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# School News

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**Covering the Fullerton School District**



Volume 7, Issue 19

October 2019–January 2020



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## PBIS Skyrockets with Eighteen Schools Receiving State Recognition



**Dr. Robert Pletka**  
*Superintendent*

Fullerton School District (FSD) is known for unprecedented growth and achievement in meeting the needs of students. We are excited to announce that a RECORD number of 18 FSD schools earned State-level recognition from the California PBIS Coalition. Eight schools were recognized during the 2017-18 school year, and two schools during the 2016-17 school year, so the level of increase is tremendous.

PBIS stands for “Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports,” and it is built on the premise that students do not come to school knowing behavior expectations. Rather, these expectations need to be taught directly and explicitly, in the same way we teach reading and math to students. Therefore, PBIS is not a curriculum, but a research-based framework of proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate behaviors. PBIS uses a tiered continuum of evidence-based supports and is inclusive of all school settings.

Recognition was awarded to the schools as follows:

### **Bronze:**

- Maple Elementary

### **Silver:**

- Golden Hill Elementary
- Laguna Road Elementary
- Parks Junior High
- Raymond Elementary
- Richman Elementary
- Rolling Hills Elementary
- Valencia Park Elementary

### **Gold:**

- Commonwealth Elementary
- Orangethorpe Elementary
- Platinum:
- Beechwood School
- Fern Drive Elementary
- Hermosa Drive Elementary
- Nicolas Junior High School
- Pacific Drive Elementary
- Fisler School
- Sunset Lane Elementary
- Woodcrest Elementary

“The volume of recognitions is due to the hard work and commitment of our school administrators, teachers, PBIS teams, and the shift in goals, data driven practices, and team coaching. PBIS recognition of any kind is an extraordinary accomplishment and is reflective of the individual growth at each school site in implementing PBIS with fidelity, based on the national framework,” said Helene Morris, Director of Administrative Services. These schools will be recognized at an upcoming school board meeting on September 24, 2019.

The 2018-19 school year, PBIS focused on five primary areas – Restorative Practices, Universal Behavior Screening, Tiered Fidelity to PBIS, Data Driven PBIS, and Coaching – which will be combined with a stronger emphasis on Social Emotional Learning and Mindfulness to drive FSD’s PBIS work during the 2019-20 school year.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

## Three Schools Named to Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll



**Dr. Robert Pletka**  
Superintendent

Three Fullerton School District schools have been named to the 2018 - 2019 Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll for their high achievement in student success. The program, sponsored by the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE), is part of a national effort to identify higher-performing schools and districts that are improving student outcomes. Acacia, Fisler, and Laguna Road

Schools are part of the 1,834 public schools in California to be recognized.

The 2018 - 2019 Honor Roll is developed by Educational Results Partnership (ERP), a nonprofit organization that applies data science to help improve student outcomes and career readiness. ERP maintains the nation's largest database on student achievement and utilizes this data to identify higher-performing schools and districts. Schools that receive the ERP Honor Roll distinction have demonstrated consistent high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and a reduction in achievement gaps among student populations. For high schools, the ERP Honor Roll recognition also includes measures of college readiness.

"Fullerton School District is honored to have three schools recognized by educational and business leaders as ERP Honor Roll Schools," said Dr. Robert Coghlan, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services. "We are continually striving to increase academic achievement and improve educational outcomes for all of our students. Our teachers and administrators are fully committed and we are thrilled to see their hard work and dedication produce such positive results."

"The Honor Roll is the only school recognition program in California based solely on objective achievement data," said Marilyn Reznick, ERP's board chair. "Schools don't even know they've earned the honor until we tell them. Our goal is to guide other educators to data-informed best practices for raising student achievement."

"ERP is all about improving educational equity and promoting career readiness for all students, regardless of their family income, background or ZIP code," said James Lanich, Ph.D., ERP president and CEO. "These Honor Roll schools and districts are living proof that our students can succeed when schools are committed to removing educational obstacles and accelerating student success. By focusing attention on these bright spots among our schools, we hope to change the conversation from 'what's wrong' to 'what's working,' and encourage others to replicate their success."

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Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

# School News

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Welcome back to a new school year. By now the students are settled into their routines and focused on academics.

This is our 7th year publishing the Fullerton School District *School News* and there is so much good news to share. On page 3, Superintendent Dr. Pletka begins this issue writing

about the 18 schools receiving state recognition and he continues with more good news on page 4 regarding the Educational Results Partnership Honor. You might want to find a comfortable chair as you enjoy this issue.

Our next issue is February 12, 2020.



## Common Sense Media

### Texting and Driving: A Killing Combination



Teens love to text. They'll send messages any time and anywhere. But if they text from behind the wheel of a car, the results could be deadly.

Studies show that texting and driving is as dangerous as drinking and driving. If you text while behind the wheel, you're 23 times more likely to crash. Although many states have laws making it illegal to text while driving, teens (and many parents) still do it, even though they know it's dangerous. When teens are driving, any activity besides keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel -- like emailing, downloading music, taking pictures -- is a huge no no.

So how can you make sure your teen is phone-free while behind the wheel?

- **Make it non-negotiable.** Teens need to understand that keys and phones simply do not mix. Let them know that distracted driving is just as dangerous as drunk driving.
- **Set clear rules.** Tell your teens to turn off their phones and put them in the glove box before they start the car.

If you're not sure your teen has the will power to do this consistently, consider using apps that specifically restrict texting while driving.

- **Download an app that disables the phone when you're driving.** If you don't trust yourself, get an app that will keep you honest.
  - **Set an example.** Resist the impulse to check your own phone while in traffic. Your kids are watching what you do. And chances are, they'll copy your behavior.
- There's no denying that texting is here to stay. So managing when and where your kids do use their phones is critical -- not just for their development, but for their safety as well.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)

# Business Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/446-1066 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Robert Coghlan**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## Imagine the Beet with a NEW iPad!

*By: Chrysilia Moniaga,  
FSD Nutrition Services*

National School Lunch Week is coming up on October 14-18! This year's theme is School Lunch: What's on Your Playlist (Menu)? Students have four lunch entrees to choose from every day which include vegetarian options. We encourage you to review the menu with your child and decide how they would like to personalize their "playlist" or menu this week. The menu can be found on our website at [fullertonnutrition.org](http://fullertonnutrition.org). We will also be conducting a student raffle and a school site competition. Students who eat lunch every day for the week will be entered into a raffle to win a new iPad! WooHoo!! For the school competition, the school that has the greatest percent increase in participation during the month of October will win a BBQ lunch for the entire school! We cannot wait to see your kids at the lunch line!



**Students enjoy the Turkey Nachos with Salsa, a new menu item for lunch. Watch for more scratch made items on the menu identified by the whisk next to them.**

## Personnel Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Chad Hammitt**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

### **CIRCLES of Excellence: Fullerton School District Core Values**

In Fall 2018, a representative group of 100 employees representing all levels and classification of staff worked to identify the Core Values that represent FSD and how best to exemplify what we strive for daily. The core values of FSD are the CIRCLES of Excellence: Collaboration, Integrity, Respect, Communication, Lead Learners (Growth Mindset), Empathy, and Student Centered which singularly are important, but collectively are so much stronger. The CIRCLES of Excellence are what guides FSD as we work collectively to serve our students and their families.

One thread, although significant, is not strong by itself. When a thread is combined with other threads, it becomes stronger. Strands of thread bound together with others create a strong connection, able to accomplish more. One act of the CIRCLES is significant, but may not be impactful in isolation. Multiple acts of the CIRCLES when working together, can have a significant impact. When a community of engaged individuals commences and performs multiple acts of the CIRCLE, they are able to make great change creating CIRCLES of Excellence.



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## Acacia *Elementary*

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • fullertonsd.org



**Liz Leon**  
*Principal*

### Donut Dance Party

We kicked off the year celebrating our students' academic success. For the fourth year in a row, our students took on the challenge and amazed us with their performance on SBAC.

Our collective school community is living into our mission to provide an education of the highest quality, blending the resources of home, school, and community. We are committed to empowering students to reach their full potential with rigorous academic standards. We develop confident children who can collaborate, create and communicate in a constantly evolving world. We recognize we cannot accomplish our goals without parent and community support as well as the relentless dedication of our teachers and students.

We were so proud and wanted to thank our students with a little surprise and so we planned a donut themed dance party! All of our teachers joined in on the fun and we performed a flash mob dance for students.



## Beechwood

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • fullertonsd.org



**Julie Graham**  
*Principal*

### Bobcats reach Platinum Level

Beechwood School has been recognized by the State of California as a great and safe environment in which to grow and learn!

This year, the school has reached the Platinum level for implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This prestigious award exemplifies our commitment to explicitly teach our students high expectations for being safe, respectful, and responsible young people. Our school culture focuses on developing positive relationships in an engaging and inclusive environment both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition, we have something for everyone to keep kids connected and interested in school. They can explore their passions and interests through lunchtime sports, coding and robotics, math competitions, writers' guild, book clubs, orchestra, band, speech and debate and so much more.

Our middle school students enjoy listening to music as they get to eat lunch in the quad on Fridays. Beechwood teachers are always building connections and relationships through our reading and writing workshop models.



Our students are proud to come to Beechwood and be called Bobcats. All you see every Friday is a sea of green as students proudly wear their Beechwood spirit wear. Creating a school environment where everyone thrives is a top priority.

Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat!

## Commonwealth *Elementary*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • fullertonsd.org



**Anita Lomeli**  
*Principal*

### No Excuses University

Commonwealth Tigers and Staff are very excited to announce that our hard work, dedication to student learning, and focused implementation

of school wide systems have paid off! We enter the 2019-2020 school year celebrating a GOLD level recognition by the CA PBIS Coalition for the successful implementation and fidelity of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Our students benefit greatly from knowing and following behavior expectations that exemplify our core values of integrity, responsibility, organization, accountability, and respect.



In addition, we offer additional supports for students who need extra guidance to be successful. Achievement continues with the certification as a High Reliability School in the area of Safe, Supportive, and Collaborative School. We developed and effectively implemented processes that focused on curriculum, instruction, assessment, and learning for all students. But, wait! There's more!

We have been accepted into the No Excuses University network of like-minded schools across the nation who strive to ensure college and career readiness for all students due to the implementation of exceptional systems that foster an unyielding belief in our students, achievement, and their future. CW Tigers ROAR!

## Fern Drive *Elementary*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Julie Brandon**  
*Principal*

### Response to Intervention

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a three-tiered approach to early identification and support of students with learning needs. At Fern Drive, this process begins the first day of school with high-quality instruction and universal screening for all students.

RTI is a crucial part of student success at Fern Drive. Falcons receive daily targeted, specific instruction in skills they need to fine tune, all with a literacy focus. Areas teachers target include phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, reading accuracy, reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary development and English Language Development for our identified ELs. Student progress is monitored, and teachers switch students based on progress approximately every eight weeks.

In addition to doing these daily, targeted rotations, our RTI coach meets with students four times weekly to ensure that they are receiving targeted support with additional foundational skills.

Falcons are soaring to new heights with literacy skills!



# Robert C. Fisler

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • fullertonsd.org



**Yolanda Castillo**  
Interim Principal

## Award-Winning Photography

Robert C. Fisler School has a tradition of award-winning photography by our students. Last year, eighteen student photo submissions were chosen for the Imagination Celebration Art Show and their work was exhibited at the Crystal Court. Four student photos were juried

and chosen for the Laguna Student Festival of the Arts at the Pageant of the Masters and one of our 8th Grade students, Amber Reuter, won top photography honors for Middle School with her photo, "Something to Reflect On." Fisler students Ela Mehta and Clay Choi won 2nd and 3rd place honors for their work.

Students in the Fisler Technology Classes learn about and experience digital photography in a variety of settings. They use desktop studios for indoor photography and are given many opportunities to take outdoor photos around school and at surrounding parks. Students are also encouraged to practice their photography skills by taking photos on their own time, away from school, as well.

Our technology program in middle school is one of the best and our students are learning to grow and develop their skills as masters of photography!



**Amber Reuter - "Something to Reflect On"**

## Golden Hill Elementary

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • fullertonsd.org



**Katrina Piche**  
Principal

## A Peaceful Playground

If you look at our kindergarten play area at Golden Hill Elementary School, during recess you will see our students distributed evenly, laughing and playing peacefully. This past summer, we completed our Peaceful Playground black top project. The bright, colorful, carefully spaced and painted designs will support our kindergarten students at recess and also with outdoor educational experiences.

Parents shared that they are excited to see how kids interact with the new game options and the increased opportunity for creativity and playing together with kindness and care.

Mrs. Higgs, one of Golden Hill's veteran kindergarten teachers, says, "Our Peaceful Playground offers opportunities for children to play all inclusive games and problem solve with their peers peacefully. Every child wins on our Peaceful Playground."



## Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • fullertonsd.org



**Danielle Ramirez**  
*Principal*

### High Reliability Schools Journey

Hermosa Drive is very excited to begin our High Reliability Schools journey for Level 2-Effective Teaching In Every Classroom! We will be focusing on three domains: feedback, content, and context. We have identified 20 teaching elements that will take place in every classroom grades K-6. Our staff is committed to refining and improving their teaching pedagogies and ensuring that our

students' needs are met at every level.

The six critical questions that will drive our work this year are: What is it we want our students to know? How will we know if our students are learning? How will we respond when students do not learn? How will we enrich and extend the learning for students who are proficient? How will we increase our instructional competence? How will we coordinate our efforts as a school?

Hosa Drive's academic rigor will continue to flourish as we continue this important work with High Reliability Schools.



## Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • fullertonsd.org



**Bill Lynch**  
*Principal*

### Broadway Goes to the Movies

This year the LVP fall production is "Broadway Goes to the Movies," a look at shows that have dazzled audiences on the stage as well as the silver screen. The original show features an enticing mix of musical theater favorites from Rogers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim and

more. The show runs one night only on October 25th at the Ladera Vista Performance Center located on campus.

The student cast comes exclusively from Ladera Vista Productions (LVP), our musical theater production class. LVP also includes our "Triple Threat" students, which includes students who take a dance, a choir, and a theatre class in their student schedule. Students interested in joining the LVP program and other advanced

performing arts electives must give auditions in March to be eligible. While participating in the rehearsal and performance processes students learn critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, social skills, and performance vocabulary and techniques.



## Laguna Road *Elementary*

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Cindy Bak**  
*Principal*

### Big and Little Buddies

Laguna Road Elementary School is committed to creating a safe and positive school environment for all students. We are proud to be a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) school that has received silver medal recognition in just our first year of implementation.

We have clear expectations for all Roadrunners to “ACT” responsibly, with the “ACT” representing Accountable, Courageous, and Thoughtful. Our staff explicitly teaches and reinforces these expectations using our Radical Roadrunner incentive system and provides systems of support to address students’ social, emotional, and behavioral needs. For example, our teachers have designed a big buddy and little buddy system to facilitate positive relationships across grade levels, develop leadership skills, and create mentorship opportunities. In this picture, a 6th grade big buddy shares his passion for sharks as he reads to his kindergarten little buddy.



## Maple *Elementary*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • fullertonsd.org



**Anthony Abney**  
*Principal*

### VIP PLUS Program Receives Upgrade

Maple School has upgraded its VIP PLUS iPad Take-Home program. This unique program supplies each of Maple’s students (Transitional Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade) with an iPad to use at school and at home.

For this school year, Maple has replaced all of its oldest iPads, so that all students are able to run the latest and greatest educational apps at school and at home. For students that do not have access to internet at home, Maple continues to offer before-school and after-school access, so all students are able to complete assignments, work on projects, and spend time on personalized, adaptive learning programs.

Maple’s vision is to provide a world-class education through experiential learning, and the VIP PLUS program allows students to have the world at their fingertips with information and learning tools just clicks away.



## Nicolas *Junior High School*

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • fullertonsd.org



**Robyn Clemente**  
*Principal*

### Classic Woodshop

Nicolas Junior High School is proud to announce the return of a classic: Woodshop. In recent years, Nicolas has become known for its forward thinking STEM programs, including robotics, coding, and our dynamic FESTO lab.

However, after being closed for several years, Woodshop has begun again for the 2019/2020 school year. It is well known that

students learn valuable life skills in Woodshop, and Mr. Vidales is the one to teach them. Mr. Vidales has taught many different subjects at Nicolas, including Spanish, Speech and Debate, Theater, English Language Arts, and History. Although this is Mr. Vidales's first year teaching Woodshop, he has been working with wood and doing carpentry for most of his life. He understands the interests of students and plans projects such as building video game consoles, game boards, and concept design vehicles. Nicolas students are involved in every step of the building process: design, preparation, cutting (with saw stops), building, painting, and finishing. Our talented students created games auctioned off at the Fullerton Education Foundation Toast to Learning last year and look forward to creating more prizes this year.



## Orangethorpe *Elementary*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Ginger Frady**  
*Principal*

### Grandparents Day

Tell us your story... On Wednesday, September 4th, over 200 grandparents joined us to share stories about their life adventures. Each ORCA student prepared for the event by interviewing their grandparents.

Additionally, our interviewers had the opportunity to practice valuable listening and speaking skills and celebrate someone they loved by sharing their stories with classmates. Students were captivated while listening to peers talk about the differences and similarities of schools then and now. While waiting for their grandchild to escort them to the classroom, grandparents enjoyed refreshments and took advantage of the time to meet other ORCA grandparents.

This opportunity highlighted the special bond between grandparents and grandchildren and was memorable for all involved.



**Orangethorpe ORCAs Celebrate Grandparents Day. American author Alex Haley said, "Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children."**

## Pacific Drive *Elementary*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Kelly Castillo**  
*Principal*

### Brand New Play Structure

Pacific Drive Elementary is proud to announce the ribbon cutting of their brand new play structure.

Thanks to the Orange County Department of Education, the school is now in its third year of the Healthy Schools Initiative (HSI).

Through collaboration with the United Way of Orange County and the Fullerton School District, participation in HSI has allowed Pacific Drive to bring a fresh water hydration station to campus. Additionally, these partnerships have provided wellness classes, cooking lessons, and recess volunteer opportunities for families in the community.

The students of Pacific Drive are thankful for every opportunity to grow up strong and healthy!



**Pacific Drive Elementary celebrates the opening of their new play structure.**

## Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • fullertonsd.org



**Laura Makely**  
*Principal*

### Off to a Great Start

The 2019-20 school year has started off with a great showing of support from our parent community. This year, our school focus continues to be Achievement, Culture, and Engagement, and our parents have demonstrated that they are truly engaged! Our first parent education night, “Creating Successful Students” took place on August 21 and was designed by Education Specialist Katherine Vidales. The workshop provided students and parents with the tools they need to create organization at home and at school to support academic success and was attended by over 300 people. Students and parents walked away with a customized schedule for homework and extracurricular activities as well as training in a student organizational system called “HOPS” (Homework Organization and Planning Skills.) This year’s parent



education nights at Parks include: Cyber Bullying and Social Media Safety (September); Vaping Education and Prevention (October), Introduction to Technology at Parks, Festive Holiday Cooking, and many more. We are grateful to partner with such supportive parents and look forward to many opportunities to engage with them this year.

## Raymond *Elementary*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • fullertonsd.org



**Yolanda McComb**  
*Principal*

### **Celebrating Impressive Academic Growth**

Raymond celebrates the beginning of a fantastic school year with another year behind us of impressive academic growth.

We also celebrate Raymond's after school enrichment classes offered to students on-site, which help to meet the diverse interests, strengths, and needs of our children. The after-school classes provided for students include math enrichment, speech & debate, dance, music, art, robotics, mentoring programs, gardening, and the FSD Stage program that prepares students to produce a play. Parents love our after-school programs.



Again, congratulations Raymond students, staff, and families for your hard work.

## Richman *Elementary*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • fullertonsd.org



**Kristen Holm**  
*Principal*

### **Mindset for Learning**

We are off to a great start at Richman and this school year promises to offer many opportunities for cultivating new friendships, tackling challenges, and celebrating each other's successes.

We are excited to share that we will be systematically teaching the traits of joyful, independent growth, otherwise known as the mindsets for learning: optimism, empathy, flexibility, persistence, and resilience.



Our goal for students is to begin to strengthen the traits associated with the personal and social responsibilities that are needed to be college and career ready. We will also practice self-talk that supports different traits; such as: "I am getting frustrated, but if I try again maybe I will get it."

Our dream for your child is that they grow to be flexible, resilient, empathic, optimistic individuals, brave in the face of risk, kind in the face of challenge, joyful and curious in all things. Way to go, Racers!

# Back to School!



## Rolling Hills *Elementary*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • fullertonsd.org



**Juleen Faur**  
*Principal*

### Back to School

The 2019-2020 school year has begun with new and exciting happenings at Rolling Hills!

The week before school began saw the return of the Rolling Hills Popsicle party to gather our returning families and celebrate new friends and teachers.

Back to school night on August 21st showcased the Rolling Hills Foundation activities for the year to raise funds to redo the iconic mural at the front of the school. Katherine England the original artist for the mural is so excited to return for a redo and revitalization of the mural. She showcased the different activities including student created artwork and student created mosaics that will be included in the new project. The Foundation hopes to raise the entire \$30,000 needed to complete the project via fundraisers like the annual Pancake Breakfast in April and our Dine for Dollars

event throughout the school year. PTA has agreed to dedicate the funds raised from Yearbook sales to support the mural as well.

Look for more details in the coming months about all of the ways our families can participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity.



## Sunset Lane *Elementary*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Tracy Gyurina**  
*Principal*

### Platinum PBIS School

Sunset Lane Elementary School is beyond excited to announce our prestigious recognition as a platinum PBIS school for implementing positive behavior interventions and supports with fidelity during the 2018-2019 school year. This award recognizes our ongoing efforts to educate the whole child and our commitment

to meeting the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of our students.

By developing a school-wide continuum of interventions and supports, we are able to teach and encourage pro-social skills while also being proactive in addressing potential challenging behaviors. Student performance and progress is monitored consistently and data is used to inform our decisions,

while always keeping the best interest of our students in mind. Our continued focus is on building relationships and we are blessed to have our school community supporting these ongoing efforts.

Sunset Lane is beyond proud of this accomplishment and we look forward to another successful year implementing our PBIS practices.



**Staff celebrating the announcement of their Platinum PBIS Implementation Award recognition.**

## Valencia Park *Elementary*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • fullertonsd.org



**Dr. Erlinda Soltero-Ruiz**  
*Principal*

### Mindfulness Practices

At Valencia Park, the implementation of mindfulness practices in the K-6 classrooms has enhanced the learning environment for all learners. Students are taught to focus on the present moment through simple, effective strategies. With mindful listening, mindful breathing, and mindful bodies, students pause, pay attention to their experience, and reflect on their learning. Having self-awareness and the ability to self-regulate

have made Valencia Park Lions more productive and intentional learners.

Mindfulness practices are not just in the four walls of the classroom. These practices are shared and utilized in different capacities. Teachers participate in mindfulness exercises as well. This creates a calm and relaxed environment where they can collaborate on best teaching practices. Parents were informed of these practices at Back to School Night and have seen how mindfulness can reduce stress and anxiety in students. Overall, mindfulness practices at Valencia Park have positively impacted students, parents, and staff on many levels.



## Woodcrest *Elementary*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • fullertonsd.org



**Rochelle Wolf**  
*Principal*

### Embracing Diversity

Our mission is to Embrace Diversity and Build Empathy to Make the World a Better Place. Two of our teachers, Mrs. Susie Wren and Mrs. Leanna Pionke, attended a workshop at the Museum of Tolerance that inspired them to bring social justice education to Woodcrest. Using resources from Teaching Tolerance, our teachers

created a year plan to bring lessons into their classrooms to empower kids to embrace diversity and build empathy. With this addition, our data has shown a decrease in bullying and problematic behaviors. Wanting to make the impact even greater, Mrs. Wren and Ms. Pionke presented on this topic at both the CUE Conference and ISTE Conference. This resulted in a partnership with schools in New York and Hawaii to create an Equity Art Exhibition at ISTE 2020. Showing kids how to embrace diversity to build empathy through deliberate instruction has certainly made our school a better place!





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## Note-ables



**Kate Karp**

### 'Can You Feel It?'

*Can You Feel It?* is a collection of original songs about natural science, played simply and organically. Banjo, bass, steel guitar, drums and keyboard blend with Jessa Campbell's lilting voice as she sings to both young people and adults about sun and shadow, a salmon's circular journey from birth to spawning adulthood, burrowing mammals, fractals...

Wait—*fractals?*

Yes, fractals. And alevins, bract, trillium and frass. *Can You Feel It?* doesn't play cute with science. The selections enchantingly introduce science vocabulary without being didactic or windy. They sneak up on anthropomorphism but don't diminish or trivialize the concepts through fantasy. "Waltz of the Trillium and Ant," for instance, encapsulates the natural partnership of flower structure, ant colonies, pollination and germination in a waltz melody. It's like a fairy tale, but the sprites are unarguably real. "Mole in the Ground," written in the Appalachian mountain tune manner, speeds up or slows down each verse depending on the pace of each animal.



The title song has a silent tone and focuses on feeling instead of sound. The listener can feel the waves as the salmon roll from freshwater to saltwater and back, changing from alevin to smolt to adult. The bouncy "T-Rex in the Forest" begs to be acted out by children who'll enjoy snoring like a prehistoric reptile. "How I Love You, Sun" is a worthy love song to the star that gives light, energy and life to everything on Earth.

How Campbell manages to pack so many ideas about each topic into every song without cramming it all in is a marvel, like her subjects themselves.

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

## Christina's Book Review



**Christina J.**

### We All Feel Things

*The Art of Feeling* by Laura Tims

Samantha (Sam) is in high school, on crutches and in pain everyday after her leg got injured in a car accident. Tragically, Sam's mother perished in the accident, and Sam struggles to come to terms with that. Sam meets a new student Elliot, who has a very unusual illness - he can't feel physical pain.

The two somehow become friends, and little by little they start to fill the voids in each other's lives. Sam is curious how it might be to go through life without feeling the physical pain, but finds out that not all pain is physical. While all characters must deal with their problems, real and imaginary, they all discover and rediscover friendships, support and understanding in each other. Most importantly, Sam is helped to remember the driver of the other car, which caused the tragic accident. One of the highlights of the book, in my opinion, is what Sam chooses to do with this vital information. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Christina is in 10th grade. She is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book on adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student, her favorite subjects are Spanish and AFJROTC. She likes to help animals and take care of them. Christina is a young author. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now* (Studenttreasures Publishing, PIN #3582798).

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