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Covering the Wiseburn School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 13

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

MARCH-MAY 2013

SUPERINTENDENT



Wiseburn Unification and Wiseburn High School Project Closing in on Success

As we move deeper into 2013, the Wiseburn School District continues to forge ahead on two very significant fronts: Wiseburn unification and the Wiseburn High School Project.

There is much excitement in the community as Wiseburn gets closer to establishing a beautiful high school facility that will be the centerpiece of the Wiseburn community in the decades that lie ahead. On January 11, 2013, the district started the 45-day public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Wiseburn High School. The school district is in escrow on a four-story, 336,000-square-foot building located at 201 North Douglas Avenue in El Segundo. After the public review period is completed at the end of February, the district plans to hold a public hearing and approve the Final EIR on March 21, 2013 and close escrow in late April.

Also of great interest to the Wiseburn High School project is the district approval of an architect on January 24. The architectural firm will be Gensler Architects, a very prominent architectural firm in Los Angeles and all over the world. In Los Angeles they recently completed the Ritz-Carlton/WH Marriott complex in Downtown Los Angeles, and currently they are working on the prospective Farmer's Field. Gensler has been involved in many building conversions throughout the United States and has also been highly involved in the South Bay. The goal will be to submit plans to

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Wiseburn Administrators Earn Honors



Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent, and Pepperdine University's Superintendent of the Year and Mrs. Aileen Harbeck, Dana Middle School Principal, and ACSA's Middle School Principal of the Year with this year's Geography Bee winners.

By Chris Jones, Ed.D. Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology

Dr. Tom Johnstone: Pepperdine University Superintendent of the Year

Since 2008, Superintendent Dr. Tom Johnston has led the Wiseburn School District toward new levels of success. His boundless energy and determination to create innovative programs designed to help all students succeed have resulted in his being designated as Superintendent of the Year for 2013 by Pepperdine University. This distinction caps off a year of unprecedented milestones achieved by Wiseburn in student academic performance, facilities upgrades, and significant progress in the long-desired movement towards a unified K-12 Wiseburn School District.

Before joining the Wiseburn School District, Dr. Johnstone was a familiar face around town, as two of his children attended Anza School, where his wife Terry is a first-grade teacher. Dr. Johnstone had established his professional reputation in the area by faithfully serving students in the Lennox School District for 28 years as a teacher, counselor, principal, and district official for both curriculum/instruction and human resources. Upon his arrival in Wiseburn, Dr. Johnstone was able to utilize these experiences to hit the ground running, which fits both his personal and leadership styles: always moving forward!

See WISEBURN ADMINISTRATORS • Page 13

Seeking the Truth of Ancestry

By Mwikali B. Hayes, Special Education Day Class Teacher, at Dana Middle School

By day – I am Mwikali B. Hayes, a Special Education Day Class Teacher, at Dana Middle School. By night – I am a student seeking the truth beyond the accepted belief of my ancestry.

I have always had a burning desire to know more about my family tree. Unfortunately, my research kept hitting blocks past the 1900s. This is common with African Americans due to the lack of accurate historical records inherent in the institution of slavery in America. My curiosity about my lineage stalled with Mrs. Clementine Parker, my Great Grandmother, receiving the deed to land from our slave master, Jean Alvarez Latorre on March 20,

1886 in St. Charles Parish in Louisiana. Clementine Parker was the Mother of Poppa, who was my Grandfather on

my mother's side of the family. Poppa died before I was born. His wife, my Grandmother, Mary Lynn, died in childbirth when my mother was only 6 years old. To date the information researched after her death is very sketchy. This was disheartening, but not discouraging.

Every now and then I would read articles or friends' first-hand accounts about DNA testing that could locate the country and tribe(s) where one's ancestor or ancestress enslavement began in Africa. So in October, 2010, I decided to contact AfricanAncestry.com for a MatriClan DNA kit. The MatriClan



Mary Lynn Parker Mwikali's grandmother

See SEEKING THE TRUTH • Page 14

Anza PTA

Linda Cessor, President • 310/725-2150

The Spirit of Connecting

In light of the recent and devastating tragedy that occurred in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, the Juan de Anza PTA would like to express our deepest condolences, prayers and thoughts of care for the families, friends and community members who were so deeply impacted by this event, and now struggle to rebuild their community. It is in light of this tragedy, and the others before it, that all of us should reflect upon our connections with each other and how we can make them even stronger.

We should also reflect on the generous acts of kindness, of volunteerism and monetary contributions, that our own family, friends and community members make each day to help support our children and our schools. It never ceases to amaze me how even in these suppressed financial times, our PTA has benefitted so generously from the support of our membership, and is able to provide continuous, annual funding for over 21 school programs and one-time expenses.

This year alone, in addition to our continuing programs, we were able to fund five one-time expenses for school equipment, which totaled over \$13,000.

In keeping with the spirit of “connecting,” Anza is proud to be hosting this year’s Rock Around the Block event, which is scheduled for April 20, 2013. This will be a great opportunity for us to bring all of our schools together and share a family fun day.

So mark your calendars and be sure to attend this festive event. The proceeds will support the Wiseburn Education Foundation.

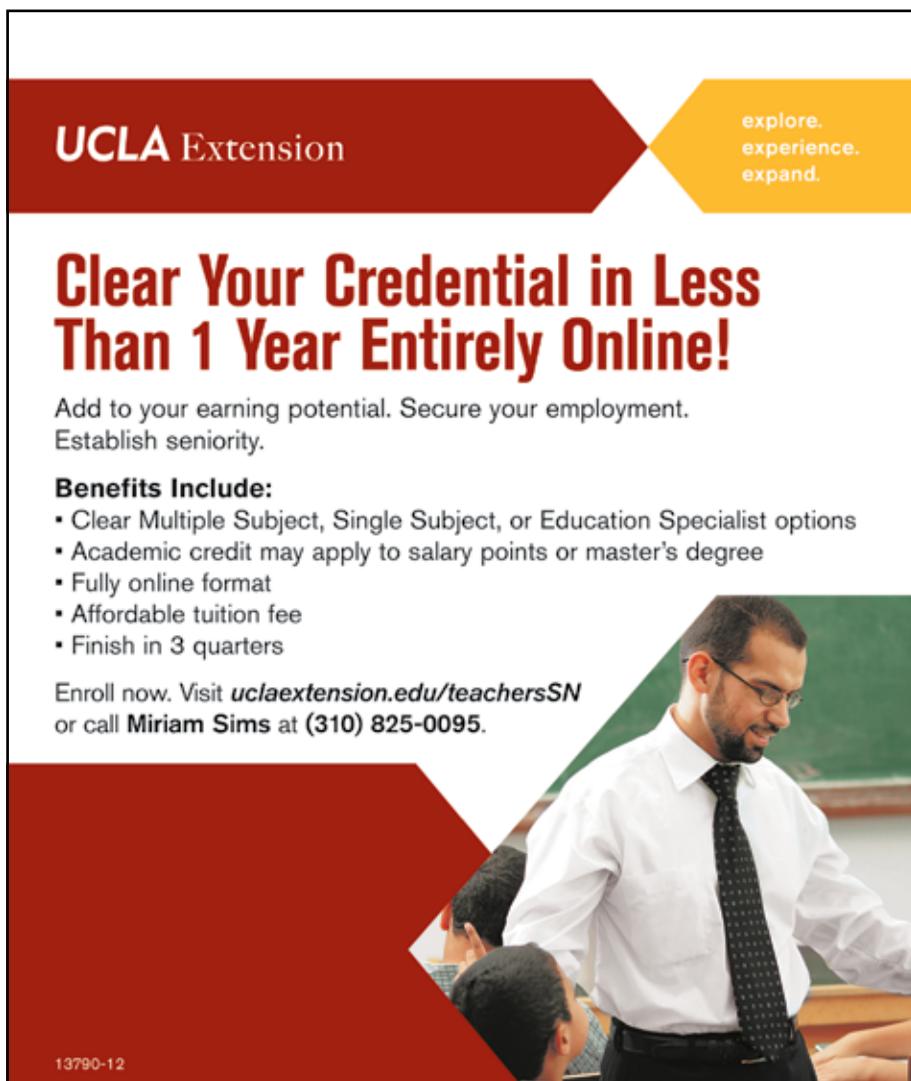


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Cabrillo PTA

Anne Tittle, President • 310/725-5400

Courtesy of Our PTA

The Cabrillo PTA has had a busy start to 2013! On January 7, Mrs. Lynch gave a special presentation before the regular PTA meeting about our School Safety Plan. The Cabrillo teachers and staff have spent a great deal of time to help make Cabrillo a safe place for our Cubs. We want to thank Mrs. Lynch for her informative presentation, and also thank the parents who came to this meeting.

We also had our Island’s Fundraiser in January, which raised \$664 for the Cabrillo PTA in just a few hours! Thank you to the many families who braved both the crowds and the rain to come out and eat dinner at Island’s. The funds that are raised at our restaurant nights help pay for field trips, equipment, and educational enhancements such as the IDAP dance lessons with Mrs. Dawn Dyson.

In fact, some of our Cabrillo Cubs have just completed their series of six dance lessons with Mrs. Dyson, and some classes are just beginning the series. Thank you to the many teachers who have invited our parents to watch their final class lessons. Just ask your Cabrillo Cub about what he or she has learned from Mrs. Dyson!

In addition to the IDAP lessons, the Cabrillo PTA also brought art (and parent volunteers) into our children’s classrooms through the Hands on Art program. Thank you to Liza Somilleda, who wrote lesson plans, coordinated supplies, and replenished our one-and-only “Hands on Art Cart” two times each day for almost three weeks!

Thank you also to the parent volunteers who helped our Cabrillo Cubs make their Hands on Art quilt squares in the classrooms. In addition to learning about textiles, the students also learned about geometry and history through the Hands on Art quilting project.

Our Cabrillo PTA is now looking for volunteers to help assemble these squares into quilts. The final product will be displayed throughout the school, and then be used to represent the Wiseburn School District at a local art show in June.

There was a lot of fun planned for February and March, including our Coin Drive and Ice Skating Day on February 18. Our third-annual Membership Spaghetti Dinner was held on March 1, and we honored Dr. Seuss’ birthday with a “Cat in the Hat” theme at the Spaghetti Dinner.

Finally, the Cabrillo PTA is proud to sponsor two parent education opportunities. On Wednesday, April 10, from 1–2 p.m., and again on Tuesday, April 16, from 6:30–7:30 p.m., the PTA will present two special lectures: Speech and Language Development, and Behavior Management. Each topic will run twice at each session, so you may attend one or both.

Childcare will be provided, but only if you RSVP to CabrilloPTA.Board@gmail.com. Please join us and the community to learn more about speech and language developmental milestones, and how to successfully manage your child’s behavior.

The Cabrillo PTA Presents: Parent and Community Education, Wednesday, April 10 from 12 p.m.; or Tuesday, April 16, from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at Cabrillo.

Topics: Speech/Language Development in Children, and Behavior Management in Children.

Each topic will be presented in a one-half hour session. Come for one-half hour to hear one topic, or stay for the full hour and hear both. Childcare will be provided for those who RSVP to CabrilloPTA.Board@gmail.com.

This event is open to anyone in the Wiseburn Community who would like to attend!

Dana PTA

Annamarie Atain, President • 310/725-4700

Call Out to New Members!

The Dana PTA is seeking new board members for the 2013–14 school year. Many of the current members have their last child at Dana and are moving on to the world of high school. If you are the parent of a fifth-grader at Burnett or Anza, please consider volunteering at the middle school level. Even if you’ve never been especially active in the PTA before, don’t worry—we’d love to have you!

Many parents lessen their school involvement when their children reach the middle school. But it’s a really critical time to be involved! We need more parents! Do any current sixth- or seventh-grade parents feel like they want to become more active? We’d love to have you, too! It’s a great way to get to know the school and feel like a part of the community. Please e-mail Ellen at etolv@aol.com if you might be interested. Dana PTA needs you.

Change and Hope

By Bill Magoon, Co-Founder/Vice President

The coming of any new year always brings new changes. 2012 stands out as an election year, and one in which we collectively grappled with a whole host of issues to decide on, up to and including our president. Election Day came and went, with the results, it seems, in the minds of many that change was something folks were looking for, as many items on our voting ballots were passed by the majority, including the reelection of our incumbent president. Now, in the early days of 2013, one has to only watch the news or read the papers to know the door has been opened that will undoubtedly bring changes, some of which may impact us in ways we could not have imagined.

A change for us here in Wisburn was hearing that our SLA Sheriff's Station captain had accepted another assignment within the department. Captain Dendo had been our station captain for the past five years. He will surely be missed by all of us who had the pleasure to work with him during his tenure at SLA. The Wisburn community wishes him all the best in his new position. His replacement, Captain Vera, has assumed command of SLA Station, and we welcome him openly and hope to forge the same close bond we all shared with Captain Dendo.

News on the home front: The latest news for our community is that LA County officials have informed us that our neighborhood, supposedly for sure this time, is slated for a road-improvement project in the near future. It is clear to many of us who live in Wisburn that we are definitely in need of a face lift. The county tells us there will be a community meeting regarding this endeavor soon, but as of this writing, no hard date has been set. As soon as we know, we will be sure to get the word out.

Back in December, Wisburn Watch held our signature Santa Stop/Toy Drive Event. The recipient of our toy drive was the California Highway Patrol's "Chips for Kids" program. Wisburn residents donated yet another truckload of toys to this very worthy cause. We also had Christmas carolers from the Wisburn Schools who sang for everyone along the route. We also had hot cocoa and

snack stands set up by our residents. This event, as in years past, was a huge success, and old Mother Nature held off with the rain until we were almost done. So all in all, it was truly another fun-filled evening. Pictures, hopefully, will be up on our website very soon.

The Wisburn Community Walking Path Project, comprising the unimproved land area along La Cienega—the east side of the 405 Freeway between 129th and 139th streets, continues to progress and is moving forward. It is our hope that all the legal affairs, proper sign-offs and loose ends will be cleared up soon, and maybe with a little luck, we might be able to actually break ground this coming summer.

Wisburn Community Crime: Our overall crime issues continue to decline, which is, of course, a good thing. However, even with the founding of Wisburn Watch and the wonderful working relationships we have with our law enforcement partners, our Achilles' heel is and continues to be vehicle crime. But in the big picture, the Wisburn community is no better or worse off than most of our surrounding South Bay cities and areas. Unfortunately though, as most law enforcement agencies continue to feel the pinch of ongoing budget cuts and lack of funding, this scourge will likely continue.

So often, the question becomes, what can we do? In addition to taking the obvious steps to discourage criminal behavior, you can also be a good neighbor by looking out for suspicious persons or activities in your area. It is a simple fact that nobody knows a neighborhood better than the people who live there. Law enforcement now more than ever relies heavily on the assistance of concerned, responsible residents to report suspicious persons or activity. If you see something that looks suspicious, do the right thing and report it immediately. Ultimately, when it's all said and done, the timely response of law enforcement toward any crime relies on you, the citizen, as it is you who are on the front lines of crime prevention within your neighborhood.

Lastly, Wisburn Watch continues to grow and flourish, with more residents joining the watch group all the time. We cordially invite any homeowners, property owners and renters residing within the LA County unincorporated community of Wisburn—properties located east of the 405 Freeway, west of Inglewood Avenue, south of El Segundo Boulevard and north of Rosecrans Avenue—to join us by attending a Watch meeting. To join, or for more information, you can contact us through our website.

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5355 W. 124th Place	3	2	1,447	1950	\$607,500	02/20/13
4926 W. 135th Street	4	2	2,160	1944	\$515,900	01/04/13
4843 W. 138th Street	3	2	1,805	1975	\$490,000	01/29/13
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Congratulations Are in Order

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

First and foremost, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne wants to congratulate the Wiseburn School District on the passage of Measure CL. As one of the youth program stakeholders, we supported this measure because our students, the majority of whom play in the region, will benefit from the protection of academic programs. The measure will assist with physical and learning disabilities or special needs, further preparation for success in college and universities, fostering the preparation for 21st-century jobs, and most importantly, retaining excellent teachers. The phone calls, distribution of flyers, neighborhood door-to-door visits and community barbecue were all well worth the effort. With such a high margin of victory, we are proud of the voters of the Wiseburn community, who understood the importance of providing a world-class education within the boundaries of our district.

As we begin the preparation of the upcoming season, we wanted to advise the community that there has been a change in leadership for AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne. Ramon Pulido has handed the torch to Darryl Letchworth. During the past decade, Ramon has directed our organization to an unprecedented level of growth through his leadership skills. He has performed every volunteer position in the region, giving unselfishly of his time. Ramon will not be going anywhere, as he will assist Darryl in his new duties and continue to referee and coach his grandson. Please join us in welcoming Darryl Letchworth as the new regional commissioner for AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne.

As Always, Safety First

The focus of this edition of *School News Roll Call* is safety. AYSO takes this subject very seriously. Safety is such a fundamental part of the AYSO experience that safety director is a required position on a region board. Important items to ensure overall safety include inspecting field equipment; advising families of dangerous weather and other unsafe conditions; overseeing the compliance of recommended adult-to-child ratio; managing the player, field and equipment insurance programs and processes; being available and knowledgeable to answer questions from coaches, referees and parents; coordinating with the child volunteer protection advocate to implement the AYSO Safe Haven Program; ensuring that AYSO policies regarding medical release forms, shin guards and blood-borne diseases are disseminated to region officials; making sure that a reasonable number of first-aid kits are available at all playing sites; and promoting preventive programs.

This year we will see the use for the full year and thereafter of the new snack stand and restrooms. Both AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne and the Wiseburn National Little League will have access to this wonderful addition to the Dana Sports Complex. We look forward to the start of the construction of a new state-of-the-art soccer field as approved in the bond measure. There is no discussion about lights for the existing fields, although the infrastructure is in place, but it is felt that the fields that will be built at the current Da Vinci site are likely a better fit for field lights.

Region 21 Hawthorne completed the fall season in December 2012. Boys' and girls' teams from the Under-10 through Under-14 program who won their respective division titles went on to compete in the Area 1-D Beach Cities League Championship Cup. Although all Hawthorne teams played with heart and enthusiasm, we had three teams receive medals. Congratulations to BU-14 Coach Chavez, first place; BU-12 Coach Molina, second place; and GU-10 Coach Herrera, third place. At the time of this writing, we are approaching final weekend of the Area 1-D Beach Cities All-Star Championship Cup. We have a number of teams in contention for a medal. In the U16-19 Division, Hawthorne did very well capturing first in BU-19 with Coach Hiney, third in BU-19 and fourth in GU-19 with Coach Rayas, and third in BU-16 with Coach Heredia. Congratulations to all the teams!

Friendship Festival Especially Meaningful

In January, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne hosted the 13th Annual VIP Friendship Festival for mentally and physically challenged players. Over 75 players from all over Southern California converged on the Dana playfields to participate in this all-day event. The feedback from the parents is they can't wait until next year to come back to Dana and expose their children to this experience. We want to thank all the sponsors who provided goods and services to make the event a success.

We once again want to thank the Wiseburn School District for the use of all soccer fields—Anza, Aviation, Cabrillo and Dana. As stated earlier, we are looking forward to the next and final field to be constructed on the current Da Vinci School site. We are all hoping this will be an artificial-turf field to complement the state-of-the-art schools.

Please watch out for flyers and banners advertising our 2013-14 fall sign-up in the months of May and June. Check the Region 21 Hawthorne website for registration dates and locations.

The success of AYSO is based on the hard work of volunteers. Every aspect of running the region depends on individuals who step up to be coaches, assistant coaches, referees, team moms, team dads or board members. If you want to be part of a world-class and unique experience, carve some time out of your busy schedule and volunteer. If you're interested in volunteering or if you have any questions about our program, please contact Danny Juarez at aysobigdog@att.net or call (310) 335-0242.

See you all on the pitch (soccer field)!

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For more information, please call our Rainbow Office 310-379-4912
www.rainbowrivercdc.com

Friday May 3rd

Dana Junior High School Auditorium

5:30-9:00p.m.

Wisburn Little League

310/289-4113 • www.wisburnlittleleague.org

From the Dugout

By Andrew Goslin, President

Wisburn Little League is off to a great start for the 2013 season. The league has grown substantially this year, adding several new teams to each division including a reinvigorated softball division, a new intermediate (50/70) division and stronger partnerships with area Little Leagues, most notably Aviation Little League. Games for the 2013 season are well underway, and players have shown tremendous improvement in a short amount of time.

Thanks to the many hours of hard work and the full support of the school district and AYSO Region 21, our snack stand is in full operation. We now have a substantial improvement on available facilities to serve the community and turn our shared-use field into a true community gathering spot.

Wisburn Little League would like to extend an enormous thank-you to everyone who has helped make the bathroom/snack-stand building a reality, including the Wisburn School Board, AYSO Region 21, the Wisburn Little League board and auxiliary board, and all the volunteers who have provided countless volunteer hours to help make this snack stand a big success.

Wisburn Little League has in its schedule dozens of baseball and softball games planned at every age level through the month of June. Any community member, whether you have children in the league, is welcome to come out and enjoy a hot dog or french fries and catch a game. Come on out to the ball field!

Wisburn Little League is fully committed to providing a quality, safe and fun baseball and softball experience for the children of the Wisburn and Holly Glen communities. All children ages 4-16, regardless of ability, gender or disability, are welcome to play. Please visit our website for additional information.

Wisburn Little League: Teaching character, courage, and sportsmanship.

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Dr. Matthew Wunder
Executive Director

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In his 2013 State of the Union Address, President Obama spoke about exciting new investments states are making to make college more affordable and prepare our kids for success so they are better equipped for the demands of a high-tech economy. The President announced a new challenge to redesign America's high schools saying he would "reward schools that develop new partnerships with colleges and employers, and create classes that focus on science, technology, engineering and math – the skills today's employers are looking for to fill jobs right now and in the future."

We applaud the President for his emphasis on partnerships and STEM education – two components that we believe are critical to student success. We also know that our students aren't all future tech workers and need a well-rounded liberal arts education so they acquire the knowledge, 21st century skills and habits of mind – including empathy, collaboration and other so-called "soft skills" – to solve the myriad challenges facing our society.

The Wiseburn School District, including Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design, have been engaging in exactly the kind of systemic reform that President Obama, Bill Gates, and other education leaders say is needed to increase student success and prepare students for college and careers.

In just four years, Da Vinci Schools' innovative work in college-preparation and real world learning has been recognized locally, regionally and nationally with a prestigious Next Generation Learning Challenges grant, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Da Vinci's first graduating class, the Class of 2012, achieved a 98% graduation rate, 87% of whom were accepted into 4-year universities and 98% of graduates successfully completed their "A-G" requirements for UC/ CSU admission. This last statistic is especially striking when compared with other South Bay high schools. At Redondo Beach High School, just 42% of students completed their A-G coursework according to the latest results published in the Daily Breeze. At Manhattan Beach's Mira Costa High School, the college-ready rate is 84%. In El Segundo, the college-ready rate is 61%, and in Torrance's four high schools, the rate is between 50 and 60%.

Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design offer a college preparatory curriculum for the 21st century providing a rigorous and well-rounded liberal arts education that is infused with real-world and project-based learning, internships, industry-based seminars, college classes (at no cost to families), comprehensive college counseling, partnerships with top industry and education leaders, a small and personalized learning community, and much more. We believe we have taken the best aspects of a traditional comprehensive high school and combined them with a small and personalized learning environment that is the hallmark of a Wiseburn education.

Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design's overarching goal is to get all students to and through college and into meaningful careers offering competitive salaries. Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science serve students with a wide range of learning styles and needs, including special education and gifted and talented students. Both schools have students who aspire to be doctors, lawyers, business leaders and many careers beyond engineering and design. Da

Vinci Science approaches learning using a scientific methodological approach to problem solving. Da Vinci Design uses a creative problem solving approach called design thinking. Both approaches are well suited to most, if not all, students.

Both Da Vinci high schools offer a comprehensive array of electives, seminars, sports and arts opportunities for students to explore their special talents and interests.

This semester, Da Vinci offers intramural Cross Country, and fitness electives including Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Softball, Running/Marathon, Cross-Fit, Yoga, Ultimate Frisbee, Archery, Walk & Talk, Body by Design, and Physical Fitness.

Current arts opportunities include: Digital Art, Drama, Dance, Guitar, Music Appreciation, Improvisation, Digital Painting, Modern Muralist, Journalism, Mock Trial, Art History, Theory and Design of Games, 3D Trash Art, Art & Design 1-4, Glass, Make-Up, Sewing, Needlepoint, Spanish Literature & Culture Through Latino Film, and History of Film & Modern War. Additionally, professors from Art Center College of Design are teaching classes at Da Vinci Design in Illustration, Industrial Design, Architecture, and Design 360.

The Wiseburn School District, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design are committed to significantly expanding sports and performing arts opportunities for students as facilities and funding allow.

Partnerships for Success

Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design have formed "early college" partnerships with El Camino College, Antioch University Los Angeles, and Foothill-De Anza Community College District so students can get a head-start on their college education by earning college credit while simultaneously earning their high school diploma. By taking advantage of early college/dual enrollment courses at Da Vinci, many students may be able to significantly reduce the time and cost of obtaining a degree by earning one year of transferable college credit or more – tuition-free.

Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design also have formed powerful partnerships with many top industry leaders including Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Raytheon, Chevron, Belkin, Mattel, DIRECTV, Deutsch, Gensler, Karter Design, and many others. These industry leaders provide financial support and much more. They participate with our schools as mentors, work experience partners, guest speakers, job shadows and more. Our industry partners also help us design curriculum by defining the real world knowledge and 21st century skills students need to know to succeed in the workplace.

I believe Da Vinci Schools are a great fit for all students. But don't just take my word. Dr. David Brown, the Executive Director of the WASC accrediting agency said, "Da Vinci Schools are among the very finest I've seen."

Wiseburn residents are guaranteed enrollment at Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design. I encourage you to come visit and see first-hand Da Vinci's amazing students, passionate teachers, and rigorous, relevant and engaging curriculum. Each school has Project Exhibition Nights and Presentations of Learning at the end of each semester. For more information, please visit us online at www.davincischools.org. Visitors are always welcome!

Contest!!

Dr. Seuss' hat is hidden in this publication. When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put Wiseburn)
in the subject line)



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Siam Bay Thai Cuisine
Starbucks Coffee
Steve's Burgers
Stix & Straws
Stuff Pizza
Taco Mex
The Soup Bar
The Tavern on Main
Vinny's Pizza
Wendy's Place Café

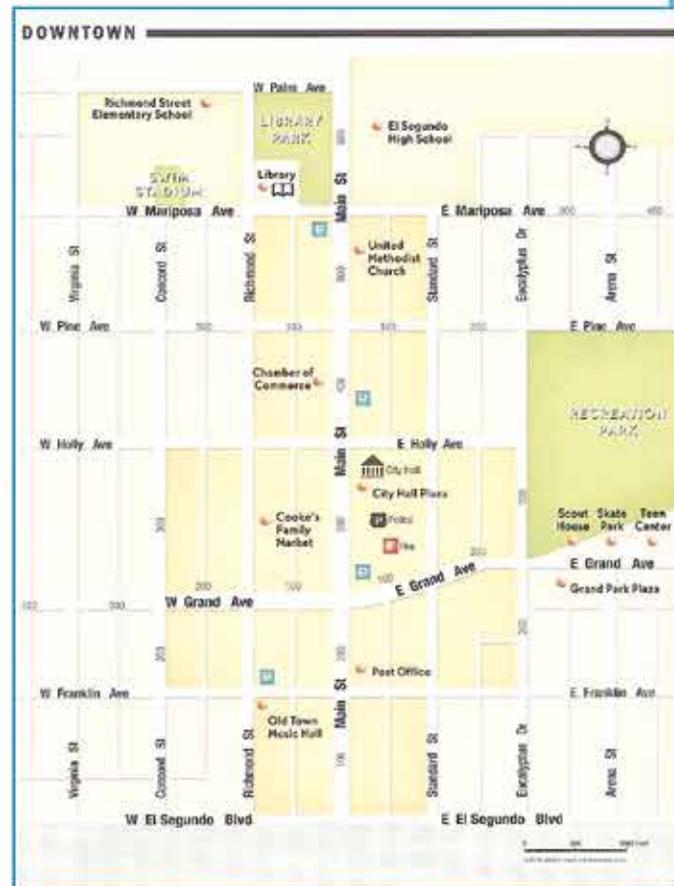


Downtown EL SEGUNDO

Discover Downtown El Segundo

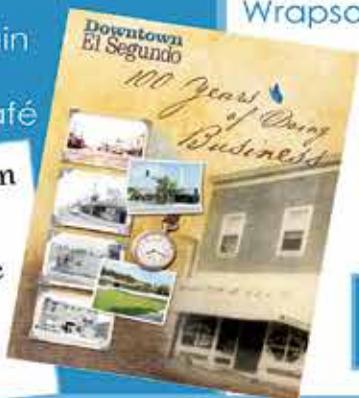
Enjoy a walk along beautiful tree lined streets as the incredible aromas from over 50 restaurants entice your taste buds. Discover unique stores tempting you with fabulous selections from the hottest designer fashions to popular surfwear. A sampling of fabulous Downtown El Segundo Retailors...

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Juan de Anza *Elementary (K-5)*

12110 Hindry Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2100 • www.anzaeagles.org



Sarah Nitsos
Principal

Being Proactive

The Anza family is having a wonderful school year filled with academic success and community involvement. With the support of our staff members, PTA, parent volunteers and community partners, we are continuing to build memories and support a legacy of excellence.

Student safety is one of the top priorities here at Anza. To ensure this safety we have an emergency protocol manual that is reviewed annually by all of our teachers, staff and School Site Council members. It contains procedures for our fire, earthquake, lockdown, and shelter-in-place drills. In addition to this review we also have school-wide monthly drills as well, which help us refine our actions to ensure the safety of everyone at Anza.



Drop and Cover drill for The Great California Shake Out.

In October we participated in the Great California Shake-Out, where we ran our drill as if a major earthquake had just occurred. This allowed our staff to not only practice moving the students away from the building, but also to work with the specialized committees that are dedicated to ensuring the safety of all.



Our staff preparing for emergencies.

Bullying too is a topic of national attention. So we at Anza have been taking a proactive approach through a partnership with local insurance agent Euvonka Farabee Warren. At the beginning of the year we were contacted with an exciting opportunity to receive a special grant that would provide our school with a "Bully Alert" message each week.

The main message of the Bully Alert program is that, "A bully is a person who hurts others on purpose (even if it's just hurting their feelings), but a hero is a person who helps others! So choose to be a hero by helping, instead of a bully by hurting."

These messages are presented in short, positive stories about real people. The classrooms spend a few minutes after each announcement discussing the week's message. Feel free to listen to all of the different stories by visiting www.thecharacternetwork.org



The Lions and Tiger's Club.



The Lions and Tiger's Club shares facts they have learned with a report.

A Passion for Activism

We are also empowering our students to be agents of change in the world around them, and proactive in their approach. A few months ago a group of third-graders had watched a Discovery Channel special about lions and tigers. Upon arriving to school they had gathered together to discuss what they'd learned. They then scheduled a time to meet with me, as they had become quite concerned about the plight of lions and tigers and felt called upon to make a difference.

Seeing their passion for activism, I quickly supported their vision, and helped them organize the kind of letter writing campaign that they had envisioned. A thick packet of letters was then sent off to the White House. On Monday, January 28, we received a reply from the President himself.

I echo his sentiments that, "America's potential can be measured by the creative ideas and inquisitive minds of our students." We can all make a difference when we put our minds to the task, no matter how big or small. Anza will continue to move forward in doing its best to be proactive.

Peter Burnett *Elementary School (3-5)*

5403 W. 138th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2151 • www.peterburnett.org



Laura Sullivan
Principal

School Safety

One of the most important components of an excellent school is its partnership with the community. Both groups work towards the development of our children. So we often ask ourselves, how can we protect our most valuable resource, our students?

It is important for schools and parents to work together to keep our children safe. Each school in the Wiseburn district has thusly implemented emergency drills and procedures that should be taken seriously by all.

Children need to know what they should do in the event of a school emergency. It is imperative too for our parents to understand the different types of school drills and pick-up procedures. Various drills are practiced throughout the year, and parents should regularly discuss these important emergency procedures with their children.

In addition to our fire, earthquake, shelter-in-place, evacuation and drop drills, other tools have been added to help support our students in the event that an emergency should occur outside the classroom. Each drill provides new information about our procedures, and so we constantly evaluate them each month.

An open forum was held during our January PTA meeting, where the parents had an opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions about school safety. The information that we gathered will be used to promote a safer school environment, one where all of our constituents can obtain the same information and adapt to any changes as a single unit.



We have also been privileged to have the presence of local law enforcement patrolling our neighborhoods and schools during this particularly crucial time for learning institutions. As an administrator, it is encouraging to see these officers on campus. Their presence definitely helps to regulate the traffic and safety procedures at our school.

Our children need to understand that even though the situations on campus might change, their daily routines will not. Everyone working together is the necessary ingredient that will help to keep our parents informed and our children safe.

Kohl's Cares Partners with Miller Children's for Safety

Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach Kohl's Keeping Kids Safe Program wants to remind parents that a child's brain is constantly learning, changing and growing. So make sure your child always wears a properly fitting helmet on every ride.

A bicycle helmet only works if you wear it correctly!

- 1** **Size:** Make sure it fits snugly. It shouldn't rock back and forth.
- 2** **Position:** It should sit level on your head and low on the forehead.
- 3** **Chin Strap:** Tighten until it is snug – no more than two fingers should fit under the strap.



For fun tips on how to be bike safe, visit us at MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares



MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares

Juan Cabrillo *Elementary (K-2)*

5309 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-5400 • www.juancabrillo.org



Margaret Lynch
Principal

Safety Comes First

At Cabrillo, we know that the academic, social and emotional success of our children depends upon them feeling safe and cared for. Our parents already know, recognize and acknowledge the outstanding teachers and teacher aides that are working in our classrooms.

But in this issue we'd like to highlight some of the other amazing adults that surround our children every day, and the jobs they perform. These are our office staff members, custodians, lunch aides and volunteer crossing guards.



Cabrillo Office Staff: Lupe Montalvan (Attendance Clerk), Stella Juarez (School Secretary), Jamie Ehring (Health Clerk), Eileen Malott (Special Projects)

Part of their work involves the Cabrillo School Site Council. This is an elected group that represents our parents, teachers and classified staff members. This month it will be reviewing and updating our School Safety Plan. The Plan includes protocols for monthly exercises that rotate between drop and cover drills, fire drills and lockdown drills.

The design of the Cabrillo School campus was created with the children's safety in mind. There is one entrance gate for the kindergarten, one entrance gate for the first- and second-graders, 25 security cameras, and a long valet curb for the children to be dropped off and picked up at the sidewalk. Our school facility, staff members and parents help keep Cabrillo a safe place where, "we grow and learn together."

The Cabrillo office staff is also an awesome group of ladies. Stella Juarez, our school secretary; Jamie Ehring, our health clerk; Lupe Montalvan, our attendance clerk; and Eileen Malott, of special projects; all of these ladies combined have 73 years of service to Wiseburn and Cabrillo! They proudly share that their own children went to Wiseburn schools as well, and they also know several generations of our families. So it is a delight to see them treat your children as their own.

The students also feel better after visiting Nurse Jamie, whether it's to get a tooth necklace, or a note home describing treatment, or just some friendly encouragement to come back if needed. They are also proud to be office monitors, to bring up the attendance and lunch count to the office and get a special "thank you" from Ms. Stella.



Cabrillo Lunch Aides:

(Back) Tabassum Khan, Amelia Gaytan, Karen Welker, Mary Porter
(Front) Iliana Marquez, Renee Hubler, Rebecca Torres

Not Pictured: Bonnie Ladendecker, Erica Marshall, Kesaia Maumalanga, Sue Mills, Xochilt Navarro, Javier Salazar, Hope Smith

Fond Memories

Our Cabrillo custodians are simply stellar! They keep our school sparkling and our facilities safe. Miguel Chavez, our daytime custodian, has 25 years of service to Wiseburn, and all at Cabrillo. Mr. Miguel is a popular supporter of the school too, as he inflates playground balls during recess and greets students by name. Former students even come back to share their fond memories of him.

Eduardo Soule, our evening custodian, has six years of service to Wiseburn, and he also makes a difference. Each evening the teachers look forward to his positive presence as he removes all of the trash and cleans the classrooms for another day.



**Cabrillo Custodians:
Miguel Chavez and Eduardo Soule**

We also have a great group of lunch ladies who work as a team to see that the lunch tables, restrooms and playground have adult supervision. The lunch aides both redirect and reinforce lunch and playground behavior to help keep our children safe. They distribute cub cards for things like good sportsmanship, table manners and helpfulness. The lunch aides also maintain contact with the office through walkie-talkies. These caring ladies are a wonderful daily support to our staff and students.



**Parent Volunteer Crossing Guard:
Mr. Alvarado**

At a recent PTA meeting, when we shared the new Cabrillo School Safety Plan, our parents expressed gratitude for the daily procedures and routines that we have in place. But the kindergarten parents specifically mentioned their "school crossing guard" Mr. Alvarado. He is actually a volunteer kindergarten parent. From the beginning of the school year he has arrived early with his wife and daughter Crystal, put on a striped vest, and guided our parents and children across the street.

On busy mornings you'll see both Mr. and Mrs. Alvarado joining the teachers on valet duty to help open car doors and greet students before guiding them through the kindergarten gate. They brighten all of our days!

Richard Henry Dana *Middle School (6-8)*

5504 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-4700 • www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us



Aileen Harbeck
Principal

Character Education Builds a Safer School Community

Character education is an integral schoolwide program at Dana Middle School that is tiered by grade level. Sixth-grade students participate in monthly character-education lessons facilitated by their homeroom teacher. Themes include respect, compassion, courage, cooperation and self-control. Lessons begin with a film clip from a major motion picture, such as *The Wizard of Oz*, to inspire courage. Eighth-grade students use a *Getting Ready for High School* booklet to prepare for high school, supported by teacher-directed lessons. Seventh-grade students focus on organization and goal-setting skills, using

Middle15x15 lessons. Other related activities throughout the year include quick-writes, role-plays, classroom discussions, poster making and reflections. At Dana Middle School, teaching values through character education allows students to feel a connectedness not only to their peers but also to their school. During these lessons, students are reminded to be kind, respectful and responsible. At Dana, everyone works together to support each other, creating a sense of community and safety for our students.



6th grader Cassidy Stevens joins in her class character education discussion about cooperation



6th graders Jacqueline Avina, Natalie Martin, Anna Lai and Kaiya Seeley work cooperatively during a Character Education activity.

Positive School Culture Key to Safety

Safety is of the highest importance at Dana Middle School and can be best seen in our comprehensive emergency response plan and our culture of ownership. Dana Middle School and the Wiseburn School District are committed to a culture of respect, responsibility, vigilance and visibility to establish a safe community of caring students and educators.

As part of our annual safety planning, the Comprehensive Safe-School Plan is updated and reviewed, with all teachers and students trained for emergency and disaster situations. Safety goals are presented to the School Site Council and approved by the Wiseburn School Board of Trustees. These goals fall under two categories: the campus's physical appearance and school programs. The goals help to ensure that the appearance of the campus and the programs offered help contribute to a safe school environment.

A schoolwide program that establishes responsibility and effective decision



Dana students Diego Gonzalez, Tyler Smith, Anthony Gipson, Kaitlin Mathieu, Kelly Crabtree, and school counselor Alyssa Feely test out emergency equipment on campus

making organically leads to a safe learning environment. Interdisciplinary teacher teams rally behind their students, develop a positive rapport with them, and become their advocates. Dana's Student Ownership of Learning program emphasizes organization, responsibility, inquiry, collaboration and reflection. Most importantly, the lessons learned and the culture that emerges opens the door for a safe school environment. From lunchtime and after-school sports to spirit days and community service to fund-raising and clubs, students are active members of their community.

Safety at Dana Middle School is further perpetuated by the culture and community, which actively engages students in the learning process, building positive relationships between students and their peers, teachers and the school community as a whole.

Geo Bee Finalists in no particular order (Number indicates home room)

Damian, Anthony, 404;
Fortunato, Nicholas, 806 3RD Place;
Gallego Saraceno, Jonathan, 801 2nd place;
Pastran, Moses, 601 1st Place;
Rivituso, Harley, 511;

Saucedo, Frank, 801;
Simmonds, Quinton, 901;
Tabuada, Juliana, 706;
Thompson, Alexandra, 502;
Walker, Brenden, 805.



Life Without Technology



Kent Kawaguchi

"What would you do if you didn't have Internet, a cell phone, text messaging, video games, or Facebook?" This was the first question author, columnist, and ESPN sports analyst, Mike Lupica asked his audience as he began his presentation to young readers, teachers and parents. He explained to his attentive loyal fans in Newport Beach, California that he didn't have all of the technology that is available today. Instead, he stated that "books can transport you into the life of another."

Mr. Lupica is known for writing many young adult sports novels such as *Travel Team*, *Heat*, *Miracle on 49th Street*, *Summer Ball*, and his latest novel *True Legend*. As a TV anchor for ESPN's "The Sports Reporters," columnist for multiple newspapers and magazines, and author of national bestsellers and award winning novels, Mike Lupica inspires others to use their time to read and learn life lessons through his two passions: sports and reading.



Kent with Mike Lupica

to overcome failure as they learned to fight their way to the top. These are life skills and topics Mr. Lupica enjoys writing about. Mr. Lupica said that his "books do not contain vampires, wizards, or werewolves, yet kids love to read them. They are about friendship and kids trying to do something great in sports through teamwork and loyalty."

In Mr. Lupica's novels, his characters portray qualities of being a good teammate and persevering toward their ultimate goal. Through his writing and his characters, he hopes his young readers will be inspired and learn from what they read and apply it to their own life. He said, "Playing sports is more than just throwing or hitting a ball. It's about learning how you get up after getting knocked down and that is truly the measure of your talent, heart, and character."

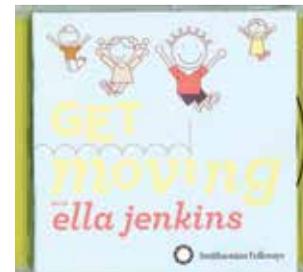
Mike Lupica originally wrote for adults, however it was his son who inspired him to write for adolescents. His son was cut from a basketball travel team due to his short height. Because of his son and many other kids who were told they weren't good enough to make the team, Lupica decided to make a basketball team comprised of all of the kids whom were cut from other travel teams. As the season progressed, Lupica's team started upsetting teams that were beating his team earlier in the season. Mike Lupica noticed a boost in confidence and self-esteem in every single one of his players. He witnessed player's renewed perseverance and drive

Get Moving with Ella Jenkins



Kate Karp

If you were in preschool or early elementary school any time after 1962, listen to "London Bridge Is Falling Down" or "Skip to My Lou" from Ella Jenkins's new collection, *Get Moving with Ella*. I can almost guarantee that you'll have an immediate olfactory memory of the waxy smell of crayons and that thick white paste that came in a jar. You may even remember how it tasted.



Ella Jenkins's songs and activities, sung in her gentle, firm voice accompanied by her guitar, have been the first introduction to integrated music and vocabulary for many young children within the past 60 years. Her 33rd release, *Get Moving with Ella Jenkins*, is a compilation of 15 of these songs, three of which are previously unreleased. The collection will have young children getting up and getting on some healthy moves and enriching their language through repetition and rhythm, a long-practiced, successful methodology. "Who Fed the Chickens?" features personal pronoun usage along with farm animal names; "Head and Shoulder" mixes exercise with learning the names of body parts; and "Play Your Instruments" involves music making while learning the names of instruments. And there's a really neat reworking of the old jump-rope rhyme "Teddy Bear."

First Lady Michelle Obama recommends exercise to keep children fit. *Get Moving* will provide children with a good measure of it along with smart, healthy play—just like the kind you got as a child if you danced and moved to the sounds of the First Lady of Children's Music.

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

Art To Grow On

Ready, Get Set,...Create!



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

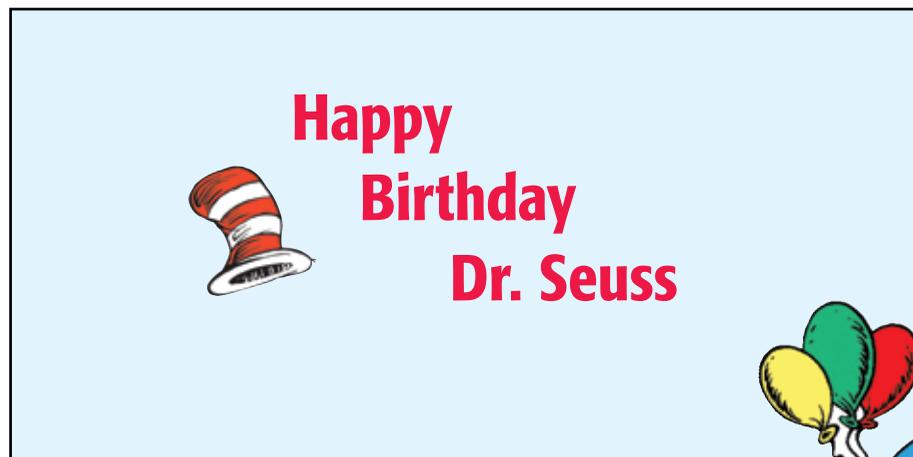
But as my youngest child moves into elementary school, I truly believe that giving children the opportunity to think critically, problem solve, imagine, and create will elevate them even more as they continue to grow.

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

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

If you can give your child a gift in 2013, take the time to do something creative with him or her. Get out those cardboard boxes and turn them into a race car or doll house. Get out wire, tile, and glue and play. Read books, take walks and collect rocks, write letters, and talk! These life skills will be a gift to your child.

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



Each year has brought new initiatives and improvements in programs for the district. Unsatisfied with the level services and programs provided for English learners, Dr. Johnstone spearheaded a complete renewal of the English Language Development Program, which has resulted in a marked rise in the academic performance of this important group of Wiseburn students. To provide a local high school option, Dr. Johnstone oversaw the launch of Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science, which have already earned distinction for their successful implementation of a 21st-century learning program. When algebra proficiency for middle school students was not at desired levels, Dr. Johnstone encouraged collaboration between Dana Middle School and the Center for Math and Science Teaching at Loyola Marymount University. This partnership is largely credited with the remarkable 33-point growth in algebra proficiency levels at Dana between 2010 and 2012. During this same period, Academic Performance Index (API) scores across the district have risen dramatically, with Juan Cabrillo Elementary School becoming the first school in Wiseburn to break into the rarified air beyond 900 points on the API. Each of these programs and milestones are directly attributable to the vision and leadership of Dr. Johnstone.

Although many would not think it humanly possible, Dr. Johnstone was even busier in 2012! At Peter Burnett Elementary School, a long-awaited multi-purpose room rose above the campus. The Wiseburn residents again showed their willingness to provide monetary support for our students with the passage of a local parcel tax. During this same time, Dr. Johnstone took the lead in bringing together the long-disparate factions from the five school districts of the Centinela Valley, resulting in agreements that will allow a local Wiseburn-only vote for unification, perhaps within this calendar year. Towards building a coordinated K–12 educational program for Wiseburn students, Dr. Johnstone has been the driving force in the ongoing efforts to purchase a building to house our high school programs.

Dr. Johnstone launches into each of these activities with the same energy and gusto that have been the trademarks of his tenure as superintendent—and somehow he still finds the time to personally mow the lawn in front of the district office. Congratulations to Dr. Johnstone!

Mrs. Aileen Harbeck: Association of California School Administrators Middle School Principal of the Year – Region 14

Mrs. Aileen Harbeck has been recognized by her peers as Middle School Principal of the Year for 2013 for the Association of California School Administrators for Region 14, which runs from Santa Monica to Long Beach and inland to Downey. Aileen Harbeck has been at Dana Middle School since 2002, serving as an English teacher, the assistant principal, and the principal.

Aileen Harbeck is one of those unique leaders who is able to nurture and cultivate the talents of the staff, colleagues, and students with whom she works. During her tenure as principal of R.H. Dana Middle School in the Wiseburn School District, Aileen has greatly expanded the leadership capacity of her team, encouraging teacher leaders to make the best use of their own talents towards a common vision of creating “a big school with a small feel.” With a firm belief that all students can and will learn, Aileen shepherded a complete transformation of philosophy and culture at Dana. This began with the establishment of interdisciplinary Small Learning Communities (SLCs), which empowered teachers to share content knowledge and build personal connections with the smaller number of students on their caseload. Students became the centerpiece of the learning process, as the staff embraced student-led conferencing as a tool for parent/student/teacher engagement. These new directions prompted a change in school culture that now permeates the campus. Throughout this process, Mrs. Harbeck has been the constant; she is calm, steadfast, caring, nurturing, and professional.

Mrs. Harbeck has had her most profound impact as a true instructional leader. When math scores at Dana were not indicating student success, she initiated a collaborative effort with the Center for Math and Science Teaching (CMAST) at Loyola Marymount University. Teachers focused on learning targets, developing daily lessons to engage students, requiring them to think critically about mathematical concepts. Within two years of the implementation of CMAST, Algebra I proficiency levels improved from 29 percent in 2010, to 62 percent in 2012. Even more impressive, 63 percent of the students at Dana Middle School claim that mathematics is their favorite subject. The success in math prompted Aileen and the Dana staff to continue work in all subject areas with learning targets. Though implementation of these programs required bringing in outside consultants, Mrs. Harbeck carefully fostered leadership capacity from within, creating a coaching model for sustained improvement over time. To institutionalize these changes, a new Leadership Committee was created, which revolved around the work of the Small Learning Communities, effectively connecting the instructional program with the SLCs.

Mrs. Harbeck has systematically developed a set of campus norms that promote respect between adults and students. For student safety, staff members brave the weather each day, rain or shine, to actively guide traffic and pedestrians for safe ingress and egress at the school. Character education has been at the forefront for students, with a focus on bullying prevention. The “opening of the gates” in the mornings before school was a tangible metaphor for the opening up the campus, leading to student ownership. These shifts in policy have allowed a new culture to emerge at Dana Middle School that is based on trust, caring, pride and respect. The students have taken ownership for their campus and have embraced the “family” culture.

During her tenure at Dana, Mrs. Harbeck has been a crusader for harnessing the power of technology as a tool for student learning. On the hardware side, she secured funding to successfully develop three computer labs and purchase laptop carts, LCD projectors, symposiums, and document cameras. Each of these tools is used in a variety of ways to help with the delivery of instruction, student learning, and assessment. Teacher training is provided through tech mentors, who help teachers learn about new tools of the trade. A recent focus has been on the use of Google apps as a means for student engagement. Each of these technological improvements has been embraced by Mrs. Harbeck with enthusiasm, and each is viewed as an opportunity to improve student learning.

The success at Dana Middle School has been a team effort. As the guiding force of that team, Mrs. Harbeck has distinguished herself as Principal of the Year. Congratulations, Mrs. Harbeck!

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Covering the
WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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DNA test traces maternal ancestry by analyzing mitochondrial DNA, which men and women inherit exclusively from their mothers. In December 2010, I received my MatriClan DNA test results from AfricanAncestry.com. It revealed that I shared Maternal Genetic Ancestry with the Tikar, Hausa, and Fulani peoples living in Cameroon, a country in Central Africa. There was quite a mix of emotions flooding my being. I was excited to know the origins of my enslaved ancestress, and then the horrors of slavery became real for me. I grieved for her, and I thank God for her strength and courage to endure despite the sub-human conditions she experienced. Then I felt blessed that I am the free self that she dreamed about at night. I am her future self.

Now I know the country on the continent of Africa that was my enslaved ancestress home. Finally, I had an anchor on the planet. I then began to share my excitement with any and everyone who would listen. My Wiseburn School District family was not spared from my bubbling overflowing excitement. After my gradual and slow descent from pure bliss, I became part of a previously unknown community of African Americans whose DNA tests revealed their origins, also, began in Cameroon.



Nathan Simb, President of Motherland Facilitations, with Mwikali in Kribi, Cameroon.

Winter Break, December 2012, is when I made the 14-day trip home with 19 other individuals – my new community of Cameroonian descendants. We were the guests of Nathan Simb, the President of Motherland Facilitations, located in the beach community of Kribi, Cameroon. He provided us with lodging, meals, transportation within the country, entertainment, lectures about Cameroon history, African Religion, the Talking Drums, in addition to a naming ceremony. The itinerary included a trip into the jungle to meet the people most outsiders referred to as “pygmies,” a name given to them by the Europeans who encountered them. Depending on the area where they live, their name of origin is either Bijele, Benjele, or Benzeli. In addition, we visited the ruins of the slave port in Bimbia, and prior to our return we received a gift of land in Kribi. Every aspect of the experience was in honor of us returning home. We even had a media crew and Special Security accompanying us throughout our stay.

The Cameroonians are not proud of selling our ancestors for liquor, gun power, and guns. A common theme throughout our time together was forgiveness. Then on December 27, 2012, we went to the slave port in Bimbia. This experience touched me at a depth that words cannot describe. As we got closer to the road that led us to the port – we requested the music turned off and everyone became quiet. I was in my thoughts focusing on how my beloved, captured, and enslaved ‘ancestral mother’ must have felt on many levels. Was she frighten, confused, angry, bewildered, injured, exhausted, thirty, and/or hungry? Then I began to experience an overwhelming dark heaviness that caused me to pause and catch my breath as I walked down a sloping path with my Cameroonian American descendants, Public Officials, Dignitaries, Professors, Scholars, and Special Security - the same path that my ancestress walked to the slave holding place. Then I had another peek into my enslaved ancestress walking this same path. She did not have any type of feet protective covering, while I was wearing my hiking sandals and it was not a walk in a park for me. Then we finally arrived at the ruins of the slave port. It had a beautiful nature – made canopy of bamboo that created a dome-like appearance. Under this canopy were foundations where buildings once stood. It was likened to a

deserted ghost town. Now only fragments of these buildings stand, e.g., pillars, some walls, opening for entry/doors, and I saw stairs that led to a building that does not exist today. I walked up those stairs with glee. It signified to me that my ancestress DNA had returned to her home free from an enslavement that would never happen again! I, Mwikali B. Hayes, in 2012 had walked the grounds where my Ancestral Mother walked and stayed until the slave ships came and she departed. Then I walked to the shore looking through her eyes, and thanking God that her DNA or her future self came home.

On New Year’s Eve, the Wiseburn family was well represented in Cameroon. I was blessed to sponsor an educational scholarship to 7-year-old Bernard Nguermo, who is in the 3rd grade. Additionally, my friend and co-worker, Natasha Gold, Speech and Language Pathologist, sponsored an educational scholarship to 10-year-old Nestor Atango, who is in 4th grade. Nathan Simb’s lovely wife, Elisa, selected these two boys from the staff that work at their home, Le Pre Carre. Elisa translated into French the video that Natasha and her daughter, Nadia, had made to introduce themselves to their sponsored student, Nestor. In addition, Natasha, Robin Elder, 7th Grade Teacher at Dana, and Monica Ward, my classroom Para Professional filled my second suitcase with school supplies to donate to children in Cameroon.

The culminating act of kindness and generosity was on January 2, 2013, there was an official ceremony with the Mayor of Kribi, Mr. Mazo, and the Senior District Officer (liken to a U.S. Senator) Mr. Bisaga presented every person in our group with the official deeds to our land gifted to us by Nathan Simb, the President of Motherland Facilitations. My land is 500 square meters in a community of land gifted to 100 Cameroonian Americans. Mr. Simb’s has a deep heartfelt sorrow for what happened to our enslaved ancestors by Cameroonian chiefs of that time, place, and space in history. This is his loving and generous way of welcoming us home to the birthplace of our lineage! I was fortunate to have Bongo, an African Priest, bless my land. Next the Senior District Officer, Mr. Bisaga, hosted lunch at Nathan Simb’s home, Le Pre Carre, that included everyone who attended the Land Gifting ceremony in honor of us, the land gifts’ recipients. Later there was a Bamileke musical group in authentic garb to perform for us. Then we were gifted original art pieces depicting how individuals’ experienced the connection to the land of their ancestors/ ancestress. The Artist Jean Kalvin Voumdu, who we loving called Calvin, spent time with each of us and his paintings reflected his personal and individualized connection to each of us with the blessings of the ancestors in relationship to this auspicious homecoming.



Cameroonian dignitaries gifted 100 Cameroonian Americans with land.

This snapshot above illustrates why I said this trip was life changing and altering. This trip resulted in a shift in my identity on many levels. I have a depth to my compassion toward humankind that I did not have before. I have the courage and tenacity to BE and experience the totality of me. I came from strength, courage, perseverance, endurance, and spirituality with an anchor in ‘hope’ for Light, Love, and FREEDOM. Now when I am asked to check a box for my ethnicity from the choices listed, I will not just check “African American”, because I know from which I come. I will check the box marked ‘Other’ and write in Cameroonian American with certainty, dignity, and pride!

“The end is in the beginning and it lies far ahead.” Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison.



Dr. Tom Johnstone

the Division of the State Architect (DSA) in the fall and hopefully commence construction in May 2014. With a construction timeline of 15 months, the school should be ready for the 2015–2016 school year.

Gensler is working with the district and New Vista Designs from Boston, Massachusetts to begin the process of gathering input from the district, Wiseburn and Da Vinci teachers and staff, and the Wiseburn community to guide the design for a world-class, 21st-century Wiseburn High School. This process gives us an opportunity to better articulate and explain the Wiseburn/DaVinci programs to the community. As a refresher, Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science were chartered by the Wiseburn School District and opened in 2009. These schools were developed by Wiseburn for the Wiseburn community, and they are Wiseburn's high schools. Both schools were authorized by the district so Wiseburn families could send their children to a quality high school within the Wiseburn community. After four years of development, Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science offer the best of a comprehensive and liberal arts education, exceeding the graduation requirements of other local and state high schools. Throughout the development of the high school programs, Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science administration and staff have been careful to develop the schools as an extension of the high-quality and innovative teaching and learning that have been taking place in the Wiseburn School District since 1896. The Da Vincis have taken the best aspects of a traditional, comprehensive high school and, like our elementary schools and Dana Middle School, have combined them with a small and personalized learning community that is the hallmark of a Wiseburn education. Both Da Vincis offer a college-preparatory curriculum for the 21st century, providing a rigorous and well-rounded education with an emphasis on real-world learning. Our high schools' overarching goal is to get all students to and through college and into meaningful careers offering competitive salaries.

Da Vinci Schools serve students with a wide range of learning styles and needs, including special education and gifted and talented students. Both Design and Science have students who aspire to become doctors, lawyers,

business leaders, and many other careers beyond engineering and design. DaVinci Science approaches learning using a scientific methodological platform for problem solving. Da Vinci Design uses a creative problem-solving approach called "Design Thinking." Both approaches are well-suited to most, if not all, students. Very importantly, the Da Vincis offer a comprehensive elective and extracurricular program for students to explore their special talents and interests through offerings such as robotics, flight school, illustration, product design, architecture, journalism, digital media, leadership, mock trial, work experience, drama, improvisation, dance, guitar, art history, Chinese, and a wide variety of sports, including basketball, cross country, soccer, volleyball, softball, Cross Fit, and yoga. Many of these will be competitive, CIF sports when Wiseburn High School and its new facilities become operational. The Wiseburn School District and the Da Vincis are committed to significantly expanding sports and performing arts opportunities available to all students. Wiseburn residents will continue to receive guaranteed enrollment at the Da Vinci Schools, and families that move into the Wiseburn community after the Da Vinci Schools application deadline will be provided enrollment. The Wiseburn School District and Da Vinci Schools have developed a cooperative partnership unlike any authorizer-charter relationship in the country in order to take advantage of operating flexibilities, opportunities, and funding. By combining and sharing expertise and resources, both are able to provide an outstanding educational experience that is in the best interests of all students.

Wiseburn K–12 unification continues on a path towards becoming a reality in 2013! In December 2012, Senator Roderick Wright introduced SB41, which is clean-up legislation to establish unified school district funding for our K–12 schools. With this legislation in place, the unification question will go back to the State Board of Education (SBE) in May 2013. At the May meeting of the SBE, the State Board will approve the Unification Final Environmental Impact Report, which the district is currently updating, and call for a vote on Wiseburn unification, where only residents of Hollyglen, Del Aire and Wiseburn will be able to vote. This vote will take place during the regular November election in 2013. With a majority vote, Wiseburn will officially become a unified school district on July 1, 2014. Not only will Wiseburn become a K–12 school district, but Wiseburn residents will never again have to be taxed on Centinela Valley school constructions bonds that are passed in the future.

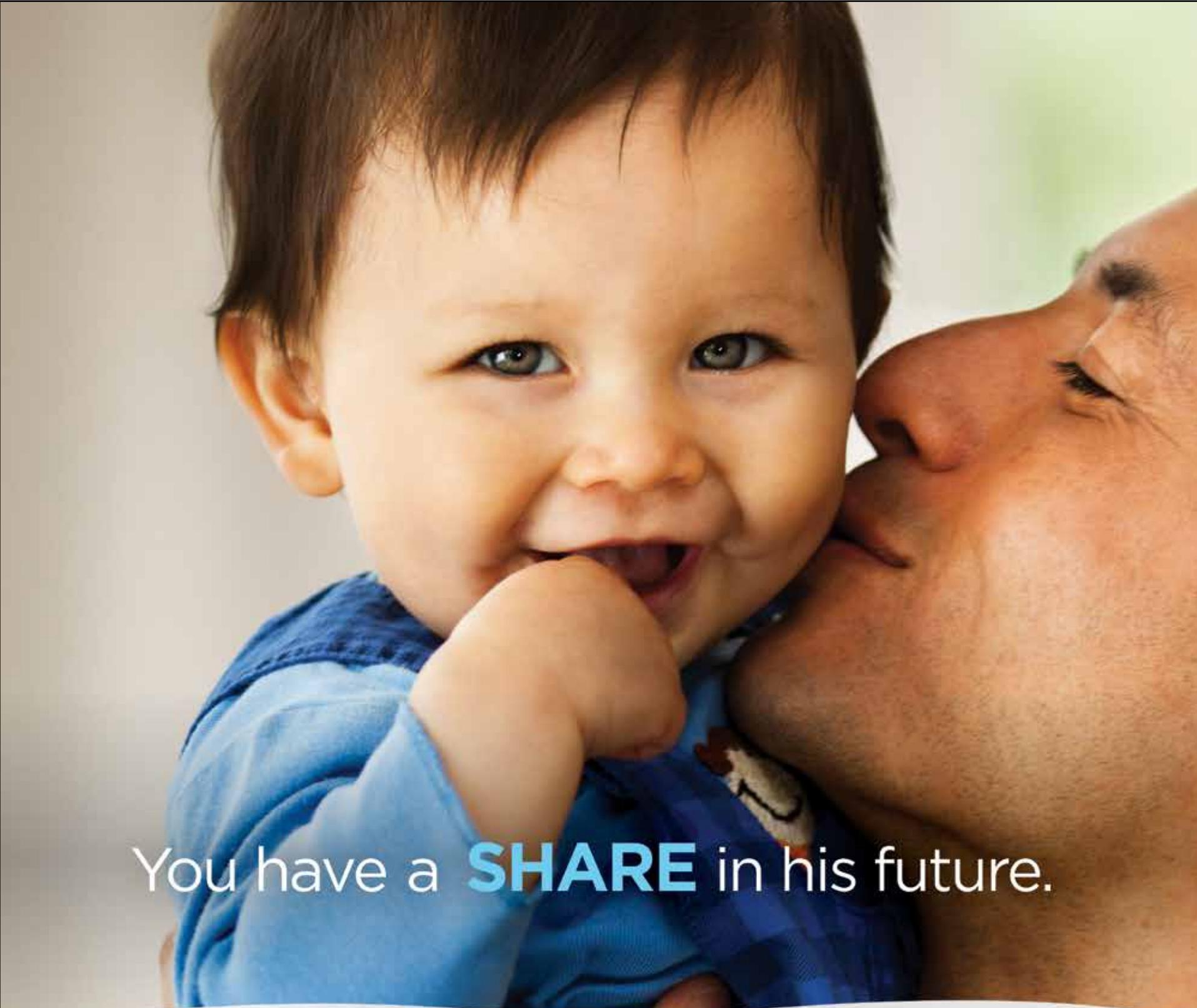
Wiseburn District Word Search Contest

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 Wiseburn in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2013
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------------|
| Andriacchi | Dana | Partnerships |
| Anza | Harbeck | Project |
| Banuelos | Honors | Sullivan |
| Burnett | Johnstone | Superintendent |
| Cabrillo | Lynch | Trustees |
| Community | Martinez | Unification |
| Curriculum | Mora | Wunder |
| Curtis | Nitsos | |
| DaVinci | PTA | |





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