

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District**

Volume 19, Issue 101

February 2023

## Community Voice Inspires School Program Enhancements



(Please see page 3)

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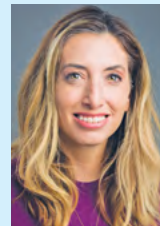
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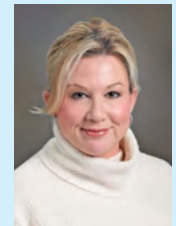
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## Community Voice Inspires School Program Enhancements



**Dr. Wesley Smith**  
*Superintendent*

Everywhere I look, I see amazing things happening for our students. As I visit schools, I witness the purposeful and engaging opportunities that pique students' interests in a variety of areas from science and technology to engineering, math and more.

In addition to art programs within the school day, students at some of our elementary schools enjoy enhanced art programs during their lunch and recess breaks.

Approximately half of our elementary schools offer engineering and computer coding as part of robotics clubs. These extracurricular STEM activities use students' problem-solving skills while teaching the basics of engineering and coding.

To enrich the student experience beyond the classroom, students also enjoy trips to the theater and performances with band, choir and orchestra. Younger students visit farms to solidify their understanding of the economics behind growing and selling produce, which allows them to observe different jobs, consider

plants and animal interactions, and discover why bees are vitally important to the food chain. Our athletes travel locally and statewide to participate in training and competitions that focus on physical fitness, teamwork, sportsmanship and school pride. Through the years, our student athletes have amassed more than 150 CIF championships.

Our Career and Technical Education program opened a Spyder Lab at Back Bay High School, where students obtain numerous certifications and focus on business and entrepreneurial skills. The Spyder Lab provides incredible mentors and modern equipment that fuels a desire to learn, as students prepare for exciting futures.

TeWinkle Middle School offers new electives this year including Exploring Technology, Spanish, Art II, and Design and Modeling classes. In addition, after-school clubs include Drama and Speech and Debate.

Our district has made a concerted effort to engage with our community. Taking the time to listen to our parents, staff and students has led to some exciting changes. There's a lot of great things happening at Newport-Mesa; stay tuned for more exciting things to come!



**TeWinkle Middle School Spanish Class**

## City of Costa Mesa



**John Stephens**  
Mayor

February is the shortest month of the year, but it's packed with notable dates and events.

At our Feb. 7 City Council meeting, I presented a proclamation for Black History Month, which is a time to celebrate the contributions of Black Americans in business, arts and entertainment, science, literature, sports, politics, and law. In February, we also recognize National Pet Health Month, American Heart Month, Teen Dating Violence

Awareness & Prevention Month and Youth Leadership Month.

February 12 is Super Bowl Sunday. The Kansas City Chiefs will play the Philadelphia Eagles and Rihanna will take the stage at the halftime show. Enjoy the game, the halftime show, and the commercials!!!

In February, we also celebrate Presidents' Day weekend, Ski Week, and Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) in New Orleans. The next day, we usher in Lent with Ash Wednesday.

Of course, remember that Valentine's Day is February 14, or you will have a lot of explaining to do to your sweetheart.

Finally, we celebrate School Resources Officers Appreciation Day on February 15. This year, we have added a third SRO in collaboration with the Newport-Mesa School District. Every day, our SRO's keep students safe and on the right path. They deserve our appreciation and gratitude every day!!!

## Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



**Dan Stefano**  
Fire Chief

February is American Heart Month! – An opportunity to shine a brighter light on heart health, including awareness about heart disease, the leading cause of death worldwide. Three of the most important things you can take action on today to better prepare for a “healthy heart” future is Eating Smarter, Staying Physically Active, and Total Wellness.

Only about one in five adults and teens get enough exercise to maintain good physical and mental health. Being more active can help everyone think, feel and sleep better, including taking on daily tasks and challenges more easily.

- A few key healthier living recommendations:
- Eating Smarter: Making healthier, delicious choices!
- Active Exercise: Move More and Sit Less: Every Day!
- Total Wellness: Taking good care of yourself — mind, body and soul!
- More detailed tips: [www.heart.org/en/healthy-living](http://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living)

In addition and in alignment with American Heart Month, Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue is promoting hands only CPR. The first step is taking just 60 seconds to learn how to save a life and sharing it with the important people in your life — the time is now! [www.heart.org/handsonlycpr](http://www.heart.org/handsonlycpr)

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

Dr. Smith begins this issue on page 3 with his message about the variety of opportunities available for students in and beyond the classrooms.

This issue is full of information from our guest columnists, all of the schools, and the student book reviews. You may want to find a comfy chair and plan to read awhile. Also, don't forget to enter our word search contest on page 25 (all ages may enter).

Thank you for always including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is April 5 right before the Spring Break.

## School News

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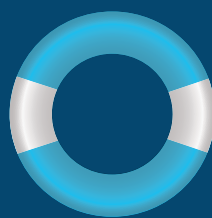


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## Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • [nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition](http://nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition)



**Todd Hatfield**  
Director

### Salads on the Menu

*By Pam Williams, MPH, RD  
Nutritionist*

Meet Axel. He is a fourth grader at Kaiser Elementary School who just happens to love our Chicken Caesar Salad. Just the other day, we found him in the lunch line selecting his lunch and saying to himself, "I love this Caesar Salad!"

Here in Nutrition Services, we think the same thing! Our team has carefully selected ingredients for our Chicken Caesar Salad to create a tasteful and meaningful experience. It is flavorful and it delivers key nutrients to help support healthy minds and bodies.

In addition to our Chicken Caesar Salad, we have also created the Greek Salad, the Garden Salad, and the Asian Chicken Salad. Tuesday through Friday students get to experience crunchy and nutrient dense lettuce and other ingredients that help them maintain good health.

In a world full of food choices, we are happy to learn that Axel and other NMUSD students enjoy our healthy salads.



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## Special Services

2985 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



**Dr. Sara Jocham**  
*Assistant  
Superintendent*

### Community Building Event

Estancia High School (EHS) held their first exceptional abilities football and cheer camp on December 4, 2022, with over 100 people in attendance. NMUSD Adapted Physical Education teacher, Lydia Ghobrial, collaborated with EHS head football coach Michael Bargas and head cheer coach Alexis Hawlish, to provide football and cheer stations for students with disabilities. Football camp

participants practiced throwing, catching, and running touchdowns while cheer members practiced a routine they performed as the finale. Participants received a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich and a medal. Cheer participants received pom-poms and a bow, donated by Judy Stafford with Compass Realtors. William Magee, founder of an integrative sports league that provides athletic opportunities to individuals with special needs, helped create 10 unique football stations. About 20 students from the football team and coach, cheer team and coach, and the Vanguard softball team, assisted with running stations. It was a wonderful collaborative community building event!



## Early Childhood Education

2985 Bear St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000



**Michelle O'Neill**  
*Coordinator*

The classroom teacher Mrs. Diana begins each week with a new theme. During large and small group our preschoolers are learning using visuals, music and

movement, and tangible items to learn. Throughout the week, both fiction and non-fiction books are read to the class. By the end of the week, our preschoolers will have exposure to a dramatic play activity, a sensory based art task, as well as a direct draw activity which focuses on following directions and fine motor skills. The preschoolers at Whittier Elementary were excited to share their artwork in creating a snowman.





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# Newport Beach Public Libraries



**Christine Chapel**  
*Librarian,  
Mariners Branch,  
Newport Beach  
Public Library*

## Attention Students!

The Newport Beach Public Library has fun, ongoing programs that happen every month of the school year. Just stop by the branch to participate, no registration necessary. Please join us for these creative programs!

## LEGO Saturdays | Central Library Stahr Storytime Room

Drop into the Central Library Children's Room between 2pm and 4pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month to create with LEGO! Get inspiration for your creations by choosing from one of our LEGO challenges and let your imagination run wild! No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

1st & 3rd Saturdays, February 18, March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## Drop-In Crafternoons! | Central Library Children's Room

Get creative with us every 2nd Tuesday of the month with rotating DIY crafts. Arts and crafts provide opportunities to practice fine motor skills, imagination, critical thinking, and more! Join us for "Over the Rainbow Crafts" in March, "Butterfly and Blossom Crafts" in April, and "Delicious Crafts" in May. Recommended for families

with children ages 3 and up. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

2nd Tuesdays, February 14, March 14, April 11, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

## LEGO Wednesday | Mariners Library

Drop into the Mariners Library every Wednesday to create with LEGOs! From buildings to action figures - design, build, and invent at this casual but creative program for elementary age children. No registration required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Every Wednesday, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

## Spring Reading Challenge | All Branches

Join the Spring Reading Challenge! Read every day for the months of March and April, track your reading through Beanstack, and be entered for the opportunity to win a prize!

March 1 – April 30

Looking forward to seeing you at the Library!

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949/717-3800 • [www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids](http://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/kids)

Mariners Branch 1300 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660  
949/717-3838

Balboa Branch 100 East Balboa Blvd., Balboa, CA 92661  
949/644-3076

Corona Del Mar Branch 410 Marigold Ave., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625  
949/644-3075

# Costa Mesa Public Libraries



**Sarita Dangond**  
*Branch Manager,  
Costa Mesa  
Donald Dungan  
Library*



**Vivian Strabala**  
*Branch Manager,  
Costa Mesa  
Mesa Verde  
Library*

## Library for Everyone

Costa Mesa Libraries, part of OCPL, are community hubs, connecting people to essential services and resources and building communities of lifelong learners.

OCPL helps our communities learn, explore, connect and have fun! Our programs explore arts, culture, health, civics, science, history and technology.

Career and business resources assist job seekers and small businesses. Online, library patrons access databases, research materials, stream videos, listen to ebooks and receive reference services and homework help via chat.

OCPL began 2022 with all libraries fully open and, following state guidelines, was able to resume in-person events. Our Costa Mesa communities were glad to come back.

Combined 2022 Donald Dungan and Mesa Verde Library statistics:

- Over 200,000 patrons visited.
- Nearly 350,000 items were borrowed.
- Approx. 18,000 patrons attended 576 programs,

storytimes, bookclubs, craft and author events.

- Over 36,000 hours of internet were used.

Why buy when you can borrow?

Please visit your branch in person or online at [www.ocpl.org/events](http://www.ocpl.org/events) for current programming information, including storytimes, author events, bookclubs, and fun events for children, teens, and adults!

## OC Public Libraries

[www.ocpl.org](http://www.ocpl.org)

### Costa Mesa Donald Dungan Library

1855 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/646-8845

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm

Fri – Sun 9am – 5pm

### Costa Mesa-Mesa Verde Library

2969 Mesa Verde Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/546-5274

Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am – 7pm

Fri – Sun 9am – 5pm



**Donald Dungan Library Calendar**

## Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • [adams.nmusd.us](http://adams.nmusd.us)



**Stacy  
deBoom - Howard**  
*Principal*

### The Arts at Adams!!

All-Stars have many ways to express themselves through various art forms here at Adams. Currently we have 55 students who participate in our orchestra program with our fabulous music teacher, Mrs. Rivera.

Orchestra students in grades 4-6 performed at the Snoopy

House at Costa Mesa City Hall during the Holidays and look forward to performing this Spring. In December, a group of energetic and talented students performed the school musical "Annie" for our school community. This fabulous production was made possible by the support of PTA, Project Kids Connect and in partnership with Arts and Learning- THANK YOU!

Last but not least we are continuing our arts partnership with Segerstrom's Art Teach program with six-week residencies where students learn about art/artists and then create their own masterpieces. We look forward to continuing to bring Arts Education to our All-Stars this year and for many years to come!!



## Roy O. Andersen *Elementary (K-6)*

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • [andersen.nmusd.us](http://andersen.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Tiffany  
Lewis**  
*Principal*

### VEX Robotic's Game

Afterschool, Andersen Elementary's Robotics Team is a blur of activity. After scrutinizing building plans around a laptop, students confer with Teacher Jeff Vonnahme on what needs to be done next. The 15 students, ranging from fourth graders to sixth graders, are all working to assemble this year's VEX Robotic's game, "Slapshot."

The extracurricular STEM activity utilizes students' problem-solving skills while teaching the basics of engineering and computer coding. This year's project will feature five automated disc dispensers and a drivable robot on a 6-foot-by-8-foot playing field, which separates the driving area from four goal zones for the discs. Interlocking plastic pieces are used to build everything, and once motors are added, students can control their robots through programming they've coded using VEX's educational software. Students also learn to skillfully drive a robot using a remote control, as well as control a driving pattern through software they've programmed. Andersen appreciates its DEANS group for funding this important opportunity.



## Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • [backbay.nmusd.us](http://backbay.nmusd.us)



**Kirk Bauermeister**  
*Principal*

### Student Recognition

Back Bay High School is pleased to share that we have rolled out a quarterly student recognition program. Students often come to our school deficient in credits and it is our goal to help them catch up and motivate them to a pathway of good attendance

and academic success. Each Quarter we

honor the students who have achieved excellence in the following areas: Attendance, GPA (3.0-3.49, 3.5-3.99 and 4.0) and spotlight awards from each of our teachers/departments. As a school community we value taking time to honor where the students have come in their journey and recognize that honoring them with community support in attendance helps further motivate them in their success.

Our next Awards ceremony will take place on February 2, 2023 in the Back Bay high school MPR. We are excited to say we will be giving out over 150 awards. We are impressed with our students this year and could not be prouder of them. The event will also include a celebration barbeque following the event. Way to go Back Bay High School Bull Dogs!



## California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • [california.nmusd.us](http://california.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Linda Kim**  
*Principal*

### Happy New Year!

Cougars at California Elementary are gearing up for a healthier year by keeping a balance between a healthy lifestyle and doing what we love for our mental well-being. As we commit to a healthier mind and body, our PTA and CSEF are partnering with us to provide opportunities for every student to participate in a field trip this year, whether we are going somewhere or

bringing the experience to our school, our Cougars are expanding their learning beyond the classroom. Field trips include attending places like the South Coast Repertoire, Honda Center, OCC Planetarium, Lyon Air Museum and Centennial Farm. In addition to trips off campus, we are bringing cultural assemblies and experiences to campus like Chinese lion dancers, Polynesian drummers, traveling tidepools, Inside the Outdoors, Show Choir and much more! To kickstart our health and fitness resolution, our amazing Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Clifford, is spearheading our after-school Running Club this year with over 100 students in TK-6th grade, parent volunteers and student leaders. On behalf of our Cougar family at California Elementary, we hope you thrive in the Year of the Rabbit, finding your balance to do more of what you love most.



**Students in Show Choir practicing for our winter performance, Beauty and the Beast.**



**Show Choir students taking a moment to pose for a photo to promote our winter musical, Beauty and the Beast.**

## Cloud Campus (TK—12)

[www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus](http://www.nmusd.us/cloudcampus)



**Dr. Racquel Stephens**  
Principal

### The New Year at Cloud

As we begin the new year at Cloud our campus is vibrant and active! We are proud of Cloud Campus for being a viable virtual educational option for students in the NMUSD.

Families who have been considering virtual learning are now actively joining our school “In the Cloud.” Our teachers are pioneers in virtual learning, and they have designed a robust and rigorous curriculum that will engage our students in the online environment.

As we start the new year, our elementary students are having a Career Day where parents introduce their various careers in our Zoom Rooms. Parent representatives include a firefighter, an attorney, a business consultant, and a retired police captain! Elementary activities have also included GATE testing in January along with special

activities related to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Our secondary students have now started the spring semester, and will soon be having their school-wide assembly via Zoom. Here we will recognize academic achievement from the first semester, the PBIS character awards, and those special English language learner students who were recently reclassified as English proficient.

As a leadership team, we are always seeking new ways to engage in the kind of fun , virtual activities which can unite our students and bring a smile to their faces. There are several clubs being offered at Cloud, including a fitness club for elementary students, a video game club, a school spirit and leadership club, a K-Pop club, and a Latino culture club!

We are looking forward to growing and building our virtual community of scholars “In the Cloud”!

## College Park Elementary (K-6)

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • [collegepark.nmusd.us](http://collegepark.nmusd.us)



**Jake Topete**  
Principal

### Lunar New Year Celebration

College Park is home to Newport Mesa’s Mandarin Immersion Program. Students enrolled in our program spend a portion of their day learning the Mandarin language. Currently we have classes from kindergarten through sixth grade. After promotion, students continue their Mandarin journey at

Costa Mesa Middle School and then eventually Costa Mesa High School. Each year our students enrolled in the program spend time learning about Chinese culture and celebrations. At College Park we celebrate the Lunar New Year. 2023 is the year of the Rabbit, and to kick off our celebrations we had Lion Dancers come to our Flag Deck to perform. It was a great performance and a wonderful way to kick off the Lunar New Year as a whole community.



**Lion Dancers performed to celebrate the beginning of the Lunar New Year.**

## Corona del Mar High School (7-12)

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • [cdm.nmusd.us](http://cdm.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Rebecca Gogel**  
Principal  
7-8 Grade



**Jake Haley**  
Principal  
9-12 Grade

### "Be Kind to Your Mind" Week 2023

*Katherine Popper,  
12th Grade Student*

"Be Kind to Your Mind" week is one of the yearly week-long campaigns put on by Corona del Mar's Human Relations Council. The group, more commonly known around campus as

HRC, focuses on creating an environment of kindness, tolerance, and diversity around campus, and "Be Kind to Your Mind" is just one of four campaigns they put on every year. This week focuses on, as its name suggests, treating oneself well, and focusing on the mental well-being of the individual. Senior Cali Ward shares that to her, "Be Kind to Your Mind" week is about "spreading awareness about different mental health issues that a lot of students might be experiencing."

The week started off with the traditional passing out of bracelets during the third period on Tuesday which students love. The bracelets are one of the most beloved traditions of campaign weeks around campus and herald in the rest of the events that follow. This year the events

included Instagram posts that HRC members posted on their stories every day as well as a stress ball-making lunchtime event. The social media posts had various sayings and reminders on them to let people know that they matter and that no matter what the situation is they should always make sure that not only are their friends alright, but so are they. The stress-ball-making event during lunch towards the end of the week was a fun event where any student who wanted to could gather to spend time in a funny community while creating something that they could take with them afterward. As a relatively easy craft, it did not require too much focus and instead allowed people to simply have fun with each other.

"Be Kind to Your Mind" week has a large impact on campus as one of HRC's biggest campaigns that are done every year. Co-President Sia Vijj reveals that when she first heard about "Be Kind to Your Mind" week her freshman year it made her "feel comfortable, and that's part of why [she] joined HRC [her] sophomore year." Vijj is not the only one on campus to be inspired by this week. Its core message of self-love while also talking about, and therefore destigmatizing the topic of mental health is something that resonates with many students at CdM, and it is why this week is such a well-known and popular campaign to host every year.

## Costa Mesa High School / Middle School (7-12)

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • [cmhs.nmusd.us](http://cmhs.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Eugene Kwong**  
Principal  
7-8 Grade



**Dr. Dipali Potnis**  
Principal  
9-12 Grade

### Accomplishment and Exploration

One of the greatest aspects of a high school campus is the spirit and energy our students bring forth at events. On January 28th, our cheerleaders competed at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach for CIF State. We want to

congratulate our cheerleaders for winning CIF State! These ladies brought forth energy, enthusiasm, and confidence. A huge shoutout to our coaches and families for attending this event. This is the second year in a row that this team has received this title. This does not happen without hard work and dedication. Congrats!

In partnership with Coastline ROP, Vital Link, and NMUSD, Costa Mesa Middle School hosted a Career Exhibit Day for all 7th and 8th grade students. Middle school students experienced various careers including automotive, CPR, EMR/EMT, VEX robotics, and emergency medical devices. Costa Mesa High School's current career and technical education pathways were on display as well

which included sports medicine, child development, digital media, and engineering. We hope our students walked away from this experience with more knowledge on their potential career options.



## Davis Magnet (K-6)

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • [davismagnet.nmusd.us](https://davismagnet.nmusd.us)



**Christy Flores**  
Principal

### Congratulations Marco!

It gives us enormous #davisduckspride to celebrate our Head Custodian, Marco Chirinos, who was named NMUSD Classified Employee of the Year. Marco has served as the Head Custodian at Davis Magnet School for three

years. He has made a significant positive impact across our campus during a short period of time. Marco is known around the Davis community as being helpful, kind, hardworking, and positive. Marco's



initiative and keen observations lend to an efficient, clean, and productive school campus. Many Davis team members offered support and encouragement for Marco's well-deserved recognition. Occupational Therapist, Jean You, shared the team's sentiment of Marco by stating, "Marco has a natural ability to welcome, be present, and respond quickly. He is a model of professionalism. His job is not easy, but you would never know it. His demeanor and language are consistently positive and thoughtful. Marco is appreciated!" Congratulation Marco on your well-deserved award!

## Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • [earlycollege.nmusd.us](https://earlycollege.nmusd.us)



**Dr. David Martinez**  
Principal

### Celebrating Students

During the week of January 23-26, we celebrated our students' first semester accomplishments in the areas of Outstanding Citizenship (3 or more Outstanding Citizenship marks achieved), Principal's Honor Roll (3.5 or higher unweighted academic grade point average) and the California Scholarship Federation (based on the number of As and Bs in college preparatory high school courses

and college courses taken). Among the entire student body, 30.5% earned the Outstanding Citizenship Award, 45.5% earned the Principal's Honor Roll Award, and 55% earned the California Scholarship Federation Award (highest rate in school history). These continue to be incredible achievements by our ECHS COLLEGE BOUND SCHOLARS!



ECHS will be holding 8th grade presentations at all 5 NMUSD feeder schools during the months of January and February. An ECHS Information Night for students currently in private middle schools and their parents will be held on February 2nd. ECHS will also hold events on campus for 2023-24 applicants in the coming weeks. Prospective students are invited to take part in any one of our two ECHS Student Shadow Days occurring on February 24th and April 14th. In between these two dates, prospective applicants and their families are invited to attend our Open House on March 23rd. All information on these events and our 2023-24 ECHS application is available online at <https://earlycollege.schoolloop.com>. The 2023-24 Application deadline is May 5th. Please call 714-424-7990 on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. if you have any questions.



## Eastbluff *Elementary* (K-6)

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • [eastbluff.nmusd.us](http://eastbluff.nmusd.us)



**Cheryl Beck**  
Principal

### Reading Celebrations at Eastbluff School!

The week of January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup> was our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Read-a-thon! Our students did an amazing job all week reading, logging their minutes, and asking their family and friends to pledge for them! Our classrooms were full of creative reading activities: Guest Readers, Mystery Readers, Reading Buddies activities, Reading Café, Edible Book Reports and More! Some

classrooms challenged their grade level partner to reading goal challenges on Accelerated Reader! Our students collectively read hundreds of books this week and had so much fun! We finished the week with a PJ Dress Day to celebrate our love for reading! A huge thank you goes out to our PTA for coordinating this great event and our teachers for their creative fun classroom activities. We know that reading is essential for our students' future and our students really showed their passion for reading through this week's celebration! We are so proud of our Eastbluff Students! GO Otters!



## Horace Ensign *Intermediate* (7-8)

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • [ensign.nmusd.us](http://ensign.nmusd.us)



**Samantha Payne**  
Principal

### AVID Program

Ensign Intermediate proudly highlights their AVID program. We currently have six sections of the AVID (Achievement Via Individual Determination) elective on our campus as well as 15 staff members trained in AVID strategies. Our AVID students are committed to their academics and organization skills which will allow them to be college and career ready. They have visited UCI already this year and will visit CSU Long Beach this spring to experience what it is like to be on a college

campus. Our AVID teachers work closely together and with the AVID department at Newport Harbor High School to ensure our students are fully prepared to succeed in high school. The AVID staff will also be organizing a college week for the entire campus with activities taking place in each classroom to celebrate, educate, and explore the various aspects of college experiences, programs, applications, and financial aid. We are excited to continue to grow this program and support a school wide commitment to providing every student the skills and courses necessary for the opportunity to attend college.

## Estancia High School

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • [estancia.nmusd.us](http://estancia.nmusd.us)



**Michael Halt**  
Principal

### Eagles Dedicated to Demonstrating Kindness

The Acts of Random Kindness (ARK) Club has been busy coordinating special events for students at Estancia High School. In December, the ARK Club worked with a local non-profit organization to bring therapy dogs on the school campus before semester finals. Students were invited to participate in the stress relief wellness event during lunch. In January, ARK Club members celebrated International Day of Acceptance, a day dedicated to the social acceptance of disability, by making friendship bracelets for students with special needs. ARK Club members also started receiving training through the Orange County Department of Education to serve as student advocates for mental health. ARK Club members will lead a campaign on the Estancia campus this spring to increase awareness about

mental health, support suicide prevention, reduce stigma related to mental illness, increase help seeking behaviors, and promote access to mental health services. Over the next few months, the students will present information to their peers, coordinate schoolwide awareness activities, and conduct parents and staff outreach.



**Estancia students enjoying a little stress relief before final exams**

## Harbor View Elementary (K-6)

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • [harborview.nmusd.us](http://harborview.nmusd.us)



**Gabriel Del Real**  
Principal

### Brent Poppen

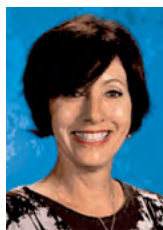
On January 17th, Harbor View Elementary was fortunate to welcome Paralympian and motivational speaker Mr. Brent Poppen. During his visit, Mr. Poppen met with all grade levels, where he shared his personal story and uplifting message reminding students that hard work, positivity, and determination are instrumental in achieving one's goals. At the age of sixteen, Brent Poppen was paralyzed. During his visit, he shared his moving story of overcoming this tragedy and using his positive attitude to push himself physically. When sharing his story with students, he continually reiterated the importance of pushing through adversity and ignoring those who tell us that we cannot achieve our dreams. Winning a bronze Medal at the Paralympics in tennis and rugby, Mr. Poppen is a true champion, and we value his time.



**Paralympian Brent Poppen teaching second grade students at Harbor View Elementary School.**

## Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • [kaiser.nmusd.us](http://kaiser.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Deborah Granger**  
Principal

### The Play's the Thing!

Kaiser's Parent Faculty Organization (PFO) orchestrates our annual school musical. With great appreciation for their commitment, sixty Kaiser Knights took to the stage in the beautiful Loats Performing Arts Center at Newport Harbor High

School. After months of afterschool rehearsals, our young thespians took the show on the road and performed for our Woodland friends. Then, it was time for the big show! Knights donned their costumes, took deep breaths, and knocked the socks off student and family audiences. Behind the scenes were dedicated Kaiser parent volunteers alongside students

and staff from NHHS. *Aladdin, Jr.* reflects our dream of creating a robust theater arts pipeline with Newport Harbor High School. It was tough to decide what was more exciting - seeing Kaiser Knights shine or see them pursue their passions. It doesn't get better than that!



**Kaiser Knights provide a sneak peek of *Aladdin, Jr.* to their Woodland friends before the big show!**

## Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • [killybrooke.nmusd.us](http://killybrooke.nmusd.us)



**Laura Sosa**  
Principal

### Best Buddies

Killybrooke is proud to be the first Best Buddies Chapter representing Newport Mesa's Elementary Schools. With just under a year of planning, we were able to launch

our official chapter in October with over 40 student volunteers dedicated to promoting inclusivity. Our Best Buddies meetings aim to educate neuro typical peers on the social barriers for our students with intellectual and development disabilities. Students have built the foundation for one-to-one friendships and leadership development in a meaningful way on campus. On designated Fridays, Best Buddies meet with the support of staff to foster heightened social



and emotional development while engaging all students with learning games and hands on activities. Many of our students with intellectual and development disabilities communicate using assistive technologies, yet they continuously show us just how they are able to connect with their buddies at each meeting. Whether we are decorating cookies, reading a book to each other, or making homemade ice cream, laughter seems to be the consistent thread for everyone. Killybrooke is honored to provide these opportunities that give everyone the chance to speak up, be heard and advocate for themselves and others in our inclusive community.

## Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • [lincoln.nmusd.us](http://lincoln.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Kristin DeMicco**  
*Principal*

### Spotlight on Music and Theater at Lincoln

During the 22-23 school year, our students have had the opportunity to be back on stage, both here on campus and out in the community.

Our TK-6th grade students sang for a standing room

production of Little Mermaid Jr. which will take place in March. For many of our Leopards, musical theater is a completely new endeavor, and I am so proud of our cast of students for participating in what will surely be a fantastic show. It is wonderful to see our students shining on stage!

only crowd at our Winter Concert, our Lincoln band performed at the Snoopy House in December, and our Lincoln Chorus performed at the CDM Christmas Walk as well as at the CDM Middle school and High School Winter Concert. As we enter a new calendar year, we have a group of 4th-6th grade students rehearsing two days per week after school for their



## Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • [mariners.nmusd.us](http://mariners.nmusd.us)



**Matthew Broesamle**  
*Principal*

### Good Choices Week

Each year our PTA sponsors Good Choices Week in January. We partnered with the American Heart Association and the Kids Heart Challenge to kick off this year's event. This year's goal is to have as many families as possible learn Hands-Only CPR by completing missions within the Kids Heart Challenge. Students also learned the value of hard work, perseverance, and determination during a BMX assembly. The students and

staff were entertained by all the jumps and stunts, but also learned valuable lessons during the presentation. The following day, all our students attended cyber safety assemblies. Students learned and discussed the importance of communicating with kindness online, protecting themselves from people they don't know, and how to be good digital citizens. We were also able to host an evening for parents to dive deeper into cyber safety and have great discussions around the importance of monitoring our kids' online activity, especially when using social media. We are so grateful for our partnership with our PTA, and the work they do to align their programs to our school's PBIS goals and expectations.



**Students learn all about the Kids Heart Challenge from the American Heart Association**

## Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • [nce.nmusd.us](http://nce.nmusd.us)



**Somer Harding**  
*Principal*

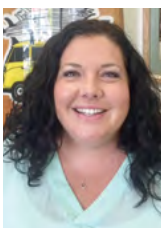
### It Has Been a Privilege

It has been a joy and a privilege to have been the school principal for the last four years. I am excited to be transitioning into a new position as Director of Health Services for Newport Mesa, where I will work with the health needs of all students K-12. We are fortunate to have Mrs. Anderson, the retired principal of Sonora Elementary, able to manage the school until a replacement is named as the new principal of this wonderful school.

I have such fondness for the students, staff, teachers and community here. Newport Coast is a wonderful school with quite an international flair. I have enjoyed learning about so many different cultures during my time here. As we approach the springtime, a new principal will have the pleasure of getting to know all about our 6th grade play, STEAM night, community track meets, Coyote Store, as well as HOWL behaviors that help our students be their very best selves. I wish the new principal, and everyone at NCE much happiness and success in the future.

## Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • [newportel.nmusd.us](http://newportel.nmusd.us)



**Amanda Estrada**  
*Principal*

### Character Counts

Each month we recognize students with a Character Counts Shout Out award at flag deck. These are students who embody our “best on the beach” values of being ready, responsible, and respectful. These students

set an example of integrity and kindness.

We recently participated in the Great Kindness Challenge January 23-27. For the challenge, students are encouraged to complete as many acts of kindness as possible from the list on the challenge card. All week long, students participated in activities that focused on spreading kindness and empathy throughout the school community. Each day students discussed a quote about kindness, read a book with the theme of kindness, and did a related activity. One of the students' favorite rocks was painting a rock to add to our “Kindness Rocks” rock garden. Our 6th Grade Student Leadership Crew also collected laundry items like detergent, laundry baskets, hangers, and dryer sheets to donate to Project Hope Alliance whose mission is to end the cycle of homelessness. The challenge week may be over, but we know that the kindness and empathy shown will continue to have an impact on our school community.



# Newport Harbor *High School* (9-12)

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • [nhhs.nmusd.us](http://nhhs.nmusd.us)



**Sean Boulton**  
Principal

## High School Nationals

Pep Squad traveled to Las Vegas to compete in the High School Nationals. The Varsity Song team placed 2nd in High School

Pom, and the Varsity Cheer team placed 1st in the Nation! All the teams did amazing, and we could not be more proud of their hard work this competition season!



# Newport Heights *Elementary* (K-6)

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • [newportheights.nmusd.us](http://newportheights.nmusd.us)



**Terri Clarke**  
Principal

## Great Kindness Challenge

This January, Newport Heights Elementary School participated in The Great Kindness Challenge for the fourth consecutive year. Students made commitments to show kindness through the checklist challenge, were greeted in the mornings with positive chalk art messages and Shark Squad members with kindness reminders, made hearts with their pledges of

kindness that were hung for the whole school to see, and wrote kindness cards to pass out to classmates and staff. Messages of kindness were sprinkled throughout the week through books and positive-message T-shirts.

The most impactful part of the week was our special visit by author, motivational speaker and bronze-medal Paralympian Brent Poppen. He provided motivating assemblies for every class, visited classrooms, and took time with our students on the playground at recess and lunch. He answered student questions, demystifying physical injuries and disabilities, and allowed students to “walk in his shoes” by trying out one of his specialized wheelchairs, all while encouraging each and every student. He is a true inspiration!

A mantra and lesson that Mr. Poppen shared was this: “We need kindness in our heart and the mental attitude that anything is possible!” The week was a huge success in our kindness movement. Congratulations to NHES for being a Kindness Certified School 2023!



## Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • [paularino.nmusd.us](http://paularino.nmusd.us)



**Annalisa Schwartz**  
*Principal*

### Character Counts!

Our Paularino Panthers are hard at work learning through the day; however, not all learning is about academics. At Paularino, we also focus on building productive community members and citizens for the future.

At Paularino, character education has always been an integral part of our campus, and now it is more important than ever. Students strive to make positive decisions and learn how to become better students, peers and community members. Students learn about the character pillars of Caring, Citizenship, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Trustworthiness. Lessons can be in the classroom with their teacher, provided by our school

counselor, and even during weekly scheduled library time with our school librarian reading books about positive character attributes.

When a student is caught doing something outstanding in one of the character pillars, they are awarded a Panther Paw. Panther Paws are part of our Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS). Students then can place their Panther Paw in a drawing for an incentive such as a treat, a free book, a restaurant certificate or a mystery prize. Panther Paws are then drawn on Fridays during our schoolwide Flag Deck assembly, and students are recognized for their positive character traits and given their prize.

Students work hard to be recognized for their positive behaviors at school. Keep up the great work Panthers!

## Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • [pomona.nmusd.us](http://pomona.nmusd.us)



**Cindy Pedroso**  
*Principal*

### Enrichment Opportunities

Pomona has had a very busy winter season; our panthers are truly thriving. This year we had the great pleasure of adding new enrichment opportunities for our students through the after-school program. Students were able to participate in STEM and Musical Theater. It was such a pleasure to be able to showcase our wonderfully talented students as they presented Seussical the Musical to a full house of

family, staff, and friends. Additionally, we had musical performances directed by our incredible music teachers. It is always a great joy to invite our community to enjoy this special treat.

We are looking forward to even more great opportunities and experiences for our students in the new year. This January we began dance for students in Tk-6th and all sports for students in grades 3-6. We are thrilled to be able to expose our students to several enrichment opportunities where they can build confidence and become well rounded individuals. #pomonapride



## Everett A. Rea *Elementary (K-6)*

661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • [rea.nmusd.us](http://rea.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Lorie Hoggard**  
*Principal*

### AVID Family Night

Rea AVID Family Nights promote family involvement in each student's journey to college. Our January AVID Family Night focused on the importance of being a strong reader and proficient writer. The evening began with dinner and an informative PTA meeting. During the evening, we showcased our recent school writing project. All Rea students wrote a unique narrative story with the same title, "A Shark Named Rea," featuring our school mascot. Students from each class were recognized, with guest readers reading the stories aloud to the audience of more than 250 parents, students, staff, and volunteers. Our Early College High School partners (also an AVID School) supported our event with one of our former Rea students sharing an update on her college application process. Our next AVID Family Night is in March and will feature hands-on parent-student activities that promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



**Rea Student Author meeting guest readers NMUSD Board President Ashley Anderson, Costa Mesa City Council Member Manuel Chavez, and Early College Principal Dave Martinez before going on stage for the event.**

## Sonora *Elementary (PK-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • [sonora.nmusd.us](http://sonora.nmusd.us)



**Mia Doidge**  
*Principal*

### Thinking Maps

Sonora Elementary Eagles are making great strides in their thinking. We have been implementing Thinking Maps school wide since August, which are a brain-based set of visual patterns that help students develop critical thinking, comprehension, and communication skills. Students have been applying and demonstrating their learning by comparing concepts in math, identifying sequence of events in a story, categorizing nouns, and showing relationships with antonyms. Our students are collaborating consistently and using Thinking Maps more independently to show their great ideas!



## Charles W. TeWinkle *Middle School (7-8)*

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • [tewinkle.nmusd.us](http://tewinkle.nmusd.us)



**Ixchel Sanchez**  
*Principal*

### A New Mural

TeWinkle is proud to announce in partnership with Orange County United Way the painting of a beautiful new mural. It was an electrifying event of generosity.

We are extremely grateful to Orange County United Way

because the mural would not have been possible without their support and nurturing of Mr. Howard. We cannot begin to express our gratitude sufficiently; it is supporters like Orange County United Way that allows us to beautify our school. We choose the mural specifically because we believe in educating the hearts and minds of all our students and that begins with being kind to one another.

Be Kind give us a common language of kindness to discuss, teach, and share. This means embedding a culture of kindness in the minds of our TeWinkle students of how kindness can impact the world around them including their peers, friends, families, and community.



## Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • [victoria.nmusd.us](http://victoria.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Aaron Peralta**  
*Principal*

### 21st Century Learning Happens Here!

Thanks to our amazingly generous PTA, our students are taking STEM learning to a whole new level. Every Friday we have a codeCampus instructor come in and guide our students through grade-specific STEAM pedagogies, such as computer science, 3D printing and robotics, helping them to develop comfort and confidence using



technology as part of their normal school day activities. They just can't get enough time figuring out technology and programming – and that's positively impacting their experience in math and overall, in the classroom. We're excited to watch our students this year master these challenging concepts in a fun and engaging way!

## Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • [whittier.nmusd.us](http://whittier.nmusd.us)



**Randy Lempert**  
*Principal*

### Enrichment Opportunities

Our talented and inquisitive students at Whittier are taking full advantage of the enrichment opportunities available to them. At Whittier, we are proud to offer before and after school programs for students to help them thrive both in and out of the classroom. Some students arrive on our campus as early as 6:45AM as they prepare for their day of learning at school. For our afterschool options, Newport Mesa's Project Kidz Connect program serves over 100 students. This year they've partnered with other agencies to provide a robust after school experience for students which have included sports, science, and dance.

Seen in the picture below, students are working as a team on a STEM project during their Science Enrichment class. An educator from Discovery Cube helps facilitate rich discussions and hands-on activities with our young dolphins. We offer two classes for

students to ensure age-appropriate lessons are given with a TK-2nd grade group and a 3rd – 5th grade class. We feel so lucky to offer these rewarding experiences for our students to keep them continually engaged in their learning – even after the school bells rings at the end of the day.



## Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • [wilson.nmusd.us](http://wilson.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Jennifer Heckert**  
*Principal*

### Wilson Wildcats Recognized for Language Achievement

Wilson Wildcats are ROARing! Many Wildcats are proud to be bilingual and some are developing their English language skills. English Language

Development (ELD) is part of every wildcat's daily learning during our ELD rotations. Wilson staff work hard to collaborate and plan lessons to support the needs of our students. We recently recognized 25 students for being reclassified as English proficient. These students were celebrated for their hard work at our weekly Wildcat Rally! We are so proud of their dedication and appreciate the support of our staff and community!



# Woodland Elementary (K-2)

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • [woodland.nmusd.us](http://woodland.nmusd.us)



**Dr. Amy Nagy**  
Principal

## Raising Funds and Fun

Kaiser and Woodland students and staff are fortunate to have two foundations that support our schools by raising funds and the fun!

Our KWPF0 funds many great enrichment activities like Art Masters, assemblies, field trips, and recess art. They also provide supplementary funds to support classroom activities

and site improvement projects.

Our We Love STEM Foundation funds a STEM teacher who meets with students weekly for six sessions to explore engineering using the scientific method. An additional instructor teaches students how to code.

Both organizations come up with creative ways to fundraise. These include community fun events. In addition to many great events, they organize the Valentine's Dance, Jog-A-Thon, Carnival, and Camping Under the Stars.

These supportive organizations help make Woodland a GREAT place to learn!



**This first grader is focused as she engineers a paper rocket!**

## Fun Things and Places—Word Search Contest

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

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put NMUSD in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by March 30, 2023**

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

Thank you Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics for sponsoring our contest.

**[BarkateNehiSmiles.com](http://BarkateNehiSmiles.com)**

CARNIVAL	CAMP
HOME	SEASHORE
SCHOOL	FARM
PARK	ZOO
SLIDES	HIKE
SWINGS	BIKE RIDE
ROAD TRIP	REUNION
PARTY	CRUISE
MOVIE	SKATING
POOL	VIDEOS
FOREST	





## David's Review



**David H.**

### Smart and Funny

Title: *Matilda*

Author: Roald Dahl

Matilda is a book about an intelligent girl whose parents neglect her. When she starts going to school, she meets a nice and caring teacher, Miss Honey. Matilda



later discovers that she has a special talent. What is her special talent? You should read the book not just to find out but also if you want to laugh! The things that Matilda does throughout the book were funny and the author's writing is hilarious. This is one of my favorite books and I'm sure it will be yours too!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.

## Tegan's Book Review



**Tegan**

### Mysterious Saves

*The In-Between*, a captivating fiction written by Rebecca Ansari, revolves around the complicated life of Cooper, a teenage boy living in a poor household, with the absence of a father.

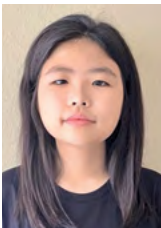


As a strange new neighbor; a young girl named "Elena" moves in alone, Cooper and his younger sister Jess start to investigate the secrets she hides.

While Cooper and Jess realize that Elena has been the ignored figure that saved one juvenile's life each mass incident, they fail to quickly recognize that Elena herself has to die painfully and wake up only to repeat the process. Cooper and Jess introduce themselves into the dark world where the mysterious girl is trapped in between life and death, and make it their mission to save Elena. Readers are taught the importance of remembering the forgotten and what it means to be seen. All in all, I rate this novel 5/5.

Tegan Y. is a fifth grader who enjoys art, biking, writing, and reading.

## Taegyong's Book Review



**Taegyong K.**

### Absolutely Nothing

Title: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*

Author: Judy Blume

Fourth grade. The days of kickball at recess. The grade of joy. But Peter Hatcher doesn't think so. But that isn't even the problem. His



problem lies with Farley Drexel. Or Fudge as everyone calls him. Fudge is all the world's irritating toddler brothers merged into one. A three-year old terror straight out of the cinema's next horror movie who gets away with all he does. Even if it's smearing some mashed potatoes on the wall of the restaurant or putting stamps all over a bag, he's never punished. Of course, by this point Peter has had enough of his chaotic brother and no-nonsense parents. But his parents are busy with Fudge rather than paying any attention to Peter. After they leave Fudge alone with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle that he cares so much about out, things get ugly. Will Peter solve his problems, or is he truly nothing

Taegyong K. is a 7th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Hard work and Dedication

"I've Got This!" is book 1 of 8 in the *Perfect Balance Gymnastics Series* by Melissa Torres. The story is about Trista Thompson, a young tumbler who has just moved to Utah and wants to join a competitive



gymnastics team. Since she is great at tumbling, she believes she can quickly and easily learn all gymnastics skills. Can she learn gymnastics skills quickly? What does it take for Trista to be part of the team? Will she be good enough to join the team?

I like all of the books in the *Perfect Balance Gymnastics Series*, especially this one. As a competitive gymnast, reading this book at the start of my new gymnastics season encourages me to try new skills and work harder to improve my existing skills. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars and would highly recommend it to anyone who loves gymnastics or wants to explore the world of gymnasts.

Kailani is a 5th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and ride horses.

## Yoona's Review



**Yoona C.**

### Friendships

Title: *Rules*  
Author: Cynthia Lord  
Catherine is a 12 year old girl that is talented in drawing. She has a brother named David. David is diagnosed with autism.



David and Catherine's mom would go to OT. Catherine would sometimes come to. That's where Catherine met a friend called Jason. Jason is a teenage boy in a wheelchair that can't talk. They first meet when Catherine is bored and draws Jason. Jason catches her and tells his mom with his communication book. Jason's mom gets angry, but that soon leads to Catherine making word cards for Jason. Catherine also meets another person named Kristi. Kristi is a "cool" girl as said by Catherine. At first, Catherine is embarrassed to tell Kristi she has a brother that has autism and a friend who is in a wheelchair. Will Catherine learn to value good friendships? Will she find out what is truly important to her? Read to find out!

Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

## Sourish's Review



**Sourish M.**

### The Hidden Leader Within

Have you met someone you haven't seen in a while, especially one close to you? Well this book, *The Traveler*, talks about the main character Aramar Thorne who is shocked by the sudden emergence of



his father Captain Greydon Thorne. Greydon

takes Aramar on a journey with him but after several months, the ship is attacked by the raiders known as the Hidden. It left Aramar and Second Mate Makasa Flitwill all alone to lead themselves back home. The many questions that Aramar had was about the special compass that his father had given to him right before the shipwreck. Little did he know that the compass was the key to something greater than him. *The Traveler* offers a magnificent roller coaster ride in emotions and is overall a really great book. It displays the message of using leadership skills and knowledge when the time comes. You have to Endure...

Sourish M. is a seventh grader who is enthusiastic to learn more and experience new things. He likes Science and Reading, plays soccer, basketball, guitar, and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours coding and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.



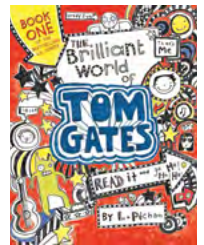
## Daniel's Review



**Daniel H.**

### Very Funny Book!

Title: *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates*  
Author: Liz Pichon  
The Brilliant World of Tom Gates is about a boy named Tom. Tom and his best friend Derek are in a band called Dog Zombies



and they both want to go to a Dude3 concert but Tom has many silly problems to deal with. Read this book to see what happens and to laugh out loud! This book is very funny and has really funny pictures. I loved this book and can't wait to read the other books in this series!

Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.

## Jenna's Review



**Jenna C.**

### Have it all!

Title: *Almanac 2021*  
Which language has the most first language speakers? You might want to hit up for an almanac. What's an almanac? It's basically a book that



speaks facts. Maybe you

don't like that type of person, but you might like that type of book. Maybe you can also learn more things like, do you want to know where Alexander the Great was buried? How future homes may be built? Studying rocks? It has it all. From wanting to study stars to knowing about the coolest cats, you can imagine. It's as real as red being red and green being green but, as versatile as the library books.

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

# Orange County Department of Education

## Ensure Justice 2023 conference



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
*Superintendent*

Human trafficking has been described as a modern-day form of slavery that affects millions around the world. It can take many forms, including forced labor, sex trafficking and domestic servitude, and the need for communities to act is urgent.

That's why I am proud to announce the upcoming Ensure Justice 2023 conference, hosted by

Vanguard University's Global Center for Women and Justice and the Orange County Department of Education on March 3 and March 4.

Based on the theme "Finding A Way Home," this year's conference will bring together experts, survivors, law enforcement representatives, educators and community leaders to discuss human trafficking trends, challenges and solutions. Along with in-person sessions at Vanguard's Costa Mesa campus, there will also be virtual presentations, making it accessible to attendees from Orange County and beyond. Students, parents, educators, social workers, service providers, law enforcement representatives, community members and others are encouraged to register in advance at [www.gcwj.org/ensurejustice](http://www.gcwj.org/ensurejustice).

Ensure Justice 2023 will examine how to build robust community engagement and resources that support children and youth at risk. Presentations will focus specifically on children and youth who face housing insecurity, have experienced multiple foster care placements, or have to navigate other challenging systems — in other words, the most vulnerable.

"Children with abuse and neglect in their story are more vulnerable to risky behavior that can even result in being exploited through human trafficking," says Dr. Sandra Morgan, director of the Global Center for Women and Justice. "Prevention is our goal. We need to build guard rails so youth don't fall over the edge of a cliff. That means exploring resources in our community to keep children safe, strong and resilient."

Katherine Givens, who leads a survivor-led nonprofit called Twelve 11 Partners, will be this year's keynote speaker. Givens also serves on the White House Advisory Council on Human Trafficking and was recently profiled in People Magazine's Jan. 19 issue on human trafficking survivors. Other featured presenters include the Hon. Craig E. Arthur, presiding Juvenile Court judge for the Orange County Superior Court, and Jeanne Awrey, homeless education coordinator for the Orange County Department of Education.

Additional OCDE speakers will break down the challenges facing youth, including homelessness, the foster care system and substance abuse.

As Orange County residents, we all have a role to play in creating a safer and more just community. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about human trafficking, to raise awareness and to join us in the search for solutions. Together, we can ensure justice for all.

For more information on Ensure Justice 2023, or to register for the event, visit [www.gcwj.org/ensurejustice](http://www.gcwj.org/ensurejustice).