

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Vista Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 14

MAY 2016

Heroes of Vista Award Celebration

By Dr. Devin Vodica, Superintendent

One of our core values in Vista is collaboration. We define collaboration as working in collective partnership with clear two-way dialogue that builds relationships among home, school, and community. Implicit in this approach is an understanding that partners are essential for us to effectively serve students. Fortunately, we are surrounded by tremendous partner agencies that help to accelerate learning and build a brighter future.

Our partnerships were on display at the recent “Heroes of Vista” event that honored educators, firefighters, police, veterans, businesses, and local leaders. Co-hosted by the Vista Chamber of Commerce and the Vista Education Foundation, we were able to celebrate and spotlight tremendous individuals and organizations that are helping to strengthen the entire community. Congratulations to David Ruiz (technology teacher from VIDA), Kelly McKinney (WAVE Pact leader), Kathy Olson (art teacher from Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts), and Matt Doyle (administrator) for receiving recognition through this collaborative event.

We are also working diligently with partners to improve kindergarten readiness for our youngest students. Agencies such as United Way of San Diego, Education Enrichment Services, and Education Synergies Alliance have been very helpful as we are seeking to improve access and opportunities in our community.

Working together, we certainly can extend and improve in our ability to support the youth in our community. I feel privileged to be in a place where we have such fantastic partners as we seek to help Vista to be the model of educational excellence and innovation.



Rich Alderson, JoAnn Jones, Kelly McKinney, Larry White and Steve Hargrave

Vista Unified Marks Its Centennial

*By Ray Huard,
School District Communications Consultant*

Vista Unified School District (VUSD) is turning 100, with a student population and schools its founders could hardly imagine. From its start with three small schools and a handful of teachers, the district has become Vista’s largest employer, with a workforce of 2,340 and more than 21,000 students.

“One of the things I love about Vista is that it has retained a small-town community feeling that creates an atmosphere conducive to collaboration and partnerships,” said Superintendent Devin Vodicka. “Hopefully, we will continue to keep the best qualities and add new benefits in the next 100 years.”

VUSD serves students from Vista and Oceanside who live within district boundaries. The district now has more than 30 campuses spread over

the two cities, including 16 elementary schools, five middle schools, five high schools, a special education preschool/elementary school, a special education secondary school for older students with disabilities, an independent study school, and an adult school. Over the past 100 years, voters have passed bonds to pay for new schools and other facilities to meet the educational needs of a growing population.

VUSD continues to receive recognition at the state and national levels. The district has received numerous awards and has been recognized as a leader in incorporating new technology and embracing teaching methods which emphasize critical thinking, collaboration, and problem solving.

To celebrate its first 100 years, the district is planning a variety of events throughout 2016, including a scholarship fund-raising dinner. The

districts will also create a special Web site to share photos and stories from former students about their time in Vista schools.

In the fall, students in the district will continue the celebration with by creating special projects, which will be showcased at Back-to-School Nights and the annual Arts Festival in October.

VUSD moves into its second century with the goal of continuing to be model of educational excellence and innovation.



Vista's Summer of Fun

Don't Miss These Family Friendly Events this Summer in the City of Vista!



Enjoy three relaxing nights under the stars at our **FREE** Summer Movies in the Park series. Pack a picnic and arrive early for a good seat. Don't forget jackets for cool nights. Movies begin at 8 pm.



JUNE 18

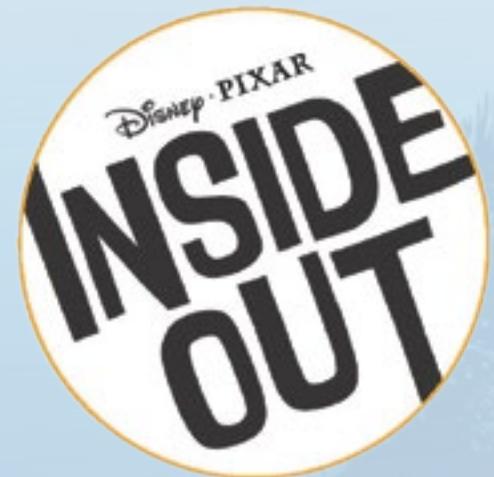
Buena Vista Ball Fields
1851 S. Melrose Drive
(corner of S. Melrose and
Shadowridge Drives)



JULY 16

and Summer Fun Fest

Brengle Terrace Park
1200 Vale Terrace Drive
Come early from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
for our **FREE** Summer Fun Fest with
kids' activities and games.

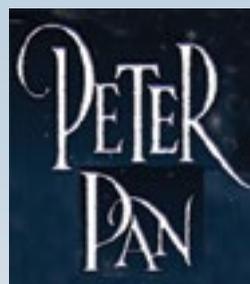


AUGUST 13

Brengle Terrace Park
1200 Vale Terrace Drive



Independence Day Celebration
July 4 • Moonlight Amphitheatre
Enjoy entertainment starting at 5 pm.
Fireworks at 9 pm. \$5 per person;
children five and under are free.



July 20 - August 6 at 8 pm
Moonlight Amphitheatre
This Broadway musical classic will dazzle
you with high-flying special effects and take
you to a land where nobody ever grows up!

**For more information on these and
other events going on in the
City of Vista, please visit
cityofvista.com or call 760.639.6151**

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Covering the
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As another school year comes to a close I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016 as they embark on the next part of their journey either onto higher learning or into the workforce.

Thank you for your wonderful emails with your Word Search entries. Remember the drawings are open to all ages.

Our next issue is September 21. Until then have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library in your activity choices.

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Karina Quezada '08, M.A.Ed. '09 and '11
School Psychologist, Victor Elementary School District



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17826



Judy Ritter
Mayor

Lots of Choices

With the free Movies in the Park series, Moonlight Amphitheatre, and Wave Waterpark, there's a lot to do in Vista this summer. The City offers many fun family and kid-friendly activities, events, and day camps to entertain everyone all summer long. Check online at CityofVista.com for the summer day camp schedules, youth activities, and the Movies in the Park series. Movies in the Park: Pack up the family and a picnic and head to one or all of the movie series. The best part is that the movies are free. The movies begin at 8 pm. The annual City's Summer Fun Fest is planned before the July 16 movie - with jump houses, kids' games and activities and Star Wars character sightings! Enjoy your summer and we hope to see you at some of the events.

- June 18: The Goonies (PG): Buena Vista Ball Fields
- July 16: Star Wars: The Force Awakens (PG-13) & Summer Fun Fest (5:30-7:30 pm): Brengle Terrace Park
- Aug 13: Inside Out (PG): Brengle Terrace Park

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and congratulations to all of the graduating seniors of Vista!

VUSD Innovation

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • www.vistausd.org

Blueprint Feedback Process in High Gear

By Matt Doyle, Ed.D., Executive Director

Community participation in the review of the "Blueprint" has been huge! Between January and April of 2016, the district has held more than 40 community forums with students, parents, teachers, and staff members. Just for fun, we figured out that over 10,000 words have been shared during the feedback session.

That's about 50 pages of feedback! This feedback is posted to the District webpage at www.vistausd.org/blueprint.

There were many areas of strength identified, including the use of the Family Engagement Network, expansion of counseling services to elementary and middle schools, computer devices in classrooms, improvements to safety and security on campus, expanded focus on the visual and performing arts, and the development of a personal learning path for students.

Community members also provided a number of ideas for making improvements to the Blueprint, including expanding course choice for students in middle and high school, creating more flexible high school schedules, increased time for staff collaboration, and consolidating district initiatives for greater clarity and alignment.

The Blueprint revision process will be complete by May 31, 2016. The School Board will review the Blueprint and provide feedback in a public meeting on June 16, 2016. Once the final adjustments are made, the Blueprint will be presented to the School Board for adoption on June 23, 2016.



Expressions of Gratitude

By Brad Peterson, President

Well, it is that time of the year again. The school year is drawing to a close, and students are getting ready to move on—some to the next class, some to a new job and some to college. More than ever, a college education is the key to a rewarding career, and all students deserve the chance to continue their studies on the road to their dreams. To support these students, Vista Education Foundation provided over \$15,000 in scholarships this year, and we are overwhelmed that the students sent us heartfelt letters to share their delight and appreciation. These letters make us so proud of the wonderful students and teachers we have in Vista, and we want to share some of the stories with you.

Maggie, attending USB: "Thank you so much for awarding me the Vista Education Foundation Scholarship! As a low-income, first-generation college student, I am humbled and honored to be chosen to receive this generous token of recognition."

Gillian, attending Northern Arizona University: "My love for community service is the reason that I chose to study nursing. To me, being a nurse is the most fulfilling life I can lead because I will be dedicated to bettering the lives of every person I meet. Thank you again for awarding me with your scholarship and helping me continue my education."

Janet, attending UCSC: "I cannot express enough how grateful I am for receiving this scholarship! Thank you for choosing me and putting confidence in me."

Instilling confidence and supporting students in arts, technology, internships/apprenticeships and scholarships form the core of our foundation. The current workplace demands lifelong learning, and it is our challenge to make sure that students have the resources they need to succeed. It takes the entire community to support education in our schools, and we want our students to dream big. Help us make these dreams come true—join us and support education in our schools. Join the Vista Education Foundation today.

Career Technical Education

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • www.ctevista.org



Susie Johnson
Coordinator CTE/ROP

CTE Month

CTE Month a national event held every February to celebrate national career technical education programs. CTE Month 2016's theme is "Opportunities for Career Success" to highlight details of CTE leadership and raise awareness of readying students for careers and THE nation for economic success.

Vista Unified's CTE teachers celebrated by facilitating several events, including a lunchtime CTE Showcase highlighting school programs and pathways. Student-led demonstrations informed colleagues of CTE and available college-articulation credits. Medical Pathway students conducted free blood-pressure readings for classmates and staff. Photography students coupled CTE Month with Valentine's Day and ran a photo booth. The Virtual Enterprise students displayed marketing videos, products and websites for their virtual companies. And the Culinary Arts team won first place in the countywide CTE Master Chef Competition.

Rancho Buena Vista invited Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Don Bartletti to share his career journey with CTE photography students. Architectura-design students created a rolling photo board of student drafting designs. TV, film and digital-media students made videos for WASC to explain their classes. The videos are included in the school website's course catalog to help students make informed elective choices.

Digital arts/web-publishing students decorated the front office with social-media-responsibility posters, titled "Think Before You Post." Mission Vista High TV Film and Video Production students launched their second webisode highlighting Coach Famber, their basketball coach; the Creative Writing club; and inspirational talks from PE teacher Mr. Gutierrez. TV/Film Level 2 students created video profiles of small community businesses and organizations that can be utilized on their social media. Digital arts and graphic design students have been busy this month taking pictures for the WASC visit, designing inserts for the reports, creating new campus banners, and rebranding their school with a new logo.



Alta Vista *High School*

1575 Bonair Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-3775 • www.vistausd.org



Mike Sterner
Principal

Rugby: An Inclusive Sport

This is the Alta Vista rugby program's third year. The program has helped transform our students and the school culture. We work closely with Mission Vista Rugby, as the students play together year-round. Alta and MVHS teams include students from area high schools that don't offer rugby programs.

The acceptance and welcome of the rugby community is heartwarming. Several alumni are working with Mira Costa to form a college team and also coach and referee here.

Of the importance of rugby, one student said, "Even though we play hard on the field with the other team, we are united by our love of rugby, and we share a meal with them after the game like a family." Rugby has indeed been a life- and lifestyle-changing experience for so many. We'll continue to use rugby as a strategy in intervention efforts, self-esteem building, communication building, college interest and entrance, motivation and teamwork.



Alamosa Park *Elementary*

5130 Alamosa Park Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/940-0700 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Kyle Ruggles
Principal

A Whole-Child Approach

The Alamosa Park (AP) Elementary School faculty is committed to providing high-quality instruction within a supportive learning environment to prepare students for the 21st century. Our school vision is to become the premier school in health, character, and achievement. "Becoming the Model of Educational Excellence and Innovation" is the Vista Unified School District (VUSD) vision and the focal point of our daily work.

The AP Education Foundation (APEF) received the 2016 Healthy Fundraiser Champion Award for the work of APEF

President Mrs. Robin Horst, our foundation, and the VUSD WaveCrest Café for the annual Healthy Hawk Week and Hawk Run. The San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative recognized this model event, which focuses on healthy lifestyles. Congratulations to APEF for this well-deserved recognition!

In March, Healthy Hawk Week included a Fear Factor Taste Challenge, the Alamosa Ninja Obstacle Course, garden tours, Re-Think Your Drink, the Hawk Run, and the I am Super event, which focused on student strengths.

AP is proud of our whole-child approach to education, where health, fitness, and character are showcased a student recognition assemblies focused on Pillars of Character and academic achievement. This approach also guides many of our programs, including: choral music; nutrition nights; fourth- and fifth-grade intramural athletics, such as flag football, basketball, and soccer; Gardening Club; the daily, school-wide Running Club; the Jump Rope for Heart fund-raiser; Thrively student surveys that identify individual student strengths; Scrabble Club; lesson units aligned with fitness and health; and PTA character education assemblies. We are a Common Sense Media Certified School and a Great Kindness Challenge – Kindness Certified School.

AP appreciates the high level of parental involvement as well as the generous donations received from our community, APEF, and PTA. As a result, our academic and co-curricular programs are significantly enhanced for our students. Welcome to Alamosa Park, Where Students Soar!



May 29, 2016

10k, 5k, Kids' Runs

350+ Vendors & 6 Entertainment Stages
Strawberry Alley & Craft Beer Garden
Chalk Alive & Pie Eating



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www.VistaStrawberryFest.com

Beaumont *Elementary*

550 Beaumont Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-4040 • www.vistausd.org



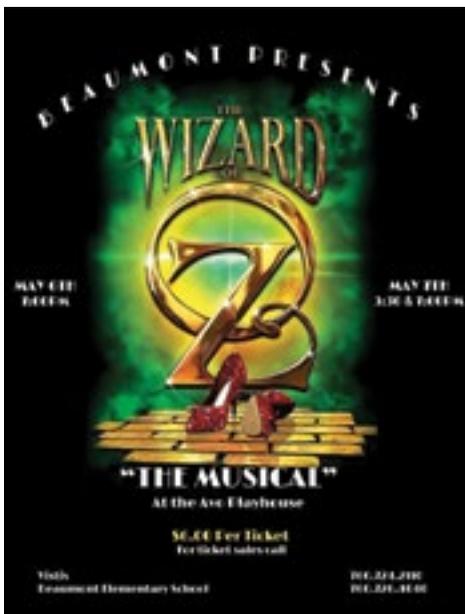
David Moore
Principal

Beaumont On Broadway at the AVO Playhouse!

It was a fantastic night of theatre as Beaumont presented "The Wizard of Oz" to families and friends of Vista.

Thanks to Jennifer Ehrhart, Beaumont's Theatre Director,

and the support of many staff and parents, the students enjoyed many weeks of rehearsals with acting and singing, costume fittings and set prep. The outcome was a fantastic three-performance event at the Avo Theatre in downtown Vista! The performances were appreciated by Beaumont's fans and they excitedly supported them! The talent of Beaumont's students is amazing and we are certain...you have not seen the last of these talented students! More fine music and acting to come!



Bobier *Elementary*

220 W. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8501 • www.vistausd.org



Jenifer Golden
Principal

A Wonderful Year

Our Bobier Broncos are having a wonderful school year.

This year we are getting healthy! We are now a part of the 100-mile club certificate program where students are honored for their running, and with a goal of completing 100 miles by the end of the school year. Go Broncos! Look for Team Bobier at the Strawberry Festival race!

Our counselor, Mr. Espinoza, has led some wonderful programs this year. We are also working on our Bronco Buzz School News Club next year to help with the Bronco Buzz episodes that are aired each week in the classrooms. Mr. Espinoza is also working with our wonderful fifth-grade team to get our students middle school ready during these last few months. We had a lot of students reclassify out of English Language Development too, and who have proven that they are now bilingual.

We also had a great reclassification workshop, with standing room only. The students are working hard to earn their attendance-incentive dog tag necklaces for good attendance and effort. The first annual Bronco Reading Olympics has also been very successful. Students are competing for gold, silver, and bronze medals, and are working hard to become more proficient readers.

We also enjoyed having our fifth-graders from Mrs. Wolff's class featured at the recent STEM Fest, where they showed off their engineering and science skills.

As we learn our way into summer, our students, teachers, staff members, and parents are all united with a positive culture and focus on student achievement and personalized learning experiences.

Breeze Hill *Elementary*

1111 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92081 • 760/945-2373 • www.vistausd.org



Rachel Jauss
Principal

Thank You for Your Support!

At Breeze Hill Elementary School, we have an incredible PTA! Each year, our PTA Board and parent volunteers provide our school campus with support in academics, social emotional development, and community relationships. Fund-raisers are held throughout the year to create opportunities for all students to participate in activities such as dining out nights, product sales, book fairs, business partnerships, and family nights.

Support for teachers and students include the Welcome Back Breakfast, Teacher Appreciation Day, classroom support, and sponsored study trips for all students. Family activities are provided throughout the year, which include: creating family ceramic tiles to be displayed in our school breezeway; movie nights; a bingo night; and both mother/son and father/daughter events. Book fairs connect our families with resources to support our students in literacy and provide materials for our Accelerated Reader program. PTA's literacy support has also included a book night at a bookstore chain and a school-wide book drive. Each year, PTA also sponsors our exciting Fall Carnival, with hundreds of family members participating.

PTA supports the social-emotional needs of our students by providing positive incentives for students receiving behavioral rewards each month. They also sponsor Red Ribbon Week on campus. Last month, the PTA hosted our Superhero Jog-A-Thon, raising more than \$8,000 and coordinating our participation in the Vista Strawberry Run.

In May, PTA will sponsor our very popular talent show on campus. We are already working on adding more collaboration opportunities for the next school year, so we can work together with PTA to provide more programs for our parents and volunteers. We thank our PTA for their dedication and support!

California Avenue

215 W. California Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-4870 • www.vistausd.org



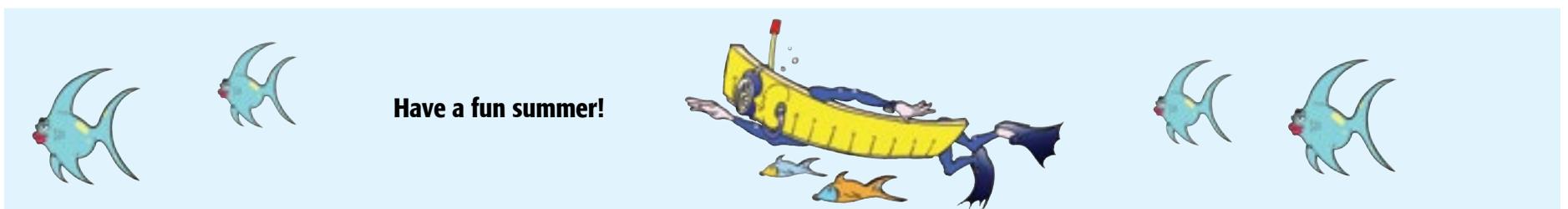
Rachel Schmidt
Principal

Spring Is in the Air!

Things are buzzing at California Avenue School as staff and students prepare for exciting end-of-the-year activities. Over 100 students will transition from the California Avenue School preschool to kindergarten in the fall with a variety of Special Education supports to assist in their success.

To prepare for these transitions, teachers are diligently completing assessments, writing reports, and scheduling parent meetings to discuss this important time. Some students will attend school over the summer to help maintain those academic skills they've worked hard to develop during the school year. We also look ahead to welcoming and preparing for the new three-year-olds, who will join us when school resumes in August.

This spring is extra special because we honor the careers and celebrate the retirement of three educators. Vicki Sussman, Terri Albritton, and Tammy Hollins have dedicated their careers to serving the children of Vista Unified School District. They will be missed!



Casita Center *Elementary*

260 Cedar Rd., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-8442 • www.vistausd.org



Laura Smith
Principal

Casita Teacher Honored

Mrs. Jenny Anderson was recently honored as the VUSD Elementary Teacher of the Year for being a model of educational excellence and innovation. Mrs. Anderson is inspired by the future and what could be. Her classroom is an ideal DREAMS lab, where design, research, engineering, arts, math, and science are integrated in a flexible learning environment that fosters collaboration and creativity.

Every kindergarten through fifth-grade student enters the lab to become a “Stemologist” who will learn to persevere and think critically through coding. This teaches them how to pay attention to detail, learn from mistakes, troubleshoot, be creative, and think logically. Students block code or choose a personal path to create websites with HTML and games with JavaScript.

Our Stemologists also participate in design challenges to experience the many aspects of engineering and solve real-world problems. Third-graders design football helmets to prevent concussions. Fourth-graders design a small-scale residential home to examine and identify the areas that have the greatest heat loss based upon thermal images and digital temperature readings that help conserve energy.

Stemologists who can't get enough can also participate in our Innovation Lab after school. They answer questions about what can be learned from taking apart an appliance or an electronic item, or how can we create using materials from other inventions.

Jenny Anderson is a model of servant leadership. In college she founded the eMentoring@UCSD program. Today she continues networking and sharing knowledge through Twitter, blogging, and the school's website. Educators from all over San Diego County are modeling their STEM labs after her DREAMS lab.

Additionally, she is also a member of the VUSD Personal Learning Steering Committee, the VUSD Digital Learning Retreat, and the Core Leadership Team for the Next Generation Science Early Implementers Grant. This altruistic teacher inspires educators throughout the state of California, both in Vista Unified and at Casita Center!

Empresa *Elementary*

4850 Avenida Empresa, Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-8454 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Cheree McKean
Principal

Open House

Springtime means one thing at Empresa Elementary: Open House!

Over 1,000 of our students and families returned to school one night in April to experience the creative and artistic talents of our student body. In alignment with the school's mission to inspire a love for learning with an emphasis on integrating the arts, our students and teachers worked collaboratively to showcase a color wheel of creativity.

Throughout the school year our students enjoyed exploring the skillsets of artists as they extended their daily learning by creating their own artistic masterpieces. When asked about the importance of integrating the arts into daily lessons, Principal Cheree McKean stated, “Students’ projects are an extension of a lesson, and are designed to assist them with understanding learning in new ways. We are educating great thinkers who use their many talents to share their thinking with the world.”

“At Empresa, we strive to create an environment where students experience the arts through music, performance, and visual representation.”



Foothill Oak *Elementary*

1370 Oak Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-3458 • www.vistausd.org



Sandra Ceja
Principal

Future-Ready!

The Foothill Oak Leadership Team has been guiding the way to the 21st century outcomes we want for our students! With an intense focus on literacy, the team is building a personalized continuum of curriculum, assessment, instruction and responsive interventions to assure that each student develops the mindsets and competencies he or she will need to thrive in the future.

Foothill uses an instructional model that blends technology and teacher-led instruction to implement strategies to amplify academic language through a district partnership with Stanford University. While teachers engage in this professional learning, students are engaged in coding, Minecraft, TED Talks and math with district demonstration coaches who model these innovative practices in conjunction with the academic-language strategies. Through collaboration, critical and creative thinking, and communication, our team is carving our path to preparing our students for college and career success!



School News

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Grapevine *Elementary*

630 Grapevine Rd., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8329 • www.vistausd.org



Rafael Olavide
Principal

After-School Science Expo

At Grapevine Elementary, we value every opportunity to inspire and engage young learners. Our after-school ASES program, Grizzly Den, is no different! In March, each of the Grizzly Den classes participated in a Science Day exposition. Each team presented on a different engaging science activity, including making slime, lava lamps, tornados in a bottle, balloon races and rocket launches. At each station, the students explained the scientific processes and the rationale behind the science being observed in their activity, and students had the chance to learn about the other grades' activities.

This event was made possible through the leadership of ASES directors Elise Varnau and Leslie Cole, who collaborated with all of the instructional assistants for ideas and supplies needed to ensure success. It is a meaningful step in the right direction for STEM education for our students.



Lake *Elementary*

4950 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/945-5300 • www.vistausd.org



Krista Berntsen
Principal

Fair Play Lunch Bunch at Lake

We are excited that we have been able to offer students an opportunity to play board games in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere on Fridays since January! Students are invited to join during their lunchtime recess periods every Friday in the garden area. The Lunch Bunch players are checked in by our helpful student PALS (Peer Assistance Leaders). The PALS review our six Lunch Bunch expectations with all players before they begin playing. The PALS help out with ensuring that all players are playing fairly, being respectful and enjoying themselves. We are so grateful to our PALS and our parent volunteers for making this a fun Friday option for our students.



Fair Play Lunch Bunch at Lake

Hannalei *Elementary*

120 Hannalei Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6248 • www.vistausd.org



Tracy Zachry
Principal

A Butterfly Garden

It has been over a year in the making, but it is finally complete. Our new butterfly garden, was built in collaboration with our AMPM program grant and our second-grade team of teachers and students.

In September 2014, the second-grade teachers wanted to bring teaching about the life cycle of a butterfly into real time. They had students research butterflies and what was needed for butterflies to flourish and migrate through our school hallways. They shared their idea with our AMPM program, and it was received with enthusiasm. The result is a beautiful, thriving butterfly garden!

The caterpillars ate the milkweed and began to form chrysalises on the walls, window sills, and flax plants. Finally, butterflies were fluttering throughout the garden. While students learned about the life cycle in class, they were able to step outside the classroom door to experience the process in real life! What a beautiful learning experience for our children!



Madison *Middle School*

4930 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-0176 • www.vistausd.org



Susan Ford
Principal

Growing As a Community

Middle school is a good time for students to grow academically and pursue new interests, and electives are a great pathway for learning.

At Madison, the arts are represented by an outstanding instrumental music program, digital arts and graphic design courses, and introductory drama. Our students learn about leadership in Character Leaders and ASB, which also give them many opportunities for community service and service learning.

Marine biology gives students real-world experience with our oceans, and STEM offers a hands-on approach to science and engineering, 3D printing, and robotics. Our students may also choose AVID, Spanish, and a sequence of computer and coding classes.



Madison is also able to offer a large variety of clubs and other extra-curricular activities, which gives students many additional opportunities to learn and grow as part of the larger community of school, family, neighborhood, and world.

Mission Meadows *Elementary*

5657 Spur Ave., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/630-7884 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Bill Porter
Principal

Inclusive Hearts

Mission Meadows Elementary School, the school with an Inclusive Heart, raised funds for research to cure heart disease! The students and staff at Mission Meadows are well known for their caring and inclusive hearts, especially when supporting the learning of students with academic, social, and emotional disabilities. When Mission Meadows was approached to host a Jump Rope for Heart fund-raiser, everyone was excited to participate and support an event benefiting individuals with life-threatening heart conditions.

A fundraising goal was established, with the hope that the Mission Meadows community could raise \$1,000. If the goal was met, Dr. Porter, the principal of Mission Meadows, would shave off his beard. Well, the Mission Meadows community raised \$4,635! The fun-filled event gave students an opportunity to navigate a jump rope obstacle course. They even learned how to take their own pulses!

In the end, Dr. Porter did, in fact, shave off his beard!



Maryland *Elementary*

700 North Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6675 • www.vistausd.org



Carol LaBreche
Principal

Congratulations, ELD Students!

Maryland students are meeting their English language development goals! We proudly celebrated 43 students who reclassified to English Proficiency. To reclassify, the students must meet certain criteria on the CELDT (California English Language Development Test) as well as demonstrate academic progress in the classroom.

Reclassification is an important step for our students. It means that they are capable of accessing curriculum that is necessary for success in their classes. We emphasize to our students that reclassifying in elementary school creates a variety of pathways for them. It enables them to explore electives in middle school and high school. This exploration helps develop their interests.



Maryland celebrated by inviting their parents to a special ceremony in front of the student body. Certificates were given to the students to commemorate this exciting event. Both parents and students were excited to be recognized for their success.

Mission Vista *High School*

1306 Melrose Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/758-6800 • www.vistausd.org



Nicole Miller
Principal

Unique Opportunities

Mission Vista High School (MVHS) has had a busy few weeks before and after returning from spring break. We hosted our first TedX talks, with eight of our students presenting powerful and personal speeches about the arts, autism, space, coding, and improvements in education. We had three athletic teams compete in post-season play, and our boys basketball won the CIF finals. This was followed by an opportunity to experience the talent of our dual-magnet students and staff, first with our steel drum group, then our Associated Student Body (ASB) Student-Staff Talent Show, finally and our Speech and Debate Showcase.

We have had state competitors in Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), theater, and speech and debate, and our students are in the midst of college selection, with many being offered admission to top colleges and universities. The League of Innovative Schools provided another opportunity to showcase innovative experiences for MVHS students. Classrooms were visited, Steel Drums 2 performed, our Black Wolf Production students recorded interviews and activities, and one of our teachers presented a Ted Talk. What a great time to be a Timberwolf!

All of this led us right into our testing window. Our 10th-graders have completed the California Science Standards Tests, and we are now in the midst of our Smarter Balanced Assessments and Advanced Placement tests. Our students are busy showing what they have learned and their level of mastery of the standards while experiencing unique and powerful learning opportunities on our campus.

Monte Vista *Elementary*

1720 Monte Vista Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-0410 • www.vistausd.org



Charlene Smith
Principal

Exciting Initiatives for Next School Year!

2015–16 brought many exciting initiatives to Monte Vista, including becoming a No Excuses University school, our first annual College and Career Fair, a new preschool program and one-to-one devices in all grade levels. With the new school year right around the corner, we look forward to even more exciting changes, including The Leader in Me (TLIM), AVID Elementary and a new MakerSpace.

Monte Vista is the recipient of a sizeable grant that allows us to implement TLIM schoolwide. TLIM is FranklinCovey's a schoolwide transformation process that "teaches 21st century leadership and life skills to students and creates a culture of student empowerment based on the idea that every child can be a leader." We've offered limited implementation of TLIM since 2014–15 and are thrilled to now be able to offer it to all students!

We are also excited to offer our fourth- and fifth-graders the AVID Elementary system. AVID's mission is to "close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society." The AVID philosophy is based on the belief that a growth mindset can be taught and will support students in following their dreams and reaching their goals. AVID and No Excuses University work together to promote high expectations, rigor and a culture of universal achievement.

Next year, students will also enjoy our new MakerSpace, which will offer hands-on, creative ways to design, experiment, build and invent. It combines elements of a science and a computer lab, a woodshop and an art room.

Rancho Buena Vista *High School*

1601 Longhorn Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/727-7284 • www.vistausd.org



Chuck Schindler
Principal

Countdown to the End!

At Rancho Buena Vista High School, we are having an exciting end of the year with our academic and athletic programs highlighting the great work of our staff and students. We had a productive Professional Development Day at the beginning of April that focused on the PLUS (Peer Leaders Uniting Students) program, the IB program and supporting all students in achieving at a high level. Teachers use this information to continue to meet in their Monday morning Professional Learning Communities to plan lessons and assessments that will prepare students to be college and career ready.

The arts have been very active at RBV as well, giving our students the opportunity to showcase their talents and extend their artistic expression. Our drama program's spring production of Seussical the Musical was spectacular, with the students giving a great performance. RBV hosted our annual Chalk Festival in April, with many students and staff participating as they decorated the main walkway at RBV.

Our athletic programs continue to make us proud, as they allow our students to develop their skills and to compete at high levels. Many of our girls' and boys teams' participated in the CIF playoffs once again this year, and we look forward to our spring sports teams doing just as well.

We look forward to recognizing the Class of 2016 and the completion of another successful year at RBV!

Murray *High School*

215 N. Melrose, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-2502 • www.vistausd.org



Chuck Hoover
Principal

Onward to the Zoo!

In March, we set out on our adventure to conquer the San Diego Zoo. Along with 40 MGM students, most of whom had never been to the zoo, the yellow school bus carried us down

Interstate 5. We had a mission to accomplish—exploring the zoo and its beauties and learning of possible careers with animals.

The excitement of the students was contagious; their eagerness to learn was humbling. We learned of the different opportunities our students can attain with education and with having perseverance and motivation to attain goals they have set for themselves. We were up close and personal with some of the most beautiful wild animals nature has to offer. The beauty was breathtaking.

The experience not only empowered our students but our staff also enjoyed these moments of both "Aha!" and "I got this," too!



Olive *Elementary*

836 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-7129 • www.vistausd.org



Stephanie Vasquez
Principal

Classroom Tower Gardens

Olive Elementary students utilize vertical Tower Gardens in the classroom to grow, maintain, and harvest fresh produce. The produce grown by fifth-grade students was recently approved for use in the school's WaveCrest Cafe in the salad bar. The Tower Garden is an aeroponics system that allows for the growth of plants at twice the growth rate of a traditional garden, using no soil and 90 percent less water.

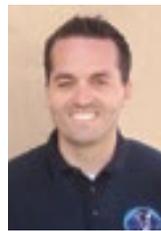
This Aeroponics Garden Project recently won Olive Elementary recognition as the 2016 Bright Idea Society Recipient winner. Along with this recognition, Olive received a San Diego City Council Proclamation as part of the San Diego Science and Engineering Festival event kickoff. Olive's Bright Idea was showcased at this event.

Olive Elementary's motto is Kids Think BIG, Turning Ideas into Reality! Through their passion in promoting healthy eating, the students at Olive Elementary have successfully grown their idea into a farm-to-table concept.



Rancho Minerva *Middle School*

2245 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-4500 • www.vistausd.org



Ben Gaines
Principal

And Now—the News!

It's been an exciting month for the video journalism students at Rancho Minerva Middle School! A small team from the Rancho Minerva News submitted two entries in the SDCOE iVIE Student Film Festival. This is the first time that RMMS students have entered this competition, and both submissions won awards in the humanities and documentary categories. One entry titled "Living History: Our Hometown Hero" featured the life story of 91-year-old USN veteran Robert Noble. The team attended the awards festival on Coronado Island in April to celebrate their accomplishments.

These students also entered the KWN Kid Witness News National Panasonic video competition with a documentary on local VHS senior and USA athlete Amanda Spitzer. This project, titled "The Heart of a Champion," won top three in the nation and along with it, a trip for the RMN student team to New York and New Jersey for a Winners' Weekend celebration in early May.



Roosevelt *Middle School*

850 Sagewood Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/726-8003 • www.vistausd.org



Elise Ochendusko
Principal

A Lot to Celebrate!

We've been celebrating a lot in 2016 so far! For the 25th year in a row, Mr. Gammie's Wildcat Band earned the top rating of Unanimous Superior at Festival this year. Mrs. Taylor's Chorus also earned top ratings at their chorus festival, and RMS students Anahi Munoz and Veronica Portillo took first and second place respectively at the Optimist Club's speech competition. They will advance to competition at the regional level.

We've also been celebrating students on campus who demonstrate our Positive Attributes Wildcats Show (PAWS) through a positive referral program, as shown in the photo. Our COW project continues to make national news; most recently, it was featured in National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) April journal—see our website for the article—and has been highlighted by the U.S. Department of Education. 2 COW, the second phase of the project, will kick off in 2016–17.

Also in 2016–17, RMS hopes to enter its first year as a Personalized Learning Challenge School. Staff will explore different strategies for delivering personalized learning as we develop our PL brand. Stay tuned for more exciting things to come at RMS!



Temple Heights *Elementary*

1550 Temple Heights Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/631-6242 • www.vistausd.org



Kim Morton
Principal

Running to a Healthy Lifestyle

Temple Heights Elementary School kicked off its inaugural Running Club in October. With the help of some dedicated mothers, and a new program called the “Student Lap Tracker,” our students are now able to track their mileage on individual and whole-class levels. No more Popsicle sticks and hash tags with Sharpies!

On Monday through Thursday before the first bell rings you will find children from each grade level logging their miles as they run. Currently our top mileage holder is Keaton Hawkins, a first-grader who just surpassed the 100-mile mark! To date, our entire school has logged 11,766 miles.

Temple Heights has also had some special supporters and incentive boosters to help us along. Monthly awards assemblies showcase students who achieve mileage milestones as they earn “feet” to proudly display their efforts. Drawings from various vendors have been motivating as well.

A recent school-wide competition between all grade levels really got our healthy Dragons moving. Additionally, we have had strong community support, including special runs with the Turkey Trot Turkey (Ms. Anne Garrett, an 81-year-old lovely lady with the quickest half-marathon record for her age bracket), along with Vista’s “Strawberry” from the Strawberry Festival Run.

Children have the opportunity to get their bodies moving before the day gets going, and can incorporate logging miles during PE class. The intrinsic motivation to show up and get active for health’s sake has been the driving force for most of our students, and it’s a great thing to be a part of.

As a result, the Running Club has had a positive impact on individual students and the overall climate of our school.

Vista *Adult Transition Center*

325 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/758-3400 • www.vistausd.org



Chris Altona
Principal

A Change in Mindset

With the advent of Common Core, a multitude of changes have occurred in both general and special education. In some cases this has seemed like a pendulum swing. But this is not so in the realm of adult transition programs.

While free and appropriate public education extends to students without diplomas through the semester of their 22nd birthday, what this can mean has changed dramatically. What one knows and is able to do can be more important than the receipt of a diploma. This is a change in mindset, not a swing back of the proverbial pendulum.

Much attention is now being paid to the development of “soft skills” by our students. While certificates and diplomas are all important, they are not necessarily all important for some students. The ability to work successfully with others, navigate the community, maintain entry level employment, recognize and take care of one’s own physical and medical needs – and creatively pursue interests and dreams – are all vital parts of adult lives that don’t necessarily equate to having a high school diploma.

Families of students with special needs are recognizing this fact, and are in some cases opting out of earning an on-time diploma. Instead, they are focusing on the soft skills described above for some or all of the four years that follow high school. For some students the diploma will still be part of the picture, but not until these soft skills are more fully developed.

Vista Adult Transition Center was established with this growing population in mind. Our purpose is to backfill social, vocational, and daily living skills not yet realized by our young adult students with disabilities, and to send them on to their futures with a greater chance of thriving and achieving successful, fulfilling, and responsible adult experiences.

VIDA *Vista Innovation & Design Academy*

740 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-7115 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Eric Chagala
Principal

Coders Take on Indy!

VIDA is one of the few middle schools in California to implement the entire middle school version of Project Lead the Way (PLTW). PLTW is the leading science and engineering program in the nation for K–12 education. PLTW is the same program offered at Mission Vista High School for engineering and biomedical science.

In March, a VIDA student team of app developers was invited for an all-expenses-paid trip to Indianapolis, Indiana, to have their work in computer science highlighted for industry leaders, professors and K–12 educators at the annual Project Lead the Way national conference. As a result of the trip, the PLTW CEO is now planning a trip to VIDA to tour our entire program because of how impressed he was with our students! Students at VIDA take part in the PLTW program through both core science instruction and their design classes that support our magnet theme.



Vista Academy *of Visual & Performing Arts*

600 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/941-0880 • www.vistausd.org



Catina Hancock
Principal

An Amazing Place to Learn

Spring has sprung with exciting news at Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts! Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, announced that Vista Academy has received the distinction of being named a California Gold Ribbon School. He stated in his press release, "These schools shine as bright beacons for others, putting forth an exemplary effort to ensure that every student is ready for 21st century college and careers." Nearly 6,000 elementary schools were eligible to apply this year, and we are one of 29 schools

in San Diego County and the first elementary school in Vista Unified School District to receive this award.

We have recently shared the unique learning opportunities that abound on campus with several groups of educators. One group, the League of Innovative Schools, comprised of educators nationwide, had the opportunity to experience Vista Academy's arts integration and the trans-disciplinary International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme of Inquiry in action! It has also been a privilege to share our learning community with schools who are considering the development of similar programs.

Our Conservatory students have been working hard to showcase their talents. Some highlights are the beautiful performance put on by our violin and ukulele students, the Spring Showcase, "Dorothy Meets Alice," and our fabulous art show. We look forward to showcasing our school program during Open House, including our fifth-grade exhibition, a culminating project in which students collaborate to identify, investigate, and offer solutions to real-life issues or problems.

The next school year will bring new opportunities as we seek official IB certification. For more information about Vista Academy, please visit our Web site at <https://vapa-vistausd-ca.schoolloop.com/> or call (760) 941-0880 to schedule a school visit.

Congratulations to our amazing staff, super-star students, and wonderful parents, all of whom have helped to help create this amazing place we call Vista Academy.

Vista *High School*

1 Panther Way, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5611 • www.vistausd.org



Anthony Barela
Principal

A Great End to the Year

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching, but we have a wonderful spring season remaining at Vista High School. Here are some of the accomplishments that have been a part of our spring.

VHS had a successful WASC visit in March. On April 20 we also hosted the League of Innovative Schools, as well as Career Technical Education leaders from around the nation. Vista High School will also be opening up our completed stadium for the graduation event in June.

Under the direction of Jennifer Corso, our amazing Show Cats won a number of spring competitions around Southern California. Chef Kim Plunkett and her team defended their title as San Diego Top Chef Champions. Dave Hanlon had a group of student leaders selected to be part of the national WE Day in Los Angeles, and Pat Moramarco was selected as the District High School Teacher of the Year.

Mark Taylor was selected as the District Classified Employee of the Year. Craig Gastauer has been leading a group of VUSD educators into the 21st century with the International OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

As you can see, our students are definitely in good hands! We are continually striving to be "the" model of educational excellence. Thank you for your continued support! We look forward to a great end of the school year.

Remember, we are Vista every day!

Vista Adult School

510 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92081 • 760/758-7122 • www.vistaadultschool.org



Liz O'Shea-West
Principal

Come to Our Graduation!

Vista Adult School is proud to announce our graduation ceremony on Thursday, June 9, at 6 p.m. at the Olive Campus. In the past, this has been limited to our High School Diploma Program graduates, but in 2015, we expanded the ceremony to include our Career Technical Education Pathway graduates in medical assisting, phlebotomy, and billing and coding. This year, we are proud to further add to that list with our Culinary Pathway graduates as well. In total, we expect to graduate over 200 students!

We are very proud of our graduates for overcoming various obstacles to education in their past and persevering through challenging times as adults to complete their education or prepare for a new and exciting career. Most of our students hold jobs and have families in addition to their studies, so this is really a hard-earned accomplishment for them. The heavily attended ceremony is a testament to the pride and support our students have from their family and friends. We are also very excited about the ability to award \$10,000 in open-education scholarships from the charitable arm of an office-supply corporation so that our students can continue their studies or prepare for their careers.

We are looking forward to a beautiful ceremony outside on our field and all are welcome to attend, so come on out and celebrate our hardworking graduates!

Vista Magnet *Middle School*

151 Escondido Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5766 • www.vistausd.org



Anne Green
Principal

Going Green

The Vista Magnet Middle School (VMMS) Vipers were thinking globally and acting locally during a month of environmental action! They kicked off the month by volunteering at the Alta Vista Gardens Earth Day Festival and worked all month long to make our campus and community more eco-friendly.

The new student-initiated Environment Club has posted weekly updates about water conservation, and an eighth-grade community project raising awareness about water waste has resulted in plans for the installation of a hydration station this summer. VMMS also completed in the 2016 San Diego Schools Energy Conservation Competition, investigating campus energy conservation. Even our Engineering Club is on board, having constructed a hydroponic garden, which is providing students with hands-on experience with new "green" technologies.

Our environment month culminated with our annual "I Love a Clean San Diego" beach clean-up. Committed to our International Baccalaureate mission of "shared guardianship of the planet," Vipers anticipate expanding these efforts in the future.





Dr. Erin English
Principal

Progressive and Innovative

The “Best School in the Universe” is accepting applications for students in grades K–12. Our “Vision” is to provide an exemplary blended learning environment that will inspire our students socially, emotionally, and academically.

Our blended and personalized program, combined with our small class size, makes VVA an exceptional place for learning. Caring staff members work with student strengths to create the right experience needed for maximized learning. VVA is part of the Vista Unified School District, but it follows the California Independent Study Guidelines. Our progressive program allows for optimized learning and close peer relationships in a safe, nurturing academic environment.

Our high school meets the A-G requirements, and is approved by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Students who graduate from our progressive and innovative program are prepared to meet the demands of their chosen career or college of choice. Please contact our office for more information, at <http://vva.vistausd.org>.



Lacrosse—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 VISTA in the subject line)

Word Search by Kai Coop

Entries must be received by June 16, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| ATTACK | HEAD | SCORE |
| CLEATS | HELMETS | SHAFT |
| COACH | MIDDIES | SIDE LINES |
| CREASE | MOUTH GUARD | STICK |
| DEFENSE | NET | TEAMS |
| FIELD | PLAYERS | UNIFORMS |
| GOAL KEEPER | RULES | |

Congratulations to Felicia Vazquez
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!



Thrilling!



Lucy Davis

The Forbidden Library

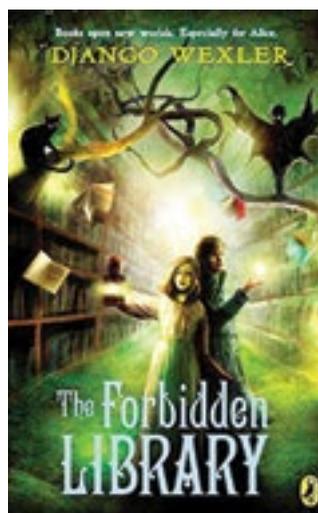
Author: Django Wexler

Alice wasn't supposed to up so late. She had been studying, and lost track of time. Usually she would be asleep, but on this night, something would change her life forever.

Her father came home late that night, and Alice went to greet him. It was the high, nasally voice that made her stop dead. When she peeks in the door and sees a fairy threatening her father, Alice is terrified. Her father goes on a trip two days later, and his ship sinks. Alice is then instructed to live with her "uncle" near Pittsburgh, and he helps her discover and control powers that she never knew existed. With the help of Geryton, Isaac, and Ashes the cat, Alice will have many spectacular adventures.

I think grades 4-6 would enjoy this book. As a note to readers, the second and third sequels have come out. (*The Mad Apprentice* and *Palace of Glass*). I give this book 4 bookworms out of five because of the cleverness and suspense.

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

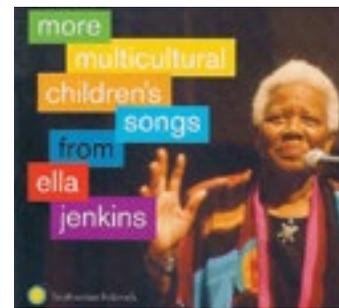


More Multicultural Children's Songs



Kate Karp

In celebration of the giving season, here's an offering from an award-winning children's music icon. Smithsonian Folkways has just released Ella Jenkins' 34th album, a sampler of music and spoken word that represents many diverse countries and cultures around the world.



Jenkins, called the First Lady of the Children's Folk Song, has recorded collections for children since back in the days of vinyl. My teacher played her records when I was a child in 1957, and yours may have, too, in the six-plus decades of her still-active career.

This collection sends children on a global tour that will educate them about vocabulary, special celebrations and cultures from here in the United States straight through the planet to the Great Wall of China—well, actually, that would be in the Indian Ocean, but you get the idea. There are stops at an Australian zoo for a visit with the continent's unusual animals, in Cuba for a dance lesson and in Israel for a dreidel spin. Children will learn how to count to ten in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese and Greek (and in English, of course) and will hear how *Cairo* in Egypt is pronounced differently from *Cairo* in Illinois. And their passports are good for a dozen other lands.

Jenkins turned 90 years old in August, and she's still singing. *More Multicultural Songs* comprises her continuing gift of learning and connection to cultures through song to children everywhere.

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

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