

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

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FEBRUARY-APRIL 2015

SUPERINTENDENT



Sprinting Their Way to Victory

Besides graduating students who achieve academically at colleges across the nation, CUSD fields powerhouse teams that bring honor to our schools and recognition to our athletes.

Last August Carlsbad High School earned the designation as the Number One Sports Program in California by Max Prep. This award is given to the California high school with the most CIF Champions, CIF Runners Up, State finalists, and league champs.

Dr. Suzette Lovely

Check out the roster of CHS successes in 2013-14:

State Runner up: Boys Soccer; CIF Champions: Boys Soccer, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Softball, Boys Water Polo, Boys Swim, Girls Water Polo; CIF Finalist: Boys Volleyball, Boys Cross Country; League Champions: Boys Soccer, Girls Golf, Boys Cross Country, Boys Water Polo, Girls Soccer, Girls Water Polo, Softball, Boys and Girls Track, Boys Swim, Boys Golf.

This year Carlsbad HS athletes are again racking up the honors: Girls Golf won the league championship, and Sharon Oh competed in the State sectional. All fall CHS teams made the playoffs, and the Boys Waterpolo are CIF champions. Nathan Williams ran first in the San Diego sectional cross country.

Although Sage Creek High School is in its second year with only freshmen and sophomores, the school fields teams in 18 sports. Remarkably, Cross Country, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Girls Volleyball, Boys Golf, and Boys Tennis are already competing at the Varsity level!. And even more amazing...the Bobcat underclassman in Girls Volleyball were Division 5 CIF champions, while the Boys Cross Country team was a runner-up in league before sprinting their way into the state championship. Athletic Director Cory Leighton says, "I am impressed by the talent and the dedication of our young SCHS team members, and look forward to continue growing these programs."

Amanda Waters, Carlsbad High School Athletic Director, calls CUSD's an "education-based athletics program." "Athletics made such an impact on my life," she reports. "It's not just about winning. Athletes are learning life lessons. Teamwork, resilience—This is what sports are about."

Ten Years and Counting



(B) Doug Perrelli, Sharon Walsh, Lynne Rose, Karen Gamboa, Monica Hills, and Bob Peterson
(F) Susan Roberts, Esmeralda Sandoval, Jennie Vance, and Elva Villarreal. (Not pictured: Susan Bergsma)

Ten years ago, Calavera Hills Middle School was founded on a set of values that included placing students at the center of learning opportunities and a focus on inspirational curriculum that fosters the development of engaged, productive citizens. A decade later, many of the people that determined that vision are still here, and with them, the traditions of excellence remain. In short terms, this is the belief that CHMS is not separate from our surroundings but woven into the fabric of our community. We are a learning community, and we excel because of this interdependence.

One of the traditions alive and well at Calavera Hills Middle School is Coyote Community. Calavera's first team of leaders, as a way to gather as a school community to celebrate and honor one another, created Coyote Community. To hear students howl out the Coyote cheer in unison is to be forever attached to the students that call Calavera Hills home.

"Coyote Cavern Productions" is a play that represents the link between the school and community. Each year, Calavera Hills students from grades 3 through 8 put on a musical that rivals any community theater. It is through community volunteers that our Cavern is

transformed for four standing-room-only nights in which our students become stars. A great many who have taken in a performance choose to return year after year. The crowd is filled with parents of performing students and community members that do not have students at the school as well as officials from the city.

One other special feature of our school is the natural world that surrounds us. As we are located within walking distance of the Calavera Hills Nature Preserve, we have been able connect the work we do in our science classes and our science-based electives to the world beyond our classrooms. Calavera Hills Middle School today is on the forefront of science education. We successfully run science-based field trips at every grade level. Above and beyond sixth-grade science camp, all sixth- and seventh-grade students visit classrooms at the Safari Park, and every eighth-grade student will visit Think-a-Bit Lab, run by a telecommunications corporation, this May.

As we move into the next decade, the spirit is bright. We stand on the shoulders of the staff, parents and students that have made this school great and look out on a future that is bright because of this foundation.

Carlsbad Educational Foundation

5631 Plamer Way, Suite L, Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/929-1555 • www.carlsbaded.org

Young Americans Performers Return

Carlsbad Educational Foundation is excited to host return of the sensational Young Americans performing arts camps in Carlsbad April 6-8, and August 4-8.



Carlsbad students rock the stage at the Young Americans "Jump" Camp!

CEF brought the Young Americans (YA) Summer "Jump" Camp to San Diego County for the first time last summer with great success. Over 85 students, grades 3-12 spent an entire week singing, dancing and performing with a cast of 43 YA performers from around the world. Students performed a finale show side by side with the full YA National Tour cast on the last evening of camp. Young Americans donated 100% of all ticket sales and a portion of all camp tuition back to CEF to raise over \$8,640 for music in Carlsbad schools. Tickets will be available again for spring & summer performances on April 8 and August 8. This is truly a performing arts experience you and your kids don't want to miss!

For more information on upcoming camps and performances visit: CarlsbadEd.org.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The first half of the school year went by quickly. This issue is full of interesting articles from spelling bees to soccer. In today's world students have an abundance of opportunities both in and outside of the classrooms. It is interesting to note that the District focuses on the importance of both healthy minds and bodies.

Please remember to mention to our advertisers that you saw their ad in *School News*. They make it possible for us to continue publishing.

Our next issue is May 13.

School News

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City of Carlsbad
Sign up today!
www.carlsbadconnect.org

Healthy, Active Bodies & Minds



Kristina Ray
Communications
Manager

Friends who live in other parts of the country like to tease me when I talk about the change of seasons here in Carlsbad. Sure, we may not see dramatic physical changes throughout the year, but we do still experience the shifts in focus that come with welcoming a new season.

Spring is the perfect time to get outdoors and enjoy all Carlsbad has to offer. A new campaign led by the City of Carlsbad, Circulate San Diego and the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition can help you do just that. Walk + Bike Carlsbad promotes walking and biking in Carlsbad, with a special emphasis on the Village area. The campaign is funded by the San Diego Association of Governments and will serve as a model for other cities in the San Diego region.

School kids can add more walking and biking into their routines by simply choosing one day a week to walk or bike to school. Live too far? You can pick a spot closer to school to park and still experience the joy and health benefits of a walk or bike ride on your way to and from school. Check the city's website, www.carlsbadca.gov/walkbike for more ideas and information on upcoming events, including family friendly ride- and walk-about and safety workshops.

Camps also provide lots of ways for kids to stay active while meeting new friends and learning new things. The city's spring break camps coincide with the Carlsbad Unified School District schedule, and summer camps start the week after school gets out. Make sure you check out the guide inserted with this issue of *School News*, or view camps online at www.carlsbadconnect.org. Registration starts Feb.25, and Carlsbad residents get a 10 percent discount.

In addition to keeping your body active this spring, you can exercise your mind by taking advantage of our popular children's programs, including science and creative writing, at the City of Carlsbad's three library locations. Enjoy hands on art-making at Family Open Studios, free events led by trained arts educators. Parents, be sure to check out our large collection of digital offerings, including ebooks and emagazines.



Community Dedicated to Education



Dr. Sunny Cooke
Superintendent/
President

I joined MiraCosta College as its superintendent/president in January 2015. I was drawn to North County in general, and to MiraCosta College in particular, because I am eager to be a part of a community that is so obviously dedicated to education.

North San Diego County is home to some of the highest performing preK-12 schools in the country as well as nationally recognized institutions of higher education. This success has contributed to our vibrant economy, a growing job market, strong entrepreneurship, and career opportunities in expanding fields, including biotechnology and health care. Our schools work tirelessly to prepare students for careers and college, and innovative programs like GEAR UP link our middle and high schools with community college to create a college-going and college-prepared culture.

Removing barriers to higher education is a priority at MiraCosta College. That's why the college's board of trustees elected to waive enrollment fees for concurrently enrolled high school students, giving them a better opportunity to earn college credit and get a taste of college life. MiraCosta College students also save thousands on their way to earning a four-year degree and transfer to universities with significantly less student loan debt.

For those students seeking the skills they need to start a technical career, MiraCosta College has opened a new Technology Career Institute (TCI) in Carlsbad. The TCI provides training for careers in the high-tech manufacturing, maritime technology and biotech manufacturing industries. The center is set to open in early spring 2015.

The beauty of education in North County is that opportunities are everywhere. Those ready to continue beyond high school can find the education or training they need at MiraCosta College, and students who are ready to earn a bachelor's or master's degree don't have to leave the area to do so because our region is home to Cal State San Marcos.

Walk + Bike Carlsbad = Good for You and Your School

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Get moving this spring with a new campaign called Walk + Bike Carlsbad, designed to promote walking and biking in Carlsbad.

Join us for:

- + Events at local schools
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- + Events about walking and biking safety

Find out more about these fun, free events at www.carlsbadca.gov/walkbike.

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Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • www.aoes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Leslie Harden
Principal

Healthy, Strong Bodies Are the Rule!

Students in the Carlsbad Unified School District are provided a well-balanced and comprehensive educational program at all schools. Aviara Oaks has the unique opportunity to enhance that program through the generous educational and financial support of our PTA. With funding provided by our parent organization, PE specialists Julinna Bert and Jamie Lewis meet with classes twice weekly to provide physical education instruction in the areas of fitness, nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices.

Grade-level standards emphasize motor skills and movement, developing core and body strength, building knowledge of activities for lifelong health and fitness, and learning cooperation, sportsmanship and team-building. Students work with a variety of equipment and materials—balls, hoops, sticks, parachutes, jump ropes—in a variety of groupings: individual, partner, small group and teams. They learn why exercise and nutrition are important and how both are important lifestyle choices.



Students work on skill building and coordination during PE classes.

This year, to further build on student fitness, parents Marie Grandinetti, Anne Iverson and Brigitte Herbst have started a second-grade running club. Each Wednesday, students grab their lap cards and spend their morning recess running. Parent volunteers record their lap counts. For each mile run, students receive a foot charm to add to their running necklace. Additionally, charms are awarded when students reach the 3 mile, 5 mile, 10 mile and marathon marks. Progress is then entered into a database and shared with classroom teachers each week so that student and classroom goals can be set. The running club is a huge hit with second-graders, and we look forward to extending the club to other grade levels next year.

We know that physical activity improves the cognitive performance of students, and we are appreciative of the support we receive from our community.



Brigitte Herbst helps students select lap cards for recess running.

Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

6880 Ambrosia Ln., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • www.aoms.schoolloop.com



Bryan Brockett
Principal

Real-Life Volcanologists

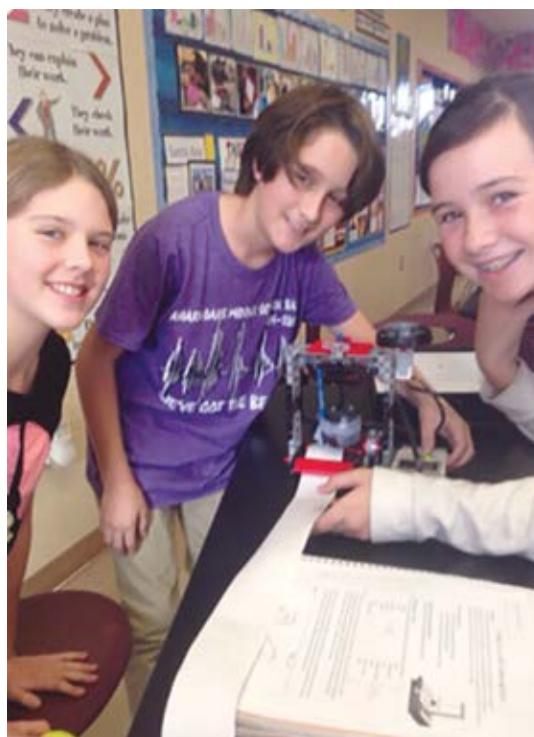
Aviara Oaks Middle School's sixth-grade students recently jumped into new roles as scientists and engineers as their teachers led them through a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) focused unit on volcanoes. Teachers Ashley Crawford, Leslie Frazee, Nicole Moersch, and Beth Riis designed the unit for the students, complementing the sixth-graders' study of volcanoes and culminating in the students designing, building, and testing working seismographs.

The teachers wanted to encourage the integration of STEM components into their classes, as well as to highlight the engineering strand in the forthcoming Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Just as teachers in all areas have transitioned to Common Core State Standards, science teachers are preparing for the full adoption and implementation of the NGSS in the coming years. Encouraging their students to become volcanologists provided a meaningful, hands-on, problem-based learning experience for students that replicates the kinds of real-world problems that scientists and engineers face in the field.

The students' initial study of volcanoes included reading about Hawaii's Kilauea volcano on the district's newly adopted reading program, Achieve 3000, followed by testing and graphing magma flow velocities, and finally building a seismograph that would detect three different types of earthquakes in order

to predict a volcanic eruption. Mrs. Crawford said, "We are excited to begin finding more ways to incorporate STEM and the NGSS engineering strand into our classrooms."

The students' enthusiasm was apparent. The designs were varied among the groups and between classes, and the groups faced challenges at each step of their building and testing processes. Mrs. Moersch reminded her students that even in the real world prototypes take refining to reach their full potential and that much can be learned from design flaws. That approach provided a great opportunity for the students to reflect and learn, regardless of the outcome of their projects.



Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • www.buonavista.schoolloop.com



Tina Howard
Principal

Exploring the World of Science

Buena Vista held its annual Science Day on Friday, January 16. The event included amazing and varied opportunities for our students to engage in a rich curriculum of science, while also being “wowed” by their teachers, staff, and parent volunteers.

The crazy kickoff began on Thursday afternoon with a school-wide Mad Science Assembly. This fire and ice exploration resulted in an action-packed assembly where everyone discovered how hot and cold can impact various liquids.

Science Day assemblies were held for each grade. The kindergarten students got a visit from the Rancho Coastal Humane Society, where warm and fuzzy visitors created an optimal interest level for their lesson on pet care. The Lizard Wizard also visited the students in grades one to three for a fun, interactive assembly. It was complete with live and friendly animals such as turtles, frogs, lizards, snakes, and arthropods.

SDCOE’s Splash Science Lab also worked with our fourth- and fifth-grade scientists as they explored how water pollution affects our beaches, estuaries, and neighborhoods. This has empowered them to help reduce water pollution.

For the remainder of this treasured school day, the teachers in grades TK to five worked together under the leadership of kindergarten teacher Sharon Zak to plan and implement a variety of hands-on investigations across the campus. Teacher-led activities and experiments included “Gobly, Goobly Oobleck,” where students transformed liquids to solids by adding pressure. There was also “Tasty Time,” where they explored the four taste profiles and developed a vocabulary to describe how items tasted.

The “Float My Boat” activity explored buoyancy to help design and create a boat that floated and carried cargo. The first and second grades studied “Mysterious Bubbles” and “Ooey Goopy Science Goop.” Here the students created goop that could be stretched, pulled, and bounced. The “Colors on the Mooove” activity showed how positive and negative molecules interact and cause colors to move.

In grade three there was “Straw Towers,” where the students built structures out of straws designed to hold a load. They also had



“Bubble-icious,” where waving bubble wands predicted what shape the bubble would create.

In grades four and five the students studied “Dazzling Density.” Here they learned about the physical properties of different liquids and “stacked” them in a beaker. There was also “What Do Yeast Like to Eat?” The students determined what food yeast likes to eat by testing a variety of items and observing the reactions.

Finally, with “Exciting Electricity and Magnificent Magnets,” they created series and parallel circuits and explored the world around them with a variety of magnets.

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Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

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Dr. Amy Bryant
Principal

Focus On Technology

The new year kicked off with a bang at Calavera Hills Elementary School (CHE)! Our students, parent, and teachers returned from break ready to focus on brand-new, technology-based learning programs.

The use of technology for teaching and learning is the wave of the future. At CHE, we are ahead of the game. Our students are preparing to be college and career ready by reading non-fiction text and writing using new programs called RazKids and Achieve 3000. In the math arena, our students are applying and reinforcing Common Core State Standards concepts using a new program called TenMarks Premium. Adaptive technologies allow students to work at their individual levels and to be challenged, too. Students are also engaging in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities such as robotics and computer coding.

Our site is focused on increasing the number of computers in each classroom, as well. During this school year, 120 devices were purchased for our students to use every day. Adding technology will continue to be our focus moving forward, so that our students are ready for all the challenges that the 21st century brings their way!

Carlsbad Village Academy

1 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5760 • www.cva.schoolloop.com

Carlsbad Seaside Academy

760/331-5199 • www.carlsbadusd.k12.ca.us/alternative.com



Jorge Espinoza
Principal

Creating a College-Going Culture

The History of Rock and Roll, Kinesiology, Psychology, Art, College Success Skills and College Composition are classes that a number of students at Carlsbad Village Academy are enrolled in currently. The surprising thing is that these classes are not even offered at the school! These are classes that students are taking through Mira Costa College. Students can start college classes while still working on their high school diploma, and the classes that they take at Mira Costa can count toward the diploma. A class that is a three-unit class at the college is equivalent to 10 high school credits.

Mr. Garcia, the counselor, has worked with the students to choose classes that not only interest them but also can count toward a degree. Many students mistakenly feel that because they are behind in high school, they would not have the chance to go to a four-year school. Mr Garcia works to dispel this myth and give students a chance to believe in the possibility of earning a degree.

Carlsbad Unified School District's board of education has changed their policy so that the school can accept up to 40 high school credits from college classes. This creates a college-going culture for students and creates a significant cost savings since high school students only need to pay \$22 to take up to nine units at the college. This is a win-win for everyone. Carlsbad Village Academy will continue to increase the number of students enrolling at Mira Costa. The schedule at Carlsbad Village Academy works well for students that want to take classes in the afternoon.

Independent Study: Responsibilities and Rewards

The second semester is about to begin at Carlsbad Seaside Academy. Many parents have inquired about the program, and the school is about to grow by nearly 15 new students. Many parents come with questions about how the program works and how they can support their students. Based on a parent-information meeting that was held in January, this was the advice that was given: Independent study students need to account for their time. Part of the allure of the program is not having a bell tell a student when to move, eat or leave school. This means, then, that students need to schedule their own school day. Students need to be aware that they have to be mindful of due dates for their work and that they have to meet certain milestones in their classes throughout the semester.

This can be a challenge, but successful students will look at their day and plan times to do schoolwork that work best for them. This takes some getting used to, but so many students at Carlsbad Seaside Academy love this freedom to study when it works best for them!

Students in independent study need to pursue other interests while going to school. The freedom to be out in the real world while everyone else is in school can give students the opportunity to pursue sports at high levels, find employment, run a business, take college classes, volunteer, travel or do an internship. This was the case for Drew Renna, a junior at Seaside Academy. She interned with an anesthesiologist, and not only did she get the opportunity to sit in on surgeries but she stated that she also learned more than she would have ever learned in a traditional classroom. The bottom line is that students at Seaside Academy have the chance to experience the world in ways that they would never be able to do if they had to be in a classroom all day long.

Overall, taking control of their own schedule and finding real-world learning opportunities is the recipe for success for students at Seaside Academy. Students will gain confidence and be truly prepared for the real world if they fully embrace the opportunities of independent study. Carlsbad Seaside Academy is a great experience for students in ninth through twelfth grade. Parents and students are encouraged to contact the school for the 2015-16 school year if they would like to explore this possibility.

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Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

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Dr. Joshua Porter
Principal

Continuing the Tradition

*By Talia Cain and Kiana Pestonjee,
Lancer Link Editors-in-Chief*

On January 8, the Carlsbad High School speech and debate team left for Arizona State University to compete at the Southwest Speech and Debate tournament. Over 1,000 students gathered to compete in 15 events ranging from student congress to dramatic interpretation.

For the past two years the team has placed third in a competition that hosts over 70 schools from 10 states. This year they won first-place Sweepstakes, continuing their tradition of superior performance and excellence. In addition to the Sweepstakes championship, Katherine Knorr and Jessica Sidoranova won first place in the Duo Interpretation event, and Isabella Lee won first place in the Prose event.

The Champion Lancer program, created in 2012, sets out to find eight seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher who are also actively involved with extracurricular activities and living a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle. With each passing year the applicant pool has grown larger, and these representatives have reached more and more elementary schools in the community.

The current Champion Lancers have just finished their yearly visits to CUSD elementary schools, where they gave short presentations during lunch. Each member introduced themselves and discussed how they have achieved success by living a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle. These Lancers also had an opportunity to interact with students by handing out their



individual trading cards to connect with those who are involved in the same activities.

In the upcoming months our current juniors will have the opportunity to apply to become a Champion Lancer in 2015–2016.

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Hope *Elementary (K-6)*

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Richard Tubbs
Principal

Meet Mrs. Norton!

Our Hope Hawk staff welcomed some new members to our team this year. Here's a quick look at the newest member to our third grade team—a 2014 Teacher of the Year.

My name is Gabie Norton, and I am thrilled to be here at Hope! I came to Hope from Kelly Elementary, where I taught third grade and special education. I joined Carlsbad Unified in 2003, teaching third, fourth, fifth and eighth grades at Calavera Hills.

It is hard to believe, but this is my 20th year teaching! I enjoy research and reflecting on my practice, and have earned National Board Certification twice—in 2002 and 2010. I love to create a learning environment in which students are working hard, being engaged, and having fun. Attending the University of San Diego for both my bachelor's and master's degrees in education brought me to San Diego from La Cañada Flintridge, and I have never left.



Mrs. Norton and two students love working hard at Hope.

My husband, Rich, and I moved to North County 12 years ago. I am so lucky to have my kindergarten son, Rob, and third-grade daughter, Chloe, here at Hope with me. We also will move this year to a house that will allow us to walk to school!

If I had free time, I would be paddleboarding on the lagoon, having dinner at Las Olas, or walking our sweet old German shepherd along the seawall. Most of the time, I am consumed with all things third grade, my children's active social lives and hanging out with my husband. I am very lucky to work in a profession that allows me to work with great people big and small and have so much fun.

Calavera Hills *Middle School (6-8)*

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Michael Ecker
Principal

Please see our article on the front page.

Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • www.jefferson.schoolloop.com



Chad Lund
Principal

Incorporating Values

Jefferson Elementary boasts an award-winning Lego robotics program. Like many schools across the nation, we started small, and have since grown into a juggernaut.

With 52 students in grades three through five, we have one of the largest and most successful programs in the area. But more important than just success, we offer an opportunity to the students who embrace this style of learning to flourish in an environment that is suited to their particular talents.

Lego Robotics is an inquiry based program. The students are given missions to perform and tasks to complete. First they must design and build a robot. Once completed, the students then continue to make adjustments to the design through a programming process. Then they determine the mission they will attempt. While they are programming the students work with many different concepts, including degrees, radius, and time. Based upon these factors they will determine the best way to complete missions.

Much trial and error is used, or better stated, the students use a good deal of hypothetical determination along the way. FFL is completely hands-on, and as a result, the students are very engaged. No different than a sporting event during competition, you can often hear the cheers, growls, and applause that you would normally have at any basketball or football game.

Jefferson students have also done quite well in competition. They have won first place many times, thanks in part to the dedication of Program Coordinator Ms. Mary Krescanko, our parents, and the students themselves.

While it isn't all about competition, the FLL does incorporate values. They are among the fundamental elements that distinguish FLL from other programs of its kind. Participants learn to compete in a friendly and well-natured manner, while also understanding that mutual gains are possible. Most importantly, they learn that helping one another is the foundation of teamwork.



Kelly Elementary (K-5)

4885 Kelly Dr., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • www.kelly.schoolloop.com



Tressie Armstrong
Principal

Everyone Is a Mathematician

“Argumentation ensures that we pay attention to the reasoning processes of students, not just analyze their procedures.”

Most of us probably remember growing up believing that some people are good at sports, some are good at reading, some are good at art and music, and some are good at math. We remember hearing friends then, and probably still now, remark, “I just have never been good at math!” This year, more than ever, we are being given the opportunity across the country, and specifically within the Carlsbad Unified School District, to challenge those assumptions. With proper instruction and motivation, everyone can be a mathematician!

We celebrate the notion that we must increase students’ abilities for critical thinking, for going deeper into the concepts instead of simply memorizing algorithms. It is no longer acceptable to solve $2+2=4$ without being able to analyze what this truly means. Why does $2+2=4$? What does that mean numerically and in the concept of quantity?

At Kelly School, we are very excited about being able to move away from strict “fill in the bubble” instruction to conceptual thinking, conversation, analysis, and interaction; we are excited about helping the students truly think!

To help us develop our own skills in helping our students think like mathematicians, we have invested in professional development that brought math specialist Mike Fitchett from Just Thinking



Mathematics to our school. We first met Mike at a district-wide professional development day for all teachers in the district. We were so impressed that we brought him to work with our teachers and our students for two whole days. First, he worked with grade-level teachers on the eight mathematical practices that are critical for increasing math competency in our students: making sense of problems and persevering in solving them; reasoning abstractly and quantitatively; constructing viable arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others; modeling with mathematics; using appropriate tools strategically; attending to precision; looking for and making use of structure; and looking for and expressing regularity in repeated reasoning. The teachers enjoyed demonstration lessons and an opportunity to ask questions and share challenges.

Next, Mike walked through our classrooms to present brief math demonstration lessons for the students. Finally, Mike joined us at a PTA Parent Night to share math ideas and strategies and answer questions about math for our parents.

What it all truly boils down to is simply good instruction. The students are growing by leaps and bounds, our teachers are having so much fun with math, and everyone at Kelly School is beginning to truly think like a mathematician!



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Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5600 • www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Jimmy Hines
Principal

Technology Add-Ons

At Magnolia Elementary School, we have always been proud of our use of technology in supporting instruction throughout all of the grade levels. From SMART Boards and ELMO document cams to electronic tablets and a newly updated computer lab, technology has continuously played an integral role in moving the instructional day forward.

Now, with the addition of netbooks to our technology “quiver,” we are ready to move to a new level of utilizing technology to benefit instruction for students. Our new netbook cart, which contains a total of 40 devices, will enable teachers to instruct the whole class, guiding instruction through various Web-based research opportunities and further cementing the use of software applications such as Achieve 3000 and Raz-Kids, which previously had been primarily confined to the computer lab. To be sure, all stakeholders will now be able to work via the Web and cloud-based computing to enhance the learning process through genuine collaboration. Teachers and students alike will be able to share documents and enhance the peer-editing process during guided instruction. This more collaborative model allows for a learning environment that is more dynamic and moves beyond strict lectures to further engage the students in the learning process. In short, it is what project-based learning is all about.



Fifth grade students utilizing new technology!

Another benefit of the netbooks is the affordability of the device. Unlike most other forms of laptops, netbooks sell for well under a few hundred dollars apiece, which makes it feasible to continue to add more devices within a reasonable time frame. Additionally, netbooks will not become an outdated technology, given their ability to refresh automatically; the machines continuously auto-update all elements of their operating systems! In essence, the netbooks will not slow down over time; they will only get faster.

The greatest benefit of the netbooks is that they will enable us to further impart the 21st-century skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, which are so vital to the success of all of our students.

Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com



Robert Devich
Principal

Stellar Spellers

In November, Pacific Rim Elementary School was proud to host our first annual spelling bee! The students, staff and families enjoyed the excitement and preparation that led up to this event. Furthermore, it was fun to see the importance given to the art of spelling, which is often overlooked in these modern times of texting and spell check.

Students in grades four and five first participated in preliminary spelling bees held within their own homeroom classes. Then each class sent the top two performers on to the school-wide spelling bee on



**Spelling Bee Coordinators: Teachers
Anne Blakely and Ashley Hartman.**

Friday, November 21. After a stiff competition, the top three winners were announced from each grade level. In fourth grade, first place was awarded to Erin Yoon, second place went to Aidan DeLange, and third place was Chloe Edelman. Rishi Ramaswamy took home first place for fifth grade, Aakash Chintalapati took second place, and Eitan Levison won third place.

After the success of this year's inaugural spelling bee, we look forward to continuing this tradition next year and beyond.



Fourth grade finalists: Erin Yoon, Aidan DeLange and Chloe Edelman.



Fifth grade finalists: Rishi Ramaswamy, Aakash Chintalapati and Eitan Levison.

Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

2445 Mica Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



Marjorie Giordani
Principal

Soccer Stars and Internet Experts

Poinsettia Elementary School participated in the second annual Copa de Carlsbad tournament, hosted at Sage

Creek High School. Fifth-grade students from several of Carlsbad's elementary schools competed in the soccer tournament. Some of Poinsettia's players had never played a real soccer game, and this was a great opportunity to learn more about the popular sport. Both Poinsettia's girls and boys teams made it to the semi-final games. Great job, Panthers!



Netbooks have arrived! Students are being exposed to more and more computer applications, and the additional class set of computers is a welcome addition. Students are using the netbooks to access informational text, write Google docs, and take district benchmark exams. Students in first through fifth grades took computerized semester math benchmarks for the first time. Fourth- and fifth-grade students are using Google Apps, which is accessed through a Web browser, and working in the "cloud." We are looking forward to the flexibility of accessing documents and projects from any computer or mobile device with Internet access. Staff and students can access their school documents from the lab, the classroom, the public library and even from home!

Pictured is Mrs. Dinsmore's class using the netbooks for the first time. When asked if they would like to go to the computer lab or have the computers in the classroom, all the students opted for the classroom. This excitement and introduction of new technology should help prepare us for state testing in May, when third- through fifth-grade students will be completing six hours of testing on the computer!



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Sage Creek *High School*

3900 Cannon Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/331-6600 • www.sagecreekhs.carlsbadusd.net



Cesar Morales
Principal

Google Apps and Chromebooks

Clickety-clack. Clickety-clack.
“Okay, I just shared my doc with you.”
“Okay, cool. I’ll start with your thesis.”
Clickety-clack. Clickety-clack.

Hear that? That’s the hum of Sage Creek students at work on a peer-editing assignment in their English class.

With the ease of Google Apps and the convenience of a class set of Chromebooks, Sage Creek teachers use precious classroom time to teach and guide students through a typical drafting, peer-editing and revision process on an essay or work on a presentation on Google Slides. Gone are the days when students sit still while the teacher instructs on the drafting process from the front of the classroom. No longer are students asked to sit at their home computer, six hours removed from the teacher’s instruction on revising a body paragraph.



English students using Chromebooks and GOOGLE App’s to peer edit.

Today, Sage Creek students dive into the tried-and-true practices of the discipline, using Google Apps and Chromebooks. Hunched over their assigned Chromebook and tapping away on their Google Doc or Google Slide, students make marked improvements in their writing and digital-literacy skills while their teacher walks around and answers questions. If they are working on an essay, students can easily share their document with their partner. During this time, students give feedback by commenting on the document itself, making it easy for them to make their revision for the final product. Students share these same documents with the teacher, enabling the teacher to manage this process and provide feedback. This approach combines the power of teacher-student contact in addition to the use of advanced technology.

Google Apps and Chromebooks empower teachers to better equip their students by providing immediate feedback on work in a manner that allows students to grow in their writing skills and develop their command of digital literacy. Watch out, 21st century colleges and employers—Sage Creek students are ready for you!



Valley *Middle School (6–8)*

1645 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5300 • www.vms.schoolloop.com



Tom Bloomquist
Principal

Contest Winners

Valley Middle School uses the motto “VMS, it’s THE place to be.” While this may not hold true for everyone, we recently had many of our students and staff members help to perpetuate this motto.

Our social studies department, led by Chair Mr. Terry Allen and teachers Mrs. Dre, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Schepps, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Heberer and Ms. DeJulien, all moderated our school’s recent Geo Bee. Each of our students participated. The winners for each Village were: A (sixth), Darren Wilson; B (sixth), Daniel Hong; C (seventh), Lucas Lowery; G (seventh), Patrick Helcl; H (eighth), Patrick Schaller; and I (eighth), co-winners Gavyn Wilson and Brooke Vinzinski.

These seven students then participated in the finals. This year’s winner was Brookes Vinzinski, with second place going to Patrick Schaller. Congratulations to each participant.

In addition to our geography experts, the PTA recently held the annual Reflections contest. This year’s theme was, “The world would be a better place if…” The students were allowed to use a variety of visual and performing arts media to address this prompt.

Included with their artistic pieces, the students also shared a narrative attached to the theme, such as “The world would be a better place if ... we used social media to LIFT each other up.” Or, “Every time we notice something unique or beautiful about someone else, let’s be brave and tell them.” And, “Everyone is special in their own way, but so many people get overlooked.”

Among the many participants, VMS had four students receive six different certificates. Eli Bensen and Aspen Leman each received an award of merit. Nicholas Change received an honorable mention for his depiction of world peace, and Linnea Howard won three certificates, two as awards of merit and the third as an award of excellence, which pushes her “Life is a Merry Go-Round” piece into the next phase of competition. Everyone is to be congratulated for a job well done.

Finally, teachers Lori Vallen and Beth Thomason, with help from Carleen Proctor and Sue DeWulf, hosted our first-ever Organizational Boot Camp. The idea was borrowed from AOMS. Sixty students and parents showed up for the first of a four-week series on how parents can help students become better organized and more successful in their school work. A special thank-you goes to these teachers who are spending their free time helping ensure the success of our students.



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Build It Back Again



Kate Karp

I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks.

Build It Back Again by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even

with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking “Monkeys Driving Cars” tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, “Moment of Noise” seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in “Hairy,” “Maybe Maybe Not” and “What Kind of Bear Are You?”

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*—good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.



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



You!



Susan D. Marshall

One of the things colleges allow to get to know you better is a Brag Sheet. Yes, you heard correctly. The Brag sheet!

It is also known as the College Admissions Resume. It is an opportunity to show the admissions committee what distinguishes you from every other applicant they are reviewing. The Brag Sheet communicates not only how unique and amazing you are, but reveals to the reader a deeper understanding of who you are: your character and your personality.

Beginning as early as the summer of your freshman year:

You are going to want to keep a record; basically everything you do outside of the classroom. You will want to keep your honors and awards including: newspaper articles, playbills, certificates all in one place.

One quick, easy tip:

Simply take a three ring binder. Fill with plastic sheet protectors and begin filling you're your awards, honors, poems, playbills, newspaper clippings etc. You can get fancy later with scrapbooking or even scan and create an electronic file adding additional photos or videos.

This Brag Book will be invaluable in the future. You will be surprise how many ways it will be useful. Use it when you create that resume; to help jog the memories of those who will write glowing letters of recommendation for you. Use it to make your applications come alive. Stand out from the crowd.

Be Ready... You will need to...Brag - Brag - Brag... The colleges want to know who you are.

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

Leadership Word Search Contest

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

Word Search by Gunnar Coop

Entries must be received by March 15, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished | Organized |
| Caring | Powerful |
| Confident | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model |
| Drive | Strong Willed |
| Enthusiastic | Suitable |
| Focused | Teamwork |
| Independent | Trustworthy |
| Initiative | Understanding |
| Intelligent | |

**Congratulations to Laura Bodensteiner
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!**



Technology...Things of the Past



Charlene Ashendorf

"I've got gadgets and gizmos a-plenty. I've got whozits and whatzits galore. You want thingamabobs? I've got twenty! But who cares? No big deal, I want more". If you are not familiar with these lyrics, you might just have to ask a little girl! Most likely she is familiar with Ariel and "The Little Mermaid."

Doesn't it seem that young people are bombarded by "must have" stuff? I remember a simpler time. I can remember the words as if I uttered them yesterday: "Mom, It's lovely and it lights up and every one of my friends has one." Yes, I had to have one too... that turquoise princess phone. Of course, today, many nine year olds have a cell phone; and landlines, well, kids may not be familiar with that word.

When the Brownie Bullet camera (in the yellow box) was introduced, I had to have one! Photos, film and processing (all terms dropped from our vocabulary) cost me my weekly allowance time and again. But just anticipating the results of my photo shoot was exciting!

At the age of nine I had already written my first short story. The operative word here is "written" as in pen and paper written. The tale of a young girl and her elephant growing up on Mount Kilimanjaro when a chasm in the earth separates the two was one I couldn't write fast enough. I begged my parents to buy me a typewriter. That dream became a reality in 1961 with the release of the IBM Selectric. What a fabulous invention, it was. No longer would the typewriter use the typebar that moved up with great force to strike a ribbon. This mother of all inventions used a typeball that actually pivoted. And what's more, it could be removed and changed which introduced a multitude of fonts! The Selectric changed my life. More coveted than the television, the Selectric was every writer's dream. Now granted it was not a computer with spell check, but ultimately a self-correcting feature became life changing to this young writer. Enrolling in a typing class in middle school added confidence, speed and accuracy to my budding interest in writing.

The history of technology includes many wonders, we never dreamed of: the computer, a PC, the MAC, a tablet, a chrome book, kindle, and the iPad. However, looking back, nothing can compare to the imagination one was forced to unlock with the IBM Selctric. Yes, Growing up with "technology" means many different things for many of us. Most of them, like us... obsolete.

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>

A Bit of History

The Jazz Age: The Roaring Twenties

By D.H. Coop

In American social history, the 1920s period is often overshadowed by the Great War, Prohibition and the Stock Market Crash of 1929. Yet, it was a period of sudden change in the home, on the road, in the economy, in attitudes, and in behavior. These changes seem so second nature to us today that we think they have always been around.

Starting in the home we can see changes in workload, entertainment, and travel spread across the social environment. Prior to the '20s, the housewife scheduled her work according to the days of the week. Washing was done by hand and took all day, along with preparing the meals and caring for the children. Her workload was lightened with new time-saving devices, such as the electric vacuum cleaner, the electric refrigerator and stove, and the electric iron.

Also, the radio changed home entertainment. Before the radio, communities were informed of the local news by the newspaper or gossip at the market or pub. Now it was broadcast (a word from farming for scattering seeds by hand) right in their front rooms, along with other programs. Family entertainment then shifted from board games and singing to sitting and listening to the radio. As the price of the radio dropped, the children moved off to their own rooms with their very own radios. During the day, the programs were centered

Every Step – a Journey!



Tyler Robert Armstrong

I am 11 year old, Tyler Armstrong, mountaineer. At age 9, I set the World Record as the youngest person ever to climb Mt. Aconcagua (22,841 feet). I also set the record for the youngest person to climb Mt. Whitney (14,505 ft) in a single day (age 7), and was the second youngest to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341 ft) (age 8).

Everyone always wants to know why a kid would want to climb mountains? I wanted to start climbing because when I was 6 I watched a nature documentary on the Great Divide. What was interesting about that documentary was that you hiked all the way from Canada to Mexico! Also, my dad had just come back from a hiking trip and showed me some videos. After the video was over I was inspired by what he just had accomplished! The next night I told my parents I wanted to start hiking! Then, after my dad got home I told him, "Let's go jogging." At first I could only go about a quarter mile. The next time I went jogging my goal was a half mile and it kept building from there. About a month later after a lot of hard work, it was time for my first hike!

My first hike was for about 6 miles and I could climb only to about 5,000 feet elevation, but at that time it was very challenging to me. I slowly made it to the top of the mountain and back, but I still made it all the way! The next day I was very sore. About a week later I told my dad that I wanted to do something bigger. We went on the internet and found more mountains that I was ready for. After climbing other local mountains and longer distances, I was ready for my test - Mt. Baldy (10,064 ft)! My dad decided to take a difficult trail up Mt. Baldy for 6,000 feet of elevation gain and 12 miles round trip. That day was very tough and tiring, but I was ready because of my hard training. When we got to the top I could see every thing. I was so high I could see LA! It was amazing that everything was under me, even the clouds! And right there I knew what I wanted to do... Mountain Climb!

After months of hard work I was ready to try to set a record by ... (to be continued).



Publisher's note: I read an article about Tyler and immediately invited him to be a guest columnist. He is such an inspiration and I want our readers to hear his amazing stories. If you can't wait for the next column, please enjoy Tyler's web site! www.topwithtyler.com and www.facebook.com/topwithtyler and www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler

on housewives and sponsored by soap companies, thus the birth of the "soap opera."

Availability of the automobile changed all aspects of life. It provided the housewife with more independence and a more convenient way to do her shopping. Automobiles required better roads and better roads cost money, which caused a shift from railroads to automobiles being the force driving the economy. Restaurants became roadside cafes, hotels became motels, and crime became more mobile. To get the car into everyone's hands, Henry Ford produced the Model T from 1914 to 1927 with the sales pitch of "in any color (black)." Ford outsold all other carmakers until 1927. General Motors allowed credit and sold cars in multiple colors, finally overtaking the Model T in sales.

Credit shifted the sales pitch. Advertising became more scientific, with research and studies. Slogans and sayings were rooted in the '20s, such as "Say it with flowers" and "Don't light three cigarettes with one match." Advertising was given a boost with the Silver Screen and the images it portrayed in dress and style.

Finally, the '20s saw the development of sports and entertainment on a mass scale. Baseball became a national spectator sport. The local bar became a speakeasy that respectable couples could go to and have a drink. The new drink to appeal to women was called the "cocktail"—drinks with decorations. The drinks required illegal alcohol, which was provided by bootleggers in fast cars, which gave birth to the modern race called National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR).

All in all, the 1920s changed the modern home, transportation, the economy, and social life.

Family Literacy: Building on Success



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

There is a ticket to success in business and in life, and that is knowing how to read. As a former fourth-grade teacher, I can tell you that my students' key to success in every area was to be able to read well. Reading takes practice. My six- and eight-year-old grandchicks need to read 20 minutes before bedtime, and one of the parents reads to two-year-old Evan every night. They have read to Evan for over a year now, and it is a routine part of his bedtime. Books need to be age-appropriate. Your local library can help with the selection of books that both entertain and challenge a child. Most teachers will give out a reading list and have books available in their classroom.

Before a child can read, you can help to develop a love of reading by sharing the story with animation in your voice. Keep the child involved by allowing opportunities for your child to interact with the book: "Where is the butterfly?" or "Is this apple red or green?"

As your child learns to read on his or her own, he or she may struggle with maintaining interest or become frustrated with the process. The trick is to build on a success, not continually introduce failure. If the parent reads slowly, stopping now and then so a child can read a word, that helps the child to relax. A child can read a paragraph then follow along while a parent reads a paragraph. At the end of a paragraph, the parent can review any difficult words or recap the storyline to ensure understanding. It is important to constantly encourage the child as he or she reads. Little comments such as "Great!" or "That was awesome!" are cheerleaders to children who are struggling to master something people around them take for granted.

One of the elements that is missing in today's family life is connection. We are ping-pong balls, bouncing from one activity to another, on cell phones and other gadgets, and eating dinner in front of the television. Children who don't feel connected to their parents and siblings often begin a process of seeking attention through negative behavior. That 20 minutes of reading before bed can be a special time of connection. And with the television's images changing every four seconds, reading before bed also allows your child to unwind and go to sleep with ease. Reading together has many benefits for parents as well. I can confirm that I definitely missed those bedtime reading moments when my children grew too old for us to read together. Now at least I have grandchicks!

Once your child is able to read on his or her own, reading together doesn't have to end. Invite your child to read to you while you fix dinner, or curl up together on the couch and read individually. That shared time promotes a love of reading and encourages even the most disinterested readers to invest their time in reading practice. Helping a child learn to read well has tremendous benefit for both child and parent. Children who read well are able to do their schoolwork and homework more independently and don't experience the discouragement that comes from a lack of understanding. Invest in the learning process to save yourself and your child.

In today's electronic society, book reading is competing with all of the media gadgets children enjoy using. Too much of the latter is affecting children's brains, eye sight, temperament, ability to concentrate, need for speed to be attentive, and moral development. A parent's investment in helping a child discover the incredible world of reading is more than helping to develop a skill; it is helping to develop a person.

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



We Have 4 Kids



Jodie Lynn

Question: We have four kids. Two are twins, one girl and one boy. One twin has not been doing well in second grade reading and his teacher has him going to a special reading group in a special needs class. While his twin has compassion the other siblings have been calling him names. This is upsetting him to the point of not wanting to go to school at all. What should we do?

From Jodie: Tell your son that it is not a big deal to need a little extra help in any subject. Give him examples of success stories about famous people, or someone that he can relate to, regarding how they overcame a specific challenge (Michael Jordan failed to make his high school varsity basketball team). Share the same story with the other kids in the family. Stress to them that just because someone is having a few problems with reading, or basically anything, it does not mean that they are stupid. I am almost positive that the other three have had to get help in many things in their lives. It may have been riding a bike, learning how to whistle, hitting a ball or whatever. In fact, there may be something currently that they would like to do better because it's not up to what other kids have achieved or perhaps how they personally would like to do it. If we can remind others of where we have failed in various times in our own lives and worked hard and straightened things out, it makes challenges appear not so impassable and inspires instead. You might also be sure that you or another adult in your household are the ones that practice reading with your son in a private area. This way, compassion, love and patience can be the cornerstone of the learning process.

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

Ask Dr. Shari

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



**Dr. Shari
Sweetnam**

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

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

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

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

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