School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Palo Alto Unified School District

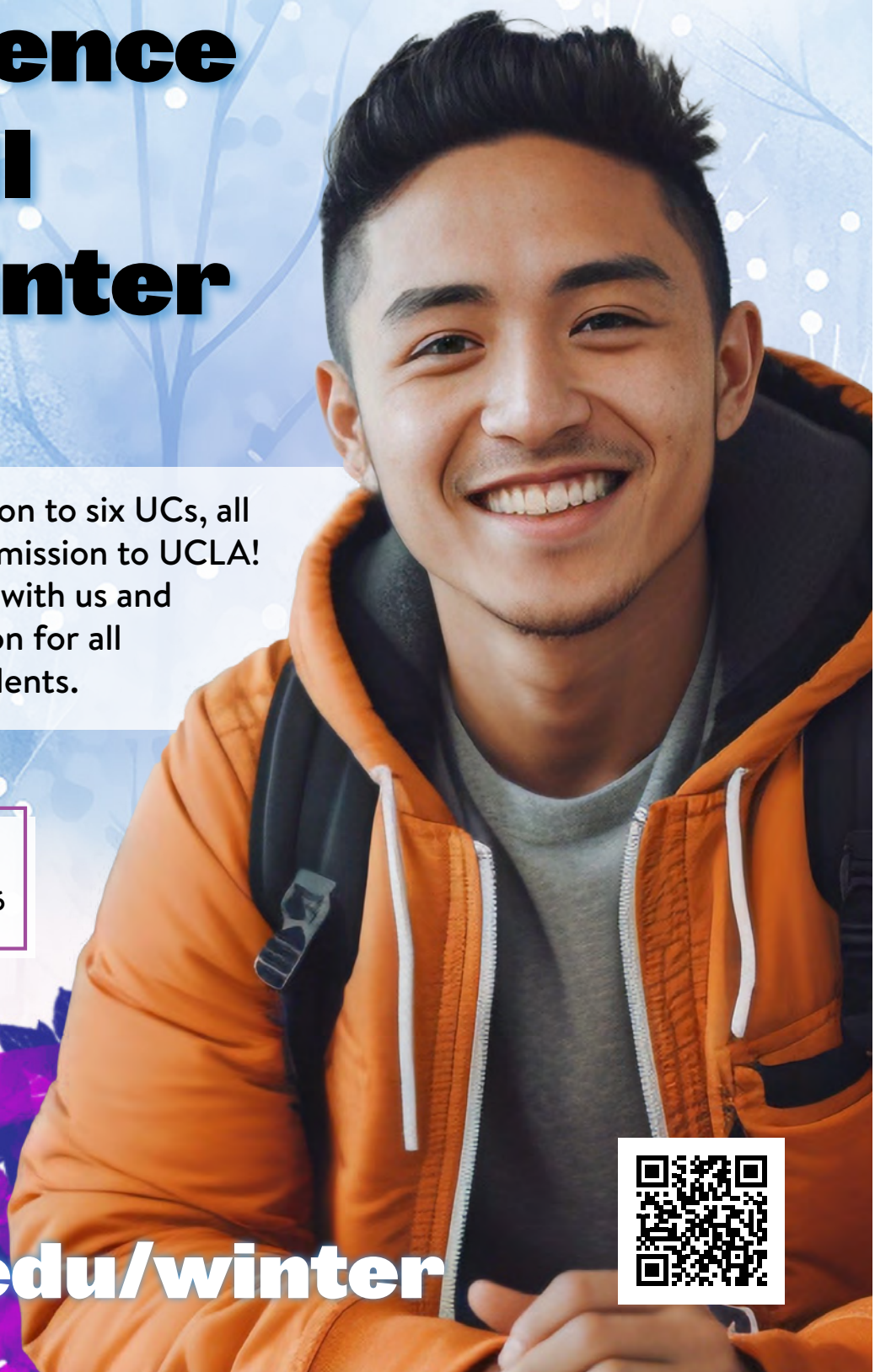
Volume 7, Issue 19 **November 2024**

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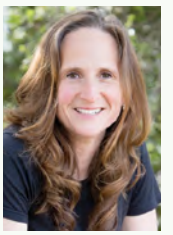
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The Horizon



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There was a time when I surfed almost daily in San Clemente. With age and injuries, daily surfing has been replaced with slow walks with my dog! Surfing, however, taught me a great lesson about looking out to the horizon. Without getting too far in the weeds, surfers can see a wave forming long before the average person sees anything. With that information, they can paddle to get into position before the wave arrives. The novices don't have that skill and often get caught out of position and sometimes in the danger zones.

I love looking at the horizon, especially when it comes to our school district. As I have said many times before, our best days are still ahead of us. The election season will (hopefully) be done by the publication of this address. National and local changes are coming our direction and that typically brings a degree of anxiety. In our case, we have good momentum and a foundation of strength. Stability, consistency, and an evolving "North Star" of priority goals are serving us well. Again, our best days are still on the horizon!

I see places for us to dive deeper. I am very interested in hearing more from students in small low-stakes settings. Sometimes, we wait until there is a big issue before starting conversations. That isn't the way the world works, so I'd like to look at some options. I will be soliciting thoughts about how to structure these conversations from the same students we hope to learn from. They will tell us what makes sense to them.

Our schools are amazing places and it's easy to forget that fact. The depth and breadth of what we offer our students is unparalleled. Our school district is literally a model for school districts across the country. That all starts with the people and we are fortunate to have a dedicated team serving in every seat across PAUSD. Thank you all for your part in making PAUSD special!

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School News Roll Call

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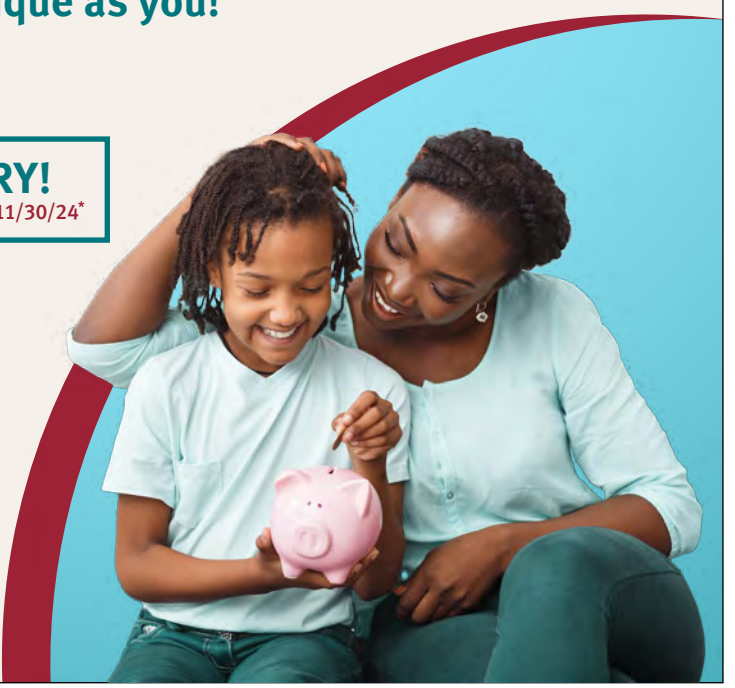
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Jeff Downing
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Optimism Shines at Addison Elementary School

At Addison Elementary School, optimism is not just a word but a way of life. The school has cultivated a culture of positivity and growth that is evident in both the students and staff. From the classrooms to the playground, an upbeat atmosphere encourages everyone to see challenges as opportunities and to approach each day with enthusiasm.

One of the key drivers of this optimistic environment is the school's commitment to fostering a growth mindset. Teachers at Addison Elementary believe in the potential of every child and work to instill the idea that effort, perseverance, and a positive outlook can lead to success. Mistakes are viewed as learning experiences, and students are encouraged to take risks and try new things without fear of failure. This focus on personal growth builds confidence and resilience in the students, equipping them to face future challenges with optimism.

In addition to academic optimism, Addison Elementary promotes social-emotional learning through programs that teach empathy, kindness, and collaboration. The school's strong sense of community ensures that students feel supported and valued, which in turn nurtures a positive attitude toward learning and relationships.

Parent involvement also plays a crucial role in maintaining this hopeful atmosphere. Through active participation in school events, volunteer programs, and parent-teacher associations, families contribute to the school's uplifting spirit, creating a united and optimistic front.

As Addison Elementary continues to thrive, optimism remains at the heart of its success. The school's focus on positive thinking, growth, and community ensures that its students are not only prepared academically but also ready to approach life's challenges with confidence and hope.



Unity Day!





Dr. Judy Jaramillo Argumedo
Principal

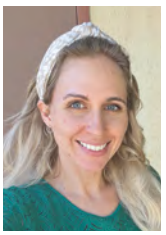
Barron Park Welcomes New Staff with a Heartfelt BBQ

As the summer break came to a close, Barron Park teachers and specialists gathered for a lively barbeque, setting the stage for an exciting new school year. Organized by our dedicated veteran teachers, this event aimed to warmly welcome six new educators to our expanding two-strand school.

The atmosphere was filled with enthusiasm and camaraderie, as staff members connected over delicious dishes—both homemade and store-bought—brought along with love and optimism. Families joined in the fun, making it a true community celebration. At the Barron Park BBQ, teachers shared summer adventures, and upcoming ideas for the year. The gathering set a positive tone for the upcoming school year, creating excitement and anticipation among staff as they prepared to embark on this journey together.

With the addition of new teachers, Barron Park is thrilled to see each grade level supported by its own team. This expansion not only enhances our educational offerings but also strengthens the bonds among staff, fostering collaboration and innovation.





Brittany Gardner
Principal

Promising Survey Results

One of the foundational concepts in education is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which illustrates that basic survival needs—like food, water, and sleep—must be met before higher-level needs, such as creativity and intellectual growth, can be fulfilled. Mental health needs, including love, belonging, and self-esteem, play a crucial role in this framework.

To support our students' safety, belonging, and esteem, and remove barriers to students achieving at their highest potential, Duveneck focused on mental health and wellness as one of our PAUSD Promise Goals last year. Our leadership team introduced school-wide expectations through engaging assemblies featuring student actors. Our two onsite therapists conducted a comprehensive assembly on coping skills and visited individual classrooms to delve deeper into these important topics. Additionally, I had the pleasure of visiting classrooms every other month to share empowering books, while teachers skillfully implemented the Second Step social/emotional curriculum.

In September and October, we administered two Panorama Surveys to assess social-emotional components, allowing us to compare this year's results with last year's. We were thrilled to see an increase in positive responses regarding feelings, school climate, sense of belonging, emotion regulation, and school safety. Duveneck ranks in the 80th-99th percentile in these areas compared to similar districts.

This year, we are excited to launch Project Cornerstone, a community initiative aimed at fostering an environment where adults support and value all youth, helping them feel respected and known. Each month, parents will read books in classrooms to reinforce themes of inclusivity and standing up against bullying. We kicked off this initiative with a Project Cornerstone assembly focused on being "Bucket Fillers."

Together, we are committed to creating a supportive and enriching environment for all our students at Duveneck!



Students participate in Mindful Monday, an alternate lunchtime activity facilitated by Duveneck's therapists.



Leonel Argumedo
Principal

Unity Day Highlight

Our students were treated to a very special event as part of our Unity Day activities. We hosted an action-packed 40-minute assembly featuring professional BMX athletes who performed incredible air stunts and ground tricks that left everyone amazed.

More than just an exciting display of athleticism, the event promoted important values such as optimism, positivity, and inclusion. Throughout the program, the athletes shared motivational messages, encouraging our students to set goals and pursue their dreams, always do their best in school, and show respect for others. One of the key themes of the assembly was the importance of standing up against bullying, reinforcing the message that kindness and unity are essential in our school community.

It was an unforgettable experience that inspired our students to work together in creating a more welcoming, inclusive and positive environment at school. Students left the assembly feeling inspired and confident in their own talents, abilities, and contributions.







Ellen Fletcher *Middle School*

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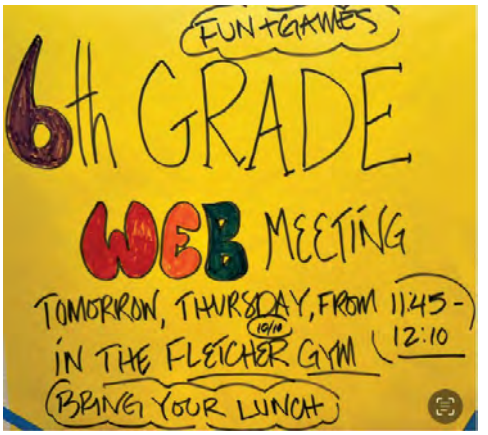


Melissa Howell
Principal

Off to an Incredible Start

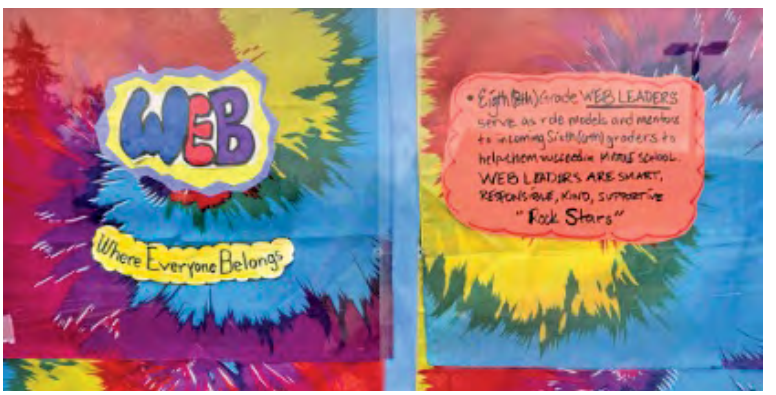
We are thrilled to share that the 2024-2025 school year is off to an incredible start! Fletcher's commitment to fostering a strong sense of community and empowering student voices shines brightly through a thoughtfully layered approach that transforms the school experience beyond the norm. We're implementing initiatives like the WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) mentoring program, spirited activities, fresh social-emotional curriculum, new elective options, and an ongoing dedication to our 'Sustainability for All' program. With the addition of a new staff patio for lunches and collaboration, Fletcher is truly blossoming into a community rooted in optimism, enthusiasm, and shared purpose.

Our WEB program—short for "Where Everybody Belongs" and developed by the Boomerang Project—is a welcoming and supportive space for our 6th and 7th graders, guided by our own 8th-grade students. These dedicated WEB Leaders act as positive role models, helping younger students feel comfortable and confident as they transition into middle school. Our wide range of lunchtime clubs and student advisory groups further amplifies student voices, providing invaluable feedback and sparking growth and inspiration. These student-led groups are important to our school culture, bringing interest, insights, and a genuine commitment to make every voice heard and valued, and creating a community where students feel empowered, optimistic, and responsible.



Our commitment to unity and collaboration extends to the heart of our staff community as well. With scheduled collaboration time built into our routines and a new dedicated lunch patio, staff have a supportive environment where ideas can blossom and connections begin and grow. Our new patio area is a welcoming space with flexible seating and green surroundings, offering a perfect place for reflection and camaraderie.

At Fletcher, we believe that building community strengthens both academic and personal growth. Through these initiatives, we're not only educating but also nurturing, creating a vibrant community where students and staff alike feel a sense of belonging and pride. Fletcher stands as an example of what a connected and collaborative school can accomplish. For more about our amazing school community, please visit us at www.fletcher.pausd.org.









Leslie Crane
Principal

Long-Standing Traditions

At the beginning of every school year, there is a palpable sense of optimism and excitement for the months ahead. This is a time when students meet their teachers for the first time, ready to embark on a journey filled with learning and discovery. From mastering reading, writing, and math to developing essential social skills, every new school year brings significant milestones, especially for young students who are learning in both English and Spanish.

At Escondido, we take pride in cultivating this enthusiasm through a variety of long-standing traditions that foster a sense of community and celebration of diversity. One such tradition is the Multicultural Faire, which showcases the rich cultural tapestry that makes up our school. It is a vibrant event where families share their heritage, and students can explore different cultures, enhancing their global awareness and appreciation for diversity.

Another cherished tradition is the Parade of Flags. During this event, over 80 flags representing the diverse nationalities of our student body are displayed, creating a colorful and inspiring visual that underscores the inclusivity and multiculturalism at the heart of Escondido's values.

This parade is more than just a display of flags; it symbolizes the unity of our community despite our varied backgrounds.

Additionally, Día de los Muertos is celebrated as a way to honor and remember loved ones who have passed. It is a deeply meaningful event that introduces students to important cultural traditions while fostering empathy and respect for different perspectives.

These traditions, combined with our dedication to academic excellence and social-emotional growth, set a positive tone at the beginning of each school year, inspiring students to embrace the learning journey ahead.





Parade of Flags Celebration



Trebor Winslow
Principal

Firebirds Fly Together

As the new principal of Fairmeadow Elementary School, I am filled with optimism about the exciting opportunities awaiting our students from Transitional Kindergarten to 5th grade. This year, we are thrilled to welcome new teachers and our new PTA president, bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to our community. Together, we are focusing on fostering an inclusive environment, providing quality instruction, supporting mental health, promoting literacy, ensuring equity, and embracing innovation.

Optimism is key as we strive for inclusion. By celebrating our diverse backgrounds, we create a community where every child feels valued. Our commitment to inclusion ensures that all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Quality instruction is another cornerstone of our success. Our new teachers, alongside our experienced staff, will use innovative methods to engage and inspire students. Through interactive lessons, collaborative projects, and even lunch activities, we aim to spark curiosity and a love for learning.

Mental health is vital for our students' well-being. By prioritizing social-emotional learning, we equip students with the skills to manage their emotions and build resilience, fostering a supportive environment where they can thrive.

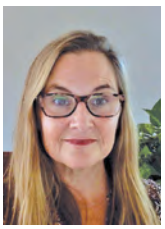
Literacy is crucial for lifelong success. This year, we will enhance our Benchmark and Orton Gillingham literacy programs to ensure every student becomes a confident reader and writer. A strong foundation in literacy opens doors to new opportunities.

With our new PTA president, we are excited to strengthen the partnership between families and the school, fostering community and collaboration.

As we embark on this new school year, I am excited for what lies ahead. Together, we will cultivate a vibrant, inclusive, and empowering learning community where every student can thrive!



Our new inclusive playground at Fairmeadow School.



Nikole Manou
Principal

Our Bright Future

Hoover Elementary is entering an exciting new phase, marked by optimism and success. We Hoover Elementary and Greendell School are stepping into an exciting new chapter, filled with optimism and a focus on success. Hoover Elementary is eagerly preparing for the launch of a brand-new campus next school year, with the construction progress right before our eyes. Meanwhile, we continue to celebrate our students' impressive academic achievements! At Greendell, we're thrilled to be growing, with an additional Young 5s program on campus and the expansion of our inclusion and student, teacher mentoring programs. Both Hoover and Greendell are enthusiastically embracing these combined opportunities.

Although Hoover Elementary (K-5) and Greendell (PK) have their own unique goals, they share a key theme: a commitment to mentorship. Each school plays an essential role in nurturing a supportive environment by pairing older students with younger ones, fostering community, leadership, and emotional growth. This program helps every student feel valued and supported, contributing to our warm and positive school culture.

Together, Hoover and Greendell share the unified goal of "Celebrate and Serve," aligning with the Palo Alto Promise. We see our shared campus as a unique chance to nurture social-emotional learning by building confidence, empathy, and collaborative spirit through mentorship and role modeling. This year, our dedicated staff is excited to continue building and strengthening this invaluable program as we move through our final year on this journey together.







Courtney Carlomagno
Principal

Positive Energy and Community at Greene Middle School: Highlighting Special Olympics

On October 18, Greene Middle School proudly hosted the annual Special Olympics soccer tournament for the Palo Alto Unified School District and Mountain View Los Altos School District. This event is a vibrant celebration of inclusivity, bringing together general education and Special Education students in a day filled with excitement and camaraderie.

The day began early, with students from Greene's Leadership class and Student Council teaming up with PAUSD staff to prepare the fields and warmly welcome participating schools. As the teams arrived, the energy was palpable. General education and Special Education students joined forces for an inspiring Opening Ceremony, recognizing each school and inviting all guests—staff, community members, and students—to join in a celebration of positivity.

Throughout the day, Special Education students engaged in mini soccer games, relishing the opportunity to shine on the field in a supportive environment. This platform allows them to celebrate their achievements in ways that may not always be possible in traditional school settings.

Leadership and Student Council representatives played crucial roles as liaisons, ensuring the event flowed smoothly and fostering connections across the community. The sidelines buzzed with cheers from students, staff, and community members alike, embodying the spirit of inclusion that Greene Middle School champions.

This year's Special Olympics tournament was not just a day of sports; it was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the importance of embracing every individual's unique contributions. Together, we celebrated abilities, fostered friendships, and built a more inclusive environment for all.







Dr. Wendy Stratton
Principal

Belonging

The 2024-25 school year is off to a fantastic start at Gunn High School! Our campus is ablaze with energy and excitement, driven by events that bring our students, staff, and families closer together. In early November, we eagerly anticipate the fall theatre production You Can't Take It With You, an entertaining showcase of our students' talent and dedication. Fall sports have been equally thrilling, with the debut of our Girls' Flag Football team adding a new layer of excitement to our athletic lineup. Our Gunn Symphonic Band and Jazz Concerts have already delighted audiences, and our schoolwide Halloween Costume Competition is adding a fun, creative element to the season.

This year, we're focusing on the theme of belonging, and nowhere was this more evident than in our recent Homecoming ("HoCo") Week. It's the most spirited week of the year, and our community embraces it wholeheartedly. The week kicked off with a Night Rally that set the tone for the following two evenings of schoolwide community events. Our Homecoming Football game was a highlight, with our team continuing its undefeated streak in front of an enthusiastic crowd. And the excitement didn't stop there—our "Lights, Camera, Action!" Homecoming Dance saw record-breaking attendance, making it the most popular Homecoming dance in recent history.

Homecoming Week was filled with daily rallies and class competitions, uniting our school in joyful celebration. These experiences remind us of the power of community and the importance of fostering a sense of belonging for everyone at Gunn. We look forward to many more opportunities this year to strengthen these connections and create lasting memories with our students, staff, and families. The year ahead is bright, and we're just getting started.



Gunn Alumni Celebrate at the Homecoming Football Game



Homecoming Court at Half-Time



Student Fans at Homecoming



Gunn Cheer!



Night Rally Senior Section Cheering



Gunn Staff Competed at Night Rally with their Zombie Performance to Thriller

Jane Lathrop Stanford *Middle School*

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Christopher Grierson
Principal

Building Optimism Through Student Voice

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

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

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

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



JLS students wrote messages to Unity-Week, a school-wide effort to raise awareness around anti-bullying efforts and strategies.

Juana Briones *Elementary School*

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Kathryn Bimpson
Principal

Good Reason for Optimism at Briones!

Parents and staff have said it: This year feels different! It began with a deep sense of excitement among students and families; we have a new Wellness Center and gardening program, and our staff is embarking on a journey that will stretch their learning with equity and MTSS that will benefit every one of our students!



Last year, staff agreed to dedicate $5000 from our site budget to open a Wellness Center. School psychologist Emma Smith and Wellness Therapist Associate Darcy Miller researched what works and created a space that supports students, families, and staff! Each area of the room has an intentional function for the entire community!

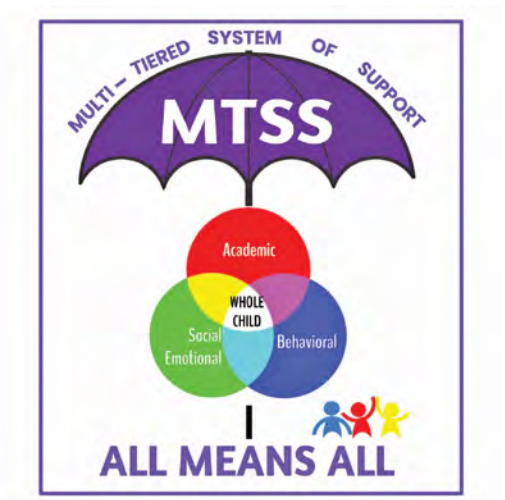
We are working with an incredible non-profit organization, Living Classroom, to revitalize our beloved gardens and provide NGSS and CCSS-aligned lessons that include social studies, science, and math.

We are conducting equity work in collaboration with Freedom Soul Media Education Initiatives. We will examine our biases as we determine ways to build a Community of Care in alignment with our vision: Learning and thriving as an inclusive community every day. The work will include developing an anti-hate language and behavior contract that our entire community will build and agree to so that every person on our campus feels safe and valued. The work begins with our staff, then will expand to students and families.

We are also implementing MTSS, or multi-tiered systems of support, that will allow us to better serve ALL students. This includes creating a WIN, or What I Need, time schedule to meet the various needs of all students so they do not miss core content instruction.

I am proud of our staff for venturing into this work and grateful to our families for engaging so deeply with us!







Lucille M. Nixon *Elementary School*

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



Amy Sheward
Principal

Dolphins Swim Together

As we settle into the school year, there is an air of optimism and excitement across our school community. The start of the year is always a time of fresh beginnings and opportunities, and this year is no different. We warmly welcome new students, staff, and families, who are joining us for the first time. It's been wonderful to see both familiar and new faces, ready to embark on the journey ahead.

One of the hallmarks of our school's tradition is the Back-to-School Picnic, a favorite event where families, students, and staff come together to enjoy food, laughter, and conversation. This was more than just a social gathering; it was a time for new families to feel welcomed and for long-time members of the community to reconnect. Art Night, another beloved tradition, offered students the opportunity to showcase their creativity, share their talents, and further build connections within the school. Thank you to our PTA and the many parent volunteers who make these events possible!

These events have set the stage for a year filled with more opportunities to come. But beyond the fun and festivities, our focus remains on the growth of each student, academically and socially. We believe that fostering an environment where all students feel included, supported, and encouraged to grow in all areas of life is essential to their success.

As we look forward to the months ahead, there's a shared sense of optimism. Together, we are committed to helping each student thrive, and we are confident that this year will be one filled with discovery, learning, and community-building. Whatever the weather, Nixon dolphins swim together!



Nixon students support and encourage each other.



Elsa Chen
Principal

The Future is Bright!

It's hard to be anything but optimistic when working at a school! Every morning, I'm greeted by students, smiles wide, eager to start the day, many even skipping in. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious, and I'm filled with hope as I see their joy in learning.

Here at Ohlone, our students tackle challenges head-on, take initiative, and look out for each other. Recently, the student council held a discussion about promoting citizenship and community.

They talked about the importance of environmental awareness, brainstorming ideas to keep our campus clean and even suggesting ways to show appreciation for our daytime custodian, whose hard work keeps our spaces welcoming. There's nothing quite like the magic of young minds collaborating on solutions—they think outside the box!

Another moment that stands out to me was in a classroom just the other day, when the teacher asked, "Can you name someone in this class who made your day better?" Students chimed in, acknowledging each other's kindness: a compliment that lifted someone's spirits, a helping hand with a tricky writing assignment, or an invitation to join in a game. Teachers have shared countless stories of students lifting up classmates who need support, noticing when someone's down, and doing whatever they can to show they care.

In classrooms across the school, I see students persevering, honing their skills, and experiencing those wonderful "aha!" moments. The look of pride on their faces is optimism embodied. Every day, I'm reminded that we're going to be more than okay—we're nurturing thoughtful, kind, and empathetic individuals who are ready to make a positive difference.

For a recent spirit day, students dressed as what they want to be when they grow up! We have a dressmaker who will use recycled materials, a president, a gymnast, an astronaut, and someone who simply wants to be themselves dressed as "Me!"

We are in great hands!









Jim Sherman
Principal

Optimism and Opportunity: PAAS Medical English

At the Palo Alto Adult School, we are excited to introduce our new Medical English course, designed to open doors for those intermediate- to advanced-level ESL students aspiring to enter the medical field. This course is an essential first step, providing a bridge to more advanced studies in Medical Terminology. With a focus on both language and healthcare, it equips students with the fundamental communication skills they need to thrive in diverse medical environments.

Pursuing a career in healthcare can feel daunting, especially when language barriers stand in the way. Our Medical English course aims to overcome those barriers by offering practical, real-world vocabulary and conversation skills that are crucial in medical settings. Whether students are new to the medical field or seeking to improve their English proficiency for professional growth, this course offers a supportive learning environment where they build confidence and expertise.

What makes this course particularly exciting is the wide array of career opportunities it can lead to. Once students complete Medical English, they are prepared to transition smoothly into Medical Terminology—a critical component for roles in nursing, medical assistance, healthcare administration, and more. The optimism shared by our students is grounded in the belief that this foundational knowledge sets them on a path toward rewarding and in-demand careers.





At the Palo Alto Adult School, we believe that education can transform lives, and our Medical English course is a testament to that belief. With dedication and the right tools, students can unlock their potential and achieve their dreams in healthcare.





Brent Kline
Principal

Finding Their Voice: How Paly Students Are Discovering Freedom Through Literacy

In a team-taught English class at Paly, students are discovering new potential as their literacy skills grow, uncovering fresh ways of thinking and engaging with the world around them. Their stories reveal a promising journey from struggling with basic comprehension to finding confidence through language mastery.

"Before, I was just reading words," one student reflects. "Now, with the strategy shift my teacher taught me, I can actually understand what I'm reading – it changes everything." This fundamental change represents more than academic progress – it's a gateway to deeper understanding that students are beginning to embrace with confidence.

The impact extends far beyond basic comprehension. Students describe how their relationship with writing has evolved from a mechanical task into meaningful expression. "Before, I just wrote to turn it in," shares one student. "Now, I'm discovering connections between articles, myself, and the real world. My writing has purpose beyond the classroom."

This growing confidence is visible in classroom participation. One teacher recounts the transformation in a student who now voluntarily leads class discussions – a change that seemed distant months ago. Another student adds, "It's more normal now to participate in class. Before, I was caught up in grammar or reading. Now I can see the bigger picture and want to contribute."

Even those still working through challenges maintain perspective. "Writing is still hard," one student admits, "but I can see my progress. My thoughts flow more naturally now, and that makes a real difference."

The impact reaches beyond the classroom. Students speak of their increasing confidence in professional interactions and expressing themselves more eloquently. "Literacy is powerful because it gives us the ability to express ourselves through speaking and writing," one student declares. Another reflects: "It's showing me new ways of thinking and giving me the tools to think more deeply about the world around me."

As these students continue their literacy journey, their stories highlight an encouraging truth: literacy isn't just about reading and writing – it's about finding one's voice and gaining the confidence to engage fully with the world. With each book read and idea expressed, these students are unlocking their potential to shape conversations and contribute their unique perspectives to our world.









Palo Alto Middle College *High School*

12345 El Monte Rd., Los Altos Hills, CA 94022 • 650/849-7955 • mc.pausd.org



Emily Garrison
Principal

A New Beginning Dedicated to the Joy of Learning

On August 14, 2024 Palo Alto Middle College High School (PAMC) opened for our first day of school. Opening a brand new school is a unique and special experience. Based on the California Middle College model, PAMC students have high school classes for three hours daily, then take a minimum of two Foothill College classes each quarter. In this way, our school is really two in one, half high school and half college.

Palo Alto Middle College is a nontraditional high school program currently serving sophomores and juniors from PAUSD. It will expand to all grade levels (9-12) starting in August 2025. The program is housed at Foothill Community College and is designed for students who are academically talented and capable of doing college-level work, but who, for a variety of reasons, do not feel connected to their traditional high school.

Our innovative Middle College High School program is designed to inspire a love for learning while preparing students for success in both higher education and the workforce. We aim to create an environment where students are motivated and supported to reach their full academic potential. PAMC empowers students by providing a collaborative middle college high school experience that integrates college preparation, career education, work experience, and community engagement.



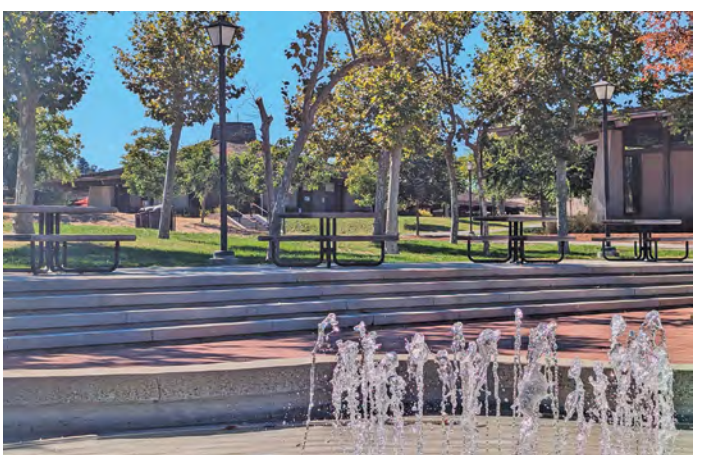








The students, families, and staff who are part of our inaugural year have all chosen to be part of our school. Excitement, optimism, and a bit of nervousness for this new endeavor, fill our classrooms each day. As a community, we are connected through our dedication to each other and to building a positive and supportive school that allows students to truly enjoy the journey of learning.





Palo Verde *Elementary School*

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



Annora Lee
Principal

A Great Day, Every Day

It's easy to feel optimistic when you spend your days on an elementary school campus. While every PAUSD school has its own charm, we like to think Palo Verde does a particularly good job of imparting joy in ways big and small.

Our classrooms are staffed with educators who continue to find deep passion in their work. They open their days with a warm, personal welcome, then set into motion a full schedule of learning and connecting. It's not uncommon to spy a teacher reading aloud with theatrical abandon, leading a Marshmallow Challenge (with costume props), or even racing against the clock to engage in friendly competition with their students. They are teaching the content and modeling the interpersonal skills we value as a learning community.

Our school grounds practically sparkle, thanks to the tender loving care of our custodial staff and maintenance teams. And, in a show of service to others, our Student Action Committee and 5th Grade Helpers assist, too. Through this work, children are learning the power of their individual and collective efforts. They are seeing their impact on others, while also gaining confidence through service to others.

We're a community that cares about and finds joy in others. We value the importance of being safe, responsible, respectful, and kind, but whenever possible- we do our best to have fun. That is why the Palo Verde motto is, "Today's a great day for a great day!"



Walter Hays *Elementary School*

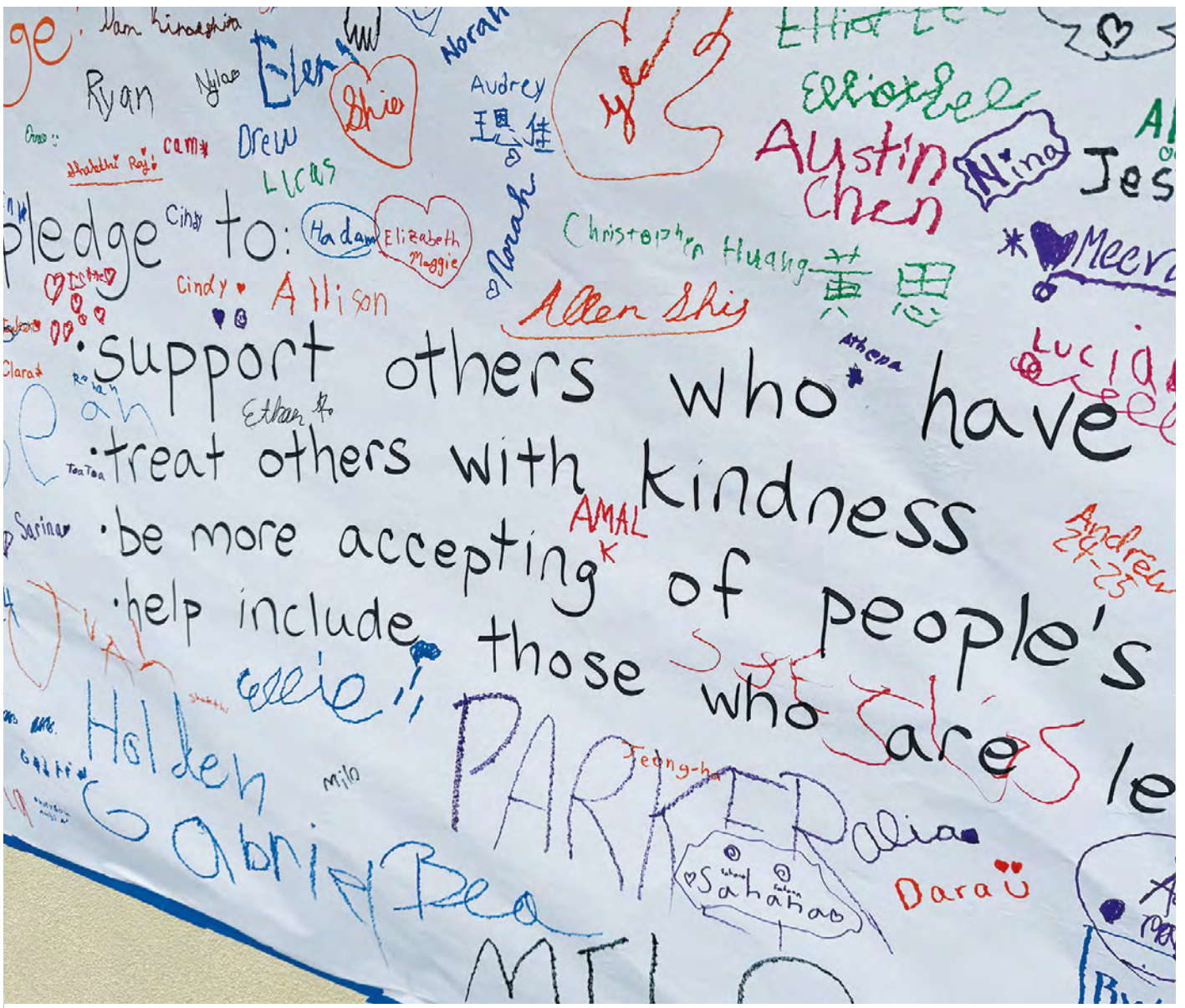
1525 Middlefield Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94301 • 650/322-5956 • hays.pausd.org



Iris Wong
Principal

Lens of Optimism

As we ring in the new school year at Walter Hays Elementary, we look ahead with the lens of optimism. Optimism is a powerful mindset filled with hope and confidence, in our ability to create and achieve our school goals centered around student support and maintaining a positive community. We are committed to fostering an inclusive school culture where every student feels valued and respected through the practice of our Core Values. By embracing diverse backgrounds and abilities, we create a learning environment that thrives on collaboration, communication, and support. Our parents play a crucial role in this journey, and we encourage their active involvement. Together, we strive to uphold our Core Values of respect, responsibility, integrity, initiative, perseverance, resilience, empathy, inclusion, and cooperation, ensuring all Wildcats are equipped not only academically but also socially and emotionally. With optimism guiding our actions, we look forward to a year of growth, learning, and success for every member of our Walter Hays Wildcat community.



Wildcats take the pledge!

Toy Store Items–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 Palo Alto in the subject line.

BIKE
DOLL
TRIKE
BOOK
LEGOS
SOLDIERS
BALLS
BUBBLES
CROQUET
BLOCKS
KITES
MARBLES
CRAYON
PENS
COMPUTER
DOLLHOUSE
BUGGY
KITCHEN
TEA SET
BAT
BALL GLOVE

Congratulations to William and Elise Fellows
Winners of our May Word Search Contest!

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

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

Novelist –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 Palo Alto in the subject line.

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

COMPUTER
EDITOR
IPAD
SPELLCHECK
PRINTER
PUBLISHER
NOTEPAD
READERS
PENCIL
IDEAS
PEN
BROWSER
GOOGLE
INTERNET
BING
ASPIRIN
KEYBOARD
TELEPHONE
WIFI
IMAGINATION

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