

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 52

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2013

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Creating a Culture of Safety

Los Alamitos Unified School District hired a district safety consultant, Captain Don Farrell, who began on Monday, March 18, 2013.

Dr. Sherry Kropp

Captain Farrell retired after 33 years of law enforcement experience with the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Port Police, including leadership assignments in Threat Management, Terrorism Preparedness and Response, Tactical Planning, and Tactics Development. Captain Farrell has lived in our community since 1964 and graduated from Los Alamitos High School in 1973. He is passionate about this work and stated, "My goal is to help make our schools the safest in the country."

Captain Farrell has hit the ground running! The district's Safety Program will include an all-hazards threat assessment of each site with recommendations, from buildings to staffing, for improvement. He is updating our Safety Plans, which will be shared with all staff members. He will lead training and emergency drills at each site. He is also working with our Violence Prevention and Response Task Force to prioritize areas for improvement. While our schools are extremely safe and we are compliant with all rules and regulations, our commitment is to be exceptional.

Captain Farrell is producing a monthly newsletter, which will be shared with all stakeholders to educate us on effective strategies to improve campus safety. One such strategy is the recently created See Something, Say Something campaign and Safety Hotline—562-391-2193. Anyone

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 11

## The Arts Are Strong in Los Alamitos Unified

By Karen Russell,  
Board of Education Member

Los Alamitos Unified School District's motto, *Igniting Unlimited Possibilities for Students*, finds daily affirmation through the District's four A's — Academics, Athletics, Activities and the Arts. The District's Arts Education Program exemplifies the long-standing tradition of excellence in all of these areas, even while faced with economic struggles that have resulted in many

other districts cutting back or eliminating arts education programs. The Board of Education continues to make arts education a priority, and students can freely find access to high quality arts education programs. Arts education consistently leads to improved educational outcomes, increased attendance rates, and decreased discipline rates.

Talented students in Los Alamitos Unified showcase their abilities in instrumental music, chorus, dance, drama, and the visual arts. Nationally recognized, our bands, choir, and dance programs win numerous awards and national titles. *Parade Magazine* recently voted Los Alamitos High School "America's Favorite Show Choir." In addition, The Orange County Music and Arts Administrators and Orange County Department of Education recently honored Los Alamitos High School Choir Director, David Moellenkamp, as an Outstanding Arts Educator. This prestigious award recognizes the



All District Elementary Choir

accomplishments of teachers who make a difference in the lives of students through arts education. Our outstanding elementary and middle school choral programs play a key role preparing students for these high school programs.

Our instrumental music programs are also extremely strong! Most recently, Los Alamitos High School's Jazz 2 and Jazz 3 received first

place at the Brea Olinda High School Jazz Festival. The McAuliffe and Los Alamitos High School Jazz Bands and two all district combo bands recently took home trophies from the Reno Jazz Festival, and the Oak Jazz Band took home awards from the Monterey Jazz Festival. The color guard and drum line also took home trophies this past spring at the State Championship Finals.

Our Visual and Performing Arts Directors and students possess different talents, yet all share a strong determination to work hard, and they aspire to become the best. Arts education is an essential part of basic education for all students, preschool through high school, in Los Alamitos Unified School District. We believe in giving students multiple opportunities to develop their unique talents and to thrive in all four A's — Academics, Athletics, Activities, and the Arts.

## Starting Kindergarten

By Kelly Rowe  
Child Development Coordinator / Early Learning Specialist

If your child will be entering the school experience for the first time, it can be a little overwhelming for both parents and child. Here are some tips to calm separation anxiety in young children (and their parents) and make the transition from home to school easier.

Since children love familiarity and routine, getting into a school going groove can be especially helpful for kids starting kindergarten in the fall. A month or so before the start of school, take steps to make sure your child knows what to expect in school. Practice walking to school or driving your child to the school a couple of times each week, starting at first anytime during the day,

and then closer to the start of school, around the start of school time. This will help your child get familiar with the route and routine. Point out the signs, the speed hump, classrooms and any visible play equipment. Around the same time, start a consistent bedtime and wake-up routine to prepare them for their school day experience. Describe what will happen on the first day/read books and share your own memories of school. Talk about the songs you sang, books you liked, friends you made, etc. Don't ignore your child's fears but stay focused on the positive things. Don't allow your child to dwell on fears or imagination of what might happen. For example, if your child likes art, show them books about going to school where children are

See STARTING KINDERGARTEN • Page 11



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



Testing is over and the final days of this school year are coming to a close. Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

We thank our loyal advertisers for making it possible for us to publish the excellence from the LAUSD.

I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. We will begin again with our first issue in the new school year October 9. Until then, have a wonderful, fun summer and don't forget to include the library in your summer plans.

Happy 4th of July!

# School News

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**LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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# Los Alamitos Education Foundation

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## A Well-Deserved Recognition

By Janine Ingram, Executive Director

The Los Alamitos Education Foundation is the proud recipient of the distinguished 2013 "Heroes of the Heart" award, given on May 7 during the Board of Education meeting. Superintendent Dr. Sherry Kropp remarked that this year's selection was an easy one for her administrative team, as LAEF continues to grow and expand its services to benefit every student in the District.

Dr. Kropp further shared with attendees that LAEF funding has enabled the District to pilot-test new and innovative programs, several of which have led to dramatic grade-level improvements. LAEF Board President Randy Hill accepted the award on behalf of the Board and staff, most of whom were in attendance at the meeting.

Also announced during the meeting was *Newsweek* magazine's recent ranking of Los Alamitos High School as the 293rd best high school in the country, placing them in the top 1 percent. Clearly proud and excited, Dr. Kropp commented to the crowd that, "It's really a reflection of the great work of our teachers, support staff and students. It's really due to a dedicated effort toward achieving our goals."

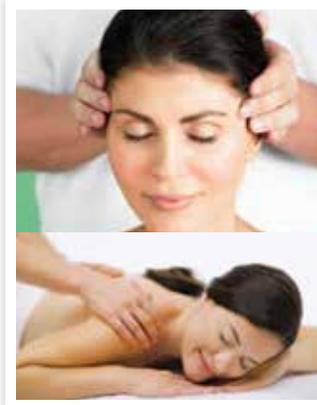
To learn more about how the LAEF supports every student in the Los Alamitos Unified School District, please visit [www.LAEF4kids.org](http://www.LAEF4kids.org).

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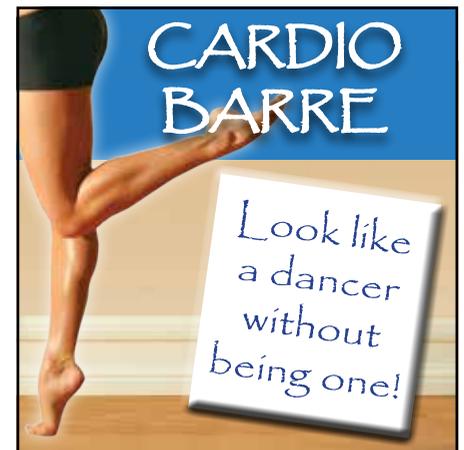
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# Hopkinson *Elementary*

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**Ondrea Reed**  
Principal

## Our Hukilau is a Huge Success!

The Hopkinson Hukilau, the school's largest fundraiser of the year, took place at the Old Ranch Country Club in late April. Over 300 Hopkinson parents attended the event, which is sponsored annually by the Friends of Hopkinson (the FOH).

This event is not only an evening for our parents to give back to the school financially, it is also a great opportunity for them to come together as a community. The evening is filled with silent and live auctions, as well as a sit-down dinner with dancing and entertainment. Big-ticket items this year during the live auction were a black Labrador puppy and a "Principal for the Day" prize, both going for over \$2,000 each.

The Hukilau brings in over \$100,000 to help support our Hopkinson programs, and it is a true testament to the strong home-to-school connection that is embedded in our school culture. The FOH has provided SmartBoards for every classroom, multiple iPad carts, and staffing in the media center. The group has also funded many enrichment programs at Hopkinson in previous years with monies from the Hukilau.

Our FOH is igniting unlimited possibilities for all the students at Hopkinson!



**Ondrea Reed, Principal and Hopkinson first grade student and Principal for the day, Maxine Russell.**

# Lee *Elementary*

11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • www.losal.org



**Robert Briggerman**  
Principal

## Keep Cognitively Fit This Summer

Summer is a great time to relax and enjoy spending time with family and friends. It's also a great time to make sure your child remains cognitively fit. Take a book with you to the beach. Spend some time at local museum while visiting with family out of state. Practice a foreign language when traveling abroad. There are all types of fun activities to keep the mind active during the summer months, and research shows that students transition to the next grade much more quickly and successfully when their minds have been actively engaged over the summer.

If you're looking for more formal learning activities, here are some ideas to consider.

This summer the Los Alamitos Educational Foundation ([www.laef4kids.org](http://www.laef4kids.org)) is offering a summer school program for all students. Grade-level enrichment courses will be offered to kindergarten through fifth-grade students. The Los Alamitos Unified School District summer school will be held at Rossmoor Elementary School for kindergarten through fifth-grade students in need of extra support.

In addition, the Lee Elementary School Web site has information to help keep your child actively engaged at home. Endless learning opportunities are available for students through Parks and Recreation Department classes and individual student camps. In addition, many local colleges and universities provide summer learning programs for elementary students. This is a perfect time for students to explore curricula of specific interest to them.

No matter what your summer plans are, keeping students cognitively active as part of your routine will support a healthy transition to the next grade level.

# Laurel *High School*

10291 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4820 • www.losal.org



**Heidi Olshan**  
Principal

## Celebrating Our Success

At Laurel High School, we celebrate student achievement. We are proud of our very own Brian Chia, who represented the Los Alamitos Unified School District (ACSA Region 17) when he won the Every Student Succeeding Award. Brian was nominated for this award because of his academic accomplishments despite some personal challenges.

Brian is just one example of the many Laurel students who come to school each and every day to pursue their individual goals and experience how it feels to be successful. As this school



**"Every Student Succeeding" Awards Breakfast.**

year inches closer to June, Laurel students will have lots to celebrate. We are planning to recognize all of our graduating seniors with a special dinner in their honor, we have our final cycle award to recognize individual student accomplishments, and we are all looking forward to the sweetest celebration of all—June graduation!

# Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • www.losal.org



**Dr. Sunghie Okino**  
Principal

## What LAE Means to Us

*By Fernanda Flores, Lucinda Marvel and Blake Ravelo, Student Speech Winners*

"I love Los Alamitos Elementary School (LAE)!" said Fernanda. "I love it here so much that I am sad to move on to middle school...Every teacher that I had was awesome!... Everyone is magnificent, but most importantly, everyone is a true friend. They are loyal, trustworthy, and very friendly. This is what makes me want to stay at LAE."

Lucinda added, "LAE is not just a school to me; it is also like a home—a place where I know that people will be kind and fair, understanding and appreciative—a place where I know that people won't just fill my bucket, they will overflow it... If I had to pick one word to describe LAE, it would be family, because if you're either playing on the playground or eating at the lunch tables, whether it's a staff member or a student, they make you feel welcome, and that's important because if you don't feel welcome you can't have a family."



**(front row) Speech winners Lucinda Marvel, Blake Ravelo, and Fernanda Flores with family members at School Board Meeting Held at LAE.**

Blake shared, "We say, 'LAE is the place to be!' and it really is... I have had six teachers here at school. I truly cannot share which one would be my favorite because I love them all! They are so kind, and I never mind coming to school. I actually look forward to it! The teachers are always so prepared for their lessons. They always seem to know just what to do, and I am never bored."

# McAuliffe *Middle School*

4112 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • www.losal.org



**Ann Allen**  
Principal

## Team McAuliffe

On an overcast morning in April, over 160 McAuliffe Middle School students, staff members, friends, and family members participated in the 39th Annual Seal Beach 5K/10 Run/Walk. Yes, you read that right, over 160!



Thanks to generous donations from local businesses, Team McAuliffe showed their enthusiasm with custom-made shirts. The McAuliffe blue was the largest team at this year's great community event. The race is a great way to get fit while hanging out with friends. And some students enjoyed a little friendly competition with their classmates and teachers. A few were even fast enough to run away with some medals as top finishers.

Thank you to the Seal Beach 10K committee, which is 100-percent dedicated to running an amazing event and showing terrific community support by granting over \$1 million. What a great community we live and work in!

# Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • www.losal.org



**Joshua Arnold**  
Principal

## #CST2013

If you type in "#CST2013" on your Instagram app right now, pictures of Los Al students studying for their upcoming exams is what you'll see. In fact, it's pictures like these that we're looking for to help build awareness (and fun) surrounding this year's Testing Season.

It wasn't until Instagram sold their company to Facebook last year for a cool \$1 Billion that people really started noticing how easy it is to share photos. Now, with the advent of "tagging" pictures to increase their search/find capabilities, schools and businesses across the country are creating Photo Contests to promote all kinds of special events.

For Los Al, we're using Instagram to promote studying for CSTs & APs... and the five winning photo takers will gain themselves a ticket to next year's Winter Formal!!!

So, whether students snap a photo of one of their teachers wearing our new "LEAVE YOUR LEGACY" t-shirts, or they post a pic of one of their friends leading an in-class review session, they'll all be helping to build awareness around one of the most critical times in schools — Testing Season.

Of course, all of these photos are available on Instagram right now for anyone to view and share with others. Just type in "#CST2013" to find them. The more pictures we get posted, the more we are contributing to a healthy culture of testing. One in which we "test our best" as a community, not just individuals.

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# McGaugh *Elementary*

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**Bill MacDonald**  
Principal

## Leaping Into 21st Century Learning

There is no denying the fact that we live in an increasingly digital age. Many researchers are calling our children “digital natives,” as they are the first generation to grow up in our wireless, high-tech society. As educators, we believe it is important to capitalize on their fluency with technology to enhance their learning and prepare them for a technologically driven world.

The new Common Core Standards stress the importance of digital literacy, and many educational experts predict a move to digital textbooks in the next five years. McGaugh School is embracing this paradigm next year by launching a 1:1 iPad program in the fourth grade.



This means that every student will have a tablet computer fully integrated into their instruction all day. The technology will be used as a tool to enhance instruction through applications, active research, the use of multimedia, and real-time assessment and feedback.

# Rossmoor *Elementary*

3272 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4520 • www.losal.org



**Kiva Spiratos**  
Principal

## Mentors of Culture

Rossmoor Elementary has a culture of Friday spirit assemblies where the students come together as a family and meet community members, parents with interesting and influential occupations, book authors, police officers, fire fighters and more. This year, Rossmoor even had the mayor of the city of Long Beach come speak to the children.

Having this opportunity to see and connect with real-world mentors who share the importance of an education and passion for reading provides purpose to building the leaders of our future. One spectacular group of mentors who recently spoke with the children was the Veterans Association, who demonstrated the prestigious ceremony of retiring an American flag. Several war veterans gathered at Rossmoor to share the history and majestic story behind our nation's flag, also known as the Star Spangled Banner, Old Glory and the Betsy Ross. The particular flag shared on



this day was an antique with only 48 stars. The ceremony practice is to cut the flag into 13 strips of fabric and burn each strip individually in the fire while reciting the date the original 13 colonies were admitted into the union. This experience was a practice in pride for our great nation and a memorable day for Rossmoor and our veteran friends.

# Oak *Middle School*

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • www.losal.org



**Sally Neiser**  
Principal

## The 'STEM' of 21st-Century Skills

*Stem*—noun: a supporting structure;  
verb: to arise or originate

*STEM*—an acronym for the fields of study in the categories of science, technology, engineering and mathematics

With the importance of becoming increasingly competitive in our global society, Oak Middle School students are enticed by and challenged with STEM curriculum opportunities, including access to technological tools and resources infused into every subject area. The modernization of our school's physical plant includes new science labs and classrooms designed to maximize the use of state-of-the art technology.

Our students are also exposed to related careers through Career Day and field-trip opportunities. Recent trips have included the Ocean Institute in Dana Point; Space X, just before they launched their first mission to the International Space Station; and Boeing's Satellite, Space and Intelligence division.

The Los Alamitos Unified School District and Oak provide another advantage as our students learn 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills by supporting a thriving music and arts program. Brain research indicates that the arts greatly contribute to the acquisition, retention and communication of knowledge. Studies also report a strong correlation between arts education and improvements in math scores, reading fluency, increased focus and attention, and working memory.

In fact, the necessity of innovation and creativity fueling our progress has spawned a revised acronym, STEAM, in which the *A* stands for “Arts.” With nearly all of our students involved in a technical or arts elective, Oak continues to pursue the highest levels of learning for all students, thus providing truly unlimited opportunities for their future. We are moving “full STEAM ahead”!

# Weaver *Elementary*

11872 Wembley Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4580 • www.losal.org



**Erin Kominsky**  
Principal

## Opening the Doors to Learning

Weaver teachers have opened their classroom doors to nearly 300 visitors this year. Fellow teachers and administrators from throughout California have come to Weaver to learn about our best practices. The Cotsen Foundation for the Art of Teaching organizes teacher visitations in the area of Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI), Guided Reading, Language Walls, Literature Studies, and Inquiry based Science. Weaver teachers have graciously welcomed colleagues to visit, watch, and learn.



**Cotsen fellows taking photos of our student learning walls.**

After every demonstration lesson, the Foundation provides time for our visitors to debrief with our teachers. It is exciting to watch our teachers ignite the passion in others. Weaver teachers are not only making a difference for our students, but they are also making a difference for teachers throughout the State. Way to go Weaver teachers!!

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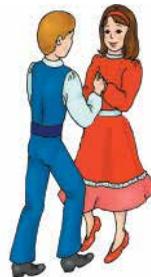
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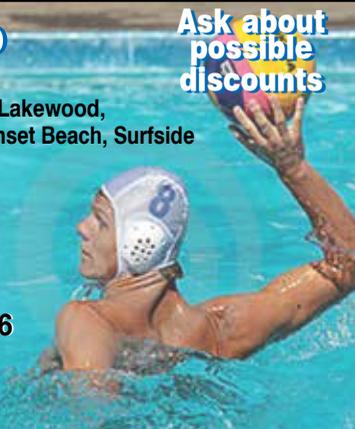
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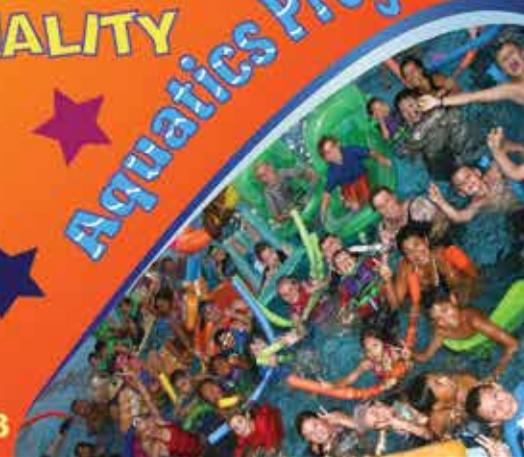
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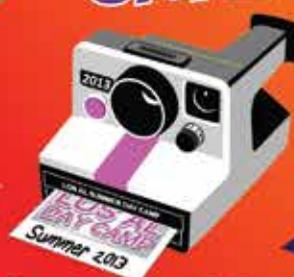
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## 'Gently Down the Stream'—Not!



Emily Harris

Emily Harris comes from Rossmoor, where she attends Los Alamitos High School. She began rowing in the fall of 2009 and currently competes for Head Coach Alfredo Montenegro and the Long Beach Junior Crew Club. Emily's most memorable race to date was piling 26th out of 85 boats in the Junior 8+ at the 2012 Head of the Charles Regatta. She participated in most sports and activities like soccer, swimming, Junior Lifeguards, softball and dance.

Her best sport by far was softball, and she made All-Star every year she played. She had good speed for her size and hit with power and pitched, but she just didn't enjoy it. Her father, Mike Harris, suggested she try rowing because

of her size and love of the ocean, and it worked out. She has been to the very prestigious Head of the Charles in Boston twice and has rowed for four years with the very successful Long Beach Junior Crew Team. She has always done well in school and is always on the honor roll.

Emily has been recruited by Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and will be rowing for them next year. However, it was not an easy road for her. Beyond on-water rowing performance with the Long Beach Junior Crew, a high school coach's recommendation, height and weight, and erg score can mean the difference between getting recruited and accepted to the college of your choice or missing the cut. Rowing-machine scores are the one piece of data that coaches can accurately use to make a comparison between a rower and every other potential recruit. Therefore, the lower a machine score, the better the

chance of being recruited to the college or university of your choice. With this in mind, Powerhouse Fitness offers personalized ergometer-training programs to help rowers meet and exceed their specific ergometer goals.

### 'Erging' On the Rower

Emily started training and rowing with Powerhouse Fitness in Long Beach beginning in 2011, with one goal in mind: to get faster on the rowing machine. One-on-one coaching at Powerhouse Fitness is result driven and within the recruiting process. College coaches have certain criteria, specifically ergometer Concept 2 rowing-machine scores, that they use to identify potential recruits. Coaches are not shy about letting an athlete know which erg score they require the athlete to be at or under in order to be seriously considered for the recruiting process. With this in mind, one-on-one coaching at Powerhouse Fitness provided structure, guidance and support to help Emily meet and exceed the requested and required goals.

Powerhouse Fitness helps create programs to help athletes achieve their personal bests for ergometer testing. We realize that college programs look at a variety of stats on the ergometer, and thus we can help students prepare for any and all testing distances and types that a college coach may ask for, whether they're 500m, 2k, 6k, 10k, 1-minute power test, or max-wattage power test. Through assessment, goal setting and the proper implementation of training, Powerhouse Fitness, along with Long Beach Junior Crew, worked with Emily in order to improve her performance to the level necessary to be considered for the recruiting process at LMU.

Jack Nunn/Owner, Powerhouse Fitness Center, 5750 Boathouse Lane, Long Beach, CA 90803  
562/688-1716, www.powerhousefit.com.

# Leadership Word Search Contest

**Rules!!!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put LAUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by July 30, 2013  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished  | Organized      |
| Caring        | Powerful       |
| Confident     | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model     |
| Drive         | Strong Willed  |
| Enthusiastic  | Suitable       |
| Focused       | Teamwork       |
| Independent   | Trustworthy    |
| Initiative    | Understanding  |
| Intelligent   |                |

**Congratulations to Kaylie Nguyen**  
**Winner of the April Word Search Contest!**

### Word Search by Gunnar Coop

Y	O	G	T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K	H	F	T	L
Q	T	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I	X	T	U
G	N	I	R	A	C	V	G	D	T	F	B	D	N	F
D	E	D	L	D	R	I	V	E	U	A	A	E	E	R
Z	L	N	X	I	J	T	F	C	J	Y	C	Z	G	E
P	C	A	E	L	B	A	T	I	U	S	C	I	I	W
D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	L	O
I	B	S	X	G	W	T	S	U	F	B	M	A	L	P
A	B	R	Q	V	J	I	Z	N	M	I	P	G	E	D
T	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	O	K	L	R	T	N
P	I	D	P	K	R	I	G	S	T	P	I	O	N	L
E	I	N	E	N	T	H	U	S	I	A	S	T	I	C
T	R	U	S	T	W	O	R	T	H	Y	H	E	K	F
T	S	T	R	O	N	G	W	I	L	L	E	D	R	T
V	G	O	Y	N	R	O	L	E	M	O	D	E	L	D



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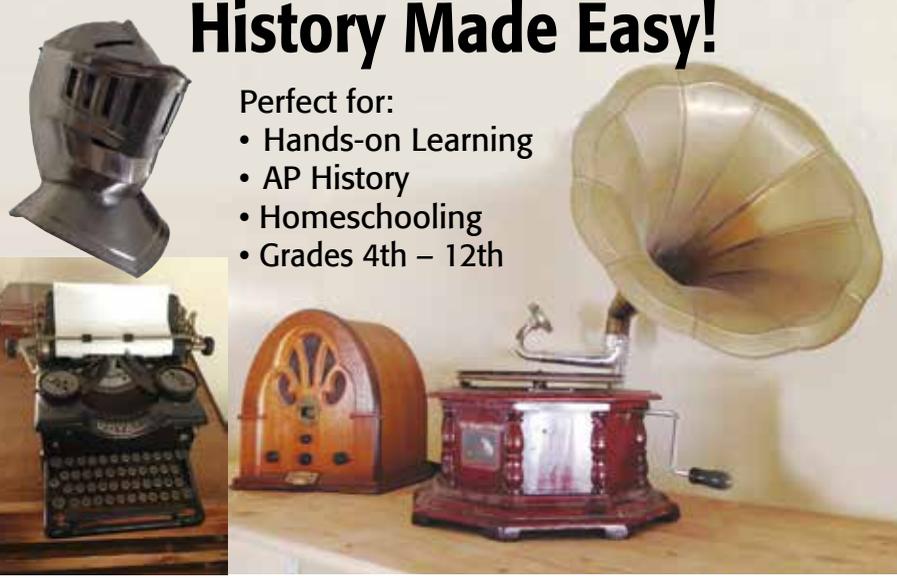
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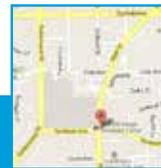
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## How to Avoid Foreclosure Scams



**CathyLyn Brooks**

Last year, the Federal Trade Commission halted a business that promised distraught owners they could find defects in their loan documents that would make foreclosure impossible. With \$2,000 to \$3,000 upfront, they pledged to study the loan papers and discover irregularities that would stop foreclosure proceedings.

Sadly, there are many variations of scammers like this. The authorities cannot keep up with them all and homeowners must be on guard and seek out reputable assistance.

Should you find yourself in a foreclosure situation, here are some guidelines that will help you.

- Beware of promises. If they claim a special relationship with lenders, offer a money-back guarantee, or say they can stop your foreclosure now, run – do not walk – away from them. No one can make a guarantee such as this.
- Do not let anyone persuade you to stop making your mortgage payments. This will likely not work and will certainly damage your credit which will only make things worse.
- Do not be fooled by letterheads and logos that are designed to look like they are associated with a government agency. Look closely at all offers to help.
- Watch out for attorneys that make promises or try to lure you into hiring them. Look into the background of anyone who is going to help you by researching them with the Bar Association and your Better Business Bureau. A lawyer representing a party in California, for example, must be licensed to practice in California. And they can be a help. Just beware of those charging large sums up front.
- Never sign your property over to another person in the hopes of dealing with a foreclosure.
- And never, ever make payments to someone other than your lender.

If you need some assistance navigating the waters of a foreclosure situation, here are some places you can obtain legitimate help.

Free counseling agencies are available through the Department of Housing and Urban Development at <http://www.hud.gov> or the Homeownership Preservation Foundation at <http://www.995hope.com>.

You can report scammers to the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force at <http://www.stopfraud.gov>, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at <http://www.cfpb.gov>, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law at <http://www.preventloanscams.org> or to your state attorney general's office.

The Federal Trade Commission is another consumer watchdog and they are found at (<http://www.ftc.gov>).

CathyLyn Brooks has been a local real estate broker since 1980, earning the advanced credentials of Certified Residential Specialist and Graduate Realtor through advanced education and sales volume. She has completed the American Bar Association's approved Paralegal certification and is an instructor at UCI in the Paralegal program. She also teaches real estate related courses in the extension program. The NASD, the NYSE, and the National Futures Organization have appointed her as a public arbitrator. Her degree is in finance and marketing from the University of Southern California. CathyLyn is affiliated with Main Steet Realtors and can be reached at: 562/719-2530 or [cathylyn@earthlink.net](mailto:cathylyn@earthlink.net) Consumers should seek legal tax advice from professionals in each field.

## Common Core State Standards (CCSS)



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

The mission of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is to provide a consistent, clear understanding of the knowledge and skills that young people need to master by the end of high school. Many stakeholders in 46 states worked on the standards in English language arts and mathematics to be certain that time spent in the classroom results in students who are ready for college and career.

In addition to academic content, the Common Core State Standards provide a description of 21st Century cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills that work in tandem with the rigorous content standards. These skills focus on the "Habits of Mind" – mental competencies that students develop to be successful in a rapidly changing world. Attributes such as independence, valuing evidence, understanding other perspectives, perseverance, precision, and constructing viable arguments are developed as students learn the academic content.

### Schools Begin by Fostering "Habits of Mind"

Educators throughout Orange County are designing learning environments that focus on building knowledge through content-rich text, writing, and text-based discussions grounded in research. As they acquire content knowledge, students will use critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation. In your child's classroom, you will see students who can demonstrate independence, value evidence, and are able to understand as well as critique complex material. Students will come to understand different perspectives and cultures. They will use technology and digital media strategically and capably.

In mathematical practices, students will be able to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. They will reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments, and analyze the reasoning of others.

### Parents' Role in Implementing the Common Core "Habits of Mind"

Parents play a key role in supporting their child's development of 21st Century competencies, or "Habits of Mind." Parents can begin by setting high expectations and supporting their child in meeting them. If a child needs extra help, or wants to learn more about a subject, parents and teachers can work together to identify opportunities to extend learning and find additional resources.

Other things parents can do to help their child develop the Common Core "Habits of Mind" include the following:

- Provide a wide range of reading materials, both fiction and information text, and discuss what they read.
- Ask them to share daily work and discuss what they are learning.
- Explore what ignites their curiosity.
- Talk with the teacher and help assess progress.

As we move forward together on this exciting path to transforming education across America, I am confident that with Common Core State Standards implementation, Orange County students will graduate from high school prepared with the knowledge, skills, and personal attributes needed to become successful in college and careers.

For additional resources to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards, visit [www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA](http://www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA).

### Los Alamitos Unified School District Board of Education



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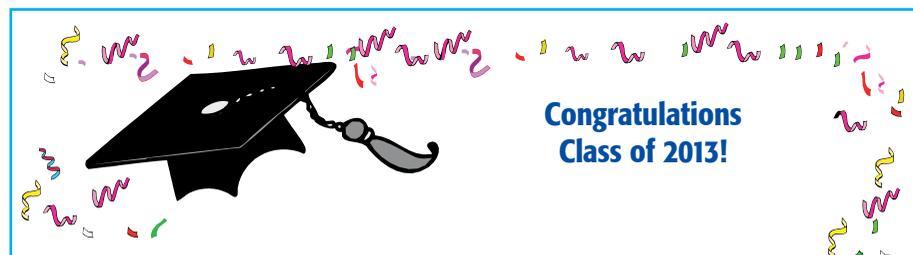
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**Captain, Don Farrell and Superintendent, Dr. Sherry Kropp.**

can report anything they think we should know about to improve safety, from a tripping hazard to incidents of bullying. Captain Farrell will check the hotline for messages on a daily basis. Callers can remain anonymous or leave contact information if they want Don Farrell to get back to them. People should still call 911 for emergencies, but for issues that are important but not urgent, this hotline is a perfect addition to our culture of safety.

In addition to the safety hotline, the district has hired an elementary counselor and is working with the cities of Los Alamitos and Seal Beach on a joint project to hire a School Resource Officer (SRO) for Los Alamitos High School. An SRO is police officer specifically trained to work on school campuses. Other projects being discussed include better fencing, security cameras, panic buttons, additional campus supervisors, and the use of volunteers.

District safety will remain an ongoing focus for years to come. Each year, we will make improvements to ensure that our students can learn in an environment that is safe, nurturing, and conducive to outstanding achievement and involvement in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts.

Captain Farrell can be reached at [dfarrell@losal.org](mailto:dfarrell@losal.org).

## LAUSD Child Development Center

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**Kelly Rowe**  
Child Development  
Coordinator /  
Early Learning  
Specialist

### STARTING KINDERGARTEN • From Page 1

painting or doing crafts. You can also use a fictional character (Elmo, Dora or Superman) and talk about how they might handle the concern or fear that your child is thinking about. While you are out in the neighborhood or parks, help your child meet other children going to the same class or school. Arrange some play dates and give your child lots of time to interact with other children their age.

Go to the library and check out books about preparing for Kindergarten with books such as:

*The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn

*Owl Babies: Candlewick Storybook Animations*

by Martin Waddell

*The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst

*Llama Llama Misses Mama* by Anna Dewdney

*I Love You All Day Long* by Francesca Rusackas

*I Am Too Absolutely Small for School* (Charlie and Lola)

by Lauren Child

*First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg

*D.W.'s Guide to Preschool* (Arthur Adventures)

by Marc Brown

*Franklin Goes to School* by Paulette Bourgeois

*Maisy Goes to Preschool: A Maisy First Experiences Book* by Lucy Cousins

*My First Day at Nursery School* by Becky Edwards

*Kindergarten Rocks!* by Katie Davis

*Annabelle Swift, Kindergartner* by Amy Schwartz

For any questions or help with preparing your child for kindergarten, you are welcome to contact me at [krowe@losal.org](mailto:krowe@losal.org) for more information or help.

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