

Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District

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December 2021 / January 2022

Los Al Locos Named Orange County's #1 Student Section





LAE's Student Government (LAESG) are school leaders and role models for the other students.

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Los Alamitos Unified Embraces a Return of a Thriving Student Culture



Dr. Andrew PulverSuperintendent

As the school year began, Los Al students were excited about the possibilities that were ahead of them with a return to a full day of school. Last year the pandemic forced a shortened season of sports, cancelled some live performances or rescheduled outdoor performing arts events, and caused a decline in various student activities and campus clubs. This year, students, staff and families were eager and excited about the possibility of what this year would bring to enhance student connectedness.

The 2021-2022 school year has reignited the thriving student culture at Los Alamitos High School (LAHS). From the first day of school, it was more than apparent that Griffins were thankful to be back on campus and ready to be reconnected to each other and campus life. The Welcome Back Dance, "Back to Business" at LAHS had over 1,000 students in attendance celebrating the return of campus life in a constructed outdoor venue on campus.

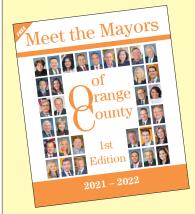
Students have shown up to home sporting events in record numbers to cheer on the Mighty Griffins and dressed up in spirit apparel supporting the Associated Student Body and the "Los Al Locos" student section. The

overflowing Los Al Locos were honored to once again be named Orange County's #1 Student Section by the *Orange County Register*. The Loco fever helped propel the Griffins to an undefeated Sunset League Championship and a return to the D1 CIF Football Playoffs for the first time in 15 years with a sold-out stadium.

The return of full capacity football games also provided the opportunity for the marching band to fine tune their skills and once again be honored with multiple championship titles. Dance, Choir, Song, Cheer, ASB and Band joined forces to put together a spectacular Homecoming halftime show that truly captured the Griffin Legacy of student involvement and the annual St. Jude football game saw the connection of over 150 elementary and middle school students joining the Griffin Song and Cheer program on the field and raising \$5,000 for St. Jude.

Our middle and elementary schools have also provided a variety of opportunities for students to connect beyond academics through a myriad of activities, assemblies, performances, clubs and school events. We are once again overjoyed to witness our students' talents and passions in action in the classroom, on the stage, on the court, on the fields, in the pool, from the stands and through community service.





Check out the first annual Meet the Orange County Mayors publication



www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop 562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com **ADVERTISING SALES:** 562/493-3193 CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Emily Ung COPY EDITORS:

Kate Karp, Anna Zappia SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder Netragrednik by Neta Madison





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

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Kay Coop Founder/Publisher





Dr. Pulver begins this issue on page 2 with his message of reigniting the thriving student culture. As you read the articles in this issue you will feel the excitement of students being back in the classrooms.

Be sure to enter our word search contests on pages 9 & 12 (all ages may enter).

We recently published the first annual Meet the Orange County *Mayors*. Here is the link to enjoy https://schoolnewsrollcall.com/wpcontent/uploads/2021/10/MMOC_ OCT_21.pdf

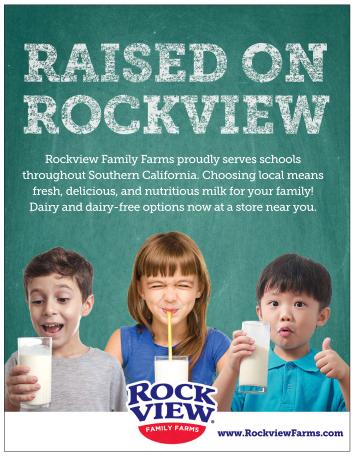
Our next issue is February 9, 2022. Happy New Year!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!









MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Immunization is One of Best Means of Protection Against COVID-19 this Holiday Season



Graham Tse, M.D., chief medical officer, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine recently received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for children ages 5 - 11-years-old, which means this vaccine met high standards for safety and effectiveness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends everyone 5 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine.

You may have questions about the vaccine, and with holiday gatherings coming up, you may be wondering about the best way to keep your family healthy.

The Benefits Outweigh the Risks

Even though COVID-19 doesn't cause symptomatic disease in as many children as adults, it's still important for children ages 5 - 11 to get vaccinated. The vaccine protects against COVID-19 and its complications, helps prevent

transmission to others, and helps prevent potential new variants. By vaccinating your child, you also are protecting individuals who are at higher risk from COVID, such as grandparents, who may have missed out on holiday gatherings last year.

Children 5 - 11 need to receive two doses of the vaccine 21 days apart. They will receive a dose that is one-third of the adult dose. Side effects of the vaccine may include a sore arm, redness and swelling, fatigue, headache, muscle and/or joint pain, chills, fever, swollen lymph nodes, nausea and decreased appetite. Side effects are generally mild and only last a day or two.

It is safe for almost all children to get the vaccine. However, your child should not receive a vaccine if they have a known allergy to one of the vaccine's components. If they had a previous allergic reaction to a vaccine, consult with your pediatrician.

To find a vaccine clinic near you, visit MyTurn.ca.gov.



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) • millerchildrens.org



We're on Kevin's level at the highest level.

Many children's illnesses are rarely seen in adults or affect kids differently, which is why a children's hospital is so important. And you are fortunate enough to live close to one. Since every child is unique, we offer more than 600 board-certified pediatric physicians, covering 40 specialties in locations from the South Bay to Orange County. This means Kevin can get precisely the specialized care he needs.

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800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) | millerchildrens.org/Elite

Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Branch Library

12700 Montecito Rd., Seal Beach CA 90740 • 562/430-1048 • www.ocpl.org



Cassandra Sargent Branch Manager

The Library is Open

Los Alamitos – Rossmoor Library is open, and we're back to our old hours!

Give us a call at 562-430-1048 or stop by Monday - Thursday 10:00am -- 7:00pm and Saturday 9:00am – 5:00p. We will continue to offer curbside services, monthly grab 'n go crafts, and zoom storytimes

Family Storytime

Saturdays at 10:30am

(except December 25th and January 1st)

Storytime for families with children of all ages! Join us for fun read-aloud books as storytime is made fun for the whole family.

Ideal for caregivers with multiple-aged children.

Gingerbread House Decorating

Wednesday, December 22nd from 11:00—1:00 pm and 4:00—6:00 pm

Sign-ups begin Wednesday, December 1st, for a 30-minute time slot to create and decorate your own gingerbread house! All supplies are provided but think about bringing a box to take your masterpiece home! Open to ages 4—12.

Teen Book Club

Tuesday, December 14th at 4:30 pm Join us for a lively discussion on teen books! Talk about what you're reading or join us in discussing Yes No Maybe So by Becky Albertalli & Aisha Saeed. Open to ages 13-18. Copies can be found at the Service Desk

The Craft: Teen Art Studio

Thursday, December 16th at 4:30 pm

Open to ages 12-18, tweens and teens can create whatever they want with our supplies on hand. Canvas, paint, watercolor tissue paper, crayons, markers—it's up to you if you want to have fun creating bad art with friends or make something to keep or give away as a gift.







Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face? Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.

Hopkinson Elementary

12582 Kensington Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4500 • hopkinson.losal.org



Evelyn Garcia *Principal*

Huskys Show Gratitude

Showing gratitude and the gift of giving are skills we are intentionally focusing on at Hopkinson. In an effort to spread gratitude among our school community, we encourage everyone to participate in multiple ways of expressing gratitude for what we have and for those around us. We hope that this serves as a demonstration of the ease of increasing positivity in our world. During this fun time





of receiving so much, we want to ensure that our Huskies also have an understanding of the gift of giving. There are many ways to give to our community, their Husky buddies, their friends, and their families. At Hopkinson, we have created a gratitude tree, written letters of appreciation, and are hosting our 5th annual Hopkinson Holiday Shoppe to lend the experience of giving to our kids. The PTA created a Holiday Shoppe in order to allow kids to buy holiday gifts for their friends and family. This shop offers a safe, educational, and fun environment at school.

Lee Elementary

11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • lee.losal.org



Amy Vento Principal

Bringing Our FamilLEE Together!

The Lee community has taken advantage of all opportunities to rebuild our family connections after so much time apart from one another. The Lee PTA recently hosted a school carnival, including games, food,

inflatables, a petting zoo, and more! As a special gift

from Lee's PTA, EVERY Lee student was provided with a FREE wristband good for unlimited time on all inflatables. Every student also received 10 FREE tickets to use towards games or food. Wristbands for non-Lee students were available to purchase for only \$5! This special event was PTA's way of giving back, saying thank you, and bringing our FamiLEE together.



Lee School has more connection-building events on the horizon! Our students and families will enjoy our FREE Family Movie Night next month. Leos will sip hot cocoa and snuggle with family and friends while watching a fun, family movie on a big screen at Lee. Events like these remind us that we are BETTER TOGETHER!



Lee School Carnival!

Los Alamitos Elementary

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4700 • lae.losal.org



Gary Willems Principal

LAE Student Government:

LAE's Student Government (LAESG) are school leaders and role models for the other students. By the time LAESG members promote to 6th Grade, they are taught how to become independent thinkers as well as to understand that working as part of a team can have positive effects on the school and local community. The goal of student leadership is to create skills that the students can carry over to adulthood.

LAESG designs lessons and activities to highlight the need to stay healthy and drug free (Red Ribbon Week) and the reasons to celebrate and work towards PEACE. LAESG also supports events like Trunk or Treat, the canned soup drive called Soup-er Bowl, and our Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. LAESG also participates in events at Katella Senior living and the Seal Beach Holiday Parade. We are very proud of our LAESG leaders and know they will go on to change the world!



Los Alamitos High School

3591 W. Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • lahs.losal.org



Christiana Kraus Principal

Griffin Academic Supports

Los Alamitos High School is committed to the highest level of support in all four A's: Academics, Athletics, Activities, and the Arts. Often however our students need additional help to achieve their goals in the primary 'A', which is academics. With so many opportunities for our students to explore their interests and passions. schedules can become easily impacted,

which leaves reduced time for them to seek additional academic help.

At Los Alamitos High School, there are a wide variety of ways in which support is provided to all students throughout and outside of the school day, even virtually! Teachers and staff continue to provide informal drop-in support at lunch, and before- and after-school tutoring. The development of formalized, school-wide academic support for all students is a practice that is reviewed and analyzed for its effectiveness and accessibility to all.

Following a year of hybrid- and distanced-learning structures, we are excited to offer the return of inperson supports through the Griffin Lab each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2:45 to 4 p.m. in our College and Career Center. There are also before- and after-school math interventions with LAHS math teachers on Monday through Friday, and a cyclical

after-school "boot camp" for the ninth- and tenth-grade

We also have our Skills Lab and Academic Lab. Some may be familiar with our former Saturday School program too. Gone are the days of only required Saturday seat time. It is now replaced with our Saturday Academic Intervention Academy (S.A.I.A.). The S.A.I.A. is a hosted academic intervention opportunity which occurs two to four times per month from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Though all are welcome to attend, students are assigned access to credentialed teachers, educational technologies, and resources to support their academic needs.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we are also excited about our partnership with PAPER.CO, a 24 hour, sevenday-a-week live and online academic support service that is free to all Griffins. Using their @golosal.net student sign-on portal, all Griffins can connect with a one-on-one, screened, and verified live academic tutor for support in all academic subjects, as well as writing review and support, and for free!

The tutors can help students problem-solve, develop content skills, and provide targeted feedback on submitted writing samples. Currently, over 30 percent of Griffins have accessed PAPER.CO services to date, and it's growing! We continue our commitment to providing all Griffins with the support they need to achieve their academic goals, and continually reflect upon these changing needs to improve our support of all students.

McAuliffe Middle School

4112 W. Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • mcauliffe.losal.org



Dr. Ryan Weiss-Wright Principal

McAuliffe's Return to the Stage

Every year, until the 2020/2021 school year, McAuliffe Visual and Performing Arts Departments banded together to create an All-School Musical open to all students. Thankfully, this year the musical came back! Featuring over 150 student performers, this year's musical, Broadway Jukebox, took audience members through 60 years of pop culture music. These students worked tirelessly both on and off

stage to bring the production together. All behind the scenes works: staging, lighting, sound, tech, pre-show, art installation, and more were 100% student-created. This event is a McAuliffe community favorite and we are so happy to have brought it back for the 21/22 school year!









McGaugh Elementary

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • mcgaugh.losal.org



Dr. Issaic Gates Principal

Building Community

October and November are such great months here at McGaugh Elementary. The Sea Lion community has such rich traditions and culture. For example, the Pageant of the Arts (The Pageant) and the McGaugh Carnival are two of our cornerstone fall traditions.

The Pageant is a 40-year tradition of creating an engaging fine arts program

for students in the first through fifth grades. Each year a different artist and artwork are chosen. This year, The Pageant will feature Howard University graduate and American artist Lois Mailou Jones. Under the direction of third-grade teacher Mrs. Leslie Obert, our staff and parent volunteers work collaboratively with the students to produce artworks that include music, dance, and other artistic fields that come to life on stage.

The students are now rehearing and preparing their art show. The Pageant runs from April 1, 2022 to April 2, 2022. The activity presently surrounding this event is

a testament to all of the work that our community pours into the event, and the spectacular outcome that comes to fruition in the spring.

Similar to The Pageant, the McGaugh Carnival is a timeless tradition that partners teachers, parent volunteers, and local merchants together for a day of fundraising, creating community connections, and fun. McGaugh's Carnival is loaded with exciting games, carnival foods, and a great silent auction. This year's Carnival was well supported and highly successful, raising quite a bit of money to support McGaugh academics.

Lastly, on Wednesday, November 17, McGaugh held its second annual Pie with the Principal event. Via Zoom, the McGaugh students and I baked a traditional Thanksgiving pie together from our homes. We had so much fun baking together. While baking, we also took the opportunity to share some of the things that we were grateful for in our

From the most planned-out to the simplest of interactions, our Sea Lions really know how to build community. As we enter the last month of the calendar year we are ready for and looking forward to a great 2022!

Vacation—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 LAUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by January 15, 2022

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

CAR	GAMES															
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TRAIN	PUZZLES	Α	G	Α	М	Ε	S	Α	С	Т	I	U	S	В	K	
AIRPLANE	PAJAMAS	L	Ν	T	R	Α	Р	U	Z	Z	L	Е	S	U	В	
	1757111115	Р	Т	G	Υ	Κ	Ρ	G	Ν	Α	W	0	V	Z	R	
BOAT	JACKET	R	Α	1	С	Ε	J	S	U	В	S	V	D	М	М	
SUITCASE	SNEAKERS	I	0	Α	U	R	Е	Т	Α	W	L	R	R	Т	S	
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BACKPACK	SUNBLOCK	U	Р	Α	J	Α	М	Α	S	Χ	S	Z	С	U	Р	
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PASSPORT	SOCKS															

Oak Middle School

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • oak.losal.org



Erin Kominsky Principal

Saluting Our Veteran's!

It has been a tradition for the students and staff at Oak Middle School to honor our local Veterans in celebration of the Veteran's Day Holiday. For our students it is much more than just a day off school, as it symbolizes our opportunity to

thank the many who served our Country. On Wednesday, November 10th, nearly 1100 students gathered in the outdoor



amphitheater to salute our heroes. Students invited over 30 Veteran parents, grandparents, Aunts and Uncles to join us in this recognition. Advanced band played a medley of armed forces themes, and choir sang a breathtaking National

Anthem tribute. Scholarship students prepared hand -written notes of thanks, and our leadership students organized speeches and posters. Students from Boy Scout troop 642 led our flag ceremony and PTA hosted the morning with yummy treats. From our Oak lions to all the Veterans we say "thank YOU for your service".









Rossmoor Elementary

3272 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4520 • rossmoor.losal.org



Amy Coltey Principal

Knights Supporting Community

As we started the school year, our Knights were eager to help their community! The first challenge our Knights embraced was to see how they could help those

animals that were affected by the massive oil spill that happened along the coast in Orange County this October.

As a friendly competition, our four Houses worked to see who could collect the most with a schoolwide coin drive! Together,

our Knights raised \$878.57, which they proudly donated to the Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center. It felt great to not only donate the funds but also to know that it was going to a place that saves animals' lives and supports the rehabilitation of animals all year long right here in Orange County!



For the months of November and December, our Knights began their second House Challenge, which had them focus on the *I* in Knight PRIDE. *I* stands for integrity, which is doing the right thing even though no one is watching. They learned that they can also show integrity by helping others, being kind, and giving of themselves without expecting any recognition or a thank-you in return.

Our Knights are engaging in the next community-service activity in which they work with Casa Youth Shelter right here in Los Alamitos, which provides a safe place for children ages 12 to 17. Each classroom will be sponsoring a child who is at Casa Youth Shelter by working to

collect much-needed clothes and items for this winter.

In the spirit of giving and gratitude, our Knights are thrilled to support their community and uplift others who may be in need this holiday season. A very important lesson our Knights are learning is that their actions can reach others around them and cause a chain reaction of positivity!

Weaver Elementary

11872 Wembley Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4580 • weaver.losal.org



Dr. Todd Schmidt Principal

Student of the Month

Heraclitus of Ephesus once said, "Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day." At Weaver Elementary, we strive to develop not only great scholars but great leaders as well. Each month, we highlight

one of the block's from UCLA's legendary basketball coach John Wooden's Pyramid of Success. From classroom lessons and videos to Principal Read-Alouds, we try to highlight the characteristics of the trait and how our students can develop it. At the end of each month, each teacher chooses one student who best exemplifies that trait. We invite family and community members to celebrate each recipient at our Friday Flag Ceremony. Each recipient gets a certificate and bumper sticker, but it is the yard sign that allows the entire community to know that a student with exemplary character lives there!



Seal Beach Animal Care Center

1700 Aldofo Lopez Dr., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/430-4993 • www.sbacc.org

Adopting a Senior Dog

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Adding a new canine friend to your home is exciting and fulfilling, but when it's a senior dog, somehow it's even more meaningful. Go slow and easy with your new friend. It's not the time to invite the family over to meet your new family member. Most senior dogs are very adaptable, but your new dog would appreciate some quiet time to get to know you and other household members, including other pets. Individually introduce the new pet to other pets in the household, especially if you have two or more other dogs. Take a walk in neutral territory away from your home. This is a good way to start the bonding process.

If you adopted the senior dog from a shelter, remember that the dog is coming from a stressful and noisy place, so quiet and the safety of a new home will be welcomed. Your new pet may sleep almost continuously for the first few days just to catch up. Try to limit any stressful events like a visit to the vet or getting a bath.

Provide a safe spot for your new friend. Your new dog may watch you like a hawk for several days as they are learning about you. Until you are sure they're settling in, keep them leashed outside even if the yard is fenced. Make sure not to change the diet of your new pet. Find out what brand of dry and wet food they were receiving.

You will likely find that adopting a senior dog is one of most rewarding things you've ever done. You've saved a life and provided a warm, safe home for an old dog in need. They'll repay you with love and devotion for the rest of their days.



Christmas 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 LAUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by January 15, 2021

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



BOWS	NORTH POLE
CANDY CANES	ORNAMENT
CHIMNEY	PRESENTS
CHRISTMAS	RUDOLPH
COAL	SANTA CLAUS
DECORATIONS	SLEIGH
EGG NOG	SNOW
ELF	SNOWMAN
GINGERBREAD	STOCKINGS
JINGLE BELLS	TREE
LIGHTS	

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Ε	1	G	Н	Α	Α	Н	Н	1	Z	Ν	Ή	С	K	Ν
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1	G	D	Χ	U	P	R	E	S	E	Ν	T	S	N	В
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