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School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 41

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2013

SUPERINTENDENT

In Touch with TUSD



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.

November 6 was an incredibly important date for the Tustin Unified School District—Measure S and Proposition 30 passed, and three incumbent Board members – Tammie Bullard, James Laird and Francine Scinto – were re-elected.

Locally, the Measure S technology bond was passed with 60.1% of the voters casting a yes vote. Measure S will raise \$135 million over the next 30 years to provide students with technology, job skills, science labs and the necessary infrastructure to connect to the Internet. Thanks to

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 19

2013 California Teacher of the Year

By Mark Eliot
Director of Communications



Beckman teacher David Goldenberg was surprised with balloons, band music, cheerleaders, students, staff, dignitaries, his wife Theresa and their three children during the state Teacher of the Year announcement.

Beckman High School history and social science teacher David Goldenberg has been selected as a 2013 California Teacher of the Year by the California Department of Education. He was chosen as one of five state Teachers of the Year.

The California Teachers of the Year Program began in 1972 and recognizes outstanding teachers who have displayed extraordinary teaching, creativity, and excellence at their school and community.

“Mr. Goldenberg makes history come alive for his students, which makes them feel engaged and eager to learn,” said State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson. “He sees his career as a calling to serve his country in a profession that has meaning. Every school day, he teaches as if it’s a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of his students.”

See 2013 CA TEACHER OF THE YEAR • Page 19

TUSD Salutes School Resource Officers

By Mark Eliot, Director of Communications

The Tustin Unified School District Board of Education recognized Officer Frough Jahid from the Irvine Police Department, Deputy Jay Myers from the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and Officer Scott Wright from the Tustin Police Department for their valuable service as School Resource Officers (SROs) and ongoing support for the students, staff and schools in the District. The recognition took place at the January 14 school board meeting.

Officer Jahid is the SRO at Beckman High School, Deputy Myers is the SRO at Foothill High School and Officer Wright is the SRO at Tustin High School.

School Resource Officers Jahid, Myers and Wright provide a visible and positive image for law enforcement and public safety on our high school campuses. Their presence promotes a safe school environment for learning and deters suspicious activity and crime on campus. Among their duties, the SROs conduct investigations and interviews; work with surrounding law enforcement agencies; serve as liaisons between the school, community and local law enforcement; plan and participate in the “Every 15 Minutes” anti-drinking and driving program for high school juniors and seniors; review and approve school site safety plans; participate in lockdown and safety drills; and serve as a resource for information to students, parents and school staff. Several weeks ago when the

senseless and tragic incident occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, local law enforcement agencies acted swiftly and visited each school to assure the safety of the students and staff. In addition, Tustin Unified and the cities and police departments of Irvine and Tustin, and Orange County Sheriff’s Department held Town Hall Safety Meetings to present information to parents about safety plans, procedures and protocols, and working cooperatively with local law enforcement agencies. Currently,

Officer Jahid, Deputy Myers and Officer Wright are working with the District in conducting threat assessments and safety audits at all schools.

The TUSD Board of Education also thanked the City of Irvine and Irvine Police Department, Orange County Board of Supervisors and Orange County Sheriff’s Department, and City of Tustin and Tustin Police Department for funding the School Resource Officers program at Beckman, Foothill and Tustin high schools.

Additionally, the District acknowledged and thanked Irvine Police Chief David Maggard, Lt. Rob Gunzel of the Orange County Sheriff’s Department and Tustin Police Chief Scott Jordan, who were in attendance at the meeting, for their continued support of the program.



TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin and School Board President Tammie Bullard congratulate, from left, Tustin Police Officer Scott Wright, Irvine Police Officer Frough Jahid and Orange County Deputy Sheriff Jay Myers for their valuable service as School Resource Officers at Tustin, Beckman and Foothill high schools, respectively.

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Kay Coop
 Founder / Publisher



By now your new year is well underway and the same is true for the TUSD. They continue to chalk up honors including the 2013 California Teacher of the Year—David Goldenberg!

Focusing on others needs is natural for TUSD students and several articles in this issue are about their generosity and commitment to those in need.

Students are focused and motivated. Tracy Barquer, principal of Jeane Thorman Elementary sums it up best—Learning is fun all day long.

Our next issue is April 11.

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Dragon Visits TUSD School in Anti-Bullying Campaign

By Mark Eliot, Director of Communications

Fourth-grade students at Peters Canyon Elementary School interacted with a 10-foot-tall animatronic dragon named Stinger during an anti-bullying assembly organized by DreamWorks' touring show, "How To Train Your Dragon." Hiccup the dragon trainer, played by actor Riley Minerto, spoke to students about bullying at the event held in the school's multipurpose room. The key message was that everyone is different, and that people can get along without bullying. As you can see, Stinger will keep an eye out for his young friends.



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Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

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



Adele Heuer
Principal

Link Cru Creates Culture of Academic Excellence

Link Cru is a freshman-orientation program that focuses on the successful transition from middle to high school. The program begins with Orientation Day before the first day of school. Orientation is a combination of assembly, pep rally and small-group sessions in which groups of 10 freshmen are led through purposeful and fun activities to dispel any anxiety new students may have about high school and focus on the traits of success.

Link leaders and junior and senior mentors lead the new students and provide social and academic support throughout the year. Link Cru creates a sense of comfort for incoming students and is about creating a school culture founded on excellence in academics and behavior. It's about creating a campus that is welcoming to all students from all backgrounds, and it's about creating a fun place to come to school.

Go Patriots!



Beckman students have Patriot Pride at Link Cru assembly.

Arroyo *Elementary School*

1112 Coronel Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7381



Maggie Villegas
Principal

Student Council Serving Others

Arroyo's 2012-13 elected Student Council officers and committee members are working hard to provide service to their schools, their local community and our country. Their first project included creating a holiday treat cart for all the teachers at Arroyo to enjoy. They traveled classroom to classroom throughout our campus ensuring that every teacher enjoyed some homemade treats from their cart.

Next, they rallied the entire school to take part in a holiday toy drive to collect gifts for needy families and loading them into the CHP bus for special delivery. When the disaster of Hurricane Sandy happened to so many schools in New York, our student council partnered with the Teachers College at Columbia University to help raise money that would go directly to help the classroom libraries at the damaged schools. After selling holiday-grams and holding a coin collection, they raised \$532.

Thank you, Arroyo Student Council, for being of great service to your school, your community and your country.



Arroyo Student Council gathers together after loading all the toys on the CHP bus.

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Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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Norma Lemus
Principal

It's a Matter of Science

Beginning in the kindergarten grades, our Benson students participate in various fund-raisers to help raise money for the Outdoor Science School. The fund raising is done with the assistance of our awesome PTO. This year approximately 50 fifth-grade students were able to attend the High Trails Nawakwa campsite in Angelus Oaks for four days.

The Outdoor Science School curriculum is aligned with the California Science Content Standards. During their four-day experience our students covered the core curriculum by participating in archery, wall/rock climbing and hiking. They went on adventure hikes on trails, attended science sessions, and performed original skits that were relevant to the environmental or science theme of the week.

The students also learned about responsibility and cooperation through group living, courtesy, table manners, and new games and songs. The four-day experience also provided a unique opportunity for building social skills and self-esteem.

This year, Benson Elementary was once again extremely fortunate to have the generous support of the Assistance League of Tustin. The League helped to make this trip possible by providing sleeping bags, jackets, boots, hats and gloves for the students who attended the Outdoor Science School.

Mrs. Allison Goodlander and Miss Katy Erickson, the teachers, both accompanied our fifth-grade students on the Nawakwa trip. Principal Norma Lemus also visited the Nawakwa camp and spent the day visiting with the children and staff members.

Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



Erick Fineberg
Principal

Beswick Students Focus On Others in Need

Beswick students this past holiday season made the choice to focus on those in need by doing a school wide food drive organized and run by the Student Council. Over 1,665 items were collected over the two week period in December. All items were presented to the Salvation Army Food Bank. We are so proud of our students and families for their generosity and commitment to those in need.



Beswick Student Council members show off some of the over 1,665 items collected for the Salvation Army Food Bank.

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



Christine Matos
Principal

Our Students Care About the Community

A thoughtful group of Currie Middle School students created Currie Santa Paws to help those in the community who are less fortunate this holiday season. They approached counselor Ashley Carr with their idea and planned the entire process as a group.

The students created posters to promote this cause and were excited to bring joy to others for the holidays. Currie Santa Paws accepted new or gently used toys, books and clothes during the holiday season. Boxes to accept donations were placed in the office and in classrooms. At the end of the program, Currie Santa



Currie students Josh Harris and Levi Morales drop off donations for Currie Santa Paws.

Paws donated toys, books and clothes that filled up a car to the Orange County Rescue Mission in Tustin. The Rescue Mission was overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the Currie community.

Currie Middle School is so proud of our Currie Cougars and their thoughtful desire to help and bring joy to others!

Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



Dean Crow
Principal

Middle School Soccer Festival

Columbus Tustin Middle School hosted the Tustin Unified School District Middle School Soccer Festival on January 16. This event is the culmination of the winter season of after-school sports and is supported through the Tustin Public Schools Foundation (TPSF) Save Our Sports committee. The season consisted of two weeks of skill development and practice followed by three weeks of intramural league play at each middle school site. Teams participated in two scrimmages against other school sites during the three weeks of intramural competition.

The season's conclusion was organized by Columbus Tustin Athletic Director Chad Wilson. All-star boys and girls teams from each grade level attended the festival to play five-on-five self-monitored soccer games on downsized fields with smaller nets. The teams from each school played a series of 15-minute games against each of the other schools during the festival. There was an outstanding display of camaraderie and sportsmanship between the students from the various schools.

The season and the festival could not have taken place without the combined efforts of our community members within the TPSF and our middle school principals, teachers, coaches, and athletic directors working together for the benefit of all middle school student athletes in district.

The TPSF established Save Our Sports several years ago in response to the school funding cuts that have accompanied our state's fiscal crisis. For more information about the foundation or Save Our Sports, visit <http://www.tpsf.net/>.

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Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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Nancy Jenkins
Principal

Students Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle

January means traveling to new and exciting adventures for our fifth-graders. Our students are packing their suitcases and rolling their sleeping bags for a weeklong adventure in the beautiful mountains of Lake Arrowhead.

During the week, students participate in environmental classes that demonstrate the long-term health and welfare of our planet and how their role in it makes a difference. Important concepts such as the four R's will be stressed: Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle. Students are challenged at each meal to produce Zero Waste and are rewarded when they succeed.

Physical activities such as hiking and square dancing will be experienced.



Outdoor Ed bus waiting for students to load their sleeping bags and supplies, and head to the mountains.

Geology, meteorology and even live animals are studied for their value in our world. An exciting nocturnal activity is also part of this enjoyable week.

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

Foothill *High School*

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



Al Marzilli
Principal

A New Solar Recycling Center

Foothill High School's Green Power Academy and Student Recycling Center held a grand opening for their new solar energy site on December 5 at the school. The Foothill Student Recycling Center is an award-winning nonprofit program that is run by special education students.

"This facility is the largest recycling center on a high school campus in the United States," said special education teacher Sean Pfaff. The Center, now in its 17th year, recycles between 30 to 50 tons of commercial grade paper monthly, and services the needs of nearly 100 local businesses.



Foothill teachers Sean Pfaff (far left) and Jeff Farr are joined by their students next to the new solar panels unveiled to the public during a ceremony at the recycling center.

The Green Power Academy, now in its third year under the direction of engineering and math teacher Jeff Farr, focuses on students who want to prepare for a career in engineering. "We are now the only solar recycling center to operate on a high school campus in the nation," Pfaff said.

For more information please call 714-730-7014.

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



Kelly Fresch
Principal

The CHiPs for Kids Toy Collection

This winter, our Guin Foss Student Council members sponsored the school's annual Toy Collection on behalf of the Orange County California Highway Patrol. Students from across the campus were encouraged to bring in either unwrapped new toys or gift cards to the school office during the first two weeks of December. In the end, over 100 gifts were collected by our generous Guin Foss community!

On Friday, December 14, all of the students who donated toys helped to load them onto a school bus that was brought to our campus by the California Highway Patrol. The positive energy and enthusiasm that was shared by all was well received by the attending officers.



Student Council Toy Drive collection.

Our student body was proud to participate in this event! We can't thank everyone enough for their kindness and support during these challenging economic times. It's proof that our community members continue to open their hearts and give, give, give when asked. Way to go, Dolphins!

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Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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Eric Kilian
Principal

Author's Circle Celebration

This year at Heideman Elementary School, teachers in all grade levels have implemented Writer's Workshop in order to strengthen our growth in writing. Within this program, specific, high-level writing strategies are seen across all grade levels, increasing writing performance and critical-thinking skills.

To further support this school-wide focus in writing, Heideman just celebrated our first Author's Circle. Here, the top writers from our transitional kindergarten through 5th-grade classes was chosen by their teachers to meet with the principal for a special lunch. They also received certificated and author's pens and shared their favorite writing pieces with the group. It was a huge success! There will be two more of these events this year. Writer's Workshop has been driving the growth in our students' writing, but this celebration served as another motivator for all students to give their best while writing each day.



Students at work during Writer's Workshop.

Hewes *Middle School*

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



Michele Boudreaux
Principal

Making a Difference

In the month of December, the Hewes Middle School Highlanders had a toy drive sponsored by three student clubs: California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF), Friends of Rachel (FOR), and Associated Student Body (ASB).

The unwrapped toys and gift cards that were collected benefit children and families in need in the Tustin Unified School District. We collected approximately 150 toys and gift cards. There were a wide variety of items donated, such as sports equipment, board games, and books. Soledad Rivera, the Estock Elementary School Community Liaison, who coordinates the distribution of the donated items, said, "I can tell that the students took special care in picking out gifts that they knew students would want."

Thank you to our Hewes community for supporting such a special cause and making a difference for those in need in our community!



California Junior Scholarship, Friends of Rachel and Associated Student Body club members.

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Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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Cindy Agopian
Principal

His Best Day Ever

Our Hicks Canyon staff recently welcomed third-grade student Zach Kirzner as their Principal for a Day. Zach won the honor to be our principal in a silent auction that Hicks Canyon had held last year to help fund their growing iPad program.

Zach helped to pass out student awards during an awards assembly in December, and then spent a full day with Principal Cindy Agopian in January. His busy day started with a morning meeting and the making of the official morning announcement. He then helped to solve a technology problem, made numerous classroom visits, and assisted with the crosswalk duty. He even

took a trip to the school district office, where he met with Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin and other administrators.



Principal for a Day.

Zach told his family that they could not make any plans for him on January 16 because, "I will be busy in meetings all day at the District Office." Zach reports that being our Hicks Canyon Principal for a Day was "my best day ever."

Hillview *High School*

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



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Job-Shadowing Program

A new and exciting program that we have started at Hillview this year is our Job-Shadowing Program. Hillview students have the opportunity to spend the day with individuals who are currently working in an occupation that interests them.

Thanks to the hard work of Hillview teacher Laszlo Berzsenyi, students have been able to work alongside business people, cosmetologists, sports doctors, auto mechanics, computer technicians and fashion designers. During each quarter of the school year, students have the choice of three different jobs to shadow.



Hillview teacher Laszlo Berzsenyi assists students Selena Barela and Steven Vierya with their job applications.

While at the job site, the students have a series of questions to ask the employee, such as education needed, salary, and pros and cons of the job. After visiting the job sites, students have to complete a reflection on their experience and are required to write a thank-you letter.

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Canyon PSA is an organized youth soccer club for girls and boys ages U9 to U18. We participate in the SCDL 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)

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.

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Keeping Ahead of the Game



Susan D. Marshall

Cards are a favorite pastime when our family goes camping or whenever we get together. If you were with us as we sit around a big round oak table, you would hear laughter and teasing. We love to tease Uncle Glynn, accusing him of making up new rules as we are learning his favorite game of Mau Mau. Good times...

As our nation is moving into a new year, the rules of the financial game are changing in a tremendous way. Uncle Sam is still not showing his cards and we are not laughing. Currently, we are wondering what the impact will be when the dust settles. How will all of these changes affect the big ticket decisions we will be making; buying a home, sending our kids to college, paying our taxes, and funding our retirement?

Now is not the time to give up, bury your head in the sand or take the "wait and see" approach. Stay sharp and educate yourself. Information is easier and faster to obtain than it has ever been. Focus on your end game. Know how colleges determine what your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be. Consult with trusted advisors that take into account your future financial aid eligibility when they make recommendations and can help you strategize knowing your personal family situation.

When your child goes to college you are going to want to reduce the potential out of pocket expense your family might have. EFC Planning and Tax Planning are powerful tools that will save you thousands of dollars in the long run.

EFC Planning is much like tax planning as it is a formula driven process. Similar to the savings that occurs when working with a CPA to legally pay less tax; you can take advantage of certain financial aid strategies by understanding the formula that maximizes the money available to you.

When the dust settles, take note of the tax strategies and tax credits that your family can still utilize. Investigate how the new laws and your investment decisions will affect your aid eligibility or your ability to save and pay for college. Be an active participant in the game and you will come out on top.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

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Grammaropolis



Kate Karp

I don't often review multimedia, but this assemblage is exceptional. If you cringe at grammatical and usage errors and want your children to use language correctly—a key to future success—send them to Grammaropolis.

Grammaropolis is the hometown of the parts of speech. There's even a mayor—his name's Coert Voorhees, and he built this town. Mayor Voorhees is a former seventh-grade language teacher who found that his students had more fun personifying parts of speech than memorizing them. They learned them thoroughly, too, which is the idea.

"Sure, you can memorize the fact that an adverb modifies a verb," the Mayor said. "But if I show you a video of an adverb pulling a verb over for speeding and giving him a ticket, not only are you going to connect more deeply with that information but you're also going to have more fun doing it."

The CD, produced by indie-rock artist Dr. Noize and performed by the Mayor and other vocalists, is your Grammaropolis guidebook. Meet Roger the Pronoun who has this indefinite feeling about himself. Power couple Vinny the Action Verb and Lucy the Linking Verb rescue nouns from inaction and link up insecure ones with states of being. Interjections, the lives of the party, get invited everywhere. And there's Slang, spouting street stuff and stealing the show. Children—and you—can interact with them all through the website's games, e-books, quizzes, entertaining slide presentations, and hilarious, clever videos starring the sentence builders themselves.

Grammaropolis's website, www.grammaropolis.com, has a number of subscription options. Go play for a spell—or an entire paragraph.

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

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Keep Busy This Summer!



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

The Tustin Summer Academy is coming! Join the Tustin Public Schools Foundation on July 1—25 for the second year of the Summer Academy.

This program offers enrichment activities designed to nurture curiosity and foster critical thinking. We've expanded our offerings this year, and are looking forward to a fun and exciting summer. Courses include "Fast Forward," foreign language, fine arts and S.T.E.A.M.

Classes are available for incoming kindergarten through eighth-grade students, and will be held on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Orchard Hills School.



The STEAM class with some of the water bottle rockets they created during the 2012 Tustin Summer Academy.

The Foundation will also be offering the Young Americans Performing Arts Day Camp from August 13-17. Learn to sing and dance, with a live show on Saturday, August 17. Open to grades three to twelve.

Registration and more information is available at www.tpsf.net. Or, contact the Tustin Public Schools Foundation at 714-832-6299, or by email at info@tpsfn.net.



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- Columbia (A. Sun.), Caltech (K. Chen),
- U of Illinois-Urbana Champaign (J. U),
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Contest!!

This drawing is hidden somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the page number to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put TUSD Contest” in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by **March 15, 2013**. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Slater's 50/50

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Do the Math!

This is a special series dedicated to emphasizing how important math is in every job and our everyday lives. If you would like to be included in this series, email me how you use math. The age limit is 5 to 105 so here's my email kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com –I can't wait to hear from you!



Joe Mazzeo
Co-Owner

Math Multiplies Success

As co-owner of a small communication/cabling company in Orange County, I am thankful to have learned some strong math skills as a youth growing up in Whittier.

When I started in the cabling business, I was asked to install computer wiring in the buildings where I worked. As I learned more about my trade, I was asked to do bids or proposals for customers needing cabling. To do these bids, I needed to calculate footages of wire I used to connect each computer/work station to the main computer room. This seemed fairly easy; I added up the wire and purchased what I needed for each installation. This worked well for simple jobs with 10 or 15 users.

As my company grew, we began bidding on larger jobs, such as entire buildings and campus environments connecting several buildings with networking and fiber optics. Now the mathematics required to create an accurate proposal became a bit more complicated. Because I was responsible for hundreds of users in multiple buildings, sometimes requiring as many as three connections per user, simple addition and multiplication were no longer enough.

These larger jobs required me to use averages. I determined cable lengths to certain areas of each building and the average, or approximate length, for the cables to a specific area. For example, if I had 100 cables in an area and the longest was 225 feet and the shortest was 175 feet, I would determine the average length of 200 feet and use that as the approximate cable length for that area. I then multiplied by the number of users and the number of cables per work station. It sounds easy, but errors in my math could cost my company a significant amount of money.

Besides calculating job costs, my partner and I also use our math skills to calculate our expenses for the company, such as gas, auto repairs, tools, building rentals, utilities, insurance, phones, internet access, and parts for the jobs we are working on. We also calculate our profits, the money left over after we pay our expenses. Sometimes our profit ratios are good, and sometimes they aren't, so we determine profit percentages on different jobs to see if they are worth doing in the future.

I can't imagine doing what I would do without the math skills I have acquired over the years. I realize now that my math education has really been an asset to our company!

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Ladera *Elementary School*

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7505



Derek Pinto
Principal

Our Dads Are In!

Our Ladera “Dads Club” was initiated by teacher Jay Warren, who had seen the potential benefits of such a program at a neighboring school. Mr. Warren has two children at Ladera and was seeking a way to heighten school involvement as well as intensify positive relationships with our parents.

Approximately 50 dads signed up this fall when the call first went out. Our Ladera Dads Club is a low-pressure, cooperative venture that is meant to complement the other service groups on campus. All of our parents and caregivers are invited to participate in its activities.

Our dads will be holding a bowling event at Tustin Lanes later in the month. Last Friday the Club also initiated the first day of its weekly Friday Lunchtime Soccer League. Over 60 students signed up and then turned out for the



Friday Lunchtime Soccer with, from left, Mr. Warren, teacher; and dads Mr. Neuer, Mr. Casillas and Mr. Forey.

program!
U.S. Department of Education research notes that increased involvement from fathers results in positive effects for students. This includes lower incidents of discipline like truancy, suspension and expulsion; greater student self-esteem and confidence; enhanced academic achievement; and a richer relationship with the child.

C.C. Lambert *Elementary School*

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



Deanna Parks
Principal

Perform Acts of Kindness

After the tragic event at Sandy Hook Elementary, NBC News’s Ann Curry tweeted, “Imagine if everyone could commit to doing one act of kindness for each precious life lost. An act of kindness big or small. Are you in?”

And students at Lambert are in. Students are performing random acts of kindness at home and at school, one in honor of each of the victims and maybe a few more because we know for sure that if you do good, you feel good. Roslendi Lorezo helped her older sister clean up her very messy room without being asked. She said “It made me feel good spending time with my

sister and helping her.” Scarlet Rodriguez picked up trash in her neighborhood on her own to make a difference. “It made me feel awesome to make my neighborhood a better place,” she said.

Acts of Kindness have helped empower us instead of feeling helpless and put the focus on the good in people.



Nahomi Orozco, Irwin Macias and Ivonne Ocampo show their Acts of Kindness journal.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



Katy Sheyka
Principal

Building a Pyramid of Success

Each trimester, our fourth- and fifth-grade scholars strive to earn, at minimum, a 3.5 GPA. Once accomplished, these students earn a spot on our school’s Honor Roll.

These fine students must be succeeding at or above grade level in all core curricular areas in order to qualify. Recently we saluted 41 of these students in front of the entire community for their hard work and dedication to their future. Congratulations to these stellar scholars!

But hard work is not a new concept for any of our Loma Vista “Cougars.” This year we implemented John Wooden’s “Pyramid of Success” in support of our students’ character development. Each month a new pyramid block or value for success is first taught, discussed and then recognized in our Cougars. Students can earn Cougar Cards for displaying traits like working hard or cooperation. Each month one student from each class is also recognized as a stand-out on a particular character trait.

Individuals in the community are welcome to view our Pyramid of Success bulletin board in the school’s multipurpose room.



Honor Roll scholars being honored at our Friday Flag Ceremony! Great job!

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W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



John Laurich
Principal

Fifth-Grade Students Just Say 'Snow'

In January, our fifth-grade students arrived at school ready for the snow and the outdoors. Our students were prepared to leave for outdoor science school.

This year, we went to Arrowhead Ranch Outdoor Science School at Twin Peaks in the San Bernardino Mountains. Seventy-eight fifth-graders and three teachers boarded two buses and left here in search of snow. They were not disappointed. The same rain that fell between Christmas and New Year's here left snow at Pinecrest Conference Center in Twin Peaks. There was just enough snow to make camp fun and to amaze our students who were seeing snow for the first time. Many of our students had never seen it snow before, and they were treated to a new experience when it snowed all day Thursday.



Nelson fifth-graders playing in the middle of a snow storm.

During the four days, hikes were completed that focused on many topics, including geology, wildlife and astronomy. On Friday, students returned to Nelson with enough memories to last a lifetime.

Myford *Elementary School*

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



Amy Fedderly
Principal

Our Tutoring Team

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

Beginning this month, Myford will be offering a group of students the opportunity to participate in a unique tutoring program. This program provides assistance to students who have been recommended by their classroom teachers. The recommended students are having difficulty mastering grade-level material and are seen to be students who would benefit from some one-on-one support. California Scholastic Federation (CSF) students from Beckman volunteer their time to help students after school for an hour each week in order to provide community service. The tutors commit to attending a short training session, and then they sign up for the dates they are available to volunteer their time. Tutors work with students on math concepts through a game-based approach. The games reinforce foundational math skills.

We are so happy to be partnering with Beckman once again. The students they share with us are an asset and truly help our students to be successful!

Orchard Hills *School*

11555 Culver Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/430-2078



Rich Montgomery
Principal

Our Arts Programs Are Soaring!

Now in its third year, our music program currently has 216 students enrolled in four instrumental music classes. Ten students from the advanced band and orchestra were recently selected to participate in the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. Teacher Jim Thompson says that the growth of this program is indicative of our school's educational climate, one where the arts are very important.

Student Shea Meyerson recently created a stunning mixed-media drawing inspired by this year's Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest theme of "Imagine Peace." She was chosen as the overall winner in the Lions District 4-L4 competition. This is the first time that a Tustin area student has been chosen for this prestigious honor.

The newly established theater arts program just wrapped up its two-night engagement of Disney's *Aladdin Jr.* with resounding success. Molly Carlos directed students from both of her theater arts classes. Each performed for one night, as well as for a daytime assembly.



Student Kieran Hayag stars as Aladdin in the winter musical.

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Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Molly Murphy
Principal

Writing Workshop Signature Practice

PCE's signature practice is Writing Workshop. We have been working with consulting group Growing Educators as we improve our writing abilities and move toward the Common Core Standards.

Our school is receiving 20 days of in-school training during the school year, paid for by our awesome PTO and our school-site budget. The learning is priceless! The Growing Educator teacher trainer works in grade-level groups as he or she models how to teach the various genres of writing and the writing process itself. For example, our students have been working on personal narratives and expository how-to books. Growing Educators uses the co-plan/co-teach model.

Writing workshop considers that all scholars have a story to tell and that we are all writers. The writing workshop process is very loose and yet very tight. Scholars work on a monthly genre either in their writing notebook or on special writing paper.



Two 2nd grade writing partners from Mrs. Ridlon's classroom share their published narrative writing piece with each other.

Pioneer *Middle School*

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



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

A School to Watch

On January 3, Pioneer Middle School was selected as a California School to Watch-Taking Center Stage (STW-TCS) School. Pioneer is now part of a very select cadre of 48 schools in California and more than 350 Schools to Watch around the nation! STW-TCS middle schools are high-performing model schools that demonstrate academic excellence, developmental responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, social equity, and organizational support. STW-TCS model schools host visitors from around the world who are looking for replicable practices to improve their schools and close the achievement gap.



Pioneer students are number one!

Pioneer will be formally recognized at the California Middle Grades Alliance annual luncheon in Sacramento on February 28. Pioneer will also have an opportunity to showcase its accomplishments and network with other middle grades educators during the California League of Middle Schools Conference in March and in Washington D.C. at the National Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage Conference in June.

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Northwestern University, Doctor of Dental Surgery
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Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Learning is Fun All Day Long

Thorman Scholars have many different opportunities to learn all day long. Before- and after-school opportunities extend our learning time.

Our school library is open before school for book exchange and AR tests. Teachers open their doors early for tutoring and homework help before and after school. Our community resource center and parent volunteers run many school clubs. Students can participate in Running Club, Gardening Club, Glee Club and Arts and Crafts Club as well as receive homework help. Formal tutoring is provided by our after-school child-care program, too.

Running Club students set goals for running between five to 20 miles. The Garden Club students set goals for cooking different meals from their labors

with “pizza plots,” “salsa plots” and other containers of herbs and vegetables. The Glee Club performed at the holidays for parents and friends, and the Arts and Crafts Club created many treasured crafts for families this semester.

Thorman Scholars take their learning seriously even when they are having fun!



Parents and students enjoy Thorman Arts and Crafts Club

Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



Will Neddersen
Principal

A Ripple Effect

This year Red Hill Elementary School committed to further developing our Ripple Kids program on campus. Ripple Kids is an organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering students to take action in their local community.

Our student council invited a Ripple Kids representative to attend their meetings to keep the idea of making an impact in the community a part of monthly discussions. We started the year by teaming up with the family of Tristan Wendenburg, a Transitional Kindergarten student at Red Hill, to collect pencils for orphanages in Africa. Our student council then invited students to write holiday greetings to our troops at Camp Pendleton and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Student council is supporting individuals in Cambodia by donating money to supply a bike and vegetable garden to a village. Upcoming events will be a canned food drive for a local food shelter and a gently used toy and book drive for the children’s wing at a local hospital. The great thing about all of these activities is that our students have suggested and voted on what they are going to do to make an impact in the community.

Our next step is to encourage students to individually create their own ripple in the community. It is great to see what one act of service can do to empower many to make a difference.

Tustin High School

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



Jonathan Blackmore
Principal

MUN Students Visit Poland and Czech Republic

Tustin High Model United Nation (MUN) students made it back from Prague jet-lagged and blurry eyed but filled with terrific experiences! Our Tiller MUN team had a successful trip to Poland and the Czech Republic. They had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz, which was a most profound experience for our students. The group also heard a lecture from a Czech Supreme Court justice who tried the war criminals of Rwanda, and a documentary and lecture from a revolutionary who participated in the Velvet Revolution, which effectively ended communism in the Czechoslovakian region.

The competition was held in the Czech Republic at the Jan Neruda Gymnasium in Prague. There were participants from various European countries as well as Cameroonians and Egyptians. The following THS students were recognized in their committees for their outstanding achievement: Nicole Donahoo, Disarmament; Brad Iggulden, Economic and Financial; Allison Greenberg, Security Council; Dylan Shives, Historical Crisis: World War II; and Stephanie Wigley, Human Rights.



Tustin High MUN students meet their Czech hosts on the steps of the Jan Neruda Gymnasium.

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Tustin Memorial *Academy*

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



Wendy Hudson
Principal

Teaching and Technology

Teaching and technology go hand-in-hand at Tustin Memorial, and even more so now with the addition of 100 new iPads!

Our PTO/Club 365 program provided \$65,000 to purchase the iPads and the three carts that are used to store, charge and sync them. The money also provided a laptop for each cart, Apple TV for eight classrooms, and wireless printers in each room so that the students can print directly from their iPads. The iPads and carts will be shared among the eight fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms.



Fourth graders Samantha Ward, Max Canale, Benton Brown and Connor McElroy try out their new iPads.

Last year each teacher at Tustin Memorial was given an iPad to use so that they could familiarize themselves with the device. An after-school iPad club was formed so that staff could share ideas and research the best educational apps.

We are excited, and grateful, to be able to offer our students this latest technology tool for learning!

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



Dean Jennings
Principal

Achieving Through Teamwork

The students in Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) at Tustin Ranch Elementary School are learning valuable lessons about leadership. PAL is composed of 40 third- through fifth-grade students. This year's focus is "Achieving Through Teamwork." Under the direction of their teacher leaders, Julie Boyd and Nina Kamali, the PAL students exemplify strong leadership.

In October, PAL worked with Operation Gratitude to collect and send off Halloween candy and letters of gratitude to our military troops overseas. In December, PAL worked with Spark of Love and collected three bins of new and unwrapped toys

for underprivileged children in our community.

In addition to helping their community, our PAL students show their leadership on campus by assisting new students, reading morning announcements, and assisting at school events.

"The excitement and enthusiasm they have for serving others is contagious!" said Nina Kamali.



Joel Akiyoshi and Joanne Peng hold up the Candy Gram sign for a PAL fundraiser.

C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



Tom Giebe
Principal

Champions in Academics and Athletics

As winter break has come and gone, it is time to take a look back and honor those groups of students who have excelled both in and out of the classroom this school year as well as look ahead to what is to come.

Two teams finished first and second in the Orange County Special Olympics Basketball Tournament held this past November at the American Sports Center in Anaheim. Our After-School Sports Program cross-country teams placed in the top three overall in five of the six divisions this past fall at the Tustin Unified School District City Championship held at Irvine Regional Park. Utt Middle School also won the middle school cross-country division at the Dinosaur Dash.

On the academic side of things, our seventh- and eighth-grade Academic Pentathlon teams participated in their first scrimmage in January in preparation for their competition, which will be held in March. In addition to that, our award-winning Science Olympiad team is working feverishly studying, building, testing, and refining their projects for their upcoming competition. With the commitment they are showing, they will without a doubt reach the state championship again.

Utt Middle School is extremely proud of all these students, as they truly represent our core values of attitude, commitment and achievement. Keep up the great work.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

Our Veeh Viking Inventors

This year, Veeh Elementary School was excited to send 12 of its students to the Invention Convention competition on Saturday, January 26 at Irvine Valley College.

The competition actually began last November, when our students wrote essays about something that they would like to invent. The project soon became hands-on, as each student then began to build their invention from scratch. They were encouraged to fail initially, and later make further changes until they felt they had the best invention. Once their final project was complete the students then created a poster board that detailed their invention from original idea to completed product.



Veeh's Inventors with their inventions. (Back) Berlynn Bell, shade glasses; Brian Martinez, folding skateboard; Lilian Nguyen, food box for pets; Stephanie Hernandez, "The Incredible"; Galilea Huitron, mop sandals; Sierra Schultz, water filter; Ms. Katie Harding (advisor) (Front) Clarice Diaz, stick-o-magnet; Getsy Linares, teacher helper; Briana Scheer, smart light; Jayme Ferrer, shoe lights; Jewel Pineda, pendant eyeglasses; Cassandra Huffman, water bottle fan.

Technology in TUSD Schools

Tustin Unified School District
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 306

Transforming Classrooms



Dr. Alex Rojas
Assistant
Superintendent
Administrative
Services

The class of 2013 represents the first graduating class of the 21st century. While we recognize the tremendous amount of work that has been done to integrate technology into the classroom, recent breakthroughs have disrupted our current K–12 teaching and learning environment.

We now know that we must deliver content that is relevant, rigorous and challenge-based. This is so our students do not just passively interact with a standardized curriculum, but collaborate with others to solve the kind of problems that will challenge them to apply their learning in a real-world context. We are moving away from a curriculum that is focused on the “what and when” to a 21st century curriculum that is focused on the “how and why.”

The TUSD has spent over a year surveying our schools. We have spoken to parents, students, teachers and administrators to help identify the instructional changes that will revolutionize our 21st century classrooms. Our research is based on the principle that hardware and software won't drive the instructional change, but support the effort to transform our classrooms into 21st century learning centers.

As we continue our research, we are confident that by focusing on changing the curriculum and instructional delivery system first, the decision to identify which hardware and software best supports that instructional change will be made clearer. Through ongoing analysis and research, informed decisions will be made regarding our technology acquisitions in the future, so that the hardware and software is the primary support behind the 21st century instructional change, and not the primary driver of the change.

Educational Services

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

Focusing on Higher-Level Learning



Kathie Nielsen
Chief Academic
Officer

The Tustin Unified School District held an informational meeting for parents interested in having their children tested for eligibility in the Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program for the 2013–2014 school year. At this meeting, parents learned about common characteristics of gifted children, the GATE screening process, and what differentiated instruction looks like for advanced and gifted learners.

TUSD's GATE program focuses on providing qualitatively differentiated instruction to respond to the needs, interests, social/emotional characteristics, and high abilities of gifted students. The district recently completed GATE testing for this year. The goal of GATE testing is to identify students who demonstrate advanced learner, high ability, and gifted needs through an in-depth screening process, based on a multiple-criteria system. Each year, site and district committees evaluate cognitive abilities test results, district benchmark assessment data, teacher observation surveys, student work samples, Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) test scores, English learner data, parent survey input, and other factors. Both registration and testing occur during the fall of each school year, and the screening process continues through the spring. Result letters will be mailed to parents in March.

GATE provides a variety of experiences to strengthen a student's ability to critically think, analyze, and use creative thought processes. Teachers with GATE training certification infuse elements of depth and complexity into the curriculum, while providing opportunities for higher-level learning and addressing social and emotional needs. For more information about GATE, visit our Web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us; click on Departments, Educational Services, and then District Programs.

Business Services

Tustin Unified School District
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 302

New Energy Savings Program



Anthony Soria
Chief Financial
Officer

By Jose Contreras, Energy Specialist – Maintenance, Operations and Facilities

The Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) has implemented a new energy conservation program. We have hit the ground running by communicating the benefits of energy savings to district staff and administrators. Four months into the program, our energy team has held introductory meetings with each school site and will soon schedule staff meetings in attempt to reach all of our end users.

In late 2012, TUSD secured Southern California Edison's (SCE) approval to proceed with a major lighting retrofit project per an energy incentive program. The majority of our sites were eligible, and TUSD stands to benefit from energy-efficient lighting replacements valued at



Major lighting retrofit project saves energy costs to the TUSD.

over \$700,000 at no cost to the district. The project, which is now complete, entailed replacement of T12 lights with a more energy-efficient T8 system. The work was conducted after school hours and is projected to save the district approximately \$200,000 annually following the improvements.

Nutrition Services

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

A New Currie Kiosk



Teresa Squibb
Director

Currie has a new lunch serving line on campus. This new kiosk sports Currie's special logo and colors. Soon our students will be able to pick up their lunches at the new kiosk. Opening another lunch line should help to decrease the waiting time for our students. The kiosk will also be used to serve dinners for the after-school students.

The district's Wellness Committee is sponsoring a Healthy Meal Contest for all grade levels in February. Students can create their favorite healthy meals, and the winning ones will be served in the cafeterias. The secondary winners will also be able to participate in the prepping of their meals. Contest forms will be available in February.



Currie kiosk

The district's Wellness Week is from March 25–28. The schools will be participating in many different ways. There will be walk-to-school exercises, morning exercises, adding wellness tips to the morning announcements, fruit and vegetable tastings, guest Angel alumni speakers, and more.



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.

the staff, parents, community members and students who worked to ensure its passage.

The new year starts off with more good news around the District...

Orchard Hills Ranks #2 in O.C. Middle Schools

Orchard Hills School recently earned the second highest Academic Performance Index (API) score in Orange County at the middle school level. Orchard Hills scored a 955, which was better than 87 out of 88 other schools throughout Orange County.

Principal Rich Montgomery gives credit to the students and staff of the school for their hard work, dedication to excellence and commitment to building a world-class learning environment.

Orchard Hills, beginning its third year of existence, offers a variety of opportunities and programs such as Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics classes (STEAM), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes, a strong focus on the use of technology as a learning tool and other programs in the arts and athletics.

Pioneer Named a Model "School to Watch"

Pioneer Middle School is one of 12 middle schools statewide that has been named a model "Schools to Watch – Taking Center Stage" for its consistent achievement on standardized tests. The announcement came from the California Department of Education and the Savoy, Ill.-based National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

Middle schools that are selected as Schools to Watch are high-performing model schools that demonstrate academic excellence, developmental responsiveness to the needs and interests of young adolescents, social equity and organizational support. STW-TCS model schools host visitors from California and around the world who are looking for replicable practices that will help them improve their middle grades schools and close the achievement gap.

Pioneer is the first middle school in TUSD to receive this recognition. Principal Tracey Vander Hayden and her staff are to be congratulated for receiving this wonderful honor.

Currie Nominated for National Blue Ribbon School Award

Currie Middle School has been nominated for a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School Award by the California Department of Education.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award highlights and gives recognition to schools that are producing outstanding results for all students regardless of race or socioeconomic status.

Schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools are those that have demonstrated consistent excellence and those that have made progress and closed gaps in student achievement

Currie was nominated for the award based on being an Exemplary Improving School – a school that has made the most progress in improving student performance on state assessments in recent years.

Principal Christine Matos and her staff are to be commended for this well-deserved nomination.

Peters Canyon Teacher Achieves National Board Certification

Peters Canyon Elementary School teacher Tim Larson has achieved National Board Certification – the highest professional credential in the field of teaching. Larson is among 4,980 new board certified teachers and more than 100,000 teachers nationwide who have earned the recognition in past years. The certification is valid for 10 years. He is among this year's 15 Orange County National Board Certified school teachers who represent fewer than 1 percent of all educators in the County.

National Board Certification is a voluntary process achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes one to three years to complete and measures what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.



Mark Eliot
Director of Communications & Public Information
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Tammie Bullard
President



James Laird
Vice President

Tustin Unified School District Board of Education



Francine Scinto
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Jonathan Abelove
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Member

2013 CA TEACHER OF THE YEAR • From Page 1

Goldenberg has been a teacher for 16 years – all in TUSD. He started at Currie Middle School where he taught world history. In 2005, he joined Beckman High and has taught Advanced Placement and honors classes in world history. He leads the school's Link Crü program, which provides juniors and seniors with opportunities to serve as leaders, mentors, and peer-to-peer academic supporters. He coaches football and advises several campus clubs, such as Make-A-Wish Club, Mock Trial Team, and Youth Action Club. He also has extensive experience providing staff development, mentorships, and training for other teachers.

Goldenberg has won numerous accolades, including 2013 Orange County Teacher of the Year, 2012-13 TUSD Teacher of the Year, Beckman Teacher of the Year, and Currie Teacher of the Year.

"Being recognized as a California Teacher of the Year is extremely humbling," Goldenberg said. "Such a recognition is a reflection of my amazing students and colleagues who make each day an extraordinary experience."

The 2013 California Teachers of the Year were honored at a special awards ceremony in Sacramento on Feb. 11.

In the past 10 years, Tustin Unified has had two California Teachers of the Year – the other is Dr. Paul Lewanski, science teacher at Beckman High School – and six Orange County Teachers of the Year.

Measure L Modernization Program Update

Tustin Unified is opening four new activity centers at Columbus Tustin, Currie, Hewes and Utt middle schools.

Columbus Tustin's activity center opened in December, Hewes opened in January, and Currie and Utt will unveil their new activity centers in the coming weeks.

Each activity center is approximately 13,000 square feet and includes a lobby, gymnasium/multipurpose area, sports flooring, retractable bleachers, storage space, restrooms, performance area, lighting and two adjoining classrooms.

The projects are funded through the Measure L campus modernization program.

Visit our web site and follow us on Twitter!

For the latest news and information, visit the TUSD Web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us. You can follow us on Twitter: @SuptFranklin and @TUSDschools.



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