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Covering the Fullerton School District



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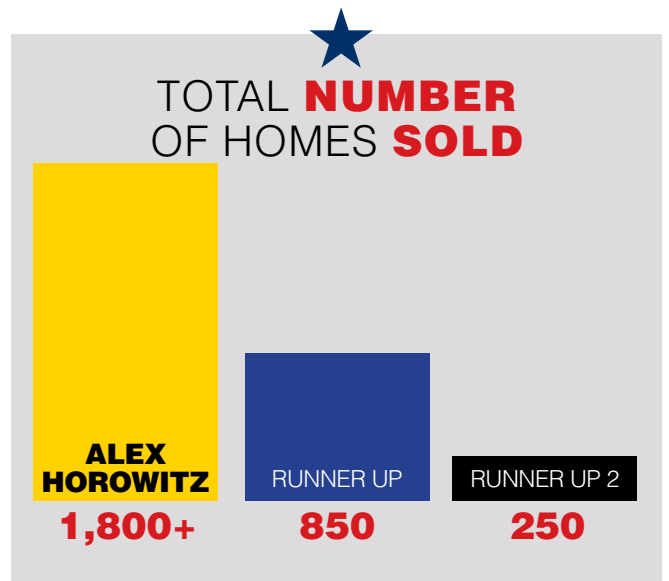
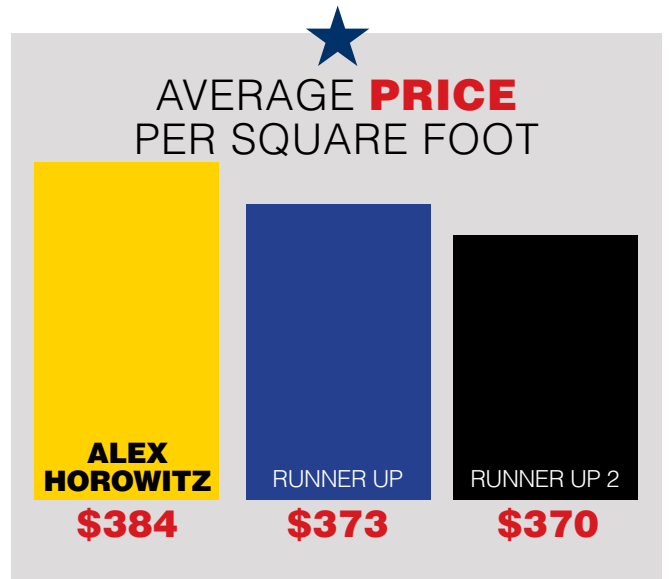
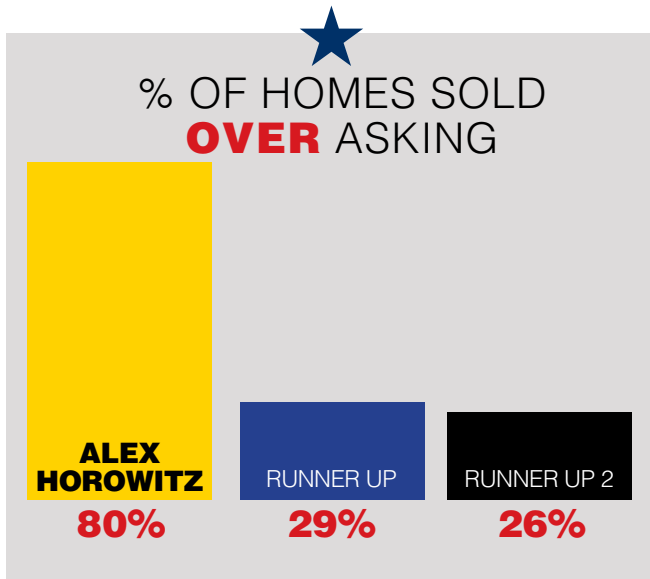
School-wide Celebration in Recognition of National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



Please see Superintendent Dr. Robert Pletka's message on page 3.

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Two Schools Awarded National Blue Ribbon School for 2019



Dr. Robert Pletka
Superintendent

Two schools in Fullerton School District have received designation as Exemplary High Performing Schools National Blue Ribbon School for 2019 by U. S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. Acacia and Robert C. Fidler Schools are two of 362 schools in the nation and two of only of thirty schools from California to be recognized in 2019. Fullerton School District is the only school district in Orange County with two schools in the county receiving this designation.

The Exemplary High Performing Schools National Blue Ribbon School recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

"We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. "As a National Blue Ribbon School, your school demonstrates what is possible

when committed educators hold all students and staff to high standards and create vibrant, innovative cultures of teaching and learning."

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

"It is a great honor for a school to receive the National Blue Ribbon designation, but for Fullerton School District to have two schools receiving this recognition speaks volumes about the commitment of those schools and also about the district overall and support given on all levels," said Julianne Lee, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.

In its 37th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools. On Nov. 14 - 15, the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with 312 public and 50 non-public school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

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School News

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We are celebrating 20 years publishing *School News* and seven of those years have included the Fullerton School District.

During the 20 years curriculum has changed in ways never imagined with the biggest change being technology. Gone are the blackboards, white chalk and erasers. Mentioning the 3 R's would bring a puzzled look and might be mistaken for Reduce, Recycle, Reuse. Discussing STEAM with anyone older than 60 would conjure up images of a train or an iron, but the younger generation would instantly visualize test tubes and robotics. We have changed the format of most of our

publications to glossy cover booklet, but our mission never changes: Education+Communication=A Better Nation. The one constant has been the focus on academics. It is a privilege to publish the excellence from the classrooms. Thank you for continuing to enjoy *School News*.

Our next issue is April 8, 2020.



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Educational Services

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Julienne Lee
Assistant
Superintendent

2019 California Distinguished Schools

Acacia, Laguna Road, and Robert C. Fisler Schools have been named 2019 California Distinguished Schools by the California Department of Education. This is the state's top honor for public schools and recognizes outstanding education programs and practices. Statewide, 323 schools received the honor for closing the achievement gap and achieving exceptional student performance. Fullerton Schools District has three of only 35 schools recognized in Orange County.

The Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools based on performance and progress on the state indicators as specified on the California School Dashboard. Indicators include test scores, suspension rates, and conditions and climate. Elementary schools and middle and high schools are recognized in alternate years; therefore, awardees hold the title for two years.

"We are proud of the hard work and dedication of Acacia, Laguna Road, and Fisler Schools for receiving this recognition from the State. Students, staff, and families of our district work in concert to do an amazing job and Acacia, Laguna Road, and Fisler Schools have earned and deserve this prestigious recognition," said Dr. Robert Pletka, Superintendent of Fullerton School District.

Business Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/446-1066 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Robert Coghlan
Assistant
Superintendent

The District is Going Solar

Fullerton School District has partnered with a company to install solar panels at all of our sites to produce 80 percent of the electricity needed to run our schools. The District is locking in the price paid per kWh for the next 25 years which will save more than \$4 million after lease payments are made for the solar panels. In addition, the District is replacing old lunch shelters with new solar lunch and shade shelters at no cost to the District.

We apologize for our noise and dust over the next few months as leased solar shade/lunch shelters are installed. District staff has hosted a series of meetings for the community to meet with representatives from the school district and the solar company to learn more and answer any questions. If you missed one of the meetings or would like more information, please visit our web page www.fullertonsd.org for solar panel locations and construction timelines or feel free to contact our Maintenance and Operations Department.

Personnel Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7400 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Chad Hammitt
Assistant
Superintendent

Second Year as Top Workplace

Fullerton School District has been awarded an OC Top Workplaces 2019 honor for the second year in a row. The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by research partner Energage, LLC, a leading provider of technology-based employee engagement tools.

Recognition for the second year in a row as a Top Workplace is an exceptional honor since nominations for the award are submitted by staff. The award recipients are determined by input from employees. Over 51% of FSD employees completed the survey and results showed a high level of engagement by staff. This award recognizes the significance of the work of FSD employees and our commitment to innovation, effective and efficient work, and a high level of teamwork.

The winners of this award are determined by input from employees. The measures used to survey the Orange County Top Workplace applicants is aligned with the core values of Fullerton School District. As a District, staff have identified seven core values, Collaboration, Integrity, Respect, Communication, Lead Learner, Empathy, and Student Centered (CIRCLES) that guide the direction of the organization.



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Acacia *Elementary*

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Liz Leon
Principal

A National Blue Ribbon School!

Acacia Elementary School has been designated an Exemplary High Performing Schools National Blue Ribbon School for 2019. The Department of Education recognizes Exemplary High Performing Schools among the state's highest performing

schools as measured by state assessments and overall school climate. Acacia is one of 362 schools in the nation and one of ONLY thirty schools from California to be recognized. This national recognition is a result of the collective efforts of our families, staff, and students! It is a testament to the hard work, commitment, and relentless dedication we put forth every day on behalf of children. Acacia teachers are

an inspiration to all educators and we are grateful to them every day. We also know we could not do this important work without the endless support of our parents and community and we appreciate the strong partnership. We will be celebrating with our students throughout the year!



Beechwood

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • fullertonsd.org



Julie Graham
Principal

Project Lead the Way

Beechwood School is proud to offer Project Lead the Way to all seventh and eighth grade students as part of our International Baccalaureate Program. Beechwood partners with Cal Poly Pomona to implement Project Lead the Way curriculum with a focus on design and modeling, coding and robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene

analysis. Students display ingenuity and creativity while devising practical solutions to given tasks by following the design cycle. Project Lead the Way empowers our young people to be creative problem solvers and designers in an ever changing world. Our students engage in hands-on, collaborative problem solving focused on real-world challenges. Some of these challenges include designing Android apps that actually work, building and coding robots, and collaborating within and across work groups. Students use and stretch their imaginations in brand-new ways and connect their learning to life. These experiences help our students to explore possible future careers in a variety of science and engineering fields and develop the interpersonal



skills needed to be a contributing member of the work force and society. The Beechwood School Foundation has been instrumental in providing the Project Lead the Way curriculum and the amazing lab and equipment that our students get to explore their passions in.

Commonwealth *Elementary*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • fullertonsd.org



Anita Lomeli
Principal

Gifts and Gratitude

Last December, in partnership with the Leon Owens Foundation, every student at Commonwealth was the recipient of a pair of brand new shoes, a complimentary kids meal, 3 pairs of socks, and a whole lot of love! In order to prepare for this generous day, members of the foundation meticulously selected shoe sizes and styles for each student, labeled them, and delivered them the last week of school.

During the assembly, students also heard encouraging words of wisdom from college graduates who shared convincing reasons to earn college and vocational degrees after high school. With immense gratitude, our students showcased surprise, excitement, and grins from ear to ear.

At Commonwealth, we aim to develop hard working scholars who are purposeful in their work and honorable in their deeds. The Leon Owens Foundation believes in “making a difference together”. As a testament to the interconnectedness of community, our mottos converged beautifully during the holiday season!



Fern Drive *Elementary*

1400 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Julie Brandon
Principal

Design Thinking

What do the perfect chair for Goldilocks, toys, car design, purses, backpacks and interviews all have in common? Design Thinking!! Falcons, from TK – 6th grade learn about, and engage in the Design Thinking process! Design Thinking is a current, innovative method used

by designers in the work force that is used to solve real-world problems. What is unique to the DT method is that it employs divergent thinking as a method to harness many possible solutions to a problem. DT is also rooted in empathy – which gives it a very human, realistic approach to problem solving. Students conduct interviews, or learn about a topic. At Fern Drive we derive our real-world problems that are rooted in our NGSS standards. Students define the issue, and begin to ideate and create prototypes. They present their ideas to peers and test their products. Finally, they fine-tune to ensure all needs are met!



Robert C. Fisler

1350 Starbuck St., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • fullertonsd.org



Mark Douglas
Interim Principal

Congressional App Challenge

The Congressional App Challenge (CAC) is an annual competition hosted by members of Congress to encourage students in their district to showcase their technological capabilities and talents and to help them learn how to code.

Every year, 4th grade students at Fisler School use Scratch coding to create apps to address

a global need. At this year's Congressional App Challenge, Kim Bass' 4th grade GATE class was chosen to attend the CAC Awards Ceremony. Out of her class, two student teams were selected to compete and present their apps for the Congressional App Challenge. Competing against middle school and high school students from the California 39th

District, Mrs. Bass' students won 1st place with their Today's Schedule app, which was designed to help the classroom teacher organize their day. Her students also won 3rd place with their Meditation Life app, which was designed to help people who suffer from stress, depression, or anger, manage their emotions so they can be happier.

We are so proud of our young coders and their achievement. These students are well on their way to making our world a better place to live



Golden Hill *Elementary*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • fullertonsd.org



Katrina Piche
Principal

Arts Wheel

At Golden Hill Elementary School we strive to integrate a rigorous and dynamic arts infused program into our Common Core academic standards. We are very excited to introduce the Arts Wheel for the 2019-20 school year. The Arts

Wheel focuses on a VAPA (Visual and Performing Arts) instructional program for our students. We implemented this program to challenge and educate our students in the four focus areas of dance, drama, music and visual arts. Golden Hill's Arts Wheel is a dynamic and rigorous skill based program which teaches students vocabulary and

skills specific to the VAPA genre. All 1st - 6th Golden Hill Elementary students rotate through each of the focus areas over the course of the school year for a series of six lessons that integrate with their curriculum and develop life-long skills in the area of dance, drama, music and visual arts.



Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • fullertonsd.org



Danielle Ramirez
Principal

Month of Kindness

Hermosa Drive is kicking off the new decade with a month of kindness! For the whole month of January, Hermosa Drive students and staff will be celebrating kindness with many different

activities. From spirit days to journal writing to art projects, students will be completing acts of kindness each day for one another and the community.

In October, Hermosa Drive won the Fullerton Education Foundation Kindness Grant in honor of a former student, Katie Monson. We were so honored to win this grant and be able to honor her memory by teaching and celebrating kindness with our entire school. For more information, follow the KM Legacy Foundation at @kmllegacyfdn on Instagram, The KM Legacy Foundation on Facebook, or the website: kmllegacyfdn.org.



Kindness, gratitude, and empathy are all skills needed to live a healthy and happy life. In addition to the month of kindness, staff was trained at the beginning of January on restorative circles to build community and compassion with students. We believe that kindness is contagious, so we will be throwing it around like confetti!

Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • fullertonsd.org



Bill Lynch
Principal

Science Olympiad Held at LV

On December 7th, 2019, Ladera Vista Junior High School for the Arts hosted their fifth annual Science Olympiad Division B Invitational. LV had two teams competing with over 34 schools came from across southern California, as well as, Sacramento, to participate in a series of twenty-three testing and engineering events. Among those events were Elastic Launched Glider,

Fossils, Ornithology, Meteorology, Ping Pong Parachute, Reach for the Stars, and Mission Possible. It also included fun competitive activities such as “Crime Busters”, “Disease Detectives”, and “Food Science”.

Ladera Vista has been hosting this event since 2014 and was organized by the LV Science Department, which includes Gina Ortiz, Marlon Barcelona, Lan Nguyen, James Hoa and Molly Esquivel. They began hosting this event to give students a chance to bond with their teammates and have fun, but also improve their skills to ensure their top performance at the Orange County Regional Tournament, which typically takes place in the springtime. This event is now sanctioned by National Science Olympiad (NSO). Along with being advertised on NSO’s website, the competitors and teams are awarded official medals and trophies.



Laguna Road *Elementary*

300 Laguna Rd., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Cindy Bak
Principal

Public Speaking - What Most People Fear, We Do For Fun!

What started as an elementary school Speech Team comprised of 4th and 5th graders during its first year, Laguna Road School's program has quickly grown to include our 6th graders, who compete at the middle school level. As our students prepare for each tournament, they develop essential life skills including confidence in public speaking abilities, growth mindset and resilience, teamwork and good sportsmanship. Their shared passion and commitment has nurtured lifelong friendships and a strong camaraderie among team. For our two dedicated teachers, this means double the trainings and

tournaments, but also double the glory as both teams have a multitude of award-winning speakers and is currently ranked #1 in Southern California. So, if you are ever on campus and notice students talking to walls or hear loud tongue twisters being said, it's nothing to fear. It's just our champion Laguna Road School Speech Team, preparing for our next tournament.



Maple *Elementary*

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • fullertonsd.org



Anthony Abney
Principal

Experiential Learning Program Thrives

Maple Elementary School's mission is to provide a world-class education through experiential learning, and the cornerstone of this mission is our 3-day, overnight, immersive field trips to Astrocamp and Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI). Maple believes these comprehensive field trips help students envision themselves in college and careers related to science and engineering.



Though these field trips are supposed to be fun, students also have a mission! During every science lab (approximately 6 per day), instructors lead students through intense science investigations; moreover, at the end of each session, the instructors talk about careers associated with



Maple inspires students to become marine biologists at CIMI

that lab. For example, after students study ocean mammals in their mammal lab at CIMI, instructors talk about careers in Marine Biology. They also share pathways and possible obstacles to those careers. When students return to Maple, they choose the career they found most fascinating and create a research project around that career. These projects culminate with students presenting these projects to their classmates, their teachers, and their parents.

Nicolas *Junior High School*

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • fullertonsd.org



Robyn Clemente
Principal

Nicolas Goes Platinum

In September, The California PBIS Coalition recognized Nicolas Junior High School for Platinum level PBIS implementation. PBIS is part of everything we do at Nicolas. Students begin their year with an assembly that teaches them the expectations at locations around the school. Teachers teach the character traits, Caring, Open-minded, Determined and Engaged, or

CODE, through lessons that teach students to apply them in real-world situations. When students struggle to follow the expectations, there is a systematic referral process, where students are placed in interventions in order to support them. Students are also rewarded for following the expectations through the use of CODE points, which can be spent at our CODE store on prizes and privileges. Students without referrals participate in “Fun Friday,” a school-wide free time where students and staff can enjoy some fun, unstructured time. PBIS has increased the culture at Nicolas in a positive way.



Orangethorpe *Elementary*

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Ginger Frady
Principal

Teach Rock Flagship Partner School

Orangethorpe is the flagship partner school for the Teach Rock program that was founded and is funded by the Rock and Roll Forever Foundation. The goal of Teach Rock is to positively impact students through the integration of rock and roll music into curricular

areas of study. The Kindergarten through 6th-grade resources are embraced in our classrooms.

This partnership has also supported Orangethorpe teachers working monthly with a Teach Rock Arts Integration Specialist. In November our K-3 Multi-Age classroom took on an extra challenge of shooting a video about the impact of Teach Rock at our school.

The goal of the video shoot was to send their teachers to NYC to attend the Rock and Roll Forever Foundation Gala.... Orangethorpe was spotlighted.

The day our students became rock and roll musicians, actors, special effects creators, and video producers is not a day they are likely to ever forget!



Pacific Drive *Elementary*

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Kelly Castillo
Principal

Computer Science Pathway in Action

This trimester, Pacific Drive second grade students participated in the Pacific Drive Dash Olympics! Our students used this unique opportunity to apply their block coding skills. After developing basic skills including conditional statements and loops, students used their coding knowledge to guide their Dashbot through a multitude of mazes and challenges. Successful students were awarded gold medals in the various events. Our second grade computer scientists look forward to showcasing their skills at the upcoming Fullerton School District Robot Nation competition.

This multi day experience is just one way that all Pacific Drive students integrate and build upon computer science skills from TK-6th grade. As students move along the Pacific Drive Computer Science Pathway, they explore block coding and learn to code their own circuits, robots, and even drones. Upper grade students complete the pathway practicing line coding using the Python language.



Pacific Drive second graders practice their block coding skills with Dash robots

Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • fullertonsd.org



Laura Makely
Principal

“See Something, Say Something” Week

Research has shown that students’ social-emotional well-being has a tremendous impact on their academic success, and at Parks, we are taking steps to provide support to our students in this area. Last year, we partnered with the Sandy Hook Foundation to implement their “Start with Hello” program to educate

students how to identify and prevent social isolation.

This year, we held “Start with Hello” week as well as the Sandy Hook Foundation’s “See Something, Say Something” week, a program designed to teach students how they can be a positive influence among their peers by being an “upstander” instead of a “bystander” in order to prevent and stop bullying. For one week,

students participated in homeroom lessons to learn about how to spot bullying and what to do to help while Student Leadership sponsored fun lunchtime activities to bring students together to build a positive environment on campus.

Feedback from students and parents was positive and we look forward to adding additional social-emotional learning opportunities in the future.



Raymond *Elementary*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • fullertonsd.org



Yolanda McComb
Principal

Students Showcase Their Passion

Raymond 6th grade students had the best Family Night of the school year! Families came to be apart of the interactive board game their 6th-grade student had created.

Students designed the board game with their interests and strengths in mind to create a game that depicts the pathway to achieve the end goal of fulfilling their passion. This very creative project brought families together, including siblings, to play the unique and creative board games that allowed students to showcase their future dreams.

Families loved the event and the opportunity to be together as a family to talk about their child's passion.



Richman *Elementary*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • fullertonsd.org



Kristen Holm
Principal

An Eco-Friendly School

Richman Elementary is taking steps to becoming an eco-friendly school. As a school community we are working on reducing our environmental impact, improving the health and wellness of our school community,

providing effective environmental education, incorporating science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics education (STEAM), and green career pathways. Fourth grade students have been studying hydroponics. Students were responsible for caring for the seeds, testing the PH balance, adding in +pH or -pH droplets, and recording data. We are excited to report after just 8 weeks, the arugula, cilantro, tomatoes, basil, and peppers had grown significantly and a bulb was forming on the tomato plant.



Rolling Hills *Elementary*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • fullertonsd.org



Juleen Faur
Principal

30 Days of Kindness

Rolling Hills School proudly announces that we are a Teach Kindness Champion School. According to TeachKindnessChallenge.Org, schools use the Great Kindness Challenge as a free tool to create a culture of kindness. As a Kindness

certified school we demonstrated a commitment to fostering positive, caring, and respectful school environments where all students thrive.

Throughout the month of November students focused on random acts of kindness, friendship, compassion and generosity. Each week classrooms taught a focus lesson that embodied one of our four themes and created classroom boards for posting positive messages, attempted to complete 100 acts of kindness and were honored with I am kind stickers by staff members who were on the look out for positive and kind behavior.



As a school we saw an immediate difference in the student interactions and behavior, our next steps are to continue to emphasize kindness as a cultural priority in every classroom going forward. Congratulations Roadrunners on making a positive difference in our school!

Sunset Lane *Elementary*

2030 Sunset Ln., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Tracy Gyurina
Principal

Build Relationships

At Sunset Lane we truly value the importance of building relationships amongst all stakeholders. Relationship building and creating a positive school culture have been a focus for us this school year as we work

towards continuous improvement in the areas of social emotional learning, positive behavior interventions and support, and restorative practices.

One way that we have successfully been able to build relationships and a positive school culture is through restorative circles, morning meetings, and grand conversations, all of which are used to promote understanding, share experiences, and build connections. Staff and students alike explore values such as empathy, kindness, courage, honesty, and so much more.

By creating a safe and supportive space where all are encouraged to have a voice, staff and students alike are able to better process thoughts and feelings as well as practice active listening skills, thus creating a positive school environment where all stakeholders are valued and welcome.



Sunset Lane staff participating in connection circles.

Valencia Park *Elementary*

3441 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • fullertonsd.org



Dr. Erlinda Soltero-Ruiz
Principal

Social Emotional Learning

As Valencia Park teachers work to incorporate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into their classroom culture, they are finding creative approaches to helping students build their “SEL toolkit.” For example, sixth grade teacher, Emma Werderman, has facilitated this by starting a garden club with students from her class in order to decrease time in front of a screen or at a desk, and increase time spent outdoors.

“Gardening is such a great activity for one’s mental health because it gives us something to nurture, it allows us to do something both hands-on and meditative, and it gives us the chance to feel successful at something,” says Werderman. It also helps students become more knowledgeable about their local ecosystems, provides opportunities to connect the academic with the real-world, and caters to multiple intelligences. Finally, gardening helps students to create more positive experiences through teamwork, and solidifies the student-student and student-teacher relationships that contribute immensely towards a rich classroom culture.



Students find joy in maintaining and beautifying their garden.

Woodcrest *Elementary*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • fullertonsd.org



Rochelle Wolf
Principal

Sharing Best Practices

Woodcrest teachers are reflective and always looking for ways to enhance their pedagogical skills. One of the most effective ways we do this is through instructional rounds.

Instructional rounds are when teachers observe in their colleague’s classrooms. The purpose of this is not to critique their colleagues, but rather to compare their skills and share best teaching practices.

During the observation, teachers take notes on the positive strategies they see and at the end of the day, all participants meet and debrief. This practice not only improves instruction, but also fosters a culture of collaboration and safety. Woodcrest has also adopted the practice of creating a gift that highlights some of the positive feedback our teachers receive during their debrief. This led to us becoming a Marzano Level 2 High Reliability School.

Our teachers have really thrived participating in our instruction rounds, translating into greater learning experiences for our Wildcats.



Orange County Department of Education

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



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

The Federal Census Bureau

In just a few months, you'll be asked to participate in one of democracy's most considerable responsibilities — and it shouldn't take more than a few minutes of your time.

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the federal Census Bureau conducts a nationwide population count once every 10 years. This is one of the few national activities the American public does together. It's also easy, confidential and critically important to our students and their communities.

Along with establishing the number of congressional seats and electoral votes for each state, census data serves as the basis for deciding how approximately \$900 billion in federal funds are spent annually, impacting education, housing, public safety and other vital services.

These anonymous statistics also enable local governments to make highly consequential decisions about public safety, including staffing police and fire stations, and they help school districts plan for enrollment shifts.

Meanwhile, businesses rely on census data to open stores, offices and factories that generate new jobs. Real estate developers use these figures to construct new houses and revitalize aging neighborhoods. Residents use the census to support community initiatives.

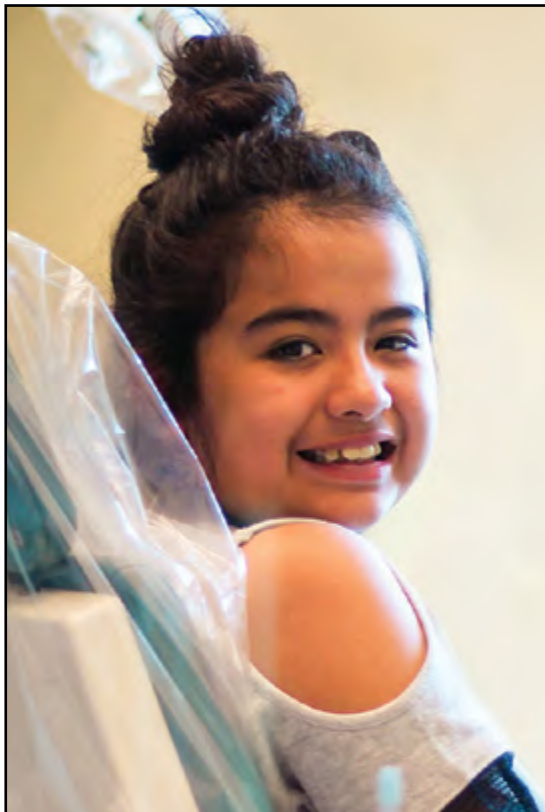
Despite all that's at stake, our state is expected to lose about \$1,950 per person in annual federal funding as a result of undercounting. But a number of organizations are working to offset those losses by generating awareness in advance of the 2020 count. OCDE is among them, offering workshops for educators along with a social media campaign to help drive home some important points.

For example, we want to spread the word that the 2020 census will be easier than ever. Orange County families will be asked to respond starting in March, and the process should take about 10 minutes. In-person visits will only be made to households that don't respond online, by phone or by mail.

Another point worth noting is that any information collected by census-takers is confidential and can only be used for anonymous statistical purposes. In fact, every census employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

Completing the census is easy, it's confidential and it's mandatory. But it's more than that. It's a way for all of us to participate in our democracy, ensuring that Congressional representation and taxpayer-funded resources are distributed equitably over the next decade.

Orange County students and families count. Now let's make sure they're counted.



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