

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 34

JUNE / JULY 2011

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Renae Dreier

It is hard to believe that the 2010-2011 school year is almost over. This year has gone very quickly and has been a critically important one for our school district.

Due to the economic down turn and the state budget crisis we have had to spend a great deal of time addressing our fiscal situation. I believe that we have managed those challenges successfully. In spite of these fiscal challenges, our district continues to provide high quality learning opportunities for all of our students. Student achievement continues to rise in the district, and we are making steady progress in closing the achievement gap. We have much to be proud of here in Orange Unified, particularly in these difficult economic times.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 19

Richy Rodriguez Completes Eagle Scout Project



Rick Ledesma, Board of Education President, Connie Smith, Palmyra Elementary Principal, Richy Rodriguez, Eagle Scout, Mitzie Larson, Palmyra Library Media Technician, and Diane Rodriguez, mother of Richy Rodriguez.

By Larry Hausner, Administrative Director Communications and Educational Technology

Eagle Scout Project's are prominent throughout the Orange Unified School District. One such project was recently completed by Richy Rodriguez, 17, a student at El Modena High School of Boy Scout Troop 531.

His vision was to help support the students at Palmyra Elementary School by building much needed shelving for the school's library.

Mitzie Larson, Palmyra's Library Media Technician, said, "We had a deep need for shelving in our library and there was no money available for bookcases. However, Richy approached me with his idea to build shelving as part of his Eagle Scout project and I am happy see the finished product. This is very exciting for us."

SEE RICHY RODRIGUEZ • PAGE 19

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Rick Ledesma
President

Best Wishes

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to express my appreciation to the staff for their hard work, dedication and support of the district throughout the year. Congratulations and best wishes to all of our graduates and retirees!

As difficult as these times are, the Board of Education remains committed to student achievement and educational success by delivering quality educational services in an environment where students can thrive. We will continue to strive to make every effort to provide our students with the best possible education to achieve academic success and prepare them to be competitive in the 21st Century.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a restful and peaceful summer.



Jorge Munoz
Villa Park SACBE

2011 Has Been a Great Year for Villa Park

We recently wrapped up fall sports. Basketball made us proud by going 9-3 in league, and achieving 2nd place in CIF. Soccer had a turn for the better. Varsity soccer boys won their first game in 3 years and we are expecting a great season next year. Wrestling went 5-1 in league and got 2nd place in CIF.

Winter Formal was February 12th, and the theme was Return to Never Land, Seniors Daniel Kim and Brooke Miller were crowned King and Queen. March 11th was our Spring Sports Assembly. It was circus themed and one of our best assemblies this year. March 14th marked the start of our Spirit week.

We are hoping for a great rest of the year as we try and make our class of 11' Seniors' last year memorable.



Senior Brittany Sidler is thrown into the air at the beginning of our assembly.

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**Pages
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OUSD Student Calendar

August 2011

S	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

24 Teacher Prep Day
 25 First Day of Instruction
 Instructional Days: 5

The full student calendar for the 2011-2012 school year may be found on the OUSD website at:
<http://www.orangeusd.org/downloads/calendar/Calendar1112.pdf>



Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



As this school year is winding down, on behalf of the *School News* staff congratulations to the graduating class of 2011, their families and, of course, their dedicated teachers.

Again this year the district has continued to accomplish academic excellence while dealing with the challenges of the economy.

For summer ideas, our Camp/Activities section begins on page 9 and the contest is on page 18 where you will see who won the contest last issue.

Our next issue is August 17.
 Have a great summer!

School News

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Covering the
 ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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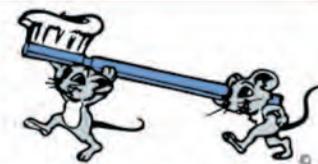
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National History Day—Orange County



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

Our Founders believed the study of history and should be at the core of every American's education. Knowledge of American history and civics strengthens our sense of citizenship and provides a lens with which to view and affect our future. National History Day (NHD) offers students the unique opportunity of becoming young historians and learning vital skills needed to be productive members of society. NHD is a year-long academic program for elementary and secondary school students. Those who participate conduct extensive research on a historical topic related to an annual theme. They determine the historical significance of their topic and present what they have learned through a creative project at an academic competition.

Students and teachers have reported life-changing experiences as a result of their involvement with the NHD program. Recently, two Orange County students decided to focus on a man who is credited for saving more lives than anyone else in known history for their NHD project. The students had the privilege of conducting the last interview with Norman Borlaug, who was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, Presidential Medal of Freedom, Congressional Gold Medal, and World Food Prize, prior to his death in September 2009.

Approximately 500 students, along with their families and teachers, convened at the Orange County Department of Education in the spring, for National History Day – Orange County. These youngsters demonstrated their historical learning through original performances, documentaries, museum-style exhibits, two-dimensional displays, websites, and original papers. Almost 100 volunteers served as judges and helped with logistics. It was great to see so many people from the community getting involved!

SEE OC DEPT OF ED • PAGE 19

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Dr. Morgan comes from a family of dentists and is a graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Dentistry.

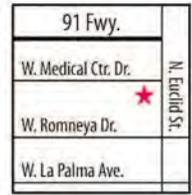
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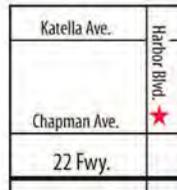
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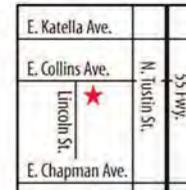
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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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2nd Grade News

Second Graders are bursting with enthusiasm as they anticipate their study of the Butterfly Life Cycle. The eggs will soon be here and each child will be able to observe daily how this amazing little creature transforms in a beautiful butterfly.

Second graders have worked hard all year on their various projects. First, they did a time line of their life. Next, they did an Influential American report and recently they completed a Mammal report. All of these projects align with our standards for Social Studies and Life Science. In the fourth quarter they will experience first hand how to be a producer as well as a consumer.

Students are continuing to learn their math facts and many are on to multiplication and division. The second grade teachers are so proud of their students. As you can see we've been quite busy!

Sandra Miller
Principal

Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103



Diving Into the New Age of Learning

Cambridge students have had an incredible year full of learning!

Our children were able to participate in many educational experiences, including the use of the wide range of technology tools available at Cambridge. In addition to our use of Smart Boards and computers, we have added a laptop lab and Digital Responders. With these tools, our students can answer questions and participate in learning activities with the click of a button!

Computer-based programs for reading comprehension and math are also widely utilized. Cambridge is definitely embracing the 21st century digital era. In addition to our rigorous daily instruction, many students have also been participating in after-school support programs as well as Saturday school.

We also enjoyed learning about the music of Beethoven through the Class Act program, and had motivational assemblies about being supportive to one another and doing our best.

As partners in their children's education, our parents have enjoyed participating in family nights for math and science. They held several barbecues, attended classes in technology and English language development, and even had a parent field trip to the library.

We have also held monthly assemblies to honor the effort, citizenship and academic achievements of our students.

Cambridge is an exciting place to learn. We are ending the school year with a PEP rally to encourage our students to show off their knowledge by being a "Super Tester!" We know that their hard work can be honored when they are able to demonstrate their learning on the California Standards Test.

At Cambridge, we look for every opportunity to celebrate success!

Karen Merkow
Principal

California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104



A Dream Come True

By Patty Ruiz, 4th Grade Teacher

Imagine being a fifth grade boy and riding in the car of your dreams! That is exactly what happened to California Bear Erik Navia. It all started when Orange Police Department officers happened to be in Erik's neighborhood. He recognized the officers from their visits to our school, so he excitedly approached them. When asked about his dreams and goals and what it would take to get there, he responded that he had to work hard, study, and stay out of gangs. When asked what kind of car he wanted, he said a black Lamborghini. Erik was promised that if he worked hard, his dream would come true. As it turns out, all of Erik's hard work paid off last month when he was picked up in front of California Elementary by a black Lamborghini, followed by a steak lunch with officers and district attorneys. What a day to remember!

Cyndi Paik
Principal



Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/998-5000



Hands-On Learning

This has been a great year at Canyon Hills School. Our students have participated in more trips into the community, with many classrooms participating two times per week. Adventuring into the community is the best and most effective classroom for our students because they need to apply their social and vocational skills outside of the school. Our students have gone to the zoo, to the movies, to a variety of restaurants, shopping at malls, bowling with regular education students, to many parks, and to the local library. Our older students have also worked at local restaurants, helping with set ups and cleaning. These are exceptionally valuable experiences for our students and help them prepare for life beyond public school.

The parent association has provided tremendous support for us again this year. They provided \$2,000 for classroom supplies, brought in entertainers which included puppeteers, a bubble show, a petting zoo, a pumpkin patch, and many holiday surprises. The end-of-the-year boat ride in a large yacht in Newport Harbor is the culminating activity for everyone. It is donated to us by a generous benefactor.

Our mission at Canyon Hills is unique among the schools in Orange Unified School District. We focus on expanding the independence of all our students. At our best, we expand our students' ability to communicate, encourage the intent and desire to communicate, improve personal and domestic skills, increase technology competence, generalize skills into the community, and enhance physical coordination and development.

Dr. William Gee
Principal

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page 13.

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Dr. Greg Bowden
Principal

The Year in Review - Highlights

Academics: Canyon students experienced higher standards and increasing school support for their individual achievement. A 24 point increase in the API score, over 1200 AP tests taken, and the twice-weekly after school tutoring program sponsored by the PTSA and the ASB has helped all students succeed.

Athletics: League championships: girls golf, basketball, cross country and track; boys basketball, golf, four wrestling league champs. Girls golf CIF champions and CIF player of the year, girls basketball CIF champions. Boys basketball—CIF quarter finals and CIF player of the year, Boys Tennis—CIF Academic Champions.

Activities: Our student activities program had the largest attendance at a welcome back dance ever! The school body was recognized by the Second Harvest food bank as the largest contributor in 2010, and the PBIS team has worked to re-define what it means to be a member of the TRIBE: think. respect. interact. be ready. excel.



Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/cv



Dr. Ken Miller
Principal

The Year in Review

Cerro Villa Middle School has seen many successes this school year. Our focus has been Team Viking, and we have accomplished so much as a team!

First, our Associated Student Body (ASB) Leadership class, under the guidance of Ms. Lisa Hedspeth, hosted the first annual Orange Unified Middle School Leadership Camp in August. Our school welcomed two other participating middle schools to our campus to map out the upcoming year's events and participate in team building, character education and leadership activities.

Second, our eighth-grade social science classes, in conjunction with other Orange Unified School District (OUSD) middle schools, participated in Constitution Day on September 17 at Peralta Park. This program served as a tremendous opportunity to mentor our own OUSD fifth-grade elementary school students in elements of the constitution.

Third, the district recently notified us of our successful reception of the \$232,000 EETT-C Technology Grant. We were the only school in Orange County to receive the grant. This was a demonstration of true team work by all teachers and staff.

Fourth, County Teacher of the Year Finalist Mr. Castro and eighth-grade Honors English teacher Mr. Meulmester are producing the last four incredible performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in May.

Fifth, individual team member accolades go to eighth-grade science teacher Ms. Higley, who recently earned National Board Certification. Ms. Higley has been honored at the district, county and university levels.

Lastly, we are proud to be engaged in Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies focused on proactive approaches to resolving student academic and behavioral issues.

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands, Anaheim, Ca 92808 • 714/532-7027 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/cr



David Appling
Principal

Thank You!

This year the Canyon Rim staff and parents have done an outstanding job with whatever it took to help all of our students enjoy academic success. Success is the peace of mind that results from the satisfaction of knowing that you've made an effort to become the best that you can be.

Using words from *Inch and Miles* to describe our Canyon Rim success, we have:

Hard work: We know that by hard work, the staff moved a mountain, bit by bit. It takes hard work, they never sit. The staff worked and worked throughout the year, their work came first before they played!

Enthusiasm: In your success, joy played a part. Enthusiasm in your smile, combined with work, you found worthwhile. The energy and pep you showed, rubbed off on those (our students) you know. You did not make excuses, complain or whine; you enjoyed your work, and success you did find!

Fitness: You were fit to run the race, the other horses you did outpace. Your fitness level must be great, success requires a healthy state!

Team spirit: Your team is part of who you are. But don't forget, the team's the star. You helped, supported, and then you cheered it; to find success, you showed strong team spirit!

You teachers and parents made every effort you could to become the best that you can be, so that our students can be the best that they can be! I personally and publicly want to thank all of the Canyon Rim staff, parents and students for an outstanding year.

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/chapman



Julie Lucas
Principal

Demonstrating Scholarship and Citizenship

It's hard to believe that the 2010–11 school year is coming to a close! As I reflect upon all that the students, staff and families have accomplished this year, I am filled with pride!

Academically, our students have worked rigorously to master their grade-level standards and have demonstrated this by showing proficiency on district benchmarks as well as unit tests and projects. Students demonstrated their love of reading by reaching and exceeding Reading Counts goals and making our quarterly Wall of Fame! They demonstrated their knowledge in content areas when implementing Thinking Maps in class. We had students in grades 4–6 compete in the Academic Pentathlon and K–6 students competing athletically in the Foundation Games, in which our school placed second overall!

As citizens, our students' demonstrated compassion and community outreach by adopting 19 local families during the holidays in our second annual Holiday Heroes program. We donated shoes for the earthquake victims in Japan. Our students showed how much they care about our planet by recycling weekly and filling up our large storage container two times this year! In January, we began our PAL (Peer Assistance Leadership) program for students in fifth and sixth grades and our Student Council members began to hold monthly spirit activities.

Our PTA, families and local community proved to us during our third annual jog-a-thon just how much they value our school and education by raising \$25,629 for our ExCEL program! I cannot thank our families and community enough for their generosity and commitment to education!

Go Bobcats!



Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Drive, Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ci



Randi Leach
Principal

Another Incredible Year

The educational experiences that are offered to students from kindergarten through the sixth grade are rich and rigorous.

As a school community, Crescent Elementary worked very hard this year to understand and teach to the high level of state standards that our students must meet. To this end we used Robert Marzano's nine "Data-Based Effective Teaching Strategies," focusing on one per month.

Reading comprehension, too, continues to be at the forefront of our work, as we integrated different strategies from across the curriculum and learned how to respond to literature as a tool for reflection and growth.

We also promoted student skills and talents by participating in a number of community competitions throughout the year. During this last quarter, we have celebrated student success at the Orange County Youth Expo, the Math Pentathlon, the Orange County Math Field Day, the Academic Pentathlon and the 2011 Foundation Games.

The PTA also supported some outstanding performances and activities for the benefit of our students, as well as wonderful technology assistance. Our PTA, School Site Council and parent volunteers have been exceptional leaders in our community, too, and have worked hard to help finance, facilitate and make our children's goals come true.

Additionally, as I think about the whole year, I want to thank our students and staff members for their sense of community spirit and pride, and for their enthusiastic commitment to the art of learning.

El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/emhs



John Briquetelet
Principal

By the time you read this, we will be making final preparations for graduation and our seniors will be very close to heading off into the big, wide world. As I reflect upon this past year, I can only conclude that it has been terrific. The main reasons, at least to me, are as follows:

- Our staff has continued to collaborate in Professional Learning Communities and engage in data-driven decision-making to enhance student achievement, and we are having great success in improving our academic programs.
- We have implemented the Visible ID Program with tremendous support from our students, staff, and parents. As a result, our campus is a safer place.
- Our first attempt to build a school-wide CST Incentive Program seems to be having the desired effect. There is greater validity for students to do well on state testing because performance on those exams can now positively impact classroom grades.
- We have begun full implementation of PBIS, an acronym for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support. In a nutshell, we are working harder than ever to recognize our students for doing the right things.
- The students, parents, and staff of El Modena High School continue are second to none. You make our campus a wonderful place to work and learn, and I am truly proud to be your principal!

Before I close, I want to wish you a wonderful summer and hope that you will be looking forward to next year as much as I am.

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Road, Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/rancho



John Besta
Principal



Michele Walker
Principal

Year-End Summary

El Rancho is closing one of its most challenging and rewarding years ever. The condition of the state budget, and the reduction of funding for all of our schools, has had a significant impact on classrooms and children.

Unlike most school districts in California, El Rancho was able to maintain a 180-day school year. Most were forced to go with a shortened 175-day year. We were also able to maintain our after-school athletic program, our academic remediation programs, and our late buses.

To continue with these programs, we have had to make significant cuts in other areas. Formal staff development was all but eliminated this year. Unfortunately, other cuts may be forthcoming if the legislators in Sacramento cannot come to a budget agreement that supports education.

Despite these difficulties, we have had one of our very best years. We earned our highest Academic Performance Index score ever, with an 895. This puts us in the top 10 percent of the state. We also posted our highest score of all time when compared to 100 similar schools in California.

Our teachers and students continue to work harder than ever to improve student learning. Failing grades at El Rancho have been reduced by 50 percent. El Rancho also went to a two-principal model, with Michele Walker being named to guide the academic programs for our school. John Besta, in his sixteenth year at El Rancho, will continue directing finance and operations for the school.

Our entire staff looks forward to meeting the many challenges of the future.

Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157



Amy Hitt
Principal

A Banner Year for Success

At Esplanade School, the years fly by with student achievement, teacher collaboration, parent activities and community partnerships at the heart of our success. The 2010–11 year began with the receipt of a school improvement grant that enabled our teachers to get training and planning time and our classroom technology over the summer months. Our instructional year has continued with the refinement of our RTI (Response to Intervention) process, adding ST Math and training in standards deconstruction as a staff.

Students were encouraged to join activities like Student Council and Track Team during the day. After-school support included the YMCA program, tutoring with OUSD teachers and other vendors, ST Math and System 44 (reading) programs, and eight sessions of Saturday School, to name a few.

Teachers participated in regular staff development—Path to Proficiency, Anita Archer, GLAD, etc.—and met with the staffs of Sycamore and West Orange to share best instructional practices. Our PTA has grown this year with fundraisers contributing to more field trips and a carnival for our students and families. Plus, more than 150 parents are participating in the Parent Institute (PIQE) classes and have attended our school's Colorín Colorado sessions. A partnership with El Modena High School's Careers in Education program has shown us that magnificent educators are in our future.

This coordinated effort has led to the reclassification of 32 students and will result in Esplanade's subgroups meeting annual yearly progress rates in all academic areas. Thank you to the entire Esplanade community—families and staff—for another great year!

Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 E. Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178



Andrew Fisher
Principal

Reaching our Goals

It has been a wonderful year to be at Fairhaven Elementary School! We met our goal of exiting Program Improvement (PI) due to our students' overall performance on the California State Standards Test (CST). This is a credit to the hard work and dedication of our teachers and students, as well as our valued partnership with parents.

The Fairhaven staff is very proud to say that out of 168 program-improvement schools in Orange County, we were only one of four schools to exit PI. And out of the 3,197 PI schools in California, Fairhaven was only one of 83 to exit PI status!

It was exciting to host visitors from local school districts, the State Department of Education and representatives from the federal government. Our visitors were anxious to find out what strategies we used during our improvement process.

We are continually fine tuning our strategies so that more students can master the California State Standards. All of our students set high academic goals with their teachers and parents each school year. They revisit them on a regular basis to make sure that progress is being made.

We also regularly recognize our students for meeting and/or exceeding their goals in language arts, math, science, social science and citizenship.

We are now entering the CST testing window with confidence and enthusiasm. We have been working hard with our students and parents to meet our goals, and are certain that they will be reached.

Parents are always encouraged to go to Fairhaven's Web site, at <http://www.orangeusd.org/fairhaven/index.asp>. Here they can view our achievement binders which include the California State Standards, blueprints and any vocabulary words the students should know.

Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183



Sandra Schaffer
Principal

The Year in Review

The 2010-2011 school year has been a very busy one for our Handy Hornets. The students have worked extremely hard to prepare for the California Standards Test. The teachers have used Blueprints, nemesis standards, benchmark assessments, test chats and everything else within their reach to help their students achieve proficiency.

We are confident that with all of this hard work, and the support of our parents, we will make our AYP and API goals for the year. Many of our students are second-language learners and have done an outstanding job on the CELDT test.

Our English Language Advisory Committee has continued to grow in numbers with those parents who are interested in learning how to support their child's learning at home. They attend monthly meetings and contribute many ideas and suggestions about how to make our school a better place in which to learn and grow.

Overall, this has been another great year for Handy. Our sixth-graders are ready to move on to middle school with the knowledge that they need to succeed. They are prepared for the many challenges they'll soon face, and we're sure that they can handle themselves in true Handy fashion.

Our kindergarten through fifth-grade students are also ready to embrace new academic standards in the fall, and our incoming kindergartners will benefit from the first year of a full-day program.

It has been a great year, and through it all, our students have laughed, smiled and made great memories!

Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181



Helen Chung
Principal

End of Year, New Beginnings

By Marta Landry, Office Manager

Spring has arrived full force at Fletcher Elementary. The commencement of STAR testing, the Math Pentathlon and sixth-grade Outdoor Education has ushered in the final fourth quarter for our Fletcher Falcons.

Fletcher mathematicians definitely exhibited their "mental muscles," developed through weeks of hard workouts with advisors Ms. Shaw, Ms. Sheldon and Mr. Encheff, when they garnered three ribbons at the Math Pentathlon. Sheldon, Shaw and Encheff stated how proud they were of their students' attendance at all the practice sessions.

The sixth-grade students attended Calvary Camp the week of April 19 for Outdoor Science Education, along with advisor Cindy Ottens. Nature hikes, lessons on wildlife and forest environment, as well as fellowship, were all highlights of an unforgettable time for these students.

Mrs. Lu is proud of all the effort these students put into the fundraiser, and is so grateful to parents Carlene Bassett and Kim Wohlers for their year-long effort to coordinate all aspects of outdoor education.

This year of hard work for our students and teachers was finally put to the test, literally, as our first- through sixth-graders participated in STAR testing on May 2 to 13. Innovative instructional and testing strategies are part of a continuing effort to fulfill the duty of our school to give its students the best education possible.

With so much going on, the fourth quarter at Fletcher has begun to resemble a rocket that is gaining momentum. The end of the school year will culminate with an awards assembly on June 16, and the sixth-grade promotion on June 17.

Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/imperial



Tim Biland
Principal

Reaching Our Potential

As we near the end of a year that was full of challenge and change, we cannot help but be impressed with Imperial. Larger classes and tightening budgets have forced us to pinch pennies and maximize every opportunity we have to qualitatively impact our children. But out of necessity we have discovered creative responses to help address these challenges.

We began the year with a boost of 18 points on our API, which left us within four points of t900. This momentum energized our staff. It motivated them to increase student achievement and engagement, offer a safer and more welcoming environment, expand and improve parent and community partnerships, improve communication and make the most out of every dollar spent.

Increasing the amount of student computers in every classroom, replacing outdated office equipment, and providing community access to online references for both home and school are just a few examples of the kind of purchases that our supporting families made possible.

Through good planning and collaboration, our teachers targeted student learning objectives that resulted in instructional increases. Teachers and classroom volunteers also supported small groups, centers and differentiation techniques so that every child could strive to reach his or her potential.

Imperial encourages its students to identify with Coach John Wooden's Pyramid of Success. Its attributes are personal best, poise, confidence, fitness, skill, team spirit, self-control, alertness, action, determination, hard work, friendship, loyalty, cooperation and enthusiasm. It is fitting that these traits, as demonstrated by staff, parents and the community, also support Imperial.

Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187



Bertie Anderson
Principal

School Community Partnership Ensures Success *By Raeanne Little*

The involvement of students, parents and staff has made this school year a success at Jordan! Students have taken responsibility for their achievements. They set quarterly goals with their teachers and are recognized for their progress. Students are doing their best to be featured on our library "Hall of Fame" through our Reading Counts recognition program. Our student council recently led a Do Your Best on the Test pep rally to encourage their peers to go the extra mile for CST success.

Many parents have taken the time to get involved this year. A special library time has been set for parents to check out books for their children. Parents are attending the computer lab after school with their children to learn more about Reading Counts and ST Math. A dedicated group of parents is participating in a special 10-week educational program called the Latino Family Literacy Project.

Promoting student success is always a priority for teachers. Teachers track all the standards they have taught to ensure that no student has missed critical instruction. Teams meet quarterly to analyze student progress and plan together on how to meet the needs of all students. Teachers offer additional support to students through the RTI model, which includes after-school intervention, to ensure that all students receive the instruction they need to succeed.

The dedicated commitment of students, parents and teachers has created an unstoppable force for student success this year.

Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/lampson



Laurie Dieppa
Principal

Lampson Leopards Love Math

Congratulations to all the Lampson Leopards who made math a priority this year. Lampson participated in a math-a-thon to benefit St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Students completed math workbooks over their spring break and received donations for their efforts. Lampson students raised more than \$3,400. This event was organized by Student Council.

In another math effort, students in fourth and fifth grade competed at the annual OUSD Math Pentathlon. Students, Monique Agudo, Kristian Del Rio, Manuel Lobato, An Ngo, Angel Serrato, Vincent Tran, Sebastian Valderrama, and Charlie Vu represented Lampson. Fourth grade students placed first in logic and fourth in estimation. Fifth grade students placed first in estimation and fourth in problem solving. Thank you, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Young for your teamwork.

We've accomplished so much throughout the year since Back to School Night in September. We have so much for which to be proud.



Vincent Tran, Kristian Del Rio, Manuel Lobato, Charlie Vu
(Back) Mrs. Taylor, Angel Serrato, Monique Agudo, An Ngo, Sebastian Valderrama, Mrs. Young.

La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6155



Gwendolyn Green
Principal

Year in Review

La Veta's 2010–11 school year has been a busy and rewarding one. As we continued to grow in numbers, we also kept building upon our traditions and creating a climate where every child can succeed both academically and socially.

Together, administration, teachers, parents, students, PTA and countless volunteers have worked in collaboration to make this a phenomenal year. From Carnival, Science Night, Anti-bully Assemblies, Fund-raisers and Skate Parties, La Veta Elementary has had a truly memorable year. This would not have been possible without the support of our surrounding community!

I would like to personally thank all of our teachers and support staff that have worked diligently to ensure that our students receive a high-quality and rigorous education. Through regular articulations and ongoing staff development, we are able to effectively meet the academic needs of the students we serve. I deeply appreciate the dedication of our staff to go above and beyond on a daily basis.

Finally, I would especially like to thank our PTA for all of the work they have done this year to provide various fiscal support and enrichment events for our site. Thanks to their generous contributions, we have had a fun-filled and exciting school year. La Veta PTA rocks!

As you can see, we have some wonderful things happening at our site, and I look forward to the many possibilities next year will bring.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon, Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6201

Sally Hughson, Principal

No Article This Issue

McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect, Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6384 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/mcpherson



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

Teamwork Wins Out!

McPherson first and foremost works daily to establish a dedicated community of learners who are engaged in the world around them. Upon reflection on the school year, 2010–11, we focused on identifying and implementing programs and systems to bring the right material and the right instruction to the right students. Our staff effectively analyzed and applied data to help each individual grow socially, emotionally and academically. Universal access time for all students was established to ensure that all students were challenged at the appropriate instructional levels. Students who struggled or who were just ready to blossom were identified and monitored closely. New curriculum was introduced, including a new way to learn math (MIND Institute for grades K, 4 and 5) and an improved Houghton Mifflin reading program for elementary students.

We worked tirelessly to build a culture of collaborative teamwork to create success for all. Families volunteered time and materials to improve and beautify our quad area, planted a new garden, raised funds and wrote letters for families in Japan, and planned and financed a new computer lab on-site. Teachers achieved high test scores through focused prioritized instruction and intervention for our children. Students received positive feedback through their application of knowledge, winning many competitions such as the nationally recognized FBI Internet Safety program—twice; excelled at the District Math Pentathlon; achieved recognition at the state level for the middle school Technology Showcase; and received county awards with student science projects.

Together with parents, staff and students, McPherson thrives as a place of learning and community.

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Children's Programs

Summer Camps and Classes for Kids and Teens – Held on the Cal State Fullerton Campus

Art Camp

This two-week program (10 meetings) is designed for 7-14 year olds to explore art, drama and creativity.

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Two hour classes (5 meetings) help to tutor students ages 8-18 for the upcoming school year on topics such as math, drawing, writing and reading.

www.fullerton.edu/kidscamp

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8:30-10:30 am	Tennis Clinics	12:30-1:15 pm	Lunch (provided)
10:30-11:30 am	Break	1:30-2:30 pm	Swimming
11:00-12:30 am	Set Play or Games		

1/2 Day Tennis Camp (M – F 8:30 – Noon) 1 wk \$250 / 2 wks \$450

8:30-10:30 am	Tennis Clinics	10:45-11:30 am	Set Play or Games
10:30-10:45 am	Break	11:30-Noon	Tennis Drills

1/2 Day Tennis Camp (M – F 1:30 – 5:00 pm) 1 wk \$250 / 2 wks \$450

1:30-2:30 pm	Swimming	3:00-5:00 pm	Tennis Clinics
2:30-3:00 pm	Snack and Rest Period		

Afternoon Full-Day Tennis Camp (M – F 11:00 – 5:00 pm) 1 wk \$295 / 2 wks \$550

11:00-12:30 am	Set Play or Games	2:30-3:00 pm	Snack and Rest Period
12:30-1:15 pm	Lunch (provided)	3:00-5:00 pm	Tennis Clinics
1:30-2:30 pm	Swimming		

Discounts for multi week sign ups.

City of Orange

www.cityoforange.org



Come make a splash this summer with the City of Orange!



Hart Park Pool 701 S. Glassell Street Orange, 92866 (714) 744-7266

The City of Orange offers a variety of aquatic activities for patrons of all ages to enjoy! Certified Lifeguards and Water Safety Instructors are always on deck to ensure high-quality programming that is fun and safe.

Recreational Swim

Begins: Saturday, June 18 – Sunday, August 21
Hart Park will be closed on July 3 & 4.

Weekday Hours (Mon – Fri): 1:30 – 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Wednesday Nights Only: 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Weekend Hours (Sat & Sun): 1:00 – 2:15 p.m., 2:30 – 3:45 p.m., 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Cost: \$2.50 per swimmer, per session. Payment will be taken at the beginning of each recreational swim session.

Important Information: A swimsuit is required to enter the pool. Non-proficient swimmers under the age of 7 or under 4 ft. tall and are must be accompanied in the water by an adult and are required to wear a life jacket. The pool capacity of 190 people, including non-swimmers, is strictly enforced. No refunds are given for unexpected pool closures. Please call our Hart Park Pool Hotline at (714) 744-5518 for pool closure updates and pool rules.

Swim and Save! Purchase a prepaid "Swim Card" for Recreational Swim at Hart Park Pool for \$28!

Swim cards are available for purchase at the Community Services Department, located at 230 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, 92866. Swim cards may also be purchased at Hart Park Pool beginning June 18, 2011 during pool hours.

Hart Park Pool Swimming Lessons

Monday, June 20

The City of Orange offers group and private swim lessons, as well as parent & me classes. No refunds are given for unexpected pool closures or parent cancellations.

For more information and availability, please call the Community Services Department at (714) 744-7274, Hart Park Pool (714) 744-7266, or visit www.cityoforange.org. The Community Services Department office hours are: Monday – Thursday and various Friday's, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

El Modena High School Pool Swimming Lessons

The City has partnered with Orange Regional Competitive Aquatics (ORCA) to offer aquatic programming at El Modena High School. Group, semi-private and private swim lessons, as well as, recreational swim team and water polo activities are offered beginning Monday, June 20. Prices, program and class offerings differ from Hart Park Pool's aquatic program. Sponsorships are available for qualifying families. Applications are available on the ORCA website. Please contact ORCA at (714) 648-2111 or log on to www.orca-aquatics.com for detailed program and registration information.



More summer fun for the entire family to enjoy...

3rd of July Celebration

Sunday, July 3, 2011, 4 – 9 p.m.

El Modena High School, 3920 Spring St., Orange, 92869

Spend a fun-filled day with the City of Orange in celebrating America! Activities include interactive games, entertainment, delicious food from our local non-profit groups, a patriotic musical performance by the Orange Community Master Chorale, and a spectacular fireworks display. Ticket price is \$7, kids two and under are free. Tickets are available now and may be purchased from the Community Services Department, located at 230 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, 92866, until July 1, 2011, or at the event gate at El Modena High School on July 3, 2011.

Fred Kelly Stadium has synthetic turf & your help is needed to help maintain its beauty! Therefore, only blanket seating is allowed. Wheeled items (such as strollers, wagons, wheel chairs, & motorized movers, etc.) are permitted in the field seating; however they must remain in designated areas only. The following is not permitted on the field: lawn chairs, food, drinks, seeds of any kind, gum, popcorn, hard-soled and high heeled shoes, and any other items staff deems harmful to the turf.

Free Concerts in the Park

Wednesday Evenings, July 6 – August 24, 2011, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Hart Park Band Shell, located off the 22 Freeway & Glassell St., Orange, 92866

Pack your picnic baskets, relax, and enjoy fantastic free entertainment for all ages under the summer starry sky! Bring your blankets or low lawn chairs and get ready for a great time! Reminder: food will be available for purchase courtesy of the Kiwanis Club, and for the safety of your pets, please leave them at home. *Listed performers are subject to change.*

July 6 Sangria

Oldies, Latin, Dance Favorites

July 13 The Fenians

Traditional & Contemporary Irish Music

July 20 The Doo-Wah Riders

Country

July 27 The Cords

80's Hits

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August 10 Film at Eleven

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August 17 Abby Road

A Tribute to the Beatles

August 24 Swing Cats Big Band

Big Band, Swing Orchestra

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Note-ables

All Together Now, Little Monster Records



Kate Karp

I'm old enough—I might add “proudly”—to remember when the four mop tops known as the Beatles stepped off the plane at JFK Airport and made their debut on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. There, they set a record for the largest TV audience in history—73 million to Elvis Presley's 60 million.



That record setting is one of

the 12 fun facts in the cardboard booklet accompanying *All Together Now*, a Beatles music collection aimed at families with children up to age 8. Songwriter/musician Kevin Salem's production and accompaniment by professional musicians, among them singer and guitarist Marshall Crenshaw and the Bangles of “Walk like an Egyptian” fame, successfully avoid cutie-pie renditions of favorite songs. Included are 12 of the Beatles' most child-friendly creations—and there have been plenty to choose from.

Each song has its own illustrated page in the book, along with a poem having to do with growing up. The rhyme accompanying “I Want to Hold Your Hand” talks about all the things hands can do. “All Together Now”—with the lyrics ever so slightly edited—invites a romping exercise session. “Hello Goodbye” cleverly teaches not only opposites but contrariness between children and grownups. “Happy Birthday” is, of course, happy birthday, with a nod to the dangers of a sugar rush—ah, adults have to spoil everything!

The Beatles' legendary creativity has given them wide appeal throughout three generations. This collection makes it easy to pass their music on to the next one.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



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Orange or call 714-560-5932.

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www.octa.net **OCTA**

Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Road, Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203



Dominique Polchow
Principal

An Eventful Year

The 2010–2011 school year was filled with many tried and true Roadrunner traditions, creating lasting memories for our students. Nohl Canyon Elementary School successfully kicked off the year with a seven-point gain, leading us to an Academic Performance Index (API) of 937. Additionally, we were named an Honor Roll school for continuing our tradition of academic excellence.

Fall activities began, as the school community gathered together for a 9/11 ceremony and a family night carnival, and students enjoyed a BMX assembly for Red Ribbon Week. In November, students ran with enthusiasm at our annual Jog-a-thon, which raised over \$15,000. Our sixth-graders enjoyed bunking up at Outdoor Science Camp, as they hit the trails instead of the books in a new learning environment.

The New Year began with our annual auction, successfully raising over \$40,000. Students and staff then showed their talent in our annual variety show. Families celebrated music appreciation by attending a concert, presented by the Pacific Symphony Class Act program. Over 100 Roadrunners ran their hearts out as they competed in the Foundation Games and came home with multiple medals. Throughout the year, students were enriched with many other wonderful learning opportunities, thanks to the Nohl Canyon School Association.

On behalf of the students and staff at Nohl Canyon, we thank everyone for their continued support and for providing nothing but the very best for our Roadrunners. All in all, the year was an eventful one at Nohl Canyon.

Orange *High School*

525 N Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ohs



Ernest Gonzalez
Principal

A Year of Discovery

The year has gone by in a flash. As the new principal, it was a year of discovery and what I discovered was that Orange High School is an awesome place to be. From the welcome back assembly to the graduation ceremony, students, staff and community continued to go above and beyond expectations.

In preparation for our visit by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in 2011-12, we engaged in a full study of ourselves in order to improve the educational experience here at OHS. We developed our Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) focusing on the development of students who are critical/complex thinkers, responsible citizens, effective communicators and academic achievers.

Panthers reach the ESLRs by engaging in rigorous courses of study, getting involved in clubs, participating in activities, competing in sports, performing in the arts, and serving their community. I am proud to be part of the panther family.



Olive *Elementary*

3038 N Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/olive



Kathryn Martin
Principal

A Job Well Done

As we look back on the school year, I am proud to congratulate our Olive Elementary School Ocelots on a job well done. This has been a year of transition, with the addition of 175 students and five new teachers to our Olive family. It has been a privilege to see our students ROAR and to witness the implementation of Expect Respect, our anti-bullying program.

Olive's families have been incredibly giving: collecting goodies for our troops in Afghanistan; sponsoring food drives for our community; and collecting money for homeless in Japan.

From students learning the workings of a real dairy farm, holding sea stars, experiencing Mission San Juan Capistrano, churning butter, and learning the physics of hockey all the way to a week in the mountains at sixth-grade camp, it has been a memorable year for all. Student achievement has been the top goal and is being accomplished through hard work, engagement, collaboration and a true love for learning.



Olive Students and their teachers in the annual Walk-a-Thon!

Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Road, Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265



Michelle Moore
Principal

Thank you, Everyone!

The 2010–11 school has truly been an exciting one. Our staff and community have worked harder than ever! From building relationships, terrific lessons, amazing assemblies, an incredible talent show and terrific family events, our community continues to grow together with that wonderful Panther pride. Our Panthers continue to work hard on their academics and show commitment to their growth in our Panthers CARE philosophy.

I would like to thank our amazing staff, wonderful PTA, Panther families and community members for a terrific school year. It was such a joy to serve alongside each member of our Panther family.

I want each of you to know how proud I am to have served you as your principal for the 2010–11 school year. Students, our teachers want you to know how proud of you they are and what a joy it has been to help you learn. We thank you for the Panther memories and hope that you will cherish them always.

We are looking forward to the adventures that the 2011–12 school year will bring and also look forward to partnering with our community to help support the needs of all of our Panthers. Have a wonderful summer, enjoy your children—we will miss them—and...Go Panthers!

Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6207



Connie Smith
Principal

Year-End Wrap-Up

The staff and students at Palmyra had a busy year, with many outside activities that enhanced the regular instructional program. Fabulous field trips were taken to Centennial Farms, Pretend City, the Orange County Philharmonic's Disneyland Band Concert, and the fifth-grade concert.

The students also saw a production of *Charlotte's Web* at Santa Ana College. They were able to visit Bower's Museum, Mission San Juan Capistrano, the Nixon Library, Diane France "The Bone Detective" at UCI's Beckman Center, and the sixth-grade Outdoor Science School.

Our students were also recognized at quarterly awards assemblies for academic achievement, citizenship, and general improvement. Our physical education programs were intensified with programs like Healthy for Life and PE-4-Me Kickboxing. Many students also participated in the Orange Community Foundation Games.

In March, our GATE students participated in a day of math activities to help celebrate Pi Day, and in April we had three teams of students compete in the district's Math Pentathlon. Our sixth-grade students were even instructed and entertained by the Orange County Philharmonic Society's Meet the Musicians program.

Our year of activities would not be complete without citing the wonderful art and music programs supported by the PTA. Visiting musician John Yeiser introduced students to a variety of instruments from around the world and gave them an opportunity to demonstrate their use. The Art Masters program introduced students to five different artists and taught them how to emulate their techniques. We are very proud of the many outside experiences that we can provide at Palmyra.

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361



Deborah Backstrom
Principal

Every Facet of Success

Portola Middle School has had an exciting and successful 2010–11 school year. Our wonderful staff, parents and students have all contributed to our positive school climate and culture. We are so proud of our students and staff.

Our school year kicked off with the news that our API increased by 17 points. Our AVID Program is in its 12th year and has been involved with Santiago Canyon College. One of our AVID students will represent our school in the Standout Angel Scholars Competition sponsored by the Angels. Our ASB Program organized

a canned-food drive that provided six needy families in our community with a Thanksgiving basket.

This has been an amazing year for our fine arts programs. Our art department has had numerous highlights this school year. We had two students accepted into the prestigious Festival of the Arts' student art exhibition in Laguna Beach this summer. In conjunction with the music department, our art students are working on a mural titled "Music History," which includes pieces from American jazz, folk music and rock and roll. Our English department had three of our students place first, second and third in the Orange Lodge No. 1475's Americanism Essay Contest, and six students' pieces of writing are scheduled to be published by GNP Publishing, Inc. for the Red Board 4. Our sixth-grade Math Pentathlon won second place in problem solving in the district competition.

On behalf of Portola Middle School, we would like to thank everyone who helped make our school year a success!

Parkside *Pre-K*

2345 E, Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6202



Kristi Franco
Coordinator

Exploring the Community and World of Science

This year at Parkside has been memorable, fun, and educational. Our two field trips were a highlight for our students. At the pumpkin patch we enjoyed riding the train and learning about harvest. On our other trip we kicked off our unit on community helpers, we practiced different community roles: grocer, police officer, farmer, firefighter, etc. Many of our parents helped make this unit more meaningful by coming to visit our students and share with them how their professional roles such as a neonatal nurse, fireman, artist, plumber, musician, and many more help us in many parts of our life.

Academically, we have seen our students learn to identify their names, spell, read sight words and count. We explored the world of science, learning about the life cycles of the butterfly and plant life. We experienced a fun and interactive unit on water (gas, liquid, solid). We are proud of the growth that our students have made both educationally and socially. We have watched them flourish from timid little 3 year olds, to inquisitive mature 5 year olds. We are excited to hear about their future academic successes and are honored their educational experience started here at Parkside.

Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271



Elena Stoces
Principal

Year in Review

This past year at Prospect Elementary School has been a busy one! Our primary goal this year has been to make all our Prospectors achieve success here at school. Through the analyzing and monitoring of student data by our teachers, we have increased the frequency of recognition of students for academic and behavioral successes. We have weekly drawings for prizes based on behavior, and we also host quarterly awards assemblies for academic and behavioral success. Each classroom has a data wall, where not only student success is showcased but also their progress on a frequent basis. In our office, we have proudly recognized our students who made gains and high scores on last year's Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing, plus the 25 students who were reclassified from limited English proficient to fluent English proficient this year. In our computer lab, we also display our 100 percent Jiji Math Club.

By focusing on the positive recognition this year, our greatest reward has been that discipline referrals have dropped dramatically, actually a 500 percent decrease since last year. With a decrease in misbehavior, more students are on task and learning, and teachers can devote the time they used to spend on discipline problems to enhancing student achievement. We are so proud of the effort put forth by our students and staff, and we look forward to watching our STAR test scores soar as a testament that focus and hard work will be rewarded.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.orangecsd.k12.ca.us/santiago

Mary Henry, Principal

No Article This Issue

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167



Ed Madrid
Principal

Looking Back

Soon the graduating seniors at Richland High School will ascend the stage as they proudly accept their hard won diplomas. Richland will have graduated well over 150 seniors this year. We were able to provide over 130 students the opportunity to catch up on their credits and return them to their home schools. The exact numbers will be determined in June, after our seniors successfully complete their requirements.

This year was marked by our Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation review. A team of educators outside the district came for two days and reviewed all aspects of our instructional program. After interviewing parents, students, teachers, and administrators, they made a recommendation to the commission to grant three more years on our accreditation. The WASC process requires schools to take a critical review of their practices to improve the instructional programs. We focused on areas to improve upon and have already revised our physical education program and are upgrading our technology based upon the recommendations of the WASC team.

Our school is involved in community pride as well. Recently we participated in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Pennies for Pasta fund-raising event. Our families raised over \$7,000.

Our greatest sense of pride comes from the personal connections we make with our students. Ask any teacher at Richland, and they can tell you of countless students who have changed the course of their lives due to the unique learning environment at Richland. Our staff serves this community in a special way. We make a difference.

Serrano *Elementary*

17741 E. Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275



Dr. Bobbie Lansman
Principal

A Busy and Exciting Year

This has been a busy and exciting year for the Serrano Eagles as we sailed, searched, and discovered the treasure of knowledge. Along with a strong academic program, Serrano students watched a helicopter land on the school field, enjoyed the Class Act School partnership with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, learned artistic form and style with Art Masters, and won (for the seventh year) first place in the Orange Foundation Games.

Serrano is also completing the first year of a three-year PBIS grant (Positive Behavior Intervention System) with the Orange

County Department of Education. Students earn "Serrano Eagles SOAR" tickets for demonstrating that they are proud to be a student at Serrano by being respectful, responsible and showing a positive attitude. Tickets are placed in Ernie Eagle's nest, and positive phone calls are made to home weekly by the principal.

Led by the Serrano Student Council, Serrano collected and donated almost \$4,000 to the Red Cross for the Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief Fund, as well as boxes and boxes of shoes for Soles for Souls.



the principal and Serrano Student Council officers donating almost \$4,000 to the Red Cross.

Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Drive, Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-45120



Lydia Roach
Principal

Soar to New Heights

Running Springs Elementary School Redhawks soared through the year, participating in many events that enriched curriculum, fostered a competitive spirit, contributed to local charities, and developed a sense of community. These events were made possible through the hard work and dedication of our teachers, parents, office staff, and students. Curriculum enrichment assemblies included Native American crafts, reenactments of the American Revolution and ancient civilizations, art and music appreciation, and animal and insect study.

Interested students participated in competitive events that were offered. Sixth-graders had the opportunity to participate in the Running Springs Spelling Bee, where the finalist was sent on to compete at the county level. Math Pentathlon teams for grades four through six were formed from the Math Club participants to compete in the district Math Pentathlon. Students also competed in a city-wide track meet this year. Students represented Running Springs very well in all of these competitions!

Students donated their time to help various charities in need. Students collected funds for the Japan Relief Fund, jumped to raise money for the American Heart Association, and sent DVDs to the troops. These contributions helped to develop a strong sense of school pride among the students and staff at Running Springs. Along with school pride, community spirit was also developed through participation in various PTA-sponsored Family Fun Nights. These events brought families together to enjoy games, food, and friendship. All of these events helped the Redhawks at Running Springs Elementary to soar to new heights!

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/santiago

Mary Henry, *Principal*

No Article This Issue

Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/sycamore



Erika Krohn
Principal

Proud Highlights of 2010/2011

Here at Sycamore we take great pride in our state of the art modernized school with extensive fields and a beautiful garden. But the most important part of a school is what happens within the walls. Here are a few school highlights of this year:

- The Power of Goal Setting is in full force! All students have been setting goals under the guidance of their teachers. Students have set goals for reading fluency, SRI scores, Jiji math, PSA tests, and of course the State Test.
- We rolled out Thinking Maps this year to be used along with our curriculum. The maps are designed to get students to use higher level thinking skills.
- We had many interventions to help students who needed extra support including: afterschool math intervention for 3rd-6th grade students, afterschool kindergarten leveled small group instruction, SES tutoring, Read 180, and small groups working with our Resource Teacher.
- We hosted Saturday School for extra test preparation.
- We exceeded our goal for reclassifying English Learner students to Fluent English Proficient. All students who achieved this goal were honored along with their parents at a school-wide assembly.
- We hosted Parent Institute for Quality Education- 117 enthusiastic Sycamore parents attended this 9 week course.

I am extremely proud and honored to be principal of such an outstanding school where the entire staff is committed to continuous improvement through a safe and supportive learning environment.

Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254



Antionette Coe
Principal

A Dynamic and Successful Year *By Raeanne Little, Instructional Coach*

The partnership of parents, staff, and students created a dynamic environment this year. A commitment to meet the needs of all students, involve the community, and highlight student achievement is responsible for our success.

Through training and collaborative planning, our teachers were able to reach all learners. Training and coaching in Strategic Schooling, Path to Proficiency, and Response to Intervention strategies helped teachers develop expertise. Modified days allowed teachers to plan and create differentiated lessons.

Teaching and learning didn't stop with the end of the regular lesson. Students had a chance to succeed by participating in intervention lessons during school, at after school tutoring, and during Saturday enrichment.

The involvement of the community has made Taft Elementary School an exciting place to be. Parents visited classrooms monthly to support their children. At our monthly Coffee with the Principal, parents had a chance to ask questions and learn how to support their children. Family nights for language arts, math, and science got everyone involved in learning. Our PTA provided support for all parent involvement activities.

Celebrating student success was a priority at Taft. We began the year with celebrating our 24 point Academic Performance Index (API) growth. Students were recognized weekly for "PAWS"itive behavior. Each quarter students were honored for academic growth and citizenship. Students had a chance to shine by participating in special activities, such as the Reflections Art Contest, the Math Pentathlon, and the talent show.

Committed staff, parents, and students have made Taft an exciting place to learn.

Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Drive, Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281



Debra Larson
Principal

Recipe for success

This past year at Villa Park Elementary School (VPE) has been one of change and growth in the quality of educational experiences for our students. As the year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the students, staff and parents here at VPE. They have all worked together to build a pride in our school and its accomplishments. Appreciation must be expressed to those who have helped to make it happen.

A special thank you to our outstanding Home and School League (H & S League) parents. The H & S League consists of hardworking, positive, supportive and extremely capable members who always give so willingly of their time, talents and energy whenever and wherever they are needed. Parents have been so supportive of our fund-raising efforts, and your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the teachers who have worked tirelessly to provide a productive and positive learning environment for our students. We are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated professionals at VPE.

Thank you to all the support staff and classified staff who consistently demonstrate the highest degree of dedication and professional performance. We are indeed fortunate to have these dedicated and caring people to work with our students.

Finally a big thank you to our students who have worked hard this year and have demonstrated continued academic growth. They always amaze us with their skills, creativity and performance.

All of the above people make up the community of VPE. They are the ingredients that make Villa Park such a special place. It is with renewed enthusiasm that we look forward to next year and all that it will bring.

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/628-4300



Ed Howard
Principal

A Year in Review

The highlights of our 2010-2011 year at Villa Park High School can fill this entire paper. Academically, we began the year with a 28-point gain on our API. We also realized a nice increase in our AP scores, too, setting school pass records in US history and seeing 29 of our students receive a score of five in English 11.

VPHS reclassified 21 out of 24 ELD students. Our science students successfully defended their title by winning the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. Six of our students were also recognized as National Merit Finalists.

Our Academic Decathlon team placed fifth in Orange County. In the performing arts, our choir received an overall "superior" at the Cal State Fullerton Festival. The marching band won sweepstakes in every parade in which they marched, and they also instituted an elementary music program.

The dance team qualified as superior team at the USA Summer Dance Intensive, and were invited to perform at the Pro-Bowl. Our drama department also realized their most successful year both at a performance level and financially.

Athletically, many of our programs qualified for CIF play, while our football team played into the semi-finals. Our heavyweight wrestlers won CIF championships, too.

The Mock Trial team sent an artist and journalist to the state competition, and our future business leaders had 15 students place at the section conference.

If it sounds like I am bragging, it's because I am. Go, Spartans!

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West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/wo



Increasing Family Engagement

West Orange Elementary School had a fantastic 2010–2011 school year!

One of our priorities was to help students and families become more engaged in school and the local community. To this end, the staff members at West Orange are always working towards improving the services they provide to our students, parents and community.

Michael Olander
Principal

Thanks to the dedication of many parents, we have been able to host weekly Positive Action Parent Workshops. We have also provided two semesters of the Latino Family Literacy Project.

As with previous years, we continued to have Family Literacy night classes, and were able to keep our computer lab and library open for parent use one night a week. We have also recognized the importance of giving parents a voice in school operations by hosting our first ever West Orange Town Hall meeting. Here parents could ask the principal questions or provide input and suggestions.

Student engagement between school and the community has also increased over previous years. Thanks to teachers Dana Johnston and Laura Urquhart, and Coach Woof and Coach Debby, West Orange participated in the Foundation Games for its first time ever. One of our students even qualified for the state finals!

Our Spring Carnival is also going to have many new informational booths to help register students in the various community clubs and organizations. We are very proud of our efforts to help West Orange families become more involved!

Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/yorba



Productive Year

Another academic year is quickly coming to a close and it has been a productive one. The 2010-2011 school year saw a multitude of changes here at YMS.

The school year began with a several new teachers, a new principal and 650 students teaching and learning in a portable school. During the school year, we moved into a new school with state-of-the-art upgrades that contributed to an invigorating learning environment.

Kerrie Torres
Principal

The staff and students of Yorba Middle School are encouraged by the many positive strides our school has made this year. YMS continued to improve in the following areas: school culture and environment, behavior, community awareness, environmental awareness, and continue to achieve in the academic realm. The culture and environment at YMS is positive, energetic and exceptionally focused on academics. Behavior and attendance have improved, resulting in a decline in referrals and tardies to class. YMS students have created several clubs on campus that have impacted the local community and have created partnerships with business and organizations.

Finally, teachers and students have focused their energy on academics and have been aggressively working at preparing for the CST's. We look forward to the 2011-2012 school year and building capacity to maintain our efforts.



Football Word Search Contest



**NEW
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 "OUSD" in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15 2011

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Clipping	Interference	Safety
Coach	Kicker	Scrimmage
Conversion	Linebacker	Special Teams
Cornerback	Loss of Down	Super Bowl
Defense	Offsides	Tackle
Downs	Personal Foul	Tailback
Field Goal	Possession	Touchdown
Flanker	Quarterback	Yardage
Goal Post	Roughing	

**Congratulations to Corina Carbajal
Winner of the May Word Search Contest.**

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



Dr. Renae Dreier

In closing, I would like to thank our teachers, staff, students and parents for their hard work and dedication during these three years that I have served as Superintendent of Schools. I am sure that next year will bring its own challenges, but I am just as sure that OUSD will continue to address them in the best interests of our students and our families. I wish you a positive end of the school year and an enjoyable summer break.

Rodriguez completed numerous steps throughout the project which included first receiving a letter of need from Mrs. Larson. He then contacted Pat and Oscar's and coordinated a fundraiser to help pay for the \$450 project. The event was a success as he spent the entire day at the restaurant greeting customers and discussing his project. Next, he measured and purchased materials to match the existing library bookcases. Then he created a timeline that included a work schedule for his team. He then assembled a team consisting of eight student workers who spent numerous days creating the bookshelves under his leadership. In fact, Rodriguez acted as project director and, according to Eagle Scout Project guidelines, could only serve as facilitator. The project took four months to complete and the shelves were delivered in mid April.

Richy's mother, Diane Rodriguez, stated, "This was a terrific learning experience for Richy. He learned leadership and organization skills while working with different age groups of students to help complete the project.



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

While the focus is on students, National History Day – Orange County relies on dedicated teachers who guide students through topic selection, research, and the project development process. Participating students receive mentorship from teachers who are committed to supporting college-level research and developing the 21st century skills of collaboration, communication, and creativity. One NHD teacher in Orange County explained his commitment to NHD by stating that his job is to help develop the next generation to be smart consumers of information, active citizens, and well-rounded individuals.

The success of Orange County students as they advance from county to state to national levels of the NHD program reminds us of the extraordinary commitment of Orange County teachers. Educators involved in NHD include teachers of history, language arts, technology, and visual and performing arts. National History Day truly is an interdisciplinary program.

In unraveling the past, students become ambassadors to the future. Participating in NHD inspires an interest in history and a deeper understanding the importance of historical events. National History Day is much more than learning about the past. It is about creating the future.

To learn more about the National History Day program in Orange County, please contact Deborah Granger, Ed.D., Coordinator, History/Social Science/ GATE, Orange County Department of Education at 714-966-4447 or dgranger@ocde.us or visit www.nhd.org.

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