and welcoming gathering place for the school. Students work together to plant, weed, rake, and harvest the garden. Many grades use the garden to support science lessons.

Our school psychologist, Mrs. Marentes, leads the Peer Mentor program. Students are partnered up with a buddy and meet twice a week at morning recess. The goals

of the program are to facilitate positive peer interactions, increase success of social relationships, and provide leadership opportunities within our Brookhaven students.

In addition, we have Running Club twice a week during morning recess. Students run or walk laps in the field, which are then documented by our parent volunteers. By the end of the year, many students have run a marathon—or more!



Bryant Ranch *School (TK-5)*

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



Shannon Robles
Principal

Bryant Ranch Fosters the Love of Reading

Bryant Ranch PTA hosted their 2nd Annual Family Literacy Night, Take an Adventure Through Literacy. It was a highly attended event for TK to 5th grade Explorers. Families learned creative ways

to incorporate literacy into everyday lives. Students received at-home literacy kits with tools to practice reading comprehension, sight words, spelling, writing and reading using activities the whole family can enjoy.

Students visited the Reading Forest for story time and comprehension fun, played Sight Word games and competed in a Spelling Bee, differentiated by grade level. Each student went home with a special writing notebook to create stories and respond to literature.

Bryant Ranch alumni volunteered to give back to their community and led games and activities. It was a wonderful night for our Bryant Ranch Community that will help our students' love of literacy continue to blossom and grow.



Buena Vista *Virtual Academy (K-12)*

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



Jamie Jauch
Principal

Alumna Receives Prestigious Quad Fellowship

Eighteen-year-old Samantha Harker, an alumna of Buena Vista Virtual Academy (formerly La Entrada), was selected as a 2023 Quad Fellow. She is one of just 25 students chosen to represent the United States, and one of just 100 individuals selected from around the world.

The Quad Fellowship is a scholarship program sponsored by the governments of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States. It is designed to build ties among the next generation of scientists and technologists. The program sponsors 100 master's and doctoral students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by providing them with a one-time award of \$50,000.



Quad Fellowship recipient, Samantha Harker

Samantha graduated from La Entrada (now Buena Vista) at the age of 16 while taking concurrent classes at Fullerton College, where she earned her associate's degree. She attended UHSP for two years and obtained a bachelor's degree in medical humanities, while simultaneously completing a bachelor's degree in English through ASU online.

She graduated in May of 2022 with two degrees at the age of 18. Following graduation, Sammie was offered full funding by ASU to begin her Ph.D. in neuroscience. Sammie will even be teaching a lab section next semester as part of her graduate program.

Samantha recently shared with us that, "My teachers, mentors, and academic counselors provided me with the support to follow my goals to pursue a career in neuroscience and advance my studies at an early age. I am eternally grateful for the support I was provided, and am privileged to have learned from the caliber of teachers that make up the PYLUSD."

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

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



Scott Mazurier
Principal

Serving Our Students

At ECRHS our goal is to meet our students where they are by providing them with opportunities to be successful in every aspect of life. We understand to meet this goal we must serve our students beyond the classroom. In December, our Leadership class organized and hosted a week-long annual holiday boutique. At this event all students were able to "shop" for gifts for their loved ones at no cost to them. We believe that by providing our students the opportunity to give to others they benefit greatly in both their mental and physical wellness. This is an event that we look forward to hosting multiple times throughout the school year and will be accepting donations at any time. We are very proud to have partnered with our community to provide our students this chance to show their love for others.



El Dorado High School (9-12)

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



Joey Davis
Principal

Breaking Down the Walls

In November El Dorado hosted Breaking Down the Walls assemblies for selected students. The program is over 30 years old and intended to help students on the high school campus to connect, share their stories, and realize that “it’s hard to hate someone

whose story you know.” This program creates a safe environment for students to build empathy and understanding through the “play, trust, learn” model. By first helping students laugh together, they start to trust one another, and eventually want to learn from those outside their normal friend group.

The program began on Monday by training leaders who were each invited back for a second day to lead their peers through some activities. Thanks to Mr. Campuzano and his Leadership students for getting behind this and making it work for our students. EDHS is All In on Building connections!



Esperanza High School (9-12)

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



Jeff Giles
Principal

Two New Programs

We are thrilled to share the news about two new programs we are preparing to offer in the Fall 2023. American Sign Language (ASL) is an A-G approved course that fills our World Languages requirement. In this introduction to American Sign Language and

the Deaf community, students will learn basic structure and cultural foundations of ASL and also broaden their communication skills through interaction with individuals in the Deaf community. AP Capstone is a rigorous, interdisciplinary program that allows students to expand on a subject they are passionate about. In AP Seminar, students learn research and analytic skills. AP Research gives

students a chance to design their own inquiry in order to test their own conclusions. A Passing score on both AP tests as well as 4 other AP courses of a student’s choosing earns the prestigious AP Capstone diploma, which helps our students stand out to colleges and universities.



AP Seminar class with their teacher Ms. Nataly Garcia.

Fairmont *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Anne San Roman
Principal

Toy Drive

Fairmont students and families showed their generosity and compassion during the holidays by contributing many toys to children in nearby communities. Mrs. Shea and Mrs. Nieto led Fairmont Student Council students through the planning and execution of this long standing tradition. Students created and hung posters throughout the school advertising the toy drive. They also visited classrooms to remind students to donate new toys for those less fortunate. Our students even created a video to remind our families to donate. The toys collected by Fairmont students and families went to Topaz Elementary School and Tynes Elementary School. We are very proud of our scholars for opening up their hearts to these children during the holiday season.



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

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

Rebecca Allan, *Principal*

George Key School celebrated Kindness as part of our district theme in January. Students were paired with peers from Golden Elementary and together they produced Kindness Hearts with words of positivity. The hearts were developed collaboratively with our students and their friends using a variety of communication modes (ASL, communication boards, and high tech communication systems) to create positive words. Hearts will be displayed outside on the trees that sit between the two campuses as a show of friendship. On February 14th, the heart theme continues with parents and students invited for a Valentine craft day. Parents are invited to come to Key a 2pm to make a Valentine day craft with their student(s.) We hope to see everyone there!



Venture Academy has had an eventful January. Venture students, along with Rotary Club of Placentia worked to pick fruit from our neighborhood community to be donated to community resources, such as HIS House, a nonprofit organization that helps to provide shelter for homeless families. Additionally Venture Academy students completed a "Day of Service" activity. This included filling blessing boxes for families in need as well as cleaning up our local parks. Venture Academy students continue to demonstrate civic mindedness and good citizenship. Venture Academy is also looking forward to their "First Annual Talent Show" to be held on April 21, 2023 for family and friends! Everyone is being encouraged to participate.



Glenknoll *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Terry Mulcahy
Principal

Outdoor Science Builds Confidence

On a rainy January morning, Glenknoll's sixth grade students boarded a bus for Green Valley Lake in the San Bernardino mountains where they immersed themselves in the life of a field scientist, studying forest ecology, geology, astrology, wildlife biology, and survival skills. For four days and three nights, students lived (comfortably) among the pines and forest animals

while they used field study tools and hands-on methodologies to study science. They also engaged in meaningful problem analysis, developing, testing and revising solutions to optimize designs when building survival shelters in the woods. Away from their parents, (the first time for many) they grew confident as they navigated life away from home.

Perhaps the most important learning was the confidence they gained by eating, sleeping, and working with their classmates for four days away from home and away from their electronic devices. They came back to school very tired, but happy and self-confident.



Glenview *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Jane Roh
Principal

PBIS Program

As part of our PBIS program, students from TK-6 earned Bulldog Bucks for showing their PAWS and many of them saved up \$50 Bulldog Bucks to attend the 1st Trimester Principal's Party. Students enjoyed making friendship bead bracelets and lanyard keychains.

The Principal's Party is always a highlight and we are looking forward to our next one on March 10.

We are also starting a new section of our parent newsletter. The Bulldog Bulletin is sent weekly to Glenview families and it contains announcements and important dates to keep our community informed. We recently added a section titled "Conversation Starters" where ideas are shared for families to have meaningful conversations with their students. Previous "Conversation Starters" matched December's theme of celebrating International Persons with Disabilities month. As a community, we want to continue to build students who are kind, caring, and understanding citizens.



Glenview upper-grade students showing off their bracelets at the Principal's Party

Golden Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Kristin McDonald
Principal

Let the Golden Games Begin!

Golden has implemented a new “lunch bunch” style play called Golden Games. Last week students had the opportunity to play giant, life sized Connect Four during their lunch recess. Our Registered Behavior Technician, Mrs. Drinkwine, facilitates the games

four days a week which provides opportunities for students to interact and play cooperatively. It also gives students who may not enjoy team sports or traditional recess games a chance to do something else, plus it teaches good sportsmanship and helps bring students together. Other Golden Games will include Cornhole, Uno, board games, art activities, and more. At Golden, our goal is to provide our students a variety of

activities during lunch recess to make sure they all feel safe and included on campus. Our Golden Eagles are loving Golden Games, and they are looking forward to trying all the new games!



Kraemer Middle School (7-8)

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



Michael Young
Principal

Continued Success

Kraemer Middle is an AVID National Demonstration School. This is because AVID and KMS share a mission to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. Our dedicated AVID staff

have coordinated three student-centered events. To create community in October, AVID families attended a free BBQ and football game at Valencia High School. To inspire students to think about their future in November we coordinated a “Career Day” with 28 career professionals. Thanks to the generosity of community volunteers, every student attended 3 sessions of their choice. We recently hosted another fun event to create where AVID families joined us for a fun movie-night. According to AVID Coordinator Beth

Mazurier, “AVID is a big commitment for our students and, especially in middle school, the family contributes so much to the students’ success.” At Kraemer, we are proud of our continued success.



Lakeview *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Stephanie Given
Principal

Lakeview Students Reclassify as Fluent English Proficient

We are so proud of our Lakeview Lions for achieving great heights! Recently, five hardworking students demonstrated mastery of the English Language as a multi-language learner. Students who receive English Language Development (ELD) support take an annual assessment to help measure

their growth and guide our instruction. ELD takes place through designated instruction— a small group support with our ELD Teacher, Mrs. Romero, and integrated instruction provided by the classroom teacher. Reclassifying is no easy feat and involves the input from teachers and parents along with passing assessment scores. Although our reclassified students no longer receive instruction from Mrs. Romero, they will be monitored for the next four years to ensure they are continuing to make progress. We are so proud of our students and grateful to our teachers and parents for the perfect partnership to ensure our Lakeview Lions are receiving the utmost quality education. Goooo Lions!



Adelyn, Leah, Alice, Esther and Chloe proudly present their RFEP Certificates with ELD Teacher Mrs. Kristy Romero

Linda Vista *Elementary (TK-5)*

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



Kristen Petrovacki
Principal

Family STEAM Night

After a two-year hiatus, Linda Vista is excited to have recently come together for a Family Night centered around STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math). Students and families engaged in hands-on learning opportunities that encouraged problem solving, creativity and built upon content

knowledge in these important disciplines. Among our special guests were a collection of live animals that included an opossum, a screech owl, a hedgehog, a bearded dragon, a tortoise, a rabbit, a tarantula, snakes and tree frogs. The excitement, curiosity, creativity, innovation and passion for learning was evident as students and families explored the various learning stations. We appreciate the way our volunteers and community partners came together to make this evening a success. This tradition serves as a wonderful opportunity to inspire inquiring minds.



Students and families enjoyed a close encounter with a Screech Owl.

Mabel Paine *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Geoff Smith
Principal

Kindness Crew

Kindness is happening all around Mabel Paine! During the fall, two teachers brought forth the idea of starting a Kindness Crew, and the rest is history!

Recruitment for Mabel Paine's Kindness Crew began in the month of December, and the invitation to apply was given to students in fourth grade. Throughout the month of December, interested fourth-grade students

attended an informational meeting, filled out applications, and interviewed for positions. Students who were selected to serve in the Kindness Crew committed to promoting kindness throughout the campus and making Mabel Paine a more positive school than it already is.

The timing of this group could not have been more perfect, as Mabel Paine was gearing up for participating in

January's Great Kindness Challenge. The Kindness Crew played a crucial role during this challenge. Students in this group made signs with phrases of kindness that were displayed all around the school. Also, students in this group designed clothespins that contained sayings of kindness or other motivational words. The Kindness Crew pinned these clothespins all around campus to encourage their peers.

We look forward to seeing the positive impact this group will have on making Mabel Paine a kinder place!



Melrose *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Janie Yoo
Principal

Meet the Masters Program

Melrose Elementary School is excited to begin arts class with all students grades TK to 5, using the Meet

the Masters Program. The Meet the Masters Elementary School Art provides Powerpoint slides, artist voices, and music to incorporate the lives and works of famous artists into their learning experience. Students will then be guided to recreate works of these master artists, such as Monet and Van Gogh. All students will receive 5 sessions during the Spring semester. We are so excited to integrate history and arts at Melrose!



Sample of student work

Morse Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Kelly Farrell
Principal

Great Kindness Challenge

Morse Wildcats are making kindness a priority while participating in the Great Kindness Challenge. Throughout the week, Wildcats participated in dress-up days, learned great lessons about the power of kindness, and celebrated each other through



reflective activities that highlighted specific instances when they were kind to others. Our students were so enthusiastic about sharing their good deeds with each other. The collective effort of students, staff, and families has shown that one kind act can have a ripple effect. The Great Kindness Challenge has cultivated a caring atmosphere that will continue to impact future habits.



Parkview Home School (TK-12)

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

National Honor Society Winter Induction Ceremony

Parkview held a Winter Induction Ceremony, led by National Honor Society president and senior Kayla Kim and teacher coordinator Mr. Park. According to the Constitution of the National Honor Society,

“The purpose of this organization shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of secondary schools.”

In order to join NHS, students must apply and meet the minimum requirements of holding a 3.8 GPA along with completing and passing at least one honors/AP class. The

Parkview Chapter of the National Honor Society members are involved in many projects throughout the year. Among our many activities, the National Honor Society members may assist at graduation ceremonies, help out with Open House, and provide tutoring to students. Congratulations to our newest members!



Congratulations to our newest NHS members!

Rio Vista *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Brandon Frank
Principal

Reindeer Games

The Rio Vista Team worked together to make the holiday season special for all students. Under the guidance and direction of our School Psychologist, Rio Vista students from Preschool to 2nd grade got to participate in various fun and exciting “Reindeer Games” prior to the winter break, including holiday bowling, gift balancing, and a scavenger hunt through marshmallow “snow.” These games tapped into students’ sensorimotor, attention, short term memory and auditory processing skills, and the games also fostered team spirit and camaraderie. Students got to participate in many fun activities, and every single one of them got a wrapped gift that was donated to ensure

that all students received something regardless of what may or may not be possible for them and their families. Representatives from all across the District made sure to visit and witness all the excitement, and our families were so gracious and grateful for the support!



Rose Drive *Elementary School (TK-5)*

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



Kathleen Escaleras-Nappi
Principal

New STEAM Lab and Walk-Through

The new STEAM Lab at Rose Drive is off to a great start! This trimester our computer room was transformed into an innovative space that uses flexible seating, tables, storage, Chromebooks, robots, engineering, video production, and more. Our Lab inspires group collaboration, innovative thinking, Hands-on Learning, and future STEAM careers.

In December, third-grade teacher Harvey Armbrust visited NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab and was able to bring pieces of the Moon to Rose Drive for our students to examine. As a way to promote scientific learning and observation, we then created a “Moon Walk Walk-Through Day” where all of our students could come to the Lab and visit four different stations in order to experience Hands-on Learning, be engaged in their own learning, and become inspired to ask scientific questions.

During our Moon Walk, the students were able to see and learn about the different phases of the Moon, observe actual lunar and meteorite rocks and sand, read fiction and nonfiction books about the Moon, eat astronaut ice cream, and take a picture on the Moon using green-screen

technology. The Lab is a wonderful new and engaging learning space for our students. We will continue to provide collaborative and innovative STEAM activities for all of our scholars!



Ruby Drive *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Lisa Carmona
Principal

Ruby Drive's Library Renovation!

The fresh scent of new carpet, the crisp sound of a brand-new book being cracked open, and a cozy corner for a beginning or experienced reader to dive into a story are the brilliant sights, sounds, and smells of the sparkling new Ruby Drive Library. The school community is ecstatic that they are able to demonstrate to its young readers what a blissful experience reading in a

library can be! With its strategically placed student-centers and cushy seats, a reader can experience a story being read to them or get lost in one independently. In addition, the strategic lowering of the full bookshelves to be at a primary



student's eye level promotes a safe environment for our readers to explore what the world of literature has in store! Ruby Drive celebrates this modernization as its scholars feel valued in receiving this special place just for them!



Sierra Vista *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Jacquie Bluemel
Principal

Transitional Kindergarten Blocks Program

Families in Mrs. Guy's and Mrs. Griffin's TK classes recently joined their child in using blocks to build a community as part of their Social Studies curriculum. TK students showed their families how to build a five room house and add furniture to the rooms. Students drove their

families in their cars on the road to visit the bank and market. Students working at the bank welcomed customers and listened while they said, "I'd like to make a withdrawal." Students then visited the market. Students working at the market welcomed them and asked what food they would like to purchase. The food was taken back to the house to make a meal and extra money was deposited back into the bank. All students had the opportunity to practice their listening and speaking skills throughout the pretend play which is an integral part of TK. Communication, collaboration, creativity, and joy were abundant as students participated in this fun event.



Students in Sierra Vista's TK classes shared with their families how much they have learned in their blocks program.

Topaz Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Eva Matthews
Principal

Amazing Things Happening at Topaz

The end of 2022 was full of amazing events and celebrations. Our most memorable memories come from the partnership with Fullerton's First Responders for our 1st Public Safety Day. Thank you to Fullerton Police Department (Lieutenant Craft and Sergeant Bridges), Fullerton Fire Department - Engine 5, and CHP Officer Watkins. What a great positive and supportive experience for our Tigers and our local heroes.



Our Trunk-o-Treat was so much fun and a unifying PTA and school event for not only our Tigers but everyone in the community. We finished 2022 with the return of our Winter

Performance and Santa made a very special visit. To kick off 2023, Topaz is celebrating Kindness month by writing positive affirmations and having class visitors, like our wellness specialist and counselor to promote kind words and experiences amongst our students. With our collective hands, big and small, our kindness wall is now soaring with wings of gratitude and love.



Travis Ranch School (TK-8)

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



Dr. Taylor Holloway
Principal

Kindness Costs Nothing But Means Everything!

It's all about Kindness at Travis Ranch. We have joined multiple schools across California and the country by taking part in the National Great Kindness Challenge during the month of January. Our students in TK-8 have received instruction on the significance of kindness. Specifically, how to communicate using kind language, ways of helping others, and how to demonstrate an appreciation for our differences and unique abilities. If we can communicate in a kind way, help each other, and learn to appreciate the value each individual brings, we build a stronger community! Assemblies were held and kind messages were posted around campus. Our community also partnered with us in this work. As we close the month of January, kindness will remain a focus as we ensure a lasting impact on our students' ability to form healthy relationships and interact with the world in a positive and kind way.



Tuffree Middle School (7-8)

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



David Okamoto
Principal

Continuing to Shine

As I sit down to write this, the first semester is ending here at Tuffree Middle School. With one semester nearly completed as principal, I continue to be proud to be a part of this fantastic school!

This semester, we have seen our students shine both inside and outside the classroom. Our students have participated in both district-sponsored volleyball and cross-

country after-school programs and have brought back plaques to Tuffree for earning top honors in each!

Inside the classroom, I see students engaged in learning in each subject area and are given opportunities to grow with the creative lessons that are delivered. Our electives also continue to shine, and our performing-arts program remains one of the strongest in the area. Our teachers

spend time each Wednesday delivering PBIS lessons during SOAR (Success through Organization, Academics, and Relationships), and our eighth-grade leaders of WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) engage in games and activities to connect our seventh-graders to our school. Also on Wednesday, our teachers collaborate after school in PLCs, which vary in focus week to week. For me, I am humbled to see the care that our teachers and staff demonstrate to our students.

We continue to reinforce our three core values of respect, responsibility and teamwork on campus each day. As you can imagine, middle school does provide its challenges, but I will say that the overall experience that students have here at Tuffree does a great job of not only preparing students for high school but also providing wonderful opportunities to help develop a well-rounded student and citizen post high school

Go Falcons!

Tynes Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Tonya Gordillo
Principal

Caring for Others

Building character and caring for others is an important lesson for all students. One way Tynes Elementary students learn what it means to give is through the work of our Student Leadership. This is the first year of Student Leadership, led by Mrs. Millan, Mrs. Rossetter, and Mrs. Gray. Student leaders in grades fourth through sixth meet

regularly during lunch to plan events to ensure all students feel like they belong at Tynes.

In December, one event planned by Student Leadership and Tynes PTA was the collection of food to donate. Flyers were sent home and posted throughout the school encouraging all students to help. The items were gathered and boxed by our Student Leadership to be donated to local families in need. Through Student Leadership, Tynes students learn the value of helping others.



Valadez Middle School Academy (6-8)

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



Dr. Christa Borgese
Principal

Believe in Yourself

Valadez Eagles were excited to welcome Mr. Keith Hawkins to our campus on Monday, January 23rd. Keith Hawkins, a nationally-recognized speaker, spoke to our seventh- and eighth-grade students on the topics of bullying, communicating with students about how to fit in, and

treating peers with kindness and respect. Mr. Hawkins shared his own story of growing up in a tough neighborhood and how he overcame trauma and adversity through hard work and perseverance. He sent a powerful, motivational message to our Eagles who are struggling with fitting in and having the confidence to stand up for themselves and for what they believe in. He inspired students to believe in themselves and challenged them to make changes in their lives and serve others. Our Eagles left inspired and motivated to be better Eagles!



Valencia High School (9-12)

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

High Expectations in a Nurturing Environment

In November, Valencia High School was visited by an accreditation committee from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The committee of six professionals - administrators, teachers, counselors and specialists - spent four days on our campus observing instruction and student interaction, interviewing students, staff and parents and getting an overall

feel for the campus. I am proud to say that the Visiting Committee (VC) discovered the elements that make VHS very special. Here are a few quotes from their report:

- Students report having qualified, passionate and caring teachers
- Staff encourages and challenges all students to achieve at high academic levels.
- Staff members support and nurture students while also being open to feedback as demonstrated by frequent student and parent feedback.
- The diverse student body have positive relationships with one another due to the atmosphere of trust,

respect, equity and professionalism that permeates the campus.

- The VC found evidence that students feel they belong to the school.
- There are many program options for students to matriculate to college and postsecondary careers.

It was great to have external validation that the VHS mission statement of being “committed to every student through high expectations in a nurturing environment in order to ensure success now and in the future” is more than words on a poster.

We know we have work to do in the never-ending quest to reach every student in meaningful ways each day, and to provide that perfect balance of high expectations and nurturing that helps every student succeed. But it’s nice to know that a team of outside professionals think we are on the right track!

Speaking of High Expectations, early college admissions are coming in and so far VHS Tigers have been accepted to Dartmouth, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Oxford, NYU (2), Chapman Pharma and more. VHS students excel!

Van Buren *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



David Cammarato
Principal

Outdoor Science Camp

Sixth grade Outdoor Science Camp has a long standing tradition at Van Buren Elementary school. For our sixth grade students, this is a memory that is often talked about for many years. Outdoor Science camp

gives our students the opportunity to spend four days in the

mountains learning about science and experiencing all that the outdoors has to teach us. This year they had the perfect conditions of getting to enjoy the snow while at the same time learning about geology, ecology, astronomy, and making interesting observations of the plant and animal life of the area. They had a great time in our local mountains! Our sixth grade committee has been creative

in finding ways to raise money to support this trip. Over the course of the year, they have put together fundraising opportunities that raised over \$4000 to reduce costs for all of our sixth graders attending camp. Collectively, they have made an impact on our students, which showcases the amazing commitment of our community and staff in putting students first.



Wagner *Elementary School (TK-6)*

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



Janice Weber
Principal

Honoring Veterans

During the month of November, in honor of Veteran's Day, Wagner students are encouraged to make a brick with a name of a living or deceased Veteran in their life to be placed on an ongoing Wall of Honor.

Students include the name of the service member, their branch of service, any war they served in, and their relationship to the service member. Students have honored parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, friends, and neighbors. Fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Diane Seitz, has organized this memorial effort for the last two years. This year, her son, Marine Corporal John Seitz, visited Wagner to read a special poem and salute the flag with our students. He is pictured here with our Wagner Wall of Honor.



Woodsboro Elementary School (TK-6)

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



Melanie Carmona
Principal

Positive Character Traits

This January, several Woodsboro students were recognized at our Woodsboro Way Scholar awards assemblies. Students were nominated by teachers in the areas of kindness, courage and good judgment. These important, positive character traits are instilled in our students through our school wide PBIS program. Additional students were recognized for excellent attendance in missing less than five days in the school year so far. Many other students were awarded prizes from the PTA Reflections contest. It has been quite some time that we have had recognition assemblies like these at our school. Students were grinning from ear to ear as they heard their names called and walked up onto the stage with Mrs. Carmona in front of their peers. One student even declared this was his "Best day of school ever!"



Yorba Linda Middle School (6-8)

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



Greg Kemp
Principal

Mathematical Association of America Recognizes YLMS Teacher

Our very own math teacher William Lin has been awarded the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Teaching by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA)! He is one of just 20 teachers across the nation to receive the same distinction.

According to the organization, the Sliffe Award is made possible by a gift from the late Edyth May Sliffe, a high school teacher who believed in the educational value of MAA's American Mathematics Competition (AMC). It was her wish that each year twenty public school teachers be recognized for their work in stimulating student enjoyment for, and engagement

in, mathematics by fostering participation in the AMC competition. The first set of awards was given in 1989.

Fifteen of Mr. Lin's YLMS students competed and excelled in the AMC earlier this year. With his help, the students practiced before school on multiple mornings to get ready for this math competition.

As a part of the award, Mr. Lin will receive free travel and registration to MAA's MathFest 2023 in Tampa, Florida in August. He will be recognized at a special reception at the event.

The Edyth May Sliffe Award Committee Chair shared the following with Mr. Lin: "Thank you for helping students find the joy, awe, and wonder that is innate in the beautiful art of mathematics. Your dedication to your students' mathematical growth is a gift to the world."

Yorba Linda High School (9-12)

1990 Bastanchury Rd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Dr. Richard Dinh
Principal

Promoting Student Success

Yorba Linda High School promotes student success through our values of service, teamwork, achievement, mastery, passion, ethics, dedication and excellence. These values are reflected in our mission statement, which acts as a core tenet for YLHS. Our

goal is to encourage all students to embody these values as productive members of our community.

During the first semester, our Mustang values were on full display. Our theater students served the community by partnering with Golden Elementary, working with younger students to inspire future generations of performers and artists. Our athletics programs showed teamwork and achievement this fall sports season, winning a CIF Division 3 Championship title in Men's Football and two league championships in Women's Golf and Women's Cross Country.

As we head into the second semester, I look forward to seeing our students and staff continue to promote the core values of our campus community.

Go Mustangs!



Jayden Flaig, Reyn Beal, Logan Kemp, Noah Natzic, and Blakeslee Thorp
celebrate winning the Division 3 CIF Championship.

Fun Things and Places—Word Search Contest

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

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

Entries must be received by April 30, 2023

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| CARNIVAL | CAMP |
| HOME | SEASHORE |
| SCHOOL | FARM |
| PARK | ZOO |
| SLIDES | HIKE |
| SWINGS | BIKE RIDE |
| ROAD TRIP | REUNION |
| PARTY | CRUISE |
| MOVIE | SKATING |
| POOL | VIDEOS |
| FOREST | |



Sourish's Review



Sourish M.

The Hidden Leader Within

Have you met someone you haven't seen in a while, especially one close to you? Well this book, *The Traveler*, talks about the main character Aramar Thorne who is shocked by the sudden



emergence of his father Captain Greydon Thorne. Greydon takes Aramar on a journey with him but after several months, the ship is attacked by the raiders known as the Hidden. It left Aramar and Second Mate Makasa Flitwill all alone to lead themselves back home. The many questions that Aramar had was about the special compass that his father had given to him right before the shipwreck. Little did he know that the compass was the key to something greater than him. *The Traveler* offers a magnificent roller coaster ride in emotions and is overall a really great book. It displays the message of using leadership skills and knowledge when the time comes. You have to Endure...

Sourish M. is a seventh grader who is enthusiastic to learn more and experience new things. He likes Science and Reading, plays soccer, basketball, guitar, and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours coding and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

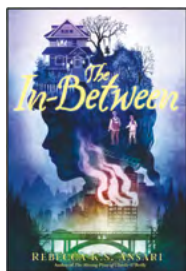
Tegan's Book Review



Tegan

Mysterious Saves

The In-Between, a captivating fiction written by Rebecca Ansari, revolves around the complicated life of Cooper, a teenage boy living in a poor household, with the



absence of a father. As a strange new neighbor; a young girl named "Elena" moves in alone, Cooper and his younger sister Jess start to investigate the secrets she hides.

While Cooper and Jess realize that Elena has been the ignored figure that saved one juvenile's life each mass incident, they fail to quickly recognize that Elena herself has to die painfully and wake up only to repeat the process. Cooper and Jess introduce themselves into the dark world where the mysterious girl is trapped in between life and death, and make it their mission to save Elena. Readers are taught the importance of remembering the forgotten and what it means to be seen. All in all, I rate this novel 5/5.

Tegan Y. is a fifth grader who enjoys art, biking, writing, and reading.



Daniel's Review

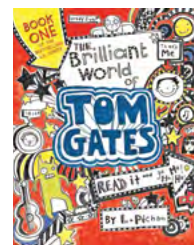


Daniel H.

Very Funny Book!

Title: *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*
Author: Liz Pichon

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates is about a boy named Tom. Tom and his best friend Derek are in a band called Dog Zombies



and they both want to go to a Dude3 concert but Tom has many silly problems to deal with. Read this book to see what happens and to laugh out loud! This book is very funny and has really funny pictures. I loved this book and can't wait to read the other books in this series!

Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Hard work and Dedication

"I've Got This!" is book 1 of 8 in the *Perfect Balance Gymnastics Series* by Melissa Torres. The story is about Trista Thompson, a young tumbler who has just moved to Utah and wants to join a



competitive gymnastics team. Since she is

great at tumbling, she believes she can quickly and easily learn all gymnastics skills. Can she learn gymnastics skills quickly? What does it take for Trista to be part of the team? Will she be good enough to join the team?

I like all of the books in the *Perfect Balance Gymnastics Series*, especially this one. As a competitive gymnast, reading this book at the start of my new gymnastics season encourages me to try new skills and work harder to improve my existing skills. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars and would highly recommend it to anyone who loves gymnastics or wants to explore the world of gymnasts.

Kailani is a 5th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and ride horses.

Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

On a crisp December morning, the City of Westminster and the Orange County Department of Education celebrated the opening of a new park honoring the historic case of *Mendez v. Westminster*, which put an end to forced segregation in California's public schools while laying the foundation for the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown v. Board* decision.

City officials, local dignitaries, students and community members turned out in force for Mendez Tribute Monument Park's dedication ceremony, marking the completion of a five-year collaborative effort. But a few days before its official opening, I had an opportunity to preview the park with Sylvia Mendez, a civil rights icon whose story is central to the case.

Nearly 80 years earlier, in 1943, Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez sought to enroll Sylvia and her two brothers, Geronimo and Gonzalo, Jr., at 17th Street School, known then as "the white school." Despite being American citizens who spoke English — the family lived and worked on a Westminster farm — they were turned away and directed instead to Hoover Elementary, a campus designated for Mexican American children.

Sylvia Mendez was just 8 years old at the time. She would later describe Hoover as "a terrible little shack" with dirt for a playground.

The Mendez family ultimately hired an attorney and teamed up with four other Orange County families who had similarly been denied access to their neighborhood schools. Their case, *Mendez, et al v. Westminster et al*, argued that 5,000 children throughout the county were unjustly harmed by unconstitutional segregation policies.

In 1946, U.S. District Court Judge Paul J. McCormick ruled in favor of the five families, and his decision was later upheld by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case ended on April 14, 1947 — one day before Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Seven years later, the Supreme Court declared segregated schools unconstitutional in its sweeping *Brown v. Board* decision.

Gonzalo Mendez died in 1964 at age 51, and his wife Felicitas passed in 1998 — but not before urging her daughter to share the family's story far and wide.

On Monday, Nov. 28, bronze statues of Gonzalo and Felicitas were unveiled for the first time in the new quarter-acre park, which also features a large textbook monument and statues of two students, symbolizing the children impacted by the court's decision. Surrounding these displays are drought-resistant plants, a dry creek bed and interactive stations with content from OCDE's staff of professional educators, who also developed lesson plans and activities for teachers.

As the towering likenesses of her parents were revealed, Sylvia Mendez and her siblings stood front and center. Other invited guests took photos and applauded.

"I'm just so happy," Sylvia said. "I know my mother and family are looking at us from heaven, and they are so happy. Thank you for honoring them."

In this season of gratitude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mendezes, along with the Estrada, Guzman, Palomino and Ramirez families, all of whom fought for access and equality on behalf of generations of students they would never meet. As Felicitas Mendez said, they were taking action not just for their own children, but *para todos los niños* — for all children.

The Mendez case is worth celebrating because it broke new ground not just for Orange County but for our entire nation, broadening and strengthening the principles on which this country was founded.

Now and forever, Mendez Tribute Monument Park will serve as a space to gather behind shared values, to reflect on those principles, to revisit a watershed moment in our history and to learn more about the everyday Americans who made it possible.

For more information on Mendez Tribute Monument Park, along with lesson plans and activities, visit www.mendezpark.org.