

Students get Immersed in Signature Academies

College Park Elementary School's Mandarin Immersion Program is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. The program is available to kindergarten and first grade students who reside within the N-MUSD attendance boundaries. Enrollment is open district-wide and is not restricted to the College Park attendance zone.

Mandarin Chinese is the native language of more than 870 million people, making it the most widely spoken first language in the world. Kindergarten students currently in the program will transition to a Mandarin program in first grade, with the goal of continuing through middle and high school.

N-MUSD also offers two additional specialty elementary school programs – a Modern Scholars program at Adams Elementary and a Spanish bi-literacy program at Whittier Elementary. These programs are available for kindergarten students and first grade students (limited spaces available for first grade).

The District also offers Signature Academies at each high school, offering students a global competitiveness to better prepare them for college and career success. Students enrolled in Signature Academies receive unique curriculum options and supplemental activities that complement the core academic programs at N-MUSD high schools.

Signature academies include specialty programs centered on key, industry leading careers and areas of study such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Arts and Math (STEAM). Each of the four N-MUSD High Schools offer unique programs, which are open to all ninth grade students within the N-MUSD, regardless of their zone of residence. [Click here for more information about the N-MUSD Signature Academies.](#)

The application deadline for elementary school specialty programs and the high school signature academies is Friday, April 15, 2016.

N-MUSD Brings Home the Gold

The California Department of Education (CDE) awarded twelve elementary schools in Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) with the California Gold Ribbon Award, in recognition of their outstanding educational programs and practices that contribute to closing the achievement gap.

The Gold Ribbon program replaces the California Distinguished Schools program during the two years that California is developing new assessment and accountability systems. The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award was created to honor schools while the California Distinguished Schools Program is on hiatus as California transitions to new assessment and accountability systems. Traditionally, the Distinguished Schools Program honored public schools that showed improved student outcomes as measured through standardized testing and reporting scores and additional measures.

The Gold Ribbon program is different from the California Distinguished Schools program in that it focuses on recognizing schools that demonstrate academic progress through the implementation of the new State standards.

The seven NMUSD schools in Costa Mesa that were honored with the California Gold Ribbon Award are:

Davis Magnet School

Davis Magnet School was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School for their success in closing the achievement gap, engaging parents and community and use of technology through their project based learning, which focuses on improving achievement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

Sample project based learning at Davis Magnet School include a rollercoaster challenge, where students create a rollercoaster to learn about motion and force; develop a bio-waste digester, which teaches students about waste matter, renewable energy, chemistry and more. The project based approach to learning has resulted in 75 percent of Davis students meeting or exceeded English language arts standards and 74 percent meeting or exceeded math standards, based on the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium data. These percentages are 39 to 125 percent higher than district, county, and state averages. Learn more about Davis Magnet School at <http://davismagnet.nmusd.us>.

Kaiser Elementary

Kaiser Elementary uniquely serves students in grades three through six and was selected as a Gold Ribbon School for their success implementing their Read All Day (RAD) Program. The RAD program includes various tiers of instruction, grounded on new state standards, student assessments to determine the tier of instruction that best suits each student's need, and creating a community culture of reading.

The RAD program has resulted in a 24 percent increase in student reading proficiency. Based on 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium data, English learners exceed state averages by nine percent, socio-economically disadvantaged students exceed state averages by 11 percent and special education students exceed state standards by 18 percent. To learn more about Kaiser Elementary please visit <http://kaiser.nmusd.us>.

Killybrooke Elementary

Killybrooke Elementary School was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School for their success in implementing a college and career readiness program centered on universal achievement (as a No Excuses University school) and technology integration.

Killybrooke has made great strides in increasing achievement of all students and closing the achievement gap for English Learners and socio-economically disadvantaged students, through six systems designed to help all students achieve, with technology (including 1:1 Chromebooks for students in grades 3-6) used as a tool to maximize student learning.

Assessments show improvement, with Academic Performance Index increasing from 667 to 867, English language arts proficiency increasing from 27 percent to 67 percent, and math proficiency increasing from 31 percent to 75 percent. Student scores exceed County and State averages. Learn more about Killybrooke Elementary at <http://killybrooke.nmusd.us>.

Paularino Elementary

Paularino Elementary School was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School for their success in creating a culture of universal achievement through their program, Reading Our Way to College. Paularino Elementary became a No Excuses University school to inspire students to attend college and also implemented an Accelerated Reader program to encourage students to read independently.

Implementation of these reading programs and other programs, focused on improving students' character virtues- such as fairness, responsibility, respect, caring, trustworthiness and good citizenship- have resulted in a 21 percent decline in the number of students reading two or more years below grade level. To learn more about Paularino Elementary please visit <http://paularino.nmusd.us>.

Pomona Elementary

Pomona Elementary School was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School for their reading instruction program, which uses small group dynamics to deliver adaptive reading instruction for students to achieve academic success. Students that require intensive intervention are placed in groups as small as two, while students who have mastered grade level foundational skills receive teacher support to move beyond grade level expectations.

The reading program, which is flexible and adjusted throughout the year, has resulted in ten percent more students scoring at benchmark reading levels. STAR testing data showed an 18 percent drop in students reading two or more years below grade level. Learn more about Pomona Elementary at <http://pomona.nmusd.us>.

Sonora Elementary

Sonora Elementary School was recognized as a Gold Ribbon School for their No Excuses University: We are College Bound program.

The We are College Bound program is designed to close the achievement gap between students in traditionally low-achieving sub-groups by implementing continuous data assessments to develop individualized academic intervention plans and address social-emotional and behavioral needs of students.

Sonora Elementary has twice been named a California Distinguished School and a Title 1 Achieving School. Learn more about Sonora Elementary at <http://sonora.nmusd.us>.

Early College High School

In 2015, the first year of the California Gold Ribbon Program, the California Department of Education recognized NMUSD's

Early College High School (ECHS) with a Gold Ribbon Award. ECHS partners with Coastline Community College to offer students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and a year or more of transferable college credit.

With a 100 percent graduation rate, ECHS offers smaller classes, on-campus college classes, dual-credit classes, easier transition to higher education and financial savings of completing college credits in high school.

ECHS is top ten ranking among all public high schools Orange County and has the highest California Department of Education rating of 10/10, for seven consecutive years. Learn more about ECHS at <http://earlycollege.nmusd.us>.

Estancia Drama presents Urinetown

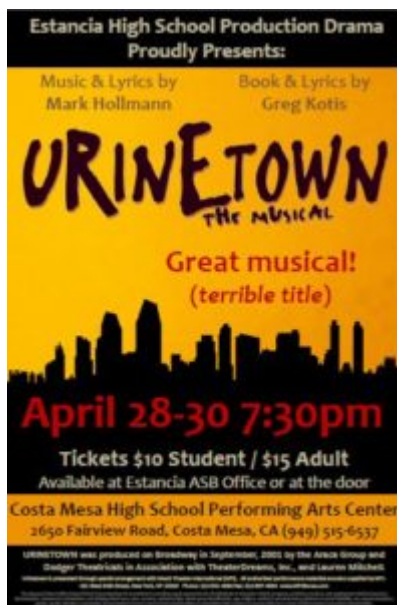
Estancia High School's award winning drama department ends the 2015-2016 season with the presentation of *Urinetown*, a hilarious tale of greed, corruption, love and revolution in which water is worth its weight in gold. The Tony award winning musical sheds a satirical light on the drought, extreme political agendas, and musical theatre itself.

Urinetown premiered on Broadway in 2001 with Estancia alumna Spencer Kayden as Little Sally, the loveable pig-tailed girl who helps explain the plot. Kayden is also known for her membership in the recurring cast of comedians on the sketch comedy series *MADtv* and also played the role of Mrs. Pepper in the popular *Nickelodeon* kids series *Blue's Clues*.

Performances will be held April 28 – 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the

Costa Mesa High Performing Arts Center, 2650 Fairview Road. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for general admission and are currently available for presale. Tickets will also be made available at the door.

For ticket information call Pauline Maranian at (949) 515-6537 or the ASB office at (949) 515-6506.



Costa Mesa telecommunications team celebrates national recognition week

The 20-plus members of Costa Mesa's Telecommunications Bureau received some special recognition this week as city, police and fire officials celebrated the National Public Safety Communicators Week that runs through April 16.

The week, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and celebrated

annually, honors the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch emergency professionals and equipment, and render life-saving assistance to the world's citizens, according to a statement on the association's website.

City CEO office staff, including CEO Tom Hatch, was one of several departments to provide food, deserts and beverages to the team as a way to honor and thank them for the work they do.

On Wednesday April 13, Hatch and others visited the bureau, located just behind City Hall, and met with members of the telecom team and got a demonstration of their duties.

"They provide quality customer service to residents by continually and quickly helping to solve problems for the community," Hatch said.



CEO Tom Hatch and telecom Supervisor Sandra Marquez

The communications officers who work in the bureau take in more than 100 calls a day and put in 12 and sometimes 18-hour

shifts taking calls from accident victims, suicidal, belligerent and despondent callers or victims of fire or crime.

"How often do you have to take a call from someone who is having perhaps the worst experience in their life," said Costa Mesa Police Lt. Keith Davis, who supervises the Telecommunications Bureau. "They do it every single day."

Davis noted the bureau is only one of two in the county that manages all dispatch duties for a single city. The telecom team handles both emergency and non-emergency calls for police, fire, animal control maintenance and water services. They provide members of the public with directions on how to respond to medical emergencies.

Davis, who has supervised the crew for a little more than a year, said he's learned a lot about just what they do.

"I think they are extremely deserving of the recognition," he said. "This is an opportunity to tell them that we do appreciate them and there are a lot of people dropping by and recognizing them. It makes them feel they are not unnoticed. They are real excited."

Davis pointed out that the dispatchers and call takers end up being spokespeople for the city. How a member of the public is treated can really change perceptions.

"It helps to have talented people," he said. "I thought I knew a little bit about dispatch. I had no idea about the scope of their responsibilities. Doing what they do on a daily basis, especially being short staffed, is even more admirable."

TeWinkle Middle School Teacher Receives Second Fulbright Award

Brian Ristow, TeWinkle Middle School Special Education Teacher and former Teacher of the Year, was awarded the Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching from the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Ristow is one of approximately 45 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad through the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program in 2016-2017. He will live and work in New Zealand to learn about the culture, society and educational system of New Zealand and share insights about the United States with colleagues at his host school. Ristow previously received Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund for Teachers Award.

“Brian is an outstanding educator and brings amazing qualities to the classroom,” said TeWinkle Middle School Principal Kira Hurst. “I am very happy for this opportunity for Brian to learn about New Zealand’s education system and hopefully bring back exciting and new ideas to TeWinkle.”

The purpose of the Fulbright Program is to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those in other countries. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential.

Fulbright recipients are among more than 50,000 individuals participating in U.S. Department of State exchange programs each year. The Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching

Program is administered by the Institute of International Education. To learn more about the program [click here](#).

City to test drive new hydrogen-powered Toyota

Toyota Motor Sales USA will be lending the City a 2016 Toyota Mirai for a couple of weeks to test drive.

The car has an electric motor powered by hydrogen fuel cells, resulting in a 100-percent-pollution-free vehicle.

The fuel cells produce electricity from the high pressure hydrogen with only water as a byproduct. The 300 horsepower motor moves the car exceptionally quick, without any motor noise or exhaust.

Hydrogen is available locally at the Valero gas station on Harbor Boulevard to retail customers.

Several City departments will be given an opportunity to drive the vehicle for routine City business over the two weeks of the test.

The car will travel over 300 miles per fueling and may be leased by the public in the \$400-500 a month range or purchased with State incentives for the mid \$40,000's.

New fence built at Downtown Recreation Center enhances event space

City officials recently installed new fencing outside the Downtown Recreation Center in Lions Park.

The new fence will allow for an enhanced events space for both recreational use and private rental use, and will provide dedicated space to children who want to engage in recreational activities at Lions Park.

Expanded programming by Parks and Community Services will be implemented in this new outdoor space.

Tesla Motors presented with Mayor's Award

Costa Mesa Mayor Steve Mensinger announced that Tesla Motors, an innovative automotive and energy storage company known for its high-end luxury electric cars, is the winner of the Mayor's Award presented at the Tuesday April 5 City Council meeting.

Accepting the award on behalf of the company was Tesla Store Manager Peter Najera and Service Manager Joe Estrada.

"We are deeply honored and this is a wonderful and amazing thing that you have done for us," Najera said. "We are thrilled to be here in Costa Mesa. It's a perfect location."

Costa Mesa is not only one of five Tesla sales locations in the county, but is also home to one of only two Tesla service centers in the county.

Tesla forgoes the typical dealership model that dominates the business, and instead sells cars directly to their customers through company owned stores or galleries, which are usually located in shopping malls.

For years, Tesla operated locally out of a 10,000-square-foot facility on Pullman Street in Costa Mesa, adjacent to the 55 freeway. Nearly a year and a half ago they expanded their operation to also include a 27,000 square foot facility just down the street.

The new facility serves as a state of the art service center, complete with 26 service bays, two alignment bays, a detail center and car wash area in two buildings.

A typical day finds six service advisors and 20 service technicians servicing 30-35 vehicles per day, making the Costa Mesa location the number one Tesla Service center in terms of volume in the entire nation.

City reaches landmark agreement with Solid Landings to cease sober living home operations

The City of Costa Mesa reached a landmark settlement agreement with Solid Landings Inc. that will result in the immediate

closure of 15 of the company's residential sober living homes and the closure of 18 more over the next two to three years at the latest.

"This is a major victory both for the residents of Costa Mesa and city officials who worked diligently on this issue for several years," said Mayor Steve Mensinger. "We have invested considerable resources in legal, law enforcement and code enforcement efforts to ensure a balance between our residents who deserve neighborhood peace and tranquility and those who seek facilities to battle their addiction problems."

The agreement with Solid Landings, the largest group home operator in the city of Costa Mesa, will effectively end years of both federal and state litigation between the company and the city and will keep intact the city's two groundbreaking ordinances that place appropriate restrictions on group homes, limiting the number of occupants and the proximity between similar homes.

By entering into the agreement, Solid Landings will ultimately close 33 residential facilities and no legal fees will be paid by the city. Further, Solid Landings will relocate its counseling facilities to two locations in the city, one in a commercial area and the other in an industrial location.

The settlement discussions began approximately a month ago when the City Council directed Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Righeimer to negotiate on behalf of the city.

The negotiations between Righeimer and Solid Landings resulted in an agreement reached Tuesday April 5 when the council voted 3-0 to accept the terms of the settlement.

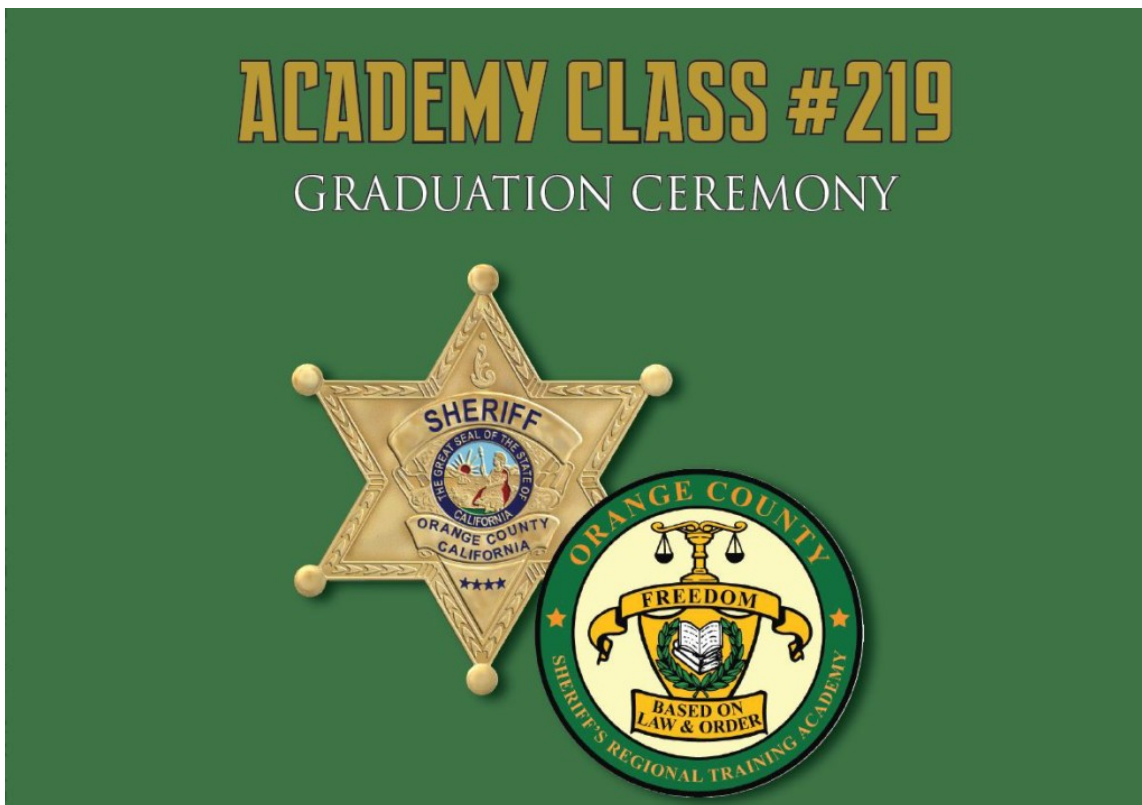
Two more recruits join CMPD

On Monday April 4, Costa Mesa Police Department leadership attended the Class No. 219 graduation ceremonies at the Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Academy to welcome two new officers to the department.

"We want to extend a big welcome to new officers Candyce McMorris and Jason Santos," Police Chief Rob Sharpnack said. "We are thrilled to have them join our team, and we look forward to these individuals making big contributions to the department and the community for years to come."

Graduates McMorris and Santos both received awards for their academy achievements.

McMorris was presented with the Outstanding Practical Application Skills Award and Santos received the Outstanding Physical Training Award.



The officers are part of a major recruitment effort led by the

department that has seen approximately 40 new officers hired over the course of two years and more on the way.

“This is further proof that we are a department on the rise,” Chief Sharpnack said. “Costa Mesa is a prime destination for the best and brightest officers in the county and we are proud of that hard-earned reputation.”

The time to prepare for fire season is here

Believe it or not, Southern California is on the verge of beginning the fire season.

In preparation for that, Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue has started the first phase of wildland firefighting training.

Fire crews traveled to Gypsum Canyon to train with other Orange County agencies to prepare for what is expected to be a busy season.



In addition to preparing for potential brush fires, members of the Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue have been training diligently to prepare probationary firefighters for their manipulative testing.

Although, the focus is to train probationary firefighters, seasoned firefighters benefit from the training as they coach our new generation of firefighters.

The battalion chiefs have been conducting evaluated drills for every crew assigned to their shift.

This training exercises communications, tactical decisions and crew continuity.

Easter Egg hunt a big hit for

Marine families

On Thursday March 24, staff and members of the City of Costa Mesa's Military Affairs team hosted an Easter egg event for the children of the City's Adopted Marine battalion, the 1/5 Marines at Camp Pendelton.

Members of the team stuffed over 2,000 Easter eggs for the event over a three-day period at City Hall.

The Costa Mesa Community came out in full support of the Marines with over 3,000 items being donated in the steam trailer located in the City Hall lobby. Congrats to all.