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School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 31

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2011

Students Learn About the Past With "History in a Box"

By Joe Spreklemeyer,
Tustin Area Historical Society

Third grade is the year elementary schools in the Tustin Unified School District focus on local history and the Tustin Area Historical Society is doing its part to introduce these students to its museum and the community's past. The organization's "History in a Box" program supports TUSD's third-grade history curriculum.

The project was started in 1999 by Linda Jennings, member of the Tustin Preservation Conservancy; Becky Cameron, third-grade teacher at Peters Canyon Elementary School; and historian Carol Jordan. The historical society maintains and delivers the "History in a Box" trunks to the schools. Currently, more than 1,700 third-graders participate in the program.

The contents in the box reflect life in Tustin from its early years. There



Beswick third-graders sitting, Zion Pal, Rosalinda Villa, Genesis Villalpando and Bryan Hernandez, and standing, Lilly Sosa and Sebastian Rivera show items from the "History in a Box" trunk.

are household items, costumes, vintage toys, a buttonhook, McGuffey's Readers, research books and even a stereopticon, including slides.

In addition, there are over 40 laminated study prints which are copies of some of the Tustin Area Museum's historical photographs with a short story of the photo on the back. Study print categories include pioneers, agriculture, businesses, homes, city and schools.

Also in the box is a Third Grade Curriculum Guide that includes information on "Life in Tustin," "Historic Homes" and "Artifacts and Activities."

"History in a Box" trunks are shared by Tustin Unified's 18 elementary schools. Nine schools have possession of the trunks during the first semester and the remaining nine have possession during the second semester of the school year. Each

SEE HISTORY IN A BOX • PAGE 15

Superintendent Richard Bray Announces Retirement

By Mark Eliot, TUSD Director of Communications

Tustin Unified School District Superintendent Richard Bray has announced he will be retiring at the end of the school year. His last official day will be June 30.

"It has been a great honor and privilege to have served as superintendent of this magnificent school district," said Bray, who has been in public education for 43 years – the past five years as superintendent of the Tustin school district.

Bray has been a California superintendent for 19 years. Prior to coming to TUSD in 2006, he served as superintendent of the Hesperia Unified School District in San Bernardino County for 12 years and Soledad Union School District in Monterey for two years.

Among his accomplishments, Bray has been named Superintendent of the Year twice by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA): Region 17, Orange

County in 2009 and Region 12, San Bernardino County in 2006.

During his tenure in TUSD, Bray has implemented highly successful instructional programs, such as the Early College Program with Irvine Valley College, Response to Instruction (RtI) program, online college courses for high school students, one-to-one computer program and Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program to increase student achievement.

Also, under Bray's leadership, the District opened the new state-of-the-art Orchard Hills School; passed a \$95 million bond measure (Measure L) in 2008, which has funded modernization projects such as the new aquatics center

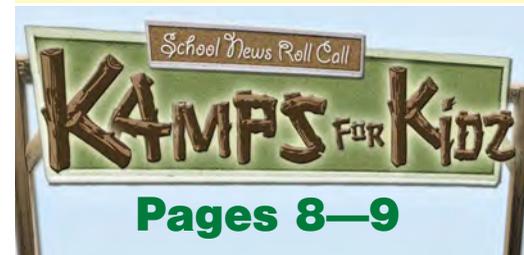
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Superintendent Bray reads to elementary students.

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Kay Coop
 Founder / Publisher



This is our seventh anniversary publishing the TUSD *School News* and it has been a privilege. The principals have so much to be proud of and share with you. Mark Eliot, Director of Communications & Public Information, is a delight to work with and he could write volumes about the TUSD. His knowledge of the district is amazing and he cares so much.

I am very pleased I had the pleasure of knowing Superintendent Richard Bray and wish him well in his much deserved retirement. We have two more issues to publish under his leadership—next is April 13.

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Arroyo *Elementary School*

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Maggie Villegas
Principal

Creating a School of Writers at Arroyo

In our efforts to encourage all Arroyo students to enjoy and actively participate in the process of writing we have placed writing instruction at the top of our instructional list this year. Teachers are rallying students to work within shared units of study. Many Arroyo teachers also had the opportunity to visit the UCLA Lab School to observe and study the process of Writer's Workshop. They brought back a variety of ideas and writing strategies to implement a Writer's Workshop schoolwide.

As part of their Writer's Workshop lesson for the day, Melissa Hendershot's kindergarten class read the story "Pinkalicious" and created a small moment about making cupcakes as depicted in the story. According to her students the best part was when they frosted a giant cupcake and explored the sequencing steps in making and decorating cupcakes. They are will hold a writing celebration to share their final writing products with each other.



Arroyo teacher Melissa Hendershot and her kindergarten class display their cool cupcake creations.

Arnold O. Beckman

3588 Bryan Ave., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-2900

High School



Adele Heuer
Principal

Tutorial Program Supports Student Achievement

The Open Tutorial Program is the cornerstone of Beckman's Tiered Interventions. It provides students with additional time and support to become proficient in the essential standards and improve achievement in their classes.

Tutorial is held twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday for 30 minutes. Students are required to sign up with one of their six teachers at least one day in advance. Teachers may assign students to their Tutorial for re-teaching, test make-up, additional lab time or focused interventions and support. For example, after a Geometry assessment the Geometry teachers analyze the results of the test and group the students who did not master specific concepts with one teacher for re-teaching.



Beckman teacher Cathy Ruddell and her Algebra class at work in tutorial class.

English teachers use Tutorial for writing conferences with students. Science often has students make corrections to labs or re-analyze data collected from labs. Tutorial is also used for advanced students.

In 2010, 1448 Advanced Placement exams were administered and Tutorial was used for extensive



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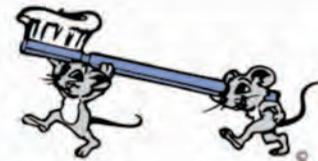
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Elementary School



Kelly Fresch
Principal

CHiPs for Kids Toy Collection

This winter Benson Student Council members sponsored our annual Toy Collection, seeking donations on behalf of the Orange County California Highway Patrol. Students across campus were encouraged to bring unwrapped, new toys or gift cards to the school office the first two weeks of December for the Toy Drive. Over 127 gifts were collected by the generous Benson Community.

On Wednesday, December 15th, all 389 students congregated on the blacktop, formed a huge winding snake, and hand-over-hand passed each gift, one-by-one, through the snake dropping them into the Highway Patrol car. The positive energy and enthusiasm shared by all was well received by the attending officers.

Our student body was proud to participate! We can't thank everyone enough for their kindness and support during these challenging economic times. Our community continues to open their hearts and give give give when asked. Way to go Bears!



Benjamin Beswick

1362 Mitchell Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7385

Elementary School



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Taking the Road to College Graduation

Beswick Elementary School is being honored in February and early March through Tustin Unified's "Salute to Our Schools" Program. Staff and students are excited to be given this opportunity to display some of the great work we are doing and provide insight as to our vision for the future of Beswick.

The theme of our presentation centers on our vision. Beswick's staff, students and community are committed to education through mutual respect, dedication and support for one another. We believe that we are on the path to becoming the premier choice for academic excellence on the road to college graduation and see nothing less for our future. We included a work sample of the activities we do that will fulfill our vision and goals for the future.

Please take a moment to see our display in the District Board Room, 300 South C St. Call (714) 730-7339 for viewing times.



Smile! You're looking at Brianna's artwork from Beswick School's display in the District Board Room.

Columbus Tustin

17952 Beneta Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7352

Middle School



Dean Crow
Principal

RIF Promotes Lifelong Readers

By Lori Fiduk, Library Media Technician

Students and staff at CT are getting excited about the first Reading is Fundamental (RIF) book distribution of this school year. RIF is the largest children's literacy nonprofit organization in the United States. It is designed for students to choose a new book that they can keep three times each year.

Our students go to the library with their language arts teachers to "shop" for their favorite books. There are approximately 150 titles to choose from, with a variety of genres and reading levels.

Most of the books have an Accelerated Reader quiz associated with them, so students are able to fulfill class requirements for Accelerated Reader as well.

RIF began over 40 years ago. Today, 15 million new, free books are given to almost 5 million students throughout the United States. The philosophy behind RIF is to inspire students to be lifelong readers and to motivate them through their ability to choose what they want to read. We have seen this in action here at CT for many years.

Students return to the library after reading their RIF books to look for additional books written by the same author or from the same genre. Teachers report that the RIF books are out and read whenever students get the chance in class. There are smiles and excitement when the right book has been found, and students show their friends and classmates what they have chosen with pride. CT is fortunate to be able to participate in such a wonderful experience.



Christine Matos
Principal

All Abuzz About Currie Spelling Bee

By Kevin Bruner, Core Teacher

Hundreds of students, parents, teachers and spectators swarmed to Currie Middle School's multipurpose room in January. Why were these folks all abuzz? It was the spelling bee!

After a grueling competition that will not soon be forgotten by anyone in attendance, Anastasia Earles was crowned champion by correctly spelling 'vintage' in the 11th round of competition. Anastasia, only the second sixth-grader to win the Currie bee, received a cash prize and medal, and will represent Currie in the



Currie teacher and Spelling Bee organizer Kevin Bruner awards first place winner Anastasia Earles and second place winner Jocelyn Garcia.

Orange County Spelling Bee. Jocelyn Garcia vied with Anastasia for several tense rounds of competition and finished second.

After winning, our champion, Anastasia Earles said "I am very shy. I was so eager to get off of the stage. I think this experience will help me overcome my stage fright. I am lucky that Currie has the Spelling Bee."

With the support of teachers, parents and students, Currie Middle School continues to offer opportunities for our students to shine!

Foothill *High School*

19251 Dodge Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7464



Al Marzilli
Principal

Foothill Band and Tall Flags Bring Home Top Honors

Foothill High School's Marching Band and Tall Flags have had a fruitful year so far. Recently, they were awarded \$1,000 and top honors in the Antelope Valley and Baldwin Park Band Reviews. The ensemble has performed at football games, parades, other schools, and Disneyland Park as part of their community outreach program. They are now preparing for the 2011 concert season where they will perform at the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Festival. Drumline will compete in Drums Across California.

Individual achievements go to Jennifer Barbour, California State Baton Twirling Champion, and Drum Major Jacob Bullard, who accepted an invitation from the USA Spirit Association to perform in the New Year's Day Celebration in London, England.

Foothill's Marching Band and Tall Flags, along with the Jazz Ensemble and Winter Guard, are also invited to participate in the Hawaiian International Invitational Music Festival in the spring of 2012.



Foothill shows its winning spirit at Baldwin Park Band Review.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7390



Nancy Jenkins
Principal

Enjoying Nature and Making New Friends

February means traveling to new and exciting adventures for our fifth graders. Our students are packing their suitcases and rolling their sleeping bags for a week long adventure in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains near Lake Arrowhead. For many of our students this will be their first adventure away from home.

During the action-packed four days, students will hike, hear, see, feel, touch and smell the science concepts beyond the classroom.

They will interact with nature and the natural surroundings.

Students will participate in different classes such as: Botany, Geology, Astronomy, Meteorology/Water Cycle, Ecology, Habitats & Adaptations, Energy, Native

American Studies, and the very popular, Night Hike.

New friendships will be made and an appreciation for the beauty, wonder and excitement of the mountains will be discovered. With all the rainfall in our area they are guaranteed to have snow and tons of fun, learning and abundant memories!



Estock students Nicolas Cox, Maryam Juarez, Anastasia Sedillo and Jackie Negrete line up for outdoor science.

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Nancy Jenkins
Principal

Exciting Adventures in the Wilderness

February means traveling to new and exciting adventures for our fifth graders. Our students are packing their suitcases and rolling their sleeping bags for a week-long adventure in the beautiful Big Bear Mountains.

During the week students participate in environmental classes that demonstrate the long-term health and welfare of our planet and how their role in it makes a difference.

Important concepts such as the four R's will be stressed: Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle. Students are challenged at

each meal to produce ZERO waste and are rewarded when they succeed. Physical activities such as hiking, archery and rock climbing will be experienced. Bugs and decomposers are studied for their value in our world. An exciting nocturnal night is also part of this exciting week.

With all the rainfall in our area they are guaranteed to have snow and tons of fun, learning and abundant memories!



Guin Foss students Yehudah Hernandez, Alexandra Valencia and Ethan Letizio sign up for outdoor science.

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

15571 Williams St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7521

Elementary School



Norma Lemus
Principal

Exploring the Great Outdoors

For the fourth year in a row, Heideman Elementary School is fortunate to have been selected for participation in the Outdoor Science School program. This opportunity has been made possible by an Orange County Department of Education grant. It was provided by an anonymous and generous donor who funds most of the costs of this wonderful program.

Once again, the Assistance League of Tustin will help to make this trip possible by providing sleeping bags, jackets, boots, hats and gloves to the participating students.

During February, approximately 60 Heideman fifth-graders will visit the Cedar Crest campsite in the San Bernardino Mountains. Teachers Beth Beyer and Annette Stankovich will be accompanying the students on the trip, and Principal Norma Lemus will also be visiting them at camp. The parents attended an informational meeting in December to learn about the program, and have been given an opportunity to visit the campsite prior to our scheduled attendance days.

The outdoor science curriculum is aligned with the California Science Content Standards. The students will go on adventure hikes, attend science sessions and perform original skits relevant to the specific environmental or scientific theme of the week. They will also learn responsibility and cooperation through group living, courtesy and table manners, and new games and songs.

This four-day experience provides our fifth-grade students with a unique opportunity to develop social skills and good self-esteem. Our teachers and students always return from the event with much more knowledge about the natural world, and themselves!

Hewes *Middle School*

13232 Hewes Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7348



Michelle Boudreaux
Principal

Hewes Students Have Helping Hands

Hewes Highlander students and staff have been getting involved in some worthy causes over the past few months in our local community and beyond. In October, Hewes participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF and over \$1,000 was raised. The money went to help support children worldwide to receive food, clean water, clothing, shelter, medical supplies and education.

In November, Hewes Leadership groups teamed up with the student body to fill up

the back of a pick-up truck full of non perishable food items. The food collected went to families in need in our school district for the Thanksgiving holiday.

In December, our CJSF and Leadership groups sponsored a toy drive in which they asked the Hewes community to donate new unwrapped presents. All of the presents collected were delivered to the Lyon Street Parent Center which provides services and programs to TUSD families.



Hewes students support worthy causes.



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Healthy Habits Highlighted at Hicks Canyon

Students and families at Hicks Canyon Elementary School strive to live healthy lifestyles. In a recent collaboration with TUSD Nutrition Services, Hicks Canyon students taste tested three different non-meat burgers. Students were given a rating sheet to judge each burger on smell, appearance and taste. The students were very open to trying the different burgers and sharing their opinions. Teresa Squibb, Director of Nutrition, served the burgers and talked to the children about their likes and dislikes. Future veggie burgers served to Tustin students will be based on the recommendations of the Hicks Canyon taste testers.

Hicks Canyon students stay active as they prepare for our up-coming Jog-a-thon under the leadership of parents Alexis Rivas and Kristy McGuire. Students will set goals to jog around the school track and receive encouragement from friends and families through pledges. Children learn about healthy habits during weekly morning announcements and the school newsletter, *The Husky Howl*.



Hicks Canyon students taste test veggie burgers at lunch.

Hillview *High School*

19061 Foothill Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7356



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Hillview Students are Picture Perfect

One thing all high school students love is pictures...especially of themselves! We are very fortunate to have an amazing photographer on staff, Lisa Gallick.

Mrs. Gallick takes tremendous pride in all that she does! As our school custodian, Hillview's campus is one of the cleanest and well maintained in Tustin. Her photographs of students are equally incredible. Mrs. Gallick generously takes pictures at the Hawk Pride luncheons, Soroptimist and Rotary award winners along with pictures for the yearbook.

The Picture Wall containing photos of lunchtime sports and other activities is one of the most popular places on campus. However, Mrs. Gallick's best work is taking individual senior graduation pictures provided for each graduating senior.

Numerous people have commented that Mrs. Gallick's work looks very professional. That is true because she has worked for the *OC Register* and a photo studio in the past.

I sincerely appreciate Mrs. Gallick's volunteering her time and talent taking pictures of our students.



Hillview's Hawk eye in action!

Ladera *Elementary School*

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7505



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

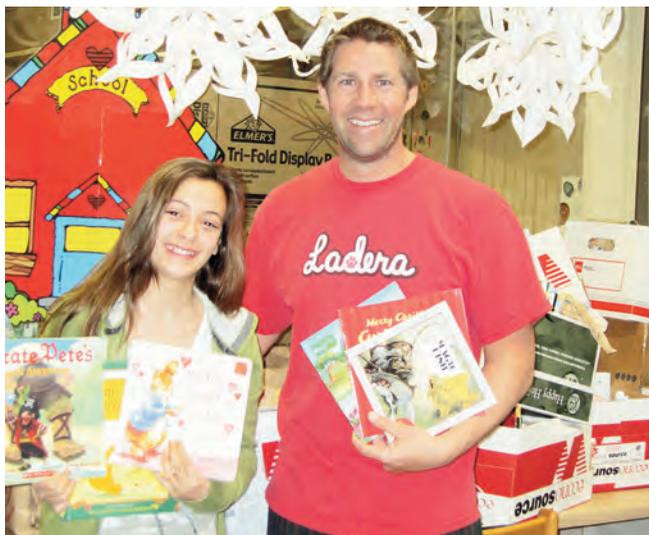
Ladera Book Drive Benefits Kindergarten Readiness

Each year, the students, staff and community at Ladera Elementary School participate in a philanthropic event. This year during, the month of December, the Ladera family held a book drive to benefit the TUSD Kindergarten Readiness Program.

The book drive was organized by former Ladera student Tara Steinmetz. Students were able to bring in both new and used books. The book drive was held during the Ladera Book Fair at a local bookstore, so families were able to purchase books for the book drive and benefit the school as well.

To encourage participation students were given a raffle ticket for every three books that they donated. Donated raffle prizes included gift certificates to local restaurants, movie tickets and tickets to a hockey game.

The Ladera community was definitely in the giving spirit, when all was said and done over 1,200 books were donated.



Book Drive coordinator Tara Steinmetz and Principal Ryan Bollenbach

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Sun	2/13	10:45-12:15p	BU12 & GU13
Sun	2/27	10:45-12:15p	BU12 & GU13
Sun	3/13	10:45-12:15p	BU12 & GU13
Sun	2/13	9:00-10:30a	BU13 & BU14
Sun	2/27	9:00-10:30a	BU13 & BU14
Sun	3/13	9:00-10:30a	BU13 & BU14

All tryouts are hosted at Riverdale Elementary School, Anaheim

2011/12 CLUB TRYOUTS U9-U14

Canyon PSA is an organized youth soccer club for girls and boys ages U9 to U19 since 1998. Under the direction of Club Director **Eddie Carrillo** (Men's Soccer Coach Chapman University, teacher with OUSD), Asst. Club Director **Sal Lopez**, Technical Director **Luis Balboa**, and Goal Keeper Coach, **Bob Ammann**, (Men's Soccer Coach Cal State Fullerton), this leadership brings over 90 years of coaching experience and knowledge of the game. **Ultimately, our success will be measured by the number of Canyon PSA players that participate in soccer at the collegiate level and by the success our players achieve in all aspects of their lives.**

www.canyonpsa.com

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Contest!!

This chicken drawing, Netragrednik, is hidden in this publication. (Hint: it is always in every issue.)



When you find it, email the page number to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put "TUSD Contest" in the subject line)

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

Congratulations!

December Word Search Contest Winners Megan & Katelyn Pang

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

13822 Prospect Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7528



Molly Murphy
Principal

Committed to Community Service

Once again the Loma Vista Student Council is working very hard in the area of community service and civic duty. Under the guidance of Student Council Moderator, fifth-grade teacher Cathy Fortier, and the support of our PTO, Loma Vista students have witnessed firsthand the importance of community service projects and civic duty. It is truly a team effort.

In December the Student Council collected 393 toys for the California Highway Patrol "CHiPs for Kids" Toy Drive. The students truly enjoyed this wonderful project which helped make a difference in the lives of children in Orange County.

Our next community project is the "Pennies for Patients" program. Students will collect spare change and donate it to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. "Pennies for Patients" builds character, teaches compassion, and impacts your school community in a meaningful way. The Loma Vista Cougars are very proud of their community service efforts.



The Loma Vista Cougars proudly stand with Chipper and the CHP to present their donated toys for their annual toy drive in December.

Myford *Elementary School*

3181 Trevino Drive, Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1875



Amy Fedderly
Principal

Myford Provides One-on-One Tutoring Program

Myford Elementary School serves a diverse population. As you can imagine, the needs of our students are as diverse as their ethnic backgrounds. It's always a challenge to find ways to provide all students with the support they need, but in these economic times, it's even more so. That's why we have teamed up again, with Beckman High School to offer a tutoring program for students here at Myford.

Beginning this month, Myford Elementary will be offering a group of first through fifth grade students an opportunity to participate in a unique tutoring program. This program provides tutoring to students who have been recommended by their classroom teachers. The students recommended are students who are having difficulty mastering grade level material, and are seen to be students who would benefit from some one-on-one support. California Scholarship Federation students from Beckman High School volunteer their time to come and help students after school for an hour each week in order to provide community service. The tutors commit to attending a short training session, and then sign up for the dates that they are available to volunteer their time.

Tutors work with students on everything from the completion of homework assignments, to the memorization of multiplication facts, to reading aloud with fluency. The students receive valuable one-on-one attention and help that otherwise wouldn't be provided. We are so fortunate to have these wonderful scholars helping our Mountain Lions to continue to soar to great heights!

C.C. Lambert *Elementary School*

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7457



Deanna Parks
Principal

Values for Success

Students at Lambert are very familiar with Coach John Wooden's Pyramid of Success. Each of the fourteen blocks contains traits that everyone needs to reach their "Personal Best," the top block.

Monthly assemblies review the traits in a fun way and top students showing the monthly trait get to attend an activity with Mrs. Parks where they make a necklace to symbolize their winning trait. All students are recognized for utilizing the traits such as cooperation, hard work, friendship, self-control and confidence with "Values for Success" tickets.

This year students are saving up those tickets for special privileges such as a new book, being a Student Noon Duty Supervisor, eating with the principal or going on a "behind the scenes" tour of the school.

Lambert Lions are having fun earning and saving up for the privilege of their choice while practicing values that are important for success in school and life.



Second grader Beatriz Fuentes demonstrated Values for Success to be "Student Noon Duty Supervisor" for a day.

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

14392 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7536



John Laurich
Principal

Nelson Students Explore the Outdoors and Ocean

The first trimester of school has been very busy for Nelson fifth-grade students. The last week before winter break our fifth-graders attended Outdoor Science School at Orange County Department of Education's Creekside Camp in Forest Falls. Unfortunately we were too early to experience snow, but many of our students saw deer in a wilderness setting for the first time.

The entire camp experience is tied to the California State Content Standards in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. It is not only highly educational, but it is also a highlight of each fifth-grader's year.

For the sixth year in a row, Nelson fifth-grade students were invited to participate in the Ocean Institute's Kids' Conference on Watersheds. The program involves two field trips to the Ocean Institute.

During the first trip students learn about pollution's effect on our local oceans and how the watersheds in the area lead to the ocean. They go out beyond the Dana Harbor jetty on the Ocean Institute's Sea Explorer to take water samples and boys and girls spend time in the Institute's onsite lab dissecting fish. Students learn that by preventing pollution in the watersheds, they are saving our oceans for future generations. They return to their school and develop a research project designed to reduce pollution in their watershed.

In January, classes return to the Ocean Institute to attend the Kids' Conference on Watersheds to present their findings. This experience has proven to be unequalled in educational value.

Orchard Hills *School*

11555 Culver Drive, Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/669-0680



Rich Montgomery
Principal

Our First Concert

On December 14, the fantastic Orchard Hills band and orchestra came together for our first ever Winter Concert. Under the direction of our conductor and music teacher, Jim Thompson, our sixth grade students put on a show that was both entertaining and educational. Mr. Thompson informed the audience about what the students had been learning and then proceeded to brag just a little about his incredible performers. His students then demonstrated why he was so excited about showcasing this group of musicians.

The enthusiastic audience was treated to a variety of musical offerings ranging from classics such as Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* to *Believe* from the Polar Express. At the conclusion of the show, the paparazzi (better known as parents and friends) rushed the stage to photograph their favorite performer.

All in all, it was a great way to wrap up the first part of our school year!



Music Director, Jim Thompson, leads his young musicians.

Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

26900 Peters Canyon Road, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7540



Gerry Aust
Interim Principal

Students Positively Excited About Computer Corral

Peters Canyon Elementary School is rolling into 2011 with many new and exciting programs, including PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) and "Stop Bullying!" with our new interim principal, Gerry Aust. Janet Bittick, our principal of five-and-a-half years, recently moved to a new job in Florida.

Technology continues to be a focus in our school, with the continued use of our fantastic Computer Corral. The PTO generously contributes funds, which provides PCE scholars and teachers with the newest educational technology and tools.

Peters Canyon teachers and staff are focusing on anti-bullying and character improvement throughout the school as our PBIS roll-out approaches. The "Stop Bullying!" program discusses behaviors related to improving peer, playground, and classroom behaviors through lessons on teasing, harassment, gossip, resolving conflicts, and respect. Peters Canyon scholars aim to always demonstrate positive behavior in the classroom, in our school and in the community!



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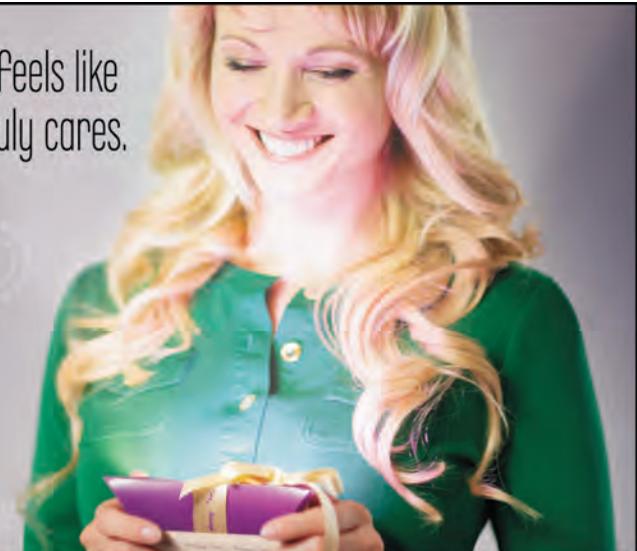
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Pioneer *Middle School*

2700 Pioneer Road, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7534



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Students are Wizards in Theater and Culinary Arts

Under the direction of drama teacher Vici Cope, Pioneer's Theatre Arts students entertained the community with a holiday "Wizard of Oz" performance. Directed by eighth-grade student Kristi Wong, over 500 guests enjoyed the re-enactment of Dorothy and her famous dog Toto. The production was captured by Pioneer's first class video production crew and yearbook students. Photos and videos are made available for teachers and students to evaluate their growth in theatre skills over the course of the school year.

As part of the White Houses' healthy food initiative led by a White House chef to develop a youth-focused cookbook, Pioneer's seventh-grader

Joy Suh's recipe, "Got Chili?" was selected to appear in an upcoming Fuel Up to Play 60 cookbook – *Beyond PB&J: Cooking with Kids*. Many thanks to the Pioneer Physical Education Department for encouraging our students to submit their recipes through the Fuel Up to Play 60 program.



Kamryn Rodriguez, Ryan Haeri, Zac Plante and Ryan Holte perform in "Wizard of Oz" production.

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7364



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Panther Pride Pals = Peaceful Playground

Thorman students enjoy recess and playtime together each day. Panther Pride Pals help make that happen! Panther Pride Pals are students in grades three to five that have taken conflict resolution classes with our school counselor to assist their peers on the playground.

Panther Pride Pals take a written test of conflict resolution strategies and practice "mock" situations before earning their "PPP license." Each licensed Pride Pal has a work schedule and reports to duty with vest, clipboard, and license. Panther Pals enjoy helping their friends solve problems and rewarding students who demonstrate great behavior with pawprint tickets.



Panther Pride Pals: Rodrigo Cruz and Ashlan Chavez at work.

Thorman students are confident problem solvers by following these simple steps: Stop, Cool Off, Talk, Listen, Share Feelings, Brainstorm Ideas, and Make an Agreement. Many thanks to our school counselor, pride pals, and teachers for such a positive program that benefits everyone. Go Panthers!

Red Hill *Elementary School*

11911 Red Hill Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7543



Will Neddersen
Principal

School of Art Masters

Art is an important part of a balanced education for our students. Art provides an individual with another venue for expressing themselves at school besides writing and speaking. Art instruction is a necessary to insure that our students form an appreciation and understanding of the various aspects of art.

The Red Hill PTA supports our art instruction on the campus through the Art Masters program as well music assemblies. Art Masters is a six-session program which offers a sequential study of visual arts, artistic styles and artist study, and is designed to complement the language arts, reading and social studies curriculum in the classroom. To date, Red Hill has had three of its Art Masters. Students have been introduced to the art of Ancient Americas, Native American Art through the lense of Jerome Tiger and Joseph Raffael.

The Art Masters program introduces students to the elements of art by studying a different "Art Master" each month. Each lesson begins with an assembly presentation and discussion about the artist's life, including influences, techniques, and the strong elements of art exhibited in the artist's work. The weeks following the assembly presentation, trained parent docents assist the students with an in-classroom art lesson that reflects each artist's style, chosen medium and artistic techniques. Each student will be taught the techniques of the "Art Master" to create the own works of art. The students' works of art are displayed in each of the classrooms.

Tustin High School

1171 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7414



Jonathan Blackmore
Principal

Tillers Play in CIF Championship Game

In December, the Tustin High School Varsity Football Team played in the CIF Southwest Division Championship Game at Angel Stadium. The Tillers lost the game to the La Habra Highlanders by a score of 35 -26. This does not take away from the wonderful experience of playing in front of a crowd of nearly 10,000 fans.

This is the second time in three years that the Tillers have played in the championship game at Angel Stadium. The Tillers had a remarkable season. heir won lost record was 12-2, they were the Empire League Champions and the #1 seeded team heading into the play-offs.

Four Tillers were named to the *Orange County Register* All-County Teams: Tyler Siudzinski and Diego Mendoza, First Team; Jovanny Melendez, Second Team; and Fajtele Faafoi, Third Team. Great things are happening in the Tustin Football Program. The returning players and coaches are already working toward a return trip to the finals.



THS football players make Tiller-ific entrance at CIF Championship Game.

Tustin Memorial *Academy*

12712 Browning Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7546



Wendy Hudson
Principal

It's Time for Tea!

Students at Tustin Memorial Academy participated in the first Authors' Tea with the principal last month. Every student participated in writing to a common-themed prompt and each class selected one winning

entry.

The winners received a special invitation to the event and were surprised to find tables set up with table cloths and the very finest china! They enjoyed cookies and apple juice while each

student shared their writing with the group. Each winner received a bound copy of all of the winning entries to keep, and a copy was also given to the library.

The Authors' Tea is held three times a year and provides students with practice in writing to a prompt in one sitting, similar to the way students take formal writing tests at the state and district levels.



Second-grader Athena Nailon attends the Authors' Tea with Principal Wendy Hudson.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

12950 Robinson Drive, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7580



Dean Jennings
Principal

Parents and Students Have Out-of-this-World Experience

Tustin Ranch Elementary students are shooting for the stars! During February, the Tustin Ranch PTA is hosting an evening of star gazing where students and their families will have an opportunity to gaze at the stars and view the planets through giant telescopes.

On this special night, the kindergarten playground will be transformed into a sea of telescopes of all sizes. Both small and large telescopes will be used for viewing large sections of the night sky and viewing specific constellations and planets. The planets, Venus, Mars and Saturn, can be observed using the largest of scopes, which will require our Tustin Ranch astronomers to climb a ladder for viewing. During the viewing of the night sky, professional star gazers will be giving us a tour of the stars and planets. In addition, students will have the opportunity to create a craft memento to remember the event. Shoot for the stars Tustin Ranch Cool Coyotes!



Tustin Ranch father and son, Mario and Adrian Corado, take turns looking through a large telescope.

C.E. Utt *Middle School*

13601 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7573



Tom Giebe
Principal

Parent Education Nights a Great Success

C.E. Utt Middle School counselors Kathy Hoffman and Jessica Erickson have been hosting a series of evening parent education nights aimed at involving and empowering parents in the education of their students.

The monthly parent nights, provided in both English and Spanish, have offered parents insight into understanding different learning styles and multiple intelligences, understanding the teen brain, as well as how parents can help ensure their students' success at home. Some of these techniques include setting a routine for homework, establishing a quiet place to work and discussing consequences when work is not completed.

Other nights have included getting parents signed up and acquainted with parent portal and the homework forum web sites, as well as the discussion of the importance of grades and California Standardized Testing (CST) scores on student placement in middle school and beyond.

It's the vision of Utt Middle School that the total education of a student is the result of the combined efforts of the student, the staff at Utt School, and, without question, the parents. Hosting these parent nights is just one more way in which our staff, and in this case our counselors, are bridging the gap to ensure that the teaching and learning taking place during the school day continues at home after the final bell rings.

Utt Middle School believes the parent education nights create an important partnership between teachers and parents to help our students be successful in school and what lies ahead in their future.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7544



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

Veeh Fifth-Graders Attend Outdoor Science School

In January, the fifth-grade students at Veeh Elementary School were joined by the fifth-grade students from Myford Elementary School for a week at Outdoor Science School. The students were at Forest Center which is located in Mill Creek Canyon near the town of Forest Falls in the San Bernardino Mountains at an elevation of 5,300 feet.

For many students this was their first time away from their families. After a few minor bouts with homesickness, the students became accustomed to their accommodations and to "roughing it." Three minute showers, no television and no Wii soon became the norm.

During their four day adventure students participated in geology, ecology and wildlife hikes. Students were able to pan for gold, feed birds from their hands and see wildlife native to the mountains. The students also enjoyed a night hike in which they learned about nocturnal animals.

Even with the warm weather the week prior to the trip, there was still snow on the ground. The students seemed to enjoy the best of both worlds with mild temperatures and the opportunity to play in the snow. One of the highlights of the trip was the skits performed by each cabin.

This once in a lifetime opportunity provides students with hands-on exposure to the fifth-grade science standards. Being away from home and making many new friends created an adventure that our students will always remember.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation

150 El Camino Real, suite#140, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/832-6299 • www.tpsf.net

Dinosaur Dash a Success



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Thank to the Dinosaur Dash Steering Committee for their dedication and hard work while coordinating the Tustin Public Schools Foundation's 2010 Dinosaur Dash. The community event is a major fundraiser for the Foundation that benefits instructional programs for all schools in the Tustin Unified School District.

Some 7,000 runners, walkers, and cyclists registered for the 10K/5K run, 2K walk, and first 50K Bike Tour. Hundreds of additional volunteers and thousands of spectators enjoyed the festivities on November 7 at The Market Place in Tustin. The 20th annual Dinosaur Dash raised nearly \$170,000. Every school registration earned at least \$5 back for TUSD schools, for a total of almost \$39,000. The remainder of the proceeds will be used for educational programs and materials for Tustin Unified schools through the Foundation's various programs.

Thank you to the thousands of parents, teachers, administrators, staff and community members who volunteered and/or participated to help make the Tustin Public Schools Foundation's Dinosaur Dash XX a great community and family event.

Thank you to the Dinosaur Dash Steering Committee: Bill Pevehouse and Curtis Rach, Dinosaur Dash XX Co-Chairs Gerry Aust and Bob Machado, 20th Anniversary Co-Chairs Laurie Abelove, Dave Albus, Diane Aust, Tamms Berkheimer, Sean Chaffins, Doug Davert, Cindy DeBerry, Julie Dickson, Kathy Ellis, Debbie Ewing, Michael Faulwell, Tony Fiduk, Kelly and Troy Fresch, Kristin Gallagher, Annette Haigh, John Hanson, Julie Hirz, Dave Hunsaker, Marge Kasalek, Karl Katnik, Joan McBride, Amy Nakamoto, Sissy Oberlin, Beth Raff, Sue Robishaw, Jim Salzetti, Margie Sepulveda, Christine Smith, Connie Smith, Robert Wright, and Tom Zeigler



Members of the Dinosaur Dash Steering Committee were recognized by the TUSD Board of Education.

Nutrition Services

Tustin Unified School District
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 342

Taste Testing and Healthy Food



Teresa Squibb
Director

Students have been requesting more vegetarian entrees throughout the District. Students from Hicks helped us decide which vegetarian burger to put on the menu. The students tasted and rated three different patties — rating the taste, appearance, and smell of each burger. The Original Gardenburger was the clear cut winner. The elementary schools will be offering the Gardenburgers along side the cheeseburger day. The middle and high schools will also be serving them on their menus.

Increasing the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables our students eat is a priority for Nutrition Services. Elementary and

middle school menus feature a variety of fruits and vegetables and the high schools offer a salad bar during lunch. Through 2010, we served 8,800 pounds of apples, 54,100 servings of Jicama, 29,560 pounds of bananas, 1,200 pounds of stir fry, and still the favorite 124,600 servings of baby carrots!



Students line up for salad bar at Beckman High School

Educational Services

Tustin Unified School District
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 309

Identifying Advanced Learners



Kathie Nielsen
Chief Academic Officer

The Tustin Unified School District's Gifted and Talented Education Program (GATE) focuses on qualitatively differentiated instruction. This consists of a variety of curricular options that respond to and nurture the needs, interests and abilities of our identified students.

The identification process for the GATE program seeks to find those students who have the needs of advanced learners. GATE provides a wide variety of experiences to help strengthen the student's ability to analyze facts and think critically and creatively. GATE-trained teachers know how to infuse elements of depth and complexity into the curriculum to provide a wide range of opportunities for higher-level learning.

In October, the district held an informational meeting for parents who were interested in having their children tested for next year's eligibility. During this meeting they learned about the common characteristics of gifted children, and were presented with examples of what differentiated instruction looks like in the classroom. A question-and-answer period was also provided at the conclusion of the session.

Registration and testing occurs during the fall semester of each school year. Identification is based upon a multiple criteria system that includes cognitive-ability test results, district assessment data, teacher surveys, student work samples, CST scores, English learner observation checklists, parent input and other information.

The GATE screening process will continue throughout the spring, and results letters will be mailed to the parents in March. For more information about our GATE program, please go to "District Programs" at www.tustin.k12.ca.us.

School News

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Superintendent Richard Bray and Foothill High School Principal Al Marzilli receive a special proclamation during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the school's science center.

and science center at Foothill High School, and a new plaza and forthcoming science center at Tustin High School; and the District has continued to shine with California Distinguished Schools, National Blue Ribbon Schools, high test scores, over 90 percent of seniors going to college, new technology in the classroom and fiscal stability.

"It has been exciting and rewarding to share in all the accomplishments of our students and achievements of our schools," Bray said. "Most of all, I am proud of the amazing people – teachers, administrators, staff and parents – who make all of our successes possible."

Bray also has represented Tustin Unified and California superintendents in several roles: president of the State Superintendents Council, Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) commissioner, California board member on the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Board of Directors, member of the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) State Task Force, superintendent representative at state school board meetings and representing superintendents on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) Administration Services Credential Committee and CTC Nominating Committee.

In addition, Bray was appointed to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The state commission oversees the annual granting of more than \$1 billion in Prop. 63 funds to counties for mental health and related services.

"I'm so pleased that cabinet members, administrators and principals have also received appointments to county and statewide councils, committees and boards," Bray said. "These opportunities have resulted in Tustin Unified being known and having a great influence statewide."

Bray has been an educator since 1968. He has worked as director of Curriculum/Instruction and Child Welfare/Attendance for the Banning Unified School District and principal, assistant principal and teacher in the Chino Unified School District. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in education from California State University, Los Angeles.

Bray has been involved in many community organizations and activities, such as the Tustin-Santa Ana Rotary Club, Tustin Chamber of Commerce and Tustin Community Foundation Board.

In addition, for over 20 years he has taught graduate classes in school law and finance at Chapman University and Azusa Pacific University



Mark Eliot
Director of Communications & Public Information
 300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780
 (714) 730-7339 • www.tustin.k12.ca.us

third-grade class has the opportunity to enjoy the trunks. Students can play marbles and check out the type of clothes that their grandparents or great grandparents wore when they were young.

To help tie all this history together, the Tustin Area Historical Society sponsors the "Joann Bollesen Art Contest" about Old Town Tustin for third-graders in the spring. The students use information from "History in a Box," tour of the museum or Tustin walking tour of historical places to create and design their own projects. Winners are awarded ribbons and tickets to local attractions and the Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts' Broadway in the Park production.

Over the years, TUSD teachers and students have commented how much they enjoy learning about the past and appreciate the historical society for preserving the rich and colorful history of the local area.

For more information about the "History in a Box" program, other historical society activities or museum tours, call (714) 731-5701 or visit www.tustinhistory.com.



Peters Canyon third-graders Riley Slumskie and Rinka Ogata are wearing period appropriate costumes and holding a horseshoe and iron, respectively, from the "History in a Box" trunk.



Lynn Davis
President



Jonathan Ablove
Vice President

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Tammie Bullard
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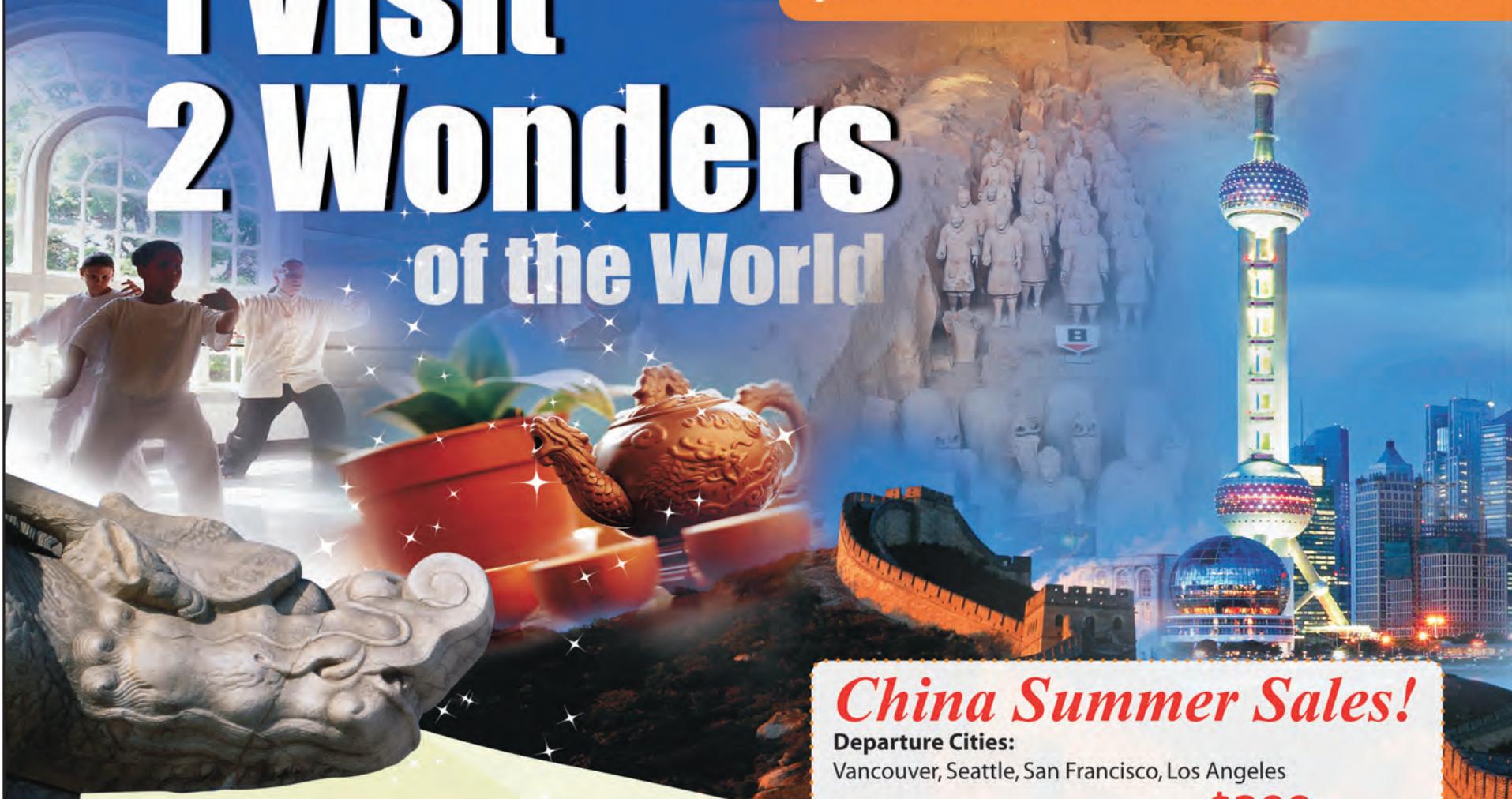
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Temple of Heaven

It is one of the most photographed buildings in the world due to its elegant beauty and symmetry. Built in 1420, it was the place where Ming and Qing emperors prayed to heaven for a good harvest.



Great Wall

The Great Wall was built to keep out the warring invaders, but additional sections were extended eastward for nearly 6,700 kilometres. The Badaling section is the most well-preserved section of the Wall.



Olympic Game Site 2008

The National Stadium serve as the main venue of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. The design was awarded to a submission from the Swiss architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron in April 2003.



Ancient City

Xi'an was authorized by the UNESCO as a world-famous historic city in 1981. Xi'an is one of the four Great Ancient Capital Cities together with Athens, Rome and Cairo. The ancient city of Xi'an is a miniature of Chinese history.



Forbidden City

The Forbidden City was built during the Ming dynasty. It is actually a city-within-a-city; with 9999 rooms spread over 250 acres. During the Ming and Qing dynasty, 24 emperors made their home in the Forbidden City.



Terra Cotta Warriors

The Terracotta Army, one of the wonder of the world, is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China. It includes warriors, chariots, horses, officials, acrobats, strongmen, and musicians.

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