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School News



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**Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District
and the communities of Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, Seal Beach and Sunset Beach**

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OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2012

Educational Services



Educational Services in Los Alamitos Unified School District

With the school year just beginning and students and teachers returning, Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD) is filled with great anticipation!

Mark Johnson
Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

It is a time when we all look forward to working together to improve the life of each and every student in this district. In addition, there is great excitement and reflection as California Standards Test (CST) results are released and shared with all stakeholders. In Los Al, we are proud to announce that we continue to blaze a trail of excellence in student learning as, once again, we see an increase in overall test scores in the four content areas tested, something we should all take pride in and celebrate! Overall changes in achievement (percent of students scoring proficient or advanced) are summarized on the chart on page 8.

While there is so much to be grateful for in our district, such as our amazingly talented teachers, our students who come to school every day ready to learn, and our tremendously supportive parents and community, continued improvement in student learning remains our top priority! In 2012–2013, we are diligently working toward the ambitious goals of every student scoring proficient or advanced on the CSTs, successfully completing algebra in eighth grade, completing the California State University/University of California A–G entrance requirements upon high school graduation,

SEE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES • PAGE 8

Celebrating PEACE



Hopkinson Huskies "Put the Bullies to Bed"

By Ondrea Reed, Principal Hopkinson Elementary

The Huskies at Hopkinson Elementary School kicked off the school year with a weeklong celebration of People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone (PEACE). PEACE Week took place September 10–14 across the Los Alamitos Unified School District. The purpose of this week was to promote peaceful interactions among students on and off school grounds, to encourage important life-long behaviors, such as responsibility, respect and courage, and to deter any bully-type behavior from transpiring among students.

Classrooms participated in school-wide bonding activities, which began on Monday when Huskies came to

SEE HOPKINSON • PAGE 5

School Safety



The Bullying Prevention Task Force recently recommended the celebration of People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone (PEACE) Week.

*By Amber Lee-Ruiz
Director Educational Services, LAUSD*

One of our highest priorities in Los Alamitos Unified School District is to ensure a healthy, safe and drug-free environment for every student. Over the last four years, the district has established two separate task forces, the Substance Abuse Task Force and the Bullying Prevention Task Force, both of which have had a tremendous impact on our overall safe schools program. Each of the aforementioned groups was extremely inclusive and consisted of parents, teachers, staff, administration, law enforcement, and community

SEE SCHOOL SAFETY • PAGE 8

P.E.A.C.E Week



Rossmoor Elementary students dressed with specific spirit days and created messages to support P.E.A.C.E Week.

Inside: SB Animal Care Center page 2 • LAUSD Child Development Center, Los Alamitos Educational Foundation page 3
Real Estate Matters page 4 • Schools pages 5–7 • AHA page 9 • Do the Math! page 10 • Word Search page 10

Seal Beach Animal Care Center

1700 Adolfo Lopez Drive, Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/430-4993 • www.sbacc.org

Moving With A Cat

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

Having moved a few times with a few different cats, I have taken notice to what works best for me and the cat when I move.

When you begin your move, make sure to place the cat in a familiar room with familiar smells while you prepare boxes, clothes, and furniture for your move. Be sure to play quiet music in the room, as well. Once you begin to load things into your car or truck, be sure to load the cat last into a carrier. Make sure to place something that the cat likes in the carrier for security.

Once you arrive at your new home, bring the cat inside and get it situated before you start moving your things in. If it's a short move, you may be able to



A room with a closed door or a cat playpen offer security and comfort during the move-in process.

bring the cat's things over ahead of time. If not, select a room in the new home for the cat. Make sure the windows are closed and the door to the room closes securely. Putting the cat's familiar things in a room and creating a safe environment will allow your cat to feel comfortable and secure. You can also use diffusers with feline-friendly scents in the room to give it that happy cat smell. Most cats will relax quickly, and you can begin to move your things into your new home. Be sure that your cat is secure in a room and keep the doors closed until the moving is done. Cats adapt well to new places once they have a little time to settle in.



Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



School is in full swing and students have settled into their routines. As always we are excited with the news from the schools. P.E.A.C.E. Week (People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone) is highlighted throughout this issue.

In the Los Alamitos Educational Foundation article on page 3, Janine Ingram says the Foundation has a new re-energized vision and contagious energy. As school districts continue to struggle with providing a quality education with less funds, community support is needed more than ever. Thank you for all you do.

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High-Quality Preschool



Kelly Rowe
Child Development
Coordinator /
Early Learning
Specialist

All preschool programs are not created equal. In order to know if the preschool program you have chosen is a high-quality one, check for the following factors.

Does the preschool follow developmentally appropriate curriculum and practices based on knowledge of the stages of child development? The preschool should emphasize several aspects: active exploration of the environment; self-directed and hands-on learning activities; a balance between individual and group activities; regular and supportive interaction with well-trained teachers; positive interaction with peers; and a balance between active movement and quiet activities.

Research shows that the young child learn best through active, engaged, and meaningful learning. Children should be allowed and encouraged to manipulate real objects and learn through hands-on, direct experiences. The curriculum should also provide opportunities for children to explore, reflect, interact, and communicate with other children and adults.

There should be use of varied instructional strategies to meet the learning needs of all children. In this type of environment, children with various learning styles can develop and view learning in many new ways. There should be a balance between teacher-directed and child-directed activities. Teacher-directed activities involve the teacher as a facilitator who models learning strategies or gives guided instruction in a large- or small-group setting. Child-directed activities allow the child to be responsible for his or her own learning through play and direct experiences.

An integrated curriculum combines many subject areas into a cohesive unit of study that is meaningful to children. Quality programs use a thematic approach, which motivates children to investigate interesting ideas from several perspectives and becomes a catalyst for developing concepts, generalization, and skills.

SEE LAUSD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS • PAGE 6

Be a Hero for Education!

By Janine Ingram, Executive Director

You might have noticed something new while driving around the communities of Los Alamitos, Rossmoor and Seal Beach: the new LAEF banners which are proudly hanging at our 10 district campuses.

But the Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) is not new. It has been a part of this community since 1986, when the old Los Alamitos Unified Educational Foundation was classified as a tax-exempt public charity in order to raise funds for the Los Alamitos High School Performing Arts Center.

Since that time, many volunteers have worked hard to make sure that "the Foundation can help fund other major initiatives in partnership with the Los Alamitos Unified School District.

But what is new is our re-energized vision and contagious energy! We also have a renewed commitment to work at superhero strength to help create and fund new and existing initiatives, ones that will keep our students energized with the most innovative enrichment opportunities available. We even have new ways to increase targeted teacher instruction to provide additional help in critical subjects.

The Foundation also finds new ways to help foster and sponsor activities that enrich the overall student experience. It even provides additional scholarship opportunities so that our students can have extended enrichment experiences.

So are you ready to be a hero for education? We need donors, sponsors and leaders who can commit their time and talents as board or committee members, as well as LAEF volunteers for exciting new events in 2013. We need you!

Are you ready to answer the call? Please see www.LAEF4kids.org for more information.

Are you ready to be
a hero for education?

Please see

www.LAEF4kids.org
for more information.



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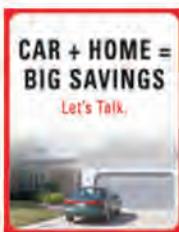
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Real Estate Matters

Unemployed?



CathyLyn Brooks

Got a home loan to pay? Read this Now!

These are tough times we are living in...the worst I have seen. If you are not unemployed, I am certain that you know someone who is. I am meeting far too many who are searching for work — only to find literally hundreds of applicants for every position.

Not surprisingly, statistics show that nearly 10% of late payments on Freddie Mac mortgages are tied to unemployment.

Earlier this year, Freddie Mac announced that unemployed homeowners may be eligible for up to 12 months of forbearance.

“Forbearance” is the legal terminology for “giving you a break.” In other words, you may be able to hold off making your mortgage payments for up to one year.

In doing so, Fannie Mae does not pursue their rights to foreclosure during the time period. As such, unemployed borrowers are eligible for six months of forbearance without Freddie Mac’s prior approval, and to an additional 6 months grace, with prior approval.

It is hoped that these expanded forbearance periods will provide homeowners more time to locate employment.

If you or someone you know can benefit from this type of assistance, contact me and I will put you in touch with a lender who is familiar with this program.

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 Street Realtors and can be reached at: 562/719-2530 or cathylyn@earthlink.net Consumers should seek legal and tax advice from professionals in each field



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Hopkinson *Elementary*

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Andrea Reed
Principal

Celebrating PEACE (continued from the front page)

school in their pajamas to “Put the Bullies to Bed” and ended on Friday with a show of unity as classes dressed in the colors of the rainbow to celebrate the “Colors of Diversity.” Parent volunteers were on campus during lunch to lead students in a PEACE path art activity, as well as a writing reflections project.

Fifth-grade conflict managers led school-wide flag ceremonies to promote the week’s activities and share messages of kindness and courage. These student leaders led all Huskies in a chant: “Kindness counts and bucket filling’s cool. That’s what we expect at Hopkinson School!”

Los Alamitos *Elementary*

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



Dr. Sunghie Okino
Principal

A Human Rainbow

Los Alamitos Elementary School (LAE) was the place to be on Friday, September 14, as student scholars capped a weeklong celebration of People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone (PEACE) by creating a school rainbow with 718 students. Grade levels dressed in red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple and created a human rainbow demonstrating the school’s unity in promoting peace. Dr. Okino, the principal, decided to wear every color of the rainbow and sported one green sock, one red sock, an orange shirt, a blue skirt, a yellow scarf, and a purple vest.

“PEACE Week was a great way to highlight our bucket-filling initiative at LAE and to take a stand against bullying,” said Dr. Okino.

The school continues its emphasis on being scholars who fill each other’s invisible buckets with positive comments and interactions, sending the message that everyone matters.



LAE Scholars Create Human Rainbow to Honor P.E.A.C.E. Week.

Laurel *High School*

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



Heidi Olshan
Principal

Positive Energy

The Laurel High School Knights have gotten off to a fabulous start this school year! I am so proud of the positive energy exhibited by our teachers and support staff in preparing for this new academic year. As the newest principal at Laurel, I have been particularly impressed with our student body. Each student I interviewed told me virtually the same thing, “I love this school because we are one big family. Everyone who works here cares about the students and has high expectations of us academically. Laurel is the reason I get up in the morning and come to school.” With comments like that, who wouldn’t want to lead Laurel High School?

We celebrated People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone (PEACE) Week beginning September 12. Our leadership class planned and coordinated activities during nutrition to complement the educational components of PEACE Week. This week of events was an outgrowth of one of the Los Alamitos Unified School District priorities: “to ensure a healthy, safe, and drug free environment.” Laurel’s participation included daily written lessons and discussion topics in our English and history classes which explored themes of tolerance, racial tension, and opportunities for all, regardless of race, religion, disabilities, or personal choices. Our Laurel students took their “show on the road” during PEACE Week and headed to McGaugh Elementary School, where they partnered with students with autism in the Special Education program. Our stellar film and video students were on hand to capture the events as well.

Lee *Elementary*

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



Robert Briggerman
Principal

Under Construction!

This is an exciting year, as our facilities are being fully renovated. Our theme for the year is “Under Construction: Building a New Foundation for Learning,” reflecting our commitment to provide not only a literal new foundation, but also layering in those strategies which will arm students with unlimited opportunities for success in a 21st-century global economy.

The primary years are a time for growth, challenge, and discovery. We are proud to offer students solid foundational experiences in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts. I look forward to working with the Lee Elementary School family in developing academic achievement, risk-taking skills, and self-advocacy in all students. As life beyond the classroom is also of primary importance, the staff is committed to

supporting students in attaining social and emotional wellness. I am proud to be the principal of such a talented, caring staff that emphasizes excellence and a commitment to continual improvement.

I firmly believe that a strong home/school partnership is the cornerstone of student success. I invite you to fully participate in your child’s education and look forward to the opportunity to work with you.



School News



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I "Heart" Los Al (please see Los Alamitos High School article below)

Los Alamitos *High School*

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



I 'Heart' Los Al

With the start of the 2012–13 school year, Los Alamitos High School is proud to introduce iHeartLosAl, an effort to continue the strong bonds between Los Al High and the community it serves.

From our academics and athletics to activities and the arts, everyone who has a hand in the success of our school has a reason to "heart" Los Al. Throughout the year, we'll be creating opportunities for students, staff, alumni and families to demonstrate why they love Los Al.

Joshua Arnold
Principal

With the launch of www.iheartlosal.com, visitors will be able to submit a two-minute video explaining what it is about Los Al they "heart" so much. The top 10 videos will be judged by a panel, and winners will receive scholarships in January.

There's so much to love about Los Alamitos High School...and we can't wait to see what our community comes up with!

LAUSD CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS • FROM PAGE 3

Learning centers, independent stations set up throughout the classroom, provide children with the opportunity to choose and become responsible for their own learning, to cooperate with others, to do real-life problem solving, and to engage successfully in an activity at their developmental or skill level. Adequate time for outside play provides children with additional opportunities to engage in learning activities.

Preschools which meet all these criteria offer a rich learning experience for your child. An understanding that each child is unique and each child's experiences must match his or her developmental abilities is critical to a successful preschool experience.

The Los Alamitos Child Development Center has all these aspects and many more to provide a successful transition from toddlerhood to kindergarten. If you are looking for a wonderful preschool experience for your three- or four-year-old, feel free to contact us at (562) 799-4585 for more information.

McAuliffe *Middle School*

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



Dennis Sackett
Principal

Our Own P.E.A.C.E. Summit

P.E.A.C.E. Week (People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone) took place at McAuliffe for one week in September. Students and staff were actively engaged in daily quotes related to "respect, responsibility, courage and care." Students registered over a thousand acts of kindness during lunch. They started a drive to raise funds for Casa Youth Shelter. The eighth-grade history class students made banners of tribute to Los Alamitos firefighters, police officers and military personnel. Language arts teachers taught lessons on the LAUSD District antibullying curriculum called "Too Good for Violence."



Students working at the "Random Act of Kindness Table" at lunch.

We were all awed by the energy and the level of participation of students and staff. As a result of P.E.A.C.E. Week, random acts of kindness are modeled throughout the school district, setting a positive tone for the entire school year. It was a wonderful experience. Thank you, McAuliffe staff and students.

McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • www.losal.org



Bill MacDonald
Principal

Giving Peace a Chance!

McGaugh School celebrated its first annual P.E.A.C.E. week on September 10-14, and it set a strong tone of character and right action for the new school year.

During this week (which stands for “People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone”), our students participated in daily school assemblies that focused on responsibility, respect, courage, standing up to bullies, and recognizing and appreciating individual differences. Throughout the campus the students also took part in activities such as role-playing, lessons in character building and special readings that supported the week’s goals.

On Friday, the entire week culminated in a “Come Walk in My Shoes” event. This was a series of stations that allowed each student to experience what life is like with various disabilities, including deafness, use of a wheelchair, poor motor control, and speech and language disorders.

The students also had the honor to hear artist Robert Thome talk about overcoming his spinal cord injury, and the resulting paralysis, to become an internationally recognized mouth painter. It was a remarkable week of learning for our students, teachers and community.



Rossmoor *Elementary*

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



Kiva Spiratos
Principal

P.E.A.C.E. Week at Rossmoor

Each new school year brings about new excitement, new friends and new relationships. So this year, Rossmoor and the entire Los Alamitos School District dedicated September 10-14 as P.E.A.C.E. Week. This stands for “People Exhibiting Acceptance and Compassion for Everyone.”

This special week was a great jumpstart to the new school year. It provided an opportunity to incorporate lessons from our anti-bullying and acceptance curriculum known as “Too Good for Violence.” Our P.E.A.C.E lessons involved teaching students the language and interactions they need to use whenever they feel frustrated and hurt by the words and actions of others.

Each year we strive to build a community of learners in our classrooms. This program supports the interpersonal skills which our children need to develop in order to stand up for themselves and their friends, or just to do what is right!

The week’s activities included a variety of spirit days, based upon the idea that diversity brings beauty and uniqueness to our lives. The children created posters and slogans based upon their vision of people exhibiting acceptance and compassion for everyone.



Students dressed with specific spirit days and created messages to support our P.E.A.C.E. Week.

Oak *Middle School*

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



Sally Neiser
Principal

Climbing Ever Higher

Oak Middle School is “Climbing Ever Higher,” this year’s theme to represent the outlook of Oak students, staff, and community. Oak students continue to excel in academics, activities, and athletics.

Academically, we continue to climb ever higher in our Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) scores and Academic Performance Index (API). This is our third consecutive year of double-digit growth in our API score, with an estimated API of 925! Additionally, every student in last year’s seventh-grade class scored proficient or advanced on the STAR writing test. That’s a first for any school in our district!

Our music programs continue to increase in size and quality. Students have the opportunity to learn any musical instrument or to sing in any of five different choirs. This year, the ever-popular men’s choir boasts more than 40 members. Student leadership programs, the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) mentorship program, and numerous clubs provide other lunchtime and after-school opportunities for students to connect to the school community.

Oak students are also healthy and fit, as determined by their participation in the lunchtime intramurals program and the results of the California Physical Fitness Test (PFT). Oak continues to rank in the top 10 percent in Orange County on the PFT.

In order to announce the pursuit of “Climbing Ever Higher,” Oak had the privilege of hosting Jordan Romero as an assembly speaker. Jordan, currently 16 years old, was the youngest person to climb Mount Everest at the age of 13. He challenged our students to “find your Everest” and to set goals for the future.

At Oak, there are no limits to the opportunities and success possible. We are looking forward to another fantastic year!

Weaver *Elementary*

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



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Starting Up in Partnership

Aug. 8 was the first day of school at Weaver Elementary, and the campus was buzzing with excitement. In the media center, our PTA was coordinating a team of parents to take commemorative first-day-of-school photos, other volunteers were coordinating emergency supplies, and our former Weaver students from Oak, McAuliffe and Los Al High were helping to deliver materials to classrooms.

Welcome back to school! The heart of Weaver School’s mission centers on rigorous curriculum, high expectations, skillful instruction, character development, social responsibility and family/community partnerships. We are on the academic move to raise the bar for 21st-century learning. We will begin the year with 240 ipad2’s that will serve as a tool to extend student learning.





Amber Lee-Ruiz
Director
Educational
Services

members. This year, in combination with our continued efforts to improve student safety at all of our campuses, we will be creating the Violence Prevention and Response Task Force, which will establish more current practices in responding to emergency crises situations which may occur in schools.

The Substance Abuse Program was implemented five years ago and has resulted in dramatic changes for our district. Since its implementation, we have seen significant decreases in the number of drug- and alcohol-related suspensions and expulsions across our district. In addition, the continued efforts to use canine detection services and encourage students to participate in a voluntary drug-testing program have served as deterrents for many of our students. The Bullying Prevention Program has led to increased awareness, monitoring, and responsiveness of both students and staff at all of our campuses. However, the work of the Bullying Prevention Task Force is not yet complete, and the group will be meeting twice this school year, on October 25 and April 25. The task force will continue to examine and support the district's Board-approved anti-bullying curriculum, Too Good for Violence, and make future recommendations for improvement.

In addition to the work described above, the Bullying Prevention Task Force recently recommended the celebration of People Exhibiting Appreciation and Compassion for Everyone (PEACE) Week. The purpose of PEACE Week is to raise bullying and school violence awareness, highlight ways of preventing and responding to bullying and school violence, and set a positive tone for the school year. This year, PEACE Week was held September 10-14. During PEACE Week, students participated in many events, including school-wide assemblies, guest speakers, lunchtime activities, and dress-up days. Arts, reading, and writing were integrated into the anti-bullying curriculum throughout the week to educate students about bullying and school violence.

Our work to ensure a healthy, safe and drug-free environment extends beyond simply educating our students, staff, and parents about school violence. As a district, we must do everything we can to be prepared in the event of an emergency crisis situation at one of our schools. The Violence Prevention and Response Task Force will be created to respond to a crisis situation. The task force will meet four times this year. At our first meeting, held on October 11, the task force established goals and priorities for the school year. We look forward to having all stakeholder groups represented on this important task force.



Mark Johnson
Assistant
Superintendent
Educational
Services

and successfully completing an Advanced Placement course at Los Alamitos High School.

To help us achieve these goals, we will be focusing on high-impact strategies and/or factors that lead to increased achievement. Some of these factors include increasing students' expectations of self, deeper implementation of Response to Instruction (RtI) at all of our schools, push in intervention teachers to lower class size for all students, and increasing student feedback, instructing students in metacognition, improving teacher-student relationships, and implementing a more strategic use of data to improve initial and follow-up instruction. In addition, we will be developing an aggressive preschool through 12th-grade plan to increase student and parent motivation to accomplish the aforementioned goals. Through these efforts, as well as the tremendous skill of our teachers, Los Al will continue implementing state-of-the-art, research-based programs and strategies!

| Subject Tested on CST | 2010-11 Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced | 2011-12 Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| English Language Arts | 83.07% | 84.08% |
| Mathematics | 74.95% | 77.62% |
| Science | 83.35% | 88.85% |
| Social Science | 82.39% | 83.83% |

Furthermore, Los Alamitos Unified School District will also continue its efforts to provide a well-articulated professional development plan for both our new and veteran teachers, which will help to systematize our signature practices. Some of the professional development opportunities planned this year include: MIND, Cognitively Guided Instruction, Writer's Workshop, Reader's Workshop, Fountas-Pinnell Assessment System, Guided Reading, Brain-Based Learning Strategies, Thinking Maps, Instructional Networking, Gradual Release of Responsibility (a research-based instructional framework), and modeling and checking for understanding techniques. There will also be a tremendous amount of training in various technologies such as iPads, Data Director, Haiku Learning Management System, SMART Technologies, Student Response Systems, and Edmodo.

Although there is plenty of work to do to refine our current instructional program, we will also see some exciting changes with the implementation of the California Common Core Standards (CCCS), a nationwide set of standards which will allow us to garner the best research-based programs from across the country. As part of this new initiative, we will be phasing out the California Standards Test (CST) and will be implementing a new assessment system, which is being led by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), a group charged with taking the American assessment system into the 21st century. The new assessments will be piloted in 2013-2014 and fully implemented in 2014-2015. In addition, the new assessments will provide results which will finally allow us to compare LAUSD to other high-performing districts across the United States. By learning from the best, we can ensure our amazingly supportive parents and community that we will continue providing extraordinary learning outcomes for every student for many years to come.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our amazing teachers, administrators, and support staff members, who continue to work tirelessly to serve our families at the highest level! Our families place the highest level of trust in us as professionals by choosing to send their students to our schools, and our promise is to take this responsibility seriously. Because of our highly talented staff, we are currently and will continue to offer a unified, preschool through 12th-grade education taught by teachers who represent the ideals of the district's vision, employ engaging strategies, and implement targeted instruction so that graduating seniors have unlimited possibilities for their futures!

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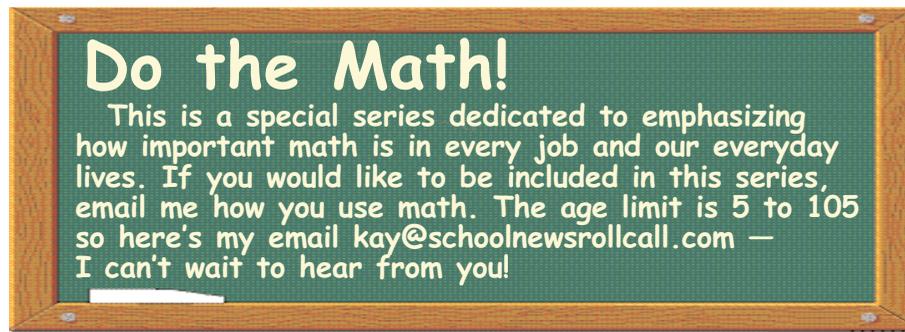
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Math—Its Presence is Infinite!



Lee Brune

Well, I finally got over my fear of writing an article for *School News Roll Call*.

I guess the fear came from the fact that I had to face the cold hard truth that I goofed around in school and didn't believe my parents or, for that matter, my teachers. Yes, you use math—all kinds of math—every day.

My early experience with math was as something I had to do before I could go out and play—kind of like eating vegetables before dessert. I always whined about the fact. I thought it was a fact, anyway—"I'll never use this stuff." I figured I could add and subtract—what more did I need?

Well, was I wrong! I am running so far behind in the math race that I think I am first in the next one. In my daily job as a millwright on the oil islands in the Long Beach harbor, I use math all the time. First, simple trigonometry to trying to figure out the angles of tubing. Then, I have to add up how many feet I need to run. Then, I need to figure out how much I can install in an hour. Then, just when

I thought I was done with this math nightmare, whammo! Now, I have to figure out how much liquid is in 100 feet of half-inch tubing. Wow! I got past that—now, I need to set up a relief valve on a pump. Oh, crud, the pump is being fed from a 20-foot tank—gotta figure it's about a half-pound pressure per foot, so that would make it about 10 pounds. Right? Maybe.

Numbers Follow You Home

The day is finally over. On my way home. I've got to get gas for the truck. As I fill up the tank, more math. I need to check the MPG. That way, I can keep an eye on the way the truck is running. More addition and division. The darling bride and I have a budget, and breakdowns on the vehicles dip into it.

Finally, home. I made it! No more math nightmare. Then whammo, more math! I need to get dinner on the table, and the darling bride wants vegetables, rice, and chicken. They all have different cooking times. I don't want to make slop, so do I add, subtract or divide? I know! Maybe geometry. No, I think addition and some subtraction will work here.

So I guess when your high school math teacher comes up to you and asks why you are wearing sunglasses in class, the answer should not be "When you're cool, the sun shines on you all the time" It should be this: I need this math stuff, and I'd better sit up and take notes!

HALLOWEEN 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 is the word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put LAUSD in the subject line)

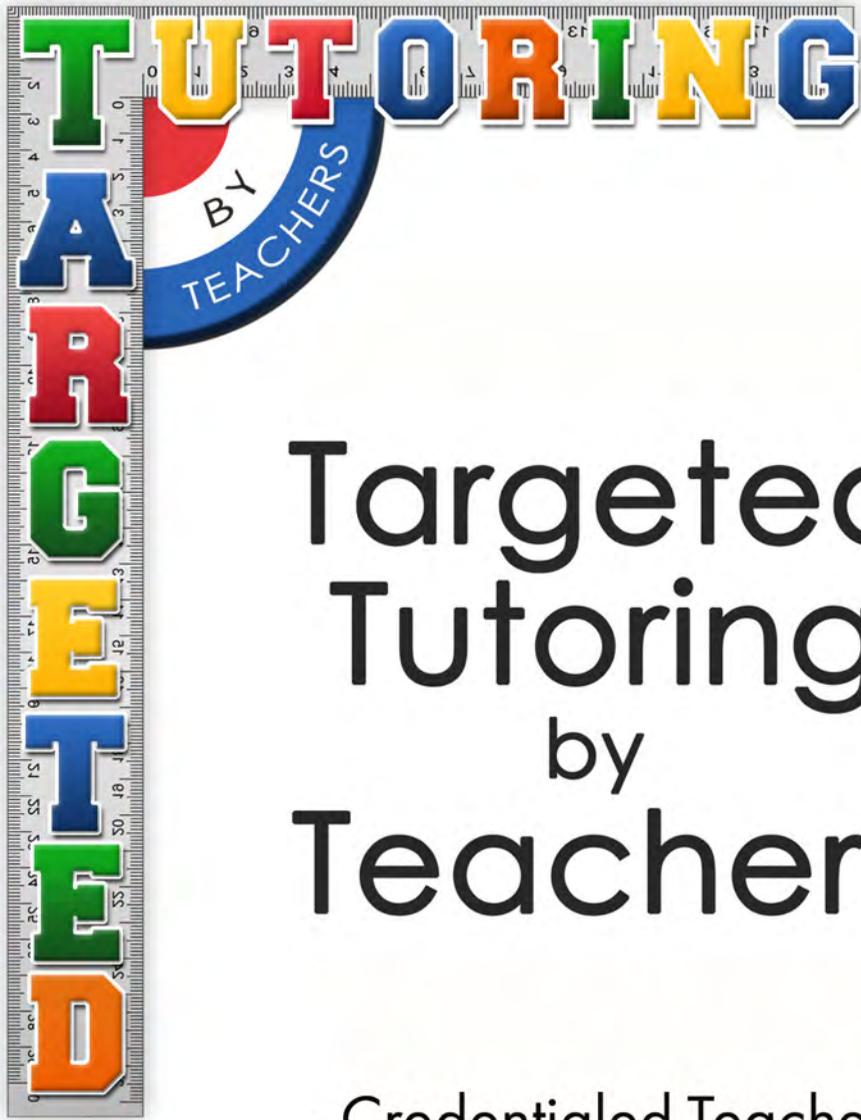
Entries must be received by October 15, 2012
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Thank you **Brecken Runquist**
 for this Word Search Contest

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| BLACK CAT | GHOST | SPIDER WEB |
| CANDY | GHOUL | SWAMP CREATURE |
| CARVE | GOBLIN | TRICK OR TREAT |
| CEMETERY | GRAVE | VAMPIRE |
| COSTUME | HAUNTED HOUSE | WEREWOLF |
| DECORATIONS | JACK O LANTERN | WITCH |
| FRANKENSTEIN | MUMMY | ZOMBIE |
| FRIGHTFUL | SKELETON | |

Congratulations Kaitlin Ruiz
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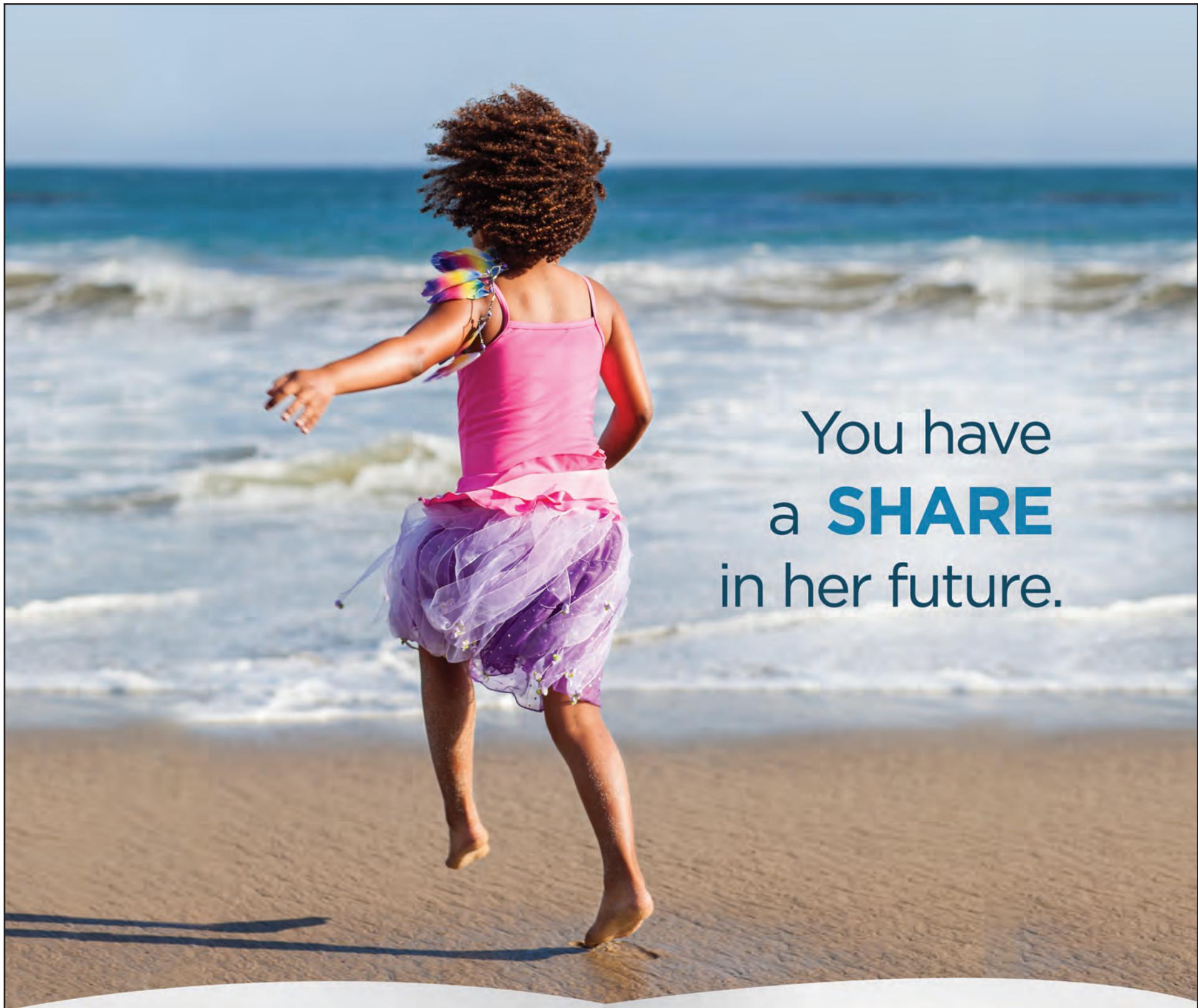
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