

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Orange Unified School District



Volume 18, Issue 80

December 2022

Orange Unified School District Celebrates International Baccalaureate (IB) World School Status for Running Springs Academy





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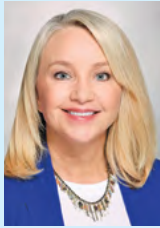


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Thankful for Our Educational Partners



Dr. Gunn Marie Hansen
Superintendent

Award-winning schools and academic success are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of Orange Unified staff in partnership with our parents and the OUSD community. Through technology-integrated, hands-on learning, our students graduate prepared for successful college, career, and Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math experiences.

Our collaborative efforts continue to result in numerous accolades received by our school sites: Canyon, El Modena, and Villa Park High Schools were recognized for the third consecutive year as *U.S. News & World Report's* Best High Schools in the Nation; Anaheim Hills Elementary was named a National Blue Ribbon School; Richland was once again designated as a Model Continuation High School; and Jordan Academy of Computer Science and Language Immersion was honored with California School Board Association's prestigious Golden Bell for Integrated

Innovative Content: Biliteracy & Computer Science – the District's sixth Golden Bell award in five years. OUSD is also proud to be the home to Orange County's only two Verizon Innovative Learning Schools (Portola and Yorba) and 2021 Project Lead the Way Distinguished Schools (McPherson Magnet and Villa Park High School).

Additionally, California iInspire Academy has been named an Apple Distinguished School for the third consecutive term, two of our CSTEM educators were named as best in the state, and numerous students were commended by the College Board and National Merit Federation for their academic excellence. Our athletic teams continue to compete at high levels, and all four of our high school football teams made it to the CIF Playoffs.

Connecting with us on social media is a great way to get up-to-date information and news about exciting events throughout Orange Unified. A complete list of OUSD's official social media accounts is on our website at orangeusd.org/about-us/socialmedia.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

Dr. Hansen begins this issue with her message on page 3 highlighting the many accolades the schools have received.

In this issue you will read articles on topics ranging from Celebrating Unity Day, Outdoor Learning, Homecoming, Talking Circles, C-STEM Robotics, College Week, Ambassabor Program, and so much more...

Our popular student book reviews are on pages 26 & 27. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for information.



with the Orange Unified School District. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is April 12. In the meantime, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Our word search contest is on page 27 and all ages may enter.

The Villa Park Library article is on page 6 with information about the resources available.

This is our 18th year collaborating

School News 
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OUSD Alternative Education

Parkside Education Center: 250 S. Yorba St., Orange, CA 92869 • www.orangeusd.org/parkside



Julie Lucas
Principal

Self-Management Month

Parkside Alternative Education is so proud of all our students, staff, parents, and teachers. We have been busy working on great learning opportunities and programs.

Our Home School students in Ms. Duncan's class went to a school sponsored field trip to Tanaka Farms. They learned where our food comes from, the cycle and resources needed to produce food and

livestock and experienced harvesting pumpkins and vegetables.

Our EDGE Virtual Elementary and Home School Elementary had a great celebration Oct. 28th for Fall where families and students ate lunch, received yummy treats, played games, and socialized with one another. What a great way to end the trimester! Our Virtual programs know the importance of social/emotional connection and plan one event for our students to meet one another and have recreational fun.

Our Adult Transition Program with the guidance of special education and Ms. Asadi, Ms. Mercer, Mr. Wagner, and Ms. Bledsoe began a great vocational training enterprise. They are now providing a coffee cart/snack cart

to employees of Orange Unified for purchase. This micro-enterprise provides our adults with disabilities practical hands-on learning in customer service, money exchange, running a small business and functional academics of speaking, listening, mathematics and problem solving. This was a great hit with our district colleagues who welcomes our students with open arms!

Our students in all K to 12 programs have started to complete iReady diagnostic assessment so that we can provide meaningful precise academic intervention.

Counselors are working with students to help with FASFA and will be reaching out to students in their native language for individual assistance. Our counselors are also gearing up with a series of XELLO lessons for 7 to 12th graders to teach study skills, career focus and other college and career units of exploration.

Finally, is the Social Emotional Learning Student of the Month at Parkside. Once a month, teachers nominate students based on a specific competency from SEL. This month was self-management. Students are awarded a certificate and publicly acknowledged for their hard work in the specific competency. The proud faces of students, peers applauding their hard work is positive and beyond words. We all thrive in an environment where we are recognized for our efforts.



Parkside Independent Study Middle Schoolers at the Pumpkin Patch.

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Villa Park Library

17865 Santiago Blvd, Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714-998-0861 • www.ocpl.org



Kristina Jones
Librarian II

Visit the Library for Resources to Assist with your School Year!

At the library: We'll help you find books to expand your enjoyment of reading. Find materials for school reports or leisure reading.

Online: www.ocpl.org/elibrary#homeworkhelp

From databases and encyclopedias to programs that help with mathematics and language, there are many reasons to explore our Homework Help site. <https://ocpl.org/elibrary#mm>
Visit our Access Video on Demand -Just for Kids streaming collection for a wide range of video content including Reading Rainbow, Sesame Street, and many educational videos.

Technology: Borrow a WiFi hotspot, use a computer or print your document. In a hurry? No problem! Send a print job in advance to our wireless printing and pick up your printout at the library.

Programs: The library offers in-person and virtual programs. Call us or view our calendar at <https://ocpl.org/libraries/villa-park>

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Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • www.orangeusd.org/anaheim-hills-elementary-school



Kory Cosca
Principal

Panther Pride

At Anaheim Hills Elementary School we strive to demonstrate our Panther PRIDE each day. We show our Panther PRIDE (Perseverance, Responsibility, Integrity, Dedication, Excellence) by demonstrating these attributes in the classroom, online, and on the playground through our actions and our words.

The great thing about Panther PRIDE is that we can all show it and develop these important characteristics. We celebrate a selected Panthers who did an outstanding job at showing their Panther PRIDE with families every month. Families are invited to attend a monthly awards assembly where we share our pride and acknowledge our students' success.



California *Elementary School*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • www.orangeusd.org/california-elementary-school-k-5



Dr. Misty Brunasso
Principal

Continuous Innovation

California iInspire Academy has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2022-2025. This recognition is given for innovation in learning, teaching, and education environments. Our school has received this recognition continuously since 2017. We are one of 689 schools in 36 countries to be recognized as an Apple Distinguished School.



Distinguished School

As a staff we established elements for continuous innovation that include culture, team, capacity, community, language, and problem solving. Our vision of Dual Immersion and Apple Distinguished School allows technology and language to flourish via innovation and creation! This is an ongoing process that requires thoughtful planning, practice, and improvement along the way. We use iPad and Mac products to inspire student creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. And we cultivate environments in which students are excited and curious about learning.

Cambridge Elementary School

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • www.orangeusd.org/cambridge-elementary-school



Dana Encheff
Principal

Cambridge Cubs Expanded Learning Programs

Cambridge now offers a variety of free, hands-on after-school programs for our students. Through California's ELO-P Grant, we have been able to increase our programming to include Breakfast Club, Ballet Folkloric, Pep Squad, AYA Sports and Enrichment, Campfires Tutoring, eSports, Drone League, and Lego Robotics. We are excited to see our students participating in so many engaging and fun learning experiences and look forward to growing our program this year. We are very grateful to all of our afterschool partners and teachers who have contributed to supporting our students before and after school!



Canyon High School

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • www.canyonhighschool.org



Craig Abercrombie
Principal

Homecoming

2022 Homecoming at Canyon High School was a fun-filled exciting week full of activities and events for the greater Canyon High School Community to enjoy. We held our first-ever evening Community Pep Rally where our students, parents and community saw firsthand the spirit of Canyon High School. Our Cheer, Song, Band, Color Guard, and Dance teams entertained the crowd and highlighted the talent and spirit of CHS. Additionally, our homecoming court was announced and our Head Football Coach, Phil Hughes, introduced the 2022 varsity football team. This was followed by the homecoming football game the next evening against Esperanza High School. School spirit was palpable during



the 47-7 victory where our student's gained recognition as one of the top student sections in Orange County. The week concluded with our largest ever Homecoming Dance! Over 1200 students attended and enjoyed the evening filled with music, dancing, and games.

Canyon Hills

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



Dr. John Erratt
Coordinator

An Exciting Start to School Year

It has been an exciting start to the school year at Canyon Hills School. Teachers and staff started the year anxious to be back teaching and working with our students. Students and staff arrive each day with a positive and optimistic attitude, ready to teach and learn while continuing to observe health and safety precautions. Our teachers, service providers, and staff continue to

integrate technology and instruction, learning new skills, programs, and platforms to make their lessons even better. Our students thrive when we can offer a variety of learning modalities to meet each of their unique needs in a safe and nurturing environment. Weekly highlights include Community Based Instruction trips to the grocery store and nearby takeout restaurants and well as opportunities to interact with students at Canyon High School for nutrition break.

The time of year for many celebrations is upon us. Our Red Ribbon Week activities included visits from the Anaheim Fire Department and Anaheim Police Department. Students were able to touch the fire truck and even had an opportunity to water the lawns using the fire hose. Students were able to sit in the police car and see all the technology available to the dedicated members of our police and fire departments. Students always look forward to decorating pumpkins provided by the school's Parent Association as well as the annual Costume Parade. We are looking forward to celebrating our country's history and traditions with our annual Thanksgiving celebration. We appreciate the ongoing support of the Anaheim Hills Rotary Club volunteers.

Our students continue to use and enjoy the Canyon Hills Life Skills Lab, learning vocational and life skills. Combined with the classroom functional curriculum and the Unique Learning Systems' standards-based curriculum, students receive a well-rounded education preparing them for life beyond Canyon Hills. We focus each day on improving the lives of our students at Canyon Hills.

Canyon Rim *Elementary School*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • www.orangeusd.org/canyon-rim-elementary-school



Bree Tippets
Principal

Unity Day

Canyon Rim students and staff joined schools and communities all around the country and wore orange to celebrate Unity Day, a national

event developed by [PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center](http://PACER'sNationalBullyingPreventionCenter.org) to show support to students who are bullied. On this day, we continued to promote kindness, unity, and inclusivity. As part of our Social Emotional Learning and PBIS, students had opportunities to participate bullying prevention activities within their classrooms. Unity Day is a great time to send a message of solidarity against bullying. When we stand together, no one must stand alone. Way to go Roadrunners!



Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • www.cerrovilla.org



Madeline Morrison
Principal

Kindness Club

Cerro Villa Middle School's Kindness Club, led by Mrs. Liu, as well as some Honor Society students working towards community service hours, volunteered on a recent Saturday to beautify our campus.

The students collected trash, painted the benches in front of the library, and decorated garbage cans.

We love the bright, cheerful colors

and pictures! Some of the other exciting events that have been happening on campus include lunchtime BINGO with the counselors, finishing a successful soccer season, our fun Fall Dance, and our motivating Red Ribbon Week assembly. Additionally, with the support of our awesome PFSO and community, Cerro Villa also reached our fall fundraising goal with the donations going towards a shade structure and improved event lighting in our amphitheater as well as additional water bottle filling stations. We invite you to come take a tour of our amazing school and see why it's great to be a Cerro Villa Viking!



Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • www.orangeusd.org/chapman-hills-elementary-school



Lana Merha
Principal

A Sense of Connection

At Chapman Hills, we believe fostering a sense of connection is essential to the academic, social, and emotional success of our students. Students

look forward to starting their day with community circles and mindful breathing activities. These community circles provide students with a safe space to label their emotions and ask for ways they need support. In September, students participated in the "Start With Hello" program organized by our school counselor, Mrs. Lopez, where students learned strategies for recognizing social isolation in their peers as well as ways they can help grow an inclusive culture at Chapman Hills. Our theme this year is "Together



We Shine," and CHE is definitely a school dedicated to making all its Bobcats feel included, accepted, and seen as a valuable part of our community.

Crescent *Elementary School*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • www.orangeusd.org/crescent-elementary-school



Antoinette Coe
Principal

Sixth Graders take Learning Outdoors

6th Grade science camp through the eyes of our students one week after returning and reflecting.

We found enjoyment as 6th graders going to Outdoor ED. One of our favorite parts of this experience was our counselors. This was our group's first experience with an overnight field trip, and the counselors made it enjoyable. Another experience that made this trip memorable were the hikes that let us explore our natural surroundings. Lastly, this trip allowed us to build confidence in ourselves, build relationships with others, and inquire about nature.

What really stood out to us the most was how welcoming the instructors were. They were very helpful and made us feel welcome away from home. All the adults were very kind and funny; they treated us with respect. The food was astonishing! The food was fresh, and they made the

mealtime fun, while healthy. We ate something new every day, opening our senses to new experiences! The hikes were safe, very fun & educational. They were not too hard or too easy but made us feel energized!

During our experience at ECOS, we went hiking and learned about wildlife, ecology, and geology. In addition to our educational hikes, we played various fun games, roasted marshmallows, built shelters, and had a fun dance party. We created new friendships and developed a new perspective on nature and wildlife. It was a wonderful experience, and I was super sad to see it all come to an end.



El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.elmodenahs.org



Sandra Preciado
Principal

Nature Center

The El Modena High's Nature Center was the site of the Visual and Performing Arts Department's traditional Fall into the Arts Festival on Friday, October 28. All day long teachers brought their classes out to view performances and artistic displays by VAPA students. Macabre masks by Ms. Emmy Wang's art students lurked and leered around the pathways, while

Mr. Brian Beaman's ceramic students' jack-o-lanterns and succulent pots ringed the pond. Photography students, taught by Mr. Peter Phun, displayed a variety of photographic styles. Jazz Band welcomed students as they entered the Nature Center, and the Orchestra played the dissonant "Waltz of the Wicked" on the Center Stage; both are under the direction of Mr. Derek Nuno. Sharing the stage were singers led by Ms. Tracy Solis who entertained with seasonal songs, including songs from "The Addams Family" and "Little Shop of Horrors". Mrs. Deborah Gillen's Advanced Theatre Arts actors performed humorous Halloween vignettes. Members of the Vanguard Dance Company interpreted songs from Peanuts holiday

specials. Joining the VAPA Department, Mr. Sean Edwards' French students created tombstones for French luminaries, and Ms. Carmen Barragan's Spanish students shared ofrendas honoring lost loved ones. The entire event was recorded by Mr. Felipe Cunha's video students, who will be creating a documentary to share with the community. Over the course of the day, over 1,000 students enjoyed this showcase of creative and talented Vanguards.



El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • elranchocharter.org



Michele Walker
Principal

Teen Read Week

From October 10-14, El Rancho Charter School participated in Teen Read Week, a national celebration in libraries across our country.

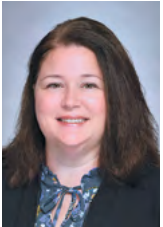
Mrs. McGuire, our school librarian,

worked tirelessly to ensure that the event would be a success. The week was full of exciting events for both students and staff. From raffles, to hosting an awesome Book Fair; students across campus were talking about all things related to books and reading. Each day, the students had the opportunity to peruse the wonderful items for sale, ask questions, and share facts about their favorite authors, books, and genres. Read Week has definitely been a highlight of the school year!



Esplanade *Elementary School*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • www.orangeusd.org/esplanade

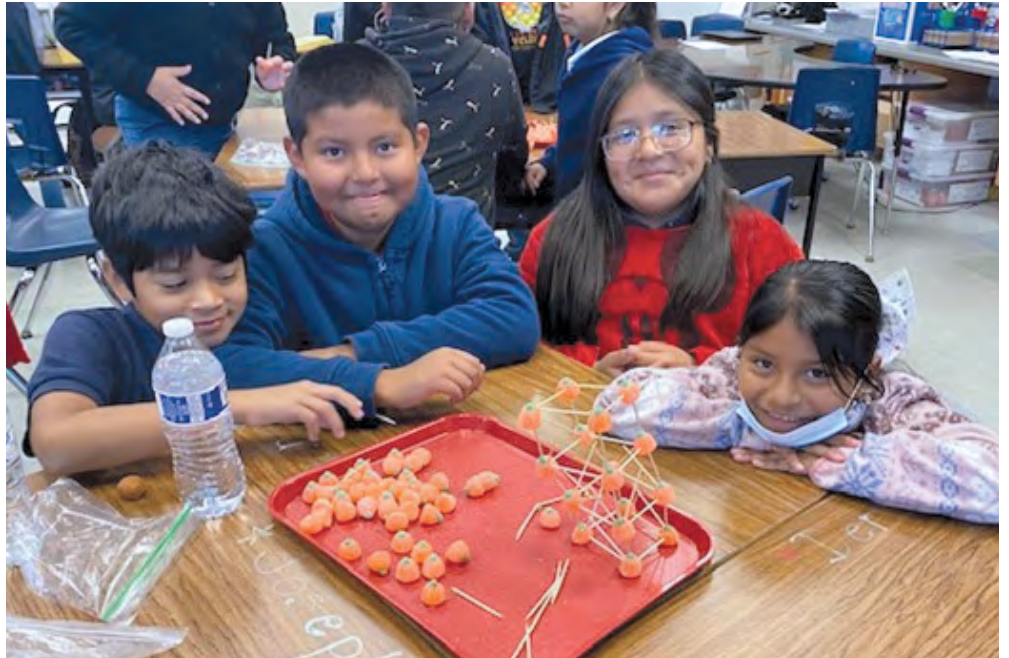


Cheryl Sosa
Principal

Math Activity

Students in Mrs. Thompson's 4th grade class participated in an exciting math activity on Halloween! Students were challenged with

building the tallest structure they could using only toothpicks and gummy pumpkins. Mrs. Thompson projected a picture of the open-lattice iron beams of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. Students discussed the geometrical shapes that help support such a large structure. As the students were building, they collaborated together to decide shapes and supports, discussed modifications to strengthen their structure, and intensively studied the Eiffel Tower to find clues on



what would help their structure stand. Students were collaborative and creative in building their structures while having a "sweet" time!

Fairhaven *Elementary School*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • www.orangeusd.org/fairhaven-elementary-school



Christina Hiraes
Principal

Lots of Activities and Celebrations

This fall has been full of activities and celebrations here at Fairhaven. Our students have made the decision to say NO to drugs during our Annual Red Ribbon Week! Our AVID Ambassadors have educated us every morning through our announcements and encouraged our Falcons school-wide to “Team Up

Against Drugs and to Turned our Back on Drugs among other dress up days. Fairhaven Falcons have also said “Boo to Bullying” and showed our commitment to that by wearing Orange. Fairhaven Falcons are also happy to recognize the asset rich values brought by the cultural observance of Dia de los Muertos. Many of our Falcon Families observe this cultural holiday and honor their loved ones. This is a joyful holiday celebration, and many families and friends gather to remember funny events and lessons learned.

We are happy to recognize the wonderful traditions and cultural differences that make our country and school rich and diverse.



Fletcher *Mandarin Language & GATE Academy*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • www.orangeusd.org/fletcher-elementary-school



Sara Pelly
Principal

Fletcher Academy CTE Global Business Leaders

Did you know that Fletcher’s Mandarin Immersion program has a CTE Global Business Leader program, that begins with kindergarten, and continues through 12th grade? Career Technical Education (CTE) courses were traditionally for high school students,

allowing them to explore their interest areas, learn about future careers, and begin preparing for the world beyond high school.

Fletcher Mandarin Immersion students begin their international business pathway in kindergarten, learning about “Money and Saving” and continue with a different grade level emphasis, earning pins for their completion each year. They learn effective communication and sales strategies, introduction to marketing, and take part in integrated academics and project-based learning – all in Mandarin!

The program continues at Cerro Villa Middle School with business professions exploration and entrepreneurship, then onto Villa Park High School with the international business, marketing, and finance classes and ending with a business internship.



Handy *Elementary School*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • www.orangeusd.org/handy-elementary-school



Erika Krohn
Principal

Talking Circles

Every classroom at Handy School has been participating in Talking Circles.

We use Talking Circles to create a kind, caring community in each classroom and to build communication skills in our students. Talking Circles entail gathering in a circle and creating norms that will help build trust in the space. A talking piece, an object of significance, is passed around inviting equal participation. Whoever holds the talking piece is invited to speak, while all others listen to and support the speaker. The Circle Keeper facilitates the Talking Circle by selecting the time and place, inviting members, and preparing introductory remarks. Once the group reviews its established norms, the Circle Keeper can read a short piece of text to set the tone or just dive into the first question or reflection. At Handy, our topics have focused on the monthly core value. So far this year, we have discussed Responsibility, Respect and Gratitude in circles. Our students have a greater sense of belonging due to this promising practice.



Mrs. Cody's 3rd graders participate in a Talking Circle.

Imperial *Elementary School*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.orangeusd.org/imperial-elementary-school



Kristi McDougall
Principal

Interactive Way of Learning

This week the 6th grade students in Mrs. Fesset's, Mrs. Yalda's and Mr. Mueller's classes at Imperial had a engaging and interactive way to learn about ancient civilizations. The Walk-Through Ancient

Civilizations program allowed students to become characters from Rome, Egypt, and Greece. Students were given character and expert cards as well as information about the society to prepare for the activity. During the walkthrough students became characters in the story as the narrator led them through a retelling of history. Students earned points for their team for memorizing facts and providing a great performance. Many parents were able to join us to support and celebrate students' learning. It was such a fun interactive way of learning!



Jordan Academy of Language and Computer Science

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • www.orangeusd.org/jordan-academy



Jon Ruffridge
Principal

Celebrating at Jordan!

We always have something to celebrate at Jordan Academy of Language and Computer Science! Most recently, Jordan celebrated Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) with student performances from all our Dual Immersion classes. This cultural celebration is one of many aspects that makes Jordan a school community that immerses students in not only language, but also cultural heritage.

Next, Jordan will be gearing up to celebrate and collaborate with one another for National Computer Science Week. Students will be putting their heads together to solve complex problems through code, engineer solutions through robotics and code, and think critically about how coding and computer science affect us in our everyday lives. Jordan students will also be looking forward to experiences outside of school on how computer science influences us both from a coding perspective as well as a design and interface perspective.



La Veta Elementary School

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • www.orangeusd.org/la-veta-elementary-school



Lorena Rubio
Principal

Celebrating Culture and Healthy Living

At La Veta, we believe in fostering healthy, culturally aware students. One way we nurture a healthy, drug free environment is by participating in Red Ribbon Week.

This year's theme Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free., inspired our dress up days and activities.

Our daily themes were Red-y & Proud to Be

Drug Free, Wake Up & Be Drug Free, Team Up Against Drugs, and Peace Out to Drugs. We wrapped up with a Storybook Character Day Parade. We also held our first and successful Trunk or Treat!

To equip our students with knowledge of diversity, we celebrate the traditions of Dia De Los Muertos. We invited our staff, students, and families to participate by bringing in a picture of a loved one that has passed for our school's altar. Day of the Dead altars known as altares de muertos or

ofrendas are set during the Day of the Dead celebrations on November 1 and 2 to honor the dead. This is an important part of Mexican and other Latin American cultures, and it is a special way to remember family members and friends who are no longer with us.

"Our Voyage, Our Story"...SAILing into success!



Lampson *Elementary School*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • www.orangeusd.org/lampson-elementary-school-k-5



Alejandra Pantoja
Principal

Fall Activities During October

Lampson Elementary saw a very exciting October. Our Leopards participated in a few activities that promoted

fun, excitement, and a love for Lampson. On October 12, we participated in Walk to School Day. Lampson students, parents/guardians and staff enjoyed a brisk and fun morning walk to school. This was a great opportunity to review street safety and become familiar with the delights of morning walks. We also celebrated Red Ribbon Week, the week of October 24. Each day of the week, we had different themes, and our Leopards demonstrated their school spirit as we committed to being drug free and proud!



Linda Vista *Elementary School*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • www.lindavistaelementary.com



Renee Ybarra
Principal

Happy Fall!

Innovation and technology are alive and well at Linda Vista!

We are so excited this year to offer a new after school enrichment program for our 4th-6th grade students working with Lego Robotics! We have an awesome rocket scientist parent volunteer who is supporting our students, along with a teacher leader.

Our 27 upper grade students are having a blast building their robots and learning how to utilize coding to operate them. Recently they were challenged to create a "bull" that would speed up when it saw the color red! We are excited to add a Lego Robotics team for our 1st-3rd grade students in the near future when their materials arrive.

Additionally, our Kindergarten through second grade classes each received a set of Osmo Genius kits to use with iPads in small group rotations, providing extra practice in reading and math. These activities are extremely engaging for students and can be utilized to meet specific needs of students. Four of our primary teachers also attended an after school Professional Development utilizing "crayons" for iPads. Each of these teachers now have a set for small group use and will be working with our OUSD Educational Tech team to learn more about effectively using them in their small group instruction.

As Walt Disney said, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Keep Moving Forward, Linda Vista!

McPherson Magnet *School*

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • mcpersonhome.meteormail.net



Brenna Godsey
Principal

C-STEM Robotics

In October, McPherson Career Technical Education teacher, Lauri Truong, was named the C-STEM teacher of the year! C-STEM is a program through UC Davis that integrates coding and robotics with math education. Kindergarten through 8th grade students participate in

C-STEM robotics at McPherson. In elementary grades, students code C-STEM robots as part of their math instructional time. In middle school, students can choose C-STEM as an elective. This highly engaging program encourages students to work collaboratively while developing critical thinking skills as they solve problems. Mrs. Truong shared, "Students are solving problems and learning math when they are working with the C-STEM program. The students are learning how to persevere as they are programming the robots." C-STEM develops college and career readiness skills for all students while fostering engagement in math.



Nohl Canyon *High School*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • www.orangeusd.org/nohl-canyon-elementary-school



Jeffrey Jones
Principal

Parent and Community Support

Nohl Canyon's parent group, NCSA (Nohl Canyon School Association) and community of families has demonstrated the generosity and support that has become a staple at Nohl Canyon. On Friday, October 28, Nohl Canyon hosted its annual Jog-a-Thon fundraiser,

the primary fundraiser for the school year. Programs benefiting from the fundraiser include Art Masters, TK-4th grade music teacher, Technology, STEAM activities, and many more supporting programs. On race day, students ran by grade level on a designed course for twenty minutes. Students were treated to popsicles after running. Parents were able to cheer on their children as they ran. The

jog-a-thon has brought in over \$40,000 as of October 28th! Nohl Canyon thanks NCSA for the coordination and leadership, sponsors, students and families for the generous donations and staff for their support!



Olive Elementary School

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • www.orangeusd.org/olive-elementary-school



Heather Darrow
Principal

An Example for Others

As an AVID Elementary Showcase School, Olive is proud to set an example for others! Over the last few months, Olive has worked with AVID to create a video

highlighting our work, focusing on how AVID has impacted our school culture and climate. Through our implementation of AVID, we have become a school where every teacher believes every student can learn and grow. We also recognize that students need equal opportunities to access strong instruction to improve. Olive Educators have collaborated to create vertical articulation and alignment of initiatives, so students can enter each grade with strong foundational skills which will be expanded upon each year. We have focused on organization, writing, reading, focused



notetaking, and collaboration through inquiry across all grade levels. Each year, we expand our work in each area by using our data to set goals and a plan for achieving these goals. We are proud of our work, and we are happy to share our journey with you in this video. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPpGOLBboc4>

Orange High School

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangehighschool.org



Sheryl Anderson-Glass
Principal

A Stellar College Week

Our Panther Community, along with AVID Program and the Orange County Department of Education put on a stellar College Week at Orange High School. The students led the school in a weeklong of activities to support a college and career going community. It ended with representatives from the Orange County Department of Education, SCC, UC's, CSUs, and OHS Staff providing support for all students in the class of 2023 to complete a college application, the FAFSA, or the Dream Act application to ensure guidance through the process. Orange High also had five students receive the National Hispanic Recognition Award through the College Board. The students are Adolfo Bello (11), Deseray Lua (12), Joshua Martinez (12), Mackenzie Cuevas (11), and Martin George (12). These students continue to accomplish amazing goals in their academic journey, and we look forward to supporting them each step of the way.

GO PANTHERS!



Palmyra *Elementary School*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • www.orangeusd.org/palmyra-elementary-school



Christina Bletterman
Principal

National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month! Palmyra's student leadership group, PAL, led lunch time art activities centered around celebrating differences and spreading kindness. Each day teachers shared a mini lesson about bullying prevention and held a class circle to discuss topics such as bullying and ways to address it, inclusivity and kindness.

On Friday, all Palmyra Pintos wore blue to stand together against bullying. Students were excited to participate in lunch time activities and teachers shared that class discussions were meaningful.

In November our PAL students will shift their focus to being of service to our community. They will host a canned food drive to support local families in need.



Panorama *Elementary School*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • www.orangeusd.org/panorama-elementary-school



Erin Rosselli
Principal

Growing Ourselves and Our Community

October has been busy at Panorama! We continue to work as a school community to embody our vision. We have focused on mindset through social-emotional learning as we dive deeper into self-management and self-awareness. We read *The Magical Yet* and *The Smart Cookie* as a school community to develop a growth mindset and set goals for the year. We will follow our goals with data chats to align with our AVID schoolwide focus.

It has been an exciting time growing the cohesiveness of our community with all activities back in full swing. From Back to School Night to classroom volunteers to Trunk-or-Treat, we have enjoyed having our families involved in on-campus activities. Our students have come together in activities with buddies, our Panther Fun Run, and Red Ribbon Week, not to mention our BMX Anti-Bullying assembly. October has been full of activities to prepare, value, and empower our scholars to learn, lead, and succeed.



Portola Preparatory Academy

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • www.orangeusd.org/portola-middle-school-6-7-8



Jeff Morgan
Principal

Prep Days

We are proud to introduce Portola Prep Days. We have held two successful Prep days the last two months. The theme in September was First Reponders

and our theme in October was Dia de Los Muertos. Each Prep day students are exposed to the pathways that they will be able to take at the high school as well as getting them College and Career Ready with an AVID lens. We collaborated with our CTE feeders who came to the site to instruct our students. We worked with local agencies as well as local performers to support our Prep days. These days tie in to our new mission that is to prepare all students for college and careers



through innovative learning, a respectful atmosphere and collaborative relationships between staff, students, and parents.

Richland High School

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • www.orangeusd.org/richland-continuation-high-school



Lisa Ogan
Principal

Celebrating with our Caring Community

First Quarter is a special time of celebration and tradition at Richland as our Orange North Rotary and local Orange Fire Department welcome students to the year with a Thankful Thursday BBQ.

These Thankful Thursday events are once a quarter providing the opportunity to meet with community and create team building with students and staff. Past events showcase a variety of activities including volleyball tournaments, cornhole tournaments, S.O.A.R. (Skilled Organized Accountable Respectful) skits, scavenger hunts, and relay races. Canyon School Pride Bingo is an active sponsor for Richland making even more events, such as Prom, a possibility. We welcome and are grateful of the amazing partnership with our community!



Prospect *Elementary School*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • www.orangeusd.org/prospect-elementary-school



Mary Hinton
Principal

It's all happening at Prospect!

Our Counselor, Ms. Cathy Mendez started her before and after school clubs already this year! Each Club rotation lasts about 8 weeks and focuses on leadership skills, problem solving skills, and growth mindset, just to name a few! Upper grade clubs start first and by the end of the school year grades TK-6th have an opportunity to participate in these

clubs to develop these critical life skills. Students ask about the clubs frequently and last year's clubs had over 100 students join!

Ms. Mendez is an integral part of Prospect's culture and makes herself readily available for parents and students at a moment's notice. She often speaks at ELAC meetings to further extend her support to our families and students. Students (and teachers!) enjoy her SEL in-class lessons, which she broadens during the Clubs.

Running Springs *Elementary School*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • www.orangeusd.org/running-springs-elementary-school



Christina Yokoyama
Principal

Bustling with Activity!

The start of the 2022-2023 school year has been a busy one for our Running Springs Redhawks! We celebrated being recognized as an International Baccalaureate World School, authorized to offer the Primary Years Programme. This prestigious achievement would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff, students, and school community. Social/ emotional health and wellbeing is always a

priority for us. Our school counselor, Ms. Amanda, has been busy organizing our monthly SEL themes and activities including "Start with Hello" week and Unity Day. She has also been presenting weekly lessons in the classrooms on the topics of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to reinforce these characteristics and help students continue to be positive members of our school. Our 6th graders attended Outdoor Science School in October. They spent

the week in the mountains, hiking and learning about geology, wildlife biology, ecology, astronomy, and much more!

Our parent volunteer groups have been busy hosting and organizing school events. In September, the Running Springs PTA hosted the 13th annual Run-a-Thon. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we met our goal! It was a great event for all, full of sunshine and fun! In October, we participated in Red Ribbon Week. Students and staff participated in daily dress-up theme days related to staying drug free, and our parent volunteers decorated the campus with red ribbons. The first STEAM series of the year was hosted by the Education Foundation of Anaheim Hills. Approximately 150 students stayed after school to participate in bottle rocket competitions, Bee Bots, engineering pumpkin catapults, and more. We ended the month of October with a Trunk or Treat event for the community. All these activities have been a resounding success thanks to our parent volunteers!



Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.santiagocharters.org



Dr. James D'Agostino
Co-Principal



Ashley Pedroza
Co-Principal

Santiago Conservatory of the Arts

Santiago Charter Middle School is part of an exceptional community in East Orange because the students and staff consistently look for ways to give back! Above and beyond finding success in the classroom, we feel it is

our responsibility to provide students opportunities to positively impact others, and in partnership with a variety of community programs, we focus on the local needs in our neighborhoods. Here are some of the organizations we partner with, and the impact our Santanas create:

Santiago partners with the Community Foundation of Orange (CFO) to promote and support the Field of Valor. Our Santanas give back to the veteran community through letter writing, monetary donations, and learning about

what it means to serve. Santanas have even learned how to fold over 800 flags for the Field of Valor! Santiago helps with many events held by the CFO and CFO's Kids Play and is proud to work in conjunction with their efforts to support our community.

This year, we launched our Santiago Conservatory of the Arts that depends upon amazing partnerships with groups like OC Music and Dance and the Pacific Conservatory of the Arts. These groups have offered their time to help our students develop their skills, and our art, music, and Conservatory students have, in turn, been provided opportunities to give back through their performances around our community that provide enjoyment for many.

Five times in the last seven years, Santiago has been recognized as a Civic Learning School by the State of California. We take this honor very seriously, as this honor is a result of our giving culture and emphasis on helping others. We consistently work to teach our students to be community contributors and find great responsibility and pride in supporting our local East Orange families.

Serrano *Elementary School*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • www.orangeusd.org/serrano-elementary-school



Laura Kresl
Principal

Ambassador Program

At Serrano Elementary, we are proud of the implementation of our new Eagle Ambassador program! Each teacher selects two ambassadors from their class to represent our school.

Our Eagle Ambassador Mission:

- Build a positive Eagle community
- Lead by example
- Exemplify excellence in citizenship

This aligns with our PBIS Initiative, and our ambassadors consistently demonstrate these characteristics:

- S - I Showed Self-Control
- O - I Owned my Actions
- A - I Displayed a Positive Attitude
- R - I Showed Respect & Responsibility

Our ambassadors are expected to maintain grade level academic standards through dedication, perseverance, and work ethic.

Throughout the year, they will participate as a leader in the following:

- School Assemblies (pledge of allegiance, etc)
- Playground Leadership Opportunities
- Welcome New Students and Families (buddy for the day, campus tours, etc.)
- School Activities

Junior Ambassadors (TK-2nd Grade Students) participate in activities alongside their Peer Mentor Eagle Ambassador in 2nd-6th grade. Most recently, our Eagle Ambassadors welcomed California State Senator, Dave Min and our Board Members for our TK classroom visit. They demonstrated their leadership skills and showed our visitors what a wonderful Eagle community we have!



Sycamore Elementary School

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • www.orangeusd.org/sycamore-elementary-school

Karen Sanders, *Interim Principal*

A Busy Fall

Sycamore Sealions had a very busy start to fall, filled with fun and learning. Our 4th through 6th grade students had the opportunity to attend a College Bound assembly. It was exciting to hear about all the opportunities that our students have in their future. Walk to School Day was a big success. Many families and police officers joined us walking to school to improve health and to encourage arriving to school ready to learn. We celebrated our annual Red Ribbon

Week where students and staff honored a commitment to live a drug-free and healthy life. We also focused on motivating kids to make positive choices that impact both themselves and others. The students and staff participated in daily activities and decorated their doors to show their commitment. We also invited our families to our “Love to Read” lunch and enjoyed more family time with our Trunk or Treat festivities where there was a costume contest and a best decorated trunk contest. Sycamore loves to play and learn together!



Taft Elementary School

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • www.orangeusd.org/taft-elementary-school



Amy Alvarado
Principal

Amazing Happenings

Taft has had tons of amazing things happening around campus. We began the month meeting parents during conference week. We are fortunate to have so many families working with us to support our students. Following that, we had a week of Art Masters. Every grade level gets to participate in Art Masters at Taft which the kids love. We were able to host Trunk or Treat this month as well, which was a huge hit! It was super fun seeing our students and their families dressed up. We ended the month with Red Ribbon Week - students and staff dressed up for various themes and we had lessons about making healthy choices. This was a great precursor to our upcoming Kids Heart Challenge supporting the American Heart Association. We have a school-wide iReady Challenge going on. Ask your student if they have their lessons completed!



Villa Park *Elementary School*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • www.orangeusd.org/villa-park-elementary



Martha Arceo
Principal

STEM Day

Second graders at Villa Park Elementary celebrated “All Things October” with a STEM Day filled with engaging activities. The day’s activities began with live demonstrations of experiments following the scientific method. Their eyes gleamed with curiosity as they

observed the experiments. Students then moved onto their laboratory, our field, for hands-on investigations. They had the opportunity to investigate a pumpkin using their inferencing and observation skills. What happens when you mix Alka Seltzer and water? It’s ghost rockets! Excitement filled the air as students competed to see whose rocket would shoot up the highest into the air. Finally, students worked in teams for their final challenge of the day. Their task was to build & test their Skeleton Bridge using a variety of materials. VPE Bobcats will continue to practice collaboration, creativity, and innovation thru STEM activities.



Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • www.villaparkhigh.org



Dennis McCuiston
Principal

Villa Park Students Get Connected

The Spartans are back and reconnecting with school. The Villa Park student section, also known as the Black Pack, won student section on the week on back-to-back weeks this football season. The Black Pack consists

of excited and spirited students that cheer and yell for their Spartan football team. This student experience is one-way Spartans engage in school activities. The Homecoming dance was on October 8th and 700 students were in attendance. This is the most attended dance we have had in several years. Students are excited and ready to get back to normal and stay connected with Visual and Performing Arts, Esports, athletics, as well as co-curricular activities like Mock Trial and Speech and Debate. SPARTA is back!



West Orange *Elementary School*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • www.orangeusd.org/west-orange-elementary-school-k-5



**Dr. Monica
Murray**
Principal

A Fun October

West Orange Elementary had a blast in October! Our Warriors engaged in a variety of challenges throughout the month. We had a month-long contest where classrooms competed to attain the most iReady Math lessons passed. The winning class received a pumpkin roll, special party, and treats. We also had our Family STEAM project, where students were asked to design their creepy crawly spider web. On October 24th, we had our first fall Family STEAM Night, where families learned about magnets. Later that week, we ended our Red Ribbon week with a BMX assembly highlighting the importance of being drug-free. Our students, staff, and community enjoyed the high-flying talents of each performer.

We look forward to the next month as we kick off new challenges and activities for our students and community.



Yorba *Academy of the Arts Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.org/yorba



Mark McLaughlin
Principal

Growing Dance Program

Yorba Middle School is proud to highlight their growing dance program that was established in 2019. Yorba offers Professional Dance I and Professional Dance II which are held in the school's new dance room. Students in Professional Dance I learn the fundamentals of several dance styles including jazz, ballet, hip-hop, contemporary, and even cultural dances like Bollywood

and African dance. In Professional Dance II, students continue to build off what they learned in Dance I as well as choreograph their own dance phrases. In Spring of 2022, the dance department enthusiastically put on Yorba's first Performing Arts Showcase, where over 100 students performed a variety of dances. These dance courses not only help students grow as dancers and performers, but also serve to develop students' self-esteem, self-confidence, creativity, and teamwork skills that they can use for the rest of their personal, academic, and vocational lives.





Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Who Wants Freckles?

Freckle Juice is about a boy named Andrew who really wants freckles on his face. A girl in his class named Sharon says that she'll sell him a secret recipe for freckle juice that will give him freckles.



Will he buy the recipe and use it? Read to find out!

This book is very silly and easy to read. I liked this book and I think you will too.

Daniel is in third grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, basketball, and bowling.

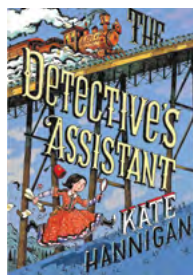
David's Review



David H.

Thrills and Surprises

The *Detective's Assistant* is a mystery book about Nell Warne, who is adopted by her Aunt Kitty, a detective that works for a detective agency, and the mysteries that they



solve. One of the mysteries they solve is a murder. This book shows how detectives solve crimes and the thinking behind it. It also contains a lot of historical facts so you are learning while you are entertained. If you want to read a good mystery novel, you are sure to love this book!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.

Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

Have it all!

Title: *Almanac 2021*
Which language has the most first language speakers? You might want to hit up for an almanac. What's an almanac? It's basically a book that speaks facts. Maybe you



don't like that type of person, but you might like that type of book. Maybe you can also learn more things like, do you want to know where Alexander the Great was buried? How future homes may be built? Studying rocks? It has it all. From wanting to study stars to knowing about the coolest cats, you can imagine. It's as real as red being red and green being green but, as versatile as the library books.

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.

Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

Magic goes...

Title: *Upside Down Magic*
Author: Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle, and Emily Jenkins



This book is a book where magic is real. A girl named Nory Horace lived with her father, sister, and brother.

Nory was a fluxer. Fluxers turn into animals. Every single time she wanted to become an animal she would have turned into that animal, but the other half would be another animal. When she turned into those things she would cause a lot of problems. Nory wanted to get to Sage Academy but she failed. After that her Aunt comes and takes Nory to Upside-Down School. Upside-Down School is a school where people go if they have Upside-Down magic. She enjoys Upside-Down school but she wants to be normal still. She then uses a box to help her and Elliot get out of Upside-Down School. She succeeds but she starts thinking how she is going to miss Upside-Down magic and her friends. Will Nory leave the school or not?

Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

Happy Reading During Winter Break!



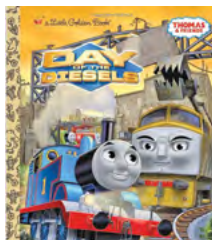
Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

Teamwork

Title: *Thomas & Friends – Day of the Diesels*
Author: Christopher Awdry
On the Island of



Sodor, Thomas the tank engine and Percy the small engine are best friends. When Belle; the fire engine comes, she becomes Thomas's new friend. Percy feels very left out. Percy goes to the Diesel Works to see if the Diesels want to make friends with him. Percy leads the Diesels to the Steam Works, when he discovers that Thomas is held prisoner in the Diesel Works. What will happen to Thomas? Will Percy save him? I recommend you read this book to see what happens.

I learned about friendship, teamwork and cooperation from this book. I hope you will too. You will find great pictures in this book.

Aubtin is a 1st Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, and music. He cares a lot about his family and friends.

Taegyung's Book Review



Taegyung K.

Absolutely Nothing

Title: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*
Author: Judy Blume

Fourth grade. The days of kickball at recess. The grade of joy. But Peter Hatcher doesn't think so. But that isn't even the problem. His problem lies with Farley Drexel. Or Fudge



as everyone calls him. Fudge is all the world's irritating toddler brothers merged into one. A three-year old terror straight out of the cinema's next horror movie who gets away with all he does. Even if it's smearing some mashed potatoes on the wall of the restaurant or putting stamps all over a bag, he's never punished. Of course, by this point Peter has had enough of his chaotic brother and no-nonsense parents. But his parents are busy with Fudge rather than paying any attention to Peter. After they leave Fudge alone with Dribble, Peter's pet turtle that he cares so much about out, things get ugly. Will Peter solve his problems, or is he truly nothing

Taegyung K. is a 7th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

Winter Words Word Search Contest

Rules!

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

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

Entries must be received December 30, 2022

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

BLIZZARD	MOUNTAINS
BOOTS	OLYMPICS
CABIN	POPCORN
CHILLY	RAINCOAT
FIREPLACE	SCARF
FREEZING	SLED
FROST	SNOWBOARDING
GINGERBREAD	SNOWFLAKE
HOLIDAYS	SNOWMAN
HOT CHOCOLATE	SOLSTICE
ICE SKATES	SOUP
ICICLE	TOBOGGAN
MARSHMALLOW	UMBRELLA
MITTENS	VACATION

G	S	G	Y	L	L	I	H	C	O	E	V	F	V	H
V	N	N	A	G	G	O	B	O	T	M	H	Z	E	I
A	O	I	I	M	S	N	E	T	T	I	M	O	O	N
C	W	Z	D	A	E	R	B	R	E	G	N	I	G	W
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P	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	B	S	F	O	L	C	W
O	D	C	U	X	S	C	A	R	F	Z	R	D	E	C
P	K	F	P	F	M	C	R	C	Z	N	F	N	Y	D

GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



Now Available on
**AMAZON &
BARNES AND NOBLE**

*Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks
In Your Face?* Is a question many
grandmothers have heard from their
grandchildren. When a grandchild finds
her beautiful lost doll, she understands
beauty is more than skin deep.