

FREE

School News



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Covering the Orange Unified School District

Volume 16, Issue 75

September–November 2021

Welcome to A New School Year!



Superintendent Gunn Marie Hansen, Ph.D., welcomes students.

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Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Orange Unified School District! I hope you had a safe and relaxing summer break.

We have spent the past few months planning for this new school year as we continue to follow our strategic plan, The Orange Unified EDGE, and focus on actions that reinforce Excellence in academics and leadership, Dedicated and engaged communication, Genuine wellness and safety, and Efficient utilization of fiscal capital.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families are of the utmost importance, and we continue to follow public health guidance, including enhanced health and safety measures, on our campuses.

To help mitigate learning loss from the challenges of the past year, we have implemented expanded learning opportunities to help support student success and wellness. We appreciate the partnership and support of our stakeholders in the collaborative effort involved to serve the diverse needs of our students and families. Award-winning schools and academic achievement are direct results of the hard work and dedication of Orange Unified staff in collaboration with our parents and the OUSD community.

Exciting things continue to happen District-wide: Measure S Phase 1 construction will be wrapping up soon, with the STEM Complexes at Canyon, El Modena, and Villa Park High Schools set to open in 2022. We are very excited to see these Measure S projects come to life for our students and community.

Facilities district-wide are also being revitalized and updated, with new playgrounds, shade structures, and water bottle filling stations being installed across the District.

Please stay up-to-date on Measure S construction, the progress of our innovative educational programs, and other important district communication by visiting our website at orangeusd.org and following us on social media.

It truly takes a village, and I am incredibly proud of the enhanced educational programs and student opportunities we continue to provide, despite the challenges we have faced and mindful of the health and safety of our students, staff, and community.

Orange Unified School District
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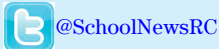
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



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Netragrednik

Welcome back to a new school year! It is wonderful to have some form of normalcy back in our lives and especially for children.

This is a popular issue with bios. Principals always highlight others so this is an opportunity for us to shine the light on them.

I always enjoy your comments when you email your answers to the contests. In this issue are two seek 'n find contests on pages 11 & 19 (all ages may enter).

Our popular student book reviews are on pages 22 & 23.

December 8th is our next issue.



Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

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OUSD Alternative Education

Parkside Education Center: 250 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA 92869
www.orangeusd.org/parkside



Justin Stanfield
Coordinator

Greetings from Parkside!

I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to serve as the Coordinator of Alternative Education. The 2021-2022 school year marks my 6th year as the site administrator here at the Parkside Education Center. I am very proud of all the hard work and accomplishments by our students, staff and families here.

Prior to my time at Parkside, I was an Assistant Principal at Villa Park High School for five years. While at VPHS I oversaw discipline, student records, guidance and curriculum. My time at Villa Park was amazing, and I had the pleasure of working with some of the best administrators, teachers, students and parents around!

Before coming to OUSD I was a classroom teacher and coach in the Irvine Unified School District. I taught middle school history and PE for 2 years at Sierra Vista Middle School and then spent 4 years in the same capacity at Creekside Continuation High School. I am extremely excited to serve the students and families of Parkside Education Center. If I can ever be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169
www.orangeusd.org/anaheim-hills-elementary-school



Nicole Van Wilgen-Moore
Principal

Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore is proud to belong to Anaheim Hills Elementary School (AHES), as she starts her fourth school year as a Panther. This will be Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore's 12th year in education and her 7th year in administration. Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore has had a diverse set of experiences and roles as an educator including a teacher, educational technology coach, Coordinator in the Orange Unified Office of K-12 Curriculum & Instruction, and her favorite role as Panther Principal.

Last school year, Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore and the AHES community rallied together to provide signature programs and activities to Panther students during a global pandemic, including school-wide fitness/recess rotations, Boosterthon Panther Prowl, art lessons, and PBIS incentives. With the support of AHES PTA, Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore was able to add an additional five SMART displays to classrooms throughout the campus. Additionally, she was able to expand the academic support and enhancements available to students by adding Lexia and iReady to the AHES campus.

This school year AHES will continue to implement the district-adopted Social Emotional Learning curriculum to support our AHES Panthers as they return to school this Fall. With the support of our district, morning fitness as well as other health-centered opportunities will be made available to all AHES students this school year. With our continued AVID focus, we will ensure all students have the skills and opportunities to prepare them for limitless future possibilities including college and career readiness.

AHES is so fortunate to have dedicated educators that are committed to providing strong and exceptional educational experiences to meet the needs of all of our Panther students each and every day. Mrs. Van Wilgen Moore is so thankful for the outstanding Panther students, families, and staff that she gets to work with at AHES and is looking forward to an exciting and productive 2021-22 school year!

California *Elementary School*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104
www.orangeusd.org/california-elementary-school-k-5



Dr. Misty Brunasso
Principal

Dr. Misty Brunasso is thrilled to begin her second year as principal at California Elementary school home of the iInspire Academy where Technology and Language Flourish! iInspire Academy is the premier public one-to-one Take Home iPad School for grades TK-5, and a Spanish Dual Immersion program. She looks forward to a year of innovation, collaboration and success with the students, teachers, and the community of California Elementary.

This school year California Elementary will implement our new and improved Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program to assist all students school wide on their pathway to success. We will continue the work with our CARE Bears peer mentor group and ASB. With the support of our district, we will also implement Sports for Learning. The purpose of the Sports For Learning curriculum is to use fun, physically active games and sports as a vehicle to engage students in social & emotional learning.

We will continue to focus on our Apple Distinguished School by using iPad and Mac products to inspire student creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. Our school cultivates environments in which students are excited and curious about learning. Students will engage in Robotics, Drones, Coding, Music and the Arts.

California is so fortunate to have dedicated educators that are committed to providing strong and exceptional educational experiences to meet the needs of all of our student's every day. Welcome to the 21/22 school year Dr. Brunasso cannot wait to get our year started! Our California Bears will show their P.A.W.S. and together we will succeed!

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Cambridge *Elementary School*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103
www.orangeusd.org/cambridge-elementary-school



Dana Encheff
Principal

Welcome back Cambridge Families! Dana Encheff is honored to be serving as the newly appointed Principal of Cambridge Elementary School. He has been with Orange Unified for 15 years, and served in a variety of roles, which include being a substitute and elementary teacher, instructional coach with Educational Technology, TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) for STEM and CTE, and, most recently, the assistant principal of McPherson Magnet. He was born and raised in Southern California, and earned his bachelor's degree right around the corner at Chapman University and his teaching credential and master's of education from Cal. State Fullerton.

Mr. Encheff's focus in the 2021-2022 school year is to continue working with the entire Cambridge community to support all of his students as they grow into Cubs that ROCK--Cubs that are Responsible, Organized, College and Career Ready, and Kind. The school experience has changed greatly for parents, students, and staff during the last two years. Notwithstanding these changes and challenges, his team at Cambridge is excited to engage with their students and support them in their academic, social-emotional, and physical growth.

On a personal note, Mr. Encheff enjoys spending time with his wife and three kids and his community of friends by playing and designing board games, watching his kids perform and compete in sports, jamming on his piano and guitar, and being outside in nature.

He is looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year and all that we can make happen this year for our students as a community!

Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000
www.canyonhighschool.org



Craig Abercrombie
Principal

Craig Abercrombie is excited to start the 2021-22 school year at Canyon High School. He is entering his 24th year as an educator and his 19th year in the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). After graduating from college, Craig began his teaching career in Arizona. He joined OUSD as an English teacher and the head boys' basketball coach at Orange High School in 2003. While at Orange High, he also served as the athletic director before becoming an assistant principal in 2011. As the assistant principal, he was responsible for special education, interventions, and curriculum and instruction.

Craig is extremely proud of the commitment to excellence and the amazing accomplishments by the students and staff at Canyon High School. He feels extremely fortunate to have been able to share in the many successes of the past six years with his fellow Comanche community and looks forward to the many accomplishments to come this year.

Growing up in small towns in Oklahoma and Texas with educator parents, Craig understands the important role a school plays as a part of the community and enjoys working with all stakeholders in the Canyon community to make Canyon High School the best it can be. He is a graduate of the University of Texas-Arlington and holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education administration. Craig and his wife, Veronica, are residents of Orange and are the proud parents of a ten-year old son, Braxton, who attends Serrano Elementary in OUSD.

Canyon Rim *Elementary School*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027
www.orangeusd.org/canyon-rim-elementary-school



Bree Tippetts
Principal

Mrs. Bree Tippetts is the proud principal at Canyon Rim Elementary. Mrs. Tippetts holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services and a Master's Degree in Special Education. She also holds a multiple subject and education specialist teaching credentials. With over 16 years of experience and 12 years in leadership, Mrs. Tippetts is passionate about student achievement and progress, student engagement, high-quality instruction and school community safety and connectedness.

Providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities that challenge student thinking in the areas of math, science, technology, and literacy is a priority for

Mrs. Tippetts. She works with her teachers, students, parents, and community as a collaborative facilitator to ensure data-driven school improvement, targeted instruction and assessment to meet the needs of all learners and community partnerships that offer students opportunities to think creatively and critically, collaborate and solve problems.

Mrs. Tippetts values her outstanding staff, students, parents, and community. As a product of Orange Unified, resident of a local community and mother of two, she is invested in all students and strives daily to ensure that Canyon Rim Roadrunners are prepared to be our future leaders. Go Canyon Rim Roadrunners!

Canyon Hills *High School*

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • www.orangeusd.org/canyon-hills



Dr. John Erratt
Coordinator

Dr. John Erratt is excited to begin his second year as Special Education Program Coordinator for Canyon Hills School. He looks forward to supporting the Canyon Hill students and families and continuing Canyon Hills' history of partnership with the community. Dr. Erratt's career in education includes 11 years as an education specialist at Villa Park High School and seven years as a special education program coordinator overseeing communicative disorders services and other programs.

Dr. Erratt earned a Bachelor's degree in Russian from the University of California, Irvine and a Master's degree in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He worked as a clinical audiologist for 20 years before making a career change to education. He earned Special Education teaching credentials and a Ph.D. in Education from Chapman University. He holds Education Specialist teaching

credentials with mild/moderate and moderate/severe authorizations, an Educational Audiology credential, and an Administrative Services Credential.

On a personal note, Dr. Erratt is an Orange County native, growing up in Garden Grove. He and his wife enjoy spending time with family and friends, especially their two daughters and three granddaughters in the Boston area and in Northern California. The family was excited to spend a week camping together over the summer after not being able to all be together for 18 months.

Dr. Erratt believes that all students should have access to a supportive and nurturing environment to grow and has committed his career in education to supporting students with disabilities. He looks forward to building on the positive work done by the staff and families at Canyon Hills School. He is dedicated to supporting the unique academic, social-emotional, and physical needs of the Canyon Hills students and their families and looks forward to developing the program with creativity and innovation.



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Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251
www.cerrovilla.org



Madeline Morrison
Principal

Madeline Morrison is extremely honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Interim Principal of Cerro Villa, the middle school home of OUSD's Mandarin Dual Immersion Program. She is very proud of all the dedication and achievements by the students, staff, and families at Cerro Villa and all the many amazing programs! This is her second year in OUSD, serving as assistant principal of Cerro Villa last year.

Prior to her transition to Orange Unified, she was an Assistant Principal for five years in the Fullerton Joint Unified High School District serving in different capacities at Buena Park and La Habra High Schools. Before her career in administration, she spent eight years as a middle, high school, and adult education teacher in the Los Angeles and Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School Districts. She received her bachelor's degree in Latin American and Latino Studies from UC Santa Cruz in 2005, received her teaching credential from Cal State Northridge in 2007, received her first master's degree in Education with a focus on Reading and Language Arts, and reading specialist credential, in 2012, and received another master's degree in Educational Leadership, and her administrative services credential, from Cal State Fullerton in 2015. She is currently in her last year of the doctorate program at Cal State Fullerton anticipating finishing in 2022. Outside of her career in education, she enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, and spending time with her husband and their two-year-old daughter. She is excited to serve the students and families of Cerro Villa and welcomes you to stop in and say hello and take a tour with her anytime! She looks forward to a year of collaboration and building relationships with the community. Go Vikings!

Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043
www.orangeusd.org/chapman-hills-elementary-school



Jana Saenz
Principal

Jana Saenz is excited to embark on the continued work at Chapman Hills. She is honored to be working with the amazing Bobcat staff, students and parent community in an effort to work collaboratively to continue the traditions and level of success Chapman Hills has experienced in years past. This year is Chapman Hills' 30th anniversary! We are excited to celebrate the 30 years of tradition and excellence throughout this school year! If you

have any pictures or memorabilia please feel free share to the email ChapmanHillsPrincipal@orangeusd.org. The teachers, students and PTA will be working to hold a special community event later in the year to commemorate such an exciting time!

Mrs. Saenz is a transplant to Southern California. She grew up in Tucson, AZ and moved to California to attend Chapman University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She then received her Master's Degree in Special Education from Chapman University and later an Administrative Credential for California State University, Fullerton. Mrs. Saenz has had the pleasure of holding numerous roles during her 21 years in the Orange Unified School District, including special education teacher, general education teacher, instructional coach and assistant principal. She has a passion for curriculum instruction, student achievement and assessment. Mrs. Saenz resides in Orange with her husband and three children. All three of Mrs. Saenz' children attend school in Orange Unified School District thus she is truly vested in the Orange Unified School District both as a professional and a parent.

Mrs. Saenz and the Chapman Hills staff are excited to highlight Chapman Hills' best practices in technology usage across the grades levels, STEM, writing, small group differentiated instruction and AVID 4th-6th grades. Bobcats R.O.A.R!

Crescent *Elementary School*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • www.orangeusd.org/crescent-elementary-school



Antoinette Coe
Principal

Mrs. Antoinette Coe is excited to continue as Principal at Crescent Elementary for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Coe has 24 years of education experience, 19 years of which have been spent with Orange Unified School District. She has held the positions of teacher, Instructional Specialist, Assistant Principal, and Principal. With an extensive and varied background in curriculum and instruction, best instructional strategies, and

supporting all learners, Principal Coe is uniquely qualified to lead in 2021's unprecedented learning environment.

The years Mrs. Coe has spent in education have only reinforced her belief that increased student engagement produces lifelong learners with the critical thinking skills

and confidence necessary for future success. She is devoted to the collaboration of staff and community to create a safe and positive learning environment for all Crescent students.

Principal Coe graduated from Cal State San Marcos with her BA in Liberal Studies, with an emphasis in Sociology, along with her multiple-subject teaching credential. She received her Master's in Educational Leadership from Cal State Fullerton and her Administrative Credentials from UCI. She resides in Anaheim with her husband and enjoys visiting her two oldest children in Portland and Michigan. Her youngest lives locally and is currently pursuing an elementary teaching credential. Mrs. Coe is looking forward to welcoming her first grandchild in March. In her spare time, social restrictions notwithstanding, she also enjoys reading, hiking and traveling.

El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.elmodenahs.org



Jill Katevas
Principal

Jill Katevas is the proud principal here at El Modena High School. She was born and raised in Long Beach, California and earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature from Long Beach State, and later earned her teaching credential from Chapman University. She has proudly served as a public educator in the Orange Unified School District for the past 20 years. Though education is a second career feat, persevering

through all challenges are what ultimately determined her level of success. Thus, she is committed to fostering these skills in all students.

She is truly honored to support the service of the incredibly dedicated staff of El Modena High School, as they teach our students. In Vanguard Nation, we have a student-first focus and strive to create a wide array of opportunities for students so that each one will find a connection to our school that drives their social, emotional, and academic success.

Throughout her tenure as an educator, she has learned that true education goes beyond a strong academic program on campus. It's critical that students have many opportunities to explore their interests and define their passions. She knows the value of developing strong partnerships with parents and the community, as she believes it truly takes a village to raise a child. Thus, she is committed to working closely with Vanguard staff and families, as well as the broader Orange Community, to ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education that will support their pursuit of college and career goals.

Fairhaven *Elementary School*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178
www.orangeusd.org/fairhaven-elementary-school



Christina Hiraes
Principal

A big welcome to Christina Hiraes the very proud Principal of Fairhaven Elementary! She was born at St. Joseph's Hospital, she is the youngest of five children and is happy to say that she is a proud product of Orange Unified School District. She loved going to Fred Kelly Stadium to watch all of her older siblings graduate. She has been fortunate enough to marry her best friend and they have seven children

together. Her husband is also a principal, so they thoroughly understand the demands between work and home. She has been an educator for 24 years and is very excited for this new school year. She believes that all students can learn and will do so if they are in a rigorous and safe environment. We want to ensure that all students believe in their capacity to do great things in this world! Go Falcons!

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238
elranchocharter.org



Michele Walker
Principal

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! Michele Walker is proud to be starting her 18th year at El Rancho Charter School where she has served as both an Assistant Principal and Principal. Mrs. Walker holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and was a collegiate athlete at the University of Oregon. She also holds a Masters' degree in Education Administration from National University. Prior to coming to El Rancho, Mrs.

Walker was a history teacher and volleyball coach. It is with great enthusiasm she continues to work with the students, parents, and staff in the next steps of their educational journey!

Esplanade *Elementary School*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157
www.orangeusd.org/esplanade



Christina Yokoyama
Principal

Mrs. Christi Yokoyama is looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year continuing in her role as the Principal of Esplanade Elementary School. The 21-22 school year will mark Mrs. Yokoyama's 22nd year in education. She began her career as a classroom teacher in the Tustin Unified School District where she taught at both the elementary and middle school levels. This will be her 9th year in administration in the Orange Unified School District, and her 6th year at Esplanade Elementary School.

Mrs. Yokoyama holds a Bachelor's Degree from California State University, Fresno and a Master's Degree from California State University, Fullerton, both in Biological Sciences. She continued her education at CSU Fullerton, earning her teaching credential, and later, returned to complete her administrative services credential. Mrs. Yokoyama is a National Board-Certified Teacher, participates in Western Association of Schools & Colleges accreditation committees, and was a Cotsen Family Foundation Fellow, specializing in reading and writing instruction.

Mrs. Yokoyama is proud to be part of the OUSD family and is excited to continue the progress occurring at Esplanade Elementary School where the school staff has been working tirelessly to provide world-class educational opportunities for all students. Mrs. Yokoyama looks forward to continuing to work alongside the community, students, and staff of Esplanade in their pursuit of 21st Century teaching and learning through a strong foundation of core academics integrated with STEAM exploration. It is an exciting time to be an Eagle!

Fletcher *Elementary School*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • www.orangeusd.org/fletcher-elementary-school



Sara Pelly
Principal

Sara Pelly is the proud Principal of Fletcher Elementary - OUSD's Dual Language Mandarin Immersion School. She is attempting to learn Mandarin along with her students, although her students are learning much more quickly!

Mrs. Pelly began her teaching career at Crescent Primary School in OUSD where she taught for nine years, and then moved to Centralia School District in Buena Park

where she taught in the Gifted and Talented Program with first and second graders. After becoming an administrator, Mrs. Pelly was a Student Support Community Liaison and then served as a principal for eight years. She was able to learn some sign language at her most recent school in Centralia that housed a Total Communication Program serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

A native Coloradoan, Mrs. Pelly attended Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma where she earned her teaching credential and a B.S. in Elementary Education. After working as a College Admissions Counselor, she traveled to California for a job interview, and instantly fell in love with the beautiful city of Orange. Teaching preschool for the summer, Mrs. Pelly decided to stay in California to begin her teaching career, and earn her M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction and Administrative Services Credential at Chapman University.

Mrs. Pelly spends her free time volunteering at local nursing homes, shelters and hospitals with her dog Orvis-- a licensed therapy dog! She and her husband, Mike, also enjoy fly-fishing, are involved in the Men's and Women's Lacrosse Parent Booster program at Chapman University, and are a part of the Community Foundation of Orange.

Handy *Elementary School*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • www.orangeusd.org/handy-elementary-school



Erika Krohn
Principal

Mrs. Erika Krohn is the proud principal of Handy Elementary School. She is looking forward to continuing Handy's commitment to learning today makes a brighter tomorrow. This is Mrs. Krohn's 3rd principalship in Orange Unified. Prior to coming to Orange Unified, she was a principal and assistant principal in La Puente, and an elementary school teacher in Rowland Heights. Her recognitions include: Orange Unified

Administrator of the Year in 2012/2013, PTA Outstanding Administrator in 2013, and Outstanding Administrator from Los Angeles County Bilingual Director Association in 2008. Under her leadership and with collaboration of staff, her schools have earned the Golden Bell Award, Title I Academic Achievement Award, and Gold Ribbon School. Mrs. Krohn is a product of Orange Unified Schools: Taft Elementary, Cerro Villa Middle School, and Villa

Park High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fullerton, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from Chapman University, and a Master's Degree from National University. United with the staff, Handy proudly offers a one to one iPad program, AVID, restorative practices, Visual and Performing Arts conservatory classes, Robotics Team, and differentiated learning to meet the needs of all students.

On a personal note, Mrs. Krohn enjoys spending time with her husband and 2 children. When not at Handy, she can be found at her kids' sporting and dance events and skiing the slopes of Mammoth.

Mrs. Krohn is looking forward to a productive school year of in-person instruction with the dynamic Handy community. She and the staff will be working collaboratively to provide extraordinary and safe learning experiences that the students will never forget!



Imperial *Elementary School*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.orangeusd.org/imperial-elementary-school



Diane Lew
Principal

Diane Lew is looking forward to her first year as the principal of Imperial Elementary School. Prior to this position, Dr. Lew served as the principal of Cambridge Elementary School for five years. She has also worked as one of Orange Unified School District's special education coordinators, as well as an education specialist. Dr. Lew also has experience as an elementary and middle school general education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Dr. Lew holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from San Diego State University, as well as a bachelor's degree in physical education from San Francisco State University and master's degree in educational leadership from National University. She also has a multiple subject teaching credential, an education specialist instructional credential for mild to moderate disabilities, and an administrative services credential.

Dr. Lew believes in a collaborative and inclusive school environment in which talented and dedicated teachers deliver high-quality, data-informed instruction in a fun and safe environment. This approach encourages students to work together to take academic risks using communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity to solve real-world problems that will support them in reaching their full potential and becoming college and career ready.

Dr. Lew is honored to be welcomed into the Imperial Elementary School community. She enjoys partnering with staff, students, families, and the community to ensure that all student needs are met by maintaining a safe, structured, and inclusive environment that encourages students to develop a growth mindset, gives students the confidence needed to become creative problem-solvers, and promotes positive relationships and responsible behaviors.

Welcome to the 2021/2022 school year!

Jordan *Academy of Language and Computer Science*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • www.orangeusd.org/jordan-academy



Lorena Rubio
Principal

My journey in the education field began right out of high school as an instructional aide and activity supervisor at the elementary school I attended as a child. I taught in the Santa Ana Unified School District for 18 years. In SAUSD, I also held a position as an Assistant Principal at an elementary school for three years. Within this position, my passion grew in creating positive school culture and building relationships with staff, students and parents. Now I begin my fifth year at Jordan and it continues to be an amazing experience working with such an awesome community!

Jordan is the second elementary school in OUSD to implement a Spanish Dual Immersion Program and the first to integrate newly adopted Computer Science standards. We have been working closely with our District experts,

Lego Education, and OC Stem (UCI School of Engineering) to create a Computer Science curriculum based on the CA K-12 Computer Science Standards. Integrated curriculum has been created and is tailored to this unique program. We are very excited of the opportunities we offer students!

As an educator, I continue to make every effort to ensure that each child is treated with respect and is in a safe school. I believe that it is important that families and staff members work collaboratively to help students succeed. My personal mission is to ensure that students will be well equipped to impact, influence and contribute to a global society with the freedom to explore and develop their strengths. We are excited and ready to start the new school year especially since all our students are coming back for in person learning! We will continue the work to make sure every student has a successful school year!

Contest!

This chicken is somewhere in this publication.

When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put OUSD in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by October 15, 2021.

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a

\$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



La Veta *Elementary School*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • www.orangeusd.org/la-veta-elementary-school



**Sheryl
Anderson-Glass**
Principal

Mrs. Sheryl Anderson-Glass is honored to serve her second year as Principal of La Veta Elementary School. She is entering her 20th year in education serving the Orange Unified School District.

Mrs. Anderson-Glass is excited to get staff, students, and families collaborating to provide enrichment Activities and experiences for the school community.

Mrs. Anderson-Glass has served as Assistant Principal, Director of Activities, Director of Athletics, and teacher of leadership, health, and Physical education classes. She earned both her Bachelor and Master's Degrees from Oklahoma State University. She has also earned her clear administrative credential

from National University and has recently completed her certificate from the National Institute for School Leaders. Mrs. Anderson-Glass is excited to see the Sports for Learning Program implemented within the district this school year.

Mrs. Anderson-Glass is passionate about student engagement and school connectedness. She continues to work with the entire school community to ensure that all stakeholders are represented and will develop strong relationships. Mrs. Anderson-Glass looks forward to continue the growth of the wonderful programs that La Veta Elementary has to offer and is always humbled by how kind and caring the entire school community is.

Go Vikings!

Lampson *Elementary School*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • www.orangeusd.org/lampson-elementary-school-k-5



**Alejandra
Pantoja**
Principal

Welcome to Lampson Elementary, Home of the Leopards! We would like to welcome back all families to Lampson, a school that is deep-rooted in its community which fosters critical thinkers today to solve tomorrow's challenges.

Ms. Pantoja is honored and excited to start her 2nd year at Lampson Elementary. Prior to coming to Orange Unified School District, Ms. Pantoja worked in Los Angeles County.

Ms. Pantoja holds a Bachelor's degree in Mexican-American Studies, a Masters in Counseling, a Multiple Subject Credential with bilingual authorization in Spanish, and an Administrative Credential. During her 24 years in education, Ms. Pantoja has attained experience as an elementary and middle school teacher, instructional specialist/coach, administrator of professional development, coordinator of TK-12th grade curriculum and assessment, and as an elementary and secondary administrator. Ms. Pantoja loves spending time with her family. She is mother to three beautiful young ladies- Alexis, Maya and Isabella and a spunky Yorky terrier, Bear. She also enjoys traveling and her practice of yoga.

Ms. Pantoja is very passionate about student engagement and educating the whole child. She has dedicated her education career to creating and supporting learning environments embedded in high expectations

with a focus on honoring and empowering students, parents, and staff to tap into their unique gifts and talents. When it comes to education, Ms. Pantoja firmly believes that education is an invaluable investment in a person and for society. Ms. Pantoja draws on her own experiences as an English learner, to understand how she can best support our students' learning. As a school leader, Ms. Pantoja wants to empower others to understand their potential, build their potential, and exceed their potential. It is in working with all Lampson stakeholders- students, staff, parents and community- that Lampson will support all our students and their unique gifts and talents. Lampson will continue its pledge to provide our students with a learning environment of excellence with high expectations, opportunities to become critical thinkers, responsible, resilient, and productive world citizens, in a warm and caring environment.

As we begin to transition back to in-person instruction, it promises to be a year filled with a renewed sense of purpose and gratefulness for the opportunity to come together in community once again. It is with great enthusiasm that Ms. Pantoja leads an amazing group of dedicated individuals at Lampson Elementary and we are excited and looking forward to creating multiple opportunities for all students, staff, and our Lampson Families!

Linda Vista *Elementary School*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • www.lindavistaelementary.com



Renee Ybarra
Principal

Renee Ybarra is so excited to be the new Principal at Linda Vista this year. This is her 26th year in education, and she has loved being an Orange Unified administrator for the past four years. Prior to school administration, she spent many years of her career as an elementary teacher and instructional coach, receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and teaching credential in 1995, a Master's Degree in 2002, and a Master's Degree in Administration in 2012.

Renee has lived in the city of Orange for 16 years. Her two daughters and husband are all products of OUSD (VPHS class of '18 & '21, and OHS class of '89). Though she grew up in another part of Orange County, the city of Orange has become her adopted hometown. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening, and baking.

As an educator, Renee is passionate about students learning and gaining knowledge through a wide variety of experiences, both in and out of the classroom. She cares deeply about the whole child and understands that every aspect of a child's life impacts their learning. She is looking forward to continuing the work that the Linda Vista team has begun, focusing on supporting students in their social and emotional lives, learning about the community, and utilizing technology to communicate ideas in creative ways.

The challenges of educating students during a pandemic the past 18 months was tackled with such grace and professionalism throughout OUSD, including at Linda Vista. As the past year meant isolation for many people in their community, their theme this year will be "Better Together" as they discover ways they can support each other at school, at home, and in their community, as they practice their motto to "Be Safe, Be Kind, and Be Responsible."

McPherson Magnet *High School*

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • mcpersonhome.meteormail.net



Brenna Godsey
Principal

Brenna Godsey is excited to continue as the McPherson Principal for the 2021-2022 school year. This will be Mrs. Godsey's second year as a Meteor. Mrs. Godsey is committed to fostering positive relationships with the students, staff, parents, and community of McPherson Magnet School while supporting the school's STEM magnet focus. Principal Godsey has had the pleasure of working with Orange Unified students for the last twenty years. She served as the Principal of Palmyra Elementary School for six years and

as an Assistant Principal at Canyon High School for five years. Prior to moving into administration, Mrs. Godsey taught Science and coordinated the AP/IB programs at Canyon. Mrs. Godsey received her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology from the University of California, San Diego with a Minor in Law and Society. She attended California State University, Fullerton, where she earned her teaching and administrative credentials along with a Master's degree in Educational Leadership. Mrs. Godsey lives in the Orange Unified community with her husband and three children. She enjoys skiing and going to the beach with her family.

Nohl Canyon *High School*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • www.orangeusd.org/nohl-canyon-elementary-school



Jeff Jones
Principal

Mr. Jeffrey Jones is excited to begin his third year at Nohl Canyon Elementary School. He is entering his 23rd year as an educator and 17th year with Orange Unified School District. He looks forward to continuing to build collaborative partnerships with staff, students and parents to provide innovative learning experiences for all students!

Mr. Jones previously served Orange Unified School District as an Assistant Principal at Villa Park High School for five years. Prior to his administration position, Mr. Jones taught Physical Education at Cerro

Villa Middle School (9 years) and J.H. Hull Middle School (6 years) in the Torrance Unified School District. Mr. Jones earned his Master's Degree in Educational Administration in 2012 from Concordia University. He completed his Kinesiology and Physical Education degree along with his teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach.

Mr. Jones' passion is to create an environment where students, staff and parents feel welcomed and safe on a daily basis. He strives for all students to feel engaged in their learning environment. Nohl Canyon is that place and Mr. Jones is humbled to be part of a wonderful community.

Olive Elementary School

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • www.orangeusd.org/olive-elementary-school



Heather Darrow
Principal

Heather Darrow, Principal of Olive Elementary School, is proud to be a part of the educational team of Orange Unified. Prior to her administrative career, Mrs. Darrow was an elementary classroom teacher, a teacher on special assignment, and an Assistant Principal. As a teacher and administrator, Mrs. Darrow has served on many site and district level committees, which has instilled in her a passion for helping every child succeed. Always looking for learning opportunities, Mrs. Darrow earned two Master of Arts degrees from Concordia University, one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other in Educational Administration. Prior to her graduate studies, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University, Fullerton.

Mrs. Darrow grew up in Orange County, where she spent several years as an Orange resident and OUSD parent. Mrs. Darrow's positive experience as an OUSD parent and love for the community is what inspired her to join Orange Unified School District as an educator. As she begins her sixth year as the Principal of Olive Elementary, Mrs. Darrow is excited to continue learning and growing with the students, staff, and families that make Olive such a special place.

When she is not at work, Mrs. Darrow enjoys spending time with her husband and three daughters. They often watch movies together, go on walks, and always eat dinner as a family. It is only with the support from her family that Mrs. Darrow has been able to fully appreciate the journey through her educational career.

Orange High School

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangehighschool.org



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Mr. Dennis McCuiston is beginning his seventh year as Principal of Orange High School, and he is entering his 24th year as an educator and 26th year with the Orange Unified School District. Mr. McCuiston started his career as a campus supervisor at Orange High School and later became a special educator at Portola Middle School where he gained tremendous experience as a teacher. He went on to work at Orange High School where he taught for 9 years, was the head baseball coach, athletic director, and eventually served as an assistant principal. In 2011, he was appointed as the Coordinator of Alternative Education and ROP where

he worked with Community Day School, ROP, Educational Options and Home School. In 2013, he was appointed as the Principal of Richland High School serving students from all OUSD High Schools. Mr. McCuiston earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Chapman University and a Master's in Education Administration from National University.

Dennis has dedicated his career to serving the Orange community. He believes in the OUSD core values, and trusts that OUSD will continue to serve as a beacon of support for the entire community while providing equitable opportunities for all students. Dennis, his wife Julia, son Luke, and daughter Avery are proud residents of Orange.



Palmyra *Elementary School*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • www.orangeusd.org/palmyra-elementary-school



Christina Bletterman
Interim Principal

This year's school theme at Palmyra Elementary School is "Always Learning, Always Growing!" Christina Bletterman, new Interim Principal, is excited to have recently joined the team for the 2021-2022 school year and can't wait to show her Pinto PRIDE! She believes that working collaboratively as a community, including all stakeholders, turns our challenges into opportunities for learning and growth, and generates student academic success, and will strengthen social emotional learning strategies.

Her professional experiences range from primary to secondary education with an emphasis on teaching and learning. Her previous roles as Summer School Principal at Esplanade Elementary, Coordinator of Mathematics and Science at the Orange County Department of Education,

Assistant Principal at La Veta and Handy Elementary as well as serving as an Instructional Specialist at Prospect and Teacher on Special Assignment at Tustin Unified, as well as Resource Teacher; Reading First Coach, and General Education teacher, K-8 has given her unique talents to lead Palmyra toward ongoing academic achievement. In addition, Christina has been a Reading Supervisor at Chapman University. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies, with a Minor in Child Development from California State University, Fullerton and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership, Alliant International University, San Diego. Ms. Bletterman also holds a Multiple Subject Clear Credential, and an Administrative Services Clear Credential. Christina has a positive "Can Do" attitude that motivates others to rise to their greatest potential.

Panorama *Elementary School*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • www.orangeusd.org/panorama-elementary-school



Erin Rosselli
Principal

Mrs. Erin Rosselli's educational career began at Panorama Elementary 21 years ago and continues as she ecstatically returns to the school in her new role as the Principal. She looks forward to creating a safe and collaborative culture with Panorama Elementary's students, staff, families, and community.

Mrs. Rosselli attended OUSD schools as a child and graduated from Villa Park High School. After completing her Bachelor of Science degree in psychobiology with a concentration in developmental disabilities at UCLA, she chose to pursue a career in education. She completed her education specialist and multiple subject teaching credentials and her Master's in Special Education at Chapman University. Her experiences at Chapman inspired her to focus on students' individual needs, as she began her first teaching assignment as an upper-grade special day class teacher at Panorama. Mrs. Rosselli furthered her education by completing coursework related to autism, gifted and talented education, and leadership because she genuinely commits herself to being a lifelong learner. Her own children and all of the students she has worked with throughout her career have taught her the most valuable lessons.

Mrs. Rosselli's experiences in the classroom varied as she moved from her role as an education specialist to a general education teacher. Once moving to kindergarten, Mrs. Rosselli's passion for early childhood education and her focus on creating individualized education plans for her students inspired her to implement student-driven learning. Her time in kindergarten culminated with Mrs. Rosselli being named the California Teacher of the Year in 2015. She credits this award to the phenomenal students and staff at Panorama Elementary.

Mrs. Rosselli left Panorama for a few years when she moved to the district office. She served as an instructional specialist in educational technology, a teacher on special assignment for student achievement, and the coordinator for assessment. These roles ultimately led her back to Panorama.

Outside of education, Mrs. Rosselli spends all her free time with her family. Her husband, Rob, is a fifth-grade teacher in OUSD, and she has three children that keep her running!

Mrs. Rosselli strives to be a positive, encouraging force in the lives of children. She feels honored to have the opportunity to serve as Panorama's Principal.

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • www.orangeusd.org/portola-middle-school-6-7-8



Jeff Morgan
Principal

Jeff Morgan is excited to start the 2021-22 school year at Portola Middle School. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Jeff graduated from Chico State with a Bachelor's of Art Degree in Spanish and later earned his teaching credential from Cal State Fullerton. This is Jeff's fifteen year in education, all within OUSD. He has served as a Spanish teacher and Activities Director at Villa Park High School and as an Assistant Principal at Orange High School for four and a half years. Jeff is looking forward to his 4rd year and kicking off the year celebrating the many successes from the previous school year during unprecedented times. Jeff looks forward to building and growing programs at Portola Middle School. Currently he is focused on growing the AVID and ASB programs as well as being one of two of the first middle schools in Orange

County to be a part of the Verizon Innovative Schools Program (VILS) at Portola. When students are involved, he believes that they are more engaged in their education. This philosophy comes from his time as an Activities Director and witnessing the direct correlation between extracurricular activities and student achievement. The belief is that all programs support each other.

Throughout his time in education, Jeff has seen the value in building relationships with parents and the community to support the overall vision of the school site. As a community we have the ability to foster the growth of our youth to prepare them for what is next. In this case, that would be high school. Jeff believes that we must prepare students for the academic rigors of high school and for being a citizen of character as well. We continue to give our students the tools needed for success, so they can pursue and reach their goals and passions.

Prospect *Elementary School*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • www.orangeusd.org/prospect-elementary-school



Mary Hinton
Principal

Mary Hinton is excited and honored to be the new Principal at Prospect Elementary for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Hinton looks forward to collaborating and building relationships with the students, teachers, and community of Prospect. She strives for all students to feel welcome, safe, and engaged in their learning environment.

During her twenty-two years with Orange Unified, Ms. Hinton served as elementary

teacher, Title 1 Instructional Specialist, and Teacher on Special Assignment focusing on STEAM Education. Ms. Hinton received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Holy Family University in Philadelphia, PA. She attended Concordia University where she earned her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Additionally, Ms. Hinton holds an Administrative Credential as well as a Multiple Subject Credential. She enjoys traveling, hiking, and practicing yoga.

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • www.orangeusd.org/richland-continuation-high-school



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Lisa Ogan is excited and honored to serve as the interim principal at Richland High School! For the past seven years, she has been principal at Cerro Villa Middle School. She will now move from being a Viking to a Condor!

Prior to her serving OUSD, Mrs. Ogan served as middle school assistant principal, summer school principal, teacher on special assignment, middle school math teacher, and elementary school teacher in the Placentia-Yorba Linda, Walnut Valley, and Ontario-Montclair school districts. Mrs. Ogan received her bachelor's degree in child development with a minor in mathematics and a master's

degree in educational administration, both from California State University, Fullerton. She holds a multiple-subject teaching credential with an authorization in mathematics and an administrative services credential.

During her free time, Mrs. Ogan enjoys spending time outdoors with her three grown children, two dogs, family and friends, camping, hiking, and off roading in the desert.

Along with Mrs. Ogan, Richland is proud to celebrate, once again, its state recognition for being a Model Continuation High School. This is a tribute to the dedication, performance, and high expectations shared by its teachers, students, parents and community. Congratulations!

Running Springs *Elementary School*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • www.orangeusd.org/running-springs-elementary-school



Mark McLaughlin
Principal

It is with great pride that Mr. Mark McLaughlin will enter his fifth year at Running Springs Elementary, home of the Redhawks. Prior to his five years in his current position, Mr. McLaughlin served as a teacher and administrator at both the elementary and middle school level for 17 years in the Downey Unified School District. He completed his undergraduate degree at San Jose State University and prior to

working in education was employed in the Aerospace industry. Mr. McLaughlin has since earned a Master's Degree in Cross-Cultural Education.

As an educator, Mr. McLaughlin has been a part of the development of a distinguished STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) program, worked with the implementation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW), and an award winning Robotics program. In addition, his experience includes creating a safe and caring school culture with high expectations. He is approachable and eager to serve the Redhawk community.

As a coach of youth sports for 14 years he understands the importance of developing the whole child, teamwork, and goal setting. He believes that learning should be highly engaging, promote critical thinking, and should contain the rigor necessary to prepare our students for a competitive global economy. He embraces the growth mindset and believes that together, an inspired school community can overcome any challenge.

The goal for Running Springs is to seek authorization for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme this school year. As such, our mission is to provide a rigorous education, empower all students to achieve academic success, embrace life-long learning through inquiry, and become productive, globally aware citizens. Redhawks will strive to create a better world through intercultural understanding with respect for others and the earth we share. He is looking forward to continued service to the highly successful students of Running Springs Elementary.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.santiagocharterms.org



Dr. James D'Agostino
Co-Principal



Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal

We are excited to be welcoming some new individuals to Santiago's administrative team. Please meet:

Mr. Michael Lee, administrator overseeing school safety, discipline, and facilities, has worked in OUSD since 2013 as an assistant principal at Cerro

Villa Middle School, Villa Park High School, and Orange High School. Mr. Lee's passion is to make a positive impact and prepare students for life's challenges.

Mrs. Lauren Hunsberger-Gonzales, administrator overseeing academics, is delighted to join the administrative team after having served Santiago since 2003. In addition to her time at Santiago, Mrs. Gonzales has assisted in developing OUSD's Induction Program, as

well as working with Chapman and Concordia University's teacher credential programs.

Mrs. Ashley Pedroza is starting her sixth year as an administrator at Santiago. She began her time in OUSD in 2009 as a biology teacher at El Modena High School, and then moved into administration, serving as an OUSD district administrator and principal of Serrano Elementary. She has been recognized for her work by being named OUSD Administrator of the Year, and ACSA Region 17 Technology Administrator of the Year.

Dr. Jim D'Agostino is in his 12th year as the Executive Director at Santiago. He is very proud of the staff and team that he has helped develop at Santiago which has made Santiago the fastest growing and most sought-after middle school in all of Orange!

All of Santiago's administrators are passionate about building meaningful relationships with students and are looking forward to the New Year!



Serrano *Elementary School*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • www.orangeusd.org/serrano-elementary-school



Laura Kresl
Principal

Laura Kresl, is the proud principal at Serrano Elementary! She grew up in Orange and actually attended Orange Unified Schools before graduating high school from Orange Lutheran High School. Laura went to college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for her undergraduate degree and credential program and then earned both of her Master's Degrees in Curriculum & Instruction and Educational Leadership from Cal State Fullerton.

As an educator, she has been dedicated to serving the students of Orange Unified for more than 13 years. She has taught both elementary and middle school students, and worked at the district office as a Teacher on Special Assignment for STEM & Arts Integration and as Coordinator of K-12 Innovation & Instructional Design. At the district office she oversaw many programs including elementary visual & performing arts, AVID, GATE, and science.

As well as an educator, she is also a mom. Laura and her husband have three children - 5 yrs, 4 yrs, and 2 yrs.

So, between the kids and their careers they have very busy lives and she wouldn't want it any other way! Laura loves how she has the opportunity to share her skills and passion as an educational leader at Serrano.

She feels very fortunate that she was able to spend last year as Principal at Serrano. As you know, the year was very different from any other school year. However, they managed to make it a great one with the incredible support from their community and the hard work of their teachers and staff. This next year, they remain committed to ensuring the safety of their students and staff while also providing a rich learning experience for their students.

As we head into the school year, please know that it is important to Laura that everyone who steps through their doors feel welcome! This enables them to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a positive, collaborative, and nurturing environment. Laura's door is always open and she welcomes your input. Please feel free to call or email her to discuss any concerns you might have throughout the school year.

Sycamore *Elementary School*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • www.orangeusd.org/sycamore-elementary-school



Dr. Lucia Perales
Principal

Dr. Lucia Perales is the proud principal of Sycamore Elementary. She has been an educator for 16 years, she is beginning her 7th year with Orange Unified School District. Dr. Perales is committed to serving the Sycamore community and promoting student academic achievement through her role of principal.

Dr. Perales was born in Zacatecas, Mexico and raised in Los Angeles, and lived a mile from USC. She graduated from Smith College with a B.A in Education and Spanish. She has earned her M.A in Education from CSU Dominguez Hills with an emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction. In 2014, she received her Doctorate in Education from USC, with an emphasis in K-12 Leadership.

Her involvement with The Upward Bound Program, The Fulfillment Fund, and The Riordan Fellows Program at UCLA has provided her with a strong sense of responsibility to give back. Consequently, Dr. Perales strives to positively affect the lives of those around her through education, this is her educational philosophy. She sees education as a calling and not just a job. She is a product of public education and believes in the importance of strong support for all students. As a first-generation student, a Latina, and coming from a low socio-economic status, Dr. Perales wants to be a role model to her students and staff. She wants all educational stakeholders to always persevere in spite of the daily life challenges.

On the personal note, Dr. Perales is married to an extremely supportive husband. She has two children: a daughter (Alyssa, 6) and son (Anthony, 3).



Welcome
Back to
School



Taft *Elementary School*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • www.orangeusd.org/taft-elementary-school



Amy Alvarado
Principal

Amy Alvarado is excited and proud to serve as the new principal at Taft Elementary School. Moving into her 23rd year in education, she is bringing lots of experiences to the school staff and community. Amy comes from a family of educators as both her mom and grandma were elementary school teachers. As a middle school student, she decided she wanted to pursue being a math teacher and she did that. Amy has previously taught 6th and 8th grade math and science, and was the Assistant Principal at the three middle schools in the Orange Unified School District. In her free time, Amy enjoys her two children as well as her family and friends.

She is a big country music fan and enjoys outdoor activities as well. Her move to elementary school has her eager to learn and grow and build community teams that support all students and their learning.

At Taft, we are committed to providing a safe, supportive and engaging learning environment where students and their families feel welcome and part of our school family. In the upcoming school year, we promise to work hard every day to foster learning and personal growth in our kids and in each other. Our focus will be to meet each students needs the best we can to insure they have many opportunities in their future. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Go Tigers!

Villa Park *Elementary School*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • www.orangeusd.org/villa-park-elementary



Dr. Sara Beggs
Principal

Dr. Sara Beggs has worked in Orange Unified School District and the field of education for eighteen years. Following nine years of elementary teaching experience, she moved to the District Office as an instructional specialist supporting teachers and students in curriculum, instruction, and intervention. She then accepted an administrative position as Coordinator of Inclusive Schooling. Dr. Beggs is thrilled to start her fourth year as Principal for Villa Park Elementary School and is honored to carry on the rich traditions and rigorous learning environment currently in place at VPE.

Dr. Beggs grew up in Orange County, received her undergraduate degree from Radford University, and her graduate degree from Chapman University. She was awarded her Ph. D. in Education and Disability Studies from Chapman University in 2017. Dr. Beggs' deep-rooted philosophy and belief that ALL children can thrive and be successful in the general education environment drives

her passion to ensure a Multi-Tiered System of Support for all students. She embraces the whole child, engages every learner, and empowers all students. Furthermore, Dr. Beggs views a safe and collaborative school environment as key to a successful school culture. Partnerships with parents and community partners are essential components to that success.

Dr. Beggs is a proud mother of two beautiful girls Charlotte (8) and Caroline (6). Charlotte is in third grade and Caroline is in kindergarten and both attend VPE. As a mom of school-age children, Dr. Beggs is keenly aware of the importance of family involvement and the significance of the school community. During her free time, Sara enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with her daughters and husband, Jeff, and their Great Dane, Winston.

As the VPE Principal, you can expect that she will be visible, accessible, and collaborative. Dr. Beggs is looking forward to working together as partners in learning.

Go Bobcats!



Contest!

This student is somewhere in this publication.
When you find her, email the **page number** to:
Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put OUSD in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by **October 15, 2021**.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a
\$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • www.villaparkhigh.org



Dr. Ken Miller
Principal

It is with great humility, honor and responsibility that Dr. Miller begins his sixth year as Principal at Villa Park High School. Villa Park is not only home of the Spartans...VPHS is a School of Excellence (where Winners Win!), a California Gold Ribbon School, a U.S. News and World Report Silver Medalist School and has a full WASC Accreditation for 2018-2024!

Dr. Miller is also beginning his 15th year as a member of the Leadership Team in the Orange Unified School District. He has previously served Orange Unified from 2007-2010 at El Modena High School as Assistant Principal, Curriculum/Instruction, ROP, Cheer and Athletics; Principal at Cerro Villa Middle School from 2010-2014 and Administrative Director, Student and Community Services, 2014-2016. Before joining Orange Unified School District, he served in the Downey Unified School District

as adult education teacher, social studies teacher, football coach and Vice Principal at the comprehensive high school level for 13 years. He still volunteers coaching kickers and punters, most recently pre-pandemic at Cerritos College. He also works with our own kickers and punters when time allows here at Villa Park High School.

He has two grown children: Katelyn, 25, graduated from Canyon High School and Chapman University, and Kenny, 23, graduated from Villa Park High School and Cerritos College and now plays Division 2 college football at Lake Erie College in Ohio!

Dr. Miller pledges to continue to serve all students, parents, staff and our community. Dr. Miller states he has an amazing professional staff and he looks forward to working with you all, our greatest resource, our families, in the upcoming years in continuing OUR School of Excellence that is Villa Park High School! Also, he asks you all to check our social media for all of the great happenings!

West Orange *Elementary School*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • www.orangeusd.org/west-orange-elementary-school-k-5



Dr. Monica Murray
Principal

Welcome to West Orange Elementary, Home of the Warriors! At West Orange, we strive for academic excellence by providing all students a meaningful and rigorous learning experience.

Dr. Monica Murray is honored and enthusiastic to start her third year at West Orange Elementary. Over the past 22 years, she has attained a Bachelor in Liberal Arts with a minor in History, a Masters in Multicultural Education, and a Multiple Subject Credential with authorizations in English and History, an Administrative Credential, Gifted and Talented certification, and a Doctorate in Education with an emphasis on Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. During the past 20 years, she has acquired experience

as a pre-school teacher, elementary teacher, curriculum specialist, administrator of professional development, coordinator of TK-12th grade curriculum, and as a principal.

She has dedicated her career in creating learning environments embedded in high expectations with a focus on empowering students, parents, and staff to become leaders. When it comes to education, she firmly believes that "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" – John Lewis. As a school leader, she wants to empower others to understand their potential, build their potential, and exceed their potential. It is with great enthusiasm she leads West Orange Elementary and is looking forward to creating multiple opportunities for all students, staff, and the WO community!

Back to School!



Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.org/yorba



Sandra Preciado-Martin
Principal

Ms. Preciado began working in Long Beach, at Jordan High School as an On Campus Alternative Suspension Monitor, while attending California State University, Fullerton. She then moved to Milliken High School in Long Beach as a Bilingual Parent Liaison. After she completed her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish Literature, Ms. Preciado began her tenure in Orange Unified as a Spanish teacher at Canyon High School. She taught every level of Spanish from the introductory level Spanish I to AP Spanish Literature. During that time, she returned to California State University, Fullerton to complete her

Master's Degree in School Administration. After Ms. Preciado's 12-year teaching tenure, she had the privilege of making El Modena High School her home for three years as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction. After 15 years of secondary education, Ms. Preciado then served as Principal of West Orange Elementary School for three and a half years. Although she cherished her time at West Orange, Ms. Preciado is very excited to make Yorba Middle School her home. She is particularly looking forward to continuing her work with AVID implementation, targeted interventions, technology integration, and quality first instruction. Outside of school, Ms. Preciado enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, running slowly, and eating food she does not need to cook herself.

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa CA 92628 • 714/966-4000 • www.ocde.us



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Ethnic Studies

In July, a panel of eight academic experts convened to share their insights and expertise on a topic of growing national interest — ethnic studies.

Presented by the Orange County Department of Education, the virtual forum titled “With Liberty and Justice for All: A Colloquium on Ethnic Studies” drew an audience of educators, school administrators, students, parents, school board trustees, elected officials and community members who wanted to separate fact from fiction and learn more about the state's recently adopted Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.

Ethnic studies has been defined as the interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity and Indigeneity, and while it's not a new field, its relevance has increased exponentially in 2021. Many have staked out positions for or against, and the rhetoric has at times become heated.

Some insist that by examining the struggles and contributions of underrepresented groups, students can expand their perspectives and better see themselves — and their peers — as part of the story of the United States. They point to examples such as *Mendez v. Westminster*, the landmark court case that remains largely unknown even though it ended school segregation in Orange County and paved the way for the Supreme Court to reject the notion of “separate but equal.”

Others see ethnic studies as harmful. They say it will further divide this country along racial lines by categorizing some Americans as oppressors and others as oppressed. Many mistakenly believe ethnic studies is the same thing as critical race theory, which up until recently was an obscure academic term describing how race intersects with U.S. laws and institutions.

Ethnic studies is not synonymous with critical race theory. In fact, the latter is mentioned only sparingly in the state's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, which was approved by the California Board of Education in March after four years, four drafts and more than 100,000 public comments.

On that note, it's also important to understand that the state's Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is not mandatory for any school or district. Instead, it was designed to provide local school districts with ideas and examples to consider if they choose to develop their own ethnic studies classes — and some Orange County districts already have under the leadership of their locally elected school boards and superintendents.

In California, legislation is under consideration to make ethnic studies a graduation requirement by 2030, but even if the bill known as AB 101 passes, the state will not impose its own ethnic studies curriculum. Again, that authority lies solely with each district's local school board and superintendent, in partnership with parents and other stakeholders.

As an educational institution, it is not our place to wade into divisive political debates. As a county office of education, however, it is very much our responsibility to host professional workshops, webinars and trainings that elevate teaching and learning in our county while keeping our communities informed about the latest state and federal developments impacting education.

The Orange County Department of Education will continue to do so objectively and responsibly in support of local districts as they make critical instructional decisions on behalf of schools, students and families.

Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Best Friends

Title: *Narwhal's Otter Friend*
(*A Narwhal and Jelly Book* #4)

Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish are best friends. One day, they are swimming in the ocean when they meet Otty the Otter. Otty is an adventurer that has done lots of cool stuff and met many animals. Otty wants to go on his next adventure and invites Narwhal to join him. They forget to invite Jelly. Jelly becomes jealous and wonders if he is still Narwhal's best friend. Is Otty now Narwhal's best friend? What will happen to Jelly? You will find out if you read this book.

This book is really cute and funny and made me laugh while I was reading it. I hope you read it and like it as much as I did!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.



David's Review



David H.

Big Small Adventure

Title: *The Castle in the Attic*

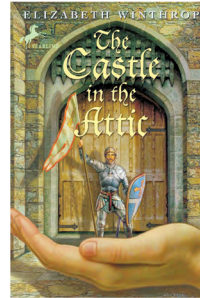
Author: Elizabeth Winthrop

Do you like magic, knights, dragons, and adventure? Then this is the book for you.

William is a boy that loves his nanny and housekeeper, Mrs. Phillips, who has taken care of him since he was born. She is retiring and he doesn't want her to leave. She gives him a giant toy castle and a toy knight inside it as a goodbye present. William finds out that the toy knight, Sir Simon, is actually alive and the invisible kingdom inside the castle has been taken over by the evil wizard Alastor! William has Sir Simon shrink Mrs. Phillips with a magic coin so that she can't leave William and can stay with him forever. Then William shrinks himself so he can save the kingdom from the evil wizard.

Read this book to find out if William saves the day!

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.



Katie's Review



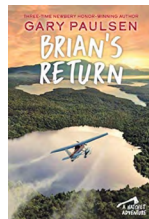
Katie C.

City Life vs The Wild

Title: *Brian's Return*

Author: Gary Paulsen

If you've ever read the book *Hatchet*, you know the story of Brian and how he was stranded after a dangerous and tragic plane crash. After he survives, the plot ends and readers are left wanting more. *Brian's Return* is the sequel to this book, and portrays the difficulty Brian has in adjusting to his new life, free of wild animals and the dangers of living in solidarity in nature. As "safe" as his new life may seem, Brian is struggling immensely with living a so-called "normal" life. Therefore, he meets a psychologist named Caleb. Speaking with Caleb helps Brian work through the trauma he has faced and also to make a decision on what to do now. Will he finally be able to accept a calmer environment? Or will he still miss the woods, deep down in his heart? If you want to find out what Brian chooses to do, you should read *Brian's Return*.



Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

Tegan's Book Review



Tegan

Forced to Grow Up

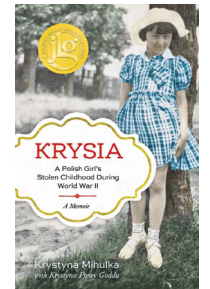
Kryisia by Krystyna

Mihulka tells the true story of a 9-year-old Jewish girl's experiences during the distressing World War II, where her family is captured and forced to leave their comfortable

home in Lwów, Poland and must survive in a foreign prison camp in Kazakhstan, Russia. With her tranquil childhood torn apart, Kryisia lives through one of the darkest times in history, witnessing death and seeing victims suffer from starvation and sicknesses. Amidst depressing days with little food, Kryisia finds hope through letters from her father in hiding and a snowstorm that blocks Russian soldiers from irritating her family. This personal narrative appeals to readers who sympathize with struggles, are interested in history, and believe that goodness will prevail.

I give this book 4.7 out of 5 stars.

Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.



Jenna's Review

The Soccer Journey

Title: *Breakaway*

Author: Alex Morgan

Do you like playing soccer? Do you enjoy watching soccer games on your TV or in a stadium? If you do, you've probably heard of Alex Morgan. She is a professional soccer player. You might have seen her from the Olympics or the World Cup, well she wrote a book talking about her journey in soccer. She talks about tournaments she's been to, the World Cup, Olympics, and etc. My favorite story in this book is about her early stage on how she started soccer, who supported her, and how she got on such big teams. She also talks about how she handles losses, injuries, and negative thoughts. This book gives so much inspiration. She also tells you how to keep on practicing and how positive thinking can get you further. I definitely recommend this book to people who have a goal and want to reach it.



Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Lovable Shih-Tzu, Yum-Yum

Say Good-Bye

by Laurie Halse Anderson
is book 5 of 17 in the
Vet Volunteers series.

It is about Yum-Yum, a
small Shih-Tzu therapy
dog. Yum-Yum visits
children with cancer at

the hospital to cheer them up with his cuteness and tricks. Kids LOVE him. Unfortunately, Yum-Yum is also found to have cancer. Jane (Yum-Yum's owner) and Zoe (Jane's friend, a volunteer at the animal clinic) try their best to help him get better. Can Yum-Yum make it through?

This book is very heartwarming. It is full of suspense with excitement and sadness. Reading it makes me happy and sad at the same time. I have been asking my parents for a puppy for a few years. This story makes me understand that having a puppy won't just be cute and fun. If the puppy gets very sick, I may have to make hard decisions. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves animals.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.



Sean's Book Review



Sean

Middle School Can Change Your Life

Finding the Worm
by Mark Goldblatt, is
about a 7th grader, Julian
Twerski, who attends
McMasters Middle School.
There, 9th graders are a
real problem, as they are
the bullies. Julian is seen



admiring a painting of a historical picture, and then is accused of messing it up! Julian's friend, Quentin, suffers from a tumor in his head, and due to this, is promised a visit from a famous baseball player. Another friend, Beverly, is constantly asking Julian to race her in running, but he always says no. This book has a lot of side stories that contribute to the main idea, making the book interesting, suspenseful, and funny. Mark Goldblatt did a great job connecting this book to his previous book, Twerp. In conclusion, *Finding the Worm* is really cool, but you should read Twerp before this, as you will have a much better time!

Sean is a 6th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.

Taeyoung's Book Review



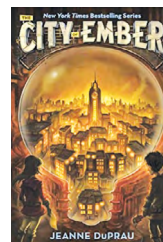
Taeyoung K.

Light in the Dark

Title: *The City of Ember*

Author: Jeanne DuPrau

Have you ever thought
about living the place where
you can't see the sun? This
story is about the city of
Ember where is underground.
People in the city depend on



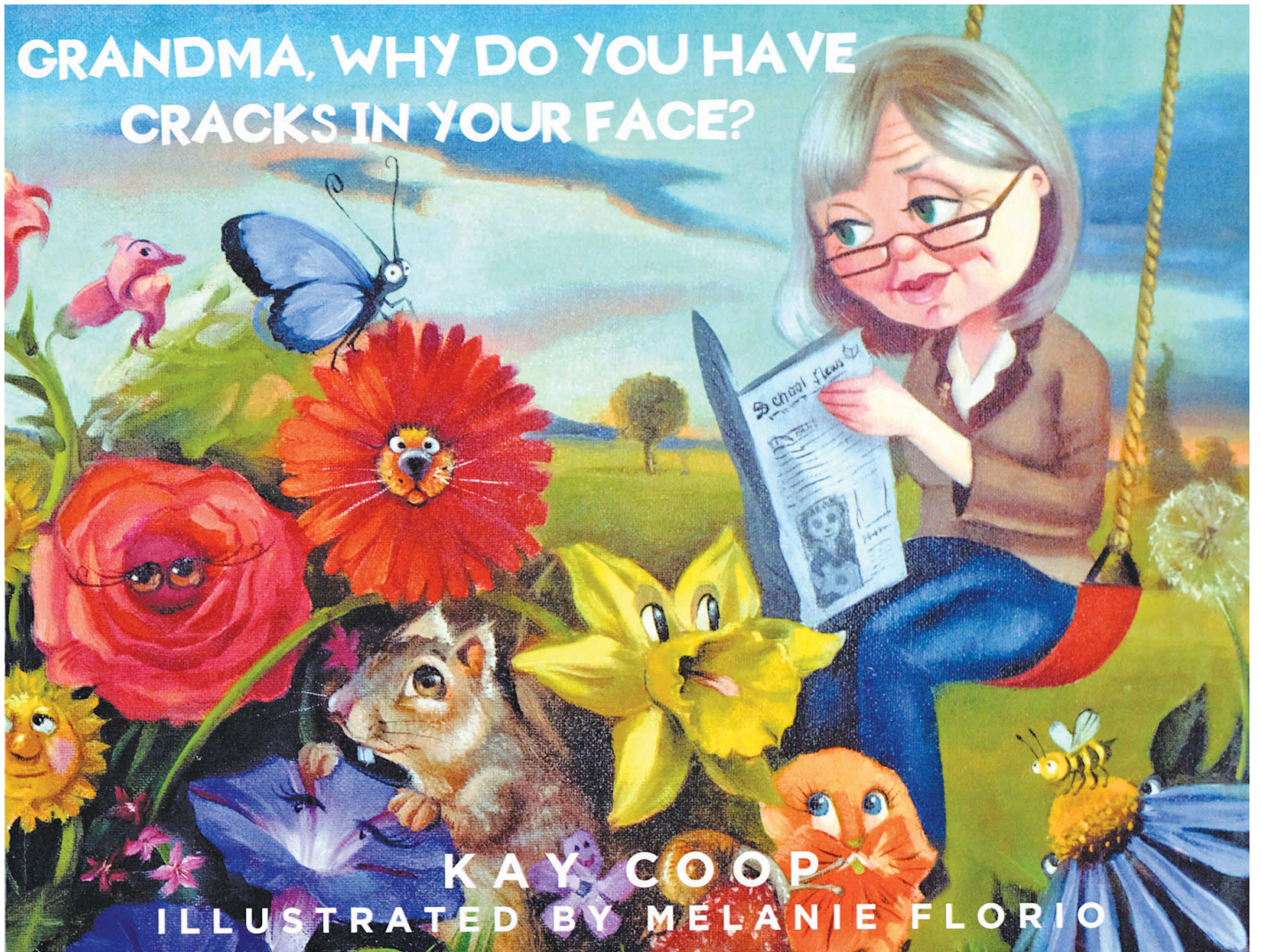
the light bulbs to get light.

It starts with the conversation about the box that contains the secret between two builders who built the city of Ember. The mayors of the city pass it down to the next mayor secretly, but the seventh mayor couldn't pass it down and it remains unknown. Lina, A 12-year-old girl, and her friend, Doon, start to have doubts about the mayor and the city.

What is in the box? Where is it? Can Lina and Doon find the way for them and the city of Ember? Or will they be stuck in the city of darkness? If you like the adventures and secrets, I recommend this book to you.

Taeyoung K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



KAY COOP
ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE FLORIO



Now Available on
**AMAZON &
BARNES AND NOBLE**

Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face? Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.