



OC Literacy and Language

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER



Dear Literacy Educators,

Spring is here, and so is National Poetry Month! This April, we celebrate the power of words, rhythm, and expression through poetry. It's the perfect time to integrate poetry into your lessons and inspire students to explore their voices through verse.

Also this month, we will be hosting an incredible documentary screening event at The Frida Cinema in Santa Ana! On Tuesday, April 29th from 4:30-7:00 we will be hosting the screening of the educational documentary, **Hopeville: How to Win the Reading Wars**, a powerful documentary exploring the science of reading and its impact on literacy education. Discover the journey of educators, researchers, and students as they navigate the battle for effective reading instruction. Dinner and refreshments will be served. This event is totally free! We anticipate it filling up fast, so make sure to register soon (detail below).

Let's continue fostering a love for reading and writing in our students. Wishing you a wonderful month filled with learning and inspiration!

Upcoming Dates

April 12-20 | Passover

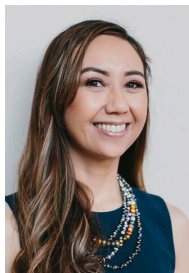
April 22 | Earth Day

April 29 | Hopeville Documentary Screening



Amber Fleming-Morales

Literacy & Language
Elementary Coordinator
afleming-morales@ocde.us



Laurie Virtusio, Ed.D

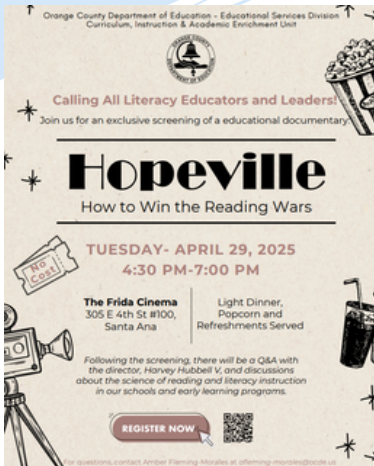
Literacy & Language
Differentiated Assistance
Coordinator
lvirtusio@ocde.us



Virginia Reischl, Ed.D.

Literacy and Language
Secondary Coordinator
vreischl@ocde.us

Upcoming Literacy Offerings



Reading Documentary Screening: Hopeville

April 29, 2025
4:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
Register [here](#)

Join us at the Frida Theater for a free screening of the inspiring reading documentary, **Hopeville: How to Win the Reading Wars** a powerful documentary exploring the science of reading and its impact on literacy education. Discover the journey of educators, researchers, and students as they navigate the battle for effective reading instruction. This event will include dinner and refreshments. Following the screening, there will be a Q&A with the director, Harvey Hubbell V, and discussions about the science of reading and literacy instruction in our schools and early learning programs. Spots are filling up fast, don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible event!



Reading Screener Implementation Training (Virtual)

May 6, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Register [here](#)

With California's new Reading Difficulties Risk Screener set to roll out for all K-2 students in the 2025-26 school year, districts and charter schools have selected their screening tools. Now, the focus shifts to implementation planning! Join us for an interactive zoom session designed to help you build a cohesive, effective plan for a smooth rollout at your school or district. This session will cover key areas, including: testing windows, alternative processes, communication strategies, professional development, testing models, data management and collaboration.



Write to Joy: K-12 Writing Conference

October 11, 2025
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Register [here](#)

Write to Joy is more than a conference—it's a celebration of writing, creativity, and inspiration! Connect with passionate educators, discover fresh strategies, and ignite a love for writing in your students. Dive into hands-on workshops, vibrant discussions, and collaborative sessions that will leave you energized and equipped with practical tools. Featured speaker Jen Roberts, a National Board Certified teacher and digital pedagogy expert, will share her insights on literacy and the power of generative AI in education. Don't miss this opportunity to spark joy in writing—for you and your students! Accepting Proposals at <https://tinyurl.com/cn3thwz7> - proposal due date is July 1, 2025

Please click on the link below to see our professional development trainings

2024-25 Literacy and Language Calendar

Save the Date



**Summer Institute 2025
Into the Wild: Writing
Beyond Boundaries**

Explore how writing can challenge conventional limits and inspire transformation.

June 23 - July 18
Mon - Thurs 9-2 at UCI
Special Adventures Friday 9 - Noon

Participants receive a \$2000 stipend
[10 Quarter Units can also be taken at UCI]

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON
College of Education
SchoolsFirst FCU Center for Creativity and Critical Thinking

ABOUT US PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS RESOURCES EVENTS NEWS GIVING

K-12 Online Teaching
professional development for teachers

K12 Teaching Webinars & Workshops

The Center for Critical Thinking and Creativity is pleased to offer free professional development to P12 teachers. This online webinar and in person workshop series focuses on a wide range of teaching strategies and support for teachers at all levels of education. All webinars are posted on the College of Education's YouTube Channel and freely available to all.



Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services Division
Curriculum, Instruction & Academic Enrichment Unit



PROJECT-BASED LEARNING (PBL) WORKSHOP



THIS WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

- Three consecutive days of hands-on learning
- A combination of direct instruction, video analysis and peer-to-peer collaboration in a learner centered environment
- Work time to develop a standards-based PBL unit

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Learn the essential components of project-based learning
- Plan, design and develop a project for classroom/school use
- Learn to engage students in learner-centered practices, driven by sustained inquiry, throughout the project

Teachers

April 8 - 10, 2025

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Orange County Department of Education

\$375

Materials, Snack & Lunch included

Registration & Additional Information:

REGISTER NOW



Registration questions:
Joanna Sobold
714-966-4157
joannasobold@ocde.us

Content questions:
Dr. Denise Harshman
714-966-4446
dharshman@ocde.us

LCAP Standards-based Instruction Pupil Engagement
CAMIS: Whole Group Inclusive Academic Instruction
Integrated Supports

4/22/2024

CSU The California State University
ERWC
Integrating Reading, Writing & Thinking



**June 23, 2025
ERWC Literacy
CONFERENCE**

Join California educational leaders for an inspiring showcase of best practices in rhetorical reading and writing instruction, language learning, curriculum development, and culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogies.

Newbery award winning and New York Times bestselling author of *When You Trap a Tiger*

Long Beach Marriott
4700 Airport Plaza Dr,
Long Beach, CA 90815

STAY CONNECTED writing.causuccess.org @csu_erwc @CSU_ERWC

Interactive Workshops Inspiring Speakers Expand Your PLN

CUELA PALOOZA 2025

Saturday, April 26th, 2025
8am - 2:30p
at Gahr High School in Cerritos



FREE EVENTS

GETTIN' WIGGLY WITH COMPOSTING PRESENTATIONS

MAKE A TREAT WITH
"BUILD A MIX, TRAIL MIX"
Presented by OCP's Charlie Carl/Find Library Committee. *While supplies last.

FOOTHILL RANCH LIBRARY
 27002 Cabrillo Way, Foothill Ranch, CA 92601
 Tuesday, April 1 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

TUSTIN LIBRARY
 345 E Main St, Tustin, CA 92780
 Thursday, April 10 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

FOUNTAIN VALLEY LIBRARY
 77635 Lee Avenue St, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
 Tuesday, April 15 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

BREA LIBRARY
 1 Civic Center Circle, Brea, CA 92621
 Thursday, April 17 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

SAN CLEMENTE LIBRARY
 242 Avenida Del Mar, San Clemente, CA 92672
 Tuesday, April 22 @ 5:30-7:00 PM

EARTH DAY KITS
 AVAILABLE AT ALL BRANCHES
*While supplies last.

STORYTIMES

Earth Day

WITH OC WASTE & RECYCLING
For more information visit: ocpl.org/earthday or Scan the QR code with your mobile device



27TH ANNUAL JOHN GARDINER COMMUNITY
POETRY CONTEST
 WORLD OF WONDERS

ENTRIES ACCEPTED
 APRIL 1-30, 2025

LAGUNA BEACH LIBRARY
 363 Gleneyre St
 Laguna Beach, CA 92653
 949-497-7733

Prizes up to \$100 Gift Certificates will be awarded in **five age** categories.

Submit 1 unpublished poem with theme **World of Wonders**. Poem must be no more than 25 lines of text with a limit of 250 words.

Submit your poem **within the body of an email** to Laguna Beach Library at ocpl.lagunabeach@occr.ocgov.com. Include the following information: Name, Phone Number & Grade Level or "Adult". **No attachments, please.**

The **Reading of Winning Poems** will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at 11 am.

The annual contest is funded by the Friends of the Laguna Beach Library.



    

OC Public Libraries Presents


ONE COUNTY, ONE BOOK

A community reading program centered around the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Sympathizer*, by Viet Thanh Nguyen. From January through March, readers of all ages are invited to celebrate The Sympathizer with author talks, film screenings, cultural presentations, storytimes, book club discussions and more!

This project is funded in part through a grant from the California Department of Aging and administered locally by the Orange County Office on Aging.

THE SYMPATHIZER
 VIET THANH NGUYEN
 NATIONAL BESTSELLER




Check out all of Teaching Books' April Timely Topic Resources [Here](#)




Resources


- Need information about the upcoming Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties, including Dyslexia? Here is the [OCDE Information Guide](#), updated frequently as new information is released. We are here to support the implementation of this initiative in any way that we can!
- Check out the latest [CDE Literacy Newsletter](#) for information on Statewide Literacy
- [Agents of Influence](#), a spy media literacy game, is looking for middle and high school teachers to give feedback and participate in research studies. The game teaches critical thinking, content analysis, research, and communication. Teachers participating in this study can earn between \$50 and \$250. The study runs from December 2024 to January 2026. Learn more and sign up [here](#).
- [Bookshare](#) curated a [list](#) for the 2024 update! Bookshare provides access to a huge collection of ebooks that are customizable for people with reading barriers.



Tech Corner

 **Tech Tip of the Month: "CTRL + F Your Way to Clarity"**
Teachers, save precious minutes with the good old CTRL + F (or Command + F on Mac). Whether you're reviewing digital student work, skimming long online articles, or navigating complex IEPs, this simple shortcut helps you instantly find keywords without endless scrolling. It's small—but mighty!

 **Bonus:** Use it in Google Docs, PDFs, websites, and even spreadsheets.

 Try searching for "evidence," "theme," or "because" to quickly locate key academic phrases in student writing.

Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services

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