

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Fullerton School District**



Volume 12, Issue 36

April 2025

## All 20 Fullerton School District Schools Achieve Platinum PBIS Status



**FSD's Social Emotional Learning (SEL) team: Dr. Helen Morris, Amy Lees, Michael Klein, Rossana Fonseca, and Amy Sotolongo**

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**Dr. Bob Pletka**  
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### All 20 Fullerton School District Schools Earn PBIS Platinum Recognition

Fullerton School District (FSD) has added a page to its history book with each of its 20 schools achieving prestigious Platinum implementation distinction from the California PBIS Coalition in its 2024 awards program. This marks an extraordinary milestone in the district's commitment to fostering student success through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and makes FSD home to the highest percentage of Platinum-level schools in California.

“Fullerton School District is known for its unprecedented growth and achievement in meeting the needs of our learners,” said Dr. Helene Morris, FSD Director

of Administrative Services, at the district's recent PBIS recognition event, noting this unprecedented achievement as a testament to that.

PBIS is a research-based framework rooted in the philosophy that students, as with academic skills, need intentional and thoughtful lessons on behavioral expectations to set them up for success in the classroom and beyond. Using a tiered approach, PBIS enables educators and school leaders to proactively teach and reinforce positive behaviors, creating supportive environments where every student can grow their mind and manners. It also aligns seamlessly with Social Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives, forming a solid foundation for whole-child growth and well-being.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 3



**FSD has trained its bus drivers in PBIS strategies to go the extra mile in supporting student growth.**

**SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 2**

The PBIS framework also helps promote a positive school climate, strengthen relationships, provide feedback-based teaching and reinforcement of expectations, decrease disruption to learning through decreasing office referrals and suspensions, and much more. It consists of a three-tiered framework that is represented as a pyramid. Tier 1, or the bottom layer, represents core instruction and universal support for all students; Tier 2 is the next level up the pyramid that involves more targeted efforts for small groups; and Tier 3, the highest point of the pyramid, denotes the most intensive level of intervention geared towards individual students who need additional support above what is offered in Tiers 1 and 2.

The state's PBIS recognition program has Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum categories, with Platinum denoting the highest level of PBIS achievement. To earn platinum recognition in the state's PBIS program, each FSD school had to submit a comprehensive 10-page application to

California's PBIS Coalition. This rigorous application process requires a school to provide several data points and implementation evidence that includes showing how classroom expectations are aligned with schoolwide PBIS efforts, that 80% or more of students on campus have no referrals or only one major referral to the office, data to show positive growth through Tier 2 and 3 interventions, and more.

Going the extra mile, FSD has also expanded PBIS beyond traditional settings, becoming the first and only known district in Orange County to implement PBIS on school buses. This initiative underscores FSD's commitment to fostering safe, respectful, and positive environments wherever students are.

"This initiative is a testament to the dedication and forward-thinking leadership in FSD, and we can't wait to see the continued impact it will have on our students' overall experience," said Amy Sotolongo, PBIS Teacher on Special Assignment.



**FSD's Board of Trustees with Fisler School educators and leaders at the district's PBIS recognition event. Fisler is one of the 20 FSD schools to earn the State's highest PBIS award.**

# Business Services / Nutrition Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • [www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Rob Coghlan**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## Serving Up Smiles: Nutrition Services News

### Harvest of the Month Art Contest

Encourage students to flex their creative muscles — and no, not just from carrying those oversized art supplies! From colorful asparagus to spectacular strawberries, the submissions are a feast for the eyes.

Students from all grades are invited to showcase their artistic talents by drawing their favorite Harvest of the Month fruit or vegetable. Remember, creativity is key!

Winners will receive special recognition, and selected artwork will be proudly displayed in schools and on our website. Let's see those vibrant veggies and fabulous fruits!

### Traveling BBQ Tour

It's official — by the end of April, our Traveling BBQ will have visited every school site! The grill has seen more action than your typical summer cookout, serving up juicy burgers, sizzling veggies, and smiles across campuses. Our Nutrition Services team has worked tirelessly to bring the fun and flavor to lunchtime, making it the hottest event in town.

A huge thank you to the staff who keep the grills going and ensure every student enjoys a delicious, nutritious meal. Don't forget to check out our Instagram for highlights from the BBQ tour — we've captured plenty of tasty moments!



## Harvest of the Month FSD Calendar Contest

Submit original  
art by May 1st, 2025



### Breakfast in the Classroom

Over at Richman School, mornings are looking a whole lot brighter (and tastier). Breakfast in the Classroom is in full swing, and students are absolutely loving it! Starting the day with a nutritious breakfast helps fuel young minds for success. An extra “thank you” to No Kid Hungry and Dr. Rojas for your support and partnership.

From whole grain cereals to fresh fruit and milk, the breakfast options offer both variety and essential nutrients. The joy of sharing a morning meal with classmates makes it even better. Keep those smiles coming, Richman students!

Stay tuned for more updates from Nutrition Services. Whether it's celebrating student creativity, sizzling up a storm on the BBQ, or making mornings brighter with breakfast, we aim to serve up smiles!

# Innovation and Instructional Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • [www.fullertonsd.org](http://www.fullertonsd.org)



**Jeremy Davis**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## FSD's Innovation Continues to Pave the Way for Hands-On, Life-Changing Learning

A new group of Nicolas Junior High eighth-graders in the advanced woodshop class is hard at work on Fullerton School District's second tiny home. This initiative, envisioned by Director of Innovation and Instructional Support

Pablo Díaz and led by California League of Middle Schools' 2024 Educator of the Year Mucio Vidales, builds on the success of FSD's first-ever tiny home, completed in 2024, which now serves a local family in need.

With strong district support, valued community partnerships, and funding from the Fullerton Education Foundation, this hands-on project provides students with real-world construction training while making a meaningful impact.

We are grateful to continue this initiative, offering students practical skills and families a place to call home—one tiny house at a time. Learn more at [bit.ly/tinyhomeprogress](http://bit.ly/tinyhomeprogress)



**Nicolas Junior High Woodshop teacher Mucio Vidales (far left) stands with several eighth grade students in his advanced woodshop class for a Saturday morning build, made possible with the support of New Dimension Construction.**



**EMBRACE THE ADVENTURE**  
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Dive into thrilling adventures this summer at **Camp Heritage Oak!** Choose from our extensive camp offerings for ages 2.5 through 8th grade to curate the perfect summer for your child. Whether it's STEM experiments, performing arts, cooking, sports, or enjoying our on-campus pool, rock wall, and splash pad, there is something for every camper!

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**Adventure Camp**

**Preschool Camps**

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Register by March 30 for 10% off of Adventure Camp.

# SUMMER



# PROGRAMS



## **ATC Jr. Summer Camp**

Monday – Thursday

8:30am – 11:00am

\$245.00 per session

Session 1: 06/09 – 06/12

Session 2: 06/16 – 06/19

Session 3: 06/23 – 06/26

Session 4: 06/30 – 07/03

Session 5: 07/07 – 07/10

Session 6: 07/14 – 07/17

Session 7: 07/28 – 07/31

## **Jr. Beginning 10 & under and Jr. Beginning 10 & Over**

Tuesday & Thursday

4:30pm – 5:30pm

\$135.00 per session

Session 1: 06/10 – 06/26

Session 2: 07/01 – 07/17

Session 3: 07/22 – 08/07

Session 4: 08/12 – 08/28

## **Jr. Intermediate and 10 & Over Advanced**

Tuesday & Thursday

5:30pm – 6:30pm

\$135.00 per session

Session 1: 06/10 – 06/26

Session 2: 07/01 – 07/17

Session 3: 07/22 – 08/07

Session 4: 08/12 – 08/28

## **Jr. Beginning 10 & Under**

Saturday

8:30am – 9:30am

\$115.00 per session

Session 1: 06/14 – 07/12

Session 2: 07/19 – 08/16

## **Jr. Beginning 10 & Over**

Saturday

9:30am – 10:30am

\$115.00 per session

Session 1: 06/14 – 07/12

Session 2: 07/19 – 08/16

## **Jr. Intermediate**

Saturday

10:30am – 11:30am

\$115 per session

Session 1: 06/14 – 07/12

Session 2: 07/19 – 08/16

**We do Pickleball Lessons**



**Please Call for Details**

**714-991-9090**

**975 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92806**

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# Orange County Department of Education

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

## Celebrating 50 Years of Inside the Outdoors: A Legacy of Learning and Renewal



**Dr. Stefan Bean**  
Superintendent

For five decades, Inside the Outdoors has served as a gateway to discovery, inspiring generations of students to connect with the natural world in meaningful ways.

Since its inception in 1974, this Orange County Department of Education program has provided immersive outdoor experiences to more than 3.5 million students, bringing science to life in ways that textbooks cannot.

It all began with the first Outdoor Science School, which gave students the chance to step beyond classroom walls and into nature. In 1981, the program expanded to include day programs at other picturesque sites throughout Orange County, ensuring even more students could take part in hands-on environmental learning.

For many young learners, today's Inside the Outdoors program represents a first encounter with nature — one that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration and instills a sense of environmental stewardship. In fact, research consistently shows that outdoor education increases student engagement, strengthens academic achievement

and promotes social-emotional well-being while deepening appreciation for the environment.

This year, we celebrate not only the program's 50-year history but also its impact and resilience.

In December 2020, tragedy struck when a fast-moving wildfire swept through Rancho Soñado, which had long served as ITO's headquarters. Along with destroying the caretakers' home, the fire claimed the lives of many of the animals that had been part of the program's educational experiences. It was a heartbreaking loss for our Inside the Outdoors family and for the many students and educators who had formed lasting connections with the site.

Yet, that loss has strengthened our resolve to provide these kinds of opportunities. We are now actively working to redevelop Rancho Soñado with a vision that honors its natural beauty while enhancing its role as an immersive outdoor learning space. Our goal is not just to rebuild, but to thoughtfully restore and reimagine the site, ensuring future generations can take in the sights, sounds and lessons of nature in Orange County's own backyard.

See **OCDE** • Page 8

# KUMON®

## Programa de inglés para hispanohablantes

El programa de inglés para hispanohablantes solo está disponible en tableta a través de Kumon Connect.

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\*Please contact the Center for more details.  
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# SUMMER CAMP

June 16<sup>th</sup> - June 20<sup>th</sup>  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

PreK - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
9 a.m. - 12 noon  
Class • Crafts • Music • Snacks • Games

**LUNCH: 12 noon - 12:30 p.m.**

## YOUTH MUSIC CAMP

2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
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111. W. Las Palmas Dr.,  
Fullerton, CA 92838

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**Dr. Stefan Bean**  
Superintendent

Inside the Outdoors has remained at the forefront of environmental education by evolving to meet the needs of today's students. Its Traveling Scientist program, field trips and interactive lessons continue to provide high-quality, standards-based instruction while inspiring young people to develop a deeper connection to the natural world.

As we celebrate its golden anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to expanding access to environmental education and encourage schools, educators and community members to explore all that Inside the Outdoors has to offer.

I believe the mission of Inside the Outdoors remains as vital as ever. When students connect with nature, they develop a deeper appreciation for their surroundings and a clearer understanding of how their actions shape the world around them.

So here's to 50 great years — and to 50 more filled with exploration, discovery and learning in the great outdoors.

For more information on Inside the Outdoors and its 50th anniversary events, visit [www.insidetheoutdoors.org](http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org).

# SUMMER CAMPS



## ROSARY ACADEMY



FOR RISING  
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M-TH / 8AM-12PM OR  
12:30PM-3:30PM



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## School News



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# Acacia Elementary School

1200 N. Acacia Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7700 • [www.fullertonsd.org/acacia](http://www.fullertonsd.org/acacia)



**Rachel McCormick**  
Principal

## Read Across America

At Acacia, we love celebrating the joy and importance of reading, and Read Across America Week was a fantastic way to do just that! Throughout the week, our students participated in engaging activities that highlighted the power of books and storytelling.

Students teamed up for Big/Little Buddy Reading, fostering connections across grade levels as they shared favorite stories. We also welcomed special guest readers, who brought books to life and inspired a love for reading. Each day, students showed their school spirit with themed dress-up days, making the celebration even more fun! Our Student Leadership organized exciting activities to keep the enthusiasm going all week long.

Reading is the foundation for lifelong learning, and we are proud to encourage our students to develop strong literacy skills while making wonderful memories. Thank you to our Acacia community for supporting this special week and inspiring our young readers!



# Beechwood School

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • [www.fullertonsd.org/beechwood](http://www.fullertonsd.org/beechwood)



**Hannah Lim**  
Principal

## Beechwood Philanthropic Outreach

Beechwood School is an International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) school. The MYP is a challenging framework that encourages students to make practical connections between their studies and the real world. As members of the program, Beechwood School is committed to the concepts of community, inclusion, diversity, and compassion. Our Beechwood

Bobcats focus on their impact, not only to themselves and the school, but also society as a whole.

Each year, our middle school students commit to service projects that will benefit different causes and communities. This year, some notable projects that our student groups have helmed include ones addressing a school-wide mobile device policy, canned food drives, and a field day to benefit

younger students. In the fall, one group created multiple videos and a presentation to address and support a policy to limit personal mobile devices in the school setting in order to encourage a better balance between technology and focusing on academics. During winter, another group held a canned food drive for Pathways of Hope in order to form a lasting relationship with a local community group that provides services to people who are experiencing food-insecurity or are in need of housing and shelter. At the beginning of March, one group held a field day with younger students which included different stations that encouraged physical activity and modeling positive behavior.

We are so proud of our Bobcats for thinking locally and devoting their time to philanthropic acts. We cannot wait to see how our Beechwood Bobcats will continue to pursue their own dreams and passions for themselves, their community, and on a global level.



# Commonwealth *Elementary School*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • [www.fullertonsd.org/commonwealth](http://www.fullertonsd.org/commonwealth)



**Jean Summy**  
*Principal*

## Commonwealth 6th Graders Attend CIMI Science Camp at Toyon Bay

Our Commonwealth 6th Graders were able to spend three days at the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI) right before Spring Break. An acclaimed science camp on Catalina Island, this wonderful camp has been in operation for 40 years, offering a top tier science education experience. Camp allows children to have amazingly positive experiences, and also allows them

to experience setbacks and develop grit in a supportive environment. There is no judgement at camp, as CIMI is inclusive of all students. This results in a diverse community of students, campers and staff. The time at camp is exciting and encouragement from CIMI staff provides a safe enriching environment for them to grow and develop. Our kids can become the best version of themselves! It is an impactful experience for all our 6th grade students. We see the impact this camp experience has on our students as they return with great stories and newfound friendships.



## Fern Drive *Elementary School*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • [www.fullertonsd.org/fern](http://www.fullertonsd.org/fern)



**Julie Lucas**  
*Principal*

### **Celebrating Our Classified Employee of the Year: Mrs. Karen Wheeler**

Fern Drive Elementary is proud to recognize Mrs. Karen Wheeler as our Classified Employee of the Year! For the past 26 years, Mrs. Wheeler has been a trusted and beloved noon supervisor, making a lasting impact on generations of students.

Her journey at Fern Drive began as a dedicated parent volunteer in her children's classrooms. Seeing her love for the school community, she later stepped into her role as a noon supervisor,

where she has been an unwavering source of support for students and staff ever since. Mrs. Wheeler's warm smile, kind heart, and listening ear make every student feel valued and heard. She is known for her calm and level-headed approach to lunchtime conflicts, always providing logical and fair solutions. Whether helping students solve disagreements or ensuring a safe and welcoming environment, she handles every situation with grace and care. We are incredibly grateful for Mrs. Wheeler's dedication, compassion, and years of service to Fern Drive. Thank you, Mrs. Wheeler, for making our school a better place every day!



# Robert C. Fisler School

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • [www.fullertonsd.org/fisler](http://www.fullertonsd.org/fisler)



**Dr. Kimberly Benaraw**  
Principal

## Kindness Squad

Fisler School is incredibly proud of our elementary student council and their role as the Kindness Squad. Understanding the power of kindness, our student leaders have set out to spread positivity throughout our school community. They actively promote kindness through their words and actions, serving as true kindness ambassadors.

The campaign also features a monthly spotlight on a student who has gone above and beyond in demonstrating kindness, celebrating their actions and inspiring others to do the same. Through these efforts, the Kindness Squad aims not only to encourage everyday acts of kindness but also to foster a strong sense of community and belonging.

By promoting empathy, compassion, and respect, the Kindness Squad is shaping a school culture where students form meaningful connections, resolve conflicts peacefully, and contribute to a safe, welcoming environment for all.





**Dr. Neil Anderson**  
*Principal*

### **Golden Hill's Young Stars Shine in Matilda Jr.!**

Golden Hill's 5th and 6th grade students took center stage with their spectacular production of Matilda Jr., performing to four sold-out audiences over three days. This musical, filled with heart, humor, and a touch of magic, showcased the incredible talents of our students - not just as actors, but as crew members, stage managers, and tech operators for lights and sound.

At Golden Hill, we believe theatre is essential to every child's development. It builds confidence, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. Our inclusive program allowed any interested student to participate, ensuring every child had the opportunity to find their voice, whether in the spotlight or behind the scenes. Students also had the unique experience of working with professional makeup artists and costumers, further enriching their journey.

Bravo to our young performers and crew for bringing Matilda Jr. to life with passion and professionalism! We can't wait for the next production!



# Hermosa Drive *Elementary School*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • [www.fullertonsd.org/hermosa](http://www.fullertonsd.org/hermosa)



**Dr. Caroline Llewellyn**  
*Principal*

## Read Across America

Hermosa Drive Elementary celebrated an unforgettable Read Across America Week, filled with joy, community, and a deep love for reading! In alignment with our school's vision to be the most inclusive, family-friendly community school where kindness and high academic standards are at the core, this special week highlighted the power of stories to bring people together and help every child feel seen, valued, and inspired.

A true highlight of the week was the visit from Sonora High School students, who generously volunteered their time to read to every classroom across our campus. It was heartwarming to see older students joyfully share their favorite picture books, chapter books, and culturally

diverse stories with our Hermosa Hawks. Their presence not only encouraged a love of reading, but also modeled leadership, kindness, and community engagement—core values we hold close at Hermosa Drive.

Guided by our mission to support the whole child in a balanced, inclusive environment, Read Across America Week allowed students to connect emotionally and socially through books. As children listened, laughed, and reflected on the stories, they were reminded of how books help us explore new perspectives, understand one another, and grow both academically and personally.

Events like Read Across America Week are a powerful reminder to bring joy to books. At Hermosa Drive, we believe that when children fall in love with reading, they unlock a lifelong journey of curiosity, empathy, and learning. Let's keep turning the pages together!



# Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • [www.fullertonsd.org/ladera](http://www.fullertonsd.org/ladera)



**Dr. Bill Lynch**  
*Principal*

## Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts Champions Inclusion Through Creative Collaboration

Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts is redefining what it means to learn, create, and belong. Known for its robust arts curriculum, Ladera Vista also offers a full continuum of special education programs — from resource support to a Moderate to Severe Special Day Class (SDC) — demonstrating its unwavering commitment to inclusion.

Central to this mission is the school's Best Buddies program, which pairs general education students with

peers in the SDC classroom. Together, they engage in hands-on arts activities and cooperative games that encourage communication, problem-solving, and shared joy. Students collaborate on projects that highlight individual strengths, fostering a sense of accomplishment and community.

“Watching our students support one another — regardless of ability — shows the true power of the arts to unite,” said Principal William Lynch. Students in both special education and neurotypical students report enhanced confidence, improved social skills, and lasting friendships, proving that inclusion isn't just an ideal at Ladera Vista — it's a daily practice.



# Laguna Road *Elementary School*

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • [www.fullertonsd.org/laguna](http://www.fullertonsd.org/laguna)



**Stephanie Guppy**  
Principal

## Community Events at Laguna Road

Laguna Roadrunners had an active, fun-filled new year with multiple community and family events! There are so many opportunities to enjoy the Laguna Road Community during the school day and outside of school hours. We began the new year with our annual Family STEAM Night! We had so much fun with parents and students enjoying hands-on experiments and projects. Then we had our Spring Book

Fair and Lunch with a Loved One. Families loved having a picnic lunch with their student, getting to shop together at the book fair, and experiencing lunch as a Roadrunner! Most recently we had our annual Day of the Reader event where guest visitors from around Fullerton came to read with our students. We loved having former teachers, district administrators, Fullerton police, fire fighters, and city council members visit our campus to celebrate the joy of reading. We have thoroughly enjoyed community together, and we look forward to end of the year grade level performances, Open House, and our Annual SOS Carnival!



**4th graders enjoying a guest reader during Day of the Reader.**

# Maple *Elementary School*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • [www.fullertonsd.org/maple](http://www.fullertonsd.org/maple)



**Dr. Amanda Sobremesana**  
*Principal*

## Maple 6th grade travels to Overnight Science Camp!

Students embarked on an unforgettable three-day outdoor science camp in Idyllwild, immersing themselves in hands-on STEM learning while surrounded by nature. The adventure began with an exhilarating rocket launch, where students built and tested their own rockets, experiencing the excitement of physics and engineering in action.

Each day was filled with exploration, including a scenic hike through the mountains, where students identified native plants and wildlife while learning about ecosystems and conservation. Guided by expert instructors, they engaged in various science activities, such as studying geology and conducting experiments that deepened their understanding of the natural world.

Beyond science, the camp fostered teamwork and curiosity, allowing students to collaborate, problem-solve, and connect with their peers in a dynamic outdoor setting. This immersive experience not only reinforced classroom concepts but also inspired a lifelong love for science and environmental stewardship.



# Nicolas Junior High School

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • [www.fullertonsd.org/nicolas](http://www.fullertonsd.org/nicolas)



**Jose Varela**  
Principal

## Nicolas Junior High Hosts Pi Day Fundraiser with a Sweet Twist

Laughter and excitement filled the air at Nicolas Junior High School as students participated in a fun and messy Pi Day fundraiser on March 14. The event, held to celebrate the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi), gave students a chance to vote on which staff members would get pied in the face—all for a good cause.

Leading up to the event, students cast their votes by donating money toward their chosen staff member. The teacher or staff member with the most votes had the honor of taking a pie to the face in front of a cheering crowd. The fundraiser successfully brought together students and staff, promoting school spirit while raising money for the AVID program.

At the grand finale, several brave teachers and staff, including math teachers and even Principal Varela, stood before an eager audience as students took turns delivering the whipped cream-filled pies. Laughter erupted as the pies landed, creating a memorable and lighthearted moment for the entire school.

The Nicolas Pi Day Fundraiser was not only a fun celebration of math but also a testament to the school's strong sense of community. Plans are already in motion for next year's event to be even bigger and better!



# Orangethorpe *Elementary School*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • [www.fullertonsd.org/orangethorpe](http://www.fullertonsd.org/orangethorpe)



**Deborah Bennett**  
*Principal*

## Family Literacy Night

Read Across America week not only saw students participating in spirit days but also offered an opportunity for students to read with their loved ones. On Monday March 3rd, our family literacy night provided the opportunity for students to bring their parents back to school to enjoy some time together sharing dinner and a book.

In addition to reading with family members, there were opportunities to read with local dignitaries, school board members, firemen and police officers, where these readers interacted with the family members by being a guest reader. In the library, there was a special treat where students could interact with therapy dogs and read about the different breeds. Other fun activities included a photo booth, games and making superhero masks which was an activity that all our guests participated in too. To end this wonderful community event, hot chocolate and cookies were served for all to enjoy.



# Pacific Drive *Elementary School*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • [www.fullertonsd.org/pacific](http://www.fullertonsd.org/pacific)



**John Leonard**  
*Principal*

## Fun Family Night

Pacific Drive's Dual Language Academy is once again gearing up for another fun family night. Our first family night included a fun scavenger hunt where students and families were tasked with tracking down different activities that they could complete alongside their teachers. Our DLA teachers ran stations like "Literacy at Home," "Speaking Spanish At Home," a "Dia De Los Muertos" activity, and a workshop for students to prepare for Junior High.

This time around, Pacific Drive will be hosting the musical group 123 Andres! All Pacific Drive students and families will be invited to join in the fun that 123 Andres provides. This Grammy and Latin Grammy winning music pair brings catchy songs and lively concerts that get the whole family dancing and learning in Spanish and English. We are proud to host 123 Andres at Pacific Drive and look forward to seeing how they add to the bilingual, biliterate and bicultural richness at Pacific Drive.





**Robin Munschau**  
Principal

### Redesignation Award

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Brown, Board President Beverly Berryman, along with Parks Administration and Staff, were proud to accept the California Schools to Watch redesignation award—an honor that recognizes the hard work and dedication of the staff in ensuring student success. At Parks Junior High, this commitment is reflected in a dynamic learning environment where every student—whether an English

learner, a student with disabilities, or a gifted and honors learner—is challenged and supported to excel both academically and socially.

Our school's inclusive approach provides diverse learning opportunities, from honors and advanced placement courses to rigorous electives like STEM, journalism, and entrepreneurship, ensuring multiple pathways for student achievement. Dedicated teachers, support staff, and innovative interventions—such as co-taught classes and targeted tutorial sessions—adapt learning experiences to meet individual needs.

Beyond academics, Parks fosters a strong sense of community by celebrating cultural diversity, promoting democratic citizenship through a robust rewards system, and actively engaging families—creating an environment where every student feels valued and prepared for future success.



# Raymond *Elementary School*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • [www.fullertonsd.org/raymond](http://www.fullertonsd.org/raymond)



**Cristina Centeno**  
*Principal*

## **Mr. Connor: Innovating Learning, Empowering Students**

Raymond Elementary is excited to spotlight Mr. Scott Connor, an incredible Education Specialist in his second year at our school and 15th year in education. With a background in Psychology and Behavioral Science, he's passionate about helping students succeed and find confidence in their abilities. He's always coming up with creative ways to engage students, making learning fun and meaningful.

Mr. Connor's expertise in data analysis helps him pinpoint what works best for each student, tailoring instruction to maximize their growth. With a Master's in Educational Technology, he brings innovative strategies into the classroom, making lessons interactive and engaging.

Beyond academics, students naturally gravitate toward Mr. Connor. They find their way to his class during breaks and lunch, eager to spend time with him. He has a way of making every student feel included and valued, creating a space where they feel safe, heard, and supported.



# Richman Elementary School

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • [www.fullertonsd.org/richman](http://www.fullertonsd.org/richman)



**Dr. Marci Rojas**  
Principal

## Richman Elementary and Fullerton Union High School Celebrate Read Across America Week Together

Richman Elementary was proud to celebrate Read Across America Week by partnering with Fullerton Union High School in a joyful celebration of reading and learning. High school students visited Richman's campus to read to our elementary students, engage in conversations, and share in the excitement of this nationally celebrated week.

This collaboration emphasized the power of mentorship and student relationships across age levels. Younger students were inspired by the positive role models from Fullerton High, while older students experienced the joy of giving back and making a difference in the lives of future scholars. These interactions not only encouraged a love of reading but also helped build a sense of community and connection between schools.

Special thanks to Assistant Principal Dan Ma of Fullerton Union High School for his collaboration and support in making this vision a reality alongside Richman's Principal Dr. Rojas. This partnership truly showcased the strength of our district when schools come together with a shared purpose.



# Rolling Hills *Elementary School*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • [www.fullertonsd.org/rolling](http://www.fullertonsd.org/rolling)



**Lindy McNutt**  
*Principal*

## Rolling Hills Rocks!

Rolling Hills Elementary school recently had the opportunity to present the STAGE production of School House Rocks. This fun-loving musical showcased the remarkable talents of students in grades 3 through 6, who seized the opportunity to enchant audiences with three captivating shows in a single day. This production fostered an environment of inclusion and support amongst peers, where every participant

felt valued and empowered. Regardless of their role, each student contributed to the magic of the performance, reinforcing the importance of teamwork and camaraderie. Through their dedication and collaborative spirit, the young performers not only brought the beloved songs from School House Rocks to life but also exemplified the transformative power of theater in nurturing confidence, empathy, and a sense of belonging. We are grateful to Mrs. Sapien and Mrs. Hogerhuis for being the dedicated directors who brought this show to life. We can't wait until the next show!



# Sunset Lane *Elementary School*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • [www.fullertonsd.org/sunset](http://www.fullertonsd.org/sunset)



**Dr. Tracy Gyurina**  
*Principal*

## Custom Shoes

Under the leadership of Mrs. Wang, creativity and compassion came together for our 6th graders as they designed custom Vans shoes to express their personal stories. Using digital tools like Sketchbook, Fresco, and Adobe, they illustrated meaningful designs, some featuring powerful quotes about kindness, others using colors and patterns to represent emotions and experiences. Each pair became a canvas for self-expression, carrying messages

of inclusion and understanding. This artistic journey connected to their reading of *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, a novel that sparked deep discussions about empathy and the importance of making others feel seen and valued. Inspired by these conversations, several students took their designs a step further, donating their custom Vans to students in our moderate/severe autism specific program at Sunset Lane as a heartfelt act of kindness. Their generosity sent the powerful message that everyone belongs. Through creativity and compassion, our 6th grade students have made a lasting impact on our Sunset Lane school community.



**6th Grade Vans Empathy & Inclusion Project at Sunset Lane**

# Valencia Park *Elementary School*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • [www.fullertonsd.org/valencia](http://www.fullertonsd.org/valencia)



**Melanie Carmona**  
*Principal*

## Rainy Day Reading

Despite the pouring rain, Valencia Park families showed up in full force for our annual Breakfast, Blankets, and Books event during Read Across America Week in March! Originally planned for the field, the event was quickly moved into the multi-purpose room, where the atmosphere was warm and convivial. Parents brought breakfast treats, cozy blankets, and

favorite books to share with their children, creating a heartwarming morning filled with stories, smiles, and snuggles.

The rainy weather didn't dampen spirits—in fact, it made Pajama Day feel even more perfect! Students and parents alike enjoyed curling up with a good book in their PJs, and the room buzzed with the joy of reading together. This beloved tradition continues to highlight the strong sense of community at Valencia Park and our shared love for literacy. We're already looking forward to next year's celebration!



# Woodcrest Elementary School

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • [www.fullertonsd.org/woodcrest](http://www.fullertonsd.org/woodcrest)



**Christopher Wilkins**  
Principal

## Woodcrest Elementary's Inspiring College and Careers Fair

Woodcrest Elementary buzzed with excitement as students filled the playground and various rooms for the much-anticipated College and Career Fair. They listened as an incredible lineup of guest speakers shared their journeys, offering inspiration and insight into a variety of career paths.

Representatives from the Fullerton

Police and Fire Department captivated students with stories of courage and dedication, explaining the extensive training and education required to serve and protect the community. Students were fascinated by the tools of the trade, from firefighting gear to police equipment, and eagerly asked questions about how they, too, could pursue careers in public service.

A wave of excitement spread through the classes when Jeremy Hanna, the founder of Sullen Clothing Company spoke. He shared how his passion for art and entrepreneurship led him to build a globally recognized brand, emphasizing the importance of creativity, perseverance, and business knowledge.

The energy soared even higher as the Grammy Award-winning singer and head of the Mariachi Divas, Cindy Shea, spoke about her musical journey. She encouraged students to follow their dreams, highlighting the dedication and discipline it takes to succeed in the entertainment industry. Canes, a beloved local restaurant, provided insight into the food industry, sharing stories of hard work, teamwork, and the skills needed to manage a successful business.

To top it all off, a real-life Hollywood stuntman amazed students with tales of action-packed movie sets and the intense physical training required for the job.

By the end of the event, students left inspired, realizing that with education, passion, and determination, they could achieve any career they set their minds to. The Woodcrest College and Career Fair was not just an event—it was a launchpad for future dreams that was set up by School Counselor Carolyn Conley.

