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# School News

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**Covering the Orange Unified School District**

**VOLUME 9, ISSUE 44**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

**DECEMBER 2013–MARCH 2014**

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Michael L. Christensen**

It is an exciting time here at Orange Unified School District. The Board of Education has authorized staff to start the process of developing facility master plans for the District's four comprehensive high schools, Canyon, El Modena, Orange and Villa Park. An architectural firm was hired to work with each school to develop plans for what modernized campuses would look like. Currently, the architects are facilitating meetings with students, staff, parents and the community at each of the schools. The schedule of community meetings is available on the District website at <http://www.orangeusd.org/facilities/plan/index.asp>. The meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 19

## Advanced Video Production Program

*By Kimberly Fricker, Principal Canyon High School*

The Canyon High School video production program and Project Tomorrow recently recognized Ms. Anita Forougi, a Canyon High School senior, with a \$15,000 scholarship for her video documentaries featuring current social issues. Mr. Alex Graham, video production instructor, also received a \$500 grant.

Mr. Graham has devoted his talents to the creation, development and inspiration of young videographers. He continually incorporates innovative technologies and constructs creative projects that include the skills necessary to help develop 21st-century students.

His students are required to be creative, think critically, and communicate and collaborate for the entire duration of their project-based assignments, beginning with pitch meetings and extending through



**Scholarship winner, Ms. Anita Forougi, CHS Senior**

the final edits. Students utilize industry grade equipment, methodologies and program application software to produce professional products.

Canyon High School is extremely proud to highlight this video production program, Mr. Graham, and the amazing students who participate in it.

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## SMART Minds Meet at Showcase Night

*By Ekko DePriest, Assistant Principal La Veta Elementary*

In September, La Veta Elementary held its inaugural Technology Showcase Night. Classrooms were open to parents, students and community members to interact with a variety of technological devices available to our students. Parents were able to "test drive" iPads, laptops, SMART boards, Promethean ActivBoards and our Promethean ActivTable.

La Veta is one of the few schools in the state of California to have one of these highly engaging tables. Our interactive whiteboards allow students and teachers to collaborate and learn in a digital environment. Not only are the boards easy to use but also the students are highly engaged in every lesson. Our upgraded computer lab was also open, with our new touch-screen computers on display and ready to use.

La Veta's PTA supported our Technology Showcase Night with food trucks and raffle fund-raisers. Over 470 people attended this school and community event.



**Berkeley Krstich, Jose Jacobo-Jimenez and Rudy Cruz take turns on the ActivTable.**

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 9th Anniversary publishing the excellence from the OUSD. So much has happened in the classrooms with technology advancement and now Common Core. We thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Happy Holidays! We are always mindful of the service men and women who are not home with their families while we enjoy our freedom.

Our next issue is April 16, 2014... until then Happy New Year!

## School News

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Covering the  
**ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## Orange Unified School District Provides Classes in Full-Day Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten\*

Kindergarten Registration begins on  
**Wednesday, March 5, 2014**  
with the exception of McPherson Magnet School

To participate in the lottery at McPherson Magnet School (K-8),  
parents must attend one of the following orientation meetings at McPherson School:  
**February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. or February 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.**

For more information on the OUSD **Mandarin Immersion Program** at Fletcher Elementary,  
visit the OUSD website.\*\*

- To receive a Kindergarten Registration packet,  
parents must have all the required documentation:
  - Child's birth certificate
  - Child's current immunization records
  - Two address verifications  
(Even if a sibling currently attends the  
school, verification is required as the  
family may have moved.)
- Each school site determines the date that  
packets must be returned to their site.

➤ For more information regarding Kindergarten Registration,  
parents should contact the school site directly or go to the OUSD website at  
<http://www.orangeusd.org/scs/#enroll>.

\* **Transitional Kindergarten** information — A parent information meeting  
will be held Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at the District Office – Board Room 3,  
Bldg H, from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

\* **The birthdate requirement for Transitional Kindergarten is:**  
Sept 2 – Dec. 2, 2009 (students with these birthdates – can only attend  
Transitional Kindergarten. Students with birthdates between July 1 and  
Sept 1, 2009 may attend Kindergarten or TK.

\*\* **Mandarin Immersion Program** information — A parent information meeting  
will be held January 15, 2014, at the District Office – Board Room 2, Bldg H,  
from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

### Open Enrollment Information:

K – 12 Open Enrollment will be held  
**March 3 – 14, 2014**  
Additional information is posted  
on the OUSD website.

**Orange Unified School District is located at  
1401 North Handy Street, Orange, CA  
[www.orangeusd.org](http://www.orangeusd.org)**

## Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Sandra Miller**  
*Principal*

### New Computer Lab

Anaheim Hills Elementary is very excited to have a new computer lab! With the support of our fabulous PTA the students at AHES are enjoying the new computer for Reading Counts, Khan Academy, Criterion Writing, Ticket to Read, Discovery Education, and so much more! The lab consists of 37 Lenovo all-in-one touch screen computers.

The new computer lab will be an integral part in moving the students forward with the implementation of the new common core standards and the new smarter balance assessment. In addition to the new computer lab, our PTA has also supported our efforts to increase our nonfiction leveled book collection. The leveled books will help support the implementation of guided reading and the Daily 5.



## Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Karen Hanson**  
*Principal*

### Achievement On Campus and Off

Canyon Hills has already had some outstanding events this year, such as Back-to-School Night, Picture Day, Red Ribbon Week and the annual Pumpkin Patch. These activities are enriching multisensory experiences that promote learning. All of us appreciate those who contribute their time, energy and other resources to our activities.

The integration of technology in instruction at Canyon Hills is expanding as teachers explore new devices and their applications. This year, there are iPad tablets in each classroom, which are being used to promote fine-motor and communication skills and enhance student engagement.

Students continue to participate in vocational activities both on and off campus. In preparation for the transition beyond Canyon Hills, some students work at local businesses, performing a variety of cleaning and stocking tasks. Students on campus also assist in the assembly of district science kits.



**Red Ribbon Week**

## California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Laurie Dieppa**  
*Principal*

### School Pride Blooms

California Elementary School hosted its first Campus Beautification Day in October. For four hours on this hot Saturday, 15 families came out to show their school pride. These fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and students joined several teachers and the principal to brighten up the school campus.

Teams of volunteers fanned out around the school to perform many different tasks. One group picked up trash blown around by recent winds. Two groups pulled weeds and planted new flowers and plants between classrooms. Another group sanded and painted benches around the school. Another group worked in the technology lab, cleaning computers and tables.



**Teachers, parents, and students working together.**

Principal Dieppa said, "Giving parents, students, and teachers the opportunity to show pride in their school is just one way that we are working to come together as a team this year."

Everyone showed great enthusiasm for the jobs at hand and left tired, but proud of their accomplishments.

## Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Jeremy Mortensen**  
*Principal*

### Making a Contribution

We have had a wonderful opening to the school year. Our students and teachers are all settled in their classrooms and working hard.

This year the focus at Cambridge has been on a successful transition to the Common Core State Standards. Our teachers are dedicated to creating a learning environment that emphasizes communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. They want to empower their students to become positive contributors to the 21st-century global society.

We have already had many dynamic programs at our school this year, including Red Ribbon Week. During this event our students participated in themed games during lunch time. They closed the Week with a walk-around-the-block activity to let the community know that Cambridge is a drug-free zone.

We also have a new anti-bullying program. Our students are being educated on how to improve peer relations and create a safer school environment. Recently, two middle school students from the Girl Scouts put on an anti-bullying assembly that taught students how to recognize bullying when it occurs, and also how to prevent it. Our students pledged not to bully others, and they are reminded of this every day by a banner that hangs in the lunch area.

We like to have fun too, and that's just what happened at our first-annual "Taste of Cambridge." Families from throughout the school community brought their best homemade dishes for everyone to sample and share. What a fun and delicious night!

## Canyon High School

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Kimberly Fricker**  
Principal

### Advanced Video Production Program

*(Please see our article on the front page.)*

## Cerro Villa Middle School

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Ken Miller**  
Principal

### Student Achievement Strategies and Focus

Cerro Villa Middle School (CVMS) earned the largest two-year increase in school history on the Academic Performance Index for 2011–2012 and 2012–2013. Our score revealed a 42-point gain from 831 to 877! All core academic subject areas experienced growth. I am so proud of the hard work of our staff, our students and our parents. CVMS also earned California Distinguished School status for 2013–2017.

As we transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), our teachers are instructing students in the four Cs of 21st-century learning: communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. When visiting our classrooms, you will see critical thinkers analyzing positioned arguments on current issues and writing narrative essays.

Another important aspect of the CCSS is the infusion of technology. We are proud to have over 250 computers and 50 electronic tablets on campus that we are utilizing to enhance student achievement through daily interactive learning.

In addition to our focus on student learning, CVMS has continued our focus on a positive school climate. Our philosophy is based upon Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and educating our students about anti-bullying and anti-harassment year round. The CVMS mantra recited daily on campus is “CVMS: Choose respect, Value yourself and others, Make it safe, and Strive for success. Students are recognized for positive behavior via PBIS rewards, including spirit cards and wrist bands.

## Chapman Hills Elementary

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Sandra Schaffer**  
Principal

### Red Ribbon Week

The week of October 21 was an exceptionally busy one at Chapman Hills Elementary School as we kicked off Red Ribbon Week. Monday began with a school-wide pledge of healthy living. Our student council representatives talked about making good choices, Pennies for Prevention, and, of course, led us in a school-wide Pledge of Allegiance. The audience was a sea of red as the students showed their support by wearing the signature color. Our upper graders participated in spreading the message by putting up red cups with a message that read, “We Pledge to be

Drug Free!”

The week’s activities included theme days like “Be a Jean-ius,” where the students wore jeans, and “I Have a BRIGHT Life Ahead of Me!” where everyone wore their favorite shades! During recess and lunch each day, our awesome student council supervised games and activities for everyone who wanted to participate. We had a hunt for hidden red ribbons, a coloring station, and a free-throw shooting contest. We also collected pennies throughout the week as part of Pennies for Prevention.

We are so thankful for all of the efforts of the coordinator, Mrs. Karla Kendrick, and the PTA for making Red Ribbon Week so special. Our Bobcats are “Proud to Be Drug-Free!”

## Canyon Rim Elementary

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/532-7027 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**David Appling**  
Principal

### Parents Working Overtime Day In, Day Out

Canyon Rim Elementary School parents know that their being at school volunteering and involving themselves in school activities and events shows children the importance of an education. I am so proud of the involvement parents have taken in their children’s education. Some parent opportunities and PTA sponsored events that have been offered are Fun Run, which took in more donations this year than any previous year; Art Masters, for which they coordinate Art Masters lessons; Book Fair Days, for which parents coordinate book fairs for all students; Magic Night, for which they coordinate the family nights; Fall Carnival, which parents plan as the biggest fund-raiser of the year; Room Moms, who organize class assignments; Imagination Machine, during which students write stories and actors come and act it out for them; Reflections, for which parents volunteer; I Know My Facts, which is parent facilitated; Health and Safety, in which parents assist with screenings; Student Store, to which children bring in their Roadrunner bucks and exchange them for rewards; Birthday Book Club for which parents process book orders; Box Tops; and Classroom Volunteers.

Canyon Rim has had the following activities to support parent understanding through School Site Council and English Language Acquisition Committee: Parent Education trainings on ST Math and the new Computer Lab; Parent Walk-Through, which includes the new math series enVision as well as Thinking Maps and Writing; Parent Understanding of Technology; and a parent in-service on Common Core Standards.

On behalf of the staff and me, I want to thank our parents for their involvement and dedication to the education of the Canyon Rim Roadrunner children!

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# El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Dustin Saxton**  
Principal

## The Lawyers are Back at El Modena!

After a six-year hiatus, the mock trial team is back and raring to go. Four practicing lawyers have generously offered to donate their time to coach the team. They are Kris Adams, a criminal defense lawyer, Barbara and Hans Van Ligten, and Adam Klugman.

The El Modena team has been working for a month to prepare for their first competition at the Santa Ana Court House. In two weeks they will be arguing a case involving a second-degree murder charge and the sale of a controlled substance.

The team will be divided into defense and prosecution, and will compete against the opposing team's defense and prosecution. The competitions are judged by actual lawyers and judges who donate their time to the program.



Mock Trial Team.

# Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Randi Leach**  
Principal

## Students Staying Drug Free

By Robin Nelson, Teacher – 6th-Grade GATE

Crescent Elementary School celebrated Red Ribbon Week in October with a variety of activities that inspired students to stay drug free. Each day of the week, students showed their “healthy me” school spirit by wearing something that matched the theme for the day.

The theme, “A Healthy Me is Drug Free,” was also the topic of a competition where students in kindergarten and first grade designed posters and students in second through sixth grade wrote and illustrated poetry. The winners of the contests were: transitional kindergarten student Rayyan Uddin; kindergartner Gavin Shea; first-grader Victoria Cuevas; second-grader Sophia Ortiz; third-grader Colin Chu; fourth-grader Gabriella Toth; fifth-grader Sophia Furca; and sixth-grader Kelly Gilbert. The PTA framed their work, and the students also received gift cards to spend towards healthy choices.



TK - 6th grade student contest winners demonstrated pride in being drug free during Red Ribbon Week.

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## Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



### Eagles Soar in the Fall

The Esplanade Elementary School Eagles engage in rigorous teaching and learning, participate in creative activities in and outside of the classroom, and daily show pride, respect and responsibility in everything they do. Many students participate in the after-school program where they work on homework, read, and engage in enrichment academic activities and sports.

Esplanade and Prospect had a great basketball game in October. After leading for a quarter, Esplanade lost the lead at halftime and was down by eight points. At the start of the second



half Esplanade tied the game. During the final quarter Prospect took the lead once again. Esplanade gave it their best and tied and in the last seconds of the game took the lead. At the end of a challenging game, Esplanade came out victorious with the final score of 32 to 28. Great job, Eagles!



Esplanade Eagles pledged to be drug-free and participated in a drug-free poster contest. This is one example of the creativity from posters from 1st 5th and 6th grade.

## El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



### Best Gift: A Happy Holiday

For over 20 years, the students of El Rancho have been working with the Southwest Community Center to adopt families for the holiday season. For the 2013 holidays, students have adopted 15 families.

El Rancho students from multiple classrooms have worked together with their teachers to raise funds for the purchase of gifts and various necessities. Additionally, El Rancho's Industrial

Technology program has worked feverishly to donate several class projects to the children of the adopted families. The Leadership class (ASB) has worked tirelessly to wrap literally hundreds of gifts in time for the December delivery. Leadership students, along with one student from each class, are looking forward to making the holiday season a little easier for 15 special families.

## Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



### Towards the Future

This year, Fairhaven Elementary School has begun piloting a one-to-one technology program for the third-grade. Our teachers and students will now be working to integrate the Apple iPad as a classroom instructional tool. Rather than just being used as a diversion, this new technology will be utilized across all subject areas throughout the instructional day.

This project is one that Fairhaven hopes to replicate successfully in the other grades through a slow and mindful approach to the integration of technology. It is our hope that students will become thoughtful and purposeful digital citizens in an enhanced learning environment.



The implementation process is an ongoing one, with new ideas for improvement being created each day the tools are in use. Fairhaven believes that the integration of this tool will not only immediately engage the students, it will also create lifelong learners who know how to use information in a self-directed, technology-based environment.

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## Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Rebeca Nelson**  
*Principal*

### Working Hard, Working Smart

The start of the school year has been an exciting and a learning-filled time! Students at Fletcher have been working hard and working smart. They've been reading and earning points through our Reading Counts program and heading for the computer lab during recess and after school to take Reading Counts quizzes. They're reading to learn and reading to earn Bronze, Silver, or Gold levels in our school program.

Fletcher Students also worked smart during Red Ribbon Week and made a pledge to make healthy choices in their lives. They posted their handprints as signatures and participated daily in schoolwide activities to remind them of the importance of making good choices.

Students and families also participated in Fletcher's Science Night, with seven different hands-on activities to choose from and a live animal presentation from Inside the Outdoors. With school in full-swing, Fletcher students are busy learning and having fun.



## Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Andrea Roman**  
*Principal*

### Striving for Success

We are excited to share all of the great things that are happening at Jordan Elementary School. It has been a very busy few months, but we are off to a great start.

Jordan students are currently focusing on increasing their fluency in math facts. Every month we will be rewarding them as they reach their grade-level goals. In September we provided our Math Facts Masters with a special "Sundae Party," and are soon looking forward to rewarding our October Math Facts Masters.

We will also continue to motivate and encourage our families to help their children reach their goals. For example, we helped strengthen our valuable school, family and community partnerships by hosting a special celebratory night on October 28. The event was a big success. Our students, families and teachers all had a great time!

Jordan students are gearing up for Red Ribbon Week by having the El Modena High School's ASB students, cheerleaders and cheer team organize a kick-off assembly to promote healthy choices. We are also working diligently to help prepare our students for 21st-century skills. We will be providing our teachers with focused development and professional opportunities to implement the new Common Core Best Practices.

Not only are we providing additional teacher support for 21st-century learning, we are also providing help for parents through the Common Core Parent Workshops. The hope is that we can continue these workshops throughout the year. Our goal is to provide parents with the specific strategies they need to help their children transition to 21st-century learning.

At Jordan Elementary, we believe that all students can succeed, and we strive for success in all that we do for our students. Go, Jaguars!

## Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Michelle Owen**  
*Principal*

### Mayor Tita Smith Visits Handy!

Mayor Tita Smith received a warm welcome from our third-grade students during a recent visit to Handy Elementary School. The students had been studying the major components of a city, and how Mayor Smith works with the city council of Orange to make decisions for our residents.

This unit of study was created as part of the students' English language development class. The children also sang songs about the mayor and the city council to demonstrate the knowledge they had accumulated during their study.

As part of the culminating activity, the students were able to host the mayor for a question-and-answer session on what it is really like to be the mayor of the City of Orange. They prepared for her visit by writing down their own questions for the open discussion forum.

Mayor Smith, along with her passion for making the city a better place, also inspired all of the students in attendance.



**Mayor Tita Smith visits Handy Elementary School.**

## Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Ginette Kelley**  
*Principal*

### Learning App-ropriately!

The students at Imperial Elementary in Anaheim Hills are using iPads in their classrooms! Teachers at Imperial are beginning to use handheld technologies as a learning tool, allowing 21st Century Skills to permeate classrooms. Second-grade students are helping kindergarteners learn about nouns and colors using Face Time. This collaboration reinforces the knowledge of our second-grade students and builds bonds between the children attending our school.

Students are sharing ideas from class to class with iPads, developing oral language and the use of technology as a communication tool. Other classes are using iPads for vocabulary development in which students identify the meanings of words while displaying pictures and words using the Pic Collage app to support their reading comprehension. Students use iPads to present learning to their classmates. In sixth grade, students are using apps to help develop their reasoning and critical-thinking skills. These same students use the Educreations app to create short videos to present their understanding of historical facts and details.

Imperial Elementary Students are actively engaged in mastering grade-level standards across all subjects and increasing technology skills with the use of iPads. And that is not all—our API rose 11 points, and we are excited to share that Imperial's API is 895!

At Imperial, students are soaring!

## Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Maria Chairez**  
Principal

### Treasured Artwork, Treasured Speaker

Bryan Salas, a fifth-grader, was the winner of the Handball Wall contest. His drawing will beautify the school thanks to volunteers who participated in Make a Difference Day. The event included volunteers painting the handball wall, parents helping their children paint handprints on planter boxes, and college students labeling library books with reading Lexile levels. The goal was to engage parents and the community into beautifying Lampson with student art.



**Bryan Salas, a 5th grader was the winner of the Handball Wall contest.**

All fourth- and fifth-grade students learned that hard work pays off by



**Valuable volunteers**

listening to a motivational talk by former U.S. Treasurer Anna Escobedo Cabral. Mrs. Cabral, visiting from Washington, D.C., spoke about growing up and having to work extra-hard to help her

family, who worked in agriculture. She encouraged Lampson students to “work hard” and learn to do hard things first before going to play

hard to help her

## La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6155 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Connie Smith**  
Principal

### SMART Minds Meet at Showcase Night

*By Ekko DePriest, Assistant Principal  
(Please see our article on the front page.)*

## McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Jeanne Bentley**  
Principal

### Moving to the Common Core

With the adoption of the new Common Core State Standards, McPherson will now be focusing on the “Four C’s.” They are critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity.

Instructionally, our teaching will change to better prepare students for college and career readiness. These changes will place an emphasis on applying what students actually learn, as opposed to filling in a bubble on a test. Homework should begin to look differently, and project-based learning will be increasing within the school day.

McPherson wants to work on these skills through increased writing practice in all curricular areas. An important part is the integration of effective questioning techniques, from the teachers as well as the students. In this way our students will be engaging in deep constructive thought to help develop conceptual understanding.

By the end of the year you will see units of learning which engage students in all four areas, with a good balance between teacher- and student-directed learning.

## Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6201 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Sally Hughson**  
Principal

### Art is Alive at Linda Vista!

*by Michelle Deziel Hernandez, Arts and Education Chairperson*

On Tuesday, October 22, the Linda Vista Parent Teacher Association in Orange proudly hosted its annual Reflections Art Gallery and Awards Ceremony. As part of the national PTA’s programming efforts, Reflections is designed to both encourage our students to be creative and recognize them for their artistic efforts.

Linda Vista had 145 out of 500 students participate in the program. This talented group created over 200 works of art based on the 2013 Reflections theme of, “Believe, Dream, Inspire...” Students, family and staff members enjoyed viewing the many dance, film, literature, music, photography and visual arts projects on display.

Every child was recognized for their participation in the program, and special awards for artistic excellence were announced. The 15 artworks that won first place will advance to the next level of the program, where they will compete with first-place winners from the other local schools. The next reception will be held at Chapman Hills Elementary School in late November.

The contest will continue until a national winner is selected. In addition, over 100 artworks by Linda Vista students will be displayed in the Orange Plaza during the month of November. Congratulations to these creative students!

## Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Amy Hitt**  
Principal

### Celebrating Linda Horist, a State Teacher of the Year!

We are proud to announce that second-grade teacher Linda Horist has been appointed a California Teacher of the Year! She received word late last school year that her application had been sent to the state level. We then learned in mid-October that she’d be receiving a classroom visit from state personnel as a state semifinalist. She then traveled to Sacramento after the visit landed her a state finalist status.

Recently, Mrs. Horist learned that she’s one of the California Teachers of the Year after an official press release from state superintendent Tom Torlakson was made public. She privately celebrated with her previous and current years’ classes with a viewing of her county video, and the school had a huge party in her honor.



**Mrs. Horist, California Teacher of the Year, and her family Daniel, Alli, (Linda Horist, center), John, and CJ.**

We are so proud to be the home of a California Teacher of the Year! The honor couldn’t have been bestowed on a more deserving teacher. Congratulations, Linda Horist!

## Olive *Elementary*

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Katherine Rizzo**  
Principal

### Reading and Running

The 2013–2014 school year is off to a great start at Olive Elementary School! We hosted the book fair, organized by the Olive Parent Teacher Club (OPTC), during parent conference week so almost all of our parents were able to make new selections to read, read, read! Parent conferences were well attended, and teachers were happy to ensure communication of student goals for the year.

On Family Running Night in October, 150 students and their families ran laps for the 100 Mile Club. During the week, parent volunteers monitor students as they run laps to log as many miles as possible. The philosophy of the 100 Mile Club is that students who set goals and work hard to achieve those goals will learn that perseverance and hard work pay off! Following the run event our OPTC hosted a free spaghetti dinner!



## Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Rd., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Kathryn Martin**  
Principal

### Compassion and Respect

Panorama Elementary School takes pride in the success of its students. Our Panorama Panthers know that success in school is all about collaboration, creativity, critical thinking and communication. The traits they possess are assets that will carry them further than any report card or trophy.

Our Panthers behave in a manner that is honorable, compassionate and respectful. They know that when they share, cooperate or comfort those in distress, they are also developing skills that will be necessary as they grow into adulthood. Their cooperation and collaboration in each classroom keeps them engaged and achieving.



Panorama's "CARE" program (Courtesy, Achievement and Responsibility for Everyone) reminds each student about the value of exuding Panther Pride at all times. The teachers at Panorama not only emphasize the importance of these skills to their students, they also demonstrate them through their fairness and caring in the classroom and on the playground.

## Orange *High School*

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Ernest Gonzalez**  
Principal

### PRIDE—Make It Matter!

At Orange High School (OHS), the focus on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is taking the form of a new program named Preparedness, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence (PRIDE) –Make It Matter.

Assistant Principal Mr. Angel said, "The idea is to focus on the positives by celebrating and acknowledging students and staff who exemplify OHS PRIDE."

Our school year kicked off with a school-wide PRIDE assembly, where students learned the behavioral expectations through videos and skits created by their peers. The school community is given a monthly challenge. September was Preparedness Month, and everyone was encouraged to be on campus on time every day. Students also have the opportunity to earn PRIDE tickets, which can be used to enter weekly drawings for prizes.

PRIDE—Make It Matter has started with great momentum and is helping OHS improve its climate and culture on campus!



## Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Larry Hausner**  
Principal

### Catherine Le Meets Buzz Aldrin

Last summer, the second man to walk on the moon strode into the Nixon Elementary School library one Tuesday evening. Buzz Aldrin, 83, was there to deliver a talk on his latest book, *Mission to Mars*, outlining his ideas on how to put humans on the red planet. Nearly 800 people attended the event.

Before he began, he faced a battery of questions from 35 Orange County youngsters. The students had been selected by their teachers based on questions they submitted for Aldrin, who followed Neil Armstrong onto the lunar surface on July 20, 1969.

The questioner who stole the show was Catherine Le, 11, a fifth-grader from Palmyra Elementary School. "Do you personally believe that there are extraterrestrials existing on other planets or on this Earth?"

Aldrin didn't hesitate. "I believe in what there is good evidence to support," he said. "And so far, there isn't good evidence (of) anything other than what we normally see around us that's living, like human beings." But he acknowledged that in the broader cosmos, it might be a different story. "With all the billions of galaxies, and the billions of stars in the galaxy, the chances are that there are places like the Earth," he said.

Catherine wasn't finished. "Do you personally believe that a woman will someday walk on the moon or Mars?" she asked

"Of course," Aldrin said. "Do you want to be that person?"

"I'm not so sure," she answered.

"That's quite all right," he said. "You're allowed to hesitate."

## Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Deborah Backstrom**  
Principal

### Band Night at Fred Kelley Stadium

The shrill sound of the referee's whistle was bright in the clear autumn air. The snap of the ball ... the player takes it all the way to the end zone. Touchdown for the Mighty Panthers! But suddenly, the entire band takes up their instruments and starts the victory song. The crowd goes wild with excitement!

What a night to remember for the members of the Portola Middle School band. And what's a football game without a marching band? Every time the Mighty Panthers scored a touchdown the band would leap to their feet and play the victory music. Students sat alongside high school band members and experienced how music can enhance team spirit.

Our Portola band members, dressed in white shirts, played alongside their fellow Yorba and Orange High School musicians. From trumpets to flutes, and trombones to baritones, every student had a wonderful experience!



**Band Members**

## Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dennis McCuiston**  
Principal

### Real-World Positive Forces

The Richland Condors are off to a great start! We graduated nine students at the end of the first quarter and awarded 19 Condor of Character awards. We had 37 students with perfect attendance and 40 students with a 3.5 grade-point average or higher, with six of them reaching a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. Richland students are making positive ground toward reaching their goal of graduation.

Leadership students set off on an antibullying campaign as Richland High School participated in Unity Day in October. They made posters with facts and statistics on school violence and bullying and visited each classroom to exercise a moment of silence as students in class read the chilling statistics.

Art students submitted AIDS-awareness artwork to a south-county art museum for a juried exhibition. Selection announcements for pieces included in the exhibition are still pending, and we are proud of the hard work our students put forth for a positive cause.

Richland students compete with their creativity in the 13th annual POET Laureate Contest. Each year, students are challenged to break down their barriers and express themselves in our creative-writing class. The winner of the contest is given the opportunity to read his or her poem at the graduation ceremony in June. The contest is led by English teacher Lisa Lubben-Rivera.

"Self-discovery is the most important outcome—having a voice, sharing that voice, producing something that others can relate to that moves people in powerful ways," Mrs. Lubben-Rivera said.

## Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Elena Rodriguez**  
Principal

### The Fall Festival

Excitement was in the air when our Prospect PTA put the finishing touches on the school's second-annual Fall Festival. Students and families arrived ready to play games, eat great food, participate in a costume contest, and enjoy a haunted maze. Some were looking forward to dunking a staff member in the dunk tank!

Beginning at 4:30 p.m., the local community came out in force to support the Prospect PTA. We even had a large number of volunteers from El Modena High School running game booths such as the Yucky Ducky, the Freaky Fish, and the Zombie Cake Crawl.

The evening turned out to be a great success in meeting our PTA's fund-raising goal. In fact, we think the dunk tank may have been a large contributor to the profits, as our principal and teachers were more than willing to brave the outcome!

We appreciate the time, talent and energy of each volunteer. They made it a lasting memory for everyone who enjoyed the evening.



**Fall Festival Costume Contest Winners:**  
Miranda Puga, Iran Cruz and Michael Pongco

## Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Lydia Roach**  
Principal

### Honoring All Veterans

The Running Springs School Community honored veterans during a morning schoolwide flag salute in November. Students were encouraged to invite a veteran to the school for a special flag salute. Some students brought a photo of a veteran who was not able to come to school that day.

Students with their veteran guests or veteran photos were asked to walk to the center of the ceremony area to be recognized and honored as all students participated in a schoolwide flag salute led by Cub Scout Pack 546. Sixth-grader Dalton Dyer led us in "The Star-Spangled Banner." Veterans were then invited to visit the classrooms of the students that brought them for a short question-and-answer period. We were proud to honor these brave men and women with a Redhawk salute!

In November, we hosted the Around the World Family Night. Many families representing 37 countries signed up for this fun-filled evening at Running Springs Elementary School. Families enjoyed song, music and dance and sampled foods from different countries. Students had passports that were stamped as they visited each country. Thank you to Mrs. D'Souza, our school librarian, for organizing this event!

# Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**James D'Agostino**  
*Principal*

## Wall of Fame

Santiago Charter Middle School students are always being recognized for the outstanding things they do here at school. We are constantly rewarding students for positive behavior across the campus as well as recognizing them each trimester through our Success, Teamwork, Responsibility, Integrity, Values, and Effort (STRIVE) assemblies.

We recently held our Wall of Fame ceremony in our school library, which recognizes our most outstanding student in both seventh and eighth grades in every subject area. Our teachers collaborate by department and cumulatively select one student in each grade who has been outstanding in every aspect. We recognized 30 students who will now have their pictures posted on our Wall of Fame for the entire trimester. We then honor these students and their families with certificates of recognition, photos with the principal, and refreshments. All of our teachers attend this event to honor our hardworking students.



**Matthew Tu (7th Grade Science Winner)**  
**and Principal Jim DiAgostino**

# Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Bobbie Lansman**  
*Principal*

## National Walk to School Day

Every year on the first Wednesday of October, Serrano Elementary proudly participates in the National Walk to School Day. There are meeting points around the Serrano community for students and parents to walk to school together. It is a joyous morning with students carrying signs, balloons and showing smiling and happy faces. Whether it is sunny or occasionally rainy, Lori and Robert Waldstreicher, two fabulous Serrano parents, have wonderfully chaired the Serrano Walk to School Day for the past ten years. Now that their youngest son is a sixth grader, Serrano will have a tough time filling the shoes of these wonderful volunteers. We thank them for their ten years of volunteer service to Serrano.



**Lori and Robert Waldstreicher the chairmen of Serrano Walk to School Day for the past ten years.**

# Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Erika Krohn**  
*Principal*

## 21st-Century Scholars

The Sycamore Elementary School staff is always striving to provide extraordinary learning experiences for the students while raising student achievement results. This year, the teachers have continued to receive professional development in the Common Core State Standards. Along with a focus on academic language and citing evidence from complex text, Sycamore is proud to be emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM.)

Under the supervision and guidance of Mrs. Bender, Mr. Fessett, and Mrs. Shoemaker, the robotics team meets weekly after school to build a robot that will perform a series of challenges at competitions. Calling themselves the Sycamore STEAM Machine, these upper-grade scholars are committed to applying STEAM skills to design their robot.

Sycamore was proud to host its second annual Family Science Night in November to involve our community in Common Core and hands-on experiments. Families had the chance to travel to different classrooms and participate in science activities facilitated by our teachers. Our robot was also on display, running some design challenges.

Sycamore continues the school year with a strong emphasis on math. ST Math, also known as Jiji, continues to be an influential part our school's math achievement in kindergarten through fifth grade. Students log 90 minutes per week on this Web-based program which promotes spatial temporal reasoning and conceptual understanding. In addition to using Jiji at school, students can access the program at home on a computer, tablet, or smart phone.

Sycamore students are 21st-century scholars!

# Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Antionette Coe**  
*Principal*

## Tigers Roar With Pride at Our Annual Fall Festival

Once again, it is our pleasure to announce that Taft Elementary had another successful Fall Carnival. The students can attest that they had a great time playing games, doing art projects, having their faces painted and of course, eating delicious treats.

Undeniably, it cannot go without mention that the carnival could not have been a success without the amazing support of our parents. Our Taft Tiger parents have been of the utmost support not only in helping to organize our carnival but by helping in other areas as well. Parents can be seen every day on our campus helping in some fashion, whether it is volunteering in the classroom, helping our support staff, working in the computer lab, reading with students or preparing materials for classroom instruction. Parents are a key component to our students' success, and we would not be able to do it without them! Thank you, Taft parents!



## Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Dr., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Debra Larson**  
Principal

### Happenings in the World of Kindergarten

The kindergarteners recently enjoyed a variety of apple-themed activities. Numerous assignments were weaved throughout the curriculum. Social studies involved learning about the life of Johnny Appleseed, a frontier hero.

Math included graphing, comparing, fractions and counting. In science we learned about the life cycle and how apples grow. We also enjoyed how they taste. Art projects included a class quilt. We even used apples to paint a collage!

Physical education was all about apple tossing, apple bowling, and playing “hot apple.” To summarize the unit, our students then participated in a collaborative reading and writing assignment.



November and December bring more themed units of study for our kindergarten students. These young learners continue to develop and use their prior knowledge, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity skills. We are truly becoming 21st-century learners!

## West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Dr. Jennifer Bourgeois**  
Principal

### Jr. Engineers

Recently, our school began its first after-school Jr. Engineering Club. The club is open to students in second through fifth grade. The purpose of the club is to design, create, build, improve, and collaborate in groups to make projects that are fun, creative and interesting.

Each grade level will meet separately for nine sessions. The first nine sessions were with the fifth graders. Select exemplary third- through fifth-graders will be selected to mentor other students in lower grades. All interested students went through an application process and needed a letter of recommendation from their previous teachers. The first project the students collaborated on was using spaghetti and marshmallows to create a bridge. The goal was to see which design would hold the most weight.

The club is being funded through a grant from the Orange Blossoms Auxiliary Assistance League.



**West Orange Elementary Jr. Engineering Club fifth graders Isabel Gonzalez and Esteban Rosales add weights to the top of their spaghetti and marshmallow bridge to see how much it will hold.**

## Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Ed Howard**  
Principal

### The New Guard

The STAR testing and No Child Left Behind legislation that has driven public education for the past 12 to 15 years is coming to an end. In its wake, VPHS is in a full-swing transition to what will now be driving education forward: the California Common Core Standards and CalMAPP assessments. This transition will reveal itself in your home through more project-based learning, collaborative assignments, critical thinking tasks, and student-centered lessons.

The primary goal of VPHS's transition is to develop students who can not only acquire content, but also learn to apply their knowledge. We want our students to progress from having the answers to being able to defend them. We are crafting students to advance from independent workers to collaborative problem solvers and leaders.

Another of VPHS's goals is to develop more student-centered lessons. What does this look like? It's where teachers work as a facilitator of information, and students drive the instruction. In this process you may see your student(s) at home taking notes from a text or podcast, yet in class they are demonstrating mastery by completing a project or presenting information to their peers.

At the center of the Common Core are the four “C’s” of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity. Considering that today’s students have been operating under the old system, the transition to a new guard will not be simple, yet it will be most rewarding. Fortunately, VPHS sees the value of the Common Core in fostering college- and career-ready students for an ever-changing global society.

## Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>



**Tracy Knibb**  
Principal

### Technology: High-Interest Learning

Yorba MS is committed to providing opportunities for students to use technology that is high-interest and geared toward college- and career-readiness skills.

We offer beginning computer and advanced technology courses. One advanced technology course exposes students to both computers and electronic tablets. Students edit pictures, record video clips, and take photographs of student activities for the school's digital yearbook. They also get the opportunity to troubleshoot technology issues and problem-solve how to reach an objective taking various paths. Our second advanced technology course takes a different look at technology and uses collaboration and computers to build a solid foundation in engineering and robotics. Working together, students use computer programs and hands-on activities to achieve tasks in multiple ways.



We are dedicated to providing a 21st-century learning experience for our students and will continue to expand options in technology to meet their diverse needs!

**Technology: High Interest Learning**

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A Familiar Face From a Foreign Place

## Rain—A Moment to Learn Down the Drain



Lauren Barrette

When the rainy season hits, you can feel the sticky heat hanging in the air. You can taste the wet earth and smell the steaming pavement. You can see the streets convert to rushing rivers. Most of all, you can hear the rain as it bangs onto the roof. Nicaragua's tropical storms bring a downpour of rain that crashes onto zinc roofing like the sound of angry clapping echoing all around you. The change in season brings the long-awaited water that will grow the crops and feed the country. It also brings unexpected changes to all aspects of life, including education.

Slowly but surely, the students return from recess to their classrooms, hands sticky with Coca Cola and fried plantains with chili sauce. I circle the room reminding students to settle down, get out their notebooks and pencils, and please, please, please quiet down!

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Just as I seem to have control of the 50 rowdy students, the slow patter begins to hit the roof. We smell it, we see it, and we begin to hear it. Rain! Pounding, attacking, and splashing all around us, the rain has come.

I try to out-scream the rain. "SIT DOWN!" I tell the students. "LISTEN!" But the rain's attack has won.

Soon a soaking wet child running from classroom to classroom informs us that school will end early. Excitement fills the wet air, and my students pour out of the classroom. My mind drifts back to the indoor lunches and rainy-day activities that my teachers organized to keep us busy from elementary school to high school. But here I am, left confused by what the rain has stolen from me and my students: another moment to learn down the drain.

Graduate Los Alamitos High School Class of 2006. Studied Business Administration with a concentration in marketing at the University of Oregon Class of 2010. I decided to join the peace corps after college because I wanted to challenge myself to use my business degree in a creative way. I also felt that I was at a unique time in my life where I had no real responsibility and could dedicate two years of my life to serving others and seeking personal growth.

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our special heritage.*

*Players DO NOT have to live in Orange to play.*



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## Inspire Your Kids to Achieve Greatness!



Susan D. Marshall

This past month I had the privilege to be on the campuses of both UCLA and UCI for some advanced coursework. I loved it! Just being there made me want to be a part of it. It also made me remember and realize just how important it is to start talking to our children about college by the time they are 5 years old.

Everywhere I looked people were engaged. There were some young scholars in middle school taking summer courses. Other students were studying with laptops, some sitting in groups and working on projects. I laughed when I watched a student walking backwards on a campus tour telling jokes to the incoming freshman and their parents.

Young children were following their parents. Each had books and their own work to do. It made me remember just how important it is to have our children begin experiencing the "college life."

It used to be a few decades ago that a high school degree was essential. Now a college degree is the norm in the workforce. Many times a master's or advanced designations are required.

It may seem like college is a long way off. Unfortunately, it will be here faster that you can imagine. Most parents can't believe how fast the years have passed and they are not emotionally or financially prepared to send their children off to college. Spending time on campus will make it a reality for everyone. The most important thing you can do is to weave college into the fabric of your lives. If you have children in grade school; go see competitions, a play, a game. Spend time on the campus playing softball or hanging out. Just being there will give your child a vision. College will become a part of their vocabulary. Your children will become inspired. Give them a vision of going to college someday. It isn't if you go to college, but when you go to college.

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

## A Gift for Sophie



Kate Karp

Quebecois poet and songwriter Gilles Vigneault has created a multilayered literary experience in *A Gift for Sophie*. The storybook with primitive watercolor illustrations by Stéphane Jorisch and a music CD set comprise a tale of friendship across the ages. Seven-year-old Sophie loves to draw and share her art with her best friend and soul mate, Emilio, and her ancient great-uncle, Tom. The gifts Sophie receives from these dear people tie in to the wisdom that "Old Man Tom," as he is known, passes on to his little niece when he passes on himself. Sophie comes to understand and use this wisdom in a delightful way when she and Emilio encounter a mystery.

The story, translated from the original French, is told in a lilting, evocative manner. The narrative on the CD carries the engagement further—the songs are grouped at the end and so don't interrupt the storyline; instead, they peel back the layers of each character or incident to reveal its essence. The musicians and artists, including Canadian folk-rock singer Martha Wainwright, expose the story's undercurrent with voice, woodwind, accordion, and all sorts of string and percussion. Melody lines transport the listeners to a café in southern France, the center of a folk dance, the psyche of a cat.

*A Gift for Sophie* evoked in me all of this and also a nostalgic memory from across my own years: me on the floor next to my little suitcase 78 rpm player listening to records about Tubby the Tuba, Peter and the Wolf, and the Churkendoose, reading the storybooks that accompanied them. See what this lovely set does for you.



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



## A Gift for Sophie 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 **Sophie** in the subject line)

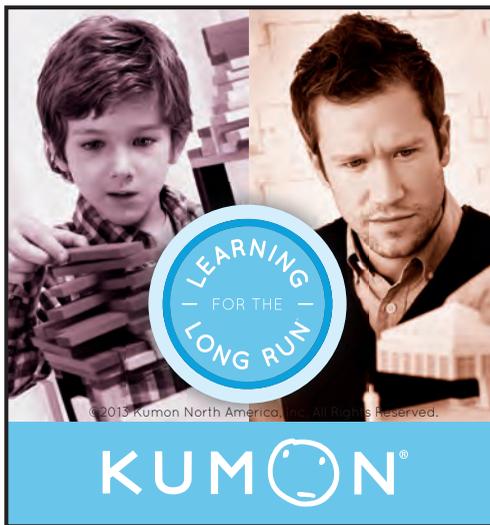
Entries must be received by **January 15, 2013**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a copy of the book *A Gift for Sophie* with CD.

- |            |         |               |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| LITERARY   | SOPHIE  | PRISM         |
| STORYBOOK  | BEARD   | RAINBOW       |
| TALE       | CAT     | TREASURES     |
| FRIENDSHIP | SIR     | HEART         |
| WISDOM     | EMILIO  | ILLUSTRATIONS |
| MYSTERY    | FISHING | WATERCOLOR    |
| CHARACTER  | BEACH   |               |
| GIFT       | GLASS   |               |

Congratulations to **Richard Silbas**  
Winner of the August Word Search Contest!





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## Parent To Parent

# Protect Your Family from Holiday Stress



Jodie Lynn

**Always File Your Receipts in a Safe Place:** You never know if the gift is going to do or measure up to what you think it supposed to; so keep those receipts filed in a special place just in case. Eight-five percent of gifts are returned or exchanged. That's a high number, but isn't too terribly complicated if you have the receipt. Make up a folder and clearly write 2013 Holiday Receipts on the outside. For online stores, make sure you know about their return policies, especially if you are sending any type of plant, food or toy.

**Keep a Running List of Names for Greeting Card Recipients:** Make a list of each person you'd like to send out a card to. Get the kids to help address envelopes and even to put on stamps. Depending on how many cards you are sending out, it might be best to do this in steps so the kids will view it as Holiday joy and fun instead of work and dumb. That's right; delegate the card sending to the kids by separating the process into steps so no one will get overwhelmed.

**Meal Planner:** Always plan your dinner way ahead of time. Go to the store with ingredients written on a list for each dish. If it's a dish that uses heavy creams or other fat-laden ingredients, don't forget to scan either a conversion chart for healthy substitutes or look them up on the Internet to see just how good or bad they might actually be. Since this is the time to gain weight, remember that kids cannot always say no to certain foods rich in fat largely in part because they taste so good. Consider what you need to have around the house for the kids to snack on and only allow a nibble here and there of special food. Compare notes and make a plan that you are comfortable with for your family keeping in mind my personal motto: "easy to add weight on...but very hard to get off."

**Utilize an Organizer:** It's never too early! If you would take a few minutes to organize every couple of days now YOU WILL FEEL SO MUCH BETTER especially if you do a little delegation to other family members and don't put so many stressful things on any one day. Write every detail up and mark it off as it is done. It doesn't matter how small it is, it still counts and feels great when you get to mark it off. The kids love to help with this task as well as will stay busy for hours making and marking off lists.

**Take a little time for yourself:** It should and must be done even if it's only a 30-minute lunch with a long lost friend; sitting down with a brief short book; watching a loved but often missed TV show, taking a walk, or even making a visit to a local nursing home. Or, take a family trip. There's nothing better than to take several loaves of homemade cranberry bread, pumpkin cookies or fruit pies to a nursing home that the kids have helped you bake. Let them help to pass out the food and enjoy those smiles from senior citizens. Giving to others fills your heart with incredible warmth and makes a huge impact on your kids by allowing them to see firsthand how their special made gifts bring pleasure to other people—as well as see you smile.

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.



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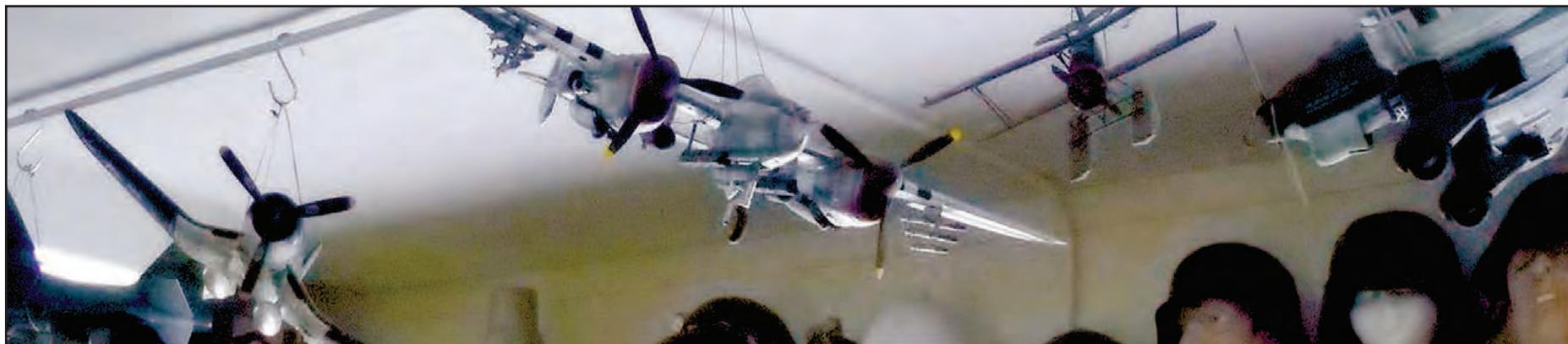
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**Michael L. Christensen**

By way of background, while districts throughout Orange County have been passing local bonds and modernizing and upgrading their schools for the 21st Century, Orange Unified has not. The District went to the voters twice in 2004 with a plan to improve our schools but both measures failed, the last by less than 400 votes. Since that time, by utilizing creative funding and taking advantage of State programs, we have managed to modernize five elementary and two middle schools. Unfortunately, there are no more funds available to continue to improve our schools and, based on an engineering assessment conducted by Parsons and available on the website, the current needs at our high schools alone are approximately \$200 million for necessary repairs to the current buildings and infrastructure. That amount is expected to grow to approximately \$270 million in ten years if the needs are not met in the meantime. It is important to note that those figures do not include the upgrades necessary to make our schools compatible with, and competitive in, the 21st Century.

Many people who have been in the District for a long time understand that, as the oldest high school, Orange High School has needs because it was constructed in 1953. However, our newest high school, Canyon High School is also outdated with its 40-year old design and construction. In addition to the numerous facility needs at all our high schools (i.e. updated code requirements for earthquake survival, ADA upgrades, electrical and plumbing needs) the programmatic issues caused by attending classes in schools without updated science labs, proper lighting, technology and adequate restroom facilities create obstacles that make teaching and learning a challenge. We also have to acknowledge the security risks that our schools are faced with today were never considered when they were constructed.

Our District has amazing teachers and administrators. Our parents and students are engaged and involved. Our community utilizes our facilities after school and on weekends. However, all these people are being shortchanged by the condition and age of our facilities. For years, the maintenance staff have done their best to keep our schools looking acceptable to the neighborhoods they represent. Unfortunately, California school districts are not funded at the level necessary to perform the upgrades necessary to keep our school up to date with just building code changes.

As I stated in the opening sentence, this is an exciting time in Orange Unified. We are developing master plans and exploring funding options that will bring our high school facilities into the 21st Century and promote them to the level of excellence that our communities demand and deserve. Please be a part of the process and provide your comments via our website.

## OUSD Child Development Services

Parkside Campus: 2345 E. Palmyra. Orange, CA 92869 • [www.orangeusd.k12.ca/child\\_care/](http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca/child_care/)

### 40th Anniversary

By Jim Stephens, Director

A November Saturday was a perfect autumn day to celebrate our 40th anniversary. Our Center was established in 1973 to care for babies of teen moms, and we've since cared for and educated thousands of preschool children from all over our community. We currently serve 3- and 4-year-olds.



Past students looking at their preschool picture.

"Harvesting Generations of Success" was the celebration's theme. This was an opportunity for alumni, staff, children, families and the community to come together and share memories, view old photos, and see friends. There was an array of carnival games, prizes and food. A local hardware chain provided a creative-planting workshop activity for the children to make and take home. A life-insurance corporation provided parents with their children's fingerprints and pictures. Frances Montoya, who recently retired as the Center's director, was recognized and honored with an award for her 40 years of service to our students.

A big thank-you to the community sponsors who made this event possible!

## OUSD Alternative Education / ROP

1401 N. Handy St. Orange, CA 92867 • <http://www.orangeusd.org>

### Alternative Education



**Germaine Martell**  
Coordinator

Germaine Martell is proud to be the new coordinator of Alternative Education. After serving the last year as coordinator of Special Education at the secondary level, she is excited to be working with the Community Day School and Home School programs offered by the Orange Unified School District.

Germaine has 24 years in education, 21 working in the field of Special Education and three years as a dean of discipline. She worked at three districts prior to Orange: Chino Valley Unified School District, Snowline Unified School District and Jurupa Valley Unified School District. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and two master's degrees in education and administration. She is an active member of the Association of California School Administrators.

Mrs. Martell is married with two adult children and three adult step-children, and she adores her five grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Dave, and their dog, Mickey. Mrs. Martell is a Disney fan, loves sports, and enjoys reading and puzzles. She believes that every day should be magical, and her personal motto is "If there is a will, there is a way."

At the Alternative Education site, the staff is anticipating another great year! With student achievement as the focus, the staff is committed to providing an exceptional education that addresses the needs of all students. "I am excited beyond words, and it is truly a privilege to be the coordinator of Alternative Education. Together we will focus on student achievement."



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