



Stefan Bean, Ed.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools

# OC Literacy & Language



## March 2026 Newsletter

### March into Reading!

As the frost begins to fade and the first buds of spring appear, March brings a renewed energy to our classrooms and libraries. This month, we celebrate the incredible power of language to help us "spring forward" into new worlds. From the timeless magic of classic children's literature to the profound impact of Women's History Month, March is a time to honor the stories that have shaped our past and the voices that are writing our future.

Whether you're cozying up with a favorite book for Read Across America or exploring a new culture during National World Language Week, let's make this month a marathon of stories. Grab a book, find a sunny patch of grass, and let your imagination bloom!

### March Dates to Note:

#### Women's History Month & National Reading Month

- March 2: National Read Across America Day
- March 4: National Grammar Day
- March 8-14: National World Language Week
- March 14: Pi Day (Perfect for a "Book Pie" or "Reading Slice" activity!)
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 19: International Read To Me Day
- March 20: First Day of Spring (Vernal Equinox)
- March 21: World Poetry Day
- March 23: National Puppy Day
- March 25: Tolkien Reading Day



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**Literacy & Language**  
[bit.ly/OCDE\\_LiteracyLanguage](https://bit.ly/OCDE_LiteracyLanguage)



# Save the Date

LEXIA LEARNING PRESENTS

**HOPEVILLE:  
HOW TO WIN THE READING WARS**



**FREE ENTRY**

**THURSDAY  
MARCH 19TH | 4 PM**

**AT THE FRIDA CINEMA**  
305 E. 4TH STREET SUITE 100, SANTA ANA, CA 92701

<b>3:45-4:30</b> Arrivals/Networking	<b>4:30-5:00</b> Panel Discussion	<b>5:00-7:00</b> Movie Screening
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**LIGHT DINNER AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

FOLLOW THE LINK IN THE EMAIL TO REGISTER OR EMAIL  
JENNA.HIBBARD@LEXIALEARNING.COM  
OPEN TO ALL OC EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

**5th Annual**

# S.T.E.A.M. RACE TO SPACE

## Reading Challenge

Read books. Earn rewards. Unlock bonus prizes. Then celebrate together at our giant Splashdown event!

**Open to TK-12th grade students**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Registration Opens: September 4 | Reading Challenge: September 25 - October 16  
Splashdown Celebration: November 14

**Explore**  
Science • Technology • Engineering • Arts • Math  
Every book moves you closer to prizes!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Learn More: [ReadSteam.org](http://ReadSteam.org)



# Save the Date



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

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## 2026 AP IN THE OC

Virtual Advanced  
Placement Summer  
Institute for Current and  
Future AP and Pre-AP  
Teachers

JULY 20-23, 2026 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM  
JULY 24, 2026 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Join the AP in the OC Summer Institute - a dynamic virtual training for new and seasoned AP educators. Our 30-hour hybrid (synchronous & asynchronous) professional learning imparts essential skills for Advanced Placement instruction, covering AP content intricacies, effective organization techniques, and modern teaching methods. Leave with renewed enthusiasm, fresh insights, and abundant resources to enhance your classroom, and provide students an exceptional AP education.

Content questions and general inquiries:  
[apintheoc@ocde.us](mailto:apintheoc@ocde.us) (714) 966-4157

### AP SUBJECTS OFFERED

- Biology
- Computer Science Principles
- English Language & Composition
- English Literature & Composition
- Environmental Science
- Government & Politics - U.S.
- Physics 1
- Psychology
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Statistics
- U.S. History

\$650 - Special early bird pricing until **May 15, 2026**  
\$700 - Full institute rate begins **May 16, 2026**  
\$799 - Late registration rate begins **July 12, 2026**  
Includes College Board materials

AP Capstone, through AP Seminar and AP Research, empowers teachers to go beyond content delivery by fostering critical thinking, inquiry, and academic discourse. In AP Seminar, students examine real-world issues from multiple perspectives, building skills in discussion, collaboration, and argumentation. AP Research involves year-long, independent projects guided by teachers, culminating in a scholarly paper and presentation. These courses support innovative, skills-based instruction and help develop highly valued, transferable skills.

### AP CAPSTONE SUBJECTS OFFERED

- Research
- Seminar
- Seminar ELA

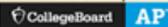
\$799 - Full Institute rate

### REGISTRATION & EVENT DETAILS:

<https://tinyurl.com/APintheOC2026>



This AP Summer Institute  
is endorsed by:



Orange County Department of Education  
Educational Services  
Curriculum, Instruction and Academic Enrichment Unit presents

## TEACHERS & AI WEBINAR SERIES

*Empowering Educators with Artificial  
Intelligence to Transform Pedagogy*

Join us for a monthly webinar series designed to help TK-12 teachers, instructional coaches, and educators interested in AI integration learn how to incorporate AI tools to enhance instructional planning, personalize learning, and spark creativity in the classroom. Each session will explore practical strategies, tools, and ethical considerations for leveraging AI to improve pedagogy.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

October 28, 2025  
November 18, 2025  
December 16, 2025  
January 27, 2026  
February 17, 2026  
March 24, 2026  
April 28, 2026

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Virtual - Zoom  
**Cost:** Free

Contact Wes Kriesel for Content Questions:  
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Contact Gabby Alvarez for Registration Questions:  
E: [galvarez@ocde.us](mailto:galvarez@ocde.us) | Ph: 714-966-4228

LCAP Priority: Pupil Outcomes, Pupil Achievement  
CA MTSS Domain & Feature: Whole Child - Inclusive Academic Instruction

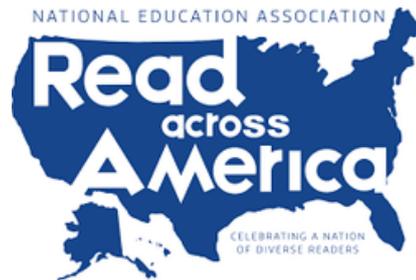
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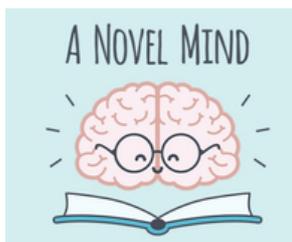
*Check out all of Teaching Books' Timely Topic Resources*



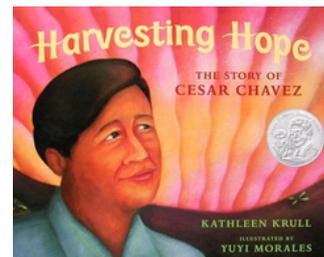
**Women's History Month**



**Read Across America**



**Neurodiversity Celebration Week:  
March 18-24**



**Cesar Chavez Day:  
March 31<sup>st</sup>**

# Resources

Need information about the Screener for Risk of Reading Difficulties? Check out the [OCDE Literacy and Language Webpage](#) for additional information and updates.

Check out the latest [CDE Literacy Newsletter](#) for information on Statewide Literacy

CDE has released [Literacy Content Blocks](#) for TK-5. The Literacy Content Blocks are guide for effective literacy instruction by applying the ELA/ELD Framework.

Check out this amazing resource for [Integrated ELD Strategies](#)



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## Tech Corner



Looking to build background knowledge and spark authentic writing? Check out this collection of 49 free virtual field trips from [We Are Teachers](#).

From national parks to museums to space exploration, these experiences can deepen comprehension, strengthen vocabulary, and give students rich context for reading and writing—all without leaving the classroom. No buses required, just curiosity.

**Orange County Department of Education | Educational Services**

To subscribe to our newsletter scan the QR code below

