

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Torrance Unified School District**

**VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

**MARCH-MAY 2014**

## TUSD Educates the Whole Child

*By Dr. George Mannon  
Superintendent*

Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) has been successfully educating Torrance students for over 60 years. Families move to Torrance because they want their children to have the best education.

TUSD students continuously meet and exceed state and national standards, distinguishing themselves as the best of the best. The goal of the district is to maximize student success and potential. We are able to accomplish this goal because of our team of highly qualified administrators, teachers, and support staff at our schools. They work tirelessly to ensure every student receives invaluable



**Dr. Mannon with TUSD preschool students.**

educational experiences. Part of the TUSD mission is to educate the whole child, making sure that students are building character as well as academic excellence. The district values community service and encourages volunteerism. Our students have put in hundreds of hours volunteering for worthy causes locally and globally.

When our students graduate, they have the academic knowledge to pursue their career paths and a sense of how their contributions can positively impact the lives of others, and they have had the opportunity to delve into art, music, robotics, journalism, sports, and other extracurricular activities in order to better explore their own interests. When our students graduate, they leave with a valuable educational experience that remains with them throughout their lives.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

#### Continued Academic Excellence Amidst a Year of Change



**Mark Steffen**  
*President*

Torrance, like many other districts, is preparing for change. This includes restructuring the way in which the State funds a student's education to the way a student's progress will be assessed. Districts around the State are preparing for the new Local Control Funding Formula and the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Although there are many uncertainties regarding both funding and assessment, TUSD, through the great efforts and sacrifice of all staff, is in a strong position fiscally and is prepared to continue providing an excellent education for all students.

In preparation for these changes, the District is reaching out to and meeting with stakeholders in an effort to ease the transition and ensure parents understand how these changes will effect TUSD. The District hosted a very successful Common Core Parent Information Night in the Fall and a budget meeting last month. The Board recognizes that communication is essential as we move towards fully implementing the Common Core standards and the many budgetary changes. I encourage parents and community members to contact Board members with input and comments so we can stay connected on issues that matter to you.

TUSD continues to move forward with the successful modernization of its facilities through the funds provided by Measures Y and Z. Since 2008, over half the school projects have been completed, on time and within budget. The Board is very proud of the rapid progress we have made on our construction projects and on our commitment to bring TUSD facilities into the 21st Century. The modernized sites are enhanced learning environments for our students and a resource for the entire community.

#### Providing Invaluable Opportunities

*By Dee Hardison, President  
Torrance Education Foundation*

The Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) has been a proud partner of Torrance Unified School District for over 20 years. The foundation has supported classroom learning by providing much-needed financial support to the Torrance schools. Annual events such as the Pier to Pier Walk and the car raffle raise funds that directly impact district classrooms.

Recently, TEF provided the funds for the new TEF Computer Lab at the district, a video streaming classroom resource, and district-wide wireless connectivity. Additionally, TEF has provided funds for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) professional development for

teachers so that they have the tools needed to educate today's student.

A longstanding tradition in the district is the annual Celebrate Education Dinner. This year's dinner will be held on March 28 at the Torrance Marriott Hotel. The dinner is a fun-filled evening that brings together our dedicated administrators, teachers, parents, and community members to recognize the investments we have made in our students. TEF continues to have a valuable impact on

students and classrooms throughout the district, and we hope you will join us at this year's TEF dinner so that we can continue to provide invaluable opportunities for our students.

P.O. Box 1397, Torrance CA 90505,  
310/972-6418

# Torrance Council of PTAs

www.torrancecouncilofptas.org



## Powerful Voice for Our Children

By Janet Tajji, President

The Torrance Council of PTAs (TCPTA) oversees the PTA units at all 30 schools in the school district. We are organized under the authority of the California State PTA to provide

information and instruction to our units, leadership training, and coordination of the efforts of our units.

Our council has been busy with several fun and educational student programs. We recently honored 26 students as council level winners in the Reflections Contest, a National PTA arts recognition and achievement program. Nine students went on to receive first place at the next level of judging by Thirty-Third District PTA, and their entries have been forwarded to California State PTA.

In February, TCPTA, the high school PTSAs, and TUSD co-hosted the College Fair at South High. Students and parents were able to visit with over 70 representatives from colleges, trade schools and the military, and attend workshops.

Elementary students are strapping on their helmets for bike rodeos going on now at their schools. The winners from each school will participate in a district-wide bike rodeo in April.

In March, TCPTA will be attending Thirty-Third District PTA's Sacramento Safari. Eight students, two chaperones, and our Director of Advocacy and Legislation are excited to be attending this annual conference where they will be learning about how our state government works and meeting with legislators.

PTA continues to be a powerful advocate for education and child welfare issues. We have over 17,000 members in Torrance and that makes for a powerful voice for our children.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik  
Neta Madison



We are delighted to be publishing the excellence from the Torrance Unified School District. In addition to the hard copies printed we will post each issue on Facebook, Twitter and our web site. If you have friends or relatives who would like to receive digital copies, they may sign up on our web site [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com). We appreciate you including *School News* among your reading choices.

We have two contests in this issue and all ages may enter!

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

The next issue is May 28th..

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**Covering the  
TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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## Adams *Elementary*

2121 238th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4480 • adams.tusd.org



**Kumi Toyoda-Smart**  
Principal

### Family Math Night

In January, John Adams had its first Title I Common Core Family Math Night. This community event was sponsored by Title I funds and supported by teachers, students, community members and Torrance High School Students.

We had approximately 180 participants attend this very engaging event. During the two-hour family development session, parents were offered two breakout sessions with math teachers. The fourth- and fifth-grade parent Common Core Math session was led by Sabrina Holdsworth and Samantha Pioch.

The kindergarten-through-third-grade session was led by Leah Wolverton and Allen Chin. These sessions provided parents with information about the changes in the California State Standards for Mathematics.

The focus of the presentation was the increased rigor, problem solving and conceptual understanding in the new Common Core State Standards. Additionally, the teachers showed sample questions about the new Smarter Balanced Assessments that TUSD will be piloting this year.

While parents were in their breakout sessions, students were exploring activities within the multipurpose room with teachers and Torrance High School volunteers. Estimation jar, data-collection posters, geo boards and pattern recognition were some of the activities presented that evening.

A special thank-you to all who attended the event and to Shari Kaku for organizing the fabulous student activities.

## Arlington *Elementary*

17800 Van Ness Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4519 • arlingtonpta.com



**Vicki Hath, Ed.D.**  
Principal

### Family Math Night

Each small cake takes  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup of frosting. If Betty made 8 cups of frosting, how many small cakes can she frost? This is just one problem that Arlington Elementary School students persevered through during Family Math Night.

Eight teachers led the evening of family fun + math = educating parents on the new Common Core Math Practices. After introducing the eight mathematical practices, students in kindergarten through fifth grade applied their skills to a variety of math problems. Parents were given handouts listing questions to ask their children if they got stuck or to help them explain their strategies. In addition to math problems, children also engaged in fun-filled graphing activities and estimation games, with prizes for students' participation and hard work.

A first-grader who was in attendance summed up the evening perfectly: "It was really nice spending time with my family. I loved the prizes and loved family math night. It was so much fun!"



## Anza *Elementary*

21400 Ellinwood Dr., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4559 • anzaelementary.org



**Barbara Marks**  
Principal

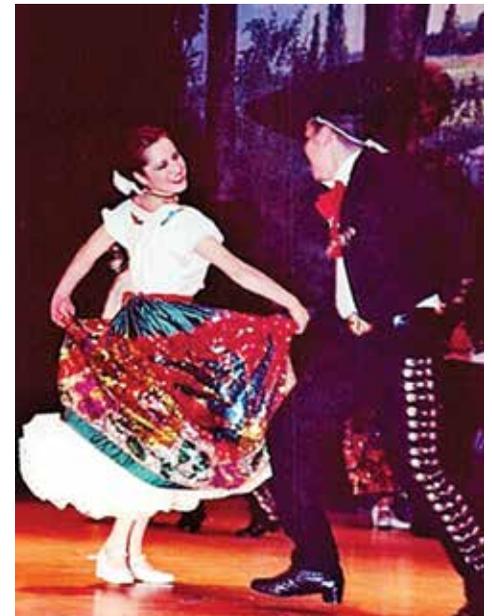
### Going Around the World!

This year, Anza Elementary presented its 15th annual Anza Around the World program. As in the past, the program included a special assembly for the students:

Kayamanang Lagi, a group of Filipino Culture dancers.

Another part of this special week were the cultural presentations by volunteer presenters in each classroom. These exciting presentations included verbal and visual information and hands-on activities such as playing a game, making a craft or learning a dance.

This year, Anza added an International Fair, which was held in the cafeteria. Various booths represented different countries along with some food sampling. Students received "travel passports" at the door and gathered stamps at each booth they visited as they "traveled around the world!"



## Arnold *Elementary*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4524 • arnold.tusd.org



**Justine Lang**  
Principal

### Teaching Through Technology

At Arnold Elementary School, we are excited to continually increase our use of technology to engage student learning and meet the goals set by the California Common Core State Standards. SMART Boards and document cameras are frequently used in classrooms across the campus to bring curriculum to life for students through rigorous interactive lessons. Currently, we are piloting an electronic tablet program, which provides teachers with six or seven devices per classroom. Students work collaboratively to problem-solve, research, and create their own content with various educational applications.

Teachers also utilize a district-wide Web site to enhance student learning both in class and at home by uploading videos, conducting forums, and



guiding students to appropriate, educational Web sites. Students and parents can upload and download homework, e-mail their teachers, and access electronic content.

Our Arnold Alleycats are challenged, engaged, and well-prepared for the technological world they live in...plus they have a ton of fun!

# Calle Mayor *Middle School*

4800 Calle Mayor, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4548 • callemayor.tusd.org



**Dave Mosley**  
*Principal*

## The Next Big Step

Calle Mayor Middle School is extremely excited about the implementation of our Youth Group Program. The first night was very successful. Students had the opportunity to meet with fellow students and discuss how to make good choices as they navigate through their middle school years in preparation for high school.

As most of us remember, the transition from elementary school to high school was a huge transformation of our lives, dealing with many new and challenging times. If you would like to join this group, just drop by the Calle Cafeteria. Our next meeting will take place March 6. All students are welcome, and you may start anytime. We would like to thank all the wonderful corporate donors as well as Lisa Gray of the Redondo Beach Youth Commission for assisting us in implementing this great program.



# Casimir *Middle School*

17220 Casimir Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4498 • casimir.tusd.org



**Susie Holmes**  
*Principal*

## Technical Education Meets Technology

Technical education classes have been placed in an awkward position in recent years as both parents and educators work diligently to prepare students for college and career paths. There is a perception from some that traditional technical courses, including woodshop, no longer have a legitimate place in a curriculum designed to prepare students for college. As a school principal, I have always believed in the value of this type of education for students.

Casimir Middle School is fortunate to have an evolving technical education program run by a dedicated and credentialed teacher. Mr. Rick Thompson has been working to create a learning environment that includes power tools as well as computer simulations. Mr. Thompson's room is a place where math and engineering meet in a hands-on, interactive environment. Students use mathematics to design and build a wide variety of items using both technology and equipment. Mr. Thompson's classes are a true blending of technical education and technology.

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 12?



# Carr *Elementary*

3404 W. 168th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4467 • carr.tusd.org



**Dick Peterson**  
*Principal*

## Student Conflict Managers

Carr Elementary School recently spent two days training our student conflict managers to handle disagreements between children on the playground during lunch recess periods. Conflict managers are chosen by a vote of their fourth- and fifth-grade peers and are assigned once a week to work on the playground. It is a distinct honor for students to be chosen for these positions, and not everyone who indicates a desire to be part of this elite group is chosen.

Teachers Jeanne Coe, Nancy Jackson, and Lauri Talbott teach the conflict managers vital conflict resolution skills, and the students role-play typical playground scenarios and critique each other with the help and support of the teachers.

Conflict managers wear distinctive colored vests on the playground so that all students know who they are and seek their help as needed. These conflict managers are an integral part of playground security, as they "free up" the adults on duty to handle the more serious disagreements and incidents.

The student conflict managers for this year are Mark Aguilera, Kaitlyn Ginoza, Casey Kwak, Hannah Lawson, Gaby Marroquin, Derrick Nghe, Salem Nunez, Alyssa Reamer, Lalaine Recinos, Peter Velasco, Elijah Cugarriak-Diaz, Yuki Deai, Alyson Johnson, Montana Jones, Claire Kwon, Marie Malig, Deven Mosley, Christopher Orozco, Daphnie Soler, Isha Amir, Jiro Cacho, Yvonne Couvertier, Isbah Khan, Vincent Madison, Jake Miso, Vy Nguyen, Isabelle Ortega, Anthony Padilla, Abhay Singh, Danish Tran, Gino Alonzo, Brooke Carter, Elijah Kirinda, Erin Lee, Kyla McCluney, Linh Nguyen, Justin Ordonez, Anran Ren, Santiago Rios, and Vi Tran. We are grateful for their service!

# Edison *Elementary*

3800 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4513 • edison.tusd.org



**Erin Lahr**  
*Principal*

## Creative Writers

Congratulations to some very creative students at Edison Elementary School! Their stories were selected as material for live performances recently held at the James Armstrong Theater. Fourth- and fifth-grade students Dinh Duong, Luis Gonzalez, Arriana Salegio, and Andrew Ulloa were the hit of the show! They were introduced as amazing local authors of the featured plays. Boy, were their stories hilarious!

Prior to the performance all fourth- and fifth-grade students were inspired at a school assembly to write stories for the Story Pirates to perform. The interactive assembly sparked out-of-the-box thinking and creativity in the children. The best part was seeing all of our students' imaginations put to work and watching them have so much fun with writing!

As Edison continues to develop strong writers, we also continue to foster a love of writing that will surely add to the students' success in school and in the future.



## Fern *Elementary*

1314 Fern Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4506 • fern.tusd.org



**Valerie Williams**  
Principal

### Police Department Awards/Appreciation Luncheon

The first annual Torrance Police Department (TPD) Awards and Appreciation Luncheon was held on January 30. Principal Daniels of Fern Elementary School attended the luncheon.

Thanks to the efforts of these two individuals, thank you notes and drawings created by Fern students were arranged on the banquet tables for the officers and attendees to read, enjoy and take home as mementos of the event. The notes were laminated and served as creative companions for the floral centerpieces.

Mrs. Daniels and the Fern students were recognized for their participation in this worthwhile community-building event.



**Fern students with the Fern Falcon.**

## J.H. Hull *Middle School*

3420 W. 229th Pl., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4516 • hull.tusd.org



**Barry Lafferty**  
Principal

### Technology and Trojans

Forty-nine Hull Middle School students attended AstroCamp in February in Idyllwild, California. This is a hands-on, physical science program that meets science content standards for California. It gave our students educational opportunities they could not obtain in the general classroom setting and provided dynamic, hands-on coursework in astronomy, physical science, space exploration, and adventure activities. Our students and teacher chaperones, Teresa Ward and Kristy Mar, were involved in a light and laser lab; micro-meteorites; rocket building and

launching; Space Night, with the huge telescopes; team-building activities with zip lines and a sky coaster; the Astro Olympics; and many games. It was a time of adventure, fun, and learning for all.

Our sixth- through eighth-graders attended a Day in Troy at the University of Southern California (USC) in February. All of our students and chaperones, including Cindy Leach, Phil Bucy, Mr. Seto, Mrs. Norwood, and Principal Lafferty, had the opportunity to see and feel a university campus and be exposed to a phase of college life as well to get a reminder that it's not too early for them to begin thinking about college. The day's agenda included: a campus tour with USC varsity student-athletes with questions answered along the way; a Trojan pep talk at the Galen Center, which focused on physical fitness, making good choices, encouraging/inspiring, and goal setting with lots of games and prizes; and an autograph session with USC student/athletes. To end the day, the USC women's basketball team took on their rivals at the University of California, Los Angeles, with all of the music and cheering. All had a great time!

## Hickory *Elementary*

2800 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4672 • w1.hickory.tusd.org



**Edna Schumacher**  
Principal

### Nutritional Education and Innovation

Hickory has made a commitment to wellness and healthy living! We are fortunate to be in the third year of our community partnership with the nutrition staff at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. Together we are bringing the "Healthy Ever After" program (HEA) to hundreds of students each year.

Healthy Ever After is an innovative and inspiring nutrition education program that is designed to educate students through engaging and interactive lessons. Our students and parents are excited about this long overdue program. The parent-volunteer docents are meeting five times a year to learn each of the five lesson plans designed by the Medical Center's clinical and nutritional staff.

The lessons are differentiated into levels of depth and detail for students in grades K-2 and 3-5. Each plan includes a 30-minute scripted interactive lesson, along with a healthy snack that reinforces the topic. The five topics include My Plate, Grains, Fruits and Vegetables, Sugars, and Healthy Fats.

We have already noticed this year that as the program has progressed, the students are starting to show an increased interest and excitement about our school's salad bar. They are beginning to choose more fruits and vegetables and proudly announce their selection to the cafeteria staff.

One primary student exclaimed, "Look, I'm eating the rainbow!" He had selected a variety of fruits and vegetables in assorted colors that day for lunch. Success!

## Jefferson *Middle School*

21717 Talisman St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4794 • jefferson.tusd.org



**Lee Lee Chou**  
Principal

### Priceless Inspiration

In my own philanthropy and business endeavors, I have seen the critical role that the arts play in stimulating creativity and in developing vital communities...the arts have a crucial impact on our economy and are an important catalyst for learning, discovery, and achievement in our country.

—Paul G. Allen, Co-Founder of Microsoft

I am so pleased to share that this year, we had two Jefferson MS students that not only took first place in the Torrance Unified School District's PTA Reflections contest "Believe, Dream, Inspire" but also went onto take first place at the 33rd district level.

Sixth-grade student Mia Kobayashi captured an award-winning picture titled "Run a Good Race" in the photography category. Seventh-grade student Michael Stine created a movie titled "It's Your World, Too" in the film-production-category. The film focused on the importance of recycling.

I want to thank all our wonderful parents for their support of art education in Adventures in Art. I look forward to a productive year full of growth and successes for all our super-students!



**Young artists that dare to Believe, Dream, and Inspire.**

# LAUNCH *Preschool Programs*

4100 W. 227th St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/972-6500x2550 • launch.tusd.org



**Elaine Semple**  
PhD, BCBA  
Principal

## Amazed By the Difference

LAUNCH Preschool has mural mania. It started with Susie's Garden, a mural that was dedicated to a longtime employee. The mural has flowers, insects, fruits and vegetables. The children were so excited about it! In fact, it elicited so much positive language that our staff wanted more.

So, a group of volunteers led by a LAUNCH parent designed and painted a large contemporary version of *The Old Woman in the Shoe*. Again, we were so amazed by the difference this made in the playground's atmosphere, energy and conversations that we solicited additional ideas for more murals.

As a preschool, we really appreciate the literary theme of the red shoe mural, and so our teachers chose ideas from their favorite nursery rhymes. Resident artist Edgar Raigoza volunteered his time to incorporate them into the work.



Our third mural will be painted this spring once the funds and preparations are solidified. Of course, based upon the enthusiastic response from our staff, this mural won't be our last!

# Lynn *Middle School*

5038 Halison St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4495 • bertlynn.tusd.org



**LeRoy Jackson Jr.**  
Principal

## Every Student Succeeding

Year in and year out, Bert Lynn Middle School educates and prepares students to be successful by maximizing their academic potential. Our team of exceptional educators and dedicated support staff make certain that every Bert Lynn student is succeeding.

One of Bert Lynn's shining stars is science teacher, Kevin Tambara. An ex-aerospace engineer and veteran teacher, Mr. Tambara was recognized as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow by the National Science Foundation and was recently selected to participate in the Space Foundation's elite Teacher Liaison Program. Mr. Tambara's goal as an educator is to harness his students' natural curiosity. He describes his classroom as "part classroom, part workshop, and part amusement park." Realizing there was a strong need and keen student interest, he created a CyberMaker Science middle school curriculum, which



incorporates a computer programming approach to science and engineering concepts with hands-on design projects.

At Bert Lynn, we create an environment in which our students not only learn, but explore, discover, and one day lead.

# Lincoln *Elementary*

2418 W. 166th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4464 • lincoln.tusd.org



**Katherine Castleberry**  
Principal

## Lions Love to Read!

Lincoln is excited to share news about its one-of-a-kind Reading Room! This room was created to provide a comfortable and relaxing place to enjoy reading. The newly decorated space has couches, pillows, rugs, moon chairs, lamps, lots of books and brand new nooks!

The room is open before school and during lunch for children to come in and enjoy a good book. Teachers may also come to the Reading Room during the school day for guided-reading lessons, buddy reading or just to have their children read! Students are so excited to use this room, which has opened up a whole new world of fun, imagination and creativity for them.

Creating the room was no easy task for Lincoln's school community. Spearheaded by teachers Jolene Maravilla and Debbie King, the efforts of so many were involved to ensure that the desired outcome was attained—everything from picking up donated furniture to spending countless hours organizing books made this dream a reality. The payoff for everyone's hard work can be seen in the joy on the students' faces as they enter the room, grab a book, and settle into a nice comfy chair—priceless!

Lincoln School is very thankful to all who contributed to making this Reading Room possible. We are very proud to be able to offer this unique and special opportunity to our students. All are welcome to visit and see the magic that happens when a love for reading is nurtured in a child!

# Madrona *Middle School*

21364 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4562 • madrona.tusd.org



**Chris Lipsey**  
Principal

## An Exciting Day

Madrona Middle School recently held its annual Career Day! This event exposed our sixth- through eighth-grade students to the wide variety of careers that are available throughout the South Bay.

In five different sessions, professional volunteers presented interactive hands-on activities and useful information to our students. The presenters included Mayor Scotto, law enforcement personnel in K-9 units and forensic science, theater professionals, small business owners, El Camino College counselors, engineering professionals, and athletes from the AVP and PGA tours.

During the afternoon sessions our students took career interest inventories and engaged in goal-setting discussions with their classmates and teachers. The Torrance High School ASB presented the eighth-graders with information about various activities, as well as the transition to high school. The sixth- and seventh-graders engaged with the older Madrona ASB students to plan how to be successful in their next year of middle school.

It was an exciting and engaging day for our students, faculty and community!



# Magruder *Middle School*

4100 W. 185th St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4527 • magruder.tusd.org



**Chris Sheck**  
*Principal*

## Career and College Clubs

Preparing students for their 21st-century career and college needs is a vital role of education today. Magruder Middle School meets that need with a seventh- and eighth-grade Career and College Clubs, which were established in 2008.

The purpose of these clubs to engage students in peer-to-peer learning, practice leadership skills, and increase college readiness. Members participate in this two-year curriculum, where they explore careers, finances, the University of California/California State University A–G requirements, visit colleges, and participate in mock college applications. What's more, club members are mentors to their peers regarding high school and college readiness.

The seventh-grade College and Career Club won second place for Club of the Year out of more than 160 middle schools across Los Angeles County for 2012–2013, and our eighth-grade club was recognized with an honorable mention.

This year we are continuing to build new leaders and build the college-readiness culture at Magruder.



2012-2013 College and Career Club Visits University of California, Irvine.

# Richardson *Middle School*

23751 Nancy Lee Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4790 • richardsonmiddleschool.org



**Chad Mabery**  
*Principal*

## A Commitment to Excellence

Edward J. Richardson Middle School (RMS) is nestled in the hillside of southwest Torrance. This neighborhood school opened as Newton School in 1955, originally kindergarten through eighth grade and later changing in 1972 to a middle school. The school was eventually closed in 1986, when it was converted to an adult school. It was renamed Edward J. Richardson Middle School, after a retiring superintendent, when it reopened in 1993 in the current sixth- through eighth-grade model. Today, the current administrative team at RMS is led by Dr. Chad Mabery, Principal, and Ms. Katie Schenkelberg, Vice-Principal.

Throughout the years, RMS has stayed true its school motto, "Excellence of Mind, Strength of Character." RMS is a school focused on serving the educational needs of its students with a commitment to excellence in academics and character, as evidenced by consistent and extraordinary academic achievement. Amazingly, RMS has demonstrated an increase in Academic Performance Index (API) scores in 12 of the last 14 years, placing it in the top five percent of California middle schools. In 2013, RMS was awarded the California Distinguished School honor for the third time in 12 years.

In the upcoming months, RMS has several important events for current and future parents in the RMS café. We will address the implementation of Common Core State Standards with "What is Common Core?" on March 4 at 6:30 p.m. and "Common Core Middle School Math Pathways" on March 19 at 6:30 p.m. We will also host "Bullying: How Parents Can Help?" on March 12 at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

# North *High School*

3620 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4412 • northhighschool.org



**Dr. Ron Richardson**  
*Principal*

## 'Project Santa' and the Joy of Giving

*By Marc Pioch, Student Activities Director*

In September, North High School "adopted" Cabrillo Avenue Elementary in San Pedro. Over 120 students from North visited Cabrillo to mentor students and give them a challenge: If Cabrillo students helped collect 1,500 cans for the North High Canned Food Drive benefiting the Los Amigos charity, which helps people fighting HIV and AIDS, North would provide an on-site pep assembly.



North high cheerleaders with a young student from Cabrillo.

While the students at Cabrillo were collecting cans, North Students held a book drive and a variety of fund-raising events to provide three books and one new toy for each of the 468 Cabrillo students. In December, North students came with their gifts and were thrilled to see that the Cabrillo students had exceeded their goal with 3,238 cans! With North's collection, the total was 22,641.

The final stage of the program brought North's band, pep squad, JROTC programs and culture clubs to Cabrillo for the pep assembly. At the end, both groups realized the benefit of giving to others.

# Riviera *Elementary*

365 Paseo de Arena, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4460 • riviera.tusd.org



**Christie Forshey**  
*Principal*

## Two New Healthy Programs

Riviera Elementary School is piloting two healthy-living programs to benefit us all.

The Live Well Morning Exercise routine jump-starts the day. All students and staff members assemble before school for eight minutes of cardio, stretching and yoga Tuesday through Friday. Teachers were trained by Beach Cities Health District staff as part of a pilot program, Live Well, and report that students come to class focused and ready to take on the day.

Torrance Memorial's Healthy Ever After Nutrition Program involves 27 Riviera parent docents who attend nutrition trainings at Torrance Memorial and then instruct students in five nutrition lessons. This year's topics include My Plate/Healthy Eating Out, Grains/Fiber/Eating for Fitness, Sugar/Mindful Eating, Fats/Healthy Ethnic Foods and Fruits/Vegetables/Farmer's Market. Students sample snacks provided by Memorial, with parent permission.



Morning exercise.

These programs further our vision to promote healthy bodies and healthy minds. Research equates physical activity and healthy choices with increased academic performance, self-concept, mood and mental health. We plan a lifetime of healthy choices!

## Seaside *Elementary*

4651 Sharynne Lane, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4532 • seaside.tusd.org



**Michele Bauer**  
*Principal*

### Running Club

Seaside Elementary School is pleased to announce the start of a new Running Club. The Running Club will meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. under the supervision and direction of Mrs.

Michelle Murphy, kindergarten teacher, and Ms. Tracy Kato, first/second grade teacher.



The Club is the teachers' brain child and will provide indirect support for the Seaside's annual Jog-a-thon and gardening program. With an expansive twelve acre campus, Seaside is the perfect place to host a running club for students. We look forward to seeing our dolphins sprout legs and run for fun and fitness!



## South *High School*

4801 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4352 • shs.tusd.org



**Scott McDowell**  
*Principal*

### Congratulations Academic Decathlon Team

South High School Academic Decathlon Team Takes 6th in Los Angeles County Office of Education Academic Decathlon Competition held over two weekends in January and February. It was the second consecutive year that the team placed 6th, and was the highest finish for Advanced Placement English teacher Deborah Macauley's 12 years as the team's coach.

Competition included events held in Speech, Interview and Essay, written exams in Economics, Art History, Mathematics, Science, Language, Social Studies, Music, and the always spirited Super Quiz, with this year's theme of World War I, in which South placed 3rd in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

At the awards luncheon, all nine members of the South team earned at least one medal, meaning that each competitor placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in at least one event, which is remarkable, considering that there were over 500 competitors representing 56 schools. Coach Macauley said it was the first time in her 12 years as coach that every team member won a medal. Additionally,



**Melissa Gallagher, Isaac Danziger, Madyson Frank, Garrett Pierson, Jill Omoto, Alexander Blagoi, Shannon Tieu, Steven Ford, Ryan Cao, Coach Deborah Macauley.**

South's total score qualified the team to advance to the State Academic Decathlon in Sacramento in March. Congratulations to Coach Macauley and the South High Academic Decathlon team.

## Shery *High School*

2600 Vine St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4440 • shery.tusd.org



**Jamie Jimenez**  
*Principal*

### Holiday Joy

Kurt T. Shery High School students value community service. For the past two years, Shery High students and staff have been working with Harbor Interfaith Services to raise money to adopt a family for the holidays. Harbor Interfaith Services is a nonprofit agency that empowers the homeless and working poor to achieve self-sufficiency by providing support services, such as shelter, transitional housing, food, job placement, childcare, and education.

The Shery community was able to raise \$400 this year for our adopted family. We were able to buy most of the items on a four-year-old girl's wish list, including a new bicycle. For her mother, we bought a new vacuum and gift cards to the movies so that she could enjoy herself. The gifts were given during a Christmas party held for the families and the donors during the winter break. Shery High leadership members joined in with the festivities.



**Shery Leadership Team with teacher Kathy Patterson.**

## Torrance *Elementary*

2125 Lincoln Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4500 • torranceel.tusd.org



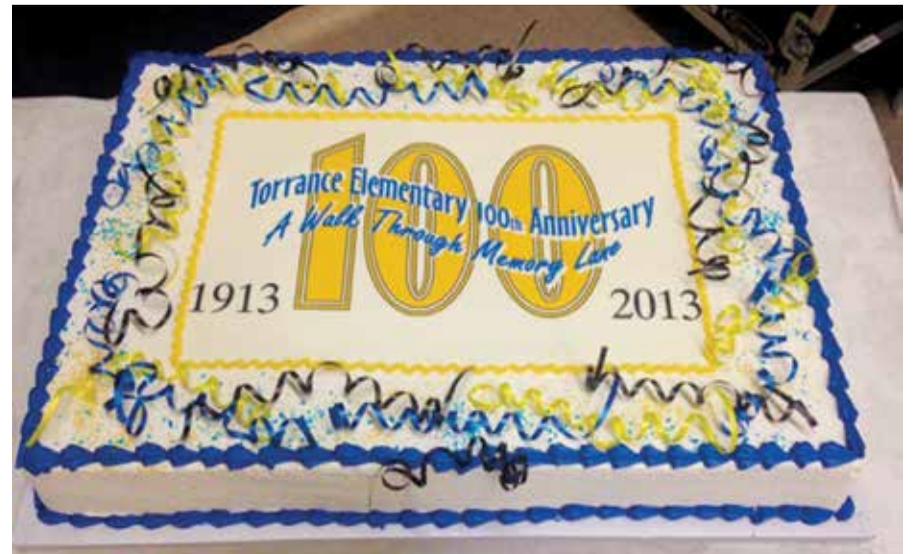
**Dr. Kelly Joseph**  
*Principal*

### 100th Anniversary

Torrance Elementary celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the school. More than 300 current and former staff, students and parents joined the festivities on December 18, 2013. Attendees came from as far away as San Diego and Santa Barbara and some were associated with the school as early as 1937.

Displays and a Power Point presentation were prepared to share the 100 years of history. The cafeteria was attractively decorated and brimming with food and fun as pictures jogged memories and friendships were renewed. Dr. Kelly

Joseph welcomed three former TE Principals as well as TUSD and Torrance City officials as special guests.



# Torrance *High School*

2200 W. Carson St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4396 • ths.tusd.org



**Karim Girgis**  
*Principal*

## STEM Opportunities

Torrance High School (THS) is excited to highlight our exclusive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program. We are currently offering two courses in engineering, with plans to expand to four engineering course offerings at the high school level and one at the middle schools. Our current offerings are Principles of Engineering and Aerospace Engineering, with Civil Engineering and Architecture opening in the fall. Hull and Madrona Middle Schools will offer Gateway to Technology starting this fall. When combined with the

Introduction to Engineering course which will debut at THS the following year, students will have the opportunity to enroll in a five-year engineering program from eighth through 12th grades.

Aerospace Engineering exposes the students to the world of aeronautics, flight, and engineering through the fields of aeronautics, aerospace engineering, and related areas of study. Students work in teams, utilizing hands-on activities, projects, and problems and are exposed to various solutions to proposed problems.

In addition to the in-class curriculum, students are afforded opportunities to gain firsthand knowledge of engineering through field trips to the Columbia Memorial Space Center, the Vincent Thomas Bridge, a helicopter manufacturer, a petroleum refinery, a local airport and an airship operations center. The class will also be competing in the Science Olympiad at Occidental College.

As Torrance High moves into its third year of implementation of the STEM program, we currently over 100 students in the program. We are excited about the additional courses being added, which will give opportunities for more students to join the program.

# Torrance *Adult School*

2606 W. 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4689 ext. 8400 • www.tastusd.org



**Dr. Wayne Diulio**  
*Director*

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Medical Assistant, Pharmacy Technician & Medical Billing and Coding. We also provide educational pathways for students to receive a certificate in the medical fields and programs for students to update their office technical skills. TAS is invested in the success of their students and has staff available to assist them to transfer to a community college or helping them with their employment search where they can utilize their newly acquired office skills.

Additionally, TAS offers a variety of exercise classes at our Levy and Hamilton sites to keep the body in shape as well as the mind. The workout classes are for all ages and different types of physical needs. We have many senior classes, as well as some fast paced classes, such as Zumba. TAS exercise classes are a fabulous opportunity for students to make new friends, raise their heart rate, and “get rowdy.” We can not think of a better way to prepare your mind and body, while meeting your personal, educational, and lifelong learning goals.

# Towers *Elementary*

5600 Towers St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4535 • towers.tusd.org



**Sandy Skora**  
*Principal*

## Club Earth

Towers Elementary School's Club Earth is off to an amazing start for the 2013–2014 school year. The club now is bursting at the seams with more than 90 members! Every Wednesday during lunch, these second- through fifth-grade students tend to the Towers Garden, which has 30 planter boxes and a mini orchard. Every year Club Earth hosts a pumpkin patch in October, presenting each classroom with a pumpkin. They also grow herbs and tomatoes for their annual spaghetti lunch in December.

The activities of the club are funded by the Towers Recycling Program, which allows the students to buy plants, seeds and garden soil. We recently had a visit from Allison Sherman, the recycling coordinator from the city of Torrance, who taught the club how to compost.

The students are looking forward to our spring planting and the annual field trip to the botanical gardens.



# Victor *Elementary*

4820 Spencer St., Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4542 • victor.tusd.org



**Bill Baker**  
*Principal*

## The New Victor Street Garden

The Victor Garden was created 10 years ago through the joint efforts of teacher Mrs. Lauren Snyder, Farmer Ed, and a local Boy Scout troop. Over the last few years the volunteer effort to support it has waned, and the garden has fallen on hard times.

But this past year one teacher, Mr. Jeff Jennewein, along with the help of parent volunteer Donna Shiflett, created the “Awakening the Garden” project. This effort resonates with the vision that we have all shared for this site since its creation in 2004: the desire to bring gardening into the classroom as a means

to explore scientific discovery and apply the life sciences.

Our students are now able to see what it takes to bring food from “garden to table.” Hands-on activities provide Victor students with lessons on water conservation and the importance of using native plants for landscaping and agriculture. Students are now able to discuss the timely and relevant topic of water usage in light of the looming Southern California drought. They can also learn about the use of native plants instead of imported and invasive species.

On a sentimental note, Victor fifth-graders this year were kindergartners five years ago who helped revive this garden with Mrs. Snyder. This truly reflects a “life cycle.”

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 12?



## Walteria *Elementary*

24456 Madison St., Torrance, CA 90505 • 310/533-4487 • www.walteriaelementary.org



**Bobbie Wynhoff**  
*Principal*

### For the Future

The Walteria Wildcats are great students, and we are dedicated to helping them learn the kind of healthy living behaviors that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

One of our activities is the PTA's "Healthy Ever After" program, which provides students with nutritious and good-tasting snack alternatives. We carry this idea even further by making parents and guardians aware of our guidelines about the snacks and entrees that are sold during school hours (SB 12), as well as those we provide in the classrooms during special occasions like the Fun Run.

We are also asking every parent or guardian to provide information about any and all food allergies that their children may have. We have tables available at lunch for those students who need to avoid interaction with any foods that they cannot smell or ingest.

In order to bring more exercise into that healthy lifestyle, Walteria started a running club. With the help of our parent volunteers, the students can now be seen running laps in the grassy part of the playground every Friday before school. Not only are we encouraging movement in each of our students, we are also preparing the third- through fifth-graders for participation in the districtwide elementary track meet. This event will be held in early June, and is always enjoyable.

Walteria believes that learning is an ongoing, lifelong process. Because of this, our students are being given the opportunity to participate in activities that they can use now and in the future.

## Wood *Elementary*

2250 W. 235th St., Torrance, CA 90501 • 310/533-4484 • wood.tusd.org



**Dr. Teresa Lanphere**  
*Principal*

### The School With a Heart

At Howard Wood Elementary, the School with a Heart, the students are very involved in supporting students in need throughout the larger community. We are currently are involved in a campaign to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society called Pennies for Patients. Each year, for three weeks, students are asked to donate pennies or coins which are collected in boxes within their classroom. This year promises to be another great year of support. In the past, we have typically raised about \$1200 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This is a long standing tradition at Howard Wood and just one of the ways in which students at Howard Wood reach out to help others.

### Torrance Unified School District Board of Education



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## West *High School*

20401 Victor, Torrance, CA 90503 • 310/533-4299



**Pam Metz**  
*Principal*

### Robotics and Recognitions

There's a new excitement around campus generated by West High School Robotics. This group, led by Mrs. Evans, has risen quickly over the past four years, recently earning the Rockwell Collins Innovate Award and the Think Award and qualifying for regional competition in San Diego. The team will compete in FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) as a rookie team in March.

In addition to preparing for competitions, team members also mentor Lynn and Jefferson Middle School students. Community support has grown rapidly and includes sponsorship from international science and aeronautics companies. Professionals from these partner companies provide expertise as they work with team members. The team's goal is to make it to the world championships in April.

Many of our other accomplished teams, staff members and students have earned recognitions recently. Mrs. Cortina, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Black earned grants from an international oil company. Grant funding is used to support various hands-on learning projects. Mrs. Sprague was named a National High School Teacher of Excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English. She was one of 16 teachers in the country to receive this honor. Our drill team, under the guidance of Mrs. Eriksen, took part in the halftime show at this year's Sugar Bowl Game in New Orleans.

## Yukon *Elementary*

17815 Yukon Ave., Torrance, CA 90504 • 310/533-4477 • yukon.tusd.org



**Elaine Wassil**  
*Principal*

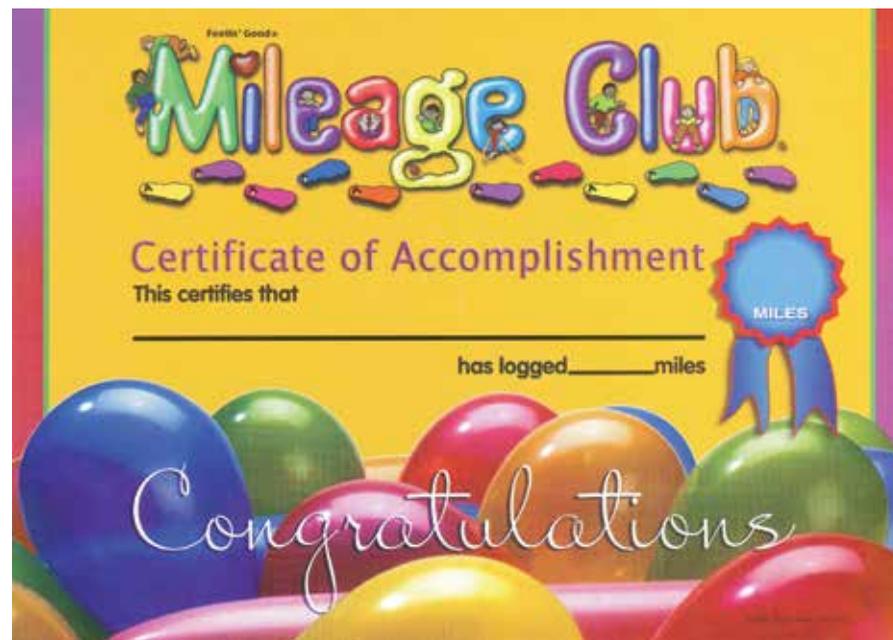
### For a Healthy Mind

How far can you run? If you ask a Yukon Elementary School student, they will tell you "miles and miles." And they won't be kidding!

Our students participate in the Mileage Club every day. They run around a designated track and get a stamp for each completed lap. For every 10 miles they can earn a "shoe" which is awarded at the monthly assemblies, where we also acknowledge the many positive accomplishments of our students.

The shoes are brightly colored, and the students love to collect them and wear them on a necklace. But even more important is the fact that our children are also getting the aerobic exercise they need to keep their brains operating at tip-top shape.

Our students have set big goals for themselves, like computing how far they can run in a straight line. Last year we figured that Yukon students could have run to Washington D.C. and back!



## iFantastic!



Kate Karp

Whether you're teaching a dual-immersion or a bilingual primary class in English and Spanish or if you just want to introduce English-only children to Spanish, Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band's *iFantastic!* fits its title (that's *fantastic*, natch).

The indie-rock band is a combo of accordions, harmonicas, percussion, guitars and vocalists, including Diaz's wife, Alisha Gaddis. The Jam Band's music has been featured on a major soft-drink commercial, and their previous albums have won praise, including being named Best New Children's Artist by *USA Today*. Their latest collection, sung entirely in Spanish, will

have children and parents latching on to the music like a grab bar in a train and joyfully riding it all the way to the last stop.



Some of the songs on the CD were translations of previously recorded Jam Band tunes; the others were written for the CD. "Los números" ("The Numbers") will teach number names in Spanish, and "El gato astronauta," ("The Astronaut Cat"), charming in its own right, will extend the knowledge to simple addition. "A bailar" ("Let's Dance") involves directionality and body awareness through movement and a very catchy tune. "Tres ratones" ("Three Mice")

is a charmer of a repetitive tale: the title characters try to hold on to their own tales in a garden as they hide from a cat. The song's lyrics are simple and a natural fit for the rhythm and the accompanying Dylanesque harmonica played by Joe Harpecat.

The Spanish can be easily translated by anyone with a working knowledge of Spanish. They're available for free download at [www.luckydiazmusic.com](http://www.luckydiazmusic.com).

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



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## Steering Students On the Road to Success



**Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

Since I joined the Los Angeles County Office of Education in 2011, I've made improving instruction in Juvenile Court Schools a top priority. Our staff worked tirelessly on a research project to find the right formula to motivate and engage our students and give them the skills to succeed in school, in the workforce and in their communities.

I'm glad to announce that we have found this formula, and our schools are now steering students on the road to success with a new approach showing promise as a model instructional and intervention program for incarcerated youth.

Called the "Road to Success Academies," this program is based on successful practices piloted at two sites previously targeted for improvement. They include Camp Scott-Scudder in Saugus, the county's only probation camp for girls, and the Challenger Memorial Youth Center in Lancaster.

We have seen a huge turnaround at these schools and improved outcomes for the students they serve. We combined their successful approaches and other key elements to develop a model of instruction we hope to implement throughout our court school system.

At Camp Scott-Scudder, the program was designed to address the many special needs and unique circumstances of girls in the juvenile justice system. The curriculum uses a project-based approach, which engages students in thematic, interdisciplinary learning framed by essential questions that invite them to delve into content in more direct and meaningful ways. The school program involves daily and special activities to promote self-esteem and empower young women to make positive choices and behavioral changes.

For example, the students built solar cookers to learn about scientific and mathematical concepts. While learning, they also aimed to help women in Darfur who would benefit from their project. They also learned about genocide facing those women and held a walkathon to help benefit refugees.

The program demonstrated measurable gains in student learning: the students' reading and math scores went up and more students passed the GED and CAHSEE.

We are honored that the Road to Success Academy has been recognized as an exemplary program. On Dec. 7, the program received the prestigious Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association. This award validates our approach as a promising model of instruction and intervention for our students.

We're excited as we plan to implement this successful approach throughout LACOE's Juvenile Court Schools, which serve at least 1,800 incarcerated and at-risk youth daily at 13 sites countywide.

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nations largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

## College 4 Less

## Inspire Your Kids to Achieve Greatness!



**Susan D. Marshall**

This past month I had the privilege to be on the campuses of both UCLA and UCI for some advanced coursework. I loved it! Just being there made me want to be a part of it. It also made me remember and realize just how important it is to start talking to our children about college by the time they are 5 years old.

Everywhere I looked people were engaged. There were some young scholars in middle school taking summer courses. Other students were studying with laptops, some sitting in groups and working on projects. I laughed when I watched a student walking backwards on a campus tour telling jokes to the incoming freshman and their parents.

Young children were following their parents. Each had books and their own work to do. It made me remember just how important it is to have our children begin experiencing the "college life."

It used to be a few decades ago that a high school degree was essential. Now a college degree is the norm in the workforce. Many times a master's or advanced designations are required.

It may seem like college is a long way off. Unfortunately, it will be here faster that you can imagine. Most parents can't believe how fast the years have passed and they are not emotionally or financially prepared to send their children off to college. Spending time on campus will make it a reality for everyone. The most important thing you can do is to weave college into the fabric of your lives. If you have children in grade school; go see competitions, a play, a game. Spend time on the campus playing softball or hanging out. Just being there will give your child a vision. College will become a part of their vocabulary. Your children will become inspired. Give them a vision of going to college someday. It isn't if you go to college, but when you go to college.

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](mailto:Susan@College4Less.com) or on her Web site at [www.college4less.com](http://www.college4less.com)

## Contest!!

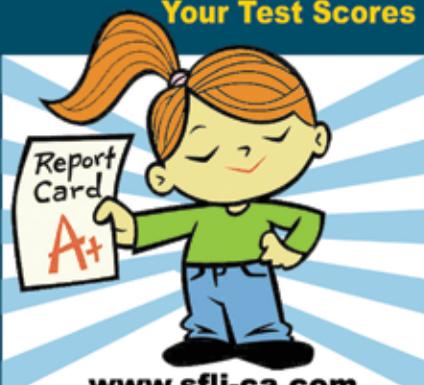
This Mr. Ruler is hidden in this publication two places. When you find it, email the **page numbers** to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
(Please put Torrance in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by **March 15, 2014**  
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From The Boathouse

## Hard Work and Determination



Logan Carter

Coming into the sport of rowing, Logan Carter had no idea what to expect. Many great rowers have some illustrious family history within the sport. In Logan's case, all he knew was that rowing meant water. But once he started rowing, he dove right into the whole experience head first.

Under the guidance of his coaches, Val Stepanchuk, Nick Trojan, and Thomas Graves, Logan improved his training regimen, including correct weight-lifting technique, beneficial erg workouts, and cross-training exercises. Through countless hours at the boathouse, he earned a spot in the MV4X and an opportunity to compete at USRowing Youth National Championships. Logan placed fourth in the grand final by fractions of a second, bringing out his competitive spirit.

Unfortunately, on long the road to nationals, Logan injured himself and struggled with the pain of a protruding disc in his lower lumbar and the disappointment of being unable to row for the summer. After he was cleared by his doctor to begin training again, he returned to the boathouse to find a new addition to his training regimen, two bulky spin bikes that provided a safer alternative to the erg workouts that had caused his injury. The bikes allowed him to continue rowing, and the new training regimen paid off. The following season went gloriously. Logan shattered Marin Rowing Association's two-year winning streak, and it was the first time that Long Beach Junior Crew qualified a heavyweight 8 for nationals. A fourth-place finish in the grand final furthered Logan's desire to medal at nationals, and the chances for that achievement to be realized this season are high.

Nick realizes that his coaches have contributed a great deal to his continued success. Logan's varsity coach, Nick D'Antoni, taught Logan so many invaluable things, about life and the sport of rowing. Thanks to Nick's inspirational leadership, Logan had the opportunity to go to United States National Team High Performance Camp and was selected for youth nationals twice. During Logan's final year as a junior rower, he had the pleasure of training under the wing of Coach Tom Graves. Tom has a reputation within the sport that is second-to-none, and absorbing his wisdom helped Logan further himself as an athlete.

Nick's rowing abilities earned him the attention of some high-caliber universities, including Harvard University, Cornell University, Yale University, the Naval Academy, and George Washington University, where he has chosen to attend school. Rowing truly changed Logan for the better; the sport surrounds rowers in a culture that oozes experience, knowledge, and morality. It opens doors, provides an identity, and raises a young person to learn the values of hard work and determination.

Jack Nunn/Owner, Roworx Indoor Rowing and Fitness Center,  
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FUN



## FRAM Soccer Club 2014 – 2015 Season Tryouts

**Ages U8 – U14**

(born between 7/31/07 – 8/1/00)

FRAM Soccer Club is holding tryouts for the upcoming 2014-2015 soccer season. We will be building new teams in the age groups and are seeking players to strengthen our existing teams.

**All tryouts will be held at Miraleste Intermediate School**

U8 Boys & Girls.....**March 10th, 11th & 17th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U9 Boys & Girls.....**March 12th, 13th & 18th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U10 Boys & Girls.....**March 13th, 19th & 20th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U11 Boys.....**March 11th, 17th & 18th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U11 Girls.....**March 12th, 19th & 20th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U12 Boys & Girls.....**March 10th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
**& March 11th & 20th- 6:00-7:30PM**  
U13 Boys & Girls.....**March 12th, 13th & 19th – 6:00-7:30PM**  
U14 Boys & Girls.....**March 10th, 17th & 18th – 6:00-7:30PM**

Please bring the FRAM Tryout Application form with you to the first try-out session. The form is available for download on the Tryouts Page of the FRAM Soccer Club website.

**FRAM JUNIORS Winter 2014 Skills Session**  
**For players ages 7 to 11**

**The Winter 2014 Session will start the week of**  
**January 13th, 2014 and finish the week of March 17th, 2014**

- The cost of the ten (10) week session is \$155 per child (sibling discount)
- Players attend once a week.
- Session are held 4:00PM - 5:00PM at Palos Verdes Intermediate School – session days not yet finalized
- Register online at [www.framsoccer.com](http://www.framsoccer.com)

**For additional information email [karenc@framsoccer.com](mailto:karenc@framsoccer.com) or (310) 963-7101.**  
**[www.framsoccer.com](http://www.framsoccer.com)**

# So You Think You Can Drive



**Sandy Spurgeon  
McDaniel**

My children are in their 40s, and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since I parented them. One of the most memorable areas of difficulty is when they learned to drive. It is bad enough that your precious baby is on the roller coaster of hormones and exhibiting moments of extreme independence; now he or she wants to get behind the wheel of a car and disappear into the teenage world. Yikes! Besides ensuring that your teen has lots of supervised practice with driving, which will allow him or her to react appropriately when faced with an unexpected situation, it's also important to impress upon your young person the magnitude of the responsibility the privilege of driving entails. Following are some thoughts to share with your children at this important stage of life.

It is critical that your teen understands that driving an automobile is wielding a deadly weapon. You are not only risking your life but someone else's life. Can you live with being the cause of another person's death? My high school pal and I were in her car when a drunk driver ran a signal, broad-sided our car on her side, and killed her. The loss of my friend was horrific! But let's also look at what happened to the man who was driving the car. He awoke from his drunken haze in jail and found out he had killed someone. How do you live with that the rest of your life? His life was forever changed due to a really poor choice.

Today's teens also have to deal with the impact of the world of electronics on their driving. Texting and driving is the same as playing Russian roulette, only the stakes are higher, because more lives are at risk. According to [textinganddrivingsafety.com](http://textinganddrivingsafety.com), there are 1.3 million crashes involving cell phones each year. If you look down for five seconds while driving 55 miles per hour, it is the same as looking down while driving the length of a football field. Too many people have lost their lives or killed someone else while texting and driving. Whatever you have to share can wait.

Drinking and driving is not new, but it is still unacceptable. I warned my children that if they came in from an evening with friends and I could tell they had been drinking or doing drugs, they would lose their driving privileges. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) has plenty of graphic pictures on its Web site, which clearly illustrate that alcohol dulls the clarity of a person's thoughts. Quite a few years ago, my former husband and I came out of a party. I held out my hand for the keys, as he was clearly past his limit. He said he was fine. I started walking down the street. Angry, he let me drive home, and halfway there he passed out. What could've happened had he driven home? I'm glad I don't have to know. Alcohol inhibits your ability to make wise choices, so it should never be mixed with driving.

Distracted drivers are also a danger on the road. Driving a car requires your full attention. Reaching into the glove box, turning to talk to friends, or singing and bouncing around, as in the movie "The Blind Side," distracts a driver. Once on a winding road on the coast, a van filled with teenagers tried to navigate at too great a speed. Passengers were killed and one girl paralyzed when the van rolled. The driver was not drunk or on drugs; he simply disengaged from driving and was unable to navigate a curve.

All of these behaviors need to be emphasized with young drivers. But they all boil down to one truth of life: you always need to be responsible and make good choices. From incurring parking tickets or allowing someone else to drive your car to driving while intoxicated, poor choices have serious consequences for your teen, and he or she should know that before you hand over the keys.

Finally, before you send your teen out on the road solo for the first time, remind your child how much you love him or her. Let your teen know that you are aware of the dangers driving may impose and you trust him or her to make good choices. When your child knows that your trust is at risk, hopefully he or she will think twice before making a life-threatening poor decision.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 35 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho [www.ParentingSOS.com](http://www.ParentingSOS.com) and Kindle



## Car Parts 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Torrance in subject line)

**Entries must be received by March 15, 2014**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |          |          |             |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| antenna  | gearbox  | radio       |
| armrest  | hitch    | seats       |
| belts    | hood     | speedometer |
| blinker  | hubcaps  | starter     |
| brakes   | ignition | wheels      |
| bumper   | key      | windshield  |
| engine   | lock     | wipers      |
| fenders  | mirror   |             |
| gas tank | muffler  |             |

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

## IS TXTNG Ruining SPELNG?

Dear Dr. Shari,



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

I heard that the habit of texting is destroying our ability to spell. That terrified me. My kids are constantly texting and online. They are constantly using things like “lol” and shortening words. Do you really think texting is that bad? I don’t know how to view this or what to do!  
—Mari - NY

**Hello Mari!**

Think about this: one of the ways you learn to spell is viewing and writing the word -correctly. You learned the words of our language by seeing them, reading them, and writing them, correctly, over and over again.

Now, let’s say you are seeing horrific simplifications, even “made-up” words... over and over again. The question is, are we subconsciously “re-learning” to improperly spell words by “short cutting” and abbreviating so frequently as in texts, tweets and emails? Hmmmmmm. Logic tells us, “Of course.”

In the old days, anyone over the age of ten, when seeing a misspelled word, would view it as something to be corrected. The non-word “thot” or “laf” would elicit a giggle and a quick correction. No longer! Now, it is expected.

Our brain is constantly at war between what we know is a proper spelling: T-H-O-U-G-H-T and our desire to communicate more expeditiously: thot. The average adult might have a stronger sense of differentiation between correct and incorrect spelling....but what happens to a child who experiences the shortcuts as the norm?

If you see a “non-word” like “thot” one hundred times, does it register in your brain as the correct spelling? Eventually, the brain has to pick one, right?!

I suppose that depends on a few factors. Let’s consider these:

**Age:** I, for example, am a classic offender.

I text and tweet daily. I rarely bother to punctuate a quick text. Then again, I was deep into adulthood before texting, tweeting and emailing. Does my core knowledge of spelling and grammar remain dominant? Let’s hope so (I’m afraid to ask my editors).

What about an eight year old who is learning (and feverishly using) text spelling on a daily basis, before a solid framework of spelling and grammar is developed?

**Comparative Frequency:** If a child is texting and tweeting more often than “real” reading and writing, is he destined to become a terrible speller?

Mari, we both know that texting, tweeting and punctuation shortcuts are here to stay, given how many machines we use to communicate these days. And with the desire to communicate IMMEDIATELY, we can probably expect to move into symbols and even more non-words. That doesn’t mean you should give up!

Here are the best three suggestions I can offer as a response to your heartfelt question.

Fortunately most teachers won’t allow the shortcuts and are just as diligent about taking a red pen to a misspelled word. This should keep us in line, for a while!

More reading, results in improved spelling ability and improved grammar. Read to your kids, (have them follow along) read with them.

Writing real letters and making use of the rules of grammar is an important skill to develop if you expect to be taken seriously in the professional world. Practice it!

in shrt, i thnk U R rite. its bad, We R rsing kds who wnt be abl to spll.  
Good luck Mari!

**TEACHERS! Tell us YOUR experience with this topic! Are we becoming terrible spellers because of texting?**

Write to: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com) with I’M A TEACHER! in the subject line, and share your thoughts!

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com), [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com), twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

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## Parent To Parent

### Confidence for Beginning Drivers



Jodie Lynn

**Question:** Our son is planning on getting his driving permit this summer. This means he will be able to drive on his own without supervision. What are some easy guidelines to make him feel more comfortable about driving that we could set up for him so we don’t constantly nag him or make him feel uncomfortable?

**From Jodie:** When our teenagers got their license, we had already let them drive around our neighborhood high school parking lot when there were no other cars. We practiced parallel parking, backing up, going around soccer cones, and in and out of them, while they were still new drivers. However, when it came time for driving in real traffic, even though they knew most of the traffic signs and procedures, it was clear that they simply needed more experience with real-life driving situations. They needed to understand what was required of them while driving in rain, sleet, snow and ice. They also needed to become comfortable with busy streets, highways, overpasses, etc. Driving schools, pretty much meet the requirements needed to give them the confidence that they lacked in these specific areas. The one-on-one attention with an adult who wasn’t going to be grading or nagging them was exactly what was missing. Of course, in today’s society, making sure that teens do not text and drive, is also one of the missing elements. SnapSecure created an infographic to illustrate the dangers of texting and driving and offer a driver’s safety app which disables texting, calling and internet functions of a phone when you are driving over 15mph. Helpful for parents who are worried about the safety of their teens, the motion activated technology also alerts parents if the block is removed.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com) for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

## Distracted Driving Kills



Karley Cable



Karley Cable, (16) has formed a new non-profit organization: The M.A.D. Movement=Making/A/Difference. “It’s a group of socially-conscious artists using their talents to make the world a better place.” She created a website: <http://themadmovement.weebly.com> and is working on her first big project: A ‘Don’t Text and Drive/It Can Wait’ awareness campaign being sponsored by Verizon, AT&T and several local businesses.

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