



LEOPARD SPOT

MARGARET LANDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

August 2018

Principal's Message

Dear Landell students and families,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed principal at Landell Elementary School. I am honored to have this opportunity to lead a school with a legacy of great success.

I have been dedicated to the field of education for more than 16 years. Over the past 10 years, I worked as a principal and an associate superintendent of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In each of these roles, I sought to ensure the success of each student and each school by providing exemplary instruction and extracurricular opportunities that support the whole child. I have a bachelor's degree in Asian American Studies, a master's in education, and a master's in administration. I am currently working on my doctorate degree. My husband and I reside in the city of Fullerton with our three children: Bradley (6), Oliver (3), and Elise (1 month).

I am committed to ensuring that all Landell students receive an educational experience that prepares them for the 21st century. I am passionate about seeing students actively engaged in their learning, collaborating with their peers, and taking an inquisitive stance as they think critically to solve real-world problems. These experiences cultivate students who love to learn, take ownership of their work, and grow into responsible citizens.

In June, I had the pleasure of meeting with the amazing staff at Landell, and it is apparent that our Landell teachers have immense pride for not only the school, but also the community, and it is a privilege to work with such a dedicated group.

As your principal, it is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors – students, teachers, and family members alike – feel welcome and part of the community. My door is always open, so please feel free to call or email me with any questions you may have. I am excited to meet all of you in September and look forward to an amazing year. Until then, I am thankful to Ms. Julie Gautreau for stepping in as interim principal while I am gone.

Kind regards,
Kimberly Benaraw
Principal

Mark Your Calendar!

School Pictures

Tuesday, August 21

Back-to-School Night

Thursday, August 23
5:45-6:45 p.m.

Camp Landell

Friday, August 24
4:00 p.m.

Room Parent Meeting

Friday, August 31
8:30-10:00 a.m.
PTA Room

Have Questions?

Principal

✉ [Kimberly Benaraw](mailto:Kimberly.Benaraw@landell.k12.ca.us)
(714) 220-6960 x3151

Administrative Assistant

✉ [Betty Ann Platt](mailto:BettyAnn.Platt@landell.k12.ca.us)
(714) 220-6960 x3153

Margaret Landell Elementary School

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Cypress, CA 90630
[Website](http://www.landell.k12.ca.us)

Cypress School District

9470 Moody Street
Cypress CA 90630
(714) 220-6900
[Website](http://www.cypress.k12.ca.us)

School Safety

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority in the Cypress School District. To ensure a safe and secure learning environment:

- Campus access is limited to one entry point during the school day.
- Video surveillance systems are installed at school sites to monitor campus activity. Cameras also serve as a deterrent for trespassing.
- A web-based visitor management system enables school office staff to perform instant sex offender registry checks on all campus visitors.
- Most importantly, we have strong working relationships with our local police departments, who conduct an annual assessment of our school emergency procedures.

We appreciate your support and partnership with us in keeping our schools safe. We ask for your assistance in the following ways:

- Please drive slowly in the parking lot and follow all directional signs.
- Don't block crosswalks.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and take extra care when driving in school zones.
- If visiting or volunteering during school hours, check in at the main office and present a valid government-issued identification.
- When leaving campus, check out and exit through the front office, not through the gates. This enables us to account for everyone on campus in the case of an emergency.

By working together, we make our schools a safe place for everyone!

Spotlight on Reading/Language Arts

Teachers in the Cypress School District will be using a new reading/language arts program this year called Benchmark Advance. In the classroom, students will participate in daily whole-group and small-group instruction that helps them develop and apply their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The program also helps students build critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills that are essential for success in college and careers.

As a parent, you will notice several differences between the old and new reading programs.

- First of all, your child may not bring home a lot of classwork in August because the program requires that teachers spend the first few weeks of school focusing on important instructional routines and procedures to help students be successful.
- Your child's new "textbook" will actually be a number of short, magazine-like texts.
- Writing in the book will be encouraged! Your child will learn how to annotate text, which means he/she will be able to write notes and highlight key words and details directly in the textbook.
- Your child will read about a wide variety of topics that will develop literacy as well as reinforce content knowledge in science, social studies, and the arts.

Students will continue to use *Thinking Maps* and *Write From the Beginning* to support their reading comprehension, organize their ideas, and help them to communicate effectively in writing.

Parents will have 24-hour access to assignments, e-books, and school-to-home resources to support their child's learning. More information about how parents can access these new digital resources will be sent home in the weeks to come.



Coming Soon!

Watch for information regarding our after-school choir and drumming ensembles as well as our NEW band program.