

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Savanna School District



Volume 16, Issue 61

November 2022

Congratulations Mrs. Jamie Morgan 2023 Teacher of the Year



With Minnie and Mickey are Board President Mrs. Tina Karanick, Executive Assistant Mr. Albert Acosta, Cerritos Principal Mrs. Lauren Stuart, 2023 Teacher of the Year Mrs. Jamie Morgan, Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Briana Schnitzer, and Superintendent Dr. Sue Johnson.

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Superintendent

What an amazing beginning we've had to the 2022-23 school year as we continue to prepare Today's Learners to be Tomorrow's Leaders! We couldn't be more proud of Mrs. Jamie Morgan, first grade teacher at Cerritos School, who was recently named as one of nine 2023 California Teacher of the Year Finalists! We can't help but show our excitement for the new and expanded programs in place this school year as we

continue to focus on helping students recover any potential learning loss suffered during the pandemic. We're ecstatic about our new after school program, W.I.N.G.S, that is serving over a quarter of our students each day after school. We're honored to continue to meet the needs of all of our students each and every day as we provide safe, supportive learning environments where students can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

Recently named one of nine 2023 California Teacher of the Year Finalists, Mrs. Jamie Morgan has impacted the lives of hundreds of students and their families in Savanna since 2007. Mrs. Morgan began her teaching career at Holder School where she taught fifth grade; in 2008, she transferred to Cerritos School where she continues to teach first grade. During her sixteen-year tenure in Savanna, Mrs. Morgan has provided strong leadership, serving as a grade level team lead and the Cerritos Book It! program coordinator. She's volunteered at the District's annual Reach the Reader night and has been instrumental in the organization, preparation, and implementation of volunteer appreciation events at Cerritos and coordinated the Cerritos School Field Day. As we transitioned to distance learning in March 2020, Mrs. Morgan's skills with technology were recognized by her peers and she quickly became sought out for advice and assistance by others at Cerritos School. Mrs. Morgan, along with all of the other amazing teachers in Savanna, has had a tremendous impact in our schools, on our students, and in our community; she's gone above and beyond during a challenging time in education and in our lives. We're proud that Mrs. Morgan will be representing all of the outstanding teachers we have, demonstrating that Savanna truly is a special place to teach!

In helping to address any potential learning loss students may have suffered as a result of the pandemic, our Board of Trustees made a commitment to lower class sizes, reduce or eliminate combination classes, and provide instructional assistant support in schools for this school year. This has allowed teachers to focus more on individual student needs, provide specific skill development, and help students attain grade level standards. We will continue the implementation of focused intervention of skills in both language arts and math. In order to address the social-emotional development, safety, and well-being of students we're continuing to implement a social-emotional curriculum across all grade levels; we've expanded our in-school and after-school counseling and health services and established partnerships with community organizations that will meet the needs of families in a myriad of ways. A combination of a rich, well-rounded curriculum, highly qualified and caring staff and a long-standing commitment to excellence is ensuring that we prepare our students to meet the demands of an ever-changing global society.

We're thrilled with the success of our after school program W.I.N.G.S. which stands for Wonder • Inspire • Nurture • Grow • Succeed -- and our students have done just that in the first trimester of school! With over a quarter of our students attending the program at each of our four schools, children are engaged in hands-on learning that is extending the school day through enrichment activities. From learning new sports to trying their hand at a variety of art forms, from participating in Cyber Patriots to engaging in engineering lessons, from learning to program tiny robots to completing homework assignments, students are actively involved in a myriad of fun, interesting, and motivating pursuits. Open to all students enrolled at our schools, children enjoy having the opportunity to select clubs they wish to join, time to practice new skills, and help with homework. With different clubs beginning every four to five weeks, students enjoy the variety of activities offered. If you have a skill or talent you might want to share and teach to students in an hour-long club for four weeks, we invite you to contact Mrs. Phoenix Pineda, Program Coordinator, at 714-484-9026. It's not unusual for students

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 3

to ask parents to pick them up later than planned so they can complete the activity they are involved in. Today's Learners are training to be Tomorrow's Leaders through the skills they are learning both in school and in W.I.N.G.S.!

Because student and staff safety are paramount, we are continually assessing the safety and security needs of our campuses and are proud of the systems we have in place. We have consistently undertaken measures to ensure the safety of our schools in the past and will continue to do so. Furthering our commitment to student and staff safety, additional cameras were added in a variety of areas throughout the District. While the cameras provide the ability for monitoring on an as-needed basis, there is no audio recording. We're extremely grateful that we've been able to complete much-needed enhancements that will provide students and staff with safe, secure facilities to meet the demands of 21st Century learning. These projects and more will impact our children's education and our community for generations to come.

We invite you to follow the excitement of learning on our FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SavannaSchoolDistrict/> where you will be able to see the many ways students and staff are engaged in educational activities and celebrating accomplishments on a daily basis!

Each day students have a new opportunity to learn and grow. Each day, we have the chance to create a world of possibilities. When I reflect on what makes a good school district a GREAT school district, I recognize that it is "people" opening doors of possibilities for our students; people like our staff who are committed to what they do each day to ensure student success that we can be proud of; people like our parents who provide the home support for our students so that they can reach their potential; and people like all those in our community who have contributed to our successes in so many ways. Because of all of the support from a wide variety of people in our community, the 2022-23 year is continuing to be a successful one in which we take tremendous pride; it is through these successes that we believe today's learners will be amazing future leaders!



Dressed as a character from Creepy Carrots, Mrs. Morgan and her students celebrated Book Character Day in first grade to culminate their English-Language Arts unit on character traits. Students dressed up like their favorite book characters and did a character analysis on the character of their choice.



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Here it is November already with holidays right around the corner.

Dr. Johnson begins this issue with her message on page 2. Her enthusiasm is contagious! She brings you up-to-date on the Board of Trustee's plan to address any potential learning loss during the pandemic, the after school programs being offered, and safety and security.

In this issue you will read school articles about The Cyber

Patriot Program, Character Traits, Lunchtime Fun, and much more.

On page 5 the Orange County Department of Education has an informative article about the dangers of opioids. On page 6 MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital of Long Beach has an important article on the subject of vaping.

Happy Holidays to all of you!

Our next issue is March 8.



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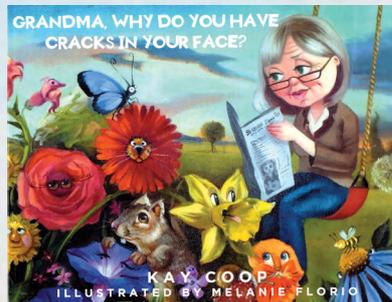
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Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop
Illustrated by Melanie Florio

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Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Our country has long likened its drug prevention efforts to a war, marshaling resources at the local, state and national levels to disrupt the production, distribution and consumption of illegal substances.

But the rise of fentanyl represents a dark and deadly new battlefield that is like nothing we've ever seen before, forcing us to rethink the rules of engagement.

Two factors make this synthetic opioid exceedingly dangerous. First, fentanyl is incredibly lethal at roughly 50 times stronger than heroin and about 100 times more powerful than morphine. Second, many of fentanyl's users don't even know they're taking the drug because it's often hidden in counterfeit pills made to look like common prescription opioids or other medications.

There is also little in the way of quality control in the manufacturing process, meaning doses can vary wildly. Fittingly, "One Pill Can Kill" is the name of the campaign launched by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to reduce America's fentanyl supply.

"The DEA confiscated over 20 million counterfeit pills in 2021," says Stephan Lambert, OCDE's coordinator of prevention education. "If you buy a pill from anywhere other

See **OC DEPT OF ED** • Page 12

CONGRATULATIONS



JAMIE MORGAN
1st Grade Teacher
at Cerritos School

**2023 California Teacher
of the Year Finalist!**

This is an incredible honor for Jamie as well as for the extraordinary teachers in Savanna she exemplifies. The Teacher of the Year selection process involved writing multiple applications, interviewing with numerous teams from throughout the county and state, site visits from a myriad of dignitaries to observe her teaching, and participation in filming of her teaching in action.



Savanna School District

For more information
visit our website www.savsd.org
or call us at (714)236-3800



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Vaping in School Age Children



Inderpal S. Randhawa, M.D.
medical director,
Children's
Pulmonary
Institute,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

There has been a growing trend of vaping, or smoking e-cigarettes, among teenagers the past few years and more recently there has been a spike in school-age children starting to vape.

Vaping is only marginally regulated in the U.S., causing teenagers and children to regularly use vape products and oils incorrectly. The bright packaging and sweet flavors can tempt kids and teens, many of whom end up staying hooked due to the addictive nicotine inside the vape liquid. This combination can result in serious, life-threatening respiratory events.

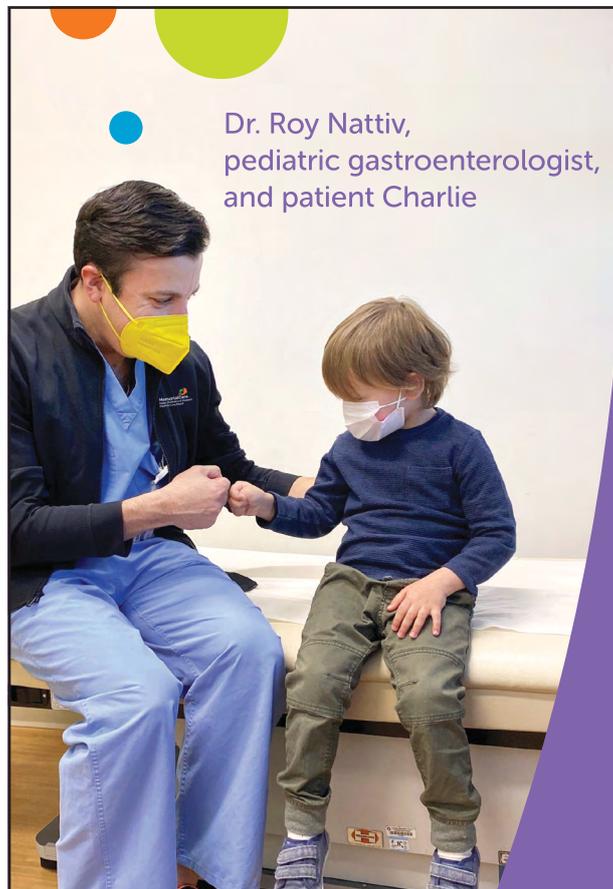
Nicotine is not the only harmful chemical that vape liquid may contain. Other harmful chemicals include:

- Ultrafine particles that can enter the lungs
- Flavorants such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to serious lung disease
- Volatile organic compounds
- Heavy metals, such as nickel, tin, and lead

While vaping is still relatively new, the long-term side-effects of these chemicals are still being researched and discussed throughout the healthcare community. These harmful chemicals can cause side effects like coughing, dry mouth or throat, nausea, and headaches, as well as affect the development of the brain and cause nicotine addiction.

It is important to talk to your child about the dangers it may cause in both short- and long-term use. By educating yourself first, it becomes easier to educate your children. Maintaining a dialogue about vaping, where both you and your child can ask questions, will help you be effective in preventing your kids from vaping now and in the future.

For more information call (714) 377-6993 or visit millerchildrens.org/pulmonary.



Dr. Roy Nattiv,
pediatric gastroenterologist,
and patient Charlie

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Cerritos School

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Lauren Stuart
Principal

CyberPatriot Program

Cerritos Cheetahs are fortunate to be able to participate in the CyberPatriot Program. The CyberPatriot Program was founded by the AFA (Air Force Association) in 2009 in order to help young minds be more aware of different careers involving cybersecurity and other STEM related occupations. Students are given a scenario in which they are responsible for securing vulnerabilities in virtual machines to strengthen their defenses. Throughout the course of training by knowledgeable mentors, sixth graders learn how to strengthen and defend simulated networks from being “hacked” in order to compete in a National Youth Competition later in the school year.



Cyber Patriots in action



Student Council

Cerritos Cheetahs run an active Student Council. Elections are held during the first trimester for the office of President, Vice President, and Secretary. In addition, each 4th through 6th-grade class elects two Class Representatives to attend the Student Council meetings with our Officers.

Meetings are held once every three weeks. They are led by the Student Council President and run through Parliamentary Procedure, facilitated by 6th grade teacher Mrs. Harbeck. Student Council leaders assist in implementing monthly Flag Assemblies, deliver news of upcoming events, promote spirit days, create posters, and advertise upcoming community service projects.

We are so lucky to have such an active student council!

During the annual CyberPatriot National Youth Competition, students will develop leadership skills and learn to work in a group environment. Trainings take place at Cerritos weekly in order to provide training and exposure for students in information security. In the coming months, students will take part in several competitions amongst other students their age from different schools. They will participate in a series of timed simulations during the competitions. Students are able to participate in this program starting in sixth grade and continuing throughout high school.



Student running for secretary in the school's student body election.
(The principal loved the saying she included that said
“Please vote for me. I already told my mom I won.”)

Hansen School

1300 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3835 • <https://www.savsd.org/school/hansen>



Amy Slevcove
Principal

Huskies Know That Character Counts

At Hansen School, we know that academics are an integral part of a child's success. We also know that building character matters. Each month, Huskies are introduced to a new character trait that they work toward acquiring. These traits include teamwork, personal best, growth mindset, and integrity to name a few. To highlight these qualities, teachers select a student from their class who best represents our featured character trait for the month and we acknowledge these students at our morning assemblies. Additionally, photos of students holding their Character Trait Award are proudly displayed on our Hansen Hall of Fame wall for all to see.

Not only do our Hansen Huskies demonstrate these various character traits throughout the school day, they also collaborate as a class team to show their Hansen P.R.I.D.E. This stands for *Polite, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Enthusiasm*. When students work together to demonstrate these characteristics, staff members give classroom P.R.I.D.E. slips to recognize these



Hansen Husky Character Trait winners are recognized on the Hansen School Wall of Fame.

qualities and celebrate the students. Our Hansen Husky Mascot pays a visit to classes that have earned these slips and presents the students with the prestigious Principal's Award to acknowledge their hard work and effort.

Hansen staff and students PRIDE themselves on making character count. Through monthly character trait lessons to supporting positive behavior, combined with our staff role models who demonstrate these qualities, our students are indeed paving the way to becoming successful citizens.



2nd grade students receive a visit from the Hansen Husky Mascot and earn the Principal's Award for showing their class P.R.I.D.E.

Holder School

9550 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/236-3840 • <https://www.savsd.org/school/holder>



Jason Blade
Principal

Celebrating Student Success

The Holder Staff had the opportunity to honor our students during the first trimester awards assembly. Teachers at all grade levels were able to recognize our fantastic Holder students for a variety of reasons including their athletic prowess, academic excellence, outstanding effort and amazing citizenship over the course of the first trimester.

The only thing better than seeing the pure joy on our students' faces as they were recognized for their outstanding effort and achievement was hearing the cheers of support from their teachers, family and friends as they accepted their awards. It was an awesome day for the Holder Staff to be able to celebrate our students' success with their family and friends.



Mrs. Griffin's kindergartners proudly display the awards they received during the awards assembly!



Twila Reid School

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3840 • <https://www.savsd.org/school/reidreidhome.html>



Maria Garcia
Principal

Organized Games at Lunch Recess

Flag football has officially begun at Reid School for students in 5th and 6th grades! Organized by Mr. Clinton, Reid's Behavior Support Title 1 teacher, teams of students were established and student referees selected for the lunch recess competition. Mr. Clinton hosted and introduced a one-day lunch training and meeting for our referees and a separate one-day lunch meeting for

all players. During these meetings, topics such as fairness, sportsmanship, team building and attendance were discussed. Students are excited to play and learn the game. The goal of Organized Games is to keep students engaged and active during lunch recess. Students are also learning sportsmanship and leadership skills, along with all the other benefits that come with playing sports and games.



More Lunchtime Fun!

In addition to Organized Games, Reid Rams also have access to a moving cart with books from our library for leisure reading under our trees, for both primary and upper grade students, during lunch recess. Reid Rams are experiencing other engaging and fun activities such as board and card games as well as crafts, including bracelet making, during their lunch recess times. The goal of offering a variety of activities for students during lunch is to afford them exposure to a range of interesting and engaging hobbies and pastimes throughout their recess time.

Well-organized recess programs such as these involve students in meaningful ways, preparing them to learn once back in the classroom. We're excited that Reid Rams are building positive relationships with peers and adults, feel more connected to our school community and learning problem-solving skills through Organized Games!



W.I.N.G.S. After School Program

1300 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/484-9026 • <https://www.savsd.k12.ca.us/info/school-district/after-school-program-new-for-2022-23>



Phoenix Pineda
Coordinator

Fall Fun!

The Savanna WINGS program has had a fantastic Fall program! Students have been able to experience a variety of Visual and Performing Arts, Physical Education,

and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities.

Students and parents alike have expressed how much they appreciate and are enjoying the Savanna WINGS program!

Over the last several weeks, students learned the basic elements of art from line and shape to value and color. Students created art projects that allowed them to learn the elements through educational and fun

activities. During their lessons on oil pastels, students learned how to blend the yellow, orange, and red oil pastels together to create seamless sunsets in their artwork. They were absolutely amazed, and of course very proud, of the masterpieces they created!

During STEM, students engineered a variety of machines. One of the most impressive challenges that student took on was their balloon powered cars. Through the Engineering Design Process, students designed, built, tested and redesigned cars that used the power of a



Students used oil pastels to create beautiful sunsets.



Students used foam clay and markers to create their own unique "flavor" of doughnuts.

deflating balloon to move various distances. Students also designed boats that floated and were wind-powered; they participated in a Regatta race to determine which boats were the fastest!

Although it has been unseasonably hot this fall, WINGS students have been learning new skills outdoors every chance they get. From soccer to flag football, students have been learning the basics of a variety of sports as well as learning critical healthy habits. Being active, especially in activities they enjoy, is an important trait taught to students in the afterschool setting.



Students studying the colors of the rainbow.

Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

A Helicopter Parent

Q. I have been a helicopter parent for so long that my children, ages seven and nine, are extremely apprehensive of taking any risks in various activities or doing anything where they may get even slightly hurt or disappointed. What have I done and how do I correct it?

A. There have been overbearing and overprotective parents for years; don't beat yourself up too badly. It's easy for parents to go overboard when it comes to their kids. However, this can continue into college years and beyond, but it doesn't have to. Let go of this habit, even if it takes a lot of time; it's necessary. Your parenting style and the way you view your children will need to change. You'll need to allow them to get used to the idea that they can actually try things on their own and whatever the outcome, it's all going to be okay in the end. Go ahead and sign them up for things that they are truly interested in and will most likely do well at. A few successes will build their self-confidence and they will perhaps want to do more things that are new and different. Just be sure that you stop yourself if you think about interfering unnecessarily, even if you know that they're heading for something rough. It's the mistakes and bumps in life that we all learn from that make us stronger individuals, better able to handle future situations. We have to be allowed to fail.

Activities Away from Technology

Q. My 10-year-old son only wants to stay indoors, play video games and eat chips and the like. He doesn't like sports. I'm trying to get him outdoors and moving but he complains about the heat. Any ideas on how to get him away from becoming a couch potato and away from the TV?

A. There are plenty of programs that your son might like such as swimming, drawing, painting, camping, making pottery, volunteering at a pet shelter, cooking, graphic design for kids, etc. The whole idea is to get him into a scheduled activity three to five days a week. Some of the facilities where the activities take place have lunch served to the kids. It's usually a pretty healthy one at that. They should give you a weekly copy of them. If not, ask for one. Some programs allow kids to bring their lunch. This means that he will be eating less of the bad things and more of the good. He might even decide that eating fruit is a good break from chips. If your son can find something he likes and can participate in it with a friend, he'll be more willing to stick with it, especially if there's no pressure to be a super star. This will also give him less time to play video games or to watch TV.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. www.ParentToParent.com

OC DEPT OF ED • *From Page 5*



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

than a pharmacy, you should assume that it's fentanyl. It's virtually impossible to tell what is counterfeit, and it's not worth the risk. When tested, 42 percent of those confiscated pills had a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl."

In Orange County alone, the number of fentanyl-related deaths skyrocketed to 717 in 2021 from 57 just four years earlier. That's an increase of over 1,100 percent, and fentanyl fatalities now account for more than

three-quarters of all overdose deaths. At the same time, drug poisoning cases have emerged as the leading cause of accidental death in Orange County, mirroring national rates.

These sobering statistics should command the attention of our entire county. To that end, the Orange County Department of Education is working closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Department to make sure educators and families have the tools and resources needed to help combat this crisis. On Nov. 4, both agencies will be joined by Orange County Superior Court Judge Maria D. Hernandez for a special Fentanyl Forum set to cover a range of topics, including fentanyl's impacts, how to talk to

young people, and how to respond to drug overdoses and poisonings.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed and distracted by the countless challenges we face at any given moment. And there's a narrative that young people tune out well-intentioned warnings about drugs and peer pressure from adults. But our kids are listening. As we continue to model vigilance, I urge all Orange County families to look for teachable moments to talk to their children about fentanyl and the dangers of taking drugs from anyone other than a licensed medical professional.

These conversations will vary by age, but even young children can benefit from regular check-ins to dialogue about the pressures they're experiencing at school or what they're hearing from their peers. Regular chats can also serve as a baseline to track changes in a child's state of mind.

The fentanyl-related trends we're seeing are disturbing and disheartening, but they are not irreversible. When unified, millions of Orange County voices are powerful enough to communicate that we won't tolerate this poison in our communities and that one life lost is too many.