

FREE

School News

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Covering the Hawthorne School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MAY 2011

Did You Know. . .

As I meet parents and community members I realize there are so many wonderful things happening in the Hawthorne School District that our stakeholders don't know.

For example, did you know that in addition to Hawthorne Math and Science Academy receiving National Blue Ribbon honors they were also just identified as a 2010-2011 Title I Academic Achievement Award? There were only 209 schools in the state of California to receive this honor. In order to qualify the school must show that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency.

Did you know that Washington and Zela Davis Schools were named California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll Schools for 2010? This honor is earned by demonstrating consistently high student academic achievement and making significant progress toward closing achievement gaps among all student populations.

Did you know that the Hawthorne School District has a Two-way Bilingual Immersion Academy? At Ramona School, we have students who begin kindergarten speaking only English but are soon very comfortable speaking both English and Spanish. The English and Spanish speaking students begin kindergarten receiving the majority of their instruction in Spanish. As they progress through the grades a greater percentage of the day is taught in English. These students may continue their bilingual experience when entering middle school at Hawthorne Middle School. The outcome is students who are bilingual and biliterate!

Did you know that at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year we will have academies in place at our three middle schools? Each academy will have a specific focus. I know that the middle school articles in this publication will address these academies in more detail. I just want to highlight that Bud Carson Middle School will be our Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy. Hawthorne Middle School will house our Business and Bilingual Academies. Prairie Vista Middle School will focus on performing arts. We are very excited to see these academies evolve and develop into valuable pathways to college and career success for our students.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 7



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent

Sabía usted que. . .

Al hablar con padres y miembros de la comunidad me doy cuenta que tenemos muchas cosas maravillosas ocurriendo en el Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne que desconocen muchas de las partes interesadas.

Por ejemplo, ¿sabía usted que la Academia de Matemáticas y Ciencias de Hawthorne además de recibir el premio Nacional de Blue Ribbon también acaba de ser reconocida con el premio de Aprovechamiento Académico del Título I en el 2010-2011? Sólo 209 escuelas en California recibieron este honor. Para que una escuela pueda calificar en esta distinción es necesario que los estudiantes tengan un avance considerable en el aprovechamiento académico.

¿Sabía usted que las escuelas Washington y Zela Davis fueron nombradas California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll en el 2010?

Este honor se recibe demostrando un aprovechamiento académico continuo por parte del estudiante y teniendo un progreso académico con igualdad demográfica.

¿Sabía usted que el Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne tiene una Academia Bilingüe Inmersión de dos Vías? En la escuela Ramona, tenemos estudiantes que comenzaron el Jardín de Infantes hablando solo inglés pero en la actualidad hablan los dos idiomas; inglés y español con comodidad. Los estudiantes que hablan inglés y español comienzan el Jardín de Infantes recibiendo instrucción en su mayoría en español. El porcentaje de instrucción en inglés incrementa al pasar a los grados sucesivos. Estos estudiantes pueden continuar su instrucción bilingüe en la escuela Intermedia de Hawthorne. ¡Como resultado tenemos estudiantes que hablan, leen y escriben los dos idiomas!

¿Sabía usted que al comienzo del año escolar 2011-2012 tendremos academias en nuestras tres escuelas intermedias? Cada academia tendrá un enfoque específico. Sé que en los artículos de las escuelas intermedias de esta publicación hablarán de estas academias de una forma más detallada. Solo quiero sobresaltar que la escuela Intermedia Bud Carson será la Academia de Tecnología de Ciencias de Ingeniería y Matemáticas (STEM). La escuela Intermedia de Hawthorne será nuestra Academia de Negocios y Bilingüe. La escuela Prairie Vista se enfocará en artes escénicas. Estamos muy emocionados esperando que estas academias tengan un valioso desarrollo y sean el conducto a el colegio y éxito profesional de nuestros estudiantes.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 7

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



Dr. Morgan's article on the front page is so informative you almost need to read it twice to grasp all that Hawthorne School District has to offer...maybe three times. The bottom-line is the community has much to be proud of. The individual school articles enlighten us more with JAMmin' Minute, healthy choices, fine arts and a committed focus on academic excellence. As the Eucalyptus Elementary School headline says, "Working together to read, learn and succeed!"

Our last issue for this school year will distribute June 1st. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

School News

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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
COPY EDITORS: Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia
CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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Are you looking for me for the contest on page 7?





Hawthorne School District



Preschool Now Enrolling For Fall Classes!

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Hawthorne, CA 90250
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FAX (310) 219-2839

Zela Davis Universal
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13434 Yukon Ave.
Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 219-2821
FAX (310) 219-2823

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Nonie Smith, Project Facilitator LAUP Preschools • nsmith@hawthorne.k12.ca.us

Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908



Patricia Jordan
Principal

STEM Academy Opens in Fall

Do your children ever wonder what they want to be when they grow up? Do your children dream of becoming an engineer, an astronaut or a scientist? Do your children have a passion for computers and technology?



BCMS has the academic program for them! Bud Carson Middle School is pleased to announce the opening of the Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) Academy for the 2011–12 school year. Our STEM Academy will guide each student through a personal firsthand discovery of the exciting and rewarding careers that could be waiting for them in the future. BCMS staff members have worked diligently to provide each child with a rigorous academic program with a focus on career and college planning and the use of technology.



A dynamic feature of our STEM Academy is ongoing partnerships with universities and local employers. Our STEM Academy is designed to engage students in meaningful learning that will put them on a path to success.

Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620



Esau Berumen
Principal

Blue Ribbon Celebration a Success *By Marianne Ramos*

In April, HMSA held its Blue Ribbon Celebration. HMSA Key Club president Jennifer A. Garcia led the Pledge of Allegiance. Speeches were given by Supt. Dr. Helen E. Morgan, California assembly member the Honorable Steven Bradford, and members of the district's board of trustees. HMSA student Jennifer Vargas, math department chair Pilar Bayani, parent Erin Gomez and our principal, Esau Berumen, also spoke. U.S. congresswoman the Honorable Maxine Waters delivered the keynote address.

Speeches centered on the ideas of hard work, excellence, tough love, and log entries. "I'm happy that many of the speeches focused on the importance of the commitment and collaboration between our students, their parents, the teachers, and administrators," said U.S. history teacher Amy Carlson.

After the speeches, optional tours and light refreshments were available. HMSA's Blue Ribbon Committee and HMSA student volunteers were instrumental in the event's planning.



Honorable Maxine Waters, Honorable Steven Bradford, HSD Board Members, HSD Superintendent Dr. Helen E. Morgan, HMSA teachers, and HSD District Officials.

"The event was a huge success because everyone was involved—school board members, district personnel, HMSA teachers and students really came together and made this day memorable," Mr. Berumen said.

Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369



Gretchen Janson
Principal

Working Together to Read, Learn, and Succeed!

This year we have placed a renewed focus on parent involvement at Eucalyptus School. We have established a formal Parent Center on campus where parents meet regularly, volunteer to complete school projects, and are provided access to computers. We have worked to revive a PTA that established roots here back in 1936. We have held many fun and engaging family activities this year including a Movie Night, an Ice Cream Social, and our Family Fitness Festival, but we are most proud of our efforts in getting parents involved in their children's academic growth. Each month, we hold a series of eight Parent Workshops in which parents learn specifics about the academic standards for each grade level. Parents are provided with strategies



Eucalyptus parents learning strategies to improve reading fluency at a recent Parent Workshop.

to support their children in an effort to extend learning into the home. All Parent Workshops are offered in English and Spanish and they are offered at varying times throughout the day, to accommodate parents' busy schedules. Working together, all Eucalyptus students can read, learn, and succeed.

Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Academies

Our distinguished school is becoming an even more exciting and enriching place that will benefit our students and parents. In addition to our successful Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Academy, we will have two more programs of study in the 2011–12 school year. Our new Business Academy will provide students with the skills and concepts necessary to build a strong foundation in finance, career planning, communications, technology, advertising, economics and data analysis. We will emphasize entrepreneurship and the effect of a global economy on students' lives.

Our AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) program for recommended seventh-graders will include tutorial support, motivational activities and academic instruction that targets a college-preparatory pathway. This program is designed for students who are most underrepresented in the UC system in college acceptance.



Whichever academy or program our students participate in, they can expect to receive excellent instruction from our well-trained professional staff at HMS, Home of the Hawks.

Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423



Mara Pagniano
Principal

Building a Green Team!

If you see a Jefferson School student wearing a green bracelet, you are in the presence of one of our Green Team Members. At Jefferson School our students and staff have been working very hard to reach the California state proficiency goals. We are committed to helping our students realize their full academic potential. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum every six to eight weeks on their unit tests in language arts and mathematics. One way we celebrate student achievement is with a Green Team bracelet, and we are pleased to report that our students are already developing quite a collection. At Jefferson we know that with hard work, perseverance, study, and support each of our students can achieve their goals. Working together we can ensure a bright future for all of our children.



Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, Ca 90250 • 310/679-1003



Christine Fagnano
Principal

Fine Arts Academy

Prairie Vista Middle School is pleased to announce that we will be a Fine Arts Academy beginning the 2011-2012 school year. At PVMS, we believe that the arts have the power to engage, transform and contribute to the development of intellectual and creative students. The expanded exploratory program will include orchestra, band, art, piano, theater arts, yearbook and photography. The students' creative talent will be showcased with Fall and Spring Concerts. Students will also perform at district and community events.

Prairie Vista is also adding an AVID Track to the academic program. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID is an academic, regularly scheduled elective in the 7th and 8th grade. The AVID class will provide scholastic structure and equip

students with the skills necessary to succeed in high school and college.

Prairie Vista Middle School's augmented student experience will challenge students academically and foster their artistic talents. We are preparing for an exciting 2011-2012 school year!.



Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W.El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294



Jennifer Beekman
Principal

Families are Getting into Shape

Families are getting physically fit and into shape! Several students participate in an exercise-and-nutrition-education program and homework support group that has only been offered this year at Kornblum School. Parents of these students join their children during this after-school program for aerobics, exercise classes, salsa dancing and other fun movement activities. Together, families are learning the importance of how nutrition and exercise positively benefit their overall health.

They are also learning how being healthy and eating appropriately assists with improving the academic achievement levels of their

children. Twice weekly, parents participate in a walking group, which covers a distance of five miles around the surrounding community. The goal of this group is to participate in the Hawthorne 5K this June! Families are not only getting into shape but are also having fun and forming new friendships.

If you are interested in joining this program, please contact the front office.



Parents exercising in the cafeteria.

Prairie Vista *South Campus*

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, Ca 90250 • 310/970-7550



David Mallchok
Site Administrator
Assistant Principal

Healthier Choices

Prairie Vista South has partnered with the Network for a Healthy California to provide convenient morning and afternoon nutrition classes for parents of students enrolled in both Even Start and

PREPARE programs. The Parent Nutrition Program consists of an eight class series that helps parents make healthier choices for their families. Our parents are learning how to cook more nutritious meals by growing their own produce, including a variety of herbs, lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, strawberries, cucumbers, squash, peas, and broccoli. They are also learning how to shop smarter at the grocery store by learning how to interpret Nutrition Facts Labels to identify the added sugars, fats, and sodium in the foods they eat. Parents are enjoying these classes, and many of them have said they are now watching portion sizes for their children and themselves, as well as eating more fruits and vegetables. All classes are free of charge for the Hawthorne community.

The remaining classes scheduled for the current school year are:

Label Reading - Sugar, Salt, Fat
Lesson 3—May 4, 18 & 26
Portion Sizes - Snacks and Meals
Lesson 4—June 1, 15 & 23
Where Do We Go From Here?
A Healthy Future for Our Families



Happy class participants in action.



Growing the fruits of labor.

Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189



Building Character

It is important for home and school to work together and help build strong character in our children. Clearly, when it comes to character building, the family is the key. In order to provide standards of good conduct there is simply no substitute for a mother and/or father who can form a loving and supportive circle around their child.

Michael Collins
Principal

Schools have a strong supportive role to play in character building, too. They must not only help children become literate and well-informed, but must also help them develop the capacity to be responsible and display good problem-solving skills. The schools can help reinforce those universal values that we all cherish, and which we hope our children will demonstrate when we are not around.

When they are on their own, we want them to always show universal character traits in their daily lives, such as responsibility, honesty, respect, caring, thankfulness, self-discipline, citizenship and courage. These traits will help them be successful in life.

Each month at Ramona we select a specific character trait to recognize and reinforce. In past months we have focused on the traits of respect, self-discipline, thankfulness and honesty. This month we will be recognizing the attribute of courage. Those students who have exhibited this trait will be rewarded at the monthly spirit assembly.

Ramona School is proud of these students, and will continue to help our families build character in their children.

York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189



We Go for the Bronze!

By Dipa Shah-Patel, MPH

"Ex-er-cise! Ex-er-cise!" York students chant as they enter the school campus well before school starts. Students are eager to participate in a new program at York called "Morning Fitness," in which dedicated parents lead students in stretching, walking, jump-roping and even dancing to get their blood pumping and oxygen flowing to their brains.

Mike Goldstein
Principal

This focus on the health of our students is part of a larger initiative by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, which was founded by former president Clinton. We know that when students are well nourished and physically fit, they are ready to learn. We are making changes at York to work toward creating a healthier school environment for our students, staff and parents, and we are confident that we will receive bronze-level recognition for our efforts.

With the partnership of Network for a Healthy California, York Elementary now has a beautiful mural bearing the words *Eat Right, Be Active*, which reinforces the healthy messages that we are trying to promote at our school.



Third grade students enjoy eating healthy and being physically active every day.

Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422



Academic Achievement

Washington School was recently named a California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll Star School for 2010. In order to be recognized by the California Business for Education Excellence



Jennifer Gutierrez
Principal

Foundation, schools must meet rigorous criteria. The Star Schools are those with significant populations of socio-economically disadvantaged students that have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency over four years and are outperforming expectations for every significant subgroup.

Washington School is comprised of four subgroups: African American/black; English learners; Hispanic; and socioeconomically disadvantaged. Washington School has had tremendous academic gains since the 2008 testing year. Our school-wide Academic Performance Index (API) has grown 125 points from 687 to 812; our African American/black API has grown 100 points, from 677 to 777; our English learners API has grown 148 points, from 666 to 812; our Hispanic API has grown 138 points, from 683 to 821; and our socioeconomically disadvantaged API has grown a total of 127 points, from 685 to 812. Washington School has consistently met all of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals for each of our subgroups.

We are confident that with all of our stakeholders working toward the same goal Washington School will continue to exceed academically. Our team works diligently to ensure that our students are mastering grade-level standards. We are proud of our accomplishments and will continue to maintain the highest of expectations for each one of our students.

Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771



Healthy Students are Successful Students

When the parents and teachers learned about the alarming predictions that one out of every two Latino and African-American children are predicted to develop type 2 diabetes in their lifetimes, we knew we had to do something to address the health of our students. Focusing on health is especially important because it is directly linked to academic achievement. We are committed to working toward promoting nutrition and physical activity among our students, staff and parents to help our students succeed.

Teachers are implementing JAMmin' Minute, where they lead their students in one-minute physical fitness routines to increase physical activity and help students focus. Students receive stickers if they eat a fruit or a vegetable through the Caught Eating Healthy program.

Our staff participates in an energizing and calorie-burning Zumba dance workout twice a week. The teachers are enjoying the dancing, and it has been a great way to relieve stress and build camaraderie among the staff.



Rita Suh's kindergarten class implementing JAMmin' Minute.

Parents have the opportunity to participate in free nutrition classes provided by the Network for a Healthy California. They are learning how to read food labels and how to make healthy and tasty meals for their families.

We are working toward Bronze recognition through the Alliance for a Healthier Generation program and will find out by June if we will receive this honor.

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

Did you know that we have two new Los Angeles Universal Preschools (LAUP) in our District? LAUP offers preschool opportunities to four year old children who will be entering kindergarten the following school year. These beautiful new facilities are located at Eucalyptus and Zela Davis Schools.

Did you know I am grateful every day to work with the best staff anywhere? Our teachers and administrators work so hard to make sure all of our students are receiving a challenging, focused educational experience. Our classified staff makes sure our schools are clean and safe; our children are fed healthy nutritious meals; and all of our offices are welcoming and efficient.

There are so many more wonderful highlights in our District. I look forward to sharing many of them with you in future publications.

Hawthorne School District • 14120 S. Hawthorne Blvd, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-2276



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

¿Sabía usted que nuestro distrito abrió clases para pre-escolar por medio de LAUP (siglas en inglés) para niños de cuatro años que empezarán el Jardín de Infantes el próximo año. Estos magníficos planteles escolares están localizados en las escuelas Eucalyptus y Zela Davis.

¿Sabía usted que estoy muy agradecida de poder trabajar con el mejor personal posible? Nuestros maestros y administradores trabajan arduamente para asegurar que todos nuestros estudiantes reciban una óptima instrucción educativa. Nuestro personal clasificado se asegura que tengamos escuelas limpias y seguras; nuestros niños comen alimentos nutritivos; y todo nuestro personal de oficina es eficiente y cordial.

Estas son algunas de las maravillosas cosas que quiero destacar de nuestro Distrito. Espero poder compartir con ustedes muchas más en futuras publicaciones.

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~Stacy Sagowitz, R.D., General Manager 

Contest!!

This drawing is hidden somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the page number to:

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(Please put "Hawthorne" in the subject line)



Your entry must be received by May 15, 2011. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

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