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School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District



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New Heritage School Moves Full STEAM Ahead



Heritage teacher Elizabeth Catron works with students in the classroom.



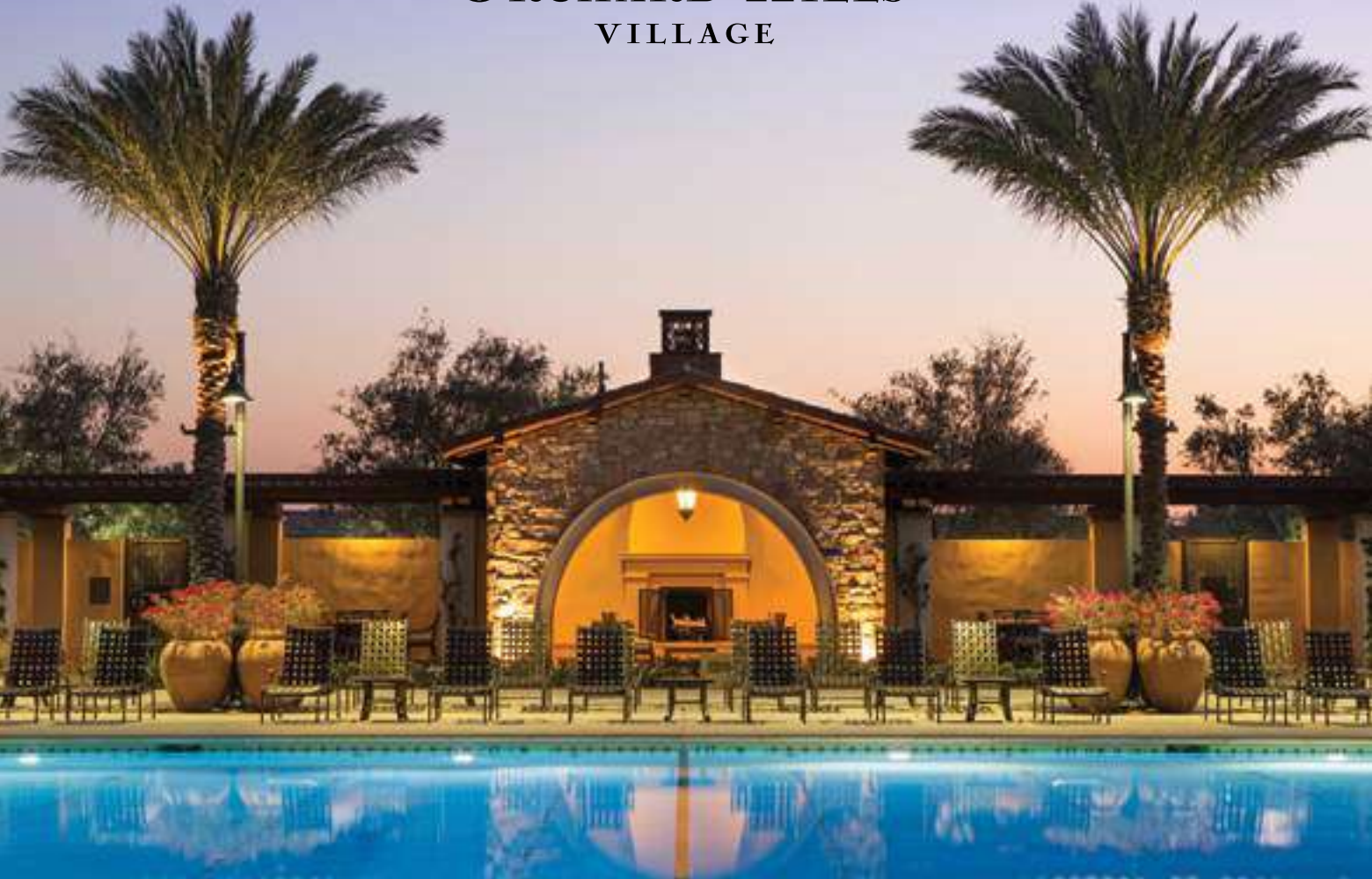
Kindergarten students check out the playground equipment.



Heritage Principal Beth Rabel Blackman poses with students in front of the school's monument sign. (Please see story on page 4.)

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Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

Students, teachers, staff, administrators and parents had another outstanding year in the Tustin Unified School District. It's impossible to capture the magic that happens in every classroom and school throughout the year; however, I want to emphasize just a few of the past school year's highlights:

- Seventeen TUSD elementary schools were recognized with Gold Ribbon Awards from the California Department of Education for excellent educational programs.
- Student achievement continues to grow by every academic measure – California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) scores, Advanced Placement enrollment and test scores and college admissions.
- Tustin Unified high school seniors have been admitted in record number to universities and colleges throughout the nation.
- Tustin Memorial Academy teacher Courtney Smith was named Orange County Teacher of the Year – the fifth TUSD teacher in six years to be named a county teacher of the year.
- The Tustin Connect Center completed its first year of providing online education to students in kindergarten through eighth grade.
- The Pioneer Middle School Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program was recognized as Outstanding PAL Program of the Year by the Orange County Department of Education.
- The TUSD Robotics Program continues to grow! The middle school league has grown, and this year the District hosted its first elementary competition.
- Students made significant gains (approximately 5%) on statewide tests, improving in every grade in math and language arts.
- Student participation in the District's most rigorous of courses (Advanced Placement) continues to increase.

- Our high school graduation rate has risen to 98%.
- The District made progress in closing the achievement gap for all English Learners and low socioeconomic status subgroups.
- The TUSD staff is actively engaged in the District's mission:
 - Approximately 830 teachers participated in a two-day Summer Institute.
 - Nearly 400 classified and certificated staff participated in voluntary summer reading.
 - Over 1,250 employees participated in a staff survey, and 94% reported that they use their strengths at work every day.
- Tustin Unified expanded the robotics program to elementary schools, and now has a full K-12 program.
- The Family Intervention Resource Support Team (FIRST) served 580 students, organized 48 therapy groups, and conducted more than 280 therapy sessions.
- The number of suspensions and expulsions decreased by 49% and 24%, respectively, over the last two years.
- TUSD continues to be a leader in the implementation of technology into the instructional program. Over 180 educators from southern California attended the TUSD Connect Institute.
- The District completed 10 significant facilities improvement projects with another 11 in planning or under construction.
- TUSD reached an agreement to provide funding for a 6-12 magnet school at the Tustin Legacy development.

These accomplishments, and so many more, represent an enormous effort by teachers, staff, parents, Tustin Public Schools Foundation and other partners who care about the education of every child in Tustin Unified. Many thanks to them for their work and passion they share in preparing our students for bright futures. I also want to thank the School Board for the leadership and guidance they provide to all of us and the entire District. I believe that more great achievements are to come in the 2016-17 school year. Go TUSD!



Mark Eliot

Director of Communications & Public Information
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TUSD Opens Heritage Elementary STEAM Magnet School

By Mark Eliot
Director of Communications and Public Information
Tustin Unified School District

Tustin Unified School District's new Heritage Elementary STEAM Magnet School made history on August 29 – the first day of school – by opening its doors and welcoming students in transitional kindergarten and kindergarten through fifth grade. STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The school is located in the Tustin Legacy development.

Teams of parents, teachers, and staff worked throughout the spring and summer building curriculum, preparing classrooms, launching a brand new Parent-Teacher Association, and planning for a rich learning environment.

According to Principal Beth Rabel Blackman, Heritage students will have the opportunity to strive for academic excellence; explore a diverse, project-based curriculum; prepare to succeed in a global environment; provide service to a growing community; participate in character education; experience cooperative educational communities in all content areas from fine arts to technology; and develop into lifelong learners.

"I'm thrilled to work with this school community and be part of the beginning of a new journey with our students and staff," Blackman said.

Parents of Heritage students are also abuzz with excitement over the school and many are volunteering in

the classroom and supporting the school in other ways.

"I'm excited my son is going to Heritage School because he will have opportunities and hands-on educational experiences, while working with students in a collaborative setting," said Ziggy McBride, parent of a fourth-grade Heritage student.

Heritage teachers and staff are equally ecstatic to be creating a culture of curiosity, creativity, and collaboration.

"At Heritage, teachers believe that children learn best through active, hands-on inquiry based experiences that



Heritage Elementary students learn together using their iPads in the library.

build upon their inquisitive nature and intrinsic motivation to learn," said Transitional Kindergarten teacher Tara Pauley. "Through the project-based model, the teachers strive to ignite enthusiasm for learning through essential driving questions where students collaborate in solving real-world problems."

Heritage Elementary is moving full STEAM ahead and the future looks brighter every day.



Heritage Elementary STEAM Magnet School teachers and staff are ready to have a great first year.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Welcome back to another school year. New beginnings are always exciting and particularly for students. It is a time of anticipation of seeing old friends, making new friends, meeting teachers, learning where the classrooms are and getting used to a schedule after summer break.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. We look forward to continuing to bring the excellence to you directly from the classroom.

Of course, future success is based on a foundation and on page 3 Superintendent Dr. Franklin reviews some of the past year's highlights and looks forward to another successful year.

In this issue, you will be introduced to new principals, read about goals and plans for a successful year, learn how students prepared during the summer, why volunteers are important, and much more. The common thread throughout is the enthusiasm the principals have for education.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the hardwork of the maintenance crew and everyone involved who made sure the schools were squeaky clean and ready for eager minds on the first day of school.

Our next issue is November 2nd. In the meantime, have a safe and fun Halloween!

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Arroyo *Elementary School*

11112 Coronel Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Amy Jones
Principal

Gearing Up for the Year Ahead

Arroyo Elementary School is gearing up for another stellar year for the 2016–2017 school year. We look forward to welcoming new families into our amazing community of learners.

With a new school year, there often comes change. This year, we are sad to see Mr. Wert go, but we are excited for him in his new adventure as a sixth-grade core teacher at Orchard



Student shows Math Thinking on her iPad.

Hills School. We wish him luck in his new position! With that said, we are happy to announce that the following teachers will be joining us this year: Carrie Bunge, second grade; Vanessa Siemsen, third grade; Joy Uchida, fourth grade; and Kristy Andre, Connect coach.

Congratulations to the staff for their contributions to Arroyo's recognition as a Silver Medal school by the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Coalition. This honor comes as a result of having a system that positively reinforces students for meeting behavioral expectations on campus.

Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

3588 Bryan Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-2900



Dr. Donnie Rafter
Principal

New Principal Appointed

Dr. Donnie Rafter, assistant principal at Beckman High School, has been appointed as the new principal of our school. Rafter is taking over for Adele Heuer, who retired on June 30.

Dr. Rafter has worked in education for 14 years, with six years in the Tustin Unified School District. He started as a high school math teacher in Irvine, and has also coached girls' and boys' volleyball. He then joined TUSD as an assistant principal at Foothill High School. He has served as an assistant principal at Beckman for the past four years, and is a graduate of Tustin High School.

Among his accomplishments, this year Rafter was named Orange County Career Technical Education Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators, Region 17.

Dr. Rafter has a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, Irvine; a master's degree in educational leadership from Alliant International University; and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California.

"I am truly excited to continue working with the students, staff, and community at Beckman as its new principal," Rafter said. "Beckman is an amazing school, and in this new role I look forward to continuing to build on our tradition of excellence."

Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

12712 Elizabeth Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7531



Jackie Christy
Principal

Spotlight On New Principal

Each new school year brings opportunities for academic and personal growth for students at Barbara Benson Elementary School. This year also brings a new principal, Jackie Christy.

Ms. Christy has worked in TUSD for the past 11 years. She started her career in Tustin as a reading specialist and resource teacher at Tustin Memorial Academy. After working at TMA for five years, she served as a teacher on special assignment in curriculum at Hicks Canyon Elementary, moving up to the assistant principal position in 2013. Prior to TUSD, she worked as an elementary teacher in the Anaheim

City School District, teaching first and fourth grades.

Understanding that community is the essence of a successful school, Ms. Christy believes in building close working relationships with staff, students and families alike. During the 2016–17 school year at Benson Elementary School, she looks forward to developing these same positive and trusting relationships while continuing the best practices that are reflective of an Apple Distinguished Program Spotlight School. High-quality 21st century educational experiences will be of the highest priority while working with families and staff to provide a safe and supportive campus where the focus remains on learning.

Ms. Christy is excited to be a part of the Benson Elementary family!

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

1362 Mitchell Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7385



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

Meet Our New Principal

With the beginning of a new school year, Beswick Elementary will welcome their new principal. Ryan Bollenbach comes to Beswick following a six year tenure as the principal at Veeh Elementary School. Prior to his time at Veeh, Mr. Bollenbach was the principal

at Ladera Elementary. Mr. Bollenbach began his administrative career in Tustin Unified in 2004 as the assistant principal at Hewes Middle School where he spend two years followed by one year as the assistant principal at Utt Middle School. When Mr. Bollenbach is not at work, he enjoys going to Angels games and being outdoors with his wife Megan (who is a teacher in the District) and their two kids, Olivia and Caden. "I am very much looking forward to working with the dedicated staff, getting to know the students and their families, and becoming part of the Beswick community."



The Bollenbach's on a recent family trip.

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Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

17952 Beneta Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7352



Maggie Burdette
Principal

8th Grade WEB Leaders Welcome New 6th Grade Bulldogs!

Middle school can be an intimidating and even frightening transition for many students and parents. At Columbus Tustin Middle School we have put into place a structure where sixth graders receive support to successfully start their middle school experience on a positive note, feeling safe, accepted and that they are Bulldogs. On August 22, nervous sixth graders set foot on the Columbus Tustin campus for the very first time, greeted by eighth grade leaders with music, cheers and high fives to begin their Where Everybody Belongs (W.E.B.) sixth grade orientation. Eighth grade W.E.B. leaders were carefully selected and trained to become mentors, advocates and guardians for



WEB coordinators Rich Avellana and Adrienne Dugan get new Columbus Tustin sixth-graders excited about middle school.

our sixth grade students, making sure they are not being bullied, and if they are, taking appropriate actions to stop it. Welcome back Bulldogs!! We know you will all be successful!

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7360



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Ready for a Great Year!

Erick Fineberg enters his third year as the proud principal of Currie Middle School. A graduate of UC Irvine and UCLA, Mr. Fineberg brings a wealth of knowledge, high expectations and a commitment to ensure that all students learn at the highest level. He taught in Long Beach, Irvine and Capistrano before joining Tustin Unified School District eight years ago. Under his leadership, Currie

was named a 2015 California Distinguished School and a Title I Academic Achievement School.

Mr. Fineberg looks forward to his third year leading the Currie staff. This year, Currie will focus on three areas: building relationships, taking risks and engaging in a rigorous curriculum. These three areas of focus will drive our work this year and ensure that our students are socially and emotionally connected, passionate about learning and prepared to take on the challenges as they progress through school and into adulthood.



Caption: TUSD celebrates Currie this summer as part of the Tustin Unified School District's "Salute to Our Schools" recognition program. Our school's theme for the display is "Oh the Places You'll Go."

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7390



Wendy Hudson
Principal

Bright, Shiny, and New

Estock Elementary School is proud to welcome students back to school this year. With the closing of Lambert Elementary School, we are warmly embracing the Lions who are now part of our Estock family. Our campus has undergone some major renovations in order to accommodate more students and staff, including new carpet, paint, and furniture in every room. We have

a brand-new cafeteria and shade structure, and our library has beautiful new shelving. Even the front office has been freshened up to greet our new and returning families!



Estock students welcome new principal, Wendy Hudson.

Many of the Lambert teachers have also joined our Estock staff, and we are pleased to welcome some new faces, as well. Among them is our new principal, Wendy Hudson, who has worked in education for more than 25 years, all of them in the Tustin Unified School District. We are eagerly looking forward to a new and exciting year!

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Foothill *High School*

19251 Dodge Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/ 730-7464



Excited to Be a Knight Again!

I am very excited to be returning home and becoming a Knight again! I have such great memories of Foothill, and it is an absolute treat to be an alumnus from such a fabulous school.

Dr. Michael Williams
Principal

I was fortunate to grow up in this progressive community that carries a lot of pride and always strives to be the best. It has allowed me to achieve many of my goals and dreams. And so I am looking forward to supporting our outstanding staff members and building on Foothill's dynamic legacy. Our staff works very hard to provide a motivational environment where students love to learn, grow, and reach their fullest potential.

Our school's vision is: "Every Student, Inspired to Learn, Empowered to Excel, Every Day." Together, as a staff, we are dedicated to the success of each student. I am looking forward to not only meeting these expectations but also exceeding them, as we move our Foothill HS forward!



Dr. Mike Williams stands tall and proud in front of the Event Center at Foothill High.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

18492 Vanderlip Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7552



Student Council Supports School

The fall and spring Student Council at Guin Foss Elementary School are each made up of 12 third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade leaders. These students meet bimonthly to organize dress-up days, fundraisers, and community service projects.

Last year's dress-up days included Hero Day, Disney Day, Pajama Day, and Think Pink Day. Community service projects included a canned food drive, toy collection, and stuffed animal and sunglass collections. The Student Council also sold holiday grams, pencils, and healthy treats to raise money for our school.

The Council members voted to spend the monies they had raised last year on purchasing a beautiful new banner for the front of the school. This celebrated our being recognized as a California Gold Ribbon School based upon our signature practice of solid writing instruction.

Just like our very active PTO, these fabulous and hard-working students go above and beyond to support and celebrate their school and community!



Students Rachel Kanakarlis, Vivian Osterman, Clara Carbajal, Abby Ellis, Osten Achmad, Zacarias Zarduno, Tyler Mann, Paul Ellis and Merrick Colburn celebrate the school's California Gold Ribbon award.

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

15571 Williams St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7521



Sean Lindsay
Principal

Padres en Acción

Heideman is excited to have such enthusiastic and helpful parents serving as volunteers in our learning community! They work in the classroom, help in the office, serve on PTO, participate in fund-

raising, and help in many other ways. For 2016–17, a particularly dedicated parent group is serving Heideman students in a new and special way. The group is called Padres en Acción, or Parents in Action.

As part of a partnership with an organization called Kid Healthy, this group of Heideman parents trained for several weeks on nutrition, physical activity and their importance in children's health. From this training, these parents emerged as a lunchtime task force whose mission is to provide opportunities for physical activity in the form of



Heideman's "Padres En Accion" or Parents in Action prepare for the new school year.

games during lunchtime recess. In their neon-orange vests, the parents fan out across the playground and facilitate a variety of fun, fabulous games. Lunchtime couldn't be more fun or healthier!

Teachers See the Possibilities

Whether studying cell membranes or the scientific method, students in Leslie Sandoval's seventh-grade classroom make connections—to the curriculum, with their teacher and peers, and to the world around them.



Lone Hill Middle School, Third Period, Life Sciences, Teacher: Leslie Sandoval, M.A.Ed. '04

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Heritage *Elementary STEAM Magnet School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7339



Beth Rabel Blackman
Principal

Welcoming Our Students

Heritage Elementary School STEAM Magnet School opened on August 29, welcoming over 280 students in Transitional Kindergarten through fifth grade. Heritage is a magnet school focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM). This unique elementary program is one of a kind in Orange County and promotes hands-on learning through project-based learning.

The school utilizes authentic reading, writing, and math experiences as well as the Next Generation Science Standards, all of which are supported by rich experiences using technology to create and communicate. Using an integrated approach combining science with language arts and math, students will engage in units centered around solving real-world problems.

A cornerstone of Heritage's mission is supporting students to become inquisitive, creative, problem solvers



Heritage teachers Liza Ryan and Kathy DeBest engage in a science inquiry during a recent STEAM teacher professional development.

who eagerly explore the world around them. Heritage strives to “soar beyond expectations.”

Hewes *Middle School*

13232 Hewes Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7348



Eric Kilian
Principal

Hewes Goes for Gold

Heading into its 50th anniversary, Hewes is excited to be reaching new heights as we live out our school's mantra of a “Rich Past, Bold Future.” And in the process, we will be going for the gold!

As a Gold Ribbon School, one that focuses on instructional rigor, engaging teaching strategies, and innovative tasks incorporating technology, great learning is ascending under the care and instruction of

our Hewes staff.

Some of the new items that will support our campus this year have been provided by the Hewes PTA. These include a rock wall in our activity center, a new electronic marquee at the front of school, and a laser engraver in our woodshop for student use.

Our PE Department is also unveiling brand new uniforms featuring a logo designed by the teachers. The students are sure to enjoy this bold new look. As they envision practicing as future Olympians, they will be sure to “go for the gold” in Hewes' 50th year!



Hewes students enjoy morning yoga provided by a PTA parent

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

3817 Viewpark Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1878



Deena Vela
Principal

New Year, New Faces

As we welcome in the 2016–2017 school year, we have two new faces that look forward to leading Hicks Canyon with continued success and excellence.

Deena Vela is the new principal of Hicks Canyon Elementary. She has been in education for 24 years, which includes 16 years as an elementary teacher, five years serving as educational technology coordinator for the TUSD, and three years as an elementary principal.

Vela served as principal of Benson Elementary for the past three years. Under her leadership, it was recognized as a California Gold Ribbon School, California Title I Academic Achievement School, and an Apple Distinguished Elementary Program and Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE) Honor Roll School.

Stephanie Yang is the new assistant principal of Hicks

Canyon. She has been in education for 11 years, and led the development of district curricular frameworks and K–12 professional development opportunities for TUSD teachers. She also launched the district's 21st-century, technology focused elementary music education program for the third-through fifth-grade students.

Prior to joining the district, Yang worked in the Los Angeles Unified School District as an elementary teacher and interventions coordinator, where she developed literacy intervention programs and curriculum for teachers and schools. In 2015 she was named "Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year" by the Tustin School Management Association.

Together, Deena and Stephanie look forward to providing meaningful and engaging 21st-century learning experiences, while also ensuring a safe and nurturing environment where our students are encouraged to communicate, collaborate, create, and think critically each and every day.

Hillview *High School*

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7356



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Principal's Profile

It is hard to believe I am entering my 11th year as the principal of Hillview High School. Over the years, I have come to realize Hillview is the most misunderstood school and the best-kept secret around. This year we will be centrally located in the district on the old Lambert site. The new location will make it easier for students to get to school.

Students come to Hillview because they are deficient in credits. Contrary to popular belief, students are not referred to Hillview for discipline issues. In fact, Hillview has one of the lowest suspension rates in the district.

Since we are much smaller (about 225 students), staff and students are able to develop good rapport. The students know the entire staff really cares about them, and,

in return, the students want to work for them.

Hillview's diploma is equivalent to the comprehensive high school's diploma, since all students have to earn 230 credits in order to graduate. Some students earn enough credits to return to the comprehensive high school, but the majority choose to remain in the smaller environment.

After graduation, many of our graduates go on to the community college. The counselors from the community colleges come and speak to our students, and the entire senior class visits the campus.

I am very appreciative of the community groups that assist Hillview. Thanks to the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, the Soroptimist Club, and the Tustin Public Schools Foundation for their ongoing support.

There are a lot of great things going on at Hillview. Come by for a visit.

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Ladera *Elementary School*

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7505



Dr. Jennifer Harrison
Principal

STEAMing Ahead!

Ladera Elementary School is excited to begin the design and implementation of a multifaceted STEAM Lab. This new lab will serve three purposes: Makerspace, STEM Lab and Technology Café©. Ladera staff

will work in partnership with Ladera students past and present and with our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to determine specifics with regards to room environment, materials, technology and so on, all supported through generous donations from Ladera families and the community.

In the spirit of this exciting work, Ladera's theme for this school year is STEAM Ahead. Following in this theme, Ladera teachers kicked off the new school year on Aug. 19 by visiting the Child Creativity Lab in Santa Ana. At the



Ladera teachers go full STEAM ahead in the Creativity Lab.

Lab, teachers collaborated in grade-level teams as they participated in a Makers Challenge to create an upcycled Leopard. Throughout the first week of school, students will vote for their favorite of four Leopards on display in the front office.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

13822 Prospect Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7528



Katy Sheyka
Principal

New Year, New Pathways

There is no shortage of dedicated, creative teachers at Loma Vista School. We're a true learning community, and to our faculty, a new school year means an opportunity to reflect on what worked for students last year and consider what we can do even better this year.

In this spirit, our fourth- and fifth-grade teams are deploying a block teaching, or platooning instructional model, for the first time. Students within these grades have the benefit of learning reading, math and science from three different teachers. Our hope is that scholars will learn even more from teachers who immerse themselves in a given curricular area and that teachers will be inspired and excited by diving more deeply into the subjects they love the most.

This summer, these teams spent hours mapping out the details to these new instructional pathways with the goal of ensuring optimal learning opportunities for students inside highly engaging learning environments!



Loma Vista fourth-grade team maps out and plans for block teaching model.

Myford Elementary School

3181 Trevino Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1875



Rena Fairchild
Principal

Summer Reading Program

At Myford Elementary, we believe that reading is an activity to be enjoyed all year long. It is not just something kids do during the school year as part of "school," rather, it is an adventure we take on a regular basis. Reading exposes us to worlds unknown, introduces us to characters we might never meet, and presents us with challenges we may never face. Reading broadens our experiences, improves our language abilities, focus, and memory, and is just plain fun! This summer, we challenged our students with a Summer Reading Program. We encouraged our families to experience the love of reading as a family just like going to the beach or playing a game. We gave out hundreds of books during the first week of school to Myford students who returned having reached (or surpassed!) their grade level reading goal! We know we're ready for a great year!



Makenna and Ethan Clawson both picked out their favorite book after meeting their summer reading goals!



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W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

14392 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7536



Melinda Smith
Principal

Good Things On the Horizon

This fall Nelson Elementary will be launching our Creation Station, a makerspace where Tigers tinker. There will be opportunities for students to develop critical thinking skills as they collaboratively respond to engineering and design challenges to create upcycled products. Staff and families have contributed to the recycled raw

materials stocked in the makerspace.

In addition, students will be able to engage with electronic building blocks like Cubelets and Little Bits, or coding technology like Bee Bots, Spheros, Ozobots, and Dot and Dash. Our fifth grade techxperts spent the summer exploring the technology so that they can assist with its implementation.

Our library/media center also received an upgrade. Now the space provides zones for independent work, collaboration, and whole class activities. Students have access to print and digital media, laptops, monitors with Apple TV and green screens.



Fifth grade techxperts Sierra Antuna and Alexia Garcia use the iPad to code the robot.

Orchard Hills *School*

11555 Culver Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/730-2078



Cindy Agopian
Principal

A Stellar Year

Orchard Hills School is ready to start the school year with new staff members joining the team. As the incoming principal, it is with great enthusiasm that I reunite with former Hicks Canyon Elementary School students and meet students from Myford Elementary School and those new to the area.

As a veteran principal in the Tustin Unified School District, I have experience as principal at Thorman Elementary School, Tustin Memorial Academy, and, most recently Hicks Canyon Elementary School. Teachers new to Orchard Hills this year are: Ariana White, fifth grade; Kelsey Smith, fifth grade; Ted Wert, sixth-grade Core; Jeff Chien, 6th-grade Core; Emily Doo, sixth-grade Core; Ena Eo, math; Samantha McCargar, physical education; and Katie Winter, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). We are so fortunate to have these teachers come to Orchard Hills with a variety of backgrounds and experiences. The one thing that we all have in common is our excitement at joining this award-winning school. Our goal to make this a stellar year for all!



Principal Cindy Agopian welcomes new teachers, front row, from left, Kelsey Smith, fifth grade; Ena Eo, math; Samantha McCargar, physical education; Emily Doo, sixth grade Core; and back row, Katie Winter, AVID and strategic reading; Ted Wert, sixth grade Core, Jeff Chien, sixth grade Core; and Ari White, fifth grade.

Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

26900 Peters Canyon Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7540



Brooke Carreras
Principal

A Lesson About Pocahontas

As a second-grader in Shannon Owen's class at Peters Canyon Elementary School, Marie Bocanegra wrote a letter to the Pocahontas Museum & Gardens in Gloucester, Virginia, seeking information about Pocahontas for a class project.

The museum shared Marie's letter with the community, inspiring overwhelming response. The whole community joined in to share the life and history of Pocahontas with Marie and her classmates in California.

Students from Botetourt Elementary School in Gloucester, Virginia, created a video teaching Marie and her classmates about the life of Pocahontas. They also wrote letters to Marie inquiring about growing up in California.

The Pocahontas Museum & Gardens, local businesses, and the Gloucester Chamber of Commerce sent a treasure trove of Pocahontas artifacts, including a Pocahontas doll from the museum's collection. Marie, who was by then a third-grader, and her class filmed a short video to express their thanks to our amazing friends in Gloucester for going above and beyond to teacher Marie about Pocahontas in such a memorable way.



Peters Canyon student Marie Bocanegra holds her Pocahontas doll in the classroom with teacher Shannon Owen (left) and Marie's mother, Kim Bocanegra.

Pioneer *Middle School*

2700 Pioneer Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7534



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Pioneer Takes Center Stage

Pioneer School visited Washington, D.C. over the summer break!

Pioneer was one of 382 middle schools to receive the National Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage re-designation award.

Accepting on behalf of Pioneer were Principal Tracey Vander Hayden, Assistant Principal Troy Fresch, teacher David Bowers, and Digital Learning Coach Miriam Prell.

While in Washington, D.C., the team shared Pioneer's signature practices and commitment to Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways with the other high-performing middle schools. They focused on academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, and social equity.

In addition to this recognition, our Pioneer team visited Capitol Hill and met with Congresswoman Mimi Walters to share TUSD's commitment to CTE pathways and STEM education.

In keeping with Pioneer's trajectory growth towards



Digital Learning Coach Miriam Prell, teacher David Bowers, Assistant Principal Troy Fresch and Principal Tracey Vander Hayden visit with Congresswoman Mimi Walters, center.

improvement, the school has added a graphic design pathway, and has also increased the number of available STEM and coding classes for the upcoming school year.

Red Hill *Elementary School*

11911 Red Hill Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7543



Will Neddersen
Principal

Great Opportunities

The 2016-17 school year is going to be filled with great opportunities for our students and community. Our students will experience the new Lab space and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) experiences provided from PTA fundraising. Students will be able to visit the newly furnished

Lab designed to allow students to collaborate, communicate and create in a flexible learning environment. One wall is green screen ready to support the creation of videos and images for projects throughout the year. Students will also be invited to take on various design and coding challenges using Osmos and Dot and Dash robots. Our instructional focus will be Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), which teachers will bring into their classrooms during math instruction. The essence of CGI is students are asked to share their process for solving problems and to consider different approaches to reaching “the answer” as they build their mathematical skills.



Students creating and collaborating in The Lab.

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7364



Deanna Parks
Principal

We're All New!

Thorman Elementary isn't the same! Thorman's old odd-shaped rooms with no windows to let natural light in were taken down to the studs, and the school was transformed into a modern marvel with collaboration space for students to spread out. We then added all new 21st century furniture that changes the room environment to focus on students and their learning.

Thorman didn't stop with a brand-new school! We also have a new administrator and two new teachers. Principal Deanna Parks has joined the Thorman team after 15 successful years at Lambert Elementary. She is a 21st century leader, a National Board Certificated Teacher, and very passionate about our community. Thorman also welcomes Laura Horstmann from the Los Alamitos School District and Mabel Huddleston from the Solano Beach School District.

Thorman is *very* ready to start this incredible school year with our extremely dedicated staff, principal and brand-new school!



New Thorman Principal Deanna Parks adds some finishing touches to her “new” school.

Tustin Adult School / Sycamore *High School*

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7395



Virginia Burrows
Coordinator

A Unique Partnership for Student Success

Tustin Adult School celebrated with 28 residents of the Orange County Rescue Mission's Village of Hope, who graduated as part of the Class of 2016.

One of those graduates was Deborah, who said, "This program provided me with the education and success I needed to find a job. Now I work full time at a good company and am on the road to success for my family."

Nicki, who is working on credits to join the Class of 2017, shared that the partnership between the two agencies is important because it allows her reach personal goal "...not only for my children but for my grandchildren. I feel supported and motivated."

Similarly, Art, who plans to earn his diploma this year, said, "My wife and I have a new baby coming in August, and I know with hard work I will be an example to my son by making education a priority."



Village of Hope graduates pose for a class photo last June.

Tustin Connect Center *Online School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7395



Dr. Dustin O'Malley
Administrator

Beyond Classroom Walls

We are excited to be starting the school year as we welcome our new and returning Tustin Connect students.

We have a talented and diverse group of K-8 students who are excited to be receiving a top-notch education that is flexible and personalized. Tustin Connect caters to the needs of many different types of students, including home-schooled, elite athletes, actors, dancers, gifted children, traveling families, and other students who desire a more personalized and flexible learning environment.

Tustin Connect students work independently to master the same rigorous standards and skills as the other students at Tustin Unified, but the curriculum is packaged in a way that allows increased flexibility and control over their learning. Tustin Connect students can learn at home,

while traveling abroad, while waiting for an audition, between intense training sessions, and in a variety of other settings.

Most of the learning at Tustin Connect happens beyond the four classroom walls, and yet our students still have multiple opportunities every week for face-to-face learning with their teachers and peers during our collaborative learning days and lab hours. Tustin Connect students find that having regular interactions with their teachers and peers can enhance their learning and collaboration skills, and also provide valuable social interactions and friendships.

Tustin Connect Center is a school of choice, and it is available for all K-8 students in the region. Enrollment is available throughout the school year as space permits. Interested families can learn more, and also request a tour, by visiting www.tustinconnect.org.

Tustin High School

1171 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7414



Christine Matos
Principal

Passionate about Student Success

Ali del Castillo has been appointed as a new assistant principal at Tustin High School. Ms. del Castillo joins us from San Bernardino City Unified School District, where she began her career as a high school English teacher.

Ms. del Castillo also worked with advanced learners, English-language learners, student leadership, and the academic coaching department.



New Assistant Principal Ali del Castillo settles in at Tustin High.

From there, she moved on to the district office, where she worked in the Secondary Education/Curriculum and Professional Development Department. After that, she served as a high school vice principal, where she was able to continue her work with students and teachers.

Ms. del Castillo is very passionate about student success and is eager to begin her new educational adventure at Tustin HS. She is very excited and honored to be part of the Tiller family. She looks forward to working with the students, parents, and staff!

Tustin Memorial Academy

12712 Browning Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7546



Sharon Maeda
Principal

Nurturing Growth and Innovative Mindsets

The students and staff at Tustin Memorial Academy are off to a fantastic start! A strong focus this year will be on developing growth and innovative mindsets to empower students in their academic endeavors and other aspects of their lives.

Teachers are now deepening their signature practices in Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) mathematics. They attended summer trainings, and are working collaboratively to support their students in growth, self-reflection, and exploration as 21st-century learners. Technology and GATE strategies will continue to thrive as powerful tools to engage and deepen critical thinking across all content areas.

Tustin Memorial Academy also welcomes its new principal, Sharon Maeda. While in Tustin, Mrs. Maeda has

served as Hicks Canyon assistant principal, and coordinator of the district's GATE (Gifted and Talented Education), Beginning Teacher Induction, and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) programs. She has presented at numerous conferences; worked in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education to help with gifted programs throughout the state; and continues to teach online GATE teacher certification courses at California State University, Fullerton. She also serves on the board of directors for the Orange County Council for Gifted Education.

Mrs. Maeda was honored by the California Association for the Gifted with its Distinguished Service Award, and she was also an Orange County Teacher of the Year nominee while in Anaheim. She is truly excited to be joining this dedicated team of staff, students, and families.

Mrs. Maeda is deeply committed to supporting our TMA students to succeed and become lifelong learners!

C.E. Utt Middle School

13601 Browning ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7573



Dr. CK Green
Principal

Welcome, New Principal!

This year, Utt Middle School welcomes a new principal, Dr. C.K. Green. Dr. Green is in his 12th year as an educator, seventh year as an administrator and fifth year as a middle school teacher. Most recently, Dr. Green was the assistant principal of Curriculum and Instruction at Tustin High School.

Staff at Utt Middle School believes that the middle school years for students can

be the most enjoyable of all their schooling. Utt hopes that students will not only enjoy these years but will also profit greatly from them. Utt's philosophy is to challenge students with rigorous standards and engage them with instructional strategies supported by technology.

As a staff, Utt encourages students to show a positive attitude, show commitment, and strive for achievement at all times. Students are expected to study hard and do their best to take advantage of the educational opportunities that are available to them at Utt.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

12950 Robinson Dr., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7580



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Where in the World is Rocky?

Tustin Ranch Elementary students and their families took the school mascot, Rocky the Cool Coyote, on their summer adventures. At the end of last year, students were given a challenge by Principal Barquer. The challenge was to read three new book genres, travel to three new places, and try three new things, such as food or experiences.

Students went bowling, attended swim parties, and had backyard barbecues. Flat Rocky traveled around the world to places like Singapore, Great Britain, Spain, Brazil, Hong Kong and Switzerland. He traveled the USA to Hawaii, New York, Michigan and Florida. He visited museums and monuments. Flat Rocky even pretended to cast a vote at the United Nations!

Following along at #p4ctre and @treprincipal, friends and families are learning more about one another and the world we share. Rocky is back at school now after greeting students on the first day of school!



Tustin Ranch student Reese Baker displays Flat Rocky at the Golden Gate Bridge.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7544



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Dual-Language-Immersion Program

As we embark on our new school year together at Tustin Unified School District, let me start by telling you how honored I am to be joining such a wonderful educational community at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School. On our journey together, I look forward to building on the foundation of parent involvement and student achievement. With the implementation of our Spanish Dual-Language-Immersion Program, students in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade at Veeh Elementary School will receive the benefit of being able to academically master two languages along with enhancing their capacity of listening, thinking more creatively and analytically, and developing better communication skills.

In creating a shared linguistic community, I look forward to the unification of the staff and students as we prepare all of our young scholars to become leaders in a multicultural society and global economy.



Veeh Parent Spanish Dual Language Immersion Executive Social Planning Committee members, from left, Rafael Plascencia, Erica Silva, Bertha Picaso, Sarai Rios, Sari Weisenberg and Rob Syto meet to discuss activities for the school year.

I am excited for the opportunity to build on the established tradition of success at this award-winning school, Marjorie Veeh!

Nutrition Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 342



Teresa Squibb
Director

What's Cooking Around the District

Nutrition Services will continue to offer Meatless Monday during the 2016–17 school year. We are adding new meatless choices this year: fiesta bean and rice bowl, bean and chili cheese tamales made from scratch, lasagna and mac 'n' cheese.

Meal prices have increased for the new school year. Meals include a choice of entrees, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and milk. The elementary prices are \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.00 for lunch. Middle and high school meals are \$2.25 for breakfast and \$3.25 for lunch.

The My School Menu app provides not only the menus for all schools but also the nutritionals for each item. Search “My School Menus” in both the Apple Store and Google Play.

Additionally, MySchoolBucks.com allows parents to pay for their children's lunches ahead of time and monitor their children's purchases at school. The service has a mobile app available for Apple, Android and Windows devices.



Pioneer lead cook Alice Sanchez loads sealing machine with freshly-made green salad for TUSD students.

Technology in TUSD Schools

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 306



Dr. Crystal Turner
*Assistant Superintendent
Administrative Services*

Expanding the Educational Experience

All systems are go for another exciting year in Tustin Unified School District! The Technology Department spent the summer completing multiple projects, including providing devices and support for the more than 2,500 summer school students and 600 students attending the Summer Institute. Over 5,000 one-to-one laptops were imaged with the new Windows 10 operating system for our high school students, and all student electronic tablets

were upgraded. The audiovisual systems at Heritage Elementary School were updated for the school opening, while systems at 10 other schools were fully cleaned then re-installed in support of new classroom furniture.

Two major network projects were undertaken during the summer. The phone system was updated, with the addition of a new voicemail system. Also, the Internet network project, which will dramatically increase Internet speeds, began as part of the construction at all sites. This project is moving at a rapid pace, with installation set to be completed by July 2017.

The Technology Department is looking forward to a terrific school year.



Horacio Salcedo, Jose Chavez, Henry Ha and Syafie Yusuff, Technology Department team members, prepare Heritage School for its opening.

Business Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 302



Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

Construction is in Full Swing

This summer, Tustin Unified staff members embarked on managing or directly performing 115 different construction-related projects at 28 different schools. Each project varied in scope and complexity, and ranged from a few hundred dollars to \$9 million for the campus renovation at Thorman Elementary School.

The majority of the scheduled projects were completed over the summer break, while others – such as the Pioneer Middle School gymnasium/locker room improvements and the classroom addition at Arroyo Elementary School – will still be in the works during the next school year.

Students and staff kicked off the school year in a new Humanities Building at Tustin High. The project consists of 12 new classrooms, new furniture, state-of-the-art technology, restrooms, elevator, and a workroom. The project was completed in approximately six months.

Other Measure L funded improvements underway at Tustin High include an enhanced entry/parking lot, field upgrades, and a newly remodeled little theatre and library.



Tustin High's new Humanities Building opened at the start of the new school year.

Educational Services

Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 309



Kathie Nielsen
Chief Academic
Officer

College and Career Pathways "Racing" to Success

The Tustin Unified School District has made tremendous strides over the past few years in the area of College and Career Readiness. Across TUSD, students can gain skills in a series of three-course pathway programs including Graphic Design, Engineering, Applied Medicine, and many more. All middle and high schools (grades 6-12) in Tustin Unified offer a variety of pathway programs that provide opportunities for critical thinking, hands-on demonstration of learning, experience with industry standard tools, software and equipment, internships with cutting edge companies, and industry standard certifications. Experience with these programs has proven to land students high skill, high wage jobs and great college opportunities. No matter what a student has for interests, there is an engaging pathway program at each TUSD secondary school for them.



Students from the FEAT (Foothill Engineering and Technology) Program with teacher Jeff Farr race a car they designed and built for the UCI Energy Invitational



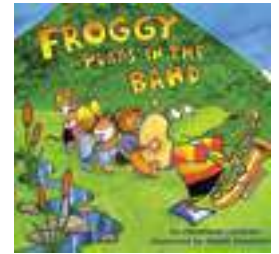
Richard's Book Review



Richard J.

Follow Through Pays Off

The book, *Froggy Plays in the Band* by Jonathan London, is one of the series of books about Froggy by this author. Froggy and his friends wanted to be in a band, but



they weren't good at it, so their music teacher told them they had three weeks to practice until the march, and if they did good they might win a prize. At first Froggy and his friends didn't play well, but after they practiced hard for 3 weeks they ended up sounding very good in the marching band and got a Golden Trophy in the shape of a saxophone as a reward.

I liked how the story is that in the beginning Froggy and his friends were discouraged, but practiced hard anyway, and all their hard work had paid off, because practice makes perfect, and everyone should stay determined and work hard to follow through to reach their goal. I also liked many fun illustrations in the book by Frank Remkiewicz.

Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

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- The Gilded Age
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Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

Perfect!

Full Cicada Moon

Author: Marilyn Hilton

Mimi is a girl living in 1969, and the Apollo mission is soon going into orbit. For her, that's the dream job: to go into space and make scientific

discoveries. But then she moves to Vermont, where with a new school and no friends, half African-American, half Japanese Mimi seems to fit out. Soon, though, things change when she meets Stacey and Timothy. They tell her to follow her dreams, that "girls can work wood and touch the sky"; if they believe that it's possible.

With a poet's pen and ability to make stories come to life, Marilyn Hilton creates a perfect story about a girl striving to do the unlikely.

I give this book five bookworms for its cleverness and thoughtfulness.

Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



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**Carol Burby
Garrett**
Executive Director

A Summer Full of Learning

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation welcomes students and educators back to school!

TPSF's annual Summer Academy celebrated its fifth year with its biggest enrollment to date. Several new programs were introduced such as Genius Hour, which enabled students to explore their own passions through project-based learning. Other programs such as

Future Entrepreneurs and Lemonade Stand Economics challenged students to develop their own mini-business plans while learning marketing and business skills. Additionally, students participated in Robotics, STEAM and Fast Forward classes.

The goal of the Summer Academy is to empower students, challenge their creative talents and cultivate 21st century skills. Many volunteers, interns and staff made the 2016 Summer Academy a memorable experience for all student participants.



TPSF Summer Academy students test and refine their catapult launchers as part of the STEAM Design Squad.

On Sunday, November 6, the Foundation will hold its 26th annual Dinosaur Dash 2K/5K/10K/Bike Tour at the Tustin Market Place. Students and adults are invited to join us for a morning of fitness and fun.

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XXVI

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WWW.DINOSAURDASH.NET

Car Seat Safety

Keeping Kids Safe in the Car

By Heidi Heflin, MN, RN, CNS, CPSTI

Many parents look to the law to 'guide buckling up their children safely in the car'. From 1/1/17, all children under 2 years old (unless 40 lbs. or 40" tall or more) must ride in a rear-facing safety seat. Pediatricians and safety professionals recommend children ride rear facing for as long as possible, until the maximum height or weight on the seat. Rear facing is 5 times safer! After age 2, California law requires children ride CORRECTLY in a safety seat or booster until age 8 and then, until the safety belt fits properly. But today, children often fit in a forward-facing seat until starting elementary school or longer. Use a booster until the belt fits properly, usually between 10 and 12 years old. By law, ride in back until age 8; however, the back is almost twice as safe, and labels in cars read stay in back to age 13.

Try this test in your car

1. Are you sitting all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do your knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross your shoulder between your neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible to you, touching your thighs?
5. Can you stay seated like this for the whole trip?

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is the national non-profit organization dedicated solely to protecting children from death or injury in vehicle crashes through the correct, consistent use of safety seats and belts. For more information, visit www.carseat.org or call the Safe Ride Helpline 800/745-SAFE, 800/747-SANO. Heidi Heflin, MN, RN, CNS, CPSTI is a Program Consultant with SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. She can be reached at CarSeatRN@gmail.com.

Keira's Book Nook



Keira

Man's Best Friend

A Dog's Purpose

By W. Bruce

Cameron

This remarkable story is about a dog who was reborn as a golden-haired puppy. Bailey tries to find his purpose in life, which leads him to an eight-year-old boy named Ethan. During his life with Ethan he learns to be good. "Good dog, Bailey." This is one of the most important sentences Bailey has ever known. However, this is not the end of Bailey's journey. When he is reborn yet again he wonders when he will find his full purpose. By the way, this is a story for humans from a dog's point of view. It describes the unbreakable bonds between humans and dogs. This is a great book, and I could read it over and over again! I rate this book 5 out of 5 apples.



Keira Fukuwa is a fifth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys jazz dance, art, crafts and traveling. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 being the highest.



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Alana's Book Review



Spirit Animals—Against the Tide

By Tui T. Sutherland
Travel across Edras alongside Meilin, Rollan, Conor, and Abeke as they make their way to the Hundred Isles in an attempt to retrieve yet another talisman



- the Coral Octopus. However, after a demoralizing encounter with the enemy in Arctica, it is apparent that a traitor is in their midst. Will the team be able to put aside their emotions, or will their mistrust for one another be their downfall?

As a story centered around Abeke, I was prepared to be bored while reading this but upon closer inspection, I realized that Abeke is a completely different character than I had initially thought. I would give this book four stars because there wasn't much action or combat however, this book managed to completely change my perspective on a character, (it's harder than it sounds) so I'll give it credit for that.

Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

Isabella's Book Review



Class Dismissed

The book, *Class Dismissed*, by Allan Woodrow, is about a class that is teacher-free after Ms. Bryce quits and the class keeps it "secret." They plan to play all day, write and throw spitwads!



Soon, the class misbehaves. Class 507 learns that school without a teacher is impossible because no one is working together. The principal gets concerned because nobody is going to detention and the students fake being the teacher. Maggie, the class know-it-all gives out homework, tests and classwork, but finds it hard. She also grades tests and holds detention drawings. Maggie wanted a teacher but learns that she could be it. Some kids mean to tell, but something always stops them. Will this class survive without a teacher or will the year end in disaster?

I give this book 4 stars, because while it is funny and interesting, it shows kids lying and keeping a bad secret.

Isabella is a fourth grader who loves to write based on her experiences fictionalizing them into stories that relate to young readers. Isabella wants to be an author of realistic fiction when she grows up. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Ships 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 TUSD in the subject line.

BATTLESHIP	MINE SWEEPER
CARGO	OILERS
CARRIERS	REPAIR
CONTAINER	SUBMARINES
CRUISER	SUBTENDER
DESTROYER	SUPERLINER
FERRY	SUPERTANKER
FREIGHTER	TANKERS
FRIGATE	TRANSPORT
GUNBOAT	TUGBOAT
ICEBREAKER	YACHT
LANDING SHIP	

Entries must be received by **October 31, 2016**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.



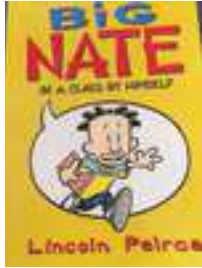
**Congratulations to Michael K.
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!**

Michael's Book Review



Big Nate In a Class All By Himself

Nate knows he is destined for greatness. When a fortune cookie confirms that, he is very excited. The fortune reads "Today you will surpass all others." He soon learns that trouble seems to be



following him everywhere. Instead of something good happening, bad things happen. He receives detention slips from all of his teachers. Confused by it all Nate tries to figure out, how it all went wrong.

Later he realizes that although he did have a really bad day, his fortune cookie was correct. He surpassed all others by establishing a new record. He was the first person to get 7 detention slips in one day! Nobody could believe it, but Nate was happy because his fortune came true.

I give this book 5 stars because it kept me interested the whole time. His adventure made me laugh and Nate didn't give up until he made his fortune come true. I may never want to come close to that record, but reading about it was fun.

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

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Tustin Unified Welcomes Over 24,000 Students for 2016-17

The Tustin Unified School District welcomed more than 24,000 students for the 2016-17 school year. The first day of school was Aug. 29.

“It will be an exciting and rewarding year for TUSD,” said Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin. “During the year, we will continue to focus on student achievement, student wellness, quality facilities, highly-qualified employees, fiscal responsibility and parent/community partnerships. We will also continue the implementation of the TUSD Connect initiative – rigorous standards and engaging instructional strategies supported by instructional technology.”

The new Heritage Elementary School, a science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) Magnet school for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through fifth-grade students, opened at Tustin Legacy.

A Spanish Dual Language Immersion Magnet program launched at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School. TK, kindergarten and first grade students will learn to read, write and communicate in Spanish and English.

TUSD is piloting a full-day kindergarten program at W.R. Nelson Elementary School.

For the second year, Tustin Unified offers an online/independent study school called Tustin Connect Center, which serves students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Among this summer’s school facilities projects, major upgrades took place at Jeane Thorman Elementary School, including classroom and library renovations and an expanded food service area, and a new two-story 12-classroom Humanities Building will open at Tustin High School. Both projects were funded through the Measure L campus modernization program.



Tustin High students attend an English class at the school’s new Humanities Building funded by Measure L.

Under the District’s deferred maintenance plan, several maintenance projects were performed at various school sites across the District, including painting, carpeting, roofing, slurry coating, playground replacements, building expansions, field upgrades and portable classroom additions/replacements.

Several administrators joined TUSD or moved to new sites for the 2016-17 school year. New or newly assigned principals are Jackie Christy at Barbara Benson Elementary School, Ryan Bollenbach at Benjamin Beswick Elementary School, Wendy Hudson at Helen Estock Elementary School, Beth Rabel Blackman at Heritage School, Deena Vela at Hicks Canyon Elementary School, Deanna Parks at Thorman School, Sharon Maeda at Tustin Memorial Academy, Rafael Plascencia at Marjorie Veeh Elementary School, Cindy Agopian at Orchard Hills School, Dr. CK Green at C.E. Utt Middle School, Dr. Donnie Rafter at Beckman High School and Dr. Mike Williams at Foothill High School. New or newly assigned assistant principals are Stephanie Yang at Hicks Canyon School, Christa Glembocki at Pioneer Middle School, Ray Hernandez at Utt School, Sahra Tanikawa at Beckman High and Ali del Castillo at Tustin High School.

Seven TUSD Schools Named CBEE Honor Roll Schools

Seven schools in the Tustin Unified School District have been selected as 2015 Honor Roll schools by Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business & Education Excellence (CBEE). They are Arroyo, Barbara Benson, Guin Foss, Loma Vista and Peters Canyon elementary schools; Tustin Memorial Academy; and Beckman High School.

TUSD’s seven Honor Roll schools were recognized for demonstrating consistent high student academic achievement. For high schools, the Honor Roll recognition

also includes measures of college readiness in students.

The CBEE Foundation annually identifies and honors the highest performing public schools in California – approximately 1,714 this year. The Honor Roll schools are consistently raising student achievement and have made significant progress toward closing the achievement gap among all students.

The CBEE Foundation is supported by numerous businesses and organizations. The group’s Honor Roll schools program started in 2005.

Robert Craven Named Education Technology Leader of the Year

Tustin Unified School District Senior Director of Information Technology Robert Craven has been named Toshiba's Education Technology Leader of the Year. The announcement was at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Convention in Denver, Colorado.

Craven was honored for "his vision and commitment to bringing technology into the classroom and his understanding of the value a device affords a student in the learning process, as well as the advantages it gives students once they join the work force."

With 20 years of experience, Craven manages



TUSD IT Senior Director and Education Technology Leader of the Year Robert Craven stands next to an exhibit booth at the ISTE Convention in Denver, Colorado.

the Information Technology (IT) Department for TUSD and is responsible for all of the technology in the District. A major responsibility is the designing, installing and the maintaining of the networks at all school sites and the District Administration Center.

During the past two years, Craven and his IT staff have successfully rolled out a one-to-one notebook program to TUSD's high schools and a tablet program to the District's elementary and middle schools. Understanding that not all students have Internet access at home to complete assignments, Craven is expanding outdoor Wi-Fi as well as piloting a program to provide students Internet access outside of school.

Kindergarten Readiness Program Honored For Excellence in Early Care and Education

The Tustin Unified School District's Kindergarten Readiness Program has been recognized at the Orange County Department of Education Excellence in Early Care and Education Awards.

The program was honored for being one of only 11 child care programs in Orange County to receive a five-star rating and one of only 13 programs to participate in the Child Signature Program, according to TUSD Coordinator of School Readiness Lauralee Cabibi.

OCDE bi-annually rates participating programs using QualityStart OC's Quality Rating and Improvement System. All candidates must commit to focus on high-quality across all program practices, which include attending trainings, receiving coaching and using program quality assessment information to create site continuous quality improvement plans. A maximum of five stars can be awarded based upon the level of quality above the minimum required by the state for all licensed programs.

TUSD School Cafeterias Get a Gold Star in Food Safety

The Environmental Health Division of Orange County has given the Award of Excellence to the school cafeterias at Currie, Pioneer and Utt middle schools; Orchard Hills School; and Beckman and Tustin high schools. The award is given to establishments in recognition of consistently protecting the residents and visitors of Orange County through excellence in food safety and sanitation at the food establishment.

Beckman has been recognized for the eighth time in nine years, Currie and Utt have received the award four years in a row, and Orchard Hills and Pioneer have been

honored two consecutive years.

The Award of Excellence Program was implemented in 1999 in an effort to encourage food establishments to strive for excellence in food safety and sanitation practices, and to recognize those who succeed. Award recipients included those establishments meeting eligibility as determined by a review of the establishment's inspection reports.

The inspection reports from these cafeterias indicate that the food handling practices and overall sanitation at their facilities were outstanding during the past year, according to TUSD Nutrition Services Director Teresa Squibb.

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Balance amount	Bonus	Balance amount	Bonus
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\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300		



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