

**FREE**

# School News

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**Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District**

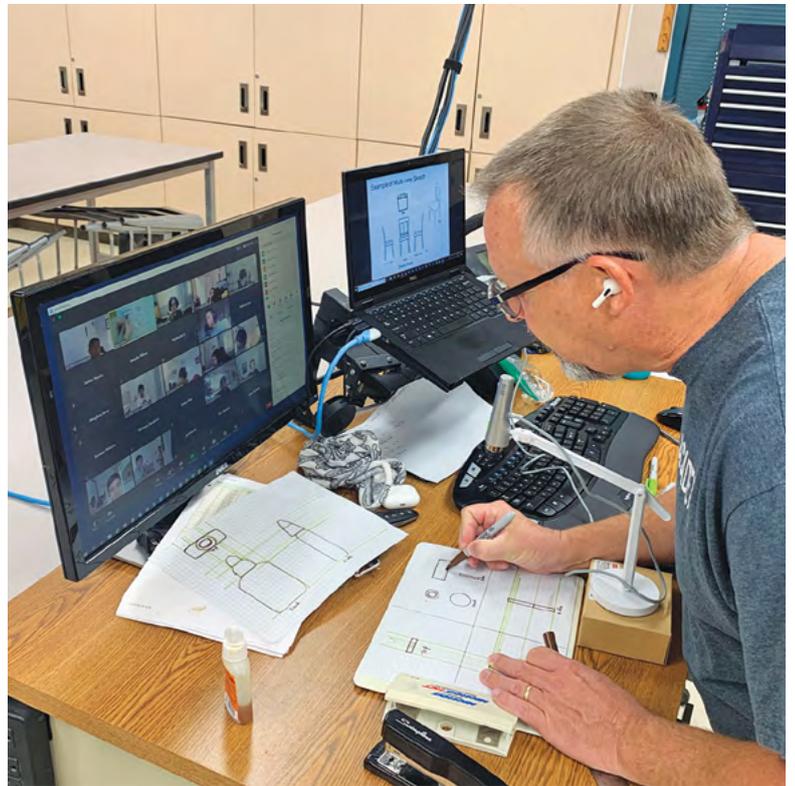


Volume 4, Issue 12

October 2020–January 2021



**Focused on Innovative Practices to Create Successful Students**



# Superintendent



**Dr. Crystal  
Turner**

I'd like to take this opportunity to officially welcome all of our students and families to the 2020-2021 school year! While the beginning of this year looks different than what we have ever experienced before, we will continue to focus on SVUSD's vision of SV Innovates: a focus on intentional lesson design and engaging strategies, all supported through innovative practices to create successful students now, and in the future. At the time of this writing, we have been busily preparing to transition from Full Distance Learning to a Hybrid instructional model on Sept. 29th. The Hybrid model has elementary students attending classes on campus every day, in either the morning or afternoon, and at the secondary level, students will be on campus two days a week and receive instruction online three days. We also continue to offer a full online option either through the Saddleback Virtual Academy and through Distance Learning at the sites.

Our teachers, administrators, and support staff have worked harder than ever to provide high-quality instruction to all of our students for not only Full Distance Learning, but also for the Hybrid model, participating in professional development opportunities, collaborating with colleagues, and utilizing a plethora of tools and supports to ensure the success of their students. A BIG thank you to all of our teachers and support staff who continue to go above and beyond in a brand new teaching model.

There may be many questions and concerns regarding the reopening of school in both the Full Distance and Hybrid models, and we have created a SVUSD School Reopening Webpage to help our families and other stakeholders access supports and tools related to an array of reopening topics. On this page, you'll find detailed reopening information on:

- Distance Learning
- The SVUSD 2020-2021 Reopening and Safety Plan
- SVUSD Reopening Updates
- Food Services Information
- Mental Health and Wellness Information
- Technology Support
- Employee Specific Resources
- Contact Information

The page will be continuously updated, with new and relevant content added as it becomes available. The page may be accessed through the Superintendent's webpage on the main SVUSD website ([www.svUSD.org](http://www.svUSD.org)), or by simply accessing the "About" drop down menu from the main [www.svUSD.org](http://www.svUSD.org) website, and then selecting "School Reopening".

Lastly, thank you to all of our families and community for your support, flexibility, and patience throughout the last 6 months as we have navigated through the pandemic. Our community partnerships are more valuable than ever to ensure the well-being and academic success of our students, and I look forward to collaborating with you throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

# Board of Education



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# Free Online Program for Moulton Niguel Schools!

Moulton Niguel Water District and OC Coastkeeper bring Watershed Education and Virtual Field Trips to Students in 5th -12th Grades.

## What does each class get?

### Online presentation with information on:

- The Moulton Niguel service area and local watershed, water efficiency, urban runoff, watershed function and health.
- Moulton Niguel's rate structure and its use as a tool to indicate whether a household is over-watering their landscape.
- How over-watering contributes to dry-weather runoff, which carries pollutants into storm drains and eventually into local creeks and beaches.

**Virtual field trips:** help students make the connection between daily actions and impacts to local watersheds.

- **Exploring Your Watershed:** entails a virtual hike at a local trail with a naturalist.
- **Water Quality Testing:** students engage in a water quality lesson to analyze the health of a local creek.

**Program available:** October 2020 - June 2021

**Funding includes:** Online presentation, virtual field trip to local creek, water quality tests, and a follow-up lesson on Aliso Creek habitat.

**Ready to sign up?** Teachers and school administrators can notify us of their interest in the program by completing the following form: <http://bit.ly/MNWDCoastkeeper>



Have questions? Contact Dyana Peña at OC Coastkeeper.  
Email: [dyana@coastkeeper.org](mailto:dyana@coastkeeper.org) | Phone: (714) 850 -1965 x1004

## English Learners

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Dr. Rowena Mak**  
*Coordinator*

### Services for English Learners

Site bilingual parent advocates, community liaisons, EL Instructional Assistants and our Family Resource Center are just some of the ways that our non-English speaking families are supported in our school district. Through the reach out efforts of these amazing staff members, parents are able to access and understand all the information they need

to appropriately participate in their child's learning. In addition, a district translator and interpreter also ensures that communications sent by the Superintendent's office as well as the district office in general are sent in Spanish, which represents the most spoken home language of SVUSD parents after English. SVUSD has approximately 4300 English learners throughout our K-12 schools, and the cultural assets they bring to schools offer a tremendous enrichment opportunity for the entire SVUSD community.

## Human Resources/Fiscal Services

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Connie Cavanaugh**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

### Learning Loss Mitigation Funds

The District has received approximately \$15.2 million in "Learning Loss Mitigation Funds" which originate from three funding sources, the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER), and Proposition 98 funding. These funds will support TK-12th grade pupil academic achievement and mitigate learning loss related to COVID-19 school closures. Additionally, the District has been

awarded approximately \$2.1 million in CARES/Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. These funds are less restrictive and can be utilized in a wide variety of ways to address the needs of the District, including supplying the necessary health and safety supplies and materials to students and staff. CRF funds must be fully expended by December 30, 2020, and GEER funds have until September 30, 2022 to be expended.

The District is implementing plans to effectively utilize the funds. Some of the key expenditures to date include: plexiglass desk dividers, classroom air purifiers, personal protective equipment ("PPE") for students and staff, virtual learning platforms such as Canvas and Seesaw, student Chromebooks, Internet hot spots, and other technology supports for students.

## Operations

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Robert Craven**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

### Safety Top Priority

The safety of students and employees is the District's first priority. Schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and the District will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. To ensure classrooms are prepared for a possible return to in-person learning, the Facilities and Safety Departments walked school sites with site administrators and plant foremen in early September. The groups walked

classrooms and the facility to ensure rooms were set up with proper physical distancing of desks, student desk dividers were in place, thermometers installed, and posters visible. The teams verified that each room was outfitted with teacher kits (including masks, gloves, and student masks), hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and door hang tags indicating a room is or needs to be sanitized. Staff also ensured directional walkways and standing areas were clearly marked, plexiglass was installed in offices, new outdoor sinks were installed, HVAC was running, and hand sanitizing carts were prepared. Staff will return to any sites to provide additional support or review updates as needed.

## Educational Services

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-1234



**Liza Zielasko**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

### Online Resources

Welcome back to the new school year! We would never have imagined that we would be starting the 2020-21 school year in distance learning, but it's so good to have the teachers and students back together, even if it's virtually to start. Knowing that this year could find us in distance learning, a hybrid model, or fully back to school, it is important that we are prepared to move between the models if necessary. There are a variety of resources available on our SVUSD website to help students and parents navigate through online learning. The Distance Learning page can be found under the Resources tab on our SVUSD website. Here's to a great school year!



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



### Welcome Back to A New School Year

This is our 4th year publishing the excellence from the Saddleback Valley Unified School District. There have been many changes throughout the years; however, I think we all agree this is the most challenging. Americans are innovative and educators are at the top of the list. Zoom has taken on a whole new meaning to this generation of students. Fortunately, students and educators were proficient with technology to help with the seamless transition to distance learning. Families stepped up to the challenge.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 24.

Our next issue is February 3, 2021.

Be well.

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[www.RussianSchool.com](http://www.RussianSchool.com)  
(949) 864-6592

## Cielo Vista *Elementary*

21811 Avenida de Los Fundadores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/589-7456 • svusd.org/cielovista



**Frances Hansell**  
*Principal*

### The Counselor is in!

We may be in a pandemic but we are in good hands with counselor Mrs. Kat Sorrell. Kat's inspirational words of encouragement during this time of crisis and her uplifting message of resiliency and hope resonates through her motivational minutes. Here are three affirmations she shares with students to keep going with a positive mindset. 1) It's ok to feel nervous about trying something

new. 2) Don't try to figure it all out just move forward. 3) You cannot always control the situation but you can control your attitude. We have all been the recipients of technology crashing, zoom freezing and failing at times ... life happens and a positive mindset is crucial. Mrs. Kat's advice is ... say these out loud every day, adjust, focus on one at a time and reach out when you need help. So glad the counselor is in!



## Cordillera *Elementary*

25952 Cordillera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-3400 • svusd.org/cordillera



**Jennifer Kajdasz**  
*Principal*

### Safety First

Cordillera keeps safety in mind all the time! We are busily preparing our school in anticipation of the return of our cougars. Getting our campus ready for our Hybrid model to start is a team effort and we appreciate

all the hard work being done by all our staff members. All classrooms are being supplied with masks, gloves, ample cleaning supplies, as well as thermometers mounted on the doors so teachers can quickly scan student temperatures outside upon arrival. Inside the classrooms, transparent desk dividers will be provided for each student and desks have been socially distanced from one another. Around campus, we have placed directional arrows showing safe pathways, safety reminder posters have been hung up, and hand sanitizer carts will be placed around site reminding our students to "clean their paws." We cannot wait to see our students back on campus once it is safe to do so!



# De Portola *Elementary*

27031 Preciados Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-5830 • svusd.org/deportola



**Brendon Morrow**  
Principal

## Teachers are Prepared

As with all other schools in our area, de Portola is off to a very memorable start to the 2020-2021 school year. We are proud of our teachers who underwent extensive summer training for distance learning. We are equally proud of our office and custodial staffs for their behind-the-scenes preparations allowing our school to open for the year, including our textbook and Chromebook distribution. Our families and students have been incredibly supportive, while recognizing the efforts our staff. Although only able to join us virtually for the beginning of the year, we were overjoyed to have our students attend classes and start their learning in August. Soon, we hope to be able to welcome back our students who chose the Hybrid Model for in-person learning at our school. Until then, we continue our preparations to enhance the safety of our facility, our schedules, and our procedures within the school.



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# Del Cerro *Elementary*

24382 Regina St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5430 • svusd.org/delcerro



**Kristin Thomsen**  
*Principal*

## Riding the WAVE Each Day

The Del Cerro staff joyfully welcomed back to school their students and families this year with a virtual meet and greet. Thanks to our amazing staff, students, and families, our new school year is off to a positive start even amidst these most uncertain times.

Our Ride the WAVE PBIS initiative received recognition recently from the California PBIS Coalition for its outstanding contribution of support and care during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and resulting disruptions to school. All of us at Del Cerro are dedicated to supporting our students' academic, social, and behavioral needs each day. It is a joy to see our students Riding the WAVE each day.

Teacher Jean Cavanaugh successfully completed the Esports Scholarship Fellow Program with the North American Scholarship Esports Federation. We are grateful to Mrs. Cavanaugh for going above and beyond to bring eSports to our Del Cerro students.



*Saddleback Valley  
Unified School District*



## You have your crew. She needs one too!

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Learn more at [girlscoutsoc.org/discovergs](https://girlscoutsoc.org/discovergs)

## Del Lago *Elementary*

27181 Entidad, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/855-1125 • svusd.org/dellago

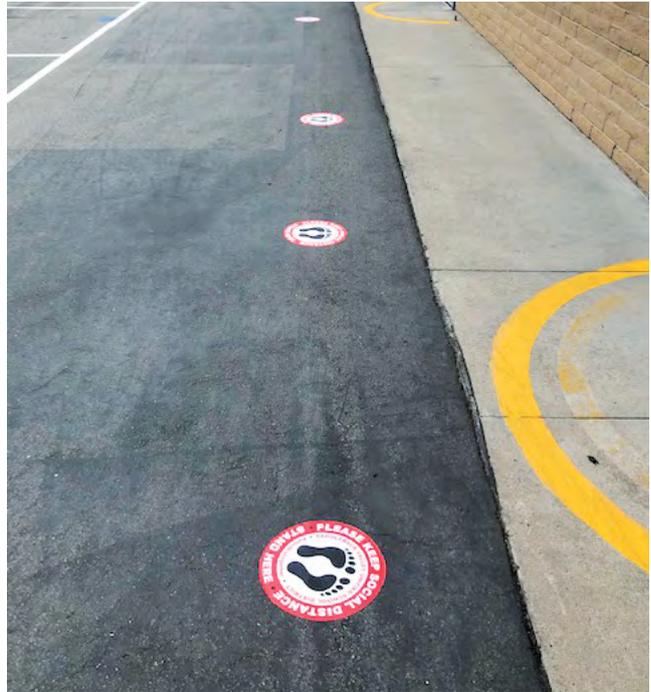


**Jonathan Kaplan**  
*Principal*

### Del Lago Parents Rock

The beginning of the school year is usually accompanied by celebrations and opening festivities. This year, with mandatory Distance Learning in place, our parents and students have risen to the challenge. With everyone on board, our teachers are able to attack the curriculum from afar,

but all knowing that parents are not too far away to support. Thank you, parents! At school, we are busy getting the campus ready for when we are able to return to a hybrid model. One key learning that will occur is having the students understand the distance of six feet. We have placed stickers throughout campus with arrows, signs and reminders, but the big reminder is on the ground – blue dots! They are all six feet apart and we are confident that our students will learn this distancing skill quickly – and staying safe! We're all in this together – Go Dolphins!



## El Toro *High School*

25255 Toledo Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-6333 • svusd.org/eths



**Terri Gusiff**  
*Principal*

### High Participation and Pass Rates

El Toro High School is proud to announce that our Chargers took an SVUSD record 1,312 AP Exams in 2020 and passed an SVUSD record 1,027 of them for a 78% pass rate! In addition to El Toro's 79 AP Scholars, 51 AP Scholars with Honors, 92 AP Scholars with Distinction, 18 National AP Scholars, and 10 AP Seminar and Research Certificates, ETHS would like to recognize

the class of 2020 AP Capstone Diploma scholars who were the first cohort to pursue and receive the AP Capstone Diploma. Forty eight of our students received the full AP Capstone Diploma and were recognized at our virtual graduation ceremony with the honor of wearing white gowns. Their hard work in this rigorous program involved extensive research and presentation skills in addition to passing at least four AP exams of their choice. El Toro looks forward to the continued success of the AP Capstone program as we maintain high participation and pass rates in our AP courses.

## Esperanza *Special Education*

25121 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-5470 • svusd.org/esperanza



**Raymund Bueche**  
*Principal*

### Individualized Transition Plan

SVUSD's Adult Transition Program (ATP) serves qualifying students with disabilities who are post-high school age through 22 with programming and instruction aligned with their Individualized Transition Plan (ITP). The program focusses on education, independent living, employment, and recreation/leisure activities. During the mandated school



closure period, ATP engaged a variety of activities some of which included: virtual job shadowing, mock interviews and preparation, resume building, interactive cooking lessons, personal safety and hygiene lessons,

and virtual social activities. The ATP program is excited to return to its campus and community programming later this month.

## Foothill Ranch *Elementary*

1 Torino Dr., Foothill Ranch, CA 92610 • 949/470-4885 • svusd.org/foothillranch



**Deborah Shaver**  
*Principal*

### Teamwork and Collaboration

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! Foothill Ranch bobcats are off to an amazing start with Distance Learning. Collaboration and teamwork have definitely been the key to the success our students and staff. Our dedicated staff has worked together to distribute materials, resources, and Chromebooks to our students. The office staff has been diligently supporting parents while enrolling students, handling records and answering the many questions that come via phone and email. Our custodial staff has worked all summer to maintain a safe and clean school while preparing for our return to campus. FRE playground assistants have been preparing classrooms with the needed supplies for safety and cleanliness. Teachers and instructional staff are working overtime to prepare engaging online lessons and support families during Distance Learning. When students, staff, and families work together, our students succeed!



## Gates *Elementary*

23882 Landisview Ave., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-2260 • svusd.org/gates



**Diane Clearwater**  
*Principal*

### Talk about Essential Workers!

Our library media clerk and playground assistants sprang into action to get 2020-2021 learning materials into the hands of 950+ students at Gates Elementary. Braving temperatures of over 100 degrees, our amazing ladies distributed bags filled with books, pencils, crayons, white boards and welcoming messages to our students as their families drove through our parking lot on a hot August day. With great precision, the ladies organized and filled the brightly colored tote bags and staged them on our front lawn. As cars lined up and proceeded into our lot, the ladies grabbed bags for the various grade levels and delivered them through the open car windows. Despite the heat, and the weight of the bags, our ladies managed to greet the students and their families with smiles and words of encouragement. We truly appreciate all the efforts of these hard-working Gates Elementary heroes!



**Josie Hemenez, Kristin Bain, Bertha Hernandez, Christiam Gonzalez**



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## Glen Yermo *Elementary*

26400 Trabuco Rd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-6766 • svusd.org/glenyermo



**Jennifer Televik**  
*Principal*

### **ROARing to Go**

Glen Yermo Elementary launched a successful start to the 2020-2021 school year with some additions to our school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. At Glen Yermo, our students ROAR by showing Respect, Offering Kindness, Acting Safely, and showing Responsibility. The goal of our PBIS program is to teach and recognize positive behavior to support a welcoming and safe school environment.

To enhance our online instruction beginning in the spring, we have added an online behavior component to our PBIS program, emphasizing appropriate online behavior and providing virtual ROAR assemblies for our families. As a result of these efforts, Glen Yermo has been recognized as a recipient of the 2020 Community Cares award by the California PBIS Coalition.

We are proud of our positive school culture and excited to continue to provide our students with a program that meets their academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.



## La Madera *Elementary*

25350 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/770-1415 • svusd.org/lamadera



**Jennifer Gass**  
*Principal*

### **Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year**

I am thrilled to be principal at La Madera Elementary School. This year we welcomed our students to school with Distance Learning. While it was not our usual first day, our Koala students were logged in and ready to go. I continue to be amazed by our hardworking teachers, staff, parents and students who have come together to make sure all of our students are engaged and participating in online instruction.

Recently, we held our first ever virtual family fun night, through our PTA sponsored “Not-So-Social Ice Cream Social”. Families created ice cream sundaes at home, then posted them to social media with #koalasloveicecream. Prizes were awarded for most creative concoction, most interesting ingredient, healthiest, and best video/photo of how they got into the ice cream spirit. It was fun to see our families enjoying time together and sharing their delicious creations.



**The Hansen Family enjoying their ice cream sundaes at our “Not-So-Social Ice Cream Social”.**

# La Paz *Intermediate*

25151 Pradera Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-1720 • svusd.org/lapaz



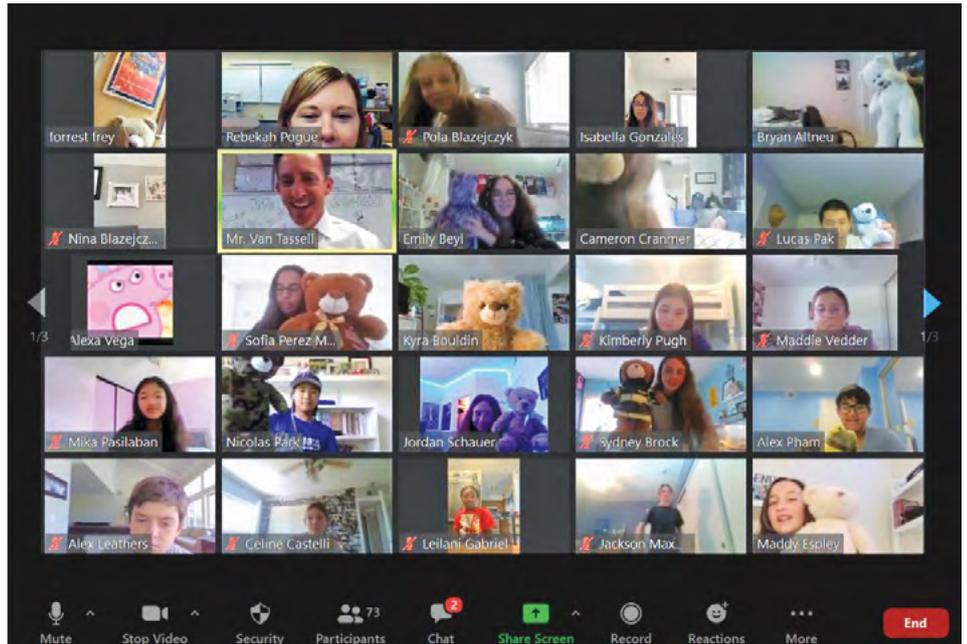
**Jean Walker**  
*Principal*

## Connecting Students to School in a COVID 19 World

Distance Learning, Hybrid Models, Zoom and Google Classroom, these are all staples of education in our new COVID 19 reality. At La Paz Intermediate, teachers and students are also using technology to

create a cohesive and connected La Paz family. In the first 20 days, teachers get to know all their students in all five classes through a variety of class activities and surveys. In addition, the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) program links 8th grade WEB leader students with small groups of 7th graders. WEB created a virtual tour for the incoming 7th graders, and organized weekly virtual interactive activities, such as What's your favorite..., My

World, and a home scavenger hunt...with prizes of course! The kids are having a blast and in the process the La Paz Leopard family is bonding and connecting, even in a COVID 19 world.



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## La Tierra *Early Childhood Center*

24150 Lindley St., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/707-5276 • svusd.org/schools/elementary-a-l/la-tierra-early-education-center



**Marion Springett**  
*Principal*

### Thankful for the Eagle Scouts and the Community!

La Tierra was the recent benefactor of a new “kid-friendly garden”, which is the result of an Eagle Scout Service Project headed up by Eagle Scout Austin Mark Yeager, from Troop 628. Working with members of the community, Scout Yeager set out to build a “hands-on learning experience” for students who attend the La Tierra ECC so that “kids will get to watch their plants grow throughout the year and also learn about different types of plants and vegetables”. Although the COVID-19 pandemic posed unique logistical challenges throughout his project planning and completion, Scout Yeager succeeded in leading a team of approximately 15 people, including members of Troop 628, friends, and family, to find creative solutions resulting in the delivery of two, beautifully constructed 4 x 8 foot raised, portable planters! We are truly grateful for Scout Yeager and his team for their forward thinking, commitment, and dedication to this project during this difficult time!



## Laguna Hills *High School*

25401 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/770-5447 • svusd.org/lhhs



**Bill Hinds**  
*Principal*

### Auto Tech Shines

On March 5, 2020, LHHS Auto Tech Teacher Patrick Sullivan led his advanced auto students to an impressive showing at the annual Cypress College Automotive Competition. This was the first such competition for LHHS which saw them matched up against fifteen teams from all over Orange and Long Beach Counties. The Hawks competed with two teams of two students who had to complete such challenges as completing wiring diagrams, circuit boards, and component identification. All tasks had to be done using industry grade equipment and resources. The first team consisting of students Yader Rivera (11th) and Chris Corona (12th) took 5th overall. The second team of Santiago Guerrero (12th) and Luis Conteras (12th) took 1st place overall capping an astonishing feat for the school and program. Winners took home awards as well as new tools. We are proud of our Auto Tech program, congratulations Mr. Sullivan and students. GO HAWKS!



## Linda Vista *Magnet Elementary*

25222 Pericia Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-0970  
svusd.org/lindavista



**Suzy McMasters**  
*Principal*

### IB Learners

Linda Vista Magnet Elementary is an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program World School Candidate, currently in the World School Authorization process. With our start in distance learning, the scholars are deep into the IB Learner Profile Attributes of being risk-takers, open-minded, communicators, inquirers, thinkers, caring, knowledgeable, principled, balanced and reflective. Understanding how to be an open-minded, risk-taking, communicator is definitely part of the recipe for success during distance learning! While the instruction may look somewhat different, our scholars in kindergarten through sixth grade engage in daily rigorous instruction with their classroom teacher and participate in specialist classes for music, Spanish, the IB Inquiry Centre in the library and physical education each week.



**Linda Vista Magnet Explorers Wonder, Navigate, Excel, and Strive to build a globally-minded community of citizens who contribute to a diverse world.**

We'd love to tell you more about the IB PYP, so give us a call and visit our website for additional information.



## Lake Forest *Elementary*

21801 Pittsford Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/830-9945  
svusd.org/lakeforest



**Audra Bailey**  
*Principal*

### Together through it All

Welcoming back our Lake Forest Families looked a little bit different this year, but it was still amazing! Teachers were so excited to hold a virtual Open House for their families to discuss what the year would look like for our families. Students were excited to meet their teachers, and excited to start a new year. Our families learned how to navigate Zoom, Google Classroom, See Saw and much more. Teachers are working collaboratively to make each student's learning experience rigorous and fun. Students are working in break out groups to collaborate and discuss assignments. Teachers are pulling small groups to differentiate student learning, and holding office hours every day to help answer student questions, parent questions, and give some students a little extra help when needed. Lake Forest teachers have been phenomenal throughout this pandemic to meet the needs of all of our learners, and continue to strive to make each student's experience the best it can be. Together we are #LFEFamily, and will excel through it all.

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## Lomarena *Elementary*

25100 Earhart Rd., Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-1370 • svusd.org/lomarena



**Mona Montgomery**  
*Principal*

### Lomarena Pride Family

Welcome to another school year. The 2020-2021 school year has started much differently than we have ever expected. Our Lomarena Pride is a special school family. Our staff, students, and families truly care for each other. You can feel that everyone has the growth of students in the area of academics and social emotional health as their focus.

Our team has been getting ready for students that have chosen to return to campus in our Hybrid learning track. Our classrooms have our desk shields, are spaced to adhere to social distancing guidelines, and so much more. There is signage throughout the school to help all of the students to remember to take precautions and space



themselves in order to stay safe. Together we will persevere through the hurdles our world has placed in front of us. We will do this holding hands and treating each other with love, care, and respect. At Lomarena, WE ROAR!!

## Los Alisos *Intermediate*

25171 Moor Ave., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/830-9700 • svusd.org/losalisos



**Rich Freda**  
*Principal*

### Yes, We Still have Those Wonderful Textbooks!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and classified staff for helping get our students and parents prepared for the exciting and unique 2020-21 school year. It was so great to see our students and parents at our drive through events.

We are so thankful for the best parents and appreciate the many kind words as we all adapt to the ever-present changes this year. Pictured below is one of five drive through days dedicated to picking up textbooks. With all the wonderful online meetings and applications, there is still nothing like a good, strong book! Our teachers are excited to be adding the textbook lessons to mix up the learning between online and offline. Here's to an historic 2020-21 school year... *Stay Safe and Go LOBOS!*



## Melinda Heights *Elementary*

21001 Rancho Trabuco, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/888-7311 • svusd.org/melindaheights



**Kathryn Martin**  
*Principal*

### Students are Our Priority

The 2020-2021 school year is upon us, and Melinda Heights is meeting every challenge with style and grace. This has been an opening like no other and we could not be more proud of our students, teachers, parents, and community for their perseverance and flexibility during this ever-changing and tumultuous time. This summer, Melinda Heights was honored by the

California PBIS Coalition for its outstanding support, and care during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and resulting disruptions to school. Our staff's commitment to making sure our students and their families feel safe and loved at Melinda Heights is as essential as our dedication to growing our students academically and socially. Whether we are teaching our students from a distance, in a hybrid model, or face-to-face as we traditionally have, one thing is for certain; Melinda Heights students are our priority.



## Mission Viejo *High School*

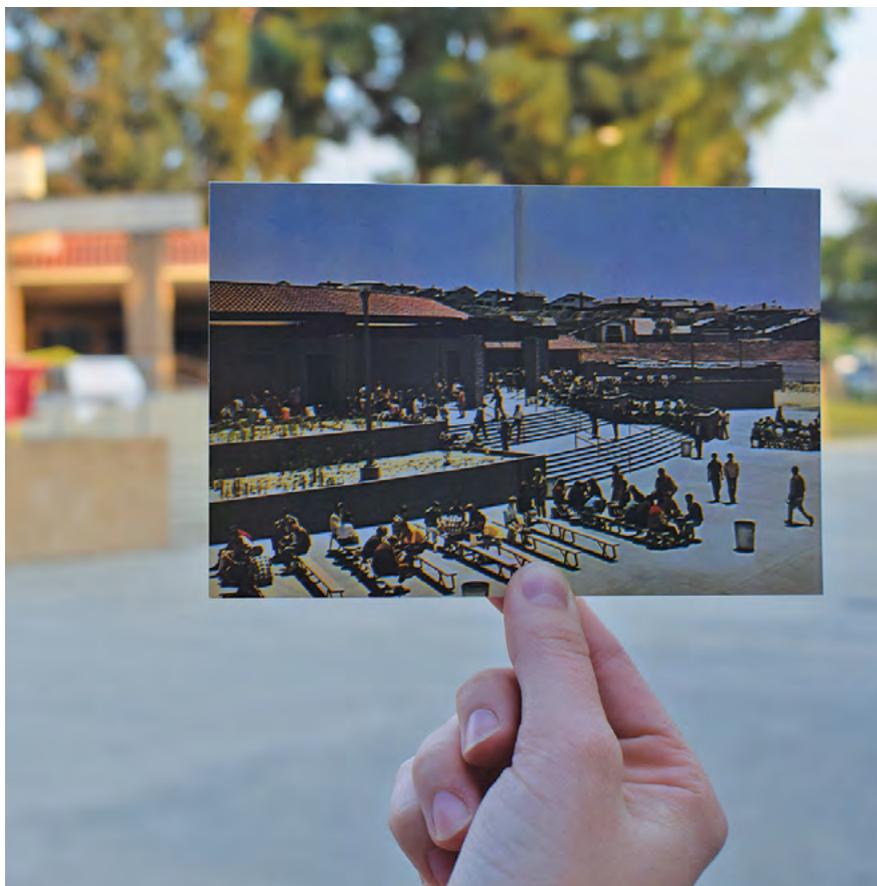
25025 Chrisanta Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/837-7722 • svusd.org/mvhs



**Tricia Osborne**  
*Principal*

### A Strong Academic Institution

Mission Viejo High School welcomes you to the 2020-21 school year! It was just a few months ago that we had the privilege to celebrate 485 outstanding graduates from the Class of 2020. We are proud of our students for their strength, dedication, and kindness. At MVHS, our rich history of tradition, strong culture, high expectations for all, and award-winning programs are just some of the many reasons that we stand out among the best. MVHS received an award as a 2020 Best High School in U.S. News and World Report! We are ranked #412 out of thousands in the state of California. MVHS remains a strong academic institution where teachers understand the importance of teacher-student relationships and family. Mission is truly a special place where students can excel whether in the Arts, Athletics, Drama, Marching Band, Music, MUN, AVID, Agriscience or a myriad of other co-curricular programs. Go Diablos!



# Montevideo *Elementary*

24071 Carrillo Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8050 • svusd.org/montevideo



**Lisa Graham**  
*Principal*

## Education... A Work of Heart

Whether in person or online, Montevideo's staff, parents, and students are looking forward to experiencing great success and achievement this year by coming together with talent, teamwork, and heart. Montevideo is well known for placing students at the heart of a collaborative effort focused on care, intentional design and innovation...

Intentional Design in programs and lessons, Simulating Environment focused on student engagement and academic rigor, Social Emotional systems to support the whole child, and Collaboration among and between staff, parents, students, and the community. For example, our partnership with the Pacific Symphony as a Class Act School remains, and is truly magical for students. While COVID-19 has changed so much in our lives, it cannot stop the passion and commitment we bring to our students' education... and even when students cannot be on campus in person, we always keep them at the very heart and center of our work.



**Teacher, Jason Bussinger, and his staff couldn't imagine a classroom without their students.**

## Toy Store Items—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 Saddleback Valley in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by November 30, 2020**

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

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| BIKE     | MARBLES    |
| DOLL     | CRAYON     |
| TRIKE    | PENS       |
| BOOK     | COMPUTER   |
| LEGOS    | DOLLHOUSE  |
| SOLDIERS | BUGGY      |
| BALLS    | KITCHEN    |
| BUBBLES  | TEA SET    |
| CROQUET  | BAT        |
| BLOCKS   | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES    |            |



## Olivewood *Elementary*

23391 Dune Mear Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/837-6682  
svusd.org/olivewood



**Alex Perez**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Lifelong Learners

Welcome to Olivewood Elementary School! Our Mustang family is excited to welcome a new group of lifelong learners. We feel it's important to not only build academic capacity but also build social and emotional capacity, especially in a virtual learning environment. We promote an inclusive learning environment where students from different ethnicities, upbringing, and

lifestyles can collaborate and combine abilities. With the support of our community, P.T.A, extended family members and local stakeholders we will provide an exceptional learning experience for all of our students.

It is important to highlight a few areas of growth and achievement. We have continued to refresh our technology so all students, TK-6 grade can establish a stable foundation for building digital competency and academic rigor. Our teaching staff continues to remain focused on increasing student achievement by conducting structured Professional Learning Communities, analyzing data, creating short-term goals and long-term goals.

As Principal, I believe in developing a community of lifelong learners, creative thinkers and responsible individuals by providing an innovative educational program in a safe and supportive learning environment. I will shape our path toward success through collaboration, data disaggregation and specialized training. As a Mustang family, we will recognize our achievements and powerful moments by highlighting our bright spots.

## Portola Hills *Elementary*

19422 Saddleback Ranch Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/459-9370  
svusd.org/portolahills



**Ed MacNevin**  
*Principal*

### Hello PHE Families

Through all the trials and tribulations of our new "Distance Learning" model we have realized how resilient and adaptive our students, families and staff are. Our teaching and support staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure our students are all given meaningful curriculum they can access at home. While the school building is closed, it is important that we stay

connected as a community and support one another. The amount of online classes and asynchronous curriculum created by our staff has been amazing to watch. In times of stress and uncertainty our staff and students have risen to the occasion overcoming obstacles in their way. Teachers have done a tremendous job transitioning their instruction to online platforms and look for opportunities to meet face to face to connect with their students as much as possible. Teachers are using platforms such as Seesaw and Google Classroom with links to the curriculum. Several teacher websites and live sessions start off the day with a morning song to provide a routine children need. Teachers have online "office hours" (just like college professors) when their students can check in with the teacher and get any questions answered. We would also like to thank our clerical staff as well. Our office staff has done a tremendous job in assisting our teachers and communicating home with students and families to check in and offer assistance when it is needed. We miss our families, students, and staff and cannot wait until we are all back together. This has been an amazing school opening and we are all so proud of our students and we do look forward to seeing them on campus again soon!

## Rancho Canada *Elementary*

21801 Winding Way, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/786-5252 • svusd.org/ranchocanada



**Dr. Larry Hausner**  
*Principal*

### High Standards and Expectations

It is truly my pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our school community as we begin the most unique school year of our lifetimes. I feel extremely fortunate to be working with such an exceptional group of teachers, and staff members who have all worked tirelessly to ensure Distance Learning 2.0 launched successfully. We recognize that this is not

an ideal start but we will persevere and come out stronger than ever before.

In these difficult times, the Rancho Canada Elementary School community has demonstrated what a truly special and close-knit community we are. Our collective goal is to

ensure that we put health and safety first and secondly to offer the most engaging and challenging academic program a school can offer.

The educational program, regardless if it is Distance Learning or Hybrid, here at Rancho Cañada Elementary School is designed to meet the needs of each individual student. Our school's Vision Statement is: Rancho Cañada students will strive to become independent thinkers, resourceful problem-solvers, and confident citizens in tomorrow's world. High standards and expectations for each student in regard to academic performance and responsible citizenship are also at the foundation of our school. I am looking forward to working with you and your student as we work toward an academically successful school year.

# Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

21931 Alma Aldea, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/459-8253 • www.rsmintermediate.com



**Tyler Morgan**  
*Principal*

## New Principal

My name is Tyler Morgan, and I am honored and privileged to be the new RSM Principal. I started my teaching career in the Fullerton School District, where I worked for nine years. I have worked for the Buena Park School District for the last six years as an Assistant Principal and, most recently, as the Interim Principal at Buena Park Junior High. My wife Kristen and I have four children

Presley (13), Charlotte (11), Hudson (6), and Robert (22 months). I am excited to be part of the RSM family and look forward to building strong relationships.

Our theme this school year is “Roadrunners Stand Together.” With all that is going on in the world today, we must STAND TOGETHER to ensure our students’ success. I look forward to working together as a TEAM and keeping

the safety and education of our RSM students as our top priority. I want to make sure you know that my goal is to help your student succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. I believe building strong relationships and working together will be the key for this year’s journey.

Although we started this year off with distance learning, I can assure you that student learning through engagement, intentional lesson design, and academic rigor will continue to thrive. We will continue to work collaboratively to give our students a rich and meaningful educational experience that fosters a lifelong love of learning while supporting students’ needs, both socially and emotionally. We understand that students need interaction and community for developmental growth. RSM has great teachers, counselors, and staff to meet the needs of our students and families.

I look forward to meeting you, and I am excited about this year’s journey as “Roadrunners Stand Together.”

## Robinson *Elementary*

21400 Lindsay Dr., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679 • 949/589-2446  
svusd.org/robinson



**Megan Hannen**  
*Principal*

## A Great Year to be a Rattler

Hello and welcome to Robinson Elementary School; Home of the Rattlers! We are excited to learn and grow with all of our students this year whether it be through distance learning or eventually in person as a part of our Hybrid model. Regardless, the academic standards are high and the learning opportunities are abounding. Now more than ever, we are focused on building both

academic and emotional readiness in order for our students to excel in a multitude of learning environments. Our school community, including P.T.A, families, teachers, staff and locally vested stakeholders all make Robinson an exemplary environment to learn.

As we enter the 2020-21 school year, I would like to point out some highlights. Our Unified Sports Program continues to take strides to provide all students an opportunity to share and celebrate their abilities. This program is one way in which we continue to provide an inclusive learning environment for all. Our teachers continue to dedicate time to building instructional rigor and increasing student achievement by engaging in on-going professional development and by developing their technological skills to deliver engaging instruction.

As Principal, I am committed to instilling positivity, gratitude and focus during this very different landscape of education. I believe our school community’s dedication to our students and ability to take risks towards innovation are setting a path for success for our students. It’s a great year to be a Rattler!

## San Joaquin *Elementary*

22182 Barbera, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/581-3450  
svusd.org/sanjoaquin



**David Shun**  
*Principal*

## PBIS at San Joaquin is PAWS’itivity PAWS’ome

San Joaquin is honored to be recognized as a PBIS Coalition Community Cares school in the Saddleback Valley Unified School District. We are excited to have our school wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) effort and dedication acknowledged, especially during these unprecedented times. Whether we are



distance learning or participating in on-campus, in-person, hybrid instruction it is important for students to feel safe and learn at their best. PBIS helps to facilitate student safety and

learning through setting school wide positive expectations for all students both behaviorally and academically. Our PBIS motto, P.A.W.S., helps all our learners to “Practice Kindness, Act Responsibly, Work Together, and Show Respect” which supports students with making connections, along with being collaborative and reflective. We are privileged to partner with our students, staff and community to foster a variety of PBIS support toward helping all students be successful. Go Cheetahs!

## Santiago *STEAM Magnet*

24982 Rivendell Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-2820 • svusd.org/santiago



**Howard Johnston**  
Principal

### Santiago Continues to Grow!

Welcome to Santiago STEAM Magnet's 20-21 School Year. While everything is different, much is the same. All our teachers and students continue to fulfill our vision of providing meaningful, innovative learning experiences for a community of diverse learners who solve complex problems with creativity and confidence. Even

through the summer, Santiago STEAM Magnet continued to grow - vegetables that is! While students were away, we began growing vegetables



in our newly built garden. With a grant and support from PTA, we received a fully stocked workbench for a maker center. Santiago has also purchased all new microscopes for sixth grade, indoor drones for coding, two class sets of robots for coding, and soon to receive a large engineering set to understand circuitry. All in all, we are well on our way for our students to be back and ready to move full STEAM ahead!

## Serrano *Intermediate*

24642 Jeronimo Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630 • 949/586-3221 • svusd.org/serrano



**David Young**  
Principal

### Super Seahawk

Lara Tseng, 8th grader at Serrano, has a passion for excellence! She also has a passion for Bluebirds, and her research on the subject was recently published in the North American Bluebird Society Journal.

At Serrano's Science and Engineering Fair last spring, Lara took home top honors for her entry: Eggshell Consumption by Birds. She then advanced to the Orange County SEF, and she also earned a 1st Place in the Zoology category.



In addition to this, she received 2 special awards: The Sea and Sage Audubon Society and the Harald Biessmann Memorial Award. To top it all off, she has also been named one of the Top 300 MASTERS in the 2020 Broadcom MASTERS program. She is vying to be named to the top 30 which will be announced mid-September.

Lara brings a passion for knowledge to Serrano every day, and she's an asset to her classmates, teachers and school!

## Silverado *High School*

25632 Peter A. Hartman Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/586-8800 • svusd.org/silverado



**David Gordon**  
Principal

### Trained and Ready

On August 17th Silverado students and teachers jumped into the virtual new school year with a great deal of excitement. The Silverado staff spent the short summer attending trainings to learn how to make a virtual classroom a successful classroom. With three weeks of the 2020/2021 school year already complete, the feedback from students and parents indicate our staff spent their summer wisely. We are seeing a significant increase in attendance and student success.



**Silverado Teachers Go the Distance for Distance Learning!**

The Silverado guidance staff and library clerk have worked overtime to make sure each student has all the materials they need. Their hard work has paid back huge dividends.

The Silverado academic coach and all the academic coaches have proven to be an invaluable resource. So many students and staff would be completely lost without our coaches' support. We couldn't do this without the coaches.

Let's keep the energy up as we move toward the hybrid learning model.

## SVUSD *Virtual Academy K-12*

21001 Rancho Trabuco Rd., Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/580-3457 • [svusd.org/virtualacademy](http://svusd.org/virtualacademy)



**Glenn Giokaris**  
*Principal*

### **Growing and Improving**

The last six months have provided the SVUSD Virtual Academy (SVA) with a tremendous opportunity to grow and improve. As many families have looked to the SVA to provide their students (and families) with a flexible, personalized education environment, we have hired six teachers to match our growing K-12 enrollment which allows SVA to provide greater personalization.

SVA has also introduced new programs to balance flexibility with structure to help students succeed,

build a community of learners, and provide real world opportunities to grow and learn. The pillar of our community and purpose building is our Advisory. Each week, students meet online in Advisory to participate in activities that develop belonging, self-discovery, and purpose.

One of the most exciting new programs is our Early College Pathway (ECP) partnership with Saddleback College. Currently, over 60 students are dual enrolled and on their way to earn a certificate in either Business or Cybersecurity while also earning both high school and college credit!

## Trabuco *Elementary*

31052 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678 • 949/858-0343 • [svusd.org/trabuco](http://svusd.org/trabuco)

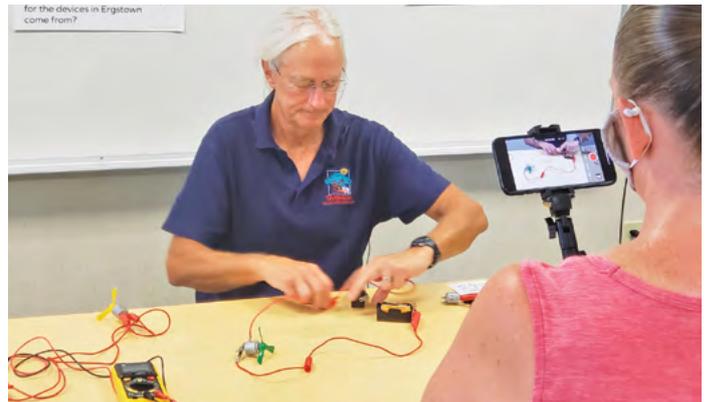


**Lisa Paisley**  
*Principal*

### **Amplify Science!**

Trabuco Field Study, along with our Instructional Coaches, have been working hard to prepare science demonstration lessons using our newly adopted NGSS materials from Amplify. Since our students are learning virtually and cannot share materials, we thought it would be helpful for our teachers to have access to videos of the hands-on labs to weave into their weekly

lesson plans. Additionally, Field Study has been working in conjunction with OCDE to prepare a virtual version of the BOSCH EcoSTEM Immersion for 1st graders this Fall. We look forward to students visiting Trabuco Field Study for in person field trips, but in the meantime, Field Study is preparing activities everyone can use in their classrooms. They will be available for personalized experiences, such



as “Schedule a Live Chat with a Naturalist” beginning in October 2020. Call the school at (949)858-0343 or email [tama.adams@svusd.org](mailto:tama.adams@svusd.org) for an appointment. What a treasure we have!

## Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

21301 Ave de las Flores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/858-3339 • [svusd.org/trabucomesa](http://svusd.org/trabucomesa)

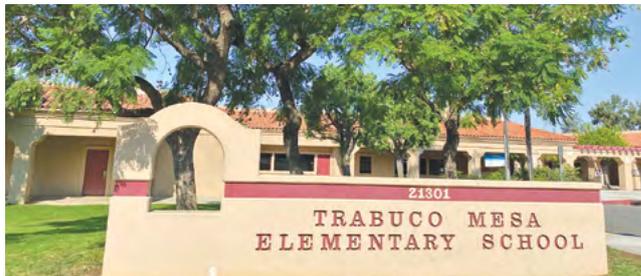


**Caryn McGrew**  
*Principal*

### **Welcome Bulldogs!**

I am pleased to welcome all new and returning Trabuco Mesa families to the 2020-2021 school year. While I know this is not the start of the school year that we had planned, I am confident of this... We have an amazing

Trabuco Mesa Staff! I know that we will continue to provide a great learning experience for our students even through challenging times. Our awesome school community works together to reach a higher plateau of learning for ALL students. We are a GATE magnet school



that encourages students to have a growth mindset and become resilient, life-long learners. We are excited to roll out our improved Positive Behavior Intervention

Support (PBIS) Program this year and support our students with being safe, respectful, and responsible Trabuco Mesa Bulldogs! It's going to be a great year – we've got this!

## Trabuco Hills *High School*

27501 Mustang Run, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • 949/768-1934 • svusd.org/thhs



**Alicia Foulk**  
*Principal*

### New Principal

Hello, this is Alicia Foulk, and I am the new principal at THHS. I am originally from Columbus, Ohio, where I earned my bachelor's degree from Denison University in English and Education. I began in Southern California teaching English at Santiago High School in Corona before moving to Palos Verdes where I started as an English teacher and moved into administration, serving as a Dean and Associate Principal. I then relocated to Orange County and worked as an Assistant Principal at Woodbridge High School for the last five years. I have had an opportunity to lead instruction and curriculum design as a teacher and administrator, and look forward to bringing my talents to further enhance all the wonderful things happening at



THHS. While we are not currently seeing students here, we have already had some incredible successes, including a 100% pass and Diploma completion rate for our IB program.

## Valencia *Elementary*

25661 Paseo de Valencia, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 • 949/830-3650 • svusd.org/valencia



**Wendie Hauschild**  
*Principal*

### Distance Learning at Its Best

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Valencia Elementary! Teachers and Staff at Valencia have expertly flipped a switch to support students in learning from a distance. Teachers spent part of their summer engaged in professional development to arm themselves with instructional practices that work best for this different way of learning. Teachers have set up virtual classroom workstations to simulate regular in-class instruction so that students are actively engaged in learning and doing. Some teachers are working from home and some are working out of their classrooms. The sound of students can still be heard via teacher computers here at school and makes us miss them all the more. Laughter, collaboration, discussion,



questioning – it hasn't stopped because we aren't in person. Staff are present daily on campus, readying our school for the eventual return of who we are all here for – our Valencia Oranges.

# School News

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Covering the  
**SADDLEBACK VALLEY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:**

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**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder

**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Surprise for Charlie

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

*Factory* is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl.

The story is about Charlie, a poor boy who lives in a small house with his parents and 4 grandparents. One day, Charlie found some money buried in the snow. He used some of that money to buy Wonka bars. He found the fifth and final ticket to join 4 other lucky children who got to go on the tour of Willy Wonka factory. The factory is magical and mysterious. Inside the factory, the children were distracted by various wonderful creations. The tour of the factory had a hidden intention that was revealed at the end.

The story is funny and full of magic and mystery. I felt like I was on the tour of the factory while I was reading this book. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves chocolates or anyone who loves reading a funny and mysterious story.



Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

## Halloween 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 Saddleback Valley in the subject line)

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| CANDY         | JACK O LANTERN |
| CARVE         | MUMMY          |
| CEMETERY      | SKELETON       |
| COSTUME       | SPIDER         |
| DECORATIONS   | SWAMP CREATURE |
| FRANKENSTEIN  | TRICK OR TREAT |
| FRIGHTFUL     | VAMPIRE        |
| GHOST         | WEB            |
| GHOUL         | WEREWOLF       |
| GRAVE         | WITCH          |
| HAUNTED HOUSE | ZOMBIE         |

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