

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Lawndale Elementary School District



Volume 2, Issue 3

September 2023

Makerspace



LESD students participating in a makerspace activity at Mitchell Elementary School.

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com



Marnie Baker, M.D., M.P.H.
pediatrician,
MemorialCare Medical Group

Vaccination Benefits for Kids

Now that your children have headed back to school, this is an important time to remind parents how important it is to keep their children current on their vaccine schedule as the school year progresses. California law requires all children to keep up to date on their vaccinations to continue to attend public school, since timely immunizations not only protect your own kids, but also the community.

Immunizations are specifically timed for when children are at the highest risk of exposure and staying on schedule can prevent outbreaks and community spread among their peers. Even children who are homeschooled benefit from staying up to date on their immunizations because when overall vaccination rates drop among children, disease outbreaks can occur.

For example, newborns are immunized against Hepatitis B. At two months old, vaccinations include rotavirus and whooping cough. Later, toddlers are immunized against measles, mumps, rubella and chicken pox. Between ages 4 and 6, children are given boosters in preparation for the beginning of school. Important immunizations can also safeguard children's future including Meningococcal vaccinations to protect against meningitis and

the HPV vaccination to prevent cervical cancers from developing later in life. This will continue into their teenage years and even as adults.

Parents may have concerns about possible side effects, such as allergic reactions to vaccinations. However, these reactions are extremely rare and while allergic reactions to vaccines may be worrisome for parents, the diseases they aim to prevent may have far more serious and long-term complications.

Today, thanks to regular immunizations, some diseases once considered commonplace — such as measles and polio — are mostly eradicated. This is due to the development and distribution of vaccines and caregivers' commitment to following recommended vaccination schedules for their kids.

If you have questions about your child's immunization schedule or about possible side effects, seek medical advice from your child's pediatrician. Pediatricians have access to the latest scientific data and information to address concerns parents may have. Remember, prevention is key when it comes to stopping the spread of diseases and getting children vaccinated protects them from preventable disease.



Athena, Age 2



It takes a village.

At just seven weeks old, Athena's heart stopped. MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital saved her life. Our cardiac specialists, nurses and therapists all worked together. Reassuring her family. Helping her grow strong. And forging a successful path forward. Because we knew, to help Athena, it would take a village. Dozens of highly trained pediatric specialists across our network. Giving families access to exceptional, specialized care. Now Athena can be a kid again...and her heart is full.

Learn more.
millerchildrens.org/care

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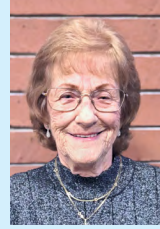
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Superintendent

The Lawndale Elementary School District (LESD) is committed to meeting the needs of every child we serve and creating a college-going culture. To meet our goals, we have set forth drivers that will guide us in our decisions, including data-informed instruction, professional learning communities, and reinforcing our Multi-Tiered System of Support structure. It is our responsibility to remove barriers in the way of a child meeting their full potential, so this year, we have invested in new resources and programs.

LESD has onboarded a full-time Board Certified Behavior Analyst and a team of Registered Behavior Technicians to address the unique needs that have become evident post-pandemic. In addition, we will open our Community Wellness Center doors and are excited about the partners and services we will provide. The center will serve the Lawndale community and provide resources, including school social workers, Medi-Cal, and physical and mental wellness workshops. We thank our community partners who have been instrumental in supporting our efforts to provide more services to the community.



This year, LESD is also expanding its Technology, Robotics, Engineering, and Coding program to more grade levels. This program provides students with the opportunity to explore various subjects, develop problem-solving, creative, and critical-thinking skills, and encourages students to seek higher education opportunities. By helping develop students' skills, LESD aims to better prepare students for college and their future careers.

LESD looks forward to expanding the resources available to students and parents and will continue to seek more resources that will help our students build brighter futures. Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about the Lawndale Elementary School District.

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Lawndale Educational Foundation

4161 W. 147th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/973-1300 • lasdef.com

Founded in 1999, the Lawndale Elementary School District Educational Foundation was organized to expand the educational offerings available to Lawndale students. Through a mini-grant program that is offered to staff each year, the foundation has been able to fund extraordinary projects and activities that heighten academic excellence. To date, the foundation has provided more than \$300,000 in funding.

Since our founding, our vision for student success and enrichment has only strengthened. Through partnerships with community organizations, such as Lawndale Rotary, the foundation has been able to support programs such as Vision to Learn, which offers free vision screenings and eyeglasses to students.

Moving forward, we strive to expand our presence in the community and continually develop partnerships in an effort to impact student learning and heighten the academic excellence of the students in our community. To learn more about the foundation and get involved, visit www.lawndalesd.net/programs/lesd-educational-foundation.



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**Covering the
LAWDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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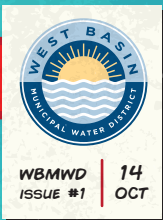
Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This issue begins with Superintendent Virginia Castro's welcoming message. Her positive message highlights the District's commitment to creating a college-going culture. Wonderful resources and programs available for academic

success for all students and parental support.

Have a wonderful school year and we'll be back April 10 with our next issue. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.



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**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 14TH**

**WATER
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FREE FAMILY EVENT

WATER EDUCATION

TOURS

PRIZES

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KIDS COSTUME CONTEST

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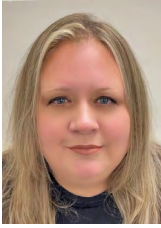
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Jane Addams *Middle School*

4535 W. 153rd Pl., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/676-4806 • addams.lawndalesd.net



Jami Valentine
Principal

At JAMS, We CARE about having a Great Start to the New School Year!

At JAMS we are proud of how we work to CARE for our students academically, social-emotionally, and behaviorally. We aim to provide a high-quality education that empowers students to think critically and develop skills to adapt to the ever-changing world. Our strong academic program includes honors classes in Language Arts and Math, as well as engaging elective programs that include fine arts, band and music, computer programming, and robotics.

We continue to provide a calming space, room 1440, that allows students the ability to receive support and strategies to deal with stress, anxiety, and other social-emotional needs.

We encourage our families to stay connected and engaged as an essential component of the overall success of our students. Whether communicating directly with your child's teacher, attending parent conferences or

parent events, the heart of our school community is that at JAMS, we CARE - we demonstrate civility, achievement, resilience, and empathy.

Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



Bengal Tiger students are demonstrating achievement by checking out library books in our Library Media Center as well as civility by lining up respectfully for their team Harvard first period class.

William Anderson *Elementary*

4130 W. 154th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/676-0197 • anderson.lawndalesd.net



Amaris Rivas
Principal

Anderson Dolphins Make a **SPLASH** into the New Year!

Our Anderson staff and teachers are excited to welcome you and your children back to a new year of learning and growing together. At Anderson, we are committed to the success of all in a safe, nurturing environment. Students are empowered to become lifelong learners and responsible, caring citizens. We strive for our students

to have a strong sense of character and realize their own unlimited potential. We are all here to partner with you for the most successful learning experience for your child. I also want to extend a huge thank you to our families for your effort in bringing your student to school on time, every day, that is the Dolphin Way! Attendance also continues to be a top priority for our students this new year. Students learn and grow when they are at school.

And finally, I want to commend our families for your commitment to your student's education and continued partnership with your child's teacher and our staff. Families are welcome and encouraged to join us for upcoming events, family workshops and volunteer opportunities as well as join our PTA in the new year. This year, we will continue to send home communication in a variety of ways including emails, Sunday phone messages and our newly adopted school community application "Parent Square". I am confident, as always, that our work together as a staff and community will benefit our students every step of the way.



Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



Welcome to the 2023 - 2024 School Year!



Jennie Whitaker
Principal

FDR Tigers ROAR! Tiger Training & ROAR Assembly

FDR prioritizes keeping our campus safe and we are focused on supporting the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic needs of all of our students. Our school implements a continuum of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) to create a positive learning environment for students.

We utilize PBIS as an approach to promote our school's safety and foster positive student behaviors. We explicitly teach students about behavior expectations and strategies so that they continue to be successful learners.

FDR Tigers ROAR! FDR students participated in our two-day Tiger Training sessions where they learned and reviewed how to be Responsible Learners, Own their Actions, Act with Kindness, and Remember to be a Friend. Students visited various areas on campus to learn about the different ways to ROAR. Staff and students reviewed expectations on the playground, hallways, bathrooms, and cafeteria. Students earned individual student ROAR slips and classroom Tiger Tickets for demonstrating our ROAR values. We celebrated during our ROAR assembly where students earned a classroom reward and met our FDR Tiger mascot. We have had a great start to the school year!

We encourage our families to participate in their child's learning experience by checking in with them daily about their school day and communicating with their child's teacher. Parent involvement and partnerships are crucial to the success of our FDR students. Parents may participate in our School Site

Council (SSC), English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), PTA, and become parent volunteers.

Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



FDR students learning about ROAR values on the playground. FDR students participating in our ROAR Assembly.

William Green *Elementary*

4520 W. 168th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/370-3585 • green.lawndalesd.net



Laura Quane
Principal

SOARing at William Green

Welcome students and families to the 2023-24 school year! At William Green, students learn and grow to their fullest potential with the support of our dedicated teachers and staff. We strive for academic excellence, inclusivity, and a growth mindset while ensuring that our campus is safe and inviting for all students. We understand that we are all capable of making a difference in our world, the Eagle Way! Our students follow our SOAR motto: S-Stay Safe, O-Own Actions, A-Act with kindness, so we are R-Ready to learn.

We are excited to partner with families and caregivers this year to enhance the overall school experience for all of our Eagles. Your voice matters! Please consider joining our various parent advisory committees, such as PTA, School Site Council, and our English Language Advisory Committee. With parents as partners and decision-makers, we look forward to celebrating the successes of our students this year while immersing ourselves in the beautiful diversity of our school community.

Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



Students in Ms. Dellacamera's Kindergarten class work on identifying numbers and counting with the help of giant dice.



Our Eagles are encouraged to stay active during recess and check out our new Green sports equipment with the help of PE Coach Emily.

Billy Mitchell Elementary

14429 Condon Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/676-6140 • mitchell.lawndalesd.net



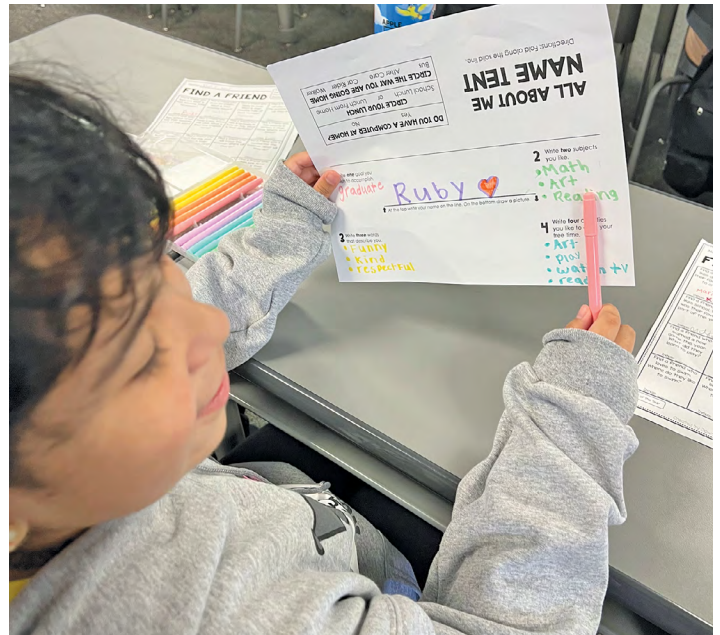
**Dr. Dalia
Coronel**
Interim Principal

Aviators SOAR Alongside their Families

Hello to all of our Aviator Families! At Billy Mitchell, we achieve academic excellence, embrace a growth mindset, take on new challenges, build stamina, and reach our full potential. Our motto is We SOAR, from Aviators to Astronauts!

Our students are supported by highly qualified teachers and staff, and our campus is proud to showcase the most beautiful Mitchell Garden, a state-of-the-art Makerspace for Robotics and Coding, and PS Arts for Drama, Music, and Fine Arts. We are excitedly expanding our Spanish Dual Immersion Language program in kindergarten and first grades, which continues to promote our values in bilingualism, biliteracy, cultural identity, and cross-cultural competence, and together with our Pathways Special Education Program, we celebrate our amazing and diverse learning community each and every day.

Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



Fifth grade student in Mr. Castro's class engages in partner talk as she shares about herself in a beginning of the school year activity.



Third grade students engage in a book read aloud lead by the teacher, Mrs. Lopez.

Lawndale State *Preschool*

3530 W 147th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/644-8458 • www.lawndale.k12.ca.us/prek



**Dr. Tia
Belt-Brown**

*Director
Preschool and
Early Education
Programs*

Welcome Parents and Students

We welcome all parents and students to the 2023-2024 school year! At Lawndale, we offer a range of early childhood education programs serving cities across the South Bay.

LESD offers preschool for children ages 2.8 to 4 and transitional kinder for ages 4 to 5.

Our qualified staff provide our students with a

high-quality early education program. Our teachers work and plan together as a team to provide the best developmentally age appropriate lessons and activities tailored to each child. Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that supports your child's learning and development, and help students develop a positive attitude toward school and develop the skills necessary to be successful in Kindergarten and beyond.

LESD also offers the Lawndale Early Advantage Program (LEAP), which is an inclusive preschool designed for students ages 3-4, with special education needs to learn and play alongside typically developing preschoolers known as Peer Partners. All classes are taught by early childhood educators with experience and knowledge in child development. LEAP students benefit from research-based curriculum, a new inclusive playground, and enjoy sensory and motor activities led by specialists.

We are proud to be able to offer a wealth of educational opportunities and resources to our students, and look forward to another great year!

To learn more about our programs, visit www.lawndalesd.net/programs.



Will Rogers *Middle School*

4110 W. 154th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/676-1197 • rogers.lawndalesd.net



Emilie Leigh
Principal

Where Everybody Belongs

WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is an orientation and transitional program in which student leaders mentor 6th graders to facilitate their transition to middle school. As positive role models, our WEB Leaders are mentors and student leaders that support our 6th graders to build connections, strong relationships and feel comfortable with the Rogers community

and with each other.

Will Rogers Middle School prioritizes putting students first and embracing a growth mindset. We support the whole child: academically, behaviorally, socially, and emotionally. Our school community supports students to be creative, productive, and thoughtful contributors to our local and global society.

We encourage our families to stay connected and engaged, as parent involvement is essential for the overall success of the whole child. At Rogers Middle School, we understand the value of developing parents as leaders to



participate in decision-making through School Site Council and English Language Advisory Committee meetings and partnering with the school throughout the school year. We are proud Panthers who show our Panther PAW - Practice Safety, Act Respectfully, and Work Towards Success!

Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



Where Everybody Belongs (WEB)

Lucille Smith *Elementary*

4521 W. 147th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/970-2915 • smith.lawndalesd.net



Cristal Moore
Principal

Transitional Kindergarten

We are happy to announce the opening of our first Transitional Kindergarten class for the 23/24 school year and cannot wait to greet new and returning Cheetahs! At Lucille Smith Elementary School, our students experience a

rigorous learning environment surrounded by highly-qualified and caring staff. Smith Elementary focuses on developing the whole child to ensure students feel safe and celebrated as learners. We foster a growth mindset where students explore and problem-solve as readers, mathematicians, and scientists. Our Smith Makerspace provides students with opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, and imagination to build a brighter future.

Whether it be our Astronomy Night, STEM Egg Drop Challenge, or our annual Cheetah Run and Bike Rodeo, we look forward to continuing our Smith traditions to bring students, staff, and families together as a unified Cheetah community.

Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



Maker Space Classroom: To meet the demands of the 21st Century, Smith students enjoy hands-on learning by building, creating, and problem-solving with robotics, tiles, and magnets.



Multicultural Night: Smith Elementary honors the diversity on campus by learning about our ethnic traditions and celebrating with food, music, and dance.

Mark Twain *Elementary*

3728 W. 154th St., Lawndale, CA 90260 • 310/675-9134 • twain.lawndalesd.net



Michael Bosler
Principal

River Rafters Show OARS

Welcome students and families to the 2023-24 school year! We are proud of our academic offerings, including our Dual Immersion program, and we believe in the importance of supporting the needs of the ‘whole-child.’ We strive for academic excellence, inclusivity, and a growth mindset while ensuring that our campus is safe and inviting for all students.

Our students follow our OARS motto: O-Outstanding, A-Attitude, R-Respectful and S- Safe. River Rafters show, “OARS!”

We are excited to partner with families this year to enhance the overall school experience for all of our River Rafters. Your voice matters! Please consider joining our various parent advisory committees, such as Parent Teacher Association (PTA), School Site Council (SSC), and our English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC). With parents as partners, we look forward to celebrating our students’ successes this year while celebrating the beautiful diversity of our school community at our family events.

Visit www.lawndalesd.net to learn about our programs and follow us on social media!



River Rafters working as a team.



River Rafters enjoying their recess in the shade.

Toy Store Items–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 Lawndale in the subject line.

Entries must be received by October 15, 2023

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

BIKE	MARBLES
DOLL	CRAYON
TRIKE	PENS
BOOK	COMPUTER
LEGOS	DOLLHOUSE
SOLDIERS	BUGGY
BALLS	KITCHEN
BUBBLES	TEA SET
CROQUET	BAT
BLOCKS	BALL GLOVE
KITES	

B	U	G	G	Y	S	R	C	E	X	J	Y	J	F	C
N	A	V	L	T	R	E	W	Z	S	W	D	A	Q	X
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J	A	S	C	W	M	A	R	B	L	E	S	Q	V	D
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I	T	R	I	K	E	O	B	L	P	Z	E	I	M	Q
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O	V	K	S	F	X	G	V	N	B	R	P	A	U	Y

Halloween Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
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BLACK CAT	HALLOWEEN
CANDY	JACK O LANTERN
CARVE	MUMMY
CEMETERY	SKELETON
COSTUME	SPIDER
DECORATIONS	SWAMP CREATURE
FRANKENSTEIN	TRICK OR TREAT
FRIGHTFUL	VAMPIRE
GHOST	WEB
GHOUL	WEREWOLF
GRAVE	WITCH
HAUNTED HOUSE	ZOMBIE

N	I	E	T	S	N	E	K	N	A	R	F	D	E	N
R	D	S	V	A	M	P	I	R	E	C	L	B	V	Q
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Empowering the Future:

Integrating Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education to Prepare Students for Tomorrow

By Jose R. Gonzalez, LACOE's Chief Technology Officer



Debra Duardo,
M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

As we gear up for the upcoming school year, LACOE is leading the way to explore the fascinating world of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on education. This technological wave has the potential to reshape the way educators teach and students learn, and I'm eager to delve into the insights it offers.

AI introduces the possibility of enhancing education by providing educators with new insights and tools to create more efficient and personalized learning experiences. While there may be concerns surrounding AI, integrating it into the educational landscape could be a transformative step in preparing students for a future deeply intertwined with technology.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has taken a commendable initiative to empower educators with the knowledge and skills needed to harness the capabilities of AI. Our comprehensive training program, which includes workshops, webinars, and professional development sessions, and presenting at conferences demonstrates a commitment to demystifying AI and providing educators with a balanced perspective on its potential benefits and challenges. The ongoing training sessions offered by LACOE's Instructional Technology Outreach (ITO) team are particularly noteworthy, as they address crucial aspects like ethical considerations and strategies for leveraging AI to enhance student engagement.

LACOE's active participation in influential conferences like the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE), and Learning, Innovation and Technology in Education (LITE) further

solidifies our dedication to staying at the forefront of educational innovation. LACOE has made a mark by organizing an in-person inaugural AI Symposium, a testament to our commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of AI's role in education. The diverse panel discussions, featuring educators, government officials, administrators, and industry experts, underscore the collaborative effort required to navigate the integration of AI into education successfully.

It's clear that AI should not be viewed as a replacement for educators but as a powerful tool that can amplify its impact. AI's ability to provide insights, identify learning gaps, and personalize instruction has the potential to revolutionize the classroom experience. The emphasis on AI's capacity to enhance student engagement, creativity, and critical thinking aligns with the core values of education.

LACOE's approach of involving all stakeholders – parents, students, teachers, and administrators – in discussions about AI integration is praiseworthy. It reflects an understanding that responsible integration requires a collective effort. Furthermore, the focus on continuous professional development and the development of guidelines for AI usage underscores the importance of a well-informed and cautious approach.

This is an exciting journey to discover all aspects of AI and its benefits and challenges are vital. It will take collaboration between educators, institutions, and technology to shape the future of education. The responsible and thoughtful integration of AI has the potential to create a more dynamic and personalized learning environment for students, and LACOE is eager to provide many perspectives through the journey as educators navigate this transformative landscape.