

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Palo Alto Unified School District



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Superintendent of Schools

As the Superintendent of Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD), I'm excited to share the remarkable progress we've made under the PAUSD Promise, an initiative reflecting our commitment to excellence and equity in education. Our district, known for its high-achieving status and proximity to Stanford University, continues to make strides in key areas: Mental Health, Equity and Excellence, Early Literacy, Serving and Celebrating Others, and Innovation.

Mental Health: We recognize the importance of mental health in our students' overall success. Our focused efforts have led to the implementation of comprehensive support systems and wellness programs. These initiatives are not just about addressing challenges; they're about fostering a healthy, supportive environment where every student feels valued and heard. This year, the efforts have expanded to include new support for our valued employees. We are making progress!

Equity and Excellence: In PAUSD, excellence is synonymous with equity. We've made significant progress in ensuring that all our students, regardless of background, have access to high-quality education and resources. This commitment is evident in our diverse range of programs and inclusive teaching methodologies, tailored to meet the unique needs of every learner. Inclusion goes beyond academics and we are taking steps to break down barriers and to develop future leaders with an eye to equity.

Early Literacy: Understanding that literacy is the foundation of all learning, we've intensified our focus on early literacy. Our innovative approaches in teaching reading and writing skills have not only improved literacy rates but also instilled a love for learning in our youngest students. As a result, we have led the state for two years in a row when it comes to growth in our target groups.

Serving and Celebrating Others: Our district stands out in its commitment to serving and celebrating the achievements of our students and staff. We've cultivated a culture of recognition and appreciation, where everyone's contributions are valued and celebrated. This positive environment encourages continuous personal and academic growth.

Innovation: In line with our proximity to Silicon Valley, innovation is at the heart of PAUSD. Our approach to education is dynamic, constantly adapting to the latest educational trends and technologies. We are approaching the relaunch of our Middle College program at Foothill College with some exciting evolutions.

In summary, the optimism surrounding our school district is well-founded. The progress we've made under the PAUSD Promise is a testament to our collective effort and commitment to nurturing a generation of well-rounded, empowered individuals. Our achievements in these key areas are not just milestones but stepping stones to even greater successes in the future.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News 
Education + Communication = A Better Nation
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

**Covering the
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Time goes by quickly. This is our 6th year publishing the excellence from the Palo Alto Unified School District. There seems to be a never-ending stream of school spirit and this issue is focused on that theme. Being in a positive environment is contagious!

Be sure to enter the word searches on pages 23 and 24. We had so many entries last issue that I have included four contests in this issue.

Our next issue is January 31. Until then Happy New Year!



Happy Holidays!

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Addison *Elementary School*

650 Addison Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5935 • addison.pausd.org



Jeff Downing
Principal

Focused on Possibilities

When life gets you down, do you wanna know what you've gotta do? Just keep swimming. — Dory

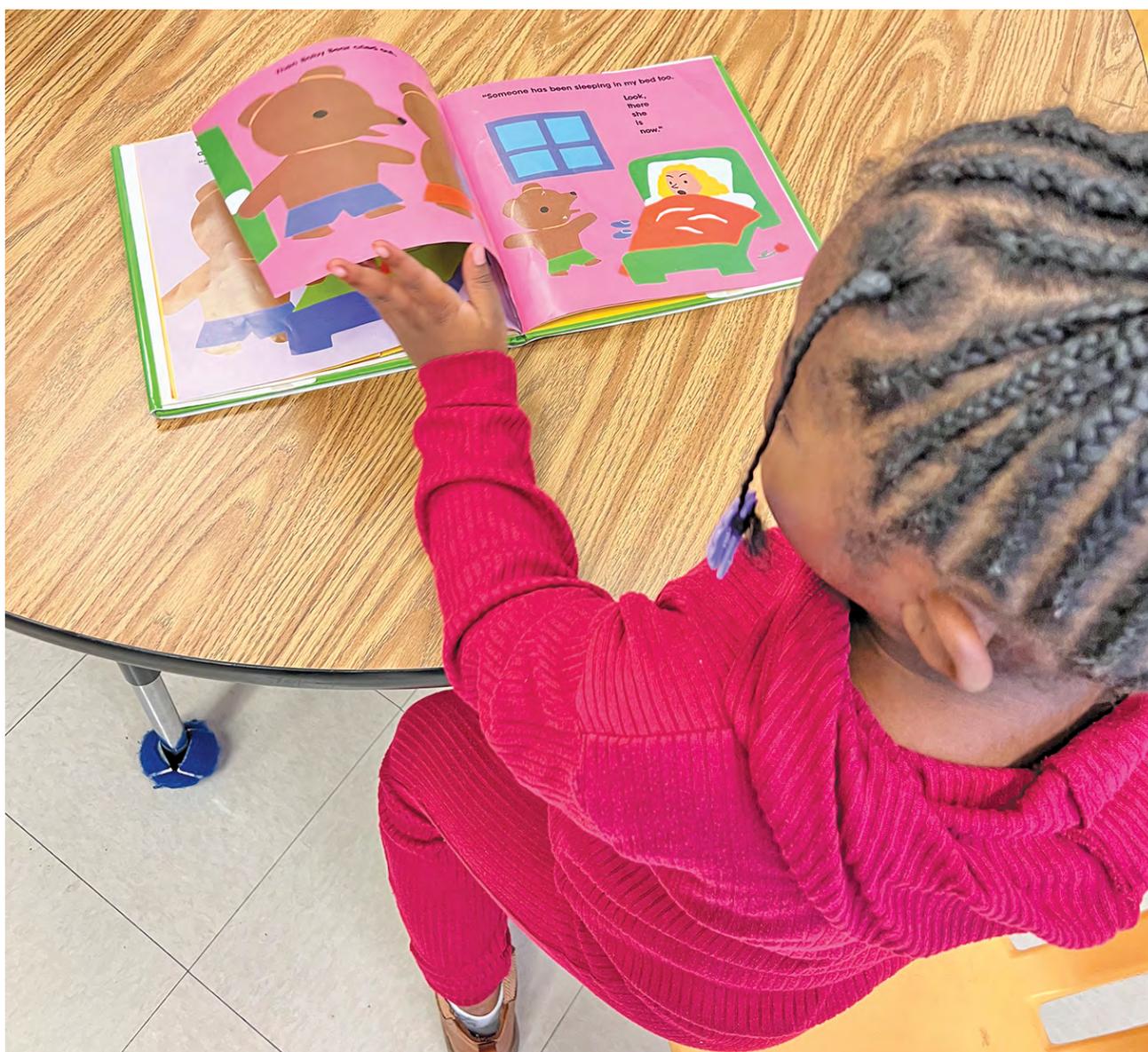
One of my favorite times of the school day is in the morning when I welcome students to campus by greeting them at our student drop-off. We greet each other with a hello, a fist bump, and a hearty “Good morning.” There is always a sense of optimism about what the day will bring regardless of what happened in the past. They are happy to see friends, connect with familiar faces, and be children.

Not too long ago, I walked through classrooms and came into one where one of our first graders I greet each morning was reading a small book. He had been struggling

in school and acting out to avoid specific tasks he did not feel confident with. Several staff members had been working with this student, encouraging him to “just keep swimming.” When he saw me, he called me over with the biggest smile.

He said, “Mr. D, do you want to hear me read this?” I knelt beside him and listened to him read the words on the pages with confidence and joy. The expression on his face just said it all. No words are needed. He was so happy with his accomplishment and the confidence that he was gaining as he began focusing on what he could do.

Our entire staff is focused on the possibilities of what a student can accomplish. This attitude of optimism spreads across the campus and helps us build a strong community. Addison continues to be a cornerstone of our downtown community as we work together to see what our young students can be.



Barron Park *Elementary School*

800 Barron Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/858-0508 • barron.pausd.org



Dr. Judy Argumedo
Principal

Bringing Joy to Barron Park

Barron Park Elementary holds an annual Walk-a-thon fundraiser every September. The fundraiser brings the Palo Alto Junior Museum to Barron Park classrooms monthly for grade level science lessons and experiences with local animal life. The Walk-a-thon is a great opportunity for families to

come on campus, connect with others and enjoy a variety of activities. Students walk a lap around the school to energizing music and fun prizes for completing laps. This year our mascot, Hunny the Bee encouraged walkers as they completed a lap. Hunny the Bee brings joy and school spirit to students as a reminder and symbol of Barron Park core values; Bee Safe, Bee Kind, Bee Respectful and Bee your Best.



Duveneck *Elementary School*

705 Alester Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/322-5946 • duveneck.pausd.org



Brittany Gardner
Principal

Celebrating Acts of Compassion and Literacy Triumphs

Kindness permeated the air at Duveneck this month! Of our three school expectations: be safe, be kind, and be responsible, we chose to focus on catching acts of kindness this month. At school-wide assemblies, student council created skits to demonstrate showing kindness in common situations they might encounter, particularly ones that might be difficult to navigate with compassion. The fifth-grade classes created posters for each classroom to collect their acts of kindness with stickers on a chart. This not only aligns with our mental health and wellness goals, but also was an opportunity for our students to be celebrated, both important parts of the

PAUSD promise. All sticker charts were displayed during a recent assembly to celebrate student achievements!

Another PAUSD promise goal always on our minds is early literacy. Teachers at Duveneck fully embrace structured literacy and have been working tirelessly to utilize Heggerty, OG, and Benchmark collaboratively to cater to diverse student needs. Our EL Specialist and Librarian have initiated targeted literacy instruction with small groups, and we recently hired our TK teacher to provide early intervention to kindergarten students with support from the reading specialist. Teachers are strategically planning their small group instruction leveraging the vast decodables libraries recently purchased by Ed Services. The collective efforts of teachers and staff at Duveneck contribute to a nurturing and supportive learning environment.



Students practice kindness by encouraging their friends when they get “out” during four-square.

El Carmelo *Elementary School*

2024 Bryant St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0960 • elcarmelo.pausd.org



Leonel Argumedo
Principal

Promoting School Spirit

This school year El Carmelo Elementary welcomed a new member to our community, Sapphire the Dragon. Sapphire was introduced to the school the first day of school. At the time, our school's mascot had no name, so Fifth Grade Leadership held a naming contest. The leadership group collected name submissions from the student body and voted on the name. El Carmelo's nickname

is the Hidden Gem, and Sapphire was a perfect choice. Sapphire wasted no time in promoting school spirit and building community. Sapphire visited classrooms the first week of school, and students got to take a class picture with them. In addition, Sapphire makes appearances at school events and helps promote El Carmelo's Hidden Gem program, which recognizes students who exhibit our school values of being kind, responsible, and safe. Sapphire has made a positive impact on our school. A recent student survey showed an increase in positive energy at El Carmelo.



Ellen Fletcher *Middle School*

655 Arastradero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-9810 • fletcher.pausd.org



Melissa Howell
Principal

Empowering Unity: Fletcher Cultivates School Spirit

We have had an amazing start to the 2023-2024 school year. In an inspiring commitment to building a strong sense of community and student agency, Fletcher has implemented a multifaceted approach that goes beyond the 'normal' educational experience. Through spirit activities, engaging assemblies, social-emotional lessons, new electives, a new 'Sustainability for All' choice program, and a variety of service-learning options, to name a few, the school is becoming an environment of enthusiasm and shared purpose.

A part of this initiative is our new Student Advisory Groups at every grade level, as well as specific student advisory groups for our new Sustainability program, ASB, and Leadership students. We also have a robust offering of student lunchtime clubs. These groups allow opportunities for student voices in the areas of feedback, growth, and inspiration. These groups are truly the boots on the ground.

These dedicated student-led teams and clubs actively contribute to shaping the school's culture, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued. Their passion and insights drive positive change, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among the student body.

The commitment to unity extends to the staff, with collaborative efforts purposely structured into the school's routines. Regular collaboration creates a supportive environment where ideas flourish, benefitting both educators and students alike. Staff have dedicated and protected time weekly built into our schedules for intentionally PLC-driven conversations.

As Fletcher continues to prioritize community building, it stands as an example of how promoting agency and collaboration can help transform a school into a thriving, unified community. Through these initiatives, the school not only educates minds but also nurtures spirits, preparing students for success in both academics and life beyond the classroom. For more information on our amazing school, please visit the school website at fletcher.pausd.org



2023 Fletcher Unity Day

Escondido *Elementary School*

890 Escondido Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94305 • 650/856-1337 • escondido.pausd.org



Leslie Crane
Principal

Día De Los Muertos

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a vibrant and meaningful celebration observed in many Mexican and Latin American cultures. This tradition, full of joy and symbolism, typically takes place from October 31st to November 2nd. Escondido School houses the only Spanish Immersion Program in the district and we celebrate

Día de los Muertos throughout the school day as well as with a huge community event in the evening that many of our families look forward to attending year after year.

In our school, this festive occasion is often commemorated with educational and engaging activities.

Students participate in creating colorful papel picado, crafting intricate sugar skulls, and designing vibrant altars called “ofrendas” adorned with marigolds and candles. These ofrendas serve as a way to welcome the spirits back to the living world by offering them their favorite things. The celebration serves as a valuable opportunity for cultural education, fostering an understanding and appreciation for the rich traditions associated with honoring deceased loved ones.

Escondido School comes alive with the spirit of Día de los Muertos, as students learn about the significance of the holiday through stories, music, and art. These activities not only promote creativity but encourage a sense of unity and appreciation for the traditions that make our world beautifully diverse.



Fairmeadow *Elementary*

500 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0845 • fairmeadow.pausd.org



Iris Wong
Principal

Learning is a Team Sport

Optimism is like sunshine on a clear day, infusing our Fairmeadow Firebirds with a sense of joy, enthusiasm, and curiosity. Fairmeadow Elementary is a place where the seeds of positivity are sown, and the growth of optimism is nurtured and supported daily. Fairmeadow teachers and staff and beloved PTA strive to provide our students with an innate sense of wonder, excitement, and a sense of belonging by incorporating a variety of activities throughout the week, especially during recess and lunch times where all students can participate. Our Firebirds

have a plethora of activities to choose from, such as PTA Noon Tables (STEM and innovation activities, Legos, puzzles), Book Clubs, Walking Club, Boardgames Club, and Garden Club. In addition, our students look forward to our Playworks Program with Coach Bryant throughout the school year where students learn new social skills and teambuilding games. Fairmeadow consistently promotes a supportive and inclusive community. Teachers and staff work together to create a safe and encouraging atmosphere where students feel valued and supported. Parents, too, become part of this optimistic ecosystem, reinforcing the message that with effort and positive outlook, anything is achievable here at Fairmeadow Elementary.



School of Builders

Greendell School / Herbert Hoover Elementary School

4120 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-0833 • grendell.pausd.org/ 4120 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/320-8106 • hoover.pausd.org



Nikole Manou
Principal

Becoming ONE

The 2023-2024 school year kicked off with the exciting union of two schools, bringing them together into one cohesive campus. During the summer break, Hoover Elementary successfully relocated its entire campus to join forces with the Greendell School community. This two-year unification period will pave the way for a complete remodel of the Hoover Elementary site.

Initially, there were some concerns among the staff from Greendell, PreSchool Family, and Hoover Elementary about seamlessly merging the age groups of babies through fifth grade. However, as the school year began, both staffs realized that the combing of the two schools holds the promise of fostering an enriched educational community. Here, diverse perspectives and talents join forces to create a unified learning environment, perfectly aligning with the PAUSD mission of the 'Power of One.'



The sign to our new combined campus.

As these two school communities joined together in the Fall, a sense of excitement for new opportunities energized the campus. Staff and students from Greendell and Hoover Elementary realized they now have a chance to cultivate new friendships, share their unique experiences, and collaborate on



Hoover and Greendell Staff

projects that showcase the strengths of each program. This collaboration started with sharing staff meeting topics on equity and staff celebrations.

With a shared vision for excellence and a steadfast commitment to fostering a sense of community, Hoover and Greendell have united. The merged schools embody the belief that together, they can achieve even greater heights of success, innovation, and community impact. As this new chapter unfolds, optimism radiates throughout the classrooms and playgrounds, inspiring students, educators, and the entire school community to embark on this journey of growth, collaboration, and shared success.



Frank S. Greene Jr. Middle School

750 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/494-8120 • greene.pausd.org



Sebastian Benavidez
Principal

Greene's Got Spirit!

Greene Middle School students and staff have really leaned into school spirit this year! Our student council promotes and encourages students to participate in weekly Friday dress up days, with themes ranging from "Dress in Your Favorite Taylor Swift Era" to "Flip the Script - Students Dress Like Teachers". The whole Greene community has enjoyed these fun dress up days! In addition, everyone shows their spirit on Greene Gear Wednesdays. The

sense of community and connection that students feel is obvious when you look out at the sea of "Greene CARES" shirts in Hugh Center Court on Wednesdays at lunchtime. Students proudly wear these shirts that promote our year long commitment to all showing Compassion, Awareness, Responsiveness, Empathy and Support for each other. By participating in dress up and Greene gear spirit days, students can earn PAWS cards, a campus currency can redeem for snacks and school supplies and even more Greene gear. All these fun days build a spirit of community for all of us at Greene, helping us feel more connected and aware of each other.





Wendy Stratton
Principal

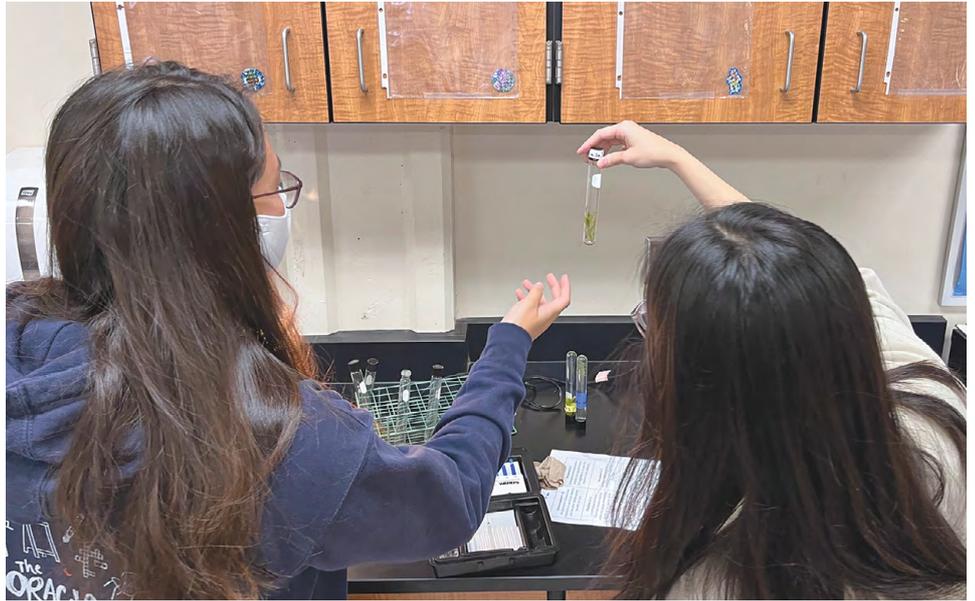
Gunn High School's AP Environmental Science Classes: Where Knowledge Meets Action

At Gunn High School, we are thrilled to share our innovative approach to teaching AP

Environmental Science (APES), which is making a significant impact within our school community. Our APES teachers and their students are using what they are learning to positively impact our school and our community.

Gunn teacher Mark Brassey shared the following:

“In our inaugural project, the AP Environmental Science class diligently worked on assessing and reducing the school’s consumption, with a specific focus on electricity usage. This project provided students with hands-on opportunities to explore the intricacies of energy use, its environmental consequences, and the economic dimensions of energy choices. They audited our school’s consumption patterns and proposed practical improvements such as LED lighting and potential solar panel adoption, deepening their understanding of energy-related challenges.



Gunn students Testing water quality to assess development.

Building on this momentum, the class is now delving into the development of environmental impact reports for the land situated between Gunn and Bol Park. This endeavor aims to give students hands-on experience in understanding ecosystems and the complexities of human interaction with natural environments. Students are examining the local ecosystem, assessing the potential impacts of land development, and exploring sustainable land use practices. This project allows students to apply ecological concepts learned in the classroom to a real-world scenario, fostering a deeper appreciation for the balance between human development and ecosystem conservation.”

The collaborative efforts between our two APES teachers, Mark Brassy and Navneet Schworetzky, are outstanding. Both have invested a great deal of time and creative energy in their project designs and have attended training and professional development to enhance their skills at embedding Project-Based Learning (PBL) into their curriculum. Last month, the two teachers attended a two-day conference at New Tech High in Napa, and this past summer they flew to San Diego to participate in an APES-specific conference about PBL in San Diego. They returned from these events with fresh insights, strategies, and a renewed commitment to providing our students with the best possible educational experience.

At Gunn, we celebrate these teachers and their commitment to building their capacity to engage students effectively, while empowering them to actively contribute to a sustainable future.



Jane Lathrop Stanford *Middle School*

480 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-5188 • jls.pausd.org



**Christopher
Grierson**
Principal

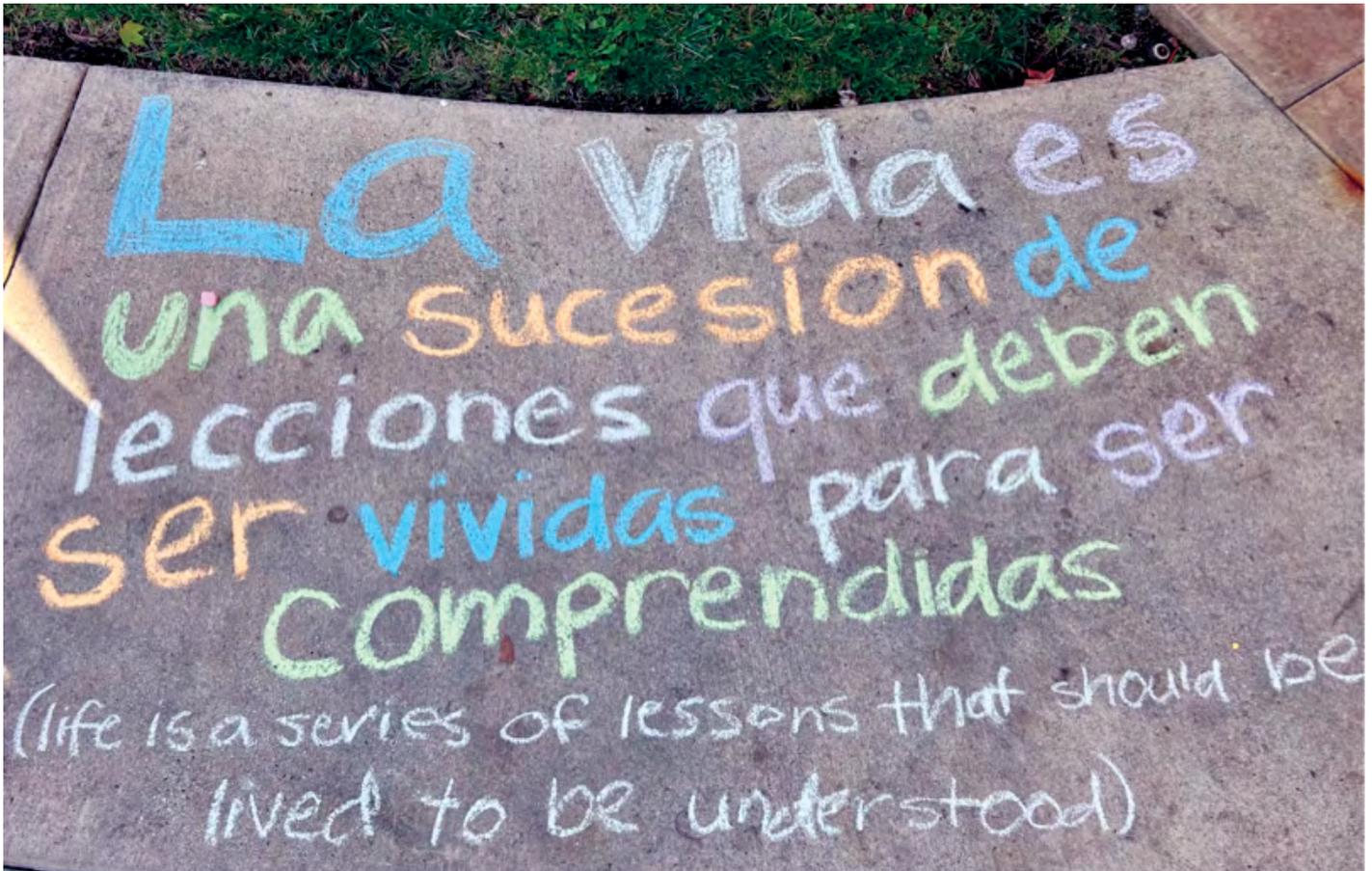
Building Optimism Through Student Voice

At JLS Middle School, a large part of our work is centered around students' ideas, opinions, and input. By understanding what students like and what students are interested in, we can better tailor our school's activities to create stronger student engagement and increase our community's overall sense of optimism through membership and belonging.

A few recent examples of our efforts in building optimism thru student engagement include:

- Inviting student's ideas and suggestions for Clubs, Lunchtime Spirit Events, and Intramural Sports, as well as topics for Student Council, Student Ad Hoc Committee and School Site Council agendas.
- Inviting students to write positive messages in chalk throughout our school's hallways.
- Inviting students to provide feedback on items sold in our student store, and invite student artists to develop new school icons and logos.

These are a few examples of the ways we increase optimism through student voice within our school community. For more information about our amazing school, visit our school website: www.jls.pausd.org



Students in JLS Spanish classes wrote messages to celebrate Dia De Los Muertos.

Juana Briones *Elementary School*

4100 Orme St., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-0877 • briones.pausd.org



Kathryn Bimpson
Principal

Gratitude for the Briones Bobcat Community

Fall is a time for reflection and gratitude and at Briones there is a great deal to be thankful for! I am thankful that our community is aligned in working toward our vision, “Learning and thriving as an inclusive community every day.”

I am thankful for:

... our custodians and office staff who keep our school clean, safe, and organized with smiles on their faces and care in their hearts.

...our food services person who has a can-do attitude and goes the extra mile to make getting food a great experience for our students.

...our dedicated, talented teachers who put relationships first, valuing the whole-child and their growth socially, emotionally, and academically.

...each and every one of our classroom aides and Student Attendants for being such caring, capable individuals. They are integral in the success of our students!

...our specialists (EL, Reading Specialist, Special Education teachers, speech and language, mental health and wellness therapist, school psychologist, AAC support, vision and hearing specialists, OT and PTs!). Their expertise, the way they connect with students, and their support of our teachers is essential!

... our specials teachers, in art, cooperative play, dance, library, music, and PE. We are so fortunate to have them to provide access to skills that strengthen and stretch our students in such a variety of ways.

...our Behavior Intervention Coach and Student and Family Engagement Specialist who provide such necessary support for our students and families.

...our wonderful librarian who also serves as our Multicultural Affairs Liaison and supports with diversity, equity, and inclusion resources.

...our incredible parent community who supports our school with such enthusiasm and care!

It really does take a village to provide such an excellent educational experience for each of our students. Every human in our community enriches us and makes a difference! Thank you!



Lucille M. Nixon *Elementary School*

1711 Stanford Ave., Stanford, CA 94305 • 650/856-1622 • www.lmnixon.org



Amy Sheward
Principal

Serving & Celebrating Others

Nixon embraces the PAUSD Promise goal of serving and celebrating others every day. Here are a few recent highlights.

Ms. Jody's kindergarten students took part in preparing a feast for their families, showcasing their culinary talents, and creating memories. This act of service nourished the body and strengthened bonds, emphasizing the importance of shared moments and gratitude.

Our student council has organized a food and goods drive, rallying the school community to contribute towards those in need. Through collective efforts, we not only serve our immediate community but extend our impact to those beyond our school walls, fostering a sense of responsibility and compassion.

Finally, our admin team hired a coffee cart for staff before the Thanksgiving break, providing a warm and energizing start to their day. This small gesture was one way to express the profound appreciation we have for their incredible work. Nixon looks forward to serving and celebrating into 2024!



Kindergarten students prepare a feast for their families.

Ohlone *Elementary School*

950 Amarillo Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 650/856-1726 • ohlone.pausd.org



Elsa Chen
Principal

Inspirational Students

One gets into education with the hope of inspiring a better tomorrow. At Ohlone, this hope is alive! Recently, a group of students skipped up to me at lunch to share their latest project: a self-fashioned bag designed to hold trash collected around the school campus.

Their act goes beyond a simple cleanup effort; it highlights the power of education. These young people are practicing one of the Goals of an Ohlone Education, citizenship and community. Educators play an important role in shaping minds beyond academics. These students are putting those lessons on citizenship and community into action. These students are not waiting for tomorrow; they are, in their own small but significant way, shaping it today.



Palo Alto *Adult School*

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3752 • paadultschool.org



Jim Sherman
Principal

Journey through PAAS

With over three decades in education, I've witnessed the transformative impact of learning on children. As the new principal of the Palo Alto Adult School (PAAS), I am seeing that same effect on adult learners. Our school embodies a rich tapestry of educational opportunities that cater to the diverse needs and goals of our students.

Our incredible Preschool Family (PSF) isn't just about early education; it's about nurturing strong family bonds while laying the groundwork for a lifetime of learning. Parents actively engage with and alongside their children, attend evening workshops on topics such as friendship and setting limits, and build a strong family and community foundation.



Our Community Education courses serve as avenues for personal enrichment. From World Languages to Line Dancing, these are spaces where passions are explored, friendships are forged, and individuals/couples/families find pathways for self-expression and growth.

One of the cornerstones of the Palo Alto Adult School is the ESL program, a testament to our commitment to inclusivity. It's here that non-native English speakers find support in not just language acquisition, but in building confidence, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to both their personal and professional lives.

What truly sets us apart is our faculty and staff – dedicated mentors who guide, support, and inspire every student in our program. These selfless individuals are here throughout the day and evening, ensuring each learner is welcomed into our family. Through their guidance, these educators empower individuals to overcome challenges, discover their strengths, and embrace their potential, ensuring that each student feels valued and supported on their unique educational journey. Education is for life!



Palo Alto High School

50 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/329-3701 • www.paly.net



Brent Kline
Principal

Paly Power Moves

An African proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Power Moves is about going together. An all-inclusive walking initiative at Paly dedicated to building community through movement, Power Moves welcomes all staff and students on the track each Monday before school for conversation, laughter and old-fashioned walking. There

is no barrier to entry with Power Moves... no P.E. clothes or sports club memberships and the group doesn't count steps, laps, BMIs or GPAs. Plus, the health benefits of walking are substantial, with improved sleep, stress relief, increased energy and stamina and improvement of mood as just a few examples.

“We are all about healthy moving for health, fun and friendship,” says the founder Lucy Filppu who, along with Assistant Principal LaDonna Butler, oversaw the formation of the group last year. So far around 50 students and staff have participated in Power Moves and each week new participants show up to walk. Teachers Eric Tomlinson and Sue LaFetra are regulars, as are a core group of Seniors who now mentor younger walkers on the track. One ninth grader, new to the PAUSD district, came to Power Moves the first week of school in search of friends. He is now a weekly walker with the team.

Power Moves also reaches out to the community. The Palo Alto Weekly has given the group two scholarships to participate in the Moonlight Run/Walk at the Baylands and last year Power Moves followed the marching band for the local May Fete parade. With their pink hats and big smiles, the Power Movers of Paly are hard to miss. Remember, if you want to go far, go together. We'll be waiting for you... .8 a.m. every regularly scheduled Monday on the track. Let's Power Move together!



Paly Power Moves participants at the Moonlight Run/Walk at the Baylands.



Paly Power Moves getting ready to join the Paly Band at the May Fete Parade.



Paly staff and students pausing from their morning walk on the Paly track.

Palo Verde *Elementary School*

3450 Louis Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303 • 650/856-1672 • paloverde.pausd.org



Annora Lee
Principal

Celebrating Our Classified Support Staff

This submission is dedicated to the wonderful classified staff who help make Palo Verde the special place it is.

In addition to our teachers who nurture with such tender loving care, we are so fortunate to have an army of talented support professionals who do the same. These individuals make it their personal mission to make every child's day a little brighter.

They shy away from the attention, and downplay all of their contributions, but the impact of their work is undeniable.

On any given day, a visitor might spy children:

- Tossing the ball with Mr. Carlos, our gentle-hearted custodian.
- Swinging by the office to grab a bandaid from Ms. B, our clerk. Or getting some help calling home from Ms. Jenny, our school secretary.
- Checking out an item from the ball closet from Mr. Michael Mar.
- Joking around with food service leads Ms. Daisy and Ms. Maria at the Share Basket.
- Looking for trusted Ms. Lamptey, our mental health therapist, to share a story.

- Having a safe adult to lean on at recess with the Room 9 Team.
- In every classroom, our aides invest so much of their hearts to enrich and extend the learning. It might be:
- Sitting outside with Ms. Pak to read a little more about a special topic.
- Holding Ms. Macias' hand on the walk to Music class.
- Asking Mrs. Cassidy for a little extra glue to finish a project.
- Getting some extra Word Work time with Ms. Dennis.
- Going over that teeny tiny math thingy with Ms. Zajac.
- Holding a writer's mini-conference with Ms. Lili.
- Reviewing and/or pushing mathematical thinking with Ms. Laurence.

And who can forget our evening custodian Mr. Jose, who comes in just before students leave? He has the enormous task of spiffing up classrooms so kids can have clean, welcoming space to work in, every day.

Safe adults exist in every corner of our cozy campus. They love our children, and are deeply committed to serving them. Thank you, wonderful support staff, for making our school the vibrant place for learning our students deserve. We celebrate you!



Walter Hays *Elementary School*

1525 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5956 • hays.pausd.org



Mary Bussmann
Principal

Holding Optimism

Our beautiful children come to us most days filled with joy and hope, greeting each new day by connecting with friends and engaging in learning within a safe and nurturing environment.

The culture at Walter Hays is based on our Core Values which promotes an optimistic spirit in each child by cultivating respect, empathy, inclusion, perseverance, and resilience, five of our nine values!

“Optimism” for our students is holding a positive attitude and outlook in their lives. Optimism arises as children recognize that they are ‘seen’ and included by others. When children are optimistic, they have a positive sense of themselves as they navigate their home, school, and community environments. This optimistic outlook influences their ability to build friendships, solve challenging academic and social problems and they are more able to embrace and accept their humanity

realistically. Our work as educators and parents is to nurture an optimistic spirit in our children.

Each child is perfect, wonderfully perfect! By paying attention and ‘seeing’ each student as unique individuals, students feel safe, valued, and included. When the adults in a child’s life recognize and accept a child for the person they are, that child feels energized and joyful, and this is the building of an optimistic spirit.

Life presents challenges and hardships for each of us as we grow. When a person encounters challenges whether it be in learning new skills or facing adversities, holding an optimistic spirit enables us to persevere because we remain hopeful and confident that we can navigate through these rough times. Optimism also influences our resilience to get back to up and go forward whether we have been successful or not at addressing problems and challenges. An optimistic outlook builds and establishes positive mental health and well-being in each of us!

Parents, thank you for partnering with us to cultivate this optimistic spirit in each of your children!



Walter Hays Student Council Providing Hope for Others Through a Winter Garment Drive!

Gardening Terms –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 Palo Alto in the subject line.

SHOVEL	ROW
RAKE	FERTILIZER
HOE	SPADE
TRANSPLANT	SNAIL
POT	FOOD
NEMATODE	STAKE
WORM	HOSE
SOW BUG	SPRINKLER
FENCE	SEEDS
BED	PRUNERS

Entries must be received by February 15, 2024
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card!

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R Q Q Z D G F J O H S X S F
L E V O H S W I I C M M V E
F V Z F N R D E B U Z L K K
U S B I F H O E S Q D A T V
M R O W L H O S E U T T G C
F E D J O I F L A S O Y U T
C N U X L X T F C T P D N H
G U B W O S N R E D G A I V
X R E D O T A M E N E D D Y
S P R I N K L E R F C H G E
M T R A N S P L A N T E N Z
B I F I K Z F H L I U X M G
A U F V G E R V X X J C T S
    
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Congratulations to William & Elise Fellows
Winners of our May Word Search Contest!

Seen at Sea –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 Palo Alto in the subject line.

SAND	LIGHTHOUSE
SHELLS	YACHT
CRAB	CRUISE SHIP
LOBSTER	SHORELINE
OYSTERS	HORIZON
MUSSELS	SUN
SAILBOAT	MOON
DOCK	LIFEGUARD
PIER	SKYLINE
HARBOR	

Entries must be received by February 15, 2024
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

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P L D D F T O N N P K N W
I Y O N R G A O C U R N E
H J U B A A I O V A O N N
S S L E S S U M B Z I U I
E S U O H T H G I L U T L
S G L P C M E R E B I G Y
I R I L T T O R A F G A K
U E E K E H O R E R I C S
R A B T A H C P A Q O L R
C L X K S Y S A U D M X U
Y K F H A Y Y L Y S A A X
B Q N Z X U O F S K D O R
    
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Congratulations to Vanessa Matocinos
Winner of our May Word Search Contest!

Appliances–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 Palo Alto in the subject line.

Entries must be received by February 15, 2024
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

VACUUM	BLENDER
DRYER	COMPACTOR
DISHWASHER	RADIO
FRIDGE	CROCKPOT
HEATER	COMPUTER
MICROWAVE	JUICER
OVEN	SKILLET
STOVE	KNIFE
FAN	CLOCK
MIXER	

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

Congratulations to **Khyl & Anand Putch**
Winners of our May Word Search Contest!

Fun Things and Places–Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Palo Alto in the subject line.

Entries must be received by February 15, 2024
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

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

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