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# School News

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Covering the Tustin Unified School District

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 42

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

APRIL / MAY 2013

## SUPERINTENDENT



### In Touch with TUSD—The Common Core State Standards

The technology and social media revolution is making the world smaller, and much more competitive. Tech start-ups in

India compete with the rest of the world. Work teams no longer meet in the same company headquarters – often they are in different states, or even on different continents and connected over the Internet. Information travels – literally – at light speed, and anyone with a cell phone has the world's knowledge at their fingertips. In this new world economy, there are fewer jobs in which employees do routine and repetitive work. Increasingly, jobs at all levels of an organization require employees who can communicate, collaborate and think critically. Given these revolutionary changes to the world, what knowledge, skills and experiences will prepare students to succeed in this new context?

The answer in 47 states across the nation, including California, is the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that detail learning goals for students in English language arts, mathematics, social studies and science in grades kindergarten through high school. School districts in California are currently working to implement the CCSS in preparation for their first assessment in the spring of 2015.

There are defining characteristics of the CCSS that differ from standards of the past: a deeper understanding of concepts rather than an accumulation of facts, the ability to apply knowledge to new and complex problems, the ability to read

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 23

## 2013 Tustin Unified Teachers of the Year

By Mark Eliot  
Director of Communications

Cindy Ellis, first-grade teacher at Tustin Ranch Elementary School; Jennifer King-Rodriguez, eighth-grade Core Honors teacher at A.G. Currie Middle School; and Jeff Farr, math/engineering teacher at Foothill High School, have been selected as the 2013 Teachers of the Year by the Tustin Unified School District. They will represent the District in the 2013-14 Orange County Teachers of the Year program.

The Orange County Department of Education will interview the selected candidates and announce winners in May. The county finalists will then go on to the California and National Teacher of the Year programs.

Tustin Unified's annual awards program recognizes outstanding teachers who have displayed extraordinary teaching, creativity and excellence at their school and community.

Ellis, Kang-Rodriguez and Farr were chosen from a field of 28 candidates. Additionally, Ellis was named Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Kang-Rodriguez was selected as Middle School Teacher of the Year and Farr was chosen as High School Teacher of the Year.

Ellis has been a teacher for 17 years – 15 in TUSD. She taught at C.C. Lambert Elementary School for seven years and has been at Tustin Ranch for eight years. She received a Cotsen Foundation fellowship and devotes countless hours mentoring teachers, leading professional development in reader's and writer's workshops on campus through teacher study groups and parent training. In addition, she volunteers for community groups, provides food for the homeless and is training her dog to be a therapy dog.

Kang-Rodriguez has taught for 15 years – 11 in Tustin Unified. She also taught at Jeane Thorman and Marjorie Veeh elementary schools, and C.E. Utt Middle School. As the Core department chair, she maintains the school's priority and focus on student achievement while collaborating with her colleagues. She has been involved in the Academic Pentathlon, Common Core Task Force and UCI Math program; provided after-school tutoring; and volunteered for the annual Dinosaur Dash.

Farr has been teaching for 24 years – 21 at Foothill High. As the lead teacher/coordinator of the Green Power Academy, he brought a new and innovative program to the campus which has opened doors for students to pursue engineering. He and his students build electric cars to compete against other high schools in the UCI Energy Invitational. He also helped the Student Recycling Center develop a plan and receive a grant to install solar panels at the center – the first of its kind on a high school campus in the nation. He has received awards for his work with At-Risk students and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program, and was nominated by his students to be "State Project Lead the Way – Teacher of the Year."

See TEACHERS OF THE YEAR • Page 23



Cindy Ellis, center, is congratulated by Board Members Lynn Davis, Francine Scinto and Jonathan Ablove, and Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin.



Jennifer Kang-Rodriguez, center, receives smiles and cheers from her students.



Jeff Farr, center, and his students take a break from working on their iPads to celebrate the good news.



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



Congratulations to the TUSD Teachers of the Year. Our *School News* mission is to honor all of the teachers throughout the year. We obviously fill volumes of printed pages of their daily commitment to educate our children to be the best they can be and we want each and everyone of them to know we appreciate all they do. As the old saying goes...if you are reading this, thank a teacher!

In this issue our annual camp/activities section is full of ideas to help you and your children enjoy their summer.

## School News

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## Tustin Public Schools Foundation

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### Tustin Summer Academy



**Carol Burby  
Garrett**  
Executive Director

The Tustin Public Schools Foundation is again offering the Summer Academy – now expanded to include incoming Kindergarten – 8th grade students.

The Academy will be held at Orchard Hills School (11555 Culver, Irvine) in the Tustin Unified School District from July 1 – 25, Monday – Thursday, 8:30 – 12:30.

The Fast Forward program offers a sneak-peek into concepts in the upcoming school year. This fun enrichment course is not a remedial, but will give a headstart to incoming K-5 students.

The S.T.E.A.M. program will offer a hands-on project based approach to learning science, technology, engineering, art,

and math for incoming 3rd – 8th grade scholars. This hands-on course will feature 21st century learning strategies to design, create and test energy sources including wind turbines, water wheels, solar cookers, and more.

The Summer Academy will also offer enrichment classes in foreign language, music and arts.

More information and registration for all of these programs is at [www.tpsf.net](http://www.tpsf.net).

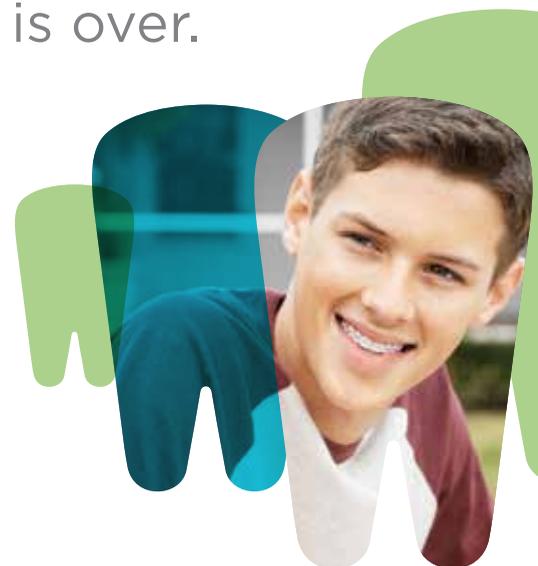


**Students in the Summer Academy design, create and test. Last year, students created airplanes to see which design flew farthest, most accurately, and stayed up the longest.**

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### Fuel Up Smoothies



Fruit smoothies are now a breakfast choice at Foothill High School. The Dairy Council and a national cereal manufacturer teamed up to provide schools with professional blenders and yogurt to start off the smoothie program. The café will be offering a variety of smoothies, such as BlueNaNa and Banana Split. To promote the smoothies, free samples were given out during the district's Wellness Week in March.

**Teresa Squibb**  
Director

In addition to the smoothies, the Dairy

Council will be teaming up with Foothill students to provide a free nutrition education program called Activity and Eating.

The start of the year brought many changes for school lunches as well. Adding weekly maximums to the servings of grains and breads, part of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act, was the biggest change. However, the USDA recently lifted the maximums through 2013–2014. This extension will allow cafeterias more flexibility in menu planning.



**Foothill student Matthew Huerta** enjoys a fruit smoothie with his breakfast.

## Educational Services

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

### STEM Programs for 21st Century



**Kathie Nielsen**  
Chief Academic Officer

Middle schools and high schools from across the Tustin Unified School District are stepping up to the challenge of preparing students for 21st century careers and colleges.

A big part of this preparation includes building well-rounded science, mathematics, technology and engineering programs. Also known as STEM, we are fortunate to be offering these specific courses and award-winning programs at our high schools. At Tustin High we have engineering, at Foothill we have green engineering, and at Beckman we have biomedical engineering. These programs are preparing our students for entrance into some of the nation's top schools and engineering programs.

Our TUSD Engineering Academies have shown that they are capable of competing at the college level in contests like the UCI Energy Invitational. We are also excited to have been able to offer courses like "Gateway to Technology" at many of our middle schools over the past few years.

Starting next year, each middle school will also be offering a STEM feeder program to help prepare our students for success in the high school programs and beyond. Regardless of what course a student might be taking, or its level, our STEM program focuses on teaching students how to think critically, analyze data, and problem-solve, both as individuals and collaboratively.

All of these skill sets will be needed to perform under the new Common Core State Standards for our high schools, as well as at the later college and 21st century workforce levels.

Starting next year, each middle school will also be offering a STEM feeder program to help prepare our students for success in the high school programs and beyond.

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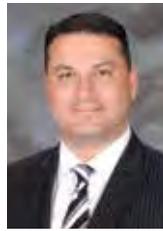
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## Technology in TUSD Schools

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# 21st Century Learning with Haiku



**Dr. Alex Rojas**  
Assistant  
Superintendent  
Administrative  
Services

Haiku is Tustin Unified School District's learning management system (LMT) that connects students with access to digital content in the classroom and extends learning opportunities beyond the classroom walls. The Haiku LMS continues to expand throughout TUSD schools. In February, there were over 900,000 hits on staff Haiku websites. Trainings continue to be offered to support teachers as teachers prepare for 1:1 device instruction at TUSD schools. Teachers have been participating in beginning, intermediate, and advanced trainings that support their learning levels.

Systems like Britannica Online and ABC-Clío are new digital research databases that integrate with Haiku. TUSD will continue to research and gather teacher input as we integrate more systems with Haiku. Haiku LMS allows teachers to provide access to 21st century learning opportunities beyond the classroom.



Lambert fifth-graders Leticia Lopez and Axel Cervantes work on Haiku in the school's computer lab.

## Business Services

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# Energy Savings Going Swimmingly



**Anthony Soria**  
Chief Financial  
Officer

*By Jose Contreras, Energy Specialist*

The Tustin Unified School District (TUSD) staff continues to implement its behavior-based program and is preparing to share baseline data for the year, as well as initial savings estimates, at a Board meeting in the spring.

While our program is behavior-based, we have also taken the opportunity to make equipment recommendations, which will yield savings if they come at minimal or no cost to the district. One such recommendation that we recently installed is variable speed drives at the Beckman and Tustin High School swimming pools. Pools are large consumers of energy, and the new equipment is expected to save TUSD approximately \$13,500 per school on an annual basis. The device slows the pool pump from 100 percent to 65 percent during non-occupied times, which results in energy savings. The district staff negotiated a reduced rate, and a local energy company also picked up half the cost of each drive.



Water polo players energized in the Beckman pool.

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# Arroyo *Elementary School*

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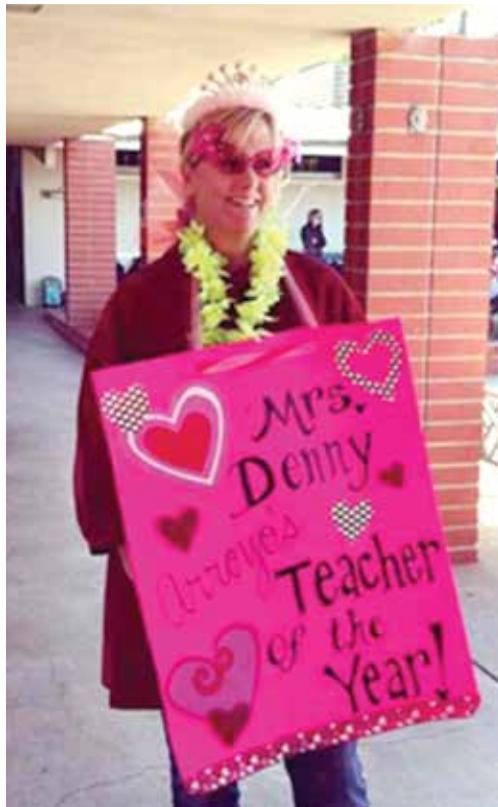
**Maggie Villegas**  
Principal

## Teacher of the Year

Arroyo Elementary is proud to be honoring Kathi Denny as their 2012–13 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Denny has taught for 19 years in the Tustin Unified School District. She is a positive force on our campus and never backs down from a challenge. She is always willing to take risks as a teacher and embraces new strategies and techniques.

Mrs. Denny served as a Cotsen Fellow studying the area of writing and always welcomes colleagues into her Writing Workshop. She is currently serving as Arroyo's GATE lead teacher and our Student Council advisor, where she loves empowering students to be all that they can be.

Mrs. Denny is a gifted teacher with a heart of gold, and we are thrilled to be recognizing her this year for all she has accomplished at Arroyo.



# Barbara Benson *Elementary School*

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



**Norma Lemus**  
Principal

## A Caring, Special Teacher

I am very proud to introduce you to Stacy Smith, our Benson Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2013.

Mrs. Smith is a mild/moderate special education teacher who is very passionate about her students. She has been teaching in the Tustin Unified School District for seven years, and began her career as a general education teacher.

But after taking a long-term substitute position in an autism-specific kindergarten, Stacy soon realized that her calling was in special education. She is also an avid volunteer, donating her time for activities such as tutoring, crisis counseling at a suicide hot line, and working at a day center for people with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Stacy and her husband focus on doing their part to make our community "green," and want to inspire others to do the same. She has brought her green philosophy to Benson by encouraging students and colleagues to recycle their trash and be aware of the amount of water they use in the bathroom. She also likes to remind her students to turn out the lights when they leave, and shut down the computers at the end of the day!

Mrs. Smith is a caring teacher, one whose dedication and true love for children makes her a valuable part of the Benson team. We are all very proud to recognize Mrs. Smith as our Benson Teacher of the Year.

# Benjamin Beswick *Elementary School*

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



**Erick Fineberg**  
Principal

## Star-Studded Read Across America Day

Read Across America was a star-studded day at Beswick Elementary School. Our school-wide theme was Reading Rockstars, and our students and guest readers certainly were a star-studded crew.

Students dressed up as their favorite rock stars for the event. There were sightings of Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, Nicki Minaj, and the members of One Direction. We even had an Ozzy Osbourne sighting!

Not only were our students rubbing shoulder with celebrities, but we also had a star-studded collection of guest readers.

Beswick enjoyed visits from: Superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin; Board Member Jonathan Ablove and his wife Laurie; Chief Academic Officer Kathie Nielsen; Officer Newton from Tustin Police Department; eight members of the Tustin-Santa Ana Rotary Club; three middle and high school principals, Jonathan Blackmore, Tom Giebe, and Christine Matos; and Beach Animals Reading with Kids (BARK) therapy dog Sterling and his handler, Darlene Abbott.

It was a terrific day and one that the students, teachers, and staff will remember.



Therapy dog Sterling with handler Darlene Abbott read to Gigi Pan's first-grade class.

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# Arnold O. Beckman *High School*

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**Adele Heuer**  
Principal

## Beckman Athletics

Beckman High School is dedicated to creating good 21st century learners through its "Four 'A' Philosophy." This means building student expertise in academics, arts, activities and athletics.

Since 2004, Beckman has won two CIF championships in softball and baseball. We have also reached CIF finals in girls soccer, and twice in football. Our athletic endeavors have also won the school many individual titles.

Beckman competes in the Pacific Coast League, along with Corona del Mar High School, Irvine High, Northwood High, University High and Woodbridge High. We field 24 sports too, including football, girls and boys cross country, girls and boys volleyball, girls and boys soccer, wrestling, and girls and boys golf.

The school also offers girls and boys tennis, girls and boys water polo, girls and boys swimming, girls and boys lacrosse, girls and boys track and field, girls and boys basketball, girls softball, and boys baseball. We also have a dance team and a cheer squad as well!



2011 CIF Championship Baseball Team

# Columbus Tustin *Middle School*

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



**Dean Crow**  
Principal

## Columbus Tustin Celebrates Employees of the Year

Congratulations to Kim O'Malley, Teacher of the Year and Eric Lomeli, Classified School Employee of the Year for 2013. The honor is well-deserved in both cases.

Kim teaches eighth-grade science and is a key member of both our science department as well as the Magnet Program on our campus. She was instrumental in getting us involved with robotics this year by entering four teams in the Botball competition in May.



Campus supervisor Eric Lomeli and science teacher Kim O'Malley are Bulldogs at their jobs.

Eric is in his third year as a campus supervisor. He is highly active in our afterschool sports programs coaching basically every sport that we offer. Both are great role models and excellent representatives for the Bulldogs!



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# Supporting Our Schools

# Helen Estock *Elementary School*

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**Nancy Jenkins**  
*Principal*

## Estock Students Strut Their Talents

The E Factor has arrived! Helen Estock Elementary School hosted its 12th annual all-school Talent Show with 46 students, representing all grades, giving it their all. The show highlighted individuals, groups and even an entire class singing, dancing and working together. The two shows were amazing. Students, staff and Estock families enjoyed the lively, and very special show. Leeann Liana, the director, and Mrs. Bennett, assistant director did an incredible job of guiding our talented youth to a successful production. Estock parent volunteers decorated the multipurpose room and turned the stage into an American Idol set.



Talented students take the stage for Estock's annual show.

# A.G. Currie *Middle School*

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



**Christine Matos**  
*Principal*

## Following Their Dreams and Future Paths

*By Ashley Carr, Counselor*

At Currie Middle School, we are constantly brainstorming how we can best support our students and ensure they grow academically. When students leave Currie to continue their educational journey at the high school, we want to be confident they have the tools to be successful, as well as dreams and aspirations of college and beyond.

A few of the focuses of the 2012–2013 school year have been to help parents become more active in their children's learning experience and to educate our students and parents on the high school credit process and the A-G college entrance requirements. Each Currie student has been instructed in the requirements for high school graduation and college admission and has participated in career exploration activities. In the computer lab, students created personal California Career Zone accounts and completed interest profiler assessments. They explored career opportunities that matched their specific interests and abilities and researched the education required for these careers, average annual wage, and more. The conversations that took place within the classroom were fantastic!

We were excited to see our Currie Cougars' enthusiasm and passion for their future paths.

# Foothill *High School*

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



**Al Marzilli**  
*Principal*

## A Great Turnout

The Foothill High School Fine Arts Department made history when they hosted their inaugural Fine Arts Night at the Foothill Event Center. The site was turned into an enormous student gallery and performance venue.

The evening was kicked off by some great performances from the dance team and the Foothill Jazz Band. Gallery-goers also experienced wonderful performances from the Madrigal Singers, the Advanced Women's Ensemble and the Advanced Theater Arts students. They were also able to view a variety of creative works made by students from Jeff Gilette's, Stephanie Butler's, Rosemarie Ausa's and Dan Shell's fine arts classes.



TUSD students look admire ceramics at Foothill Fine Arts Night.

Nearly 1,000 outstanding ceramic works of art by June Abrams' students were on display as well. Debbie Farr's culinary arts students provided delicious hand-made hors d'oeuvres for the guests. Visitors were also thrilled to view a special black light floor-to-ceiling display in the dark hallway behind the stage.

The night was a great success because of the hard work of our teachers and students.

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# Guin Foss *Elementary School*

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



**Kelly Fresch**  
*Principal*

## Read Across America Day

On March 1, the Guin Foss Elementary School student body celebrated Read Across America Day in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Each year, students all across the nation celebrate this day in different ways. Guin Foss students were encouraged to bring a blanket or a towel to school along with a good book, a magazine, or reading material and join their friends for a picnic lunch on the grass.

Whether they brought their sack lunch from home or bought a school lunch, all were observed enjoying their lunch and sharing books with friends in the beautiful sunshine. Together, we read for 50 minutes, some out loud and some quietly to themselves. But all in all, it was nice to witness the pure fun that can be had simply by curling up with a good book!



**Principal Kelly Fresch and her students share their favorite books.**

# Robert Heideman *Elementary School*

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



**Eric Kilian**  
*Principal*

## Teaching with a Marathoner's Mentality

Heideman is proud to honor our 2012–2013 Teacher of the Year, B.J. Rhodes!

B.J. is a resource specialist teacher who works with students in all grade levels at Heideman. Additionally, she is our student study team coordinator, and serves on both the School Safety and Wellness Committees. She has been a teacher in the Tustin Unified for 10 years.

Her tireless commitment to student success, and ability to help our students overcome challenges, is an inspiration to us all. Her expertise allows her to differentiate instruction to meet the many varying learning needs of the students, while also maintaining high expectations for each one of them. She is constantly refining her instruction to better promote student learning, and is always quick to collaborate with our teachers in all grade levels by sharing our results through data from multiple measures of student growth.

A marathon runner herself, B.J. perseveres in the classroom with a similar kind of determination: she creates long-term goals for both herself and her students. She is constantly "training" to improve her teaching, and has the iron will to stay the course despite the daily demands of her job.

At Heideman, we are proud of B.J. for the "race" that she runs every day in helping to create excellence in her classroom.



**Heideman students congratulate B. J. Rhodes as the school's Teacher of the Year.**

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## Hewes *Middle School*

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



**Michele Boudreaux**  
Principal

### Making a Difference

Hewes is thrilled and honored to announce Julie Buetow as our 2012–2013 Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Buetow is a Resource Specialist Program teacher (RSP). She works with the special education department and our school's general education teachers to meet the needs of our RSP students. She always gives more than her 100 percent to make sure that her students are receiving the support they need to be successful in all of their classes.

In addition to this, Mrs. Buetow also supports her students outside of the classroom. She has the attitude that, "No one tells any of my kids they can't do something." She constantly inspires her students to challenge themselves both in and out of the school environment.



**Principal Michele Boudreaux congratulates Hewes Teacher of the Year Julie Buetow.**

Mrs. Buetow, thank you for your commitment and dedication to our students. You are a gifted teacher, and Hewes is fortunate to have you on its staff.

## Hicks Canyon *Elementary School*

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



**Cindy Agopian**  
Principal

### Not Always the Traditional Four Walls

At Hicks Canyon we have a student who helped guide us into 21st Century learning environments. Anton Ianitchii began a home and hospital program in January of 2012 when he and his teacher, Monica Ward, met three days a week to make sure that he stayed on task with his regular classroom curriculum.

When in the following year Anton began the third grade, he still continued to be educated at home. With Hicks Canyon's progress toward technology, Anton, Mrs. Ward and his assigned third-grade teacher began using iPads to further his education.

Anton and his new third-grade teacher (Mrs. Pearlstein) continued to use the device during class time so that he could participate in "read alouds" and be included in the classroom discussions.



**Hicks Canyon second-grade teacher Monica Ward, third-grade teacher Christine Pearlstein and third-grade student Anton Ianitchii.**

Anton is back in the classroom now. What began as a way to differentiate instruction ended up becoming a way to communicate between the class and home. The transition from home/hospital learning to on-site attendance went smoothly because he had already been 'in' the class all year!

## Hillview *High School*

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



**Tim O'Donoghue**  
Principal

### Employees of the Year

I am proud to recognize two exceptional employees who make outstanding contributions to Hillview High School.

Maria Velazquez has been chosen as the Classified Employee of the Year and will be honored at a school-board meeting in May. Mrs. Velazquez does an amazing job as our night custodian, cleaning rooms and other parts of the school so that students have the best environment to learn in. She always has a super-positive attitude.



**Principal Tim O'Donoghue congratulates Maria Velazquez and Erik Eidenmuller as Hillview's Employees of the Year.**

Erik Eidenmuller, better known as Mr. E, has taught social studies at Hillview for the past seven years. Mr. E is an excellent classroom teacher who makes history come alive. The students actually want to come to his social studies class. Mr. E is also active on the campus hosting video game tournaments, serving on the School Site Council, coordinating the Advisement class, and participating in Career Day.

## Ladera *Elementary School*

2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782 • 714/730-7505



**Derek Pinto**  
Principal

### The Cat in the Hat and the Mayor

Community involvement is critical for our students to achieve success, and our Tustin community leadership recognizes this. Community involvement allows our youngest members to "build capacities" which will be vital for them to succeed in the future. Ladera Elementary School was pleased to host Mayor Al Murray on Read Across America Day, connecting our students to our community.

Mayor Murray gave generously of his time in order to further our mission of communicating the importance of and cultivating a love for reading amongst students. Mayor Murray read *The Cat in the Hat* to a select group of students from kindergarten through fifth grade. Some of the students were invited based on their recent contributions to our Writing Wall of Fame. Others were selected for attaining a high level of achievement in Accelerated Reader, a program designed to monitor and manage students' independent reading practice.

Thank you, Mayor Murray!



**Tustin Mayor Al Murray enjoys reading "Cat in the Hat" to Ladera students.**

# C.C. Lambert *Elementary School*

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



**Deanna Parks**  
Principal

## Meeting the Needs of Her Students

Sue Kane never gives up. She is always trying to find new ways to meet the needs of her students. She works with her team to learn new strategies to present lessons to increase learning. Mrs. Kane takes what she learns back to her classroom to try it out, and she doesn't stop until she finds the best fit. She reflects on her teaching every day. She is open to suggestions, but she doesn't wait for them; she talks to her colleagues to get their ideas.

Sue Kane doesn't rest on what she thinks is working; she uses data to know what is working. She is constantly assessing her students to adjust her teaching to meet the needs of her students.

Mrs. Kane's classroom is filled with resources that she has created for her students to use. Everywhere on her walls you find evidence of teaching and learning.

Mrs. Kane represents what Lambert is about: working hard together to meet the needs of our students. Congratulations, Mrs. Kane!



Lambert second-graders rally around teacher Sue Kane.

# Myford *Elementary School*

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



**Amy Fedderly**  
Principal

## Brandee Ramirez: Teacher of the Year

I am so proud to announce Brandee Ramirez as Myford's Teacher of the Year! Ms. Ramirez began teaching in Tustin in 2001 and has been at Myford Elementary teaching first grade since that time. During her tenure at Myford, Ms. Ramirez has always been a contributing member of her team and has taken on many leadership responsibilities. Her positive energy is contagious, and students absolutely love being in Mrs. Ramirez's class.

Ms. Ramirez graduated from North Dakota State University in 1999 and received her master's in education from California State University, San Bernardino in 2001. In addition to her classroom experience at Myford, Ms. Ramirez has also taught for UCI's summer program as well as the Tustin Summer Academy.

Myford is thrilled to have this exceptional teacher represent us as this year's Teacher of the Year nominee. A well-deserved honor for someone who teaches from the heart!



Myford's Brandee Ramirez teaches from the heart.

# Loma Vista *Elementary School*

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



**Katy Sheyka**  
Principal

## Cougars Roar for Karen Knudson

The Loma Vista community proudly recognizes Karen Knudson as Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Knudson is an outstanding resource teacher who daily goes above and beyond to support the learning and behavior needs of students across the school. For several years, Mrs. Knudson has been highly involved in launching, facilitating and sustaining our school's intervention programs and systems of Response to Instruction.

Passionate about student success, Mrs. Knudson serves on our lead learning team and is our elementary teacher-assistant principal. She makes tremendous contributions to our learning community. A Cotsen fellow, Mrs. Knudson generously collaborates, coplans and coteaches with her colleagues to grow the practice of Readers Workshop at Loma Vista.

Cougars roar for Mrs. Knudson because she creatively motivates her students, is artful in her instructional delivery, and perseveres with each scholar, truly believing in the potential of all. The entire community congratulates Mrs. Knudson!



Karen Knudson receives a bouquet of flowers from Adam Arzate.

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## W.R. Nelson *Elementary School*

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



**John Laurich**  
Principal

### Readers are Leaders, and Leaders are Readers

Community leaders were definitely readers at W.R. Nelson Elementary on Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Found reading in Nelson classrooms were superintendent Dr. Gregory Franklin, Tustin police chief Scott Jordan, Tustin police captain Steve Lewis and TUSD assistant superintendent for special education Dr. Lori Stillings. As these readers and many others shared their love for reading with Nelson students in their classrooms, students were excited to hear the Dr. Seuss favorites they never seem to tire of hearing.

We are also pleased to announce that fifth-grade teacher Kristen Cooke has been selected as W.R. Nelson's 2013 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Cooke has taught for nine years, with seven of those years being in TUSD at Nelson Elementary. She is present and helping at all school activities and is also the editor of the yearbook. It is with a great deal of Tiger Pride that we name her our Teacher of the Year!



**Superintendent Gregory Franklin reads to teacher Amy Keefe's second-grade class.**

## Peters Canyon *Elementary School*

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



**Molly Murphy**  
Principal

### One Amazing Trailblazer!

Peters Canyon is very honored and proud to have Kelly Morgan as our Teacher of the Year for the 2012-13 school year. Mrs. Morgan is an outstanding teacher

who daily goes above and beyond to support the instructional and learning needs of all of her students here at Peters Canyon Elementary School. Kelly is also highly involved in the programs and committees at school. She is on the Leadership Team, the School Safety Committee, is the 5th grade committee chair, Outdoor Science School coordinator, and serves as a technology support teacher.

Mrs. Morgan is an amazing teacher, person, and team player. She believes that all students can learn and does her best to support the instructional needs of all learners.



**Peters Canyon is very honored to have Kelly Morgan as the Teacher of the Year.**

## Orchard Hills *School*

11555 Culver Dr., Irvine, CA 92602 • 714/430-2078



**Rich Montgomery**  
Principal

### World-Class Educator

Gary Gordon, in *Building Engaged Schools*, describes three characteristics that extraordinary teachers share. Nancy Chung, Orchard Hill School's 2013 Teacher of the Year, exemplifies each of these characteristics:

Nancy possesses an innate motivation to teach. She has been inspired throughout her adult life to help people. For her, teaching is more of a passion than an occupation. She loves the subjects she teaches, but, more importantly, she loves those whom she teaches.

Nancy has a gift for building relationships. Whether they intend to or not, teachers create relationships of one kind or another. Nancy builds relationships by providing help for students in all situations. She lives by the Golden Rule.

Nancy displays her understanding of how to activate learning through her enthusiasm. She recognizes that all students have ability and that teaching involves finding ways to nurture students' talents. She excels in bringing to fruition the innate abilities that lie deep within each child.

Congratulations, Nancy!



**Orchard Hills 2013 Teacher of the Year Nancy Chung watches students Ethan Chung, Aidan Darcy, Matt Bozorgi and Daniela Rodriguez work with their iPads.**

## Pioneer *Middle School*

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



**Tracey Vander Hayden**  
Principal

### Planting the Seed of Possibility

Congratulations to Missy Ash-Bala for being selected as Pioneer Middle School's 2013 Teacher of the Year! One of the strongest elements of Pioneer's culture is the connection between student and teacher, and Mrs. Ash-Bala is a testimony to this ethos. The "invitational climate" where her students are asked to become meaningful contributors to the classroom is clearly present every day.

As an educator, Mrs. Ash-Bala truly believes that all students can learn. She has a deep and abiding concern for her students that is unrivaled.

Planting the seed of possibility into their minds, empowering them with knowledge, and developing absolute clarity of purpose are all practiced traits which Missy consistently explores and should be most proud of.

The entire Pioneer community applauds Mrs. Ash-Bala for relentlessly upholding our school's mission, which is to maximize each student's academic potential and sense of personal responsibility. It is this zeal for learning that makes Missy Ash-Bala our Pioneer Teacher of the Year.



**Missy Ash-Bala is all smiles as Pioneer's Teacher of the Year.**

## Red Hill *Elementary School*

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



**Will Neddersen**  
Principal

### Dedicated to Students' Success

Congratulations to Tim Zweber for being selected as Red Hill's 2013 Teacher of the Year! Mr. Zweber was selected by his peers for his dedication to his students' success. It is evident that Mr. Zweber is dedicated to deepening his students understanding of how to be independent problem solvers. As you observe Mr. Zweber's class, you see students asking one another questions about their thinking or answers to learn from one another.

Mr. Zweber has been at Red Hill since it reopened in 2001, teaching third, fourth and now first grade. Mr. Zweber was also the Cotsen mentor on campus working to further develop teachers in their instruction in Writers Workshop and Cognitively Guided Instruction. He supports his grade level with planning and technology. Walk into Mr. Zweber's class, and he is ready to share with you the great things students are learning!



**Red Hill teacher Tim Zweber is always there for his students.**

## Tustin High School

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



**Jonathan Blackmore**  
Principal

### Inspiring Students to Study and Live Life

Tustin High School would like to congratulate Alan Liu on being named Tustin High School (THS) 2013 Teacher of the Year. In his 13th year teaching biology and anatomy/physiology at THS, this science teacher was recognized by his peers and school leaders for being a true innovator in the classroom.

Mr. Liu was born in Oakland, California and lives in Irvine with his family. He attended Indian Valley Elementary School and Walnut Creek Intermediate (Junior High) School and graduated from Las Lomas High School in 1988. In 1992 he received his bachelor's degree in psychology from University of California,

Riverside, and has completed his master's degree in curriculum and instruction with Chapman University.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the faculty and students of Tustin High," Mr. Liu shared. "We are part of a great legacy in academics and athletics that we are going to continue." He added, "I see teaching as a calling, and I thoroughly enjoy imparting my knowledge and wisdom to my students. I hope my students not only learn about the study of life, but also learn how to live. I also hope to inspire many of my students to pursue the healthcare profession, where their gifts and talents can benefit society."

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Liu's hobbies include coaching his children's sports teams, playing basketball, traveling, gardening, and reading Dean Koontz novels. "A day in which you haven't grown physically, mentally, and spiritually is considered lost and wasted," Mr. Liu noted.

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## Jeane Thorman *Elementary School*

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



**Tracy Barquer**  
Principal

### One of Our Best

Congratulations are in order for fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Jessica Bodas-Hill. This is Mrs. Bodas' 19th year in education. She has served many roles during her tenure, including grade-level lead, administrative designee, summer-school principal, and talent show chairman, to name a few.

Mrs. Bodas is an enthusiastic teacher, who embraces the best teaching practices and differentiates instruction to meet the needs of all her students. She was the first to introduce technology and bring-your-own-device days to enhance student learning. Her students love her haiku site, and parents love her immediate response to e-mail and texts. She brings her love of photography to the classroom as well; beautiful student portraits adorn the walls, and she encourages students to express themselves through the arts. Her Camp Read is also a popular extracurricular activity; she provides a cozy, fun space with additional time for students to spend extra time reading.

Congratulations, Mrs. Bodas!



**Thorman Teacher of the Year: Jessica Bodas-Hill with students: Fransico Salazar, Isabella Garcia, and Edward VanyekGambsky**

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# Tustin Memorial *Academy*

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



**Wendy Hudson**  
Principal

## **Congratulations, Liz Shenton, Our Teacher of the Year!**

Liz Shenton creates magic in her classroom each day and will stop at nothing to make learning enjoyable and unique. Her vast collection of hats is legendary, and she brings them out to emphasize particular concepts. Students assume the role of scientists when they don their own lab coats and conduct experiments. She recently became a certified NASA teacher in order to provide an opportunity for TMA students to see moon rocks.

Mrs. Shenton started our school newspaper, the "TMA Times," with a group of fourth- and fifth-grade students. They submit applications, elect an editor, and then meet at lunch in order to publish three to four editions each year. She oversees the writing, photography and layout, teaching students the process along the way.

Mrs. Shenton is instrumental in challenging our TMA students to "do good." Last year, she was moved by the story of Jessie Rees and organized a Joy Jar collection that netted over 1,500 toys to provide to children battling cancer. She is truly an exceptional teacher!

# Marjorie Veeh *Elementary School*

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



**Ryan Bollenbach**  
Principal

## **Teaching Students to Succeed**

Elizabeth Catron's greatest contribution to education is giving students the confidence to succeed in school and with whatever their passions are in life. Throughout her teaching career, she feels one of the biggest battles students have is believing in themselves when trying something new. She also feels that students have difficulty with being afraid to fail.

Ms. Catron strives to give her students the tools to build their confidence. Before tests, students give encouraging words to themselves—and their pencils!

Each week, Ms. Catron's students reflect on their learning by placing a Post-It on their reflection chart. There is a wall in the classroom where the students place work they are proud of. With new gained confidence, Ms. Catron's students take risks, which helps them succeed in their studies.

In addition to being a phenomenal teacher, Ms. Catron is also the advisor for Student Council and the Recycling Club, and coaches the girls' volleyball team.



**Ms. Catron psyching students up for their math test.**



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# Tustin Ranch *Elementary School*

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



**Dean Jennings**  
Principal

## **A Passion for Teaching**

Congratulations to Cindy Ellis, Tustin Unified School District's Teacher of the Year! Ms. Ellis is a first-grade teacher and is in her 17th year of teaching.

As a trained Cotsen fellow, Ms. Ellis has done extensive research in metacognitive teaching strategies in reading, writing, and math. Through dedicated study and application of these researched-based practices, she has distinguished herself as a masterful teacher. She devotes countless hours mentoring teachers seeking her guidance. Evidence of her instructional leadership can be seen in every grade level at Tustin Ranch Elementary School.

Her students love the academic rigor and the fun learning that happens every day. Here's what first-grader Joshua Gonzales had to say: "I like being in Ms. Ellis' class because when she read a book, she does a funny voice that makes the whole class laugh."

Ms. Ellis' passion for teaching is an inspiration to us all!



**Tustin Ranch teacher Cindy Ellis is #1 to her first-graders.**

# C.E. Utt *Middle School*

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



**Tom Giebe**  
Principal

## **Our 2013 Teacher of the Year**

Congratulations to Linda Hill, the Utt Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2013!

Mrs. Hill truly embodies Utt Middle School's three core values of attitude, commitment and achievement. She comes to school each day with a positive attitude that our staff and students find infectious.

Mrs. Hill also puts the greater betterment of the school ahead of any personal goals she may have. She consistently works to improve her craft, and has done a great job in sharing her successes with fellow teachers at the departmental level. She also works well in a cross-curricular fashion between the different subject areas and school grade levels.

A quiet leader on campus, Mrs. Hill has also worked as an AVID site team member in helping to ensure that all high school students have access to a challenging and rewarding college preparatory education. She has also been instrumental in the training of various strategies across the curriculum.

The thing that sets Linda apart from many other teachers is her continued willingness to reflect upon what she is doing in the classroom, and her ability to continually improve, adapt and change to meet the needs of her students.

Mrs. Hill has a passion for teaching, as well as a desire to see that her students become successful in and out of the classroom. She will do whatever it takes to help her students succeed!

Once again, congratulations Mrs. Hill. Keep up the great work.

# KAMPS / ACTIVITIES FOR KIDZ

BY SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook:

*Fun & Educational Places to go with Kids & Adults in Southern California.*

**THE WORD “SUMMER”** brings to mind a myriad of images from my childhood—*going to the beach, reading a good book, eating popsicles, building a treehouse, and hanging out with my friends.*

Those are great memories. I also remember getting bored. And I remember sharing this information, persistently, with my mom—I think she referred to it as *WHINING*.

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<b>Session 3:</b> 7/1 – 7/5	<b>Session 4:</b> 7/8 – 7/11
<b>Session 5:</b> 7/15 – 7/18	<b>Session 6:</b> 7/22 – 7/25
<b>Session 7:</b> 7/29 – 8/1	<b>Session 8:</b> 8/5 – 8/8
	<b>Session 9:</b> 8/12 – 8/15



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## Art To Grow On

### Friendship



I have great memories of friends coming over after school. We'd play in my room or outside and just have fun. As I got older, I remember how important it became to have those friends around when we had to study together, attend school events, or even wish one another a great summer.

Preschool is the opportune time for our children to learn how to be good friends, to make friends, and most of all, to play. In elementary school, things get busier. Homework, sports, dance classes, piano—I remember when a friend of mine let her children play outside and they couldn't find anyone to play with. She finally realized they were all at after-school activities! She immediately decided to make sure she didn't overschedule her own children. Her experience has stayed with me for years.

Our son, who's in first grade, just started basketball, and he loves it. But the highlight of his week occurs on Wednesdays, when one, two or three friends from school are invited to play. Word has spread, and the number of children waiting to play is quite something! The laughs, joy and spontaneity remind me of when I was their age.

Open-ended play is extremely important as our children get older. They play ball, run—and the laughs! Truly the best part!

Spring is here—the perfect time to invite friends over to play. Whether outside or inside, you'll help create great opportunities for your children to develop lasting and meaningful friendships.

Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Center, Inc.  
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- Technical Director **Luis Balboa** (Former International Professional Player)

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- Girls Coach, **Lindsey Huie-Morinaga** (Former U of Portland player & National Player)
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## Life Without Technology



Kent Kawaguchi

"What would you do if you didn't have Internet, a cell phone, text messaging, video games, or Facebook?" This was the first question author, columnist, and ESPN sports analyst, Mike Lupica asked his audience as he began his presentation to young readers, teachers and parents. He explained to his attentive loyal fans in Newport Beach, California that he didn't have all of the technology that is available today. Instead, he stated that "books can transport you into the life of another."

Mr. Lupica is known for writing many young adult sports novels such as *Travel Team*, *Heat*, *Miracle on 49th Street*, *Summer Ball*, and his latest novel *True Legend*. As a TV anchor for ESPN's "The Sports Reporters," columnist for multiple newspapers and magazines, and author of national bestsellers and award winning novels, Mike Lupica inspires others to use their time to read and learn life lessons through his two passions: sports and reading.



Kent with Mike Lupica

Mike Lupica originally wrote for adults, however it was his son who inspired him to write for adolescents. His son was cut from a basketball travel team due to his short height. Because of his son and many other kids who were told they weren't good enough to make the team, Lupica decided to make a basketball team comprised of all of the kids whom were cut from other travel teams. As the season progressed, Lupica's team started upsetting teams that were beating his team earlier in the season. Mike Lupica noticed a boost in confidence and self-esteem in every single one of his players. He witnessed player's renewed perseverance and drive to overcome

failure as they learned to fight their way to the top. These are life skills and topics Mr. Lupica enjoys writing about. Mr. Lupica said that his "books do not contain vampires, wizards, or werewolves, yet kids love to read them. They are about friendship and kids trying to do something great in sports through teamwork and loyalty."

In Mr. Lupica's novels, his characters portray qualities of being a good teammate and persevering toward their ultimate goal. Through his writing and his characters, he hopes his young readers will be inspired and learn from what they read and apply it to their own life. He said, "Playing sports is more than just throwing or hitting a ball. It's about learning how you get up after getting knocked down and that is truly the measure of your talent, heart, and character."

## On The Run

### Knee Pain in Runners



Dr. Doug Richie

One common cause of knee pain in runners is Iliotibial Band Syndrome (ITBS). This injury is almost unique to runners and can be a long-term, frustrating injury to recover from.

ITBS causes lateral, outside knee pain during running activities. The pain usually does not start immediately, but more commonly begins several miles into a long run. The pain will build during the run, usually becoming severe and forcing the runner to stop and walk home. Curiously, the pain will subside in just a few hours, and will not be felt the next day. However, the pain will quickly return if another run is attempted.

ITBS is a classic over-use injury usually seen in runners who are training for

## Help Prevent Child Sport Injuries



Chief Keith Richter

Participation of children in organized and informal sports continues to grow. Nearly three quarters of U.S. households with school-age children have at least one child who plays organized sports. Sports participation is beneficial to children in many ways. It can improve physical fitness, coordination, self-discipline and teamwork, as well as promote a sense of personal satisfaction and accomplishment.

However, growth in sports participation has contributed to an increase in sports related injuries. The risk of physical injury is inherent in sports participation. Furthermore, children are more susceptible to these injuries because they are still growing and gaining motor and cognitive skills. Most organized sport-related injuries occur during practice rather than games.

Did you know that each year, more than 3.5 million children ages 14 years and under receive medical treatment for sports injuries. More than 90% of sport-related concussions occur without the child losing consciousness. The most common types of sport-related injuries in children are sprains, muscle strains, bone or growth plate injuries, repetitive motion injuries, and heat-related illness.

The four activities with the most injuries to bones and muscles include bicycling, basketball, football, and roller sports. Before any type of sports activity, make sure your child is hydrated and that they stretch their muscles. Proper warm up and conditioning can prevent minor strains and sprains

### Adult Supervision a Must to Prevent Drowning!

Drowning is the leading cause of death for children under the age of five. Looking away for just a few seconds could be worth a lifetime of regret! Last year, the OCFA had 63 drowning incidents with 24 fatalities and 39 non-fatalities. That number should be zero.

Drownings happen everywhere including bathtubs, mop buckets, toilets, pools, spas, ponds, and even in standing water in as little as two feet. Children can drown in as little as 20 seconds, and unless rescued in less than three minutes, the chance of long-term brain injury or death is high. In May and August drowning rates increase by 89% as compared to the rest of the year.

The definition of drowning, according to the World Congress on Drowning, is the "process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid." The World Health Organization and the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC, categorize drowning as fatal (resulting in death) or non-fatal (not resulting in death).

Children have a poor understanding of risks and dangers, which makes it hard for them to make choices to protect their own safety. Children are dependent upon adults for their safety. Please be diligent to always watch your children around the water, and don't rely on others to do that for you.

Children drown without a sound, learning the ABC's of pool safety could help prevent this senseless tragedy. You can visit [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org) for detailed information.

longer events, such as a half-marathon or full marathon. The iliotibial band is a long tendon that runs along the outside of the thigh and knee. During extensive running, the iliotibial band tightens and begins rubbing against the knee joint. A dull, aching pain can turn into agony as the run continues.

The main treatment of ITBS is a specialized stretching program for all of the muscles around the hip joint. Foam rollers can also be used to increase flexibility of the iliotibial band. These treatments are best taught and supervised by a qualified trainer or physical therapist.

Runners are usually allowed to continue running in the "comfort zone" until the point of pain is reached, and then the run should be terminated. In general, switching to softer running surfaces or softer running shoes can be helpful. No matter what, recovery is usually slow, but predictable.

Dr. Doug Richie is a sports podiatrist who has practiced in Seal Beach for 28 years. He is president of the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and serves as a medical advisor to U.S. A. Track and Field. 562/493-2451



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## Ask Dr. Shari

### Teen Rudeness



**Dear Dr. Shari,**

I have heard a great deal about teen rudeness and should be more accepting of it, I guess. But, I just can't accept my teenager making me feel like such an unwanted outcast. When I am with her and her friends, she won't even speak to me and generally doesn't want me around. She treats me like I am not "cool" enough and as a single mom and that really hurts.

We do have dinner together and we have nice talks almost every day so I don't get it. Help me wake her up! —CJ

**Dr. Shari Sweetnam**

**CJ,**

Hold on just one second!

First of all, rudeness, is NOT acceptable...not at any age... not at any time. So, the idea of "being accepting of it" needs to be destroyed. Please, NEVER accept rudeness. that is how sweet children become obnoxious people that no one can stand. Don't do this to your child.

Secondly, CJ, you must understand that parents are outcasts in the teen world. You are not cool. You might be a "cool mom, a cool coach, a cool teacher, but in the teen-world you are not cool. You can work on accepting that.

Here is the harsh, cold reality CJ: We were to teens once. We didn't want to hang out with our parents either. No one, who is old enough to parent a teen, is actually cool to "hang" with, as an equal, in a teen circle. And, CJ, if you find that one does exist, check them out...because that is creepy and likely a sketchy situation.

Even in organizations like Big Sisters/Brothers of America and other advocacy groups that promote healthy relationships between adults and children, the adult serves as a positive role model not a buddy on equal footing.

Between parent and teen, there is a power differential. The parent/adult is in the leadership role and is responsible for setting an example, teaching, acting as a role model. This is a positive and necessary reality, but it is the same fact that makes it "not cool" to hang out with you.

Teens, by instinct and biology are at a stage in which they crave independence. Your presence impinges upon that. It has nothing to do with your lack of coolness, CJ, so relax.

The good news, is that you are not, technically, an outcast by society's standards. You have a whole generation at the "uncool" party. Come join us.

You can be cool in your own age group, at your work, in your running club, knitting club or book club, but please, for your child's sake, do not try to be cool in the teen world.

Here are a couple of ground rules that might help you deal with your situation:

- Rudeness is not acceptable. As a parent you are personally responsible for making sure that your teen understands and abides by this.
- Adults don't "hang out" with teens as (equal footing) buddies. Be a cool Mom, not a buddy.

Part of the difficulty of raising a teen is that a healthy separation needs to occur. That little girl that you used to hold and cuddle is almost an adult. The times when she yelled "Mom watch!" over her every cartwheel and belly flop are mostly over and she is in more need of her space.

This is painful, CJ, I know. I could bawl my eyes out over it, but it is healthy, and the best thing for your child.

Hang tough, write back and let me know how you are dealing with this. We are all in it together.

Dr. Shari Sweetnam is the Founder of BRAINPOWER *The Ultimate Program for Schools*. Author, Motivational Speaker. Follow on Youtube and twitter: DrShariS, contact: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com)

money, minimize your own out of pocket expenses and how to qualify for the most financial aid, regardless of income or assets.

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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](mailto:Susan@College4Less.com) or on her Web site at [www.college4less.com](http://www.college4less.com)

## College 4 Less

### Paying for College...



**Susan D. Marshall**

Raising a family has never had a higher price tag. And, sending a child to college is one of your most expensive charges. Once collegiate studies start, you're obligated to sustain education costs from freshman basics through cap-and-gown graduation. (This is even more financially taxing than buying a house)! Yet, a smart savings plan combined with wise asset management can keep you and yours on an even financial keel.

When your children are young, saving for college is a natural goal. But, when you save in the wrong type of accounts or put money aside incorrectly, your child's ability to get need-based financial aid may be compromised.

Consulting with college financial specialists is a smart choice. They can guide you through the labyrinth of financial formulas that make your child's college years secure, preventing overwhelming debt.

For example, 529 plans may not meet your needs; especially when another type of plan may allow more opportunity for financial aid. Doing your due diligence through smart asset management prepares you for financial demands specific to a college education. And, formula driven asset adjustments may make college more affordable than you thought.

When saving for college, your main goal is to accumulate enough money to pay for college expenses, when the time comes. You most likely will be looking at different types of savings plans and tax strategies that will allow you to accumulate money. There are many pros and cons when it comes to pre-paid college tuition savings plans, 529 plans, UGMA's and UTMA's, to name a few. If you own a business or are a high net worth individual, you may prefer tax strategies or opportunities to let your business fund your child's future higher education.

When it comes to saving on college, the time for spending the money you have accumulated is drawing nigh. You will need ways to significantly reduce your total costs for college, including how to maximize the use of other people's



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## Parent To Parent

### Growing Up—Summer Vacation



**Q.** We are hoping to possibly go on a vacation this summer where there are activities just for the kids. Our children are both girls ages 10 and 12. The oldest has begun to pull away from her younger sister and we are afraid she will not want her hanging around her on the trip, particularly during the activities. How much should we allow the oldest to do on her own?

**A:** It sounds like your oldest daughter is perhaps striving to become a little more independent from not only her younger sister, but also from you and your husband. This is a perfectly normal development that most kids her age go through, especially if she is close to turning 13. Before deciding on your summer vacation destination, read as much material as possible about the activities offered for kids. It should have a breakdown pertaining to age and gender, an in-depth description and where it takes place, including a specific schedule for each. Depending on the oldest girl's maturity level and what grade she will be in for the fall, she could meet the criteria of activities geared for the middle-school age range. It is important that you and the kids are satisfied and that the activities are fun for each one. For example, if somewhere you are considering for your vacation sounds great for one but not so much for the other, keep looking until you can find a more balanced plan for both. This way, they will both feel appreciated and comfortable with what is being offered for them individually. If the brochure or online information does not answer all of your questions, there may be a toll-free number to call to ask more questions or an online form you can use to contact customer service.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ ([www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. 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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# Honoring Excellence in Teaching



**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent

On October 19, 2012, it was my honor to meet and congratulate the Orange County Teachers of the Year nominees at the annual ceremony and dinner celebration. The program is a prelude to the national Teachers of the Year competition which began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program focusing public attention on excellence in teaching.

Teaching is one of the few professions where practitioners truly have an impact on the future. Teachers are heroes in our communities, charged with the immense task of encouraging, motivating, and challenging young people to learn and achieve in school and beyond. They spend an enormous amount of time with our students to inspire and instruct them for school success. Beyond student growth, a teacher's passion for teaching and learning also encourages their colleagues to grow and become more creative and effective in their own classrooms.

The selection process for the Orange County Teachers of the Year involves both school districts and the Orange County Department of Education. Each district submits up to three nominees, depending on the number of teachers employed. A panel of educators reviews the applications and selects fifteen nominees to participate in interviews with corporate and community sponsors. The interview panel selects four K-12 finalists who represent our county in the California Teachers of the Year program. Although there is not a state program for Community College districts, Orange County includes them in the program, and selects one finalist from that group as well.

This year, Orange County was fortunate to have one of our finalists selected as a California Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson. David Goldenberg, of Beckman High School in the Tustin Unified School District, is now in the running for the national competition. A social science teacher who is passionate about student success, Mr. Goldenberg's Advanced Placement (AP) World History students average an 80 percent passing rate on the AP exam. A proponent for community service, he founded a successful freshman orientation and mentoring program where participating students have written over 2,000 letters to United States troops serving abroad, created care packages for juvenile cancer patients, and provided academic support for English language learners. It is clear that Mr. Goldenberg is making an eternal contribution to the lives of our students and the community.

The Orange County Teachers of the Year are passionate about their work, demonstrate the highest level of integrity, and ignite curiosity in their students. They find ways to relate to their students and meet their individual needs while teaching students the important twenty-first century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. We can all be proud of these amazing teachers, and many more like them, who encourage students to set high goals and reach for their dreams, while creating meaningful learning opportunities that last a lifetime.

To learn more, visit [www.ocde.us/toty](http://www.ocde.us/toty)

## Word Search Contest Words Associated with School

**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 TUSD in subject line)

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

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

- |            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers  | Focused     | Principal  |
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| Discipline | Learning    | Success    |
| Educators  | Mentors     | Technology |
| Encourage  | Nutrition   | Thinkers   |
| Excellence | Parents     | Workers    |

**Congratulations to February Winner!**  
**Julia Reid**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1**



**Gregory A. Franklin, Ed. D.**

sophisticated non-fiction text, and an ability to write clearly for specific audiences and purposes. The CCSS requires a different kind of assessment than the California Standards Tests that have been given for the last 13 years. These skills are difficult to measure through a multiple-choice test, so the new assessments that are still being formed will call on students to actually solve problems, use multiple sources of information to draw conclusions, and to write.

Tustin Unified's schools are responding enthusiastically to the implementation of CCSS. Every elementary school has been working to strengthen instruction in one of the core subject areas – reading, writing or math – through a system that aligns to the CCSS. Most middle schools are implementing Thinking Maps which is a system for organizing, analyzing and applying information and concepts. The high schools have begun to design and pilot performance assessments that look very similar to Advanced Placement exam questions – asking students to read several documents and/or view digital media, interpret the information and write a response that defends a position, or offers a solution. These are rigorous skills that are being required of all students.

TUSD's implementation of the CCSS will be aided through the application of technology, thanks to voter support of the local Measure S ballot initiative. Students will have daily access to primary documents, web sites, applications and software that will help them collect, analyze and communicate their learning. The use of Google Docs, wiki's and learning management systems will allow students to collaborate with students in their schools or across continents. They can collaborate to learn or share what they have learned through the creation of web sites, video, and other digital media. The District's network is currently being upgraded to accommodate the influx of devices that will begin making appearances in classrooms in the 2013-14 school year. Tustin Unified students and schools will be ready to thrive and achieve the Common Core State Standards.



**Mark Eliot**

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**Beswick Celebrates National Digital Learning Day**

Benjamin Beswick Elementary School kindergarten teachers Emily Cruz and Nancy Howerton and their students celebrated the second annual National Digital Learning Day. Students worked on various devices ranging from iPads to readers. Students were able to access curriculum and work independently using the devices with the support of their teachers. Digital Learning Day is a national campaign that promotes digital learning and effective use of instructional technology in the classroom.



**Beswick kindergartners work on their iPads or laptops: (Back) Efrain Medina, Adrian Garcia and Luke Porter; (Front) Jonathan Gonzalez and Sherlyn Zepeda.**

**TEACHERS OF THE YEAR • From Page 1**

**The other 2013 School Site Teachers of the Year include:**

Elementary School: Kathi Denny, fourth-grade teacher at Arroyo School; Stacy Smith, special education teacher at Barbara Benson School; Lynette Vaughan, fifth-grade teacher at Benjamin Beswick School; Tara Bennett, special education teacher at Helen Estock School; Beth Ann Milkovich, third-grade teacher at Guin Foss School; BJ Rhodes, special education teacher at Robert Heideman School; Monica Ward, second-grade teacher at Hicks Canyon School; Traci DiLellio, fourth/fifth-grade teacher at Ladera School; Sue Kane, second-grade teacher at C.C. Lambert School; Karen Knudson, special education teacher at Loma Vista School; Brandee Ramirez, first-grade teacher at Myford School; Kristen Cooke, fifth-grade teacher at W.R. Nelson School; Nancy Chung, fifth-grade teacher at Orchard Hills School; Kelly Morgan, fifth-grade teacher at Peters Canyon School; Tim Zweber, first-grade teacher at Red Hill School; Jessica Bodas, fourth-grade teacher at Jeane Thorman School; Liz Shenton, third-grade teacher at Tustin Memorial Academy; and Elizabeth Catron, fifth-grade teacher at Marjorie Veeh School.

Middle School: Kim O'Malley, eighth-grade Magnet science teacher at Columbus Tustin School; Julie Buetow, special education teacher at Hewes School; Melissa Ash-Bala, eighth-grade Core English and social studies teacher at Pioneer School; and Linda Hill, sixth-grade Honors Core teacher at C.E. Utt School

High School: Karen Akashi, art teacher at Beckman; Erik Eidenmuller, social studies teacher at Hillview; and Alan Liu, life sciences teacher at Tustin High.

The three winners and all the District's nominees will be honored at the 19th annual Teachers of the Year Dinner at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 3 at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. The event is co-sponsored by the Tustin Public Schools Foundation and Tustin Unified School District.

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