

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

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FEBRUARY-APRIL 2017

SUPERINTENDENT



Parent University

LCAP, GPA, PSAT, and SBAC. Online grades, chromebooks, college applications, cyber-bullying, and new standards. Navigating this world of school can be a

challenge for parents wanting to be full partners in their students' education. CUSD knows that parents are a child's first and most important teachers, and values its communication with parents.

Carlsbad Unified opened its Parent University to help parents get up to speed on what's happening at their children's schools — but also to listen to parents' suggestions and concerns so that students can benefit from a strong home-school connection.

Parent University runs classes and programs throughout the school year. Here are a few upcoming and on-going opportunities. Space is limited, so please RSVP to Rosemary Eshelman, Student Services Specialist, at reshelman@carlsbadusd.net.

Join us if you can.

Habits of Mind and College & Career Readiness

Cal State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is offering an eight-week program called F.A.C.E. (Family Alliance Community Exchange) to CUSD families. The Habits of Mind are the essential skills identified by CSUSM that are necessary for students to be successful in college and beyond. This program is part of our CUSD guaranteed admissions program with Cal State University San Marcos.

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Academic Rigor, Preparation for College and Career

By Beverly de Nicola,
Communications, CUSD

Carlsbad Unified's high school campuses are abuzz with athletic events and an array of extracurricular activities. They are home to outstanding sports teams, clubs, bands, plays, and activities. But a lot of campus excitement is also taking place in the classrooms, where students, administrators, and teachers are committed to a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goal—Increasing the number of students enrolled in at least one Honors, Advanced Placement, or Community College class.

Carlsbad High School (CHS) has a long tradition of offering challenging Advanced Placement (AP) courses and preparing students to pass AP exams. Currently, CHS students can choose from 20 AP classes—AP Art History to US Government and Politics. Today 633 students are enrolled in at least one AP course, but there is a total of 1179 AP enrollments, as many students take two, three, or even four AP courses a year. Last year 85% of CHS students passed their AP exams with a score of 3, 4, or 5.

Next year, Carlsbad High School will be rolling out a new capstone program, AP Seminar and AP Research. It will give students the opportunity to build independent research, collaborative teamwork and effective communication skills, and then graduate with an Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma.

Our newest high school, Sage Creek, offered its first AP course in 2014-15. Now Sage Creek is preparing to graduate its first senior class. Students there can select from 13 AP classes, and 528 students are taking at least one AP course.

Spencer Layne, a Sage Creek senior, said, "I see my AP Physics course as a personal challenge. I want to see how I match up to those around me who have a similar interest in computer science.



This course is a lot of work, and it's difficult. But knowledge of physics will be beneficial to my future career in computer science."

Julie Le, also a senior, is taking AP Calculus B/C and AP Spanish. She says, "Math and Spanish are my best subjects. My AP Calculus class is very challenging, and will prepare me for my college courses in the engineering field. Although not as important, AP classes also boost your GPA and look good on college applications."

Both campuses also boast robust Honors courses for students who choose them rather than Advanced Placement. At SCHS, for example, AP courses extend over three trimesters; but an Honors or college prep course spans only two trimesters, allowing students to take more classes. Honors courses provide more academic depth and challenge to students than college prep courses, and do so without the requirement of an AP exam. Finally, regardless of AP or Honors status, all CUSD courses

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Not having a paycheck during the summer had been cataclysmic. Having a Summer Saver helps me save throughout the year so I don't have to borrow for the summer."

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

New beginnings are always filled with hope and excitement of what is to come. Students are focused on their goals, which is evident in the articles in this issue. In fact, you might want to get a comfortable chair and plan to read for awhile. In this issue you will begin with Superintendent Churchill's message about the Parent University. Clearly, CUSD students are focused on college and careers.

Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices. Our next issue is May 10.

Carlsbad Educational Foundation

5631 Plamer Way, Suite L, Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/929-1555 • www.carlsbaded.org

Student Leadership Council

Inspired by our mission and the desire to develop the future leaders of our communities, the Carlsbad Educational Foundation is excited to announce our new CEF Student Leadership Council.

Our 2016-17 council consists of 11 students from Carlsbad High School and 9 students from Sage Creek High School ranging from 9th to 12th grade. They will represent CEF at various community events, school events and take part in a leadership-based curriculum facilitated by the Foundation. This empowering program provides members the opportunity to develop life-long leadership skills while supporting CEF's mission of developing impactful programs to provide increased educational opportunities.

"Leadership development is the main emphasis of the program. Program curriculum will also include corporate community involvement and how nonprofits operate," says Michelle Ginn, Carlsbad Educational Foundation, CEO. "Leadership skills will be refined and reinforced as team members participate in activities, volunteer at CEF events and act as student ambassadors within our community."

The Carlsbad Educational Foundation (CEF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides private support for public education programs throughout the Carlsbad Unified School District. Since its founding in 1983, CEF has invested almost \$7 million in programs for CUSD students. CEF is the only organization in Carlsbad charged with raising district-wide support for every school and student in our elementary, middle and high schools.

CEF is the only organization in Carlsbad charged with raising district-wide support for every school and student in our elementary, middle and high schools.

Teachers See the Possibilities

In Jennifer Swanson's high school English class, seniors master material that prepares them for college and careers, gaining writing and communication skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



Arroyo High School, Expository English Class, Teacher: Jennifer Swanson '96, M.A.Ed. '99

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City of Carlsbad

1200 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/434-2830 • www.carlsbadca.gov

What's Your Footprint?



Kristina Ray
Communications
Manager

Greenhouse gas emissions are becoming more heavily regulated these days, including in cities like Carlsbad. What are “GHGs,” as they are called by people in the know? They are gases that are capable of absorbing infrared radiation, which then trap and hold heat in the atmosphere. And that’s about all I know about that (science was not my favorite subject in school), but I generally like to do the right thing for the environment and set a good example for my family. And, because of the increased focus on GHGs, it is getting easier and easier to reduce your carbon footprint, between new technology, rebates and incentives and wider availability of eco-friendly products and services.

The City of Carlsbad approved its first “Climate Action Plan” last year, which is part of a statewide requirement to bring down GHGs. In addition to making sure the city is being a good environmental steward, the plan identifies a number of things community members can do to help. Don’t worry, you don’t have to do all of these things. But, if you could choose just a few that make sense for your family’s lifestyle, you’d be surprised what a difference it can make.

Change Modes: Transportation is the biggest source of GHGs. If you can, make your next car more fuel efficient than the one you drive now. Or, take advantage of rebates and incentives and go electric. For short trips, try biking or walking.

Change Driving Habits: You could also simply change your driving habits, reduce time idling at pickup, combine trips, carpool or even just go easy on the accelerator when the light turns green.

Use the Sun: Solar energy is definitely going mainstream. If you haven’t looked into it lately, it might be time. Again, with incentives and rebates, you could end up spending less each month for power, even as you pay off the cost of system.

Little Things Add up

If you’re not in a position to make a major change, don’t worry. There are plenty of easy things you can do that will have a lasting impact.

- Switch to energy efficient light bulbs
- Add weather stripping and other insulation to save on heating and cooling
- Hang energy saving blackout curtains
- Use less water (lots of energy is used pumping water to our region)
- Put less stuff in the trash (landfills emit tons of GHGs)
- Turn down your hot water heater just a few degrees

You get the picture. Reducing GHGs doesn’t have a one-size fits all solution. Luckily, there are so many options, you can surely find a few that work for you and your family. For more info, search for a “carbon footprint calculator” online to see where you’re at today and get more suggestions and tips.

MiraCosta College

1 Barnard Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/757-2121 • www.miracosta.edu



Preparing Students



Dr. Sunny Cooke
Superintendent/
President

The road to a top-notch, four-year university runs right through MiraCosta College. Just ask Dayton Silva, a MiraCosta College graduate who went on to earn a journalism degree at San Diego State University and now works as a web editor for Surfing magazine. Or Jackie Riley, who secured a bachelor of science degree in clinical psychology at UC San Diego. Or Elizabeth Egel, a former MiraCosta College student on track for her bachelor of science degree in applied mathematics from UCLA.

Dayton, Jackie and Elizabeth are just three examples of how MiraCosta College can help students get to their dream schools.

In fact, MiraCosta has one of the highest transfer rates to the University of California out of all the community colleges in San Diego County. That is in part because MiraCosta’s Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program guarantees that students who complete specified criteria at MiraCosta College are assured admission at UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside or UC Irvine. In addition, the Associate Degree for Transfer program guarantees students who successfully complete the requirements will be accepted into at least one California State University campus.

All MiraCosta students benefit from its low enrollment fees. The approximate costs to attend MiraCosta top out at less than \$1,400 annually and many of our students qualify for Board of Governors (BOG) fee waivers, eliminating the \$46-per-unit cost of classes. Many students also take advantage of our Textbook Loan Program or receive scholarships from our foundation. All this means that our students save tens of thousands of dollars by starting their college degrees at MiraCosta College.

Students can also earn college credits while in high school, free of charge, thanks to a growing dual-enrollment program that offers for-credit college courses at MiraCosta’s Oceanside and San Elijo campuses and at Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad and Cathedral Catholic High School in Carmel Valley. Each year, hundreds of high school students choose to take advantage of dual enrollment in order to earn high school and college credits simultaneously while also bypassing the AP examinations. Meanwhile, students wishing to leave high school and go straight to a university can get a head start and save thousands of dollars by taking summer classes at MiraCosta College. MiraCosta’s summer 2017 session begins June 12.

Need help prepping for SAT and ACT exams? MiraCosta’s Community Education division provides SAT and ACT preparation courses for students who are applying to universities. Those wishing to transfer from MiraCosta to a university will not need to submit SAT or ACT scores, but will benefit from the assistance of our Transfer Center, which sponsors informational events with representatives from UCLA, UC San Diego, San Diego State University, Cal State San Marcos and other universities and colleges at both the San Elijo and Oceanside campuses each semester. Visit miracosta.edu/events to find out this semester’s dates and times.

“I’d say 80 percent of the friends I have today I met through MiraCosta College,” said Dayton. “I also connected with a lot of professors. And I’d say I definitely got the same level of instruction that I did at San Diego State, but in a more intimate environment.”

Thank you for reading *School News!*

Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jimmy Hines
Principal

Let's Get Physical!

Here at Aviara Oaks Elementary School, we are fortunate to have a solid physical education program that is 100 percent funded by our PTA! Our students enjoy two 45-minute physical education classes each week, which is not the norm for so many other elementary campuses. This time ensures that we hit our site goal of offering 100 minutes a week of meaningful physical education in conjunction with our grade-level Running Club activities.

Our physical education teachers, Mrs. Erin Morris, and Mr. Jim Skelton, work together to offer our students a diverse program that compliments the physical education standards for each grade level. Having two individuals on staff to support our physical education program enables our team to prepare richer and more diverse program to meet the specific needs and accommodate the learning styles of all of our students. Offering a mix of health instruction, exercises, and meaningful games imparts skills that carry over to the required physical fitness test all students are required to take during their fifth-grade year.

In addition, our physical education staff continues to offer unending support for various fund-raising activities, including Jump Rope for Heart and our annual jog-a-thon. Their involvement and support ensures this funding model stays in place for our PTA, and PTA, in turn, continues to support physical education instruction.

We are grateful to have such a strong physical education program, and we know well how much hard work and time goes in to making this program possible.

Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Dr. Bryan Brockett
Principal

The Socratic Seminar

Throughout the fall, there was no shortage of stories about the breakdown of civil discourse and the proliferation of “fake news” in our society. These topics have been at the forefront of educators’ minds as well, as I have had conversations with teachers and administrators from middle school to university in recent months about these challenges.

While we see these problems manifesting in society in a number of ways, I see our teachers at Aviara Oaks providing direct instruction to students on how to state an argument, how to factually support their point of view, how to respectfully challenge the views of others, and how to determine validity of sources.

One way that teachers do this is through the Socratic Seminar. The Socratic Seminar is a structured discussion in which students meet face to face, offer points of view on a particular topic, engage in dialogue with classmates, and support or challenge the viewpoints of their peers in ways that add to the conversation. Teachers at Aviara Oaks in all grades engage in these Seminars frequently, often as a culminating activity to a unit when their students have the requisite background information to have an informed discussion.

In Mrs. Borders’ eighth-grade English class recently, students debated the merits and perils of genetic engineering in plants and humans, continuing the thread of their work on science fiction. Mrs. Anderson’s seventh-graders focused their Seminar on the question, “Does freedom lead to self-discovery?” This complemented their reading of the novel *Surviving the Applewhites*.

The sixth graders in Mrs. Hauck-Wood’s class discussed how values shape communities in their recent social studies and English unit. In each case, the students were seen arguing their viewpoints, being challenged on those views in respectful ways, and having to substantiate their arguments with evidence from a variety of sources.

To develop and maintain a productive discourse with varying viewpoints, we need to begin here at school with our young people. We must teach the skills and conditions that productive discourse and discerning consumption of information require. Our teachers are doing that on a regular basis. They are supporting our students in becoming critical and global thinkers who will positively impact our community and beyond.

It's not too early to plan for summer!

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Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tina Howard
Principal

Earthitude Rotations in Full Swing!

Students in first through fifth grades are involved in a variety of activities on Friday afternoons. Each student participates in one of five rotations for four weeks at a time over the course of the school year.

Our Green Growers are working in our new school garden. Cabbage, lettuces, and strawberries have been planted and are growing quickly. Our Peacemakers are involved in the Kids for Peace curriculum, spreading kindness with each activity, including making kindness kits to give to Carlsbad's homeless population and making a kindness poster for our auditorium.



Garden Growers planting cabbage

Our Musicians Unplugged are learning to strum simple tunes on the ukulele. No electricity, just a simple instrument and student voices—they are earth-friendly musicians! The Global Gamers have learned Chinese jump rope, mancala, yoga basics, and rhythm sticks. Decoupage vases, paperweights, and cooperative canvas creations are all projects that students enjoy making in our Upcycle Art program, which utilizes recyclables to create one-of-a-kind art with a purpose.

Thanks to parents Stacey Beale, Terra Burke, Corinna Stocker, Jennifer Jean, Audra Leigh, Kate Battenfeld, our PTA, and all of our teachers for making this happen.

Buena Vista Elementary School students have “earthitude!”



Peace Packs being made by our Peacemakers for our Carlsbad homeless population

Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6300 • www.ches.schoolloop.com



Dr. Amy Bryant
Principal

PTLW Visits CHES

Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a world-class Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum, is the foundation for the instructional program at Calavera Hills Elementary School (CHES). On November 17, Ed Dennis, Director of PLTW Governmental Relations, and Brittany Nash, PLTW Partnerships/Government Liaison, hosted by Superintendent Dr. Ben Churchill and Principal Dr. Amy Bryant, toured classrooms to see PLTW in action. The purpose of the visit was to gather data as a part of PLTW's effort to increase STEM in elementary



classrooms. In addition, the team observed the school's integrated use of PLTW and how CHES connects PLTW/STEM to elementary college and career readiness, which has become a big focus at the state legislative level.

The four toured nine classrooms of various grade levels. Observed module focus areas included: structure and function and exploring the engineering design process in kindergarten; light and sound in first grade; variations of traits in third grade; and computer system input and output in fourth grade. Afterwards, the group debriefed about the process of setting up the program at CHES and the level of teacher involvement. They also discussed college and career readiness at the elementary level and how to define this target, as indicated by legislation and the availability of financial grants.

Ed Dennis complimented the program design and shared that most PLTW schools are not set up like the program at CHE. What an incredible visit!



Calavera Hills *Middle School (6–8)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6400 • www.calavera.schoolloop.com



Beyond the Classroom

By Valeria Madden, Design Challenge Teacher

We are in the middle of an exciting new part of our mission at Calavera Hills Middle School to prepare our students for the jobs of the future through grade-level design challenges taking place in our Makers Space. These challenges are a forum for the students to ideate, innovate, create, and test solutions, while also using interviewing techniques, empathy building skills, research, teamwork, and collaboration to help solve real-world problems.

Our sixth-grade students recently tackled the challenge to “Improve the transition from fifth grade to middle school.” For five weeks they worked on improving this transition for future CHMS students by examining current practices and results through the “lens” of empathy for those who are actually experiencing the transition. With the insight they gained, our students were able to design a range of solutions to issues such as



7th grade student prototyping during the design challenge.

increased anxiety, confusion over class schedules, social problems, and campus logistics.

The seventh-grade students are midway into the problem of “How to make recycling part of the Coyote campus culture.” They have been interviewing students and staff members, analyzing current practices, and reviewing district and state recycling goals as they work to design effective solutions that will fit within the varied needs of our campus users.

Our eighth-graders are also hard at work improving the life of an elementary aged student. The initial stages have taken place with our oldest students at CHMS speaking to some of the youngest at CHE, our connected elementary school. Students are interviewing and digging deeper to understand what they can do to help our youngest Coyotes.

In all of these instances, the design challenge is to go beyond the classroom into the real world and convert some of the student-generated solutions into actual practices. Through these challenges, we hope to enhance our students’ capacity for integrative thinking. At CHMS, we encourage innovation through risk taking, and try to create a venue where our “failures” will ultimately make our solutions stronger and more relevant to the people they’re meant to serve.

Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

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



AP Capstone

Carlsbad High School (CHS) is excited to announce a new opportunity for our Advanced Placement (AP) students. In an effort to prepare students for 21st-century learning, our staff has spent the last year preparing to offer students the opportunity to participate in the AP Capstone program. The program will begin in the fall of 2017 with our first cohort of 11th-grade students.

Dr. Joshua Porter
Principal

CHS is one of approximately 1,000 schools worldwide to implement AP Capstone—an innovative diploma program that allows students to develop the skills that matter most for college success: research, collaboration, and communication. The program consists of two courses taken in sequence: AP Seminar and AP Research. Developed in direct response to feedback from higher education faculty and college admission officers, AP Capstone complements the in-depth, subject-specific study of other AP courses and exams.

Students who earn scores of three or higher on the AP Seminar and AP Research assessments and on four additional AP exams of their choosing will earn the AP Capstone Diploma. This signifies their outstanding academic achievement and attainment of college-level academic and research skills. Students who earn scores of three or higher on both AP Seminar and AP

Research assessments only (but not on additional AP exams) will earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

The AP Seminar course equips students with the ability to look at real-world issues from multiple perspectives. Through a variety of materials, including articles, research studies, and foundational and philosophical texts, students tackle complex questions, understand and evaluate opposing viewpoints, interpret and synthesize information, and construct, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments.

Students tackle complex questions, understand and evaluate opposing viewpoints, interpret and synthesize information, and construct, communicate, and defend evidence-based arguments.

In the subsequent AP Research course, students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest, documenting their process with a portfolio. Students build on skills developed in the AP Seminar course by learning how to understand research methodology, employ ethical research practices, and collect, analyze, and synthesize information to build, present, and defend an argument.

By responding to and partnering with the higher education community, the College Board developed AP Capstone so students can practice skills that will serve them well in college and their careers.



Carlsbad Village & Seaside *Academies*

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



Jorge Espinoza
Principal

Two Alternative Programs

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, fewer than one in six middle and high schools in the United States begin the school day at the recommended start time of 8:30 a.m. or later. The website goes on to point out that a lack of sleep is associated with several health risks such as being overweight, drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco and using drugs, along with poor academic performance. Carlsbad Village Academy has confronted this issue head on by moving the start time to 8:30 a.m. The start time is an example of structural change that benefits the students. This, along with the smaller class size, can give students that struggle with high school a second chance to earn a high school diploma.

Carlsbad Village Academy is a continuation high school that works with students that are 16 or older who need an alternative setting for their high school experience. The mission of Carlsbad Village Academy is to empower

students to take charge of their educational experiences in an environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity and empowers students in the process of learning so that they may responsibly participate in a diverse society. The small class size and caring staff make it a desirable option for students that just need something different for a high school option within the Carlsbad Unified School District.

Another great opportunity for students is independent study at Carlsbad Seaside Academy. This program is open for students in the 9th through 12th grades who reside within Carlsbad Unified School District. The students are able to take classes in the core subjects and various elective classes. Students can also take classes at Sage Creek or Carlsbad High School to take advantage of their course offerings. This is a great option for students that have outside passions and would like some greater autonomy when it comes to their own education.

Parents or students that are interested in either of these alternative programs can contact the principal, Jorge Espinoza, by phone or email.

Hope *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Richard Tubbs
Principal

Welcome, New Staff Members!

Our Hope Hawk community welcomed two veteran teachers this school year.

Sharon St. Clair started at Cal State Long Beach as a physical-therapy major. She transferred to a small college in Missouri, majoring in elementary education—a better fit, she said. In 1997, she started at Carlsbad Unified, first at Kelly and then at Calavera Middle. In 2010, she became the district technology TOSA, and now, she's at Hope teaching first grade!

During her time at Kelly, Mrs. St. Clair was awarded a Fulbright Teacher Exchange and moved to Scotland to teach for one year. Her husband is a chief in the Navy. They have four sons: Josh, 28; Matthew, 23; and Charlie, 7, who is a Hope second-grader and Jack, 6, a first-grader. They have a grandson, Jackson, who is not quite a year old.



Mrs. St. Clair with her students



Ms. Ortiz with some of her students

Gina Ortiz was born and raised in Oceanside and currently resides in Vista. She received her bachelor's degree and teaching credential from Cal State San Marcos. She's taught in a number of districts in support and elementary-education capacities. She taught first and third grades in Phoenix, Arizona. After two years in the Phoenix heat, she decided to return to the beautiful weather and scenery of San Diego. She considers it a privilege to be able to teach in our district.

"I love creating a positive environment in the classroom so that kids love to come to school," Ms. Ortiz said.

We are proud to have Mrs. St. Clair and Ms. Ortiz as members of our community!

Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chad Lund
Principal

The Great Kindness Challenge

What could be nicer than an entire week dedicated to kindness? Not sure, but whatever it is would have to be pretty special.

Speaking of special, that's exactly what the Great Kindness Challenge is. It is just that—an entire week dedicated to being kind. Developed by Kids for Peace, the GKC has spread the world

over, and this year, more than 10 million students, along with a few adults, will participate. So at this point, you may be wondering why I am writing about this worldwide phenomenon. Glad you asked! Because it started right here at Jefferson Elementary! Jefferson, Hope and Kelly, along with the Carlsbad Unified School District, are the founding school and district of this challenge.

So what is the Great Kindness Challenge? We will start with a kickoff celebration involving all local schools and families, district personnel, city officials and local celebs. This really gets the community around the idea of spreading kindness. The next day, we have our official rally here at Jefferson, where each student receives a checklist of 50 acts of kindness they can perform throughout the week. This checklist includes more than just being nice—it's a quantifiable way for children to express kindness and learn valuable life skills in the process.



In addition to kindness, it also promotes awareness. Donating to a food bank, recycling trash, and planting a tree—examples from the GKC checklist—are all examples of being aware of the greater world around us.

So be kind, and if you want more information, please check out the GKC at www.greatkindnesschallenge.org.

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Kelly Elementary (K-5)

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Tressie Armstrong
Principal

Why 'It Just Feels Good Here!'

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another. —Erma Bombeck

It is all of us working together as a community to ensure that children receive the educational experiences to help them grow into the best people they can be! One particular group of individuals that make a huge difference for children is our group of faithful volunteers. Parents, grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles—all



invest countless hours on our Kelly Campus to provide enriched and supportive experiences for our students. Through the PTA, we have family events such as Fall Carnival, family nights out, Science Night and family picnic. Our PTA is also responsible for helping provide increased technology, programs such as PE and Arts Fusion, and support staff to assist with small-group instruction for children needing support or readiness for extension materials. Our classroom parents provide small-group opportunities for rotations and extra eyes on the playground to help keep the children safe and joyful. As an educational staff, it is so wonderful to know that at any given time, we have a group of invested individuals ready, willing and happy to work with us to support good things for children!

They are part of the whole that truly do “reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” Our volunteers are a main reason why, when visitors step onto our campus, they regularly remark, “It just feels good here!”



Magnolia Elementary (K-6)

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



Aaron Nelson
Principal

Lending a Helping Paw

Magnolia Elementary School is always striving to assure that students are fully supported and invested in their own learning. In addition, we pride ourselves on our tight-knit community. Power Paws is a new program to provide additional reinforcement and support for student learning, while also providing important opportunities for families in our community. Power Paws is an after-school tutoring program designed to support student development in the areas of English language arts and mathematics. Magnolia students are grouped with volunteer

tutors from Carlsbad High School, Sage Creek High School, and Carlsbad Village Academy.

“Power Paws represents a true win-win situation for Carlsbad students,” noted Jana Scott, the director of Power Paws. Because it is run entirely by volunteers, the program provides a free resource for families to gain targeted intervention and support for their students. In addition, the program offers essential volunteer opportunities for high school students to complete the community service hours needed to fulfill their graduation requirements and build their college resumes. Perhaps most important of all, elementary students are provided with important mentoring opportunities as they meet with the high school students who work with them each week.

“We encourage students constantly in their work at school, but there is something special about how elementary students respond to the ‘cool’ high school tutors they look up to,” said Mrs. Scott. “That positive peer relationship is so encouraging for our students.”



Magnolia students working with their high school mentors at Power Paws.

Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Robert Devich
Principal

Picking up Steam

This year, teachers at Pacific Rim Elementary have embraced the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards in their classrooms (NGSS). Beginning in the 2015 school year, CUSD began transitioning from the old California State Science Standards to the newly adopted NGSS. These standards focus on hands-on science learning, technology, and engineering.

This year, our staff made a commitment to becoming more knowledgeable in these new standards and teaching practices. From September to November, the staff welcomed an instructor from the Fleet Science Center to learn more about “Inquiry Based Teaching and Learning” and the NGSS. Teachers participated in two professional developments (PD) with the Fleet Science Center. The first PD was an overview of the NGSS and Inquiry Based Teaching and Learning. In the second PD, our teachers dove more deeply into activities they can implement in their classrooms.

Teachers in all grade levels have embraced these new standards, introducing new materials, strategies, and engaging hands-on activities! The students at Pacific Rim have participated in activities ranging from using their senses to help make scientific observations in kindergarten, to constructing

models of flowers, showing internal and external structures in the fourth grade, and working in engineering teams to build biodomes in the fifth grade!

Teachers and students alike are enjoying the new Next Generation Science Standards, and as we move ahead they look forward with excitement about the future of science and their continued implementation.



Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Marjorie Giordani
Principal

Geography Bee

Poinsettia Elementary School conducted its annual geography bee with fourth- and fifth-grade students. This year's winner is Taylor Coleman, a fifth-grade student, and the runner up is Sophie Hersh.

All fourth- and fifth-grade students were given a written pre-test, and the top 25 were invited to compete in the geography bee. The questions focused on: United States geography, cities, and historical places; world and cultural geography; and continents. Most of this information is not covered in the elementary curriculum, so competing students have shown a passion for learning about the world around them.

Our fifth-grade girls and boys competed against other Carlsbad elementary schools in Copa de Carlsbad. This annual event was hosted by Sage Creek High School. Our boys brought home the runner-up trophy for the second year in a row.

The National Geographic Society sponsors the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades. Over 11,000 schools across the United States participate in the bee. If you want to test your geography knowledge, go to www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee.

We are participating in Jump Rope for the Heart in January to raise money for to fund heart-disease research.

Knowing the needs of the community and learning ways to help as a school is an awesome experience.--



Sage Creek *High School*

3900 Cannon Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/331-6600 • www.sagecreek-cusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Cesar Morales
Principal

A Different Kind of Final Exam

Students at Sage Creek High School were given a unique opportunity on a final exam. It was called the Gratitude Workshop. The class work culminated with each student writing letters of gratitude to three people: a peer, a teacher or staff member, and a family member. On the final day, teachers surprised students by asking them to call each of those people and videotaping one of the calls.

English teachers Corrie Myers and Sarah Hunter wanted to focus on making every day of the senior year curriculum meaningful. “From the very first phone call, we knew that we had tapped into something special,” Myers noted. “Within minutes, we could almost see the ripples reaching outward as this project impacted our students, then the

recipients of their phone calls, and then the community around us.”

As part of a Senior Genius Project, Sage Creek seniors Sauna Davis and Jessica Madrid are teaching dance to special needs students. Davis and Madrid have spearheaded this project while parents, mentors, students, and staff members have joined their team. Students are learning various styles of dance and are currently working on a hip-hop piece to perform at the upcoming Hoopcoming event.

Creating this team has provided Davis and Madrid with leadership opportunities and an opportunity to inspire others. “Shauna expressed her passion to become a special needs teacher, and we both love to dance, so I thought we should join those interests together,” explained Madrid.



Valley *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Nicole Johnston
Principal

A Worthy Partnership

Valley Middle School’s broadcast journalism students are once again hard at work this year perfecting the craft of storytelling on live television. Valley’s broadcast is called “VMSTV,” and for the last five years the program has won the prestigious “Student Television Network Award of Excellence.” VMSTV is known nationwide for setting the bar high and proving that middle school students can produce meaningful stories and short films that are remarkable for their tremendous production value.

Broadcasting live (in high definition) from a state-of-the-art television studio, VMSTV students are learning skills that will prepare them for careers in the 21st century. They learn to collaborate with each other, meet deadlines, manage their time wisely, develop advanced communication skills,

fine-tune their writing style, and become self-confident speakers and independent learners. Just as importantly, students are becoming media-literate in an era where so-called “fake news” competes with legitimate news for viewer attention.

The Valley program has received tremendous support from parents and the community through donations, fund-raising assistance, and hours of volunteer help as chaperones on field trips and competitions. This partnership with Valley parents and the community has been instrumental in the growth and success of broadcasting programs throughout the Carlsbad Unified School District. With multiple elementary schools embracing digital media, our middle school programs are preparing future students for both the Carlsbad and Sage Creek High Schools’ media elective classes.

To see what the Valley students are producing, please check out the show’s website at www.vmstv.com.



Aaron Harris and Eli Bensen



Aaron Harris and Linnea Howard



Dr. Benjamin Churchill

Workshop sessions are offered simultaneously for elementary, middle, and high school students, and for parents. Parent sessions will be offered in English and Spanish. Dinner and childcare (for children under 5) are provided free of charge at each session. Sessions began on January 31st, but you can join anytime if space is available. See the flyer (under Parent Resources) for details: <https://sites.google.com/carlsbadusd.net/parentuniversity>

Dates: Tuesdays 1/31, 2/7, 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, and 3/28, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Valley Middle School, 1645 Magnolia Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008

The final session is a family tour of Cal State University San Marcos.

Transportation will be provided.

RSVP to Elisa Ayala at eyala@carlsbadusd.net or 760-331-5110 or Rosemary Eshelman at reshelman@carlsbadusd.net.

Parents and Prevention

This five-week series is offered in partnership with the Carlsbad Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, and the San Diego District Attorney and Probation Department. All sessions will be held on Tuesdays, from 6:00-7:00 p.m., at the Carlsbad Safety Center (Conference Center), 2560 Orion Way, Carlsbad, CA 92010.

Week 1: Carlsbad Cops and the Community

Tuesday, May 2, 2017

School Resource Officer Jaime Meroniuk, Detective Tyler Mozzocco, and Juvenile Justice Coordinator Malcolm Warfield

Topics: Cops and Kids, Social Host Ordinance, Prescription Medications Drop Box, Juvenile Diversion

Week 2: Distracted Driving and Reckless Roadways

Tuesday May 9, 2017

Officer Jim Bettencourt, Public Information Officer, California Highway Patrol

Topics: CHSTV 2N2 State Farm Grant, Texting and Driving Public Service Announcements

Week 3: Responsible Social Media

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Cyber Educator Jon Moffat

Topic: “How to Set Up a Parent-Child Technology Contract.”

Week 4: Just the Facts - Juveniles and the Criminal Justice Process

Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Shawnalyse Ochoa, Assistant Chief of Juvenile, San Diego District Attorney Fernando Uribe, Supervising Probation Officer, SD County Probation Department

Week 5: Teens - Brains, Bodies, Stress and Success

Tuesday May 30, 2017

Erik Conklin

This one-hour workshop will introduce the scientific background regarding the physical and mental effects of stress and mindfulness as applied to teens. The workshop will conclude with practices that will focus on three strands: 1) Self-Care Techniques, 2) Resiliency, and 3) Full Presence.

Tech Talks with Jon Moffat

John Moffat is a cyber educator who discusses topics including managing your digital reputation, online safety, cyberbullying, what a “Like” means, and the latest trends in technologies that students are using. He held three webinars in the fall. These are published on the CUSD website, so you can view them at your convenience. Check out the Parents’ Resources webpage below. He will also be making a presentation in Spanish on March 27, 2017, at Aviara Oaks Middle School, at 6:00 pm.

High School Graduation and A through G Requirements

Middle school parents are invited to learn about CUSD’s high school graduation requirements. Watch for dates and times at your students’ middle school this April.

Parent Resources/Parent University

Please visit our website for up-to-the-minute information:

<https://sites.google.com/carlsbadusd.net/parentuniversity>

ACADEMIC RIGOR • From Page 1

(except for some electives) are A-G-approved by the UCs and the CSUs and therefore are considered to be college prep courses.

More Carlsbad Unified students than ever before are taking courses through MiraCosta, Palomar, or other community colleges. At MiraCosta College (MCC) alone, 201 CUSD students enrolled in 299 courses in 2015-16, up from 81 students who took 94 courses just three years ago. This fall there were 114 CUSD students taking 158 courses, compared to 55 students taking 74 courses in Fall 2015.

Students can earn credits towards their high school graduation while earning college credit at the same time. Courses offering such credits might be conveniently located on the Sage Creek High School campus, or they might be a student’s first exposure to courses on a college campus. Once enrolled in a class, students are considered to be “returning students” and are allowed priority registration for the next term. Local community colleges allow high school students to take courses tuition-free, so families can save on the cost of college.

Both AP and community college courses offer students the possibility of earning college credits, satisfying college prerequisites, making room in their college schedule for an elective or a double major, and, potentially, saving money. Some students graduate high school with enough college credits to shorten college by a semester, a year, or even two years.

Selective colleges look to an applicant’s high school transcript to see whether he or she has taken advantage of the most rigorous classes available in high school, and has succeeded at challenging coursework. SCHS’s Head Counselor, Roger Brown, says, “AP, Honors, and community college courses are motivating for students. They begin to see themselves at a college that is selective in its admissions, and they challenge themselves to be successful.”

Increasing the number of students enrolled in rigorous academic courses is also a priority at Carlsbad Village Academy and Carlsbad Seaside Academy (CSA). Although CSA provides an independent-study instructional program, students there may enroll in AP Biology and go to the campus to take part in a weekly lab. And students at both schools are encouraged to take community college courses at MCC or Palomar, where they may study English Composition 101, Economics, or foreign languages, including American Sign Language.

“I tell students that college changes lives,” said Jorge Espinoza, principal of CVA and CSA. “At first I didn’t believe that I was going to college. I had to take some college courses to see that I could be a college student. Earning those degrees, from a Certificate of Achievement to an MA, opens doors. These are the keys.”

Counseling is a priority at CVA and CSA. Students sit with their counselor, log into the Naviance guidance software, and take “interest inventories.” Seniors take the ASVAB to assess their strengths and potential careers, and they look into possible courses of study at MCC and Palomar College. CUSD’s alternative high school programs offer a personal touch, providing educational opportunities that open doors for students.

“I took pre-calculus online at MCC,” said Spencer. “I could study at my own pace and get ahead. I also took Algebra 2 online through BYU. I’m pretty resourceful using the internet, so I could access the Kahn Academy or other online resources to get my questions answered and the support I needed. I spend a lot of time working on computer programs of my own, writing code. Community College classes allow me to move forward faster, and save money, as I look forward to a career in computer programming.”

“CUSD’s goal is to provide all of our students with a rigorous education that will prepare them for college and career,” said Assistant Superintendent Rob Nye. “AP, Honors, and community college classes are options that can help students thrive in their future colleges and careers.”

A Story with Deep Meaning Side Stories



Christina J.

By Lloyd Alexander
The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen is a story about a Prince who, following the advice of a wise old man named Master Wu, sets off to deliver six specially chosen items to give to the King of an amazing Kingdom. Master Wu chooses some strange, random items as gifts: an iron sword, a leather saddle, a wooden flute, a bronze bowl, a sandalwood box, and a kite. But, there is a reason he chooses these gifts. They are all magical, and they are all eventually needed, not to give to the King, but to hand out, one by one, to other people to help these people with their struggles, which creates interesting separate stories about what the receivers of these items do with their new magical power. For instance, the sandalwood box contains a special ink with which the artist using it can draw objects and animals that come to life though the canvass and it helped the artist earn his living and improve his life. Kite in the shape of a bird allows the person holding it to fly, and it helped a girl flew away at the hour of grave danger! And at the end of the story the Prince learns that there is no King of an amazing Kingdom, and the purpose of his journey was to help his people and see life outside of the castle walls. I liked that the story was written in a way similar to classic Chinese literature and has deep meanings in each of its side stories, that all reconnect to the main story.



I give this story 4 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Christina J. is a 7th grader. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself, in 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Kubo and the Two Strings



Marissa Aldegarie

Kubo and the Two Strings, rated PG, is a fantasy action adventure film directed by Travis Knight, written by Marc Haimés and Chris Butler, and produced by Laika. The film features the voices of Art Parkinson, Charlize Theron, Matthew McConaughey, Ralph Fiennes, George Takei and Rooney Mara.



I have recently seen this movie which is very action packed and good for the family with kids over 10. This movie stars Kubo, a young boy who lives with his ill mother, in a cave on top of the mountain. Every day he goes to a nearby village to tell stories by magically using origami that moves by listening to music played from Kubo's instrument. He lives a fairly peaceful life until he accidentally summons a vengeful spirit from the past. As he runs from the evil, he is accompanied by a monkey and a beetle while they battle the Moon King and his mother's sisters.

What I liked about the movie is it was very mysterious and full of action. What I did not like was it left the viewer confused due to a lot of different stories that made up this movie. Therefore, it would be hard for a younger viewer to follow this movie. Overall it was a movie about heroism, love and forgiveness. I would give this movie a 3 out of a 5.

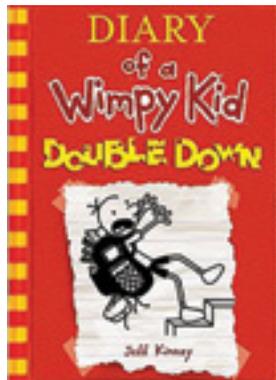
Marissa is a 7th grader who loves to watch movies, especially action films. She would love to be an actress or news anchor woman in the future. She rates movies on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

A Hilarious Book



Michael H.

Greg's imagination is at it again. He talks about how he feels like his life is being filmed and people are watching his every move. He also talks about how his family is secretly a bunch of robots, and worries that what his mom said about his nana watching over him since she died is literally true. His mom thinks video games



and TV are turning his brain into mush. She tells him to explore his "creative side."

This is all happening near Halloween and Greg feels like frights are coming his way from every direction. He joins the band. That would make his mom happy and he would be invited to the Halloween party. Going to the party he freaks out when he realizes his mom isn't just dropping him off she plans on staying. Will she embarrass Greg and ruin his whole plan?

I give this book 5 stars although it didn't have a main story line it was hilarious and can't wait to read the next one.

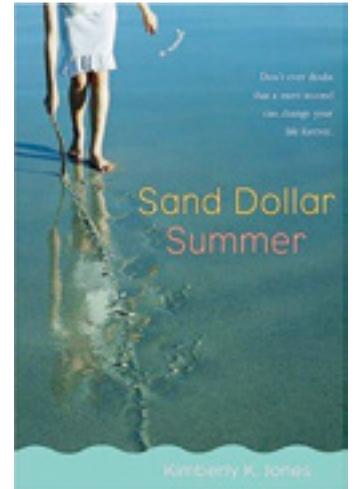
Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

Sand Dollar Summer



Courtney M.

The book *Sand Dollar Summer* by Kimberly K. Jones is about a mom and her two kids Lise and Free. After Annalise dropped the kids off at school she went to go get groceries, but on the way home someone slammed into Annalise and she had many broken bones. But



once she gets a little better they go to Fiddle Beach, Maine. As they passed all the great beach houses they continued on for at least another mile. They found a tiny shack and it was old, stinky, and basically going to fall down if you touched it. Meanwhile Annalise said let's go get in the water but Lise was terrified because she has never been in the ocean.

If you want to find out what happens next check out the book. I would rate this book with a 4 a good read.

Courtney likes to play Softball, Football, and ride her bike. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

First We Learn to Read — Then We Read to Learn

Whole Health Everyday Word Search Contest

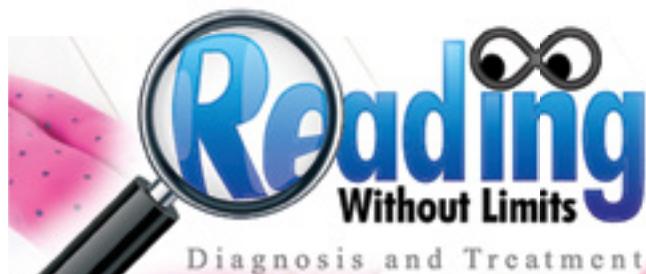
Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
 When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put RBUISD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2017**
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
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| ALMONDS | HUMMUS | PROTEIN |
| APPLES | KALE | SALMON |
| CARROTS | LEMONS | SEEDS |
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