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School News



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Covering the Tustin Unified School District

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APRIL / MAY 2011

TUSD Celebrates 2011 Teachers of the Year



Second-graders do Lambert Lions roar for Tina Kim.



Math students can always count on Jaclyn Martin.



World History class gives honors to Monique Dale.

BY MARK ELIOT, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Tina Kim, second-grade teacher at Lambert Elementary School; Jaclyn Martin, algebra and geometry teacher at Pioneer Middle School; and Monique Dale,

social science teacher at Foothill High School, have been selected as the 2011 Teachers of the Year by the Tustin Unified School District.

SEE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR • PAGE 18

SUPERINTENDENT



Richard Bray
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

Spring brings an array of good news in the Tustin Unified School District...

The Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan research and educational institute, recently published a report culminating a yearlong effort to study the educational productivity of more than 9,000 school districts in the United States.

The Center selected districts that teach kindergarten through the 12th grade, with enrollment of at least 250 students. In California, 308 districts met the conditions to be included in the research group.

The Tustin Unified School District was one of only 17 districts in California and two in Orange County to fall into the highest productivity category. Just over 5% of the school districts in the study earned this distinction.

Researchers found that highly productive school districts share a number of attributes: focus on student performance; working effectively with the community, employee associations and the school board; willingness to make hard fiscal decisions while preserving essential services; placing a priority on quality instruction; and using sophisticated data systems to analyze student results.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 19

New Superintendent Appointed



Dr. Gregory
Franklin

BY MARK ELIOT, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Gregory A. Franklin has been appointed as superintendent of the Tustin Unified School District. The appointment was made by the TUSD Board of Education at a special meeting on March 9. He will begin work on July 1.

Franklin will take over for Superintendent Richard Bray, who is retiring in June after serving 43 years in public education – the past five years as superintendent of the Tustin school district.

Franklin has worked in public education for the past 25 years. Currently, he serves as superintendent of the Los Alamitos Unified School District, where he has served for the past four years. Prior to that, he was assistant superintendent of educational services for the Glendale Unified School District for three years.

Additionally, Franklin has served as assistant superintendent of human resources in the Fullerton Joint Union High School District, principal of Fullerton Union High School and Bonita High School in the Bonita Unified School District and assistant principal at Saddleback High School in the Santa Ana Unified School District.

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Tustin Public Schools Foundation

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

Dinosaur Dash Logo Selected



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Congratulations to An Truong, whose design was selected as the logo for Dinosaur Dash XXI, to be held Nov. 6, 2011 at The Market Place in Tustin. The Dinosaur Dash Committee selected this logo from entries submitted by TUSD middle and high school students. An was awarded \$100, as was the art department in her school, Tustin High School.



Teachers and their families, school administrators, staff members, parents and community members are all invited to attend the Teacher of the Year Dinner on May 6 at the Irvine Marriott. This celebration of teachers honors one "Teacher of the Year" from each of our 28 schools. The evening includes dinner, a video of each nominated teacher in



The 2010 Teachers of the Year at last year's celebration.

action and an awards presentation. A unique way to honor a favorite teacher is by "adopting" him or her and underwriting the cost of a ticket to this celebration or by purchasing a Tribute Ad that will be included in the printed dinner program. The list of honorees and ticket information is available at www.tpsf.net.



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Congratulations to the TUSD Teachers of the Year. Of course, the reason for publishing *School News* is to highlight the fine teachers, administrators, students and programs all year. Every teacher is dedicated to educating our youth and is appreciated. All of us have had one or more teachers we can remember who made that light go off in our head. If you haven't done so, it might be fun to look up one of your teachers and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

TUSD is up on social networking and can be followed on Twitter twitter.com/TUSDschools

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Covering the
TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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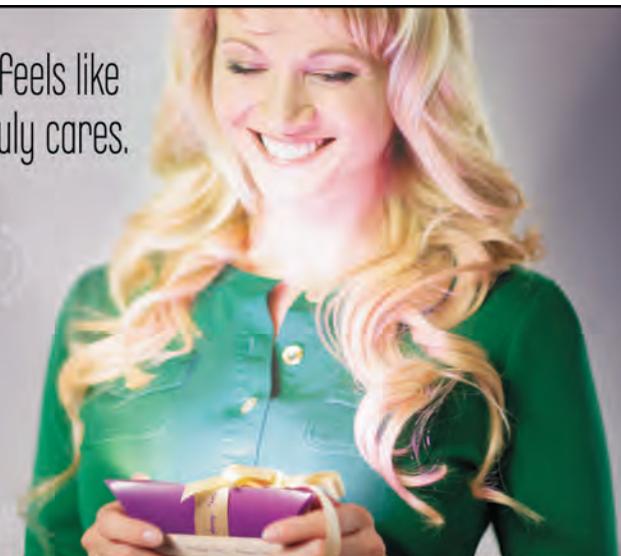
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The Power of Parents and Physical Activity



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

We know one of the most powerful tools in the fight against childhood obesity is physical activity. Yet, researchers tell us as our children grow, there is a decline in the amount of physical activity they get. How much physical activity do children and teens need? The 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommends that children and teens get at least 60 minutes a day of physical activity, with a majority of that spent doing moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (MVPA). MVPA means raising your heart rate and "breaking a sweat" during physical activity.

Kids who get 30 minutes a day of MVPA have improved physical health, physical fitness, and mental health. At school we see links between physical activity, fitness, and improved academic performance. In other words, better grades and test scores at all ages!

Parents can have a powerful influence their children's time and activities, by being an active role model for physical fitness. Children imitate what they see their parents do. Families can schedule an active play date at least once a week and should strive to make physical activity a part of every day if possible. Parents and caretakers can also substitute active play time for television, computer, and video game screen time at home. Children can invite their neighborhood friends to join in your family play time.

Physical Education (PE) is the class time schools allocate for students to learn and practice the movement knowledge, motor and social skills they need to start and sustain an active, healthy lifestyle. State and federal academic requirements for physical education are 200 minutes every 10 days in K-6 schools and 400 minutes every 10 days in grades 7-12. Schools are doing their best to make sure

SEE OC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION • PAGE 6

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Students Recognized

By Deena Vela, Science Teacher on Special Assignment



Kathie Nielsen
Chief Academic
Officer

Irvine Valley College held its 24th annual Astounding Invention competition in January. The invention fair promotes mathematics and science education in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Nearly 190 finalists from Tustin Unified elementary and middle schools competed at the event. Over 50 TUSD students were recognized as Blue Ribbon Division winners (first place) and they received a \$50 check from the IVC Foundation. There were also 62 students who received a \$25 check for the Red Ribbon Outstanding Invention Award (second place).

A law firm hosted a reception in March with selected division winners to announce the TUSD winner of a \$10,000 pro bono legal service toward patenting his/her invention.

The IVC Astounding Invention competition was an amazing opportunity for TUSD students to be recognized for their scientific creations.



Outstanding Invention Winner:
Arroyo fourth-grader Chloe Rutledge.



Division Winner:
Arroyo fourth-grader Jared Disbrow.

Arroyo Elementary School

11112 Coronel Road, Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Maggie Villegas
Principal

Arroyo Sings Praises for Stephanie Lukkes

Arroyo is thrilled to be honoring Stephanie Lukkes as our Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Lukkes is an educator who does everything with 110% effort and enthusiasm. She has been teaching in TUSD for 14 years and was herself a student at Estock, Columbus Tustin, and Tustin High School.

Mrs. Lukkes not only serves as the Leadership Team Chairperson for second grade but she also leads our school chorus of over 100 students. She also passionately shares her talents by coordinating our Pacific Symphony Class Act Bravo Assembly, leading our Friday Flag ceremony patriotic singing, and annually choreographs our Variety Show teacher act.



Mrs. Lukkes is also completing her first year as a Cotsen Fellow, working tirelessly to further expand her teaching expertise in the area of mathematics. Mrs. Lukkes can often be found tutoring students during her lunch time and is admired and adored by all who know her. Congratulations!

Nutrition Services

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

Health Meal Challenge



Teresa Squibb
Director

The TUSD Wellness Committee held its annual Get Your Health On! Healthy Meal Challenge. This year we also had the Iron Chef Challenge for the secondary schools – where the students had to create a healthy meal around potatoes. Four winners were chosen from the elementary schools and three from the middle and high schools.

Congratulations to the following Healthy Menu Contest winners:

Ava Ballard, second grade, Hicks Canyon Elementary, Cranberry Turkey Burger; Shaina Bhakta, second grade, Ladera Elementary, Shaina's Chicken Pita Wrap; Robert Murphey (a repeat winner), second grade, Loma Vista Elementary, Fish Taco Fiesta; Abraham Tenorio, fifth grade, Thorman Elementary, Stuffed Potato with Chili; Hannah Bradley, sixth grade, Hewes Middle, Pyramid Potato; Brady Langlois and Blake Callen, senior, Foothill High, Midwestern theme; Daniella Tinajero and Bernice Barraza, senior, Foothill High, Roasted Chicken.

Each winning menu will be featured in the winning school's cafeteria for all students to enjoy.



Loma Vista second-grade winner
Robert Murphey has a fiesta at lunchtime.

Barbara Benson

12712 Elizabeth Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7531

Elementary School



Junka Ezaki Fosters a Love of Learning

Benson Elementary celebrates kindergarten teacher Junka Ezaki as our Teacher of the Year for 2011! Miss Ezaki is a fabulous teacher who offers much support to the school community as she wears many hats: site English Learner liaison, ETAP, Class Act Teacher Representative, TEA Vice President, master teacher, and Dinosaur Dash Site Representative.

Miss Ezaki has taught at Benson for 15 school years. With her Masters in Educational Leadership, and dedication to the greater community as an active volunteer for Read Across America Day, Habitat for Humanity and Families Forward, she is well-rounded and demonstrates the act of giving to the highest level.



Miss Ezaki and her students enjoy learning.

Miss Ezaki offers an engaging, language rich learning environment, with a core emphasis on reading while supporting the whole student as she strives to incorporate the arts. She is instrumental in fostering a love of learning as students start their school experience in her kindergarten program.

Arnold O. Beckman

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



Adele Heuer
Principal

Troy Fresch Has the TRU BLU School Spirit

Beckman High School is proud to announce our 2011 Teacher of the Year, Troy Fresch, Activities Director and teacher of senior English.



Troy Fresch gets ready for the day's activities

Mr. Fresch has made a positive and lasting impact on the school culture by working with ASB to develop inclusive clubs and activities that support Beckman's Four A's: Academics, Athletics, Activities, and the Arts.

Clubs, assemblies BLU CRU events, dances, and all student activity programs at Beckman High School are exciting, fun, well organized, and incorporate the school's TRU BLU characteristics. School spirit is strong and student attendance at Beckman's many events is at its highest ever thanks to "TFresch" and Beckman's outstanding ASB leadership.

Above all, Mr. Fresch is an outstanding English teacher. He is energetic, innovative yet focused on student learning He is a world-class teacher and motivator.

Benjamin Beswick

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



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Chandra Wran Brings Compassion to Her Classroom

Beswick is proud to announce our 2011 Teacher of the Year, Chandra Wran. Mrs. Wran plays many roles on our campus and serves our students and staff in a variety of capacities ranging from PBIS coach and Leadership Team member.

Although each responsibility provides a unique challenge, Mrs. Wran handles each with tremendous care and determination to do the best she can for the students and families of Beswick.

As a parent herself, Mrs. Wran brings that understanding and compassion to her classroom. She works closely with our community liaison and parents to address students' academic and social emotional needs to insure that all of her students are successful.

Her colleagues describe her as patient and loving. Mrs. Wran is always there to support her team, to encourage the team to work collaboratively to meet the needs of students. She is very data savvy and can always rely on her to add levity and humor to the most difficult situations.

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Dean Crow
Principal

Denise Mihm Makes a Difference for Students

Congratulations to Denise Mihm for being selected as Columbus Tustin Middle School's 2011 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Mihm has been teaching for 10 years in the Tustin Unified School District. It is through creativity, patience and dedication that she consistently reaches all students. She consistently shares her wealth of knowledge with all other teachers on our campus for the good of all students while maintaining an infectious positive attitude.

There are at least two dozen examples I can share over the past two years where Mrs. Mihm has voluntarily gone out of her way to make a significant difference for students who need specialized support. She is consistently effective in helping students realize success in school through her caring determination. Mrs. Mihm is a member of the Leadership Team and she is also a cornerstone of our staff's social committee. She works hard to make our school a wonderful place for all staff and students.

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



Nancy Jenkins
Principal

Congratulations Mrs. Alice Keto

Helen Estock Elementary School is excited to announce that Mrs. Alice Keto is our 2011 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Keto is a wonderful fifth-grade teacher who loves learning and is dedicated to assuring her students are successful and happy.

Mrs. Keto really loves getting involved with her students as evidenced by her attending and participating in the hikes, stories, dining and outdoor activities with the fifth-graders for four days in February. She has also been instrumental in designing, developing and cultivating the two Estock gardens. She loves new challenges and continually wants to be challenged as an educator.

Mrs. Keto is also building her teaching repertoire by participating in the Art of Teaching Program as a Cotsen Fellow in the area of writing. Mrs. Keto is an exceptional teacher who is loved by all at Helen Estock School.

OC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 3

students are getting adequate PE time, however some may find it difficult to fit the time into the regular school day. If adequate PE time is a concern, ask your child's teacher or school principal what you can do to help.

Parents can volunteer to help provide more MVPA at recess, lunch time, and after school. Parents can also assist teachers by supporting scheduled physical activity breaks in the classroom. Parents can promote walking, skating, and biking to and from school. As educators, we can encourage parents to learn about their school district's Wellness Policy and participate in the Kids Run OC or Governor's Challenge. Many organizations, including the Orange County Department of Education, offer free physical fitness resource materials, activity plans, and tools for parents.

None of us can do it alone. Working together, parents, schools, and communities can provide an environment that promotes physical activity and increases the amount of MVPA our children get. Let's encourage collaborations between cities and community organizations, like YMCA's and Boys & Girls Clubs, to work together and find ways to expand the use of existing facilities such as pools, parks, fitness centers, gyms, fields, playgrounds, and skate parks. Together we can find innovative ways to increase physical activity resulting in better health and fitness for everyone.

For more information: <http://HealthySchools.ocde.us>; www.classroom.kidshealth.org; www.ocmarathon.com/kids-run-the-oc/program-info.aspx; www.CalGovCouncil.org; www.dairycouncilofca.org/Educators

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7360



Christine Matos
Principal

Heidi Primeaux Making Strides at Currie

By Diana Tyson, Reading/Language Arts Teacher on Special Assignment

Currie is bursting with pride to announce Heidi Primeaux as our 2011 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Primeaux began her teaching career at Currie six years ago and quickly proved to be an invaluable asset to Currie's successful English Language Arts (ELA) program.

Having taught every grade level including Honors, Read 180 and Gateways, Mrs. Primeaux pairs her innate ability to motivate reluctant learners with a successful bank of proven teaching strategies. The result is a classroom where students interact freely in a non-threatening environment and make staggering gains in reading and writing.

Beyond her classroom responsibilities, Mrs. Primeaux is involved in Club Live, the O.C. Rescue Mission's Can Castle program, Red Ribbon Week, Tobacco Awareness Week, and has organized several field trips for her students to places such as the Orange County Courthouse and the Museum of Tolerance. Outside Currie, she keeps busy as an AYSO volunteer for her two daughters, Sydney and Shelby.



Teacher Heidi Primeaux motivates her students.

Foothill *High School*

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



Al Marzilli
Principal

Monique Dale Serves as Role Model at Foothill

Foothill's Teacher of the Year, Monique Dale, is the role model for the perfect teacher. She's organized, knowledgeable, and dedicated to the students and staff at Foothill.

Each school year, Mrs. Dale personally calls her students' families to formally introduce herself and talk about her classes. She opens her classroom during lunch and after school for students to come in and get extra help. Every time a student performs positively, she mails a "Knight Gram" home to inform the parent(s) of the positive behavior.

Mrs. Dale shows tremendous concern for her colleagues. As the Social Science Co-Chair, she continually helps everyone in her department. As the Staff Club Chair, she can often be seen buying flowers and sending cards/balloons to recognize our special and sad moments. As our Dino Dash Chair, she regularly leads us to top fundraising numbers within the District. We are truly blessed to have Mrs. Dale at Foothill High.



Monique Dale, center, and her students pose for a photo.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

18492 Vanderlip Ave., Santa Ana, 92705 • 714/730-7552



Nancy Jenkins
Principal

Congratulations Mrs. Kirsten Watson

Guin Foss Elementary School is excited to announce that Mrs. Kirsten Watson is our 2011 Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Watson is a wonderful fourth-grade teacher who loves learning and is dedicated to assuring each student is successful and happy. She has a strong desire to take on new challenges and to grow as an educator.

Mrs. Watson is an extremely flexible person who is always ready, willing and able to put her best foot forward in everything she does. She is also a scholar who is currently adding to her knowledge base by working on her GATE certification and completing a Masters degree in Administration at Concordia University.



Kirsten Watson

Mrs. Watson is also further refining and enhancing her teaching practice by participating in the Art of Teaching Program as a Cotsen Fellow in the area of mathematics. Mrs. Watson is an exceptional teacher who is loved by all at Guin Foss School.

Robert Heideman

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

Elementary School



Norma Lemus
Principal

Lifelong Learning

I am very pleased to announce Mrs. Melanie James has been named Heideman Elementary School's Teacher of the Year for 2011.

Mrs. James is a dedicated, talented, hardworking kindergarten teacher who is very passionate about teaching, always striving for the best for her students. Mrs. James will go the extra mile to ensure their success. She began her teaching career in Tustin Unified School District and has now been with the district for 10 years.

Mrs. James uses her Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) training, University of California, Irvine Math Institute training, and Systematic English Language Development training to reach her students. She is dedicated to all students, not just the students in her own classroom. Mrs. James helps the kindergarten students begin their journey of lifelong learning.

Mrs. James has also been the team leader for Astounding Inventions for several years. She spends many hours helping our young inventors prepare for Astounding Inventions.

Mrs. James also makes time to contribute in her community. This year, Mrs. James helped to start a Daisy Girl Scout troop for her kindergarten daughter. She is currently a co-leader for the group and is enjoying teaching young girls about becoming strong, confident, kind, and helpful members of our community.

Mrs. James is a caring teacher whose true love of children and dedication to her profession makes her a well-respected, inspirational member of the Heideman team. We are all very proud to recognize Mrs. James as our Teacher of the Year for 2011.

Hewes *Middle School*

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



Michelle Boudreaux
Principal

Susie Burgess Encourages Students to "Feel" the Language

Hewes School is thrilled and honored to announce Susie Burgess as our Teacher of the Year. All of Ms. Burgess's 21 years of teaching in education have been in Tustin Unified and the last 11 years have been at Hewes teaching French and Spanish.

Ms. Burgess has a true passion for teaching and a genuine interest in her students' learning. There is no question she is a dedicated teacher who is committed to her craft and her students. She creates a positive learning environment which demonstrates students' social and academic growth. She goes above and beyond developing lessons that actively engage her students and meet their diverse learning needs.

Ms. Burgess wants her students to experience the complete "feel" of French and Spanish. Not only does she teach the language, but the students experience the culture through her numerous class activities. Congratulations and thank you for all you do Ms. Burgess!



Ms. Burgess with students in one of her French classes.

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

3817 Viewpark, Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1878



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Hillary Biehl is a Star at Hicks Canyon

"If you see it and believe it, you can achieve it!" Not just words printed on the walls of Hillary Biehl's classroom, but the philosophy that guides

her teaching and resonates with her students. Students keep three goals posted on their desks that, through high expectations and genuine affection, Mrs. Biehl helps them visualize, believe in, and achieve. Parents delight to see her begin every day with a hug for each student.

In 16 years of teaching, Mrs. Biehl has held many positions of responsibility—Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) test coordinator and pilot teacher, and on the leadership team and the District Wellness Committee, to name a few. As grade-level lead for nine years, Mrs. Biehl always left each team member feeling valued, appreciated, and supported. One colleague describes Hillary as "an extraordinary teacher—organized, on top of things, but most of all, a fabulous leader."

Hicks Canyon is proud to call Mrs. Biehl our 2011 Teacher of the Year!



Teacher Hillary Biehl, right, is queen for the day.

Hillview *High School*

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



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Hillview Honors Three Staff Members

I am very honored to recognize three employees for their outstanding contributions to Hillview.

Ms. Bertha Cardoza, art and computer graphics teacher, has been selected as Hillview's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Cardoza produces the yearbook and also is one of the advisors for the Leadership class. Ms. Cardoza will be honored at the Irvine Marriott on May 6.

Mrs. Lisa Gallick, custodian, has been named Hillview's Classified Employee of Year. Mrs. Gallick does an amazing job keeping the campus clean and using her expertise as a photographer to take pictures of school events including senior graduation photos.



Hillview staff members
Lisa Gallick, Monica Azimioara and Bertha Cardoza

Math and Science teacher, Mrs. Monica Azimioara, has been selected by the students for the "Golden Touch Award." Mrs. Azimioara is being recognized for her hard work and positive attitude, helping struggling students be more successful. Mrs. Azimioara will be honored at an awards ceremony at the Tustin Ranch Golf Course.

Ladera *Elementary School*

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



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

Anna Zavala Believes All Students are Special

Ladera School's 2011 Teacher of the Year, Anna Zavala, is passionate about teaching and has compassion for all of her students. She has always believed that students with special needs should be accepted in the general education classroom as much as possible.

When Mrs. Zavala came to Ladera, she immediately began collaborating with the general education teachers. Through this collaborative process, she began to offer more push-in services. Ladera definitely had a head start with the Response to Instruction (RTI) process due to her.

Mrs. Zavala has taken it upon herself to start a social skills group at Ladera. She supports the students (both special and general education) in "lunch bunch" and weekly meetings teaching them social skills through games and other activities. Not only are these students learning social skills and creating new friendships, their self-esteem has improved tremendously. Having Mrs. Zavala at Ladera does not just benefit our special needs students, but all of our students.



Teacher Anna Zavala helps all students' needs at Ladera.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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

C.C. Lambert *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

Lambert Lions Roar for Teacher Tina Kim

Mrs. Tina Kim is filled with Lambert pride! She is our teacher of the year and the District Elementary Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Kim has taught over 10 years, all in Tustin Unified. She has a "teaching magic"

that is beyond description. She uses each second of instruction as if it was the last.

In Mrs. Kim's class, students are always engaged in lively instruction, completing work they are proud of, or congratulating each other with "fireworks" or a "Lambert Lion Roar." Mrs. Kim instills a deep belief in each child that they CAN succeed and they do! And all of her success is backed up by data to prove it.

Lambert's second grade team is led by Mrs. Kim, and they work closely as a Professional Learning Community to assure each child's needs are met through intervention or acceleration. Congratulations to a truly inspirational teacher that we are lucky to have!



Mrs. Kim and her students celebrate District Elementary Teacher of the Year.



Molly Murphy
Principal

Students Participate in Energy Awareness Project

Debbie Mansir's fifth-grade classroom recently completed a Community Energy Awareness Project. This energy project was sponsored by G.B. Hubbard & Associates, LLC located in Tustin as a means of giving back to the community and providing students with a new insight about electricity and how their daily actions make a difference financially for their families and environmentally for the community.

This cross-curricular project combined math and science with investigation and experimentation exercises to (1) increase student knowledge about electrical usage at home, (2) the impact electrical production has on our environment, and (3) how energy and efficiency and renewable electrical sources are playing an ever-expanding role in meeting society's demand for electrical power. The culmination of the project required students to conduct an energy audit of their homes, learn how to read their electric meters, and create an action plan on how they could reduce energy use.



Debbie Mansir's students working on Community Energy Awareness Project.

School News Roll Call

KAMPS FOR KIDZ

BY SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook:

"Fun & Educational Places to go with Kids & Adults in Southern California."

THE WORD "SUMMER" brings to mind a myriad of images from my childhood — *going to the beach, reading a good book, eating popsicles, building a treehouse, and hanging out with my friends.*

Those are great memories. I also remember getting bored. And I remember sharing this information, persistently, with my mom — *I think she referred to it as WHINING.*



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Swimming in Noodles



Kate Karp

Jim Cosgrove is a lot of fun. He's a daddy who treats his children and yours as well to silly songs set to foot-tapping styles and genres that ramble from acoustic to zydeco. His "Stinky Feet" has been requested so often that it's earned him the dubious moniker Mr. Stinky Feet, but Mr. Cosgrove doesn't seem to mind.

No stinky feet, though, on his latest offering, *Swimming in Noodles*, probably because there are too many songs about food on the collection "Cookie Time," "Spaghetti and Goofballs" and "Chips and Salsa" are side dishes to friendship and task breaks.

There are cozy family songs, such as the Cajun-flavored "Cool Daddy," which recalls the New Orleans classic "Iko Iko." Others can be used for science, personal development and social studies, like "We're Electrons," "Nobody Does It like You" and "Just Like You." In the whimsical "Hang On Mama," Mom disappears under a load of laundry, not exactly the way she does in real life but she'll relate, and we're guests in the otherworld of a child who protects a mysterious animal from the zookeeper. Listen for the surprise ending.

The recording was produced using live musicians and in collaboration with Grammy award-nominated producer Tor Hyams, who founded Kidzapalooza, the children's musical version of the annual Lollapalooza music festival. The CD jacket is peppered—there's that food theme again—with fun facts relating to the songs. Bet you didn't know that electrons are smaller than a freckle on a fly or that salsa is the number-one condiment in the United States. *Swimming in Noodles* will be a tasty accompaniment to car trips, playtime and classroom hands-on time.

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

How to Become a Sponsored Surfer

By Chad Wells

Surfing is a unique sport and different from most stadium sports in the sense that, instead of having to purchase your uniform and equipment (like in football or baseball) an amateur surfer has the potential to have multiple sponsorships—where he or she is given things such as a clothing, wetsuits, sunglasses, watches, skateboards, sunscreen, surf wax—all for free. They can even get a surf shop sponsor! An exceptional amateur may also be paid, as well as have a travel and contest budget.

This all has to start somewhere and for every successful professional surfer, down to the freshest beginner, that place is the white water. Now, assuming you've made it past the surf lessons and have worked your way to a performance surfboard, it's time to test your hand at surf events.



Photo Courtesy of Chris Sardelis

Where to start? All coastal areas have surf shops and in those shops you can find information about surfing associations that run monthly contests, or you can find this on the internet. These contests are where a young surfer must start his campaign on the quest for results and the possibility of becoming a sponsored team rider.

Enter some surf contests and try to get yourself into the finals - hopefully win a few. When the contest results start improving you'll need to get some still photos of yourself. Just good action shots showing your skill. Then, in my opinion, the most important part is to have your mom, dad, or a friend video you and start compiling footage. When you have enough good video clips edit them down to a minute and a half long movie and add some music (the music is optional).

Once you have your contest results, photos, and the short clip you'll need to put together a portfolio. This will include all the items mentioned above, and will also include some basic info about you - sort of a resume. You should include name, age, years surfing, local surf break and I really like to see a letter of recommendation from somebody you hold in high regard in your surf community. Whether it is a local pro, surf shop owner, or the surf coach at your high school, it helps to give a little insight as to how you are viewed by your peers. Make four or five copies of your portfolio.

Now you're ready to approach team managers from the various surf companies. Working as a team manager, I like personal interaction and don't mind receiving portfolios at surf events. It gives me a chance to check out the athlete in question, as well as see their beach and water activity. I can also see how they interact with others at the event. After all it is a matter of seeing if that person would make a good representative for a brand, and if they are serious about their surfing.

Chad Wells is a life time resident of Seal Beach. A competitive contest and professional surfer, Chad works as the Surf Program Manager at Quiksilver and oversees the US professional and amateur teams.

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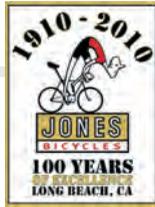
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Wear It—Or Don't Ride!

By Lisa Genshock



Some of my best Summer memories are of riding my Schwinn Stingray Fair Lady bicycle. It was a hand-me-down from my older sister, and I loved it. I had a mod flower power banana seat with orange, red, and purple daisies all over it. The purple metallic paint sparkled in the sun. To me, it signified freedom. Peddling happily, I would ride to my friend Linda's house, one-half mile away.

I loved the wind blowing through my hair as I rode. So, when my Dad came home one day with a helmet, I was mortified. "Wear it" he said, "Or don't ride your bike."

According to the latest statistics from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, and the American Academy of Pediatrics

(AAP) nearly 50 percent of children 14 and under hospitalized for bicycle-related injuries are diagnosed with a brain injury. In California, it is law that all persons under the age of 18 years must wear a helmet while bicycling.

Parents, put a helmet on your child and wear one yourself. You are the example.



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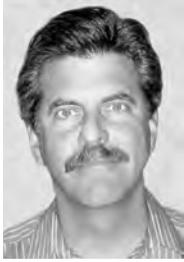
Entries must be received by May 15, 2011
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Balalaika	Guitar	Sitar
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Congratulations February Winner!
A. J. Coco

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

Join the Running Boom



Dr. Doug Richie

In case you haven't noticed there has been a tremendous increase in participation in long distance running in this country over the past ten years. In particular, the number of entries into marathon distance (26.2 miles) running events has continued to escalate. According to Running USA, participation in marathon running events has doubled since 1990. Last year (2009) showed a 10% increase, which is the single largest surge in marathon participation in the past 20 years.

What was almost un-thinkable for the average runner 30 years ago—completing a marathon race—is now an attainable goal.

Even more impressive has been the explosive growth of participation in triathlon events around the country. According to the United States Triathlon Association, the sport has grown participation by 30% in the past two years. This has occurred despite the fact that entry fees and cost of equipment has skyrocketed over the past decade.

It is clear that America has awakened and embraced the concept of fitness training outdoors. What was almost un-thinkable for the average runner 30 years ago—completing a marathon race—is now an attainable goal. Clearly, better training methods and footwear may be responsible for people successfully completing the grueling preparation for a marathon without injury. While many people are not training for marathons, the current running boom has attracted people who may be training for 10K races or simply want to improve fitness. Whatever the reasons, this positive trend in America can only mean that people will stay healthy and this will hopefully reduce medical costs. The running boom is one simple, but effective solution for today's health care challenges.

Dr. Doug Richie is a sports podiatrist who has practiced in Seal Beach for 28 years. He is president-elect of the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and serves as a medical advisor to U.S.A. Track and Field. 562/493-2451

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Jump into Reading



Rozanne Lanczak Williams

Did you ever wonder why fairy tales, nursery rhymes and fables have been popular for at least a hundred years? One reason is that young children love stories that contain text that is repetitive, predictable and often rhyming. Think of the story of the Gingerbread Man with the repeated phrase: "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!" Or think of the troll in "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" shouting, "Who's that tripping over my bridge?" each time one of the goats crosses over.

With this in mind, here is one powerful literacy-building activity you can do with your child, starting at around age 2, that is both fun and easy and can be used all through the toddler, preschool and kindergarten years. Carefully build a collection of books for your child that includes titles containing a repeated phrase, sentence or short rhyming verse. Your child will love to read the books over and over again.

After several initial read-alouds, stop before the repeated phrase and invite your child to "jump in and read" this text. Point to the words as your child reads. Or, make a pointer by gluing a wiggly eye to a craft stick so your child can keep his or her "little eye" on the words. At some point, your child will make the important connection of the spoken word to the written word. Your child is gaining valuable knowledge of what reading is all about!

Recommended Books

Besides most fairy tales and any book by Eric Carle, here is a list of books I love and recommend that have a predictable story line and a repeated refrain. Some are available as board books.

- Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell
- Where's Spot?* by Eric Hill
- The Little Red Hen* by Margot Zemach
- Just Like Daddy* by Frank Asch
- I Went Walking* by Sue Williams
- That's Good! That's Bad!* by Margery Cuyler
- I Love You: A Rebus Poem* by Jean Marzollo
- "I Don't Care!" Said the Bear* by Colin West
- Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell
- Moo Moo, Brown Cow* by Jakki Wood
- Jake Baked the Cake* by B.G. Hennessy
- Mrs. Wishy-Washy* by Joy Cowley

These are just a few of the books that have that special feature of a repeated refrain. I invite you to visit the bookstore, the library or my Web site and make some fun discoveries on your own!

Protect Your Child's Brain Development



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel

Recently I spoke at the Parent Participation Preschool Convention and was able to attend a workshop presented by the author of *Parenting Well in a Media Age*, Gloria DeGaetano.

Bottom line: a child should not participate in watching TV, using a computer or playing video games for more than one hour a day until the age of twenty two! How can that be true?

The brain is the only organ in the body that is not fully developed at birth. It takes 22 years for the brain to fully develop. What allows the brain to grow properly is three-dimensional learning. That means playing or working in any three dimensional arena.

The television, computer and video games are on a screen and are therefore two-dimensional.

It doesn't get much more complicated than this—the brain requires three dimensional learning and those mediums do not provide that. Therefore, it is imperative that children do not spend hours a day on any of the three mediums mentioned.

Proper brain growth allows feelings of kindness, generosity, creativity and intuition to develop and flourish. If that part of the brain is not encouraged to grow through three-dimensional learning, the child will regress to living in the reptilian part of the brain. Such children MAY suffer from hyperactivity, an inability to focus and more aggressive behavior.

In my parent coaching work, I ask a parent who thinks their child has ADD or ADHD to cut daily TV down to one hour, and the majority of parents see an immediate decline of those traits.

When a parent says to me, "We only watch Baby Einstein" or some other "safe" program, I remind them that any program on the television is two dimensional, therefore a problem.

When a child watches television, it is important that no show may be watched until viewed by a parent. Today's cartoons have a lot of violence in them. The sitcoms are not modeling basic morals and values. Have a list of acceptable shows and keep televisions out of children's rooms so that programs may be monitored.

Talk to children about what they saw, what they learned and what they remember from the media they do watch each day. Doing so develops memory, thinking skills and exercises the brain to help it develop properly.

Parents need to pay attention to how much video watching their children are subjected to each day. Does your child watch a video in the car? Are you aware that they are experimenting with creating shopping carts with videos in them to distract active children?

The American Pediatric Society recently stated that NO child under the age of two should be allowed to watch television.

Let me be clear about the outcome of not providing children with three-dimensional learning on a daily basis. I already mentioned possible hyper-activity and an inability to focus; more frightening to me is that children who live in the reptilian part of their brain are less feelings oriented and more aggressive. Isn't our world in trouble now for lack of feelings oriented adults who are aggressive rather than responsive?

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the impact on children who watch violence on a daily basis. Although this is a whole column in itself, I'm not sure it will be safe to live in a world where children grow into adults who have become numb to the idea of people or property being harmed.

My darling grandson, Nicholas, turned into an angry unkind child when he started playing with Star Wars guns and outfits. His parents took all those toys/outfits/videos and put them away. Within two days, our loving little almost three year old was back. Children should not be raised watching violence.

Talk to children about what they saw,
what they learned and what they remember
from the media they do watch each day.

Doing so develops memory,
thinking skills and exercises the brain
to help it develop properly.

School News

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Amy Fedderly
Principal

Therese Ciecek Leads Her Students to Success

Congratulations to Myford Elementary School's Teacher of the Year, Therese Ciecek! She has been a third-grade teacher at Myford since 2002, and is currently on the leadership team as the third-grade representative.

Ms. Ciecek has been involved in many different ways at Myford. She has been a Quad Math-alon coach, Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) support provider, and is currently a fellow for the Cotsen "Art of Teaching" program.

Ms. Ciecek's has participated in many trainings and programs, including Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) Project, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), U.C. Irvine Math Program and the Six Traits of Writing.

These professional growth opportunities have given Ms. Ciecek an expanded repertoire of strategies that she utilizes daily in her classroom instruction. We applaud Ms. Ciecek for this year's nomination and are thrilled that she is a part of the staff at Myford Elementary School.



Teacher Therese Ciecek with some of her students.

Orchard Hills *School*

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



Rich Montgomery
Principal

Sonia Remick Shines as World-Class Teacher

We are proud to announce Sonia Remick as the first-ever Teacher of the Year for Orchard Hills School. With the building of a brand new school, much teamwork has been needed to develop a world-class learning environment for all students. Mrs. Remick has shined as a team player and leader. Her quick wit and fun personality enable her to make learning fun for her students. By focusing on the individual needs of her students, Mrs. Remick effectively provides differentiated instruction.

Author John Maxwell, in his book *Winning with People*, states "Instead of putting others in their place, we should put ourselves in their place!" As a teacher and parent, Mrs. Remick lives out this belief. She teaches through



(l to r) Student Mason Reynoso and teachers Jesse Daviss, and Alison Carr, Principal Rich Montgomery and teachers Joy Wardlaw and Alisa Kopp celebrate with Sonia Remick (center).

the lens of a parent which has ultimately ingratiated her to the parent community at Orchard Hills School.

She is an innovative and inspirational world-class teacher who is deserving of this prestigious honor.

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



John Laurich
Principal

Dave Dattola Goes By the Book at Nelson

The W. R. Nelson professional learning community is proud to announce that fifth-grade teacher Dave Dattola has been selected as our 2011 Teacher of the Year. Dave has been teaching at Nelson since 2004.

Over the years, Mr. Dattola has taught fifth grade and a fifth/sixth grade combo several times. In the pursuit of being the best teacher possible, he has attended Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) training, Ocean Institute Watershed Program Training, and "We the People" training.

Mr. Dattola believes teachers must give back to the profession, and following that belief he has been a master teacher to five student teachers and served on the CSUF Multiple Subject Advisory Board.

Mr. Dattola has also combined his previous career of law enforcement with his love of teaching. During the summer, he manages, supervises, and teaches a six-week long Criminal Justice Police Youth Academy at the Orange County Sheriff's Regional Training Center in Tustin.



Dave Dattola: Nelson
Teacher of the Year

Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Gerry Aust
Interim Principal

Jessica Pinedo Steps Up to the Plate for Education

Peters Canyon School is excited to announce that Jessica Pinedo is our 2011 Teacher of the Year. She is a product of TUSD schools. Her passion and enthusiasm for teaching have stemmed from the excellent education she received!

Mrs. Pinedo's mission each day is to actively encourage and engage all students to become lifelong learners. She wants her classroom to be a safe and comfortable learning environment where students have the ability to succeed.

At PCE Mrs. Pinedo is a team-player who is a member of the Leadership Team and coordinator of Family Reading Night. In the community, she supports O.C. Walk to Remember, Read Across America and the



Jessica Pinedo poses with her Kindergarten and 1st grade scholars at Peters Canyon Elementary

Dinosaur Dash. Collaboration with her peers comes naturally for her: sharing materials, lessons, and ideas.

Mrs. Pinedo is known for her positive, upbeat attitude and her willingness to "step up to the plate" when the school or community needs help. We are proud of her!

Pioneer *Middle School*

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Pioneer Celebrates Students, Teachers and Staff

Pioneer Middle School has much to celebrate this month. Jaclyn Martin was named Pioneer's Teacher of the Year and TUSD's Middle School Teacher of the Year. Assistant Principal Angela

Yeh was selected as ACSA Region XVII's Co-Administrator of the Year and Principal Tracey Vander Hayden was named ACSA Region XVII's Professor of Education Administrator of the Year.

It takes a team of this caliber to make a difference for our students and Mohsen Zadeh, Pioneer's Principal for a Day, concurred as he spent March 11 visiting the campus. Mr. Zadeh was extremely impressed with Pioneer's students and elective classes. From culinary arts, music and drama to art, video production and Spanish, Mr. Zadeh was actively engaged with our students. Mr. Zadeh concluded his visit at Pioneer by sharing, "It was truly beyond my imagination of how dedicated all staff members and teachers are committed to improving our students' lives through education."



Jaclyn Martin - Pioneer Teacher of the Year

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



Danielle Aguilar Has a Passion for Teaching

If you love what you do, it shows, and Danielle Aguilar LOVES what she does! Thorman honors this passionate teacher as their 2011 Teacher of the Year. Ms. Aguilar firmly believes that all students have the ability to learn at high levels and is creative as she adapts lessons to meet the needs of a variety of learning styles. She infuses her love for learning in to meaningful lessons that empower and engage her fifth grade students.

Tracy Barquer
Principal

Ms. Aguilar earned her Masters of Arts in Education with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction in a multicultural context from Azusa Pacific University. She has utilized this knowledge to create challenging lessons in all content areas. Her scholars are exceptional writers who can clearly articulate their goals and avid readers who are curious about the world due to her infectious enthusiasm and unwavering belief in their abilities. Congratulations!



**Ms. Aguilar with some of her fifth grade scholars:
Albert Nieto, Marcelo Aguirre, Stephany Gaitan, and Paulina Carrillo**

Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



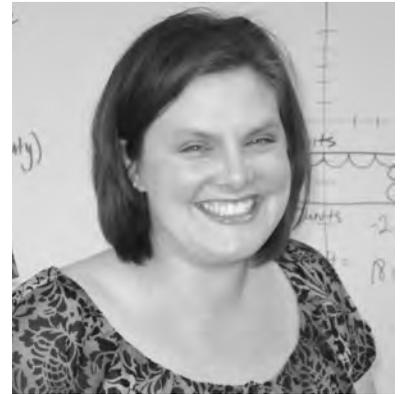
Will Neddersen
Principal

Janelle Crain Making a Difference at Red Hill

Red Hill School's Teacher of the Year for 2011 is Janelle Crain. Mrs. Crain was nominated by her peers because of the difference she makes for students.

One of the teachers that nominated her stated Mrs. Crain is "firm in her expectations, yet loving in the long-term desire that her students succeed." Walk into her class and you could find a teacher who will do whatever it takes to have her students understand the concepts being taught. You might see her working one-on-one with students, acting out a scene to help students visualize during a social studies lesson or teaching the rounding rap in math.

Mrs. Crain has been a part of the Red Hill staff since it's reopening in the 2001-02 school year. She is the co-advisor for Student Council Leadership. She has worked with them to help Red Hill students make a difference for the community. Congratulations Mrs. Crain!



Janelle Crain starts the school day with a smile.

Tustin High School

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



Jonathan Blackmore
Principal

The Master Conductor

What doesn't David Henson Peay do? Here at Tustin High School (THS), Mr. Peay is the master conductor, leading the entire school into an energetic multi-dimensional symphonic suite. He teaches choral music, and his students know that they will not only perform at evening concerts and competitions, but their performances are an integral part of the school assemblies and community programs.

Mr. Peay is masterful at interweaving music into the school's culture because he is also the Associated Student Body (ASB) director at Tustin High. In this job, his conducting skills are essential, as he and his 100 leadership students are responsible for all student activities. These activities are varied and diverse. Mr. Peay directs assemblies, rallies, blood drives, dances, athletic events, student and staff recognitions, peer tutoring/involvement, student elections, senior events—including reflections and grad night to name a few. He serves on School Site Council and THS Leadership.

Mr. Peay has become the heart of Tustin High, whose rhythmic beat helps the students and staff unite as Tillers. We often speak of teachers' compassion and caring for their students. While many teachers feel this way, it is the rare teacher who transforms these emotions into a powerful focus that affects the entire culture on a campus.

Simply put, Mr. Peay is a gift to Tustin High that keeps on giving. He has created an exciting vocal music program that now includes students from the football team to the cheerleaders, the wrestling team to the dance team, and the volleyball team to theatre arts.

Our next issue is June 1st!

Tustin Memorial *Academy*

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



Wendy Hudson
Principal

Jessica Mahar Makes Learning Fun at TMA

Tustin Memorial Academy is proud to recognize our Teacher of the Year— Jessica Mahar. Ms. Mahar has been teaching since 1997 and has been a teacher in TUSD since 2000. She currently teaches third-grade, but has also taught every grade at the elementary level.

At TMA, Ms. Mahar makes sure that learning is fun for her students and one of her top prizes in class is the chance to “Dress Your Teacher” for the day. Students decide what she will wear, no matter how outlandish, and she makes it happen.

Ms. Mahar has volunteered for many extra duties on our campus, but one of her favorites is her Girl’s Fitness club. She meets with fourth- and fifth-grade girls twice a week after school to promote health, friendship, and fitness. Ms. Mahar serves as an exceptional role model for our students and we are proud to publicly recognize her for her talents.



Jessica Mahar has an “aye” for fun clothing.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



Dean Jennings
Principal

Noël Gillispie Has the Write Idea About Education

Congratulations to Noël Gillispie, Tustin Ranch Elementary School’s 2011 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Gillispie has been teaching for 15 years and has spent all of them at Tustin Ranch School.

When asked about her stay at Tustin Ranch, Mrs. Gillispie responded, “I’ve never wanted to teach anywhere else, and I love coming to work. I’m truly satisfied when I see the happiness on a child’s face when they first learn a new concept.”

Mrs. Gillispie is a second year Cotsen, Art of Teaching Fellow. Her Fellowship with The Art of Teaching Program has provided



Teacher Noël Gillispie and her students, Stephanie Barajas, Jenni Fawver and Yessenia Baduqui get set to write.

her the resources to pursue professional development in Writer’s Workshop. She is thrilled with the high level of writing that her kindergarteners are achieving with Writer’s Workshop.

Regarding her future goals in education, Mrs. Gillispie stated, “The first fifteen years have been so great. I want to continue to get better and better over the next fifteen.”

C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



Tom Giebe
Principal

A Healthy Attitude

Rey Halili, Utt Middle School’s Teacher of the Year for 2011, embodies everything that is great about our school. From a teaching standpoint, Rey has taken the physical education standards that he teaches and flipped them around, going beyond the development of athletic skill and creating and instilling a “healthy for life” attitude among the students. Dribbling a basketball is one thing; using that skill to maintain a lifelong healthy standard of living is quite another—and that is what Rey instills in his students daily.

Outside of the classroom, or the blacktop and or the field in this case, Rey advises the Utt Associated Student Body (ASB), organizing events on and off campus to enlighten the educational experience of students, as well as promote the school and its students to the larger community. This includes working the Dino Dash at 4 a.m. each year, walking dressed as the Utt Falcon to support the cheer team during the Tustin Tiller Day Parade, and working with the Utt PTO to support fund-raising and promotion activities.

If this wasn’t enough, Rey has acted as the voice of middle school athletic directors in working with district office personnel and the Tustin Public Schools Foundation to maintain the quality of athletic competition for the middle schools as a part of the Save Our Sports program. Congratulations, Rey! We could not be more proud of you and truly appreciate all that you do for the students of Utt each and every day.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

Meghan Myhra Puts Her Heart and Soul in Veeh

Marjorie Veeh Elementary School is excited to announce Meghan Myhra as our 2011 Teacher of the Year. Miss Myhra currently teaches fourth grade and has written and received several grants to supplement the curriculum. She volunteered to be our Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Coordinator on-site and has been in charge of collecting and assessing portfolios to submit to the district.

In order to help her current students with the cost of attending Outdoor Education next year, Miss Myhra is working on a fourth-grade fundraiser. She is a collaborative member of our community that always has a positive attitude and takes the initiative to help our students and staff. A colleague shared that, “She is an excellent teacher putting her heart and soul into preparing and planning for her students.”

Miss Myhra is well deserving of this recognition. Congratulations to Miss Myhra – Veeh School’s Teacher of the Year!



Meghan Myhra

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR • FROM PAGE 1

Tina Kim, second-grade teacher at Lambert Elementary School; Jaclyn Martin, algebra and geometry teacher at Pioneer Middle School; and Monique Dale, social science teacher at Foothill High School, have been selected as the 2011 Teachers of the Year by the Tustin Unified School District. They will represent the District in the 2011-12 Orange County Teachers of the Year program.

The Orange County Department of Education will interview selected candidates and announce winners in May. The county finalists will then go on to the California and National Teacher of the Year programs.

Tustin Unified's annual awards program recognizes outstanding teachers who have displayed extraordinary teaching, creativity and excellence at their school and community.

Kim, Martin and Dale were chosen from a field of 28 candidates. Additionally, Kim was named Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Martin was selected as Middle School Teacher of the Year and Dale was chosen as High School Teacher of the Year.



Tina Kim

"I believe being a teacher is the greatest profession. It's where you can make a difference in children's lives and children will be our future leaders," said Tina Kim, who has been teaching for 10 years – six years as a first-grade teacher and the last four years as a second-grade teacher – all at Lambert School.

Kim is a hard-working and dedicated teacher who believes that all students, no matter what challenges they face, such as language ability or socioeconomic status, can achieve their fullest potential and succeed in school. Last year, 90 percent of her students, who are English Language Learners, scored advanced in math in California Standards Test (CST) scores. Kim's innovative ideas on teaching and ability to reach her students have helped them to consistently perform at a high level on state tests.

"I consider it my greatest accomplishment to have inspired my students to work hard to achieve and know what success is," Kim said. "They truly inspire me to inspire them."

Kim works very closely with her colleagues, has strong class management skills and serves as a team leader. She brings the "community into her classroom" and invites parents to read to students and participate in programs such as Response to Instruction (RtI). She also conducts mini-workshops for parents to show them how to teach math skills at home to extend their child's learning.



Jaclyn Martin

"I truly believe that I was born to teach," said Jaclyn Martin, who enjoyed volunteering in her mother's kindergarten classroom while in high school and went on to earn a teaching credential in education.

Martin has been teaching math for nine years – all in the Tustin school district. She taught algebra and geometry at Columbus Tustin Middle School for three years prior to joining Pioneer School six years ago.

"I get goose bumps when I see my students make a mathematical discovery or get excited about what they are learning," Martin said. "Everything about this profession is rewarding, and the rewards that I get give me the strength and motivation to continue to strive to be a more outstanding teacher."

Martin ignites learning for her students through interactive lessons, technology and team competitions. She is co-creator of the curriculum for the Introduction to Algebra course at Pioneer and works with Beckman High School math teachers and counselors to access students' needs in order to ensure their success in high school. She also provides homework help and test reviews to her

students at lunch and after school, tutors middle and high school students in algebra and geometry, and informs parents about high school math courses at eighth-grade parent night.

Martin is a dynamic and enthusiastic instructional leader at Pioneer. She is Math Department chair, Leadership Team member, lead teacher for the Professional Learning Community Model School visitations and School Site Council member, and has served as a Textbook Adoption Committee member, District math coach and professional development presenter. She also participates in the annual Dino Dash to help raise money for district schools and promote good health among her students.



Monique Dale

"Teaching is the greatest profession on the planet," said Monique Dale, who has been a social science teacher for 17 years – 14 years at Foothill High. "I get to motivate students to find the best in themselves and challenge them to succeed, not just in my class, but life as well."

Dale is dedicated to her students and serves as a role model for other teachers. She is Social Science Department co-chair, Dino Dash chair, Faculty Club chair and a master teacher. She was one of the first TUSD Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) teachers, beginning the program at Foothill. Dale's philosophy of the AVID program – challenging students in the academic middle with a rigorous curriculum – carries over into her World History Honor's classes.

Additionally, Dale has been a driving force in the development and implementation of Foothill's Academic Choice and Enrichment (ACE) program that addresses struggling students, while giving advanced students extra time for class work, studying for tests or making up labs.

She also communicates with parents about their children's successes in class through "Foothill Knight Grams" on a weekly basis.

The Other 2011 School Site Teachers of the Year include:

Elementary School: Stephanie Lukkes, second-grade teacher at Arroyo School; Junka Ezaki, kindergarten teacher at Benson School; Chandra Wran, second-grade teacher at Beswick School; Alice Keto, fifth-grade teacher at Estock School; Kirsten Watson, fourth-grade teacher at Guin Foss School; Melanie James, kindergarten teacher at Heideman School; Hillary Biehl, first-grade teacher at Hicks Canyon School; Anna Zavala, special education teacher at Ladera School; Nora Gallo, second-grade teacher at Loma Vista School; Therese Ciecek, third-grade teacher at Myford School; David Dattola, fifth-grade teacher at Nelson School; Jessica Pinedo, kindergarten/first-grade teacher at Peters Canyon School; Janelle Crain, fourth-grade teacher at Red Hill School; Danielle Aguilar, fifth-grade teacher at Thorman School; Jessica Mahar, third-grade teacher at Tustin Memorial Academy; Nofil Gillispie, kindergarten teacher at Tustin Ranch School; and Meghan Myhra, fourth-grade teacher at Veeh School.

Middle School: Denise Mihm, special education teacher at Columbus Tustin School; Heidi Primeaux, Core, language arts and reading teacher at Currie School; Susan Burgess, French and Spanish teacher at Hewes School; Sonia Remick, sixth-grade Core and algebra teacher at Orchard Hills School; and Rey Halili, eighth grade physical education teacher at Utt School.

High School: Troy Fresch, English teacher and ASB Director at Beckman; Bertha Cardoza, art and computer graphics teacher at Hillview; and David Peay, choral teacher and ASB Director at Tustin High.

The three winners and all the District's nominees will be honored at the 17th annual Teachers of the Year Dinner at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 6 at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. The event is co-sponsored by the Tustin Public Schools Foundation and Tustin Unified School District.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTED • FROM PAGE 1



Dr Gregory Franklin

Franklin earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Southern California, a master's degree in education from Chapman University and his doctorate in educational leadership from USC.

He began his career as a social studies teacher and football and track coach at Saddleback High School. He took a year off to teach English as a Second Language to Japanese professionals in Tokyo, Japan.

Among his accomplishments, Franklin has received Golden Bell Awards by the California School Boards Association for

various curriculum programs, and the Junior Achievement of Southern California's Teacher of the Year Award for his work with students and applied economics courses.

His community involvement has included serving as past-president of the Rotary Clubs of Los Alamitos/Seal Beach and Fullerton, and executive board member of the Los Alamitos Chamber of Commerce. He also chaired the Los Alamitos Youth Center annual donation campaign and reinvigorated the Los Alamitos USD Educational Foundation.

Franklin lives in Brea with his wife of 28 years, Debbie, and their three daughters.



Richard Bray
Superintendent

Event Center & Sports Pavillion

Tustin Unified recently held groundbreaking ceremonies for Tustin High School's new Sports Pavilion and Foothill High School's new Event Center.

The Tustin High Sports Pavilion is approximately 29,000 square feet and will include a lobby, basketball/volleyball courts, dance room, team rooms, storage, concessions, bleachers, ticket booths and restrooms. The project is being funded through the Measure G and L campus modernization programs.

The Foothill Event Center is approximately 33,000 square feet and will include a lobby, basketball/volleyball courts, storage, stage/platform and theatrical lighting. In addition, there will be a two-story building that houses four classroom spaces to be used as dance room, weight room, wrestling room and general physical education. The project is being funded through the Measure L campus modernization program.

Both gyms are scheduled to be completed by spring 2012. Art renderings of both facilities are posted on the District's web sites at www.TUSDMeasureG.org and www.TUSDMeasureL.org.



Renderings of the new Foothill High School Event Center and Tustin High School Sports Pavilion. Both are being funded through the district's bond measures' modernization programs and will open by spring 2012.



Administrators of the Year

The following Tustin Unified administrators have been named 2011 Orange County Administrators of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 17: Dr. Julie Mitchell, Chief Personnel Officer – Personnel & Human Resources Administrator of the Year. Tracey Vander Hayden, Principal, Pioneer Middle School – Professor of Education Award. Angela Yeh, Assistant Principal, Pioneer Middle School – Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year.

They will be honored at the 38th annual ACSA "Administrator of the Year and Friends of Education Awards" Dinner on May 9 at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. Region 17 represents 21 school districts in Orange County.

SMART Showcase Elite School

Arroyo Elementary School has been selected as a 2011 SMART Showcase Elite School. Beginning this year, 25 Showcase Schools will be recognized as Elite for the duration of each calendar year. Arroyo is the only school in California and one of the 25 showcase schools in the nation to be chosen for this honor.

Showcase Elite Schools are those that have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to utilizing the SMART Board in all classrooms to create appealing, interactive learning environments that increase student engagement and learning.

As a 2011 Elite School, Arroyo received a \$5,000 interactive whiteboard system and commemorative plaque to display at the school. Throughout the year, Arroyo will also act as the host site to share their success story with other educators in the area who may be interested in learning how this technology can improve teaching and learning.

Technology Grant

Tustin Unified received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Enhancing Education through Technology Competitive (EETT-C) grant in the amount of \$250,000. The goal of the program is to promote the acquisition, maintenance and use of data to improve college and career readiness and/or to improve the high school graduation rate.

The grant allows TUSD to make student assessment data more accessible to teachers by migrating to a new student data management system, Illuminate. Illuminate has a built-in data scanner that teachers can use from their own desks to upload classroom assessment data from an inexpensive web or document camera. The grant also will provide technical support, professional development and other resources for administrators, teachers and school counselors.

Last year, TUSD was awarded over \$350,000 of the EETT grant to improve student achievement in math using advanced technology resources for middle school technology in the area of math. The program revolutionizes math classrooms in grades six and seven using state-of-the-art technology resources.

Career Technical Education Fair

Tustin Unified is hosting its first Career Technical Education Fair on Friday, June 3 at the Tustin High School Plaza, 1171 El Camino Real. The purpose of this fair is to invite local colleges and career technical education programs to share their certificate programs with students. TUSD is working together with different community colleges, the Coastline ROP Career Specialist and Vital Link to put together this program for students. Vital Link is a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting public school districts and businesses throughout Orange County. For more information, call (714) 730-7301, ext. 323.

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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.



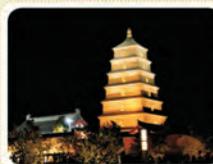
Great Wall

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 served 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 wonders 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.

Departure Date:

July 06, 07, 13, 17, 18

July 20, 27, 28 & Aug 03



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