School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

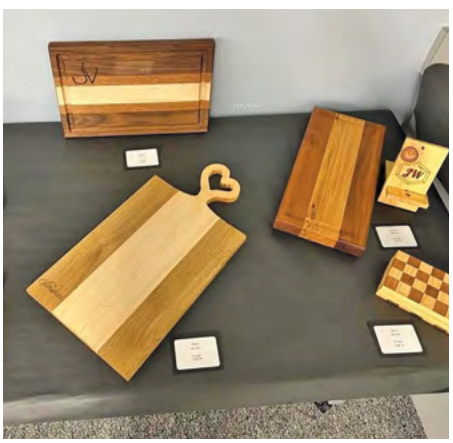
Covering the Ocean View School District

Volume 21, Issue 123 **May 2025**



Spotlight on the Arts: Celebrating Creativity in OVSD









A+ Medical Miller Minute



Inderpal Randhawa, M.D.,
medical director,
Children's Pulmonary Institute,
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital

Asthma Awareness Month: Creating an Asthma Action Plan for Kids at School

Asthma is one of the most common chronic conditions among children and managing it at school requires preparation. Triggers like allergens and physical activity can lead to flare-ups, but a well-structured asthma action plan helps keep symptoms under control.

An asthma action plan helps control symptoms by outlining a child's triggers, medications, and emergency steps if symptoms worsen. It ensures that school staff are prepared to act when necessary, keeping your child safe.

Steps to Implementing an Asthma Action Plan at School:

1. **Consult Your Child's Care Team**: Consult your child's pulmonologist and pediatrician to develop a personalized asthma action plan that includes triggers, medication, and emergency response details.
2. **Communicate with the School**: Provide the school nurse and teachers with a copy of the plan. Meet to review your child's needs.
3. **Ensure Medication Access**: Ensure your child's quick-relief inhaler and necessary medications are easily accessible at school. Complete any required paperwork for medication authorization.
4. **Minimize Triggers**: Work with the school to identify and minimize asthma triggers like dust, mold, or pollen.
5. **Teach Self-Management Skills**: Help your child recognize symptoms, use their inhaler, or seek help.

For families in Los Angeles, the South Bay, and Long Beach, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital offers valuable asthma resources. The Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma (LBACA), part of Miller Children's & Women's Hospital, provides education, community programs, and tools like the Fight Asthma Tracker to help families manage symptoms. LBACA also partners with SmartAirLA, offering real-time air quality monitoring and alerts to help families reduce exposure to harmful air pollutants.

By implementing an asthma action plan and using resources like LBACA, parents and schools can work together to keep children safe and healthy throughout the school year.

Scan here to explore more resources offered through the Children's Pulmonary Institute.



At 11 months, Pablo was fighting for his life.

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

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

Learn more at millerchildrens.org/care

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital
MemorialCare

MILLER CHILDREN'S & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL LONG BEACH
CHERESE MARI LAULHERE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
OUTPATIENT SPECIALTY CENTERS
FROM THE SOUTH BAY TO ORANGE COUNTY



Dr. Julianne Hoefer
Superintendent

Ocean View School District and Surf City Optimist Club: Spreading Smiles and Optimism Together

Ocean View School District (OVSD) is proud to celebrate its partnership with the Surf City Optimist Club, a dedicated non-profit organization run entirely by passionate volunteers. Together, they work to bring joy, opportunity, and a spirit of optimism to students across the district.

The Surf City Optimist Club has been a presence on OVSD campuses, supporting a wide range of activities that inspire and engage students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Among the club's recent highlights are the annual essay and oratorical competitions, which provide middle school students with a platform to express their voices, build confidence, and share ideas with their peers and community.

One of the most beloved traditions is the Pinewood Derby, this year hosted at Toyota of Huntington Beach. This exciting event is a collaborative effort between OVSD, the Optimist Club, and Toyota of Huntington Beach. It is a fun-filled day of creativity, racing, and laughter, drawing participation from students across all grade levels.

In addition to these events, Surf City Optimist Club volunteers regularly visit schools to teach students classic activities such as playing marbles, fishing, and other hands-on games that foster connection, joy, and healthy play.

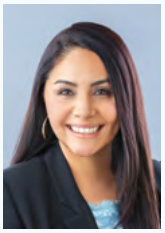
Always looking to expand their reach, the Optimist Club welcomes new members who are eager to make a difference. Whether you're a parent, community member, or simply someone who wants to share in the mission of spreading optimism, there's a place for you in this remarkable organization. If you would like to become a member, please reach out to the OVSD District Office at 714-847-2551.

Together, OVSD and the Surf City Optimist Club continue to shine a light on the power of positivity and community in our schools.





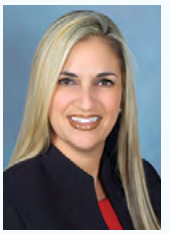
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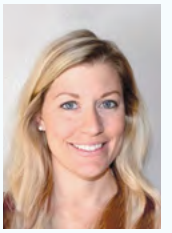
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Ocean View School District Celebrates Student Talent with Music Festival and Festival of the Arts

By Patricia Singer, Board President

Ocean View School District recently showcased the students' remarkable talents through two vibrant events: the District Music Festival and the Festival of the Arts. These annual showcases brought families, educators, and community members together to celebrate creativity and the power of the arts.

The District Music Festival was a dazzling evening of performance, highlighting months of hard work and dedication from middle school students in band, orchestra, choir, and dance across the District. The event opened with a powerful performance by the combined orchestras from Mesa View and Vista View Middle Schools, setting the stage for a night of musical excellence. Marine View's rock band electrified the audience with an energetic set, while Mesa View captivated attendees young and old with a Star Wars-themed performance, conducted by Mr. Nicolosi wielding a lightsaber as a baton.

Dance teams from all three middle schools brought vibrant energy to the stage with high-energy routines, including the debut performance of Mesa View's new dance team. The grand finale, a moving rendition of "High Hopes" by Panic! At The Disco, brought all the performers together in a celebration of artistic achievement.

The celebration continued the following month at the Festival of the Arts, a Districtwide tribute to the full spectrum of student creativity that included a collaboration with Huntington Beach Union High School District's visual and performing arts staff. Over 500 pieces of stunning two-dimensional and three-dimensional visual art were showcased, featuring everything from perspective pencil drawings and canvas paintings to handcrafted wooden clocks and charcuterie boards. Outdoor stages came alive with choirs, dancers, actors, and musicians from current elementary and middle school students, as well as former students now in high school. The popular cookie decoration station featured cookies baked by Vista View culinary arts students, which offered a sweet hands-on activity for all ages. The District Food and Nutrition Services Department offered samples of entrees provided to students during the school day for parents and participants to try. Food trucks added to the festive atmosphere, creating a true community-focused celebration.

Together, these events underscore Ocean View School District's commitment to the visual and performing arts, highlighting how creativity, confidence, and collaboration are nurtured across our schools. These experiences not only showcased student talent, but also reflected the heart of our District's dedication to providing a well-rounded, enriching educational experience for every student.



Comic Orange and Older Americans Month

By Kimberly Tran-Hoang, Children & Teen Libraria

Comic Orange is our annual event that promotes literacy by highlighting our graphic novel collections. This year it will be at the Tustin Library on Saturday, May 10, from 11am-3pm.

May is also Older Americans Month! There will be get-togethers, intergenerational game and paint nights, for older adults and their families and friends. See ocpl.org/events for more information.

Teens

Watercolor Workshop with Claudia's Art Therapy – Saturday, May 10 at 2pm

Learn how to paint with watercolors! Registration began on April 21 by phone or in-person only. Recommended for ages 11-18.

Summer Reading Volunteer Orientation – Tuesday, June 10 at 5pm

Need volunteer hours for school during the summer? Submit an application to become a summer reading volunteer! Recommended for teens ages 13-18.

See **FV Library** • *Page 6*

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Adults

Tech Help by Appointment – May 19 to May 22

Need help with your phone or computer? We can help! Book your tech help session today! Bring your device and register at least 48 hours in advance.

Children & Families

Lego Party Hour – 1st Saturdays at 3pm

Read to a Dog – 2nd Mondays at 4pm

Origami and Stress Management with OCAPICA – Tuesday, May 13 at 4pm

Our partners at the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) will speak about the healthy ways on managing stress and the benefits that origami can help.

Intergenerational Game Night – Wednesday, May 14 at 4pm

We will have Trivia games, family card games and bingo! Light refreshments will be provided.

Intergenerational Paint Night – Tuesday, May 20 at 4pm

Start a painting and when the timer goes off, swap canvases and continue painting until the timer goes off again!

Check out our Program Calendar for all of our events at www.ocpl.org/libraries/fountain-valley

Pacific Marine Mammal Center
WHALES ON WHEELS
ASSEMBLY PROGRAM | WE COME TO YOU!
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Take a walk through Winston the Whale!
PROGRAM DETAILS
Students explore a life-sized, inflatable, Gray whale, and learn about their journey from near extinction to being an example conservation success.
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Jenna Landero
Coordinator

Links to Learning: Playdates with a Purpose

Recently, the preschool room at Westmont was filled with tiny voices, sticky fingers, and big smiles. Parents and toddlers huddled over tables, dipping graham crackers into pudding and giggling at the squish between their fingers. Across the room, little artists pressed sponges and twigs onto paper, marveling at the colors they created. It was more than just fun—it was learning in action.

These moments are part of Links to Learning – Playdates with a Purpose, OVSD's newest early childhood initiative supported by First 5 Orange County. Aimed at children ages 1 to 5 and their families, these free play-based events offer hands-on activities that spark curiosity and build essential school-readiness skills.

At a recent event, children made banana yogurt pops, practicing measurement and vocabulary like "dip," "spread," and "freeze." They decorated nature frames, strengthening fine motor skills and self-expression. But more importantly, they bonded—with caregivers, with peers, and with learning itself.

"Everything is intentional," says Luisa Tanzil, Early Learning Supervisor. "Even snack time becomes an opportunity to explore math, science, language, and social-emotional growth."

Held twice a month at Westmont Preschool and open to all, each playdate is an open invitation for families to engage, connect, and watch their children blossom.











Julie Ernst
Principal

Empower Hour

At Circle View Elementary, student success is not left to chance—it is built with purpose. Our new after-school intervention program, Empower Hour, is a focused, data-driven effort to accelerate student achievement through quality teaching and personalized instruction.

While intervention programs are not new in education, Empower Hour is anything but routine. This initiative is rooted in the belief that all students can succeed with the right support at the right time. As Dr. John Hattie asserts, "The most powerful single influence on student achievement is the quality of teaching." That is why we have invested in our own quality educators to deliver high-impact instruction after school—helping students achieve.

Using careful analysis of student performance data, we identify small groups of students who are just below grade-level standards—on the cusp of meeting expectations. Research highlights that learners close to proficiency can make rapid and measurable progress when given targeted support. We dive even deeper, pinpointing specific critical domains where students show the greatest need to craft our lessons.

With that clarity, our first Empower Hour was launched on January 14 with two cohesive small groups of eight students. These groups met for eight weeks after school to engage in personalized learning tailored to their exact academic needs. Teachers used carefully crafted pre- and post-assessments, enabling precise tracking of student growth and predictive insight into their progress on the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Our latest session began on April 22 with a new small group of students and a new instructional focus that meets their specific needs.

The results we see are not only academic—they are empowering. Students are gaining confidence, ownership, and a sense of achievement. Our vision is to expand Empower Hour by including more teachers, reaching more students, and offering additional instructional cycles throughout the year.

Because at Circle View, we believe in high expectations, relevant learning, and supporting the whole child—and Empower Hour is one more way we are helping every Eagle SOAR!











Allen Mendrin
Principal

College View Elementary Celebrates 800,000 Words Read with Read Across America!

College View Elementary School is proving that a love for reading can lead to big accomplishments! Students have reached an incredible milestone—800,000 words read—and the excitement is growing as they set their sights on a new goal: 1 million words!

To celebrate this achievement, College View joined the nationwide Read Across America event with a special day filled with parents joining students on campus to celebrate the joy of reading. Parents, teachers, and students came together to share stories, participate in reading activities, and encourage one another to keep turning pages.

Students and parents enjoyed spending time together, exploring new books, and discussing their favorite stories. The event emphasized the importance of reading not just in school, but at home as well. Parents played a key role in this celebration, showing their support by reading alongside their children and discussing the books they love. Teachers encouraged students to set personal reading goals, helping them stay motivated as they work toward their next big milestone.

"We are so proud of our students and their dedication to reading," said a College View teacher. "Having parents here today made this celebration even more special. Their support plays a huge role in fostering a love for reading."

With students eager to keep up the momentum, the school is confident they will soon reach 1 million words read! Teachers and parents are encouraging them to read daily, reminding them that every book, chapter, and page helps them reach their goal.

Keep it up, College View—we can't wait to celebrate your next achievement!









Venus Moeller
Principal

Golden View Elementary Hosts First Ever "Family Math Night"

Golden View Elementary struck gold and hit the jackpot, by hosting its' very first Family Math Learning Night—an evening designed to bring families together, foster stronger school connections, and ignite excitement for math learning. The event offered parents and guardians valuable tools to support their child's math development, from foundational skills to strategies for homework and state testing. Attendees also had the chance to win take-home resources through a fun raffle and left with math learning tools designed to continue the learning momentum at home.

The response from the families and learning community was overwhelming in the best way—nearly 100 families participated, filling the campus with energy, curiosity, and a shared commitment to student success. From interactive games to hands-on activities, families worked side-by-side with staff to make math both meaningful and fun. This event was not just about numbers—it was about building bridges between home and school, increasing family engagement, and empowering families with strategies they can use long after the night ended. It also served as a means to introduce and support families to a new online supplemental math program recently implemented at Golden View, which utilizes nonlinguistic representations to help student's build deep, conceptual understanding of essential math standards.

To recognize and encourage participation, the top three classes with the highest family attendance were awarded both student prizes and classroom funds for their teachers. These well-deserved rewards will directly support enriching class environments and further motivate students to stay engaged in their learning. Family Math Night was not only a celebration of math, but a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together as a community. Golden View cannot wait to build on this success in the years to come!













Jadyn Grunbaum
Principal

Many Boats, One Harbour: Celebrating Inclusion and Belonging

Harbour View Elementary School recently, with strong advocacy and parent engagement (Special thanks to parent Candace Joly and our PTA partners for their collaboration and support of these activities), launched a powerful schoolwide initiative titled Together We Belong, aimed at fostering a deeper sense of inclusion and community among its students. This meaningful effort brought the entire school together through a series of engaging and educational activities designed to celebrate diversity, with a particular emphasis on neurodiversity, autism awareness, and different ableness.



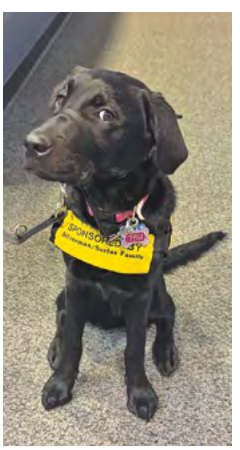
Throughout the weeklong event, students participated in read-aloud sessions and classroom discussions centered around books that explored various aspects of neurodiversity and disability inclusion. These age-appropriate stories sparked thoughtful conversations and encouraged empathy and understanding across grade levels. Students also reflected on ways they can celebrate their own minds and each other, and created kindness chains, now decorating the walls of Harbour View.

Adding to the excitement, the school welcomed guest speaker Jacob Pacheco who shared his lived experiences and perspective to students and also led the staff in an amazing training. We also hosted therapy guide dogs that delighted students while teaching valuable lessons about support systems and accessibility. These real-world connections made the concepts of inclusion and belonging more tangible and impactful.

The initiative concluded with a symbolic and collaborative art project: a handprint mural created by every student at Harbour View. Now displayed proudly in the front office, the mural serves as a vibrant reminder of the school's collective commitment to ensuring that every student feels seen, valued, and included.

Together We Belong is more than an event—it's a growing movement at Harbour View Elementary, affirming that inclusion is not just an idea, but a daily practice to be woven into the school's culture.

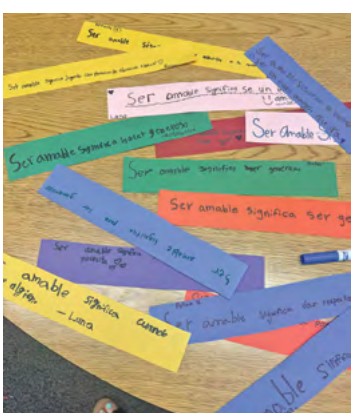












Hope View *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Christina Luckey
Principal

Creating Scholars and Leaders

At Hope View Elementary School, our mission is to cultivate exceptional scholars and leaders while creating lasting, joyful school experiences for every student. With the unwavering support of our dedicated PTO and passionate educators, our multipurpose room transforms throughout the year into a vibrant hub of celebration, creativity, and connection.

Whether it's the creativity on display of student artwork at Open House or the cozy cheer of our Winter Holiday House, this space tells the story of our thriving school community. It's here that families come together, students dazzle us with their talents on stage, and assemblies ignite imaginations and build school spirit.

Beyond our campus walls, in-person field trips and hands-on learning adventures continue to inspire and engage. The images captured here showcase our 3rd grade students fully immersed in a dynamic on-site field trip moments that reflect the joy of learning in action.

At Hope View, we know that while academic growth is essential, it's the meaningful connections and treasured memories that make education truly transformative. By seamlessly blending rigorous learning with enriching experiences, we're building more than just knowledge—we're nurturing curious minds and compassionate hearts. Hope View is the place to be!











3rd Graders in Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Taj din's Class.



Jill Van Der Linden
Principal

Lunch on the Lawn at Lake View

Our recent Lunch on the Lawn family event was a wonderful success, bringing together families, students, and staff for a delightful midday gathering on the school grounds. Families arrived with blankets, umbrellas, and specially prepared lunches to share with their children, creating a warm and inviting picnic atmosphere right here at school.

The simplicity of the event was its charm—no elaborate setup was needed, just a shared desire to connect and enjoy time together outdoors. Parents and children spread out across the lawn, chatting, laughing, and savoring their meals in the fresh air. This relaxed setting allowed families to engage more deeply with their children's school life and with each other, strengthening community bonds.

Feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive, with many families expressing enthusiasm for making Lunch on the Lawn a regular tradition. The event not only fostered family involvement but also enhanced the school community spirit, showing how a simple idea can create meaningful connections.











Sara Schaible
Principal

Standing Room Only

If you were to come by our school during nutrition or lunch and stop by the library it would be standing room only which you might think is odd for a middle school, well not at Marine View. When students enter our library, they are immediately transported on an adventure that spans further than just a love for reading. Ms. Plank always has some fun and creative theme that pulls students into the library and sparks interest in books, reading, and learning. Whether students are taking a trip on the Titanic, entering their bookmark in her themed bookmark contest, or getting their Reading Bingo Card stamped, the library is packed. The library has been transformed to provide books that students are excited to read, Ms. Plank works with our students to ensure they are providing student voice, input, and ideas for new books and themes for the reading incentives.















Isis Ortiz
Principal

Mesa View Eagles Soar with Talent, Character, and Community Support

Our Mesa View Eagles continue to shine both in and out of the classroom, thanks to the remarkable efforts of our students, staff, and supportive community partners. From writing accolades to public speaking contests and everyday acts of character, our Eagles are soaring high!

Young Authors Recognized for Outstanding Work

Mesa View is thrilled to announce that our talented students—Sophia Chen, Hudson Anderson, Adilyn Olivares, Ilana Bonilla, Luella Lam, Miriam Chen, and Maria Roufael—have been named winners of the 2025 Writing Contest presented by the Huntington Beach Friends of the Children's Library. Their exceptional entries, which demonstrated creativity, imagination, and strong writing craft, will be proudly displayed in the Central Park Children's Library.

The winners are invited to a special Awards Ceremony on Thursday, March 27, at 4:00 PM in the Tabby Theater at the Huntington Beach Central Library. Each student received a certificate and a $25 Barnes & Noble gift card. Congratulations to our young authors!

Orators Step Up to the Mic

Our Eagles are not only gifted writers—they are courageous speakers, too! This year, Mesa View student David Witzling participated in the 2025 Optimist Oratorical Contest, co-sponsored by the Surf City Optimist Club and the Ocean View School District. The theme, "How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times," challenged students to reflect on personal growth and resilience.

David delivered a 4–5 minute speech that was judged on poise, content, delivery, and overall effectiveness. It offered students a valuable opportunity to develop confidence and communication skills. Not only did David win at the school site level—he also won the zone-level contest and will advance to the district-level competition in May. Way to go, David!

Celebrating Character and Leadership

At Mesa View, we recognize students who go above and beyond through our "Eagle of the Week" program. Each week, three students are celebrated for exemplifying qualities such as responsibility, grit, scholarly habits, and respect. Honorees receive a certificate, a special visit from the Mesa View Eagle, a feature on social media, and their names on the school marquee!

In addition, our Positive Phone Calls Home—a joint initiative led by Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Ortiz—have teachers recognize students for doing the right thing. These students receive a personal phone call to their families, a certificate, and a trip to the prize cart, reinforcing the power of positive behavior.

Mesa View is proud of our students and grateful for the community partnerships that continue to support and inspire the next generation of leaders.









Araceli Osborn
Principal

Oak View Elementary Brings "The Lion King" to Life

Oak View Elementary's gymnasium was transformed into the African savanna as our talented 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students took to the stage for a spectacular production of Disney's The Lion King over the last two weekends in March.

The cast and crew have been hard at work since November, dedicating countless hours after school and weekends to rehearsals, set design, and costume creation. Their commitment and teamwork truly paid off, as audiences were treated to vibrant performances filled with music, dance, and heartfelt storytelling.



The show featured classic songs like "Circle of Life" and "Hakuna Matata," with students embracing their roles as Simba, Nala, Scar, Timon, Pumbaa, and the rest of the beloved characters. The colorful costumes and creative set pieces, crafted with help from parent and teacher volunteers, brought the magic of the Pride Lands right to our school.







Families, friends, and staff packed the audience for each performance, cheering on the young actors and celebrating their hard work. The energy in the room was electric, and the pride on the faces of our students was unmistakable.

Congratulations to all the performers, stage crew, and volunteers who made this production a roaring success! Your dedication and passion remind us of the power of teamwork and creativity at Oak View Elementary.





Jeanne Bentley
Principal

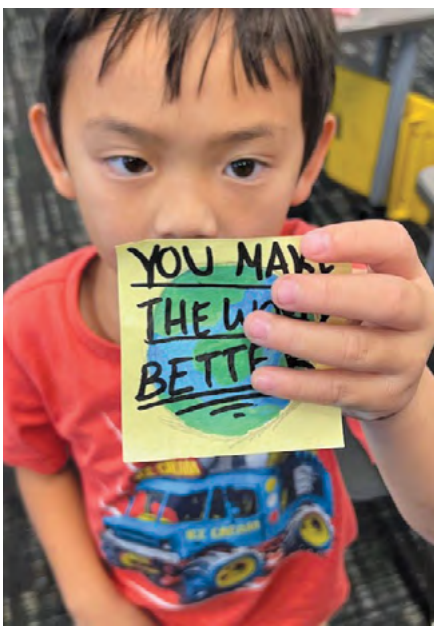
Star View's Dynamic Student Council

The Student Council is essential to our school, acting as a bridge between students and staff members. By representing the voices and concerns of our student body, the council ensures that everyone has a say in shaping our educational environment. Whether suggesting improvements for the hockey field or running the 100 Days of School campaign, the Student Council is pivotal in ensuring every student feels connected to the school.

This team of students, under the expert direction of Mrs. Headley, learns responsibility and stewardship skills that extend well beyond the classroom. Student Council recently hosted a movie night for students and families. Their main goal is to spread kindness and show leadership through the power of encouragement and verbal sunshine. They hosted a Kindness Week, where students hunted down encouraging notes around the school. Other favorite activities that bring us joy at Star View are spirit weeks, during which we dress up in silly thematic outfits, promote equity with kindness campaigns, and boost student morale during state testing.

These students develop confidence and leadership skills as they learn to listen, plan, execute, and reflect on their activities. This year, they have become school greeters on Welcome Wednesdays, starting the day off with a smile and a hello. Every week, Student Council members practice leadership by sharing Wednesday Morning Messages to the school, and every Friday, they assist the principal with the Friday Flag Ceremony. They remind students of the monthly character trait for the month, sometimes with a reader's theater act.

Our Student Council works hard to make our school vibrant, connected, and inclusive! Stay tuned for their upcoming community service project in June, supporting animal rescue and shelter organizations.











Shannon Mudry
Principal

AttenDANCE Celebration Days

Did you know that Dolphins love to turn up the music and boogie on down? Well, at Village View they do! New to our school this year are trimester AttenDANCEs - special celebrations honoring students who achieved an outstanding attendance rate of 95% or higher. The MPR was full of excitement, movement, and well-earned celebration as students danced, laughed, and enjoyed the spotlight for their commitment to showing up and giving their best each day.

With colorful glow bracelets lighting up the room and music pumping through the speakers, students celebrated their success alongside friends and teachers. Our beloved mascot, Splash the Dolphin, made a surprise appearance, showing off some dance moves and adding to the high-energy fun.

The AttenDANCE wasn't just a party—it was a celebration of a powerful message: Attendance matters. When students are present at school regularly, they not only keep up with their academics but also build stronger connections with peers and staff. Consistent attendance supports learning, boosts confidence, and plays a big role in social and emotional growth.

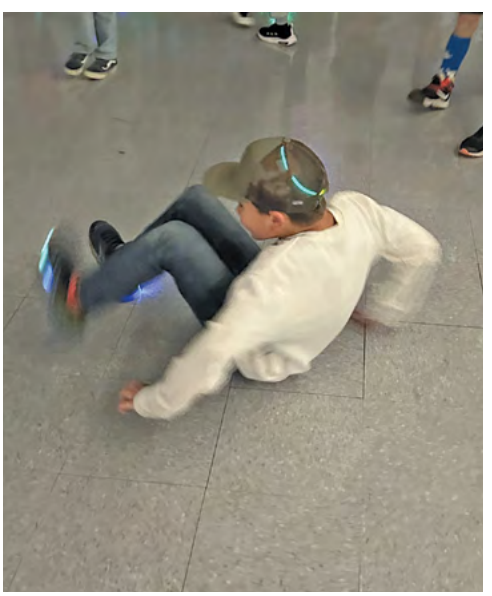
By recognizing and rewarding great attendance, we're reinforcing the value of being here each day, ready to learn, connect, and grow. Whether it's mastering a new math concept or sharing a laugh at lunch, every day counts—and the students honored at the AttenDANCE are proof of that.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success, and congratulations to all the students who earned their spot on the dance floor! Keep showing up, diving in, and making waves. Splash is proud of you—and so are we!













Manny Quezada
Principal

Vista View Students Rev Up for Pinewood Derby Race

Vista View Middle School students revved up their creativity and engineering skills in the annual Pinewood Derby, held in collaboration with the Surf City Optimist Club. On March 31, students gathered at Vista View to showcase their hand-designed race cars, each painted and meticulously prepped for the track. After fine-tuning the wheels and testing their cars, students raced in the first round of the event, with several winners advancing to the final race hosted at Toyota of Huntington Beach.

This hands-on activity not only introduced students to the excitement of competition but also provided a unique, STEAM-aligned experience. By designing and building their own cars, students engaged in science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. From understanding the physics behind speed to applying artistic flair in their designs, the Pinewood Derby offered a real-world application of academic skills. The top three racers from each site will move on to the district competition on April 4, showcasing the power of creativity and STEM learning in action.













Diana Bianco
Principal

5th Graders Dive into Discovery at Ocean Institute Overnight Camp

For the first time ever, our 5th graders embarked on an unforgettable overnight science adventure at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point! The experience brought science to life through exciting, hands-on learning that sparked curiosity and wonder.

Students had the opportunity to dissect both a squid and a cow eye, gaining firsthand knowledge of marine biology and anatomy. They explored the fascinating world of plankton and discovered the wonders of bioluminescence, observing how certain sea creatures glow in the dark.

From tide pool investigations to immersive lab experiences, the overnight camp offered students a rare chance to engage deeply with the ocean environment. This milestone trip not only enriched their science education but also encouraged teamwork, independence, and a love for learning. We're proud of our pioneering 5th graders for making the most of this unique opportunity and can't wait to make it a new tradition!









