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The No. 1 priority of Orange Unified School District (OUSD) is to protect the safety and well-being of our students and staff, regardless of the circumstances. The recent Canyon Fire 2 was a fast-moving and unpredictable fire in the canyon close to several OUSD schools. Staff, along with first responders, did an amazing job of keeping our students safe. As such, the decision to close some campuses while others remained open followed careful deliberations with the Orange City Fire Department, Anaheim Fire and Rescue, Orange County Fire Authority, and local police agencies. District representatives were part of the Incident Command Center and were in constant communication with the school sites and staff. We are incredibly grateful for the support we received from all participating agencies, including our city and county partners.

Suffice to say, everyone in OUSD has played a critical role in our response. Amid a complex and evolving situation, our staff calmly and carefully evacuated three campuses and followed reunification procedures to safely connect families with their children, who closely followed directions and adhered to the safety protocols we practice throughout the year.

School site principals and staff made every effort to accommodate student needs throughout the days of the fire. Our maintenance and operations crews painstakingly worked to ensure the air and ventilation in our facilities met the highest standards. Athletic events, physical education classes, and other outdoor activities were also cancelled based on the latest advisories from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of those whose lives have been impacted by devastating fires. While we hope we never have to face these kinds of tragedies, it is important that we routinely prepare for them, ensuring a response that is well-rehearsed, collaborative, and based on proven strategies and best practices. I am extremely proud of our employees and their dedication to our community during these times of crisis.

Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Interim Superintendent
Orange Unified School District
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This is our 13th year publishing the excellence from the OUSD. There have been many changes over the years with the increase in technology in the classrooms, but the one constant has been the focus on academic excellence.

Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices. We now offer a podcast on our web site and continue to fine tune our social media and content to keep you abreast of school news.

Have a happy holiday season. We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed services and grateful for their service.

Our next issue is April 11, 2018!
Greetings from Alternative Education

The 2017–2018 school year began with great excitement among the students at Alternative Education. Our teachers, staff, and instructional assistants have all been preparing for what is proving to be an exciting school year.

Alternative Education is comprised of five programs: Community Day School, Independent Study, Home/Hospital, Adult Transition, and Adult Education. Each program is highly specialized and unique to the individual needs of the students.

Community Day School (CDS) serves students in grades seven through twelve. It is built on the belief that all students can learn when given the appropriate environment, educational expertise, and opportunity. Alternative Education is also proud to have an Independent Study High School/Home School program that serves students in grades K–12. It has the benefits of both a home school and face-to-face instruction with highly qualified Orange Unified School District teachers. Students with special education needs may also participate in this program.

From time to time, some students can become ill and not attend school due to medical reasons. For these students we have Home/Hospital. The purpose of Home/Hospital is to help these individuals maintain continuity of instruction during a period of temporary disability.

The Adult Transition program also serves adult students with IEPs to help meet the special needs of 18- to 22-year-old young adults with developmental disabilities. Our key focus is to help these adult students build independence and quality of life, as well as linking these individuals to the appropriate community and adult services.

Adult Education is a public education program for all adult learners. The classes are for individuals who are 18 years of age and older. Students can also earn a high school diploma. Classes are offered in the evening, and are flexible to the individual needs and schedules of the students.

Please See Our Ad On the Back Cover
By Bree Tippets-Coordinator

Thanksgiving Feast

Mrs. Tippets and the staff of Orange Pre-K were excited to celebrate Thanksgiving with their students and families! Students started the month of November diving into the curriculum’s theme, “Families.” Students engaged in lessons about families, family members, activities families do together, and ways to help in their families.

Students enjoyed working with their family members to create picture collages in the form of family “leaves.” Students were excited to share their leaves and tell their classmates all about their family members. They were very proud to add their leaves to the classroom tree! Students then used their leaves to create tree “maps” to sort family members.

Students used Circle Maps to brainstorm the fun things their families do together, and they helped each other participate in domestic activities in order to demonstrate ways family members help each other. Students finished the unit by drawing self-portraits with family members doing their favorite activities.

While the students were busy learning and sharing about their families, they also decorated their turkey hats for the Thanksgiving feast! They worked hard preparing songs and dance moves for their performance. We finished out November with an outstanding student performance, complete with turkey hats! Students were proud of their accomplishments and were eager to join their families for the much-awaited feast.

Anaheim Hills Elementary

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Panther Place

Anaheim Hills ES is proud of our continued Kindness Campaign. Panther Place, our garden of kindness, opened its gates on October 20, 2017. Inspired by the book, “Only One You” by Linda Kranz, Panther Place is open for all students during recess and lunch to sit and spend time with friends. Each student and staff member decorated a “seed of kindness” (a pebble) and each seed was placed in the garden. Students have been taught that their actions and words are very powerful and that a simple gesture of giving a compliment to a different person each day can make a difference.

California Elementary

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Apple Distinguished School

California Elementary School, home to the iInspire Academy, is pleased to announce that it has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2017–2019 for its innovative utilization of iPad in a school-wide 24/7 Take Home Device program. Apple Distinguished Schools are centers of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence that use Apple products to inspire creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. They showcase innovative uses of technology in learning, teaching, and the school environment and have documented results of academic accomplishment. Dr. John Albert, the principal said: “This is a huge validation of the growth and continuous efforts our entire staff and community has undertaken.” The selection of California Elementary School as an Apple Distinguished School highlights their success as an innovative and compelling learning environment that engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment.
Mobile School Pantry

Cambridge Elementary is proud to be participating in the Mobile School Pantry Program in partnership with the Second Harvest Food Bank. The Mobile School Pantry Program brings food to schools in underserved neighborhoods. Here the local volunteers set up the fresh produce in a farmers market-style distribution on a monthly basis, reaching over 200 families each time. Parent volunteers are essential to the success of this program, with 10-12 volunteers helping each month. Together, we are able to provide a more readily accessible source of food assistance to low-income students and their families.

Diane Lew
Principal

Cambridge Elementary
425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • http://www.orangeusd.org

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Finishing Touch!

Last year, CHS opened its new STEM learning lab! After installing all the furniture and equipment, the room was left with a large, blank canvas on the walls. There was clearly something missing to make the lab an engaging learning environment.

As part of our philosophy at CHS of empowering our students to take projects on and gain real-world experience, we decided we would reach out to see if any students would like to take on the project of creating a design for the walls. Students Petrina Kan and Nancy Nguyen stepped up to take on the project. They started by researching the colors associated with the CTE sectors in the lab as well as the meaning of different shapes and designs before deciding on a honeycomb pattern for its representation of hard work and collaboration. Their work included measuring the room, selecting graphics for the individual hexagons, and finally creating a mock design of their project. Their work has created a model educational environment and will be enjoyed by future Canyon students for years to come.

Craig Abercrombie
Principal

Canyon Hills

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

Another Great Year

Canyon Hills School has already had some outstanding events this year, including Back-to-School Night, Picture Day, Red Ribbon Week, and the annual pumpkin patch. These activities are enriching, multi-sensory experiences that promote learning. We appreciate those who contribute their time, energy, and other resources to our activities.

The integration of technology into instruction is expanding as teachers explore new devices and their applications. This year, teachers have adopted a standards-based curriculum, Unique Learning Systems, which is used daily to enrich the functional academic instruction for all students. The format of this curriculum adapts well to the interactive television and tablet devices, which teachers also incorporate in their daily instruction. There are many applications designed for students with significant special needs, which promote fine motor and communication skills and enhance student engagement.

Another exciting addition to the Canyon Hills campus this year is the newly completed Life Skills Lab, where students participate in vocational activities. In preparation for the transition to life beyond Canyon Hills, students learn skills to help with the activities of daily living, such as: making a bed; doing laundry; folding and hanging clothes; food preparation; and sorting and assembly of small items. Students also assist with campus custodial jobs, including collection and sorting of items for recycling.

As you can see, another remarkable year is underway at Canyon Hills!

Dr. Karen Hansen
Coordinator

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20 Years of Excellence

In October, Canyon Rim Elementary opened its doors for the first time to approximately 560 kindergarten-through-fourth-grade students. That month, the entire Canyon Rim community, past and present, came together to celebrate 20 years of excellence.

Many former members of the staff were in attendance, including the founding principal, Maggie Van Eck. Dee Mar, a founding teacher, reflected on the past accomplishments, and Erika Krohn, our current principal, gave a speech about what’s in store for Canyon Rim's future. The student council presented all of the items that were unearthed from the time capsule to share Canyon Rim history. The winners of the Why I Love Canyon Rim writing contest shared their essays.

The celebration ended with the entire student body singing the Canyon Rim song. In honor of the 20th anniversary, PTA is funding a 21st century STEM lab, which will open very soon!

The celebration continued in the evening at the 20th Anniversary Festival from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the playground. Students and staff agree—they’re proud to be Roadrunners!
Cerro Villa Middle School
17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Cerro Villa receives WASC Accreditation!

Cerro Villa is pleased to announce that the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has granted Cerro Villa Middle School WASC accreditation through June 30, 2023; accreditation is awarded at different levels, and at 6 years, Cerro Villa is honored to receive the highest level of recognition possible. Cerro Villa is the first comprehensive public middle school (grades 7-8) in Orange County to earn such an award! The Cerro Villa Action Plan will be strictly followed over the next six school years to monitor progress and successfully implement these key recommendations to increase student learning and well-being with fidelity; our firm dedication to high quality learning and self-improvement is evidenced by this accreditation.

Go Vikings!

Lisa Ogan
Principal
Cerro Villa
17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Every Monday, Cerro Villa students wear shirts from various colleges of their choice.

A Busy Year for the Bobcats

Students at Chapman Hills Elementary have been very busy since the start of the school year. We began the year reviewing our character education program, Pyramid of Success. This program is based on the philosophies of legendary University of California, Los Angeles coach John Wooden.

We have also partnered with Harper for Kids (HFK), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to teach children life lessons so they are empowered to reach their “personal best.” HFK provided students with personal and classroom Pyramid of Success posters to reinforce the valuable program. The classes were also gifted copies of Coach Wooden’s book, Inches and Miles.

Each month we are highlighting a specific character trait. For the 2017–2018 school year, we have focused on hard work, friendship and cooperation. Each month we have celebrated student achievement in these areas at our monthly flag ceremony. We also had an assembly led by famous Wimbedon doubles champion Corina Morariu.

First- through sixth-grade Bobcats had the wonderful opportunity to be beta testers for the Google Expeditions AR Pioneer Program, an application that allowed students to experience augmented reality. Through Google Expeditions, teachers take students on immersive, virtual journeys. Our students got to take a virtual field trip to space, the ocean floor, Roman times, and pre-historic times to visit dinosaurs.

Our CHE students also used this technology to view three-dimensional objects that were placed around the room. Students were able to walk around the objects, get close them, and collaboratively discuss what they were observing. One group of first- and second-graders even pretended to swim underneath a sting ray! It was awe-inspiring to see the student engagement and excitement!

Jana Saenz
Principal
Chapman Hills Elementary
170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • http://www.orangeusd.org
Hurricane Harvey was the strongest hurricane to hit the U.S. in 13 years. It smashed onto the coast of Southeastern Texas on August 25, 2017. Its great force and accompanying devastation hit the city of Houston with heavy flooding and massive destruction. Many schools suffered significant damage along with the loss of supplies and equipment.

Crescent students engaged in discussions about the flood’s devastation, which also spawned feelings of compassion and empathy. This compassion generated a need for action. Fourth-grade teacher Kathleen Losi spearheaded these efforts, along with support from our teachers, staff, and the PTA. The students and their wonderful and caring families also helped send some much needed supplies to these Houston schools.

In all, we shipped three 100-pound boxes of pens, pencils, crayons, and small supplies. There were also 14 large flat-rate boxes of paper sent to Operation Backpack, supported by the YMCA in Houston.
A Successful Teen Read Week

From October 9-13, El Rancho Charter School participated in Teen Read Week; a national celebration in libraries across our country. Mrs. McGuire, the school’s librarian, worked tirelessly to ensure that the event would be a success. The week was full of exciting events for both students and staff. From daily raffles, to hosting an awesome Book Fair, to a fantastic assembly with multiple award-winning authors; students across campus were talking about all things related to books. After the assembly, students had the opportunity to meet the authors and have their books autographed. It was wonderful to see students engage with the authors and share with them the favorite parts of their books. Teen Read Week has definitely been a highlight of this school year!
Positive Partnership

Esplanade Elementary School and El Modena High School's Careers in Education class partner with each other for the benefit of both Esplanade's and El Modena's students. Each day, El Modena High School Students come to Esplanade to work in classrooms in support of student learning. Under the direction of Esplanade teachers, El Modena students work in classrooms, assisting in a variety of activities. They facilitate learning centers, read with students, play math games, run PE activities, supervise science experiments, and assist teachers with preparation of classroom activities. Esplanade's students enjoy working with their cross-age tutors and look up to them as positive role models. Both Esplanade students and El Modena students benefit from the partnership between schools which support student learning at both the elementary and high school levels of education.

Fairhaven Elementary

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • http://www.orangeusd.org

A Proud Avid Elementary School

This is the second year that Fairhaven's teachers are able to implement AVID Elementary into their everyday teaching.

Our fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade teachers introduced AVID Elementary to our parents and families at our recent AVID parent night. Visitors learned that the implementation resources, trainings, and philosophy of AVID Elementary are all grounded in the idea that the growth mindset can be taught to students. It is through this growth mindset that AVID students succeed in following their dreams and fulfilling their aspirations.

They also learned that AVID takes a systemic approach through the use of WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading), and with an explicit focus on high expectations, rigor, and the development of a college readiness culture. We are excited to continue this adventure with the fifth- and sixth-graders, while also adding our fourth-graders this school year. We look forward to expanding AVID Elementary into the third grade during the next school year.
College and Career Focused!

Handy Elementary students are learning about college and career readiness through our Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Over half of Handy teachers have attended AVID Summer Institute trainings in Anaheim and San Diego to learn about how to embed AVID strategies to support all students in developing a college- and career-bound mindset and skills.

Students learn organizational strategies to help them take notes and systematize their personal materials.

Students also learn about different colleges throughout the year and how to be successful students. Fifth- and sixth-graders participate in a college visit at local universities to learn more about what it takes to prepare for their future. Additionally, sixth-grade students may apply for AVID as middle school students, where they can continue to explore college preparedness strategies and skills.

At Handy, we believe college is not a dream. It is a plan!

Community Relief Effort

Imperial's mission states that “we are dedicated to providing a high-quality education for all children. We foster creative, confident students who are able to think critically and communicate through collaborative learning, enabling them to become productive members of the global community and leave a lasting imprint on our society.”

To that end, the staff and families at Imperial provide opportunities to join together in support of others both far and near. The students at Imperial held a socks-and-underwear drive in support of those whose lives were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Imperial families collected 797 pairs of socks, 35 T-shirts and 507 pieces of underwear, for a total of 1,339 items donated to Hurricane Harvey Relief. An additional total of 900-plus items was donated by School of Communication students at Chapman University, and 300-plus items were donated by Cal State Long Beach, all inspired by Imperial students! This means that the Imperial Family contributed or inspired the donation of over 2,500 items that were transported to the Houston Food Bank to help with Hurricane Harvey relief.

This is something for which the Imperial Family is very proud.
Roaring to Success

Our Jordan Scholars are roaring to success this year as we implement a new PBIS slogan and a variety of school-wide incentives and programs.

Our motto is “Jordan Scholars Can and Will Succeed,” and as our students demonstrate their positive and scholarly behaviors around the campus, they can also earn ROAR tickets. Our ROAR slogan stands for “Respect, Organization, Attitude, and Responsibility.” These are qualities that we believe will lead to success in the classroom and beyond.

As the students receive their ROAR tickets, they can enter them into the weekly Friday raffle, where a winner is selected from each classroom for a prize. The students can also save their tickets for the bimonthly ROAR Store, where they can choose from a variety of items to “buy.” The options even include a Trimester Dance Party!

Every month we also gather together as an entire campus for our school-wide morning assembly. All parents are welcome to attend this event as we take the time to recognize classrooms and individuals in a variety of areas. We highlight students who have shown good attendance, students who have had their birthdays during the month, students who have passed their math facts test, and an exemplary Jordan Jaguar from each classroom as our “Jaguar of the Month.”

On this same day, students who have done all of their homework in the month get to have a “free dress” day. We also invite students who have had good attendance to attend our “No Tardy Party.” Those who have passed their math facts for the month can also earn an ice cream party at lunch.

We believe that highlighting the accomplishments of our students will allow them to become successful not only in the classroom, but also when they continue on their path to college, careers, and a successful life.

The Votes Are In!

The votes are in, and the La Veta Elementary School Student Council is up and running! We are proud to welcome this year’s new officers: President Leslie Santiago, Vice President Mackenzie Brehm, Treasurer Julianna Huffman, and Secretary Hannah Baxter, along with 14 dedicated class representatives. We are looking forward to many exciting student council activities this year at La Veta!

We kicked off with our food drive in November to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Last year our canned food drive brought in over 500 pounds of canned goods, and we have set a goal to double that this year!

Other activities planned for the upcoming year include spirit days, the Great Kindness Challenge, Valentine’s Day Candy Grams, and a Puddles of Pennies penny drive benefiting Little Ripples, a refugee-led early childhood education program.

Our Box Tops for Education drive continues all year, bringing in extra money for student council to use toward purchasing playground equipment.

Mrs. Schoen and Mrs. Mejia, our student council teacher leads, along with our student council officers and class representatives, are looking forward to a fun and exciting year together!
Empowering Our Community

Lampson Elementary School is truly fortunate to have such a dedicated and wonderful community. We take great pride in our partnership with our parents and our community.

Lampson has a strong tradition of supportive, hardworking families, and we believe that parents are valuable partners in their children’s education. We understand that it takes a village to raise a child, and this is the shared responsibility we all have.

Over the summer, we analyzed and discussed our 2016–2017 end-of-the-year parent surveys. As a result, we decided to roll out several parent workshops throughout the 2017–2018 school year. The school year kicked off with English as a Second Language classes on Tuesdays through Fridays for our non-English-speaking community. We also developed a series of six one-hour parent workshops, which take place once a week. Topics include academic resources for students, understanding the parent portal, reading strategies, the writing process, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), and math strategies. In addition, we are offering the third and fourth phases of Disciplina Positiva, a parenting workshop on dealing with childhood challenges and successes.

Our message to our community has been consistent: we need to model what is expected of our students and show them the value of education and ongoing learning. Our goal is to educate our parents on important school topics, including curriculum, funding, data, and assessment, so they are able to share in the leadership decisions that impact our instructional program. As we know, studies show that family engagement in schools improves student achievement, reduces absenteeism, and boosts students’ self-esteem.

We are thankful for our Lampson community and all they do for our students.

Heriberto Angel Jr.
Principal

Lampson Elementary
13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • http://www.orangeusd.org

The Leopard Lab

The Linda Vista Elementary School staff is helping our students develop their reading skills through the Leopard Lab. This program provides intervention in foundational reading skills to our first- and second-grade students in a small-group format during the school day.

Students are selected by their teachers based upon classroom assessment data, and can visit the Leopard Lab four times each week to work in a small-group setting. They work on phonics and comprehension skills, and are reassessed to measure their progress after a six- to eight-week period.

The Leopard Lab was begun this year through a partnership with Santiago Community College. Instruction is provided by a Linda Vista teacher instructional assistant, as well as volunteers from the Santiago Community College’s Department of Education who volunteer their time each week to work in the Lab.

We are excited to be able to collaborate with our higher education partners to provide students with the support they need to become proficient readers.

Robert Johnson
Principal

Linda Vista Elementary
1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • http://www.orangeusd.org
**Open House**

On November 1, McPherson Magnet School held an open house for our Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program. Our district and community got to see that PLTW is the perfect way for McPherson students to explore and learn that there is more than one way to reach a solution.

All students at McPherson Magnet have access to the STEM lab. Our kindergarten through fifth-grade students spend an hour per week on computer-science, biomedical, and engineering courses with our STEM resource teacher, Teresa Andrade.

At our open house, we showed an ankle arthrosis for someone with cerebral palsy, which was designed by one of McPherson’s sixth-graders. Our seventh-grade students showed their computer-science skills through App Creators. Students explained how they have created applications for disease diagnosis and drawing over a picture. We also heard from students who explained the application they have designed for the Congressional App Challenge. Finally, we were able to see our newest set of courses for our eighth-grade students. Our visitors were able to see our students designing their own gliders. Students were engaged in cutting out their designs from balsa wood after going through the engineering process.

We are thankful to the district, the McPherson Foundation, and all of our community partners for helping us to fund this program. Follow us on Twitter @mcphersonmagnet.

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**Nohl Canyon**

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • [http://www.orangeusd.org](http://www.orangeusd.org)

**Roadrunner Robotics**

Nohl Canyon is proud to be the home of five robotics teams this year. Six years ago the school introduced its students to STEAM-based learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) by launching the first ever Nohl Canyon Robotics Team. The program was a huge success, and resulted in an increased number of students interested in learning about robotics.

Our Nohl Canyon teachers were eager to support the expansion of this program, and as a result, the school grew to five robotics teams over the next six years. These collaborative and committed students are known in the robotics community as “Roadrunner Robotics.” They share the roles of designers, builders, and drivers. Each team also has a pit crew that is ready and willing to provide emergency services in the event of a robot breakdown.

They work together to build, drive, problem solve, and navigate in the playing field. Roadrunner Robotics also plans to participate in several events this year.
Panther Pride I Applied!

On November 2nd and 3rd, Orange High School seniors participated in the second California College Application Success Campaign. With the support of partners at UC Irvine, Cal State Fullerton, Santiago Canyon College, and College Bound, every senior was given the opportunity to apply to the post-secondary institution of their choice. Seniors submitted applications to four year universities, community colleges, technical or trade schools, or had an opportunity to work with military recruiters if they plan to enlist. Additionally, students were supported in their application for financial aid and scholarships. Counselors, teachers, and our partners were made available to answer students’ questions and guide them through the application process. Orange High is very proud of the opportunities given to our students and the Application Success Campaign is a great example of the commitment to academic success.

Dennis McCuistion
Principal

Orange High School
525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6211 • http://www.orangeusd.org

College Bound

At Olive Elementary School, we believe in excellence for every student, every day. This is why we are committed to becoming a school-wide Advancement Via Individual Determination school. AVID is not a program; it’s a way of life. Our students are learning what it takes to be successful contributors to our society—and they’re loving it! Through perseverance, organization, and creative and thoughtful conversations, students are preparing for endeavors that they have yet to imagine!

Heather Darrow
Principal

Olive Elementary
3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • http://www.orangeusd.org

6th grader Kaelen Do completes an AVID One-Pager on volcanoes

Through AVID, students spend time each day on Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading (WICOR) strategies that enhance learning. One of their favorite strategies is creating one-pagers. Students have the chance to be creative, ask thoughtful, high-level questions, reflect on their learning, and present information through a graphic organizer that is fun and engaging.

Olive students are college bound and excited about learning!

Heather Darrow
Principal

Olive Elementary
3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • http://www.orangeusd.org
Palmyra Elementary
1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • http://www.orangeusd.org

College and Career Ready
Palmyra Elementary School is committed to providing meaningful leadership opportunities for students to foster a culture of college and career readiness. This year, upper-grade students are participating in the school’s new Student Council. These students work collaboratively to plan school activities and deliver information to the rest of the student body.

Also, as an AVID school, each upper-grade class is paired with a primary class to do AVID activities. The younger students really enjoy working with their AVID buddies! Additionally, students in our GATE class are writing a monthly newsletter called “The Palmyra Paper.” The newsletter features school-related articles and fun topics that are shared with the school. Last, sixth-grade students in Ms. Thomas’ class lead primary students in Friday PE rotations.

Altogether, these activities build the critical-thinking and collaborative skills that are needed in future learning and career endeavors!

Brenna Godsey
Principal

Panorama Elementary
10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • http://www.orangeusd.org

A Great Time to be a Panther
Panorama Elementary is such a great place to be! With so many amazing programs and activities for our students to take part in, it’s no wonder that this is a great time to be a Panther.

Panorama had its annual pancake breakfast on September 29th. The event was a huge success, with over 40 more plates served. We would like to thank all of the families who participated, donated, and volunteered. Also, a huge thank-you goes to a local restaurant in Santa Ana for donating all of the pancakes and sausages, and to a local cafe for donating the coffee! We are so fortunate to have such amazing families and businesses to help make events like this happen.

Red Ribbon Week was held last week at Panorama. There were many activities and events to help raise the awareness of staying drug free. We started out the Week with a pledge to be drug free. We followed this by having students wear special clothing each day to signify a drug-free life. They also created a bulletin board and had a poster contest for each classroom.

We finished off the Week with an assembly by the Orange County Sheriff’s Department, who brought their police dog. They put on a demonstration to educate our students about the dangers of drugs.

Panorama also hosted its fourth annual “Trunk or Treat” event in late October. Parents and supporters brought their vehicles onto the playground, decorated the trunks of their vehicles, and handed out candy to eager students dressed as their favorite characters. Panorama also hosted its first movie night on that same evening to help give back to our students and families who contribute.

A very special thank-you goes to our teacher and parent support, and to our Panorama PTA. It’s always a great time to be a Panther!

Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Prospect Elementary
379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Prospect Strong!
Meeting students’ academic needs at Prospect Elementary is a top priority. K-6 teachers use small group instruction as an effective method that targets standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts. We have seen evidence of student growth because they are motivated to participate in learning that is specifically designed for them. Developing a positive classroom environment that is student-centered, has targeted academics, and is engaging is a recipe for success. Teachers integrate writing and technology during their Small Group Instructional block. According to students, this is the favorite time of the day! Teachers are excited because they see student successes and positive attitudes toward learning.

Prospect Strong! Strong Hearts! Strong Minds! Strong Futures! Our new motto reflects our passion to prepare students for College and Career Readiness!
Our Students Giving Back

Under the leadership of our AVID and ASB Programs, Portola Students entered into a “penny war” to raise money for Revere Middle School in Houston, Texas that lost everything because of Hurricane Harvey. Each grade level was given a 3-gallon water jug, and they were to compete as to which grade earned the highest number of points. The winning grade would win a free dress day. They earned positive points for pennies and dollars and negative points for silver coins. Thus, students would put quarters and nickels in other grade level jugs, and place pennies and dollar bills in their own jugs. At the end of the two-week competition, Portola students raised over $700 to donate to Revere Middle School. Our 7th graders won, but we are proud of all of our students and their commitment to helping others in their time of need.

Jill Katevas
Principal
Portola Middle School
270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • http://www.orangeusd.org

RICHLEAD

AP Spanish

Principal Simonovski and Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish language teacher Ms. Cristina Hernandez designed a new course for the 2017–2018 school year. In an effort to assist students at the continuation high school in meeting the A–G foreign language requirements, a new AP foreign language course was added. Students will be able to take the class in one semester on the Richland campus, and the AP Spanish exam will be provided in spring of 2018.

This is Richland’s first AP Spanish language course offering, and we are very excited to integrate foreign language course offerings into our school day. This quarter, the class organized a project on Dia de los Muertos, recognizing a variety of ways that students connect culture, experiences, and opportunities to build a stronger sense of community.

Congratulations to all of our students enrolled in this first-time course!

Dr. Elsie Briseño
Simonovski
Principal
Richland High School
615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Ms. Hernandez and AP Spanish Language Project, “Dia de los Muertos”
Family Fun Night

On October 20, the Running Springs Elementary School PTA hosted its annual Family Fun Night. The event, held in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week, featured a ghost-town round-up theme. Many students, parents, and staff members came decked out in costumes and cowboy attire.

The event was very uplifting to the school community, which had endured a full evacuation the week prior to the event due to the nearby canyon fire. As part of the event, banners were signed by parents, students, and staff members to honor the local fire and police departments, who courageously protected our neighborhood during the fire. In addition, a booth was set up by the PTA to raise money for the families in our neighborhood who tragically lost their homes in the fire. Our local Girl Scout troop helped with the fund-raising effort by selling lemonade and baked goods.

As is the tradition with Family Fun Night, all the proceeds are used as a PTA “give back” to the Running Springs community. Several of our dedicated parents came early and stayed late to ensure the event went off without a hitch. The generosity of the Running Springs community was overwhelming. Seventy-five opportunity baskets were given away, with prizes including a day spa, amusement park tickets, bicycles, a television, tickets to a professional soccer game, and several other fun, themed baskets.

The night included a cake walk, a disc jockey, a fishing booth, a candy-making station, an inflatable basketball station, food trucks, and several carnival games. More importantly, it was great opportunity to see our Running Springs families come together, smile, laugh, share a meal, and get to know one another.

As a first-year principal here, I was amazed by the school spirit and community teamwork it took to create such a wonderful event. I very much look forward to enjoying this event for years to come!

Mark McLaughlin
Principal
Running Springs Elementary
8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Champions for Kindness

Santiago Charter Middle School is excited to be partnering with the Orange County Department of Education, American Association of Pediatrics, and many other local physicians and organizations to build a community filled with Champions for Kindness.

As their website states, “Champions for Kindness is an alliance of America’s premier antibullying/cybersecurity professionals dedicated to fostering a kinder, safer school environment in K–12 schools. To that end, we offer holistic programs covering a unique blend of cognitive training and online safety programs, and inspirational school assemblies.”

As mental-health support becomes more of a need in our community and school, we are partnering with Champions for Kindness to provide workshops for students, staff, parents and community members that focus on teaching students how to handle challenging situations at school, parents how to support the healthy social-emotional growth of their children, teachers how to identify and support students through challenges, and the community how to build opportunities to highlight greatness and support a generation in the quest to be young, healthy, productive adults.

Dr. James D’Agostino
Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal Co-Principal
Santiago Charter Middle School
515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Covering the Orange Unified School District
December 2017—March 2018 21
Go, Serrano Eagles!
Each day at Serrano Elementary School, Project Wisdom’s Words of Wisdom are read in the morning announcements. The vision is to build character by encouraging ethical thinking, to build confidence by motivating students to do their personal best, and to build community by inspiring students to contribute to the world around them by honoring the diversity that makes our country great.
Along those lines, our theme for Red Ribbon Week incorporated the six pillars of the Character Counts program into our daily lessons to build strong traits, which will enable our students to make wise choices in their lives and help them to lead drug-free and healthy lives.
Additionally, our sixth-grade students will participate in Early Act, sponsored by Villa Park Rotarians. The students develop committed citizenship and leadership qualities by identifying and taking responsibilities for real-life problems within the school and the local community.
At Serrano, we take the words of Martin Luther King Jr. to heart: “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”

Serrano Elementary
17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Katherine Rizzo
Principal

Making a Difference
This year, Sycamore has begun a Student Council led by Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Mouradian, and Mr. Moore. The Student Council is made up of a representative from each classroom, and meets weekly at lunch time to plan school-wide events to help build the safe, supportive, and scholarly culture of our school.
Student Council members lead the flag salute and read announcements on Mondays at our Sea Lion Summit meeting on the blacktop, as well as over the PA system during the rest of the week. They also plan school-wide events to help build our school culture.
The Student Council’s first school-wide event was our Anti-Bullying Week in October. They worked together to plan a daily theme and activities, and made posters to advertise. The daily themes included wearing blue to support Anti-Bullying Week, making friends with someone new, making a friendship poster as a class, “No One Eats or Plays Alone,” and “Make Someone Smile” (practice compliments).
Our teachers could also sign up to have Mrs. Ybarra come to their class to read aloud an anti-bullying themed book, and also learn about being an “Upstander” from The NED Show organization. You can view the Upstander video at http://www.thenedshow.com/upstander.html. Every classroom was also given a poster from The NED Show reminding children about what they can do to help stop and prevent bullying at Sycamore.
The 2017–2018 Student Council team has only just begun! Their next project is to sponsor a week-long charity fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society called “Bring the Change.”
The entire Sea Lion community is very proud of our Student Council, and how they are working to create a wonderful school culture here at Sycamore. Thank you also to our teacher advisers for committing to growing our student leaders. Successful Sea Lions are Safe, Supportive, and Scholarly!

Sycamore Elementary
340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Renee Ybarra
Principal

Creating Opportunities
The Villa Park High School community did an excellent job on October 11 during the second annual SAT/PSAT/NMSQT Day. It was a true team effort from the support staff, teachers, and students. Over 2,200 students were tested. The T-building teachers hosted the senior class SAT test takers, with 30 students per class, while the PSAT/NMSQT was administered to the sophomore and junior students with a 34:1 ratio in other classrooms. All freshmen sat for the PSAT, which was administered in both the large and small gymnasiums, with over one dozen associate supervisors.
Special thanks to Assistant Principal Sheryl Anderson-Glass for creating a fabulous master plan for success. Thanks also to the amazing teachers, counselors, custodians and staff members for their phenomenal execution and support of the testing activities. This school-wide activity was a significant event in the lives of many of our families, as many students may not have had the opportunity to take these tests otherwise. This is especially significant as it creates opportunities for our students to attend college, some as the first in their families, potentially positively changing the course of their lives.

Villa Park High School
18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Dr. Ken Miller
Principal
Taft Elementary Sock Drive

Taft Elementary students have big hearts when it comes to helping others. After the recent disasters in Houston, Texas and Puerto Rico, our students collected socks to be distributed to the neediest people who were impacted by these unfortunate events. 777 pairs of socks were collected during our one week Sock Drive. We created a little competition between the lower grades and upper grades and the lower grade students won, earning a Free Recess. The socks we collected were given to the Coat of Many Colors Ministries for distribution to people in Houston, Texas and Puerto Rico. Taft students and their families love to give to those in need!

Some of Taft's happy donors

Villa Park Elementary

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • http://www.orangeusd.org

All About Makerspaces!

Exciting things are happening in the VPE library! VPE’s librarian, Gina O’Dowd, worked with Robert Shumate and Dan Gray from the Villa Park Rotary Club to secure a grant to create a makerspace in the school library. A makerspace is a collaborative work space for making, learning, exploring, and sharing that uses high-tech to no-tech tools.

Our makerspace at VPE will be a place for students to tinker with activities that run the gamut from sewing to robotics and even 3-D printing! Recently, volunteers from the Villa Park and North Orange Rotary Clubs volunteered to work side by side with our Dads’ Club to assemble tables and accessories.

Students can't wait to take part in the twice-weekly Makerspace Club with Mrs. O’Dowd. Who knows what skills and creations will be developed by our student innovators?
Constitution Day
West Orange Elementary School celebrated Constitution Day on September 15th. Each year in the fall, West Orange Warriors take the opportunity to learn about the Constitution of the United States of America. We culminate our learning with a school-wide Constitution Day Assembly. West Orange was honored to be visited by the national award-winning Color Guard from the American Legion Newport Harbor Post 291. They presented the colors with full military fanfare and helped us recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Our ceremony also included a lesson about the Constitution and the importance of the document in our modern day society. Following that, each grade level presented a patriotic song or poem. Constitution Day was a magnificent celebration at West Orange where parents, students and faculty all came together to honor and learn about our important historic document.

Sandra Preciado-Martin
Principal

Yorba Academy of the Arts Middle School
935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Toros Says “No” to Drugs
Yorba Middle School kicked off Red Ribbon Week with our Toros all agreeing that their “future is key, so stay drug free!” With the support of Yorba’s Associated Student Body, all of our students engaged in activities that focused on making positive choices and choosing life and health over drugs.

The Homeroom classes participated in a door-decorating contest that gave messages of hope and empowerment. The students heard facts and real-life examples of the negative consequences of drug use. Games and prizes at lunchtime also added a fun and positive atmosphere, but the power of the message remained the same: Don’t Do it!

Red Ribbon Week brought the school community together to focus around a drug-free message. However, every day at Yorba our students are choosing to work hard and commit themselves to an education that will help them live their dreams. We are proud, we are committed, we are Toros!
Isabella’s Book Review

A Magical Book

The Magician’s Nephew by C.S. Lewis is about Polly, Digory and the witch. One afternoon they meet at Digory’s uncle’s room who gives Polly a ring. Polly grabs it and disappears. To save her, Digory touches a ring.

Once with Polly they explore Charn. Digory rings a bell, awakening the queen of Charn. The two did not like her and try to escape, but the witch clings on them. She thinks she is the queen of England and gives orders. Polly and Digory use their rings to return to Charn; only it wasn’t Charn anymore. It was a dark place with a lion that as he sang, created things. It was, Narnia. Would they ever get out of Narnia? What would happen to the witch? Read on to find out.

I rate this book 4 of 5 stars because it truly is captivating.

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.

Toy Store Items—Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put OUSD in the subject line.

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

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

Congratulations to Katherine Figueroa
Winner of our September Word Search Contest!
El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Orange Ofrece Clases de Día Completo en Kínder y Kínder de Transición*

inscripciones comienzan
miércoles 7 de marzo 2018
excepto la escuela McPherson

2018-2019

Para participar en la lotería de la escuela McPherson (K-8), los padres deben asistir a una de las reuniones de orientación que se ofrecen en esta escuela el jueves, 8 de febrero del 2018 a las 9:00 a.m. o a las 3:00 p.m.

Para más información sobre el Programa de Inmersión Chino-Mandarín en la escuela Fletcher o el Programa de Inmersión Español en la escuela California, visite la página de Internet de OUSD** ***

• Para recibir el paquete de inscripción para kínder, los padres deben presentar los siguientes documentos:
  - Acta de Nacimiento
  - Tarjeta de vacunas actualizada
  - Dos comprobantes de dirección (Aunque los hermanos asistan a esta escuela, el comprobante es necesario porque la familia puede haber movido)
• Cada escuela determinará la fecha en la que el paquete deberá ser entregado a la oficina.

➢ Para más información sobre la Inscripción para Kínder, los padres pueden comunicarse directamente con su escuela o visitar la página de internet de OUSD:

*Para Kínder de Transición – Reunión informativa el martes 9 de enero 2018 de 5:00 a 6:00 de la tarde, en las oficinas del Distrito salón 3, edificio H.

*El requisito de la fecha de nacimiento para kínder de transición es:
2 de septiembre al 2 de diciembre del 2013 (los estudiantes con estas fechas de nacimiento sólo pueden asistir a kínder de transición). Los estudiantes con las fechas de nacimiento de 1 de julio al 1 de septiembre pueden asistir al kínder y tienen la opción de kínder de transición.

** Programa de Inmersión Chino-Mandarín – Reunión informativa el martes 23 de enero 2018 de 5:00 a 6:00 de la tarde en la escuela primaria Fletcher.

*** Programa de Inmersión Español – Reunión informativa el jueves 25 de enero 2018 de 5:00 a 6:00 de la tarde en la escuela primaria California.

Fletcher Elementary School
515 W Fletcher Street
Orange, CA 92865

Orange Unified School District
1401 North Handy Street
Orange CA 92867

California Elementary School
1080 N. California Street
Orange, CA 92867

www.orangeusd.org
Orange Unified School District Provides Full-Day Classes in Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten*

REGISTRATION BEGINS ON 2018-2019 Wednesday, March 7, 2018 with the exception of McPherson Magnet School

To participate in the lottery at McPherson Magnet School (K-8), parents must attend one of the following orientation meetings at McPherson Magnet School on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.

For more information on the OUSD Mandarin Immersion Program at Fletcher Elementary or the Spanish Immersion Program at California Elementary, visit the OUSD Website. ** ***

*To receive a Kindergarten Registration packet, parents must have all the required documentation:
- Child’s birth certificate
- Child’s current immunization records
- Two address verifications (Even if a sibling currently attends the school, verification is required as the family may have moved.)
- Each school site determines the date that packets must be returned to their site.

For more information regarding Kindergarten Registration, parents should contact the school site directly or go to the OUSD website at http://www.orangeusd.org/scs/#enroll.

Transitional Kindergarten information – A parent information meeting will be held Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at the District Office Board Rooms 1, 2 and 3 from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The birthdate requirement for Transitional Kindergarten is:
Sept. 2 – Dec. 2, 2013 (students with these birthdates can only attend Transitional Kindergarten.) Students with birthdates between July 1 and September 1, 2013 may attend Kindergarten or TK.

Mandarin Immersion Program information – A parent information meeting will be held Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at Fletcher Elementary School from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Spanish Immersion Program information – A parent information meeting will be held Thursday, January 25, 2018 at California Elementary School from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the OUSD website at www.orangeusd.org.

Fletcher Elementary School
515 W Fletcher Street
Orange, CA 92865

Orange Unified School District
1401 North Handy Street
Orange CA 92867

California Elementary School
1080 N. California Street
Orange, CA 92867

www.orangeusd.org
Sure, piggy banks are nice. But do they give you 100% TAX-FREE GROWTH?

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Have up to 25% more money for higher education. Take it from your pint-sized financial guru, James, maximizing your college savings is elementary with a ScholarShare 529 Plan. Open your account at ScholarShare529.com and start saving today.

This hypothetical example assumes a $5,000 initial deposit, $50 per month subsequent deposit for 18 years and 7% annual ROI. Tax calculations assume the maximum federal tax capital gains tax rate of 20% and the maximum CA marginal tax rate of 13%. This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect past performance or guarantee future performance of the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan or investment portfolios offered through the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan. These illustrative results also do not reflect any reduction for expenses. At the end of the accumulation period, the taxable account would be worth $31,494. The ScholarShare 529 account would be worth 25% more than that amount, or $39,224.

TIAA To learn more about the California 529 College Savings Plan, its investment objectives, tax benefits, risks, and costs, please see the Disclosure Booklet at ScholarShare529.com. Read it carefully. Check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds or protection from creditors for investing in its own 529 plan. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss. Non qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the California 529 College Savings Plan. 277543