

School News

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Covering the Ocean View School District



Volume 20, Issue 119

October 2024



Mesa View Middle School Unveils Modernized Facilities with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

New Year, New Leadership for Ocean View School District



Dr. Julianne Hoefer
Interim Superintendent

From the District

As the 2024-25 school year begins, Ocean View School District is excited to welcome a new chapter of leadership with fresh faces and new perspectives.

At the helm of this leadership team is Dr. Julianne Hoefer, who was recently appointed as the Interim Superintendent. Dr. Hoefer brings years of experience in education and a passion for fostering positive connections and student success.

Alongside Dr. Hoefer, other dedicated professionals have taken on key roles within the Executive Cabinet, bringing their commitment to the Ocean View community. Keith Farrow, now in his fourth year as Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services,

is joined by Dr. Alice Lee, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, and Dr. Scott Jensen, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Executive Director of Human Resources, both are in their first year. Together, they are focused on fostering strong partnerships with staff, students, families, and the wider community, while continuing to enhance academic excellence and support student well-being.

As we move forward into the school year, the Ocean View community can expect dynamic leadership that values relationships, optimism, and progress. The District's focus remains on nurturing a supportive environment where all students thrive and reach their full potential. With this new leadership team in place, the year ahead holds great promise for the continued success of Ocean View School District.

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District Welcomes New Interim Superintendent, Bids Farewell to a Longtime Leader

By Jack C. Souders, Board President

As the new school year begins, the District is transitioning to new leadership. After seven years of dedicated service, Superintendent Dr. Michael Conroy is stepping down. During his tenure, Dr. Conroy guided significant advancements in the District, including program expansions and school modernization. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Conroy for his exceptional leadership and contributions, and we wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Dr. Julianne Hoefer, who has served various roles within Ocean View School District for the past six years, was appointed Interim Superintendent. Dr. Hoefer's deep commitment and extensive experience within the District make her well-prepared to lead. She is enthusiastic about continuing to promote growth and collaboration across our schools.

As students and staff return to school, the Ocean View School District looks forward to another productive and successful year. Under Dr. Hoefer's leadership, there is confidence that the District will continue to grow and thrive. Best wishes to all for a successful school year.



Jennifer Rodriguez
coordinator,
Injury Prevention Program,
MemorialCare Miller Children's
& Women's Hospital Long Beach

E-Bike Popularity and Safety Concerns for Children and Teenagers

E-bikes are convenient and fun and are growing in popularity among children and teenagers because of it. However, with the increased use of e-bikes, safety concerns have emerged, particularly regarding children's safety. The American Academy of Pediatrics emphasizes the importance of adult supervision for children under the age of 16 riding e-bikes.

E-bikes can travel at speeds reaching up to 28 miles per hour; this increased speed can lead to more severe injuries in the event of an accident. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bicyclists aged 10 to 24 have the highest rate of emergency room visits for crashes. In 2020, the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System reported that there were approximately 14,000 injuries related to e-bikes, with adolescents accounting for a significant proportion of these incidents.

Ensuring that children wear helmets on any form of bicycle is crucial for their safety – it is such a simple, yet effective precaution. Studies have shown that wearing helmets reduces the risk of severe traumatic brain injuries by over 50% in cycling accidents. Despite

these statistics, a significant number of children still ride without a helmet.

Visibility is another key factor in safe riding. Children should be taught to ride their e-bikes in protected areas, away from heavy traffic and complicated intersections. It's also important for riders to wear bright clothing and use lights and reflectors for better visibility, especially during nighttime and low-light conditions.

Parents and guardians play a crucial role in not only enforcing helmet use but also in educating children on safe riding practices. At Miller Children's & Women's Hospital, the Injury Prevention Program is dedicated to providing safety education to children and families in our community. This program aims to reduce the number of preventable injuries through education and outreach. The injury prevention team offers workshops on proper helmet fitting, rules of the road, the importance of road awareness, and safe riding techniques.

Want to learn more? Call (562) 933-9151 or visit millerchildrens.org/injuryprevention.



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.**

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Netragrednik

Welcome back to a new school year. By now students have settled into their routines. This is always an exciting time for students to reconnect with old friends, make new friends and meet their teachers.

The excitement and positive energy jumps right off the pages as you read the articles in this issue.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 19 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is November 6.



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Jenna Landero
Coordinator

The Importance of Learning through Play

In the formative years of a child's life, play is not merely a pastime—it is a critical vehicle for learning. Play-based learning taps into children's natural curiosity, allowing them to explore the world around them in ways that are both engaging and educational. In the Ocean View

School District, our preschool programs are built around the philosophy that learning through play is the cornerstone of early childhood development.

Research shows that children learn best when they are actively engaged in hands-on experiences. Play provides a rich environment for young minds to develop crucial skills in problem-solving, language, creativity, and social interaction. By embedding learning activities throughout the day, we ensure that our students have multiple opportunities to grasp fundamental concepts in ways that resonate with them.

Our approach at Ocean View is designed to reach all types of learners, whether they thrive in structured activities or open-ended exploration. By incorporating play into every aspect of the preschool day, we offer a multisensory learning experience that adapts to various learning styles—visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and beyond. Whether a child is building with blocks, engaging in dramatic play, or exploring nature in our outdoor classrooms, they are constantly learning in ways that are meaningful and impactful.

One of the unique aspects of our preschool programs is the emphasis on creating a deep learning experience that goes beyond surface-level understanding. Through playful activities, children can experiment with new ideas, test their hypotheses, and discover outcomes—all essential processes that foster cognitive development. This



not only helps build foundational academic skills, such as literacy and numeracy, but also supports critical thinking, collaboration, and emotional regulation.

At Ocean View, our goal is to give every child the strong foundation they need to succeed in their educational journey. By integrating play-based learning into our curriculum, we help children to develop not only the academic skills necessary for future success, but also the social and emotional tools that will serve them for life. Learning through play builds confidence, nurtures imagination, and sets the stage for a lifelong love of learning.

Our preschool programs are carefully crafted to ensure that learning never feels like a chore, but rather, more a joyful discovery process. In this environment, children are free to explore, create, and imagine, all while developing the skills that will carry them into kindergarten and beyond. In the Ocean View School District we believe that learning through play is not just important—it's essential.



Circle View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Julie Ernst
Principal

A New Year, A New Beginning!

I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2024-2025 school year and join the Circle View family as your principal. It is an honor to come back home, having been raised in Huntington Beach and attended Star

View, Vista View, and Ocean View High School. With a true understanding of this community coupled with my diverse experiences, I am privileged to lead Circle View's dynamic learning environment.

Having served the past 27 years in education and the past seven in administration, I come to you well prepared to lead this distinguished school in my home community. I am already immersed in building important connections with our students, staff, and community members.



**5th Grade Teachers ready to serve up a "Book Tasting" Event.
Lisa Rodney, Alissa Buccat, and Joan Ashley.**

The warm welcome I have received truly demonstrates there is no place like home!

Our community involvement and positive environment is off and running evidenced by our successful Back-to-School-Night, TK/K special Welcome Night, parent volunteers, SOAR Pride, first school assembly, and our incredible PTO!

Thank you for entrusting me to lead Circle View Elementary School and the incredible team of educators and staff that serve you every day. I am committed to student achievement and have dedicated myself to nurturing a love for learning and meeting the needs of each individual student.

As we embark on this journey together, I look forward to a year filled with endless possibilities!

College View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Allen Mendrin
Principal

PBIS Gold!

College View Elementary has proudly achieved the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) Gold level, a prestigious recognition that underscores the school's commitment

to creating a supportive and effective learning environment. This honor reflects the school's dedication to purposeful planning, intentional strategies, and a focused approach to meeting students' needs.

The success of College View's PBIS program is rooted in its well-structured Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This comprehensive framework is designed to address students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs through a tiered approach, ensuring that every student receives the appropriate level of support. By embracing collaboration among staff and fostering student buy-in, College View has effectively created a nurturing and responsive environment.



Earning the PBIS Gold award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community. Our focus has always been on meeting students where they are, understanding their individual needs, and providing tailored support to help them succeed. This award is not just a recognition of our efforts but also a reflection of our commitment to continuous improvement and student well-being.

At College View, the implementation of PBIS is more than just a set of practices; it is a core part of the school culture.

The collaborative effort among educators, students, and families ensures that positive behaviors are consistently reinforced and that interventions are effectively tailored to support student growth. This Gold-level achievement highlights College View's success in creating an environment where students thrive and positive behavior is the norm.

As the school celebrates this significant accomplishment, it also looks forward to continuing its work in fostering an exceptional educational experience for every student.

Golden View *Environmental Science School*

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



Venus Moeller
Principal

Continuing Environmental Stewardship

As the new principal at Golden View Elementary, I am thrilled to kick off the 2024–25 school year. Our focus on environmental science sets us apart and provides unique hands-on learning opportunities for our students. At our recent Back to School Night, we welcomed families and shared our vision for the year ahead.

This innovative curriculum integrates hands-on learning experiences with core subjects, allowing students to explore the natural world while developing critical-thinking skills. Our environmental-science focus extends beyond the classroom. Students participate in outdoor learning activities, tend to our school garden and school farm, and engage in conservation projects. These experiences not only enhance their understanding of environmental issues but also foster a sense of stewardship for our planet.

This year, we will continue our partnerships with environmental organizations and student-led sustainability initiatives. We believe these experiences will inspire our students to become environmentally conscious citizens and future leaders in sustainability. The Golden View community's commitment to environmental education is truly inspiring.



Our dedicated teachers, supportive parents, and curious students all play crucial roles in making our program a success. As we embark on this exciting school year, I look forward to watching our students grow, learn, and make a positive impact on the environment. Together, we'll cultivate a love for science and nature that will last a lifetime. Welcome to Golden View, where every day is Earth Day!

Harbour View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jadyn Grunbaum
Principal

Honoring Our First Responders

It was another great start to the year for Harbour View Elementary. Within the first two weeks of school our families were welcomed to Back to School Night, the students got to know their new teachers, and our students and staff members hosted a heartfelt Patriotic Assembly on Patriots' Day.

This anniversary of September 11th brought together our students, staff, and the local community in a meaningful tribute to our nation's heroes. The event, held at the school's flagpole, provided an opportunity to reflect on the significance of the day while celebrating the bravery of our first responders.

Our Cub Scouts, composed of students from the various grade levels, played a key role in the flag ceremony. Dressed in their uniforms, the Scouts led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and presented the American flag with dignity and respect, setting a tone of honor and patriotism.

The focus of the event was on our first responders, many of whom were in attendance, and also on those community members who have served in the Armed Forces. Local firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel were invited as special guests and recognized for their service and dedication to the community.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of those who lost their lives on 9/11. Following this, all of the students waved American flags and sang along to the lyrics of Proud to Be an American, creating an atmosphere of unity and gratitude.



Hope View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Christina Luckey
Principal

Family Engagement Off to a Fantastic Start at Hope View

This year, Hope View is off to a fantastic start with family engagement, fostering strong home-school connections through a variety of events. Our meet-and-greets and Back-to-School Night were both great successes, where parents not only reviewed classroom happenings but also learned something new.

In Transitional Kindergarten, families practiced tummy time activities, while in second grade, parents participated in a circle activity, sharing who they were and describing their child in one word. In another classroom, parents were guided on how to navigate Chromebooks to support their children's digital learning. Pictured here are our TK parents and tummy time, 2nd grade families in a circle activity, and a 1st grade class learning how to navigate Chromebooks.

In addition, our PTO sponsored a popular "Pastries with Parents" event, bringing families together in a fun and casual setting. Connections were also deepened with individual notes sent to all students at the start of the year via mail.

These efforts have created a welcoming atmosphere, ensuring that both families and students feel supported and connected. We are excited to continue building these relationships as the school year unfolds!



Chromebook Practice



Circle Time



Tummy Time

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 Students and Turtle Care

Lake View is the home of two red-eared slider turtles. Our turtles are beloved by our students and staff. Our turtles live in a pond, with a waterfall, in our atrium. Their names are Little Bean and Ruby. This year I wanted to involve our students more in the care of Ruby and Little Bean. A calendar of turtle care was created and each month a different grade level is responsible for

feeding and maintaining their environment. You can see in the photos our 1st grade students getting a lesson on feeding the turtles and our 5th grade students caring for the turtles. This is just one way that I am including more student involvement this year at Lake View. I want students to know that this is their school. This means that they can contribute to decisions but also care for it. Students need to feel needed, just like everyone else. I am excited to see what the year will bring as our students take on more responsibility in school. So far, we are off to a great start!



Marine View *Middle School* (6–8)

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



Sara Schaible
Principal

Positive Energy

There was much excitement in the air as our students returned to campus for the 2024-2025 school year. Marine View students were greeted with positive messages written around campus from our Leadership Class. The positive energy continued as our students participated in orientation activities throughout the week. Through these activities, students learned about our campus, our school wide expectations, as well as what it means to demonstrate Mariner PRIDE which stands for Preparation, Responsibility, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence. Students learned key strategies of how to be successful at middle school and how to earn PRIDE Tickets for demonstrating any of the five areas of PRIDE. The learning didn't stop there, students also participated in activities to get to know each other as well as participate in various team-building activities where collaboration and teamwork were essential to completing the task at hand. Our Leadership Class celebrated our first full week of school by hosting our first assembly which combined a great review of the Marine View expectations with some fun grade level competitions. It was a wonderful opportunity to highlight Mariner PRIDE! Our teachers and staff have been busy distributing PRIDE tickets to any student they see demonstrating PRIDE around campus!



Mesa View *Middle School* (6–8)

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



Isis Ortiz
Principal

Kicking Off the School Year

The 2024-2025 school year at Mesa View Middle School has launched with remarkable enthusiasm and a flurry of new developments. On August 28th, the school celebrated its grand reopening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by

school board members, district officials, community leaders, city council representatives, and the entire Mesa View student body.

The event provided an opportunity for students and community members to explore the newly renovated facilities. Guests toured the updated buildings, admired the new concrete and planters surrounding the lunch courtyard, and walked through the impressive arch entry gate.

In the classrooms, students are greeted by modern furniture and cutting-edge visio display screens designed to enhance their learning experience. One of the most exciting upgrades is the revamped kitchen, which now offers a fresh food program including a diverse salad bar. The new dining options have been met with enthusiastic approval from the students, too, who have given the new kitchen and food choices two thumbs up.



Additionally, Mesa View now boasts a new exercise area equipped with state-of-the-art fitness equipment, which will be utilized during physical education classes.

The new school year also brings fresh faces to Mesa View. We are excited to welcome staff members from the recently consolidated Spring View Middle School: Mr. Vanatta, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Hoyt, and Mrs. McRae, as well as Mrs. Lewis from Lake View School. The administrative team has also expanded with the appointment of Mrs. Ortiz as principal and Mrs. Keller as assistant principal, both of whom bring valuable experience from Spring View and Vista View respectively.

Mesa View Middle School is eagerly embracing these changes, and looks forward to an exciting and successful year ahead.



Oak View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Araceli Osborn
Principal

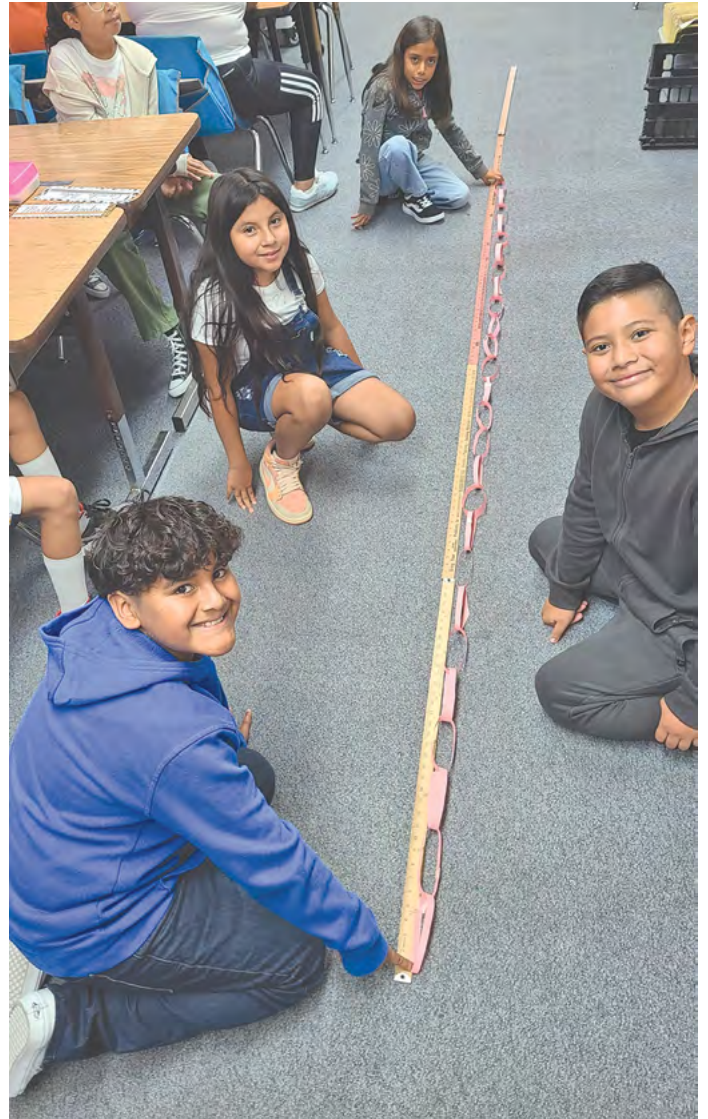
Cultivating Scholars

At Oak View Elementary, the 2024-25 school year has begun with vibrant enthusiasm under our new theme, “Wild About Learning.” As the new principal, I am excited to join this dynamic community and am eager to build strong relationships with students, staff, and families. Our focus this year is on cultivating a scholar mentality, encouraging every student to strive for excellence and embrace the joy of learning.

The first days of school have been truly wonderful, with students and teachers returning with renewed energy and excitement. Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) focus on being responsible, respectful, and safe is at the forefront of our efforts to create a supportive and thriving school environment.

A special thanks to our PTO for making the start of the school year memorable by welcoming students with balloons and a welcome sign, providing a perfect photo opportunity for families. This warm reception helped students feel embraced and excited as they embarked on a new academic journey.

As we move forward, we are committed to fostering a culture of learning and achievement. By working together as a team, we can make a significant impact on our students’ educational journey. Here’s to a fantastic year ahead at Oak View Elementary, where we are truly “Wild About Learning”!



Star View *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

Promoting Positive Behaviors

Star View Elementary has achieved Gold Medal status for implementing the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. This recognition highlights our school's commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive, and effective learning environment through evidence-based behavioral practices.

PBIS is a multi-tiered framework designed to enhance our students' social, emotional, and academic success by promoting positive behavior and reducing disciplinary issues. Schools implementing PBIS are evaluated annually and can be recognized at various levels, including bronze, silver, and gold awards, based upon their effectiveness in creating a supportive school culture.



Star View is dedicated to integrating our core values of "STAR," which are to Be Safe, Be a Team Player, Be an Achiever, and Be Respectful and Responsible. Our daily matrix crosses all aspects of school life. This involves setting clear behavioral expectations, engaging families and the community, and using data-driven decision making to continuously improve student outcomes. Our school's efforts have decreased classroom disturbances, and have

resulted in fewer disciplinary referrals and improved academic performance.

This recognition also underscores Star View Elementary's broader commitment to educational excellence, as evidenced by its status as a California Distinguished School and a GATE Magnet School. The school's success with PBIS is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our staff, students, district office, and the community to create a nurturing and effective educational setting for all students.

<div> STAR VIEW SCHOOL Expectations </div>						
	1. Class	2. Lunch Benches	3. Assembly	4. Playground	5. Walkway Hallway	6. Bathroom
S SAFE	 • Walk • Use materials appropriately	 • Sit while eating • Eat correctly	 • Keep hands to self	 • Use equipment properly • Walk on blacktop	 • Walk • Hold equipment • Keep hands to self	 • Walk • No chasing or playing
T TEAM PLAYER	• Cooperate with others • Share • Be helpful	• Pick up self + 2 pieces	• Listen & watch • Remind others to listen	• Share • Take turns • Follow rules	• Stay with your class • Keep yourself under control	• Throw paper in trash
A ACHIEVER	• Do your best work • 350+ • Be on task	• Eat a healthy balanced diet	• Learn • Pay attention • Think	• Participate	• Be on time • Be ready to work when you go into class	• Use supplies wisely • Practice good hygiene
R RESPECTFUL & RESPONSIBLE	• Listen • Obey • Follow directions • Be kind	• Use good manners	• Respond appropriately • Raise hand	• Use kind words • Include others	• Use kind words • Act appropriately • Use a quiet voice	• Respect privacy • Stay in own stall



Village View *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Shannon Mudry
Principal

New Principal, New Ideas!

As the new principal of Village View, I am honored and excited to welcome our Dolphins to the 2024-25 school year! I come to Village View with over 20 years of experience in education, having worked as a teacher at Westmont Elementary, a curriculum specialist for OVSD's Teaching and Learning Team, and most recently as Marine View's assistant principal.

Throughout my career, my focus has always been on creating positive and supportive environments where both students and staff can thrive. My husband, Ryan, and I are Huntington Beach natives and are also OVSD alumni and Marina High School graduates. We have three school-age children, who are also proud students in the Ocean View School District.

Village View believes that strong, positive school/family partnerships benefit our students. Based on a community survey, data showed that Village View families are seeking resources to support their children's learning at home. To better meet the needs of the community, Village View is proud to announce a new parent website, Partners in Literacy. This website is designed to empower families with strategies, information, and resources to support literacy and learning at home.

On the website is a new series, Bedtime Stories with Mrs. Mudry. Each week, I host a video-recorded read-aloud and provide a family "lesson plan." The optional lesson plan includes daily questions that families can use to encourage discussion, build deeper relationships, and increase their children's reading comprehension skills.

Together, we can help build students' love of literacy. Check out our Instagram account, @villageview.dolphins, for more information!



Vista View Middle School (6–8)

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



Manny Quezada
Principal

Building Connections

Vista View Middle School recently hosted its annual Back-to-School Night, welcoming families to engage with teachers and staff as the new academic year begins. The event was an opportunity for parents to learn about the curriculum, expectations, and goals for their students as well as to establish strong partnerships with the school community.

I emphasized the importance of collaboration between parents and educators, stating that strong communication is key to student success.

“When we work together, our students can thrive both academically and socially,” I said at the event.

The district’s theme, “Connections Before Content,” was at the forefront of the evening, encouraging teachers and families to focus on building meaningful relationships that will support students throughout the year. Teachers shared insights on the importance of creating a positive learning environment and how parental involvement can enhance their children’s educational experience.



Parents left the event feeling more connected to the school and confident in the partnership they’ve built to support their children’s growth and development. The night marked a strong start to the year, setting the stage for ongoing collaboration and success at Vista View Middle School.



Westmont Elementary (K-5)

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



Diana Bianco
Principal

We are Happy to be Back at School

On August 28th, Westmont School welcomed over 450 students on campus. It was an exciting morning for many reasons, but the highlight for the families seemed to be when the kids met Monty for the first time. Monty is Westmont School's new star mascot. Monty greeted students, took photos and put smiles on everyone's faces. Following Monty's meet and greet, students went into the classrooms to engage in hands-on activities, and got to know the teacher and their classmates. It was a wonderful first day back and a great start to the 2024-2025 school year!



Note-ables



Kate Karp

A Gentle Halloween

Val Smalkin is an award-winning ventriloquist, musician, composer and performer, and you might wish that she were your fairy godmother or at least your babysitter or neighbor. Ms. Smalkin understands the small kin—her pun, not mine—of the world and knows also that they often want to be reassured that the faces of perfectly nice people are behind those scary masks and that everything's OK. Come to think of it, so do many of us larger kin, but it's the really little ones that her CD "A Gentle Halloween" addresses.



The songs on the collection are great for preschool- and primary-age children and lend themselves well to movement, vocabulary and art. Children will hop and jump around to "I See You" and "Haunted House" while at the same time learn body and movement vocabulary. "Five Weird Witches" counts backward and teaches the concept of zero. The melodious "Jac O'Lantern" is pretty enough to be about Christmas and can inspire an art project or a pumpkin carving. Get out those electric-battery candles!

Of course, a couple of mildly creepy offerings might delight the brave kindergartner. "Dark and Light" is a good review of opposites, and "Skin and Bones," a "there was an old woman" tale, has a great jump scare at the end!

"A Gentle Halloween" is available [at this link](#) or by emailing info@sillygooseandval.com. It can be in your hands before you can say "Boo!"

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

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: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com (Please put Ocean View in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 30, 2024

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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

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

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Emotional Intelligence + Community Collaboration = Leading with Heart



Dr. Stefan Bean
Superintendent

Throughout my career, two principles have emerged as essential to effective leadership in education: emotional intelligence and actively involving key partners in major decisions.

These aren't new ideas, but time and experience have anchored them as crucial pillars that build and strengthen the connections between our students, educators and the broader community.

Let's start with emotional intelligence, which goes beyond recognizing our own feelings. It's about understanding the emotions of others, managing our reactions, and dealing with each other with empathy. This skill is vital in education because it influences how teachers interact with students, how students engage with one another, and how we all navigate the complexities of learning environments.

Research certainly backs up the importance of emotional intelligence in education, a topic I explored closely in my doctoral dissertation.

Studies show that teachers who are more attuned to their own emotions and those of others generally build stronger relationships with their students. These connections can significantly boost student performance in critical areas like reading and math. Notably, the data suggest that the benefits are even greater for students of color, highlighting how emotional intelligence can help close achievement gaps.

Equally important is the principle of involving those most affected by our decisions in the decision-making process — a point my staff has likely heard me emphasize repeatedly.

Drawing inspiration from globally successful educational models, we recognize the need to embrace academic rigor and cultivate 21st-century skills in science, technology, engineering, the arts

and math. However, I believe true leadership also involves actively soliciting and valuing the input of all our partners, including students, parents, teachers, administrators and support staff.

This approach guarantees that our decisions reflect the collective needs and insights of the communities we serve. In that way, it not only leads to more informed choices but also fosters trust and accountability, transforming families and employees from passive recipients into active contributors.

My personal experiences as an English language learner and a student with a disability have deeply influenced my commitment to these principles. Growing up, teachers and mentors took the time to understand, nurture and guide me, which in turn fueled my passion to advocate for policies that are inclusive and supportive.

Collectively, I call this leading with heart. It's an ethos that emphasizes empathy, compassion and genuine concern for the well-being of others. It involves understanding the personal and professional needs of team members and making decisions that are not only logical but also considerate of their feelings and circumstances. Those who lead with heart prioritize the human element in their leadership style, fostering trust and respect that ultimately results in stronger outcomes.

So here's my call to action: As we move forward, I invite every member of our community to join us on this journey, embracing a path guided by emotional intelligence as well as meaningful collaborations and community involvement. Together, we can build educational systems that truly lead with heart, honoring the potential of every student.

By teaching and leading with heart, we can make a lasting impact, ensuring that every individual feels cared for and valued — just as I did.