

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Wiseburn Unified School District

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 24

NOVEMBER 2016–FEBRUARY 2017

SUPERINTENDENT



Opening Doors, Building Dreams. . . Inspiring a Greater Tomorrow

The theme for our 24th edition and 9th year of Wiseburn *School News* is "Opening Doors, Building Dreams...

Dr. Tom Johnstone

Inspiring a Greater Tomorrow." Our District Goals this year have a foundation of being "Future Ready" with regards to technology, 21st Century Academic and Citizenship skills, positive behavior support for all students and student ownership of learning and behavior. As we power through 2016, we are at a crossroads, and a very exciting time in education. In many ways education has changed very little in the past 100+ years. The Prussian-Industrial model that was introduced in this country in the 1840s and 1850s is pretty much the way all of us were taught. This model has greatly served our country for more than a century but with the explosion of information in the digital age, the factory model of education is no longer adequate. The skills that our children will need to be prepared for work, life and civic duty deep into the 21st Century will be significantly different. In a knowledge economy, what employers will need most are people who understand problems, analyze the big picture, predict the ramifications of what they are proposing, synthesize new knowledge, and be creative as they problem solve and collaborate. Essentially we need thinkers, problem solvers and communicators. As a K-12 school system, Wiseburn and Da Vinci are working together in tandem to provide all of our students with the tools and skills necessary for college and career readiness.

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 14

Honoring Outstanding Wiseburn Educators

By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent

Every year during the first week of school in Wiseburn, we take time to honor an outstanding teacher and classified employee of the year. This year we acknowledged our eighth annual employees of the year!

More than any other profession, education is a people profession. Awesome teachers and support staff have a profound effect on student achievement and molding a better future. In fact, the single greatest factor in determining student achievement is an outstanding teacher. We have been abundantly blessed in Wiseburn for 120 years to be able to hire highly dedicated and passionate teachers and staff who love kids and who truly make a difference. There is nothing more heartwarming than to see our young adults crossing the stage at high school graduation with that positive gleam in their eye and a high level of confidence gained by knowing they are well-prepared for whatever comes next. Awesomely, more than 80% of our Wiseburn neighborhood students are staying here for high school and after Da Vinci graduation are going on to our nation's best universities. Our 2016 Da Vinci graduates are



Kathy Pittluck, Classified Employee of the Year



Dee Dee Zirbel, Certificated Employee of the Year

attending Boston University, Brown, Claremont, Columbia, Dartmouth, Dickinson, Johns Hopkins, LMU, NYU, Northwestern, Occidental, Pepperdine, Stanford, all of the UC's, Vassar and Yale, among many others.

Classified Employee of the Year

Our classified employees work up front and behind the scenes in countless ways to improve the quality of education for our students. Our 2016 Classified Employee of the Year, like the 7 who preceded her, is the personification of commitment and willingness to do whatever it takes to provide an excellent education for our students. Like most of our classified employees over the past 7 years, our 2016 Classified Employee of the Year is very much a product of Los Angeles and the South Bay. Our Classified Employee of the Year was born and raised in El Segundo. She attended Imperial Street Elementary and graduated from El Segundo High School. Outstandingly, this individual went on to graduate and earn a degree in Psychology from UCLA.

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Opening Doors, Building Dreams... Inspiring a Greater Tomorrow

By Debbie Felt, President

What a perfect theme to kick off the school year in our Wisburn Unified School District! With less than a year away from the grand opening of the new Wisburn high school campus, the Wisburn Education Foundation is thrilled to be working on joint plans and celebrations to help kick off the incredible facility our Wisburn students will enjoy for many years to come.

The Wisburn Education Foundation exists to enhance student learning, provide supplemental funding, and unify the schools and community of the Wisburn Unified School District. We are thrilled to kick off our 2nd Annual Appeal Campaign "Creating Works of HeART." You can support the Wisburn Education Foundation by making a donation this year. Our goal is 100% family participation. You can also take advantage of company match programs at your workplace. Donors of at least \$100 will receive a newly designed 2016-2017 WEF Yard sign, among other benefits. Those who donate over \$500 will also receive 4 free tickets to this year's Rock Around the Block.

What do your funds go towards you ask? The Wisburn Education has been enhancing student education for over 20 years. We provide supplemental funding to the district and we continue to unify the community through events such as Stargazing Night, Food Truck events, Rock Around the Block, etc. Our funds help to support PS Arts Music, Growing Great nutrition, Legends through Dance, Secrets of the Heart Dance, general PTA support and teacher grants. Last



Wisburn Education Foundation Board Members and community supporters

year's response from teachers' grants was fantastic! 80% of the children in our K-8 schools were impacted by the supplemental programs brought on by our teachers. Thanks to all of the donations we received from all of you last year, we were able to increase our teacher grant budget to \$25K this year. This allows for more teachers grants to be funded and continued enhancement of student education. Look for more details of our new recipients in the next district news.



Jane Comitz wins the Judges Pick Award!



Jane Comitz and her dancing partner, Konstantin Yakunin

Thank you to all who supported our very own Jane Comitz, former Cabrillo Principal, at Hot Ballroom Night! It was an amazing event and she was an inspiration to us all! So many of you came out to support Jane! Everyone in the audience was thrilled when Jane was chosen for the Judges Pick Award! Wisburn Education Foundation wants to send a very special thank you out to Jane for choosing WEF as her charity of choice. We appreciate you and all you do for this community and district! We also want to thank Past President Harley Hoff and Treasurer Bridget Cawthon for all of their hard work and dedication over the last several years! Harley will remain on the Board as an Honorary Board Member and Rock Around the Block Chair. Please help us welcome 2 new Board Members that joined us in June: Shavonda Christmas, Marketing/ Communications and Moses Boye, Treasurer. We are thrilled to be able to work with you all!

Now Onto Some Important Dates:

- **FOOD TRUCKS** - thanks to all who came out to support our Food Truck event on September 23!. We plan to have another in the spring.
- **80's PARENT PARTY** - Friday March 3rd- We will have Sirius XM and ex-KROQ DJ Richard Blade in the house! More information to come...
- **ROCK AROUND THE BLOCK** - Saturday April 1st
- **STARGAZING NIGHT** - May 5th
- **2nd ANNUAL CONCERT ON THE GREEN** - June 7th

As the Wisburn Education Foundation continues to grow, we are always in need of volunteers. Want to help with Rock Around the Block, Stargazing night, help plan the 80's party, or help us develop a new event or program? Just contact us at board@wisburnedfoundation.org or visit our website at www.wisburnedfoundation.org for more information.

WEF

WISEBURN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Founded 1996

What We Do

The Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF) is a dynamic, growing organization that exposes children in Wiseburn schools to various artistic expressions through on campus, extra-curricular activities. WEF celebrates visual, performing, and applied arts by augmenting funding for Art Classes, Music, Choir, and other creative programs that contribute to academic excellence. Research shows that even struggling students involved in arts improve on standardized tests. WEF creates an arts-rich STEAM environment through strategic partnerships and fundraising, which enhances student success and life-long achievement.



6 Fabulous Reasons WEF Supports the Arts

- 1 Strengthens Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- 2 Facilitates Cross-Cultural Understanding
- 3 Increases Leadership Capacity
- 4 Bolsters Perseverance
- 5 Instills Creativity

(your child's name here)

STEAM = Science + Technology + Engineering + ARTS + Mathematics

WEF Funds: P.S. Arts • Secrets of the Heart • GrowingGreat
Legends through Dance • Wiseburn Music Program • Teacher Grants • PTA Grants

What You Can Do

Help WEF ensure every Wiseburn student flourishes. Donate during our annual giving campaign: **Creating Works of heART!** Your tax-deductible gift will help us reach that goal!

DONATION LEVELS (annually)

\$25-99 Honor Roll
\$100-499 Scholar
\$500+ Valedictorian



Make a One-time Donation or Set-up a Monthly Installment. Donate by January 13, 2017 for online recognition!

See complete details at
WiseburnEdFoundation.org

Join us for fun family WEF events!
Look for Flyers & Banners
with Dates!

ARTS CULTIVATE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT!

WiseburnEdFoundation.org

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Wiseburn Students Show Growth On CAASPP Testing



Dr. Chris Jones
Deputy
Superintendent
Instructional
Services

Wiseburn students showed positive gains across grade levels on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) which was administered in May of 2016. This online test has been developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and is used by over 7 million students in 15 states across the country. This is the second year that the computer-based assessment has been given in California, allowing for a 2-year comparison of student progress. Students in grades 3-8 and in grade 11 now take this assessment each spring. Across the state of California, students improved their proficiency by an average of 5 points in English Language Arts and 4 points in Mathematics. Proficient is defined by students who met or exceeded standards by scoring a “3” or a “4” on a 4 point scale.

At Dana, Burnett and Anza, 3rd – 8th grade students combined to exceed state averages by improving an average of 11 points in English Language Arts and 7 points in Mathematics. At Da Vinci Design, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Communications High Schools, 11th grade students combined to drop one point in English Language Arts while gaining four points in Math. This level of Growth for the Wiseburn Unified School District represents the largest overall growth for any school district in the South Bay. The growth pattern for Wiseburn and Da Vinci students is one positive indicator that students are showing mastery of a rigorous curriculum. In English Language Arts, our students are performing well above state averages indicating a strong program

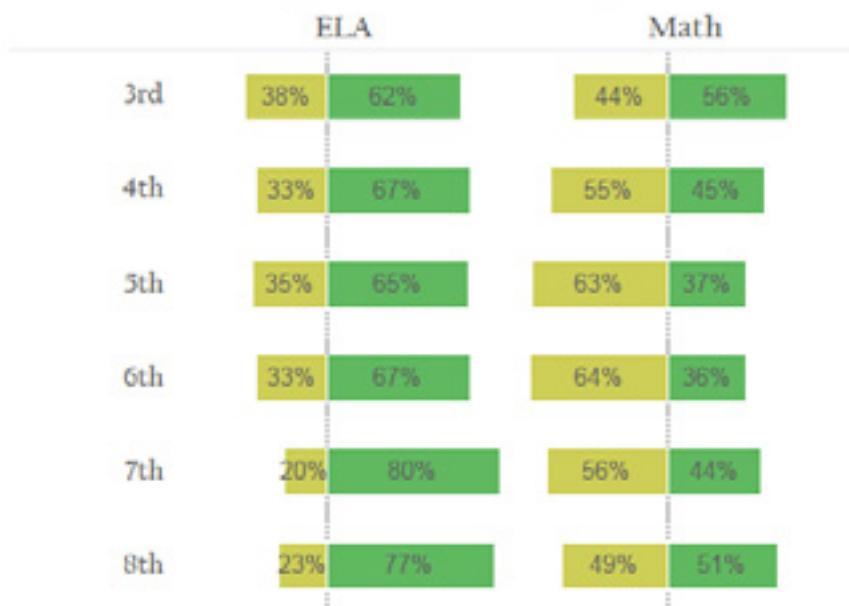
in this area. These results also indicate our continued need to focus on building student conceptual understanding of mathematics and to continue our ongoing K-12 partnership with the Math Leadership Corps at Loyola Marymount University. The recent addition of a 1:1 student to device ratio model for technology is also a positive factor, as these assessments are all computer-based. Helping students to regularly use technology tools to support their educational progress is a major goal area for Wiseburn.

There are many other factors beyond simple test scores that are a part of what makes for a successful learning experience for students. At Wiseburn and Da Vinci we are interested in gathering data from a variety of sources to best inform our ongoing practice. Towards that purpose, we have begun a partnership with Schoolzilla, a data-management public benefit corporation. During this school year, we intend to use real-time data to build dashboards that allow our staff to look at individual student information, as well as grade level, department and school-wide trends. These data report student academic progress including attendance, grades, and performance on a variety of assessments. At the high school level, we are particularly focused on tracking student preparedness for college and career, which includes the monitoring of success after high school graduation. Our focus on the collection of useful data will help our staff make informed decisions about instruction and support for all students.

For more information about CAASPP results: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

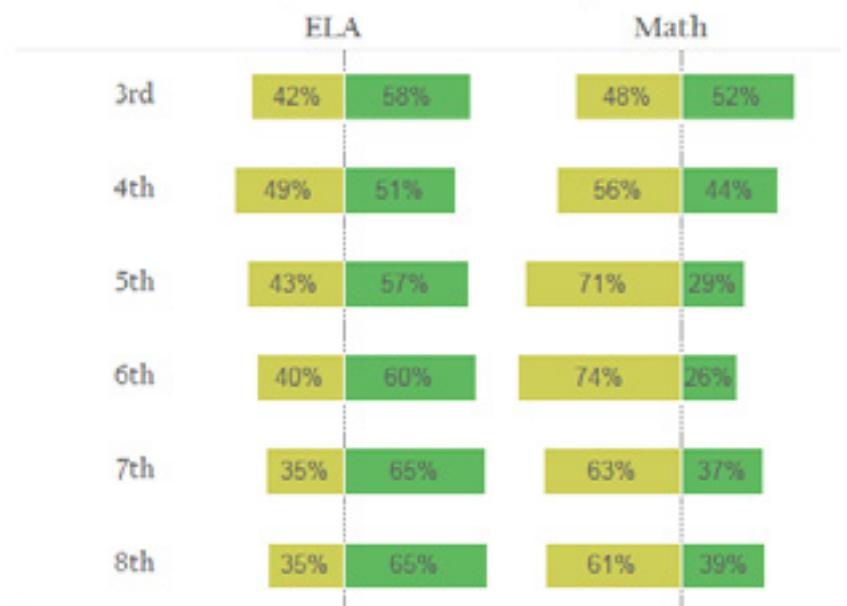
2016 WUSD CAASPP RESULTS

% of students above (green) or below (yellow) proficient



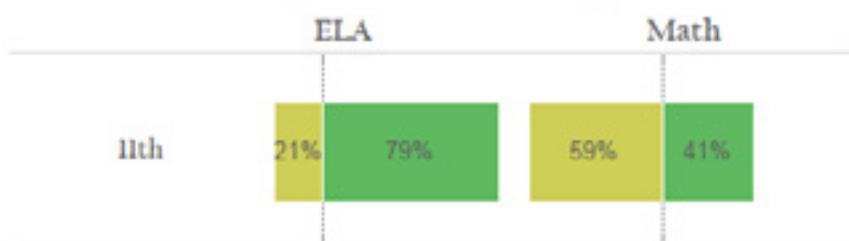
2015 WUSD CAASPP RESULTS

% of students above (green) or below (yellow) proficient



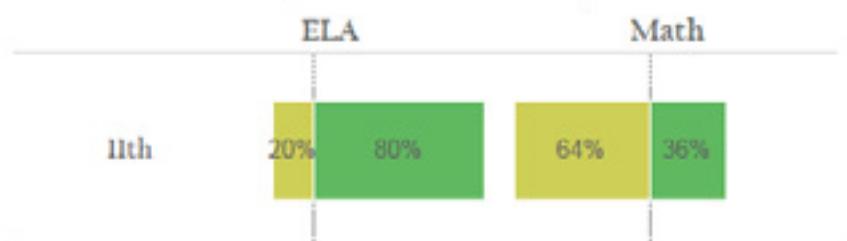
2016 DA VINCI CAASPP RESULTS

% of students above (green) or below (yellow) proficient



2015 DA VINCI CAASPP RESULTS

% of students above (green) or below (yellow) proficient



Wiseburn Watch

P.O. Box 1284, Hawthorne, CA 90251 • Harley Hoff, Co-Founder/President • www.wiseburnwatch.com

By Bill Magoon, Co-Founder/Vice President

Choice Blocks Initiative - The LA County Office of Education (LACOE) Committee on School District Organization voted on September 7, 2016 to transfer the Choice Block area (from 139th Street to 142nd Street) to the Wiseburn Unified School District in an 7-2-1 vote (for-against-abstained). This means that the Choice Block areas will vote (in an election following the November election) on the issue to officially enact the LACOE ruling.

Background

The Wiseburn tract is split 75%/25% by school district. The majority of our area is within the boundaries of the Wiseburn Unified School District, while the remaining blocks (Choice Blocks/Orphan Blocks) are assigned to Lawndale Elementary School District (PK-8) and Centinela Valley Union High School District (9-12). Permits are needed for kids in the Choice Blocks to attend Wiseburn Schools. We want all Wiseburn kids to attend Wiseburn Schools without permits!!

What did we do?

- We petitioned LA County Committee on District Organization which governs School District Organization to change the boundaries so all of our Wiseburn kids can be assigned to WUSD schools. (June 2014)
 - We were successful with getting enough signatures for the petition to move forward. (December 2014)
 - We presented before the County Committee at 2 Public Hearings (March 2, 2015) and several of their regular meetings (March 4, 2015 - January 2016)
 - We have had awesome community support from within and beyond the Choice Blocks
 - On September 7th, 2016, the County Committee voted to approve the transfer of the Choice Blocks to the Wiseburn Unified School District
- Many thanks to the chief petitioners Shavonda Christmas and Bill

Magoon for moving the community and not losing heart in a matter vital to the community -- to all of those who supported via email, letters, and oral presentations to the LACOE, you are an example of what a unified community is able to achieve!

Blood Drive on August 26th - Wiseburn Watch, Hollyglen Homeowners association, and the Wiseburn Library hosted a Red Cross blood drive on August 26 with the Bloodmobile taking blood donations at Wiseburn Library. People donating blood (which is in critical need during summer months) were

able to receive an Amazon gift card as thanks for their donation. Those needing extra energy after donating blood were able to replenish by visiting the Bool BBQ Food truck which conveniently made a pit stop in the early evening. Many thanks to those who donated blood this year, we will be doing another drive next year.

Wiseburn Watch sponsored National Night Out on August 2nd at the Ocean Gate Southern Baptist Church parking lot to celebrate the partnership that the Wiseburn Community has with law enforcement and emergency responders that patrol and service our area. We enjoyed the attendance of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, LA County Fire Department (along with the Shakey Trailer that simulates earthquakes), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the local Boy and Girl Scout troops, along with the presence of local businesses serving the Wiseburn community. Over 200 attendees stopped by to enjoy free food and drinks, as well as the chance to win several raffle prizes including a tablet, bicycle, and gift certificates to various food/retail merchants. Thanks to the community for attending and showing appreciation for the close partnership we all enjoy with law enforcement and emergency responders.

Wiseburn Walking Path - Finally, if you have driven on your way to school past La Cienega Boulevard (North and South of 135th) you will have noticed that the Wiseburn Walking Path construction is underway bordering La Cienega Boulevard (behind the blue construction fences bordering the street) from W. 139th to W. 131st streets approximately .7 mile in length. The walking path is being managed by the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation (LACODPR) in partnership with LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, CalTrans, and being erected with support from the LA Conservation Corps. The project is scheduled for completion by Q1 2017, the latest updates and progress are reported as part of the Wiseburn Watch meeting.

Santa Parade - Mark your calendars as Santa will be visiting Wiseburn on December 17, 2016, several months left for everyone to be nice and not naughty to get on the good list! More information and flyers will be made available in December.

The Wiseburn Watch is a non-profit 501c whose mission is to connect with the community and promote a safe Wiseburn. Meetings for Fall/Winter will be on September 28th and November 16th, 2016 at 7 PM at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School's General Purpose Room. We hope you join us.

WORD SEARCH CONTEST

Words from Wiseburn Watch

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 November 15, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

APPRECIATION	EMERGENCY	PARADE
ASSOCIATION	ENERGY	PATH
BLOCKS	ENFORCEMENT	RESPONDERS
BLOOD	INITIATIVE	SANTA
CHOICE	LIBRARY	WALKING
COMMUNITY	NATIONAL	WATCH
DONATING	NIGHT	WISEBURN
DRIVE	OUT	

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

By Maria Ferrante, President

The big blue doors of Anza reopened, and through them our children flooded in excited about the new school year, their new teachers, and reuniting with old friends. We also welcomed in our new principal, Mr. Albert Paredes, who was ecstatic to become an Anza Eagle!

The PTA was busy all summer planning and preparing by-laws and budgets and fundraisers. They also welcomed back our beloved and dedicated teachers by refurbishing the teacher lounge. It was wonderful to see the teachers return overjoyed with their new space.

The PTA was proud to supply new playground equipment to every classroom, along with student planners, Anza folders, and online learning support sites such as Raz Kids and Moby Max. They also contributed towards this year's Secrets of the Heart program for our kindergarten students, and are funding assemblies and field trips for every grade. Anza is off to an exciting start!

One way that our PTA is able to fund programs that inspire and encourage children is due to the tremendous support from Anza families at our annual Jog-A-Thon. This year the Jog-A-Thon took place on October 12. The event was fully planned and carried out by our Anza village, including teachers, student council, PTA, and parent volunteers.

Anza students love to run, and we love to cheer them on! In fact, they love to run so much that we are bringing back the Stride Track running program this year. Stride Track was spearheaded by second-grade teacher and Anza PTA treasurer Mrs. Ruby Del Rio. Last year our first- and second-graders participated in Stride Track and accumulated mile after mile to the amazement of their teachers and parents.

With the generous support of the WEF, we are hoping to roll out Stride Track to every grade this year. Get your running shoes on students and show us what you can do!

Burnett PTA

By Liza Somilleda, President • lasomilleda@aol.com

The school year has gotten off to a tremendous start, and time is moving at a quick pace! Fall activities are in full swing, and the PTA at Burnett has gotten off to an incredible start this year!

Our PTA has been as active as ever this year. We have worked diligently to inform parents about all the school "extras" PTA pays for, including assemblies, field trips, Bulldog Best award prizes, technology enhancements, and programs in the classroom like Hands on Art. Our families support us, and we are incredibly proud that before the first month of school was finished, nearly two thirds of Burnett families had joined the PTA.

The theme of "Opening Doors, Building Dreams...Inspiring a Greater Tomorrow" is a very fitting one for this time of year. It's the perfect message to echo the mission of PTA, which is to unite parents, teachers and the community. At Burnett, our PTA Board and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that the doors are always open to all by creating opportunities for students, teachers and the community to learn and laugh together at restaurant nights, during enrichment activities like engineering night, and during classroom field trips. We challenge children to push their limits at the talent show and to try new things during Hands on Art and Growing Great. Each of these experiences may be the one that introduces children to an activity or a career path that may change their life forever. We hope every parent will join us in these experiences.

Before the end of 2016, we will host our inaugural PTA-sponsored Fun Run, a couple of restaurant nights, a fall book fair, an after-school movie, an ice-skating afternoon and our annual holiday craft night. We will fill Holiday Giving Baskets for families within our own Wiseburn community who are going without during the holiday season. We open our PTA doors to you and your children and hope that something they are exposed to through PTA may build a dream that inspires them forever.

Please support our PTA by becoming a member, attending events, or by giving your time this year. Whether you can give 15 minutes or 50 hours, we are grateful. Our PTA is made up entirely of volunteers, and we always need more! Our doors are always open, and we hope you will join us in working together with parents and teachers to make our children's lives fuller and richer so that they will be inspired toward a greater tomorrow.



ECC INVITES YOU TO COLLEGE NIGHT!

Please join us anytime
between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16

- Learn About ECC Programs and Resources
- Tour the Campus
- Attend Workshops:
Financial Aid, Honors Transfer Program,
Student Life, Athletics, and Career Planning

RSVP: www.elcamino.edu/collegenight



EL CAMINO COLLEGE



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Cabrillo PTA

By Laura Heredia, President

Cabrillo PTA would like to welcome back all the returning Cubs and their families. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready to get back in the swing of things. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to all the new Cubs and their families. We look forward to working with you and getting to know you.

Cabrillo PTA's open association meetings are the second Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Cabrillo Performing Arts Center. (Children are welcome to attend.) We invite all Cub families to join our meetings and get involved in their children's future. The PTA Executive Board has worked hard throughout the summer to bring back favorite events and plan exciting new ones!

We started the year with a great turnout at our School Year Eve event. Many families came out to purchase Cub wear, PTA memberships, and earthquake kits while checking to see which teachers their children would be learning and growing with this school year.

Thank you to all the men and students of Cabrillo who came to the annual WATCH Dads Of Great Students (DOGS) pizza dinner. It is always amazing to see how many dads come out to support their students.

Our Family Literacy Night was a fun and educational event for all. This special evening provides an opportunity for teachers, students, and families to come together to read and learn the importance of reading while spending quality time together as a learning community.

Our highlight event of the fall was our annual Movie Night. Hundreds of families came to the Cabrillo field to enjoy family, friends, dinner, and a movie under the stars.

Save the date for our annual Bear Bazaar on Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are looking for community business partners and vendors of all kinds to be part of this wonderful event, which allows our children to do holiday shopping on their own. If you're an interested vendor, please e-mail Cabrillomembership@gmail.com.

It's important to stay involved in your child's education as much as you can. We invite you to join us, and we thank all the families that continue to support Cabrillo PTA in opening doors, building dreams, and inspiring a greater tomorrow!

Dana PTA

By Jamie Delgado, President

Our new school year is underway, and we are excited about the endless opportunities awaiting our students at Dana. The student population is comprised of children from the immediate and surrounding communities, and we respect and take pride in their cultural diversity.

We have many resources available to them, such as our computer lab, school library, fun-filled extracurricular activities, team sports, an active PTA, and an experienced and approachable staff and administration that promote an environment which encourages discovery and exploration. These are fundamental tools when molding our thinkers and citizens of the future.

As a PTA, we are honored to support the great things that are happening for our students here at Dana. We invite each and every one of you to share in this experience and join the PTA. By doing so, you will be showing your children how excited you are to be a part of their school community. You will really be emphasizing the importance of their education.

This is an exciting year at Dana. The doors are wide open and ready to welcome you into our school community. Join us and get to know your PTA board members! We will help you find a way to get involved that works best for you. Also, please participate in the inaugural year of the Dana Parent Partnership Program. We are very excited about this new program!

The PTA kicked off the year by providing support to the wonderful WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) and CORE (Community of Respect and Empathy) programs and supplied each and every student with a planner. Throughout the year the PTA will continue to support these programs, as well as help provide incentives for the Merit and AR reading programs. These are incredible programs that teach our children confidence, community, respect, and empathy. They help establish a strong foundation upon which our students can build their dreams.

Throughout the year our PTA will also be supporting student field trips, assemblies, Career Day, Future Ready, and so much more. We are happy to be a part of inspiring students to learn, work hard, and be our better "tomorrow."

Our Annual Rock Around the Block event will be on April 1. Thank you to all of the families who continue to support the Dana PTA, and welcome to the new families who will be members soon.

Wiseburn, Hollyglen & Del Aire Real Estate



Julie DeCoste, Realtor
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Thinking of buying or selling?

Please contact me to answer your questions.

Buyers

- Interest Rates are still low which means you can afford more before they rise.
- Inventory is still low, yet the demand for homes is high. This is what is called a Seller's Market. It is very difficult to get an accepted offer due to multiple offer situations. I have been very successful representing "buyers" in this market. Please call me to discuss.
- I have upcoming listings in the Wiseburn School District. Call to inquire.

Homeowners

- We are in a Strong Seller's Market with higher prices and multiple offers on homes priced correctly. I have a proven track record in getting top \$\$ for homes in the Wiseburn School District.
- Call today for a FREE Market Analysis of your home or if you need advise on how to get your home ready for sale to maximize profit.



RE/MAX
ESTATE PROPERTIES



DeCosteRealEstate@gmail.com • www.JulieDeCoste.com



Dr. Matthew Wunder
Chief Executive Officer

Opening Doors to New Students, Partners, Programs and Opportunities for College and Career Readiness

What a great start to the new school year!

Each of our campuses is buzzing with new students, projects, programs, partners, and opportunities for real world learning designed to prepare students for college, career and life.

Da Vinci Innovation Academy is hosting a new Book Club for parents to read and discuss DVIA's foundational literature starting with "How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk." DVIA recently hosted its first of four Parent Educator Conferences and tried a new trend in conferencing called an "unconference" in which no topics were predetermined. Instead,

the parent-educators decided what topics would be discussed in the morning and convened the closing breakout sessions in a peer-to-peer environment where parents were both experts and novices on a variety of subjects, including Homeschooling Multiple Children, Integrating Field Trips into the Homeschooling Experience, and Supporting Your Child's Writing.

Da Vinci Communications has 67 12th graders this year and will graduate its first class of seniors in June. Every DVC junior and senior is enrolled in a career pathway course of their choice: Strategic Communications in partnership with 72andSunny, Computer Science (robotics, web design or app development), Journalism, or Music & Media with Toby Harwell.

Da Vinci Design is offering a Graphic Design/User Experience pathway in partnership with UCLA Extension and an Architecture pathway in partnership with Gensler and El Camino College (preliminary discussions also are underway with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo School of Architecture).

Da Vinci Science continues to build upon its engineering pathway. DVS students may choose from three career pathways: Engineering, Biomedical, and STEAM which integrates art and technology. Industry and higher education partners include: Northrop Grumman, Chevron, Boeing, SpaceX, Raytheon, El Camino College, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Giving Kids Wings. Additionally, DVS is offering a new Space Exploration seminar this year taught by Lt. Col. Robert M. Atkins of the U.S. Air Force.

At Da Vinci Extension (DVX), we have added College for America at Southern New Hampshire University (CfA at SNHU) as a partner. CfA at SNHU is a fully accredited, competency-based nonprofit college that uses a project-based, online format that allows students to achieve mastery at their own pace. DVX is piloting a CfA at SNHU pathway in 2016-17 concurrently with its existing DVX-UCLA Extension pathway, providing college and career wraparound supports (academic tutoring, project support).

Also new this year, we have added Da Vinci Flex and Da Vinci FUTURES, two new programs that will enable Da Vinci to impact students with a broader range of learning styles and needs, while maintaining a commitment to real-world readiness.

The Da Vinci Flex program was created to respond to a local need to help Da Vinci students with credit recovery or other individualized learning needs for successful completion of a high school diploma. Through this program, students obtain their high school diploma or receive support in studying for their GED and be prepared for a successful transition into college and career. Students will attend classes 2-3 days per week in 1:1 and small group settings with additional opportunities for enrichment, field trips, project workshops, and jobs and internships. We believe Da Vinci Flex can meet the needs of a

variety of students, including those who need to recover credits, are highly motivated and wish to accelerate their progress toward a high school diploma and/or college degree, have personal needs or extenuating circumstances that require flexibility of schedule, or are interested in incorporating extended work experiences into their education.

Beginning in 2016-17, Da Vinci Schools is offering additional special education services via the Da Vinci FUTURES program. Da Vinci has opened two new classes for special education students with mild/moderate and moderate/severe needs in grades 9-12 on the Da Vinci Communications campus. These classes are designed to meet students' unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living.

RISE High, Incubated at Da Vinci Schools, Wins \$10 Million 'Super School' Grant to Reinvent High School

RISE High was selected as one of 10 'Super School' winners in a national high school redesign competition funded by Laurene Powell Jobs, the widow of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. XQ is funding 10 new public high school models, providing each school with \$10 million over the next five years. XQ received nearly 700 applications from 45 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico. The challenge was the largest open call in history, calling on educators, entrepreneurs, parents, pioneers, business leaders, administrators, researchers, and most important of all, students themselves to rethink what American high school should be.

Opening in August 2017, RISE High will meet the unique needs of homeless and foster youth and other students from a variety of diverse backgrounds and learning needs. RISE will have three to four sites sharing space with existing nonprofits in the downtown Los Angeles area and other high need areas in order to provide wraparound support services such as medical and mental health care, legal services, and more. In addition to the brick-and-mortar facilities, RISE will provide a mobile resource center that supports students and meets a variety of their academic and personal needs, transports them to and from classes, and serves as a recruitment and intake center for new students.

RISE High was developed by Kari Croft, a Harvard Graduate School of Education graduate and a Da Vinci fellow, and incorporates many of Da Vinci Schools' signature programs and practices, including real-world project-based learning, collaborative culture, industry partnership model, and personalized learning.

Da Vinci Schools had been under a strict confidentiality agreement until the award was publicly announced on September 14 so we were not able to give prior notice about the XQ grant. We are extremely excited for the RISE High team and for all of those who contributed to the success of this grant application and to all Da Vincians that inspired this school design.



Industry experts gave real-world feedback in Da Vinci's first-ever Project Pitch Panel designed to incorporate industry knowledge and skills into the curriculum.

Da Vinci in the News

Da Vinci's innovative college and career-ready curriculum has been featured in several recent articles:

- Da Vinci was featured in *The Huffington Post* blog in an article entitled, "The Future of Learning: Project-based, Place-based, Experiential, Authentic, Constructivism" (Sept. 11, 2016).
- Da Vinci's hiring practices are highlighted in a new Next Generation Learning Challenges brief, Next Gen Hiring for Mindset toolkit, and in a NextGen blog post, "How to Hire Teachers with a Next Gen Mindset" (Sept. 8, 2016)
- Da Vinci's internship program was featured in the *Daily Breeze*, "At Hawthorne-based SpaceX, high school students learn to reach for the stars" (Aug. 20, 2016).

Connecting the Education to Employment Pipeline

In August, Da Vinci hosted its first-ever Project Pitch Panel - an event in which industry professionals provided real world feedback to teachers on their upcoming projects in order to incorporate industry knowledge and skills into the curriculum.

All teachers at Da Vinci Design and Communications presented their interdisciplinary project ideas to a panel of industry experts, who then provided feedback, real world resources, and network contacts to make the projects more relevant to the 21st century workplace.

Teachers were incredibly excited about the opportunity to collaborate with industry on their projects. "The diverse minds in the classroom provided fruitful feedback that enabled my grade-level team to open our eyes to new possibilities" shared one grade level team. Another team shared that they had a "good mix of representatives from the Marketing, Non-Profit, Design and Medical fields which provided a variety of perspectives to help flesh out projects."

Industry professionals saw a behind-the-curtain view of Da Vinci Schools' planning process to gain a better understanding of the project based learning model. Participants infused the reality and opportunities provided by their businesses into teacher curriculum planning. "We are happy to offer continued feedback or insights into process or strategy in digital/marketing/design/development projects and would love to return for the web app pitches", said Jason Widmann, Director of User Experience at Stellar Digital Design Agency.

Participants in the Fall 2016 Project Pitch Panel included Stellar Design, Mattel, 72andSunny, Karten Design, Quest Nutrition, Belkin International, Susan G. Komen, Habitat for Humanity, and Deutsch.

This summer, 23 students from Da Vinci's three high schools participated in internships. Placement industries included Design, Engineering, Nonprofit, Aerospace, Fashion, Health Sciences, Law and Computer Science.

Karen Moore, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore Acquisitions and Marketing Manager, says that their internship concentrated on raising the ReStores' awareness via Instagram. Moore shared that Habitat LA "saw a steady increase in engagement on the site" with an average of 25-35 likes per photo that was posted daily and at least 1-2 comments from interested or engaged followers due to their Da Vinci intern, Zimri Rodriguez.

Rachel Greenberg, a 12th grader at Da Vinci Science who serves as the Mechanical Design Director on the robotics team, gained real-world experience through her internship at SpaceX. "During my time in the IT Department at SpaceX, I learned an array of tasks: imaging computers, archiving computers, putting a computer back onto the domain, setting up VPN for computers and phones, how to build computers, and so much more." says Rachel. "Working at SpaceX has helped me understand what I want to do with my life, where I want to go, and who I want to be. After this experience, I feel like a more confident, powerful, and responsible person." > See related article

About: Space Interior Design in El Segundo offered a paid internship to Naiomi Logan, a Da Vinci Design 12th grade student. Naiomi was a "true asset to the studio this summer. She was cheerfully willing to take on any task, even those that pushed her outside her comfort zone. She is resourceful, intelligent, and mature well beyond her years!" shared Principal Josette Murphy. Naiomi made such a contribution to About: Space that she has been offered a part time position through the school year.



More than 25 educators from across the country came to Da Vinci's first Summer Conference for Educators to learn more about the Da Vinci college and career-ready model.

2016 Summer Conference: Sharing Best Practices

Another first this year, Da Vinci Schools hosted its first-ever summer conference for educators interested in taking a deeper dive into Da Vinci best practices.

More than 25 public, charter and independent school educators from across the country came to Da Vinci in July for a multi-day conference focused on Project-Based Learning, Mastery-Based Grading, Fostering Authentic Industry Partnerships, and Building Positive School Cultures. Each day was jam packed with collaborative professional learning activities focused around reflective teaching, learning and leadership. We are extremely grateful to Schools That Can for their thought leadership and partnership in creating a space for innovative school leaders to work together to prepare students for success in the 21st century.

Da Vinci Schools continue to attract local, national, and international attention for our real-world, project-based curriculum, career pathways, industry partnerships, and mastery-based grading practices. Since 2014, we have hosted more than 200 educational groups to learn about our signature programs and practices. Visitors have come from Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Italy, Denmark, Serbia, Turkey, Chicago, Washington D.C., Vermont, Georgia, Tennessee, Greeley-Evans School District (Colorado), Menta schools (Illinois), Los Angeles Unified School District, California Charter Schools Association, and many more.

Upcoming Exhibition Nights – Join Us!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Exhibition Nights. Exhibition Nights are a great way to see our real world, "learn by doing" curriculum up close.

Da Vinci Innovation Academy

November 14 & 15 @ 5:00-6:30pm

Da Vinci Design/Communications

November 16 @ 6:00-8:00pm

Da Vinci Science

November 17 @ 6:00-8:00pm

Enrollment Update

Wiseburn Residents are guaranteed a spot at a Da Vinci high school as Da Vinci high schools serve as Wiseburn's "home" high schools for the Wiseburn Unified School District.

In order to reserve your spot, you must apply and complete the enrollment process. Wiseburn Residents must complete an application so we know you are interested in a space. Our online application will be available beginning November 1, 2016.

The Priority Application Deadline is February 28, 2017 at 11:59pm. Late applicants may not receive their first choice of school.

Wiseburn Residents are NOT guaranteed a spot at Da Vinci Innovation Academy due to the limited number of spaces in K-8 grades.

For more information about high school enrollment, please contact Maria Venegas at enrollment@davincischools.org or 310-331-8097. The High School Enrollment Office is located at Da Vinci Communications, 12495 Isis Avenue, Hawthorne, CA 90250. For information about K-8 enrollment, please contact Brianne Allen at ja@davincischools.org.

Juan de Anza *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Opening Doors and Building Dreams

We are excited to share that this year our students all have access to computers at a ratio of one student to one computer. In addition to having computers in the classrooms, students visit the computer lab on a regular basis. In both the computer lab and the classrooms, students use computers and software that support their learning.

Alberto Paredes
Principal

To increase Internet safety, teachers use Common Sense Media to teach digital citizenship to our students. Our teachers are trained by our very own Suzanne Guidi. Mrs. Guidi is a third-grade teacher at Anza Elementary School. During the last school year, she became a Common Sense Media ambassador.

Mrs. Guidi presented Common Sense Media's digital citizenship curriculum to the Anza teachers. They were then given time to plan how they would incorporate digital citizenship into classroom expectations and norms. Topics include Internet privacy, communication, cyber-bullying, and digital footprint. Common Sense Media is a great way to help Anza students SOAR!

Anza's students are excited to participate in many different programs. To promote creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking, we use a program called Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Our teachers are trained by our very own fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Candyse Crow. Mrs. Crow is a PLTW master teacher and the Wiseburn Unified School District PLTW lead teacher. She continues to support multiple teachers as they implement the PLTW modules. The modules are standards-based and include multiple topics, including engineering, bio-medical sciences, and computer science. PLTW assignments are problem-based and require students to work in teams. Teachers closely monitor students and provide guidance as needed. Ms. McKenna's students use the Chromebooks to show their knowledge in story vocabulary. Their chromebooks link up to the game, which gives them a limited time to answer questions and earn points. It is a fun and out of the box way to show what they know.



Anza Eagles SOAR

S: Scholars O: Outstanding Citizens A: Accountable R: Responsible



McKenna's students use Chromebooks to show what they've learned.



Always use common sense when you're on the Internet!



Anza students working together to create a robot that will move on command!

Peter Burnett *Elementary School (3-5)*

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



Laura Sullivan
Principal

Inspiring a Greater Tomorrow

Fall means changing seasons, heading back to school, setting new goals, and imagining that dreams can come true.

Listening to the sounds of excited children making predictions about their school, teachers, and the new school year helps to put the 2016–2017 school year into perspective. We at Wiseburn are fortunate to be opening our doors to new possibilities supported by our board members, Education Foundation, PTA, staff, and students.

Inspiring our students to be their Bulldog “BEST” refers to the Positive Behavior Support System (PBIS). The acronym BEST means “Be Responsible, Effort all the way, Safety First, and Treat all with respect.” Establishing a Positive Behavior Support System has been a pathway for success for our students, but the goal is to continue and expand PBIS behavior throughout the school year. Mrs. Gutierrez, our school counselor, will add a new layer to PBIS to provide more clarity for the students and staff and increase their real-world activities.

Technology continues to play a huge role in challenging students to structure their thinking to experience and make connections with Chromebooks and computer programs. With added technology on every Wiseburn Unified School District campus, our students have become very familiar with their Chromebooks. These technological devices have allowed the teachers in every third-, fourth- and fifth-grade classroom the opportunity to create a positive and upbeat atmosphere in class.

It’s a great time for our students to not only conjure up images in their mind, but also have access to an abundance of information. Students are now using technology to go beyond simple thinking skills to navigate a complex curriculum in a rapidly changing society.



Success!



Team Work in Action

Peter Burnett will also be implementing Cognitively Guided Instruction in math during the 2016–2017 school year. A cohort of teachers will have a great opportunity to be working with the Cotsen Foundation. Through this wonderful organization, our teachers and students will receive special training that features a philosophy of making great teachers greater. Teachers will challenge their students with the opportunity to advance their mathematical thinking by discussing, revising, and organizing materials to show the importance of using various mathematical strategies in their work.

Our science program also includes STEM activities through Project Lead the Way, where students can experience, collaborate, create, and solve many real-world problems. This program has opened doors to help empower our students to develop true-to-life challenges every day. At Burnett, our students are opening doors, building dreams, and inspiring a greater tomorrow.



Students participating in Project Lead the Way activities

Juan Cabrillo *Elementary (K-2)*

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



Margaret Lynch
Principal

Opening Doors: Inspiring a Greater Tomorrow

This year, we celebrate the many ways our Cabrillo community is opening doors, building dreams, and inspiring a greater tomorrow for our children. In this issue, we highlight our one-to-one Chromebook implementation, our after-school programs and our staff legacy of inspiration.

This year, Cabrillo students and teachers are opening doors together at Cabrillo with the district implementation of one-to-one Chromebooks for all grade levels. Teachers at Cabrillo appreciate

the guidance of our district teacher on special assignment for technology, Mary Nies, and of our four technology mentors: Kathy Espana, Lissette Ochoa, Emily Witkowski and Deedee Zirbel. Cabrillo teachers have attended trainings in teaching digital citizenship and using Google Classroom. They are working with their grade-level teams to design lessons.

“I love working on my own computer in my own classroom,” one student said. This exciting first year of one-to-one Chromebook implementation will certainly inspire a greater tomorrow.

Chess Tutors ended the 2015–16 school year with an amazing tournament at the University of Southern California! This year was

the 12th annual Grand Match Gala of the Battle of the Minds/Tournament of Champions Chess competition, which brought together over 250 top competitors from 20 schools and seven school districts. Cabrillo’s own second-graders Tyler Tuttle and Kylee Duvall took first and second places in their division!

In addition to chess, Cabrillo offers Spanish, tennis, drama, sculpting, Bible and Lego-engineering classes after school for a fee in order to open doors that nurture talents and interests of our students.

Each year, the Wiseburn Unified School District recognizes the commitment and service of our dedicated employees. Staff members that have served 10 or 15 years are recognized at a district gathering in September. Staff members that have served 20, 25, 30, 35 or even 40 years are recognized at a board meeting in May. Cabrillo consistently has employees celebrated at both events.

Our staff members not only inspire a greater tomorrow but they also remain a part of our school community to make great things happen!



Cabrillo 2nd graders Tyler Tuttle and Kylee Duvall earning 1st and 2nd place in their chess division competition at USC



1st graders in Mrs. Liza Hough-Skovron's Room 14 log onto their individual Chrome Books



Cabrillo staff recognized for their years of service (left to right): Lupe Montalvan, attendance and office (15 years); Tabassum Kahn, lunch supervisor (10 years); Cara Nakama, 2nd grade teacher (15 years); Bonnie Olguin, Kindergarten teacher (15 years); Grace Houzvicka, ELD teacher (15 years); Melissa Craig, 2nd grade teacher (15 years)

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

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Dr. Aileen Harbeck
Co-Principal



Dr. Blake Silvers
Co-Principal

Building 21st-Century Skills

By Dr. Blake Silvers, Co-Principal

The launch of the 2016–2017 school year finds Dana Middle School starting right where we left off. Technology-infused classrooms emerged as common practice last year, and the need to provide a robust online system for teaching and learning rose to the forefront. Teachers have become proficient in Google tools, creating Web sites, using Google classroom, Google docs, and

other Google Apps For Education (GAPE), so the need for a one-stop shop for everything tech was pivotal.

Enter Canvas. This new learning management system now provides the tools necessary to organize, track, create information, and assess student progress from a single login. Parents and students can view assignments, class information, grades, and other pertinent material within seconds. The centerpiece of our Canvas goal is to adopt a system that supports a 21st-century learning environment while preparing students to be college and career ready.

To ensure a smooth transition to Canvas as school opened, our dedicated staff embarked on hours of training this past summer, led by the teachers of Dana's own Future Ready Advisory Team. All of the teachers created Canvas portals, and this platform continues to be more robust in its implementation as time goes on, training continues, and new elements are discovered.

As Dana continues to move forward to become a 21st-century learning environment, these 21st-century tools are vital. These tools provide all students with a chance to be successful. Thus Dana strives to open doors, build dreams, and inspire a greater tomorrow for all of our Dolphin families!



Dana's 6th grade students engage with technology.
Above: (B) Sarai Baker & Kennedy Barfield (F) Nathan Antonio
Below: (L) Jennifer Velazquez & Leslie Mendez
(R) Emma Gutierrez & Isaias Hernandez



An Epic Win with Digital Portfolios

The theme for Dana Middle School's 2016–2017 school year is "Epic Win!" This idea plays seamlessly into Dana's signature practice of personalizing learning in order to open doors and build dreams that inspire students.

To kick off the year, each student has already begun building an initial Web site by using the template that was provided for them. Throughout the year, students will continue to personalize their sites by adding items such as class projects and thoughtful reflections.

The goal for each student to take ownership of his or her learning is best seen in how students monitor their own growth and accomplishments via their Digital Portfolios of Student Growth (D-PSGs). All of this work is shared with families at Dana's spring student-led conferences. This year all Dana Dolphins will work to build D-PSGs, highlighting their own personal "wins" throughout the school year.

Our Classified Employee of the Year is super-organized and people oriented. During her years at UCLA she worked as an Accounting Clerk at Frito-Lay in El Segundo. After college graduation she took a sales secretary job at Profit Freight Systems and later was an Administrative Assistant at Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Santa Monica. Moving closer to home in 1989, she became a bookkeeping and accounting clerk at Mariposa Market in El Segundo.

The seeds for a career in education were sown early for our Classified Employee of the Year. She spent two years at the UCLA Childcare Center and was an RSP aide in Santa Monica-Malibu USD. In addition she spent 17 years teaching Sunday School from 1981 to 1998.

Our 2016 Classified Employee of the Year has even closer ties to education. She is married to a school teacher and has 3 children who attended Anza Elementary School, one of whom is also a teacher! As her children were navigating through the Anza years, this outstanding employee volunteered at the school for seven years supporting teachers in classrooms, participating in Hands on Art, Classics in the Classroom and the Anza Read-in. She was very active in the Anza PTA serving as fundraising chair for 2 years and PTA President for 2 years. She was also active as a volunteer with Brownies and Girl Scouts.

Our Classified Employee of the Year was hired on March 19, 1996 as an Instructional Aide and Playground Aide but also supported the Anza office as a General Clerk. In 1998 she applied for a new position and stated that her job objective was pursuing her dream of working in a capacity that supported her two passions – children and books!

Many adjectives have been used to describe this outstanding employee over the past 20 years – high quality, precise, accurate, fast, cooperative, enthusiastic, cheerful, courteous, dependable, reliable, self-starter, resourceful, progressive, consistent, positive, knowledgeable, thoughtful, flexible and stellar.

Our Classified Employee of the Year was promoted in 1998 to serve as a part-time Library Clerk at Anza School. She served in this capacity from 1998-2005 alongside her good friend, Shannon Tupper (Burnett School), who was our 2012-13 Classified Employee of the Year. In 2005, this individual was promoted to full-time Library Clerk at Anza. In 2009 her principal, Dr. Chris Jones wrote, “She is a stellar employee who is a pleasure to work with. She not only runs the library efficiently but also keeps her finger on the pulse of the school. She has strong bonds with her students and she regularly helps students connect the dots from one year to the next. She loves her job and she is truly a gift to Anza!”

Our 2016 Classified Employee of the Year joins two other stellar Library Clerks as Classified Employees of the Year, Kathy Ory and Shannon Tupper. All three have Bachelor’s degrees and all three could have been outstanding teachers, but they stayed true to their passion --- the awesome blend of children and books!

If you are fortunate enough to bump into her around town or at COSTCO, please take a moment to congratulate our 2016 Classified Employee of the Year, Anza’s Library Technician Kathy Pittluck!

Teacher of the Year

If there is one word to describe our 2016 Teacher of the Year, that word would have to be leader. Our 2016 Teacher of the Year is a born leader who has always challenged the status quo – which this individual continues to do.

Our 2016 Teacher of the Year is not a product of the South Bay. She hails from Decatur, Illinois – proud first home of Abraham Lincoln and current home of Caterpillar Bulldozers, Inc. Our honoree attended Kindergarten to Grade 2 at Enterprise Elementary School in Decatur and Noyes Elementary for 3rd grade before moving with the family to St. Joseph, Missouri where she attended Ballwin Elementary and Morgan Selvedge Junior High. At the beginning of the 10th grade, her family moved again to Los Angeles, California, where she enrolled at Venice High School. While a move like this might challenge most young teenagers, our Teacher of the Year Honoree dove in and thrived from Day 1. In the fall of her 10th grade year, she served as the 10th Grade Class Secretary and in the Spring served as the Student Body Commissioner of Publicity. By 12th grade, our honoree rose to the top and was elected Student Body President of Venice High School, which had a student enrollment greater than the entire Wiseburn Unified School District, including the Da Vinci Schools. Even further, this individual was elected by all the student body presidents in LAUSD to represent them at the LAUSD School Board meetings!

Our Teacher of the Year is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University where she earned a degree in Art History and later a Master’s Degree in Reading and a teaching credential.

After LMU our honoree worked for a while before spending more than a decade as a stay-at-home mom raising 3 beautiful and successful children. Even as a stay-at-home mom, our honoree continued to be a leader and agent of positive change. As a young mother, she became involved as a Volunteer in La Leche League, an organization that provides peer support to mothers who breastfeed their children. As a LLL leader our honoree pushed the envelope and challenged the status quo. Prior to our honoree’s unyielding pressure, the LLL advocated that women with babies should stay at home and not work. Our Teacher of the Year understood that staying at home is not an option for most women and that women who need to work, deserve to have the support that LLL offers too. Not surprisingly, our honoree changed the LLL organization.

Our Teacher of the Year was hired by Wiseburn as a substitute teacher on January 9, 1997. After 3 years as a substitute our honoree took a second grade shared contract at Cabrillo School where she served for 7 years. A shared contract only gave her more time for leadership opportunities and greater service to Cabrillo School. She served Loyola Marymount as a Teach for America supervisor for 2 years. She served as a Technology Mentor and served on the committee to revise the District Technology Plan. She has served on the District Leadership Team to write our annual SMART goals. She served on the District’s Social Studies Text Selection Committee, and the Measure A Committee to pass a bond and rebuild Cabrillo School. She is a Beginning Teacher Support Provider and has been a Master Teacher for LMU student teachers. She has also served Cabrillo School on School Site Council, Sunshine Committee, Red Ribbon Week, Earth Day and the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Our honoree is the only Wiseburn teacher who has earned her BCBA Certificate (Board Certified Behavior Analyst). In 2015 this teacher was selected as one of 5 COTSEN fellows for in-depth professional development in mathematics Cognitively Guided Instruction.

In 2001, her shared teaching partner, Lori Rawlins, wrote “She is a real people person and natural born leader. The children enjoy all of the enthusiasm and fresh ideas that she brings to the lessons. She is the teacher partner that we all dream of working with.” In 2007, Cabrillo Principal, Jane Comitz added, “Her abundant enthusiasm demonstrates her joy for teaching and is contagious in the classroom. She is an exceptional teacher in every way. She relates to her students in a way that makes them want to strive to be their best. She is an absolute joy to work with.”

In 2007 our Teacher of the Year honoree became a full-time teacher in Kindergarten where she has served as a powerful contributor to an outstanding Kindergarten team for the past 9 years. When you are visiting Cabrillo School please take a minute to congratulate an outstanding leader, teacher and human being, our 2016 Teacher of the Year, Cabrillo’s Dee Dee Zirbel.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Tom Johnstone

In preparing our students for college and careers in the 21st Century, we have implemented 1 to 1 device per student at every school K-8. Our students are using ChromeBooks and are gaining full fluency with Google Apps for Education, digital portfolios, Common Sense Media and STMath. All of our schools are working with Math Leadership Corp through Loyola Marymount University and the Cotsen Foundation “Art of Teaching”. The Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering program is expanding to cover grades K, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Eventually PLTW will cover all grades K-12!

All of these programs engage our students like never before and are opening doors and building dreams toward a greater tomorrow! Come visit us!

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne

310/335-0242 • aysobigdog@att.net



By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

The theme of this edition of *School News* is “Opening doors, building dreams... inspiring a greater tomorrow”. There is one major international multi-sport event that occurred over the summer that encompasses the theme of this issue. The event was the 2016 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXI Olympiad and commonly known as Rio 2016.

September marks the start of a new Fall soccer season. AYSO is a soccer organization, a community, a lifestyle, a family, an adventure, a learning experience, a place to make memories and a season of exciting and busy Saturdays, all wrapped up in color-coordinated jerseys and cleats. Giving your child the opportunity to play soccer and learn about life, sportsmanship and the fun of competition and physical activity with a soccer program that has been kicking around since 1964. No one ever knows what will come of this unique experience in AYSO.

Rio's opening ceremony for the Olympic Games was a lively and inspiring kick off to 16 days of competition, but the celebrations didn't stop there. U.S. athletes made their mark on the Games including 39 AYSO alumni. Each alumnus saw the opportunity of an open door that inspired them to a greater tomorrow.

The group of AYSO alumnus was made up of 56% men and 44% women. They came from 11 different states with the majority from the Western States. This group had 77% first time Olympians. AYSO alumni participated in 15 sports with eight competing in water polo and five in women's soccer. With respect to soccer, U.S. women displayed the grit and never give up attitude that is a trademark of American athletes. The three time defending champion U.S. women were handed their earliest ever exit from the Olympics when Sweden advanced 4-3 on penalty kicks following a 1-1 draw. We congratulate all of the AYSO alumni of the 2016 Summer Olympics who started their journey to the Olympics on the soccer field.

Soccer enthusiasts could not have asked for more of a soccer-filled summer than what we experienced. In addition to the 2016 Summer Olympics, the UEFA EURO 2016 and the COPA America 2016 produced a number of exciting matches and unforgettable finishes. The United States Men's National Team (USMNT) only competed in the COPA America tournament and traveled to different soccer venues in the states. Our own homegrown hero Gyasi Zardes who started in AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne played a pivotal role in the tournament. In pool play Zardes assisted with the only goal of the Paraguay match leading to the USNMT advancing to the quarterfinals. In the quarterfinals, Zardes scored the winning goal in a 2-1 victory over Ecuador allowing the team to advance to the semi-finals. The USMNT was shutout 4-0 by Argentina and Lionel Messi who is considered the best player in the world and rated by many in the sport as the greatest of all time.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne was chartered as an official region back on December 15, 1972. On September 10th we kicked off our 44th season serving the youth of our community. Regional Commissioner Darryl Letchworth blew the whistle at the first match and we now are in full swing with 140 teams participating in this world-class premier youth program which includes boys and girls with ages ranging from 4½ to Under 19 years of age.

The youth organization received rave reviews about the Under 5 Jamboree program. Before the U5 Jamboree Program, we did not have children at the age of 4 play on a team. Some 4 ½ year old children were put on a team with children who were 5 and 6 years old and, no surprise; there was a big difference

in attention span and abilities. This program just for 4 year olds has been successful in other cities across the country. Due to the age of the children the Jamboree program does not conform to the more traditional “team” format as the older children do. There are no practices and no team assignments. Instead, the skill training (practice) and games are incorporated into the weekly Jamboree sessions held every Saturday morning by the seasoned Board Members Ramon Pulido and Eddie Rayas.

2016 marks the 26th anniversary of the AYSO Very Important Program (VIP). We have once again registered a number of players who participate in the VIP Program. This program provides a quality soccer experience for children and adults whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult to successfully participate on mainstream teams. Disabilities may include blind or visually impaired, amputees or with conditions that impair mobility, mentally or emotionally challenged, autistic, Down's syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. On Saturday, October 22, 2016, we will be hosting the 17th Annual VIP Handicap Soccer Friendship Festival at the Dana Sports Complex. This is a fun-filled day for participants and their families.

Two new rules were implemented for several age groups with the start of the 2016 Fall season. These new rules and regulations flowed down from the AYSO National Board of Directors. In the Under-8 division, there will be no goalkeepers. In the Under-12 and below divisions, heading is banned. This is consistent with the U.S. Soccer. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player age 10 or younger, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a game. The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team's penalty area, must be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head. Neither cautions nor send offs shall be issued for persistent infringement or denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity related to the heading infraction.

We are very appreciative to the Wiseburn Unified School District for the use of the all soccer fields (Aviation & Juan de Anza in Del Aire and Peter Burnett, Juan Cabrillo & Richard Henry Dana in Holly Glen) within the district boundaries. Juan de Anza is a premier synthetic field and the envy of other regions. With the groundbreaking behind us, the future for two new soccer fields at the old Richard Henry Dana and the Wiseburn High school sites will become a reality. Just a friendly reminder to visitors to the playfields, the fields are not a dog park.

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 a coach, an assistant coach, referee, team mom, team dad or board member. 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 are too busy to volunteer, make sure that you thank those who have stepped up to volunteer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Regional Commissioner Darryl Letchworth at (310) 739-3933 or dletch38@yahoo.com.

On a personal note, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Regional Board for honoring me for my 40 years of service volunteering for AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne. There have been so many memories and I have met so many people that this passage in time encourages me to look forward to continuing this positive experience in the future.

See you all on the pitch (soccer field)!!!

Covering the WISEBURN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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