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# School News



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**Covering the Tustin Unified School District**

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 37

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APRIL / MAY 2012

## 2012 TUSTIN UNIFIED TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Jennifer Sandland (center), Peters Canyon Elementary



Kristina Posavec, Utt Middle School



David Goldenberg (center), Beckman High School

By Mark Eliot, Director of Communications

### Sandland, Posavec and Goldenberg selected as 2012 Tustin Unified Teachers of the Year

Jennifer Sandland, third-grade teacher at Peters Canyon Elementary School; Kristina Posavec, seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher at C.E. Utt Middle School; and David Goldenberg, history/social science

teacher at Beckman High School, have been selected as the 2012 Teachers of the Year by the Tustin Unified School District.

They will represent the District in the 2012-13 Orange County Teachers of the Year program.

The Orange County Department of Education will interview the 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.

Sandland, Posavec and Goldenberg were chosen from a field of 28 candidates. Additionally, Sandland was named Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Posavec was selected as Middle School Teacher of the Year and Goldenberg was chosen as High School Teacher of the Year. *SEE 2011 TEACHERS • PAGE 19*

## SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D. Superintendent

### Technology Matters

Through my school visits I continue to be impressed by the high quality teaching and learning that happens every day in classrooms throughout TUSD. At the same time, I worry for our students' futures where their facility with technology will play such a critical role in determining their success. More and more, it is a person's ability to apply technology solutions to work and school that gets them ahead. Technology may be the 21st Century equivalent to literacy of decades past – it is the key to a better life. Access to technology as simple as a smartphone gives students access to the world. That's why nations the world over are heavily investing in technology and Internet connectivity.

The IT revolution over the past two decades is similar in effect to the Guttenberg printing press – which took hundreds of years to percolate through society. The result is a fast-paced changing world where a person's earning power is determined by their ability to create, communicate and collaborate. Literally, technology is changing so fast that many of the jobs our high school students will have in their life do not currently exist. For example, there were ZERO smart phone apps in 2006 – the iPhone was introduced in 2007. By 2015

*SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 19*

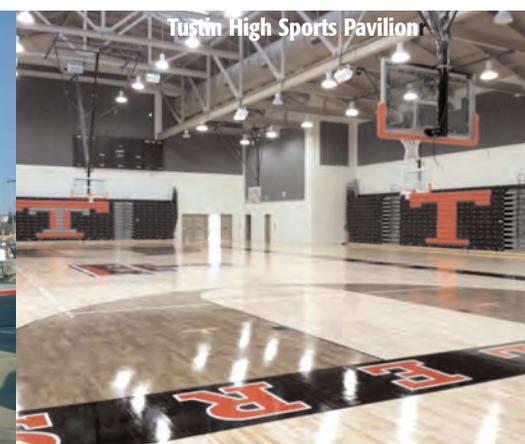
## Foothill Event Center and Tustin Sports Pavilion Update

By Mark Eliot, Director of Communications

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies and community open house nights will be held soon for the new Foothill Event Center and new Tustin High Sports Pavilion and pool. Check the TUSD Website for dates and times: [www.tustin.k12.ca.us](http://www.tustin.k12.ca.us).

Both facilities include a lobby, basketball and volleyball courts, dance room, physical education room, storage, bleachers, ticket booths, restrooms and other features. The Foothill project is being funded through the Measure L campus modernization program and the Tustin High project is being funded through the Measure G and L programs.

The pool renovation at Tustin High features an existing pool deck replacement, re-plaster, new fence fabric, replacement of master valve in the pump room, as well as improvements to flooring, lighting and equipment in the locker room.



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12/11/11



### Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



This is the time of year when each school selects a teacher of the year and the winners are congratulated in this issue. I would like to say congratulations to the winners and to every teacher in the district and thank them for their dedication and commitment to educating our youth. Besides being a parent, I can't imagine anything harder or more rewarding than being a teacher.

Dr. Franklin's message on the front page is very enlightening. Technology is key to competing in a rapidly changing world.

Thank you readers for entering our contests. I enjoy your emails and comments very much.

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Covering the  
TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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### SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL

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# Orange County Department of Education

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## Using Technology to Support Student Success



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent

Integrating technology into core curriculum enhances learning by helping students acquire the skills they need to thrive in a complex, highly technological world. Incorporating technology in classroom instruction deepens learning through problem solving, active engagement, and team participation. Technology integrated project-based learning allows students to be intellectually challenged while providing them with a realistic experience of modern working environments. An added bonus is that using technology makes teaching and learning both meaningful and fun.

For the past ten years, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has created an opportunity to highlight the innovative, replicable ways teachers integrate technology in the classroom, and to share the successes students achieve on a regular basis. The best student curriculum technology integration projects within Orange County schools are chosen to participate in the OCDE sponsored, Student Technology Showcase (STS), an anticipated component of the Orange County Computer Using Educators (OC CUE) Technology Festival and the statewide CUE Conference in Palm Springs, California. The Student Technology Showcase serves to inform parents, teachers, administrators, legislators, and higher education representatives about curriculum-based student technology projects being undertaken in public schools in Orange County.

To start the process, teachers complete an online application describing their student project, technology's role, and how teaching and student learning have

SEE OC DEPT. OF ED • PAGE 18

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## Technology in TUSD Schools

Tustin Unified School District  
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 341

# Education Technology Fair



**Dr. Alex Rojas**  
Assistant  
Superintendent  
Administrative  
Services

Tustin Unified is hosting a special Education Technology Fair in April. This event will give individuals an opportunity to interact with the technologies that are revolutionizing the 21st century k-12 classrooms.

The Education Technology Fair will be held from 3-7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 at Beckman High School. The address is 3588 Bryan Ave. It will also be held on Thursday, April 12 at Foothill High School, at 19251 Dodge Ave.; and on Friday, April 13 at Tustin High School, at 1171 El Camino Real.

The Fair is open to all TUSD students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff members, community and business leaders, service groups, Chamber of Commerce members and local residents. Individuals are welcome to attend any or all locations.

The purpose of the Fair is to showcase all of the current educational technology that is available to our schools, and to give our community a chance to evaluate and interact with it. This is part of the TUSD's final phase of a comprehensive district-wide technology assessment.

During the Fair, education technology providers will be setting up information booths and giving demonstrations of the various technologies. Individuals will be provided with feedback cards to help give us insight into which technologies they would like to see in the district.

As the TUSD begins to implement its 21st Century Classroom Project, we want our stakeholder voices to be part of the process. The Fair will afford them an opportunity to share their ideas with us.

For more information, please call (714) 730-7306.

## Nutrition Services

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

# Healthier Choices



**Teresa Squibb**  
Director

Nutrition Services will be switching to a new water company that is more environmentally friendly. The water is vapor distilled for a purer taste. In addition, the organic bottles are made from plant materials and are bisphenol A and petroleum free. The organic bottles don't leach either, which means you can reuse the bottles as often as you like.

The high school menus have been updated this school year. A few of the new menu items include: chow mein bowls, rice bowls, panini sandwiches, carnitas burritos, salad bars, and our weekly barbecue. Students can top their barbecued burgers with sautéed mushrooms, onions, or grilled pineapple and enjoy other grilled vegetables. Each week, various salad bar themes are featured, such as Oodles of Noodles, Baked Potatoes, Tostadas, or Fish Tacos. All of these choices are available for the combo lunch price of \$2.75 and include fresh fruit, vegetables, and milk.



Students enjoying Beckman's new salad bar menu.

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# STEM Programs



**Kathie Nielsen**  
Chief Academic  
Officer

Three high schools and three middle schools in the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) offer Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs. Foothill High School's Green Power Academy is a three-course engineering academy designed to prepare students to enter the world of engineering after high school. Tustin High School's Engineering Academy is in its second full year of operation and is currently offering four different engineering classes to more than 120 students. Beckman High School's biomedical program offers a sequence of courses over three years, including a course in medical interventions. In this course, students investigate a variety of medical steps involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases as they follow the life of a fictitious family.

Utt, Pioneer and Orchard Hills Middle Schools are also offering STEM courses. The middle schools STEM programs are elective courses with hands-on science units, including: Design and Modeling; the Science of Technology; Automation and Robotics; and Flight and Space. Students are engaged in relevant, hands-on projects, applying scientific principles and concepts to solve real-world problems. Classes are currently researching wind power and will design their own wind turbines, which will be tested for efficiency. Middle school students will also learn to build and program automated robotics systems.

STEM programs in TUSD provide students with the engineering and biomedical foundations to succeed in post-secondary education.



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# Arroyo *Elementary School*

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## Fitness Week Fun

An absolute favorite of Arroyo students, our annual Fitness Week was a huge success. During the week of March 12th at every lunch recess our Arroyo students were encouraged to participate in a fun and physically engaging activity.

Parents volunteered to coordinate and lead various sessions that included karate class, a tetherball and handball tournament, whiffle ball, hip-hop dance class, an obstacle course, soccer, kickball, agility ladder conditioning, flag football, yoga and a runners club.

The students loved having different choices every day, and were able to earn special recognition for outstanding participation and effort. Selected students were also awarded a highly sought-after new playground ball that their classrooms could use for the rest of the school year.

It was a highly energizing and wonderful week of working on fitness and taking the risk of trying new activities. This is a "fun and fit" tradition that we will definitely look forward to keeping at Arroyo.



**Cole Gonzales, Finn O'Sullivan and Jillian Zeber enjoying a hip hop dance.**



**Olivia Woods and Aideen McGrath enjoying a moment during the tetherball tournament.**

# Benjamin Beswick

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

*Elementary School*



## An Inspirational Teacher

The staff, students, parents and community could not be more excited to recognize Mrs. Nicole Eagan as our 2012 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Eagan has been teaching for 16 years the past 12 years in the Tustin Unified School District. Mrs. Eagan's passion for teaching and relentless commitment to her students and families are what endear her so to the entire Beswick Elementary School community.

Mrs. Eagan is a born teacher who, simply put, just loves to teach. Each day and each lesson, Mrs. Eagan makes a concerted effort to connect with each of her students. She recognizes that every moment of every day she spends with her students is the opportunity to change a child's life. She knows that education is the key and has embraced that responsibility and privilege. Mrs. Eagan's passion and love for her students and the profession are an inspiration to all.

effort to connect with each of her students. She recognizes that every moment of every day she spends with her students is the opportunity to change a child's life. She knows that education is the key and has embraced that responsibility and privilege. Mrs. Eagan's passion and love for her students and the profession are an inspiration to all.



**Mrs. Eagan and her class celebrate her Teacher of the Year announcement.**

# Arnold O. Beckman

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

*High School*



## Visual Arts

Beckman High School's Visual and Performing Arts Department is an integral part of the school's Four A philosophy. Visual arts are a strong component of the program, including courses in art exploration, drawing and painting, graphic design, media arts, visual imagery (digital photography), Advanced Placement Art History, and Advanced Placement Studio Art.

Four full-time, talented teachers, Karen Akashi, William Choe, Gigi Manning, and Jackie Peters, instruct our students in a creative program which supports the national standards in the arts.

The art produced by our students has won national contests and has been shown in the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. In this year's Imagination Celebration, sponsored by the Orange County Department of Education, of the hundreds of entries, seven of the top 30 finalists were Beckman Patriots!



**Pat Wayne, Deputy Director of Arts Orange County, and TUSD Board President Jonathan Ablove congratulate Beckman High seniors Chai Yeon Yim, a runner up, and Madison Krause, People's Choice Award winner, in the 2012 Imagination Celebration Poster Contest at a recent school board meeting.**

# Barbara Benson

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

*Elementary School*



## A Love for Learning

I am very proud to introduce Ms. Christina Burns as our Benson Elementary School Teacher of the Year nominee for 2012.

Ms. Burns is a dedicated, talented and outstanding first-grade teacher who is very passionate about teaching and her love for learning. She has been teaching now in the Tustin Unified School District for 10 years.

Ms. Burns uses her master's degree in reading and Gifted and Talented Education training (GATE), and Systematic English Language Development (ELD), to help prepare her students for the second grade. She is constantly guiding her students on their journey towards life-long learning.

Ms. Burns is a leader at Benson, and is always willing to help out whenever needed. She is on the Positive Behavior Intervention Support Team (PBIS), a first-grade team leader, the DIBELS point-person, and the co-chair of the annual spelling bee event.

Ms. Burns is a caring teacher, whose true love for children and dedication to her profession makes her a well-respected member of the Benson team. We are all very proud to recognize Ms. Burns as our Teacher of the Year for 2012.

# Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



**Dean Crow**  
Principal

## Our Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Henry!

Mrs. Henry is enthusiastically committed to every student's success. She is an eager learner herself, which infects the students in her classes with a thirst for knowledge. Mrs. Henry began her career in the Tustin Unified School District as a classified employee in the role of librarian and later graduated to her teaching position. The experience that she has as both a classified and certificated employee, as well as a parent within TUSD gives her a unique perspective which gives a broad foundation to the learning environment in her classroom. Jonick, one of her 7th grade students says "I thought she was mean in the beginning of the year, but as I got to know her she is really awesome! Mrs. Henry is a leader of the PACK and a genuine asset to Bulldog Pride!



**Teacher Katryn Henry**  
exemplifies Bulldog pride.

# Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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



**Nancy Jenkins**  
Principal

## Celebrating Teaching Excellence

Estock Elementary School is proud to announce our 2012 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Leeann Liana! The students in her class are welcomed each day with warm hugs and bright smiles. Mrs. Liana is always positive, encouraging, loving, and supportive to her students and their families. Mrs. Liana was honored by a parent in her class with the I Make a Difference Award for her guidance and caring.

Mrs. Liana is very active at our school, taking on many different roles to help our staff and students. She is our Standardized

Testing And Reporting (STAR) coordinator, Dino Dash representative, and talent show coordinator, and she has joined the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council.

Mrs. Liana is married with two beautiful children, Ryan and Alexa. She is very active in their schools and in PTA, and she even coaches her daughters' softball team, the Ladybugs!

Congratulations, Mrs. Liana! You are a valued member of the Estock team!



**Estock Teacher of the Year Leeann Liana celebrates with her family: daughter Alexa, husband Jason and son Ryan.**

# A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



**Christine Matos**  
Principal

## Speaking for Our Kids

America's number-one Latino youth speaker, Gabe Salazar, came to Currie Middle School in February to inspire students. His motivational presentation included personal and humorous examples of his teenage life. Students related to his experiences as he explained how he used to follow different cliques, try to fit in with many groups and be a follower. He went on to explain how he later realized that following people was neither the smartest nor the coolest option.

Mr. Salazar is very passionate about helping the youth in America, and he teaches children and teens all over America to be who they are. Currie students found Mr. Salazar's presentation entertaining, amusing and heart-warming. "He was funny and inspiring," said Javier De La Torre, an eighth-grader who attended the assembly.

Mr. Salazar taught students to be themselves, live their own lives and go after their dreams.



**Gabe Salazar inspires Currie students to do the right thing and follow their dreams**

# Foothill *High School*

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



**Al Marzilli**  
Principal

## School and District High School Teacher of the Year

Debbie Farr is amazing! Despite challenges this past year and under the most extreme circumstances, Ms. Farr has maintained a positive attitude and has put her students first. Her dedication to colleagues and students is beyond compare. She has developed an outstanding curriculum, encouraging success and excellence in all her students.

Ms. Farr role-models the importance of caring for families by having her culinary classes prepare Thanksgiving meals for some Foothill families in need. She fund-raises, purchases food, has her classes prepare the meals, and then personally delivers the meals to the families. Ms. Farr also supports our choral department by having her culinary classes prepare and serve 1,200 to 1,500 meals for five nights during the Knights on Broadway Dinner Theater. She reaches students from all academic and diverse backgrounds and makes them successful. Her positive attitude is evident in all that she accomplishes, and she deserves to be Teacher of the Year.

# Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



**Kelly Fresch**  
Principal

## Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Christy Prendergast, Guin Foss Elementary School's Teacher of the Year for 2012! What a fabulous fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Prendergast is! If you have not seen her in action, she is full of energy, adding humor, compassion, and real-life experience to all her lessons. Students are engaged through her use of technology, choral responses and chants, mnemonic phrases, and Emily Bob, a silly flamingo classroom pet.

Mrs. Prendergast is professional, organized, and dedicated to the success of each and every student. Her colleagues rely on her for support, and the students benefit from her kind, honest, sincere demeanor. A dedicated learner herself, she has a master's degree in administration and participates in numerous professional development opportunities each year.



Mrs. Prendergast is also very dedicated to supporting communities, both local and nationwide, traveling with her family as active members of the Tustin Educators Association and the California Teachers Association. We are blessed to have her as a member of the Guin Foss family!

# Robert Heideman

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

*Elementary School*



**Eric Kilian**  
Principal

## Chess and iPods Ignite Learning

Success with Chess, an after school chess instructional program developed by a former national champion, began on Heideman's campus in March. The program teaches chess strategies and further develops critical thinking. Students are thrilled to have this opportunity. We are excited about adding this academic yet fun opportunity to our campus. Our goal is to grow this into a formal chess academy that will participate in chess competitions.

Heideman recently purchased an iPod cart for students to use as a part of becoming 21<sup>st</sup>-century learners. This tool will put



Chess at Heideman

learning into the hands of students and provide further cutting-edge engagement in all academic areas. Currently, the iPods are being loaded with apps and teachers are receiving training on their use, but within the month, they should be in students' hands, further engaging them in learning. They are sure to ignite learning and delight students.

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[www.KinshipCenter.org](http://www.KinshipCenter.org)

Program funding provided by  
the County of Orange and private donors.  
Kinship Center is a non profit  
mental health agency.



# Hewes *Middle School*

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



**Michele Boudreaux**  
Principal

## A Positive Impact

Hewes is thrilled and honored to announce Kristin Wagstaff as our 2011–12 Teacher of the Year. One of Mrs. Wagstaff's most critical roles that she plays at Hewes is that of the AVID Site Team Coordinator in addition to teaching all of our AVID classes. Mrs. Wagstaff also teaches Sixth-Grade Core and is a dynamic, highly skilled and effective teacher who is very humble about her talents. She has a gentle but firm demeanor that makes her well liked by both students and staff. Her positive attitude has a lasting impact on all of her students. She has also served the school in the following areas: School Site Council, AVID Site Team, Cheer advisor and ELD coordinator.



**Mrs. Wagstaff (left) Hewes Teacher of the Year.**

Mrs. Wagstaff, thank you for your dedication, commitment and love of education. You are an exceptional teacher, and Hewes is fortunate to have you on our staff.

# Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



**Cindy Agopian**  
Principal

## Helping Students Reach Academic Goals

Hicks Canyon Elementary School is pleased to announce that Alice Godwin has been named our 2012 Teacher of the Year. With credentials in both special and general education, Miss Godwin has proven a valuable asset to her students, colleagues, and school community during her 11 years with the Tustin Unified School District.

Drama and humor are just a few of the instructional strategies Miss Godwin uses to elicit a passion for learning from her students. She strives to make all students realize that they can be successful and pushes them to do their best. She believes in rewarding every child for participation, achievement, and positive behavior.



**Principal Cindy Agopian congratulates Alice Godwin, Hicks Canyon's Teacher of the Year.**

Always looking to maximize the potential of every student, Miss Godwin volunteers two or three times a week to tutor six to eight at-risk, second-grade students in math. The extra attention and support she provides these students is helping them move toward their academic goals.

Hicks Canyon is grateful for the dedication our 2012 Teacher of the Year shows to her students and our school. Congratulations, Miss Godwin, and thank you for all you do!

# Hillview *High School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7356



**Tim O'Donoghue**  
Principal

## Our Outstanding Employees

I am very honored to be able to recognize two special employees for their outstanding contributions to Hillview.

Mrs. Ruth Darlington was named Classified Employee of the Year. She has served as a paraeducator for the past eight years, assisting in the RSP class and tutoring students at lunch time. Many students have greatly benefited from her support, which has allowed them to earn their high school diplomas.

Mr. Barry Turner has been selected as Hillview's Teacher of the Year. He has done a phenomenal job as a math teacher, helping students pass the



**Mrs. Ruth Darlington**  
Classified Employee of the Year.

High School Exit Exam and become proficient in algebra. For the past 20 years he has molded the idea of "hard work" and "dedication" for our students. Mr. Turner is indeed "Hillview."

Recently, Mr. Turner has had to stop working as a teacher to take care of his health, but he continues to volunteer his time to help with the organization of our standardized testing.

# Ladera *Elementary School*

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



**Derek Pinto**  
Principal

## The Value of Parent Involvement

We are fortunate to have a high degree of parent involvement. Research supports that parent involvement is critical to school success. Schools that are highly effective share some common characteristics, among them strong teachers and leadership, high expectations, a positive school culture and climate, student feelings of belonging and high levels of parent involvement.

When parent levels of commitment are maximized, students heighten their own efforts, and exceptional results usually follow. It is the school's responsibility to communicate with the parents frequently and ensure that they are presented with ample opportunities to immerse themselves in their child's school life.



At a recent school mother-daughter tea, the evening included a talk about transition to the teen years in addition to eats and entertainment. These precious moments provide quality time for parents and their children and serve to forge a deeper, meaningful connection to school experiences. Great things are possible—the all the school has to do is "set the table."

# KAMPS / ACTIVITIES FOR KIDZ

**INSIDE THE OUTDOORS'  
SUMMER  
DAY CAMP**



**Rancho Soñado**  
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**Shikey Nature Center**  
July 9-13, 2012  
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July 23-27, 2012  
July 30-  
Aug 3, 2012

**Irvine Regional Park**  
Aug 6-10, 2012

**Camp Hours:**  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday - Friday  
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Inside the Outdoors is an environmental education program administered by the Orange County Department of Education.




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 Olga Ospina, KTLA - "Next big thing"

Spring Session - April 15 - June 15  
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 Student showcase - "Lights, Camera, Dance!" August 25th

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Camp can last for just a few days or stretch to all summer long. It's well worth the trouble to investigate the variety of choices offered by camps before your child packs a backpack.

**Ready, Set, Camp!**

## Note-ables

### Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important



Kate Karp

Chicken Joe is an orange cat who loves rock and roll. Trout Fishing in America, aka folk-rockers Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet and creators of this endearing character and the "funny farm" he lives on, tell Joe's story in original songs with country-flavored rock and plain ol' country. This latest CD is a follow-up to *My Name is Chicken Joe* and is available either solo or with a whimsically drawn storybook illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch. In this story, narrated by Grimwood and Idlet and augmented by their band, Chicken Joe sleepily arises, as cats will, from his bed in the hen house and tries hard to remember an important thing he'd forgotten. After talking to the hens, the dog named Miss Kitty, and a very odd kazoo-playing mule, he lies down to take a much-needed nap, as cats also will. You and your children will undoubtedly have picked up on the clues and try to shout Joe into waking, which could be why he remembers what he'd forgotten when naptime's over.

The songs are accompanied by guitars, banjos and synthesizers, and spoons, hand claps and a frottoir—that's your washboard! They're wonderfully clever and can be considered the show after the story. Roosters crow "Rock and rooooo!!!!" in "Rock and Roll Roosters," and all the farm animals display their eccentric and species-bewildered behavior ("Hello, My Chicken Thinks He's a Dog"; "You've Got a Funny Name.") One in particular, "The Fish Swim Backwards in the Sky," is lovely in a mountain-ballad way; mournful strings eerily contrast with whimsical lyrics like "Don't hold hands with a cactus tree." And it's not all silliness and games. "Where Did Everybody Go" tells about taking a wrong turn in life and making your way back, and "Dance with Me" is simple love and friendship, flavored with Cajun filé gumbo.

*Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important* is simply a fine time—and what's that pig doing in the bathroom?

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

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Canyon  
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"Development is our goal. Teaching is our business."



**2012/13 CLUB SOCCER TRYOUTS U9 – U18**

**Tryout Dates**  
U9 thru U14  
Looking for Players  
U15 thru U18 April/May  
Check Website for Dates & Times

Canyon PSA is an organized youth soccer club for girls and boys ages U9 to U18. We participate in The Coast Soccer League, play 10 months out of the year.

- Club Director **Eddie Carrillo** (Men's Soccer Coach, Chapman University)
- Asst. Club Director **Sal Lopez** (Men's Asst. Soccer Coach, Chapman University)
- Technical Director **Luis Balboa** (Former International Professional Player)

We provide a very experienced and professional staff:

- Goal Keeper Coach **Bob Amman** (Men's Soccer Coach, Cal State Fullerton)
- Girls Coach, **Lindsey Huie-Morinaga** (Former U of Portland player & National Player)
- Girls Coach, **Dale Ervine** (Former Professional Player)
- Boys Coach, **Ivan Polic** (Former Professional Player)

We are a strong competitive club that continues to grow and thrive and develop solid players on and off the soccer field. We measure success by the number of our players in collegiate level soccer and their success in all aspects of life.

SCAN THIS QR CODE with your Smart Phone



**www.canyonpsa.com**

# CAMP



**Santiago Canyon College**

**Community Services College for Kids Program**  
(June 18 through August 16, 2012)

If you're looking for a way to help enrich your child's summer, Santiago Canyon College has the solution.

**Community Services College for Kids Program** offers a wide variety of classes and activities that can help your child improve academic skills, challenge his or her imagination, and make new friends.

*You can personalize your child's schedule to accommodate vacations and other summer activities.*

- academics
- art camps
- acting
- awesome sitters
- computers/keyboarding
- dance/singing
- guitar
- digital photography
- LEGO® Engineering
- movie making
- musical theater
- math
- reading/composition
- robotics
- sewing
- science camps
- Spanish
- web design
- video game making and more...

Registration begins April 16, 2012  
For more information, visit our website at [www.sccollege.edu/cs](http://www.sccollege.edu/cs) or call (714) 628-4960

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(714) 544-4051

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(714) 544-0173

**ESTOCK YMCA**  
14741 North B. Street  
Tustin, CA 92780  
(714) 669-5642

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Visit [ymcaoc.org/summercamp](http://ymcaoc.org/summercamp) for calendars and registration

The Y is a nonprofit charity. Scholarship assistance is available. Call today for more info. The YMCA of Orange County does not discriminate against any person on the basis of his or her disability by any YMCA program, you have a right to file a complaint with the School District under the District's section 504 complaint procedure.

**YMCA OF ORANGE COUNTY | [ymcaoc.org/summercamp](http://ymcaoc.org/summercamp)**

## What is Proper Running Form?



**Dr. Doug Richie**

There is a lot of “buzz” in the running community regarding barefoot running, minimalist shoes and running form. Much of the debate focuses on injury prevention and efficiency of running. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of research to validate the notion that any type of shoe or running style will prevent injuries. On the other hand, we have valid biomechanical studies which can give us direction to enjoy running while avoiding injury.

Barefoot running enthusiasts advocate a “forefoot strike” pattern where the runner lands on the ball of the foot and avoids hitting the heel on the ground altogether. This running form is commonly seen in elite sprinters and world class long distance runners who are very fit and athletic. For the average jogger, running on the forefoot requires extra muscle strength and may actually increase the risk of strain on the arch of the foot (the plantar fascia) and the Achilles tendon. Certainly when a runner wants to increase speed and performance, they will have to learn how to run on their toes. However, this has to be done gradually while the body adapts to the increased strain.

For the average runner, a “heel-strike” pattern is more natural and far less demanding in terms of muscle strain. Running heel- to- toe reduces strain on the calf and shin muscles, but may slow down the overall pace and speed. For the runner who has a previous history of injury in their plantar fascia, Achilles tendon or shin muscles, a heel-strike running pattern would be recommended.

There is nothing wrong with a heel strike running pattern as long as you have no aspirations to reach the Olympic Trials. If you have read websites which promote the notion that running on the forefoot will prevent injury, wait for more scientific research which can prove this theory. So far, we have noticed that the average runner will select a heel strike running pattern because it is more comfortable and puts less strain on the muscles of the foot and leg.

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

## The Champion



**Kent Kawaguchi**

Who is going to be the Champion? After months of practice, countless hours of competitive workouts, and scrimmages, it was finally time to fly from Orange County, California to Chicago to compete against some of the top Mid-West volleyball teams. After hours of plane rides and anticipation, we finally got to the gym called Adversity. It was a huge, clean, modern gym with multiple courts for teams to play on. Inside the gym was extremely hectic. Referee whistles were blowing, coaches were screaming, fans were cheering, and athletes were competing at the highest level. There was spirited electricity in the air and one



**Kent and Mike Hulett, founder of Adversity Volleyball.**

person focused on seemingly every person and game going on in the gym. He was constantly watching, coaching, leading, cheering teams and players, motivating them to do their best. He would also greet parents and coaches too, obviously appreciated and respected by everyone inside the gymnasium. By the end of the tournament everyone knew that he is the Champion.

His name is Mike Hulett, Founder of the non-profit organization called Adversity Volleyball. As President, Head Coach and Organizer of the entire tournament, he brought together hundreds of student athletes from the Great Lakes region and our team from California. Mr. Hulett is also a quadruple amputee who went

through the adversity of having lost his limbs due to diabetes. However, he continues to pursue his love and passion for the game of volleyball bringing joy to hundreds of athletes and their families.

As Head Coach of the Men's Paralympic Sitting Volleyball Team from 1996 to 2000 he inspires others through his leadership. In 2004, he led the USA Paralympic Women's Volleyball team to a Bronze medal in Athens, where he was also named the United States Olympic Committee Paralympics Coach of the Year in 2004. He also led the Women's team to a Silver medal in Beijing. The Athens and Beijing medals were USA's only Olympic medals ever won in Disabled Volleyball. In addition, Mr. Hulett won the Disabled Sport USA's Volunteer of the Year award in 1997, the Great Lakes Region Outstanding Clinician Award in 1998, and the USA Volleyball Leader Award in 2002.

Mr. Hulett said, “I want to show kids that they need to be grateful for the things they have, because things can be taken away in a matter of seconds.” Through the Adversity Volleyball Club, his coaching and leadership, he inspires athletes to do their best and to appreciate everything they have.

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*All skill levels welcome*

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Boys and Girls Ages 5 – 14



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**Summer Season Starts July 14**

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## Ready, Get Set,...Create!



As a parent, I really now understand what everyone was saying when my sons were born: "It goes by so fast! Before you know it they will be...." And it is true! Since they grow so fast, I often think, what are the "seeds" that we parents should plant in our children? Manners? Of course! Respect? Of course! Self-esteem and self-confidence? Yes and yes!

But as I my youngest child moves into elementary school, I truly believe that giving children the opportunity to think critically, problem solve, imagine, and create will elevate them even more as they continue to grow.

Math calls for it. Social studies calls for it. Playing in the yard and getting into arguments call for it—the ability to analyze a situation, concretely or theoretically come up with solutions, and communicate those solutions through thought, speech, written word, movement, or art.

I opened Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc. in 2000. There were not as many demands on our children as there are now. Kindergarten is truly the new first grade. Our children's minds need to be agile, sharp, open to new ideas, curious, passionate, and creative, no matter if they will become chemists, professional athletes, teachers, artists, musicians, or business executives.

If you can give your child a gift in 2012, take the time to do something creative with him or her. Get out those cardboard boxes and turn them into a race car or doll house. Get out wire, tile, and glue and play. Read books, take walks and collect rocks, write letters, and talk! These life skills will be a gift to your child.

Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc.  
www.art2growon.com (310) 625-6028

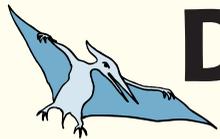
## 10 Surefire Ways to Get Kids Reading



Rozanne Lanczak Williams

1. Read aloud to your kids every day. Reading together can help build close relationships and sends the positive message: I want to spend time with you.
2. Two words—buy books. Children need to own books of their own. Favorite ones will be read over and over and will give readers a chance to experience the books in different ways. Rereading builds fluency and comprehension skills!
3. Visit the library and check out books, sign up for special programs and story-times at libraries and bookstores. Attend book festivals together.
4. Read aloud to your kids every day. Reading and storytelling build word power—the power to communicate.
5. "Read the world!" Invite your child to read street and store signs, billboards, cereal boxes, recipes, grocery lists, mail, etc.
6. Talk it up! Discuss the books you are reading with your child. Ask questions like: "Why do you think . . . ?" "What would happen if . . . ?" or "Can you think of a new ending for the story?"
7. Read aloud to your kids every day. Reading aloud promotes good listening skills. Good listeners are good learners.
8. Turn it off! Whether it's the TV, electronic game, ipod, computer game (the list goes on!) Involve your child in the real world!
9. Sing songs, chant rhymes and simple poems. Play word games like "piglatin" and board games using reading such as Monopoly Jr.
10. Read aloud to your kids every day! Research proves that reading at home gives your child an advantage in school. Children learn to read by reading!

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: [www.magicbookgarden.com](http://www.magicbookgarden.com)



# Dinosaurs Word Search Contest

**NEW Rules!!!**

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

**Entries must be received by May 15, 2012**

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

Allosaurus	Parasaurolophus
Anatosaurus	Segisaurus
Ankylosaurus	Spinosaurus
Apatosaurus	Stegosaurus
Brachiosaurus	Torosaurus
Coelophysis	Triceratops
Diplodocus	Tyrannosaurus
Iguanodon	Ultrasaurus

**Congratulations to Faizaan Akmal  
Winner of the February Contest!**

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

# C.C. Lambert *Elementary School*

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



**Deanna Parks**  
Principal

## A Goal Not to Be Needed?

Tracy Brillhart, Lambert Elementary School's Teacher of the Year, is our resource specialist and much more. She creates and provides specialized educational programs for our neediest learners, and she is our "go to" resource when we need a new idea to reach a student. Her motto is "Kids don't fail. We fail kids." This exemplifies her never-ending quest to meet each child's individual needs—whatever it takes.

Tracy is always researching new ways and ideas to reach students because she understands that one size doesn't fit all or sometimes even a few. She is a learner as much as she is a teacher. She is thirsty for new knowledge and is always participating in professional development opportunities to grow in her field. Tracy's goal as a resource specialist is not to be needed, which would mean that her students have met their goals and are ready to succeed on their own. A great goal and gift indeed!



**Lambert's Teacher of the Year**  
Tracy Brillhart

# Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



**Katy Sheyka**  
Principal

## Congratulations, Amanda Johnson!

The Loma Vista Cougars proudly recognize Miss Amanda Johnson as their Teacher of the Year! Miss Johnson is a stellar educator who does everything she can to set each one of her scholars up for success!

Amanda's students are motivated and successful due to her outstanding instructional delivery, incredible learning environment and uncanny approach to making learning fun! Currently a Costen fellow, Amanda is studying the art of teaching, and is always driven to refine best instructional practices. According to Isabelle, Miss Johnson is hitting the mark, too. "She always helps us if we are stuck on a word."

A quiet, natural leader, Amanda is passionate about ensuring that children enjoy their developmental years socially, emotionally and academically. According to Abraham, "She takes care of her students. She wants her students to tell the truth and does not get angry very much. She is always kind to us."

Way to go, Miss Johnson!



**The Amazing Miss Johnson and her Super Scholars!**

# Myford *Elementary School*

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



**Amy Fedderly**  
Principal

## Teaching from the Heart

I am so proud to announce Joanne Rikimaru as Myford Elementary School's Teacher of the Year! Joanne began teaching in 2000 and came to Myford in 2001, the year our school opened. Since that time, Joanne has been a collaborative member of the first-grade team. She is a team player with great ideas to share and a willingness to try new things!

Joanne graduated from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) with honors in 2000, where she received her multiple-subject teaching credential. She continued her education at CSUF and recently received her master's degree in education with a focus in reading. She has taken this new learning and applied it in her classroom, where you can see first-graders actively engaged in authentic reading experiences daily.

Myford is thrilled to have this exceptional teacher represent us as this year's Teacher of the Year nominee. This is a well deserved honor for someone who teaches from the heart.



# W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



**John Laurich**  
Principal

## Multimedia Literacy Week!

Read Across America Day meant a weeklong event at W.R. Nelson Elementary. Activities during the week included Crazy Hat Day, Wear Green and Recycle Wednesday in honor of *The Lorax* movie, and Pajama Day on Friday.

On Friday, we invited parents and community leaders to come read their favorite Dr. Seuss book to classrooms. This year, we were very fortunate to have a number of community leaders read at Nelson, including school board president Jonathan Abelow; Chief Scott Jordan of the Tustin Police Department; Capt. Steve Lewis and Lt. Paul Garaven, also from the Tustin Police; Dr. Lori Stillings; and Tony Soria and Deena Vela from the TUSD District Office.

A very special treat was a visit from Mary Ann King, former hostess of the TV show *Romper Room*, who read to our kindergartners and our CDC preschoolers. Nelson also participated in Accelerated Readers Read the Most from Coast to Coast by reading 1,068 books on Friday!



**Tustin Police Chief Scott Jordan reads to second graders in Lori Boyer's classroom.**

# Orchard Hills *School*

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



**Rich Montgomery**  
Principal

## Our 2012 Teacher of the Year!

We are proud to announce that Lee-Ann Lippert is our Orchard Hills 2012 Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Lippert has shined brightly on our campus. Author Gary Gordon in his book *Building Engaged Schools* describes the three characteristics that extraordinary teachers share and which differentiate the good from the great.

Lee-Ann exemplifies these characteristics. She has an innate passion to teach. "When you love what you do, it comes through in your mannerisms," she says. Lee-Ann shows a passion for the subjects that she teaches, and for those to whom she teaches.

She also has a gift for building relationships. "Whether they intend to or not, teachers create relationships of one kind or another in their classrooms," she believes. Lee-Ann lives out the Golden Rule with all of our stakeholders.



**Ms. Lippert celebrates with her students after being named Orchard Hills' 2012 Teacher of the Year.**

She has an understanding of how to activate learning as well. She believes that, "It's a teacher's infectious enthusiasm for learning itself that is apt to captivate a student." Lee-Ann displays her enthusiasm for being the kind of lifelong learner who is also constantly improving her work as a professional.

# Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



**Molly Murphy**  
Principal

## The Lego Lunch Bunch

*By Jennifer Sandland, Third-Grade Teacher*

Every Thursday at lunch, an eager group of PCE scholars meets in the MPR to create Lego masterpieces. This "Lego Lunch Bunch" group is open to the entire school. It is a place where students can work independently or with friends in a relaxed environment.

The Lego Lunch Bunch provides students an opportunity to nurture their creativity and build friendships. Each Thursday as many as 80 students participate. Trent Gomez explained that, "Lego Lunch Bunch is our time to shine and have fun!"

The group was created in 2009 by Ms. Sandland, one of our third-grade teachers. In 2011 our Speech and Language Team's Tiffany Cook and Renee Arballo also joined the group.



**Students can visit [pcelegolunchbunch.weebly.com](http://pcelegolunchbunch.weebly.com) to view pictures of their creations.**

Sometimes the students are given a challenge piece. Past challenges have included building a Lego sign, an animal, or a Valentine. Other times the students explore, create and build their own. In February the students created a Lego Seussville, which was displayed in the front office during Read Across America.

# Pioneer *Middle School*

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



**Tracey Vander Hayden**  
Principal

## 2012 Teacher of the Year!

Teacher Jennifer Smith is an exemplary representative of the education profession. Mrs. Smith's number-one priority is her determination to instill the same love for the sciences as she learned from her very own professors. Not only does she value her own education by currently working on her Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction but she is also always interested in strengthening her teaching skills through a variety of different fields such as AVID's research-based instructional practices and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

Being a National Model Professional Learning Community school requires team players, and Mrs. Smith's character traits directly complement the systems and structures that have been put into place to meet every student's individual

needs. Mrs. Smith's commitment to being actively involved with our youth extends to Dino Dash, Science Olympiad, Irvine's Trek Tech, vertical teaming with high schools, eighth-grade parent nights and transitioning for students from middle to high schools. It is this type of commitment to learning that makes Mrs. Smith Pioneer's 2012 Teacher of the Year!



**Jennifer Smith is committed to learning.**

# Red Hill *Elementary School*

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

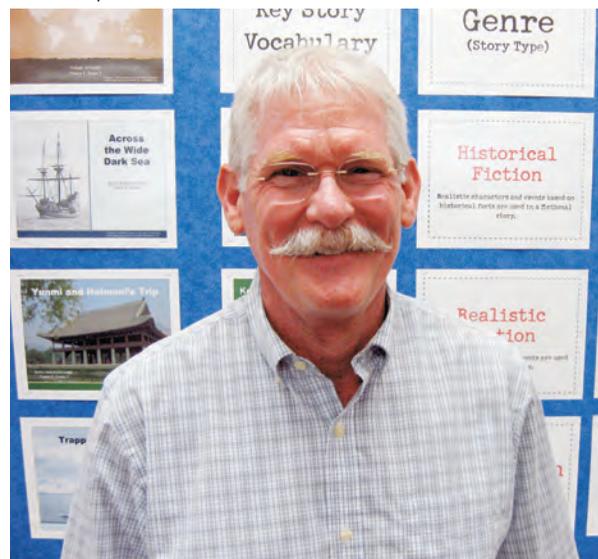


**Will Neddersen**  
Principal

## Teacher Makes a Difference in Students' Learning

Congratulations to Mr. William Carter for being selected as Red Hill Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. Mr. Carter has been a part of the Red Hill staff for seven years. Currently he is teaching third grade.

Mr. Carter is dedicated to making a difference in his students' learning. He connects his lessons to what his students are experiencing. On Tuesdays you can find many of Mr. Carter's students wearing ties with him for Tie Tuesday.



**Will Carter, Red Hill Teacher of the Year**

The Red Hill staff relies on Mr. Carter to support the use of technology on the campus. He is the troubleshooter for problems that may occur with our new data management system. Mr. Carter is also appreciated for his organization and attention to detail when planning.

On top of all these great characteristics, you can always find Mr. Carter encouraging everyone. This is why Mr. Carter is Red Hill's Teacher of the Year.

# Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



**Tracy Barquer**  
Principal

## Kick It Up a Notch!

Thorman Elementary School is proud to honor third-grade teacher Jody Kick as its Teacher of the Year!

Jody teaches her scholars with a quiet, gentle style. She loves to bring lessons alive with pictures, realia, video clips and the SmartBoard. Her lessons often have students chanting, singing or responding in unison with enthusiasm.

Jody is a trained lead teacher for supporting second language learners, and she also trains, supports and coaches the teachers at Thorman and other schools across Tustin Unified in systematic English language development. She earned her bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University and her master's in education from Concordia University.

Jody is a lifelong learner who prides herself on maintaining high expectations for student behavior and academic achievement. Her positive influence on staff members is greatly appreciated, and she is a leader in our Professional Learning Community's efforts as well.

Congratulations, Mrs. Kick!



**Jody Kick and two of her scholars: Andre Arenas and Diane Rodriguez**

# Tustin High School

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



**Jonathan Blackmore**  
Principal

## The Bath Schools Conference

The Tustin High School Model United Nations Program shined at the Bath Schools Conference on March 2-4. The conference was located at Kingswood School in Bath, England. Twelve THS students made the trip, and they all had a great time competing in the United Kingdom.

The Bath Schools Conference is a challenging one, but our THS MUN'ers were up to it. Kathryn Reuter was "Commended" for her work in General Assembly/Political Committee. Samantha Lopez was awarded an "Outstanding" for her work in General Assembly/Health Committee, and Sravya Chilukuri was also

awarded an "Outstanding" for her work on the Security Council.

The Bath Schools conference is an international conference. It had delegates from the United States, Russia, the Czech Republic and Germany. Our MUN'ers also took educational excursions to London and Ireland. The trip was amazing. It was something that these students will never forget.



**Tustin High MUN students pose for a photo at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.**

# Tustin Memorial *Academy*

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



**Wendy Hudson**  
Principal

## Students Celebrate Arbor Day

This month third-graders at Tustin Memorial Academy were given a special visit by our local Tustin-Santa Ana

Rotary Club to celebrate Arbor Day. Two members of the Rotary Club taught students the history of Arbor Day, including how and when the day began (April 10, 1872) and that the purpose of the day is to encourage individuals and groups to plant and care for trees. The highlight of the day was when our two Rotarian guests presented each of the 142 students with their very own baby palm tree. After learning how to care for their tree, students proudly carried their living gifts home!



**TMA third-graders Alyssa Bui and Kayla Salcedo display their new trees.**

# Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



**Dean Jennings**  
Principal

## Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Holds Court at Tustin Ranch

NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar made an appearance at Tustin Ranch Elementary School and Pioneer Middle School in February. Co-authors Abdul-Jabbar and Tustin Unified School District parent and author Raymond Obstfeld visited both schools to discuss their new book, *What Color is My World – The Lost History of African-American Inventors*. Abdul-Jabbar's first children's book enlightens young minds with profiles on African American innovators and their creations.

When asked why he chose to write a book about African American inventors, Abdul-Jabbar said, "I wanted kids to get excited about science and engineering as possible fields of study. We can show young kids that a career in science can be just as cool as becoming a pro athlete or a famous actor— and that it can affect the world a lot more."

During the program, Abdul-Jabbar read a section from the book, answered questions from students and teachers with Obstfeld, and held a book-signing. The event was a slam dunk!



**Tustin Ranch Principal Dean Jennings gives an "assist" to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld during a book-signing at the school.**

# C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



**Tom Giebe**  
Principal

## Attitude, Commitment, and Achievement

Congratulations to Kris Posavec, the 2012 Tustin Unified School District Middle School Teacher of the Year. She truly embodies Utt Middle School's three core values of attitude, commitment, and achievement.

Mrs. Posavec comes to school each day with a positive attitude, an attitude that is infectious amongst the staff and her students. Mrs. Posavec also puts the betterment of the school ahead of any personal goals that she may have. She is absolutely committed to the academic, social, and behavioral improvements of her students, helping to coach our award-winning Academic Pentathlon teams, coaching volleyball after school, and serving on our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) team. In addition to all that, she spends her time off in the summer attending Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) trainings and, this summer, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) training. She accomplishes all of this while also teaching after-school intervention classes and contributing to an already stellar science department, as evidenced by a nearly 90 percent proficiency rate on the eighth-grade California Standards Test (CST) in science, a remarkable achievement indeed.

This year Mrs. Posavec has done a tremendous job using best practices from her days as a language arts and history teacher and incorporating those practices into her life and physical science classes, which have resulted in increased test scores for her students. These best practices are now being shared across the science department and have been adopted by other teachers in their daily delivery of instruction. Once again, congratulations, Mrs. Posavec! Keep up the great work!

# Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



**Ryan Bollenbach**  
Principal

## Respect and Admiration

Mrs. Kristin Price always strives to have her students perform above grade level. But more importantly, she knows that she also has the power to positively impact their lives forever.

Mrs. Price believes that teaching is not only about sharing knowledge and information, and empowering her students to be life-long learners, but also about being a positive influence.

When visiting her classroom you can see the respect that she has for her students, and the admiration they have for her. Every morning, Mrs. Price greets all of her students at the door with a

“good morning.” And every student gets a “high-five” at the end of the day.

Mrs. Price has created a safe, secure and respectful atmosphere. She encourages her students to believe in themselves and take risks. Because of this, she has created a classroom culture where her students know that they can succeed.



Mrs. Price teaching an ELD lesson.

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OC DEPT. OF ED • FROM PAGE 3



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent

changed as a result of the technology tools used in their classrooms. A volunteer review team made up of teachers, district technology coordinators, business/non-profit leaders, and OCDE staff read and rate each application and decide which projects merit a site visit. The site visits provide a hands-on opportunity for students to describe and demonstrate how they are using technology to learn specific content areas and how technology has been integrated into the learning process. The review team then selects the most innovative classrooms to present at the local and state level.

Another aspect of OCDE's STS process is the “dress rehearsal” held prior to the Showcase. This provides students the initial opportunity to present their projects in a science fair format to an audience of adults, and it gives the review team a final chance to select the projects that will represent Orange County at the statewide STS. In 2012, teams have an additional opportunity to be selected for the STS at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) conference being held in San Diego in June.

This year, projects include the use of iPods and iPads to increase reading fluency and comprehension and to improve math, science, and other skills; Story Kit, an application that incorporates pictures, text and sound; blogs; video broadcasts and much more.

For more information about the Student Technology Showcase, visit <http://www.k12hsn.org/resources/showcase/gallery/index.php/ocde/>.



**Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.**  
Superintendent

apps will be a \$35 BILLION per year industry! We must provide our students with the tools to keep up in this global technology arms race.

Indeed, Tustin Unified has done a great deal of work to integrate technology into the teaching/learning process. We now have interactive whiteboards, a teacher computer, digital camera and Internet connection in almost every classroom, and at least one computer lab in every school. We also have several smaller technology initiatives:

- Tustin High's 1:1 netbook program has about 300 students working with technology on a daily basis in English, social studies, and science. Students use the technology to access information, collaborate with classmates and their teacher, store notes and digital content, and produce reports and projects.
- Beckman, Foothill and Tustin high schools have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program that enrolls between 50 and 200 students each. The programs teach basic principles of engineering and provide students the opportunity to apply their learning to design and manufacture prototypes.
- Hicks Canyon Elementary School has a class set of iPods available for teacher and student use.
- Heideman Elementary School has a mobile lab of iTouch handhelds that are used for a variety of applications and projects.

These programs are great, but each has obvious problems of scale. Our challenge is to provide these types of resources and experiences to ALL STUDENTS of the District – regardless of school of attendance, family income, or home language. I appreciate the good work being done by so many teachers, principals and district staff to help us clarify our priorities and next steps in technology.



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

## 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 Charles Yoeun, whose design was selected for Dinosaur Dash XXII, to be held November 4 at The Market Place in Tustin. The committee selected this logo from entries submitted by Tustin Unified School District middle and high school students. Charles was awarded \$100, as was the art department at his school, Tustin High School.



**Dinosaur Dash XXII logo**

## Teacher of the Year Dinner

Teachers, administrators, staff members, parents, and community members are invited to attend the Teacher of the Year Dinner on April 27 at the Irvine Marriott. This celebration honors one Teacher of the Year from each of our 28 schools. The evening includes a video of each nominated teacher and an awards presentation. A unique way to honor a favorite teacher is by underwriting the cost of a ticket to this celebration or by purchasing a tribute ad in the dinner program. The list of honorees and ticket information is available on our Web site.

## Summer Academy

This summer we will launch the new Tustin Summer Academy for incoming Kindergarten – 5th-grade students. This 2 to 4-week program will offer enrichment activities in language arts, science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The Tustin Public Schools Foundation will also offer a 1-week performing arts camp for 4th – 12th-grade students offered by the Young Americans. Information and registration – www.tpsf.net.

Sandland has been a teacher for 10 years – eight in TUSD. Among her work at Peters Canyon, she has created the Green Team and Lego Lunch Bunch in order to get kids more involved in school; serves as a Junior Great Books trainer, Family Reading Night coordinator and pilot teacher for the Musical Me program; and has brought more technology into her classroom and uses it to connect with her families.

Posavec has taught for five years – all at Utt Middle School. She is coach/advisor of the school's Pentathlon Team and member of the AVID Site Team. She has been involved in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs. Outside of class, she volunteers for the Dinosaur Dash, Model United Nations program and Orange County Outreach Food Bank.

Goldenberg has been a teacher for 16 years – all in TUSD (seven at Beckman and nine at Currie Middle School). He teaches Advanced Placement World History at Beckman and during the past six years over 80 percent of his students have passed a three-hour exam at the end of the course. He leads the school's Link Cru program, which provides juniors and seniors with opportunities to serve as leaders, mentors and peer-to-peer academic supporters. He also coaches football and advises several campus clubs, such as Make-A-Wish Club, Mock Trial Team and Youth Action Club.

## The other 2012 School Site Teachers of the Year include:

**Elementary School:** Suzanne Tarnay-Kelly, fourth-grade teacher at Arroyo School; Christina Burns, first-grade teacher at Benson School; Nicole Eagan, first-grade teacher at Beswick School; Leeann Liana, special education teacher at Estock School; Christy Prendergast, fourth-grade teacher at Guin Foss School; Beth Beyer, fifth-grade teacher at Heideman School; Alice Godwin, second-grade teacher at Hicks Canyon School; Sheri Gray, pre-K special education teacher at Ladera School; Tracy Long-Brillhart, resource specialist at Lambert School; Amanda Johnson third-grade teacher at Loma Vista School; Joanne Rikimaru, first-grade teacher at Myford School; Lori Boyer, second-grade teacher at Nelson School; William Carter, third-grade teacher at Red Hill School; Jody Kick, third-grade teacher at Thorman School; Devra Staller, fifth-grade teacher at Tustin Memorial Academy; Brittney Crawford, kindergarten teacher at Tustin Ranch School; and Kristin Price, fourth-grade teacher at Veeh School.

**Middle School:** Katryn Henry, seventh-grade Core/Honors Core and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) teacher at Columbus Tustin School; Zachariah Samarin, seventh-grade Core and AVID teacher at Currie School; Kristin Wagstaff, sixth-grade Core and AVID teacher at Hewes School; Lee-Ann Lippert, sixth-grade Core teacher at Orchard Hills School; and Jennifer Smith, STEM, Earth science and English Language Development (ELD) science teacher at Pioneer School.

**High School:** Debbie Farr, tech education and culinary arts teacher at Foothill; Barry Turner, Algebra teacher at Hillview; and Ed Hernandez, math and STEM teacher at Tustin High.

The three winners and all the District's nominees will be honored at the 18th annual Teachers of the Year Dinner at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 27 at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. The event is co-sponsored by the Tustin Public Schools Foundation and Tustin Unified School District.

## Tustin Unified School District Board of Education



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**Tammie Bullard**  
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**Francine Scinto**  
Member

# Celebrate **tustin** Unified School District **Teachers**

## TUSD Teachers of the Year

### Elementary School



**Jennifer Sandland**  
Third Grade Teacher  
Peters Canyon Elementary

### Middle School



**Kristina Posavec**  
Science Teacher  
Utt Middle

### High School



**David Goldenberg**  
AP World History  
Beckman High

## School Site Teachers of the Year



**Suzanne M. Tarnay-Kelly**  
Fourth Grade Teacher  
Arroyo Elementary



**Christina Burns**  
First Grade Teacher  
Benson Elementary



**Nicole Eagan**  
First Grade Teacher  
Beswick Elementary



**Leeann Liana**  
K, 1 & 2 Special Ed Teacher  
Estock Elementary



**Christy Prendergast**  
Fourth Grade Teacher  
Guin Foss Elementary



**Beth Beyer**  
Fifth Grade Teacher  
Heideman Elementary



**Alice Godwin**  
Second Grade Teacher  
Hicks Canyon Elementary



**Sheri Gray**  
Pre-K Special Ed Teacher  
Ladera Elementary



**Tracy Long-Brillhart**  
Resource Specialist  
Lambert Elementary



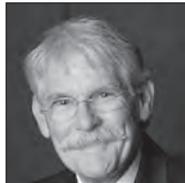
**Amanda Johnson**  
Third Grade Teacher  
Loma Vista Elementary



**Joanne Rikimaru**  
First Grade Teacher  
Myford Elementary



**Lori Boyer**  
Second Grade Teacher  
Nelson Elementary



**William Carter**  
Third Grade Teacher  
Red Hill Elementary



**Jody Kick**  
Third Grade Teacher  
Thorman Elementary



**Devra Staller**  
Fifth Grade Teacher  
Tustin Memorial Academy



**Brittney Crawford**  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Tustin Ranch Elementary



**Kristin Price**  
Fourth Grade Teacher  
Veeh Elementary



**Katryn Henry**  
Core/Honors Core & AVID Teacher  
Columbus Tustin Middle



**Zachariah Samarin**  
Core & AVID Teacher  
Currie Middle



**Kristin Wagstaff**  
Core & AVID Teacher  
Hewes Middle



**Lee-Ann Lippert**  
Core Teacher  
Orchard Hills Middle



**Jennifer M. Smith**  
Science & STEM Teacher  
Pioneer Middle



**Debbie Farr**  
Home Economics Teacher  
Foothill High



**Barry Turner**  
Algebra Teacher  
Hillview High



**Ed Hernandez**  
Math & Engineering Teacher  
Tustin High



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## Tustin Public Schools Foundation Teacher of the Year Dinner

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