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School News



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Covering the Tustin Unified School District

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 36

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012

Touchdown!

By Mark Eliot
Director of Communications
**Tustin High Wins
CIF Football Championship**

The Tustin High School Varsity Football Team won its first CIF Football Championship since 1948.

Tustin High met El Toro High School in the CIF-Southern Section Southwest Division Football Championship Game at Anaheim Stadium. After a hard-fought battle, Tustin High came out on top with a final score of: THS-35 and El Toro-28.

One interesting note: it has been 63 years since the school's last CIF football championship and 63 points was the total number of points scored in the game.

The Tustin High Football Team had a great season. They won the CIF championship, were tri-champions of the Empire League and finished the season with a record of 11 wins and 3 losses.

A number of players made All-



Tustin High Football Team Celebrates CIF Championship.
Coach Myron Miller, center, was named Orange County Football Coach of the Year.

League, All-County or All-CIF teams, and Coach Myron Miller was named Orange County Football Coach of the Year. The team also was recognized by the TUSD Board of Education at its meeting in December.

Congratulations to Coach Miller, his outstanding players and coaches, school administrators, staff, students, parents and community supporters at Tustin High.

Middle School Activity Centers Begin Construction

Construction is underway on four new state-of-the-art Activity Centers at Columbus Tustin, A.G. Currie, Hewes and C.E. Utt middle schools in the Tustin Unified School District. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for each project.

The Activity Centers are approximately 13,000 square feet and include a lobby, gymnasium/multipur-

SEE TOUCHDOWN! • PAGE 13

SUPERINTENDENT



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.
Superintendent

In Touch with TUSD

The Tustin Unified School District continues to shine with academic excellence due to its hard-working students, dedicated staff, involved parents and community supporters. The new year starts off with more good news around the District...

TUSD's recent Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores continue to be higher than California and national scores.

High school students throughout the nation take the SAT each year. The test consists of math, critical reading and writing sections. The results are published by the College Board as part of the criteria used for admission to colleges and universities.

Tustin Unified's average math score of 561 continues to be well above the state average of 515 and national average of 514. The District's average critical reading score of 534 is also above the state average of 499 and national average of 497. The District's writing score of 548 is much higher than California's score of 499 and the national average of 489.

Tustin Unified's total mean score of 1643 significantly exceeded the state mean score of 1513 and the national mean score of 1500 – over 130 points higher than state and national averages. In addition, the District had more students taking the exam this year.

For 2011, TUSD students outperformed students in California and the nation by at least 35 points in reading and 46 points in math. District students averaged 49 points over the state average and 59 points over the national average in writing.

Congratulations Tina Kim

Lambert Elementary School second-grade teacher and TUSD Teacher of the Year Tina Kim has been named a semifinalist in the California Teachers of the Year program. Tina was selected as one of four Orange County Teachers of the Year last year and went on to the state program. She is the fourth Tustin Unified teacher in the past 10 years to be named Orange County Teacher of the Year and one of three Tustin Unified teachers to be named a semifinalist or finalist for State Teacher of the Year. Beckman High chemistry teacher Dr. Paul Lewanski received that honor in 2004.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 13



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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



This is our 8th anniversary publishing *School News* for the TUSD and it has been a pleasure and a privilege. Thank you for being loyal readers and including *School News* among your reading choices.

Throughout the years it has been truly astonishing to experience the advances in technology in the classroom, the emphasis on making healthy choices and being fit, the commitment to community service, concern for the environment and efforts to go green, continued passion for arts and music in the classroom, focus on eliminating bullying, core values, athletics, continued high academic challenges, and so much more...stay in touch with TUSD.

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Covering the
TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Gang Prevention Collaboration



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

It has been noted that one of the best ways to prevent youth from joining gangs is to strengthen families and schools. This includes improving community supervision and parent and teacher training on youth management and interpersonal skills development. This idea, endorsed by the office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is the foundation for the recently successful gang prevention conferences hosted by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), Safe Schools and Support Services Office (Safe Schools).

In 2010, OCDE was awarded funding from the Orange County Health Care Agency to provide school-based mental health services, including county-wide gang prevention, early intervention, mediation, crisis response, and training.

The Overarching Goals Included:

- Collaborate with school districts, community organizations, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations to provide a comprehensive understanding of why youth join gangs, how to support their exit from gang involvement, and what resources are available
- Train service providers and mental health professionals on best practice techniques for working with gang-involved youth
- Provide a multi-disciplinary forum to share evidence-based strategies proven effective with high-risk youth

One strategy used to meet these goals was hosting a series of Gang Prevention Conferences starting in November 2010. The first conference, attended by 300

SEE OC DEPT OF EDUCATION • PAGE 14

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Nutrition Services

Tustin Unified School District
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Students Get Fit, Fuel Up & Stay Well



Teresa Squibb
Director

The District's Wellness Week will be March 19 to March 23. Schools throughout the district will participate by putting on events such as Get Fit cardio activities, fruit and vegetable tastings, alumni Angels' players visiting schools, walk-to-school days, and much more.

The Healthy Meal contest is being held this year in February. Elementary students can submit their healthy lunch menus for a chance to have their menus featured in the cafeteria. Middle and high school students can participate in the Iron Chef contest, where they design and prepare a meal for their peers.

Nutrition Services was awarded a Fuel Up to Play 60 grant to spruce up Pioneer Middle School's cafeteria area with a mural and new menu boards. A student mural contest was held, and Joy Suh was the winner. Her picture will be painted as a mural above the windows of the cafeteria.



Pioneer student Joy Suh's winning mural for the school cafeteria.

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All-Star Sports



Carol Burby Garrett
Executive Director

Over 350 middle school students from the Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) competed at the first annual All-Star Soccer Festival at Columbus Tustin Middle School. All-star teams were chosen by the coaches at each school from students participating in after-school sports. Sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade boys and girls teams from Columbus Tustin, Currie, Hewes, Orchard Hills, Pioneer and Utt Middle Schools played in the tournament, organized by Columbus Tustin teacher Steve Dunmeyer and Hewes teacher Kory Rascher.

First-place teams included: Columbus Tustin's 7th- and 8th-grade boys; Orchard Hills' 6th- and 7th-grade girls; and Utt's 6th-grade boys and 8th-grade girls. Winning teams were awarded T-shirts.

After state budget cuts caused the elimination of after-school sports in the middle schools, TPSF partnered with the district and the community to "Save Our Sports," contributing over \$220,000 to this program over the past several years.



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Arroyo *Elementary School*

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Beginning Their Reign

As Margaret Mead once said: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Our Student Council has taken her words to heart. An elected group of 44, these children work in subcommittees that focus on supporting the specific aspects of our school’s culture.

Maggie Villegas
Principal

We now have a recycling crew who runs our recycling campaign; health and fitness fanatics who educate and promote wellness activities; a spirit team who plans and promotes our Spirit Days and reinforces positive behavior; a campus pride team who supports our school garden and beautification efforts; a communication crew who facilitates our school mail system and publicity of events; and “Ripple Kid Coordinators” who help with service projects.



Arroyo Student Council members load the bus with donated toys for the CHP Holiday Toy Drive.

We also have class representatives and two presidents in charge of managing all the subcommittees.

We are excited about the difference they are making at Arroyo!

Barbara Benson

12712 Elizabeth Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7531

Elementary School



Outdoor Education: A Matter of Science

At Benson Elementary School, beginning in kindergarten, students participate in various fund-raisers to raise money to contribute toward Outdoor Science School. This is done with the assistance of PTO. This year, approximately 60 fifth-grade Benson students will be staying at the Creekside campsite in the San Bernardino Mountains for four days.

The Outdoor Science School curriculum is aligned with the California Science Content Standards. During the four-day experience, students will hike academic trails to cover the core curriculum. Students will also go on adventure hikes, attend science sessions and perform original skits relevant to the environmental or science theme of the week. Students will learn responsibility and cooperation through group living, courtesy and table manners, and new games and songs. The four-day experience also provides a unique opportunity for building social skills and self-esteem development.

This year, Benson Elementary is extremely fortunate to have been awarded a generous Tustin Public School Foundation grant that will help provide funding for partial or full scholarships for students who would otherwise be unable to attend Outdoor Science School because of financial hardship. In addition, the Assistance League of Tustin will help to make this trip possible by once again providing sleeping bags, jackets, boots, hats and gloves for our students attending Outdoor Science School.

Teachers Allison Agajanian and Christina Barlet will accompany the fifth-grade students on the four-day Creekside trip. Principal Norma Lemus will visit the students at the camp one day during the week.

Arnold O. Beckman

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High School



World Languages

One of Beckman’s greatest strengths is its diversity. Over 36 different languages are spoken at home by our Patriots!

Beckman also has a strong world language program, where Spanish, Chinese Mandarin and French are taught by nine talented teachers. Our courses range from native speakers of Spanish to beginning through Advanced Placement level in all three languages.

Adele Heuer
Principal

In addition to learning how to speak, read and write in these languages, our students can also study the diverse culture of the country in which the language is spoken. In Spanish, French and Chinese our students have studied such cultural celebrations as Día de los Muertos, Las Posadas, La Fete de Saint Nicolas and the Lunar New Year.

In November, TUSD Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, Orange County Superintendent William Habermehl, and California Superintendent of Public



Members of Beckman's Chinese Cultural Club.

Instruction Tom Torlakson were joined by students from Beckman’s Chinese program to greet an invited education delegation from Guang Zhou, China.

Benjamin Beswick

1362 Mitchell Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7385

Elementary School



The Power of Giving

As part of our student council’s focus on service to the community, a school-wide effort to collect food for the homeless was conducted shortly before the Thanksgiving holiday. Beswick Elementary School’s students and families donated nearly a 1,000 canned goods to the Salvation Army. During the holiday season, our students and families reminded us all of the importance of giving.

In addition to the efforts outside the classroom, Beswick’s students continue to show off their reading prowess. They participate in the Accelerated Reader program, where students earn points for books read based on the difficulty of the books and the accuracy of their responses on brief, computer-based assessments. The students accumulate points toward an individualized goal, which is set collaboratively with the teacher. The results have



Mr. Adrian’s class who collected the most cans school wide, show off some of the food collected.

been tremendous. In the first trimester, students have taken nearly 19,000 quizzes, passing over 80 percent of the questions and earning 11,033 points. This is an improvement of nearly 400 percent over the past year. Way to go, Bobcats!

Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

17952 Beneta Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7352



Dean Crow
Principal

Boys Soccer Wins Championship

By Steve Dunmeyer, Teacher/Coach

With the championship at stake, the Columbus Tustin Middle School eighth-graders went head to head with Currie Middle School and their strong defense. The two teams tied 0-0 during the round-robin qualifiers. In the final game, the Bulldogs scored early in the first half. Currie was unable to respond against Columbus Tustin's strong defense, and the Bulldogs held on for the victory.

The seventh-grade boys from Columbus Tustin also won the championship in a tightly contested game that came down to a shoot-out.

"We played together and supported each other," Coach Lomeli said. "I was really encouraged by how hard the students played."

Cohesiveness made the Bulldogs champions.



Columbus Tustin Boys Soccer Teams (Back) Jaskrit Singh, Christian Chavez, Michael Castellanos, Jose Moreno, Roddy Mendez, Eduardo Reyna, Jovani Miranda and Justice Reeves. **(Middle)** Marcus Thomas, Carlos Guevara, Alberto Martinez, Jonick Pineda, Harrison Kollias and Rodrigo Becerra. **(Front)** Henry Ramirez, Anthony7 Vertiz, Bumaro Montelongo, Edward Gonzalez Lopez, Juan Cortez and George Martinez. **Not pictured:** Isaac Morales.

A.G. Currie *Middle School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7360



Christine Matos
Principal

A New Journalism Class

By Lourdes Contreras and Arlette Rodriguez, Students

This year Currie Middle School added a new elective class. Journalism is now taught during eighth period by Mrs. Heidi Primeaux. "The focus of journalism is reading, writing, and presenting expository texts," Primeaux said. "Students are also learning to use technology that they'll use throughout their educational careers, including Google Docs, Microsoft Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, and various internet resources."

Margarita Bravo, a student in the journalism class, said, "At first I thought journalism was going to be boring because we write so many essays. But we also get to learn to use a lot of technology, interview people, research cool topics, and publish articles, which make journalism fun."

The first edition of the Currie News was published in December and featured articles written by 12 students, as well as a fun section with riddles and a Sudoku puzzle! Way to go, Currie Cougars!



A.G. Currie Middle School's Journalism Class

Helen Estock *Elementary School*

14741 North B St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7390



Nancy Jenkins
Principal

Give From the Heart

Fifth-graders, in partnership with the Gift of Love Foundation, were challenged to take a crisp \$5 bill and find a way to increase the money and then donate to a cause of their choosing. The goal was to allow students to gain a sense of what it feels like to give to others.

Families became involved and helped students sell hot chocolate, pencils, homemade treats and even carwashes to increase their donations. Students increased the \$375 to \$1,162.38! Donated monies went to the Red Cross, an animal shelter, St. Joseph Hospital, Children's Hospital of Orange County, the Santa Ana Zoo, Orange County Catholic Workers, cancer research, several churches, and even the local food bank!

"After donating the money, I felt like a whole new person," Alejandro Miranda shared. "I learned that even a small donation can make a big difference!" said Valeria Ross. Destiny Hood added, "I will start a family tradition of every Thanksgiving donating \$5." Erick Paz stated, "I felt happy and proud that I could help someone else." "I think this project is one I'll remember forever!" Syreeta Khan noted. "I wish everyone could donate something to people who need help. The world would be a better place!" shared Christian Arteaga. We couldn't have said it any better ourselves!

Foothill *High School*

19251 Dodge Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7464



Al Marzilli
Principal

Choral Music Program is Growing

This year the Foothill High School (FHS) choirs have expanded to include a new ensemble, the Bass Choir! The Bass Choir is composed of 23 charming, young men who are almost all freshman boys. There are a few members in the choir who are sophomores and juniors as well, and any grade level is welcome to join. These young men are almost all new to singing, but they are enjoying a dose of music theory and instruction on vocal technique every day.

The Bass Choir boys are very active in the Foothill community, and all choir members are also involved in sports, such as football, basketball, wrestling and soccer. They are well-rounded students who are enjoying high school at its best!

The Bass Choir has already given two stellar performances in the choral music program's fall and winter concerts. The group is now preparing for the upcoming Knights on Broadway Dinner Theater Shows, which run March 27 through 31 at FHS. Parents, students, and community members are all welcome to come and enjoy some fun and entertaining Broadway numbers performed by amazing soloists and all of the FHS choirs including: Madrigal Singers, Advanced Treble Choir, Concert Choir, and, of course, our newly-formed Bass Choir!

Guin Foss *Elementary School*

18492 Vanderlip Ave., Santa Ana, 92705 • 714/730-7552



Kelly Fresch
Principal

The 50th Day of School

Each month, the Guin Foss Elementary School Student Council establishes a School Pride Day and encourages the entire student body to dress up to show their school spirit.

In November, Guin Foss celebrated the 50th day of school by dressing in traditional '50s clothes. Not only did over 350 students dress up in poodle skirts, letterman jackets, leather jackets, scarves and cardigans but they also demonstrated their Hula-Hoop skills and were each served a root beer float compliments of the Guin Foss PTO and generous parent donations.

Great fun was had by all listening to '50s music in the quad at morning recess. It is so exciting to see the student's enthusiasm and school spirit!



Guin Foss students Sophie Wankel, Laura Davert, Jordan Temte, Kaili Wolframmm and Lilly Kahn celebrate the 50th day of school.

Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

15571 Williams St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7521



Eric Kilian
Principal

Surf-n-Turf

Celebrating exemplary academic performance and behavior at Heideman Elementary School, students were recognized with Principal Kilian's Surf-n-Turf reward luncheon. With Hawaiian-themed decorations, a special lunch, and surf music playing, students enjoyed the next best thing to a day at the beach.

When students finished their lunch, they visited the photo booth for a picture with Mr. Kilian and a surfboard to commemorate the occasion. For the adventurous students, an indo board was available in the safety of the grass to balance and simulate surfing.



Students are on board for a special Heideman Hawaiian luncheon.

Smiles of joy and pride abounded as the students enjoyed their special lunch. Those in attendance earned 50 Roadrunner cards for positive behavior on campus or were named Rockin' Roadrunners as the top academic performers in their classes in the first trimester.

Heideman students' sights are set on further progress and achievement in the next two semesters as we continue to ride the learning wave. Aloha!

Hewes *Middle School*

13232 Hewes Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7348



Michele Boudreaux
Principal

A Time to Honor and a Time to Lend Helping Hands

Our Hewes Middle School Instrumental Music Department, under the leadership of Band Director Jim Thompson, honored military personnel with its 10th annual Veterans Day concert. "A Salute to America's Veterans" was a wonderful way for Hewes students to honor those who have served our country. Anyone who attended could not help but be proud of our veterans.

Also in November, the Associated Student Body (ASB) leadership class sponsored its annual school-wide food drive for families in need in the Tustin Unified School District. With the support of the student body, non-perishable food items and grocery gift cards were collected. These items were then delivered to families for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Band Director Jim Thompson and his band students.

In December, the California Junior Scholarship Federation Club sponsored a toy drive. They asked the Hewes community to donate new, unwrapped presents or gift cards. All of the donations were delivered to Tustin families in need.

Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

3817 Viewpark, Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1878



Cindy Agopian
Principal

Personal Empowerment

Hicks Canyon is proud to announce the launch of "radKIDS." This is a "Personal Empowerment Safety Education Program" for children, and which also has a parent education component. The radKIDS program provides children with the knowledge and skills they need to better avoid, resist and if necessary escape from dangerous situations.

In order to register their children, the parents attended special "Preventing Child Abduction, Recognizing Predatory Behaviors, and Parent's Companion" radKIDS meetings.

These meetings were run by Erin Runnion, the founder of The Joyful Child Foundation. This inspirational group was created in memory of Erin's daughter,

Samantha. The group also made it possible for two Hicks Canyon teachers, Rosanne Mann and Tracy Havens, to attend a 40-hour training session to become radKIDS instructors and ambassadors.

In December we had 50 Hicks Canyon students who were also able to complete a 10-hour after-school radKIDS training session. The parents have gotten so excited about this program that another session is going to be offered in the spring, this time to students from ages 5-7.



Hicks Canyon's first graduating class of RadKids with teachers, Tracy Havens and Rosanne Mann.

Hillview *High School*

15400 Lansdowne Rd., Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7356



Tim O'Donoghue
Principal

Community Coming Together

As the Tustin community is aware, Mr. Barry Turner, a math teacher at Hillview High School and boys soccer coach at Foothill High School, has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).

Many have asked, "Why do bad things happen to such good people? And what good can come from the whole situation?" There is no easy, simple answer.

One good thing that has happened is that the entire community has rallied around Mr. Turner. Unbelievable kindness, compassion, and generosity have been shown for this man who has spent his life helping others.

Students have organized bake sales and carwashes and made financial donations to help offset medical expenses. Staff members have hung Christmas lights, and community members have offered assistance.

In Mr. Turner's own words, the tremendous support has been "overwhelming." The good in people has certainly come through!



Students Ruth Palma (grade 11), Pricilla Calva (grade 12), Sydney Amador (grade 11) selling baked goods.

C.C. Lambert *Elementary School*

1151 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7457



Deanna Parks
Principal

Reading Isn't Scary!

"One letter, one sound, one word at a time!" Lambert students got inspired in a fun way with Jay and his dog, Libro, to practice sounding out words and to read in the professional theater production of "Jay and E and The ZigZag Sea," the Literacy Promotion Program from an HMO corporation.

Kindergarten, first- and second-graders cheered as Jay, a boy who is afraid of reading, learned to conquer his fear and read clues by breaking down long, scary words to save a book from being forever unread. The students were engaged by the exciting characters, incredible set and fun sing-alongs, and each one received a book at the end of this wonderfully crafted show.

We are very thankful to our community partners for offering our students enriching experiences they will never forget while learning at the same time. It truly does take a village to raise our children!



Students watch closely as Jay learns to overcome his fear of reading.

Ladera *Elementary School*

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7505



Derek Pinto
Principal

Connected to the Community

We are grateful for the continued support and involvement of parent groups in advancing our mission to serve and educate our student population.

Recently, Ladera Elementary School participated in the Tustin Public Schools Foundation (TPSF) annual Dino Dash. The Dino Dash is a "run and ride" for education, which features two, five, and 10k runs and a 50k bike ride. As a result of our level of participation, the school raised a total of \$3,500, which goes directly to the school and student programs.

Ladera's staff and students were also the recipients of two TPSF grants. The first one, for \$1,000, focuses on "Giving Students with Autism a Voice" to facilitate verbal communication for our non-verbal students. The second grant, for \$2,000, focuses on writing for third, fourth and fifth grades and is called "Write on Target."

December was punctuated by our annual book fair at a national book chain and our PTO-sponsored family restaurant night at a local restaurant. Both events contributed approximately \$1,100 to our school.

In a bid to heighten student health, wellness and fitness, Ladera parents have orchestrated two in-school programs which will serve to heighten students' physical fitness levels. Volunteers are coordinating our Ladera Laps running club every Tuesday and Thursday. On Fridays, we have parents leading interested students in a Zumba dance and aerobics class.

We'd like to extend our thanks to TPSF, PTO and interested parents whose contributions serve to heighten student connections to our school, advance our educational programs, and bind our community together.

Loma Vista *Elementary School*

13822 Prospect Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7528



Katy Sheyka
Principal

A Journey Toward Excellence

Educational researchers and organizations endorse Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective data inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve. PLCs are structured with a shared purpose, a shared vision, collective commitments, and shared goals.

In January, Loma Vista Elementary School's Lead Learning Team, consisting of eight teachers and the principal, attended a spectacular PLC training led by Rick and Becky DuFour. The

training invigorated, empowered, and excited the team to embrace the philosophies of PLCs in light of their impact on student learning. "The processes of PLCs will support us in ensuring that all students learn at high levels!" said one team member.

Moving along the continuum of becoming a true PLC will require commitment and determination. Loma Vista's staff is more than up for the challenge!



Loma Vista's Lead Learning Team celebrating the PLC journey!

Myford *Elementary School*

3181 Trevino Drive, Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/734-1875



Amy Fedderly
Principal

'The Art of Teaching' Program

Myford Elementary has had the privilege of participating in a professional development program for teachers sponsored by the Cotsen Foundation. "The Art of Teaching" program provides teachers with the opportunity to grow their skills in the focus area of their choosing. Interested teachers apply and go through interview and observation processes. From there, the Foundation selects teachers to participate in the two-year fellowship.

Additionally, one teacher is selected to act as the "mentor" to coach teachers in their focus areas, with the goal of taking a really good teacher and making her "artful."

The teachers selected for the fellowship have chosen either reading or math for their curricular area of focus, and the changes we have seen campuswide as a result of their involvement is phenomenal. Math fellows have delved into Cognitively Guided Instruction, which provides students with opportunities to deepen their knowledge of math concepts through problem-solving opportunities. The students learn to share their own thinking with the class and begin to understand that there isn't just one way to solve a problem. Reading fellows are using Readers Workshop to deliver reading instruction, which relies heavily on students selecting "just right" books of their own choosing. Teachers provide the "teaching point" through the reading of shared text, and then students go off to practice that skill or strategy on their own with their "just-right book". How amazing it is to see the growth that students have shown as a result of this powerful program!

W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

14392 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7536



John Laurich
Principal

Experiencing the Great Outdoors

As their buses pulled out of the school parking lot, our 91 fifth-graders had big smiles on their faces.

But some of the parents had tears in their eyes. That's because they were watching their "babies" leave for a four-day experience in the San Bernardino Mountains. Thus was the beginning of another year of Outdoor Science School for our Nelson students.

Each year our fifth-graders participate in the Orange County Department of Education's "Inside the Outdoors" Science School Program. The County is operating three camps in the San Bernardino Mountains, and this year our Tigers attended the one on Green Valley Lake Road near Running Springs.

All of the camp's activities are aligned with the California State Content Standards in the areas of science, math, language arts and even the performing arts.

Dave Dattola, Nelson's fifth-grade team leader and 2011 Teacher of the Year, told us that, "Our grade level firmly believes that the science content our students learn during their time at camp helps them score well on the California Standards Test (CST) in the area of science."

Starting as early as the third grade, our students begin to raise funds to help pay for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, although as the cost continues to rise we will look for new ways to offset these increases. At W.R. Nelson Elementary School the term "No Child Left Behind" describes exactly how we feel about making sure that all of our children will be able to attend the Outdoor Science School.

Orchard Hills *School*

11555 Culver Drive, Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/669-0680



Rich Montgomery
Principal

Discovering Their Element

Our mission statement at Orchard Hills School reads as follows: "We strive to be the pinnacle of academic excellence by ensuring that all students achieve the highest levels of learning and engage in multiple opportunities to find their Element." We spend time talking with students about discovering their Element—that special place where what you love to do and what you have a natural talent for come together. The arts offer opportunities for many students to find their Element.

We finished 2011 by highlighting two special fine arts performances, which showcased our students' talents. In November, we featured "Shrek, the Musical," directed by our librarian, Laurie Lawver. Our amazing student performers wowed audiences as they brought down the house on back-to-back evenings. We ended December with a special winter concert featuring the talents of the Orchard Hills band and orchestra musicians, led by music director Jim Thompson.



The Orchard Hills student body cast of "Shrek the Musical" with Director Laurie Lawver and Artistic Director Bonnie Barlow.

Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

26900 Peters Canyon Road, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7540



Molly Murphy
Principal

Committed to Community Service

The Peters Canyon Elementary School Student Council is working very hard in the areas of community service and civic duty.

Under the guidance of Student Council Moderators Kathleen Ridlon and Andrea Youpel, and the support of the PTO, our students have witnessed firsthand the importance of community service projects and the call of civic duty. It is truly a team effort.

In December the group collected 610 toys for the California Highway Patrol's "CHiPs for Kids" toy drive. The students truly enjoyed this wonderful project which helped make a difference in the lives of children in Orange County.

In October they also collected candy for "Operation Gratitude," an event which sends candy to our troops overseas. And in November they hosted a canned food drive in support of the "Scouting for Food" project with the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Community service builds character, teaches compassion and impacts our school community in a meaningful way.



Peters Canyon Trailblazers are very proud of their community service efforts.

Pioneer *Middle School*

2700 Pioneer Road, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7534



Tracey Vander Hayden
Principal

Healthy Bodies Equal Healthy Minds

Pioneer Middle School is already beginning the 2012 year with a national recognition. The physical education department was awarded \$3,000 recognizing our students' healthy fitness zones through the White House's healthy food initiative, "Fuel Up to Play 60."

In a local competition revolving around healthy lifestyles, our very own eighth-grader, Joy Suh, won a Pioneer mural contest. This mural will be painted around our cafeteria windows.

Joy Suh was also the winner in the White House's youth-focused cookbook, where her recipe, "Got Chili?" was selected to appear in the *Fuel Up to Play 60* cookbook.

"Healthy bodies equal healthy minds" continues to be the model that the Pioneer Physical Education Department both models and encourages for our students.



Joy Suh winner for Pioneer cafeteria mural.

Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

1402 Sycamore Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7364



Tracy Barquer
Principal

Ring That Bell!

Thorman Elementary School has a new perpetual recognition award—a crystal bell. Celebrating simple actions that make a big difference, staff members recognize one another in three categories: red for leadership; white for student advocacy; and blue for creativity.

Staff members present the awards once a month during a staff meeting. The recipients are later honored at a school-wide patriotic assembly to explain to students reasons for the recognition.

Recently, our school librarian received the white bell for student advocacy because she arrives before school to allow students to check out additional books and take Accelerated Reader quizzes. Second-grade teacher Sunita Sharoff earned the award along with her second-grade team for creativity. They wore "school uniforms" at the Back-to-School Night presentation to demonstrate the importance of dress code. Kim Simpson, a first-grade teacher, was recognized for her leadership as our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) coach.



This year's proud bell recipients.

Red Hill *Elementary School*

11911 Red Hill Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7543



Will Neddersen
Principal

Give Jeans a Chance

Many of us are aware of the phrase "reduce, reuse, recycle" as a way of making a difference for the environment. We apply the concept to cans, bottles, paper, and plastics, but the Red Hill Elementary School Student Council applied it to jeans and jackets.

Inspired by the Give Jeans a Chance challenge, student council members, along with our Ripple Kids Team, challenged our students to bring in gently used jeans or jackets which could be donated to those in need in our local committee. The idea was to meet the needs of others while keeping these items from ending up in our landfills.



Red Hill's Student Council Board members and Ripple Kids Team pose with over 650 donated jeans and jackets from the students at the school.

Red Hill families met the challenge and donated over 650 items. These items were then delivered to Project Hope School by our student council leaders and advisors.

Each of the students at Project Hope School selected a pair of jeans and had the opportunity to personalize them. Besides making a difference for the environment, this project made a difference for community.

Tustin High School

1171 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7414



Jonathan Blackmore
Principal

Our 'Grand Old Dame'

It's not just the buildings that are being modernized and refurbished at Tustin High School. The school recently had its Steinway and Sons Model B piano fully restored. What is unique about this wonderful piano is that it was built in 1916, predating Tustin High School!

The Model B piano was a gift to Tustin Union High School when the school was dedicated in 1921. The Model B went through some tough times. At one point, it was left out in the rain and suffered extensive water damage. The piano has sat unplayable for the past 20 years. This year, it was treated to a complete restoration. It looks beautiful and plays beautifully.



Tustin High plans to use the piano as its main concert piano for school and community performances. The "Grand Old Dame" is an important part of Tustin High School's history. The staff and students hope that this piano will make beautiful music for the high school community for another 90 years!

Tustin Memorial *Academy*

12712 Browning Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/730-7546



Wendy Hudson
Principal

Fun and Adventure: Outdoor Education

By Cassidy Hilmar, Lauren Young and Sam Vi Tang,
TMA Students

Many cool things happened at Outdoor Ed this year. This was the first year that TMA students had Outdoor Ed at the Irvine Outdoor Education Center. All the students went on various hikes throughout the week.

One of the most interesting hikes was the night hike. It was super-spooky, and we got to look at constellations. On another hike, we went to the top of Snake Mountain. On the trail, we saw different things such as animal prints, animal scat, plants, birds and insects. The path was steep and narrow and led to the top, which had a spectacular view of Irvine. On other easier hikes, we learned about different types of plants and animals that lived near the trails.

We also learned about citrus plants. We learned where citrus fruits, such as oranges and lemons, came from. We tasted different types of citrus plants that grow on campus. We also learned how they made their orange trees stronger and healthier by combining different trees.

One of the rotations that we got to do was archery. Each group took turns shooting their five arrows at the target. For the first arrow, the counselors took us through the procedure step by step. Once we shot all three arrows, we waited for everyone to finish so we could gather them for another round of archery.

Outdoor Ed was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity filled with fun and learning, and we will treasure every moment of it.

Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

1701 San Juan St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7544



Ryan Bollenbach
Principal

My Week at Outdoor Science School

By Heidi Jimenez, Student

After a long bus ride up the mountains, we arrived at camp. We went to our cabins and got to put our sleeping bags on a bed. Then we went to eat lunch. We had hot dogs. Did you know that the food is made by professional chefs and they make it just for us?

After lunch we went on an afternoon hike, our first hike of the week. We then went to our cabins to rest, had lasagna for dinner, and went on a night hike. We went on three hikes on Wednesday, in the morning, afternoon and night. The daytime hikes taught us about geology, ecology and wild life. The night hikes were about astronomy and wildlife.

After our skits on Thursday night, we had a candle ceremony. It was sad for most of the kids. We all had a great week at Outdoor Science School!



Veeh students Heidi Jimenez and Jeremy Dungo track animal footprints in the snow at Outdoor Science School.

Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

12950 Robinson Drive, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7580



Dean Jennings
Principal

Setting a Strong Example

The students in the Peer Assistance Leadership club at Tustin Ranch Elementary (PAL) are learning some valuable lessons about leadership.

The PAL club is composed of 40 third- through fifth-grade students. The focus of the club this year is on leadership by example. Under the direction of teacher-leaders Audra Sangster and Julie Boyd, our PAL students are certainly setting some good examples of leadership ability.

PAL worked with Operation Gratitude in October to collect and send a ton of Halloween candy and letters of gratitude to military troops overseas. In November they worked with Toys for Tots to collect over six bins of new and unwrapped toys for the underprivileged children in our community.

Currently our PAL students are preparing to work with the Ronald McDonald House and their Pop Tab collection program.

"The PAL students are showing great pride in working with these organizations, and it's inspiring," said Audra Sangster.



Tustin Ranch School's Peer Assistance Leadership Club

C.E. Utt *Middle School*

13601 Browning Ave., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7573



Tom Giebe
Principal

Representing Core Values

As the winter break has come and gone, it is now time for us to take a look back and honor those students who have excelled both in and out of the classroom, as well as look ahead to the future.

Two of our teams finished first and second at the Orange County Special Olympics Basketball Tournament, which was held this past November at the American Sports Center in Anaheim. Last fall our after-school cross country teams also placed in the top three overall at every grade level, both boys and girls, at the City Championships at Irvine Regional Park.

Utt was the only middle school to have placed all of its teams in the top three of the district. We are hoping to have the same success in soccer, where we currently have 150 students in preparation for the Tournament of Champions event in January.

On the academic side of things, our seventh- and eighth-grade Academic Pentathlon teams participated in their first scrimmage on January 7. This was in preparation for their upcoming competition in March.

In addition to this, our award-winning Science Olympiad team is feverishly studying, building, testing and refining projects for their own upcoming competition. With the commitment they are showing, they will without a doubt reach the state championship again.

Utt Middle School is extremely proud of its students. They truly represent our core values of attitude, commitment and achievement. Keep up the great work.



Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Astounding Inventions Competition

Over 200 elementary and middle school students in the Tustin Unified School District participated in the 2012 Astounding Inventions competition held at Irvine Valley College on January 28. The event was presented by Greenberg Traurig, LLP, and the Irvine Valley College Foundation.

The 25th annual event featured hand-made inventions by more than 350 school children from elementary and middle schools in the Tustin and Irvine unified school districts. The invention fair promotes mathematics and science education in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The students' inventions were divided into groups according to grade level and judged on originality, usefulness, written description, and illustration.

More than 100 TUSD students received Division (first place) and Outstanding Invention (second place) awards.

Successful Dinosaur Dash

Congratulations to the Tustin Public Schools Foundation for another successful Dinosaur Dash. The 21st annual event attracted approximately 6,300 participants and 550 volunteers for the 2K fun run, 5K run/walk, 10K run, and 50K bike tour and raised over \$100,000 for the Foundation. Funds raised benefit classroom and school programs throughout District. We truly thank the Foundation for its ongoing support, as well as the incredible support of our students, teachers, principals, staff members, parents, community members and local businesses at the event.

Congratulations Sharon Maeda

Sharon Maeda, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program teacher on special assignment, was nominated by the Orange County Council California Association for the Gifted's Distinguished Service Award for the Orange Region. Sharon is being recognized for demonstrating outstanding qualities of professional achievement through her commitment and service to gifted students and communities. She will receive the award at a GATE conference in Palm Springs in March.

Beckman and Tustin Football—A Great Fall Season

Congratulations to the Tustin High School Varsity Football Team for winning the CIF Southwest Division Football Championship and the Beckman High School Varsity Football Team for going to the CIF-Southern Section football championships. Both teams accounted for a great fall season that brought spirit and pride to all in the TUSD community. Coach Myron Miller of Tustin High was named the Orange County Coach of the Year.

Orange County Boys Water Polo Coach of the Year

Tustin High School water polo coach Boyd Philpot has been named the Orange County Boys Water Polo Coach of the Year. He guided the Tustin High Water Polo Team (24-6 record) to a share of the Empire League title. The water polo team went to CIF Southern Section semifinals – the first time since 1994. Coach Philpot started coaching at Tustin High in 1979.

Congratulations Theresa Duran

Foothill High School secretary Theresa Duran has been nominated by TUSD for the 2012 Orange County/California Classified School Employee of the Year program. The goal of the state program is to recognize the professional efforts of exemplary classified school district employees. Theresa was named Tustin Unified's 2011 Classified School Employee of the Year last spring. Winners will be announced in April.

For the latest news and information, visit the TUSD Web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us. Also, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/suptfranklin or www.twitter.com/TUSDschools.



Mark Eliot

Director of Communications & Public Information

300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • (714) 730-7339 • www.tustin.k12.ca.us

pose area, sports flooring, retractable bleachers, storage space, restrooms, performance area, lighting and two adjoining classrooms.

The facilities have been designed to provide optimal community access and close proximity to existing locker room facilities, and are situated in an area that calls for minimal disruption to heavily used recreational areas on the campus.

NTD Architecture is the design firm and the new Activity Centers will be built by Balfour Beatty Construction. The buildings are scheduled to be completed about a year from their start dates.

Each project will cost approximately \$6.5 million and is being funded through the Measure L campus modernization program.

For more information or to view the Activity Center renderings, visit the TUSD Web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us and click on the Measure L Web page.

Tustin High Science Center Dedication and Open House Event

Tustin High School held a dedication ceremony and community open house for its new state-of-the-art Science Center in November. The two-story facility is approximately 48,000 sq. ft. and houses 15 classrooms. The Science Center includes biology, chemistry, and physics labs; earth science and physical science classrooms, as well as restrooms, storage and prep rooms.

The project was funded through the Measure G campus modernization program.



THS Science Department Chair Randy Reta and ASB students at Science Center Dedication.

TUSD Teacher Achieves National Board Certification

Darla O'Leary, a K-5 reading intervention teacher on special assignment at Benjamin Beswick Elementary School, has achieved National Board Certification – the highest professional credential in the field of teaching.

O'Leary is among 6,200 new board certified teachers and more than 100,000 teachers nationwide who have earned the recognition in past years. She received her certificate in all subject areas of middle childhood. The certification is valid for 10 years.

National Board Certification, a voluntary process, is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes one to three years to complete and measures what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

To achieve her certification, O'Leary committed more than 150 hours of rigorous study, self-evaluation, and student analysis. O'Leary also completed a portfolio documenting her classroom techniques and teaching materials, participated in assessment exercises, and passed an examination.

Foothill Event Center and Tustin Sports Pavilion Move Forward

The Foothill Event Center and Tustin High Sports Pavilion projects broke ground last year and are on target for completion during spring 2012.

The Foothill project is being funded through the Measure L campus modernization program and the Tustin High project is being funded through the Measure G and L programs.

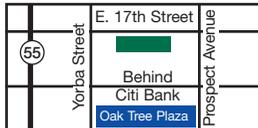
The pool renovation at Tustin High is near completion and features an existing pool deck replacement, re-plaster, new fence fabric, replacement of master valve in the pump room, running conduit underground, as well as minor improvements to flooring, lighting and equipment in the locker room building.



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OC DEPT. OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 3



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

participants, was an open invitation to service providers, including non-profits, government agencies, and educators working with high-risk youth throughout Orange County. Subsequent conferences included over 800 participants.

One reason for the success of the conference is the committee's willingness to tailor-fit the conference structure to address participants' interests and current service gaps. Each conference included nationally recognized speakers, a large scale forum for sharing best practices, up-to-date information, and opportunities for community resource networking. Each attendee was able to hear firsthand accounts and gain a new understanding of the underlying risk factors that push youth to join gangs. These unique conference features lead to an extensive wait list for all three events.

I am proud to recognize another successful year of gang prevention conferences held by Safe Schools. Hearing the real life experiences of youth and professionals who have been in the trenches for years is invaluable. The conferences, held in October and December, reiterated the importance of not only sharing strategies proven effective at preventing and reducing gang behavior, but also supporting professionals from all disciplines while they integrate new techniques into their work. These invaluable conferences continue to support a range of high quality care for Orange County youth while ensuring their success today and in the future.

For information, contact Jim Perez, Coordinator Gang Prevention/Safe School Coordinator, at 714-953-6513 or jperez@access.k12.ca.us.

Good Dental Health



Word Search Contest

Entries must be received by March 15, 2012

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

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Breads | Eggs | Milk |
| Brushing | Examination | Nutrition |
| Cereals | Fish | Orthodontist |
| Checkup | Flossing | Pediatric |
| Daily | Fluoride | Sugar |
| Dairy | Fruits | Tooth |
| Dentist | Guidelines | Vegetables |
| Development | Healthy | Water |
| Diet | Meat | Whole grains |

Congratulations to Jaden Bertino
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

NEW 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 is the word you email to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put TUSD in the subject line)

T	U	S	K	S	R	M	L	E	G	G	S	D	N	W
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Educational Services

Tustin Unified School District
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 309

Nurturing Abilities of Gifted Students



Kathie Nielsen
Chief Academic
Officer

The Gifted and Talented Education Program in the Tustin Unified School District (GATE) focuses on providing qualitatively differentiated instruction to respond to and nurture the needs, interests and abilities of our gifted-identified students.

Each year the district identifies those students who demonstrate advanced learner needs with an in-depth screening process that is based on a multiple criteria system. Site and district committees consider cognitive abilities, test results, district benchmark assessment data, teacher observation surveys, student work samples, STAR test scores, English Learner data, parent survey input and other factors.

In October, the District held an informational meeting for parents interested in having their child tested for GATE eligibility in the 2012-13 school year. At this meeting the parents learned about the common characteristics of gifted children. They were also presented with examples of what differentiated instruction for advanced learners looks like in the classroom. A question-and-answer period was also provided at the conclusion of the session.

Both registration and testing occur during the fall of each school year, and the screening process continues through the spring. Result letters will be mailed to parents in March.

This program provides a wide variety of experiences that help strengthen a student's ability to critically think, analyze and use creative thought processes. Teachers who are GATE-certified infuse elements of depth and complexity into the curriculum while also providing a range of opportunities for higher-level learning. For more information about the GATE program, please go to www.tustin.k12.ca.us, District Programs.

Special Education

Tustin Unified School District
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 314

Individuals Who Make a Difference



Dr. Lori Stillings
Assistant
Superintendent

The Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will hold its eighth annual I Make A Difference recognition event on Tuesday, May 15 at Hicks Canyon Elementary School. Parents throughout the district come together to acknowledge the meaningful contributions and positive impact individuals have made in the lives of their special needs children. The event is completely funded by donations from community members, local businesses, organizations, companies and parents.

Parents interested in honoring individuals for this year's recognition event may access the I Make A Difference forms in March on the district's Web site at www.tustin.k12.ca.us (click on District Programs and then Special Education) or by e-mailing the CAC address listed below. Forms will also be sent home by CAC parent representatives.

The goal of the CAC, which serves in an advisory capacity with TUSD, is to encourage parents to actively participate in the development and implementation of learning experiences for students with exceptional needs. The committee empowers parents through education to become knowledgeable, effective partners in their child's education and special needs.

The Special Education CAC meets once a month on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. throughout the academic year. Guest speakers are invited to present several times during the school year on a variety of topics.

If you're interested in receiving e-mail notification of upcoming CAC events or contributing time or resources for the recognition event, please e-mail CAC at cac_se@live.com.

Technology in TUSD Schools

Tustin Unified School District
300 South C St., Tustin, CA 92780 • 714/730-7301 Ext. 341

21st-Century Learning



Dr. Alex Rojas
Assistant
Superintendent
Administrative
Services

The Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) understands the need to provide our students with access to educational technology designed to prepare them for the 21st century. Technology is making the world a smaller and flatter place. Countries around the world are initiating large-scale technology improvements in their schools. The US runs the risk of being left behind the technology implementation curve if we do not act swiftly to keep up. India, for example, has an initiative to put a tablet device in the hands of every single child and provide them with wireless connectivity. Colleges and universities across the country are requiring students have tablets or laptops. Large-scale manufacturing is done on computers requiring machine operators to run advanced technology designed for the manufacturing of a variety of products.

Our students will have to be able to use technology to communicate, create, and connect with people.

Our district priorities for technology are: to develop standards for classroom technology ensuring that all TUSD students have equitable access to educational technology designed to maximize student learning and to develop an information technology infrastructure that is secure, reliable and has the capacity to support daily use of state-of-the-art instructional technology in all TUSD schools. We continue to implement new classroom technology that empowers our teachers, encourages innovation, and enhances student learning in an effort to ensure our students are prepared with the skills necessary to compete in our 21st-century global reality.



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