

FREE

# School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

## Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 34

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

NOVEMBER 2011–JANUARY 2012

### SUPERINTENDENT



#### PTA Advocates for Kids

In its century-plus history, this single largest advocacy group for children has accomplished great things; on school campuses

**Dr. John Roach**

and in the wider world. PTA efforts have led to federally funded hot lunches in schools, the addition of kindergarten to public schools and the adoption of school bus safety regulations as well as creation of a criminal justice system for juvenile offenders and enforcement of child labor laws.

As a proud PTA member for decades, I have a unique perspective: as a parent, teacher and administrator. I have been extremely impressed on all levels. It's amazing what volunteers can achieve when united in their devotion to doing what's best for kids.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 15

## Carlsbad Kids Are Going Green!



Jefferson students Laurel Moody, Calli Moody, Gabe Bensen, Eli Bensen and Benjamin Haeberlein are ready to recycle.

Marilyn Campbell  
CUSD Communications Consultant

**It's ambitious. Innovative. Environmentally exceptional. Financially beneficial. Educational and inspirational.**

The "Carlsbad Kids Go Green" project kicking off at Jefferson and Kelly this fall features school-wide recycling and zero-waste lunchroom programs that should become exemplary models for other Carlsbad Unified schools. The program is made possible through a \$10,000 Carlsbad Charitable Foundation grant obtained via the Carlsbad Educational Foundation (CEF), which sponsors the Grant Writing Collaborative (GWC).

The grant funds recycling containers for each classroom and common areas at Jefferson and Kelly. It also funds lunch cart receptacles enabling children to separate liquid and solid food waste products, utensil dispensers, composters and other items.

GWC Secretary Kim Ledford states, "We see this project as a pilot that can be replicated at every site. Our goal is to teach lifelong environmental awareness to our students and their families."

SEE CARLSBAD KIDS ARE GOING GREEN! • PAGE 14

## City Programs Support Parents



**Kristina Ray**  
Communications Manager  
City of Carlsbad

I recently remembered some very good advice I got when I first became a parent – secure your own oxygen mask first. In other words, parents are most effective when they are healthy, happy and fulfilled. With kids settled back into the school routine, now is a perfect time to get some "me time." Since my last few columns have focused on programs and events the City of Carlsbad provides for kids in our community, I thought I'd devote this edition to the grown ups.

The city's Parks & Recreation Department offers many convenient and affordable ways to help you stay fit, active and social. Swimming is great exercise and a wonderful stress reliever, too. Did you know the city's Monroe Street Pool is open seven days a week? The Masters Swim program provides a supervised, coached workout for adults that is appropriate for all fitness levels.

Or, try a new fitness class, like Health Barre, tai chi, Pilates or Zumba. Even if you've never picked up a racquet or swung a club, you can learn to play tennis or golf with the city's professional instructors for as little as \$12 a class. Not sure

SEE CITY OF CARLSBAD • PAGE 14

## The Case for College



**Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent / President

### Why College Degrees Make Sense (and Dollars)

The embattled student loan industry has made headlines recently with a new report from Moody Analytics finding that delinquency and default rates on student loans continue to rise, despite modest improvements in the economy. This troublesome trend is forecast to continue as college tuition spikes faster than the growth in personal income. This fall, University of California students are paying three times what they paid a decade ago, while California State University students have seen their tuition double since 2007. It's true: Students and their families are paying more than ever for higher education and are accumulating more debt to do so. This has led many in the media to question whether a college degree is a necessity, and if degrees give students a good return on investment.

A recent article in *The New York Times* takes a look at this question and concludes the evidence is clear—obtaining a college degree is a better investment now than ever before. In 2010, full-time workers with an associate degree

SEE MIRACOSTA COLLEGE • PAGE 14



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**Inside: Schools pages 4–7, 10–13  
AHA! pages 8–9 • Contest page 8**

# The Encinitas Learning Center



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**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



The holidays are quickly approaching  
and as we reflect on how much we  
have to be thankful for you, our  
readers, are at the top of the list.  
Thank you for including *School News*  
among your reading choices. CUSD  
gives you reason to be proud.

The winner of our May Contest is  
announced on page 8 where you will  
find the Football Word Search Contest.

As always our thoughts are with the  
service men and women, who volunteer  
so we can enjoy our freedom.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas  
and Happy Holidays to you and your  
families. Our next issue is February 15.

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
**CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
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**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:** Neta Madison

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Laura Brune

## SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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# Student-Athletes are Students First



**Superintendent Dr. Roach welcomes Thadd MacNeal to the CUSD team.**

*Marilyn Campbell  
Communications  
Consultant*

Thadd MacNeal's inaugural season as Carlsbad High Lancers' football coach got off to a rough start, with his team suffering a 39-0 shutout to St. Augustine on September 2nd.

After that power outage, which occurred six days before the countywide blackout, the Lancers found their mojo and won an electrifying thriller, driving 76 yards in the



**Lancers (in white) beat Ramona on September 16th.**

final 53 seconds to beat San Diego 36-35. Week three was a 31-9 triumph over Ramona, and by now MacNeal was feeling right at home at his alma mater.

The job has been a happy homecoming for MacNeal and his wife, Kelly. Thadd MacNeal, Class of 1989, played varsity quarterback. Kelly MacNeal (née Meadows), Class of 1991, was homecoming queen.

In addition to coaching football, MacNeal teaches four classes of sophomore English. In reality, he's teaching all the time.

"Carlsbad High offers a great academic environment," he believes. "I tell my student-athletes, 'You are students first. You have chosen this lifestyle. You have to make appropriate time-management decisions so you can do it all and do it all well.' I want them to succeed in football and in life."

Football and life have a lot in common, his players learn. "You will get knocked down," MacNeal tells them. "You get up, dust off and go onto the next play."

Superintendent Dr. Roach believes, "Thadd has set a high expectation for behavior, attitude and studies. I hear 'Yes, sir' and 'No sir' from players. It is old school. I like it."

Coach MacNeal says he gets his sports philosophy from arguably the best coach of all time: UCLA's John Wooden. He says, "I want my players to develop an incredible work ethic, integrity and discipline. These three elements will set the groundwork for a successful future in every aspect of their life."



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COVERING THE CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 2011—JANUARY 2012 **3**

# Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • <http://www.aviaraoakselementary.com/>

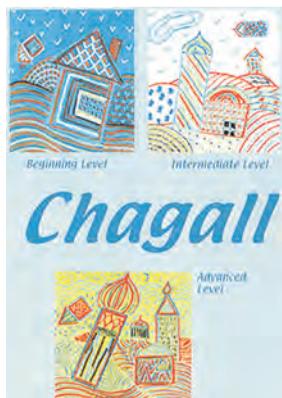


**Kimberly Huesing**  
Principal

## “Meeting” the Masters

Aviara Oaks Elementary School (AOE) is committed to providing a well rounded educational experience for our students. Grounded in solid standards-based instruction, our program is enriched by specialty programs in music, physical education, instructional technology, and art.

The formal art program at AOE is called Meet the Masters. Meet the Masters is funded by donations to our PTA and has three parts:



instruction by a professional instructor for grade-level art assemblies; learning with the classroom teacher about background information; and assistance from volunteers, who lead the students in art projects emulating the genre, medium, and theme of the artist studied.

This month, for example, students learned about the fascinating life and famous works of Marc Chagall. The Meet the Masters experience began with a multi-media assembly presented by a contracted art instructor using slides, artist voices, and music. Back in the classroom, the students learned the techniques which made Chagall’s art revolutionary. Study of Chagall’s technique of exploring patterns, shapes and color further prepared students for success with their own art projects. Parent volunteers received training after the assemblies and supported the classroom teacher by guiding the formal art project. The really fun part was when the students discovered their creativity while developing confidence in their own unique abilities through the project, creating enchanted villages using oil pastel on colored paper, with emphasis on color and pattern.

AOE began investing in Meet the Masters seven years ago and has purchased materials to study several artists a year since then. A child who starts at AOE in kindergarten and continues through fifth grade would be exposed to information about at least 30 famous artists. As the principal, I am inspired to continue the program when parents report to me that their children recognized famous art works during a family trip to a museum and when students are able to discuss different artistic genres with me based on their experience with Meet the Masters.

As I often say, AOE is a great place to learn and grow!



**Mrs. Morris and Mrs. Falk, volunteers that teach the art lessons in the class.**



**Marc Chagall art work**

# Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

6880 Ambrosia Lane, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • <http://aoms.schoolloop.com/>



**Megan Coelho**  
Principal

## Soaring to Great Heights

The Aviara Oaks Middle School (AOMS) Falcons are already soaring to great heights this year. Having the opportunity to be a member of the AOMS team as the principal makes me proud. This year we also have a new assistant principal, Michael Ecker. He is overjoyed to be a Falcon and can’t help but let everyone know it! Together with our talented and dedicated teachers and staff, we are working hard to make sure every student continues to grow and succeed. It is surely a great time to be a Falcon!

This year we are focusing on continuing to create a positive school culture and increasing school unity with students, parents, staff, and community. You can feel the school spirit and pride as soon as you step onto our campus—especially on Fridays. Spirit Fridays result in a sea of purple and black as students arrive dressed in our school colors to show their school spirit. Some lucky visitors might even spy our school mascot, Fannie the Falcon, walking around. You will also hear staff and students refer to the Falcon Four: be respectful; be responsible; be safe; and work together. We treat each other respectfully and appreciate how diverse and unique we are. We take responsibility for our actions and ourselves. We conduct ourselves safely. We work together to support and help each other achieve our goals. Visitors on campus will see pictures of our students of the month on display. These students are nominated for best portraying the character trait highlighted each month. Additionally, you may see parents and staff members handing students purple Falcon Points. They receive these points when they display positive character traits. Weekly drawings are held to reward the positive behaviors we see on campus.

We are increasing school unity through activities. The Kindness And Respect for Everyone (KARE) Committee makes connections between students by introducing new students to our Falcon family. Lunchtime activities are organized to get students to interact with each other. Mix-It-Up Days encourage students to mix up who they eat with at lunch and get to know new people. Our Associated Student Body (ASB) team of students organizes dances and weekly lunchtime activities to support the character traits. Parents volunteer their time on campus during lunch, interacting with students and engaging them in a myriad of activities, such as games, sports competitions, and interactive activities.

If it sounds like our Falcon team is busy, we are! But we never take our attention off outstanding academic achievement as the measure of our success. We look forward to a positive and productive school year and appreciate your support.



# Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • <http://buenavista.schoolloop.com/>



**Tina Howard**  
Principal

## Tablet Technology is Our Goal

Buena Vista Elementary School's new iPad Learning Carts have arrived!

The instruction for using these amazing tools is now taking place across the entire K-5 campus. Students in Mrs. Zak's kindergarten class are even using them daily to practice writing words during small-group reading instruction. They are soon going to be able to practice reading their letters while also hearing the corresponding sounds via the iPad's earphones.

The power of this tool has already been proven. We had an amazing moment recently when a student who had long struggled to write her name with a pencil did so easily during her first interaction with the iPad. After observing this feat, Mrs. Zak told us that, "It was simply amazing, and I could not believe my eyes!"

In grades two to five the students have been meeting regularly with Mr. Daniel Fisher. He is teaching them how to use the iPad along with general tablet etiquette. He is also providing them with many opportunities to reinforce their classroom learning.



Students working with their iPads in Mr. Fischer's class.



## Making Learning Fun

For instance, this week his students were engaged in Rocket Math. This is an "app" that provides various math problems and solutions. When the answers are correct the students' rocket takes off.

The immediate feedback that we get from these programs is one of its most powerful advantages: the students find this tool very engaging and motivating. One parent of a second-grade student remarked that, "Every day she works with the iPads she comes home begging for one of her own!"

Because of this success, we are reaching out to the local community to help support our iPad app purchases. So please visit our established Web site at [www.bvipads.com](http://www.bvipads.com) to donate to our iPad fund, or simply drop off iTunes gift cards to the main school office.

The more money that we have to purchase a variety of apps, the greater will be our students' learning potential.

# Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6300 • <http://ches.schoolloop.com/>



**Leslie Harden**  
Principal

## Learning Actively

The 2011-12 school year began at Calavera Hills Elementary with our annual schoolwide "howl" heard throughout the community to welcome our families and staff to a new year. In an annual tradition, our PTA offered coffee and muffins to our parents as they sent their students to class on the first day. We welcome to our teaching staff K/1 teacher Krista Berntsen, education specialist Debra Ainsworth and music teacher Joan Li. Also joining our CHE family are office assistant Irene Zlotnicki and health tech Theresa Green.

Active learning and student engagement are the focus for classroom instruction and professional development this year. Collaboratively with the staff from Poinsettia Elementary, CHE's staff returned to school a day early to work with the Kagan Group to enhance their knowledge and understanding of classroom structures that promote student learning and maximize student engagement across all areas of the curriculum. Walk into any class on campus and you will see kindergartners exchanging ideas in a pair/share activity regarding number sets, first-graders working in groups of four in a round-robin activity to generate ideas and list options for problem-solving, or fifth-graders moving through the classroom in concentric circles to match up with a partner when learning about sentence structures. Integrating movement and music while at the same time increasing student accountability and involvement allows all learners to access the content and curriculum.

"My kindergarten and first grade students have so many opportunities to discuss and share ideas with each other," said teacher Krista Berntsen. "They really get a chance to listen and be heard throughout the day."



PTA President Eric Chappell, Hospitality chair Brandi Keisling, and Volunteer Coordinator Mary Badiner welcome the community back with coffee and muffins.



Principal Leslie Harden leads students, staff, and families in a Coyote howl to start the new year.

# Calavera Hills *Middle School (6-8)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/ 331-6400 • <http://calavera.schoolloop.com/>



**Catina Hancock**  
Principal

## Where Everbody Belongs!

Sixth-graders at Calavera Hills Middle School (CHMS) have been caught in a “WEB,” and they love every minute of it! Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes sixth-graders and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. Built around the idea that students can help other students succeed, the program trains eighth-grade mentors to be WEB leaders. As positive role models, WEB leaders help the sixth-graders to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school and help facilitate success.

CHMS WEB leaders were nominated by their seventh-grade teachers at the end of the school year. During the summer, the 42 new WEB leaders spent two days in training with teacher Teanna Evans. The students learned leadership and team building techniques, which they used when they ran the sixth-grade orientation just prior to the start of school.

WEB also serves as an anti-bullying program for CHMS by training student leaders to look for bullying behavior and help stop it. WEB leaders are aware of and report any negative behavior they see, creating a safer school for everybody.

During the school year, WEB leaders continue making connections with their sixth-grade school mates through our school’s advisory program. Every Wednesday, WEB leaders attend our sixth-grade advisory classes and continue acting as mentors. They assist students with organization and study skills, lead the class in discussions, and facilitate team building activities.

Many of our sixth-grade students said middle school “seemed less scary” because he made new friends before school started. “There are a few eighth-graders in my elective class, and it was cool that I knew them from WEB,” said one sixth-grade student.

WEB leaders agree with their sixth-grade friends. “I think it helps the sixth-graders feel more comfortable at school, since it is their first year,” said Gabby Goedert.

According to Elle Dodaro, “WEB definitely helps sixth-graders socialize with the eighth-graders outside of class.”

“Sixth-graders have more friends because of WEB,” agreed Michelle Bodi.

CHMS staff and students agree that WEB has enhanced our school culture. This is one WEB we are happy to be caught in!



WEB leaders show off their welcome sign.



Sixth grade students listen intently to their WEB leader.



6th grade orientation directed by 8th grade WEB leaders.

# Carlsbad *High School (9-12)*

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



## New Classrooms Near Completion

As we near December, our construction at Carlsbad High is entering its final stage. The new classrooms on the east side of the campus by Lancer Way are almost complete, and the teachers will be moving in over the winter break.

The new buildings include a section for social sciences, world languages and the performing arts. Teachers currently on the south side of campus will be moving into temporary housing so that their old classrooms can be demolished and the land transformed into a student parking lot. The students will see the construction wrap up during the second semester when the final stages begin.

With the new school almost finished, Carlsbad's attitude is one of optimism. The ASB has been rousing the students, and they even kicked off the year with a "Back in Black" theme at our first home football game. The students wore black to the game and sat in the newly designated Purple Pit.

Though Carlsbad has only four home games, our students have not let it deter them from turning out with enthusiasm.

All four games have something special planned to hype up the crowd. At the game against LCC the students dressed in pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness. Senior Night will also be hosted during the last game in November, Homecoming will be on November 4th, and the ASB plans to have several spirit days and competitions between the teachers, classes and genders that will help encourage participation.

In addition, Saul Paleo also won Play of the Week from KUSI's Prep Pigskin report. This was for his incredible one-handed end zone grab. Coach Thadd MacNeal also earned the PPR Charger's Coach of the Week award.

Established in 2005, the Speech and Debate Team has quickly risen in the national ranks. After just six years our team is ranked in the top five percent of the nation, and it consistently sweeps the tournaments. Under the leadership of

Coach Minnia Curtis it boasts over 150 members and enters up to 13 tournaments during the year.

The team competes in 14 speech and five debate events. Several of its students have also qualified for state competitions, and last year it sent five members to the Nationals in Dallas, Texas. At a recent varsity individual events tournament, 42 CHS team members also competed and took first place in eight out of 14 events.

At Carlsbad, Speech and Debate provides our students with the opportunity to get involved, learn about current events, and expand their theatrical skills.



Speech and Debate shows off some of their trophies including a sweepstakes win from their recent tournament.



Students decked out in their black gear for "Back in Black Night" root on the Lancers from the newly named Purple Pit.

# Carlsbad Seaside Academy Carlsbad Village Academy

*Alternative Learning Center (10-12)*

1640 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5200 • <http://cva.schoolloop.com/>



Keith Holley  
Principal

## Major Changes in Our Faculty

One-half of the teachers at Carlsbad Village Academy are new to the school for the 2001-12 school year. CVA's newest English teacher is Carolyn Milliken. Ms. Milliken replaces last year's English teacher, Arlene Monroe. Ms. Milliken will be teaching English 3 and English 4. Nicole Moersch is CVA's new math teacher and the only full-time math teacher on the CVA faculty. Ms. Moersch comes to CVA from Poinsettia Elementary School where she taught second and fifth grades. She will be teaching Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.

"Being a member of CVA has given me the opportunity to learn a completely new curriculum and interact with a new student population," Ms. Moersch said. "Despite my love for teaching elementary, I am enjoying the challenge of teaching high school math."

Mike Trussel is also a former Poinsettia Elementary School teacher. Before Poinsettia, Mr. Trussel taught English at Carlsbad High School. He joins the CVA faculty as an English teacher, replacing Michelle Crosby, who has moved to full-time teaching at Carlsbad Seaside Academy. Mr. Trussel will be teaching English I and English II.

There have also been changes in the classified staffing at CVA. Samantha Dreifuss has moved from Calavera Hills Middle School to CVA to serve as the campus safety assistant. Ms. Dreifuss replaces longtime CSA Rick Nieves. Mr. Nieves has joined the school safety team at Carlsbad High School.

Veteran CVA teachers returning from last year's faculty include Brian Co, world history, economics and psychology; Joe Dunn, U.S. history, government and digital photography; and Rachel Newman, distance learning



New English teacher Carolyn Milliken



New Campus Safety Assistant Sam Dreifuss



New English teacher Mike Trussel



New math teacher Nicole Moersch



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# Football 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put CRL in the subject line.

**Entries must be received by December 15, 2011**

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

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| Flanker    | Quarterback   | Yardage       |
| Goal Post  | Roughing      |               |

**Congratulations to**  
**Lillian Hebert's Poinsettia Elementary 4th Grade Class**  
**Winners of the May Word Search Contest!**

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L	O	U	N	E	C	O	R	N	E	R	B	A	C	K
E	D	A	E	K	L	D	D	C	R	E	D	F	A	S
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—Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

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 Tickets on sale at  
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City of Carlsbad Parks & Recreation Presents:

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CITY OF CARLSBAD Parks & Recreation

# Hope *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Richard Tubbs**  
Principal

## To Our Health!

Hope Elementary is very excited to welcome two new members to our staff. Jennifer Thirkell was hired to replace our health technician, Carolyn Robertson, who retired at the end of last school year. Mrs. Thirkell is originally from Chicago but has lived in Southern California since 2000. She currently lives in Carlsbad with her husband, Brendan, and their 10-month-old son, Noah. After attending nursing school at Mira Costa College and becoming a licensed vocational nurse—one of only two in our Carlsbad schools—she joined Carlsbad Unified in 2003 as the health technician at Calavera Hills Elementary and Middle schools.

“I love being able to combine my love for the health field with my love for children in this position,” Mrs. Thirkell said. “Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome I’ve received here at Hope! I’m happy to be a Hope Hawk!” She has quickly connected with our staff, students and parents.



**Mrs. Thirkell with another Hope Hawk!**

## Home From the Heartland!

Kris Hejny is not completely new to Hope Elementary and considers this a homecoming. She began her teaching career in Wisconsin—Go Brewers and Packers!—and after teaching there 12 years, she moved to California with her husband. Her first job was at Hope Elementary, teaching fifth grade. It was quite different for her because the children ate outside all year long and the classroom door opened to the outside! Her colleagues back in Wisconsin would always ask her if the children were different in Carlsbad, and her response was always, “No, just tanner!” She also quickly discovered one of her classroom jobs was as a “lizard catcher.”—one of the joys of the classroom door opening to the outside! In addition, she made lasting connections with the Hope staff. The following year, Calavera Hills Elementary opened, and she was able to be a part of a brand-new school.

Mrs. Hejny taught third grade there for 9 years. She and her husband have two dogs and one son who is a second-grader at Poinsettia Elementary. As a foster care family for two years, they cared for six precious babies in their home. Last year, when the opportunity came about to work with her colleague and friend, Christine Wolfson, teaching fifth grade at Hope, she said, “I couldn’t pass it up.” Now Mrs. Hejny is right back where she started!

We are grateful that Mrs. Thirkell and Mrs. Hejny now belong to our Hope community!



**Kris Hejny with her husband and son.**

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • <http://jefferson.schoolloop.com/>



**Jane Hartman**  
Principal

## Campus Beautification

Jefferson Elementary School’s campus has become just a little bit brighter for the students of the International Baccalaureate (IB) campus. The dull gray wall of a portable classroom has been transformed into a cheerful, colorful mural that reflects the IB attributes, students, and values. The mural was designed and painted by Jefferson parent Tamara Moody, a landscape architect artist, while students looked on from the playground. They became excited when the school mascot, a jaguar, appeared in the corner and tried to guess the words as they were being painted. The mural has brought the campus alive, making even the playground educational. It provides a reminder on the playground of the IB attributes, including tolerance, respect, and cooperation. There are now plans to paint “visual Jefferson stories” on handball backstops and other available spaces, with the help of parent volunteers.



The Jefferson Green Jaguars have just received a donation from an international nutrition corporation to expand and enrich their garden. The Garden Club, led by Lisa Roop and other volunteers, is composed of a group of fourth- and fifth-grade students, who spend lunchtime each Monday in the garden learning how to grow healthy fruits and vegetables. After they became “certified” horticulturalists, they began giving class tours, educating other students on the benefits of eating “five colors” each week. Classes identify plants types, name fruits and vegetables, and participate in a scavenger hunt. In addition, Ms. Roop has created a new worm composting area, which receives lots of “oohs” and “aahs.”



# Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

4885 Kelly Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • <http://kelly.schoolloop.com/>



**Tressie Armstrong**  
Principal

## Getting to Work

*Motivation is when your dreams put on work clothes.*

—Author Unknown

Summer vacation drew to its close, and staff and students excitedly dressed in their new “work clothes.” Everyone showed up at Kelly School with anticipation, joy, and a reverberating sense of “let’s go to work on doing great things together.”

We are excited to see our new iPad technology in the hands of our kindergartners, and fourth- and fifth-graders. This pilot program supports the mastery of math standards while increasing student engagement in all other areas of the curriculum. Families were treated to the first Family Technology Night in conjunction with our PTA meeting on September 22. Teachers and parent volunteers shared promising technology practices with the attendees, and students guided parents through hands-on centers showing them applications on the iPads that are being used in classrooms to support student learning.

Students leapt feet first into the mastery of science standards with the first science unit in fifth grade. Our hands-on science laboratory was arranged with a variety of centers for students to experience, practice, and investigate the tools necessary for investigation, observation, and inquiry. Students were highly engaged and motivated as they rotated through the activities, and a happy buzz of collaboration could be heard in the hallways as students shared what they were learning.

We also celebrated our incredible health technician, Nurse Cindy Lutz, for her recognition as Carlsbad Unified School District’s Classified Employee of the month! Nurse Cindy, also known as the Birthday Fairy, shares her happy sense of humor as she supports all of the Kelly School community members. She keeps our students in continued health so they can be at school and ready to learn! Nurse Lutz is most assuredly deserving of the award she received, as she is very much loved and appreciated by all.

As you can see, we have donned our new “work clothes,” and we are motivated by our dreams for a successful and happy 2011–2012 school year for our entire Kelly School community!



**Mrs. Joan Bray's 4th grade class works hard to master math facts using their new I-Pads!**



**Fifth graders Carly Cox and Gemma Willets learn all about the tools of science in Kelly's hands-on science lab!**



**Phoebe Kootchik and Samantha Foley enjoy visiting Kelly's Health Tech, Cindy Lutz!**

# Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA, 92008 • 760/331-5600 • <http://mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Jimmy Hines**  
Principal

## The 'Write Stuff'

At Magnolia, we are very proud of our accomplishments over the past number of years. As a team, we have been able to further develop our students' social and academic skills by focusing and prioritizing goals that align through all grade levels. Over the past several years, we have made a conscientious effort to ensure that all students have access and exposure to a solid standards-based education. Our students have illustrated strong growth in all subject areas, especially in mathematics. However, we acknowledge that there is always more work to be done and areas for improvement, and that is why we have introduced a new support and professional-development piece in the area of writing instruction.

Through the support of our PTA and site budget, we are initiating a writing component centered on the writing workshop model. Libbi Swanson, a national board-certified teacher and the recipient of the UCLA Center X TIIP Grant for innovation in curriculum development, was previously placed in a 2/3 combination class at Magnolia and is working closely with staff to support writing instruction that runs deep across all areas of the curriculum. In her work that has begun with first grade, Mrs. Swanson has sought to facilitate and demonstrate lessons based on the teachings of Lucy Calkins and the New York Teachers College at Columbia University, where she receives support through the grant from UCLA. This approach emphasizes the writing workshop model, utilizing standards-based grading guidelines to facilitate the systematic scoring and analysis of student writing.

## A Bit of 'All Write'!

More importantly, this model of writing instruction and support offers a high degree of choice for students to begin to express their own thoughts and ideas in their writing. And with choice comes voice! Students become more fully engaged in wanting to add detail and expressive language that they might not otherwise



**Mrs. Swanson works reviews with a group of first grade students.**

add. The initial response from our first-grade teachers and students has been very positive. For our teachers, this model offers the opportunity for both support in the classroom and ongoing professional development embedded within the instructional day. Our students have illustrated a striking sense of responsibility and a high level of interest throughout each hour of the rotation that takes place three times weekly over a six-week period before moving on to the next grade level. Depending on funding, we hope to be able to continue this means of support for teachers and students alike for the entire school year. No doubt, we are headed in the “write direction!”



**First grade students Olivia and Lina show off their Writer Warm Up books.**



**First grade teacher Mrs. Collins reviews work with each first grade student.**

# Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • <http://pacificrim.schoolloop.com/>



**Robert Devich**  
Principal

## Art for Everyone

The arts are alive and well at Pacific Rim Elementary School! Our student body recently celebrated the National Arts In Education Week with the creation of a fantastic mural under the guidance of our art teacher, Mrs. Babcock. All 852 students participated in an 8-foot handball wall which portrays a treasure box overflowing with silver and gold coins.

Working with our parent support organization, the Friends of Pacific Rim, the team chose an old quote to complete the mural: "Make new friends, but keep the old; one is silver and the other gold." This quote highlights both our school's goal to always "Follow the Golden Rule" and the financial support we receive from the Friends. Great job, Waveriders!

## Money for the Arts

While working on the mural the Waveriders received even more great news about its arts program. Our school was lucky enough to receive two grant-awards from the generous ArtSplash Commission! With the money that they receive this year, Ms. Slattery's second-grade class will be creating seasonal canvases.

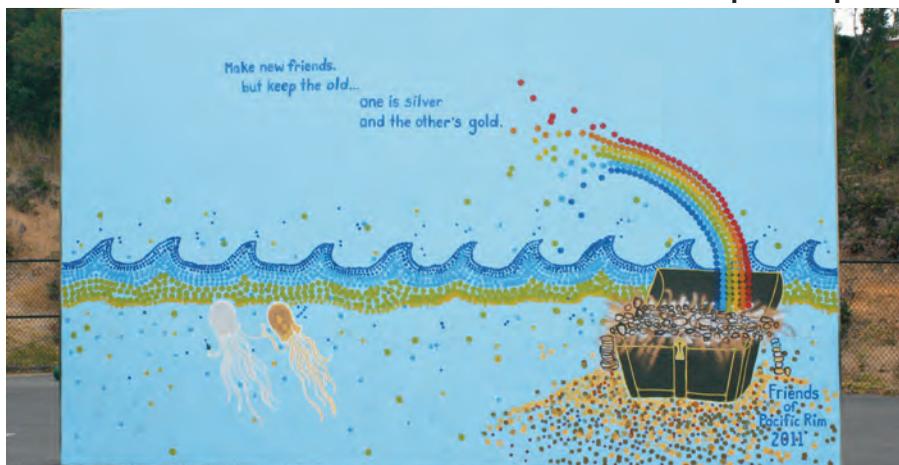
The other grant will help fund the creation of a fifth-grade graduation gift to the school. This project will be based on a children's book that was written by the uncle of one of our graduating students. It will culminate in another large-scale mosaic to be hung in front of the school.

Finally, Pac Rim is very excited to introduce our new drama teacher, Mrs. Amy Lavea. The children will see Mrs. Lavea for a rotating period of two months throughout the year. She will help them learn the elements of performing, speaking and voice control.

Between our visual arts projects and our new drama schedule, we feel lucky to be able to offer our students such a varied and comprehensive arts program.



**Pacific Rim Waveriders**  
add final touches to their campus masterpiece.



**Our final priceless product!**

# Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

2445 Mica Road, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • <http://www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Steve Ahle**  
Principal

## Continuing Our Goals

Our goal each and every year is to develop well-rounded students in the classroom and throughout the school. Students need to become avid learners and be able to reach the lofty goals set by the Carlsbad Unified School District. The students from Poinsettia each year have taken the California Standards Test (CST) as part of the statewide testing program (STAR). The results of these tests and the demographics of the population of students, parents and teachers are put into a mathematical formula, and our growth is measured by the Academic Performance Index (API).

I am proud to announce that our school continues to get better. Our first year was 840, the second year was 870, the third year was 877, and last year, we tallied a point total of 885. Each year, we put in place programs and instruction that meet our school's vast student needs. We work hard in the classroom to articulate the learning from the children, and they in turn show results of the learning and their hard work with teachers at school and parents at home. The trick is to not only score well on the tests of accountability but also to ready the students for the next year's curriculum and standards in the journey through the K-12 school system of CUSD.

## Race to the Top!

The needs in the classroom are only one facet of the big-picture journey we are all taking at Poinsettia Elementary. Work ethic, responsibility, character development, social relationships among peers and student leadership are all considered as important as the academics in the growth of the children who are placed in our care. The playgrounds were resurfaced last year, and academic games were highlighted in past *School News* articles. We just finished out fourth annual Jog-a-thon run. Students have begun a running club that works on cardiovascular endurance each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, weather permitting. The fourth- and fifth-graders are tallying their totals of miles, and the fourth graders will be "running across California" and fifth-graders will "run across the United States" during the entire school year. The destinations they track will be studied in the classrooms and will be incorporated into the social studies curriculum in the classroom. In addition, the PTA is bringing back to the CUSD the Playground Partners program, sponsored by a local branch of a worldwide volunteer organization, for lunchtime social and learning activities.

The campus is abuzz with fun and excitement and needs to be active in productive activities. Our parents, teachers, staff and, most importantly, students have the goal of developing their total self, mind and body as a total learning experience. I love to talk about what we do here at Poinsettia and look forward to sharing the paths as well as the successes that we will take this year.



**The students participating in the jog-a-thon get High 5 encouragement from Steve Ahle, principal.**



**A dad refreshes a runner on a hot October day.**

# Valley Middle School (6–8)

1645 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5300 • <http://vms.schoolloop.com/>



## Place to Be!

“Valley—it’s the place to be!” This is the motto that the Valley Middle School community fortifies daily. Whether it is our dedicated team of teachers working to deliver high impact lessons, our students engaging in our instructional program, or our parents and external community members volunteering their time, energy and resources, our community is dedicated to providing students with a rich environment focused on academics and social growth.

Beyond academics, Valley Middle School is known for its high-caliber elective courses, which offer enriching experiences. The electives menu includes Choir, Showstoppers, Science Tech, Art, AVID, Spanish I and II, Explore Wheels, Orchestra and three levels of Band. Enclosed is a quick overview of two elective offerings.



VMS Advanced Art Students

## Broadcasting- Valley Middle School Television (VMSTV)

Students in seventh and eighth grades can choose to take Broadcasting, where they develop effective journalism skills, learn to film and edit stories and, among other skills, learn from professionals working in the media and journalism field. Just in the first six weeks of this academic year, students in the Broadcasting class have accomplished the following:

Students spent a Saturday at a workshop for broadcasting students working with an acting/speech coach. Students learned how to speak, enunciate and appear on camera, using speech techniques that are used by stage actors.

VMSTV students attended and covered the red-carpet premiere of the high school broadcasting program’s newest documentary on hunger in San Diego, called *One in Seven*. The premiere was held in San Diego’s Gaslamp District.



VMSTV students, Andrew Ferreira and Adrian Retzer, cover film premiere in San Diego.

## Advanced Art

Valley Middle School students can enroll in Advanced Art when they are in eighth grade. This fall, Advanced Art students will be creating acrylic canvases with their teacher and guest artist Gerrit Greve. The student’s artwork will be on display at Scripps hospital as part of a collaborative group show with area schools, and their work will be auctioned off, with the proceeds benefitting the Family Health Centers of San Diego. The project will conclude with a published book that will chronicle their artistic journey.

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**Elise Cruz**, 2011 communication graduate, transferred to National University



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# City Programs Support Parents.



**Kristina Ray**  
Communications  
Manager

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

whether to sign up for a full session? The city is offering several “Try it for Free” sample classes; check the Community Services Guide—which is delivered three times a year to households signed up to receive it and is available at community centers—or visit any community center for a class schedule.

One of my favorite ways to stay in shape is walking, and the city has more than 45 miles of public trails to explore. You can download trail maps on our website to find out locations, level of difficulty and trail features.

Adults age 50 and older can stay current with new technology through classes like Buying & Selling on EBay and Craig’s List; Skype; Internet Literacy and Security; and Emailing Photos. Sign up online at [www.carlsbadconnect.org](http://www.carlsbadconnect.org)

Can’t commit to a class? Take some time to relax in the city’s sculpture garden, a little known gem located behind the city’s Cultural Arts Office at 2955 Elmwood St., just north of the Cole Library. The current exhibit features metal works of art by Elon Ebanks. In this delightful exhibition, Ebanks has seemingly turned metal into music.

Speaking of art, the city’s Cannon Art Gallery is featuring more than 120 puppets from all over the world. This exhibition is on loan from the International Puppet Museum of Pasadena and features a portion of the Alan Cook Collection, founder and director of the museum. See the world through wooden eyes with puppets from Bucharest, Palermo, Bali, Africa, Asia, North America and many more points around the globe. The World on a String: Puppets from the Alan Cook Collection exhibit is on display now Dec. 30.

We always are encouraging our kids to read, but when is the last time you enjoyed relaxing for an hour of uninterrupted reading? Carlsbad city libraries are open seven days a week and always open online. The library has a large collection of downloadable audiobooks and audiobooks on CD. E-books are new to the library and can be downloaded from the library’s website to iPhones and iPads as well as a variety of e-readers. Titles include everything from best sellers to mysteries to romance. Like to talk about what you’re reading and meet new friends? The library’s book clubs provide an opportunity to meet new people and read and discuss a wide range of books.

For more information about all these ideas, and more, visit the city’s website at [www.carlsbadca.gov](http://www.carlsbadca.gov)



# The Case for College



**Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent /  
President

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

made 24 percent more than those with a high school diploma, and holding a bachelor’s degree equates to earnings of 83 percent more—up 53 percent from three decades ago. The Hamilton Project, a research group in Washington, points out that college tuition in recent decades has delivered an inflation-adjusted yearly return of more than 15 percent—8 percent higher than the historical return of stocks, and 14 percent higher than real estate. Beyond pay, studies consistently show that higher education levels are also tied to greater happiness and better health.

While the arguments for obtaining a higher education are clear, what is less clear is how students and their parents can afford this investment. As the cost of higher education continues to soar, many are turning to costly loans and accumulating staggering debt to pay for higher education, especially those attending for-profit universities, which generally have the highest fees and the lowest graduation rates in the nation.

The smart alternative is to attend a community college like MiraCosta College. With tuition currently at \$36 a unit, California’s community colleges remain affordable. In fact, attending MiraCosta College and then transferring to a school like UCSD will save most students more than \$24,000 over the course of their undergraduate education; transferring from MiraCosta College to CSU San Marcos will save nearly \$11,000. Besides the lower fees, community college students have full access to the same types of state and federal financial aid as students at four-year universities, plus can apply for scholarships that are either based on need or performance.

Visit one of our campuses in Cardiff or Oceanside, call us at 760.757.2121 or visit us online at [www.miracosta.edu](http://www.miracosta.edu). I am confident you will quickly see that our competitive advantage extends beyond cost savings—classes have lower faculty-student ratios, teachers are fully dedicated to teaching and programs are targeted specifically to help students succeed.

CARLSBAD KIDS ARE GOING GREEN! • FROM PAGE 1

## The Green Zone

Recycling will become part of every school day. Students will separate recyclables such as paper and plastic from the trash in their classroom, then place them in larger receptacles at a campus Green Zone.



At lunchtime, kids will separate recyclables and place green waste in a composting bin. The compost will be used to nourish site gardens.

School communications will be as paperless as possible. Overall, the project will drastically reduce the volume of trash, translating to a substantial savings in refuse costs.

Ultimately, it’s all about sustainability. By teaching our children to care for their environment, we help ensure that our children’s children will have a healthy environment in which to thrive.

More information <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Carlsbad-Kids-Go-Green/164433180307647>.



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For more information contact Laura Harvey at [lharvey@uclaextension.edu](mailto:lharvey@uclaextension.edu) or (310) 825-4581.



All of our elementary and middle schools rely on their PTA/PTSA as a powerful advocacy group. They work together under the Carlsbad Unified Council of PTAs and operate under the umbrella of the “every child/one voice” California State PTA [www.capta.org/], which leads the fight to provide children with the education and opportunities they need to succeed.

**Dr. John Roach**

Kym Szalkiewicz, wife to Joe and mom of CHMS students Joey and Brittany, joined PTA at her son’s Kindergarten Roundup and has been a key force ever since. She currently is President of the Carlsbad Council, which after forming at the beginning of October 2010 charged immediately into overdrive after that month’s incident at Kelly. “I was really proud of the way our school PTAs stepped up,” Kym recounts. “We organized to provide meals to Kelly staff for two weeks.”

**This “Ain’t” Your Grandma’s PTA**

PTA does a lot more than serve cupcakes. Volunteer advocates make a difference locally and state-wide. They track legislation, testify before legislative committees and the State Board of Education, serve on statewide committees and confer with elected leaders.

One advocate is Jon Nalbandian, a busy mortgage broker, husband and father of two children, including Alexander, a fourth-grader at Poinsettia. He is actively involved in PTA, with an emphasis on active.

Jon relates, “I joined PTA at the behest of my wife, and served as unit level chair at Poinsettia before taking on the responsibility last year of serving as Ninth District Vice President of Legislation. The experience was exhilarating and time-consuming, but absolutely worth it. One area of concentration was advocating for stable funding for schools.”

He concludes, “The experience taught me a lot. The more you learn, the more you realize you need to be involved.”

Kym concurs: “We have a powerful voice. When parents join the PTA, they not only have access to a wealth of information and resources, but they also increase the PTA’s power and reach.”

I urge you to get involved, at whatever level is most comfortable to you. You don’t have to be a parent or teacher to be PTA; dues start at just \$10 per year.

Let’s all advocate for our children!



At their initial meeting of the year on September 12, 2011, members of the Carlsbad Unified Council of PTAs displayed their “check” for \$760,000, reflecting the “saved revenue” of total volunteer PTA hours provided to sites during school year 2009-10. Dr. Roach thanked them for their support, saying, “Your work is appreciated and valued at the District. Your voice is truly heard in Sacramento.”



**Lisa Rodman**  
*President*



**Kelli Moors**  
*Vice President*

**Carlsbad Unified School District Board of Trustees**



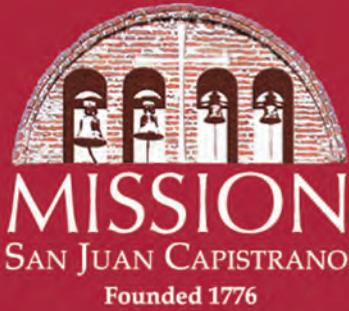
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