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School News

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Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

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MAY-OCTOBER 2013

Opportunity Knocks With STEM Program



Suzette Lovely
Superintendent

There's good news on the horizon! The U.S. Department of Labor has projected 2.4 million job openings in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields through the year 2018.

This is a remarkable opportunity for our students, who for the last five years have left our K-12 educational system facing the bleakest job market since the Great Depression.

As a growing economic force, STEM education is a hot topic in Carlsbad and beyond. Not only do STEM-related careers pay more, they supply our local and regional economy with the talent employers are asking us to provide. To that



Sage Creek High School will open in Fall 2013 with a focus on STEM education. The school's new state-of-the-art library will offer a digital and print book collection.

end, the Carlsbad Unified School District is working to place greater emphasis on the subject areas that prepare learners for this type of work. One place the community will see these efforts in full force is in the curriculum planning for Sage Creek High School. This remarkable new campus, located at the corner of College and Cannon, will welcome its first class of freshman students in fall 2013.

A major focus at Sage Creek is to ensure that all students benefit from the collective ambition to develop excitement and dispositions toward the STEM fields. Rather than wait for students to step forward and declare their interest in these subjects, Sage Creek teachers are working with Principal Cesar Morales to design elective pathways in biomedical sciences and engineering that embed college and career readiness skills into the curriculum.

Dramatic strides are being made in Carlsbad Unified as teachers throughout the district prepare the workforce for the global marketplace. As a gateway to STEM, Sage Creek High School will position learners to become the next Albert Einsteins and Marie Curies, with the school's motto "Dare to be Great." The opportunity to create a sense of wonder and interest in science, technology, engineering and math is knocking at Sage Creek's door. We can't wait to open it.

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Dive into Summer with City Programs



Kristina Ray
Communications Manager

Another school year is coming to an end (doesn't it feel like it just started?). If you're still making plans for the summer, check out some of these great opportunities for fun, learning and more.

With my family, summer fun starts with summer camps. The City of Carlsbad offers so many fun camps, the hardest part is choosing! The good news is whether your kids are into science or art, sports or music, we've got you covered. Have a budding engineer underfoot? Try Green Engineering with LEGO, Super Bots or event Jr. Super Hero Engineering with LEGO. Or, let your kids express themselves through our performing arts camps like Happy Feet, So You Think You Can Dance and Footloose.

Summer camps are also a great way for kids to try a new sport. This summer we're offering youth volleyball, Challenger Sports first kicks and mini-soccer, Go Skate skateboarding, junior golf clinic and juniors smash (tennis) camp.

Of course, no summer is complete without some pool time. Perfect your kids' swimming and help them gain confidence in the water at the Monroe Street Pool, right next to Carlsbad High School. The city offers a full schedule of group and private lessons for all ages at a reasonable cost. The pool's also a fun place to hang out on a hot day - just check the city website for open swim times. (At the end of the year, we'll open our new pool complex at Alga Norte Community Park, just east of El Camino Real on the corner of Alicante and Poinsettia. I've taken a tour of the construction site - it's is going to be amazing!).

See CITY OF CARLSBAD • Page 14

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Netragrednik
Neta Madison



This is our 9th Anniversary publishing the excellence from the Carlsbad Unified School District. It has been such a pleasure and we appreciate you, our loyal readers.

Reading Superintendent Lovely's article on page one is an example of how quickly changes are taking place in the field of education. Students have opportunities available that weren't even dreamed of only a few years ago and it is very exciting.

Thank you to all of the entries in our in our Word Search. The winner, Maui Schaeffer, has created a fun contest on page 12. Have a great summer.

School News

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Covering the
CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Start Here, Go Anywhere



Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Superintendent/
President

Oceanside High School graduate Laura Ojeda wanted to go to college, and she really, really wanted to go to a University of California or California State University campus. But she had more than a few misgivings.

“I really wasn’t ready for it,” she recalled. “MiraCosta College was perfect for me. It prepared me well for where I am right now.”

Where Ojeda is now is Cal State San Marcos, with plans on going to graduate school en route to becoming an academic counselor.

At MiraCosta College, Ojeda focused on taking a full load of prerequisite courses in small classrooms for just a few hundred dollars per semester – as opposed to spending thousands of

dollars annually for tuition at a four-year university that would have stuck her in lecture halls with hundreds of other students. With the help of the college’s Transfer Center, Ojeda also started working on an education plan, a roadmap of study that would lead to a successful future. She met with counselors regularly, and she took tours of universities in which she was interested.



Laura Ojeda

“MiraCosta College was there every step of the way,” she said. “They held workshops that really assisted you, really guided you on what you would have to do to get to where you wanted to go. They had representatives from universities come to campus all the time. It was the entire atmosphere that exists at MiraCosta that was incredible.”

Among the programs offered at MiraCosta College are Transfer Admission Guarantees that apply to most University of California campuses. “We have a majority of the UC’s saying that if you follow these (Transfer Admission Guarantee) rules and maintain a specific grade point average, then you will be admitted to our school,” said Dr. Lise Flocken, faculty director of MiraCosta College’s Transfer Center.

In addition, there is a UniversityLink program with UC San Diego that guarantees admission to the La Jolla campus for students who complete the first two years of academic course work at MiraCosta and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Students in MiraCosta College’s Honors Scholar Program get priority admission to UCLA’s College of Letters and Science. And those taking part in this program earned \$800,000 in scholarships for the 2012-13 academic year alone.

Students looking to transfer to schools elsewhere in the country, but who dread having to pay much higher out-of-state tuition costs, can take advantage of MiraCosta’s Western Undergrad Exchange for significant savings. Instead of having to pay out-of-state tuition of \$10,344 to attend the University of New Mexico, for example, a MiraCosta College student would only have to pay \$4,536.

“MiraCosta has some very real, very significant benefits to students planning to go to a four-year university or college,” Dr. Flocken said. “Parents are always asking, ‘Are you sure? Is this for real?’”

It is real—just ask Ojeda.

“MiraCosta provides you with all the tools you need to get into a four-year college that’s right for you, whether it is in state or out of state,” Ojeda said.



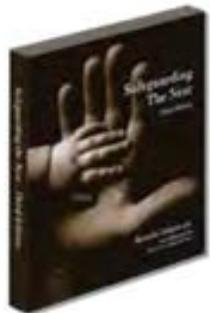
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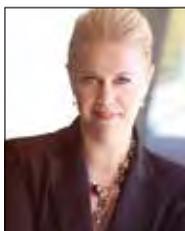
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“I **love** that MiraCosta College is **focused** on my **transfer goals** and has an **Honors Scholar Program**, which has helped me stay on track to **transfer** to my dream school!”



Kelly DiMarco
Carlsbad High School graduate and
MiraCosta College Honors Scholar student



Shaping Minds for Success.

Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

6880 Ambrosia Ln., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • www.aoms.schoolloop.com



Megan Arias
Principal

Time to Cheer!

Aviara Oaks Middle School (AOMS) just received the California Distinguished School Award from the California Department of Education! State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson named 218 public middle and high schools in California as distinguished schools. Nineteen of these schools were from San Diego County, and AOMS is proud to represent Carlsbad among these schools. This occurred because our students, parents, and community joined teachers and staff to focus on achievement.

The 2013 California Distinguished School Award recognizes and honors schools demonstrating educational excellence by providing students with an equitable and rigorous education, as well as schools that have narrowed the achievement gap. The 30-point increase in our Academic Performance Index (API), based on last year's Standardized Test and Accountability Report (STAR), increased our API score to 922 and made AOMS eligible to compete. We were required to select and submit two signature practices with descriptions. Next came a county site validation review process, which confirmed the implementation of the signature practices. The validation team spent a day at AOMS observing classes and interviewing administrators, staff, students, and parents.

Our first signature practice was a focus on providing engaging and empowering instruction deeply embedded with technology. Technology has helped our teachers connect with every student in innovative ways and has empowered our students with timely feedback and avenues for advancement. Investment in technology and our willingness to be among the first to implement new ideas allowed us to achieve unprecedented academic success school-wide. This led to impressive improvements in our significant subgroups and provided a conduit for teacher collaboration at our site, in our district, and across the globe. Technology resources include an interactive Promethean Board and projector in every classroom, class sets of iPads and netbooks, plus a stationary computer lab. Active expression devices allow students to input their answers and ideas from their seats. Additionally, the My Access online writing program and other computer programs give students immediate feedback and help meet the needs of students who require intervention or advancement. Technology and engagement have provided every AOMS student with clear and diverse avenues to academic excellence.

The second signature practice highlighted our focus on support for the whole child. Intervention and support classes are offered during and after the school day. We provide enrichment courses in the form of advanced classes and electives that meet A-G requirements. Emotional and social support is also furnished, so students can concentrate on learning. Counseling and socialization programs, as well as specialized activities, promote a positive school climate and help students feel connected to AOMS. Parental and community involvement are the keys to helping all these factors produce success. These multiple levels of student support, both academic and emotional, have resulted in increased academic achievement.

This award is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work, and vision of our school's educational community. We look forward to a regional awards ceremony in May, where AOMS will be honored with a 2013 Distinguished School plaque and flag from Tom Torlakson, which we will proudly display at our school.

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Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • www.aoes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Leslie Harden
Principal

AOE Accolades

Congratulations to our education specialist, Emma Cobb, for being named Aviara Oaks Elementary School (AOE) Teacher of the Year for 2012-2013. In her educational career, working as both a general education and Special Education teacher, Mrs. Cobb has demonstrated the commitment, compassion, and enthusiasm to match an outstanding instructional program. In addition to supporting students with special needs, Mrs. Cobb can be seen in classrooms providing support to all students and sharing instructional strategies with AOE teachers. One staff member shared, "Mrs. Cobb never sees a problem as anything but an opportunity to succeed on behalf of students."

Mrs. Cobb serves as the Special Education representative to site Leadership Committee, acts as the principal designee in the absence of site administration, and is an active partner in PTA. She is also an active member of the community, serving as head cheer coach for Carlsbad's Pop Warner League and is active in Carlsbad girls softball. She is truly an asset to all students and staff at AOE.



**Congratulations to
Teacher of the Year,
Emma Cobb.**

Congratulations, Mrs. Cobb!

AOE celebrated another successful musical production as they presented "Honk, Jr." With a cast and crew of over 75 elementary students in third through fifth grades and under the direction of music teacher Robin Dye, students told the story of the ugly duckling through song and dance. "Rehearsals were held twice a week for several weeks. I was continually impressed by the efforts and energy put out by the cast as they learned their lines and mastered intricate dance routines. They all did a great job!" shared Miss Dye.



"Drinkable Iron" was one of many interesting projects in this year's science fair.

Over 140 projects were on display at this year's Science Fair for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. From growing crystals and plants and soils to the longevity of bubble gum flavor, students developed hypotheses, tested their theories through discovery and investigation, evaluated their data, and drew their conclusions. Judges were selected from the community to review student projects and awards, which were presented at each grade level. The scientific method is alive and well at AOE!



AOE students present Honk!, the Musical.

Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • www.buenavista.schoolloop.com



Tina Howard
Principal

A Fruitful Volunteer

Our school garden program could very likely have become the victim of the California education budget crisis, if it were not for Delores Fangon, our super, fantastic, amazing, dedicated volunteer.

Delores Fangon has singlehandedly rescued the Buena Vista Elementary School garden from extinction through her tireless volunteerism. At 87 years young, you would imagine Delores, a retired teacher, would want to spend her time relaxing. Not Delores! She volunteers her time throughout the week and on weekends ensuring that our school garden is maintained and continues to thrive. She also substitutes in classrooms across the district throughout the week and then comes to water the plants and work with students.

It is important to Delores that our young students have the opportunity to watch food grow from the ground. Each class has a plot of its own, where the students plant and tend to their plantings. She works with classes to create amazing, simple meals using vegetables, fruits, and herbs grown in the garden. Though it functions completely without funding, our garden has continued to provide opportunities to our students for hand-on experiences with grown fruits, vegetables and herbs.



Delores Fangon

Delores is proactive! She continually connects with the Carlsbad community. She elicits the help of a variety of groups, including local Boy Scouts, who have recently built structures including a green house and an arbor as part of their Eagle Scout projects.

Delores believes that students need to experience the natural beauty of garden life. She has worked the land throughout her life and knows firsthand the value of understanding the sustenance the earth can provide.

"I love seeing students' excitement when they see that tomato change from green to red over time," Delores shared. "I love seeing them serving their chicken soup concoctions flavored with the vegetables that they planted, cared for, pulled from the garden, and added to the soup pot."

Delores added, "The students and staff at Buena Vista have become my family. We work together, create together, and eat together. What better way to spend my time?"

The Buena Vista community celebrates Delores Fangon this month and always as our volunteer extraordinaire!

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Kimberly Huesing
Principal

Planting Some Good Ideas

Spring has sprung at Calavera Hills Elementary and Middle Schools. The warmer weather and sunny days have inspired several of our campus groups to complete projects that were slated for the 2012-13 school year.

Mr. Burns, fifth-grade teacher at Calavera Hills Elementary, is the teacher in charge of our Calavera Hills Elementary garden. He leads his fifth-grade students to plant veggies, tend the crop, and serve as peer guides, with inclusion of special-needs students, in the manual labor. The garden is supplemented by the worm garden that also serves to as a means to compost green waste from lunch. Students spend morning-recess and lunch-recess time getting their hands dirty—in a productive way.



Veggie Garden

Mr. Peterson, sixth-grade science teacher at Calavera Hills Middle School, was one of the district's winners of the Fish and Wildlife grants. Over the next three years, Mr. Peterson and his Environmental Science elective class will transform three areas on our campus by planting native gardens. Previously a grassy patch, this area off our middle school lunch tables is now a wandering path planted with native plants. Staff and students alike teamed up with Mr. Peterson to complete the



Native Garden

plantings. The result is at once aesthetically pleasing, natural and calming. Mr. Peterson states that the next step is to mount the common and scientific names of the plants along the trail, which will hopefully serve as inspiration for students and families to plant native gardens in their own backyards.

Coyote Dads

Coyote Dads is a cross-campus organization that comprises involved fathers from both the elementary school and the middle school. During the weekend prior to Earth Day, the Coyote Dads rounded up several environmentally conscious students and worked alongside them to pick up trash and weed our many planters. Several middle and high school students were able to earn community service hours, and our school looked fresh and trash free on Monday morning! Our school is used by over 1,100 students and several after-school community and sports groups. Coyote Dads hope to inspire our students and visitors to help keep our school looking beautiful!

Calavera wishes everyone a happy, healthy and Earth-friendly spring!



Trash Pick Up Crew from Calavera with Coyote Dads!

Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • www.carlsbadhs.schoolloop.com



Matthew Steitz
Principal

Awards and Accolades

The Lancer Link and CHSTV, along with local police and fire agencies, have combined forces to produce a dramatization that focuses on the effects of teenage drunk driving. Steering Teens Straight aims to educate students about the consequences of driving under the influence by using student actors to illustrate the actual consequences that result from drunk driving.

CHSTV and the Lancer Link have worked in tandem to release the three-part series intermittently since February 20. The dramatized series follows junior Isaac Brieske as he faces prosecution for killing students after driving under the influence in the student parking lot.

The program airs on special, lengthened episodes of CHSTV, with related articles posted to the Lancer Link Web site. While the situation is fictitious, CHSTV, the Lancer Link, and the student actors try to capture the severity of drunk driving through their honest portrayal of the event.

CHSTV recently entered a variety of content into the Innovative Video in Education Film Festival, including a public service announcement using footage from the Steering Teens Straight video series. The announcement is now a finalist in the countywide competition.

For more on Steering Teens Straight, visit thelancerlink.com and click on the “Steering Teens Straight” tab.

The Carlsbad Oceanside Art League High School Art Show recently hosted student artwork from seven Coastal North County schools at the OPT Underground Gallery. Students in the Carlsbad High School (CHS) visual arts classes took home a combined 24 awards at this show.

A reception on April 13 at the OPT Underground Gallery allowed students to preview the show prior to its opening to the public. The gallery opened to the public in April.

Senior Adam Nickerl won Best in Show and sophomore Michaela Gacnik won the McDowell Memorial Award. Among the first-place winners were Corinne DeShon for colored graphics, Jacqueline Lewis in watercolor, Adrian Betancourt in oil/acrylic, Jasmin Shin in mixed media, and Kathleen Dooley in three-dimensional art.

Senior Christian Freeman broke the school record for the 3,200-meter at the recent Arcadia Invitational track meet. Freeman set the original record at 9:09 and broke his own record by 14 seconds, finishing the two-mile in eight minutes and 52 seconds.

The Arcadia Invitational hosts runners from all over the country for one of the most nationally renowned meets in the nation. Freeman competed alongside 30 athletes from 23 states, including 10 state champions and three national champions, and finished in ninth place.

Freeman was joined at the meet by four additional CHS athletes, senior Jeff Schaefer, senior Shay Martin, senior Scott Snow, and junior Julia Haselhuhn.



Students from CHSTV and Lancer Link work with student actors representing organizations across campus for the first installment of the Steering Teens Straight program. This new program begun by the CHP pairs school media organizations with local fire and police volunteers to recreate the tragedies that surround drunk driving accidents.

Hope *Elementary (K–6)*

3010 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5900 • www.hope.schoolloop.com



Richard Tubbs
Principal

Mrs. Smith, Teacher of the Year

We are proud to have Mrs. Smith represent Hope as Teacher of the Year for 2012–13. Mrs. Smith brings to us a total of 21 years of teaching experience and an amazing work ethic that focuses on student success. During her six years as a Hope Hawk, she has never worked at the same grade level in succession, including fourth grade, second grade and a kindergarten/first-grade combination class. With those grade moves also came room moves every year, which she has always handled gracefully. Her versatility in teaching many grades has made her an even stronger, more valuable teacher and member of our Hope Hawk community.

Step into Mrs. Smith's classroom and you'll see students engaged in independent, challenging activities; working in small groups; receiving direct instruction; or using technology. Mrs. Smith brings an enthusiastic, caring style to teaching that embraces her students. The students thrive and look forward to working hard for her. Her work is consistently above and beyond normal work hours as she seeks out new resources and innovative programs for her classroom. Students and families absolutely adore Mrs. Smith. Her classroom parents love the energy and dedication she brings each day and eagerly help in the classroom to make all the learning-center groups meaningful.



From Geography to Groceries

Mrs. Smith initiated the Geography Bee at Hope and has been the fourth-grade Sacramento trip facilitator for four years. She is currently the PTA teacher representative and has been the Student Council adviser for five years to help organize School Spirit Days and Teacher Appreciation notes as well as initiating our Hope Hawk Mascot. In her role as our activities coordinator, students have raised money for cancer patients through the Pasta for Pennies program sponsored by an Italian restaurant chain and has raised money for our playground equipment by working with students to bag groceries at a local grocery store and sorting box tops.

Always willing to help a student, a parent or a fellow teacher with a smile, Mrs. Smith is an outstanding teacher, and we congratulate her on being selected as our Teacher of the Year.

Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • www.jefferson.schoolloop.com



Chad Lund
Principal

Opening the Doors

Jefferson Elementary students got a chance to work hands-on with a local doctor to go past the textbook and into the real world of hands-on dissection.

At first the children were a little squeamish, but this experience eventually led them to a deeper level of questioning and understanding. Mrs. Shelley Thomas, one of our third-grade teachers, put it best by saying the following:

Today's inquiring students are the scientists of tomorrow.

In the not-so-distant future they will make groundbreaking discoveries. They will find cures to diseases. They will save lives and change life as we know it. As educators, we understand the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and biomedical preparation in high school.

But it is our opinion that even eight-year-olds are not too young to have the spark of scientific curiosity ignited within their minds. In a unique program funded by a grant in memory of Carlsbad scientist Herman Hockenull, our third-grade team of teachers created a hands-on experiential learning lab where future doctors, veterinarians and even astrophysicists could ask important scientific questions, engage in critical thinking activities, carry out in-depth observations, participate in mentor-guided dissections, and emerge as scientific leaders. It might sound gross, but the students really looked forward to the cow eye dissection! Our mentor veterinarian (and community member/grandfather of a third-grader) Dr. Nail led teachers and students through the dissection of cow eyeballs. The students found the cornea, lens, pupil, iris, and optic nerve—all of the things they had been studying about!



Close up of students performing a dissection.

Dr. Nail even met with teachers the day before to lead them through the experience so that they could be more prepared and more knowledgeable. The students were fascinated. Hello, future doctors and vets!

The children walked away from this with such a memorable experience. Hopefully it will open the doors of curiosity to many different academic subjects.



Third grade teacher Kate Alva works with students during the dissection portion of the Eyeball Lab.

Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

4885 Kelly Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • www.kelly.schoolloop.com



Tressie Armstrong
Principal

Unwrapping Gifts

If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its entire life believing it's stupid — Albert Einstein

Every child has special needs. Every child is gifted. At Kelly Elementary School we believe that our job is to identify the needs for each child, and it is our job to identify their areas of strength. Therefore, we must implement strategies to fill any areas of need, and we must celebrate and enhance areas of giftedness.

One recent morning was dedicated to learning all about the unique qualities of our children during our Ability Awareness Day! Stations were set up around the blacktop for students to learn about hearing challenges, sensory-integration tools, experiencing what it might be like to not be able to see, and activities of a wide variety to help all students understand that everyone has special needs and everyone is gifted.

Canine Companions joined the activity as well and helped students understand better how trained animal companions can actually work to help people who can't hear to know that the doorbell or telephone is ringing. The students learned how a trained canine can help guide a person who can't see safely around his or her environment. And a person who uses a wheelchair visited with her canine companion and shared how her dog helps her in a variety of ways throughout her day.

Students who use wheelchairs, communication devices, and other tools interacted comfortably alongside other students who wear braces on their teeth, wear glasses, and are tall or short, and everyone had a great day! One student noted, "It's important for us to understand each other. When we do, well, we just all get along much better!"



Everett learns about tools to help people navigate their environment!



Jen, Case, Ruby, and Rosie work together as friends!



Caitlyn, Jeremiah, Ava, and Brianna enjoy Ability Awareness day!

Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5600 • www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jimmy Hines
Principal

Genuine Connections

Hands down, Science Day at Magnolia is like no other day during the school year! Every classroom is transformed into a science lab where students have the opportunity to explore many of the science topics and curriculum covered thus far in the school year. Workshops are organized around specific grade-level content yet have certain allowances for students to explore topics beyond their grade level as well. This year's program included Kermit: The Inside Story—frog dissection; Heart Dissection, with Dr. Vega; Sono-Susie—sonogram and ultrasound; Forces of Nature—Mad Science Assembly; Entomology Lab—bugs!; Fish/Marine Science Lab; the ever popular Petting Zoo; and the longstanding fifth-grade tradition, Water Rockets!

It is worth noting that Science Day would not take place without the wealth of support offered by the entire school community. From our school staff to the many parent volunteers who have careers in both the science and medical

fields, Science Day continues to evolve because of the support from all. Indeed, it is a day when students have a genuine opportunity to create meaningful content-rich connections to the curriculum they are exposed to throughout every grade level—a day that remains the most popular of any throughout the school year!



Rocket Boys! Fourth grade students enjoying the launching of their hand made water rockets.



Mrs. Susie Gordon helping students identify organs using sonogram technology.



Dr. Vega working with students in Heart Dissection.

Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com



Robert Devich
Principal

One Big Family

It wasn't quite as large as the San Diego County Fair, but the turnout at Pacific Rim's Spring Carnival was impressive.

The lines were long for the games, photo booth and concessions, but the cause was worth the wait. Over 800 slices of pizza, 400 tacos, 200 cakes and 600 Tootsie Pop lollipops were consumed, while the PTA sold nearly 25,000 tickets and raised approximately \$13,000 for our school. These funds are used for fifth-grade promotion, the school's physical education program, field trips and teacher supplies for the classrooms. Principal Robert Devich said, "I think this was our largest Carnival turnout ever."

Led by Susie Polmar, a team of dedicated parents, students and family volunteers managed the PTA-sponsored carnival this year. "Beyond the fund-raising, it's more like a fun party to celebrate our school as one big Pac Rim family," Polmar said. "Thank you to all those who attended, our concession vendors and especially the volunteers, who dedicated their time setting up,

working the event and cleaning up."

The large crowd was entertained by music from the Cake Walk and karaoke booth, and if there were any frustrations from the long lines, they were defused at the Peg the Principal, Spongebob Sponge Throw, Chicken Catapult and Tin Can Alley booths.

Prizes were won, faces were painted, and bodies were tattooed (most temporarily). The real winners are the students, who benefit from the funds generated from the ticket sales and auction items.

As the federal government and State of California continue to tighten the budgets and resources available to the public schools, we are fortunate to have supportive and generous families and community members to help supplement Pacific Rim as needed.



Pacific Rim Artists' at work.



A lucky winner claimed a Tootsie Pop and prize.



These students know how to pass time waiting in line.

Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

2445 Mica Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Marjorie Giordani
Principal

A True Gem

Poinsettia's Teacher of the Year is Libbi Swanson! As part of the award ceremony, Ms. Swanson was presented with a tiara and flowers. Her husband and daughter were also able to attend.

Mrs. Swanson has created an atmosphere where her students are always sharing, learning, questioning, thinking and working together. She has created an active classroom where student voices are always heard, and everyone respects what the other has to say. Her students are learning skills that will carry them through the rest of their lives.

Mrs. Swanson also knows how to make the most difficult concepts easy to understand. Her creative strategies and positive attitude are contagious, and they bring out the best in her colleagues and students. Her communication efforts with parents and students about the social, emotional and academic elements of student growth and development are ongoing and compassionate. Her recent requalification as a National Board Certified Teacher was no surprise to anyone, as she is admired and respected by every teacher, parent and student on campus.

Mrs. Swanson is highly qualified and reflective, constantly doing her best for each student. She is a true gem, one who has brought new dimensions into her classroom with such innovative and unique methods as publishing parties, creative book reports and the *705 Gazette*.

Congratulations, Libbi Swanson. You are truly inspiring and energizing, and we are all better educators just by knowing and working with you. Thank you for awakening the joy and creativity in your students. You are a role model for us all.

Paws On News

The *Paws on News* show is the only Carlsbad Elementary School live broadcasting program. The students designed a TV show that they could produce, host and engage in with the other Poinsettia students.



The simple idea of "what would be fun?" soon grew into *The Weekly What's Up* and *This Week's Riddle* programs. There is also *Staff Spotlight*, *The Ducky Weather Report* (where the first-graders spot-read the five-day forecast), a *Field Report*, and the *Student of the Week* show.

Each week the show is different, but they all tie their segments into a main theme or idea. During the first week of each month the show is dedicated to that month's specific character trait, and this is repeated throughout the episode. The live broadcast is watched every Friday morning by the entire school population, and then archived on USTREAM for replay. We are very proud of our *Paws on News* crew led by Nick Covino!



Valley *Middle School (6-8)*

1645 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5300 • www.vms.schoolloop.com



Tom Bloomquist
Principal

Mustering the Troupes!

The Valley Middle School Performing Arts Department has had a busy spring, and there is much action to come before school lets out in June. Olivia Hardy directs the vocal performance groups, and Amanda Boer heads the instrumental music program at VMS.

In March, Ms. Hardy directed her students in three nights and a Saturday matinee performance of *Seussical Jr.* at the Carlsbad Arts Center. The show, an adaptation of Dr. Seuss's *Horton Hears a Who*, was a big hit that was enjoyed by audiences young and old. The stars of the show were the advanced Showstoppers students, who teamed to form two strong casts for the lead roles. With little time to rest, the Showstoppers troupe turned around in April and competed in the



Fullerton Forum Festival competition for middle school choirs. In the closest outcome in festival history, the team from Valley finished in a strong second place, just one point shy of the win. Ms. Hardy reports that the students held their own against the top teams in the show-choir world and had a lot of fun along the way.

The spring has been a busy time for Ms. Boer's instrumental musicians as well. Beginning in February, the band and orchestra traveled to Valley's feeder elementary schools to share their talents and inspire the elementary students to get involved in music. The incoming sixth-graders had another chance to see the band in action when they visited VMS in mid-March. Also in March, the advanced band participated in the annual districtwide middle school concert, held at Carlsbad High School. This show was a great opportunity for middle school band members from across the district to get together and share their talents with a large audience from throughout Carlsbad.



Multimedia Mastery!

Although it had been a busy spring semester, the fun still wasn't over for these talented students. In April, the Showstoppers again stepped onstage during Celebrate Carlsbad day, sponsored by a nearby theme park. The group presented one of 12 performances by student groups from throughout the district. The month of May will see both of these talented groups of performers in action at a musical and choral

production presented by an Orange County theme park. Finally, the year wraps up in June with the Spring Choral Concert June 3, 7 p.m., at the Carlsbad Arts Center, and the Spring Performing Arts Assembly in which all VMS students will have a chance to see their peers in action.

In addition to these wonderful performing arts groups, the spring semester is a good one for the VMSTV crew and their teacher, Doug Green. In March, VMSTV students returned from the prestigious national student broadcasting convention in Los Angeles with a number of top prizes. Among their honors, VMSTV won the most rigorous contest and the most coveted timed-contest award in the nation, the Sweet 16 Contest Award. In this grueling 16-hour contest, schools are given 16 minutes, beginning at 6 a.m., to choose one of 16 words. They are then tasked with producing an entire broadcast using that one word. They have 16 hours to do this. The winning production can be seen online at www.vmstv.com.

KAMPS / ACTIVITIES FOR KIDZ

By **SUSAN PETERSON**

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook:

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

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

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

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Can You Canoe?



Kate Karp

The Okee Dokee Brothers—actually lifelong friends Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander—invite us on a canoe trip down the Mississippi by grace of their 2013 Grammy-award-winning CD/DVD combination. The DVD's video chronicle of their monthlong trip is a study in geography and sociology, utterly American in the topographic and literary senses. Trains rumble by on the riverbank, turtles lay their eggs in the mud, two children dressed as Becky Thatcher and Tom Sawyer are captivated by the Brothers' challenge to spell *Mississippi*.

It's hard to select a standout selection on the music-only CD. Like the Mississippi, the songs flow into the motif of the river journey. American traditional bluegrass and melody lines from familiar public domain sea chanteys and folk songs combine to re-form as the paddles that move the craft. Lansing and Mailander play banjo and guitar, respectively, and the canoe's crew, if canoes have crews, consists of technicians, photographers, guest artists, and musicians who play everything from accordions and fiddles to bass harmonicas and tomato boxes. The CD is easy to listen to and provides a great background to the outstanding, remarkable DVD video.

Evident to viewers and listeners will be the strong undercurrent of respect for and appreciation of the beauty of everything nature manifests, from the soaring water birds to the terrible storm that uprooted their tent to 22 pesky mosquito bites. Completing the theme is the wisdom of the river people. In the most memorable part of the video, Kenny Selway, the "last river rat," spoke of the generations before him and the trouble on his mind: the eroding respect for the river's ecology. The Okee Dokee Brothers brought this home with them, and it's their souvenir gift to you.

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

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When you have winnowed down the choices of the camps by checking them out, seeing if they are affordable, figuring out why going would be beneficial to your children, and taking into consideration each child's personality, then it's time to sit down with your kids and talk over the possibilities together.

CHECK IT OUT

Do some research on the camp. Is it reputable? How long have they been in business? Do you know anyone who has attended there? What is the staff to child ratio? Are staff personnel trained in a particular skill or hired simply as bodies to watch kids? These are important "first questions" to answer. If you're looking for a launching point for finding a camp, peruse the ones listed in this issue, check your local parks and recreation departments, museums, zoos, and parenting publications. Check out the American Camping Association at www.acacamps.org and the National Camping Association at www.summercamp.org for accreditation and more information on camps.

AFFORDABLE

What's in your budget for a camp? They range from fairly inexpensive to the thousands of dollars. Day camps are usually less expensive, while sleep overs can add a whole different level of financial commitment. Find out if there are "extras" such as an amusement park excursion that could easily add on an extra \$40. As parents we want to invest in our children, but not go into debt. Choose a camp you can afford.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid—Word Search Contest

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 word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put CUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by **June 30, 2013**

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

A special thank you to **Maui Schaeffer**, for suggesting this Word Search and emailing the words.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|---------|
| BUBBY | DIPER | MAGICK | ROWLEY |
| BUCKS | FREGLEY | MAMADOU | SAFETY |
| CHEESE | GINGERBREAD | MANNY | STUDENT |
| CHIRAG | GREGORY | MOM | TOUCH |
| CREIGHTON | HOUSE | MONSTERS | TWISTED |
| CURIOUS | INVISIBLE | PATROL | WIZARD |
| DIARY | LODED | RODRICK | ZOO WEE |

Congratulations to **Maui Schaeffer**,
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!



MOTIVE

Are you sending your kids to camp so they can have fun, to get them out of the house, or so they can learn something new, such as horse-back riding, archaeology, or sailing? Do your kids want to go to camp because all their friends are going, or to make new friends? Those are all good reasons! Discerning motivation for wanting your children to attend camp and finding out their reasons for wanting to go will aid you in selecting the most appropriate one.

PERSONALITY

Know your kids and what type of camp would appeal to them. Think twice about sending your kids to a camp that offers activities so vastly different from their own interests, even if you're hoping to expand their horizons. Our kids should be gently encouraged to try new experiences, but not at the expense of them feeling uncomfortable, or completely out of their element.

NOTE: *If you ask your kids first about their choice, they may be disappointed if it's too expensive, if it isn't somewhere you approve of, or if the timing just wouldn't work out. May you be richly rewarded for all your efforts when your children exclaim that camp was the highlight of their summer!*



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SUMMER DRAMA FUN CAMP

Ages: 5-14 • July 22 - August 2, 2013
• 9:30am - 3:30pm* • Campers will be separated by age and skill level. Each week is packed with a full line-up of creative activities taught by theatre professionals with a showcase each Friday for parents and friends.

TEEN SUMMER CAMP INTENSIVES: IMPROVISATION

Ages: 13-19 • July 8-12, 2013
• 9:30am - 3:30pm • Students will become more comfortable on stage and learn new techniques to building strong characters.

TEEN SUMMER CAMP INTENSIVES:

AUDITION STRATEGY

Ages: 13-19 • July 15-19, 2013
• 9:30am - 3:30pm • This Audition Workshop will help you put together a monologue that will showcase your acting and teach you how to nail the callback.

TEEN SUMMER CAMP INTENSIVES:

TRIPLE THREAT/MUSICAL INTENSIVE

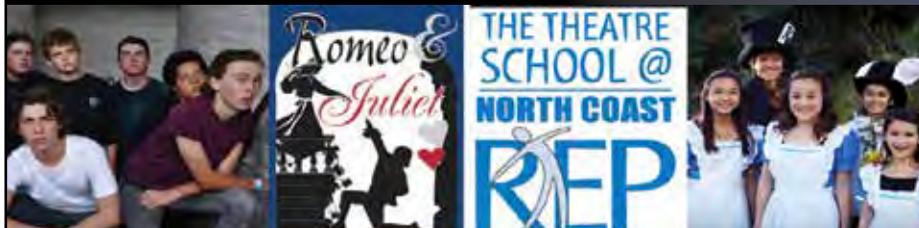
Ages: 13-19 • July 22-26, 2013
• 9:30am - 3:30pm • This Musical Theatre Intensive will help you put together 16 and 32 bar audition cuts that will showcase not only your voice, but your acting as well.

TEEN SUMMER CAMP INTENSIVES:

TEEN SCENE STUDY

Ages: 13-19 • July 29-August 2, 2013
• 9:30am - 3:30pm • Students will learn to break down the script to discover relationship and conflict so you can be comfortable making strong choices and taking adjustments.

Early drop-off and/or late pick-up available. Location: All classes at North Coast Rep Theatre, 987 Lomas Santa Fe dr., Ste. D - Solana Beach, CA 92075 Contact Info: 858.481.1055 • www.northcoastrep.org



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Paying for College...



Susan D. Marshall

Raising a family has never had a higher price tag. And, sending a child to college is one of your most expensive charges. Once collegiate studies start, you're obligated to sustain education costs from freshman basics through cap-and-gown graduation. (This is even more financially taxing than buying a house)! Yet, a smart savings plan combined with wise asset management can keep you and yours on an even financial keel.

When your children are young, saving for college is a natural goal. But, when you save in the wrong type of accounts or put money aside incorrectly, your child's ability to get need-based financial aid may be compromised.

Consulting with college financial specialists is a smart choice. They can guide you through the labyrinth of financial formulas that make your child's college years secure, preventing overwhelming debt.

For example, 529 plans may not meet your needs; especially when another type of plan may allow more opportunity for financial aid. Doing your due diligence through smart asset management prepares you for financial demands specific to a college education. And, formula driven asset adjustments may make college more affordable than you thought.

When saving for college, your main goal is to accumulate enough money to pay for college expenses, when the time comes. You most likely will be looking at different types of savings plans and tax strategies that will allow you to accumulate money. There are many pros and cons when it comes to pre-paid college tuition savings plans, 529 plans, UGMA's and UTMA's, to name a few. If you own a business or are a high net worth individual, you may prefer tax strategies or opportunities to let your business fund your child's future higher education.

When it comes to saving on college, the time for spending the money you have accumulated is drawing nigh. You will need ways to significantly reduce your total costs for college, including how to maximize the use of other people's money, minimize your own out of pocket expenses and how to qualify for the most financial aid, regardless of income or assets.

There is no easy solution or one perfect plan. Everyone's situation is different, just as each student has unique abilities, passions, and goals.

To learn more, attend a free public workshop or visit my website and download 10 Free Secrets to Financial Aid.

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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Friendship



I have great memories of friends coming over after school. We'd play in my room or outside and just have fun. As I got older, I remember how important it became to have those friends around when we had to study together, attend school events, or even wish one another a great summer.

Preschool is the opportune time for our children to learn how to be good friends, to make friends, and most of all, to play. In elementary school, things get busier. Homework, sports, dance classes, piano—I remember when a friend of mine let her children play outside and they couldn't find anyone to play with. She finally realized they were all at after-school activities! She immediately decided to make sure she didn't overschedule her own children. Her experience has stayed with me for years.

Our son, who's in first grade, just started basketball, and he loves it. But the highlight of his week occurs on Wednesdays, when one, two or three friends from school are invited to play. Word has spread, and the number of children waiting to play is quite something! The laughs, joy and spontaneity remind me of when I was their age.

Open-ended play is extremely important as our children get older. They play ball, run—and the laughs! Truly the best part!

Spring is here—the perfect time to invite friends over to play. Whether outside or inside, you'll help create great opportunities for your children to develop lasting and meaningful friendships.

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

CITY OF CARLSBAD • From Page 1



Kristina Ray
Communications
Manager

Back on dry land, if your family is planning to attend the TGIF Jazz in the Parks concerts this summer, be sure to check out the city's free Art At Jazz, a free program offered during concerts July 5 and 26 and August 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Participants are greeted by professional artist educators, and many talented volunteers guide young concert goers in a planned hands-on art making activity. Come join in the fun and music, and another great family arts program.

Summer reading programs foster a lifelong love of reading and help kids keep up their reading skills over the summer break. "Reading is so delicious" is the theme of this year's annual Summer Reading Program taking place at all three city libraries from June 17 to Aug. 2. Adults can join in the fun, too, since the free program offers entertainment and reading incentives for all ages.

For those with teens at home, Carlsbad City Library invites students going into 7th through 12th grades to show off their skills in the library's Teen Talent Shows. On July 11, the library will host its singing competition, followed by a dancing competition on July 25 and concluding on Aug. 8 with a creative competition for skits, instrumental music acts and talents other than singing and dancing.

Teens ages 15 to 19 looking to gain work experience over the summer can apply for the Summer Arts Camp Counselors volunteer program. We're seeking responsible, eager, creative teens to volunteer during our popular Club Pelican and Creative Arts Camp programs. All teen volunteer application materials are due on Friday, May 31, by 5 p.m.

Looking forward to seeing everyone around the city this summer, enjoying our programs, meeting new friends and taking advantage of this great place we call home.

To find out more about all these great activities, visit www.carlsbadca.gov.

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*The Master of Education program is currently available on campus with full WASC and NCATE accreditations. The proposal for the online version is currently in review and is in process for WASC then NCATE approvals, which are expected to be awarded by spring of 2013. The program will be submitted for review to NCATE/TEAC in spring 2013.

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