

# Newport-Mesa Recognizes Six High School Seniors for Character Traits

Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) recognized and honored six high school seniors for their character and leadership traits.

"We have a wealth of incredible students and it is gratifying to annually recognize a few of them," said Superintendent Dr. Fred Navarro. "Getting to know students and their genuine good natured approach to life is something I look forward to each year," he added.

The Character Trait Award Programs aims to highlight six seniors, one from each high school, who symbolize one of the six pillars of character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Staff members from the six NMUSD schools nominate a student for each category and the final award choices are decided on by a small committee steered by Superintendent Dr. Fred Navarro.

## **Kaitlynn Kistler, Early College High School – Trustworthiness**

Selected for the Character Trait Award of Trustworthiness, Kaitlynn is a dedicated, thoughtful, and hardworking student. She is a member of the National Honors Society and dedicates her time to assist struggling classmates and goes above and beyond to offer her support.

## **Ryan Kassel, Corona del Mar High School – Respect**

Selected for Character Trait Award for Respect, Ryan is unfailingly courteous, kind and respectful to his peers, teachers, and coaches. He is captain of the Varsity Cross

Country team and participates as an intern in the Biorobotics Lab at UC Irvine.

**Menzin Echols, Back Bay High School – Responsibility**

Selected for the Character Trait Award for responsibility, Menzin has maintained excellent attendance, stellar grades, and earned the respect and friendship of his peers as well as the Back Bay faculty and staff.

**Clarissa Barragan, Estancia High School – Fairness**

Selected for the Character Trait Award for fairness, Clarissa is good-natured, open minded and patient. She is respectful toward peers and staff and carefully listens to others viewpoints to ensure fairness among peers.

**Peyton Espley-Jones, Newport Harbor High School – Caring**

Selected for the Character Trait Award for Caring, Peyton regularly displays a caring, positive, optimistic approach to things. She is personable, compassionate, and driven to succeed. She is president of a student body of more than 2,500 students and consistently spends time and energy to improve the lives of others through her genuine caring nature.

**Nora Vartanian, Costa Mesa High School – Citizenship**

Selected for the Character Trait Award of Citizenship, Nora maintains a 4.3 GPA, while balancing her academic activities and activities outside of school. She is a member of the Madrigal Choir and the varsity cheer team. She advocates for the needs of herself and others and is active in her church and numerous community service activities.

The winning high school seniors reflect strong leadership traits and exuberate kindness.

Winners are applauded with a six foot banner showcasing their photo, winning character trait and school they represent displayed in the district lobby for one year. Students will also be recognized at a special ceremony June 7, 2016 at 6

p.m. in the Corona del Mar High School Performing Arts Theater.

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## **Donald Trump Rally Wrap-Up**

Shortly after 7 p.m. on Thursday April 28, 2016, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke to supporters and attendees at a rally held at the Pacific Amphitheatre, at the OC Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa. The Amphitheatre filled to capacity, permitting 8,200 attendees into the venue. An additional 3,000 visitors wishing to attend the event were turned away from the Event Center. Numerous protestor groups organized outside the OC Fair and Event Center property along Fairview Road and Fair Drive.

During the rally, protestor groups crowded the intersection at Fair Drive and Fairview Road and several motorists at the intersection deliberately spun their car tires in a reckless manner, posing a hazard to nearby pedestrians. Due to the swelling crowds and aggressive activity, mutual aid assistance was requested, activating officers from numerous surrounding agencies to provide emergency assistance.

Costa Mesa Police officers coordinated primarily with Orange County Sheriff's deputies and CHP officers to suppress potential violence outside the OC Fair and Event Center. Costa Mesa Police officers declared the crowd an unlawful assembly and gave several dispersal orders before giving the crowd ample time to disperse.

Costa Mesa Police officers in protective riot gear, alongside Orange County Sheriff's mounted deputies, and CHP officers worked collectively to clear Fair Dr. and surrounding streets of unruly crowds, and to keep access to the 55 freeway clear.

Donald Trump exited the area by 9:30 p.m., and mutual aid police agencies' officers successfully dispersed all crowds by 11 p.m.

A total of 17 adults were arrested by Costa Mesa Police officers for failing to disperse. Those individuals were booked at the Costa Mesa Police Department jail and later released on written promises to appear.

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## **Segerstrom Center for the Arts Presents Disney Musicals in Schools Student Share Celebration**

On Tuesday, March 22 a total of 284 students from four various neighboring schools graced the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall with a common love of musical theater bringing them all to one stage.

The Segerstrom Center for the Arts presented Disney Musicals in Schools "Student Share Celebration" that featured students grades 3-6 all whom performed from selected musical numbers before a crowd of enthusiastic friends, family and teachers.

For 17 weeks' students, teachers and professional teaching artists worked collaboratively during after school sessions, learning, rehearsing and performing scenes, songs and dance numbers from some of Disney's beloved musicals.

The objective being to create a continual theater program in the participating schools.



The culmination of all their efforts resulted in presenting and performing a live 30-minute Disney KIDS Musical performance on each individual campus. Following their respective performances, the student's grand finale was a performance at Segerstrom Center for the Arts as part of the Disney Musicals in "Schools Student Share Celebration."

This provided an extraordinary opportunity for them to showcase all their great efforts and perform a signature song from their musical in front of students, family members, faculty and associates from Disney.

Disney Musicals in Schools is designed to create sustainable musical theater programs in public elementary schools. School teams are provided with the training and tools necessary to support student productions and empower them to continue this theater tradition in their school for years to come.

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## Rea Elementary Named First

# NMUSD School to Become AVID Affiliate

Rea Elementary will be the first school in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District to convert to an AVID Elementary and Technology School.

Beginning in the 2016/17 school year, Rea Elementary with the adoption of the AVID program will better prepare its students for college and career success in a global society.

Advancement Via Individual Determination is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to preparing all students for college and other postsecondary options. AVID brings research-based strategies and curriculum to educational institutions that develop students' critical thinking, literacy and math skills across all content areas throughout the entire campus.

Key components of AVID include: student success skills, organizational skills and partnerships. Areas of focus include communication, note-taking strategies, critical thinking, time management and goal setting.

To prepare for the AVID implementation and refinement, Rea Elementary teachers will participate in various training courses and continue to collaborate weekly throughout the academic year.

Specifically they will address content areas in reading, writing and math and the alignment to WICOR (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading) lessons with a strong emphasis on formative data collection to ensure students are meeting their individual goals.

Along with implementing the core AVID components into lesson plans, Rea Elementary will continue to focus on enrichment opportunities in Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering,

Art and Math (STREAM), Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) and Leadership, aligning all learning opportunities to preparing Rea students for college and career readiness.

For more information, please contact Rea Elementary Principal, Dr. Kalim Rayburn, at 949-515-6905 or krayburn@nmusd.us.

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## **Segerstrom Center for the Arts Offers Sensory-Friendly Programming**

As part of its 2015-2016 Family Series, the Segerstrom Center for the Arts is presenting a series of sensory-friendly performances with the hope that everyone in the community will have the opportunity to experience the joy of attending a live performance.

Showing in the month of March are “Big Bad Wolf” and “Egg,” both performances specially designed for sensory sensitivity.

These shows are designed specifically for patrons on the autism spectrum, and others with sensory sensitivity, to enjoy with their families; this is the perfect opportunity to introduce young children to live theater.

Sensory-friendly precautions are taken to help patrons enjoy their theater experience:

In advance of each performance, families will receive a social story—a visual introduction for the child of everything he or she will encounter so nothing is a surprise. From a picture of the parking areas to ticket takers and the inside of the theater, everything will look familiar when they arrive.

□They will also receive information about the show itself so they know what to expect from the performance.

Various components are highly considered and alterations are made in areas such as: lighting, sound, seat configuration, staff training and being relaxed when it comes to movement and speaking during a performance.

For more information about the Center's sensory-friendly performances, visit their website at [www.SCFTA.org/sensoryfriendly](http://www.SCFTA.org/sensoryfriendly), or email [Access@SCFTA.org](mailto:Access@SCFTA.org).

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## **Second Harvest Food Bank at Adams Elementary**

Every school day at Adams Elementary is filled with services to help students learn and grow.

This year thanks to the extraordinary coordination efforts of school community facilitators, Adams has added another service for its school community to expand its wrap around services.

The Second Harvest food bank is a monthly program where families come to the school and participate in a farmers' market style food pantry.

There is no cost for the program, and families leave with more fresh fruits and vegetables than they can carry.

Additionally, representatives from The California Champions



for Change provide families with healthy recipes and training on reading nutrition facts on food labels.

Each month, the food bank becomes a gathering place for families to meet each other, connect with their children's school and develop healthy habits that will last them a lifetime.

The food bank is run by volunteers from within the Second Harvest organization and parents from Adams Elementary School.

To find out more about Second Harvest at Adams, please contact Ilse Taborga in the Adams front office.

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## **CMPD Park Ranger Returns from Deployment**

January was a month of achievement and celebration for the Costa Mesa Police Department with several new hires and promotions.

In addition to four new officers joining the department, on Jan. 21 the CMPD welcomed home Park Ranger Lorna Lyttle who had been deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves.

Lyttle joined the CMPD Feb. 19, 2006 and worked for the department as a park ranger for four years before her decision to enlist with the U.S. Army Reserve. Her service in the Army Reserves began on May 17, 2010 and she was deployed to Bagram Afghanistan in April of 2014.

"You don't feel the full affect until you land and realize where you are," she said.



Lyttle spent a year as a convoy escort protecting and assisting with the move of fuel and U.S. military equipment between bases.

Lyttle is glad to be back, "It was an experience that I will never forget and now that I am home, I am just trying to get back to the daily grind and back to living life as I knew it before I left with a whole lot more gratitude for being a US Citizen."

When she is not working Lyttle enjoys spending time with her family, relaxing and going for a good drive.

Lyttle's long term goal is to further her education and promote through the army ranks. She currently holds a sergeant title and hopes to attain rank of an officer.

In the meantime, she is happy to be home and back with the CMPD; her other family.

"They are my other family, you see them every day and spent a lot of time together," she said.

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# Summer Musical Theater Program for Students Returns to Segerstrom Center for the Arts

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is preparing for its annual Six Days of Broadway summer musical theater camp for middle and senior high school students. Students participating in these week-long intensives are introduced to musical theater technique taught by some of the industry's leading professional artists and instructors.

Classes will cover topics including musical theater performance, acting, dance, audition technique, acting on camera and introduction to the business of acting. Sessions for students ages 11 – 13 will be held June 27 – July 2 and students ages 14 –19 will be held July 5 –10.

Enrollment is currently open and scholarships are available for both weeks of camp. These scholarships cover the full enrollment fee and are made available for families that require financial assistance.



(photo courtesy:  
Segerstrom Center for  
the Arts)

Tony Award nominee and Broadway/film star Erin Dilly returns

to lead the program along with Broadway veterans Stephen Buntrock, Danny Gurwin, Hank Stratton, Emily Rozek and other notable guest instructors.

The program culminates with the talented cast of students showcasing their week's efforts to invited family and friends. Classes will take place in the professional rehearsal and performance spaces of the Center's education center located in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall.

For more information and to register, please visit [www.SCFTA.org/SixDays](http://www.SCFTA.org/SixDays), call (714) 556-2122 ext. 4333 or email [classes@SCFTA.org](mailto:classes@SCFTA.org).

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## **Tips for Tree Care During Drought**

The urban forest is a cherished resource that provides cleaner air, cooler temperatures, enhances public health and creates vibrant lively neighborhoods. As the climate becomes warmer and drier, saving our existing tree canopy and planting new trees is wise. [Click here for tips for tree care during the drought.](#) [Click here for additional information.](#)

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## **Costa Mesa High School Drama**

# **Presents Shrek the Musical**

Come check out the Costa Mesa High School Drama department's presentation of Shrek The Musical at the Costa Mesa High School Performing Arts Center located at 2650 Fairview Road.

The production will run March 4 through March 13 with Friday and Saturday shows beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday showings at 4 p.m.

Tickets will be \$15 for adults, \$10 with ASB and \$8 for children 12 and under.

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## **Art Beames and Kelly Vucinic retire from Costa Mesa Police Department**

The month of December is typically filled with holiday cheer, family, parties and celebrations. And for some of Costa Mesa Police Department staff, it was a time to retire and enjoy the next chapter life brings.

The month of December marked the retirement of six of CMPD staff.

Recognized at the December's Meet and Greet located at City Hall, crime prevention specialist Kelly Vucinic and animal control officer Art Beames were recognized for their tenure with the CMPD.

Beames, who had 24 years served with the County of Orange and became a part-time animal control senior police aide in March 1991. In June 2003, he was promoted to full-time animal

control officer.

“The most memorable animal call I can think of was a caiman in a trashcan,” said Beames when asked to recall the wildest call he received. “Oh wait, one time I was told to check the kennel room before my shift, and to my surprise opened the door and saw a mountain lion cub. I didn’t realize it was domesticated at first.”

Vucinic, who retired with 27 years of service, was hired in 1988 as a records technician and later was promoted to community service officer in patrol, traffic and narcotics. She was promoted to crime prevention specialist in 2007.

“My favorite memory is when Santa would land at local schools by helicopter and hand out candy canes to the kids,” said Vucinic when asked to recall a happy memory.

Both Beames and Vucinic have plans to relax some while they figure out what to do exactly in retirement. Beames plans on working on household projects and helping out his wife’s family.

In addition, he has dedicated time to volunteer at his church and pursue photography.

Vucinic will spend more time with her family and will try to step out of her comfort zone of always having things planned. In addition, she will continue to work part-time as an usher at the Angel Stadium.

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## Seniors share life stories

# with friends and families

Fridays at the Costa Mesa Senior Center are a lively and busy time with volunteers, staff and patrons going about their daily activities.

This particular Friday, Oct. 16 is no different. In addition to the usual ballroom, card playing and fitness classes, there is, however, a special presentation taking place in the Grand Hall 2 room; a Guided Autobiography: Family and Friends Storytelling event.

Hosted by the Costa Mesa Senior Center and Volunteer Action for Aging, an organization centered on engaging seniors through volunteerism, this was the grand finale of a month-long adventure of reflection, writing, remembrance and most of all storytelling.

Costa Mesa Senior Center was given the opportunity to participate in this rare occasion. The Guided Autobiography is described as “a semi-structured process for life review that incorporates individual and group experiences with autobiographical writing.”

Participants attended a two-hour class every week for a month. Through guided instruction, in-class exercises and homework, the participants created their own stories; their autobiographies. The process was simple: show up, write and share, but the outcome was so much more. A written legacy for families, written stories from the heart and a month-long class that influenced, enriched and helped a population to remember, to share with others and for many, to share publicly.

During the grand finale, a Guided Autobiography: Family and Friends Storytelling event, one-by-one people like Patty, Marilyn, Rueha, Rochelle, and mother and daughter duo Mary and Barbara told their story. There were stories of life, death,

family, marriage, adoption and triumph.

Every story was different and every story was compelling. More importantly, everyone had a story.

Remembering the olive colored skin tone and dark black hair of her mother, "I remember the day mother dyed a bleach streak in her dark hair," Patty mentions. She begins to get teary eyed as she remembers the way this made her feel.

And as one presenter stated, "Everyone has a story to tell, here is mine."