

COASTAL VIEW NEWS

January 14, 2016

club scene



From left, Girls Inc. members Natalia and Vanessa Ortiz participate in a read-aloud of "Olivia."

Girls Inc. launches literacy initiative

Girls Inc. of Carpinteria has kicked off the New Year with the implementation of a new after-school reading and literacy program within Carpinteria Unified School District and on the Girls Inc. campus. The Literacy Initiative is designed to provide age-appropriate reading programs for kindergarten through third-grade girls to ensure they are reading at grade level by third grade. "Students who are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade are at risk of falling further behind than their peers in all subject areas," said Victoria Juarez, executive director of Girls Inc. of Carpinteria. "Reading at grade level is one of the strongest predictors of later success, setting the foundation for future academic achievement. We're excited to play a role in building this foundation and providing girls both in our program and within the school district with the skills to unlock their fullest potential so that they can thrive."

The grant-funded program now serves kindergarten through third-grade girls in the organization's after-school program and kindergarten girls at Aliso School. A collection of books featuring strong female characters, both fictional and biographical, are used as the catalyst for learning. Girls Inc. hopes to continue bringing on new groups of kindergarteners each year and to expand to other schools in the district.

"Aliso School is pleased to again team with Girls Inc. to benefit our youngest scholars' literacy skills," said Aliso Principal Holly Minear. "We are grateful Girls Inc. provides dedicated extended day instructional programming in our classrooms with our kindergarten students to further support our students' language development, reading and writing skills. We are confident this collaborative effort will positively impact our students' learning now and in years to come."