

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Hawthorne School District**

**VOLUME 4, ISSUE 20**

**MAY 2014**

## The Fundamentals of Funding

School funding is going through a complete overhaul this year with the introduction of the Local Control Funding Formula, more commonly referred to as LCFF. It is anticipated that the full implementation of LCFF will happen in 2021. In the years leading up to 2021 we will see incremental increases in the allocation of funds to schools based on state revenue and the Governor's budget. This funding formula simplifies state funding to schools in that it consolidates most of the programs designed to serve certain students or programs (commonly referred to as categorical programs) and provides districts with funds based on grade level spans, supplemental funds for certain groups of students, and concentration grants for school districts serving large numbers of students in the four groups addressed by supplemental funds. The four groups of students who generate additional revenue in these areas are: English learners, redesignated English proficient students, socioeconomically disadvantaged students, and foster youth. The concentration funds are generated if students from these groups make up greater than 55% of the school district enrollment.

An important component of the LCFF is accountability. School districts are required to develop a plan outlining how all of the funds will be spent and showing how the additional supplemental and concentration funds will be used to better serve the students generating those funds. This plan is called the Local Control and Accountability Plan or LCAP. The LCAP must solicit input from stakeholders and be shared with these stakeholders prior to adoption by the Board of Trustees. The school district budget must support the activities outlined in the plan.

The Hawthorne School District has surveyed stakeholders, held public meetings, and developed goals and actions to meet the needs of our students. The draft plan has been shared at various meetings and will be presented at a public hearing at a regularly scheduled board meeting in May. Input from the community is welcome at the public hearing which may impact the final document the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve in June.

The LCFF has been a positive funding change for our school district. Our revenues have been increased due to this new funding formula. Approximately ninety percent of our students generate supplemental funds; therefore an additional thirty-five percent generate concentration funds. These funds will allow us to begin to rebuild after many years of declining funding. We look forward to implementing staff and programs that will continue to provide safe, clean, and positive learning environments for our students.



**Dr. Helen E. Morgan**  
Superintendent

## Los Fundamentos de Financiación

La financiación escolar está pasando por una revisión completa este año con la introducción de la Fórmula de Financiación de Control Local, más comúnmente conocido como LCFF. Está anticipado que la implementación completa de LCFF será para el 2021. En los años previos al 2021 veremos unos incrementos graduales en la distribución de fondos basado en los ingresos del estado y en el presupuesto del gobernador. Esta fórmula de financiación simplifica el financiamiento estatal para las escuelas ya que consolida la mayoría de los programas designados para servir a ciertos estudiantes o programas (comúnmente conocido como programas categóricos) y le proporciona a los distritos con los fondos basados en grupos por nivel de grados (grade span), fondos suplementarios para ciertos grupos de estudiantes, y concesiones de concentración para los distritos sirviendo a números grandes de estudiantes en los cuatro grupos dirigidos por los fondos suplementarios. Los cuatro grupos de estudiantes que generan ingreso adicional en esta área son: Aprendices del Idioma Inglés, Estudiantes reclasificados competentes en el inglés, estudiantes con desventaja socioeconómica, y jóvenes de crianza. Los fondos de concentración son generados si los estudiantes de estos grupos son más grandes del 55% de la matrícula escolar del distrito.

Un componente importante del LCFF es la responsabilidad. Se les ha pedido a los distritos escolares desarrollar un plan describiendo como se invertirán todos los fondos y mostrar como los fondos adicionales suplementarios y de concentración se usarán para servir mejor a los estudiantes generando estos fondos. Este plan es llamado el Plan de Responsabilidad de Control Local o LCAP. El LCAP debe solicitar opiniones de las partes interesadas y compartirlas con las partes interesadas antes de la adopción por los Miembros de la Mesa Directiva. El presupuesto del distrito debe apoyar las actividades descritas en el plan.

El Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne ha encuestado a las partes interesadas, llevado a cabo reuniones, y desarrollado metas y acciones para satisfacer las necesidades de nuestros estudiantes. El diseño del plan ha sido compartido en varias reuniones y se presentará en una audiencia pública en la reunión programada regularmente de la Mesa Directiva en mayo. Opiniones de la comunidad son bienvenidas en la audiencia pública la cual pueden influir en el documento final al que se le pedirá a la Mesa Directiva que lo apruebe en junio.

El LCFF ha sido un cambio positivo de financiación para nuestro distrito escolar. Nuestros ingresos han incrementado debido a esta fórmula nueva de financiación. Aproximadamente noventa por ciento de nuestros estudiantes generan fondos suplementarios; por eso un treinta y cinco por ciento generan fondos de concentración. Estos fondos nos permitirán que comencemos a restaurar después de muchos años de descenso financiero. Esperamos con mucho interés la implementación de personal y programas que continuarán proporcionando un ambiente de aprendizaje seguro, limpio y positivo para nuestros estudiantes.

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Hawthorne School District partners with LAUP to provide high-quality preschool for all four-year-old children. We believe all children deserve the best start in life and a quality preschool education.

*El Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne está asociado con LAUP para proporcionar educación preescolar de alta calidad para todos los niños de cuatro años. Creemos que todos los niños merecen el mejor comienzo en la vida y una educación preescolar de calidad.*



## Preschool Sites

### **Eucalyptus Universal Preschool**

12044 Eucalyptus Ave.  
Hawthorne, CA. 90250  
(310) 219-2837

### **Zela Davis Universal Preschool**

13434 Yukon Ave.  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
(310) 219-2821

Every child deserves a chance to succeed!  
*¡Cada niño merece la oportunidad de triunfar!*



### **Dramatic Play Develops Important Life Skills**

Pretend or dramatic play not only offers a variety of learning opportunities for children in their early years, it also reinforces the idea that young children learn best through play.

One place for a child to engage in active pretend play is a high-quality preschool program like LAUP. Our LAUP Preschools provide an educational and nurturing environment where the teachers incorporate dramatic play to develop a child's cognitive, motor, social and emotional skills. Dramatic play is a tool used to help develop all these skills in a fun and engaging way.

Dramatic Play helps children foster the following:  
Social and Emotional Skills, Language Skills, Critical-thinking Skills, Problem-solving Skills, Empathy

Research shows that children regularly involved in positive dramatic play will use the skills they have developed throughout their lives.

### **El Juego Dramático Desarrolla Habilidades Importantes**

*El juego imaginativo o dramático no sólo ofrece una variedad de oportunidades de aprendizaje para los niños en sus primeros años, también refuerza la idea de que los niños pequeños aprenden mejor a través del juego.*

*Un lugar para que un niño participe en juegos activos de simulación es en un programa preescolar de alta calidad como LAUP. Nuestros Preescolares LAUP proporcionan un ambiente educativo y enriquecedor, donde los profesores incorporan dramatización para desarrollar habilidades cognitivas, motoras, sociales y emocionales del niño. El Juego dramático es una herramienta utilizada para ayudar a desarrollar todas estas habilidades en una forma atractiva y divertida.*

*El Juego dramático ayuda a los niños promover las siguientes habilidades: Emocionales y Sociales, Lenguaje, Razonamiento Crítico, Resolución de Problemas, Empatía*

*Las investigaciones demuestran que los niños que regularmente participan en el juego dramático positivo utilizarán las habilidades que se han desarrollado a lo largo de sus vidas.*

### **Preschool Schedule**

HSD Preschool is a free 3.5 hour school readiness program for 4 year old children

Preschool Classroom Schedule:  
AM Session 8:05 to 11:35  
PM Session 12:15 to 3:45

### **Programa de Preescolar**

*El Preescolar del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne (por sus siglas en inglés HSD) es un programa gratuito de preparación escolar de 3.5 horas, para niños de 4 años*

*Horario del Salón de Clases del Preescolar:  
Sesión de la mañana 8:05 AM - 11:35 AM  
Sesión de la tarde 12:15 PM - 3:45 PM*

### **Preschool Information**

Each child receives one nutritious meal during the classroom program

Certified Teaching Staff

CPR and Emergency First Aid Trained

Excellent Student/Staff Ratio

Imagine It! Language Arts & Harcourt Math Curriculum

### **Información del Preescolar**

*Cada niño(a) recibe una comida nutritiva durante el programa del salón de clases*

*Personal docente certificado*

*Entrenados en resucitación cardiopulmonar y primeros auxilios*

*Proporción excelente de niños y personal*

*Plan de Estudios de Lenguaje (Imagine It!) y Matemáticas (Harcourt)*



### **For more information contact:**

**Reina Robledo**, Project Facilitator, LAUP Preschools  
rrobledo@hawthorne.k12.ca.us

### **Para más información póngase en contacto con:**

**Reina Robledo**, Facilitadora del Proyecto, LAUP Escuelas Preescolares  
rrobledo@hawthorne.k12.ca.us

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



It is funny how age changes ones perspective. On the front page Dr. Morgan writes about school funding and the full implementatin in 2021. That is only 7 years from now, which to a child would be a lifetime...to me will come all too soon! Planning is key to success.

It's never too soon to think about planning for college. Hawthorne Math and Science Academy principal wrote about their alumni college panel (page 6). The Principal of Kornblum reached out to high school students to tutor his students in math. All of the articles in this issue make you want to go back to school!

Our next issue is June 4.

## School News

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# Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908 • www.budcarsonmiddle.org



**Patricia Jordan**  
Principal

## Coach Giesler's Lady Huskies Win it All

*By Vivi Nguyen and Precious Onwuka*

Through trials and tribulations, the Bud Carson Middle School girls basketball team managed to stay undefeated and won the 2014 league championship. Getting there wasn't easy; the girls stayed dedicated

and became victorious. Their passionate coach, Blake Giesler, taught them the definition of teamwork, dedication and competitiveness. He also taught them to be hard workers not only on the court but also in the classroom. Their dedicated coach spent his spare time learning and improving new plays to teach them.

During their conditioning, Coach Giesler always reminded them that basketball isn't always about physical ability—it's also being able to show mental toughness. At the end of the season, not only did the team improve their basketball fundamentals but they also learned that being a part of a team means that not just one player can make up a team. The players not only gained new friends but also gained a new family.



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# Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369 • www.hsd-ca.schoolloop.com



**Mike Goldstein**  
Principal

## New Koala on Campus

Chances are that if you've recently visited Eucalyptus, you've seen him around, wearing a bright shirt and an even brighter smile. Diego Garcia is our new computer technician, and he's had a positive impact on our students and staff this year.

Since joining Koala Nation in February, Mr. Garcia has updated our computer lab, assembled our two new mobile Chromebook labs, worked with teachers to implement Common Core Technology Standards, and set up Typing Web for all students K-5. In addition, we recently completed a computerized field test of the new Common Core Standards, and thanks to Mr. Garcia, it was overwhelmingly successful.

When asked about his experience at Eucalyptus, Mr. Garcia said, "The whole staff has made my entry into this position as smooth as possible, and the district has prepared and trained me to have all technology up and running. I'm excited to be a part of this team."

Koala Nation is also excited about Mr. Garcia and the opportunity to learn and use our new technology!



**Mr. Garcia testing new chromebooks.**

# Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620 • www.hawthornemsa.org



**Esau Berumen**  
Principal

## HMSA Alumni College Panel

By Marianne Ramos, College Counselor

On Thursday, March 27, 2014, HMSA hosted its second Alumni College Panel. Fourteen HMSA alumni returned to campus to share their college experiences with current HMSA Aviators. Alumni represented a variety of CSUs, UCs and private schools. Below is just a sampling of questions answered:

- What colleges were you accepted into and why did you choose your college?
- How did your education at HMSA help prepare you for your subsequent education and for life?
- What activities do you participate in at your college town?

HMSA alumni were professional, courteous and enthusiastic. Interactions between alumni and current Aviators were not only informative but very meaningful. Senior, Nasima said, "Hearing the alumni speak about their decision making process, particularly their advice about visiting college campuses, was reassuring and helpful."

The event was well attended and a success!



# Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167 • www.hawthornemiddle.org



**Rudy Salas**  
Principal

## Discover Lab Day at USC

By Yvette Saenz, Mathematics/Science

Engineering is cool! Fifty students from Hawthorne Middle School were invited to participate in an educational study trip at USC on Friday, April 4, when students from USC's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers hosted "Discover Lab Day."

HMS students were given lab tours that focused on three different forms of electrical engineering. One lab exposed our students to music, as they interacted with student-made electrical guitars. Our HMS students then had fun creating their own stringed instruments out of paper cups and rubber bands.

Another lab explored how phone and tablet apps are a type of electrical engineering. HMS students wrote down their top 10 favorite apps and were challenged to combine two of them in order to create a new one.

The final lab was by far their favorite, because it involved rockets. Students were in awe exploring USC's rocketeer lab and seeing a real metal shop with five-foot-long rockets used in competitions. HMS students then participated in their own paper rocket competition for the greatest distance.

Our students were exposed to electrical engineering knowledge while having fun!



## Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423 • www.hsdjefferson.org



**Wendy Ostensen**  
*Principal*

### Eagle Activities

Our Jefferson Elementary School students have been participating in some motivating spring activities. Our students and staff wore some of their favorite attire for each day of spirit week, as well as pajamas for our Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day. Our families enjoyed a spring movie night under the stars, snuggled up with blankets and refreshments. In April, our kindergarten through third-grade students laughed and cheered through an Aesop's Fables assembly, and we hosted a delightful spring egg hunt for the kindergarten and first-grade students.

Upcoming events include Mariachi Night, Math/Literacy Night, Hawthorne 5K Run/Walk, award assemblies, the fifth-grade tour of the middle school, a fifth-grade dance, Pioneer Days, fieldtrips for second- and fifth-graders, and fund-raiser rewards.

Thanks to all of our students, staff, and parent helpers for supporting all of our activities at Jefferson.



**Jefferson 1st graders enjoy trading in their eggs for prizes during their Fun Friday Spring Day.**

## Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1003 • www.prairievistamiddle.org



**Christine Fagnano**  
*Principal*

### The Fine Arts Academy

PVMS has had an outstanding 2013–2014 school year. The school is always seeking ways to expand its fine arts programs to include more students.

Open House is always an excellent opportunity for students to show off their hard work and talents. Our students showcased classroom activities, student performances, and art work throughout the school. The chorus sang, the piano class had a demonstration, a flash-mob appeared in the quad, and artwork was displayed in the hallways and classrooms!

All of these activities are in preparation for the TakePartArt Festival that will be held at PVMS on Saturday, May 31. The Festival will start at 11 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. The school districts of Lawndale, Wiseburn, Lennox and Centinela will be joining Hawthorne to showcase their talents.

I would like to thank the students, staff, parents and community for their continuing support of Prairie Vista's Fine Arts Academy.

## Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W. El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294 • www.hsdkornblum.org



**LaTima Jones**  
*Principal*

### Kornblum Math Tutoring Program

After many requests for tutoring from parents, the support staff at Kornblum decided to initiate a math tutoring program in conjunction with HMSA seniors. The team determined that fifth grade math would be the focus of the program. Mr. Salmon, the school counselor visited HMSA and recruited students to serve as our tutors. Ms. Jauregui, the math coach trained the tutors and selected the activities for the program. The students were selected based on their scores from their assessments to have targeted intervention. Mr. Salmon facilitates the tutoring sessions from 3:30-4:30 every Tuesday in the school library. The tutors work with the students in small groups of two or three on a skill specific activity. The Kornblum students are attentive and receptive to the high school tutors. We hope to expand the program next school year to include language arts.



## Prairie Vista *South Campus*

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-7550 • www.hawthorne.k12.ca.us



**David Mallchok**  
*Site Administrator*  
*Assistant Principal*

### English Learning

In the adult English-as-a-Second-Language class sponsored by Centinela Valley High School District, which is held at Prairie Vista South Campus, the students are currently learning much-needed life enrichment and improvement skills. The essential skills being taught by Mr. Labbe include: how to open a bank or checking account; how to take public transportation; how to ask for directions; how to read labels, calendars, charts, and simple graphs; and how to order from a menu.

The students are also learning grammar skills, which includes using count and non-count quantifiers correctly. Instruction in pronouncing English words correctly and correct intonation and word stress have been introduced. The students also learned about American festivals and events held during the month of March, including Daylight Saving Time, Mardi Gras, Saint Patrick's Day, and Cesar Chavez Day.

All the students are pleased to have this opportunity to learn English!



# Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189 • www.hsdramona.org



**Michael Collins**  
*Principal*

## Education Excellence Honor Roll

Ramona School has been selected by California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) organization as one of 2,099 public schools in California to receive the title of 2013 Honor Roll School.



Schools receiving this distinction have demonstrated consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement levels over time, and reduction in achievement gaps among student populations.

The CBEE Honor Roll awards schools with two types of distinctions: the Star Schools Award and the Scholar Schools Award. CBEE Star Schools are those with significant populations of socio-economically disadvantaged students that have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency over time. CBEE Scholar Schools show significant levels of academic achievement, but do not have a significant socio-economically disadvantaged student population.

“We are so proud to be recognized by California’s business community as an Honor Roll school,” said Michael Collins, Ramona’s school principal. “Our teachers work tirelessly to keep the focus on high expectations and student academic achievement and continuous improvement of our practices. This hard work and dedication is paying off for all of our students.”

# York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189 • www.hsdnyork.org



**Jennifer Beekman**  
*Principal*

## Smarter Balanced Testing Begins

All York third- through fifth-grade students have begun to take the Smarter Balanced Field Tests. This is a four- to five-part examination offered in the computer laboratory, with only one section provided in the classroom.

Testing for our students will conclude on May 16. Daily attendance at school during these assessments is very important! It is difficult to make up these exams, and we are required to have the students complete all of the testing portions. Specific testing dates and times have been sent home to every parent. If

you have any questions about this examination, please do not hesitate to call me.

York has an outstanding computer technician, Mr. Jose Villa. We are so lucky to have such a talented and dedicated staff member who has been working countless hours to help get our school ready for the SBFT. Since January, Mr. Villa has established two additional computer labs at our school, and assured us that each one is able to meet the demands of testing. He also maintains our other on-site technical needs.

Mr. Villa and our wonderful teachers have made certain that our students have taken the available practice examinations in order to prepare for the new SBFT. Ask your child about these new assessments!



# Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422 • www.hsdwashington.org



**Angela Ortiz**  
*Principal*

## Math Enrichment: Music to Our Ears

To the delight of parents and families, 23 musical Wildcats performed in March in their first-ever recorder recital. Led by third-grade teacher Nancy Cousineau, students played pieces that they had learned during the past three months in twice-weekly after-school classes. There were whole-group performances along with small-group, partner and solo performances.

The students were taught how to read particular notes and rests. They also learned about timing and musical terms such as music staff, measure, bar lines and treble clef. They learned to correctly hold and play the recorder and, with practice, found that they could triumphantly put notes together to make music!



**Musical Wildcats performing in their recorder recital.**

Parents proudly took pictures and videos of their children from beginning to final bows. A reception was held, followed by happy Wildcats leaving for home clutching their recorders and books, knowing that they could now always experience the joy of making more music.

# Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1711 • www.hsdzeladavis.org



**Kathy Carbajal**  
*Principal*

## Super Saturday

The Zela Davis STEM Prep held its first STEM Super Saturday on March 8.

The STEM team, led by third-grade teacher Mrs. Franklin and fourth-grade teacher Mr. Logue, also hosted our first spectacular STEM Fair! The team was comprised of teachers, students, parents and community volunteers. Parents and students were able to participate in a variety of science, technology, engineering and mathematics activities.



The event also included a fabulous Community Career Expo. Students really enjoyed meeting our guest presenters from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and a variety of Southern California aerospace companies, as well as Cal State LA and the Bud Carson STEM Academy.

The students were able to meet and talk to a meteorologist, engineers, college professors, and BCMS and HMSA students. They also visited our STEM Lab for an exploration activity using digital microscopes.

Congratulations to our STEM ART Contest winners Brehenan Hernandez, Daniela Ortiz, Kaden Le, Djaira Johnson and Alexander Moreno. Their posters will be displayed in our STEM Lab.

# Gearing Up for Summer



**Sandy Spurgeon  
McDaniel**

For some parents, the arrival of summer means less stress because the school schedule is not a part of the daily routine. For other parents, having the children home all day every day is stressful. Whichever arena you are in, the reality of life is that summer vacation is almost here for the traditional schools.

Children may get more wound up, more disagreeable, more difficult to manage as the start of summer gets closer. Change is stressful, even if it is for the better. The break in routine is stressful for children and adults. It is advisable to keep your discipline strong so that you glide into summer with boundaries in place. Consistent boundaries will also help your child to contain his or her behavior and to feel safe.

My discipline system is mentioned on [parentingsos.com](http://parentingsos.com) and my new book, *Don't Feed the Dragon*, is a discipline manual divided into three sections:

(1) what parents need to understand about children in order to successfully guide them; (2) my discipline system, and (3) answers to 130 of the top concerns of parents, listed in alphabetical order. The book is age-appropriate from tots through the teens and is available on [parentingsos.com](http://parentingsos.com).

Having your discipline system in place, it is wise to sit down as a family and make a list of things that can be done during free time. The list may be posted in a place where children can use it as a reference. To quell the endless, "I'm bored" message that children who are not used to having non-structured time often begin chanting when school ends, offer two choices: "You may refer to the chart that we created or I will choose a chore off the chores chart that will help you dispel boredom." This plan might allow you to have your whole house cleaned in the first week of summer!

Summer is a wonderful time to train your darling children to do chores. Finally, they have time—the constant excuse during school months! Children will leave home some day—I promise!—and when they do, they need to know how to take care of a house and themselves. Chores teach a child that a house does not clean itself and how to do fundamental tasks, such as clean a toilet. If you have a housekeeper, create a space each week that the children are responsible for in terms of upkeep and give the tidiness angel one less area to clean.

It is important that children are not in so many activities that their lives become stressful. Children need time to be children! If you want your child to be successful in school, have at least a half hour a day that is devoted to school skills. If each child took a 30-minute "chill break" and read for that amount of time, their future teachers would be ecstatic! Every child needs quiet time each day that does not involve any media or mechanical gadgets, including during the summer.

Most important of all, enjoy your children! There will never be another summer like the one ahead of you. Your children will not be this age ever again. Create some sort of structure and have some time that is not structured. Don't send your children to other people to play all the time—what each child wants more than anything else is time with you. It is easy to forget that when you are trying to keep the energy-packed chicks busy.

Thanks to all the teachers who gave so much of themselves this school year to help our children be all that they can be!

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children's book: *Believe You Are Beautiful*. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle

## Summer Fun Word Search Contest

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

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

- |           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome   | Lessons   | Sunscreen  |
| Barbeque  | Lifeguard | Surfing    |
| Beach     | Picnics   | Swimming   |
| Fireworks | Pool      | Vacation   |
| Fun       | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot       | Sand      | Water      |
| Ice Cream | Summer    | Wave       |
| Lemonade  | Sunny     |            |

**Congratulations to  
Joana Acosta  
Winner of the March Contest!**



## Oranges and Life's Lessons



Nancy

I just spent a wonderful weekend with two little grandsons (ages 6 and 4) watching them enjoy and delight in what has become work for me after all these years at the ranch. The two boys loved climbing orchard ladders to harvest navel oranges. They picked themselves 5 twenty five pound bags to take home to sell. Aside from all the enjoyment they had they are learning some of life's lessons, i.e., where their orange juice comes from, the work involved in harvesting the fruit, the work and art of sales, and earning some of their own money. Not too bad for one morning in the outdoors, enjoying nature and spending time with their great grandmother, grandmother and parents.



...Planning vegetable garden beds for this year. It is getting more difficult to wait patiently for the frosty nights to pass before putting vegetables in the garden. The kale plants that were still in the garden went home with the boys for their garden beds (and hamsters, guinea pigs and rabbits). Young onion plants are up and growing and my experiment of growing potatoes in empty wild birdseed bags is proving to work, at least the plants have sprouted and are looking very healthy. I added more compost around the plants to encourage potatoes to set along longer stems. The plan is to continue "hilling" the potatoes by adding more compost as they grow taller, thereby increasing the eventual harvest of potatoes. By growing them in bags, I am hopeful I can get all of the potatoes out of the ground and not have sprouting veggies here and there.

...Dealing with poor drainage in the back yard by putting in drains, moving a few blueberry plants and snapdragons.

...Enjoying vases of daffodils as well as groups here and there throughout the property. I plant them here and the gophers move them there, so you just never know where you will find a narcissus, jonquil or daffodil. In the summer there are mysterious plantings of gladiolas joining the "gopher planted gardens." The ranch critters provide me with new garden items annually. Right now I have two beautiful dogwood trees courtesy of the blue jays, the aforementioned bulb plantings, lavender plants, and a few olive trees.

...Marking time preparing for Spring! Garden catalogues! Planting plans!

Publisher's note: Nancy is a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, retired school board member, and community volunteer. Nancy is a rancher in Northern CA. I don't think I have ever known anyone quite as appreciative of nature as Nancy. She can stand in the middle of a field of weeds and find beauty in the gentle swaying of the tassels. At the end of her busy day, rather than settle down for a much needed rest, Nancy is preparing sugar water to not disappoint the hummingbirds the following morning. After much arm twisting, I convinced Nancy to share with our readers a few tidbits of her days on the farm. Enjoy!

## Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of "pursuit of personal happiness," too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- Learning: Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- Networking: Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- Building the Résumé: Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- Personal Growth: As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

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

## Parent To Parent

### Selfies



Jodie Lynn

**Question:** My 12-year-old daughter and her friends are constantly taking "selfies" on their cell phones. The other moms and I think this is a bad thing. All we hear is negative comments about their faces, noses, teeth, eyes, hair, etc. What's the best way to try to help these girls understand that these self-pictures should not be used as a testament of their true appearances, inside and out, and to try to teach them to make light of the selfies if they insist on continuing to take them?

**From Jodie:** Self-critiquing alone can be rough on one's self-esteem and emotional state of mind. But if the picture is shown to friends or posted on social media the comments, which can be quite mean, can devastate the individual and really do damage. As kids get older they begin to be generally hard on themselves as well as others when it comes to just about everything they do and say and especially how they look. Recognizing this, Dove® came up with ways to help build and rethink self-esteem in growing girls. In 2004, they created The Dove Self-Esteem Project which focuses on helping girls, ages 8 to 17, become more confident and well-adjusted, even enjoying themselves for who they really are. Be sure to visit their site where you both can engage in great lessons on self-esteem and loads of other resources. Check out <http://www.dove.us/Our-Mission/Girls-Self-Esteem/default.aspx> for more details. You might also want to watch a video that they put together ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_3agBWqGfRo&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3agBWqGfRo&feature=youtu.be)). It aims to reaffirm a happy, healthy insight into the next generation of women growing up. Since our own personal opinion about ourselves is important, we have a tendency to verbally express negative comments, which in turn is heard by family members.

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

## Dream Universities are Attainable



**Susan D. Marshall**

My question to parents is this; if your son or daughter could attend their dream school for the same out of pocket expense or less than another school, would this be something you would like to know ahead of time? Yes, of course. As soon as possible.

There are ways to know these things. There are things you can do even when students are in middle school that can be game changers in the world of financial aid, getting scholarships, and helping families save on college.

Navigating the financial aid process is a challenge and it needs to start sooner than parents realize. One of the biggest challenges you will face is college costs have become alarmingly high. Most families have not saved enough to even pay for 1 full year of tuition.

The other challenge is figuring out how to navigate the college financial aid process and learning how the colleges disperse financial aid. The reality is that colleges and universities don't want you to know the process or guidelines they use to distribute financial aid. Their goal is to attract as many high quality students to attend their school with as few dollars as possible.

Every college is different in how they award aid. Do they offer more need based aid or merit aid? Merit aid is awarded for the student's merit. Need based aid is based on financial need.

Regarding need based aid: The question is how much of your need the college will meet. Then the question is if they will meet your need in the form of loans or in gift aid. Gift aid is free money, money you don't have to pay back. Loans, even though considered financial aid, someone will eventually have to pay back.

By being able to answer these questions and understand how colleges' award financial aid (and the types of aid) may make a difference in your student attending their dream school or settling for a school they think is more affordable.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

## Note-ables

### Buy One Get One Flea, Dog on Fleas



**Kate Karp**

For some time, creators and performers of young people's music have been dispensing with the cheap, synthetic sound of electronic tracks and replacing them with real live instruments. I'm surely not the only one who's delighted beyond words. Dog on Fleas is one of the groups that plays in its own band, called the Backyard Orchestra; the combo includes but is not limited to a sousaphone, duck calls, a bass drum, a bassoon, a clarinet and several kazoos. The wacky instrumentation and the wordplayful monikers of group and band indicate one slaphappily good CD.

The content is composed of songs original, familiar and obscure. Imagine, if you will, "Over the Waves" and the "Grand March" from the opera *Aida* played solely by kazoos, albeit skillfully. The original songs, written by Grammy Award-winning producer and band member Dean Jones, are based on themes that both child and parent will appreciate. "Hundredaires" is about the joys and disadvantages of a simpler life and a lighter wallet. "It's a Ruse" warns about things that seem too good to be true and likely are. "Pardon My Pajamas"—well, who hasn't longed to spend an entire day in jammies?

And "Hinterlands" is plain wonderful—brilliantly arranged and tuneful, with an energy that you can jump on and ride. You're certain to get an itch for Fleadom.

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

## Strategic Plan—A New Way Forward



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

I am pleased to announce the release of a new strategic plan that outlines the Los Angeles County Office of Education's course of action for the next three years.

The plan identifies outcomes – with key goals designed to capitalize on LACOE's strengths – and articulates a vision for an innovative, contemporary education agency that is ready to meet new challenges and opportunities.

The plan was conceived more than two years ago not long after I joined LACOE – and after the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) completed its review of LACOE operations and made recommendations to enhance efficiency.

The FCMAT review gave us some immediate things that we needed to get done, but did not really give us a long-range view of what, strategically, we want to see happen in the County Office. This prompted us to come up with a more formalized strategic plan that will produce the best work possible for the county's 80 K-12 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

The LACOE Strategic Plan was developed following critical conversations on the Office's purpose, core values and focus areas that provided the framework for the plan. It is focused on Common Core, Innovative Systems and Schools, Fiscal Direction and Solvency, and Partnerships. Specific goals are identified under each of these areas.

Collaboration with school districts plays a big role in the strategic plan. Our purpose statement speaks to the area of how we serve the school districts, how we communicate to them, and how we adjust our services to them in ways that they find helpful and are based on their specific needs.

The plan, for example, targets increased collaboration with the districts on initiatives relating to Gov. Jerry Brown's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) programs. LACOE will now play a key role in the rollout and implementation of these programs, assisting districts as they develop and manage budgets in accordance with the new state guidelines on funding.

Under the new strategic plan, LACOE will strengthen partnerships with school districts, charter schools, community colleges and local agencies to enhance student learning opportunities. There will also be a strong focus on maximizing the use of technology to increase efficiency and improve communication and information sharing with the districts.

I'd like to invite you to learn more about the LACOE Strategic Plan by visiting our website: [www.lacoe.edu](http://www.lacoe.edu).

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

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# Hawthorne School District FOOD SERVICES

## Summer Lunch For All Hawthorne Children At No Charge

Lunch will be provided for all children in the Hawthorne area Monday through Thursday, beginning Monday, July 7th and ending Thursday, August 14th. The Seamless Summer Food Program is funded by the Federal government, through the National School Lunch Program.

**Monday– Thursday**  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.



## Para Todos los Niños de Hawthorne Durante el Verano

Se proveerá almuerzo a todos los niños en el área de Hawthorne de lunes a jueves, a partir del lunes, 7 de julio y terminando el jueves, 14 de agosto. El Programa de Alimentos de Verano continuo, es un proyecto financiado por el Gobierno Federal, mediante el Programa Nacional de Almuerzos Escolares.

**Eucalyptus School**  
12044 Eucalyptus Ave

**Zela Davis School**  
13435 South Yukon Ave

**Hawthorne Middle School**  
4366 W. 129th Street

## Starts Monday, July 7th @ Noon!

### BASIC RULES TO ENSURE A POSITIVE LUNCH EXPERIENCE FOR ALL:

- Children and adults must follow the site supervisor's direction.
- No food is to be taken off campus.
- Guests must pick up and dispose of their own trash.
- Guests must leave the school campus when their meal is finished.
- Parents may purchase a lunch for \$3.50.



### REGLAS BÁSICAS PARA ASEGURAR QUE TODOS TENGAN UNA EXPERIENCIA POSITIVA CON EL ALMUERZO:

- Niños y adultos deben obedecer al supervisor de la escuela.
- No se permite llevar comida fuera del campo.
- Los participantes deben recoger y tirar la basura de sus propios desperdicios.
- Los participantes deben dejar la escuela cuando hayan terminado sus comidas.
- Los padres pueden comprar un almuerzo por \$3.50.

Hawthorne School District, Food Services  
14120 South Hawthorne Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • (310) 263-3990