

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Volume 19, Issue 103

June 2023

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Character Counts at Newport-Mesa



Dr. Wesley Smith
Superintendent

Each year we recognize one senior from each high school who personifies a character trait: caring, citizenship, courage, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness. We have no shortage of incredible students, and it is gratifying to annually recognize a few seniors who reflect strong leadership traits and embody a culture of kindness.

Congratulations to the following students selected for this honor:

Elly Goan,

Estancia High School — Caring

Elly is a positive force who exhibits genuine concern and compassion for everyone. She is someone other students can confide in, someone who will actively listen to them and connect with them. She has a caring demeanor and a natural ability to be a positive influence on her peers.

Luca Fasulo,

Corona del Mar High School — Citizenship

Luca is a model of good citizenship and always does the right thing. Luca is mature beyond his years. Through his roles in ASB, the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee, and member of the School Site Council, Luca exemplifies excellent citizenship as he collaborates with teachers, peers, parents and the community to foster an improved school culture.

Davian Gonzalez,

Back Bay High School — Courage

Davian has shown the courage to ignore the stereotypes that come with poor grades and some bad luck in life and is now unlocking his potential. Through his involvement in Back Bay's Spyder Lab program, he earned multiple career-advancing certifications and now serves as a role model and mentor for other students.

Alizé Castellanos,

Early College High School — Fairness

Alizé shows compassion and fairness, and she searches for the truth and ensures that her peers have opportunities to be heard. She defends people who are unfairly represented and listens to and considers all points of view to achieve a balanced perspective. Her reasoning and analysis is consistently fair and demonstrates a sense of civic duty and responsibility.

Shay Wood,

Newport Harbor High School — Respect

Shay is among one of the most respectful students. She puts in the effort to be punctual and prepared, considerate of the time of her teachers and peers. Shay is also respectful of her peers' thoughts and contributions, always allowing others the opportunity to share and collaborate.

Lauren James,

Cloud Campus — Responsibility

Lauren is exceptionally responsible, taking ownership of a task, being proactive and tenacious in thoroughly and thoughtfully completing a task. In addition to several Advanced Placement courses, Lauren attends weekly Korean classes and tutors younger students. She takes an active role in caring for younger family members and volunteers tutoring students in multiple subjects.

Tiana Luong,

Costa Mesa High School — Trustworthiness

Tiana is so trustworthy that teachers claim they would trust her to watch their own kids, and even trust her with their bank accounts. She can always be counted on to do the right thing, and she knows her boundaries and does not overcommit when she does not have time to put her best effort into something.

Getting to know these students and their genuine good-natured approach to life is something that is Leaving a legacy for future generations of students. Congratulations to these exceptional students and I wish them luck in their future endeavors.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Smith begins this issue highlighting a few of the many seniors who exemplify character traits. Congratulations to the honorees and thank you to all of the students not highlighted who exhibit character traits on a daily basis.

Our next issue is October 11. Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your activities.



**Congratulations
Class of 2023!**



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City of Costa Mesa



John Stephens
Mayor

The City of Costa Mesa was incorporated in June of 1953, and this year we are celebrating the Summer of the 70th with several key concerts and events.

Our signature event will be our July 3 Independence Day Celebration at the OC Fair & Event Center from 5-11 p.m. with music by the 80s Allstarz and the ever-popular Tijuana Dogs, who are headlining for their third year.

Parking and entry are free with giveaways for kids and hot dogs provided by our Costa Mesa Fire Association. The fireworks show starts at 9:30 p.m. Bring lawn chairs and blankets!

And don't miss the City Council and other local officials doing our traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence at the start of the show.

The Summer of the 70th celebrations include Movies in the Park on three Saturdays this summer, June 17 at Lions Park, July 15 at Balearic Park, and Aug. 19 at TeWinkle. Our famous Concerts in the Park will resume at Fairview Park on July 11, 18 and 25.

Please join us as we celebrate 70 years of Costa Mesa all summer long!

77 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/754-5107
www.costamesaca.gov

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue



Dan Stefano
Fire Chief

Congratulations to NMUSD's graduates and their families on successfully completing an extraordinary chapter in your lives! We also share heartfelt gratitude, thanks and respect to all of the amazing NMUSD educators, coaches, administrators, staff and volunteers who have given so much of themselves to thoughtfully teach, mentor, coach, support and guide NMUSD's students throughout K-12!



Graduates, we wish you the absolute best on your next chapter of life's journey. May you always strive to BE KIND to others and to yourself! BE TRUE to yourself and others. Do not ever let anyone, anything or a single moment in time define you – BE YOU! Embrace lifelong learning, get comfortable being uncomfortable.

FIND YOUR WHY,
NURTURE YOUR
PASSIONS &
FOLLOW YOUR
DREAMS!

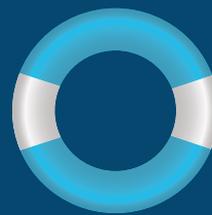


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Newport Beach Fire Department



Jeff Boyles
Fire Chief

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Newport Beach Public Libraries



Christine Chapel
Librarian,
Mariners Branch,
Newport Beach
Public Library

Find Your Voice!

Please join us for the Newport Beach Public Library's Summer Reading Program June 10 through July 29. This year's theme is "Find Your Voice" and encourages readers of all ages to find their voice through reading, writing, art, music, and movement. We offer adult, teen, and children's programs. The children's program is for all kids up to 6th grade. The teen program is for 7th-12th graders. Adults can join too, making it fun for families to participate together!

Register via Beanstack at newportbeachlibrary.org. This is where you keep track of your reading time and activities to earn prizes. Once registered, readers can pick up a free, new paperback book at their preferred Newport Beach Library location. Participants who complete the program will be entered into a GRAND PRIZE drawing. Readers can also write or draw book reviews. Each submitted book review will be entered into a weekly prize drawing.

Each library will have a special event every week. Performers are back and so are the live craft programs!

June 6, 13, 14, 17 - Michael Rayner

Join us for a combination of hilarious tricks and stunts with uproarious stand-up comedy for kids!

June 19, 20, 21, 24 - Find Your Voice with Words
Find your voice with crafts! Make a journal, create word art, write your name in new and fun ways.

June 26, 27, 28, July 1 - Kyle Tiernan

Learn to draw with Kyle Tiernan! Participants will follow along and complete three fun illustrations to take home. All supplies provided.

July 3, 5, 8 - Find Your Voice with Art

Crafts for kids to express themselves with different art techniques.

July 10, 11, 12, 15 - Wild Wonders

Meet face to face with animals while learning about their importance in nature.

July 17, 18, 19, 22 - Find Your Voice with Music & Movement

Find your voice through music by making some musical and groovy crafts!

July 24, 25, 26, 29 - Ben Band

Join us for a fun, family-friendly musical performance with The Ben Band!

Central Library 1000 Avocado Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660

949/717-3800 • 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

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Costa Mesa Public Libraries



Sarita Dangond
Branch Manager,
Costa Mesa
Donald Dungan
Library



Vivian Strabala
Branch Manager,
Costa Mesa
Mesa Verde
Library

A 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.



Systemwide programs:

Summer Reading June 12 – July 31, 2023

Kindergarten Readiness: OC Public Libraries has compiled resources and designed programs to support our families in getting ready for school.

Discover & Go: Explore Orange County museums and attractions through this exciting partnership between OC Public Libraries and local cultural institutions.

Park Passes: OC Public Libraries is partnering with California State Parks and the California State Library to offer free State Parks vehicle-day use passes, available for circulation at all branches of public libraries in California.

Please visit your branch in person or online at www.ocpl.org/events for current programming information, including storytimes, author events, book clubs, and fun events for children, teens, and adults!



**Mesa Verde
Library Calendar**



**Donald Dungan
Library Calendar**

OC Public Libraries 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

SUMMER FUN HAS BEGUN!

SUMMER 2023

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Adams *Elementary (K-6)*

2850 Club House Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7935 • adams.nmusd.us



Stacy deBoom - Howard
Principal

Great End to the Year!

As we end the 22-23 school year, we want to say thank you to our amazing school community for all their support!! We are very happy to end the year focusing on the abundant successes and academic progress our students have made, the

increase in family events and participation, and school-wide programs our All-Star Community was able to enjoy all year. From the arts residencies to the field trips to science camp and more, our All-Stars have made wonderful memories to last a lifetime!

Thank you to our amazing PTA Board and members who have supported us with events and given their time to

make our school a great place for our students, staff, and families. We appreciate you!

Have a safe and relaxing summer, All-Stars! Remember to read, practice your math facts/strategies, explore, rest and smile! See you August 21st!



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

1900 Port Seabourne Way, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6935 • andersen.nmusd.us



Dr. Tiffany Lewis
Principal

2nd Annual STEAM Family Night

Andersen Elementary held its 2nd Annual STEAM Family Night on Wednesday, May 10th. It was an interactive and unforgettable evening of Science, Technology,

Engineering, Arts, and Math for both parents and students.

Here's a taste of the exciting activities made available for our families:

- Spectacular BMX Stunt Show
 - Egg-citing Egg Parachute Drop
 - Amazing Andersen & CDM Robots
 - Rockin' Performances by our Rockband and Orchestra
 - Creative Art Projects & Fascinating Science Experiments
- ...and so much more!



Students discovered STEAM through hands-on activities designed for the whole family. To make the evening even more enjoyable, food trucks were on site serving up delicious dinner and treats!

Thank you PTA & DEANS for another unforgettable Andersen community Building Event!

Back Bay/Monte Vista *High School*

390 Monte Vista Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6900 • backbay.nmusd.us



Kirk Bauermeister
Principal

All Guts, No Glory

By Phoc P. Nguyen, Construction Mentor

The newly formed Back Bay Construction Mentorship has set sail. The goal is simple, live, learn, and work hard! These kids are the future foundation of America's infrastructure. They will be in the trenches, soaring on high rises and dangling from rooftops. They will be the new unsung heroes of everyday life. They will pave the roads for future generations. They will build the

schools our kids will learn in. They will build the hospitals where we treat our sick, they will build the homes we find comfort in. They will never be known because no one knew they were even there. They won't be in a suit and tie cutting a ceremonial opening ribbon. They were the dirt, the soil, the sweat that builds everything we see and will use. To the Back Bay Construction Crew, just remember, we are "all guts and no glory." We take pride in that. We don't need accolades; we need our communities to be a special and safe place..... Build Away!!!

I will always be by your side.



California *Elementary (K-6)*

3232 California St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7940 • california.nmusd.us

Thriving In and Outside of the Classroom

By Alice Formanek, Interim Principal

California Elementary is a place where students thrive both in and outside of the classroom. Not only are students hard at work every day in their classrooms and enjoying a variety of school wide assemblies and experiences, but they're also involved in after school activities.

One of the after school activities which has become an important part of the Cougar community is the Running Club. Mrs. Clifford, a veteran kindergarten teacher at

California, is the fearless leader of this optional program which supported 143 runners this year. Each week, Mrs. Clifford and the other volunteer coaches encouraged and motivated students as they ran 2 miles every week after school. The culminating activity for the group was to participate in the Kids Run the OC event. Over the course of the Running Club experience the students ran the equivalent of a marathon – 26 miles! We're so proud of our students and celebrate their huge accomplishment.



Cloud Campus (TK—12)

cloudcampus.nmusd.us



Dr. Racquel Stephens
Principal

Our Final Year was a Great One

Cloud Campus is in full swing with end-of-year activities. Our students had a busy month with state testing, doing many projects for clubs, AP testing, and end-of-year planning. We also had our prom for juniors and seniors on April 22 at Singleton Classic Cars in Costa Mesa!

Our Open House event was held on May 22nd for the secondary students, and May 24th for the elementary students (virtually of course). Our students have worked hard to showcase their exemplary work throughout the year, and their parents should be proud of their accomplishments and expertise in the many digital tools used at Cloud.

This time of the year also marks our awards season. Our students have risen to the occasion to exemplify our S.O.A.R. values of Self-Respect, Ownership, Acceptance, and Resilience. Our teachers were also recognized during Teacher Appreciation Day with many, many well-wishes from their students and parents, and a luncheon from our Parent-Teacher Organization. Thank you, Cloud Campus teachers!

Campus students will also be celebrating three in-person promotions and graduations. Our sixth- and eighth-graders will be celebrating their promotions, and our twelfth-graders will be celebrating their graduation. This will be an in-person promotion/graduation at Cloud Campus, and for many students it will be the first time they have met their classmates in person.

Our students at Cloud have so many accomplishments to be proud of! They have all exemplified our SOAR values of Self-Respect, Ownership, Acceptance, and Resilience this year, and are ready to participate in their end-of-year promotion. Congratulations to all our students!

This year also marks the final year for Cloud Campus in Newport-Mesa. Cloud Campus will not be in operation for the 2023-2024 school year. Students in the secondary grades will have the opportunity to continue independent study at Monte Vista Independent Study School, which will serve grades 7-12 at the Presidio Learning Center in Costa Mesa for the fall of 2024. We are thankful for the great memories and experiences at Cloud Campus, and look forward to the next chapter at Monte Vista.

As always, Go Phoenixes!

College Park Elementary (K-6)

2380 Notre Dame Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7960 • collegepark.nmusd.us



Jake Topete
Principal

Celebrating Kindness

This year College Park will again be celebrating kindness for a week in May. Acts of kindness will be focused on and celebrated throughout the campus during the week. During the week, a kindness heart mural will be created out of small sticky notes with written messages that celebrate kindnesses that had been witnessed and done throughout the week. Our week will culminate with a final kindness event sponsored by our PTA where students will be able to come to College Park to participate in service projects with their families. We are so proud of the kind hearts of our students at College Park and having the opportunity to serve together as a community. Go Cougars!



Corona del Mar High School (7-12)

2101 Eastbluff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6000 • cdm.nmusd.us



Dr. Rebecca Gogel
Principal
7-8 Grade



Jake Haley
Principal
9-12 Grade

Healthy Study Habits

By Alexis Briggeman,
12th Grade Student

As the end of the school year approaches, CdmHS students juggle end of the year activities, AP exams, and finals. Many students experience high levels of stress, as they worry about their grades and test scores.

However, there are countless methods on how to manage time when juggling all these activities that can lower stress and increase relaxation.

Technology can make it difficult to focus, as texts and notifications may distract students. It is tempting for students to grab their phones and scroll through social media instead of doing their homework or studying for a test. Freshman Caroline Steffans struggles with staying off her phone when studying but still shares a solution, "Sometimes I just have to put my phone away and I feel like if I put it far away from where I am studying I won't feel like

getting up to check my phone." Sophomore Kris Villaluz also struggles with focus, and shares that she "often [gets] distracted easily and can get tired of school work quickly." For Villaluz, "The library has been the best study spot." Villaluz also suggests using an app called Forest. This app helps students study by blocking and disabling all distractions, such as notifications and phone calls. Students may also use the Pomodoro Technique, a technique characterized by 25 minutes of concentrated work and then a five-minute break. It is designed to increase focus and ensure that students study deliberately to give the best results.

It is also important that students effectively schedule their time, ensuring that they have time to study for all their classes while still participating in all of their extracurriculars. Freshman Achintya Pandey shares that she "tries to plan ahead and [she] sets limits on social media so [she] won't overdo [herself]." She also recommends using open periods to study and do work. It is important that students utilize their time wisely to prevent cramming for tests, which can result in loss of information and exhaustion.

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

2650 Fairview Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-8700 • cmhs.nmusd.us



Dr. Eugene Kwong
Principal
7-8 Grade



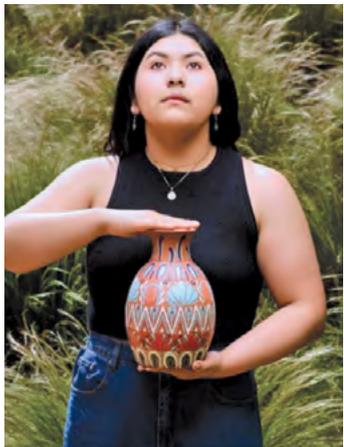
Dr. Dipali Potnis
Principal
9-12 Grade

Costa Mesa - OC Artist of the Year 2023

Our Costa Mesa family is very proud to recognize and honor Alexandra Hernandez as Artist of the Year in Fine Arts in Ceramics from Orange County Register AOV Program! The Costa Mesa High senior has worked hard over the past four years to develop her skills and hone in on her abilities to create and shape clay into pieces of ceramic art with sophistication and style unique to her personality. Many of her designs drew inspiration from her Mexican heritage and traditions. As her art teacher, Ms. Ames, has shared, "Alexandra has been one of the most passionate and dedicated



artists that have ever come through my studio doors. It has been an honor for me to be part of the process. I am always thrilled to watch a young artist pick up momentum and find their groove in creating a work of art. Alexandra's specialty is to do just that, time and time again. You can clearly see that Alexandra embodies the success of a prolific artist."



Davis Magnet (K-6)

1050 Arlington Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7930 • davisagnet.nmusd.us



Christy Flores
Principal

Outstanding PAL Program

Recently the Davis PAL Student Leadership Program was awarded Outstanding PAL Program by Orange County Department of Education. The PAL program is led by teachers Mrs. Holman, Mrs. Matthews, and Mrs. Galen consisting of 26 5th and 6th grade students. The program has had such a positive

impact on the Davis Community by helping to create a welcoming and positive environment that includes building capacity with empathy. The Davis PAL Program has facilitated philanthropic events benefiting Project Hope Alliance, military families, and NEGU and the Jessie Reese Foundation. Additionally, PAL students lead our

PBIS behavior rotations modeling expected behaviors across the campus. The PAL program hosts recess games twice a week, lead student read alouds focusing on kindness and empathy, and were instrumental in the installation of our Buddy Bench. The Davis PAL Program was the only program in NMUSD and the only elementary program in Orange County to receive this award. Our young leaders give us enormous #davisduckspride!



Early College High School (9-12)

2990 Mesa Verde Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7990 • earlycollege.nmusd.us



Dr. David Martinez
Principal

2023 Los Angeles Angels Scholars

As mentioned in our last article, ECHS was being considered for the 2023 Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence award. We did learn in late April that we are being named a Lighthouse School (highest distinction) and will receive our award in Orlando, Florida in November. A tremendous honor for our staff, students and families committed to moving forward our school's mission.

We also learned that four of our Seniors were named 2023 Los Angeles Angels Scholars. This is the highest number of recipients from a high school for a given year as long as the Angels organization has been holding the program since 2016. Congratulations goes to: Alizé Castellanos (UCLA), Gabriel Quezada (UCLA), Sarita Plata (Harvard University), and Aileen Jimenez (UC Santa Cruz)! These four Seniors will have all tuition, room/board, textbooks/materials, meal plans, and all other college-associated fees paid for by the Angels Baseball Foundation these next 4 years.

Our Annual Awards Night was held at the OCC Moore Theatre on May 18th as over 100 students earned awards and/or scholarships. ECHS concludes the 2022-2023 school year on June 1st when we plan to graduate our fifty-two Class of 2023 Seniors at a graduation ceremony being held once again at the OCC Moore Theatre at 3:30 p.m.



Alizé Castellanos (UCLA), Gabriel Quezada (UCLA), Sarita Plata (Harvard University), and Aileen Jimenez (UC Santa Cruz)

Eastbluff *Elementary (K-6)*

2627 Vista del Oro, Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-5920 • eastbluff.nmusd.us



Cheryl Beck
Principal

Celebrating Our Success!

We have had a wonderful year, Eastbluff Otters! We are so proud of how hard you all have worked, demonstrated grit, and shown perseverance through this school year! We have focused on what is best for our students' learning and working together, as always, as a collaborative Eastbluff Community. Thank you to our amazing staff and families for your phenomenal support!

Our theme again this year has been kindness. Eastbluff students and staff have focused on being kind through their intentional words and actions. We have filled our own and others' buckets with intentional acts of kindness at school, at home and within our community. Otters, you have strived to achieve your goals through hard work, enthusiasm and empathy toward others. We continue to implement our positive schoolwide behavior system and

create a positive learning experience for all our students. This was accomplished by utilizing our John Wooden Pyramid of Pride Education Program, which assists students in making wise choices. PRIDE means "prepared, respectful, integrity, determined and excellence."

Again this year, we recognize the excellence of our Eastbluff School. We have been recognized in numerous ways throughout the years for our students' and staff's outstanding work by receiving the California Distinguished Schools Award twice, the California Gold Ribbon School Award, the Silver PBIS Implementation Award twice, the Platinum PBIS Implementation Award, and the Honor Roll Award from the Educational Results Partnership for our great growth of our students' academic achievement.

We will treasure these accomplishments and memories. They will stay with us for a lifetime. We are so proud of you all!



Horace Ensign *Intermediate (7-8)*

2000 Cliff Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6910 • ensign.nmusd.us



Samantha Payne
Principal

Celebrating our English Learners

Ensign Intermediate School has the distinct pleasure of reclassifying ten of our English Learners. We are so proud of their efforts this year in all of their subject levels and their diligent work that has allowed them to be classified as proficient in English. Our EL coordinators, Sarah Tum and Marjorie Levesque, work closely with our students and staff to seamlessly administer

and organize the testing. They endlessly support and encourage our students to dedicate themselves to the challenge of reclassifying. We celebrated these ten students, along with their families, the evening of May 16th with a ceremony and dinner. The following students were honored and we are so proud! Alexa Huerta, Alexis Suarez Valdez, Camila Leyva Saavedra, Erick Urquiza Pena, Antonino Pocerobba, Jennifer Martinez Sanchez, Angel Delgado, Christopher Medina Gonzalez, Jephthe Luna Gomez and Edilio Malagon!

Estancia High School

2323 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6500 • estancia.nmUSD.us



Michael Halt
Principal

Excelling at Energy Invitational

Engineering design students at Estancia High School recently competed in the Vital Link Energy Invitational, a competition where students build vehicles from the ground up or by modifying existing vehicles using a combination of energy sources.

Two teams of engineering students--Team Aguila and Team Titan--spent the past five months preparing for the competition to build and race a single-driver electric vehicle. With the support of the engineering design teacher and two industry professional mentors from an electric-aerial-mobility company, students prepared an extensive design presentation that included information about the budget for the build, design of the frame and body, the battery, safety and calculations regarding drag, impact, braking force, static frictional forces, kinetic frictional forces and theoretical top speed.

The students used their design to modify a go-kart into an electric vehicle, ensuring that it met all of the competition specifications. The students then competed in a timed trial against nine other schools measuring their vehicles' energy consumption at Saddleback College.



Team Titan ready to run #95 at the Energy Invitational at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo.

Harbor View Elementary (K-6)

900 Goldenrod Ave., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6940 • harborview.nmUSD.us



Gabriel Del Real
Principal

A Fun STEM Event

At Harbor View Elementary's recent annual STEM Night, our school's MPR was full of families excitedly participating in the various activities available in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In one event, students tested their different design ideas to build the tallest tower made of index cards. One student's tower was over four feet high! Families also transformed tissue paper, cardboard, and tape into devices meant to insulate plastic eggs (filled with candy) as they were dropped from the Newport Beach Fire Department's ladder truck.

Our families were also able to scan a QR code to access and view their students' year-long digital portfolios of projects from our Innovation Lab. At the Lego Station, students constructed their own original vehicles and entered them into a contest to see which ones would withstand the trip down a cardboard ramp and travel the farthest.



While our students and their families gathered around the track, each vehicle was tested. The winning "Moon Racer" vehicle traveled over 20 feet beyond the ramp, which was an impressive result. Even more exciting was the fact that the winning vehicle was created by two fourth-grade students who had also invited a kindergarten friend to join their team.

Heinz Kaiser *Elementary (3-6)*

2130 Santa Ana Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6950 • kaiser.nmusd.us



Dr. Deborah Granger
Principal

Time to Celebrate!

May is celebration time at Kaiser Elementary School. Mr. Phil Schinhofen was recognized as Kaiser's Teacher of the Year, and colleagues Kristen Delgado, Lindsey Murphy, Jennifer Bowne, Lisa Yee, and Amy Molstad received grants to support wonderful resources for their classrooms! The annual Newport-Mesa Schools Foundation awards dinner was a true celebration!

Kaiser sixth graders took home too many medals to count at the Orange County Academic Pentathlon! The two teams competed against other sixth graders across OC and prevailed in academic areas ranging from art to science and from math to literature! They studied after school with coaches Miss Kwan and Mrs. Rauch in preparation for this highly competitive event. In addition to celebrating their accomplishments and teamwork, we also are celebrating our students' grit and determination.

The celebrations are just beginning! Kaiser Elementary School is looking forward to finishing the 2022-2023 school year strong!



Congratulations, Mr. Schinhofen!

Killybrooke *Elementary (K-6)*

3155 Killybrooke Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7945 • killybrooke.nmusd.us



Laura Sosa
Principal

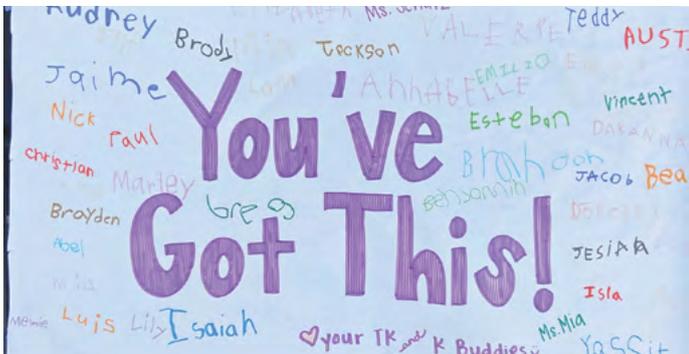
Positive Support

Spring is here and with the arrival of spring comes testing season. Last week CAASPP testing season began at Killybrooke Elementary. Our students in grades 3-6 are excited to show what they know!

In preparation for testing season, each primary class (TK-2) adopted an upper grade class (3-6) to encourage and cheer on as they began testing. Primary



classes wrote notes of encouragement, created posters of support, made uplifting videos, and have been surprising their buddies with kindness and encouragement. This positive support builds community across primary and upper grades while having a positive impact on the students participating in both the giving and receiving of encouragement. Additionally, our PTA and PBIS team have planned encouraging messages for every student for each day of testing. We as a school community are excited to do our best to show all that we have learned this year! Best of luck, Colts!



Abraham Lincoln *Elementary (K-6)*

3101 Pacific View Dr., Corona del Mar, CA 92625 • 949/515-6955 • lincoln.nmusd.us



Dr. Kristin DeMicco
Principal

Geography Bee 4-Way Tie

The Geography Bee returned to Lincoln this year, and we are so proud of our 5th and 6th grade students who accepted the challenge to be part of this incredible event. The Geography Bee challenges students not only to identify states and capitols within the USA, but also to learn the location of countries and corresponding capitols around the world. They were also expected to become familiar with famous historical photographs and to give context to those photos. With study guides in hand, students were spotted studying together during free time on campus, and they attended study sessions after school as well. In the end, four Lincoln students made school history, as in the words of the moderator, “They could not be stumped.” The Geography Bee ended in a 4-way tie, with all four students getting every question they were asked correct. It was truly an amazing evening!



Mariners *Elementary (K-6)*

2100 Mariners Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660 • 949/515-6960 • mariners.nmusd.us



Matthew Broesamle
Principal

The Captains Challenge

By Kalena B., 5th grade student

The Captains Challenge is a health and fitness program that helps students become captains and leaders like the Anaheim Ducks. For the Captains Challenge students had to do various exercises everyday to prepare for fit finals. Through lessons on leadership, perseverance, integrity, courage, and accountability, students

learned how to lead themselves and others to better fitness and health. Out of the 5,000 people that practiced for the Captains Challenge, only about 1,500 people got to go to the Honda Center for Fit Finals. Fit Finals is a fun test to see how physically fit you've become. At Fit Finals you do many stretches that you've practiced, such as, push-ups, sit ups, sit and reach, and trunk ups, as well as run the mile. Afterwards, all students enjoyed healthy snacks and drinks. Fit Finals is a great way to keep students healthy!



5th grade students at the Fit Finals.

Newport Coast *Elementary (K-6)*

6655 Ridge Park Rd., Newport Coast, CA 92657 • 949/515-6975 • nce.nmusd.us



Heather Darrow
Principal

Fun Exciting Events

At Newport Coast Elementary School, community is everything! With the support of our outstanding PTA and Foundation, our students, staff, and families are encouraged to participate in several events which brings fun, excitement, and a high-quality educational program to our school each year. Whether it is the support of a teacher in our Coyote Creation Station,

a night out dining with NCE families, or an assembly to inspire our students, we can always count on our parent groups to support learning and connections for our Coyotes! One recent example of such an event was when Cousin Danny came to visit the students of NCE. The positivity and energy of this assembly, brought to our students and staff by the NCE PTA, was engaging for both students and staff. We danced together, practiced positivity and had a blast! What a great way to spend time with our Coyotes!



Newport *Elementary (K-6)*

1327 W. Balboa Blvd., Newport Beach, CA 92661 • 949/515-6965 • newportel.nmusd.us



Amanda Estrada
Principal

Newport El's Got Talent

At Newport El, we love to enhance our students' academic experience with opportunities for the arts. Throughout the year, students engage in the Art Masters program where they study a specific artist and then create a piece of art inspired by that artist. They learn art history, use

Musical. After months of rehearsals and preparing, they put on a fabulous show. In addition to the cast, students also ran the "tech" including costuming, make-up, set changes, lighting and sound. Finally, we will end the year with our annual talent show where students can enter a variety of acts. It's sure to be a great show!

different art mediums, and learn a variety of art techniques. Students also get to showcase what they've learned in music class throughout the year. Most recently we held our Spring Sing where students performed for their parents and families. A highlight was the 6th grade performance as they have been working diligently to learn how to play the violin. Students in 4th-6th grade have the opportunity to participate in our theater program. In May, they performed Shrek, The



Newport Harbor *High School (9-12)*

600 Irvine Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6300 • nhhs.nmusd.us



Sean Boulton
Principal



Congratulations Class of 2023!

Newport Heights *Elementary (K-6)*

300 E. 15th St., Newport Beach, CA 92663 • 949/515-6970 • newportheights.nmusd.us



Terri Clarke
Principal

Celebrating NHES through Art!

As we wrap up the school year, our NHES students, staff and community wanted to celebrate all our successes, growth opportunities, and perseverance. And what better way to do that through art that can be enjoyed everyday! Our newest mural is now complete, features a majestic ocean wave. We choose the ocean as it symbolizes stability and is considered boundless; NHES is a place where our community feels safe, comfortable, and part of a whole, it's a place where

boundless opportunities exist to grow and learn. The wave represents perseverance, courage, and the beating pulse of the ocean; like a wave, students experience ups and downs and persevere through them with the skills and knowledge acquired in life and school. We have also incorporated our key values at NHES with our Shark PRIDE: Polite, Responsible, Independent, Determined, Engaged. A special thank you to our muralist, Jennifer Bloomfield, who helped bring this vision to life! Thank you to our Student Council and 6th grade S.T.A.Y. groups for sponsoring this incredible mural for our whole community to enjoy!



Paularino *Elementary (K-6)*

1060 Paularino Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7950 • paularino.nmusd.us



Annalisa Schwartz
Principal

Our Dynamic Music Program

Our Paularino Panthers have been working hard all year with our amazing music teacher, Suzanne Rivera. We are fortunate that NMUSD believes that every student should have access to education and opportunities in the visual and performing arts.

Mrs. Rivera works weekly with each grade level on general music skills, teaching rhythm, playing a variety of instruments, singing, and participating in band, based on Visual Performing Arts standards and incorporating academic standards when appropriate. This spring, each grade level has had the opportunity to perform for

parents, and in our primary grades, in a musical play with cross-curricular activities to support grade-level standards.

Mrs. Rivera has been integral in putting together our Paularino Band for fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students. The Paularino Band performs at school functions, in concerts for families and throughout the community. The band has had multiple opportunities to perform, such as in the Costa Mesa community winter event, in the upcoming Field of Honor Youth Celebration at Castaways Park in Newport Beach, and as marchers in the upcoming Balboa Island Parade.

We are very proud of our music program and are very thankful to Mrs. Rivera for her dedication to our students for a quality music program at Paularino Elementary.

Pomona *Elementary (K-6)*

2051 Pomona Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6980 • pomona.nmusd.us



Cindy Pedroso
Principal

Enrichment Opportunities

The year is quickly winding down and we have had many celebrations and enriching educational experiences for our students this year. We had a strong academic focus on early literacy and our students rose to the occasion. I am proud of the growth our students have demonstrated this year and the work of the staff. Additionally, our students continue to experience many first while continuing with traditions.

Fourth grade had the opportunity to visit the Mission in San Juan Capistrano, we have had musicals and dance performances. The six graders attended the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center where they enjoyed hikes, swimming, rock climbing, ziplining and so much more. It brings me great pleasure to ensure that our students have a rigorous learning environment and as many enrichment opportunities to support their overall development. As we close out the year with spring signing, band performances and promotion we reflect in the great work we have been able to accomplish this year. #pantherpride



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

661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6905 • rea.nmusd.us



Dr. Lorie Hoggard
Principal

Art Masters Program

The arts are an important part of our educational program at Rea. Research indicates that experiences with the arts have a positive impact on academic and social-emotional outcomes. All students participate in music

classes to learn vocal and instrumental

techniques as well as the Art Masters program, to study famous artists and craft works of art. Students can also join the School Band before school. After school activities include Dance classes featuring Baile Folklorico and modern dance techniques, as well as Art Club for creative art projects. Rea School produces a School Play. Students in grades 3-6 practice after

school for several months to perform a musical production each spring. This year's production, Frozen, was a huge success. It is wonderful to see our students thrive as artists and we look forward to seeing them continue in their endeavors with the numerous arts opportunities available at our NMUSD middle schools.



Rea School Production of Frozen 2023.

Sonora *Elementary (PK-6)*

966 Sonora Rd., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7955 • sonora.nmusd.us



Mia Doidge
Principal

Family Night Concert

The students at Sonora Elementary have enjoyed our 6-week partnership with Backhausdance! The dancers teach students to have a kinesthetic experience, learning the meaning of kindness and how to express themselves through movement and creativity. Students

enjoyed learning contemporary dance and how to be attuned to one another's dance movements when compiling a dance at the end of the session. Backhausdance performed at a family night concert debuting their new choreography, Backhausdance meets Vivaldi. The dancers moved through spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Spring was a trio of dancers, summer was a duet, fall was a quartet, and winter was a solo. The assembly was rich in movement and some parts were choreographed to closely visualize the music. Students and their families were invited to participate in some of the dance movements and to ask questions after the performance.



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

3224 California Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-7965 • tewinkle.nmusd.us



Ixchel Sanchez
Principal

Getting Ready

TeWinkle Middle School was both thrilled and proud to be hosting an exciting tour for all of our incoming seventh-graders from the feeder elementary schools. The event started in the gym, where our future Trojans were welcomed by TeWinkle student leaders and staff. They then enjoyed a brief introduction to TeWinkle before they were separated

into groups and led to several breakout sessions.

Here our future scholars were able to receive more detailed information about the many programs, electives, and various extracurricular and athletic opportunities that we offer at our school. TeWinkle student leaders then prepared a presentation and answered questions from an audience that was filled with very excited future Trojans.

Each of the breakout sessions was supervised by a certificated

teacher, but the entire day was student-led and student-centered. The visit ended in the gymnasium with a pep rally organized by our ASB students. The crowd was highly engaged in the event, and they actively cheered on the student representatives from their home school.

The visit was definitely a huge success! The gym was filled with enthusiastic sixth-graders waiting to begin their middle school adventure next year.



Victoria *Elementary (K-6)*

1025 Victoria St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6985 • victoria.nmusd.us



Dr. Aaron Peralta
Principal

Outdoor Science School

Our Victoria 6th graders traveled to Three Oaks in Lake Arrowhead this April for four days of Outdoor Science School. Students were thrilled to participate in outdoor

science activities, and experience the mountain air! During our fun filled stay we

learned exciting concepts about astronomy, earth science, and zoology. Each day at camp was filled with songs, activities, hikes, and games. Students loved the night hike under the stars where we studied the constellations. The "courage walk" during the night hike challenged students to use their understanding of nature as they explored the wilderness. Our students enjoyed the amazing scenery that they got to experience on their hikes,

and they enjoyed their cabin leaders and all that they taught them and the fun that they brought to the whole experience. Their favorite part though was performing the skit and singing all of the camp songs! Victoria's visit to Three Oak's created memories that will last forever!



Whittier *Elementary (K-6)*

1800 Whittier Ave., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6990 • whittier.nmusd.us



Randy Lempert
Principal

Spring Has Sprung!

There is excitement in the air at Whittier! The sounds around campus are not just the bumblebees buzzing around the Whittier garden--it's the energy from our spring activities!

This year, Whittier students will be participating in our annual Jog-a-thon. After a weather delay, preschool through sixth grade can challenge their friends to see who could get the most laps. Music and cheers from our Dolphin families could be heard around campus during this enthusiastic event.

Whittier's Expanded Learning, Project Kidz Connect, continues to offer robust offerings to our students. After school, you can see our students participating in karate and STEM and practicing for The Lion King musical. Led by Rain Vanderoef, Whittier's Project Kidz Connect team connects with students to provide a safe and enthusiastic learning environment after school.

Also after school, you can hear whistles blowing, coaches instructing, and students kicking around the soccer ball. The Newport Mesa School Tournament is back, and over 100 third-through-sixth-grade students are participating in the 2023 tournament. Whittier is excited to showcase our sportsmanship at this year's event!

The classrooms are still buzzing with student engagement. As a dual-immersion school, students can be heard in Spanish and English engaging in academic conversations. The Whittier scholars remain focused on maintaining practices that will make them college and career ready!

It's an exciting time to be a Dolphin! As the Whittier school year ends, the excitement continues. We want to continue to thank our fantastic Dolphin community for being so supportive this year. What a great spring! Go Dolphins!

Wilson *Elementary (K-6)*

801 Wilson St., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6995 • wilson.nmusd.us



Dr. Jennifer Heckert
Principal

Wildcats Walk to School Safely

Wilson Wildcats walked and rode to school safely on May 3, 2023. We are so grateful to the City of Costa Mesa for supporting us during this event. Our students, staff, and families met in the morning and joined together as one, strong Wilson community to demonstrate and practice safe methods for coming to

school. We are so thankful to the Costa Mesa Police Department for escorting us and even stopping traffic at Wilson and Placentia for a safe and memorable experience as well as the Costa Mesa City Council for joining the fun.. Wilson Wildcats are also learning about the importance of exercise, daily schoolwide mindfulness and healthy habits that help us to feel good and ROAR! Thank you to all that participated to support our Wilson community.



Woodland Elementary (K-2)

2025 Garden Ln., Costa Mesa, CA 92627 • 949/515-6945 • woodland.nmusd.us



Dr. Amy Nagy
Principal

Congratulations Mrs. Pirotin!

Woodland Elementary is a GREAT place to learn; one important reason is our excellent, dedicated staff. In the month of May, we took the opportunity to celebrate and show appreciation for all staff. The KWPF0 organized a week filled with flowers, notes, school supplies, sweet treats, and lunch. In addition, during the Newport Mesa School's Foundation Annual Grants to Teachers Awards Banquet EIGHT of our Woodland teachers were honored as grant recipients, and our school's Teacher of the Year (TOY), Kristin Pirotin, was elevated as NMUSD's TOY! She says, "Cultivating a classroom community makes all who enter feel valued, safe and encouraged. Positive connections with each student along with intentional, consistent, and systematic instruction helps maximize learning opportunities for students." Woodland students are thriving, and it is an honor to work with a kind and caring staff who go above and beyond!



Nutrition Services

2985 Bear St., Building B Costa Mesa, CA 92626 • 714/424-5000 • nmusd-ca.schoolloop.com/nutrition



Todd Hatfield
Director

The Sandwich

By Pam Williams,
MPH, RD, Nutritionist

When we hear the word, sandwich, we think of something we eat. But there is more to this word than just eating.

Here are a few fun facts.

- "Sandwich" comes from an Old English word that means sand village.
- A group of islands are called, South Sandwich Islands.
- Six cities in three countries are named Sandwich and three are in the United States.

One more? The fourth Earl of Sandwich, a title for nobles in southeast England, liked to play card games. He played so much that he did not have time to eat. He asked that his meat be given to him between two slices of bread. Now he could eat and play at the same time. The name sandwich stuck.



Today, Nutrition Services have added modern sandwiches to its offerings. We offer Vegetarian, Turkey, and Turkey Ham. These are great to help build healthy minds and bodies.

Special Services

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



Dr. Sara Jocham
*Assistant
Superintendent*

Dental Screenings

The school nurses in Newport Mesa Unified School District are dedicated to the overall health of our students and enjoy working in collaboration with local agencies to bring access to quality care to children. The district was pleased to partner with the Assistance League's Cheri Harris Dental Center to provide dental screenings to some first-grade students at several Costa Mesa elementary schools. This partnership

provided students with a complete dental screening and potential referrals for families to access community based, low-cost dental care. School nurses and health assistants shared with parents who received a referral from the screening the importance of dental treatment for their child as untreated tooth decay can cause pain and lead to malnutrition, poor performance in school, childhood speech problems and serious infections. In California, more than 60% of students have experienced tooth decay by third grade, and 1 in 5 kids have untreated tooth decay.

Early Childhood Education

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



Michelle O'Neill
Coordinator

Learning Outside the Classroom

At Pomona Preschool, we love working with our community partners to make learning fun through dance and music. Our preschoolers at Pomona Preschool danced and listened to some beautiful music for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. All the Preschool classes joined together to participate in the activity which was a joint effort between the staff and parents. This event is an experience that allows preschool students to gain a better understanding of the diverse ethnic-cultural backgrounds in our preschool classrooms.



Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

OCDE's Continuous Commitment to Strengthening School Safety

Our children deserve to learn and grow in safe and secure environments, where they can thrive academically and emotionally. And parents should be confident that when they send their children to school, they will return home just as healthy and happy as when they left.

Yet in too many instances, we have seen this social contract ripped apart by the devastating reality of school violence, leading to the familiar cycle of shock, grief and anger.

I wish I could say I had answers sufficient to prevent this country's next mass shooting. I do not. I can only extend my most heartfelt condolences to anyone impacted by senseless violence, and I can reaffirm here the sustained commitment of the Orange County Department of Education and leaders throughout our region to proactively protect our students and staff.

To give you some background, California schools are required by law to update their Comprehensive Safe School Plans each year. These plans outline each campus's planned responses to various crises, and they are routinely reinforced through site-level drills, including evacuations and shelter-in-place exercises.

Of course the strategies for promoting safety will vary by campus and are ultimately up to each district's locally elected school board and leadership teams, in partnership with teachers, families, staff, students and communities. But our department eagerly supports this work with trainings and workshops throughout the year, covering such topics as safe school plans, behavioral threat assessments, earthquake preparedness, resilience strategies and active-shooter behavioral indicators.

Meanwhile, OCDE works closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and other

local law enforcement agencies to study everything from cyberbullying to how to best secure school facilities. One key partnership worth noting is with the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, or OCIAC, which leverages the reach and resources of the Sheriff's Department, the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to detect, investigate and prevent criminal and terrorist activity.

OCDE and the Sheriff's Department also team up every summer to host the Safe Schools Conference with the California Department of Education. This three-day event brings together more than 500 educators and law enforcement personnel from throughout the state to discuss issues and trends related to campus violence, bullying, social media, human trafficking, gangs and substance abuse.

In the case of critical incidents impacting schools, OCDE's Crisis Response Network deploys psychologists, nurses, social workers and other personnel to support students and staff during and after emergencies. This team also conducts trainings for schools, youth service providers, parents and students.

Finally, OCDE champions positive school climates and anti-bullying through initiatives such as the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS, and our One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign, which kicked off in 2016 to promote character and amplify civility in our communities.

In Orange County, we view the pursuit of safer schools as a race with no finish line, and that means our commitment must be equally unwavering and enduring. New threats will continue to emerge, but so too will new technologies, strategies and best practices for protecting students and schools. Above all, we vow to stay vigilant and informed, work closely with our law enforcement partners, and adapt our approaches accordingly.

We owe our children and families nothing less.

Birds –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 NMUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 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 contests.
www.BarkateNehiSmiles.com

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| FINCH | CARDINAL |
| ROBIN | EAGLE |
| COWBIRD | HAWK |
| PHEASANT | FALCON |
| CHICKEN | TERN |
| QUAIL | SEA GULL |
| DOVE | PELICAN |
| PIGEON | WREN |
| TURKEY | SWAN |
| DUCK | BUZZARD |
| BLUE JAY | |



Milestones and Firsts–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 NMUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15,2023
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to
 win a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card!

Thank you **Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics**
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|-------------|---------------|
| BIRTH | HOUSE |
| KISS | RECITAL |
| HIGH SCHOOL | CAR |
| GRADUATION | DISNEYLAND |
| COLLEGE | TRAVEL |
| DATE | AIRPLANE RIDE |
| LOVE | BALLOON RIDE |
| ENGAGEMENT | CRUISE |
| MARRIAGE | FIRST TOOTH |



Congratulations to **Nieves Perez**
 Winner of our April Word Search Contest!