

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Fullerton School District**



Volume 10, Issue 30

April 2023

## Congratulations!



**ACSA OC Administrator of the Year recipients:  
Dr. Chad Hammitt, Associate Superintendent, Dr. Bob Pletka, Superintendent,  
Dr. Julienne Lee, Associate Superintendent of Educational Services.**

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## Three FSD Administrator Receive ACSA Recognition



**Dr. Robert Pletka**  
*Superintendent*

*From the District*

It's an exciting time for Fullerton School District as three Executive Cabinet members were selected to receive recognition from the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). Dr. Bob Pletka was selected as the ACSA Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Chad Hammitt was selected as ACSA Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year and Dr. Julianne Lee was selected as ACSA Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year.

These awards recognize outstanding performance and achievement by individual administrators, classified managers or confidential employees who show strong support for the school management team; exceptional leadership in managing school programs; commitment to educational quality and student achievement; commitment to professional growth; and creativity and innovation in dealing with issues and problems facing public education. FSD is lucky to be the home of these administrators and is proud to have them represent FSD at ACSA's Administrator of the Year Event in May.



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**Dr. Julienne Lee**  
Associate  
Superintendent

## Robert C. Fisler School Celebrates Recognition as a School to Watch

Robert C. Fisler School has been named as one of California's 2023 Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage model middle schools. The school was recognized in March in Monterey, California by the California League of Schools and will also be

recognized in Washington, D.C. in June by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

"We are so honored to be recognized as a 2023 Schools to Watch. Our Fisler community strives to provide a nurturing environment, where all students can thrive academically as well as socially. It is through the dedication of our staff and all of their hard work, that we are able to provide our students with excellent learning opportunities," stated Dr. Kimberly Benaraw, Principal at Robert C. Fisler School.

These high-performing model schools demonstrate academic excellence, social equity, and responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents. Fisler School was recognized in part for its programs including targeted intervention, diverse electives, strong performing arts, support for students' social-emotional needs, and wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Schools to Watch recognizes middle grade schools for their capacity to promote academic achievement in a safe and caring learning environment where each and every student is positioned to succeed in high school and beyond. Fisler School serves Kinder to 8th grade students in the Fullerton School District with School to Watch recognizing the middle school grades. California's Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage program uses a competitive, rigorous review process to identify high performing, high impact middle schools so that all middle schools may have models of real-world success.

The Schools to Watch program is sponsored by the California Department of Education, California League of Educators, and the California Middle Grades Alliance, in association with the [National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform](#). To earn this designation, schools must complete an extensive application and host a site visit by middle grades experts.



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# School News

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Congratulations to the three FSD Administrators receiving ACSA recognition. It is especially outstanding when the Superintendent is among the honorees.

Reading is important every day in all of our lives. In this issue several of the school articles highlight how they included a variety of activities to celebrate Read Across America during the month of March. Of course, we must not forget celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and recognizing how much his books continue to contribute to children's love of reading.

In this issue you will read about Career Day and a new Speaker Series, a Garden Club for teachers and students to "get their hands dirty" planting and harvesting, students demonstrating kindness and inspiring others to do the same, Physics Day, promoting sidewalk safety, and so much more...enjoy reading!

Congratulations to Orangethorpe Elementary School celebrating its 150th year anniversary!

Thank you for always including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is October 4.

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**Dr. Chad Hammitt**  
Associate  
Superintendent

## Maple School Teacher Awarded Region 11 California League of Educators Elementary Teacher of the Year

Amy Chung, teacher at Maple School, was awarded the Region 11 California League of Educators Elementary Teacher of the Year. Ms. Chung was nominated for her devotion and dedication to her students and her ability to make a difference.

This award is granted to a teacher who exemplifies educational excellence and has made significant efforts to implement elements of educational reform. The California League of Educators Educator of the Year award is given annually to California elementary, middle, and high school educators who exemplify educational excellence. As the nominee selected to represent Region 11, which includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Ms. Chung was honored at the California League of Educators Conference held in Monterey, California earlier this month. At this conference, Ms. Chung was honored as the California League of Educators Elementary Teacher of the Year.

To nab the top spot for Region 11, Ms. Chung shared the most important lesson for her as an educator for over

14 years. Ms. Chung spoke about the most important lesson from her students is, “the power of being seen and represented is immeasurably impactful.” Ms. Chung spoke about her experiences as a child and the jobs she received about her eyes, name, and foods she ate. She took these experiences and integrated them into her lessons as an educator, striving to make sure that all students are seen. At a Title 1 school, Ms. Chung expressed her appreciation for Maple School Principal, Anthony Abney, for highlighting the positive contributions to the success of this country.

In addition to recognizing other cultures, Ms. Chung has shared her Asian American culture with students. This included sharing of a showcase of books highlighting Asian culture as well as working with the parents at Maple School to bring in lion dancers and a dragon to celebrate Lunar New Year allowing students to experience the vibrance of the culture. The excitement and energy shared by the students through this experience brought a fullness in her heart that can't be expressed in words. Ms. Chung states that, “cultural shifts can happen, and they can happen within one generation.” Ms. Chung believes that being represented and seen develops a pride in students within gives them the capacity to celebrate and empathize with others.



# Acacia Elementary School

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



**Rachel McCormick**  
Principal

## Acacia Loves Reading

Here at Acacia, our Panda's love to read, and throughout the months of February and March, we shared our love of reading with members of the community. Parents, community members, and even former Pandas from California State University Fullerton and Troy High School came and read to our students. Our students were inspired by their new CSUF friends

and learned about different careers including Law Enforcement, Construction and Design, Parking and Traffic Enforcement, and Sustainability. Troy High School students showed our youngest pandas that a love of reading will carry them beyond elementary school and help them to be successful in high school and in their future.

This love of reading has helped our students succeed in all academic areas, which has led to Acacia being Named a California Distinguished School for the third time. We are so proud of all of our students and all their hard work.



# Beechwood School

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



**Hannah Lim**  
Principal

## Making Dreams a Reality

Our Beechwood students are always encouraged to pursue learning beyond the walls of a classroom and to pursue their passions, make their dreams a reality, and make an impact in their community. During the month of February, to continue supporting our students in this endeavor, Beechwood hosted an annual Career Day and a brand new Speaker Series under the direction of visionary and third-grade teacher, Christine Lee.

On February 24th, Career Day allowed all students to select and attend up to three different sessions, as well as a keynote address with Leslie Ramos, Director of Merchandising at the global brand, Quiksilver. Participating community members were from a variety of different fields, including law, healthcare, finance, government, and engineering. Popular speakers included Josh Newman, State Senator; Ryan Cordero, Wildlife Officer; and Blaine Bridenball, Intelligence Analyst.

The new Speaker Series was a continuation of Beechwood's overarching theme of empowering students to make a difference in their community and celebrating diversity. Over the course of four separate sessions, diverse speakers came to inspire our students and discuss their passions, drive, and how they have positively impacted the community. Students were encouraged to remember that kindness matters and that all are able to make a difference in the world. Three of the speakers included Kelsey Risberg, FSD Tech Tosa; Dr. Eveline Huh, ABC Unified School District's Director of Child Development and Special Programs; and Dana Smith, Harvard graduate, athlete, actor, and writer. One notable session for our students included Fullerton High School Soccer players, Declan Campbell, a former Beechwood Bobcat and current Eagle Scout and FUHS ASB President, Omar Abdul, a Ghanaian immigrant, and head coach, George Shumaker.

We cannot wait to see how our Beechwood Bobcats will pursue their own dreams and passions for themselves, their community, and on a global level.



## Commonwealth *Elementary School*

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



**Jean Summy**  
Principal

### Commonwealth Jr. Chef!

The month of February was full of Fine Cuisine, thanks to the Commonwealth Jr. Chef Program led by our upper grade teachers. Using the model created by Melissa Zaucha, our 4th - 6th grades participated in a mini course in culinary arts, visiting the “mobile kitchens” once per week for three weeks. Under the direction of aspiring chefs from the Cypress College Culinary Arts Program, our Tigers learned the basics of kitchen safety, food preparation, and basic techniques. It culminated with a delicious creamy chicken pasta lunch! We also had a visit from the Fullerton High School Culinary program and dozens of parents



who volunteered their time to make this program a great success. Thanks to Michael Burns in the Nutrition Services Department for making this possible and for the generous grant from the Fullerton Education Foundation.

## Fern Drive *Elementary School*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

### Celebrating Reading!

During the months of January through March, all students at Fern Drive participated in the district sponsored *Galactic Reading Challenge!* Students were encouraged to read daily and fill in their reading grid as they completed the fun and creative ways to practice their reading, earning prizes along the way. Many students earned prizes for completing the 20, 40 and 60 grids on their sheet. On March 30th, students who completed all 60 challenges shopped at the Galactic Reading Book Mobile, selecting a book of their choice. Also in March, all students participated

in fun classroom activities and celebrations for Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. Fern Principal, Mrs. Lucas, also enjoyed being a guest reader in Mrs. Labutis's Kindergarten class outside on one of our few sunny days in March. Everyday is a great day to be a reader but our Falcons especially practiced and enjoyed reading daily during this time at Fern Drive!



## Robert C. Fisler School

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



**Dr. Kimberly Benaraw**  
Principal

### Students Spreading Kindness

Fisler School is so proud of our elementary student council who has started a Kindness Squad campaign. The student council wanted to recognize the importance of spreading kindness throughout our school community. Every Wednesday, members of the kindness squad greet families and students

as they arrive at school holding signs and spreading messages of kindness and positivity. Additionally, the Kindness Squad highlights a student each month who has demonstrated exceptional kindness, recognizing their contributions and inspiring others to follow their example. We hope to encourage students to be kind to one another, but also create a sense of community and belonging within the school. By promoting kindness and recognizing those who embody it, the Kindness Squad is helping to build a school culture that values empathy, compassion, and respect. As a result, Fisler



students build meaningful relationships, resolve conflicts peacefully, and contribute to a safer and more harmonious environment.

## Golden Hill School for Creative & Performing Arts

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • [golden.fullertonsd.org](http://golden.fullertonsd.org)



**Dr. Neil Anderson**  
Principal

### Arts Integration

Golden Hill teaches through a process commonly referred to as arts integration. But don't worry, we still teach "all the stuff" you'll see at other elementary schools. We simply have adopted the philosophy that arts integration builds greater understanding across disciplines, and supports

authentic experiences that engage and motivate learners. This particular practice provides multiple modes of learning and understanding, while also fostering the imagination, creativity, and personal interpretation of ideas and topics. Essentially, we are education the whole child and helping them build a learner's capacity for connecting themselves to others and the world around them. Arts integration is the key to inclusive, meaningful, and humanistic learning. In essence, it is the way all children should be allowed to learn and experience school. At Golden Hill, that becomes a reality!



## Hermosa Drive *Elementary School*

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



**Dr. Caroline Llewellyn**  
*Principal*

### Gardening Ventures

Hermosa Drive students enjoy working in our school garden. We are thankful for our partnership with Cal State Fullerton's Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience (U-ACRE) Program, as they assist us with our gardening ventures!

Every Tuesday, during lunch recess our Garden Club meets. At the beginning of the year, our students and teachers planted a school garden with vegetables, fruits, and herbs. During Garden Club, they water the garden, pick weeds, plant new plants, and harvest the produce. Our Hermosa Hawks love getting their hands dirty, working in the soil, and learning the science of gardening! Students learn about every aspect of the trade from seed to harvest.



We are so thankful for the help of our CSUF and our community as they support hands-on learning experiences for our students.

## Ladera Vista *Junior High School of the Arts*

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



**Bill Lynch**  
*Principal*

### Dance Champions!

The Ladera Vista Junior High School of the Arts Dance team is a championship dance team!

On March 4th, the LVA Dance team competed at the Woodbridge High School Dance Competition, which is organized by the California Association of Dance/Drill Team Directors (CADTD). The California

Association of Dance/Drill Team Directors is a non-profit organization dedicated to Dance/Drill programs throughout California and the directors of those organizations.

Students won awards for both solo and team dance competitions. Mollie Ward won 4th place for 7th Grade Solo, London Silzer won 4th place for 8th Grade Solo, and Olivia Perez won 1st place for 8th Grade Solo. Performing as a whole group, the Ladera Vista Dance team won 1st place for Medium Jazz!

Ladera Vista offers three levels of Dance instruction, which also serves as PE credit for students. Dance I is for students new to dance and Dance II is for students with increased experience, or have already been enrolled in



Dance I. Dance III students audition for acceptance, and typically have dance studio experience. Dance III also serves as our competition dance team.

Here at Ladera Vista, we will continue to create a positive and supportive Arts School culture where we regularly celebrate student and school achievements.



**Stephanie Guppy**  
Principal

## Celebration of Reading

Laguna Road's Project Impact vision prioritizes reading instruction and developing strong readers. From transitional kindergarten through 6th grade, we believe in supporting and developing our students as independent and thoughtful readers.

We believe that every child is a reader, and that reading helps us learn and grow so that we can impact our school, community, and world. Our students enthusiastically

participated in the FSD Galactic Reading Challenge this year! They enjoyed each reading opportunity. To celebrate our year of reading and the end of the reading challenge, we had our annual Day of the Reader event on March 15th. This is a day where parents and community members visit campus to read with students throughout the day. We are truly celebrating the growth that every child has made in reading this school year, and we are grateful for the partnership of our school district and community who support our vision.



**Laguna Road kindergartners enjoyed reading with Sgt. Bridges.**

## Maple *Elementary School*

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



**Anthony Abney**  
*Principal*

### **Shirley Owens McClanahan Day of Service Learning**

Maple Elementary School has taken a bold step to honor one of its most dedicated alumni, Shirley Owens McClanahan, by instituting a new day of service learning in her memory. Shirley's life of service to the school and the community was legendary, and her spirit lives on in the students and staff who knew her. Now, Maple Elementary is proud to continue her legacy by dedicating a day each year to service and community involvement.

Each year, on April 26th, Shirley's birthday, the students and teachers of Maple Elementary will embark on a day of service learning. Each classroom will choose a community service project or fundraising initiative that aligns with their values and interests. This day of service learning is an opportunity for the school community to come together, learn about important causes, and make a tangible impact in our community.

Shirley was an inspiration to many during her time at Maple Elementary. She worked tirelessly to uplift the school and community through her work with the Leon Owens Foundation, sponsoring and mentoring the Mustang Leading Ladies leadership program, and awarding college scholarships to many former students. Shirley's legacy of service and generosity will continue to inspire the Maple Elementary community for generations to come.

Our decision to institute a day of service learning in Shirley's memory aligns perfectly with our vision to build advocacy. By engaging students in community service



and encouraging them to take an active role in their community, we will instill values of empathy, compassion, and leadership in our students. The students will learn the value of service to others, as well as the joy and fulfillment that comes from giving back.

The Maple Elementary community is excited to honor Shirley's memory through this day of service learning, and we invite the wider community to join us. We hope that this day of service will inspire others to continue Shirley's legacy of service and generosity, making a positive impact on the world around them.

## Nicolas *Junior High School*

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



**Jose Varela**  
*Principal*

### **Nicolas Knights New Assistant Principal**

Please allow me to introduce Mr. Manuel Quezada, Nicolas Jr. High School new assistant principal. Mr. Quezada is no stranger to junior high school students as he has worked as a teacher and assistant principal with students of this age group. Mr. Quezada says he is happy to be a Knight and looks forward to meeting all the students individually and hopes to share his wisdom

and knowledge with all our students and staff. Mr. Quezada is married with two lovely daughters.

Welcome to KnightNation Mr. Quezada.



## Orangethorpe *Elementary School*

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



**Deborah Bennett**  
*Principal*

### 150th Celebration

The evening of March 15, 2023, in our packed multipurpose room, Orangethorpe celebrated its 150th year anniversary. This nostalgic event began with inspiring speeches from Board President Thakur and Scott Do, (who was representing Senator Josh Newman's

office), both former students plus a retired teacher, Greg Bock. Mr. Phelps, also a former student who attended Orangethorpe when it was located at the corner of Brookhurst and Orangethorpe, contributed stories and historical facts during a video segment. Current students showcased their talents by performing their winning speeches for Speech and Debate and the dance club provided entertainment with their latest routine. Educators past and present reunited and

mingled to take advantage of a photo booth or peruse the memorabilia on display from other noted Orangethorpe alumni such as Leo Fender and Steven Segal. Special thanks go out to everyone who made this event extra special for our guests.



## Pacific Drive *Elementary School*

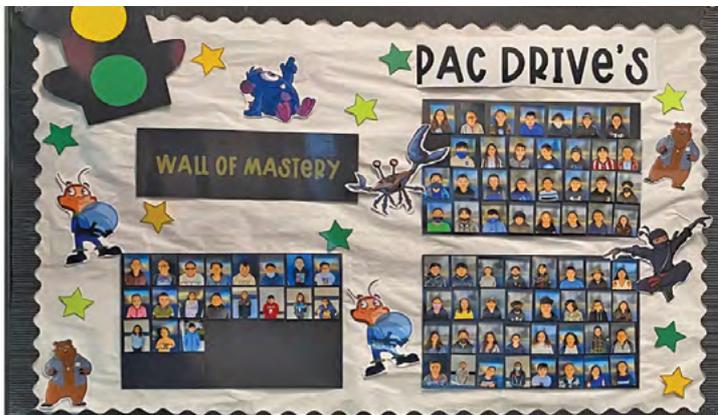
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**Deborah Backstrom**, *Interim Principal*

### Challenge Accepted!

The Pacific Drive Dolphins were eager to increase their math fluency as they accepted the Reflex Challenge. Reflex Math is a gamified fluency app that is full of games at the students' appropriate level. Our Dolphins love to complete their daily practices and attain the "green light" which indicates that our students have achieved the correct amount of math facts. The focus of the challenge is to increase engagement and support students' fluency growth. There are two challenges, a schoolwide one and

grade level ones. The schoolwide challenge consists of students reaching 100% mastery which earns them a green t-shirt and being added to our Mastery Wall located in the library. The grade level challenges consist of monitoring their growth and ultimately celebrating the top two grade levels with the highest percentages of green lights with a movie and popcorn party. Our ongoing success is possible with the collaboration of our teachers and staff and the leadership of our Math Response to Intervention teachers, Mrs. Aguilera and Mrs. Robinson. Thanks for your hard work and way to go Dolphins!



## Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • [parks.fullertonsd.org](http://parks.fullertonsd.org)



**Robin Mundschau**  
*Interim Principal*

### Read Across America Celebrated

Parks students and staff were excited to dress in comfy clothing, bring a small stuffed animal and their favorite book to celebrate Read Across America this year. The event brought together students and staff in a variety of activities promoting a love of reading.

Throughout the day, students were given time to read books of their choice. Teachers and students alike shared their favorite books, sparking conversations and promoting the value of reading.

Staff members also volunteered to read in classrooms, which provided another opportunity to reinforce the message that reading is a lifelong skill. The book raffle was another highlight of the day, giving lucky winners the chance to pick out a free book. Read Across America was a great success and helped to strengthen Parks' culture of reading for fun and lifelong learning.



## Raymond *Elementary School*

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



**Cristina Centeno**  
*Principal*

### Congratulations, Mrs. Pepin!

Raymond Elementary is extremely proud to announce our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Melissa Pepin! Mrs. Pepin has been serving as Raymond School's Transitional Kindergarten teacher since 2015. Each day, Mrs. Pepin shows her knowledge and passion for teaching while working with

our youngest learners. Staff is regularly amazed by her ability to keep the students engaged and having fun while also providing an excellent learning experience. Mrs. Pepin creates a warm and welcoming environment where the children feel safe and encouraged to participate. Her lessons are designed to be interactive, hands-on, and tailored to meet the needs of each individual student. In addition to her excellent teaching skills, Mrs. Pepin also has a wonderful sense of humor and infectious energy that makes the class enjoyable for all. Her enthusiasm for teaching is truly contagious. Congratulations, Mrs. Pepin! Your Raymond Family is so proud of you!



# Richman Elementary School

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



**Kristen Holm**  
Principal

## Richman Reading Olympics

At Richman Elementary we LOVE to read and we are always looking for different ways to inspire our students to fall in love with reading. What better way than to challenge 110 second and third grade students to participate in the Richman Reading Olympics!

Our mission was to provide guided reading support for all of our second and third grade students five days a week for twenty minutes a day. Our hope is 100% of our students would be reading on grade level by May 12, 2023.

An Opening Ceremony was held in November 2022. Each class was assigned a color of the Olympic Ring and given a t-shirt in that color. Students that arrived at school in time to eat breakfast were awarded PBIS points.

Our Reading Olympics take place every morning 8:15 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. Our Rti ELA Coach, Teachers, instructional aides and Principal rotate reading groups every 20 minutes. We also couldn't do it without the help of our families who pledged to read every night with their child. We are so proud of all our Reading Olympians!



**Mrs. Maehr's 2nd grade Reading Olympians**

## Rolling Hills *Elementary School*

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



**Lindy McNutt**  
*Principal*

### Popcorn Factory!

Our 3rd grade students in our LTL MultiAge Program just wrapped up another successful Popcorn Factory! Each year, the third graders participate in this charitable activity with the goal of raising money for a charity of their choice. The Popcorn Factory is special to this group because it builds teamwork and encourages problem-solving as students figure out how to market their product, be efficient with their sales, and plan ahead to ensure they have enough supplies. The third graders team up with their little buddies to make posters that advertise the time, date, price, and location of the sales. Additionally, students have to take on responsibility as they each have a job like cashier, clerk, cook, manager, and banker. This year, LTL voted to donate their proceeds to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center. We are so proud of the effort our students put into this program and their generosity!



**Our cashiers greet customers, count money, make change and maintain the balance sheet at the LTL Popcorn Factory!**

## Sunset Lane *Elementary School*

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



**Dr. Tracy Gyurina**  
*Principal*

### Portable STEAM Lab

Sunset Lane is excited to announce the installation of its brand new portable STEAM LAB. The hope is to cultivate the next generation of leaders who are college and career ready by aiding in the creation of a makerspace that ignites innovation, inspires creativity and critical thinking, and reduces our environmental impact. Our Sunset Lane community of learners will have a place to gather, create, and learn alongside one another. Our students will have the opportunity to learn about STEAM and innovation skills, while also being inspired to think critically and be creative. Students will make real world connections to their learning and apply their skillset in

meaningful ways. They will also pursue their passions and be engaged in authentic, hands-on learning experiences. Inquiry will be at the heart of learning as teachers facilitate and structure lessons around student questions that will drive the learning process. We can't wait for our Seahawks to start using our new STEAM LAB!



**Sunset Lane is excited to announce the installation of its brand new portable STEAM LAB.**

## Valencia Park *Elementary School*

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



### Big Buddy/ Little Buddy Readers...

One of the most important things for all school-aged kids to have is a LOVE of reading. Teachers foster this through class visits to the library and by having an engaging library in the classroom that students can go to and get high-quality books that they loved hearing read and or get to read themselves. We are lucky to have a wide variety of cultural books in English and Spanish that the kids can relate to. We see here Valencia Park's amazing upper-grade students partnering up with their little reading buddies. Once a week, the two classes convene and read books to each other. The big buddies love to read to their little buddies and can't wait to see them weekly. The little buddies love having a big buddy read to them and see them at arrival and dismissal times.



## Woodcrest *Elementary School*

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



### Collaborating for Community Safety

Woodcrest students will be working in collaboration with the City of Fullerton on designing a campaign to promote crosswalk safety. The Woodcrest Wildcat News Channel team will be playing an integral role in developing, designing and promoting the importance of safety in regards to crosswalks in the city of Fullerton. The students will be working with Fullerton City engineers and the Fullerton School District Risk Management team to educate both drivers and pedestrians on crosswalk safety. This is an opportunity for students to learn 21st century skills in collaboration with professionals creating video, promotional banners and PSA information to help all members of the community. We are excited to have this opportunity to be a part of developing these career skills for our students at the same time helping secure a safe community for all.



# MyConnectAcademy

1460 E. Rolling Hills, Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2862 • [fullertonsd.org/Academies](http://fullertonsd.org/Academies)



**Lindy McNutt**  
Principal

## Physics Day!

Our 7th and 8th grade students had a thrilling field trip to Knott's Berry Farm for Physics Day where they experienced the laws of physics in action. The students engaged in interactive demonstrations related to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) concepts such as matter, energy, motion, and force. Through hands-on experiences, they were able to see how these concepts

apply to real-world situations. A highlight of the day was the problem-solving activities, where the students collaborated to measure the height and velocity of the rollercoasters. They used their knowledge of physics to calculate the speed and acceleration of the rides, as well as understand how the laws of motion impact their experience. The field trip provided students with an opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to the real world and see the importance of physics in our everyday lives. Physics Day was a day filled with excitement, fun, and learning!



## Tegan's Book Review



Tegan

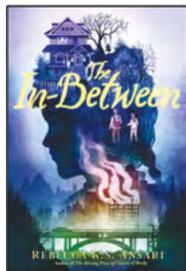
### Mysterious Saves

*The In-Between*, a captivating fiction written by Rebecca Ansari, revolves around the complicated life of Cooper, a teenage boy living in a poor household, with the

absence of a father. As a strange new neighbor; a young girl named "Elena" moves in alone, Cooper and his younger sister Jess start to investigate the secrets she hides.

While Cooper and Jess realize that Elena has been the ignored figure that saved one juvenile's life each mass incident, they fail to quickly recognize that Elena herself has to die painfully and wake up only to repeat the process. Cooper and Jess introduce themselves into the dark world where the mysterious girl is trapped in between life and death, and make it their mission to save Elena. Readers are taught the importance of remembering the forgotten and what it means to be seen. All in all, I rate this novel 5/5.

Tegan Y. is a fifth grader who enjoys art, biking, writing, and reading.



## Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

### Be Brave

Title: *Geronimo Stilton – The Treasure Of Easter Island*

Author: Elisabetta Dami

Geronimo Stilton is a best-selling author running a newspaper called The Rodent's Gazette. He lives in New Mouse City, Mouse

Island. Geronimo's sister Thea went to Easter Island in hope of finding treasure there. But then she was captured by pirates! Geronimo went to Easter Island looking for the same treasure in hope of finding Thea. Can Geronimo find Thea? Will he also find the treasure that Thea had been looking for in the first place? I recommend you read this book to find out.

This book is very funny and makes me laugh. I hope it will make you laugh too. This book also has very nice graphics and pictures.

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



## Bicycle Parts–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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Fullerton in the subject line)

Entries must be received by May 15, 2023

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

BASKET	HANDLEBARS
BRAKES	HELMET
CHAIN	KICKSTAND
CHAIN GUARD	LIGHT
CRANK	PEDALS
FENDERS	REFLECTOR
FORK	SEAT
FRAME	SPOKES
GLOVES	TIRES
GOOSENECK	WHEELS
GRIPS	

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

## Daniel's Review



**Daniel H.**

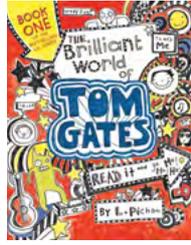
### Very Funny Book!

Title: *The Brilliant*

World of Tom Gates

Author: Liz Pichon

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates is about a boy named Tom. Tom and his best friend Derek are in a band called Dog Zombies



and they both want to go to a Dude3 concert but Tom has many silly problems to deal with. Read this book to see what happens and to laugh out loud! This book is very funny and has really funny pictures. I loved this book and can't wait to read the other books in this series!

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



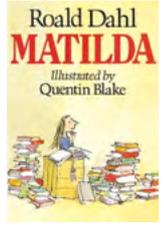
**David H.**

### Smart and Funny

Title: *Matilda*

Author: Roald Dahl

Matilda is a book about an intelligent girl whose parents neglect her. When she starts going to school, she meets a nice and caring teacher, Miss Honey. Matilda



later discovers that she has a special talent. What is her special talent? You should read the book not just to find out but also if you want to laugh! The things that Matilda does throughout the book were funny and the author's writing is hilarious. This is one of my favorite books and I'm sure it will be yours too!

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.**

### A Rocky Road

Title: *Fish in a Tree*

Author: Lynda Mullaly Hunt

This story is about a girl named Ally who is struggling with reading words. Ally was always the "bad student," but it all changed when her teacher



had to give birth and the sub teacher, Mr. Daniels came. Almost everything flipped around. She made friends, she worked harder, she was happy, and she started chess lessons with Mr. Daniels. Only one thing doesn't change, she can't stand up to her bully. Ally tells Mr. Daniels about what's going on about the words that she can't read. Mr. Daniels says that he can help her. Next, an election goes on for class president and Ally gets nominated. Can she win? Can she learn to read? Last but not least can she stand up to her bully? I give this book a 5 out of 5 as it is such an inspiring book for all of us.

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

## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Perfect vs Excellence

"Strive for Excellence" is book 2 of 4 in the Perfect Balance Gymnastics Optional Series by Melissa Torres.



The story is about Marissa, a hard-working gymnast and a smart girl who has always done very well in school and in gymnastics. At the start of 6th grade, Marissa expects herself to continue to be perfect in school and in gymnastics. Is training level 6 optional while starting middle school that difficult? Can Marissa still have a successful competition season while keeping up with 6th grade schoolwork? Can she still be perfect? Does she have to be perfect?

I am thankful to have finished reading this book before my rough weekend I just had. My last gymnastics meet was the worst ever, and it was on the weekend I had so much homework. While being disappointed from the meet, this book literally saved me from being too upset with myself. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars and would highly recommend it to anyone who thinks perfection is the only way to be.

Kailani is a 5th grader who loves to read. When not reading, Kailani likes to play with her brother, jump on the trampoline, listen to music, and ride horses.

# Love to Read!!

## Maple's Review



Maple

### A Dangerous Journey

Title: *The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone*

Author: Jaclyn Moriarty

Bronte is ten years old when her parents suddenly die. She lives with her Aunt Isabelle when she finds her parents' will.



It says that she must visit all ten of her aunts, except for Aunt Isabelle, and give them gifts. There is ancient magic in the will, and if Bronte does not do what it says, then her town, Gainsleigh, will be ripped apart. On Bronte's journey, many wonderful things happen, such as visiting a beautiful library and learning to speak some of the Dragon language. This book has fun mini quests, and some pretty big ones too. If you enjoy books about danger and tough girls, you will love this book. I adored this book, and I bet you will too!

Maple is in 5th grade. They love reading, petting their dog, and playing with their friends. They want to be a librarian when they grow up.

## Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

### Countless Wishes

Book Title: *Wish*

Author: Barbara O'Connor

Have you ever been sent somewhere without your parents? Have you had so many wishes you would just wish would come true? I read a book called *Wish*.



The main character is named Charlemange Reese, Charlie for short. Charlie and her family lived in Raleigh. Her mom and dad fought a lot. Charlie's dad fought so much, it led to him going to jail. Her mom just lay in bed all the time in the darkness. Charlie also had a sister named Jackie. Her family wasn't working out, so Charlie had to go to her mom's sister, Bertha and Bertha's husband, Gus. Charlie made wishes lots of times--making a wish at 11:11, when she finds a four-leaf clover, etc. At the end she gets letters from her mom and dad, who never did so before. What do you think the letter says? Will it make Charlie feel something?

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

## Taegyung's Book Review



Taegyung K.

### A Not-so Imaginary Friend

Title: *Crenshaw*

Author: Katherine Applegate

Moving homes is a hard process, especially for children. Ten-year old Jackson knows that better than anyone. Even though he had to leave his old life behind, it's still



difficult for his family. If this continues, Jackson will have to move yet again.

No one wants to be ignored, but Crenshaw is. He's a cat. Large, but outspoken and on top of that, imaginary. The reason he's in Jackson's life? To help him, and he does. The two soon become friends, and the story takes a deep dive into Jackson's life. Crenshaw might be able to help Jackson with small dilemmas, but can one imaginary friend save a family on the edge of stability?

Author Katherine Applegate brings readers a book with heartwarming messages that people of all ages can enjoy.

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

## Sourish's Review



Sourish M.

### The Activists of Justice!

The word Swindle has a meaning of deception or someone who is trying to get something valuable from others. This book exactly depicts Swindle in the story as Griffin Bing, the main character, and his friends Ben Slovak,



Savannah Drysdale, Melissa Dukakis, Antonia "Pitch" Benson, and Logan Kellerman try to get something of extreme value back to them from a very devious man... They were forced to invite Darren Vader, a bully who makes fun of Griffin to later help the team. There is also the pawn shop owner, who is the main antagonist and trickster, Mr. Palomino. *Swindle* is packed full of suspense, action, and comedy! The relationship between these friends shows how when having a goal and working together as a team, anything is possible! The author, Gordon Korman describes how there are two types of people in the world, the greedy, and those that fight for justice.

Sourish M. is a seventh grader who is enthusiastic to learn more and experience new things. He likes Science and Reading, plays soccer, basketball, guitar, and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours coding and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.



Kate Karp

## Los Fabulosos

Los Fabulosos by the Grammy award-winning Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band is one of the wackiest collections of original children's music I can remember hearing. The first song, "Ridiculous," is just that — it's like the Beatles at their silliest, except with a Latin beat. As background music for the [video that Lucky Diaz](#) patched together using public-domain video footage that are probably older than your grandparents, it's wonderful, highlighting rapid-motion silent films of elaborate stunts, towering unicycles, a woman and a dog jumping rope, and a very old cartoon. "Elephant" and "Elevator" are energetic. Children can skip wildly to the elephants' rhythm, remembering to periodically hydrate, just as elephants do. "Elevator" plays on children's glee about being a "glutton for buttons"—just remind them to not play with the elevator in the real world. Other people need to use it, you know.



"Me Gusta" is a bilingual two-parter, with the Spanish and English flowing into each other and out again and then merging into a cha-cha. The song celebrates body awareness and the great things bodies do: "Me gustan mis ojos, they help me see the world. Me gustan los manos, holding

hands make me smile. Me gusta ti—you make me happy!" This song may choke you up—it sounds like the best ending credits ever.

Me gusta Los Fabulosos. The collection was a worthy contender for a 2023 GRAMMY award for Best Children's Album—their second GRAMMY nomination for this category. Stream it [here on Spotify](#).

## Life Beyond Sight

What does it mean "to see"?

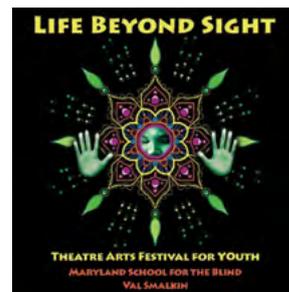
When you say, "Do you see?" you're not referring to eyesight but to understanding, and that's what the songs on *Life Beyond Sight* are about. The CD is the product of a self-advocacy workshop that produced songs written and sung by students from the Maryland School of the Blind.

The opener, "Not with My Eyes," is a blunt challenge to people who make themselves feel good through the pretext of helping someone whom they see as "disabled": "You'd like to help a blind girl, pretend that you're my friend. I see your truth, but not with my eyes."

That may sound harsh, but it's what self-advocacy sounds like for someone who won't accept labels or insincerity.

The collection gives expression to discomfort, fears, absolute joy and sharing gifts. The students sing of those gifts in "Dance to Freedom," they see with other senses and through their thoughts. "Lifeboat to Sanity" describes the insecurity of two individuals on either side of the sighted shore and how music carries them across the bridge they can build. The instrumental track of "Not with My Eyes" stands alone as melancholy-infused jazz, and "Bach Invention in C Major" is a virtuoso performance performed by 14-year-old student Alex Kern.

"You are limited by the things you see—you don't have the gift that was given to me." No matter how you see, this collection brings light and understanding. [It can be ordered here](#) or [downloaded here](#).



## Songs Across the Pond

Could you use something light and friendly?

Children's musician Brady Rymer and his English counterpart, David Gibb—from across the pond, you see—have teamed up for some lively ditties. It started when Mr. Gibb wrote a letter to Mr. Rymer telling him how much he enjoyed his music—soon, they went from pen pals to Zoom buddies, remotely writing songs about friendship, food, vocabulary and each other's country's music.

Title tune "Across the Pond" is the first song they wrote together, leapfrogging as one wrote a verse or a chorus and the other wrote the next one. Your Zoom classroom or your own family might try this for fun!

"Two Towns" describes the differences between and similarities of a typical U.S. city. You'll get the idea of

"Roundabouts" if you've been in a traffic circle in the States—Long Beach and Orange both have one. "You Say This, I Say That" tells us whether we're pushing a stroller or a pram and whether we need to use the loo or the bathroom!

And if "You Say This, I Say That" brings the Beatles to mind, you're right on track. "Living in a Beatles Song" is a patchwork of phrases from Fab Four tunes, and the singers also sing songs by England's Cat Stevens and the U.S.'s Sam Cooke.

The catchy "Summertime Soul" celebrates Mr. Gibb's favorite season and Mr. Rymer's favorite chord progression. You'll want to sing along, and you can—printable lyrics to all the songs can be found [on this link](#).

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.