

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Palo Alto Unified School District



Volume 1, Issue 3

May 2019

Learning Comes in Many Forms



Addison students at Giants game.



Jane Lathrop Stanford students pet a therapy dog brought out by the Furry Friends organization.

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2018-19 Reflections

For this edition, we asked our principals to share a reflection of their site to summarize an aspect of the year. From my seat, I have the honor of seeing the magic of our schools on the daily basis. I hear the stories of growth from every corner of the District and get to see the smiles connected to a job well done. Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to meet our youngest learners as their families register for school and have also had the honor of thanking retirees for decades of service. Indeed, I am lucky to have the opportunity to share in all that is good with PAUSD.

I am surrounded with an outstanding team, dedicated to finding ways to serve our students and staff at the highest level. I also work with our strong support groups, including our PTA and PiE. Together, with the direction of our Board of Education, PAUSD had some amazing accomplishments this year and created systems to lead us into the future. It didn't take long to realize that we have top-level teaching and support staffs. Their daily efforts make this a special place for our students.

Speaking of our students...we should all be proud of our students. They are articulate, spirited, well-rounded, and care for each other. If our students are our future, we should feel confident! Through their time with us, our students find their voices, stand up for their beliefs, and have the potential to make our world a better place. School is a journey. Like any journey, it's easy to forget to look out the windows to enjoy the view. With a very short amount of time left in the year, I would encourage everyone to enjoy the view!



Donald B. Austin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Reflexiones del 2018-19

Para esta edición, les pedimos a nuestros directores que compartan una reflexión sobre su sitio para resumir un aspecto del ciclo escolar. Desde mi asiento, tengo el honor de ver la magia de nuestras escuelas diariamente. Escucho las historias de crecimiento de todos los rincones del distrito y veo las sonrisas relacionadas con un trabajo bien hecho. A lo largo del ciclo escolar, tuve la oportunidad de conocer a nuestros estudiantes más pequeños mientras que sus familias se inscribieron para la escuela y también tuve el honor de agradecer a los jubilados por las décadas de servicio. De hecho, tengo la suerte de tener la oportunidad de compartir todo lo que es bueno con el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Palo Alto (PAUSD, por sus siglas en inglés).

Yo estoy rodeado de un equipo excepcional, dedicado a encontrar maneras de servir a nuestros alumnos y al personal en el nivel más alto. También trabajo con nuestros sólidos grupos de apoyo, incluyendo a nuestro Asociación de Padres y Maestros (PTA, por sus siglas en inglés) y PiE. Juntos, con la dirección de nuestro Consejo de Educación, PAUSD tuvo algunos logros sorprendentes este año y crearon sistemas para guiarnos hacia el futuro. No pasó mucho tiempo para darnos cuenta de que contamos con personal docente y de apoyo de alto nivel. Sus esfuerzos diarios nos hacen un lugar especial para nuestros alumnos.

Hablando de nuestros alumnos...todos nosotros deberíamos estar orgullosos de nuestros alumnos. Son articulados, animados, completos y se cuidan mutuamente. ¡Si nuestros alumnos son nuestro futuro, deberíamos sentirnos seguros! A través de su tiempo con nosotros, nuestros alumnos encuentran sus opiniones, defienden sus creencias y tienen el potencial de hacer de nuestro mundo un lugar mejor. La escuela es un viaje. Como en cualquier viaje, es fácil olvidarse de mirar por la ventana para disfrutar de la vista. Con poco tiempo para el fin del año, ¡Yo los alentaría a todos a disfrutar de la vista!

2018-19思考

这一次，我们邀请我们的各学校的校长分享他们各校的反映，对这一年的某一个方面做个总结。在我看来，我有幸每天看到我们学校的魔力。听到学区内各个角落的成长故事，并看到了与工作做得很好的微笑。在这一年中，我有机会见到我们的最小的成员，和他们的家人来学校登记注册，也要对退休人员表示感谢，对他们几十年来服务的荣誉。事实上，我很幸运有机会与PAUSD分享所有一切。

我周围有一支优秀的团队，致力于为最高水平的学生和员工提供服务。我还与我们强大的支持团队合作，包括我们的PTA和PiE。与我们的教育委员会的方向一起，PAUSD今年取得了一些惊人的成就，并创建了引领我们走向未来的系统。没过多久就意识到我们拥有顶级的教学和支持人员。他们的日常努力使这里成为我们学生特别的地方。

说到我们的学生.....我们都应该为我们的学生感到自豪。他们表达清晰，精神饱满，全面发展，彼此关心。如果我们的学生是我们的未来，我们应该有信心！通过他们与我们在一起的时间，我们的学生听到了他们的声音，他们坚持自己的信仰，并有可能使我们的世界变得更美好。学校是一段旅程。就像任何旅程一样，很容易忘记从窗户望去欣赏风景。这一年剩下很短的时间，我鼓励大家愉快地欣赏美景！



Congratulations Class of 2019!

School News



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As we near the end of another school year I want to thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. If you have missed an issue, we post all of our publications on our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com.

Have a wonderful summer and be sure to include the library in your activities. Congratulations to the Class of 2019 and best wishes as you continue on to higher learning or into the workforce.

Our next issue is October 23rd.



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Addison *Elementary School*

650 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5935 • addison.pausd.org



Amanda Boyce
Principal

A Special Community

As we wrap up the school year at Addison, the last few weeks are always filled with fun, camaraderie, laughter, and good health!

At the beginning of May, many of our Addison families like to celebrate Mother's Day together running the Addison 5K. Our healthy celebrations continue at Field Day, when the entire school spends the morning participating in outdoor games thanks to the support of many parents. Then during the last week of school, our fifth-graders compete against their parents and staff at a very competitive kickball game!

We love to laugh and join together for other end-of-the-year events, which include singing the National Anthem at the Giants game, participating in the May Fete Parade, and cheering on our fifth-graders at the Talent Show.



Although busy, Addison definitely knows how to enjoy the end of the school year by spending time with all of the wonderful individuals who are a part of our special community.

Barron Park *Elementary School*

800 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/858-0508 • barron.pausd.org



Eric Goddard
Principal

Finishing Well

Where did the time go? It's hard for all of us to believe there are approximately 30 days of school left to complete this 2018–2019 school year.

There still is more important work to do to make sure our students reach their maximum potential and are well prepared for next year. As the weeks pass, we will celebrate their growth and accomplishments along with a few special events, including Field Day, Beach Day, grade-level picnics, and end-of-the-year music performances.

This is a very special time for our fifth-graders as they wrap-up their 1,080-day elementary school journey. What a wonderful group of students! They model our schoolwide traits of being their best, respectful, and safe. They set such a positive tone at Barron Park and will certainly be missed. We congratulate all

of them on their growth and accomplishments over the years—and we thank and congratulate their parents, too! We see continued success and bright futures ahead for the class of 2019!



Duveneck *Elementary School*

705 Alester Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/322-5946 • duveneck.pausd.org



Together, We Grow

Our 2018–19 school year was amazing at Duveneck! I am very proud of our many learning accomplishments, and I am continuously impressed by how we all worked together to be Upstanders within our community!

Chris Grierson
Principal

Over the last eight years that I have served as principal, we have experienced many different events that have made our inclusive community stronger. This year, we were fortunate to have many new students join our school. In the fall, we started a new K–2 learning center in Room 10; and across our greater campus, we were able to make many new friends, with over 40 new students joining our general-education classrooms across grades one through five.



I am always excited about the opportunities for growing friendships and partnerships and increasing collaboration within our caring community. This year in particular, we worked repeatedly on the themes of welcoming and including others, helping ourselves as well as others, and practicing gratitude. These values are part of what make our school a wonderful place to be. Go Dragons!

El Carmelo *Elementary School*

3024 Bryant St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0960 • elcarmelo.pausd.org



A Hidden Gem

Spring at “The Hidden Gem in the Heart of Midtown” requires being present, engaging in the many end-of-year activities, and preparing for a new school year simultaneously.

Balancing the planned activities with the surprises is essential to embracing the end of a tremendous school year.

Being present includes visiting classrooms and welcoming new students while saying goodbye to students who are moving on. Preparing for the new school year consists of class placement, hiring educators, and acquiring PTA and Site Council members.



In addition, there are many end-of-the-school-year events that bring joy to our campus. Watching our recently promoted kindergarten students present flowers to their fifth-grade buddies as they matriculate to middle school

is a special moment during the fifth-grade promotion ceremony. Parent facilitated Field Day, complete with a dance party and ice pops, creates wonderful memories. Student-Led Conferences are a highlight for the entire school community. Each El Carmelo School Dragon gives a presentation to his or her parents that articulates the learning he or she has accomplished this year. It is powerful for both students and parents to witness the transformation.

Ellen Fletcher *Middle School*

655 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-9810 • fletcher.pausd.org



The Final Stretch

Spring is here, and that marks the time of year when exciting culminating events begin to take place on our school campuses, both around the district and within our extracurricular activities. It is an electrifying time to be celebrating all of our hard work and dedication as we begin to wrap up the school year.

During this fast paced time of year, we should always remember to be kind and take care of ourselves and others academically, social-emotionally, and physically.

Our final stretch of the 2018-2019 school year is filled with many events for our students, staff, and community

to be involved with. There is the YCS Service Fair, Spring Musical, STEAM Fair, incoming sixth-grade student tours, orchestra, band and choir concerts, Eighth-Grade Recognition Night, Eighth-Grade Promotion Ceremony, plus many more.

As we are wrapping up our school year, we want to applaud the growth of all of our students, and the hard work of our staff. We are thrilled about the incoming sixth-graders who will be joining our current sixth- and seventh-grade Tigers next year!

It is bittersweet, as well as exciting, to be preparing our eighth-graders for the journey that they will begin as they move on to high school. We are very much looking forward to enjoying our remaining few weeks together here at Fletcher.

Fairmeadow *Elementary*

500 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0845 • fairmeadow.pausd.org



Iris Wong
Principal

Firebirds, Trek On!

I still remember the feelings of excitement and eagerness that filled the air on August 14, 2018—the first day of school. Students, parents and staff were welcomed and greeted with red-and-white balloons decorated across the Fairmeadow campus. This first day of school was especially memorable for me, since I was one of the newest staff members at Fairmeadow.

There has been a lot of learning of new names and faces, procedures and protocols not only for some of our newest Firebirds but for the principal as well! What a whirlwind of a year this has been for our entire school community! This is truly a special place where it is evident that all students and staff are supported, welcomed, and loved.

With a blink of an eye, May 31 is quickly approaching, and the air is yet again filled with excitement and eagerness for summer. Cheer! Cheer for Fairmeadow School as we continue to trek on this learning journey together!



Escondido *Elementary School*

890 Escondido Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94305 • 650/856-1337 • escondido.pausd.org



Marcela Simoes de Carvalho
Principal

Recognizing Success

Escondido Elementary School is focused on building a strong, positive school climate to ensure that all children are safe, happy, and engaged in their learning and educational experience. We highlight the importance of developing a kind and respectful school climate through our weekly spirit assemblies. Here we build school pride, communicate expectations, and create a culture of celebration.

When students live out our school norms, we recognize their success and positive impact through special “Hidden Gem” tickets. The ticket goes into a box, waiting to be selected at our weekly spirit assembly. If you stop by the office you will be astonished to see how many Hidden Gem tickets we have collected!

Our spirit assemblies are just one way in which we recognize our model Escondido students, and celebrate their efforts in building a positive school culture. Congratulations to our Hidden Gems at Escondido for helping to make our school a special place to learn!



Frank S. Greene Jr. *Middle School*

750 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/494-8120 • greene.pausd.org



Valerie Royalty-Quandt
Principal

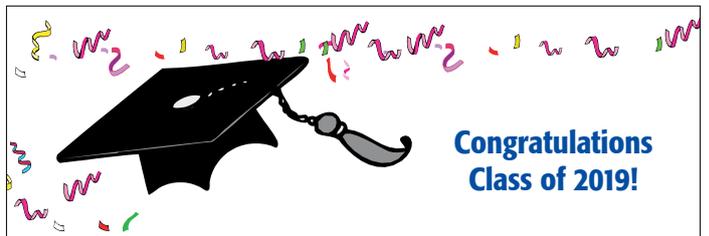
Growth Opportunities Abound

This spring at Greene Middle School, we have welcomed new people, places and opportunities for growth with open arms and long-reaching relationships and goals. We hope to wrap up the 2019 school year by looking forward and outside ourselves, and embracing different perspectives and experiences.

Our students and fabulous Japanese teacher Saki Matayoshi organized and hosted students and their teachers from our sister city school from Tsuchiura, Japan.

Engaged and enthusiastic parents from all of our middle schools participated in Project Cornerstone’s TIP (Taking It Personally) program, giving their time and energy for eight weeks for the benefit of their students!

Another important event for our students was ALAS (Advancing Latino(a) Achievement and Success) at San Jose State University. Parents and students attended a series of talks in March and learned the ropes of how to be prepared and be ready for college. Onward and upward!



Greendell School

4120 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-0833 • greendell.pausd.org



Shannon Coleman
Principal

Wrapping Up

We have had an amazing year here at Greendell School! The children have made such incredible progress and are continuing to learn and grow every day.

This is easy to see in the classrooms. Children are thoroughly engaged in their classroom activities and are participating with confidence and pride in what they are creating. On the playground the children are playing cooperatively and including others in their play. They are even learning to ride a two-wheel bike!

Many of our families at Greendell are starting to look ahead to next year's transition to kindergarten. The transition to kindergarten brings up questions for families about what the next year will be like for their child. The great news for them is that we have outstanding schools in the PAUSD. It does not matter which elementary school your child will transition to, it will be a wonderful, welcoming school community.



Another Wonderful Year with Our Greendell Goslings

In order to help our transitioning families make connections to other children and families going to the same school, we hold our Rising Kinder Luncheon in May at Greendell. Principals from our elementary schools attend the luncheon to meet and get to know their incoming families. We love to connect our Greendell families to their new elementary schools!

Henry M. Gunn High School

780 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/354-8200 • gunn.pausd.org



Kathie Laurence
Principal

Many Paths

Spring Break is always the marker for the beginning of the end of the year. Our freshmen are now experienced high school students. We can see the growth that they have made this year as they enter young adulthood.

Some of our students were gearing up for AP exams in the beginning of May; some for athletic championship meets and competitions towards the end of May; and some for their performances in music and theater with the May Fete Parade and the One Acts. One of the fun things our students plan for in the spring is the Dodgeball Tournament. There are 35 teams competing this year and having a great time! Prom is also a big event for our juniors and seniors. The site for the prom is a closely held secret until the big reveal in April.

May 1st is also a big date for many of our seniors, as they decide if they are going to take a gap year, join the military, go to a vocational school, work, or attend college. It is always interesting to see the many paths that our students



choose as they get ready to leave Gunn. Graduation festivities are just around the corner too, and I am excited to shake all of our seniors' hands to congratulate them as they cross the stage at this memorable event.

We are hoping to be moved in to the new Central Building before the end of the year. The fences are gone, the furniture is being moved in, and the unpacking has commenced. Our students and staff are excited to start using the spaces. Have a wonderful finish to your school year.

Herbert Hoover *Elementary School*

445 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/320-8106 • hoover.pausd.org



James Sherman
Principal

Reading and Learning Together

It seems like I was just writing about opening day, and now teachers and students are thinking about summer. Wow! Time flies when you're having fun!

The end of the school year never really feels like the end until the last few days. It's such a wonderful place to be, and the nighttime and weekend events keep us firmly in the present.

We have taken many journeys together as a community this year, from the Ice-Cream Social to our International Festival.

When events such as the Book Fair come along, it signals that we are getting close to the end of the year. It's so fun for me to sit back and watch the students' eyes as they spot that perfect historical fiction book or maybe even one on their favorite video game! They are happiest when they are around books. Hoover students are voracious readers, and we are so glad they are!



Tim McCanna, author of *Jack B. Ninja* playing his accordion, singing, and reading to our students at the Book Fair.

Take it from all of us Hedgehogs—and Dr. Seuss—when we say, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” What will you learn today?

Jane Lathrop Stanford *Middle School*

480 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-5188 • jls.pausd.org



Lisa Hickey
Principal

SPARK Week

Happy spring! I always look forward to warmer weather, watching my son's baseball games, and all the activities that remind us that the end of the school year is near. I view the last few weeks of school as a sprint to the finish line.

While we hope to finish strong, it's important for us to take care of ourselves socially and emotionally.

A few weeks ago, JL Stanford Middle School had its first ever Stress management, Passion, Attitude, Relationships, and Kinesthetic (SPARK) Week. Our counselors and student groups planned lunchtime activities and events, including blowing bubbles, playing with therapy dogs, eating cookies with staff members, and even a dance party. The goal was to explore fun ways to decrease stress and increase happiness.

SPARK is focused on wellness and developing the social-emotional wellbeing of students and staff members. We want students to find activities that bring joy and energy to themselves and to develop positive and optimistic attitudes. We encourage students to cultivate relationships with other peers and caring adults including parents and staff members. SPARK



Leadership and student council students blow bubbles as a stress-management tool.

also encourages physical, kinesthetic activity. While watching YouTube and playing video games may be a stress management tool, it needs to be balanced with being active physically.

Working together, we can help our students to push through and cross the finish line with confidence and strength.

Juana Briones *Elementary School*

4100 Orme St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0877 • briones.pausd.org



Katy Bimpson
Principal

Wonderful Year!

Families and staff just celebrated the beautiful diversity of our community at the Briones International Festival. This event encapsulates the spirit of our learning community and that of our namesake—the caring, empathic, community-minded Juana Briones! That spirit is being captured in the mission, vision, values and goals work we began this year in which staff, parents and students are providing input regarding what we love about our school and the direction we want to go. It is an exciting

time as we grow forward together!

In addition to this big-picture work, we will wrap up the year with a look at student data across academic and social-emotional areas to determine our Single Plan for Student Achievement, or SPSA goals, for the 2019–20 school year. We will also be looking at creative ways to carve out time for increased collaboration among grade-level, cross-grade-level and specialist staff to deepen student learning and inclusion efforts.

I feel so fortunate to work among such caring and dedicated staff, students and families and am looking forward to our future together!

Lucille M. Nixon *Elementary School*

1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 • 650/856-1622 • nixon.pausd.org



Mary Pat O'Connell
Principal

Catch Me If You Can!

By Mary Pat O'Connell, Lucille M. Nixon School

Each year after spring break I am always asked by someone outside of education if things are beginning to “wind down” at school. And I always respond, “Nothing winds down. We race uphill to the finish line and celebrate!”

Learning continues apace in all areas in all classrooms. We recently added state testing for our third- through fifth-graders. There are also delightful music performances with those instruments

that were new to the fifth-graders back in the fall. Family Science Night is a well-attended celebration of curiosity, perseverance, and creativity. And at International Night, our students proudly share their knowledge of cultures from across the globe and perform traditional dances and songs from other nations.

Field Day also provides nonstop activities, and with everyone clearly a winner. The grade levels each have special events too, like when the fifth-graders recently played our staff in a game of kickball.

When the final day arrives, we all join together in the theater to recognize and celebrate each fifth-grader. Hooray! It is the end of another marvelous year at Nixon!

Ohlone *Elementary School*

950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-1726 • ohlone.pausd.org



Dawn Yoshinaga
Principal

Transitioning

As we near the end of a school year there is much excitement, learning, and growth packed into these last few weeks! We are reflecting, planning ahead, creating balanced classrooms, welcoming incoming kinder families, and wishing farewell to our fifth-graders as they head off into the middle school sunset.

At Ohlone, our students have the gift of learning in multi-age classrooms. Youngers are eager to become Olders in their classrooms next year. Olders are anticipating their



transition to a new classroom as Youngers. Olders will become “mentors” and take the initiative to train Youngers on the in’s and out’s of Ohlone, teach them class procedures, and help them feel part of the classroom community.

Youngers look to Olders for support in the classroom and on the playground.

Peer modeling and guidance provide a priceless learning experience that builds empathy and self-advocacy. Transitions are a beautiful time for reflection, growth and development.

Palo Alto *Adult School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3752 • paadultschool.org



Dave Hoshiwara
Principal

Build a Craftsman-style Rocking Chair

With an eye of looking to warm, quiet days rocking in the afternoon sun on a wide covered porch - (not here in Silicon Valley!!!?) we are excited to see a wonderful collaboration between two of our very popular community-based classes. Upholstery is a very long standing class for decades and has always had a quick fill up with a waiting list. The same holds true for our woodworking classes.

This spring we are pleased to offer a class that combines the craftsmanship of woodworking with that of upholstery resulting in a combined effort of skills and an upholstered craftsman-style rocking chair.

The staff of both classes have worked together to provide this experience for our students. The class is already filled up, but if you happen to be free on a Friday evening after 6:30 you may see a dozen of these project in process as they move towards being that comfortable place at the end of a long day... or any time of the day!

Check out our website for other opportunities to learn!!
Paadultschool.org



Palo Alto *High School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3701 • paly.pausd.org



Adam Paulson
Principal

What's Next?

At the end of the school year, each class has its own anticipation for what lies ahead. Ninth-graders realize that they're no longer the new students on campus and look forward to coming back knowing how to pull off a win. Tenth-graders enter their junior year thinking about applying to college or what else they might do after senior year. Eleventh-graders are excited about almost

being the next graduating class. And of course, seniors think about one of their biggest life transitions thus far.

I always enjoy this period after spring break. My admin team and I are out on the Quad every day watching the students finish up AP exams and finals and then celebrate their hard work playing volleyball or just lounging in the grass.

Our last event in the Quad each year is Field Day. This spirit of community and positive energy is a great way to wrap up the year.



Palo Verde *Elementary School*

3450 Louis Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-1672 • paloverde.pausd.org



Hillary Miller
Principal

Finishing Well

While the school year has flown by, there is still much to do at Palo Verde Elementary School as we wrap up a great year and begin to look ahead to 2019–2020. In addition to Open House and our annual Talent Show, classes will be taking end-of-year assessments, reviewing progress on goals, and celebrating growth.

Grade levels culminate the year with various activities, including classroom plays, art shows, book swaps, Gold Rush reenactments, and “Eaglesburg.” Finally, we will say goodbye to our fifth-graders at a promotion ceremony on the last day of school.

In addition to the activities directly involving students, adults on campus will work together to review the flow of this school year and plan for the most effective way to deliver aligned curriculum and instruction next year. We will also review progress toward meeting our goals and discuss ways we can continue to improve.

There is much to be done in the last days of the school year! We value the opportunity provided by the school year’s end to review the progress we have made as a community and move forward to support our students as they learn and grow.



Music class outside



School Play

Walter Hays *Elementary School*

1525 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5956 • hays.pausd.org



Mary Bussmann
Principal

Upcoming Events

Third Grade Musical chronicles notable people in Palo Alto's history who "changed the world for good!", instilling one person can make a difference.

5th Grade Girl Scouts brought awareness of the destruction of Orangutans' habitat for palm plantations/palm oil, found in many everyday products.

Student Performance: "Our Greatest Treasure" a musical about townspeople discovering the richness of the ocean, its creatures and the threats that could destroy this ecosystem.

Ocean Study/Ocean Night: K-5 students study the Oceans, from tide pools to the open oceans, applying critical thinking for research and art projects; culminating in the Ocean Night open house.



Math Night: families explored math puzzles/games and solved complex math problems!

Exciting upcoming events:

5th Graders:

"American Revolutionary War" Play

Kindergarteners:

"Peter Rabbit" Operetta

Grades K, 1st and 2nd:

Playing With Poetry performances

4th Graders: California exploration and Gold Rush Simulation

Maker Space STEAM Fair

Color Walkathon

CAMPING—Word Search Contest

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

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

- | | |
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| BLANKET | COT |
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Entries must be received by **June 30, 2019**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!



Congratulations to Larissa Mathen
Winner of our February Word Search Contest!

Common Sense Media

Encouraging Teens to Read for Pleasure



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

Fortunately, we do know the way to encourage readers of any age: Keep books in the house, set aside daily reading time, and read yourself. For teens specifically, it may help to tap into whatever they're passionate about.

Here are some more ideas:

- **Try an ereader.** Ereaders offer your teen a bit more independence, flexibility, and privacy.
- **Consider humor.** Some teens just need the funny.
- **Draw inspiration from pop culture.** Musicians, and even software developers (think Steve Jobs) are great subjects for teen reading because they're relevant to teens' lives.
- **Insist that they read the book before seeing the movie.**

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

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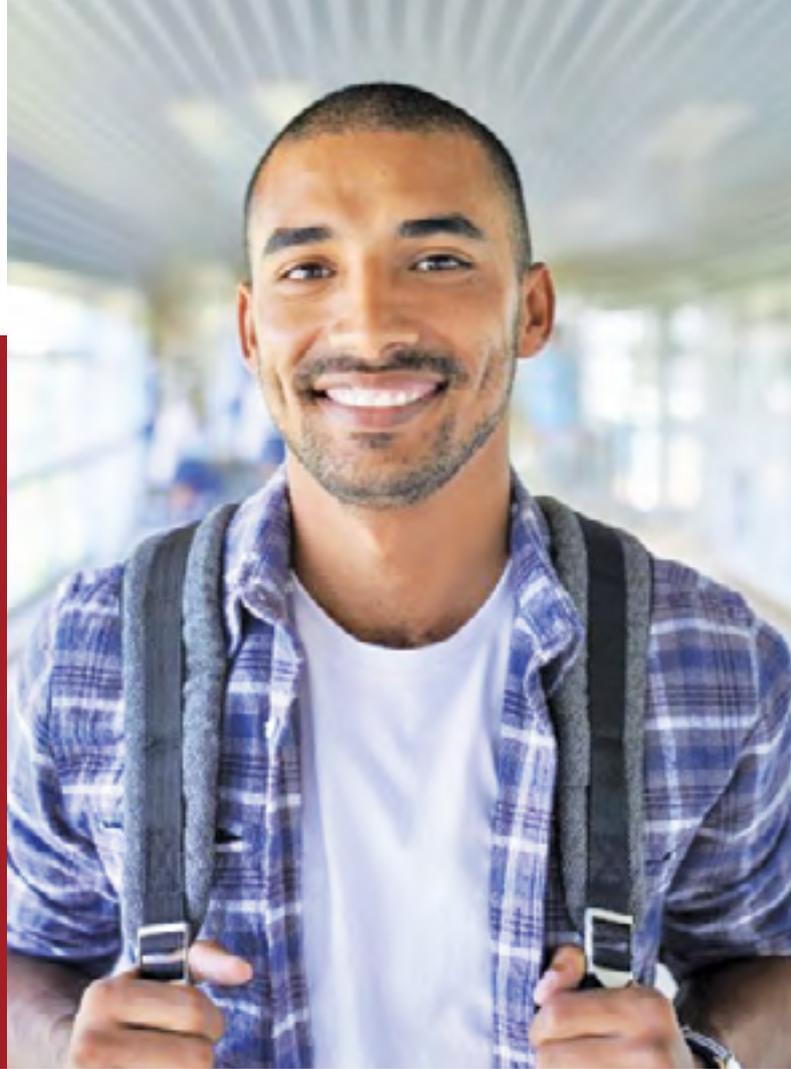
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