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Covering the Fountain Valley, Ocean View, and Westminster School Districts

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 101

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021

Meet the Superintendents

FOUNTAIN VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Mark Johnson has been the Superintendent in Fountain Valley School District since January 2015. Under his leadership, the Fountain Valley School District successfully passed Measure O, the first general obligation bond passed in the District's history. Phase 4 of this \$63 million bond is being implemented currently and the completion of Phases 1-3 has dramatically enhanced the teaching environment in our classrooms with improved air quality and air climate through much needed facilities upgrades.

Over the last several years, Dr. Johnson has led numerous change initiatives in education related to improving student outcomes. Some of these changes include: long-term facilities planning, a focus on

school safety, leadership development, educational technology and online learning, Depth and Complexity, Cognitively Guided Instruction, Advanced Placement for All and College and Career Readiness. Prior to becoming a part of the FVSD family, he spent considerable time in the Los Alamitos Unified School District, where he served for 15 years as a middle school teacher, site administrator and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.

Dr. Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, a Master of Arts in education administration from National University and a Doctor of Education in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

Family is a big part of Dr. Johnson's life, and he resides locally with his wife Susan, an elementary school teacher, and three daughters.

OCEAN VIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Dr. Carol Hansen has served as the Superintendent of the Ocean View School District (OVSD) since 2015. Her 30 plus-year career in public education includes serving as an assistant superintendent of human resources, director of classified personnel, middle school principal, assistant principal, activities specialist, coach and high school teacher. She received her BA and MA from CSU Long Beach and her doctorate in Education in a joint program at University of California-Irvine and UCLA.

Throughout her tenure in OVSD, Dr. Hansen has worked with her Cabinet to strengthen the credibility and stability of the District by focusing on student learning and innovative programs for students, such as Science, Technology Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM), Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA), Environmental Science, and Dual Language Immersion.

Dr. Hansen possesses a strong background in school leadership, human resources, and labor relationships. Since coming to OVSD, Dr. Hansen has

worked tirelessly to forge effective and productive working relationships between District leaders and the unions in OVSD, resulting in the formation of Partnership with Administration and Labor, or PAL, in OVSD. The PAL philosophy and structure allows for collaborative problem-solving, open communication, and a focus on a common vision. OVSD has been recognized as a model District for labor partnerships by the California Labor Management Initiative (CLMI).

Dr. Hansen currently serves on the Association of California School Administrators' (ACSA) state Board of Directors' representing Orange County, she's a member of the School Employers' Association of California (SEAC), and she previously served three years as the President of ACSA State Human Resource Council. Dr. Hansen has received numerous prestigious awards including the Lauds & Laurels Award presented to distinguished alumni from University of California-Irvine, she was named ACSA's State Administrator of the Year for Human Resources, and she received the Ray Curry Award for outstanding achievement and performance in the field of Human Resources.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT



Dr. Cyndi Paik

Superintendent Dr. Cyndi Paik has been an educator in Orange County for 25 years. She previously was WSD's Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. In her diverse career, Dr. Paik has also served as a K-12 Administrative Director of Accountability and Special Programs, school site principal, assistant principal, classroom teacher, and literacy coach. She was named the 2017 Westminster School District and Orange County ACSA Central Office Administrator of the Year. In the same year, Dr. Paik was the California Bilingual Education Chair and had successfully

implemented Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Spanish Dual Language Immersion Programs in schools across two districts. For her hands-on leadership, contribution to education, and innovative work, Dr. Paik was chosen to receive the prestigious Milken Educator Award.

For 2021-2022, Superintendent Dr. Paik leads an "Honor Roll" district and schools focused on preparing students with 21st Century skills: perseverance, digital citizenship, empathy, and growth mindset. There are 17 exceptional schools and signature programs in WSD which students and families could be enrolled in:

- GATE Magnet at Sequoia Academy and GATE cluster programs at all elementary schools.
- Dual Language Immersion programs at DeMille (Vietnamese) and Willmore (Spanish).
- Computer Science program at Finley Computer Science School as well as exploratory STEAM/Coding programs.
- Our first Environmental Science school at Fryberger.
- And other excellent programs such as music, band, visual, and performing arts programs.
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WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to a new school year filled with excitement and hope.

This is one of our most popular issues when we highlight the superintendent's and principal's bios. It is always fun to read where they went to college, about their families and hobbies.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 14 (all ages may enter).

We have included several student book reviews on pages 21 & 22.

Our next issue is November 3.

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Dispelling Myths About COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids



Graham Tse, M.D.,
chief medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Immunizations are one of the best means of protection against contagious diseases, including COVID-19. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine recently received full approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for people 16 years and older, which means this vaccine met high standards for safety and effectiveness. The CDC continues to recommend everyone 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine, this is especially important as the new school year begins.

There is a lot of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccinations for kids. Below are answers to common questions you may have.
COVID-19 doesn't affect children as much, so why should my child still get vaccinated?

Anyone can be infected with COVID-19. Fortunately, it's rare for kids to get seriously ill from COVID-19. However, with the highly contagious Delta variant, there has been an increase in cases and hospitalizations in kids. Unvaccinated children also can spread COVID-19 to others.

If my child already had COVID-19, should they still be vaccinated?

Children should be vaccinated regardless of whether they already had COVID-19. Research has not yet shown how long they are protected from getting COVID-19 again after they recover and immunizations have been shown to provide increased immunity from COVID-19 infection even better than an actual COVID infection.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine alter my child's DNA?

COVID-19 vaccines will not change or interact with your child's DNA in any way. They deliver instructions to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine cause fertility issues?

There is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of COVID-19 vaccines.



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Welcome Back to School!

I can only imagine how it must feel for teachers, staff and students to come back to school after a year of living with COVID-19. To see your friends and colleagues again, and to get back to a new normal with safety measures in place, must feel refreshing. You overcame many adversities and challenges – now it's time to turn the page and start a fresh chapter.

Kim Carr
Mayor

In the past few months, Huntington Beach has strived to make our City one that is compassionate, welcoming and inclusive.

In June we proudly raised the Pride Flag for the first time at City Hall, the Pier, Central Library and our Senior Center in Central Park. In addition, we rolled out the City's first Mobi-Mat so that our beach guests, from moms with strollers to folks with disabilities, can have closer access to our shoreline. And soon you will see the old, rusted railing along PCH/Bluff Top Park replaced with new wooden fencing that will beautify our scenic beach front path.

Events are slowly coming back and this fall, we welcome the return of the US Open of Surfing! The event opens on September 20 – California Surfing Day – through 26. Come check out some of the world's top surfers take on the waves of Surf City. Next up, the Pacific Airshow, October 1-3, that will feature the Blue Angels and more! The show is free and anywhere along the sand from the Pier to Beach Boulevard provides a great view to watch the thrilling action.

I want to wish you all a happy and healthy school year – one that will be filled with great memories, new friendships and much success.

See you at the beach!

City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311 • www.westminster-ca.gov



Tri Ta
Mayor

Westminster: Challenge And Opportunity

More than a year and a half so far into the pandemic era, Westminster has faced the same challenges, if not more, as many other cities have faced. Such challenges include providing COVID-19 tests and vaccines to the elderly, supporting local businesses, as much as possible, to survive through these difficult times, and ensuring the safety and wellness of our residents.

Moreover, the City had to maintain quality city services to everyone. With the strong commitment from the City Council and staff, Westminster has provided good policies to support our businesses and community to overcome daily obstacles. Through innovation and dedication, Westminster has operated with a balanced budget in the 2020-21 Fiscal Year that just ended, and just adopted the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year budget.

On the other hand, Westminster also sees many opportunities to grow economically through anticipated and increased "Economic Development" efforts and activities, and to become a destination for tourism. The Bolsa Row Hotel Project that the City Council approved a few years ago has provided more job opportunities, and is expected to play an important role in attracting tourists while promoting shopping and dining in Little Saigon.

In order to meet the housing needs for our seniors and low income families, Westminster has partnered with many other governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to build several housing projects such as Della Rosa, Westminster Crossing, etc.

I am always proud to serve Westminster residents and its business community, "A City of Progress, Built on Pride". I believe Westminster will continue to make good progress in many years to come.

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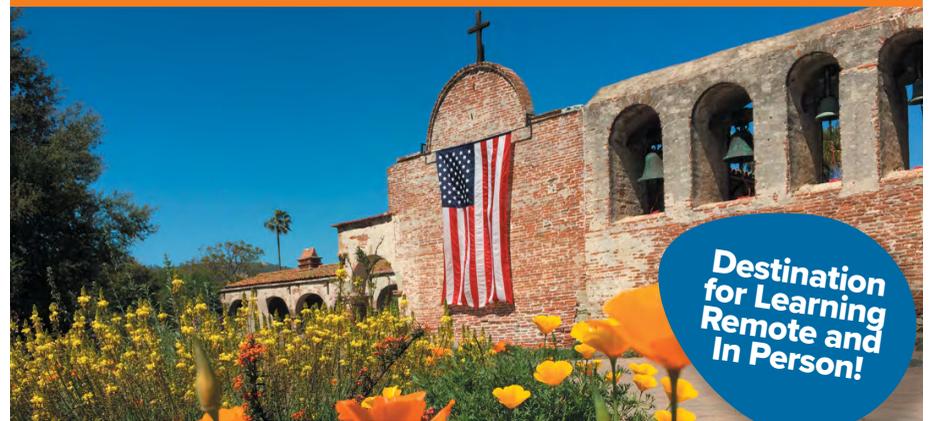
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Michael Vo
Mayor

Fountain Valley – City of Kindness in 2021 and Beyond

As we wind down 2021 summer time and slowly gear up to normalcy, I would like to share with the Fountain Valley community of my inauguration of Fountain Valley to be the City of Kindness. We have gone through many challenges in the last two years and I am super proud and excited to work and partner with our City Council, Fountain Valley School District, Fountain Valley Rotary, Fountain Valley Community Foundation, Fountain Valley Kiwanis, Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce, and many more community champions in making Fountain Valley, a City of Kindness.

City of Kindness is a growing center of the kind movement. City of Kindness is a coalition of organization working to inspire kindness in our world. The Dalai Lama is a big supporter and many celebrities including the City of Anaheim. Four year ago, the City Manager Rob Houston and I had a private audience with his holiness, the Dalai Lama. He whispered to us about making Fountain Valley, a City of Kindness. To learn more about the City of Kindness, go to <http://cityofkindness.org/> or Mayor's Corner | [The City of Fountain Valley](http://www.fountainvalley.org).



I would like you, our students, to spread kindness and challenge you to do the million acts of “kindness”. Let’s do this together and make Fountain Valley, a City of Kindness – “Do Kindness, Teach Kindness, Spread Kindness, Recognize Kindness”. We will recognize our community champions who spread kindness at City Council Meetings beginning September 2021. Please visit the City website (www.fountainvalley.org) to complete an online form so we can recognize your family, your neighbor, your business, or anyone in your surroundings as we do a million acts of kindness. Fountain Valley is a City of Kindness!

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Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Ethnic Studies

In July, a panel of eight academic experts convened to share their insights and expertise on a topic of growing national interest — ethnic studies.

Presented by the Orange County Department of Education, the virtual forum titled “With Liberty and Justice for All: A Colloquium on Ethnic Studies” drew an audience of educators, school administrators, students, parents, school board trustees, elected officials and community members who wanted to separate fact from fiction and learn more about the state’s recently adopted Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.

Ethnic studies has been defined as the interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity and Indigeneity, and while it’s not a new field, its relevance has increased exponentially in 2021. Many have staked out positions for or against, and the rhetoric has at times become heated.

Some insist that by examining the struggles and contributions of underrepresented groups, students can expand their perspectives and better see themselves — and their peers — as part of the story of the United States. They point to examples such as Mendez v. Westminster, the landmark court case that remains largely unknown even though it ended school segregation in Orange County and paved the way for the Supreme Court to reject the notion of “separate but equal.”

Others see ethnic studies as harmful. They say it will further divide this country along racial lines by categorizing some Americans as oppressors and others as oppressed. Many mistakenly believe ethnic studies is the same thing as critical race theory, which up until recently was an obscure academic term describing how race intersects with U.S. laws and institutions.

Ethnic studies is not synonymous with critical race theory. In fact, the latter is mentioned only sparingly in the state’s Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, which was approved by the California Board of Education in March after four years, four drafts and more than 100,000 public comments.

On that note, it’s also important to understand that the state’s Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is not mandatory for any school or district. Instead, it was designed to provide local school districts with ideas and examples to consider if they choose to develop their own ethnic studies classes — and some Orange County districts already have under the leadership of their locally elected school boards and superintendents.

In California, legislation is under consideration to make ethnic studies a graduation requirement by 2030, but even if the bill known as AB 101 passes, the state will not impose its own ethnic studies curriculum. Again, that authority lies solely with each district’s local school board and superintendent, in partnership with parents and other stakeholders.

As an educational institution, it is not our place to wade into divisive political debates. As a county office of education, however, it is very much our responsibility to host professional workshops, webinars and trainings that elevate teaching and learning in our county while keeping our communities informed about the latest state and federal developments impacting education.

The Orange County Department of Education will continue to do so objectively and responsibly in support of local districts as they make critical instructional decisions on behalf of schools, students and families.

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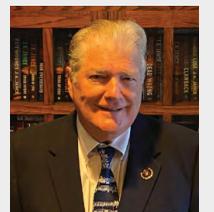


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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Mark Johnson

Please see bio on front page

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By Sandra Crandall, President, Board of Trustees

Sandra Crandall was elected as a Trustee in November, 2010. She taught at the elementary level in FVSD for 39 years. It was a natural interest of hers to continue to serve the students, parents and community she loved so dearly. This is her third time leading the Board as President. This year has been filled with gratitude for the in-person and safe learning we were able to provide beginning last September in a hybrid setting, and then in a full-day setting for the final quarter of the 2020-21 school year. In addition, a successful summer school program was implemented for nearly 300 students which aided in continuous learning for those in need of this extra support.

Moreover, professional development is underway. Additional counselors, behavioral specialists, site leads working under our Teachers on Special

Assignment, increased custodial and aide time are some of the enhancements to the upcoming year. Construction, under our Measure O bond project, is progressing well with the first-ever air conditioning installation at our school sites.

Our full opening was September 8, 2021 and students, parents, staff and the community are very excited for the year ahead!

Mrs. Crandall thoroughly enjoys serving with her fellow Board Members. She is in awe of the work of our teachers, support staff and administrators propelling FVSD to new heights. She and her husband enjoy volunteering within the community and being with their three grown children and four grandchildren, ages 7 to 15, two of which are still in FVSD schools.

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.courreges.fvdsd.us



Chris Christensen
Principal

Hello Courreges students and families!
Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! We are thrilled that we will be returning to school this year in our traditional in-person setting and I look forward to spending this year with your children providing a quality, engaging, and safe educational experience for all of our students.

For those of you new to Courreges, this is my 21st year working as an administrator in the Fountain Valley School District. Prior to Courreges, I served as principal at Fulton Middle School from 2006–2011, principal at Moiola School from 2003–2006, and assistant principal at Masuda Middle

School from 2001–2003. Prior to working in the FVSD, I was a middle school instrumental music teacher in the Long Beach Unified School District. I graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Economics and earned my Master's and administrative credentials from UC Irvine and National University. I have three children of my own; Brittany (25), Miranda (20), Conner (18), and am engaged to my lovely fiancé Marlena, who has two daughters (my "bonus" children) Katelynn (9) and Kara (7).

I look forward to leading all of our students, teachers, and parents through another rigorous, enriched, and certainly rewarding year at Courreges Elementary School.

James H. Cox *Elementary (K-5)*

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.cox.fvdsd.us



Cara Robinson
Principal

Mrs. Robinson has been in education for 24 years. She taught Kinder, 3rd, 4th, and 6th grades at Lawrence Elementary in the Garden Grove Unified School District. She then moved over to Fountain Valley SD to teach middle school, where she taught English and history to 6th and 7th graders. Mrs. Robinson became the assistant principal of Masuda Middle, then the Masuda principal. From there, she became the principal at Talbert Middle. In 2014 Mrs. Robinson moved up to the District office and spent 4 years as the Director of Support Services. She returns to Cox

Elementary and is in her second year as principal after spending some time in Placentia-Yorba Linda USD where she was the Director of Human Resources.

Mrs. Robinson got her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and then her teaching credential from Concordia University. She then received her Master's degree and administrative credential from Pepperdine.

Not only is Mrs. Robinson back at doing what she loves, but she gets to enjoy her favorite job while surrounded by amazing students, staff, and families. When she isn't working, she can be found on the baseball or softball field, or even the volleyball court watching her children play sports.

Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6–8)*

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • www.fulton.fvds.us



Erin Bains
Principal

Ms. Bains has been an educator for over 20 years. She taught for 11 years at Eastwood Elementary School in the Westminster School District. While there she taught 4th grade, a 1st-3rd grade multi-age class, and 6th grade. She came to Fountain Valley as the Assistant Principal at Masuda Middle School and then became principal at Moiola School before moving to Gisler Elementary School and most recently moved to Fulton Middle School.

Ms. Bains attended college at Loyola Marymount University and received her Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction as well as her administrative credential at Cal State University, Fullerton. She feels very fortunate to be a member of the Fountain Valley School District and to have worked with amazing staffs. She is looking forward to working once again with Fulton Families. Fulton has a strong sense of community with staff and parents working together to do what is best for students.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4211 • www.gisler.fvds.us



Teri Malpass
Principal

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year at Gisler! I am very excited to begin my third year as the proud principal of the Gators. I am looking forward to all that the upcoming school year has to bring!

I began my career as an elementary teacher, working in 1st and 2nd grades in the Los Alamitos Unified School District. In 2006, I began my journey as an instructional coach, serving as a math TOSA and teaching 6th and 7th grade math. I provided professional development in the area of Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) for the elementary teachers in Los Alamitos Unified, Fountain Valley and Palos Verdes School Districts. In

2016, I served as an assistant principal at McGaugh Elementary in Seal Beach where I worked collaboratively with students, staff and the community. I am also the proud mother of a son and daughter who both have started their college journeys.

This school year will be focused on instructional practices while building relationships and connections with students while always having health and safety as a top priority!

Gisler is made up of the most amazing students, staff and community! We said it last year and we will say it again, “We are stronger together!”

Welcome to the new year!

William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.newland.fvds.us



Christopher Mullin
Principal

Christopher Mullin has lived in and around Fountain Valley for over 40 years. He attended Moiola Elementary and graduated from FVHS. After high school, Mr. Mullin decided to take the road less traveled and worked as a forest firefighter with CalFire and with US Forestry as a backcountry ranger. In time, Mr. Mullin enrolled at Montana State University. Upon completion of his bachelor's in education, he found a job as a fifth-grade teacher at a K–12 school in the small rural town of Three Forks, MT. working there for three years. Eventually he made his way back to the Fountain Valley School District teaching science and

PE. As an administrator, Mr. Mullin has worked at both Fulton and Masuda Middle Schools. For the past eight years, he has been the principal at Newland Elementary! Newland is a school with a proven record of high academic achievement and one that promotes a learning community characterized by child-centered differentiated instruction. Our staff and students have a history of making educational excellence a habit. The faculty at Newland is dedicated to creating a learning environment where students may achieve to their highest ability. When not at school, Mr. Mullin can be found enjoying time with his wife and children. Free time is often spent fishing from his kayak, going to Angels games, or cooking for family and friends.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masuda.fvds.us



Jennifer Morgan
Principal

I am excited to be serving as the new principal at Masuda Middle School. This is my ninth year in the Fountain Valley School District and I am looking forward to joining the Masuda Family, where students are a priority and excellence is a tradition. Prior to joining the FVSD in 2013, I served as a math teacher, school counselor, and administrator in the Garden Grove and Westminster school districts.

This year, I look forward to getting to know our Masuda students, parents, and staff. My goal is to help students reconnect to school socially, emotionally, and academically so they can be their best selves. I look forward to creating a positive and supportive, post-pandemic environment where kids can get back to being kids! We are off to a fantastic 2021-2022 school year. Go Monarchs! Hear Us Roar!!

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.oka.fvsd.us



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Mrs. Ballesteros has been an educator for the past 24 years. Julie graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Arizona State University. She began her career in education as a reading specialist in Phoenix, Arizona. Mrs. Ballesteros then returned to her home town in California to teach kindergarten and first grade for nine years in the Glendora Unified School District. Julie continued her education and received a Master of Arts in Educational Administration at Azusa Pacific University. This led her to becoming a Glendora middle school assistant principal for two years. She actually worked at the same school she attended as a child. This opportunity ignited her passion for educational administration.

Mrs. Ballesteros is now beginning her thirteenth year as a proud principal at Oka Elementary School in the Fountain Valley School District. Julie shared, “I am blessed to work with an incredible staff and community that are truly committed to educating the minds and the hearts of all our students. My experiences in Fountain Valley have helped me grow as an educator and I look forward to learning together again this year.”

When Mrs. Ballesteros is not working she enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter and son. They currently reside in Mission Viejo where they love to go to the beach and spend time with family and friends.

Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary (K-5)*

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.plavan.fvsd.us



Dr. Patrick Ham
Principal

Dr. Patrick Ham has a foundational belief that learning is a lifelong process. He graduated summa cum laude from UCLA in 1999, earned his Master of Science in Education in 2008, and earned his Doctorate of Educational Leadership in 2019 from CSUF. He has taught elementary and middle school for six years before becoming an administrator in 2009 at Masuda Middle School. Dr. Ham is bilingual, and lived in Seoul and Incheon, South Korea for the first 8 years of his life. When Dr. Ham is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family, coaching

basketball, learning about real estate, and following his favorite pro and collegiate teams (Lakers, Dodgers, and UCLA Bruins).

When asked to share about Plavan Elementary, Dr. Ham said, “I love the whole child focus here at Plavan. The teamwork and collaboration amongst our staff, and the high academic standard established for every student are second to none.

I have never been so excited about the start of the 2021–2022 school year. It promises to be an amazing year where our community reconnect and re-engage around the academic and social-emotional development of our students.

Samuel E. Talbert *Middle School (6-8)*

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbert.fvsd.us



Jay Adams
Principal

My name is Jay Adams and I am so excited to be at the helm as the Talbert T-Birds’ Principal! I grew up in Colorado, graduating with my BA from the University of Northern Colorado. I moved to California at 22, began teaching, and then earned my MA from Azusa Pacific University. My favorite part of being a principal is getting to watch students grow and change from “in-betweeners” into confident young men and women. They experience so much transformation from fifth through eighth grades! I especially enjoy working with at-risk students, developing strategies and plans to help them learn and to keep them moving on target.

One of my main goals is getting each T-Bird to internalize the idea: “Take a Second. Make a Difference.” Values and making change to better our world are important tenets which I hope to impart to each and every Talbert student!

At home, my name is “mom” to four children—Julian (twenty-three), Isaiah (twenty-one), Kaia (eighteen), and Asia (sixteen). We have a busy household including lots of pets: three rabbits, four cats, four birds, and a hedgehog! My favorite activity in my free time (when there is some) is SCUBA diving. I especially like to travel to Catalina Island, where I have dived with the Garibaldi, bat rays, lobsters, sea lions, and even an angel shark! I am also a Tim Burton fanatic! I love Jack Skellington, Beetlejuice, Edward Scissorhands... you name it!

Next time you’re in the area, stop by and say hello to me at Talbert. I look forward to meeting you and to working with you to ensure your student’s success!

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.tamura.fvsd.us



Kathy Davis
Principal

I welcome everyone to the 2021–2022 school year. I am very excited as I enter my ninth year as the principal of Tamura. This last school year was full of so many successes, and I am very much looking forward to watching our Tigers set new goals and endeavors for 2021-22. We have such an amazing family of students, teachers and staff members, as well as incredibly supportive parents, and I feel very fortunate to be working with this inspiring and talented community. I started my career teaching in the Westminster School District, and began my administrative career working two years as an assistant principal before I joined the Fountain Valley School District. This is my sixteenth year as a

principal in the Fountain Valley School District. I served my first seven years as principal of Newland, and am thrilled to be entering my ninth year as part of an incredible staff and community support network here at Tamura.

This school year our teachers will continue their work with Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), fine tuning Reading and Writing Workshop, and will work collaboratively within and across grade levels to provide students with the best learning opportunities possible. We will also continue our efforts to embed PBIS strategies into the school culture to help build our students’ awareness of their roles at Tamura, and provide them with an opportunity to make good choices both academically and socially.

We will continue to Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful and Be Our Best!

Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2551 • www.ovsd.org

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Carol Hansen

Please see bio on front page

The Honorable Patricia Singer, Trustee, was elected to the Board of Trustees in December 2018. She was elected President in 2020, after serving a term as Vice President. Trustee Singer has a long history of actively supporting the Ocean View School District. She served consecutive terms as the President of the District's PTA/PTO/PTSA/PTSO Roundtable, which consists of parent leaders from 15 schools throughout Ocean View.

Trustee Singer began her real estate career in 2000 as a transaction coordinator. She obtained her license at the age of 18 and one of her first accomplishments was helping her parents purchase their first home. Trustee Singer worked for a leading REO asset management company in Newport Beach for over six years. She was responsible for property maintenance, rehab, marketing, contract review, negotiation, escrow, and the eventual sale

Board of Trustees



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President



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Member

of thousands of properties across the nation. With over 15 years of experience in the real estate industry and its many facets, Trustee Singer continues to be passionate in assisting buyers and sellers in all of their real estate endeavors. She believes through hard work, dedication and consistency all goals can be achieved.

Trustee Singer wishes to ensure that quality education is always a priority and to serve as a voice for parents and community members. She also wants to assure the community that tax dollars are being spent wisely and transparently. As a Trustee, she believes high expectations and accountability are key to ensuring that our programs meet the needs of all of our students.

Trustee Singer and her husband are long-time residents of Huntington Beach and the parents of two girls that have attended OVSD schools. Trustee Singer's term concludes in 2022.

Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

6261 Hooker Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5305 • www.ovsd.org/circle



Jessica Haag
Principal

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I am excited to start my fourth year as Principal of Circle View Elementary. I am very proud to call Huntington Beach and the Ocean View School District my home. I am a former student of Circle View Elementary, attending our wonderful school for grades K through 6, and I was in the GATE program as well. I also attended Mesa View Middle School, Marina High School, and California State University Long Beach. I truly believe that I am a life-long learner and am thrilled to have come full circle and be back where my love for education first started.

Before becoming Circle View's principal, I was the Assistant Principal at Mesa View Middle School and Spring View Middle School. I previously taught 4th grade GATE at Circle View for 5 years and 7th and 8th grade at Mesa View for 5 years as well. From CSULB, I earned my Liberal Studies degree, Honors program certificate, and teaching credential. I also received my master's degree in educational technology and administrative credential from National University.

As many of our students already know, I am a big Star Wars fan and hope for all students that the force is with them through their elementary school years. I want to thank our community for always staying connected, informed, and involved.

It's going to be another wonderful school year and I know that all of our Eagles will SOAR!

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

6582 Lennox Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • www.ovsd.org/college



Elaine Burney
Principal

As Principal of College View Elementary School, it is with great pleasure that I welcome all students and families to our wonderful school, and Home of the Wildcats! I am fortunate to work with a dedicated staff, students, and school community. Having worked in the Ocean View School District for the last 14 years, the invaluable experiences I've had, and working with such a devoted staff serve as the foundation for us to provide a successful, nurturing, and safe school environment. I look forward to this year being our best yet!

Together, we plan to continue on the path of educational excellence, as we are committed to providing all College View students with academic and pro-social behaviors that will be the foundation of their present and future success.

About my background —I received my Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing from California State University, Long Beach, along with a Liberal Studies Certificate and Teaching Credential. I earned my Master of Science in Education Administration from Pepperdine University.

When not at work, I enjoy spending time with my amazing family and friends. I married my high school sweetheart, Craig, and have two beautiful daughters and two cats. Living a balanced and healthy lifestyle is a priority for me. I love to go to the beach, read, and be spoiled by my husband's fabulous cooking! "Enjoy the little things in life for someday you will realize they were the big things." I'm not sure who said that exactly, but I thank the "someone" who did. It is so important to be mindful and appreciative of the great gifts life presents us with each day.

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Golden View *Environmental Science School*

17251 Golden View Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • www.ovsd.org/golden



Lori Florgan
Principal

It is with great excitement that I am entering my third year as the principal at Golden View Elementary School. I am looking forward to moving into year three of the development of the Environmental Science program and to continue enriching students' opportunities to learn through the use of our beautiful, engaging 2.5 acre farm that is part of the school's property. My vision is to provide more hands-on opportunities for students to engage in solution-based projects and to offer students experiences that will incorporate environmental science into a variety of curricular areas. Prior to my career as an educator, I attended Cal State University Long Beach, where I obtained my

Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies, with a minor in communications. I then went on to earn my teaching credential and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership. I started my career in education as a classroom teacher at Clegg Elementary School in the neighboring Westminster School District where I taught for 16 years and later became the district's elementary English Learner Instructional Support Specialist. From there, I began my administrative journey with the Capistrano Unified School District, where I served as an Elementary Assistant Principal for two years at Bathgate and Don Juan Avila Elementary Schools. Golden View has become an extension to my own family and I look forward to building and maintaining respectful, positive relationships with the Golden View students, families, and staff.

Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

4343 Pickwick Cr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org/harbour



Francesca Ligman
Principal

It is with great excitement that we jump into the 2021-22 school with some needed normalcy! I am elated to be the new principal of this wonderful school and begin a new adventure as a Harbour View Pelican. The Harbour staff and PTA are ready to welcome our students "Back to the Future" after very a long and trying year of Distance Learning and Hybrid scheduling.

Harbour View is thriving in both academic excellence and community involvement. Our staff is committed to meeting the academic and social emotional needs of all students. We are

blessed to have a dynamic PTA supporting the work of our staff as well as planning a yearlong calendar full of parent involvement and family events to create lifelong memories for everyone!

It is an honor to serve this wonderful community. I began my career with Ocean View 24 years ago as a teacher at various schools and grade levels in our District, then served as a District Instructional coach, interim Principal at Oak View Elementary School, and Village View Principal for 5 years. I enjoy tennis, surfing, and stand-up paddling. However, my greatest joy is spending time with my family. My husband and I live in Huntington Beach with our two children who both attend schools in Ocean View.

Hope View *Elementary (K-5)*

17622 Flintstone Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • www.ovsd.org/hope



Christina Luckey
Principal

This year marks my third year at Hope View Elementary School. I am very excited to welcome our students and staff back to the 2021-2022 school year. Over the past year and a half our students have been through a lot and we, the teachers, and staff, look forward to the many memories we get to help create for our Hope View Hawks.

I am very fortunate to work with such amazing staff, students, parents, and community. The Hope View staff provides a safe environment that fosters higher-level thinking, collaboration, where we look to inspire a passion for learning. I am very excited to celebrate the many successes to come in the 2021-2022 school year!

Prior to becoming the Principal at Hope View, I served as an Assistant Principal for two and half years in the Westminster school district. When I joined the Hope View team, I brought experience gained from Westminster and the Buena Park School District where I worked for 15 years. In Buena Park I was a teacher and a Teacher on Special assignment as well as an administrative intern. I've grown up in the Orange County area where I earned my Bachelor of Arts and teaching credential from California State University Fullerton and I also went on to earn my master's degree in School Administration at Concordia University, Irvine. Outside of my time at Hope View, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends between volleyball games and dance. Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!

Lake View *Elementary (K-5)*

17451 Zeider Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • www.ovsd.org/lake



Jill Van Der Linden
Principal

I am excited to start my second year as Principal at Lake View Elementary School. I have been in the Ocean View School District for 15 years and have served at many of the schools in a variety of positions. As a graduate of California State University of Long Beach, I continued on to earn my Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction from National University and my administrative degree from the Orange County Department of Education. I am an enthusiastic learner and am always interested in innovation that improves education for students. Lake View teachers are dedicated to integrating STEAM into every experience students

have at school. We continue to learn and grow, as a staff, to keep up with the ever-changing landscape of the 21st century. When not at school you will find me enjoying the outdoors with my family of three adult children, their families, and my husband.

As the 2021-22 gets started, I will be focusing on making strong connections with students, families, and the community. This last year and a half have been tough and we all need each other to thrive and grow.

Lake View is a STEAM school using project based learning models to solve real world problems. We remain committed to our core values of Integrity, Innovation, and Equity that continue to guide us through any challenge.

Marine View *Middle School (6-8)*

7721 Juliette Low Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org/marine



Sara Schaible
Principal

This year marks my sixth year at Marine View Middle School and fourth year as Principal. I am beyond excited to welcome our students and staff back to our newly modernized campus. Over the past year our campus underwent a complete remodel, and we are beyond thrilled for our students and staff to experience the new campus and all it has to offer.

I am very fortunate to work with such amazing staff, students, parents and community. The Marine View staff is dedicated to providing a safe environment that fosters higher-level thinking, collaboration, inclusivity, and creativity. I believe middle school is a pivotal point in student's educational career and our job is to prepare and guide our students on a path of success into high school and beyond. I am very excited to celebrate the many successes to come in the 2021-2022 school year!

Prior to becoming the Principal at Marine View, I served as the Assistant Principal for two years. When I joined the Marine View team, I brought experience gained while working in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 13 years, where I was a teacher and Assistant Principal. I grew up in the Midwest and attended college at North Dakota State University where I earned my teaching degree. After earning my degree, I moved to Southern California to begin my teaching career and went on to earn my master's degree in School Administration at Concordia University, Irvine.

Outside of my time at Marine View, I enjoy spending time with my family and taking in all the beauty of Southern California.

Mesa View *Middle School (6-8)*

17601 Avila Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org/mesa



Jady Grunbaum
Principal

Hello to all my Mighty Eagles! It is my honor to continue serving as the Principal of Mesa View Middle School this year--what a couple years it has been! This will be my third year as Principal of this fine school, and especially this past year, I have been so impressed and humbled by the resilience of this community, staff and group of students. Before coming to OVSD in the 2018-2019 school year as the Assistant Principal of Vista View Middle School, I served as an Assistant Principal, the Dean of Students, and an English Teacher at Fullerton Union High School. I taught English, including Advanced Placement(AP)/

International Baccalaureate(IB) English for nine years. I also coached soccer, acted as Activities Director, and helped create a Digital Arts Academy. Going into my 17th year in education, I am very happy to have made the transition from high school to middle school, as these formative years are so important.

I have loved working with middle school students, and look forward to serving our students in person this year at Mesa View. I attended Cypress College and CSU, Chico (playing soccer at both) and earning a Bachelor's Degree in English with an Emphasis on Education. I earned my teaching credential and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Vanguard University in Costa Mesa. Having grown up in Fullerton, I really enjoyed being able to work in the community in which I lived. When I moved to Huntington Beach, I was eager to find a District that would allow me not only to serve my community, but also one where achievement, relationships, and results matter--OVSD has certainly fit the bill! I currently live in Huntington Beach with my husband and our 4 year old daughter. When not at work, I enjoy spending time with family, visiting the beach, being crafty and artistic, swimming, and reading. This year is going to be phenomenal, and I cannot wait to begin the good work of supporting student growth and achievement.

Oak View *Elementary (K-5)*

17241 Oak Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • www.ovsd.org/oak



Jenna Landero
Principal

Bienvenidos al nuevo año de escolar! Welcome to the new school year! I am so excited to continue this journey with our parents, guardians, teachers, community partners, and most of all...our Owls! My name is Jenna Landero and I am proud to be your principal again this year. I am entering my 21st year working in education. In the past 20+ years, I have worked as a para-educator and teacher of students with disabilities as well as an Education Specialist in SDC classrooms. In 2015, I was named the Assistant Principal of Spring View Middle School and, for the past three years I have been the Principal of Oak View!

I am excited to continue all of the tremendous work we have been doing as a collective during this upcoming school year. We have many exciting things in store for our Owls. We have been working tirelessly over the summer to get our campus ready for all of you. This year we are launching a new Birth to 3 year initiative, preparing our future Owls with the skills needed to thrive in preschool and beyond! Oak View Elementary is the place to be in OVSD!

Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

8411 Worthy Ln., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • www.ovsd.org/star



Paul Kraft
Principal

Welcome to Star View Elementary School, A California Distinguished School, a GATE Magnet School, and a PBIS Bronze Medal recipient in the Ocean View School District. My name is Paul Kraft, and I'm honored to serve as the principal of this award-winning school where we "Shine Together with Awesome Results."

While our GATE certified teachers deliver exciting, student-centered instruction, we continue to enhance our award-winning school programs including our relationship with the

Anaheim Ducks S.C.O.R.E. program, and a school-wide focus on writing and the performing arts. Along with an emphasis on engaging instruction, high academic rigor, and supporting our students' social and emotional development, we've added additional programs including Art Explorers, music instruction in the primary grades, and intramural sports at recess in grades two and above. We look forward to an exciting year, full of incredible teaching and learning.

This is my eighth year as a school principal, and sixth year in the Ocean View School District. Prior to that, I was a principal in the Capistrano Unified School district and a classroom teacher in the Cypress School District.

Spring View *Middle School (6–8)*

16662 Trudy Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • www.ovsd.org/spring



Alfredo Torres
Principal

My name is Alfredo Torres and I'm excited to be Spring View's Middle School Principal. This is my first year as a school principal, however I've been a school administrator for 15 years. I have experience not only at the middle school level but also at the high school level. Prior to my education career I served in the United States Marine Corps. I was fortunate in traveling to many countries such as South Korea, Mainland Japan, Okinawa Island of Japan, and Panama. I enjoyed my time in the Marine Corps. and established myself as a leader from a young age. After the Marine Corps. I attended California State University, Los Angeles to earn my bachelor's degree. While in school I decided to become a teacher and began by educational career with the Orange County Department of Education as an instructional aide with special needs students. Once graduated, I was hired as a teacher for the ACCESS program with OCDE and eventually an administrator within OCDE. I transitioned to Garden Grove Unified School District where I served as an assistant principal to several high schools and a middle school.

My previous assignment was with Santa Ana Unified School District and served as an assistant principal for a high school and a middle school before accepting my current position as Spring View's Principal. I'm looking forward to an exciting year with our students and staff. My goal is to create an environment that promotes risk taking academic challenges for our students and teachers for growth.

I look forward to the collaboration with all stakeholders so that we continue provide a positive educational experience at Spring View Middle School. We at Spring View will continue to focus on improving instructional practices so that our students flourish in and out of the classroom.

When I'm not at Spring View, I'm with my family of 2 young children (9 year old daughter and 7 year old son) and my wife in many fun activities such as soccer, horse back riding, camping and Jiu Jitsu—I am one of the coaches. When time permits, I enjoy participating in OCR (obstacle course races) such as Spartan Races, Marine Corps. Mud Run, etc.

Thank you for welcoming me into the Ocean View School District family.

Village View *Elementary (K–5)*

5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org/village



Tami Benane
Principal

Dear Village View Elementary School Family. Thank you so much for your warm welcome! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement I introduce myself as new Principal of Village View Elementary School. I am honored to have this wonderful opportunity to lead a school with a highly dedicated staff, supportive community and thriving students. I look forward to meeting all of you and getting acquainted. I am here to listen, learn, and support all students, staff, and families in our community.

My fifteen years' experience in education include: teaching, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th AVID & high school English. I have also worked as administrator at a continuation high school, elementary school, and a comprehensive high school. My formal education was at University of La Verne in California, where I earned a bachelor of arts, master of education, teaching credential and administrative credential.

On a more personal note, I am a married mom of four beautiful, talented, and skilled daughters. My husband and I enjoy traveling during time away from work. I try my best to live a balanced life with exercise and meditation to elevate any stress. During this challenging time of COVID, besides working to support our teachers, I kept been busy sewing masks for our community and fostering two adorable Labrador dogs. I have been an active member in the community for many years as a Sunday school teacher, Girl Scout Leader, AYSO coach and a Rotarian.

In closing, please know that my door is always open for conversation, concerns, and positive input throughout the year. Our entire staff is committed to providing a caring safe learning environment; while maintaining high expectations for all students' academic, emotional, and social success.

Vista View *Middle School (6–8)*

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • www.ovsd.org/vista



Dr. Rasheedah Gates
Principal

The 2021-2022 school year is off and running! Students are at the heart of all we do in education and my journey has a direct connection to all the exciting things happening at Vista View. In 2001, educating students became my passion and career path. Creating and maintaining relationships, developing well-balanced students, and lifelong learning are my core values. My education at Azusa Pacific University helped me frame these values. The experiences I had in their undergraduate and graduate programs helped me understand that what we do for others matters.

There is a culmination of experiences that has led me to do such impactful work at Vista. The draw that I felt as a teacher and still feel as an administrator is the opportunity to be a part of the moments of wonder when students discover something new that they become passionate about. Therefore I am thrilled about the pathways we are creating for students at Vista View. A direct connection to this work is the two years I spent as

an assistant principal in Duarte Unified School District being a part of the leadership team the created a pathway for middle school students to attend CSArts-SGV which is a sister school to OCSHA. We created a program that allowed students to have a portion of their school day dedicated to cultivating their desire for musical, dance, and theater.

To be at a point five years later, serving my third year as a principal fosters so much joy! Working with such an amazing staff and leading our scholar-Falcons is a delight. Vista View has such a collaborative staff and supportive community. We do everything for our students with the mindset of students first and do what is best for kids. Our staff is passionate about student success, and I look forward to continuing to leverage the personal and professional relationships that we build together as we educate our Falcons. Especially as we are launching as a GATE magnet and have created an esports middle school pathway! My exhilaration for my role at Vista View as a Falcon Family grows each year. Vista View Falcons, SOAR!

Westmont *Elementary (K-5)*

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org/westmont



Sue Broderson
Principal

This is going to be a great year for everyone and we are ready to get going! Our teachers are excited to have their students back using our traditional full day school schedule. Our Visual and Performing Arts lessons are being fine-tuned so that all students receive music, dance, theatre and visual arts instruction. Our band instruments are sanitized and ready for students to start playing. It's just going to be an awesome year because we are all back, committed to building relationships to fuel high academic achievement.

I have had the fortune of being the principal at Westmont for the last seven years, each year has brought great joy and some challenges. I am pleased to share a little about myself. I have been in education for the past 21 years, the past nine years as an administrator. I earned my

bachelor's degree at California State University at Long Beach and a master's in Social Work at the University of Southern California. I spent 10 years working for the County of Orange as a senior social worker for Children's Services. After ten years, I made the decision to switch careers and become a teacher. I taught multiple grade levels at various schools before becoming an administrator. My passion is working with children to assist them to reach their full potential and to help each one become productive, well-rounded community members. I really enjoy working with our students and their families on building positive relationships. I have a wonderfully supportive husband and three adult children. When I am not at school, I love to spend time with my two beautiful grandchildren. I love to travel and explore new destinations and I love to make quilts. I look forward to getting to know our students again in person.

Early Learning Preschool Program

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach • 16692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach • 8251 Heil Ave., Westminster • 714/847-2551 X 1107 • www.ovsd.org



Nicole Baïtx-Kennedy
Director of
Child Development
Programs

It is my pleasure to welcome all our families to the 2021-2022 school year! I have served in education for over 30 years, specializing in Expanded Learning and Early Learning Programs.

Early Learning is a wonderful opportunity to support your children and teach them the skills they will need to transition to one of our outstanding elementary schools.

Since joining Ocean View in 2015, I first served as the Child Care Supervisor and now as the Director of Child Development Programs. Expanding and enhancing Early Learning and building a seamless transition between preschool and elementary school are a few of my goals. I am excited to meet and work with students and families, and look forward to serving the families of College, Oak View, and Westmont Preschool Programs in the coming year!

Halloween 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 FOW in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 20, 2021
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT | GHOST | SPIDER |
| CANDY | GHOUL | SWAMP CREATURE |
| CARVE | GRAVE | TRICK OR TREAT |
| CEMETERY | HAUNTED HOUSE | VAMPIRE |
| COSTUME | HALLOWEEN | WEB |
| DECORATIONS | JACK O LANTERN | WEREWOLF |
| FRANKENSTEIN | MUMMY | WITCH |
| FRIGHTFUL | SKELETON | ZOMBIE |

Congratulations to **Vickie Ferneze**
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!

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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N	I	H	C	F	E	E	T	F	T	D	G	I	C	L
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T	B	X	U	U	D	U	T	S	O	H	G	W	R	N
S	B	P	U	H	Q	T	N	Z	D	R	G	S	Q	D

Westminster School District

14121 Cedarwood Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7311 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Cyndi Paik

Please see bio on front page

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Member

By *Jeremy Khalaf, President, Board of Trustees*

Mission Bound

Mr. Jeremy Khalaf was elected to the WSD Board of Trustees in November 2018 to begin his four-year term. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Science in Chemistry from the University of California at Irvine. Mr. Khalaf has been an educator in Garden Grove since 2011 as a credentialed science teacher. At his school, Mr. Khalaf teaches college preparatory and Advanced Placement chemistry

courses. He was instrumental in interpreting the Next Generation Science Standards for the district's chemistry teachers. And he collaborated with his peers to develop a cross-curricular guide to scholarly writing based on the Common Core Standards. As a teacher, Mr. Khalaf enjoys transforming the curiosities of his students into science-based knowledge. As a trustee, he values equity and diversity in education, which aligns with WSD's mission to: "Prepare all students to be responsible, resilient, resourceful, and productive world citizens in a changing and diverse society."

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • anderson.wsdk8.us



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Mrs. Breckenridge will continue as the site principal, her fourteenth year in this position. As a graduate of the Westminster School District, it's great to be home, where she has had the opportunity to be a student, teacher, and administrator.

Mrs. Breckenridge obtained her bachelor's degree and teaching credential from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. She earned her master's degree and administrative credential at California State University, Long Beach. She has held many different positions in her 28 years in education having worked in six different schools in two different districts.

Anderson is proud to announce that it was recognized again this year as a CALIFORNIA HONOR ROLL SCHOOL by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) for its work to get students to grade level and beyond. Anderson is committed to meeting students' needs - educationally, emotionally, socially and behaviorally. Way to go Anderson Tigers!

Clegg *Elementary (TK-5)*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • clegg.wsdk8.us



John Staggs
Principal

Mr. John Staggs has been an educator for 24 years at both the middle and elementary levels. Mr. Staggs is currently the principal of Clegg Elementary School and has been in this position for eleven years. He was very proud of all of the great work taking place at Clegg in their STEAM Magnet program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Technology) and is very excited to work with staff, students and parents throughout the 2021-22 school year at Clegg. Prior to beginning his time as principal at Clegg, Mr. Staggs served as the Assistant Principal at Stacey/Clegg School

when Clegg was combined with Stacey Middle School as a K-8 school. His teaching years took place in Norwalk/La Mirada, where he taught seventh grade, as well as an at-risk class for middle school students. He later went on to serve as a Title I Coordinator before moving into administration with the Westminster School District. While teaching, Mr. Staggs was always very involved with sports programs throughout the district. Mr. Staggs attended the University of Maryland at the campus in Munich, Germany, as well as California State University, Long Beach and Walden University. He also has completed a CBO Certification Program at USC.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • demille.wsdk8.us



Dr. Shannon Villanueva
Principal

The 2021-2022 school year will mark Dr. Shannon Villanueva's 31st year in education! She has been the proud principal of DeMille Elementary School since 2009. There are always exciting things happening at DeMille, and Ms. Villanueva considers it to be a privilege to be a part of the innovative ways students are being prepared to be global citizens and 21st century learners. DeMille is the home of the first Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion program in the state of California. DeMille is very excited to offer Vietnamese Dual Language Immersion classes across all grade levels from preschool-sixth grade. In order to meet everyone's needs, DeMille is thrilled to provide our

students the opportunity to learn and become literate in two languages. As an educator and as a parent, Ms. Villanueva believes that students will reap tremendous benefits socially and academically given the gift of biliteracy. DeMille also offers a wonderful traditional English only program.

Dr. Villanueva considers herself to be a life-long learner. She attended the University of California, Irvine, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Ecology with a minor in vocal music and her multiple subject teaching credential. She received her Master of Science degree in Educational Administration and Leadership from National University. She recently earned a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership at California State University, Fullerton.

When Dr. Villanueva is not working she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and traveling. Dr. Villanueva enjoys being the principal at DeMille. "We have a terrific community of staff, students, and families who are part of our DeMille family. Our school is a caring and wonderful place to learn and grow. Together we will face the challenges that lie before us. The 2021-2022 school year promises to be filled with lots of learning and amazing accomplishments."

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • eastwood.wsdk8.us



Jonathan Edelman
Principal

Mr. Jonathan Edelman excited to continue as the proud principal of Eastwood Elementary School in the Westminster School District. He is eager to continue building relationships with the community, parents, students, and staff to better serve this amazing school.

Prior to serving at Eastwood, Mr. Edelman was principal at Timber Point Elementary School in the Byron Union School District in the Bay area. This is where he started his journey in educational administration as a vice principal at the middle and elementary school levels. Mr. Edelman was blessed to work under an amazing administrative staff that took the time to mentor him and provide him with the tools necessary to run a school. Prior to working in

administration, Mr. Edelman taught high school mathematics for several years in the Long Beach Unified School District, while mentoring inner-city youth in various group homes and continuation school in Santa Ana.

When Mr. Edelman is not working, he enjoys spending time with his two young daughters, surfing, learning to play the drums, gardening, and painting. When asked what drove him to enter into education, he stated "to help students discover their dreams and purpose and to help others support students in finding the tools to live with a purpose."

Mr. Edelman graduated from Cal State University East Bay where he received his administrative credential, and Argosy University where he received his Master's Degree in Education. He also graduated from Chapman University where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Finley *Computer Science Magnet School*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • finley.wsdk8.us



Pam LeMuiex
Principal

Ms. Pamella LeMuiex is the proud principal at Finley Computer Science Magnet School. She looks forward to working collaboratively with our school community to provide a learning environment that promotes innovation, creativity and kindness.

Ms. LeMuiex is passionate about ensuring all students have access to computer sciences in the elementary years, as she believes it provides students the opportunity to develop thinking skills that will help them become strong problem solvers to solve real-life problems, think critically and prepare to be productive members of their communities. "By learning how to code and use

computational thinking, students develop essential skills such as creativity, persistence and collaboration, all a must in today's world," says Ms. LeMuiex. As a Southern California native and resident of Garden Grove, Ms. LeMuiex completed her Bachelor of Science in Business. She earned her multiple subject credential from California State University, Long Beach and her Master of Arts and credential in Education Administration at Cal State, Dominguez Hills.

When she isn't at school, Ms. LeMuiex enjoys spending time with her husband and their Labradors, Siri and Bea. She loves traveling, visiting National Parks and riding her Vespa around town when the sun is shining. Ms. LeMuiex is excited to be a Finley Eagle!

Fryberger *Elementary School of Environmental Science*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • fryberger.wsdk8.us



Michelle Scheiber
Principal

Mrs. Michelle Scheiber is the proud principal of Fryberger Elementary, School of Environmental Science. Mrs. Scheiber is beginning her 21st year in education. She taught elementary and middle school students for 12 years in the cities of Anaheim and Huntington Beach before moving into administration. Mrs. Scheiber came to the Westminster School District and began her career in educational

administration in 2013 where she was an assistant principal in both WSD middle and elementary schools. She was honored to become the principal of Fryberger Elementary in 2018. Mrs. Scheiber enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, enjoys reading, and spending time outdoors. Mrs. Scheiber loves the community, students, and their families at Fryberger. She is excited to support the Fryberger students and staff in this school year.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • hayden.wsdk8.us



Mark Murphy
Principal

Mr. Murphy has been an educator for over 24 years all for the Westminster School District. He began his teaching career at Schroeder Elementary where he taught 2nd, 3rd and 5th grades. He then became a Student Achievement Teacher for the district and had the privilege to work at many of the schools in the district. He began his administrative career at Stacey Middle School as the Asst. Principal then was assigned to Hayden Elementary 12 years ago and now begins his tenth year as the Principal of Hayden. Not only has Mr. Murphy worked for the Westminster School District for the past 24 years but he is also a proud former student of the district. Mr. Murphy stated, "I am extremely proud and honored to be working in the same district that has

taught me so much. I am very excited to have the opportunity to pass on the knowledge that I have obtained throughout my years in the Westminster School District." Mr. Murphy believes that every student who enters Hayden School can succeed. He feels he is the role model for his students and teachers; thus, he should demonstrate respect, honesty, empathy, responsibility and a desire for learning. He tries to develop a safe atmosphere where his students feel that their thoughts and opinions are valued. Mr. Murphy has had many amazing influences in his career and would not be here today without the guidance and support of these tremendous leaders. They include Linda Baxter, Heidi DeBritton, Jerry Gargus and his sister Maggie Villegas. He currently resides in Huntington Beach and enjoys jogging and mountain biking.

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • johnson.wsdk8.us



Daniel Owens
Principal

Mr. Daniel Owens is beginning his eight year in the Westminster School District as principal of Johnson Middle School, and his 25th year in education. Prior to coming to Westminster, Mr. Owens was an assistant principal in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for eight years, both at the middle and high school levels. He also taught for nine years at Waite Middle School in Norwalk, primarily in algebra and U.S. history. As a teacher, Mr. Owens was involved in many extracurricular activities, including running the drama department, ASB advisor, newspaper advisor, and coaching several sports.

Mr. Owens received his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California. He loves to spend time with his family, which includes his wife of 20 years and two sons ages 8 and 18. His hobbies include cheering on the USC Trojans in every sport, and his beloved Dodgers. Mr. Owens is looking forward to continuing the wonderful work at Johnson Middle School by helping to support teachers and students as they tackle many new and exciting challenges. As the school's vision statement says, Johnson is committed to "Empower lifelong learners." This vision will be attained by setting high academic expectations for each student, and then providing a strong support system that will ensure they can be met. In addition to academic expectations, Johnson is also very excited to be expanding its student enrichment opportunities to help strengthen the overall school experience and prepare students for the future.

Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • land.wsdk8.us
714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



Darek Jaronczyk
*Executive Director,
Student Services*

Mr. Darek Jaronczyk is the Executive Director of Student Services for the Westminster School District. He has worked in special education for over 20 years. The thing he enjoys most about his job is providing educational services for all children. He works with a great team at Land School! The Land staff is collaborative, focused, and passionate about their students' success.

Mr. Darek Jaronczyk received his B.A. from the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), his Master's degree from Pepperdine University and completed his doctoral studies at Loyola University of Chicago. In his free time, he enjoys spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • meairs.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kathy Kane
Principal

Dr. Kane has been an educator for more than 30 years. During that time she has taught at the elementary and middle school levels in both public and private schools. After many happy years in the classroom Dr. Kane went back to school to get her Master's Degree in Educational Administration and her administrative credential. For the last 20 years she has served as a principal in the Westminster School District at both elementary and middle school sites. She is very excited

to begin her eleventh year at Iva Meairs Elementary, a Gold Ribbon School, Title I Academic Achievement School and a Gold PBIS School. Dr. Kane is a local girl. She is a graduate of Orange Coast College, received her Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree from California State University, Long Beach, and her doctorate of Education from California State University, Fullerton. When not busy with school Dr. Kane enjoys reading, baking and spending time in the great outdoors exercising, camping, hiking and biking with her family.

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • schmitt.wsdk8.us



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Ms. Orchid Rocha has been working in the field of education for 31 years, teaching, leading and serving both elementary and middle school students. She has been a principal for the past 14 years, and is a certified bilingual teacher with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), a teaching credential and Master of Arts degree in Multicultural Education from California State, Dominguez Hills, and an Administrative Credential from Point Loma University. She has served the Westminster School District for the past 14 years as a site principal for Webber Elementary School (2007-2014) and Schmitt Elementary School (2014- present). Previous to her role as a principal, Ms. Rocha had led in education as a Bilingual Teacher, Title I Teacher Specialist, English Language Development (ELD) Teacher Specialist, Literacy Coach, Vice-Principal, and Beginning Teacher Support mentor.

The passion for working with children began through her volunteer experiences: UCLA's UniCamp mentoring program for underprivileged children; UCLA's Prison Coalition tutoring at a juvenile detention center, and UCLA's Project MAC, working with children who were victims of abuse. All of these experiences sparked her love for mentoring, teaching and working with diverse groups of children.

On a personal note, Orchid Rocha is married with two daughters, Sofia and Isabella. Sofia continues a fulfilling profession in the Aerospace Engineering field, while Isabella begins her second year at UCSB. Her husband enjoys working on cross-word puzzles, Sudoku, running, and cooking. Orchid enjoys her book club, traveling and relaxing with her family.

Ms. Rocha is honored and humbled with the experience of leading a school. She looks forward to continuing her work with the Schmitt Elementary School team and the community as they strive to maintain a high-quality education and experience for all students.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • schroeder.wsdk8.us



Carrie Hernandez
Principal

Mrs. Carrie Hernandez has been in education for over 29 years beginning her teaching career in 1992 at Midway City School in Westminster School District teaching state preschool. She then moved to Savanna School District where she taught 1st, 4th and 5th grades. While teaching in Savanna, she earned her master's degree in Educational Administration at California State University, Long Beach. In 2000 she became a Visiting Educator with the Los Angeles Unified School District. She worked with 43 schools supporting the district's reading initiative in the elementary schools. In 2004, she returned to Westminster School District where she enjoyed being a Student Achievement Teacher at Sequoia

Elementary and teaching Transitional Kindergarten at Schmitt School. She then moved to Hayden Elementary School where she was the Assistant Principal.

Mrs. Hernandez is a resident of Cypress and enjoys spending time with her husband of 23 years and their three children – Omar, Jack and Ryann. She spends a lot of her family time doing scouting activities, sports, motorcycle riding and camping. She also loves to read and plays in a professional handbell choir in her spare time.

Mrs. Hernandez is excited to be returning to Schroeder Elementary School for her 8th year as principal. She looks forward to another great year working alongside the staff, parents, and community to continue the great traditions and successes at Schroeder!

Sequoia *Academy*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • sequoia.wsdk8.us



April Derr
Principal

Mrs. April Derr is beginning her 3rd year as the principal of Sequoia Academy. Singing and performing in show choirs as a student herself, Mrs. Derr was thrilled to become the principal of Sequoia Academy, a GATE Magnet school that also celebrates all branches of the arts: Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre, and Visual Arts. Sequoia Academy has earned the Arts Exemplary Award and participates in the Disney Musicals in Schools program.

Mrs. Derr has been an educator in the Westminster School District for 18 years. She began her career as a teacher at Hayden Elementary where she taught for 7 years. As a teacher, she strived to be a teacher leader by taking on the role of administrative designee, being on curriculum adoption committees, and becoming the trainer for many new district programs. During her time as a teacher she earned her Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Concordia University, Irvine.

She continued her educational journey by becoming an instructional coach within the district specializing in curriculum and instructional strategies. In this role, she worked with all 13 elementary schools, coaching and co-teaching with Kindergarten through 6th grade teachers. She also become

an expert in the new Common Core State Standards and created English Language Arts units of study that aligned with these standards. Mrs. Derr also specializes in differentiated instructional strategies using the GATE depth and complexity prompts and AVID. She has a passion for helping students learn to express themselves through their writing and became a national trainer for Thinking Maps and Write from the Beginning and Beyond.

Though she now lives in Cypress, Mrs. Derr grew up in Westminster and is a product of the Westminster School District herself. She attended Fryberger Elementary and Stacey Middle School. Mrs. Derr was the first 6th grade student at Fryberger to receive the Apple Award for academic excellence and still proudly displays this treasure in her office.

In addition for her passion for students and education, Mrs. Derr cherishes her time with family. She loves to spend time with him doing scouting activities, playing piano, and building Lego with her 9 year old son, Jacob.

This year she is looking forward to another great year at Sequoia Academy. She is excited to continue to work together with her community to focus on creating a safe and empowering learning environment for all students to develop and explore their unique gifts.

Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • stacey.wsdk8.us



Wendy Baird
Principal

Wendy Baird is honored and thrilled to be the new principal of Stacey Middle School, a 2021 California Distinguished School. For the past two years, she was the Assistant Principal of Stacey where she worked alongside the staff to provide an optimal learning experience for the students. Prior to joining the Stacey family, she held several leadership positions while teaching middle school math in Saddleback Valley for over 16 years. For several of those years, she was the math department chair and ASB activities coordinator. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of San Diego, a Master's degree from

National University, and an Administrative Credential. In her spare time she enjoys watching her daughter fence and being a Scout mom. One of her biggest

accomplishments was being awarded the 2010 National Math Hero Award from Raytheon Aerospace & Technology.

Ms. Baird's goal is to be an innovative principal who leads the school towards academic excellence by emphasizing engaging lessons while nurturing a growth mindset. As a principal, she plans to continue to build an inclusive campus community that addresses the social-emotional needs of the students. She will continue to develop a student-centered climate while providing extracurricular opportunities for students to explore their interests. Wendy Baird values the importance of building a partnership with her families to provide the best learning environment. With Ms. Baird's passion for education excellence, coupled with her focus and drive, Stacey Middle School is on track for success.

Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • warner.wsdk8.us



Dr. Kenneth Lopour
Principal

Kenneth Lopour is honored to join the Warner Wildcat family this year. He began his career as a high school World History teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District where he eventually moved on to administration. Since then he has spent the last 11 years as a dean, assistant principal, and principal in both Los Angeles and Orange counties. He has worked with a wide variety of distinct communities and loves finding new and exciting ways to engage with and support those families. Much of his career he has focused on positive and productive campus climates. He has worked closely with school staff to both create and implement programs related to behavioral

intervention, character education, conflict resolution, campus leadership, credit recovery, social-emotional supports, academic supports, and many others. He is

incredibly excited to begin this new school year at Warner Middle School and to get to know all of this students, families, and staff members.

He received his Bachelor of Arts from San Francisco State University, his Master's Degree from California State University Fullerton, and his doctorate in Organizational Leadership from the University of Southern California (USC) where his dissertation centered around effective conflict resolution programs in schools.

He is a long time community member who lives locally and who proudly sends his daughters to Westminster School District schools. He is a lifelong learner who loves to read, experience new cultures in his world travels, and who takes any opportunity to try a new kind of food. He is an avid surfer who is always looking for a free moment on the weekends to find a good wave with his oldest daughter.

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • webber.wsdk8.us



Robert Murdock
Principal

Mr. Rob Murdock is proud to be the principal of Webber Elementary School. He is excited to continue his work with the staff, students, parents and community of Webber. Mr. Murdock has been an educator for 25 years at both the elementary and middle school levels. Prior to being named principal at Webber, he served as the Assistant Principal at Warner Middle School, and before that, at Hayden Elementary School. Mr. Murdock has also served as an Instructional Support Specialist, working side by side with teachers at every school in the Westminster School District. In that role, he became an Orange County STEM specialist with Kids@Science.

His educational career began at Schroeder Elementary School, where he taught kindergarten, fourth, and fifth grade. Music has always been important to Mr. Murdock. He spent 18 years directing school choirs in Westminster for the Westminster School District Education Foundation. He now serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Foundation. Mr. Murdock attended California State University, Long Beach, as well as Azusa Pacific University. He currently resides in the city of Orange and enjoys ice hockey, concert going, and golf.

Willmore *Elementary (K-5)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • willmore.wsdk8.us



Eva Matthews
Principal

It is my great pleasure to welcome back my Thunderbirds to the 2020-21 academic school year. My name is Eva Matthews and I am very honored and proud to begin my second year as the Willmore Elementary and Language Academy Principal. I have been in education for over 20 years and have been privileged to teach Kinder through Eighth grade in both a dual and traditional setting, Alternative Education Middle School through High

School, as well as, serving in many capacities; from Master Teacher, TK-8 Academic Coach, and ELD Coach. I have also had the great privilege to serve as an administrator in many capacities; TK-8th Grade Principal, High School Principal, and district English Learner and Title I administrator. These experiences have deeply rooted my belief that we are all advocates for our students and that every child can and will learn when provided vast and equal opportunities.

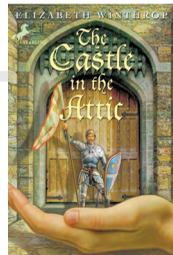
David's Review

Big Small Adventure



David H.

Title: *The Castle in the Attic*
Author: Elizabeth Winthrop
Do you like magic, knights, dragons, and adventure? Then this is the book for you.



William is a boy that loves his nanny and housekeeper, Mrs. Phillips, who has taken care of him since he was born. She is retiring and he doesn't want her to leave. She gives him a giant toy castle and a toy knight inside it as a goodbye present. William finds out that the toy knight, Sir Simon, is actually alive and the invisible kingdom inside the castle has been taken over by the evil wizard Alastor! William has Sir Simon shrink Mrs. Phillips with a magic coin so that she can't leave William and can stay with him forever. Then William shrinks himself so he can save the kingdom from the evil wizard.

Read this book to find out if William saves the day!

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

Jenna's Review

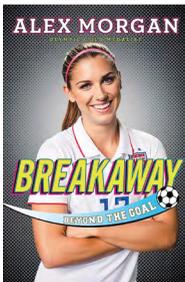
The Soccer Journey



Jenna C.

Title: *Breakaway*
Author: Alex Morgan

Do you like playing soccer? Do you enjoy watching soccer games on your TV or in a stadium? If you do, you've probably heard of Alex Morgan. She is a professional soccer player. You might have seen her from the Olympics or the World Cup, well she wrote a book talking about her journey in soccer. She talks about tournaments she's been to, the World Cup, Olympics, and etc.



My favorite story in this book is about her early stage on how she started soccer, who supported her, and how she got on such big teams. She also talks about how she handles losses, injuries, and negative thoughts. This book gives so much inspiration. She also tells you how to keep on practicing and how positive thinking can get you further. I definitely recommend this book to people who have a goal and want to reach it.

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

Kailani's Review

Lovable Shih-Tzu, Yum-Yum



Kailani T.

Say Good-Bye by Laurie Halse Anderson is book 5 of 17 in the Vet Volunteers series. It is about Yum-Yum, a small Shih-Tzu therapy dog. Yum-Yum visits children with cancer at the hospital to cheer them up with his cuteness and tricks. Kids LOVE him. Unfortunately, Yum-Yum is also found to have cancer. Jane (Yum-Yum's owner) and Zoe (Jane's friend, a volunteer at the animal clinic) try their best to help him get better. Can Yum-Yum make it through?



This book is very heartwarming. It is full of suspense with excitement and sadness. Reading it makes me happy and sad at the same time. I have been asking my parents for a puppy for a few years. This story makes me understand that having a puppy won't just be cute and fun. If the puppy gets very sick, I may have to make hard decisions. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves animals.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Daniel's Review

Best Friends

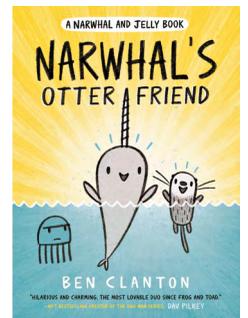


Daniel H.

Title: *Narwhal's Otter Friend (A Narwhal and Jelly Book #4)*
Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish are best friends. One day, they are swimming in the ocean when they meet Otty the Otter. Otty is an adventurer that has done lots of cool stuff and met many animals. Otty wants to go on his next adventure and invites Narwhal to join him. They forget to invite Jelly. Jelly becomes jealous and wonders if he is still Narwhal's best friend. Is Otty now Narwhal's best friend? What will happen to Jelly? You will find out if you read this book.

This book is really cute and funny and made me laugh while I was reading it. I hope you read it and like it as much as I did!



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

Katie's Review

City Life vs The Wild



Katie C.

Title: *Brian's Return*
Author: Gary Paulsen

If you've ever read the book Hatchet, you know the story of Brian and how he was stranded after a dangerous and tragic plane crash. After he survives, the plot ends and readers are left wanting more. Brian's Return is the sequel to this book, and portrays the difficulty Brian has in adjusting to his new life, free of wild animals and the dangers of living in solidarity in nature. As "safe" as his new life may seem, Brian is struggling immensely with living a so-called "normal" life. Therefore, he meets a psychologist named Caleb. Speaking with Caleb helps Brian work through the trauma he has faced and also to make a decision on what to do now. Will he finally be able to accept a calmer environment? Or will he still miss the woods, deep down in his heart? If you want to find out what Brian chooses to do, you should read Brian's Return.



Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

Sean's Book Review

Middle School Can Change Your Life



Sean

Finding the Worm by Mark Goldblatt, is about a 7th grader, Julian Twerski, who attends McMasters Middle School. There, 9th graders are a real problem, as they are the bullies. Julian is seen admiring a painting of a historical picture, and then is accused of messing it up! Julian's friend, Quentin, suffers from a tumor in his head, and due to this, is promised a visit from a famous baseball player. Another friend, Beverly, is constantly asking Julian to race her in running, but he always says no.

This book has a lot of side stories that contribute to the main idea, making the book interesting, suspenseful, and funny. Mark Goldblatt did a great job connecting this book to his previous book, *Twerp*.

In conclusion, *Finding the Worm* is really cool, but you should read *Twerp* before this, as you will have a much better time!

Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.



Taeyoung's Book Review

Light in the Dark



Taeyoung K.

Title: *The City of Ember*
Author: Jeanne DuPrau

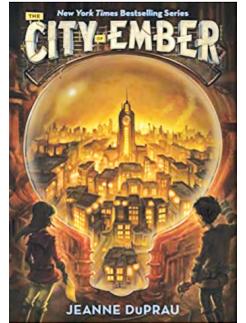
Have you ever thought about living the place where you can't see the sun? This story is about the city of Ember where is underground. People in the city depend on the light bulbs to get light.

It starts with the conversation about the box that contains the secret between two builders who built the city of Ember.

The mayors of the city pass it down to the next mayor secretly, but the seventh mayor couldn't pass it down and it remains unknown. Lina, A 12-year-old girl, and her friend, Doon, start to have doubts about the mayor and the city.

What is in the box? Where is it? Can Lina and Doon find the way for them and the city of Ember? Or will they be stuck in the city of darkness? If you like the adventures and secrets, I recommend this book to you.

Taeyoung K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.



Tyson's Book Review

Never Give Up

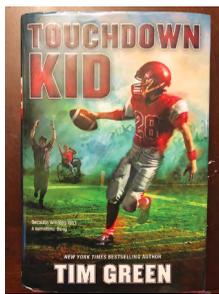


Tyson

Touchdown Kid by Tim Green

Cory is an awesome football player from the Westside. He is 11 years old and is just moving into middle school, along with his friend, Liam. A well-known coach from HBS, an elite junior high school, is giving a scholarship to a player he thinks is good enough to play football there. If Cory gets it, he will get to live in a nice neighborhood with a host family

in a cozy home, and play football, his passion. His best friend's brother isn't the nicest guy and pulls him into trouble. If he is late, he won't play. What will he do? This is his dream. Find out more about this crazy adventure and read *Touchdown Kid*. This book is great and pulls me in. I can relate a lot to this book and if you're an athlete, you'll love it. I'm not much of a bookworm and I rate it 5 out of 5 stars!



Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to play with his dog and meeting new neighborhood friends!

Tegan's Book Review

Forced to Grow Up



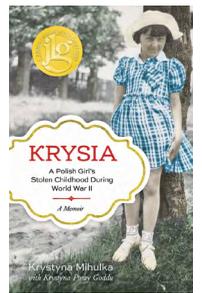
Tegan

Kryisia by Krystyna Mihulka tells the true story of a 9-year-old Jewish girl's experiences during the distressing World War II, where her family is captured and forced to leave their comfortable home in Lwów, Poland and must survive in a foreign prison camp in Kazakhstan, Russia. With her tranquil childhood torn apart, Kryisia lives through one of the darkest times in history, witnessing death and seeing victims

suffer from starvation and sicknesses. Amidst depressing days with little food, Kryisia finds hope through letters from her father in hiding and a snowstorm that blocks Russian soldiers from irritating her family. This personal narrative appeals to readers who sympathize with struggles, are interested in history, and believe that goodness will prevail.

4.7 out of 5 stars.

Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.



Yoona's Review

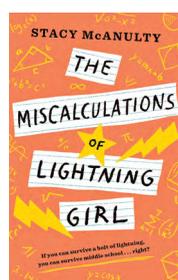
The Math Girl



Yoona C.

Title: *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*
Author: Stacy McAnulty

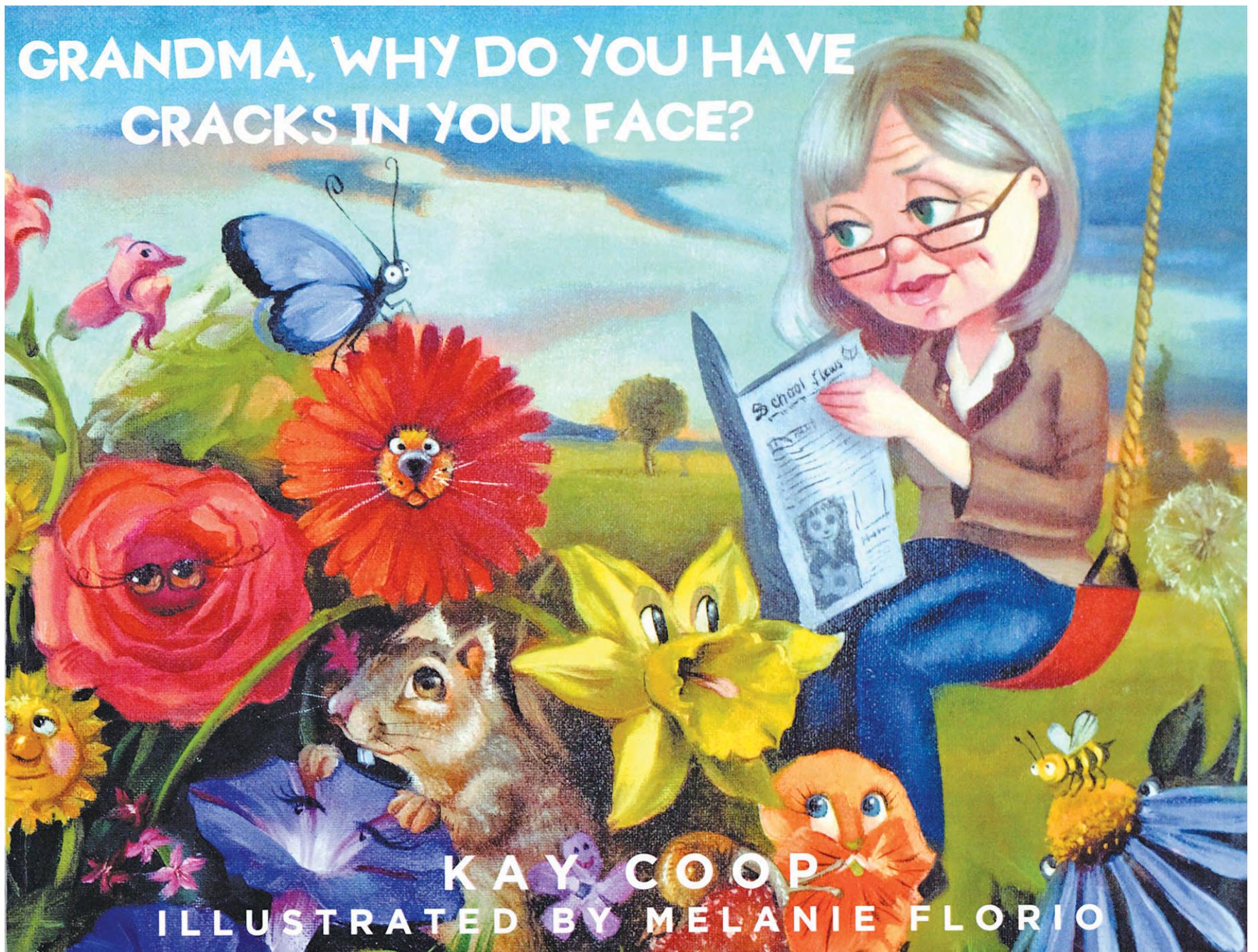
The main character's name is Lucy. Lucy was struck by lightning. She loves math, and is actually a genius with math! Lucy most of all loves pi. If she doesn't sit, stand 3 times pi appears and keeps going in her head. Lucy is homeschooled and lives with her Grandmother. She is ready to go to college, but her grandmother insists and forces her to go to middle school for at least 1 year. Her grandmother says to



make 1 friend, join one activity, and read one book. Later on, the school has a project where you have to help places, or people in need. Lucy and her friends plan to help a dog shelter. She later finds a dog named Cutie Pi and instantly falls in love. Lucy's Grandmother soon finds a school that is good for her intelligence, but she's not sure if she wants to go...Does Lucy decide to leave the school and friends? I like this book because there are a lot of changes in this book, which makes it more interesting.

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

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KAY COOP
ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE FLORIO



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