

FREE

School News

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Covering the Saddleback Valley Unified School District



Volume 2, Issue 8

June 2019

Orange County Teacher of the Year, Mandy Kelly



SVUSD Participates in First Ever Unified Track and Field





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Superintendent



Dr. Crystal Turner

As we near the end of the school year and I reflect on the past year, all the accomplishments of our students and staff truly make me proud to be the superintendent of this wonderful school district! Thanks to the support of our staff, families, and community, SVUSD continues to push the boundaries of engagement and innovation and has had many bright spots throughout the year.

You may recall that in the last edition of *School News Roll Call*, our school site Teachers of the Year, as well as the 3 SVUSD finalists, were recognized. I'm excited to share that Mandy Kelly, 6th grade teacher at Trabuco Mesa Elementary, has been named an Orange County Teacher of the Year! Mandy is one of only five K-12 teachers in Orange County to receive this prestigious honor. She will go on to compete at the state level for the California Teacher of the Year program, and we know that she will represent SVUSD well. Congratulations, Mandy Kelly!

May is also the time of year when we recognize and celebrate our Classified employees. Each school site and division selected a Classified Employee of the Year, and from this group, five were selected as SVUSD district-wide winners, who will go on to submit applications to the Orange County Department of Education's Classified Employee of the Year program. Please join me in congratulating all site/division winners, as well as our district finalists: Marcy Holder (Food Services Assistant II - Nutrition Center), Jennifer Kelly (Office Manager - de Portola Elementary), Anabelle Marin (School Community Outreach Liaison - SEL/San Joaquin Elementary), Amador Renteria (Technology Specialist - Technology Services/Valencia Elementary), and Kimberly Schultz (Instructional Assistant - Esperanza Education Center).

Another highlight of this school year has been the ability to provide our teachers and students with the tools they need in the classroom. One of our top priorities in SVUSD is to support our teachers as they embrace next generation teaching and learning for our students. Since September, 1,000 staff computers that were four years and older were replaced. Teachers were able to choose between a MacBook or Dell Laptop, and the excitement was palpable as they received their new technology! We will continue to ensure that the teachers' computers over the next few years are 4 years old or newer throughout the district. Another way in which we are supporting our teachers and students is through the SV Innovates Classroom Makeover process. The goal of this project is to upgrade teacher classrooms in a way that encourages and supports the tenants of the district's vision, SV Innovates: a focus on intentional lesson design, engaging strategies, and the development of innovative practices. The makeovers include voice amplification equipment, LCD monitors, and flexible seating. This year, all elementary schools received 2 classroom makeovers, intermediate schools received 5, and high schools received 10 classroom makeovers. This will be a multi-year project and will continue over the next 2 years, with an end goal of 306 total classroom makeovers by project-end. Classrooms are selected through an application process available to all teachers. We understand the importance of providing our teachers with the appropriate resources to teach our students 21st century curriculum and skills and are proud to offer these exciting computer and classroom makeover opportunities to do so.

Thank you for all your support of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District, as we continue to provide a stellar education for our students. I wish you a wonderful summer!

Board of Education



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President



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Saddleback Valley Unified School District

25631 Peter A. Hartman Way Mission Viejo, CA 92691 • (949) 586-1234 • svusd.org

Educational Services

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



Laura Ott
Assistant
Superintendent

SVUSD Advances Social Emotional Learning

This school year we have furthered our work on the mastery of knowledge through Professional Learning Communities, intentional lesson design, and Universal Design for Learning. Additionally, we have established a district wide focus on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support concentrating on social-emotional learning. Research shows that social and emotional learning is fundamental to students' overall success. Social-emotional learning is about helping students develop a range of skills they need for school and life. It is the process through which students manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Our goal is to help students reflect on their personal skill sets, such as academic outcomes in specific subjects (Self-Efficacy), how well they manage emotions and behaviors in different situations (Self-Management), and how well they consider the perspectives of others and show empathy (Social Awareness). Helping students identify how invested they are in school (Engagement) and being a valued member of the school community (Sense of Belonging) is critical to SVUSD educators.

Business Services

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



Connie Cavanaugh
Assistant
Superintendent

Skip the Plastic Straw

The Food Services department was contacted last summer by a middle school student in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, Chloe Mei, asking for the district's support of her "Skip the Plastic Straw" campaign. The department implemented the campaign this school year by eliminating straws in the spork packets at the elementary school level and using paper straws at the EduCafe.



Riki Pollard, Director of Food Services was quoted in the *OC Register*, "Chloe Mei is the full reason we eliminated straws. To be honest, the issue was never on my radar until she brought it to my attention. Now I understand the impact on the environment. She's an amazing person."

Human Resources

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



Dr. Terry Stanfill
Assistant
Superintendent

Congratulations

Congratulations and thank you to all of our Classified Employees of the Year for all you do to support our students!

Of 1,350 classified employees, over 110 employees were nominated for this honor. From these nominees, 40 employees were recognized as Site/Division Classified Employee of the Year Honorees. Finally, the five (5) SVUSD Classified Employee of the Year Finalists were selected from the site/division winners to represent SVUSD in the 2020 Orange County Department of Education Classified Employee of the Year program. Below are the honorees (not pictured Marcella Holder, Food Services).



Anabelle Marin
San Joaquin/SEL



Amador Renteria
Valencia/Technology



Jennifer Kelly
de Portola



Kimberly Schultz
Esperanza

English Learners

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



Dr. Rowena Mak
Coordinator

Dedicated Individuals Recognized

Dr. Rowena Mak, Coordinator of the Services for English Learners Department (SEL), submitted the names of three extremely dedicated individuals to the Orange County Department of Education for their work on planning, designing and presenting a multi-day interactive training for English Learner Instructional Assistants. These outstanding individuals have made

significant contributions advocating for language learners in our district.



Melissa Keith, Teacher at Melinda Heights; Rachel Lee, Bilingual Instructional Assistant at Melinda Heights; and Jessica Leyva, Bilingual Instructional Assistant at Trabuco Mesa

They were recognized at the 2019 Seventh Annual Language Learner Celebration at the Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin.

District Bilingual Resource teachers Beth Borkowski and Karin Fortt represented the SEL Department during this proud moment.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



It is the end of another successful school year. On page 3 Superintendent Dr. Turner begins by highlighting the support the district provides the teachers with the latest technology and tools in the classroom. It is a great time to be a student at SVUSD.

Have a wonderful summer. On pages 23-28 are many ideas for fun and learning. We have included student book reviews to help with reading selections and please remember to include the library among your activity choices.

Our next issue is October 9.



MemorialCare Medical Group

Measles Outbreak: Immunizations and Vaccinations



Matthew Coulson, MD
Pediatrics

Measles, a childhood disease once eradicated from the United States, has made a sudden comeback in the recent months. Even recently, the disease has been transmitted within both Los Angeles and Orange County.

Young children and those with weakened immune systems trust family, schoolmates and friends to get vaccinated so they do not contract such a deadly disease. Although there are vaccinations available to prevent the spread of Measles, parents continue to delay or refuse childhood immunizations.

The best way to keep your family safe is to receive the scheduled vaccinations determined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). At MemorialCare, we believe in the safety and effectiveness of our vaccines. Moreover, we believe that vaccinating children and young adults may be the single most important health-promoting form of intervention we can perform as caregivers.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our MemorialCare Medical Group office today or visit memorialcare.org.



26538 Moulton Parkway, Suite 38E, Laguna Hills, CA 92653



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Cielo Vista *Elementary*

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



Frances Hansell
Principal

It Takes a Village!

Congratulations, Amanda Gilmartin, Teacher of the Year! Amanda teaches TK SAI, working tirelessly with whole-child development. Amanda is exemplary in mainstreaming students, and she coordinates SST and 504 Plans. Teachers often comment about Amanda's helpful nature!

Congratulations Patty Paz, Classified Employee of the Year! Patty facilitates school and home, English/Spanish communication through parent outreach. Patty understands and appreciates cultural diversity, displaying leadership skills with ELAC and DELAC and is highly regarded by everyone. Patty provides bilingual parents with local community resources and does it all with grace, humor and a positive attitude!

Congratulations to Tracy Loper, Classified Honorable Mention! Tracy is responsible for the speech station for SVUSD's TK Autism program. Tracy is described as being one who jumps in to help others and consistently goes above and beyond expectations. She is an asset to both the autism program and SVUSD. Everyone is blessed to work with Tracy!



Cordillera *Elementary*

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



Deborah Shaver
Principal

Two Outstanding Employees

Cordillera is proud to celebrate two of our many outstanding employees. Teacher of the year, Mrs. Jade Dowbachuk, is an extraordinary educator who is dedicated to meeting the needs of all learners. As a SAI (Specialized Academic Instruction) teacher, she has a passion for collaborating with students, staff and parents to find resources and strategies that help all students succeed.

Classified employee of the year and health office aide, Mrs. Julie Koesel, is a committed and compassionate professional who takes the smallest of health care needs and makes students feel nurtured and safe. She consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty by providing snacks, clothing or anything else a student may need to feel well cared for in her health office. Her calm manner and caring heart are felt by students, parents and staff alike.

We are so fortunate to have both of these amazing staff members at Cordillera!



De Portola *Elementary*

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



Brendon Morrow
Principal

4th Annual Chalkfest

De Portola's 4th annual Chalkfest was a hit! Parents and students joined their forces and talents to create individual class images on display.

The images are chosen by teachers and their students to represent an event or

topic studied throughout their school year. Images can also be from a favorite book or class theme. Some images are even designed by students in a class competition. Every student chalks a square on a grid of their class image and the end result is a fabulous artistic collaboration.

We share the mantra, "Not an artist? Not a problem." Our community of students and parent volunteers work to get every image completed in one school day. Students are also reminded the Chalkfest is performance art, and

the art is in the making. Eventually the images will wear away, but the memories of creating these vibrant images will last forever.



Del Cerro *Elementary*

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



Kristin Thomsen
Principal

Watch D.O.G.S

Del Cerro has enjoyed a successful start of their new Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students!) program. Our dads have been busy helping teachers in their classrooms, playing sports with students and supervising during recess, and supporting programs such as Science Lab, Art Masters, and Music classes. Students have enjoyed having

the dads out at recess and teachers have really enjoyed the extra help in the classroom. On our End of the Day Survey we ask our Watch D.O.G.S. to tell us the highlight of their day. Some comments our dads have shared include: "Reading to the younger kids and helping with PE square dancing", "Having lunch and playing tag with my daughters", "Seeing my kids along with all the students in their leaning environment", and "It was very rewarding. I loved seeing my kids happy that I was there and bragging to their friends that their dad was there!"



Del Lago *Elementary*

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



Jennifer Televik
Principal

Students Use Technology to Showcase Learning

Technology took center stage at Del Lago's recent School Showcase where our students used SeeSaw and other applications to showcase learning in action. Parents had the opportunity to view virtual presentations that students created in class and explore for themselves how we use technology in the classroom.

Showcase highlights included our Kindergarten students, who showcased their use of Google Docs to write and illustrate poems. Second grade students used SeeSaw to record videos of story narratives and solutions to math problems, and to explain the similarities and differences between the past, present, and future. Fifth grade students used SeeSaw and a green screen to narrate tours through space and posted codes for parents to scan and view their videos. Other technology highlights included hyperdocs,



Google slides, Kahoot, and FlipGrid to showcase favorite projects and activities from the year.

El Toro *High School*

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



Terri Gusiff
Principal

AP Capstone

El Toro is excited to announce the implementation of the AP Capstone program this year. ETHS 's AP Capstone students

develop a critical questioning approach to information, investigate issues from multiple perspectives with an interdisciplinary focus,

and communicate and defend evidence-based arguments. The foundation of the program are two Capstone courses: Seminar and Research. Together, they complement the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through other AP courses.

Despite boasting an outstanding 88% pass rate on 2018 AP Exams, we are working to prioritize access to AP courses and participation in AP exams over pass rate. It is clear that efforts to build the AP Capstone program are paying off when considering 2019 participation rates: the number of

students taking at least one AP Exam went up 22% from 2018 to 2019 despite total enrollment dropping by 4%. ETHS students took an impressive 50% more AP exams in 2019 than in 2018.



Capstone scholars Alexa Mascola, Brianna Cooke, Ryan Lettieri, Cheyenne Slowensky, Alicia Vondran.

Esperanza *Special Education*

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



Shelly Stewart
*Special Ed School
Site Specialist*

Spring has Sprung!

Last year PTA raised funds to renovate our garden. We laid a drip system, poured accessible concrete pathways, purchased shade structures and seating along with loads of beautiful plants and seeds.

Lots of hard work has gone into this garden from parents, staff and students alike but the real actualization of our garden space came from two of our amazing Instructional Assistants, Ruth Park and Cindy Piel. Ruth and Cindy spent a Saturday planting and painting and many countless hours planning. They have inspired our students by taking them on trips to the local nursery to work on purchasing skills. They show a growth mindset by trying and failing and persevering with different plants, seedlings and even a worm bin!

Our PTA fundraiser enabled us to plant the seeds but these two ladies are the magic that is making our garden grow!



Foothill Ranch *Elementary*

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

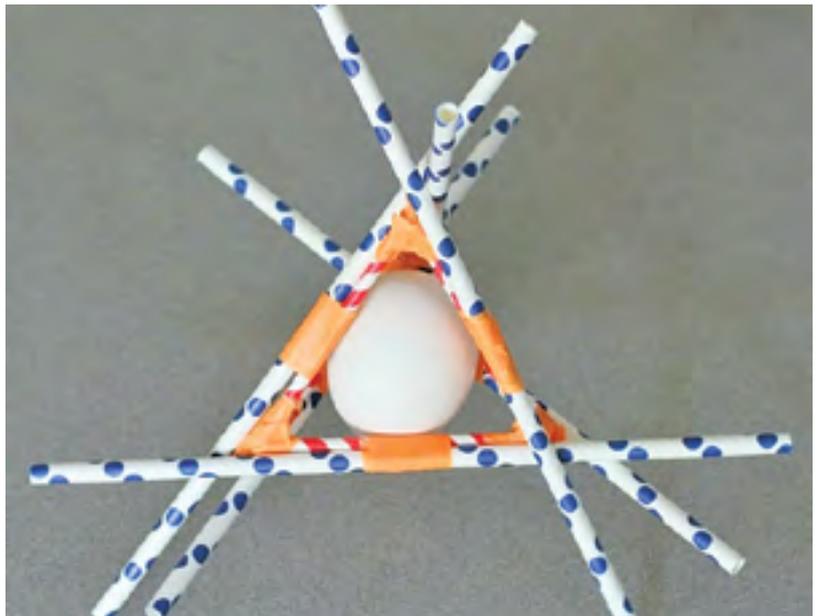


Ed MacNevin
Principal

Saving Humpty Dumpty

Foothill Ranch students in grades 1-6 are busy preparing to save Humpty Dumpty at our first annual end-of-the-year school STEAM event. Students at each grade level are working in teams to show their creativity and problem solving skills. Collaborative teams will work through the engineering

process to identify the problem, research possible solutions and then design, build, and test a protective product to keep Humpty Dumpty safe when Humpty falls from a height of ten feet. After completing their test drops in class, finalists will put a raw egg into their product and compete on June 4th at a school-wide assembly to see who can successfully keep Humpty Dumpty from getting scrambled!



Gates *Elementary*

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



Yvonne Estling
Principal

Amazing Parent Groups

As we enter the final weeks of our school year, I find myself filled with gratitude for our amazing parent groups here at Gates Elementary. This dedicated army of parents has worked tirelessly to provide a variety of events and activities for our students and our overall school community.

From the annual back-to-school picnic,

to our fabulous spring variety show, our P.T.A. and A.L.L. have treated “Gators” and their families to numerous opportunities to come together. Through their support of the arts, athletics, cultural events and field trips, our parent groups have allowed us to experience and explore other cultures and celebrate the diversity that makes Gates Elementary such a special place.

We are extremely lucky to have these devoted individuals working as an integral part of our team.



Glen Yermo *Elementary*

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



Dr. Michael Gomez
Principal

Lori Hall - Teacher of the Year

Third Grade Teacher, Lori Hall, was named Teacher of the Year for Glen Yermo Elementary!

Mrs. Hall joined the Saddleback Valley Unified School District in September of 1990, educating countless children who have walked through her doors. She never settles or lowers her expectations, but helps student reach and stretch themselves. Mrs. Hall fosters a family atmosphere in her classroom and with her colleagues. Her colleagues sing her praise for her caring and giving nature. She constantly goes above and beyond in everything she does. Her dependability both professionally and personally is a strength. Brad Henry once said, “A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.” This is a great description of Mrs. Hall, a good teacher that inspires hope, ignites the imagination of her students, and instills a love of learning.

Congratulations to Mrs. Hall, our Glen Yermo Teacher of the Year.



La Madera *Elementary*

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



Heather Ramsey
Principal

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

La Madera has been pouring their efforts into School Spirit and Community Building this month. Our Associate Student Body has been raising the bar with creative ideas to include all students in the celebration during our weekly spirit assemblies. We are spotlighting character building and

leadership into our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) system for the month of April. Students are given multiple opportunities to rise as contributing members of our Koala Community. Kindness Awards, public speaking opportunities to lead the daily pledge, and student-nominated “Teacher Shout Outs” are just a few of the monthly activities to reward teachers and students for their efforts and growth.



La Paz *Intermediate*

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



Jean Walker
Principal

Students Making the World a Little Brighter

At the 5th Annual Snuggly Blanket service event, La Paz students created colorful soft fleece blankets for patients undergoing radiation treatment at Memorial Care

Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills.

28 students and 10 parent volunteers gathered after school to make 25 blankets. The students then wrote a personalized card for the recipient of each blanket. One card read, “Don’t give up! Great things take time!” Another card penned, “We hope you get better. This blanket is made with love!” Five student representatives

presented the blankets to Nurse Sorenson and Dr. Wei.

Upon receiving the blanket and special note, one patient wrote back, saying, “..you brought a smile to my face and a song to my heart.”



Laguna Hills *High School*

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



Hawk Leadership Summit: A Soaring Success

On Friday, March 28 Laguna Hills High School hosted its annual Hawk Leadership Summit. The event brought together 85 LHHS students, each one nominated by a teacher. Breakout sessions followed each of our speakers and were facilitated by our SVUSD Academic Coaches. The sessions helped build upon our “Hawk Leadership RPMs”: Relationships, Planning and Motivation. Throughout the day, students collaborated, communicated their next steps and made connections to the Innovator’s Mindset. The event was sponsored by the LHHS PTSA and included lunch provided by LHHS Culinary Arts students.

Bill Hinds
Principal



Everyone who attended the Summit responded favorably to the experience and felt a sense of pride that a teacher

not only nominated them to participate, but personally wrote them a note expressing the reasons behind their nomination.

Lake Forest *Elementary*

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



What a Great Year!

It has been one amazing year at Lake Forest Elementary, and is only going to get better! This year, we started the year opening our new Innovation Lab.

The students have had so much fun creating and inventing in the lab. We continued, full STEAM ahead with our family science night. The rain didn’t stop our families from coming out to enjoy all of the activities.

The fun continued with our most popular event of the year, our 2nd Annual Trunk-or-Treat. Who can resist a chance to dress up, decorate vehicles, dance to a DJ, collect candy, and hang out with the community?

We sailed through Thanksgiving and Winter Break and loved showing our families all of the exciting projects the students have been working on throughout the year at our Showcase. Students loved both book fairs and were able to get some favorite books.

We cannot say enough about our fun run this year. The weather was perfect and the students enjoyed learning character lessons and running laps. So many of our students reached or even exceeded their goal of 35 laps!

As the year comes to a close, we still have so many exciting events planned and projects to do. We will be busy packing up the entire school for modernization and can’t wait to come back to a school filled with flexible seating and monitors in every classroom.

2019-2020 is going to be another amazing year!

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
*Psychologist on
Special Assignment*

Spring Showers Bring Beautiful Flowers!

Spring at La Tierra Early Childhood Center (La Tierra ECC) is an exciting time of year when students learn important aspects of preschool curriculum, including things that occur in the world and nature. This includes learning about the weather, plants, and the life cycle.

When teaching preschoolers, La Tierra ECC teachers use pictures, reading books, manipulatives, and nature walks across campus. In addition, they engage students in art projects to help them connect their learning to the real world. Students learn how plants are grown as they learn key vocabulary such as: “flower”, “petals”, “plant”, “roots”, “seeds”, “tree”, “vine”, “stem”, “soil”, “clouds”, “rain” and “sun”. Our teachers understand the importance of using hands-on activities that make learning fun for every student!



Linda Vista *Magnet Elementary*

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



Suzy McMasters
Principal

Classified Employee of the Year!

Meet our Classified Employee of the Year, Rachell Chasteler, also known as Ms. Becky. She is the most extraordinary health clerk around. She knows every child by

name and can be counted on to keep our scholars safe and healthy.

The scholars say it best, “She gives us special medicine when we hurt, her love.” - Willow and “Ms. Becky does a lot for our school! She is so caring.” -Angel.



Rachell is the child whisperer. When children are hurting, having a bad day or have exciting news, Ms. Becky is one of the first people at school with whom they want to share. She goes above and beyond to meet student needs and has been known to attend different events in the community to support our scholars. Linda Vista Magnet School is grateful for Mrs. Chasteler!



**Have a fun summer...
Remember Readers Rule!**



Lomarena *Elementary*

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



Mona Montgomery
Principal

Celebrate and Honor Lion Pride

Lomarena celebrates their amazing staff, students, and community. This year Miss Patterson was celebrated as our Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Arnold was recognized in the OC Register as one of

Saddleback Valley Classified Employee of the Year. Both of these ladies go over and above to teach students. They help children with their academics but also have amazing relationships which helps students with their social emotional health.

On May 8th we celebrated our staff by having a school makeover.



We were so fortunate to have a corporate donor that helped Lomarena transform the teacher lounge, garden areas, and freshen up our school. This was an incredible way to celebrate and honor our Lion Pride!!

Los Alisos *Intermediate*

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



Rich Freda
Principal

LOBOS Spotlight on Drama!

Our amazing drama department brought the school year to a successful close with their spring production of *The Sound of Music!* Pictured is the cast with our drama teacher, Mr. Chris Hixson

and guest for the evening, SVUSD Board Trustee, Barbara Schulman (center). Los Alisos offers two levels of theater class, one in our 7th grade exploratory wheel, and the other as a yearlong production class. The production class presents three performances a year, with one being a musical. This class goes beyond the skill of acting and includes lessons in voice, movement, staging, storytelling, scenic design, costume design, character analysis, and theater appreciation. The mission of the Los Alisos drama department is to “prepare and equip students to artistically and creatively meet the



needs of 21st century learning and provide students an introduction to the various aspects of theater production that builds on their talent and individual interests”.

Melinda Heights *Elementary*

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



Kathryn Martin
Principal

Students Working Hard all Year

As we look back on the 2018-2019 school year, I am proud to congratulate our Melinda Heights Mountain Lions on a job well done. It has been a privilege to see our students ROAR every day.

Melinda Heights' families have been incredibly generous: they have

given to numerous philanthropy projects, and donated thousands of hours of volunteer time to our children. Student achievement is always a focus at Melinda, and our scholars work exceedingly hard at school, at home, and in the community.

They love to share about their fabulous school, including its amazing STEM Lab, musical theater opportunities, leadership in Kindness Club and M.E.L.T, Future Scientists and Engineers

Club, and more than 100 students have read over one-million words this year!

Melinda Heights Mountain Lions have made amazing strides through hard work, engagement, and collaboration with parents and teachers who love and encourage them every day!



Mission Viejo *High School*

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



Tricia Osborne
Principal

MUN Conference

Mission Viejo High School's Model United Nations (MUN) is an outstanding academic program that has provided our scholars with global engagement opportunities since 1979.

Under the leadership of AP/IB Teacher and Advisor Kimberly Gerwatosky, we strive to create a memorable experience, through an engaging MUN program that recently held its 36th annual home conference.

MVHS MUN strives to provide opportunities for student delegates to develop skills that benefit them throughout their lives: collaboration, diplomacy, public speaking, and problem-solving! Each student represents a different country, debating world issues, and competing against other schools.



As part of our annual travel conference, twenty MVHS scholars attended the North American Invitational MUN conference in Washington D.C., hosted by Georgetown University. It was a wonderful experience for our Diablo Scholars to interact with 3500 students from around the world. We commend our MUN students for their commitment to excellence and Mrs. Gerwatosky's dedication to students!

Montevideo *Elementary*

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



Lisa Graham
Principal

Creative and Innovative Students

I want to thank my Montevideo Elementary school family for a wonderful first year as your new principal! I am proud of our school with its creative and innovative student scholars, generous and supportive parents, and devoted teachers and staff.

I am often asked, "What most amazes you about your new school?" That's easy...integrated into the everyday curriculum is a love for creativity and visual and performing arts. As a Class Act school (with the support of the Pacific Symphony) students are studying and experiencing the story telling music of Tchaikovsky. KidsROCK brings video production to life. Students use of various media when creating visual pieces to showcase their learning is epic! Theatrical and music performances within grade levels/



after school, as well as an All Star talent show complete with comedy, dance, human puppetry, and song gave students a voice and experience in the performing arts. Montevideo...you, are talent exemplified!

Olivewood *Elementary*

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



Alex Perez
Principal

Mustang P.R.I.D.E.!

2018-2019 has been an amazing year for Olivewood! I have watched so many of our students grow, not only in size but in their hearts and minds. Every school day they have shown their academic best by accepting and conquering every challenge that our teachers have presented. Even on the hardest days they have shown excellent citizenship.

I enjoyed seeing many of students and families at our afterschool events. My favorite moment was from this year was our Sweetheart dance. Getting to see the kids dance with their parents and friends was the best! This was a night I will never forget.

This school year has been a great year for learning, growing and having fun. I have learned that being part of this Mustang family means taking care of each other and being a friend. Always remember to have Mustang P.R.I.D.E.!



Portola Hills *Elementary*

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



Dr. Joseph Ledoux
Principal

Year in Review

It's hard to believe the 2018-2019 school year is winding down. PHE has been under construction throughout this year and we are so excited to use our Outdoor Learning Center and 21st century classrooms!

Additionally, students report that they really cannot wait to get into our new "Innovation Lab", where they can do Project Based Learning tasks and other long-term, hands-on projects like the "Cardboard Challenge". The other half of the Innovation Lab will feature a library collection which will have mobile book stacks that will allow the books to be moved out of the way, creating a larger work space.



The MPR and the main office area are scheduled to be under construction this summer and should be ready to go by the first day of school.

We want to wish all our Explorers a wonderful, relaxing summer break.

Rancho Canada *Elementary*

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



Dr. Larry Hausner
Principal

Peer to Peer Kindness

Rancho Canada's PTA recently hosted Kindness Week. The focus was on peer to peer kindness within the school and an overarching goal that it will carry into our community.

The Motto for the Week was: If someone listens, or stretches out a hand, or whispers a kind word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen. Rancho teachers helped facilitate the activities including, greeting students outside of school with high fives, encouraging signs, and smiles.



Also, in-class lessons focused on the reason for Kindness Week, which is one week dedicated to creating a culture of kindness and compassion. Students also brought in items for KindNest Foundation and the South County Outreach Food Pantry.

An additional activity included a "Staff to Staff Kindness" where adults modeled kindness and appreciation for one another by surprising their colleagues with a special note and a little treat.

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Rancho Santa Margarita *Intermediate*

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



James Newton
Principal

"A Year of Innovation"

At RSM, we began the year renewing our focus on engagement, literacy, and technology. This year we implemented the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program and introduced Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

In AVID, our students focused on

writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading to develop the skills they need to be successful in college and career. Through PBIS we created "expectations for all."

Additionally, through district support, we transformed five classrooms into innovative workspaces outfitted with state of the art audio visual equipment and flexible furniture.

Below is a group of our 8th

grade students using "placemat consensus" to prepare for a "Socratic seminar" within one of our innovative classrooms. Through the expansion of the AVID program, implementation of PBIS, creation of additional innovative workspaces, and the continued efforts of our faculty and staff, we look forward to the 2019-2020 school year with great enthusiasm!



Robinson *Elementary*

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



Jonathan Kaplan
Principal

Our Teachers are Innovating

Innovation is a key concept when it comes to new 20th Century classroom. If you want to see what that looks like, please stop by Ms. Juli Stowers' classroom here at Robinson Elementary.

Juli was named our Teacher of the Year and with great reason. She earned an innovative classroom makeover this year and used that technology to expand her teaching repertoire through engaging and vivid lessons, and flexible seating for her students. She loves working with her third-grade students on challenging topics such as fractions, writing opinion essays and tackling the New Generation Science Standards. Juli is instrumental in working with our Foundation students by co-teaching in physical education twice a week, and inviting them into her class weekly for lessons.

Ms. Stowers' embodies what it means to be a Rattler! Congratulations Ms. Stowers!



San Joaquin *Elementary*

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



David Shun
Principal

Cheetahs are in the "Spot Light"

As the new Principal of San Joaquin, I'm grateful to be surrounded by a wonderful community of scholarly students, supportive families, and dedicated staff.

In fact, two staff members are being recognized for setting an exemplary standard. Ms. Katey Thompson, 6th grade teacher, is SVUSD's Teacher of the Year at San Joaquin. She spearheads our ASB student-leadership program, "Cheetah Print" newsletter, and ASB digital news broadcast, "Cheetah Talk." She teaches with gamification, and pioneers Virtual and Augmented Reality lessons to boost 21st Century learning.

Ms. Anabelle Marin, our School Outreach Community Liaison, is SVUSD's District Classified Employee of the Year for her outstanding service to San Joaquin and SVUSD's



Service for English Learners department. She works tirelessly to provide an unparalleled quality of service to our families, staff and community here and throughout the district.

It's truly my honor to be a part of greatness here at San Joaquin!

Santiago *STEAM Magnet*

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



Howard Johnston
Principal

College Road Trip

Santiago STEAM Magnet encourages all students to think beyond their elementary years. To this end all students in grades K-6th participate in our annual College Road Trip!

Each grade level has the opportunity to visit a "college" for a day. Kindergarten attends El Toro High School as their "college." First grade attends Saddleback College. Second grade attends Irvine Valley

College. Third grade attends CSU Long Beach. Fourth grade attends CSU Fullerton. Fifth grade attends UC Irvine. Sixth grade attends Chapman University. All parents are encouraged to attend, as well. This is all part of our goal to increase career and college awareness among all our families. The Road Trip culminates with a Career Day at Santiago!

As we improve our High-Quality Project-Based Learning units by increasing our relationships with our colleges, students will increase their overall engagement and learning. We look forward to next year's College Road Trip.



Serrano *Intermediate*

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



David Young
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead!

Serrano is excited to receive our first group of STEAM Village students in August. This K-12 STEAM pathway begins at Santiago and ends at ETHS.

During their two years at Serrano, STEAM students will take beginning and advanced courses

in Computer Science, Engineering and Digital Media Arts. These electives will be integrated into their core English, social studies, math & science classes throughout the year creating a one of a kind, interdisciplinary, 21st century educational opportunity.

Our goal is for students to be faced with real world problems and use design thinking in a project-based learning environment to come up with solutions utilizing the tools and skills from each of these

courses. STEAM Village students will be better prepared for STEAM related fields in college and career.

Regardless of where students attended elementary school, or where they'll go to high school, all are invited to participate in this exciting program.



Silverado/Mira Monte *Continuation High School*

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



David Gordon
Principal

This Years Accomplishments

Silverado is very proud of our Classified Employee of the Year, Plant lead, Efrem Miranda. Efrem is the heart of our school. He maintains a safe, clean campus and acts as a mentor to many of our students. Efrem was also recently spotlighted as a district Bright Spot.

The students of Silverado participated in two career events during April. Our "333" Career program had all Silverado students exploring and researching careers and the subsequent pathway to those careers. As an added bonus and follow-up to their research, our "Career Speaker Event" featured 27 speakers

from various professions who came to Silverado to give our students the opportunity to learn more about their professions of choice. We received tremendous positive feedback from the students and the speakers. Particular favorites were the areas of welding, auto repair, banking and cosmetology.

Our ASB was also very busy collecting over 3,500 pieces of recyclable materials on our Earth Day event which raised close to \$200.

We said "Congratulations" to three more early graduates and "Welcome" to twenty-eight new students.

Congratulations to David Dansby who announced his retirement and is the Silverado SOARing Eagle for the month of May.

Thank you for reading *School News*. Have a fun summer!

SVUSD *Virtual Academy K-12*

21001 Rancho Trabuco Rd., Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688 • 949/580-3457 • svusd.org/virtualacademy



Glenn Giokaris
Principal

Service Learning Project

A centerpiece of SVUSD Virtual Academy is to have our students learn by doing.

Recently, Mrs. Nellis' K-6 class engaged in a service learning project to teach presentation skills, project planning, and the power of altruism.

Each student was responsible for choosing their own act(s) of kindness to perform in the community. Student projects included making a quilt for the homeless, adopting an endangered whale shark, spending time with the elderly, and picking up trash, just to name a few. Students then presented their projects to their classmates, and reflected on what they learned and how they felt. Unanimously, the students

talked about how they enjoyed helping someone else and how good it made them feel.

Numerous studies back-up the students' findings that the warm glow of generosity doesn't get old.



Trabuco *Elementary*

31052 Trabuco Canyon Rd., Trabuco Canyon, CA 92678 • 949/858-0343 • svusd.org/trabuco



Lisa Paisley
Principal

Everyone Matters!

While Trabuco Elementary continues its focus on mathematical practices for teachers and students, we have amazing things occurring in the humanities every day as well. Each classroom is able to support student collaboration and meaningful academic

discourse through careful lesson planning and flexible seating.

Pictured here are Mrs. Betts' 4th graders engaging in close reading and analysis. The comfortable arrangement of bodies and minds allows for equitable learning to occur. Each student has a voice that is not only welcomed but required in the classroom community. The teacher is able to facilitate conversation, and students are able to really enjoy reading.

We believe that reading should be a positive experience that allows each child to fully access this world as well as many more imaginary ones. This type of reading requires personal interaction with text and a teacher that has high expectations of each and every student.

Go Coyotes!



Trabuco Hills *High School*

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



Craig Collins
Principal

Significant Events

Arizona State bound senior, Trey Munoz, won the first ever SVUSD State and then National Championship in wrestling. Perhaps more rewarding is hearing from his competitors what a fine young man Trey is and how much they respect and admire him for his attitude.

Coaches Wood and Mock have worked hard to build a great swim program and it is rewarding to see it pay off with our Boy's Swim team earning the first league championship since 1993 in any aquatics sport. Congratulations to Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys Golf, and Boys Tennis teams for their league championship seasons!



The spring musical "Little Shop of Horrors" featured great singing, wonderful acting and some unbelievable set designs. The cast was asked to perform at the Macy Awards ceremony with our production going on to win the Starlight and Most Innovative Prop Awards, as well as 11 individual cast recognitions later that evening!

Trabuco Mesa *Elementary*

21301 Ave de las Flores, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
949/858-3339 • svusd.org/trabucomesa



Caryn McGrew
Principal

Open House!

The end of the school year is a very special time. It is a time for looking back to celebrate how far we have come and a time to look ahead and set goals for the next school year. We have wonderful students who strive to be the best they can be, a committed staff who provide a safe, engaging, and innovative environment for learning, and a supportive community who values the importance of education. We are excited for our upcoming Showcase/Open House and invite you to join us on Wednesday, May 22nd at 5:45 p.m. We will be showcasing many of the innovative



programs that we offer at our school. There will also be a silent auction in our MPR with a slideshow of the amazing PTA support at our school. Trabuco Mesa Teachers are innovative, lifelong learners, and continue to offer our students a higher plateau for learning!

Valencia *Elementary*

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



Wendie Hauschild
Principal

Accomplishments from the Year

What a year for Valencia! As we look back over our accomplishments, we are proud that they represent a well-rounded education for our students.

Students engaged in service projects that include Towels for Troops, a "Socktober" annual sock drive to support homeless, a food drive for South County Outreach, Wear-a-Pair, Bring-a-Pair Pajama Drive, and raising funds to support the Pacific Marine Mammal Center.

Students were enriched in the Arts through our annual Student Council Chalk Festival, music and fine art instruction at all grades, Reflections, Reader's Theater, classroom "shows," Aladdin production, and chorus performances. We are especially proud that fourteen Valencia students have been invited to exhibit their art at the Imagination Celebration, and one student will show at

Pageant of the Masters!

STEM is always a focus at Valencia and students enjoyed labs and engineering projects, one-to-one Chromebooks, and technology-integrated instruction. In addition they participated in a school-wide Innovation Celebration that included Rube Goldberg and Materials Challenges, Biodiversity projects, and other engaging activities that allowed students to demonstrate their in-progress learning. We also had lots of fun!

We certainly can't forget our annual Boo Bash, Programs Night, New Family activities, and of course, the PTA Red Carpet Gala. Lastly, we continue to be proud of our emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning for our students through Second Step instruction, MTSS, Valencia School Families, Check-In/Check-out, and the relationships our Staff builds with each child.

Valencia is a great place to learn! We look forward to all that the 2019-2020 school year has in store!



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Manhar's Book Review



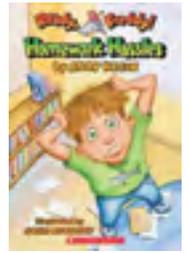
Manhar M.

Doing Homework

Homework Hassles (Ready, Freddy!— Series 3) by Abby Klein

I was recently introduced to the book series of "Ready, Freddy!" and this is my favorite book so far. This book focuses on what happens when

you don't do your home assignments in a timely fashion. Freddy Thresher, a first grader, goes through a big problem when his teacher wants the class to do reports on nocturnal animals. He couldn't find an animal until the last moment. He went overboard with his research and got himself into trouble. The book includes exciting twists and turns in the story. The conversation of Freddy and his friends reminds me of my own conversations in the class. I couldn't stop reading the book to find out if Freddy completed his assignment on the due date. I also learned the value of friends and family through this book.



Manhar M. is in Kindergarten. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

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B is for Book



Bailey

Princess X gets an A+!

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

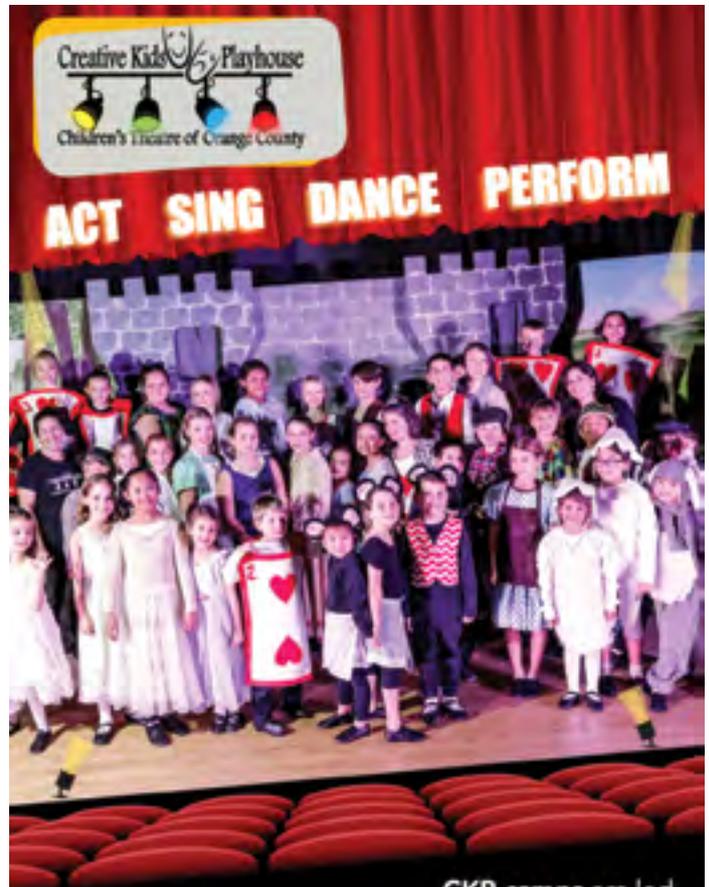
May's life hasn't been so great since her best friend Libby died in a car accident. Her favorite

memory is drawing comic books with Libby. Their character was named Princess X. Years after the accident, May sees their Princess X on a sticker! She sets up to find out who else knows about Princess X.

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

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

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



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Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

Immersive

The Blackthorn Key

by Kevin Sands

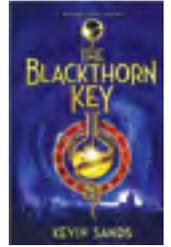
Who knew cubes could hold adventures?

Christopher Rowe lives in 17th-century England as an apothecary's apprentice. Remedies and his best

friend Tom are all that seem important.

But, when his master leaves behind a trove of secrets, it is up to him to solve the mystery of the Cult of the Archangel. With it comes the archangel's secret substance - something rumored to have power beyond description. Codes, turns, and discovery awaits in the hunt for Blackthorn's key.

I was surprised at how much I enjoyed this book! It's clever, well-written, and simple to follow. Kevin Sands uses masterful storytelling that will leave you excited for more. I'm looking forward to reading the next two books in this exciting series. Five out of five bookworms.



Lucy is a 7th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

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