

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Hawthorne School District



Volume 12, Issue 66

June 2022

It was a Great Year in HSD!



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**Every child deserves a chance to succeed!
¡Cada niño merece la oportunidad de triunfar!**

Preschool Program

HSD Preschools offer early childhood educational programs for children who are three and four-years old. Families must meet State income requirements.

Programa de Preescolar

Las Escuelas Preescolares de HSD ofrecen programas educativos de primera infancia para niños de tres y cuatro años de edad. Las familias deben cumplir con los requisitos de ingresos del Estado.



Hawthorne School District Preschool



The Benefits of Preschool

The most important years of a child's development is in the first five years of life. Children who receive a high-quality educational experience, in their early years, develop the skills necessary to succeed in life.

Children who are involved in preschool:

- Develop pre-reading, early writing, and math skills
- Enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Develop emotional behaviors and social skills

Los Beneficios de la Educación Preescolar

Los primeros cinco años de vida son los más importantes en el desarrollo del niño. Los niños que reciben una experiencia educativa de alta calidad, en sus primeros años, desarrollan las habilidades necesarias para triunfar en la vida.

Los niños que participan en la educación preescolar:

- Desarrollan habilidades en matemáticas, escritura y lectura temprana.
- Mejoran el pensamiento crítico y habilidades en resolución de problemas.
- Desarrollan habilidades sociales y comportamiento emocional.



HSD Preschool

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 970-7550 Phone | (310) 970-7555 Fax



A Legacy of Leadership

In an earlier edition of *School News*, our superintendent, Dr. Helen E. Morgan, announced her retirement after forty years of service to the District. Having been appointed by the Board of Trustees to assume the position of superintendent on July 1st, I want to take this opportunity both to introduce myself and to recognize Dr. Morgan for her outstanding service and leadership over the past four decades.

Since beginning her work with the District in 1982 and through her service as a teacher, school and district administrator, and superintendent, Dr. Morgan has positively impacted the lives of countless students, families, and employees. She will be greatly missed, but we will all be wishing her the very best as she begins a well-deserved retirement.

As I transition into the role of superintendent, I remain committed to ensuring that every student achieves educational excellence and social and emotional well-being. That is the mission of our school district and it can be achieved when all educational partners, including staff, students, families, and community members, work together toward that goal. Having worked in the District for over twenty years, I am well aware of the critical role that our schools play in the lives of our students and the future of our community. I am truly honored to be given the opportunity to serve the District as superintendent and I am so grateful to the Board, our employees, and our families for the trust and confidence that has been placed in me.

I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer and I will be looking forward to working with you and your children next year and beyond!



Dr. Brian Markarian
Incoming
Superintendent

Un legado de liderazgo

En una edición anterior de *School News*, nuestra superintendente, la Dra. Helen E. Morgan, anunció su retiro después de cuarenta años de servicio al distrito. Habiendo sido nombrado por la junta directiva para asumir el cargo de superintendente el 1 de julio, quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad tanto para presentarme como para reconocer a la Dra. Morgan por su destacado servicio y liderazgo durante las últimas cuatro décadas.

Desde que comenzó su trabajo con el distrito en 1982 y a través de su servicio como maestra, administradora de la escuela y del distrito, y superintendente, la Dra. Morgan ha tenido un impacto positivo en las vidas de innumerables alumnos, familias y empleados. La echaremos mucho de menos, pero todos le deseamos lo mejor en su merecida jubilación.

Mientras hago la transición al papel de superintendente, sigo comprometido a asegurar que cada alumno logre la excelencia educativa y el bienestar social y emocional. Esa es la misión de nuestro distrito escolar y se puede lograr cuando todos los socios educativos, incluyendo el personal, los alumnos, las familias y los miembros de la comunidad, trabajan juntos hacia ese objetivo. Al haber trabajado en el distrito durante más de veinte años, soy muy consciente del papel fundamental que desempeñan nuestras escuelas en la vida de nuestros alumnos y en el futuro de nuestra comunidad. Me siento verdaderamente honrado de tener la oportunidad de servir al distrito como superintendente y estoy muy agradecido a la junta, a nuestros empleados y a nuestras familias por la confianza que han depositado en mí.

Les deseo un verano tranquilo y agradable y espero trabajar con ustedes y sus hijos el próximo año y los siguientes.

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Superintendent Dr. Brian Markarian begins this issue with his message on page 3 recognizing Dr. Helen Morgan for her leadership for 40 years. I remember the morning I met with Dr. Morgan to introduce *School News*. Her positive attitude was evident the minute she introduced herself and it was evident in her *School News* messages throughout the 12 years we have been collaborating. I wish her well in her retirement.

I look forward to continuing to publish the excellence from the Hawthorne School District under Dr. Markarian's leadership.

As always, thank you for being loyal readers and continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is September 14. Have a fun summer and remember to include the library among your activity choices.

Have a fun summer!



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Bud Carson Middle School

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • www.budcarsonmiddle.org



LaTima Jones
Principal

GEAR UP at Bud Carson Middle School

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally-funded academic preparation initiative based at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). During Fall 2021, CSUDH was awarded a GEAR UP grant to serve the high school

graduating class of 2028 (current 6th graders) that attend middle schools in the Hawthorne School District (HSD) and matriculate to high schools in the Centinela Valley Union High School District (CVUHSD). The program offers various educational services including academic advising, college and career club, homework help/tutoring, college field trips, and academic summer programs. Currently, we are recruiting sixth graders for the

CSUDH Summer STEAM academy where students will be able to explore several STEM based careers and gain team building skills while building a robot. Overall, GEAR UP is committed to empowering students with the knowledge and tools necessary to create and navigate their own educational pathway to success.



Eucalyptus Elementary

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • euc-hsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Mike Goldstein
Principal

2021-22 Employees of the Year!

It's my pleasure to recognize the Eucalyptus Employees of the Year for 2021-2022!

Yandira Torres, our health clerk, was hired by the district in 1994 and has worked at Eucalyptus since 2017. In one of our most difficult years in history, she's not only taking care of scrapes, bruises, injuries, allergies, sickness, screenings, but she has also managed to keep up with health and safety protocols with our return back to full time instruction on campus. We are very grateful for her service this year.

Erin Hastings is currently our Literacy Coach, and was hired by the district in the year 2000. She is a true instructional leader, working to support teachers in planning and instruction, providing staff training as a member of our leadership team, and she organized our favorite academic activity this year; the March Madness Tournament of Picture Books.

On behalf of Koala Nation, I would like to congratulate Ms. Torres and Ms. Hastings, as Eucalyptus 2022 Employees of the Year!



Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8184 • www.hawthornemsa.org



Esau Berumen
Principal

HMSA's Senior Decision-Day

By Cyril Amakihe, Emma Castaneda, Nadia Hossain, Alisha Khan, Joy Uchegbu, & Simon Villaroman (HMSA Aviator News Student Staff)

The Class of 2022 celebrated their Decision Day ceremony on Friday, May 20th. Broadcast through Zoom to expectant teachers, students, families, and friends, the celebration was a special day for these sharply dressed students. Despite challenging circumstances, especially those brought on by the pandemic, Seniors demonstrated determination and

perseverance. This day was to honor them for persisting through life's numerous changes, as well as to recognize their next step in pursuing higher education. Before Seniors took the stage, an alumni, Joules Barragan, gave a moving speech, advising students to accept change because life is unpredictable and there isn't just one path to success. The administration then called each student up to the platform, and the audience applauded their dedication to their school and declared major. From community colleges, state universities, and others, these students are on their way to a new adventure, full of hope for the future.

Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • www.hawthornemiddle.org



Akila Jones
Principal

Student Support for Summer

As the school year is coming to an end, parents often wonder how to best support their children both academically and social emotionally during the summer. Well, HMS has suggestions for that! Academically, students get a library card and check out books, read 30-60 minutes a day (chapter books, newspapers, science magazines, history journals, etc.). Journal writing is another way to capture what they are reading by logging

it daily. For math students can practice multiplication interactive drills (multiplication.com) or login to IXL from their Chromebooks. Emotionally, students can write in a personal diary, establish routines at home, (chores, learning time, cell phone time) engage in creativity by playing board games, doing arts and crafts or puzzles or drawing. Parents can help teens express and name their emotions and listen to their thoughts and feelings. Exercise together, as regular daily exercise is good for the entire family. So, get out there and walk at the park, around the neighborhood or at the beach- wherever you go, there is learning all around.



Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423 • www.hsdjefferson.org



Josh Godin
Principal

Learning Through Gardening

It's springtime, and gardening is in style at Jefferson! Our students have been planting and putting together different theories about what will happen if they change some aspects of planting and harvesting. They have been able to decide how they wanted to plant seeds, and how long to wait to harvest them. This works with a science term they have learned called "phenomena."

We want our students to wonder when it comes to science, and then be creative and use their imaginations to see where it takes them. Like Dr. Seuss says, "Oh the places you'll go!"

Wonder and imagination are very important, and we want our students to be curious about science and the phenomena that go along with it. Gardening is an easy way

to do this because the students can see the outcomes as things grow, don't grow, or overgrow.

The children have found that they had to change their hypothesis as they observed the plants growing. In the end, they were also able to eat some of the items that were planted, but not all of them, because some were not ready yet. Our teachers have been able to teach about seeds, soil, planting, watering, harvesting, and saving money by growing plants on your own.

The students have been amazed to see that changing one of these things can make a huge difference in regards to how or if the plant grows. Next year they will be able to grow different types of plants in the fall, and use the lessons they learned this year to produce quality plants. This will also teach them about what kinds of plants are planted in the fall compared to the winter and spring.

Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • www.hsdkornblum.org



Marisa Stewart
Principal

Teacher and Employee of the Year!

Kornblum School's certificated employee of the year is one of the many excellent teachers at Kornblum School. She is constantly pushing

herself to the limits. She is always learning. She was immediately interested in the Google teacher training program, is a Project Lead the Way teacher and offers her students after school class to give more support. Her dedication to her students is apparent. She has assisted her grade level in attending numerous free online study trips. When it comes to her students, she is relentless. She is the first to share her skills with her colleagues and is a great collaborator with her grade level.

This person was hired in August of 2015 as a first grade teacher at Kornblum School. And is currently a 4th grade teacher at Kornblum School and I am sure her colleagues will tell you what a pleasure it is to work with her. Kornblum School's Teacher of the Year 2022 is Elizabeth Diaz!

Kornblum's School Classified employee of the year began working for the district in 2000 as a substitute food service worker. In 2001 she was made permanent and served as a food service worker and served the staff and students at Eucalyptus, Prairie Vista Middle School and Washington School. After 12 years of serving the district she became



Classified employee of the year - Cafeteria Manager Leticia Areola, Principal Marisa Stewart and Teacher of the Year 2022 - Elizabeth Diaz.

Assistant Food Service Manager at York school in 2012 and was promoted to manager in 2016.

As you know people share their love through food. This person has shared her love in serving the Kornblum Community in ways she never imagined these

last few years. She goes the extra mile to try and make sure that the community is fed. During the drive up food pickup program during the closure you could find her on the corner of Kornblum and El Segundo with a sign encouraging families to come and pick up the food she and her team had lovingly prepared for them. This year when we were able to return in person she has been infinitely patient and accommodating. We want to eat out here, now over here, okay now some want to eat inside and some want to eat outside... She was flexible and caring through all of our changes. No one was happier than she when we were able to bring all of the students through the lunch lines again and she could see their smiling faces and feed their bellies.

She has served as Kornblum School's Food Service Manager since 2016. The Kornblum Classified employee of the year is our Cafeteria Manager Leticia Areola.

Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1003 • www.prairievistamiddle.org



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Take Part Art Festival

Our Panthers enthusiastically represented PVMS in the Take Part Art Festival on May 14 at Leuzinger High School. The festival included wonderful student performances, art exhibits, family activities and food.

Hawthorne School District was joined by Centinela Valley, Lawndale and Lennox school districts to showcase the talents of young people. Our PVMS students performed

ballroom, contemporary and freestyle dances on stage. Two of our student musicians played the piano keyboard, and our musicians from the band and string orchestra performed a variety of songs.



The festival also featured beautiful visual works of art created by our students. Dr. Kind, Mrs. Bridges and Mrs. Ryan from our arts academy were at the festival to lead, conduct, and organize the dancing, music and exhibits. Dr. Sanchez worked with the piano students to prepare them for the festival.

We are very proud of our student and staff contributions to the festival. As we close out our school year, we want to wish all our families and staff a relaxing, joyful summer!



Student Musicians, Dancers, and Artists represent PVMS at the Take Part Art Festival.



Ramona Elementary

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189 • www.hsdramona.org



Dr. Patricia Ray
Principal

Friendship Club

Ramona School launched our first ever Friendship Club in March! Over 100 students gathered at that first meeting to eat lunch, play games, and make new friends. The goal of Friendship Club, which is sponsored by the Friendship Foundation, is for Neurotypical students to be introduced to their neurodiverse peers.

Following the excitement of that first large meeting, we have had slightly smaller Friendship Club meetings in April and May, and we will have one last meeting in June. The smaller meetings help us provide a safe and fun space for children to socialize. This helps all students to be able to build friendships and learn new social skills.

With the help of Ms. Richardson, Intervention Teacher, and all our wonderful Special Education teachers and instructional aides, we are looking forward to growing and improving Friendship Club next year.



Washington Elementary

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • www.hsdwashington.org



Maritza Cruz-Brown
Principal

Wildcats Celebrate Many Accomplishments

By Ms. Emily Selsor, Counselor

On Friday, May 20th, Washington's PBIS team hosted a dance party on the playground. We invited students who contributed to our school-wide fundraiser. Any student that participated in our fundraising event was invited to attend. Students who have been demonstrating positive behavior, kindness, and respect on campus were also included.

The best part of the afternoon was seeing students from all classes come together, dance, eat some ice cream, and have fun. It was great to get the students outside with the teachers and support staff. We even had Principal Cruz-Brown dancing with the students! The way the students socialized with each other was a great example of how their social skills have developed over the course of this year. We are so grateful to be back on campus and have the ability to provide these fun opportunities for our students to practice their social skills in unstructured environments.



York Elementary

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189 • www.hsdnyork.org



John Paterson
Principal

Recognizing our Great Staff

HSD held its End of the Year Recognition Ceremony to honor retirees such as our esteemed former principal, Mrs. Jennifer Beekman. We also gathered to honor staff who display the utmost excellence in their work. York's classified employee of the year is our

health clerk, Mrs. Gil. She is recognized for her enthusiastic, caring, dedicated attitude. Mrs. Gil is smart, professional, optimistic, and multi-talented. She started this year as a playground supervisor, and became health clerk, mid-year. York students are very fortunate to have Mrs. Gil taking care of them.

York's certificated employee of the year is first grade teacher, Mrs. Sondra Stotesbury. She is an exemplary teacher who has earned our respect for her professionalism, school spirit, and character building. Mrs. Stotesbury works hard to help her students achieve academic success.



Congratulations Mrs. Angie Gil and Mrs. Sondra Stotesbury.

She also inspires students to believe in themselves and always expects them to do their very best. York School congratulates our employees of the year.

Zela Davis Elementary

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771 • www.hsdzeladavis.org



Matt Rohrer
Principal

Hello and Goodbye!

Zela Davis is happy to announce the retirement of kindergarten teacher Leslie Lulka. Ms. Lulka has been with the Hawthorne School District for 27 years and has become the cornerstone of Zela Davis' kindergarten program. Please join Zela Davis in wishing Ms. Lulka a restful and happy retirement!

I am pleased to announce that Ms. Lopez will be the new principal of Zela Davis! Ms. Lopez has been with the Hawthorne School District for 25 years and has held many roles, from classroom teacher to site administrator. Ms. Lopez has done an exceptional job as assistant principal, and I am confident that she will continue to lead Zela Davis toward academic success and student well-being,

Lastly, I am sad to report that I will be leaving Zela Davis to work in the district office. I will miss starting my morning greeting parents in the Kornblum lot for drop-off and seeing our exceptional students each day. I am so proud of all that we have accomplished at Zela Davis. I wish everyone the best of luck in the 2022 school year!

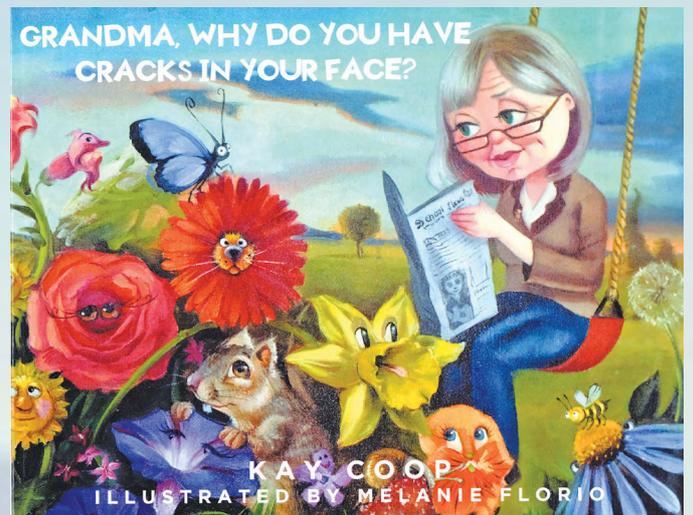


Ms. Lopez - New Principal 2022-2023 School Year



Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop
Illustrated by Melanie Florio



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