

School News

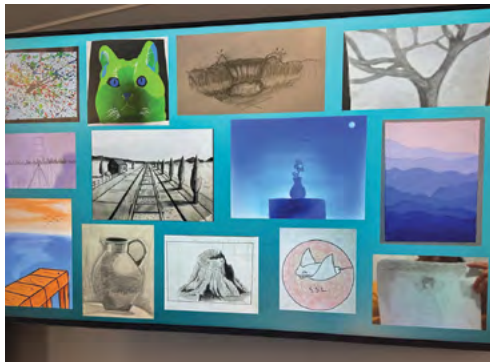
Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Ocean View School District

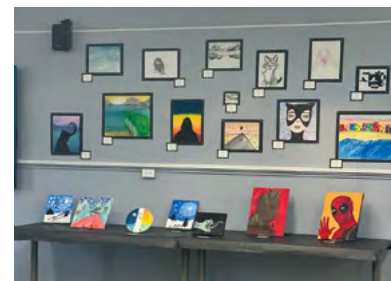
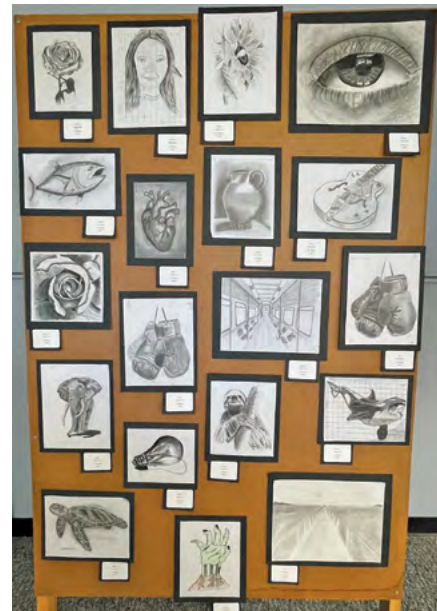


Volume 20, Issue 117

May 2024



Creativity Comes Alive at Inaugural Festival of the Arts





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Creativity Comes Alive at Inaugural Festival of the Arts

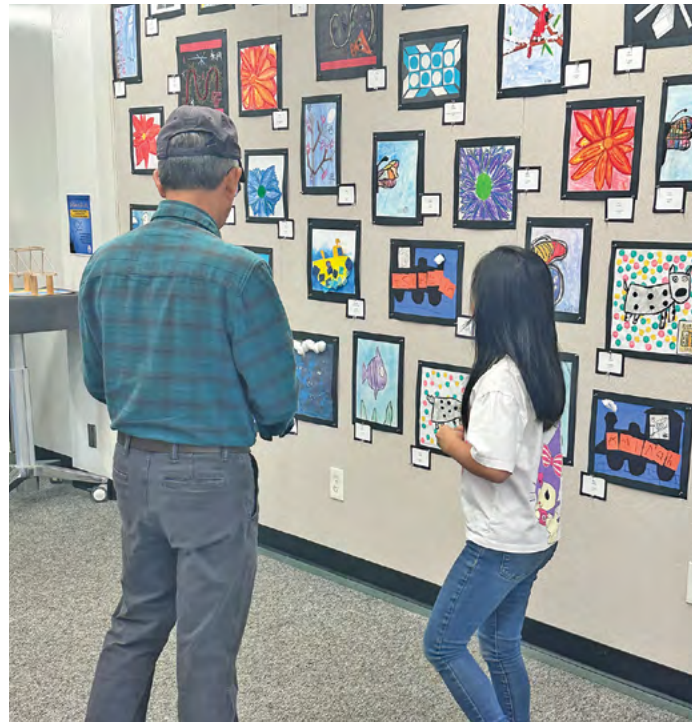
The inaugural Ocean View School District Festival of the Arts was a resounding success, as the community came together to celebrate the creativity and talent of students from preschool through eighth grade. Throughout the evening, an electric atmosphere filled the air

as attendees were immersed in a captivating display of the District's visual and performing arts.

The Festival offered a dazzling array of experiences. In the gallery, visitors viewed a diverse collection of paintings, sketches, imaginative mixed-media pieces, and intricately-crafted woodshop creations, all created by the students. Onstage, the audience was treated to the harmonious melodies of student musicians, an exciting theater performance, and the dynamic movements of dance ensembles. Each act served as a testament to the students' hard work and passion for their craft.

Amidst the artistic exhibitions and live performances, attendees enjoyed delicious fare from a variety of food trucks and participated in face painting activities. As the evening drew to a close, it was clear that this inaugural festival had set the stage for a new tradition that would continue to captivate and inspire the Ocean View School District community for years to come.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all those who volunteered their time and expertise, as this festival was a true collaborative effort that celebrated the abundant creativity within the Ocean View School District.



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Celebrating Excellence: Ocean View School District's Week of the Employee

By Jack C. Souders, Board President

In the Ocean View School District, the month of May marks a special occasion: the Week of the Employee, which runs from May 13 to May 17 this year. During this significant time, we take the opportunity to pay tribute to the unwavering commitment and tireless efforts of every member of the District's workforce, whether they hold certificated or classified positions.

From the dedicated teachers who inspire our students every day, to the diligent administrators who ensure smooth operations; from the custodial staff who maintain

cleanliness, to the school bus drivers who safely transport our students; and from the food and nutrition services personnel, to every other individual who contributes to the nurturing environment of our schools – each person plays a vital role in creating a safe, inclusive, and conducive space for our students to thrive.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of Ocean View School District. Your hard work, dedication, and passion for education do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do to enrich the lives of our students and strengthen our community.

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Huntington Beach Public Library

7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/374-5338 • www.hbpl.org

Amazing Animals at the Huntington Beach Public Library

By Laura Jenkins, Senior Youth Services Librarian

Step into the fascinating world of wildlife with Inside the Outdoors Foundation's Amazing Animals presentation, coming to the Huntington Beach Central Library on Saturday, May 18th, at 3:00 pm! Delight in captivating interactions with a diverse array of native and non-native animal ambassadors, as ITO's Traveling Scientists weave tales of wonder and discovery. From the majestic to the minuscule, this engaging presentation promises to ignite children's natural curiosity for animals and the environment. Don't miss this opportunity to give your family an unforgettable learning experience that will leave them inspired and eager to explore the wonders of the natural world!

This special presentation is geared toward children ages 6 to 10 and requires registration. To register, visit the library's online calendar at hbpl.libcal.com. Looking to learn more about local wildlife? Visit your favorite HBPL location and ask for help finding books about native Orange County wildlife!



Join us for the Amazing Animals presentation to meet Kevin Owlexander, the Great Horned Owl!

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The Health Impact of Bullying in Kids

In today's world, 1 in 5 children experience bullying online or in person. As a frequently reported disciplinary problem in schools, it encompasses behaviors such as being the subject of rumors or lies, being made fun of, being called names, insulted, threatened with harm, experiencing physical harm, and social exclusion.

Bullying is characterized by deliberate and persistent behavior aimed at asserting power over others. Categorized as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), it represents potentially traumatic events that can have negative, lasting effects on a person's development.

Bullying can impair cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development, and increase the risk of various health problems such as depression, anxiety, sleep disturbances, and substance abuse.

Often, bullying is dismissed as a childhood rite of passage. Children may feel reluctant to tell adults due to feelings of embarrassment, which is why recognizing the early signs of bullying is instrumental in preventing the potential long-term effects on a child's development. Research shows that early and consistent parental involvement and support is a protective factor against bullying and long term consequences.

Signs of bullying parents can look for in children include:

- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide
- Planning to "get back" at those who've wronged them

Caregivers recognizing the impact of bullying is often the first step. Open communication and creating an environment where children's feelings are acknowledged and expressed freely help build resilience and emotional well-being. Further, caregivers should initiate conversations with teachers to discuss concerns regarding a child's well-being.

Addressing bullying requires collaborative efforts between caregivers, educators, and health care professionals. Child psychologists and school counselors can provide interventions suited to a child's well-being.

Want to learn more? Please call (714) 377-6993 or visit millerchildrens.org/stramski.



Pablo, Age 6

At 11 months, Pablo was fighting for his life.

Today, he's got six candles on his cake.

Failing organs. Eight months in a coma. Fighting for every breath. At 11 months old, this is what Leukemia brought Pablo. The one bright spot, he was at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital where a team of top doctors, nurses, and specialists helped save his life. For over a year in the PICU, our highly-trained staff never stopped caring for Pablo and his family. **Caring is our calling.**

Learn more at millerchildrens.org/care



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Child Development Programs

17131 Emerald Ln., Huntington Beach • 16692 Landau Ln., Huntington Beach • 8251 Heil Ave., Westminster • 714/847-2551 X 1107 • www.ovsd.org/domain/1652



Sue Broderson
Coordinator

Our Child Development Programs

Big things are happening in childcare! With the support of the Expanded Learning Opportunities program, Ocean View School District childcare is able to make big changes to enhance and beautify our classrooms both inside and out. These changes will support a clean, safe environment so that our children can be their most creative selves.

Most of the childcare rooms now have new carpeting, blinds, lighting, and furniture. Some have new cabinets to support all of the games and crafts supplies that are used daily. Each campus has new outdoor storage containers for outside sports equipment, and the childcare sites have also been receiving ongoing supplies tailored to student requests.

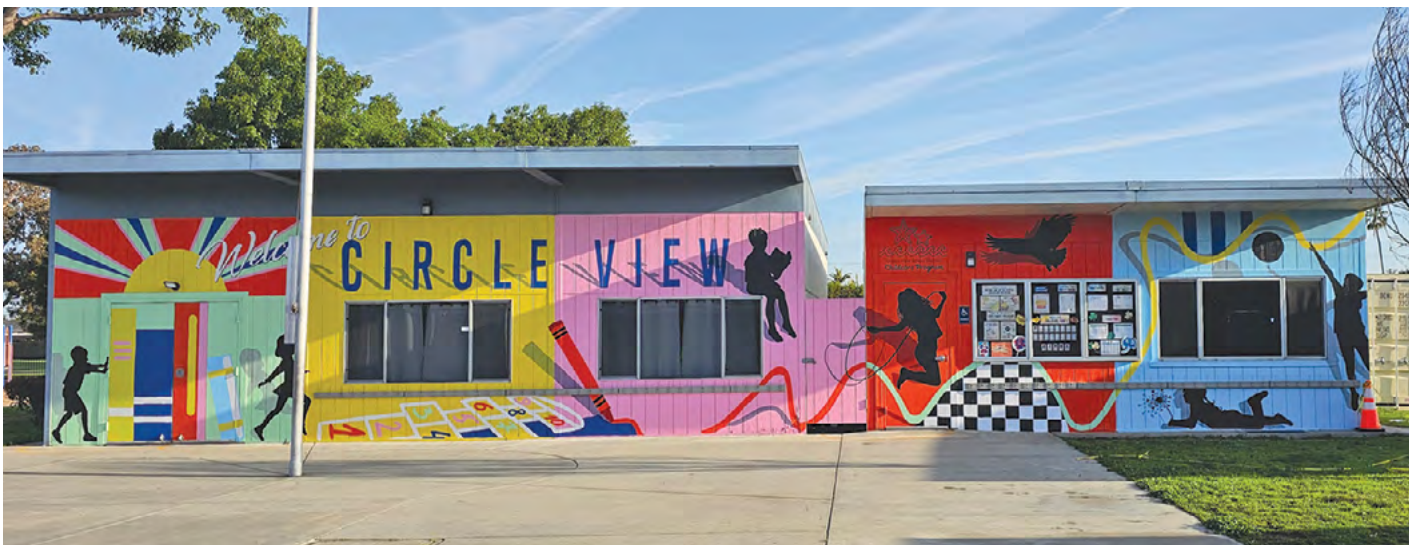


Our staff and students always make an effort to collaborate on projects that are meaningful to the school, and which increase student voice and choice. We are excited to be able to support our students' vision and leadership in building a program that they can also play an active role in constructing.

As part of the continued enhancement of the childcare program, new murals are also being painted on the exterior of each childcare building. The murals are bright and fun and support positive affirmations.

The first school to have its mural completed was Circle View. After gathering feedback from students, parents, and staff, the mural was unanimously approved to begin creation. The students were able to gather around the muralist, Lindsey Morales, as she painted. Ms. Morales answered questions and even gave mini-lessons and demonstrations to the children. As you can imagine, the artist and her work were a big hit!

We are so excited to be able to provide such beautiful and fun murals at all of the childcare sites. The students are excited to come to childcare and feel a sense of belonging. We love our students and want them to always feel that they are in a safe, secure, and loving space.



Circle View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jessica Haag
Principal

Overnight Field Trip!

Our 5th graders had their overnight field trip to AstroCamp this year from April 17th-19th! They spent three days and two nights in beautiful Idyllwild. AstroCamp's outdoor science program definitely gave our students an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. The camp has students explore the sciences of physics and astronomy, develop as individuals, and fosters

their sense of wonder. Students learned about atmosphere and gases, lights and lasers, electricity and magnetism, and more. There were also STEM activities, hikes, a sky coaster, and so much fun. Our 5th grade teachers organize and prepare our 5th graders for this fantastic experience, and we are so grateful to our AstroCamp Parent Committee for all their fundraising efforts. It takes a big team to bring our students to AstroCamp and we are so happy to be able to return this year!



Students at AstroCamp

College View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Allen Mendrin
Principal

College View Elementary Provides Hands-On Learning

Preschool through fifth grade College View Elementary students were excited and engaged in the educational experiences provided by the Discovery Cube. Exploring concepts like bubbles, climates, habitats, animals, and chemical reactions through hands-on activities truly ignited curiosity and fostered a deeper understanding of the world around us.



Acknowledging the support of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) is also important, as their efforts play a crucial role in making such learning opportunities possible. Collaborative efforts between educational institutions and community organizations like the PTA are invaluable in enriching the educational experiences of students. Kudos to all involved for their dedication to promoting interactive and impactful learning experiences!



Golden View *Environmental Science School*

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



Lori Florgan
Principal

How Pollinators Work

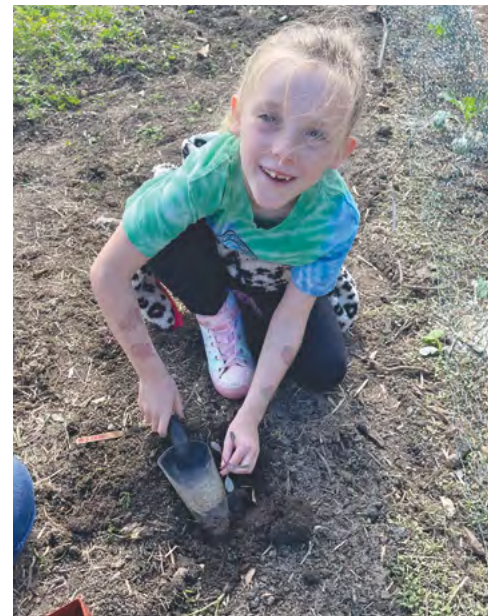
Our second-graders learned how pollination works and the important role pollinators play in our environment. They discovered just how critical bees and other pollinators are to our survival. In an effort to educate others, they researched and created posters about different pollinators such as bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, bats, ladybugs, and ants. The posters showed what they pollinate, why they're important, and ways to help them.



After discovering that the vanilla orchid must often be pollinated by hand, students designed, engineered, and tested hand pollinators to help transfer the pollen from one flower to another. They also planted pollinator gardens and made wildflower-seed bombs to help the pollinators.

The students took it beyond the classroom and helped to save pollinators at home and out in the community. Many students planted pollinator gardens of native wildflowers, vegetables, and herbs. Some students researched alternatives to pesticides and brought in homemade neem oil to treat garden pests. We also had students bring in a bee hotel, hummingbird nests, and a bat box. A few decided to become community scientists by using the iNaturalist app to share pollinators and their habitats with over 1 million scientists, researchers, and naturalists.

Our second-graders are definitely passionate about protecting pollinators!



Harbour View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Francesca Ligman
Principal

Harbour Lights Up Literacy!

Harbour View Teachers held an evening dedicated to families and students in building literacy skills from Transitional Kindergarten through fifth Grade! The Family Literacy Night kicked off with a Book Fair. Students were able to browse the Book Fair and shop for favorite titles before the literacy sessions began. Then teachers from each grade level presented a literacy skill in their classrooms. The parent/guardian

and student were both urged to attend. The teachers each modeled a skill, then the parent/guardian would be able to practice with their own child in the class with provided materials. The skills ranged from Involving your child in read alouds, how to practice fluency and phonemic awareness, expanding sentences, citing text evidence through close reading and more! Our Dual Language Immersion classes focused on vocabulary practice and phonics games in Espanol. All in all the evening linked engagement and literacy to increase family connection and student learning.



Hope View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Christina Luckey
Principal

Exceptional Scholars and Leaders

At Hope View Elementary School, our mission is to cultivate exceptional scholars and leaders while crafting enduring school experiences for our students. With unwavering support from our dedicated PTO and educators, our multipurpose room serves as the stage for countless cherished moments throughout

the academic year. From vibrant displays of student artwork during Open House to the festive atmosphere of our Winter Holiday House, our school community thrives in this space. It's where families gather, students shine on stage, and where assemblies spark inspiration. In-person field trips and interactive learning experiences further enrich these memories.

Captured in these images are our 4th and 5th grade students immersed in an on-site field trip. At Hope View, we understand that while academic growth is paramount, so too are the connections and memories we forge. Our aim is to cultivate lifelong learners by seamlessly blending meaningful educational opportunities with unforgettable experiences. Hope View is the place to be!



Lake View *Elementary* (K-5)

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

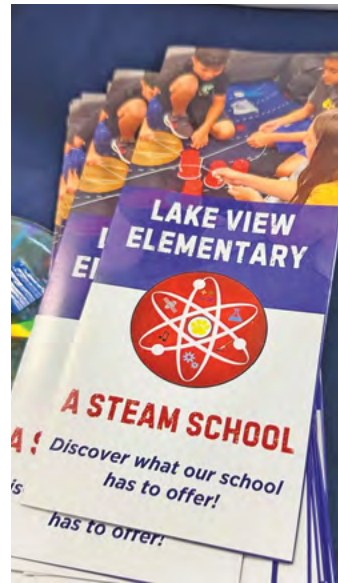


Jill
Van Der Linden
Principal

Lake View is at Imaginology

Imaginology is an annual event held at the OC Fair and Event Center. Children, teens, families and school groups dig into science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Imaginology provides unique experiences for all to build, create, play, observe and interact through activities that help them see the possibilities of a future in STEAM fields. This year all Lake View students entered the Cardboard Design Competition. Lake View

had an impressive showing dominating the competition category. In addition to the competition aspect of the event Lake View Elementary School was featured at a booth. The booth invited Imaginology attendees to get a glimpse into our STEAM program at Lake View. We had 3D printers, Ozobots which are little robots designed as an introduction in coding, and an engineering activity. Hundreds of children visited our booth and didn't want to leave. Lake View teachers and students poured themselves into this event and it was fabulous to experience.



Marine View *Middle School* (6–8)

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



Sara Schaible
Principal

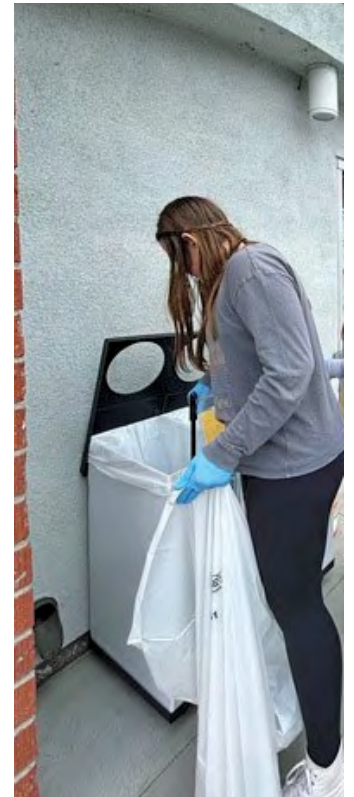
Recycling Program

This year, Marine View students created and implemented a Recycling Program on campus. The idea began when Mrs. Tompkin's class was brainstorming a school-wide service project that would bring awareness and

make a positive impact on our campus and the environment, thus the Marine View Recycling Program was born. Mrs. Tompkin's class partnered with our leadership class to implement this school-wide project. Students worked to develop a plan for collecting items, created videos for the student body, and work weekly to collect items for recycling. As we celebrate Earth Day, the focus turned to planet versus plastic and how Marine View continues to do their part to reduce and repurpose plastic and aluminum. Students have learned the importance of reducing our carbon footprint to preserve mother nature for future generations. This program has benefited student learning and focuses on the importance of every individual's role in recycling, as a part of a global



commitment to eliminate waste. Through this process, students decided to take it a step further and implement a fun competition between the grade levels to see what grade can collect the most recycling. It has turned into a fun competition with a great cause!



Mesa View Middle School (6–8)

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



Jadyn Grunbaum
Principal

Advisement Ambassadors Off to a Strong Start!

This year Mesa View added back an advisement period—a short daily period that meets to support student connection to school and promote a positive school climate. This advisory period enables our staff members to check in more regularly with students, promote school procedures (like our PBIS model), and to create more effective communication with our students about what is going on at the school.

Teacher Sarah Roberts and our ASB members have worked hard to facilitate a new program, Advisement Ambassadors, which provides additional leadership opportunities for our Mesa View Eagles. Each advisement class selects one student representative, and each month we hold an Ambassador meeting to hear from the student body and then ask them to take back topics to their advisement task.

So far this year our students have discussed things like food options at school (so important to our teens!), staff supervision, lunchtime activities, safety concerns and ideas, and ways to support students both academically and emotionally while at school. These meetings have been



amazing, and our students have really created a collegial and collaborative environment when getting together.

It has been impressive to watch our ASB students facilitate these conversations. A big thank-you goes to Mrs. Roberts and our ASB students for their organization, and to all of our teachers for supporting this change and for helping to promote student leadership.



Oak View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jenna Landero
Principal

Nurturing the Love of Reading

In the classrooms of Oak View, a beacon of collective care shines bright, igniting the passion for reading through a unique approach: honoring and nourishing caregiver collaborations. At the heart of this endeavor lies the profound wisdom found in Nawal Qarooni's book, a guiding light for educators and families alike: *Nourishing Caregiver Collaborations*



Through shared readings, interactive storytelling, and collaborative literacy activities, parents and children embark on a journey of exploration and discovery. Together, they unravel the mysteries of the written word, forging connections that extend far beyond the pages of a book.

Moreover, Oak View recognizes the profound impact of caregiver involvement on a child's academic success and emotional well-being. By fostering meaningful collaborations between home and school, they create a support network that nurtures every aspect of a child's development.



In her insightful work, Qarooni emphasizes the pivotal role that caregivers play in shaping a child's relationship with reading. Drawing from her expertise, Oak View has pioneered Family Lab sites, sacred spaces where parents and children come together, side by side, to elevate home experiences and classroom practices.

Central to this initiative is the recognition that the love of reading is not solely cultivated within the confines of a classroom but blossoms in the nurturing embrace of familial bonds. Oak View understands that caregivers are the first teachers, the guardians of curiosity, and the architects of literacy-rich environments.

Within the Family Lab sites, caregivers are empowered with the tools and knowledge to foster a culture of reading at home. They are guided by educators who serve as mentors, sharing strategies to create immersive literary experiences that transcend the boundaries of school and home.



Qarooni's book serves as a beacon of inspiration, illuminating the path towards a future where every child is empowered to embrace the wonders of reading. At Oak View, her teachings are not just words on a page but guiding principles that shape every interaction, every lesson, and every story shared.

As we reflect on the transformative power of caregiver collaborations, let us remember that the love of reading is not simply taught but nurtured, cherished, and passed down from one generation to the next. In the warm embrace of collective care, Oak View continues to sow the seeds of literacy, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to flourish and thrive in a world illuminated by the magic of books.

Spring View Middle School (6–8)

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



Isis Ortiz
Principal

Innovative Drumming Experience Enhances Teamwork

In the ongoing quest to foster teamwork and collaboration, Spring View Middle School has embraced a novel approach: the rhythmic beats of Drum Perks. This unique program offers engaging and memorable interactive

drumming events that are aimed at instilling core values such as best effort, respect, and focus

in a fun and encouraging environment.

Drum Perks is a renowned provider of interactive drumming experiences. It provides our Spring View Middle School students with special assemblies where they are able to experience the joy of teamwork through the power of percussion. With a mission to inspire, engage, and perform, Drum Perks offers an impactful musical experience that aligns perfectly with our school's commitment to cultivate a supportive and collaborative educational atmosphere.

“Drum Perks provides a unique opportunity for our students to not only experience the thrill of making music together but also to learn important values like respect, best effort, and focus,” says Mr. deLachica, the school's assistant principal. “It's a fun and interactive way to reinforce the principles of teamwork that we strive to instill in our students.”

The Drum Perks program encourages students to work together towards a common goal while also celebrating individual contributions. By emphasizing core values such as respect and best effort, students learn the importance of mutual support and collaboration.

“We believe that music has the power to unite people and promote teamwork,” says a representative from Drum Perks. “Our interactive drumming events provide a platform for students to exercise core values in a hands-on and engaging setting where everyone is valued as an important member of the team.”

Through the rhythmic beats of Drum Perks, our students at Spring View Middle School have been able to discover new ways to collaborate, communicate, and support one another. As they drummed together at our most recent event, they not only created great music, they also forged bonds that extend beyond the confines of the Spring View gym.



Star View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

Community Partnerships at Star View

The impact a teacher makes on a child can change a life. However, when schools partner with community members, life skills are enhanced. Star View is partnering with the Optimist Club of Huntington Beach this year.

Optimist Club members model active interest in community, friendship, and civic responsibility every month. They teach students to cast a line and target a hook to capture a rubber fish. While this sounds fun,

children must demonstrate patience and focused practice to succeed.

Next month, our special needs students will race cars with the Optimists in the Pine Wood Derby. Along with scientific concepts of weight distribution and gravitational force, children must exhibit teamwork and demonstrate the spirit of competition as their cars race toward the finish line.

The Optimists teach our kids “To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best; to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.”



Village View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Sharon Ahlman
Interim Principal

Evening With the Stars!

On Friday, April 19th, Village View Elementary School hosted an “Evening With the Stars”, a captivating talent show that showcased a diverse range of performances from our Kindergarten students through 5th grade. The event kicked off

with a high-energy band performance of “Seven Nation Army” that had the audience dancing in their seats. The evening continued with a variety of acts including an enchanting magic show that left everyone spellbound as the magicians performed mind-boggling tricks. The atmosphere



was electrified by groups of students showcasing their impressive dance routines, vocal duets and solos, a violin, a keyboard, and even a Kazoo. A pogoing aficionado also gave the audience a bouncing performance to “Gangnam Style”. This performance brought a unique and thrilling element to the Village View stage. It was a great time for our Village View community to come together and share in student talents and gifts. A very special thanks goes out to the parents and PTO who worked many hours in order to make this an evening to remember.



Vista View Middle School (6–8)

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



Dr. Rasheedah Gates
Principal

Our Second Annual STEAM Day

Vista View Middle School celebrated its commitment to STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) with its second annual STEAM Day on Thursday, March 28th. This extraordinary event saw every classroom on campus pausing their regular activities to engage students in hands-on STEAM experiences, igniting their curiosity and fostering innovation.

The gymnasium was abuzz thanks to our dynamic sixth-grade esports and robotics teacher, Ms. Danielle Staton. Under her leadership, an interactive extravaganza spanned the entire gym. From gaming stations powered by large monitor boards to coding stations that enabled students to create their own games through programming, the event showcased the intersection of technology and creativity.

Students were especially enthralled by the drone-flying station, where they learned about aerodynamics and remote piloting. At the robotics station, they witnessed the marvels of automation as their robots responded to programmed cues, and which dramatically highlighted the power of coding in real-world applications. The graphic drawing station also encouraged artistic expression intertwined with digital design.

But the excitement didn't stop there. Inside the main building, a myriad of activities were happening in each classroom. Mosaic art projects, software design programs for building tiny houses, roller coaster engineering challenges, and circuit board building workshops captivated students and parents alike. The day was a



testament to Vista View Middle School's commitment to holistic education, where academic learning seamlessly intertwines with practical, hands-on experience.

What truly set this event apart was the inclusion of our parents. STEAM Day at Vista View Middle School isn't just for students—it's a community affair. Parents were invited to spend the day immersing themselves in their children's learning journey, thus gaining insights into the innovative approaches that are employed by the school to foster STEAM education. As they witnessed their children engage with complex concepts in a fun and interactive manner, parents gained a deeper appreciation for the value of STEAM education in preparing their students for the challenges of the future.

At Vista View Middle School, the mantra is clear: Falcons SOAR! Events like STEAM Day exemplify this by empowering students to gain new insights into academic excellence and innovation. As our school continues to nurture the next generation of thinkers, creators, and leaders, one thing is certain—Vista View Middle School is paving the way for a future where STEAM education reigns supreme.



Westmont Elementary (K-5)

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



Diana Bianco
Principal

Authors as Mentors

It was Meet the Author Day at Westmont Elementary on Friday, April 12! All students in TK through fifth grade had the chance to not only meet an author but also hear about what it takes to plan, write, and publish a children's picture book.

Brad Mason, the author of *Charley Chaloooy Is Often Quite Choosy*, met with each grade level and shared his book. With each group, he explained the process of writing a book by ensuring that it has an interesting plot and uses the arc of the story to make a reader stay engaged. He also instructed students on how to create meaningful illustrations that tell the story. The students left with a challenge: they could add more to the story that had been shared or start a new story on their own, identifying characters and setting and showing the rising action with a resolution. It was an inspirational experience!



Following the author's visit, Westmont's fourth-grade students had the extra opportunity to meet OVSD student authors from Mesa View Middle School. The middle-schoolers shared their written books with the elementary students, once again showing them the way that they, too, can be published authors. Sitting with the student authors, hearing their stories, and tying it all to the morning lessons made students leave with new imagination and insight to ignite their love for both reading and writing.





Swim Word Search

Anchor

Backstroke

Boards

Breathe

Butterfly

Chlorine

Diving

Dolphin

Earplugs

Flippers

Freestyle

Goggles

Headcap

Kickboards

Kicking

Lane Lines

Medley

Meets

Paddles

Pool

Pulleys

Race

Relay

Strokes

Surfacing

Times

Underwater

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

Word Search Contest

Words Associated with School

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: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com
(Please put **OV** in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **June 15, 2024**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to
win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Congratulations Tamara Beaubien
Winner of the March Contest

Thank you Barkate / Nehi Orthodontics
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Achievers	Learning
Character	Mentors
Classrooms	Nutrition
Curiosity	Parents
Discipline	Principal
Educators	Recess
Encourage	Reunion
Excellence	Student
Focused	Success
Homework	Technology
Instructors	Thinkers
Integrity	Workers

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

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent



Dr. Ramon Miramontes
Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs

Once confined to science fiction, artificial intelligence has broken through to our reality, flashing its potential to transform industries and our society in ways never before imagined. And schools are no exception.

AI isn't just knocking on classroom doors anymore, it's inside, and we are already discovering how it can make learning more engaging, interactive and tailored to the needs of each student. At the same time, it's clear that there must be safeguards in place, along with proper guidance from educators to ensure we're leading students along the path to becoming responsible digital citizens.

At the Orange County Department of Education, we are not spectators in the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence — we're active participants. Through strategic partnerships, pioneering initiatives and professional development, we're striving to harness AI's potential to uplift our schools, districts and communities. We've also committed to acting intentionally and responsibly to ensure the use of this powerful technology aligns with our core values and serves the best interests of students.

Our work in this digital arena began last year with the launch of OC AI Forward, a countywide initiative with support from Dr. Sabba Quidwai of Designing Schools and our local district superintendents. Monthly sessions have promoted the exchange of knowledge and best practices among local education leaders, creating a unified and collaborative approach to AI.

In 2023, OCDE also hired two new administrators of artificial intelligence and innovation. Wes Kriesel, a former high school English teacher, and Kunal Dalal, an education technology advocate from Silicon Valley, are working with our staff and the districts we

serve, envisioning a future where AI assists in customizing educational content to enhance engagement and improve learning outcomes.

As Kriesel and Dalal shared in a recent interview, their work goes beyond simply showing other educators how to use new tech. Instead, they want to shift perspectives by changing the way teachers view and embed AI into their lessons.

"We are in the business of humans," Dalal said. "That means we have the opportunity to reconnect with the human element of what we do and let the bits and bytes be managed by the AI model."

Looking ahead, OCDE is gearing up to host its first "Student AI Summit: For Youth, By Youth" on April 25 in Anaheim. This event, which will feature dynamic presentations and interactive sessions, is expected to draw more than 600 students who will get to share their views on AI's evolving role in their lives and education.

Through this surge of innovation, it's important that we are vigilant about the potential for misuse and abuse — and remember that these considerations aren't exclusive to AI. In fact, similar challenges emerged with the introduction of other educational tools, from calculators to computers. Even something as innocuous as notebook paper can become a distraction when folded into an airplane and sent aloft.

But here's the thing: These tools aren't going away. That means we must be deliberate and thoughtful in our approach to using and teaching them, relying on shared ethical values and standards for what is right and wrong.

Using AI wisely transcends merely learning new technical skills. It's about fostering good digital citizens who approach technology with integrity and character. While AI-enabled personalized learning has the potential to transform education, our responsibility extends beyond academics. We also have an obligation to keep students safe and help them grow into responsible and caring humans.

That vision is what drives us forward at the Orange County Department of Education, and it's a future we're committed to building together.