4-6th graders learn coding with drones with Mr. Ullman’s Handy Drone League.
Orange Unified School District has a cutting edge Educational Technology Department that offers professional development programs to increase access to and promote purposeful integration of technology in classrooms across the district. The team support teachers as they move through their initial emerging use of technology to fully integrated implementation in a student-driven classroom. All of our programs meet teachers where they are at in this continuum to support their further development.

In 2013, the iTeach program began. This program provides classroom teachers with iPads to enhance classroom instruction and student learning. The purpose of this program is to facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity, design & develop digital age learning experiences and assessments, model digital age work and learning, and engage in professional growth and leadership. This process is facilitated by an instructional coach who works with the teacher each week for approximately 12 weeks as the teacher completes tasks to create a blended learning environment.

The eBadge program began in 2014 to provide teachers with one device that allowed them to explore and learn. Over three years, teachers had the opportunity to explore Chromebooks, HP Streams, and mini iPads. This program required all teachers to demonstrate fluency with the device by completing requirements focused on classroom integration and digital work.

That same year, iLearn began to increase classroom access to technology. This program provides a loaner cart to teacher teams to be used daily in the classroom. The devices allow teachers the opportunity to create 21st century, blended learning environments where students will develop technology skills for college and career readiness. Teachers choose their area of interest and guide their own professional development while utilizing the cart.

In 2015, the 1:1 program kicked off to increase access and integration in our schools. Instructional coaches work with teachers daily at their school sites and in their classroom to build best practices for classroom instruction and to help teachers move along the technology use continuum through personalized professional learning plans. The program continues to expand each year, and next year the team will move to supporting the entire school's technology initiatives.

Last year, the iPilot program was introduced to provide teachers the opportunity to receive a variety of instructional technology tools for their classroom use in exchange for providing feedback on lesson integration. This program has allowed our teachers to access coding devices, drones, and various other tools.

Next year, the technology will introduce the iLead program. This program will allow our teachers to design their professional development through a grant writing process focused on student achievement. The teachers will identify a need, implement a solution, and work through the collaborative cycle of effective instruction with an instructional coach to improve student achievement. As this program continues to grow, we will foster a collaborative culture at school sites and across the district focused on sharing best practices for improving student achievement.

Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen

Orange Unified School District
1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867
(714) 628-4000 • www.orangeusd.org

Dr. Alexia L. Deligianni-Brydge
President

Kathryn A. Moffat
Vice President

Timothy Surridge
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Brenda Lebsack
Member

Rick Ledesma
Member

John H. Ortega
Member

Andrea Yamasaki
Member
Students are in the final months of this school year, which has gone way too fast!

In this issue, you will read topics such as Dual Immersion Spanish Program, Bringing History to Life, Making Kindness Contagious, Meteor Science Fair, STEAM, STREAM, AVID, International Food Day, and so much more. Sit back and enjoy reading.

Thank you to our readers who entered our contests. The winner is announced on page 30 where you will find another contest to enter. (Remember all ages may enter.)

Our next issue is June 6.
Looking Ahead

The Alternative Education site has had a very busy few months. We had two successful Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visits for our Independent Study and Community Day School programs. It was refreshing for the staff to get valuable feedback from our visitors, and both programs will benefit from all of the information received. As a school site, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our programs. Our WASC Visiting Committees pointed out areas of strength as well as areas of growth for our programs.

Looking ahead, we are very excited for testing season. Many of our students will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) in May. Our staff and students have prepared diligently for this examination, and we anticipate an excellent administration of the exam.

We have a multitude of programs on our Alternative Education campus. We always welcome those who are interested to come for a visit. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in seeing what Alternative Education has to offer, come by, and I would love to show you around!

Justin Stanfield
Coordinator

OUSD Alternative Education / ROP
1401 N. Handy St. Orange, CA 92867

OUSD Child Development
Parkside Campus: 2345 E. Palmyra. Orange, CA 92869

Full STEAM Ahead!

By Amie Wilson-Bird, Director

One of the significant highlights of the year is the Child Development Department’s annual Science Fair. We offer two preschool programs, School Readiness and the Child Development Center. We also offer an expanded learning program before and after school at 19 school sites. In total, we serve over 2000 families each day! All three programs collaborated for this year’s Fifth Annual Child Development Science Fair in March with the theme “Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination.”

Each year, the Science Fair expands. More than 500 families participated in this year’s event. Our work with Orange County Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) Initiative and the community afforded us the opportunity to co-host the Community STEAM Night at Santiago Canyon College. We were thrilled about the opportunity to reach so many children and families in the community.

The Science Fair-Community STEAM Night highlights the learning that takes place in each program and allows students and families to share science projects, interact with local science and natural science vendors, and win prizes for their hard work. Vendors offered hands-on activities for children and families, and attendees were also able to visit the Orange Unified School District Maker Challenge exhibit.

This event showcased projects created by three- and four-year-olds in preschool as well as school-aged children in our CARES program. Our staff takes pride in the accomplishments of our students, and they work hard each year to make this a night of fun, family and discovery. We are grateful for our dedicated staff as well as opportunities to collaborate with Santiago Canyon College and amazing vendors to promote STEAM in our schools and communities.

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Cambridge Elementary

April/May 2018

Egg Drop Challenge

Cambridge Elementary School is thrilled to share that we have been selected to participate in the OUSD’s STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Mentor Program in which a part-time Elementary Engineering Specialist (Joe Dluzak) mentors a select group of elementary teachers in utilizing the STEM space at our site. Mr. D works collaboratively with our classroom teachers on a weekly basis to plan and implement STEM lessons in order to build our staff’s capacity to fully utilize our STEM lab.

Mr. D and OUSD’s Julie Roney help to guide students through the engineering design process for the Egg Drop Challenge.

New Programs Coming to AHES

We are excited to announce that we will be adding Transitional Kindergarten to the 2018-19 school year. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a bridge between preschool and Kindergarten for children turning 5 years old on September 2 through December 2. We have also added TK Expansion for children who turn 5 between the dates of December 3 through March 31. TK and TK Expansion gives young learners a head start and provides them with an opportunity to learn and grow in an environment that is tailored to meet their academic and social needs.

AHES will also be adding the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program to our school. An AVID Elementary School is a foundational component of the AVID College Readiness System by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

Dual Immersion Spanish Program

California Elementary School is home of the iInspire Academy, where technology and language flourish. We are pleased to be accepting kindergarten-age students during the 2018-2019 school year for our very successful Dual Immersion Spanish program.

The iInspire Academy at California Elementary School is an innovative and premier one-to-one iPad program that seamlessly infuses 21st-century learning and technology into a Spanish immersion curriculum. Students learn to be bilingual and biliterate in both English and Spanish while also mastering 21st-century skills. They continue their language skills in middle school and high school by having the opportunity to earn college credit by taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Spanish.

Students will graduate with a Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma and high school transcripts. They will enter the global economy with 21st-century skills, and will be prepared to communicate and collaborate with the over 500 million people worldwide who speak Spanish.

We are a Gold Ribbon School, Title I Achieving School, Apple Distinguished School, and a Golden Bell award-winning school. The iInspire Academy is exclusive to California Elementary School in the Orange Unified School district. Please call our office at 714-997-6104, or visit our school website to inquire about applying.

Mr. D and OUSD’s Julie Roney help to guide students through the engineering design process for the Egg Drop Challenge.
Canyon Rim  
Elementary  
1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027

**Making a Positive Impact**

We are midway through another wonderful year at Canyon Hills School. Students continue to grow and progress in a safe, nurturing environment with caring, professional staff members who enjoy being part of each child’s life during the school day.

Over the past few months, students have participated in a variety of school activities, including the recent Valentine’s Dance. This annual event included the crowning of class prince and princesses and a school Valentine King and Queen. Families came to school in the afternoon to participate in the festivities. Students were able to practice movement and social and communication skills, and all of the students had a memorable experience.

The Anaheim Hills Rotary Club has given consistent support to Canyon Hills School. This year the club bestowed seven individual teacher grants. Teachers completed an application for instructional supplies or equipment up to $500 in value, and each of the seven submitted grants was approved. Requested items included physical education equipment, communication devices, such as switches and buttons, and other educational materials for the classrooms.

Canyon Hills’ teachers continue to incorporate technology into their everyday instruction. The newly implemented online curriculum, Unique Learning Systems, is in use in classrooms throughout the campus. In addition, students continue to use a variety of technologies to support language development.

Together with families and community partners, we are making a positive impact on the lives of these extraordinary students.

---

**Bringing History to Life!**

Canyon Rim upper grade scholars participate every year in Social Studies Walkthroughs. This enriching program is funded entirely by the Canyon Rim PTA! A Walk Through is an engaging and interactive educational presentation of standards-based history curriculum through literacy and the arts. A trained presenter guides students through historical events using dynamic, kid-friendly stories and activities. Games, music, and dramatic activities encourage participation and comprehension of the curriculum. In teams, students compete in a friendly contest to earn points. It is such fun to see the creativity of students’ costumes and acting! Upper grade students participate in the following topics for Walkthroughs:

- 4th Grade—California History
- 5th Grade—American Revolution
- 6th Grade—Ancient Civilizations

Thank you PTA for providing this worthwhile experience!
Sharing Our Values

Canyon High School’s breezeway between the administration offices and library recently received an amazing upgrade from a project completed by three CHS students. Rachel Metcalfe, Samantha Martin, and Kelly Solis decided to step up and take on the challenge of making the breezeway more appealing while also highlighting the best part of CHS, our students. The three students brainstormed ideas and researched the characteristics and programs that best represent what it means to be a Comanche. They decided on collaboration, academics, courtesy, athletics, courage, arts, and our Career Technical Education program.

The students spent countless hours going through pictures of CHS students from yearbook files to select images that best represented each of the chosen categories. Once the pictures were selected, the students then designed the double-sided banners and had them produced.

With the help of Mr. Anderson and plant foreman Mr. Servin, the banners were recently installed and have brightened the CHS campus.
Cerro Villa Middle School
17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251

School to Watch
Cerro Villa is both proud and honored to be selected as one of California’s 2018 Schools to Watch—Taking Center Stage model middle schools! As one of 22 schools selected this year, we join the 112 schools chosen statewide since 2003!

In February, Cerro Villa hosted a schoolwide celebration of this award. A banner was presented by Dr. Irvin Howard, codirector of Schools to Watch, to board members Kathy Moffat and Andrea Yamasaki and assistant superintendent Anne Truex. In June, Cerro Villa will be recognized in Washington, D.C., as a National School to Watch!

Staff and students have worked very hard in an exciting and challenging middle school program to demonstrate strong student achievement. This recognition is an affirmation of the fine work so many have done in the school, district and community at large.

Lisa Ogan
Principal
Cerro Villa
Middle School
17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251

Chapman Hills Elementary
170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043

Learning and Growing
Chapman Hills is excited about all the wonderful STEM that is happening around campus. The students have been working with a STEM support teacher who has been bringing the OUSD STEM challenges to life. Students in Mrs. Spargur, Ms. Edgerton and Mr. Higgins classes have been planning, designing and creating paper airplanes, coding the DASH Robots. Ms. Edgerton and Mr. Higgins classes most recently had a “jousting” competition where they used their coding skills along with aerodynamics. The goal of this competition was to be the first team to pop the balloon on the other robot first. Students are using many different skills when participating in these tasks such as; cooperation, problem solving and stamina. Bobcats are excited to continue learning and growing through STEM.

Jana Saenz
Principal
Chapman Hills
Elementary
170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043
Make Kindness Contagious!
By Alan Saldivar, First-Grade Teacher

With Valentine’s Day hugging the middle of February, there is no better month to encourage students to create a kind and caring school environment. This is what Mrs. Hooper has been doing for many years as our kind, caring and supportive librarian. Her goal is to make kindness contagious, not just during the month of February but every day of the year.

Mrs. Hooper provides fun projects for students to engage in to inspire kindness. The library is a showcase of decorated cutout hearts and “helping hands” illustrated with examples of kind acts. There are also a banner of pictures and inspirational messages that students have created.

Mrs. Hooper is a prime example of someone who models kindness and who puts her heart into her work. She is incorporating a STEAM lab in the library to encourage the fun of learning together with cooperation and, of course, kindness.
Building a New Team

El Modena is proud to share the addition of both boys and girls lacrosse to our robust athletics program! Their season began at the end of February, with the girls taking on Woodbridge and Segerstrom High Schools, and the boys facing off against Ochoa Prep Academy and Crean Lutheran High School.

As one of the fastest growing sports in California, El Modena is excited to watch the development of both lacrosse teams during their inaugural season. Competing at the JV level this year, the teams will play both in games against local schools and in tournaments.

In the true spirit of a Vanguard, a remarkable group of student athletes have come together with a positive and dedicated coaching staff to take on the challenge of learning a new sport and building new traditions.

Dr. Dustin Saxton
Principal

El Modena High School
3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 •

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International Food Day

El Rancho Charter School held its annual International Food Day festival on February 28. This event is a culinary experience that allows students to gain a better understanding of the diverse ethnic-cultural backgrounds that make up our student body.

Students and parents created dishes that represented various regions of the world and brought them to school to share with the students and staff. As students visited each food station, they learned about the significance of the dish and facts about each region or country.

To support the event, our Associated Student Body hosted the first annual door-decorating activity, where students collaborated to create beautiful works of art that represented different nations from around the world. These were featured on classroom doors for all students and parents to enjoy during International Food Day.

Thank you to all of our International Food Day volunteers for making this an enriching experience for our students and staff!

Michele Walker
Principal

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Michele Walker
Principal

Esplanade Elementary

Esplanade's robotics team has been busy collaborating, building, creating, revising, and practicing to prepare for the upcoming Robotics Showcase at the Community STEAM Night.

This group of Robotics Experts consists of students in grades four, five, and six, and none other than Esplanade's robotics master leads them, sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Aihara! The students work together in teams of three, and each with their own robot. The teams collaborate on the design of their robot and the challenges they must complete.

A new challenge this year for the robotics team is the ringmaster competition, in which the students must direct their robots to pick up rings and place them on both horizontal and vertical poles. It is definitely a difficult challenge, but our Esplanade's robotics experts do not give up. They continually modify their robots to be better at picking up the rings, and they practice, practice, practice!

When asked why the students like being part of the robotics team, they explained that they love working together and collaborating with each other, and they especially like creating and modifying their robots.

Christina Yokoyama
Principal
Kindness Matters!

Fairhaven Elementary School spent a week practicing kindness. The week began with a kickoff assembly. Students and staff were interviewed and videotaped as they shared what kindness means to them. Everyone loved seeing the video.

Activities for the week included a list of 100 things students can do to help spread kindness. They also wrote kindness notes, which were displayed on large hearts in the multipurpose room, served root beer floats to the classified employees, and enjoyed many classroom activities.

We also invited a guest speaker to talk to parents about their role in preventing bullying. While the parents attended the evening meeting, their children heard stories about kindness and made kindness rocks.

It was a great week of kindness, but Fairhaven is making a commitment to carry out acts of kindness throughout the year. Kindness really does matter at Fairhaven!

Karen Sandors
Principal

Outdoor Education

“’It was awesome!’ ‘That was the best food I’ve ever had!’ ‘I got to do a night hike!’ These were just a few of the enthusiastic responses from Fletcher sixth-graders as they arrived home from Outdoor Education just a few weeks ago.

This year’s science camp trip marked the first time in many years that Fletcher Elementary School has participated in an overnight trip for Outdoor Education. With help from our PTA, as well as fund-raising efforts by the students themselves, 28 students spent three days at a science learning center in Running Springs, where they learned archery, built windmills, and even presented about their projects to their classmates.

Even with all the amazing learning taking place, some students were most impressed with the surprise snowstorm after they arrived! For many students, this was their first experience with snow, and they enjoyed building snowmen and finding art in nature.
Ready with Dr. Seuss!
Handy Elementary celebrated Dr. Seuss Day with over 80 guests who visited our classes and shared with students multiple college and career pathways. Students within Orange Unified also visited our school: Richland High School Association student-body leaders, Orange High School Reserve Officers Training Corps leaders, Orange High School football leaders, and Yorba and Santiago Middle School Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) leaders.

Two student ambassadors from each of the classrooms led our guests throughout the campus to speak to classes and share their love for reading. Students learned about optometry, culinary arts, theater, nursing, accounting and government services in an effort to bring college and career opportunities into our classrooms to support our AVID programming and educate our students on multiple career pathways.

At Handy, our students believe that college is not a dream. It is a plan!

Dr. Michelle Owen
Principal

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Kindergarten is Sun Safe!

Imperial Elementary School opened in the fall of 1976. Since that time a few upgrades have been made to keep the school safe for our children. This year Imperial was awarded a grant from the American Academy of Dermatology to help fund the newest safety upgrade, a Shade Structure on the Kindergarten Playground. This shade structure is designed to protect the children from the harmful effects of the sun. Now not only will the children participate in lessons on sun safety, they will have an outside place to eat, play, and learn, that keeps them sun safe! A special Thank You goes to the American Academy of Dermatology, the Imperial PTA, and OUSD.

Counselors Unlock True Potential

Tony Morrow has one goal for the students of Fallbrook High School—graduate ready for what comes next. With his guidance, young scholars and families put their plans for the future into action.

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To Succeed In Reading!

Jordan Elementary School is committed to providing high-quality reading instruction that meets the needs of our students and will inspire them to become lifelong readers.

This year, our reading initiative kicked off with our sixth annual Read Your Heart Out Day. All of our classes came to the library, and our principal, Mrs. Lorena Rubio, read to every student. One student in each class won a brand-new book provided by our PTA. This day is to promote a love for reading.

Our K-6 teachers are committed to meeting their students’ reading needs through small-group instruction. These are based on current student reading data and are tailored to what each group requires, whether remediation or acceleration. Teachers have also selected target students that they can instruct daily, monitor reading progress every two weeks, and adjust instruction based on data. We also offer after-school support to select students in the first through third grades who require additional reading remediation.

Our teachers and staff members also foster a love of reading through our Reading Counts program. Teachers set individual Reading Counts goals with each of their students that focus on the number of quizzes passed or words read. Our librarian, Mrs. Carrie Pavlik, has been an amazing asset to our Reading Counts program. She works extremely hard to honor student efforts through Reading Counts incentives such as the Million Word Reader Club luncheon and awards given at Trimester Awards assemblies. She also runs the Morning Family Literacy Project which invites our families to check out books, read together, and take Reading Counts quizzes.

Jordan recently participated in Read Across America Week, the reading motivation and awareness program held annually. During this week our students and teachers took part in activities and festivities that motivated them to read every day.

A Whole Child Focus

Promoting the growth and development of the whole child is a primary focus at Linda Vista Elementary School. We teach our students in all academic areas but also focus on social-emotional learning and foster positive behavior.

Our school-wide behavior program, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), is a systematic approach that includes common behavioral expectations across all grade levels as well as consistent rewards and consequences. Linda Vista also highlights monthly character traits, which are discussed and practiced in classrooms throughout the month. We share daily school-wide Words of Wisdom messages about particular character traits that promote positive choices. In addition, we conduct social skills groups in our early grades to teach and reinforce positive interactions with others. Finally, staff members promote positive relationships and well-being.

Academics, social-emotional learning, and positive behavior all work together to help our students to succeed!

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Students are STEAMing

Lampson Elementary welcomed over 300 families to our Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) Family Night in February. Our Lampson families enjoyed STEAM activities that were led by our incredible and talented teachers and staff.

Our families were able to design bridges using index cards and tape; make parachutes using a napkin; meet and greet sea creatures from the Aquarium of the Pacific; get a taste of our Robotics Camps; use circuits to make light using batteries and bulbs; learn about Pascal’s Law; experience chemical reactions; and meet creatures such as tarantulas, scorpions, legless lizards, and much more. The students and community had a memorable night!

Additionally, Lampson was given the opportunity to bring on board Mr. Joe Dluzak, a civil engineer specialist, who will help support our implementation of STEAM education. Mr. Dluzak is currently working with Mrs. Carpenter’s second grade, Ms. Nghiem’s two/three combo, and Ms. Bair’s fourth-grade class on linking STEAM education to their curriculum and participating in our district’s STEAM monthly challenges.

At Lampson, our goal is to mold our students into critical thinkers, increase science literacy, and enable our next generation of innovators. Research indicates that most jobs of the future will require a basic understanding of math and science. By exposing our students to STEAM education, and giving them opportunities to explore STEAM-related concepts, they will develop a passion for the field and even pursue a career in it.

Reading Counts!

We are proud to share the success of our schoolwide Reading Counts program. Fifth-grade teacher Nicole Brehm has spearheaded this new implementation, and the student participation has been tremendous.

Reading Counts is an incentive-based reading program in which students can read a book of interest, take a short quiz, and earn points. These points can be cashed in for prizes, including our new and highly desired school water bottles! Every Friday, we announce all million-word readers, highest-word readers by class and classrooms with the most words read. Currently, Ms. Newby’s second-grade class and Ms. Brehm’s fifth-grade class are in the lead.

At the end of the school year, our schoolwide 25 top Reading Counts readers will attend a luncheon catered by students in the El Modena High School Culinary Arts Pathway program. We look forward to future success with our Reading Counts program!
The Meteor Science Fair

Months of hard work by McPherson Magnet School's sixth-through eighth-grade students finally paid off when the fruits of their labors were showcased at McPherson's annual science fair. Projects were judged by community members who are actively engaged in science and also work for local industrial and scientific companies, and Chapman University. A scoring rubric developed by local scientists, in conjunction with McPherson team members, was used to rank each project. The best projects go onto the county level. Each year a couple will also make it to the state level.

Once the middle school science fair is complete, our elementary students have the opportunity to create a science fair project. The elementary students have a chance to work on their communication skills as they orally present their projects to the middle school students. The middle school students evaluate the projects and determine which elementary students get awarded. It is a great way for our middle school students to connect with our elementary students through our STEM magnet focus.

Great job, Meteors! Follow us on Twitter @mcphersonmagnet

Joe Erven
Principal
McPherson Magnet
333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384
Connectedness is Key

“Excellence! Every Student! Every Day!”
This is Olive Elementary School’s motto, and we work to uphold this through our interactions with students, families, and the community.

In order to nurture each student’s individual best, our staff provides a variety of engagement opportunities to support our students and families. Whether we are supporting students through Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR) strategies, hosting a family engagement night, or working with community members to provide engaging Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) lessons, one of our top priorities is student connectedness.

Recently, Olive held its Annual Family Science Night, where students and families collaborated in the writing process with the authors, while primary-grade students got to share in a fun story time with the authors’ two current children’s books.

Keith and Larissa did grade-level presentations for the Nohl Canyon students. Upper-grade students were able to collaboratively participate in the writing process with the authors, while primary-grade students got to share in a fun story time with the authors’ two current children’s books.

Creative Visitors

Nohl Canyon Elementary School students were able to experience the life of an author firsthand during Read Across America week! Keith and Larissa Marantz are a husband and wife author-illustrator team. Keith comes up with many of the story ideas for their picture books, and Larissa helps Keith to flesh out those ideas clearly and colorfully through her illustrations. Their writing and art are inspired by their joyful life with their three children and the many animal creatures that live with them.

Larissa Marantz worked as an animation artist on many television shows, including “The Rugrats” and “Rocket Power”. She is an illustrator for several books as well, including Avatar: The Last Airbender, The Wild Thornberrys and SpongeBob SquarePants.

Heather Bosworth
Principal

Heather Darrow
Principal
JROTC Receives Congressional Recognition

Orange High School’s Marine JROTC Color guard has successfully competed in several drill meets this school year including a first place finish. For these accomplishments, Congressman Lou Correa, from the California 46th District, presented our cadets with certificates of Congressional recognition. Orange High’s JROTC leadership education curriculum is one of many programs Orange has to offer students. Students of this program go on to demonstrate their leadership by joining the Military, attending Community Colleges or four-year Universities, and making a positive contribution to the Community. We are proud of our cadets and we are proud to be a part of the Orange Community since the start of the program in 1997.

Palmyra Elementary

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207

STEAM Lab!

Palmyra Elementary School opened a new STEAM lab this year! The lab is equipped with a makerspace, a green screen, a 3-D printer, a robotics field and other equipment that helps support our students in becoming college and career ready. The lab has flexible seating that allows for students to engage and collaborate with one another.

Second-grade students in Mrs. Bretza’s class partnered with their fourth-grade AVID buddies in Mrs. Campbell’s class for a design challenge. Students had to collaboratively design a “Love Bug” and a vehicle to transport it.

“It is so great to have a designated space with all of the supplies and resources to do our experiments and projects!” Mrs. Bretza said.

The students love it, too! Kylah Dickson from Mrs. Campbell’s class said, “It’s fun to be creative and work together to build things. I really love all of the different supplies that we can use for our projects.”
Oh, the Things Springing Up!

It has been a fun and productive winter here at Panorama Elementary, and we look forward to an amazing spring as well! Our students continue to demonstrate a CARE-ing approach to school, showing courtesy, achievement and responsibility for everyone! They have also shown excellent growth in their district and schoolwide assessments, and demonstrate how they are in charge of their learning each and every day!

Our students and families have been involved in many wonderful activities each day, including Scholastic Book Fair and Read Across America Week, during which students and staff dressed up like their favorite book characters. Panorama was even represented by many students and families at a hockey game last week!

Yet there is still more on the horizon this spring, including our Spring Carnival for our students, the annual Panorama Talent Show, and state testing beginning at the end of April. Not only this, but Panorama is competing again in the Foundation Games and has already began practicing every Thursday, with over 100 competitors already signed up to keep the Panorama spirit alive!

We are very proud of our children, their support from home, and our teachers’ tireless efforts to make Panorama the school it is. Gooooo, Panthers!

Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Academic Showcase

Portola Middle School was honored to host a family night for both our existing and incoming Matadors to showcase the many amazing programs we have for our students. The evening began with a meeting for new parents to inform them of the different types of classes and rigorous learning opportunities we offer. Later, parents visited various classrooms, where they participated in interactive activities with their children, such as practicing fractions using cereal loops, creating and flying paper airplanes to test engineering, and springing plastic bottle to study physics.

Parents experienced firsthand how Portola is using innovative teaching and technology to deepen students’ engagement and to apply their learning to better their college and career readiness skills. By allowing parents and students to actively participate in educational activities together, we were not only teaching families, but we were facilitating opportunities for families to make memories together.
Sally Hughson
Principal

Administrator of the Year

Prospect teachers, staff, and students are celebrating with Mrs. Hughson, one of the two OUSD Administrators of the Year! Under the support and guidance of Principal Sally Hughson, Prospect Elementary School continues its record of student success. Sally’s infectious smile and positive attitude always welcomes our students, staff, and parents alike.

Classrooms everywhere are filled with enthusiastic students participating in small-group rotations. GLAD strategies, used throughout the instructional day, have led to a record number of English Learner re-classifications. We embrace the use of Thinking Maps to promote student organization of ideas and learning. Additionally, the AVID program, in its third year of implementation, is also helping to shrink the achievement gap. Students with lifelong learning skills now aspire to attend college and pursue successful careers.

Throughout the campus, our Prospect students and staff members are determined to succeed thanks to the positive encouragement and confident leadership of Principal Sally Hughson, our Administrator of the Year!

Sally Hughson
Principal

Santiago Charter Middle School

Ensuring Safety

Santiago continues to focus on creating a safe environment for all students. Our students are our most precious gift, and we understand the great responsibility we owe our community to ensure that students are safe.

In the wake of many national tragedies, we are constantly reminded of the importance of safety and procedural safeguards. To ensure the safety of all Santanas, Santiago employs a full-time security guard who is militarily trained in response and facility security. Additionally, Santiago staff is trained in active-shooter and intruder-response annually, has regular lockdown and response drills, and collaborates with community to ensure a locked campus throughout each school day.

It is everyone’s worst nightmare to have someone with a weapon walk onto a school campus, and we are constantly working to adapt and address issues to ensure a safe campus so our Santanas are able to succeed academically. In addition, we are working with our community and are excited to engage in ongoing conversation about continued safety.

Dr. James D’Agostino
Co-Principal

Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal

Santiago Charter
515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366
A Collaborative Effort

In early March, ASB teacher Mrs. Connally and her ASB students participated in the annual Read Across America Day at Handy Elementary School.

By giving back the gift of literacy, our ASB students visited Handy to read to various groups of students in their classrooms. Prior to reading a story, our Richland students were able to share with the children their professional goals after high school. Additionally, some of our students were asked what it was like to be in high school.

We would like to thank Handy Elementary Principal Dr. Michelle Owen, the Handy staff members, and the Handy Hornet student leaders who did an excellent job in hosting a wonderful event. Thank you for inviting the Richland High School students to celebrate a wonderful day of reading. We all had a great time!

Running Springs Elementary

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512

Redhawk Technology Squad

Running Springs Elementary School is proud to announce our newly created Redhawk Technology Squad (RTS). Squad members have been selected to support technology within the classroom. These upper-grade students have demonstrated tech-savvy skills along with leadership qualities. In addition, squad members have teamed up with primary teachers to provide additional support and leadership opportunities.

RTS combines the proud tradition of community with new, innovative ways to support tech in the classroom. RTS members will be trained to troubleshoot, teach software-based skills, and support the teachers with educational technologies. RTS is setting the foundation to prepare our students for a 21st-century global economy and in-demand jobs.

Here at Running Springs, we believe that schools can become better learning communities for everyone when students’ skills are recognized and valued. When it comes to technology, our students definitely have a lot to offer!
Advancement Via Individual Determination

By Damien Bergeron, Teri Cardenas and Giovanna Munoz

As the school year continues to hum along at Taft Elementary School, you can see Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) strategies being utilized by students in fourth through sixth grades.

If you peek into a fourth-grade classroom, you will see students preparing for future success by learning organizational skills. Across the way, in a fifth-grade classroom, you will observe students creating one-pagers to summarize their learning. When you arrive in a sixth-grade classroom, you will see students collaborating using response frames designed to communicate using academic language. You might also see them explaining mathematical processes on their AVID three-column notes pages.

A student from Cerro Villa Middle School recently visited Taft and reported, “AVID organizational skills and levels of thinking and questioning have been helping me tremendously in seventh grade.” Clearly, Taft students have their eyes on the big prize: higher education.

Sycamore Elementary

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277

Full STREAM Ahead!

Our third-grade classes recently had a wonderful opportunity to create and explore in our STREAM Lab (Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts, Math) with the support of a local children’s lab in Santa Ana. Lab staff and volunteers came out to lead students in exploring, designing, and building a device to travel on a zipline in the lab. Students had a blast testing out their designs and refining them to be successful and efficient. They then received an additional challenge kit to take home and work on. In a few weeks we will be receiving another challenge kit for our teachers to complete with their third-grade classes.

This experience adds to our STREAM program of Robotics Club, which will be competing in May, and our STREAM club, which will work on projects in stop-motion animation, 3D printing, and coding with Spheros.

Serrano Elementary

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275

Early Act Program

One of our goals at Serrano is to expand our student’s awareness of “community”. This year, 6th grade students applied to be a member of the Early Act program that is sponsored by the Villa Park Rotary Club. Early Act members strive to follow the example of the Rotarians by performing service work for the community. Our Early Act Club sponsored a “Bring the Change” week which raised $5000.00 that was donated to help children with leukemia and lymphoma. It was great to involve the entire student body in such a wonderful act of kindness!

In addition to community awareness, Serrano is striving to offer more opportunities for students to participate in the arts. Currently we offer Art Masters classes four times a year. The District supports our band, orchestra, choir and theater for upper grade students. And, this year at Serrano, we have added an opportunity for a stage production of Aladdin. Over 40 students auditioned and are eagerly participating in rehearsals. We are looking forward to the performance which will be held at the end of May at Villa Park High School.

Speaking of Villa Park High School, the Mariachi Band will perform at Serrano in May for our students as part of our Cinco de Mayo studies. We are so grateful for our wonderful relationship with our Villa Park Schools!
Everybody Can Serve

Villa Park is proud to announce that Joseph M. Niizawa has met all requirements to advance to finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The selection of some 7,500 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 finalists is now in progress. Villa Park High School is extremely proud of Joseph.

“Joseph Niizawa represents all the characteristics that truly reflect what it is to be a Spartan and uphold The Spartan Way: intellect, tenacity, perseverance and preparedness,” said Assistant Principal Jeff Jones. “Joseph is a winner at the school where winners win!”

In January, dozens of Villa Park Spartans spent the day honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through serving our community. Link Crew leaders spent months preparing and making connections to implement our inaugural Spartan Serve-A-Thon. We linked with our National Honor Society members, Operation Package Club and Cerro Villa Middle School’s WEB Class to go serve others. We completed five service projects throughout our immediate community: Mary’s Kitchen—prepping and serving 200 meals sack lunches; Salvation Army—collecting and organizing 100 bags of clothing; Ronald McDonald House of Orange County—cleaning the McDonald house; Kirkwood Community—making blankets; Friendly Center—creating over 100 hygiene bags.

A choice was made by our student leaders to make a difference in the lives of others. The desire to help others in our Spartan Community filled the hearts of many of our students and made a lasting impression. We are extremely proud of the work our students accomplished in our first annual Serve-A-Thon, but more importantly, what they learned by giving back to their community. Our students participated and served in January with this growth mindset quote by Dr. King at the forefront of their thinking: “Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.”

Student Visitation

Toro Pride is thriving! Yorba welcomed their incoming students from Handy, California, Palmyra and Cambridge in March. Over 300 elementary students were welcomed to the Yorba campus as future Toros! These students participated in the annual incoming-student visitation. The purpose of the visit was to introduce incoming students for the 2018–19 school year to the campus, staff and students.

The students were entertained with an interactive assembly that included media presentations, student presentations and musical performances. Students then toured the campus, where they had the freedom to ask questions and get information from the various departments, clubs and electives that Yorba offers. The key was to get them involved in their middle-school experience.

We will host another student visit in the summer for students who are not currently attending a feeder school. We are proud! We are committed! We are...Toros!
**Engineers Week**

In February, Villa Park Elementary hosted its second annual Engineering Week. We were fortunate to have six amazingly talented engineers from the community: Kirsten Zeydel O’Neill, Greg Begell, Chris Budnik, Mary Byrne, Trevor Scheaffer and Zeph Varley, who gave of their time to share about their career in engineering with our students.

Some examples of their exciting work included designing buildings and bridges; creating sonar systems for submarines, power systems for airplanes, integrated circuits to power computers and video games; and designing components of a ride at a major theme park. Finally the students completed a hands-on simple engineering activity under the guidance of our guest engineers.

Thanks to all of our fabulous community engineers for opening students’ minds to considering a career in this important STEM field!

---

**Our Warrior Mathletes**

West Orange Elementary School is welcoming the spring by preparing for a variety of after-school activities for all of its West Orange Warriors!

In addition to our past favorite activities of AVID tutoring, Friday Running club, and Robotics and Coding, West Orange is now adding a “Mathletic” competition to its selection.

The fourth-grade teachers are diligently preparing fun interactive math activities to challenge our top performing math students. Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Sousa’s students will spend the spring having a lot of fun tackling rigorous and engaging math challenges. The West Orange Warrior Mathletes will then take their competition skills and complete challenges with their Cambridge Elementary friends.

We are all looking forward to the innovative and creative ways that our fourth-grade students will apply multiple math strategies to solve multitiered mathematical problems. Mathletics promises to be fun for all involved!
Isabella’s Book Review

**A Ghost Story**

*Took*, by Mary Downing Hahn, is a ghost story about a family that moves to Woodville, West Virginia. Against Daniel and Erica’s will, they moved because of financial difficulties. Some kids treat them like they’re aliens colonizing Woodville. Kids scare them with stories about “Old Auntie” and how she takes one girl every 50 years. Last time, she took Selene Estes; Now, it will be Erica.

Erica begins talking to a doll, claiming she talks back. She hears her name whispered and sees people. One day she follows one of those people into the forest. That is when she gets “took.” Her parents become unhappier with time and blame Daniel for Erica’s disappearance.

People say “Old Auntie” took her and will keep her for 50 years. Are people right? Will Erica be found?

I rate this book 4 stars because although I loved it, I disliked the character’s attitudes.

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

Lucy’s Book Review

**In 27 Days**

Twenty-seven days is a very specific amount of time, but if you’re trying to prevent a suicide it’s nothing short of a race against the force itself. Hadley Jamison never really knew Archer Morales, but she made a deal with Death that if he gave her twenty-seven days, she could stop Archer from taking his own life. So, she tries her best to befriend the closed off, quiet kid from freshman English. He doesn’t seem to want her help, but their jobs at a coffeehouse and tutoring sessions bring them closer together, and soon they’re becoming quite the pair.

Problem is, chaos wants to pull them apart. With events endangering the people that she loves, will Hadley succeed in keeping Archer alive? Or will she run out of time?

I enjoyed this book immensely for many reasons. It’s funny, suspenseful, thoughtful, and all around a great read. Five out of five bookworms.

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn’t immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.
B is for Book

**Surprising Twists**

*Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale left me craving for more. It’s the perfect combination of adventure, princesses, friendship, and even a little romance!

When the people of Mount Eskel receive message from the lowlanders saying their prince is looking for a princess and all young girls will be sent to an academy, everyone is in shock, especially Miri. Without a choice, Miri, her friends, and a strange lowlander girl named Britta, set off to the academy, only to find themselves with a horrible tutor and homesick. Now, the pressure is on to be the best of the academy and marry the prince. Will Miri find out that even though she’s small for her age, her voice is big? Will she stand up for what’s right?

I couldn’t put this book down! Shannon Hale always describes the moment just right and the twists were surprising! I give this book 5 out of 5 stars. Don’t forget to read the rest of the series!

---

**Christina’s Book Review**

*The Secrets to Ruling School (Without Even Trying)* by Neil Swaab

The story is written in third person, and plays out as smoothly as a movie. You are a new student at William H. Taft Middle School and are approached by Max Corrigan, your life coach, who will help you to become popular among the cliques at school, so you start by trying to join into the Class Clown table that won’t let you in, unless you can get them a good artists for their comics, so you go to a good artist who agrees to help you, only if you get the Band geeks away from their table at the cafeteria, so she can display her graffiti on that wall, they agree to leave, but only if you help them raise money to save their Music program, so you ask a rich girl for money, she agrees to help, but only if you rig the football team to lose, so she could win a bet… and this interestingly problematic cycle continues on and on, until you reach your goal.

I really liked reading this book, so I will give it 5 out of 5.

---

Bailey is a 6th grader that likes to read fantasy and daydream about adventure when she isn’t dancing ballet or playing with her friends and siblings.

Christina is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project “Quilts for the cold” last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).
**Zoomazement**

**GRADES:** 3rd – 5th

**LOCATION:** Santa Ana Zoo

**DATES:** July 9-13, July 23-27

**TIME:** FULL DAY: Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Do you have a future zoologist or veterinarian in your home? Does your child love everything about the animals that share our planet? Join us for a one-of-a-kind, behind the scenes wildlife adventure! Campers entering 3rd through 5th grade will enjoy spending a week in the Santa Ana Zoo experiencing the animal kingdom first hand, in a safe, educational, and fun environment. They will come in contact with a variety of wild and domesticated animals (all under expert supervision), learn about adaptations that help these incredible creatures survive in the harshest environments, and get a close-up look at the art and science of running and maintaining a wild animal sanctuary. Take a walk on the wild side and have a blast monkeying around with this exciting hands-on adventure!

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**Junior Wildlife Adventure**

**GRADES:** K – 2nd

**LOCATION:** Santa Ana Zoo

**DATES:** July 16-20, July 30-August 3

**TIME:**
- FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm
- HALF DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Imagine the excitement of your animal loving child getting an up-close and personal view of some of the animals to which they are introduced in their beloved storybooks. Each day of this fun and creative camp, campers entering Kindergarten through 2nd grade will learn about the interesting and diverse creatures that inhabit our planet. Within our private classroom at the Santa Ana Zoo, campers will enjoy an animal-themed story time and experience a variety of behind-the-scenes adventures including up close and personal animal interactions, zoologically-based art projects, and scientific experiments specifically designed to impact young learners. This week-long experience will satisfy the wild and tame alike!

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Register today at oc.discoverycube.org
Dino Detectives

**GRADES:**
3rd – 5th

**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
July 16-20, July 30-August 3

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Become a Dino Detective this summer! Campers entering 3rd through 5th grade will explore the prehistoric world of the dinosaurs as they learn all about these magnificent creatures. Grab a paleontologist’s tool kit and dig for “fossils”. Take a walk on the dino-side and experience what a dinosaur’s life may have been like. This dino-mite camp will turn all campers into dinosaur experts.

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**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
June 25-29, July 9-13, July 23-27

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

**Half Day:**
Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

**GRADES:**
K – 2nd

**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
June 25-29, July 16-20, July 30-August 3

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Dinosaur Adventure

**GRADES:**
K – 2nd

**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
June 25-29, July 9-13, July 23-27

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

**Half Day:**
Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 1:00pm

Discovering Dinos will lead campers entering Kindergarten through 2nd grade through the mysterious world of the dinosaurs. Dive into a dino-themed summer by creating replica fossils, examining what makes a dinosaur a dinosaur, and discovering dino-traits still around today. Young dinosaur enthusiasts will harness their paleontologist skills as they learn about all things dinos!

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**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
June 25-29, July 9-13, July 23-27

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Code Constructors: An Exploration of the Raspberry Pi

**GRADES:**
6th – 8th

**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
July 23-27, July 30-August 3

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Calling all budding computer scientists: Code Constructing camp needs you! Campers will learn all about computers, from circuitry to programming, as they experiment with programming software and alter the real world through physical computing. By constructing text based programs, campers will create their own games and digital art. With just a few clicks, the world of Minecraft will unfold as campers learn how to create code for a special version of this popular sandbox video game. To pull all their new skills together, campers will build a sensor-based prototype and operate it with their own unique codes. By the end of camp, coding will become as easy as Pi.

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**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
June 25-29, July 9-13

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Mission to Mars

**GRADES:**
3rd – 5th

**LOCATION:**
Discovery Cube Orange County

**DATES:**
June 25-29, July 9-13

**TIME:**
FULL DAY: Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Prepare for an adventure: getting to and living on Mars! In partnership with Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), we have created a summer of space adventure for campers entering 3rd through 5th grades. Scientists, Engineers, and other Subject Matter Experts will participate with the students to help them explore the engineering process by designing a rocket ship to begin their journey. Campers will then create a Martian Lander to get them safely on the surface of Mars where they will test ways to survive the harsh Martian environment, gather resources needed to survive, and create a rover that can speed through alien terrain! In collaboration with JPL, Discovery Cube has designed a week of excitement and learning for campers that is sure to be out of this world!

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Register today at oc.discoverycube.org

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**Novelist –Word Search Contest**

**Rules!**

One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put OUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by May 15, 2018
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

**Congratulations to Amanda Donoghue**
Winner of our December Word Search Contest!

---

**Katie’s Review**

**Reading Can Be Fun**  
By Munro Leaf

This book is for anyone, old or young. This book is about why reading can be fun! It talks about how many of you may think that reading is boring. But then this book talks about without reading, your mind won’t grow. Reading can take you places that you’ve never been in before--for example, an exotic jungle! More so, however, reading will teach you how to WRITE. To become a good writer, you need to read, so you can see how authors write and try it out in your own writing. So, the next time someone asks you to read, say yes. It will not only be a lot of fun, but it will also give you the experience of learning. *Reading Can Be Fun* is an amazing book that made me read more. I rate this book a five out of five stars. Go on, read it! It will be a lot of fun.

Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.
Jenna’s Review

The Best Part of The Day

By Sarah Ban Breathnach
This book talks about the best part of the day by season. What is the best part of the day in fall? Was it picking the apples or raking the leaves? What about winter? Was it building a snowman or staying near the fireplace with marshmallows and cocoa? Now spring has arrived with fresh air and plenty of flowers. What is the best part of the day in spring? Was it taking care of the garden or cuddling lambs? Finally, the summer. Lemonade and a jump into the pool. What is the best part of the summer? Was it the fireflies flickering all the way home or was it our picnic together with friends? Lastly, this book concludes with one best part of the day in all the seasons. I really liked this book because it is like a poem story and the pictures are so beautiful and detailed.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

‘Tis the Season for $25 Physicals

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REVERSE Mortgages Too! Did you know you can get a Line of Credit on your Reverse Mortgage!

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“In God we Trust”

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