

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 58

JUNE 2017

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Thank You for All You Do!

After much consideration and deep reflection, I have decided to retire from the district this summer. It has been a blessing to have the opportunity to

Michael L. Christensen

serve with each of you: certificated, classified, and leadership employees alike. Together, with community support, we managed to work through the terrible budget cuts of the Great Recession and celebrate the eventual restoration of numerous programs and the full school calendar. Most recently, the success of Measure S will have a profound impact on teaching and learning at our high schools for generations to come. I cannot thank you enough for your ongoing team spirit and positive attitudes throughout some very challenging times.

As I look for the appropriate words to express my feelings, I can't help but think about the Orange Unified School District as an organization of people with the collective mission of serving our community. Much like firefighters or law-enforcement officers, we provide an essential service to any and all who need us. OUSD is a "District of Excellence" because of the hard work you do to support our students and their families. Over the past 20 years that I have been connected to the district, I have enjoyed building relationships with you as individuals, and to those who I haven't personally connected with, unfortunately, that is my loss.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving the Orange Unified School District and community. I am very proud of the work we have accomplished together and wish the district continued success in the upcoming school year.

By Fayroze Mostafa, Principal  
Anaheim Hills Elementary School

We couldn't be prouder of our two Anaheim Hills Elementary School VEX Robotics Competitive teams, which participated in the VEX IQ Worlds Competition! Based on world skills rankings, the Vexperts were ranked second in the state of California, seventh in the USA and eighth in the world!

The Gummy Bears were ranked third in California, tenth in the USA and 12th in the world. At the Worlds Competition, each team participated in 10 Qualifying Team Alliance Challenges in which they were matched with teams from Mexico, Michigan, Kentucky, and other cities and countries. Our teams also presented their STEM Research Projects to a panel of judges and completed the Skills and Programming Challenges.

## World-Class Techies!



In their category, the Gummy Bears ranked 19th and the Vexperts ranked 16th in the Teamwork Alliance Challenges, earning a place in the final rounds. The Vexperts and Gummy Bears made it in the top 80 in the world in the Team Alliance Challenges! The Gummy Bears also ranked 20th in the Skills and Programming Challenge.

## On to the Future



Justin Stanfield  
Coordinator  
OUSD Alternative  
Education / ROP

As we conclude the 2016-17 school year, we look back on what was a great year. We look back fondly on this year and wish all of our graduates continued success wherever they may go. This school year saw many highlights and changes at Alternative Education.

We successfully transformed the planter at Community Day School to include all drought-tolerant native plants. With the assistance of Jeanne Carter from El Modena Nature Center, we now have an aesthetically pleasing area for our students to enjoy.

Unfortunately, we do have to say goodbye to some seniors who are heading to college or the workplace. We have seen tremendous growth from this year's seniors in our Community Day School and Independent Study programs. Our Adult Transition Program will also be promoting 12 students this year as well. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck for what is to come and know you will do great things!

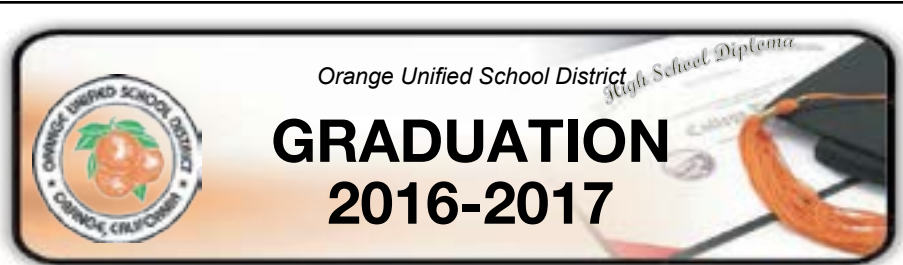
Last and certainly not least, we would like to congratulate Anne Stuck from Independent Study and Linda Bakonis from Adult Transition on their upcoming retirement. The Alternative Education site is tremendously grateful for your years of service to our students, and we all wish you both nothing but the best in retirement!

## Children Learn through Play



Please see OUSD State Preschool page 3.





## Promotion & Graduation Schedule Thursday, June 15, 2017\*

Special Education School		
School	Time	Location
Tuesday, June 13, 2017* Canyon Hills	10:00 am	Gymnasium
Friday, June 9, 2017* Adult Transition	10:00 am	Alternative Education Site
Middle School Promotions		
School	Time	Location
McPherson Magnet	8:00 am	McPherson School Cafeteria
Portola	9:00 am	Portola School Field
Yorba	10:00 am	Yorba School Field
Cerro Villa	10:30 am	Cerro Villa Outdoor Amphitheater
Santiago Charter	11:00 am	Santiago Outdoor Amphitheater
Friday, June 16, 2017* El Rancho Charter	9:00 am	El Rancho Outdoor Amphitheater
High School Graduations		
School	Time	Location
El Modena	1:30 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Canyon	4:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Orange	4:30 pm	Orange High Outdoor Theater
Villa Park	7:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Richland	10:00 am	Fred Kelly Stadium
Alternative Ed		



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



As we say goodbye to another school year, I'd like to congratulate Superintendent Christensen and wish him well in his retirement. It has been a pleasure publishing the excellence from OUSD under his leadership.

Our next issue is August 30 when we will bring you the happenings from the classrooms. Have a wonderful summer. Remember to include the library in your activity choices. On pages 20-23 in our AHA section you will find lots of ideas for the summer. Have fun!  
Congratulations Class of 2017!

### School News Roll Call

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### OUSD State Preschool

2345 E. Palmyra, Orange, CA 92865 • www.orangeusd.org

## Quality Preschool Programs

By Cheryl Sosa - ECE Coordinator,  
Kendy Gioia and Shannon Brown - Early Learning Specialists

Did you know that a child's brain grows to 90 percent of its adult size by age five? Todd Grindal of the Harvard Graduate School of Education says, "The experiences kids have in the early years have profound effects on their futures." Children in our preschool programs participate in experiences that help them grow in their literacy, mathematical, gross and fine motor, and social/emotional skills. They learn through play, just like these two preschoolers at the outside water table. Providing a fun, safe, and developmentally appropriate learning environment is our top priority. The Orange County Department of Education has rated OUSD as a High Quality preschool program. Our program is rated on the following measures: Child Observation, Developmental and Health Screenings, Teacher and Director Qualifications, Teacher-Child Interactions, Ratio and Group Size, and Program Environment.



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## Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Fayroze Mostafa**  
Principal

### World-Class Techies!

See our story on the front page.

## Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Diane Lew**  
Principal

### 21st Century STEAM!

Cambridge Elementary celebrated the grand opening of its STEAM Lab in June at Family Science Night! Students, teachers, parents, district personnel, and community leaders and members participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to kick off Science Night.

The STEAM Lab is composed of 21st century learning equipment accessible to all students. This includes a maker space built by our students. This maker space gives all students an opportunity to create inventions through integrative and collaborative learning in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, using tools and various materials. The STEAM Lab is also equipped with a green screen, computers, iPads, a 3-D printer and robotics equipment. In the lab, students will have consistent exposure and practice with various 21st century skills like coding, hands-on science, electronics, music and film.



Our students are eager and excited to start using their STEAM Lab to enhance their 21st century learning skills!

## California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. John Albert**  
Principal

### Thank You to Our Parents!

As we wrap up another very successful year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and community for their tremendous support. We intentionally expanded our parent and community events this year to include an evening community event every month and two parent education opportunities a month including training and guest speakers. Some of the popular events this year included our Parent Education Series, Movie Nights, Daddy Daughter Night, STEAM Night, Family Reading Barbeques, Family Story Night, Mother & Son Tea, and Parent Engagement meetings to name just a few. On March 30th, we honored several of our volunteers at the Leadership Team of Orange Community Dessert, and then at our Friday Flag Assembly on March 31st. We are stronger as a school because of you.



## Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Karen Hansen**  
Coordinator

### Out In the Community

This has been another wonderful year at Canyon Hills. Our students have participated in a variety of activities, including outings in the community and seasonal celebrations on campus. Being in the community is an effective way for our students to learn, as they can apply their social, vocational, and communication skills outside of school. Canyon Hills has also added a workshop area to the campus! This is a place where our students can practice useful life skills and vocational activities. There was a preview of the workshop area at our Open House event on May 16. We appreciate the hard work of our staff members and parents, under the direction of teacher Alissa Medart, who contributed to the creation of this beneficial space.

Our mission at Canyon Hills is unique among the schools in the Orange Unified School District. Our efforts focus on expanding the independence of our students by developing their ability to communicate. We also strive to improve their personal and domestic skills, physical coordination, technological competence, and then generalize these skills into the community.



## Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Craig Abercrombie**  
Principal

### Every 15 Minutes

In April, the Canyon High School PTSA partnered with several local agencies to sponsor the powerful Every 15 Minutes program. The two-day event delivered an emotionally charged, real-life experience to students about the dangerous consequences of drinking and driving.

During the first day of the program, a powerful mock accident scene was created in front of the school, where police, fire, and paramedics responded in a real-life manner to deal with the "injured" and "deceased" volunteer students. The next day, a memorial for the "victims" of the crash was held. Students were able to hear firsthand the emotions the program brought out in the participants and their families. Students also heard from a victim that survived another driver's poor choice of drinking and driving as a teenager.

This powerful program successfully portrayed the consequences one bad decision could have for a student and the impact it could have on their family and friends.



## Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Jana Saenz**  
Principal

### 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Learning

As we come to the close of the 2016-2017 school year, it is time to reflect on what was successful and which areas we want to keep working on. We were excited to bring Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) to fourth and fifth grades, and we are continuing to refine our AE best practices in sixth grade. We were also excited to roll out our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in fourth grade, and we continued this dynamic program in fifth and sixth grades this year.

As a way to increase the devices our students are using here at Chapman Hills Elementary School, we recently purchased digital tablets for in kindergarten through second grade. Next year, we will purchase more tablets for third through sixth grades. Thanks to a generous donation from our PTA, we also purchased a class set of netbooks. Teachers and students are very excited to use all the new devices for true 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning. During a recent professional development, the teachers explored an application to help enhance teaching using Actively Learn.

Continuing to reflect and refine, Chapman Hills is lucky to have a supportive and generous support network of parents and caregivers. We participated in Kids Run the OC program, and all students made such great progress toward their fitness goals and persevered through this program. We are excited to see how the students do as they complete their last mile of the marathon at the OC Marathon.

Lastly, our Bobcats did a wonderful job at this year's Orange Foundation Games. We had many students place in their events, and all who participated tried their best.

Chapman Hills staff and students are excited for the 2017-2018 school year!

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## Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Erika Krohn**  
Principal

### Heart of the School

During the general meeting at Open House, Canyon Rim PTA honored these fabulous women for their service to the school! Parents and PTA members extraordinaire Melanie Smith, Jennifer Wener and Tammy Dunst were announced as PTA Honorary Service Award recipients.

They have contributed to the school in many ways: traffic studies, yearbook, Parents' Night Out events, Book Fairs, assemblies and pitching in wherever needed in classrooms.

Teacher Tammy Pinkerton was granted the prestigious PTA Golden Oak Award to recognize significant contributions to Canyon Rim School and community. She has been an active member of the PTA and a dedicated teacher since the opening of Canyon Rim in 1997. Not only has she demonstrated leadership in the PTA but she chairs the Geography Bee and Volunteer Recognition each year as well. She will be greatly missed, as she retires at the end of this school year.

A big thank-you to all of these dedicated volunteers!



## Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Shele Tamaki**  
Principal

### Friendship Bench Teaches Kindness

By Alan Saldivar, First Grade Teacher

Crescent Elementary students have enthusiastically embraced the ideals of a newly established bench on the playground, known as the Friendship Bench. The idea for the Friendship Bench was originally created in 2012 by a fifth grader, Acacia Woodley from Palm Bay, Florida. She felt that through kindness and friendship, students would feel better about themselves and be willing and eager to make new friends. The bench provides a special place where students can meet up with friends, find a new friend, or let others know that they need some comfort, support or just someone to talk to. Money raised by donations from the families of students in our 3rd grade classes made it possible to spruce up the bench and surrounding area. Our head custodian, Albert was the head designer and builder, and with help from custodians, Tom and Robert, the area has become very inviting!



## Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Lisa Ogan**  
Principal

### Spirit is in the Air!

Cerro Villa is so excited to celebrate its second trimester S.P.I.R.I.T. (Scholarship Passion Integrity Reflection Involvement Teamwork)

Rally. As of last year, this new tradition celebrates student achievement both inside and outside the classroom at the end of each trimester. Our school prides itself on recognizing positive behavior and the diverse student contributions made. We showcased our academics, various athletic programs, afterschool clubs, and electives such as STEM and Fashion Design. We are proud to highlight one of our core values in academics with 706 students achieving honor roll! Well done Vikings!



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## El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Dustin Saxton**  
Principal

### College Signing Day

On Wednesday, April 26, El Modena held our first "College Signing Day" to honor and recognize all Seniors who have been accepted to a four-year University or who will join the military following graduation. Over 100

students participated in this event, with breakfast prepared by the EMHS Culinary Arts Catering class. Our students were accepted to a variety of schools including Cal States, UCs, USC, and Yale! El Modena understands the high standards necessary for admission to a University, as well as the commitment for enlistment in the Armed Forces, and we are excited to celebrate the achievements of these outstanding students!! El Modena is very proud of our Class of 2017!



## Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Karen Sandors**  
Principal

### Angels "Adopt" Fairhaven

There was so much excitement in the air when radio host Rodger Lodge, bench coach Dino Ebel, and the Angels' Strike Force Spirit Squad came to Fairhaven for a special assembly as part of the Adopt-A-School program.

Both Mr. Ebel and Mr. Lodge stressed the importance of following your dreams. They told the students not to let anyone tell them that they can't be what they strive to be. Our guests expressed the importance of always doing your best and to keep moving forward.

The students were also given opportunities to ask questions about baseball, and they even found out what Mr. Ebel's favorite cereal is: Lucky Charms when he was little, and oatmeal now.

As part of the program, all of our students and their families were invited to an Angel game. We also received a \$2,000 literacy grant, 100 tickets to use for student incentives, school supply packs, and an autographed Adopt-A-School banner.



## Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Christina Yokoyama**  
Principal

### Experiential Learning!

Esplanade Elementary School's third- and fourth-grade students visited the El Modena Nature Center and participated in a presentation about the historical life of the Native Americans that inhabited California. The presentation was funded by a grant from the Kiwanis Club of Orange and was presented by Jacque Nunez, a former El Modena student who graduated in 1970. She and her family are Juaneno Indians, the tribe that historically inhabited our region of California. The students enjoyed hearing Ms. Nunez's stories about Indian life and seeing her artifacts. They learned how the Juaneno tribe used the resources in the region to survive. The day culminated with students making clapper sticks and using them to sing traditional songs.

Other grade levels are also learning through experience! Fifth- and sixth-graders visited the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, sixth-graders visited Santiago Canyon College, fourth-graders learned about the San Juan Capistrano Mission, kindergarteners visited Centennial Farms, and first-graders visited the Orange County Zoo. Our second-graders will soon be visiting Aquarium of the Pacific, our fifth-grade students will enjoy the Traveling Scientist Program from Inside the Outdoors, and third-graders will participate in the Windows to our Wetlands program, presented by the Bolsa Chica Conservancy.

Esplanade students are connecting their experiences to reading, writing, math, and science and having fun at the same time!



## El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Michele Walker**  
Principal

### Relay for Life

For the ninth year in a row, El Rancho's students and staff put their full effort into supporting Relay for Life-Anaheim Hills. ASB students

decorated the campus with purple ribbons to remind us all that we continue to hope for a cure for all types of cancer. Art students designed our Relay for Life shirt that students and staff wear until end of the school year. In addition, students made dedications on our Tree of Hope, which stands proudly in our atrium to honor and supports former students, family and friends who have battled cancer in their lifetime.

Over the last eight years, El Rancho's students, families and staff have donated over \$40,000 and have been distinguished as one of the top three fundraising teams in all years. As community leaders, we raise funds for a truly worthwhile cause and show support for our entire Anaheim Hills community.



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## Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Sara Pelly**  
Principal

### Student Writing Comes to Life

Students at Fletcher School watched their stories take on a life of their own during the recent Imagination Machine assembly. The Imagination Machine has been performing student writing and tapping into children's creativity since 1981.

The children perform two assemblies. The first one is in the fall, which inspires Fletcher students to write stories individually, in a group, or with the whole class. Our teachers choose several stories from each class, and then the Imagination Machine actors select which ones they will turn into skits, songs, or poems.

During the second assembly, the troop performs for the students. You can always count on a lively, funny, and extremely creative experience.

When our students see their words come to life it boosts their self-confidence, creativity, and interest in writing. Each student whose writing is selected receives a special certificate from the actors as well. We can't wait until next year!



## Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Ginette Kelley**  
Principal

### Integrating Technology

Schools today are integrating technology into so many subject areas. Teachers at Imperial Elementary School are working together to find just the right technology tools to support our students.

Some teachers choose digital tablets and others choose netbooks, but it is not the equipment that matters. The appropriate software and Web sites support the students' learning and help to give them the skills they will need in the future.

Recently Imperial, specifically the classroom of Erika Ostergaard, was visited by Khan Academy. The Khan Academy representatives chose her classroom because of her use of the tool that emulates their mission: to give students just what they need when they are learning. Ms. Ostergaard uses the Khan Academy Web site as a small-group activity while she is providing instruction



in the California State Standards. Students are able to enrich and remediate their knowledge, learning at their own pace and according to their needs.

Other classes use a variety of websites and applications to bring learning to life, which makes learning at Imperial just what students need.

## Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Eduardo Espinosa**  
Principal

### A Special Event

In search of a way to increase our school pride and patriotism, we recently looked into sprucing up our prominent chain link fence with a new school sign and the American flag.

Little by little the outlines of the project began taking shape with the help of our after-school YMCA students and their director, Yesica Valencia. Orange Police Department retiree volunteers also helped out.

At the unveiling, every student in the school had written their name on bright yellow inserts. Our band students performed *Heroes* to honor our city's police and fire departments, whose names and badge numbers were written on the back of the white stars on this beautiful replica of our great nation's flag.

We had also invited members of our Orange Police and Fire Departments as honorees. They presented our third-graders with an award, and a donation for being the top participating district school in the Orange El Modena Branch Library Reading Program!



## Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Michelle Owen**  
Principal

### Our Mariachi Band

Handy Elementary School is proud to present their Mariachi band members. The band is led under the direction of Mr. Walter Wagner and Mr. Justin Wong and was designed to honor the heritage of our students

through musical exploration. Students are selected to participate based on academics, citizenship, and skill. The mariachi band is an extension of the Orange Unified's Visual and Performing Arts program and is open to all Handy Elementary students in grades fifth and sixth. Band members select from several instruments including the trumpet, violin, guitar, guitarron, and vihuela. Musical selections are taught to increase student technical skills, team-building, as well as to honor the cultural diversity among the Handy community. Instruments are loaned to students throughout the year to take home and practice. Students practice throughout the year and have performed at both school and District events.



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## La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Lydia Roach**  
Principal

### On a High Note

La Veta leapt into spring embracing the opportunities for education on conflict management, positive change, emergency procedures and teamwork. Our third-, fourth- and fifth-graders were invited to a local hospital's conflict-management program where they were exposed to the idea of conflicts having positive outcomes if managed correctly. The program was engaging and exciting for our students and highlighted the importance of self-efficacy in managing conflict.

Officer McGruff made a visit to our campus this month! He and the Orange PD explained the 9-1-1 for Kids program, whose purpose is to educate students about disaster and emergency preparedness. Our students were reminded of what to do and whom to call in an emergency situation.



The end of the 2016-17 school year is near. With such a thorough review of our behavior expectations, conflict-management strategies and protocol for emergency procedures, La Veta Vikings are sure to end this incredible year on a high note!

## Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Heriberto Angel Jr.**  
Principal

### Our Student Athletes!

Regular exercise is great for our bones, muscles, lungs—and yes, our brain, too. Research indicates that regular exercise gets our blood flowing, resulting in more oxygen reaching our brain. Of course, that makes us think better!

Regular exercise helps keep students from zoning out in class and get a good night's sleep. Our students at Lampson certainly took their exercise serious during SBAC! After spring break, we started our Lampson Running Club, which meets on Thursdays after school. This incredible opportunity allows our second-through-fifth-graders to get extra exercise and have some fun! Our running club helps promote sportsmanship and healthy living, and it made them understand that regular exercise helped them be ready for the SBAC.

Regular exercise is also promoted in our lower grades. Currently, our first-graders are taking a Zumba class led by our teachers twice a week during their physical education block.

Lampson Leopards rock!



## McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Joe Erven**  
Principal

### STEM-Tastic Third-Graders

The C-STEM Robotics program has been offered as a McPherson middle school elective for four years. The C-STEM program uses computing in C/C++ for K-14 hands-on integrated learning. C-STEM Studio is a platform for teaching computing skills, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with robotics.

This year, Mr. Miller's third-grade class has been learning about the C-STEM program and competing in math challenges at McPherson. Middle school students have been supporting



McPherson third-graders as they learn to integrate coding with mathematics and graphing. The C-STEM students use the "RoboBlockly," which is a web-based robot simulation for learning coding and math.

Our third-grade students recently had the opportunity to show off their robotics skills at the C-STEM challenges during our annual STEM Night event on March 30. McPherson middle school students also competed in the annual C-STEM competition in May.

## Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Amy Hitt**  
Principal

### In Total Support

At Nohl Canyon School, we are proud to highlight two stellar academic programs that are models for the state and that we highlighted in both our Distinguished School and Gold Ribbon School application. We implement a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) in which students who need differentiated instruction have the opportunity to work in small groups according to the area of difficulty. Grade-level teachers select the students and needs based on current assessments; while some students are working with the instructional specialist, others are being supported in small-group classroom rotations.

This year, our instructional specialist, Michelle Cole, helps students with reading fluency and comprehension, writing, and math. Another program of note is our NC CARES social-skills groups, which meet at lunchtime. Students who need behavior support can reflect on their actions and interact with one



another during research-based lessons. We find that this is a positive way to remediate less-desirable behaviors and actually teach kids to be Responsible Roadrunners.

We at Nohl Canyon are proud of the fine programs that support all students.

## Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Robert Johnson**  
Principal

### A Valuable Addition

A well-rounded educational experience includes instruction and experiences in the fine arts. The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies says that, "Schools integrating the arts into the curriculum ... are documenting positive changes in the school environment and improved student performance" (2006).

We are fortunate that the Orange Unified School District provides a Visual and Performing Arts program (VAPA) for every fifth- and sixth-grade student. Classes are held twice weekly, and include theater, choir, band, and orchestra. During these VAPA classes the students learn specific concepts and skills related to the subject, including musical theory, elements of theater, and presentation skills.

Each trimester the VAPA classes present a concert to share with their parents and fellow students to show what they have learned. In addition, this year our theater students are presenting two large-scale musical theater productions. Last fall they presented *The Jungle Book Kids' Edition* to a packed house, and next month they will be presenting *The Aristocats*. VAPA has been a valuable addition to our instructional program!



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## Olive Elementary

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Heather Darrow**  
Principal

### Moving with STEAM!

What a year! We started strong, and finished stronger! STEAM and student leadership comprise a big focus at Olive Elementary. Throughout the year, we have added another grade level to our BYOD one-to-one program as well as additional Chromebooks and iPads for student learning and collaboration. Students and teachers have spent many hours in the STEAM lab working on monthly engineering challenges, preparing for the Science Olympiad, and collaborating to solve real-world problems. Our robotics team, the Olibots, also expanded its program this year!

In addition to STEAM, our teachers and parents worked tirelessly to cultivate student leadership and growth-minded students. Through AVID, students have built college and career ideals and are excited for their futures. Our parents have also made a positive impact on student learning by collaborating with one another and site staff to create a comprehensive school plan for their children.

Olive students thrive, thanks to the dedicated teachers and outstanding family support! Go Ocelots!



## Orange High School

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dennis McCuiston**  
Principal

### An Exciting New Opportunity

College financial coaching is now literally at our students' fingertips in the Business and Medical Pathways at Orange High School. As a part of the already incredibly valuable Money Think program, seniors in Mrs. Walthers's business classes and Mr. Sanchez's medical core classes will have access to a full-time personal college financial coach.

This pilot program is being offered exclusively to Orange High students who are currently involved with the Money Think program. The Money Think program is a national organization with a chapter on the Chapman University campus. Chapman students serve as mentors to Orange High students in the classroom every week. The mentors have been working in tandem with the teachers all year to build financial literacy skills in our high school students. The Orange High students will also have full access to a live college planning coach beyond high school.

This is another great opportunity available for students at Orange High School.

## Palmyra Elementary

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Brenna Godsey**  
Principal

### STEAM

Palmyra Elementary School students participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) activities to build and enhance their communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical-thinking skills.

Students in Ms. Campbell's class designed digital tablet stands using our three-dimensional printer. They made a design and then created it in Tinkercad. Then the printer brought their designs to life! Students were also challenged to design a two-story tower structure that was strong enough to resist breaking or collapsing when wind was applied.

Gamification has made learning about fractions easier and more fun for students in Miss Slattery's fifth-grade class. Each gamification math lesson coincides with a quest for students to protect their towns from attacking zombies. Miss Slattery is confident that her students will defeat the zombies with math!

Palmyra students are developing their college and career readiness skills through the incorporation of STEAM activities!



**Jeremy Mortensen**  
Principal

### Panther Pride

The end of the school year is already around the corner, and Panorama Elementary School has had many wonderful programs and events! Panorama has the most amazing students, parents, staff, and supporters a school could ask for! We have even welcomed the addition of a new family member, our very own Panther mascot, PIP. And we are about to end the year with a bang!

There are many events still to look forward to, including the annual spring carnival, our Open House, and a hoe-down, where families are encouraged to dress like cowboys and cowgirls and enjoy line dancing, folk dancing, and many other fun activities...not to mention the end-of-the-year promotions, awards, and sixth-grade activities!

Panorama gives students the feel of a small, private school at a public-school cost!

Go, Panthers!



## Portola Middle School

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Jill Katevas**  
Principal

### Multicultural Art

Portola Middle School students demonstrate their multicultural learning by creating incredible murals for the school. In the past, we have celebrated California history, nautical novels, the Renaissance, and American art, to name a few. This year, we are creating our eighth large-scale mural with a Spanish theme, featuring matadors, artists and Gaspar de Portola.

The students have been learning about Spanish artists all year and are honoring five for our mural. Students have also been learning about the Portola Exhibition and the explorer who is our school's namesake—all of which will be reflected in the finished mural.

According to one student, "Working on the mural is like leaving my mark. It's not going to go away. This experience makes me want to come to school. I've learned about past artists, and now I want to learn more so I can become a college art teacher. I want to earn my doctorate!"



## Prospect Elementary

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Sally Hughson**  
Principal

### A-Ha! at STEAM Night

Family STEAM Night at Prospect Elementary had an outstanding turnout! Over 125 students and their families attended the April event. During STEAM Night, participants walked to and from classrooms to complete or construct interactive activities for all ages. The halls were empty as families crowded the nine classrooms where they worked together on various STEAM projects such as marshmallow catapults, gumdrop towers, generating electricity, robotics and art

The gumdrop-tower activity posed the challenge to create



a strong, supportive structure using 10 gumdrops and 20 toothpicks. The structure's strength was tested by its ability to hold one wooden block. Anthony Villalba from Ms. Ceja's fourth-grade class triumphantly exceeded the objective by building a structure that was able to hold five wooden blocks! The eyes of Anthony and those around him lit up with amazement and accomplishment during this "a-ha!" moment!

It was a great way to bring the community together.



## Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Elsie Briseño Simonovski**  
*Principal*

### A 'Royal Experience'!

Principal Simonovski, library media specialist Ms. St. Clair and three 11th-grade students, Jean-Roch Flandre, Khatriell Parker and Chloe Kelhseimer, were selected to attend this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) camp held in April in Idyllwild. The recipients attended the Orange North Rotary (ONR) meeting on in April for a meet-and-greet session. The meeting was described by students Jean-Roch Flandre and Khatriell Parker as a "royal experience," saying that they felt "like kings sitting at the tables with the businessmen and -women."

Richland's third RYLA student, Chloe Kelhseimer, joined in the excitement of interacting with the generous Rotarians who made the leadership camp possible. Principal Simonovski thanked Jeff Krolosky and Dean Dunlap for the scholarships. Ms. St. Clair shared how teachers nominated juniors based on leadership qualities, leading to this year's three recipients. Thank you, ONR!



## Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. James D'Agostino**  
*Co-Principal*



**Ashley Pedroza**  
*Co-Principal*

### Highly Successful Pentathletes

*By Elizabeth Raburn, Eighth-Grader, Academic Pentathlon Vice President and Proud Santanan*

At Santiago, we have an extracurricular activity called Academic Pentathlon. Santiago's Academic Pentathlon team consists of about 50

students from seventh and eighth grades. This year, the team has studied a predetermined topic, World War II. We studied evenings and weekends in science, social studies, language arts, math and fine arts and participated in a universal super-quiz.

The day of the competition, the pentathletes had to take five tests, go through the super-quiz, and write an essay, all themed around World War II. After a year of hard work, the studying paid off! Santiago's team received many awards, including the Seventh-Grade Overall, county first place, and many individual and team awards for specific content areas.

The awards ceremony was a celebratory evening for Santiago, as many Santanas left with many medals and confidence in their academic success.



## Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Joseph Vidal**  
*Principal*

### STEAM Learning

Running Springs Elementary School is proud to announce that we surpassed our technology fund-raising goal by raising an amazing \$40,000, with all proceeds going to 21<sup>st</sup>-century learning and curriculum!

Due to this phenomenal achievement, Running Springs will use these funds to invest in a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM) lab, which will provide a platform for exploring coding, VEX and CSTEM robotics, and project-based learning with technology. The STEAM lab will come fully equipped with Project Lead the Way curriculum, which will guide our instructional practices and provide a blueprint for structuring our newfound learning space. In our upcoming staff development, teachers will review various grade-level learning modules and adopt one module to implement in the upcoming school year.

Additionally, our fourth-grade students have embarked on a project-based learning task to research, measure, and construct a tangible and/or virtual STEAM lab model to present to the school community for adoption. With the 4 Cs—communication, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity—and flexible learning environments in mind, students will create a project that will soon become a space we will all enjoy.

Go, Redhawks!

## Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Heather Bosworth**  
*Principal*

### Foundation Games

This year, Sycamore students participated in the 2017 Community of Orange Foundation Games. A large team of 50 students was nominated by their teachers, and third-grade teacher Ms. Newman and second-grade teacher Ms. Brodhagen volunteered countless hours to help students prepare for the event through twice-weekly team practices after school. For many students, this was their first participation in a competitive athletics event.



A variety of events included the 800-, 400-, 200-, 100- and 50-meter dashes; softball throw; and long jump. The team placed eighth overall. Two Sycamore students received gold medals, and one student received a bronze medal. There were 15 other students in first, second or third places within their heat.

"It was a hot day, but our athletes were on fire!" Ms. Newman exclaimed. "I felt like we were the underdogs, but our students persevered and really showed their true colors! They had determination written on their faces and in their strides!"

## Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Katherine Rizzo**  
*Principal*

### Hands-On Learning Experiences

The Serrano Eagles have been very active this spring! The students have had the gift of learning through various experiences offered off campus.

Our kindergarten students for instance visited a local amusement park as a culminating experience of their transportation unit. Here they were able to build different types of vehicles out of blocks and actually create a mode of transportation.

The Serrano fourth-grade students engaged in an overnight experience aboard The Pilgrim at Dana Harbor. Here they learned more about our unique nautical heritage and its impact on trade in California. Docents dressed in period costumes greeted the students and led them through hands-on experiences back in time to the golden age of sailing. They sang sea chanteys, got to row in a boat, raise the flags on the ship, and listen to nautical lore.

Our fifth-grade students took a trip back in time to the era of the early colonies. They thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Riley's Farm to experience the colonial life they have been studying. They all dressed the part, with the boys in white colored shirts and black slacks, and the girls wearing dresses with smocks and white caps. This was one social studies lesson our students did not consider "boring" even for a moment!

Outdoor Education was attended by our sixth-graders. The students were engaged in utilizing the large outdoor camp as a classroom, where the activities were designed to build an understanding of ecological principles and our relationship with the natural world. Our students loved the traditional camp adventures such as boating, archery, and a 42-foot climbing tower.

Exposing our students to an actual hands-on learning experience, such as what a school field trip provides, is an effective method of teaching. We want to thank our wonderful Parent Foundation Organization, our parents, and our outstanding teachers for making these experiences happen. Go, Eagles!

## Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Ken Miller**  
*Principal*

### Closing the Achievement Gap

The Villa Park High School community is celebrating our validation as a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School.

The Villa Park High School Leadership Team, in conjunction with our teacher-leaders, recently prepared an in-depth report inspecting one important hallmark of our school: The significant closing of the achievement gap. Our Model Practice was presented to a Gold Ribbon School Validation Committee on March 27, 2017. The validation visit was a multifaceted event conducted by staff from the Orange County Department of Education.

The Site Validation Team held interviews with district administration, site administration, site teacher leadership, site staff, parents, and students to help gather qualitative data affirming our Model Practice. The Validating Team also spent generous time inspecting quantitative data affirming our closing of the achievement gap. Finally, the Team visited a plethora of our classrooms observing live instruction that was effectively demonstrating and validating our Model Program.

The Validation Team prepared a comprehensive report. This report was then forwarded to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson for final approval. Mr. Torlakson announced his final decision on 18 April 2017, formally awarding the 2017 California Gold Ribbon School Award to Villa Park High School. This is Villa Park High School's inaugural Gold Ribbon Award.

We all would like to congratulate our teachers, staff, students, and families who made this award a historic reality for our school.



## Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



### Educating the Whole Child

Taft Elementary has been very busy this school year! As we strive to educate the whole child, our students and families have participated in many activities outside the instructional day.

In the fall, we hosted our families for an evening of Trunk or Treat.

Throughout the year, families have joined us for Family Picnic Day during lunch. This spring, we served our families at a favorite local fast-food restaurant for a special fund-raiser. One of the highlights of the year was our Annual School Talent Show, which included a staff act dancing to "Can't Stop the Feeling" from the *Trolls* movie. Taft had over 80 students participate in the Orange Community Foundation Games Track Meet. Our entire school community showed their school spirit wearing our orange Ducks T-shirts showing support for our local hockey team, the Anaheim Ducks.

As you can see, Taft students know how to work hard in school, and we have fun!



Taft Talent Show

## Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



### Building Positive Student Character

Building positive student character is a shared commitment of students, staff, and parents at Villa Park Elementary School. From the first days of kindergarten, Villa Park students are taught to give their Personal best, Act responsibly, Work and play safely, and Show respect (PAWS). Students receive instruction and support as we endeavor to help each student become a "PAWS-itive" member of our community.

Our Home and School League enriches our efforts to create a positive school climate by providing special assemblies on topics including preventing bullying and by supporting schoolwide incentives for students. Students have many opportunities throughout the year to be recognized for modeling good character. They might be selected as student of the month, receive recognition for good sportsmanship, or even be called upon as a leader to help younger students learn about kindness and problem solving.

By working together, we are teaching our students character traits that last a lifetime.



## West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



### A Great Learning Experience

In preparation for the California Science Test in May, our West Orange Elementary School fifth-graders spent five days at the Arrowhead Ranch Outdoor Science School. The program included a hands-on education where the students learned to interact with the environment around them.

Students worked in cooperative groups to explore and interact with nature. During this time period they went on daily hikes in which they learned about botany, zoology, life science, geology, ecology, and physical science. They also worked in teams to complete their activities, and played outdoor games to reinforce their learning. In the evening, they participated in night hikes where they listened to stories about the constellations. They also learned about nocturnal animals and participated in a sensory walk.

In addition to learning about science, our students were able to grow and become more independent. They developed important relationships, and also made some unforgettable memories with their classmates. Together they created skits, sang fun songs, and supported each other.



## Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



### The Power of Words

The Chapman-Yorba Writing Partnership connects Yorba's journalism students with Dr. Golden's writing course from the College of Integrated Educational Studies at Chapman University.

Chapman students come onto campus and work in small groups with our students to master various genres of writing, including editorials, news articles, and opinion pieces. The students explore topics of their choice, capitalizing on their passions and finding the appropriate genre to exercise their voice.

On March 30, the partnership had a publishing party with our staff, students, and parents at Chapman's Leatherby Center for Entrepreneurship. Students from both Chapman and Yorba read their writing work on local, national, and global issues. They had their voices heard!

This partnership and the publishing party itself would not be possible without the ongoing support of the Lloyd E. and Elisabeth H. Klein Family Foundation. The power of the written word carries on through these talented young writers!





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Isabella's Book Review

**A Touching Book**

*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio is a very unique story told in the perspective of multiple people.

The main character is August Pullman; A deformed boy. He has lived his life stared at and rudely questioned. August has been homeschooled for many years, but now that he is in fifth grade he goes to Beecher Academy. There, he makes friends but a few kids also bully him. Summer felt bad for him at first, but now is friends with him because she wants to. On an overnight fieldtrip, all of the bullies but one, stop being bullies when they get in a

Isabella A.

fight with meaner bullies. When they go back to school, they don't mind the bully and are friends with August. After all that had happened, August decided he liked school.

I would rate this story 5 stars because it is a very touching story about compassion.

Isabella is a 11 year old who enjoys reading and writing fiction novels based on true events. She has written her first full children's mystery book which she plans to extend into a full series. She is looking forward to the summer, so that she can ride her bike and have no homework. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

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**Courtney's Book Review**

**A Real Adventure Book**



*The Lightning Thief*  
by Rick Riordan  
If you want adventure, you should really think about reading this book. Have you ever been the new kid at a school or camp? Percy Jackson knows how that feels. Percy Jackson goes on a very interesting quest with his two friends just so he can save his mom from Hades, the God of the underworld. I'm rating this book a big 5.



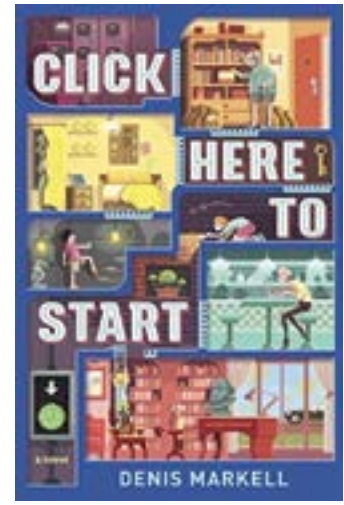
Courtney likes to play softball, football, and volleyball. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

**Katie's Review**

**Video Games Come to life!**



*Click Here to Start*  
by Denis Markell is an amazing book about a boy named Ted who loves playing video games. When his great uncle dies and leaves him an apartment full of random trinkets, Ted thinks he's in for a boring summer. I mean,



why would sorting some old stuff be fun? With his friends Isabel and Caleb, he starts sorting through the mess. But when he returns home to play a new video game, he finds that the room is exactly like the one in the apartment, and that the things in the room are the same as in the apartment he just sorted through. There is a hidden treasure somewhere! Facing an evil man, talking to Great Uncle's best friend, and creeping into a hospital at night lead to an amazing finding: there is a small golden falcon. This book is wrapped in suspense and excitement. I highly recommend it. I rate this book five out of five stars.

Katie is a 7th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

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**Summer Fun 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put OUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2017  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

- |           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome   | Lessons   | Sunscreen  |
| Barbeque  | Lifeguard | Surfing    |
| Beach     | Picnics   | Swimming   |
| Fireworks | Pool      | Vacation   |
| Fun       | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot       | Sand      | Water      |
| Ice Cream | Summer    | Wave       |
| Lemonade  | Sunny     |            |



Congratulations to **Hope Kimera**  
Winner of the April Word Search Contest!

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- ✓ HOME TO ORANGE COUNTY'S ONLY MARINE CORPS JROTC PROGRAM
- ✓ ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS
- ✓ ORANGLIVE ONLINE CLASSES
- ✓ 15 CAREER PATHWAYS

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OFFER ENDS 7/1/17

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are as clear as A, B, C.

A.  
*Get up to \$500 to switch.*

Just for switching, get a little help building up your higher education nest egg.

Balance amount	Bonus
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\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300
\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$50,001 +	\$500

B.  
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C.  
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