Wonderful Start to a New School Year!

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PTA Strong...Back Together

“PTA Strong...Back Together, Better than Ever!” is the theme for Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) for the 2021-2022 School Year. PTAs in Torrance schools did survive, and do thrive, are primed and ready to serve Torrance students.

Torrance Council, celebrating 74 years of city-wide oversight, assists and supports the 30 individual school PTAs in Torrance in their amazing dedicated work. All PTAs are committed to the CAPTA mission: “To positively impact the lives of all children and families.”

Every school in TUSD has an active and involved PTA to support their students and school communities. Members, including Students, Parents, Community, and School Staff are absolutely critical to the success of each of these PTAs. Take a moment to join your local school PTAs using easy on-line access on school websites.

PTA memberships support all PTA student activities, help fund the school resources PTA provides, and allow PTAs to advocate on behalf of the students of TUSD. By the way, you can also visit TCPTA.myschoolcentral.com to join all PTAs in Torrance!

PTA WAS at work this summer! August was time for the annual TCPTA Project BOSS, packing 400 backpacks with Back-to-School supplies. These packs were then distributed directly to needy TUSD students, of all ages and from all schools, supporting student success in a very concrete way.

FYI, PTAs are currently engaged in extensive planning for at least two activities that are considered essential but that were widely curtailed and sorely missed last school year: 1.) reopening elementary school libraries with carefully cleared and monitored PTA volunteers, and 2.) resuming Adventures in Art at most elementary and middle schools with similar supervised PTA contacts with students.

PTAs carry on...carefully, as safely as possible, but intent on enriching the school experience for all students. PTA Strong...Back Together, Better than Ever!

Get a jump start on college with El Camino’s Dual Enrollment program. High schoolers can save time and money by earning college and high school credit while exploring interests, majors, and potential careers. Learn more at www.elcamino.edu/dualenrollment.
Welcome back to a new school year. This is always an eventful time for students but even more so this year with them actually being back in the classrooms.

We look forward to continuing to bring you the news from the classrooms and thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices.

Our next issue is December 8.

Happy Halloween!
Immunizations are one of the best means of protection against contagious diseases, including COVID-19. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine recently received full approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for people 16 years and older, which means this vaccine met high standards for safety and effectiveness. The CDC continues to recommend everyone 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine, this is especially important as the new school year begins.

There is a lot of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccinations for kids. Below are answers to common questions you may have.

COVID-19 doesn’t affect children as much, so why should my child still get vaccinated?

Anyone can be infected with COVID-19. Fortunately, it’s rare for kids to get seriously ill from COVID-19. However, with the highly contagious Delta variant, there has been an increase in cases and hospitalizations in kids. Unvaccinated children also can spread COVID-19 to others.

If my child already had COVID-19, should they still be vaccinated?

Children should be vaccinated regardless of whether they already had COVID-19. Research has not yet shown how long they are protected from getting COVID-19 again after they recover and immunizations have been shown to provide increased immunity from COVID-19 infection even better than an actual COVID infection.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine alter my child’s DNA?

COVID-19 vaccines will not change or interact with your child’s DNA in any way. They deliver instructions to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine cause fertility issues?

There is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of COVID-19 vaccines.
Green Zone
Calm, Focused.
Good to go.
Ready to Learn. Our students are taught that these words describe how we feel in the green zone (The Zones of Regulation by Leah Kuypers). This past summer, John Adams Elementary School was the beneficiary of an Eagle Scout project from Troop 349. The “Green Zone” is an outdoor calming space that provides students with tools to help them manage their feelings and move them back into the green zone. Students are encouraged to take a walk on the stepping stone path, count, use positive self-talk, create designs in the zen sandtray, draw or write about their feelings, take care of the plants, talk to an adult, or simply take a quiet break. We are excited that our students will benefit from this wonderful space!

Anza Elementary
21400 Ellinwood Dr., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4559 • www.tusd.org/schools/anza

TK/Kinder Round-up Camp
A week before school started our TK and Kinder teachers did a TK/Kinder Round up Camp with our newest Anza Eagles! There were multiple time slots and each teacher worked with a small group of students. They wanted to give their new little eagles a mini-experience of the TK/Kinder day. The kids were greeted with songs and an entertaining story. Next, they were asked to “do a little work” in the form of writing some letters, numbers, drawing a self-portrait and a little cutting.

Finally, they were given a little “play time” using individual tabletop toys. Even with our current limitations, a great time was had by all!
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(September 21 through November 11)
Option C: Fridays 4pm - 5:30pm & Saturdays 11am -12:30pm
(September 24 through November 13)
Option D: Saturdays only: 9am - 10:30am or 11am - 12:30pm
(September 25 through November 13)

GIRLS 14 & UNDER PRE-TRYOUT CLINICS
Thursday, September 30 • 5pm to 7pm
Friday, October 1 • 5pm to 7pm

GIRLS 14 & UNDER TRYOUTS
Saturday, October 2
10am- 12pm: Girls 12 & Under
2pm - 4pm: Girls 13 & 14
Sunday, October 3
ALL AGES: 4pm - 6pm

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Welcome Back Superstars!

Arlington Elementary was excited to welcome new and returning students on August 26th for the start of the 2021-22 school year! To help prepare for the return to campus, Arlington held multiple orientation and reorientation events in August for our incoming TK and kindergarten Superstars, our distance learning students from last year, as well as our 1st & 5th graders. It was great to see the students reconnect with classmates, teachers, and the campus! Welcome back Superstar families!!!

Dr. Vicki Hath
Principal

The Arnold Commitment

It is great to have all of our Alleycats back on the Arnold Campus for the 2021-2022 school year. While our school might have some new procedures to keep everyone healthy and safe, our dedication to creating a positive school environment has remained the same. Both our students and staff members are just so grateful that we could start the new school year together.

We are especially excited that our new assistant principal, Michelle Syverson, has joined our Arnold family. Mrs. Syverson comes to us with over 20 years of experience in education, and we are so lucky to have her as part of our Arnold staff. She has already jumped right in bringing great ideas and building relationships with the whole community. She also shares the Arnold commitment to provide a rigorous academic curriculum while also educating the whole child.

Being inclusive and honoring each student is a priority for our entire campus. After a year of uncertainty, we know that our children will need strong support socially, emotionally, and academically. We are thrilled to be back on campus where we can ensure that everyone will continue to embrace our mission to “Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It!”

You can definitely feel the excitement at school as we begin another year here at Arnold Elementary School. Go, Alleycats!

Justine Lang
Principal

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An Awesome Beginning

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Calle Mayor Middle School. We hope that your child is excited about the new school year as much as we are. This year we are extremely excited to have our students back on campus and attending classes 5 days a week. There is nothing like the sound of children laughing, talking and watching them playing on the campus. I have been in a lot of the classes and the teachers and students are truly excited to be back. Looking forward, we are beginning to have some discussions about providing some after school clubs to our students. Some programs that we are initially looking at bringing back are Speech and Debate, Model United Nations, Computer programming, Athletics, Woodshop and the After School Tutoring. These are after school programs that the students really enjoy participating in. We would like to thank our PTSA, the Calle community and the Calle Mayor Staff for their continued support and dedication to our students, they have truly made the start of this new school year an awesome beginning for our students.

Dave Mosley
Principal

Calle Mayor Middle School
4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • www.tusd.org/schools/calle-mayor

Dual Language Immersion Program

Carr Elementary is excited to announce the beginning of our Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program. This year, we have two classes of kindergarten students embarking on the journey of biliteracy and bilingualism with our fabulous Dual Language teachers, Mrs. Mercado and Señor Gonzalez. (See attached picture). Each year, we will continue to add two new classes, and after 6 years, we will have Spanish Dual Language Immersion classes in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Carr will continue its focus on high quality instruction, in both English and now Spanish. Our grade level teams are busy collaborating during early dismissal Wednesdays with their Professional Learning Communities to plan rigorous and engaging lessons that not only target the core academic subjects, but also focus on Social and Emotional Learning.

Great things are happening at Carr!

Katie Schenkelburg
Principal

Carr Elementary
3404 W. 168th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • www.tusd.org/schools/carr
Back in School for Another Amazing Year!

Students are beyond ecstatic to be back in school, engaged in fun learning activities, working on hands-on Science projects, perfecting their soccer ball kicking form, hanging out with other students, enjoying eating lunch together, playing musical instruments, playing basketball during lunch!! The fun list goes on and on as school is back in session! Please see some of the great pictures.

James Ashikawa
Principal

Students working together to build the tallest tower in Mr. Fladelands’ Science class.

Students engaged in a community building activity in Ms. Rice’s English class.

Students practicing sprinting skills in Mr. Alvagenga’s PE class.

Edison Elementary

Drumming Away!

As the new school year begins with Covid still among us, we shifted from chorus and recorders in music class, to drumming. Mr. Kamida, our music teacher made drums out of buckets and duct tape. Students can be seen drumming away to the beat of “We Will Rock You” by The Queen. This requires students to listen, follow the rhythm, pace, and follow along by watching the music teacher.

Jayne Okazaki
Principal

One student said, “I like the drums better, because it’s teaching me to listen and I like the beat.” Another student explained, “It sounds better as it doesn’t hurt my ears like a recorded did, and our fingers don’t hurt from playing the Ukelele, so I like it!”

All in all, Mr. Kamida’s improvising to teach drums is a hit at Edison!
Welcome Back to Campus Fern Falcons!

On August 26th the halls of Fern Elementary were filled with the beautiful sounds of our Falcons returning to campus! We have so much to celebrate with our students return to campus for the 21-22 school year. These celebrations include new Fern staff members, including our wonderful new Secretary, Mary Dunifer, our new Counselor’s Assistant, Magdalena Gurrola, Third Grade teacher, Angela Kim, and Fourth Grade Long-Term Substitute Teacher for Mrs. Kamphuis, Chad McKernan. These new faces (covered by masks) have helped to brighten our hallways and welcome back all our Falcons!

As we start this new school year remember that together we SOAR! All our Fern Falcon Scholars can be:

- Scholars!
- On Time!
- Accountable!
- Respectful and Responsible!

We will continue to celebrate these SOAR attributes in your classrooms and in our weekly and monthly digital assemblies across the 21-22 school year! Welcome back Falcons!

Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Fern Elementary
1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • www.tusd.org/schools/fern

Wonderful Beginning!

Hickory Hounds have had a busy road to getting ready for school. All incoming kindergarten and first-grade students were invited to attend a Hickory summer-enrichment program. During these sessions, our youngest students were provided campus tours, developed new friendships, and began to focus on first-day-of-school skills to ensure a seamless transition back to a fully open Hickory School.

Students were able to play on our new playgrounds, take in new strategies to emerge their reading skills, and write stories about their experiences of being learners from home. We also found out some exciting news: Hickory Elementary School was voted by the Daily Breeze as a Favorite Public Elementary School of the South Bay. All of the Hickory teachers, staff, community and students have been celebrating since we found out this exciting news!

We are so thrilled to begin this school year and can’t wait to see all the amazing learning that will take place at our wonderful school!

Maggie Mabery
Principal

Hickory Elementary
2800 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • www.tusd.org/schools/hickory
Welcome Back Hawks!

As the gates to Hull Middle School opened up to students on Thursday, August 26th, the air was filled with excitement, anxiety, and a happy return to in-person learning by students and staff alike. Students have been enjoying the return of the school year being in classrooms learning, working together in groups, and being together with friends that may or may not have been on campus last spring. We are anticipating an exciting and fun-filled school year of learning at JH Hull Middle School. Go Hull Hawks!

Patty Girgis
Principal

Welcome Ms. De La Cruz

We are thrilled to share with you that we hired a new librarian, Ms. Desiree De La Cruz. Our librarian retired after three decades of service, and we were able to secure Ms. De La Cruz in the position. She has volunteered at many family events at JMS over the years and was a substitute librarian for us for almost an entire school year. Her love for Jefferson is deep and students and staff feel the same way about her. Ms. De La Cruz spent the last few years working at a public library that partnered with a school district, so she is bringing a lot of experience and a strong knowledge base to the position. The library is open from 8:30am – 4:00pm so students may visit during nutrition recess, lunchtime, and after school. Ms. De La Cruz wants the library to be a place where students feel comfortable and excited to be!

Yvonne Marin
Principal

Our new librarian, Ms. Desiree De La Cruz.
LAUNCH Preschool Programs
4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • www.tusd.org/schools/launch

LAUNCH & Tykes Program
It has been a very exciting start of the school year for our 4 and 5 year olds in Torrance. On August 25th September 5th we had close to 250 students start Tykes at our school sites: Arlington, Carr, Edison, Lincoln, Torrance Elementary, and Wood. Staff worked diligently to get everything up and ready for the students and the classrooms looked beautiful for the first day of school. At LAUNCH we held our Back to School/Ready, Set, Go event on September 2nd to welcome parents to school (virtually), answer questions, and get required documentation needed for the first day of school. On September 7th we started school at LAUNCH over 150 preschoolers which includes our special needs students and typical peers, called PALS. Our parents in both programs have been great and so supportive of all we are doing as a staff and district to get our students back to school safely. Our LAUNCH PTA is already gearing up for another great year as well with our first PTA Association Meeting on September 8th. It promises to be another great year for preschoolers at Tykes and LAUNCH in TUSD.

Lincoln Elementary
2418 W. 166th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • www.tusd.org/schools/lincoln

Pip the Pup is Missing!
Lincoln Elementary was excited to welcome 399 new and returning students on August 26th for the start of the 2021-22 school year! As we embrace this year’s theme, We’re Better...Together, we are optimistic that our efforts as a united school community will ensure that every one of our Lincoln Lions thrives and achieves academic and social success this school year. We hit the ground running as we welcomed 44 of our 1st graders to campus for a 2-day orientation in early August. In preparation for the new year, students were familiarized with key areas around campus by engaging in a scavenger hunt to find Pip the Pup! Students followed clues that led them to need-to-know locations such as the main office, the library, and the cafeteria. The activity culminated with students creating their own Pip the Pup make and take project...a great time was had by all!
Another Great Year Ahead

We are happy to welcome our students and families to Bert Lynn after a year of online learning. Our campus awoke from its summer slumber with renewed energy and the wonderful sounds of students. Our faculty and staff have returned to campus refreshed, re-energized and ready to teach. With COVID-19 protocols to adhere to, our first day of school ran smoothly. By 8:15am, our classroom checks revealed a fully engaged learning community—teachers were teaching, and students were learning. Working together, this year promises to be another great year. Bert Lynn Middle School - “Today we learn, tomorrow we lead!”

LeRoy Jackson Jr.
Principal

Exciting Electives

Madrona Middle School has added two new exciting electives to our already engaging instructional program. Mrs. Spotts and Mr. Waldschmidt are teaching Psychology and Sports Management, respectively. Students in both classes are raving about the exciting instruction and activities in both classes, from Mrs. Spotts using M&Ms to study empirical evidence and the scientific method, to Mr. Waldschmidt leading his students in organizing a new lunchtime intramural program. The intramural program will open up lunch sports leagues to all students here at Madrona throughout the school year and will begin this month with kickball!

Jeffrey Nielsen
Principal
Welcome Back

The start of this new school year has been an exciting and busy one here at the home of the Mustangs. To help prepare our scholars for their return to campus, our students were recently able to join us at the Magruder Kick-Off Camp. This was three days of engaging activities from arts and crafts to science experiments and even yoga!

We also hosted Operation Back to School for our newcomers to become acclimated to the school facility, meet new classmates and staff members, and make the transition back to a full day of on-campus learning as smoothly as possible.

Our scholars are not the only newest additions to our campus. We also welcome Alex Cardenas, our new assistant principal. Mr. “C” joins us with an excellent math background, a heart for children, and over 20 years of teaching experience. We are very fortunate to have Mr. C in our ranks, and he is already connecting with students and staff members alike.

Finally, as the infomercial says, “But Wait, There’s More…” Magruder also welcomes back Mr. Jongwoo Roh. As a Mustang and North High Saxon alumnus, Mr. Roh has returned to his roots to share with our Mustangs his love and passion for middle school science. What an inspiration for us all to have former students now returning to join the faculty here at Magruder!

This is a true testament to the family that our Mustangs have created, and its longevity in our community. We are so grateful to have not only our newest Mustang scholars but also our newest senior Mustang here to learn and help us be respectful, responsible, and thoughtful scholars!

Lisa Nunes
Principal

Unit Zero

If our NHS learning community learned one thing over the past year and a half, it is that students need to belong to and be a part of their learning community. Research indicates that students who feel a genuine sense of belonging at school are more likely to do well in school, stay in school, and make healthy choices.

This sense of belonging is often described as school connectedness. The CDC reports that “connected students believe their parents, teachers, school staff and other students in their school care about them and about how well they are learning.”

In an effort to assist students to reestablish their sense of belonging and school connection, NHS began this school year with each teacher delivering a “Unit Zero” unique to every teacher and their classroom, with the purpose of supporting students as they reconnected to one another and to their learning environment. These lessons, with social-emotional learning as the focus, allowed for students to reestablish their on-campus personal, learner and social identities in a supportive and healthy environment. NHS implemented the same Unit Zero last year while we were virtual.

Classroom Unit Zero examples include activities such as entering the learning environment with a better understanding of classroom frameworks; identifying personal and cultural strengths; linking feelings, values and thoughts to the classrooms and our campus; and having a mindset focused on developing interest and a sense of purpose. During their Unit Zero lessons, teachers and students have commented that North High students have expressed excitement to be back on campus, which has resulted in a positive school climate and visible increase in school spirit.

The addition of Unit Zero to our campus, coupled with the overwhelmingly positive evidence seen in our school climate, suggests that:

This is the start to a great school year,
For North High- Saxon Pride lives here!
Starting with Hello!

Richardson Middle School is off to a great 2021–22 school year! We have many activities planned for the first couple of months that are designed to welcome our students back to campus and reintroduce them to our regular school life and culture.

This year’s amazing leadership class will kick off Start with Hello Week beginning Sept. 24. During this week, our leadership students will lead the charge on making Richardson a more inclusive space for students. They have planned a variety of activities to increase student connectiveness to school. Some of the amazing activities include a week of school spirit with themed dress-up days that end with a club rush day. During the club rush, students will have an opportunity to learn about the wide range of clubs that are located on campus and are geared toward students’ interest and passions.

One of our goals this year is to continue to find ways to celebrate our students' academic achievements. We will be starting a California Junior Scholarship Federation program to support our students that are excelling in school. Also new to Richardson will be a Science Olympiad team. Students will be able to compete with other school in science-standards-based challenges.

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Riviera Elementary

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • www.tusd.org/schools/riviera

Welcome Back Roadrunners!
Welcome to Our New Staff Members!

We are very lucky to have 2 new staff members at Shery High School due to retirements.

We are happy to welcome Jimmy Sopp as our new Campus Security. He was at WHS for 20 years so he comes with lots of experience. He was a natural and has already become part of our campus and is well-liked by staff and students.

Sarah Sander also joined us as our new Senior Office Assistant and the new face of the front office. If you walk into our office, her smiling face will be there to greet you. She is a great multi-tasker and she is learning tons every day. We are so happy she chose to leave her position as an Instructional Assistant at Anza (and her kids) to join us at Shery.

Shery High School is off to a great start and we are ready to get our students caught up on credits and graduated!
Welcome Back Spartans

It’s been awhile since we have all been on campus together, so South High kicked off the 2021-2022 school year a little differently. Students spent the first two days engaging in some non-academic welcome back and school culture building activities where they learned the Alma Mater, played “Who’s Who” with our campus staff and completed a schoolwide mural that will soon decorate the walls of the administration building. And to cap off the week, we had an outdoor Class Competition followed by a home football game. We are looking forward to a safe and spirited Spartan school year.

Michelle Fournier
Principal

Summer Enrichment Classes

On summer days in August, when students are typically avoiding school, something different was happening on campus this past summer. Students were seen lined up and waiting at the front gate, chatting with excitement through their masks as their green screens were checked. What were these students doing? They were attending a free TUSD summer enrichment class and selecting courses on art, reading and writing graphic novels, and science. These courses were offered to pique student interest and foster a positive learning opportunity at school that would ultimately ignite their excitement for in-person instruction. After months of attending school online, many students struggled to come back to school and reconnect with learning in the classroom and with their peers. These summer courses seemed to do the trick—students were, of course, still following all the safety protocols, but the feeling of anxiety was replaced with excitement. They were learning “just for fun.”

Waiting at the gate one morning, a parent commented about her son's experience. “It’s been fantastic to see him so excited to engage in a classroom setting again!” she said.

As educators, it is our hope for all students that attending school would be exciting and something to look forward to. The summer enrichment program reminded students how fun school could be and created excitement for the new year.

Dr. Kelly Joseph
Principal

Each class decorated a section of the mall in their class color.
Covering the Torrance Unified School District
We’re Back!

The first day of school for some Towers’ Timberwolves came a little bit early this year. The distance learners from last year, and those who joined the Towers’ community for the first time this year, were all invited to a student orientation on Monday, August 23rd. Over 160 students in grades one to five arrived at Towers to reunite with old friends, meet new friends, tour the school, and connect with some teachers and staff members before the big first day of school.

Many of the students were thrilled to be back on campus after a year and a half of distance learning at home. Some were nervous and anxious about coming back to school, but they were able to lessen their fear by listening to social stories about the current situation and learning about the health and safety protocols that are in place at Towers.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the student orientation a success. Our Timberwolves have nicely settled into their routines and are off to a great start of this school year!

Victor Vikings are Trained to “Keep the Peace”

Victor Elementary trains peer mediators that help other students resolve conflicts. Types of problems include disagreements on the playground, rumor and gossip, and name calling. Naturally, serious issues are handled by school administration. Peer mediators do not “make decisions” but rather work towards a “win-win resolution” for both sides in order to avoid further trouble. This process has proven to be very effective at Victor. Office referrals for these types of matters have declined substantially. The key to this program is it helps change the way our students understand and resolve conflict in their lives. Changes include improved self-esteem, listening and critical thinking skills, and school climate for learning, as well as reduced disciplinary actions. These skills are transferable outside of the classroom and will help our students for years to come.
The Start of a New School Year

It is not exactly a traditional start to the school year, but it is absolutely better than what we had last year. With all of our kids being on campus 5 days a week for a full day of in-person schooling, our children are happier, our families are happier, and our teachers are definitely happier. We are hopeful that with all of the safety measures the school has in place, and with our families actively monitoring their children’s health, we will be able to minimize the impact of the pandemic on the school this year. Working together, we can keep all of our students in class, learning. I want to thank our families for abiding by the protocols and urge everyone to keep working together until our little ones are safe and the pandemic is behind us. Welcome to the 2022 school year!

Dr. Efren Ponce
Principal

Warrior Welcome!

It was exciting to fully reopen our campus and welcome our freshmen to West High with our Warrior Welcome event in August! Student Ambassadors from our Warrior Focus Club planned a full day in which the freshmen registered, went on a school tour, learned how to find and open their lockers, and participated in activities that helped them to find connections with their peers. Each freshman was placed in a Family Group where their Warrior Focus Ambassadors will continue to support and invite them to activities throughout the school year. In addition to the freshmen, Warrior Focus will be connecting with students of all grade levels, particularly those who are new to West. Our Warrior Focus Club promotes the Way of the Warrior -- Creativity, Character, Resilience -- and works to help every student feel cared for and connected to the West High Community.

Jenna Murata
Principal
Wood Elementary School was so excited to welcome all of our Woodchucks to the first day of school! It is so great to have our campus open and buzzing with students.

Elaine Wassil
Principal

Wood
Elementary
2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484
www.tusd.org/schools/wood

Remarkable Adjustments
Coming back has been fun and the kids have made a remarkable adjustment to all the new ways of doing things. Whether it is rotating through play stations on a daily basis, finding the designated spot where they are to sit at lunch, maintaining well-spaced lines or keeping their masks in place, the kids have managed it all.

The parents, through PTA, have been quick to respond to COVID needs—supplying fun games to spice up playground stations, providing lanyards for the kid’s masks, or meeting virtually with no complaints.

Teachers and staff have been there to greet the kids each morning in a safe and orderly manner and to see them home with the same care.

The Yukon community has come together to provide the safest and best place we possibly can for our children to learn. With gratitude I thank everyone for their tremendous patience and help.

Yukon Elementary
17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477
www.tusd.org/schools/yukon

Elaine Wassil
Principal

Happy Halloween!

from the School News staff!
Jenna’s Review

**The Soccer Journey**

**Title:** Breakaway  
**Author:** Alex Morgan  
Do you like playing soccer? Do you enjoy watching soccer games on your TV or in a stadium? If you do, you’ve probably heard of Alex Morgan. She is a professional soccer player. You might have seen her from the Olympics or the World Cup, well she wrote a book talking about her journey in soccer. She talks about tournaments she’s been to, the World Cup, Olympics, and etc. My favorite story in this book is about her early stage on how she started soccer, who supported her, and how she got on such big teams. She also talks about how she handles losses, injuries, and negative thoughts. This book gives so much inspiration. She also tells you how to keep on practicing and how positive thinking can get you further. I definitely recommend this book to people who have a goal and want to reach it.

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

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Yoona’s Review

**The Math Girl**

**Title:** The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl  
**Author:** Stacy McAnulty  
The main character’s name is Lucy. Lucy was struck by lightning. She loves math, and is actually a genius with math! Lucy most of all loves pi. If she doesn’t sit, stand 3 times pi appears and keeps going in her head. Lucy is homeschooled and lives with her Grandmother. She is ready to go to college, but her grandmother insists and forces her to go to middle school for at least 1 year. Her grandmother says to make 1 friend, join one activity, and read one book. Later on, the school has a project where you have to help places, or people in need. Lucy and her friends plan to help a dog shelter. She later finds a dog named Cutie Pi and instantly falls in love. Lucy’s Grandmother soon finds a school that is good for her intelligence, but she’s not sure if she wants to go... Does Lucy decide to leave the school and friends? I like this book because there are a lot of changes in this book, which makes it more interesting.

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

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Kailani’s Review

**Lovable Shih-Tzu, Yum-Yum**

*Say Good-Bye* by Laurie Halse Anderson is book 5 of 17 in the Vet Volunteers series. It is about Yum-Yum, a small Shih-Tzu therapy dog. Yum-Yum visits children with cancer at the hospital to cheer them up with his cuteness and tricks. Kids LOVE him. Unfortunately, Yum-Yum is also found to have cancer. Jane (Yum-Yum’s owner) and Zoe (Jane’s friend, a volunteer at the animal clinic) try their best to help him get better. Can Yum-Yum make it through?  

This book is very heartwarming. It is full of suspense with excitement and sadness. Reading it makes me happy and sad at the same time. I have been asking my parents for a puppy for a few years. This story makes me understand that having a puppy won’t just be cute and fun. If the puppy gets very sick, I may have to make hard decisions. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves animals.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

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Taegyoung’s Book Review

**Light in the Dark**

**Title:** The City of Ember  
**Author:** Jeanne DuPrau  
Have you ever thought about living in a place where you can’t see the sun? This story is about the city of Ember where is underground. The people in the city depend on the light bulbs to get light. It starts with the conversation about the box that contains the secret between two builders who built the city of Ember. The mayors of the city pass it down to the next mayor secretly, but the seventh mayor couldn’t pass it down and it remains unknown. Lina, A 12-year-old girl, and her friend, Doon, start to have doubts about the mayor and the city.  

What is in the box? Where is it? Can Lina and Doon find the way for them and the city of Ember? Or will they be stuck in the city of darkness? If you like the adventures and secrets, I recommend this book to you.

Taegyoung K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.
Katie’s Review

City Life vs The Wild
Title: Brian’s Return
Author: Gary Paulson
If you’ve ever read the book Hatchet, you know the story of Brian and how he was stranded after a dangerous and tragic plane crash. After he survives, the plot ends and readers are left wanting more. Brian’s Return is the sequel to this book, and portrays the difficulty Brian has in adjusting to his new life, free of wild animals and the dangers of living in solidarity in nature. As “safe” as his new life may seem, Brian is struggling immensely with living a so-called “normal” life. Therefore, he meets a psychologist named Caleb. Speaking with Caleb helps Brian work through the trauma he has faced and also to make a decision on what to do now. Will he finally be able to accept a calmer environment? Or will he still miss the woods, deep down in his heart? If you want to find out what Brian chooses to do, you should read Brian’s Return.

Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

Daniel’s Review

Best Friends
Title: Narwhal's Otter Friend (A Narwhal and Jelly Book #4)
Author: Ben Clanton
Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish are best friends. One day, they are swimming in the ocean when they meet Otty the Otter. Otty is an adventurer that has done lots of cool stuff and met many animals. Otty wants to go on his next adventure and invites Narwhal to join him. They forget to invite Jelly. Jelly becomes jealous and wonders if he is still Narwhal's best friend. Is Otty now Narwhal's best friend? What will happen to Jelly? You will find out if you read this book.

This book is really cute and funny and made me laugh while I was reading it. I hope you read it and like it as much as I did!

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