



**Mrs. Houston's Monday Memo**

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# Choir is Number 1...

#LEXCELLENCE



by [Amber Houston](#) on May 14, 2018

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Our Velocity Show Choir students brought up 1st place, Best Showmanship, and Best Musicianship!

I am so proud of these kids and our awesome Mrs. Batinga! I can say so much more—but I think it appropriate to share a comment by one of our parents who says it best---

“You have an incredible Choir Instructor! Yes, the kids sure earned their second 1st Place Competition trophy and Outstanding Musicianship and Performance Skills plaques by giving it their all but Mrs. Batinga’s stellar leadership and directorship was the key to their success. How she managed such a large group of kids with such patience and persistence, I’ll never know. My girls have learned more than performance skills from her. They highly respect her and will never forget their time in her classes and Performance and Show Choir!”



## Important Upcoming Dates:

### **NO LATE START THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR!!!**

- Make Up Math State tests May 14/15.
- Scholar Athlete Dinner, May 14 5pm at Kennedy Performing Arts Center.
- Concert on the Green, Band in our quad, May 16, 6pm.
- Lunch with a Lion, May 17.
- Lion Awards, May 17 6pm Gym.
- Yearbook Distribution May 22.
- 8th Grade Party, May 24 (during school day).
- Minimum Day 12:10, last day of school----Thursday May 24th!

### **\*\*\* Attention PARENTS\*\*\***

-Administration will be speaking to all 8th grade classes on Monday and Tuesday of next week and making announcements every morning on morning announcements about 8th grade privileges. We want to provide a transparent, clear and consistent message to you and your students that 8th grade activities is a privilege. Every 8th grader has that privilege right now-but discipline issues arising from here on out could potentially prevent 8th graders from participating in these activities.

**Yearbooks** were pre-sold from August to December. An extremely limited number of yearbooks will be sold at lunch on 5/22 on a first-come, first-serve basis. Cost is \$60, cash only. To purchase, students will need a school ID, and they must have taken care of all cafeteria and library fees, and all books and band instruments must have been turned in.



## **ACADEMIC PENTATHLON**

After the studying...stressing and final competition.....Here are the ultimate results for Pentathlon:

17 individual medals (7th and 8th grade combined)

2 Team medals (7th grade - Super quiz 4th Place and Overall Team 4th Place)

### **7th Grade:**

Shruti Singh - 1st Place Lang/Lit, 3rd Place Fine Art, 4th Place Social Science, 3rd Place Ind. Overall

Jayant Madhi - 4th Place Fine Art

Bianca Alcantara - 2nd Place lang/Lit

Rivers Stout - 2nd Place Fine Art, 4th Place Math, 4th Place Science, 4th Place Ind. Overall

Abraham Saleh

Katelyn Tavis - 3rd Place math

Anisa Abdull - 3rd Place Lang/Lit

### **8th Grade:**

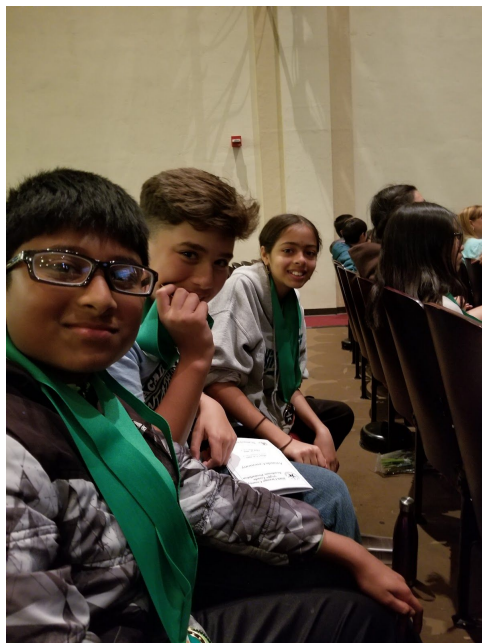
Nhu Nguyen

Natalie Kim - 1st Place Lang/Lit, 3rd Place math, 3rd Place Science

Arshia Bose

Amber Galante - 4th Place Lang/Lit

Sidrah Trad - 3rd Place Math



## *This Week's* TOP STORIES

### **MERIDIAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

I am happy to announce that our amazing 8th grade student, Natalie Kim, has won a district award sponsored by Meridian Link (a corporate sponsor). Please help me on congratulating this awesome young lady! And thank you to Mrs. Dunham who nominated her! She was recognized at the AUHSD Board Meeting this past week! All recipients were chosen as a result of their entrepreneurship spirit and creative mindset. Tim Nguyen, CEO of Meridian Link was present to award these amazing students and spoke about the 5 C's that our district promotes, which is also his business vision!



Natalie has participated in the school's Science Fair competition. Her project focused on cyber security, specifically encryptions. The general overview of her work was utilizing a programming language called Python as a decoder/encoder for a specific type of cryptography called Caesar Cipher (a type of encryption that shifts letters multiple times in order for plaintexts to be hidden). The objective was to see if the length of a text would affect the time it took to cipher. With this question in mind, Natalie formulated a hypothesis stating that it would not matter whether an encrypted message was long or short, the program she wrote would automatically show the results. Using Python allowed her to efficiently organize her scripts and execute them when working with Caesar Ciphers. She conducted the experiment by testing her program on six different encrypted texts that were categorized into long and short messages. The examples were further broken down by word and character count. At the conclusion of her research, the data showed that all nine trials had disproved her hypothesis. The cipher of longer texts had slower averages times, while the shorter examples were completed more quickly. Based on her investigations, Natalie came to three conclusions: First, the results were contradictory to her expected outcome. Second, she realized that Caesar Ciphers were not as secure as she had believed them to be. Third, Natalie deduced that it would be easier for hackers to retrieve information at a faster rate. The scope of this project allowed Natalie to get a glimpse of the programming world, as well as the formatting of computer languages, and helped her see how they can be used to benefit the world.

## **CHOIR SHOW**

Under the vision of Mrs. Batinga, another amazing choir performance happened this past week! Entitled, It's a Musical, these kids sang, danced and played their hearts out! We estimated over 1600 people attended this year---this program is on fire!



## TEACHER APPRECIATION

Our awesome PTSA put on a beautiful and delicious garden luncheon for our amazing staff! Thank you to all families that are PTSA members and a huge thank you to our board members and volunteers that make all of us here at Lexington feel like rock stars!



# **ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Girls Softball: 3rd place

7th& 8th grade Volleyball: 1st place





## **IMAGINATION CELEBRATION 2018**

We had several students artwork displayed at the 2018 Imagination Celebration at South Coast Plaza. A parent commented, “Mr. Coombs, let me start by saying that Lexington’s artwork rocked the 7th and 8th grade exhibits! Our school was well represented, this speaks volumes to your work and dedication as an art teacher. Thank you!” I couldn’t agree more! Here is a picture of one of our students, Christian next to his original Jack Skeleton artwork.



## **SEAL OF BILITERACY**

The Biliteracy Attainment Award recognizes students exiting 8<sup>th</sup> grade for their academic achievement in Dual Language, Heritage, or Foreign Language programs. The following students fulfilled the criteria to receive the award from the Orange County Department of Education.

Congratulations:

**Katherine Bravo   Kiara Rascon   Brianna Ramirez   Gustavo Serrato**



## **BAND TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

On Wednesday night, I was honored to attend an awards ceremony for the Outstanding Arts Directors in Orange County. Our very own Mr. Steven Graves was named the teacher of the year for middle school band in all of Orange County. What an amazing honor!!!! I am so proud of him and all he does for our students! Sometimes being at Lexington, you take for granted just how special our teachers and students are! Way to go!!!! Under the direction of Steve Graves, Lexington Junior High School has an amazing band program! The program is often utilized as a model for new music teachers and music education majors to observe. The program has grown from under 150 students to over 260 students, and the bands at Lexington consistently earn "Superior" and "Excellent" ratings from the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. Lexington has the only regularly performing percussion ensemble in the district, and also boasts an indoor drumline program that often receives top honors.

Steve has been teaching for 31 years. He believes that regardless of the course content, student learning occurs best when the students are inspired and motivated to be their best. Motivation is led, in part, by the mantra that "Great musicians come from great bands, and great bands come from great classes, which come from great people; therefore, we must be great people first." Although Steve cares deeply about students becoming great musicians, he might care more about helping students become the best they can be. His curriculum is designed to inspire students to excel in all areas by achieving both achieving musical and personal excellence. Congratulations Steve, on this well-deserved award!



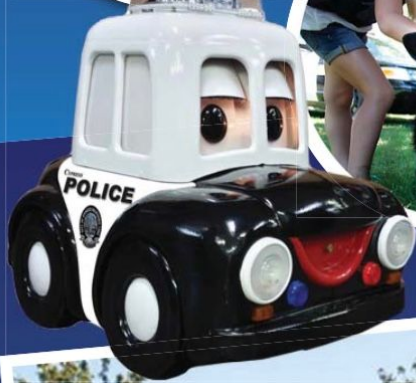
**DISTRICT and community announcements**

**CYPRESS POLICE  
OPEN HOUSE**



**FREE!**

**MAY 19, 2018 10am-2pm**



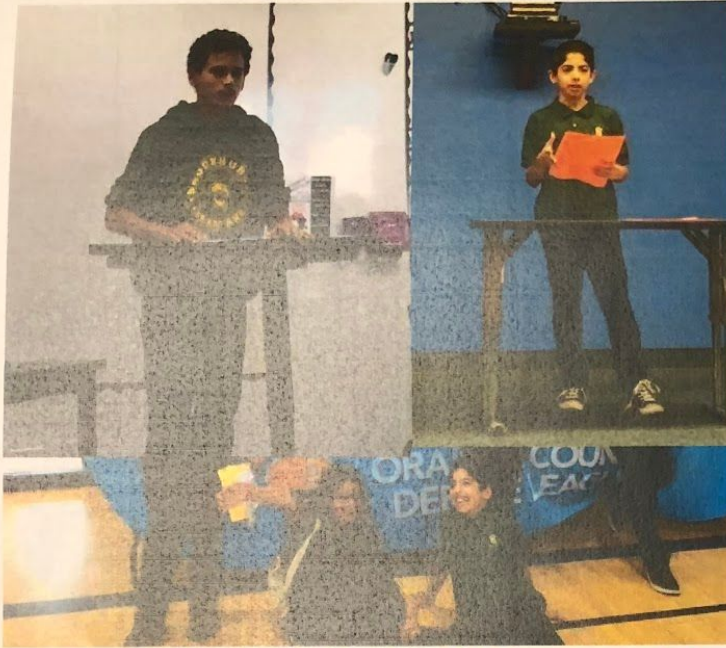
**EVENT FEATURES**

- Auto Club of California
- CHP Funny Car
- K-9 demonstration
- SWAT demonstration
- Station & jail tours
- Crime scene investigation booth
- Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad
- Fire truck
- Take a pic on a police motorcycle
- Free refreshments & more



**5275 Orange Avenue  
714-229-6626  
cypresspd.org**





**7/23-8/3 M-F (9AM – 2PM)**

**AUHSD SUMMER  
SPEECH & DEBATE CAMP  
AT DALE JR. HIGH**

**Free 2-week-long summer camp for  
Anaheim Unified High School District  
middle schoolers!**

Our new speech and debate summer program strives to teach students the basics of modified parliamentary debate and introduce valuable argumentative and public speaking skills that will last them a lifetime. Taught by two experienced high school debaters, the students will learn to argue both the proposition and the opposition side of topics, improve their research skills, and gain confidence presenting in front of their peers.

**We can't wait to get started!**

**Learn  
argumentation,  
refutation, and  
presentation  
skills!**

**Practice public  
speaking!**

**Improve research  
skills!**

**Debate with  
friends!**

**SIGN UP NOW!**

Contact Channing & Adam:  
[auhsddebate@gmail.com](mailto:auhsddebate@gmail.com)

Explore our website:  
[auhsdsummer.wixsite.com/debate](http://auhsdsummer.wixsite.com/debate)

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE COME TALK TO MS. LARSEN IN ROOM 210  
OR EMAIL: [LARSEN\\_S@AUHSD.US](mailto:LARSEN_S@AUHSD.US)**



All library books need to be returned by

# Friday, May 11th

Yearbook distribution and registration for next year will be affected if you have an outstanding library fine.

Take care of your book business as soon as possible.  
Don't wait till the last minute!





The American Society of Civil Engineers, , has organized a **free** event for middle and high school students and their families. The event includes an **engineering career fair** and screening of the film **Dream Big** (here's a link to the trailer <https://youtu.be/huVNsT8BIM8>). The event is **Saturday, May 19 from 10-1pm @ the Frida Cinema, Santa Ana.** The 1<sup>st</sup> showing is 10:15am and the 2<sup>nd</sup> showing is 11:30am.

For event information or to sign up, visit the website at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/asce-oc-k-12-outreach-dream-big-event-tickets-45353385196>



# ASPIREIT 2018

#INNOVATE

WICS and Girls Who Code are collaborating to mentor middle school students through STEM-based projects. Program consists of free workshops where participants will learn game development, robotics coding, web development, and paper circuits through:

SCRATCH



HTML/CSS/JAVASCRIPT

SPHERO



CHIBITRONICS



REGISTRATION LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/aspireIT>

## LOCATION

Santa Ana Public Library  
26 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

## WHEN

Every Saturday, April 14th - May 12th  
from 10AM-2PM

NCWIT  
**AspireIT**



If you have any questions, contact:  
[wics.uci.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:wics.uci.outreach@gmail.com)



girls who  
**code**





**For Current 3rd-5th Grade Girls**

**LEADERSHIP**



Establish a mini society with elected officials and custom currency

**ECONOMIC LITERACY**



Learn how to budget, save, and spend currency wisely

**BUSINESS SKILLS**



Learn about supply/demand economics, marketing, pricing, and customer service

**July 9<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**7:30am-6:00pm**

**\$750** \*includes \$50 nonrefundable registration fee

Limited spots available

Register at: [www.girlsinc-oc.org](http://www.girlsinc-oc.org)

At Chapman University  
LaunchLabs



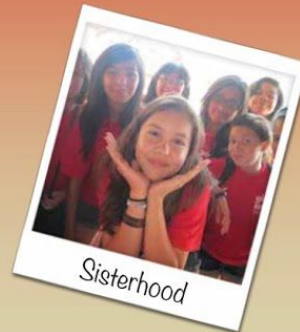
For more information, please contact Kelli McIntosh at  
[Kmcintosh@girlsinc-oc.org](mailto:Kmcintosh@girlsinc-oc.org) or (714) 597-8611

# Eureka! Camp

July 9 - August 3, 2018

Monday - Friday, 8:30-5:00

Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa



# Hello SUMMER!

girls entering 7th through 10th grade



**At Eureka!** learn how to take care of your mind, body, and future with a Girls Inc. twist!

- Exciting field trips and swimming.
- Fun, hands on STEM activities like Robotics, Engineering, Forensic Science, and more!
- Build long-lasting friendships.

**Eureka! Orange Coast College**  
Contact Kathya Torrejon at  
(714) 597-8616 or [ktorrejon@girlsinc-oc.org](mailto:ktorrejon@girlsinc-oc.org)

You can also find information about Eureka! at: [www.girlsinc-oc.org](http://www.girlsinc-oc.org)

**girls  
inc.**  
of Orange County

# Eureka! campo de verano

9 de julio - 3 de agosto 2018

lunes - viernes, 8:30- 5:00

Colegio de Orange Coast, Costa Mesa



# Communication   Ownership   Relevancy

[Check out more information  
on our website!](#)



Lexington Junior High School  
4351 Orange Ave., Cypress, CA 90630