

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Ocean View School District



Volume 19, Issue 110

March 2023



Oak View Elementary students delighted audiences with six fun-filled performances of the Disney Musical, 101 Dalmations.





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SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Michael
Conroy**
Superintendent

Vista View Middle School is a California School to Watch

Vista View Middle School is a high-performing school that has been designated by the state as a California School to Watch in 2023. The program identifies model middle-grade schools that are academically excellent, developmentally responsive, socially equitable, and have a culture of collaborative leadership. Only 36 middle schools in California received the designation this year.

“Congratulations to these schools for building systems that support all students from all backgrounds and who bring a wealth of individual and family assets,” State Superintendent Tony Thurmond said. “These middle grades students attend programs that help them believe in themselves, discover their interests, and work toward their academic, life and career goals. These middle schools are exceptional role models of how educational innovation and an enthusiastic school community can keep students engaged and learning through a critical stage in their K–12 journey.”

The California Schools to Watch program is sponsored by the California Department of Education, the California League of Educators and the California Middle Grades Alliance, in association with The National Forum. To earn the designation, schools must submit an extensive application and host a site visit by middle grades experts. Winning schools can be redesignated every three years.



I will be heading to Monterey this month with Board President Patricia Singer, Board Vice President Clayton-Tarvin, Vista View Principal Dr. Gates and others for Vista View's recognition at the California Schools to Watch Celebration.

Oak View Elementary students delighted audiences with six fun-filled performances of the Disney Musical, 101 Dalmations.



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Set Your Child Up for Success!

By Patricia Singer, President, Board of Trustees

Choosing where and how to educate your child is one of the most important decisions a parent will ever make. Are you aware of the variety of special programs we offer throughout the Ocean View School District?

Our students experience a rigorous learning environment that is rooted in effective teaching practices and high-quality instruction. Our goal is to nurture every child's imagination, intellect, and sense of inquiry. We also promote social/emotional learning and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) to foster a caring and encouraging school setting.

Here are just a few of our offerings that promote student success:

- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)
- VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts)
- Environmental Science with a 2.5 acre Farm
- Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)
- Spanish Dual Language Immersion
- Marine Science
- Specialized Kindergarten and Preschool Programs
- Before and After School Child Care Program

Are you looking at kindergarten or preschool options for your child? Ocean View offers great programs to facilitate children becoming confident learners in a safe and supportive environment while providing experiences for them to grow and develop through play and interaction. You can choose the right fit for your child depending on their age, development and interest.

Kindergarten (5 years old on or before September 1, 2023): Provides a rich, meaningful, balanced, academic program of foundational skills to prepare children for 1st grade.

Spanish Dual Language Immersion Kindergarten (5 years old on or before September 1, 2023): Students learn in English and Spanish and begin their journey to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural.

Transitional Kindergarten (4 years old by June 2, 2023): Kindergarten standards are spread out over two years allowing students additional time to mature. It honors a child's developmental pace and progression of learning while focusing more on the process of learning and less on the product of learning.

Preschool (3 and 4 years old by December 1, 2023): We offer comprehensive preschool programs to support student development and academic achievement, while offering a developmentally-appropriate preschool experience that will lay a strong foundation for our TK-8 classrooms.

[For more information about our outstanding programs or to enroll in OVSD schools, please visit www.ovsd.org.](http://www.ovsd.org)

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ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 19th year publishing the excellence from the Ocean View School District. Thank you for being loyal readers and supporters of public education.

Superintendent Dr. Conroy begins this issue with his message on page 3.

Congratulations to Vista View Middle School being designated by the state of California School as a School to Watch in 2023.

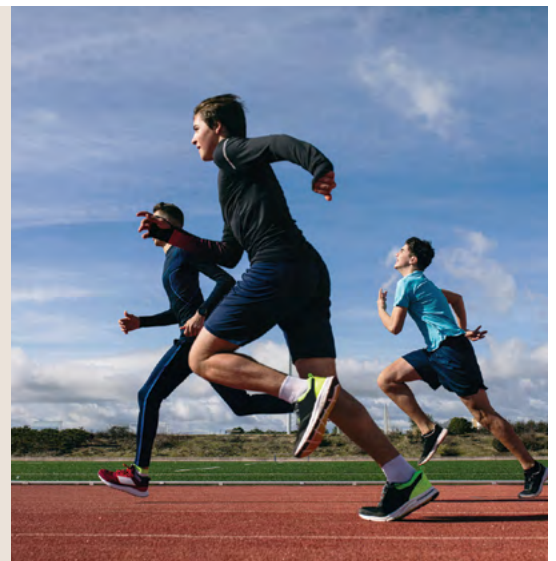
Enjoy Spring Break and we'll be back with our next issue May 10.

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Tony Strickland
Mayor

Hello everyone, I'm Tony Strickland – one of four newly elected Council Members and the Mayor of HB. It is a pleasure to serve our City's 200,000 constituents, and I am grateful for the opportunity to work side by side with our residents, businesses, and visitors.

As your Mayor, I want to be active in the community and I am eager to meet with you! Over this next year, I will host a series of Town Hall meetings as well as Coffee with

the Mayor events all across our City. I want to meet with residents and business from Sunset Beach to Southeast Area and Goldenwest to Downtown. It is important for me to listen and understand the issues our community cares about.

In addition, I have come up with a program that recognizes those in the community doing great work! I would like to honor those unsung heroes in Surf City that make a difference or have accomplished an amazing feat! Each month, I will personally present folks with a certificate here at City Hall. If you have someone that deserves a certificate, please email media@surfcity-hb.org.

Lastly, you can reach me at tony.strickland@surfcity-hb.org or call 714.536.5553 to set up a meeting. For a list of upcoming events and the latest news, visit SurfCityBreak.com.

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Gary Feldman, M.D.
MemorialCare Miller Children's
& Women's Hospital Long Beach

How to get kids on a good sleep schedule when it's time to "Spring Forward"

By: Gary Feldman, M.D., developmental & behavioral pediatric and sleep medicine, Stramski Children's Developmental Center, MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Spring is an exciting time when we receive an additional hour of sunlight. While the annual daylight savings time, "spring forward," offers more sunlight in the evening, it also means that we lose an hour of sleep. This time change can disrupt normal sleep patterns for children.

Some tips to help your child adjust to the time change:

- Gradually Shift Bedtime — Have your child move their bedtime up by 20-minute increments each night starting three days before the time change.
- Keep a Bedtime Routine — Bedtime routines help cultivate strong sleep cues to help your child fall asleep at bedtime. If your child is not falling asleep after bedtime, don't give in to excuses they may make to get out of bed. Keep them calm and preserve the bedtime routine.

- Turn Off the Light — Ensure your child's room is dark at bedtime and expose your child to light at wakeup time.
- Wake Your Child Up on Time — In the morning, don't compensate for the lost hour of sleep. Wake your child up based on current clock time.
- Patience is Key — Be patient if your child is sleepy for a few days. Try not to let them nap if it's not their usual practice.

Teenagers may take longer to adjust to the new time change.

This year's daylight-saving time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Don't forget to mark your calendar to set your clocks forward one hour. Here's wishing you and your family healthy sleep.



Athena, Age 2



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Packed Slate of Programs

By Laura Jenkins, Senior Youth Services Librarian

We are excited to usher in spring with a packed slate of programs for children and teens at the Huntington Beach Public Library! Read on to learn more about upcoming fun, free programs for youth and families.

LEGO Kids Club

Tuesday afternoons at 3pm in the Central Library Tabby Theater.

Families with children ages 6 and older are invited to build and create together in LEGO Kids Club, a S.T.E.M.-based building program. Become an engineer as you design a city, build a boat, craft your dream house, or blast off in a custom rocketship. We'll provide the LEGOs - you provide the imagination!

Wonderful Women Scientists Take-Home Activity Kits

Explore historical women in science through take-home activity kits celebrating National Women's History Month! Each Wonderful Women Scientists Kit will include short biographies, activity instructions, resources for further exploration, and most activity materials. Kits are available while supplies last from all HBPL locations, starting Saturday, March 11.

Women in S.T.E.A.M. Career Panel

Thursday, March 30, 6-7pm in the Central Library Theater.

The Library invites you to join us for an evening panel discussion for tweens, teens, and their families featuring highly successful women in the fields of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. This year's panelists include two travel nurses, a technical video game artist, a senior civil engineer, a published children's book author, and a NASA-trained astronomer. Panelists will share their experiences, career path journey, and inspirational advice, and audience members will have the opportunity to engage with them directly during a Q&A session.

Library Calendar

Looking for more? Check out our library calendar at hbpl.libcal.com for all of our upcoming program information.

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Sue Broderson
Coordinator

Let's Make a Catapult

Ocean View School District is very excited to share our new Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) that is being piloted at our elementary and middle school sites this year. ELOP compliments our stellar before and after school childcare program that has been in existence for the past 30 years. ELOP was created to focus on developing the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of students through hands-on, engaging learning experiences. Students participating in the program are offered 9 hours of instructional time plus after school enrichment activities for 210 days a year. All students in the childcare and ELOP program benefit from the enhanced enrichment activities being offered at the schools. Some of the exciting programs being offered are Spanish language development, where students are taught Spanish language and culture. Engineering using Legos to build elaborate structures that explore the fundamental principles of engineering and physics. Organized sports, focusing on teaching the fundamental skills of soccer, basketball and



volleyball. Students are engaged in STEM learning focusing on computer engineering, programming and creating experimental projects focused on robotics, rocketry, technology and chemistry. Our students love the variety of hands-on activities where they can use their creativity to design projects that are both fun and highly engaging.

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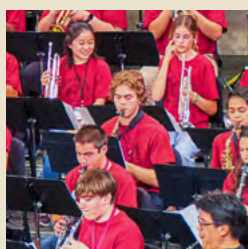
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Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jessica Haag
Principal

Fun with Sight Words!

At Circle View Elementary, we have different types of classrooms. We have general education classrooms, GATE (gifted and talented education) magnet classrooms, and SDCs (special day classrooms). In the primary grades, sight words are emphasized to help students become faster and more fluent readers. Many sight words are difficult to read and can be very frustrating for students. In Mrs. Stone's mild/moderate K-through-second-grade SDC, her students really benefit from play learning, so this has provided a fun opportunity to practice their sight words with play.

One of the ways that Mrs. Stone combines play learning and sight words is with Fun Friday. She puts shaving cream all over the tables. Students are given a few minutes to play with it, draw pictures, or just get a little messy. After a few minutes, she will challenge them to spell some of the sight words they have learned as a review, including the ones they are working on that week. Students love the sensory feel of the shaving cream—it breaks up the “normal” of just paper and pencil, and it's a great way to clean those desks at the end of the week!



College View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Third Graders make Meaningful Connections

College View's third graders enjoy their various social studies units where they learn about important information on a national, state, and city level. Learning the significance behind our nation's symbols, landmarks, monuments, and memorials helps each student connect with history in a more meaningful way. They enhance their research skills by using a wide variety

of resources to research the American flag, bald eagle, Liberty Bell, "The Star-Spangled Banner", U.S. Capitol, and Statue of Liberty. For the various units, students get to do a variety of projects. They practice their collaboration skills by working in groups to create books as well as design different surveys that are then displayed and shared with the class. Students excitedly create their Huntington Beach reports where they gather local artifacts and teach others the significance of local places they often visit. They love the culminating project most where they make their own seal and share the significance behind it.



Golden View *Environmental Science School*

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



Lori Florgan
Principal

From Pond to Garden: Our Water Filtration Project

Golden View's fourth grade classes took a piece of our own farm as inspiration for our DOK Environmental Science Showcase project. Our students built filters and attempted to clean samples of our pond water to be repurposed in our new gardens with growing produce. Our students designed units that allowed the pond water to cycle through three different stages in the filtration system. The students collaborated while layering the materials to create an effective filter. When conducting the experiment to test for its effectiveness, the students observed that the large particles were separated from the pond water as it passed through the rocks. Then, smaller particles were removed as it passed through the sand. Finally, the smallest particles and some chemicals were removed as the pond water passed through the activated charcoal. We were delighted to see that the pond water became clearer each time we repeated the experiment. The students enjoyed this scientific process of exploring a real-world problem and creating a solution to make our environment a better place.



Harbour View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Francesca Ligman
Principal

AR Stars – Honoring Students Reading Goals

Promoting a love and genuine interest in reading is greatly valued at Harbour View. We have an amazing library full of books that are not only organized by their genre, but are also labeled by the Lexile level. At the start of the school year, students are encouraged to read and take tests on books they read. Based on their

Lexile level, they each have an individualized goal set for them to make gains in reading comprehension. As students earn points by taking the short quizzes on the books they read, they work towards earning their “Star” on the wall in our office. Students staple that star on themselves when they meet their goal! It’s not how many pages or books, but points earned by demonstrating competence for a book choice that is at their level and stretches them to the next level. We are developing skilled and avid readers!



Hope View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Christina Luckey
Principal

DoK4 Recess Projects

Hope View fourth- and fifth-grade students have been doing an outstanding job this past trimester working on Depth of Knowledge (DoK4) projects. DoK4 projects require specifying a problem, designing and conducting an experiment, analyzing its data, and reporting results or solutions according to the Web Alignment Tool from the Wisconsin Center of Educational Research.

To conclude a project that has ultimately impacted the school, our fourth- and fifth-grade students were tasked with putting together either a song, a poem, a skit, a poster, a slide show or another project that addresses areas of need noted on a school survey regarding recess times. Each fourth- and fifth-grade student participated, and then each teacher and class voted on their class's favorite to be shared with the primary grades. The students loved working on these projects; they enjoyed adding input and giving a voice to the matter.

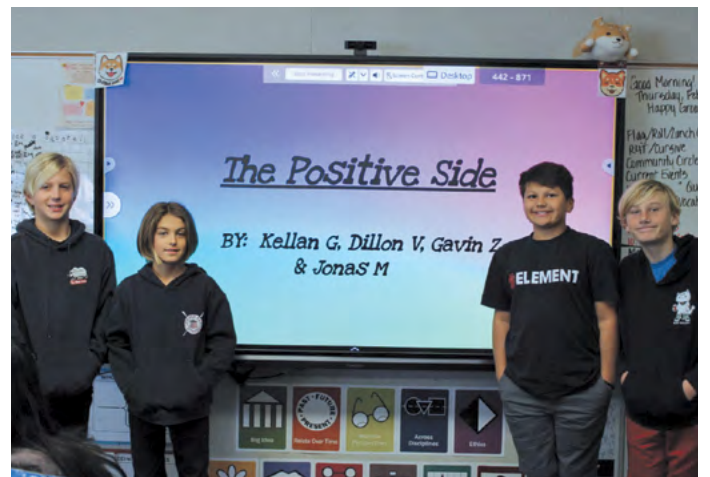
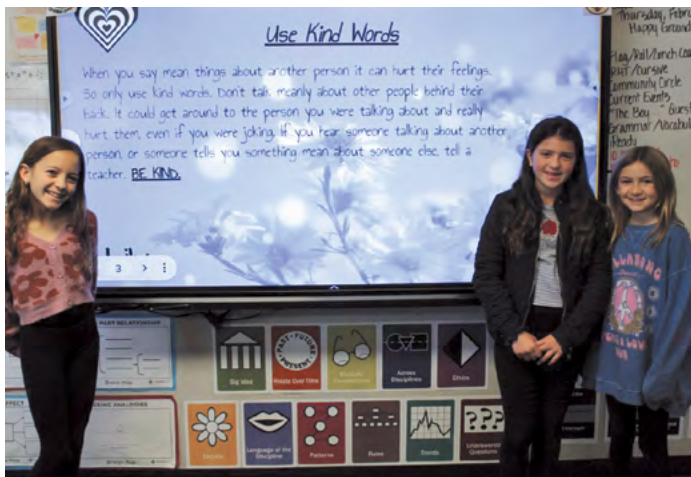
The overall result has been very positive. The impact of this original fourth- and fifth-grade project has reached all grades and has empowered

our upper-grade students as they realize that their voices matter. Now, our primary grades aspire to do what our upper-grade students have done!

When looking at the success of these projects, students have reported that recess time has improved, and teachers have also noticed this. Primary classes are even asking for a second round of presentations, as not all the same projects were shared in all classes. This experience has supported students in increasing their problem-solving skills, and the connections made with students while working together has been great to see. Hope View Hawks are coming together to continue to keep Hope View the place to be!



Students as they rehearsed their skit.



Mrs. Yamaguchi's fifth grade class as they presented their project.

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 Celebrates Literacy

“Reading is the gateway for children that makes all other learning possible” This is a quote from Barack Obama and one that Lake View embraces. We celebrated literacy this year with our Literacy Picnic. Families were invited to join their children in their classroom for an hour of reading together. This is one of my favorite days. It is a joy to see the happy faces of families smiling, laughing, and enjoying this special time

at school. Students are beaming when they see their special person come in with a book, blanket, and even a little snack. We all know how important reading is and a celebration such as our Literacy Picnic elevates reading to an event that families can share.



Marine View *Middle School* (6–8)

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



Sara Schaible
Principal

Jazz Ensemble

Last month our Jazz Ensemble Show Choir took their talents to the Disneyland Resort. Marine View was invited to perform their

show on Disney's Hollywood Backlot Stage which is truly an honor that is often not extended to middle schools. Our performers continue to rise to the occasion and debuted an amazing show for the Disney audience. We are so proud of our talented Mariners for making Marine View VAPA programs a name to be known!



Mesa View *Middle School* (6–8)

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



Jadyn Grunbaum
Principal

Athletics at Their Finest!

Mesa View is proud to have some amazing student athletes and dedicated teacher coaches to support the growth of our program and students. In OVSD, seventh- and eighth-grade students can try out and participate in four athletic offerings: track and field, volleyball, basketball and cross-country.

At Mesa View, we typically have over 100 students participating in track and field and cross-country. Our basketball and volleyball teams all played in the final matches in our OVSD tournaments, and we were so excited to see students fully engaging in athletics after the last couple of years of COVID-related alterations to our athletics program. Our students this year have been amazing ambassadors for Mesa View and placed first in almost all final competitions this year! We appreciate our teacher-coaches, who dedicate their time supporting these activities—in fact, this year, we were able to take our cross-country students to the Mt. Sac Invitational as a field trip, and the students were so excited to participate!

In addition, this year, all four middle schools are piloting after-school programs to provide an opportunity for eligible sixth-grade students to participate in volleyball and basketball programming after school through the Extended Learning Opportunities Program grant.

Finally, our coaches and PE teachers also integrate a variety of lunchtime activities during the year so that students can have intramural-activity opportunities.



Oak View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jenna Landero
Principal

The Performing Arts on View

Oak View Elementary School is so proud to announce our first ever Disney musical production of *101 Dalmatians*! Last summer, Principal Landero applied and interviewed for a spot with the Segerstrom Performing Arts Center to bring the Disney musical program to our school. We were one of five lucky schools from Orange County to have been chosen!

Principal Landero, along with a team of teachers and staff members, have dedicated days each week to bringing musical theater to our Mighty Owls. With auditions being held in October, we continued through the winter with two rehearsals a week, learning new dances, songs, and lines along the way.

This experience has been tremendous for our students. Not only have we been able to immerse over 60 third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students in the theater arts, we have also seen huge jumps in their iReady diagnostic from January, and their overall performance in school.

Principal Landero wants to thank her dedicated team of teachers: Coach Monica, Mr. Von, Ms. Schraff, Mrs. Davis, Miss Soldin, and Ms. Shikuma. Thank you for your dedication to the production each week. We also want to thank our Disney musical teachers, Channy and Megan, who helped guide us through the entire process.

Our students were also invited to Segerstrom to see Disney's *Frozen* in February, and at the end of March we will be performing in the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall in front of our families in a special Disney Musical Showcase. This grant has afforded our students some wonderful experiences that will be with them for a lifetime. We look forward to our production next year, and will continue to build our performing arts program here at Oak View.



Spring View *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Isis Ortiz
Interim Principal

Lights! Camera! News!

Have you ever wanted to be on the big screen? If so, come to Spring View and be part of our Leadership and Digital Photography classes! Each week, our students, led by their teacher, Mr. Vanatta, work on producing, editing, photographing, creating and distributing a weekly news show. This show is shared with students and staff during their Advisement class and sent home to parents to see what's happening at school.

Students use green-screen technology to create virtual settings for the news so that they are able to have interesting backgrounds. With a drone's assistance, students can take action shots of our school campus and incorporate that footage into our news program.

Students start the week by planning what they are going to cover. They use a whiteboard as their storyboard, just like in the movies. Then, they divide and conquer. Some

students go out to video content, others do the research and create the informational clips, and then there are those students that interview staff and other students.

When videoing, students need to consider lighting, outside noise and the aesthetic background when it comes to the final product. After the content and videos are completed, students start editing to put the video together. With the use of an Apple computer, our Spring View Leadership students sit down and collaborate to select music, titles and graphics to bring their vision to life.

On Friday mornings, the entire school watches the Spartan News. Later that day, the Leadership class rewatches the news, makes critiques, and takes notes. Students reflect and decide what changes need to happen for the upcoming week, and then the process starts all over again.

You can check out our weekly news videos at [our YouTube channel](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6p-HdTBw6m5nNfPklvc6bmw6dgWJtQ-f). <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6p-HdTBw6m5nNfPklvc6bmw6dgWJtQ-f>



Star View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Paul Kraft
Principal

Time for Learning

Star View School had many exciting activities and learning opportunities this winter. Students, staff, and parents were actively involved in engaging, collaborative, and student-centered projects throughout all the grades. The entire school also participated in a Literacy Day parade to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

The kindergarteners joined together to demonstrate their counting of 100 days of school with fun-filled challenges such as building cup towers. First-graders also participated in celebrating the 100th Day of School with several activities relating to one hundred. They also learned about United States' symbols and presidents. The second-graders collaborated in a STEM activity to build Mount Rushmore. The teams of four engineers used straws, tape and the four presidents' heads to create Mount Rushmore.



Star View 3rd grade GATE students testing their robot.

The third-graders learned all about different types of ecosystems and created a mobile to display their scientific knowledge. They are also refining their writing skills while working through the writing process to create well-written stories. Our fourth-grade students have been learning about famous people in history and writing biographies with creative art. In science, students have learned about fast changes on the earth and its impact through volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

The fifth-graders in science explored chemical magic and learned about changes in matter. They then studied George Rodrigue, a famous artist, and created their own version of the Blue Dog.

Finally, our third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade GATE students participated in a Robotics Competition which involved designing, building, and programming robots to perform various tasks.



Star View students and Principal Paul Kraft at the Literacy Day Parade.

Village View *Elementary* (K-5)

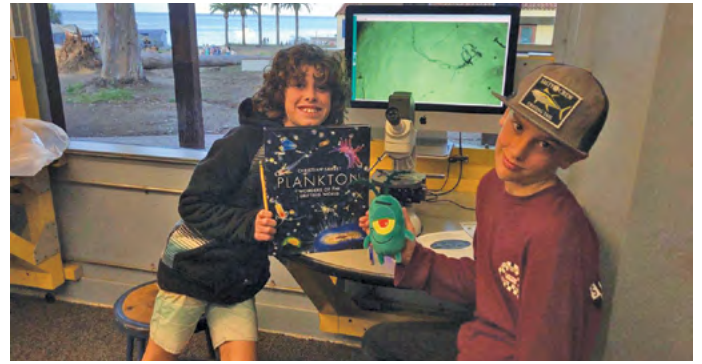
5361 Sisson Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org/village



Tami Benane
Principal

CIMI Camp

Our very first 5th grade class went to CIMI, Catalina Island Marine Institute 2023. Our 38 students experienced several hands-on Marine Science activities for 4 days. The student's enjoyed an experience of a life-time at the four day CIMI camp at Toyon Bay, Catalina. Three Village View Teachers and our Health Clerk attended the maiden voyage with the students. The 5th grade students experienced this amazing culminating Marine Science field trip.



In the Dry Lab, Everest Jones and Nicolas Ruhland



Katelyn Runyan and Isla Margalit



Nataly Nguon , Khloe Meighan and Aeyla Martin



5th grade class before departure to CIMI

Vista View *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Dr. Rasheedah Gates
Principal

Always a Falcon

This spring season Vista is taking a moment to honor two very special staff members from our science department. These teachers have dedicated their efforts and passion for teaching towards helping grow our middle school students both academically and socially.

Mrs. Marcy Drum began teaching in the Ocean View School District in the spring of 1993. During her first year in the district she taught just about one period of every subject in the middle school level. She then moved on to teach a mixture of kindergarten and second grade for 18 years. She has been a Vista Falcon for the past eight years teaching science to our seventh- and eighth-graders. Last year Mrs. Drum left her classroom of many years to move to the interim site, and then went back to our modernized facility for her final year of teaching. Mrs. Drum will be moving on to retirement in June of 2023, and our school has been all the better because of her.



Mrs. Marcy Drum

Mrs. Drum has been extensively trained on restorative practices, and she uses class circles in order to build community in her classroom. Through circle activities, even the most introverted middle-schoolers can join in and feel a part of the class. In speaking to her about retirement, Mrs. Drum recently reflected upon one of the memories

that most touched her. It was when a former student returned to tell her that learning science in her class at Vista View was the big inspiration that led them to pursue a STEM career. We agree, Mrs. Drum is an inspiring leader!



Mr. Dan Wilson

Also serving in our science department is Mr. Dan Wilson. He began teaching math and science at Vista in 2004. His science lessons are always very engaging, and his students can often be seen creating and racing cars to practice speed and velocity. For the past two years Mr. Wilson has been among those here who teach elective classes in project-based learning. The students in his class get to work in teams, pick real-world problems to solve, and create and present solutions. These students have even created menus, pricing, studied product supply and demand, and designed food trucks that were geared to be financially solvent based upon appearance and product.

We are so grateful for his contribution, and wish Mr. Wilson all the best as he moves on to hanging out with his family, pets, and hopefully attending more college football games for his favorite team! Mr. Wilson recently shared that the most touching comment he received during his teaching career was when a student once told him during his first year in the classroom, "I wish you were my dad!" Mr. Wilson has taken care of his students and fellow colleagues for many years, and we wish him all the best.

Once a Falcon, always a Falcon, and our Vista Falcons soar!

Westmont Elementary (K-5)

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



Sharon Ahlman
Principal

Welcome to Westmont's Family Literacy Picnic!

Every year during "Read Across America" week, our students and families take part in a fun filled literacy picnic. Parents and siblings bring snacks, blankets and their favorite books to school to read and enjoy with their

classmates. Of course, we celebrate Dr. Seuss and all the joy of word play that is part of why we love his books so much.

Our school has had the tradition of having the picnic outside under sunny skies, but mother nature did not cooperate with us this year so instead of canceling, we brought the picnic inside and enjoyed the comfort of the classroom as the students snacked and read throughout the morning.

We are always promoting the joy and importance of reading. It is great to see students engage with pictures and text as they decode words and create meaning out of print. It is the most important skill to learn, as it will help them to gain a higher education, which opens a world of job and career opportunities.



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