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Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District

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MAY 2015

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Suzette Lovely

Over the course of the last month Carlsbad Unified has been busy implementing the new California testing system.

First, I would like to take a moment to thank teachers, parents,

administrators and students for their participation in this new process. It has been a challenging time, and you have risen to the occasion to do your part. We believe that this new system will ultimately assist us to improve our instructional programs to prepare students for success in college, career, and life.

Additionally, I would like to share some information with the Carlsbad community about this new assessment system:

The Top 10 Things the Carlsbad Community Needs to Know About the New California Assessment System

1. The new assessments are part of a comprehensive plan for student success. California has developed a comprehensive plan for high-quality teaching and learning in every school. We have a long way to go, but our work is well under way, with higher academic standards, more decision-making in the hands of schools and communities, and more resources dedicated to schools and to students with the greatest needs. Exciting changes have begun to take place inside our classrooms. Along with reading to follow a story, students are learning to read to cite evidence and draw logical conclusions. They are learning to use math to solve real-world problems rather than merely pick out the right multiple-choice answer.

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Celebrating CUSD's Teacher of the Year for 2015

From the District

Valley Middle School (VMS) and Carlsbad High School (CHS) Broadcast Journalism teacher Doug Green has been named Carlsbad Unified School District's Teacher of the Year for 2015.

Mr. Green's Broadcast Journalism programs at both Valley Middle School and Carlsbad High School give students the real-world experience of writing and producing television news shows. He oversees the live CHSTV morning show, and then crosses the street to teach the middle school program. Students learn all facets of producing television broadcasts with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. They are expected to play different roles both in front of and behind the camera, and to "pitch" stories to their classmates for production. If selected, these pieces are then produced and televised for the school and the greater community.

"I love that my subject area has so much to offer to so many different types of learners," Mr. Green says. "The program is rigorous and reinforces life skills, such as learning to manage deadlines, dealing with technical challenges, and becoming critical viewers. It is hands-on and academic, so students who are not conventional "academic achievers" can find success in the class and take more responsibility for their learning. Together we are a team — a staff of young broadcast journalists."

Meet Sydney, who first walked into Mr. Green's Valley Middle School classroom as a 7th grader five years ago. She learned the basics of television production and before the end of the first semester she had produced her first story for television and was talking about "b-roll" and



Doug Green, CUSD Board President Veronica Williams, Superintendent Lovely, Asst. Supt. Rick Grove.

"nat sound breaks." She learned to investigate and tell compelling stories about people who struggle and triumph.

Four years later Sydney, now a CHS student, produced with a team of three others a story about Kelly Elementary School. There, on October 8, 2010, a gunman jumped the school fence, fired into a lunchtime crowd of students, and injured two of them. Sydney and her fellow student journalists interviewed eyewitnesses, including staff, other students, and first responders, and told a story of incredible recovery and healing.

Sydney's story aired in early April in prime time on the nationally televised PBS NewsHour, and was viewed by over a million people. Sydney will be spending part of her summer this year as an intern with the PBS NewsHour in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Green and the broadcasting students at VMS and CHS have won an impressive list of awards and recognitions: the San Diego Press Club's Drew Silvern Courage in Journalism Award (January 2015); the Middle School Broadcasting Program National STN Award of Excellence (2012-2015); and

See TEACHER OF THE YEAR • Page 13

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City Modernizing Libraries



Kristina Ray
Communications
Manager

When I was growing up in Carlsbad I remember going to the city library on Elm Street. I would thumb through the card catalog looking at the neatly typed entries, amazed at how much information was at my fingertips. Of course, that all seems quaint now, as libraries have evolved into information hubs far beyond anything I could have ever imagined.

The Georgina Cole Library on Carlsbad Village Drive is now one of three libraries operated by the City of Carlsbad, which has more than 100,000 library cardholders. And, contrary to some predictions, library usage is only increasing with the proliferation of online and digital information and materials. That's because

libraries are more than sources of information, they are places for the community to gather to share information, learn new things and collaborate – and these needs are only increasing in our digital age.

This city has been working with architects, designers and the community on plans to renovate and modernize the Cole Library in the north and the Carlsbad City Library on Dove Lane in southern Carlsbad. In addition to basic maintenance the city will reconfigure some of the space to better meet current and future needs, enable greater use of technology, create more spaces for collaboration and provide more efficient customer service.

Don't worry, the project will be done in stages so only one library will be under construction at a time, starting with the Cole Library this fall. During temporary closures, library programs and services will be offered at our other locations, and hours will be temporarily expanded at the Library Learning Center. We are waiting to start the project until after our popular summer reading program, which kicks off June 22 and runs through Aug. 7. This year's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story," with reading incentives and activities geared for babies to adults. The program, like our libraries, encourages a lifelong love of reading and learning.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 11th year publishing the CUSD *School News* and the news never ends. The Superintendent's message on the front page is important information about the new CA Assessment System. Technology in the classroom has become the norm. Common Core is part of our vocabulary. It is an exciting time to be a student and we look forward to continuing to bring the classroom to you through *School News*.

Our next issue is November 11th. In the meantime, have a fun summer. Congratulations to the Class of 2015!

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Ronald Theis, M.A.Ed. '12
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Rialto Unified School District

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We're Giving Away \$8,000

If this was in the “subject” line of an email this would likely go to your “spam” folder, right? You’d think, “free money...not likely”. Believe it! Every year CEF has scholarship funds to provide financial aid for students enrolling in their enrichment camps and classes. This year there is \$8,000 available for financial aid for qualifying Carlsbad students. Here it is May already and we still have \$7,000 left to award by August, 2015. The problem is that families are not applying for it.



So today we are appealing to you to help get the word out. CEF offers 48 amazing K-12 Summer Camps June 22- August 8. Camps include: Dirt Detectives, Movie Making, Comic Con Camp, Clay, Cartooning, Digital Design, Animation, Cooking, Ukulele & Guitar, Sewing, Woodworking, Science Olympiad, and even YOUNG AMERICANS Summer Camp! Applying is so simple. Check out all the camps and get financial aid forms in English or Spanish at: www.CEFAcademy or at your school office. Submit them CEF.



Summer at MiraCosta College



Dr. Sunny Cooke
Superintendent/
President

Carlsbad high-school students will be pleased to learn that MiraCosta College has scheduled 20 classes at Carlsbad’s Sage Creek High School this summer. These classes are available to high-school students sophomore-level or higher, as well as the general public. Students can choose from transfer-level courses in public speaking, English, statistics and Spanish, as well as prep courses in algebra.

The college is also offering a full range of credit courses this summer at the Oceanside Campus, San Elijo Campus in Cardiff and online. Enrollment for summer classes is happening now, and both 6- and 8-week summer credit classes start on June 15.

Check out our summer lineup at miracosta.edu/summer, or call 760.795.6869 to request a class schedule or to learn more.



In Spring 2015, MiraCosta College offered seven classes at Sage Creek High School, including Film101. This Summer, MiraCosta is offering 20 classes at the high school campus.

High-school students who have not yet graduated can complete MiraCosta College courses and benefit from a “twofer”—credits may count toward their high school diploma as well as their college transcript. As an added bonus, MiraCosta College has waived the enrollment fee (currently \$46 per unit) for all concurrently enrolled high school students.



MiraCosta College’s new Technology Career Institute is located on Las Palmas Drive in Carlsbad.

For those looking to get marketable skills in the technical field, MiraCosta just opened a new center in Carlsbad. The Technology Career Institute (TCI) hosts noncredit certificate programs designed to prepare students for careers in high-tech manufacturing, maritime technology, biotech manufacturing, electronics and robotics/automation.

The Technology Career Institute is located at 2075 Las Palmas Drive in Carlsbad. For more information on any TCI’s training programs, call 760.795.6820.

MAKE MIRACOSTA COLLEGE PART OF YOUR SUMMER PLANS

High school students not yet graduated pay no enrollment fees!





Summer credit classes start June 15.
Enrollment begins April 20.

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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

Off to See the Wizard

Under the direction of music teacher Vanessa Gerads and with the help and support of many parent volunteers, Aviara Oaks Elementary School presented “The Wizard of Oz” in two performances at the Community Arts Center. Rehearsals began in November, as more than 70 students in third through fifth grades learned lines, lyrics, and choreography to tell the story of Dorothy, the Midwestern girl who is magically transported to the Land of Oz. Through the rehearsal process, students learned and developed vocal, acting, and theater concepts, which they then applied on stage. They applied thinking skills during the creative process by developing ideas about their characters, adjusting and refining their characters through evaluation and problem solving. Students learned to identify, analyze, and self-evaluate their work through the performance and rehearsal process.



Vivian Conte as Glinda, the Good Witch, helps Dorothy to see “there’s no place like home.”



The Wicked Witch, played by Bella Lorentzen, underestimates Dorothy and the power of good over evil.

“The Wizard of Oz,” after last year’s production of “Aladdin,” was an ambitious goal, requiring the production crew to recreate not only the Kansas set but also the fantastical Oz, including Munchkinland, the Wicked Witch’s castle, and the Emerald City.

“This year’s production was multi-dimensional, transitioning between locations and characters. I’m always impressed with our students’ abilities to make their hard work look easy. Our students look forward to the yearly musical, and I enjoy producing a program that helps our students express themselves creatively. I enjoy seeing the students in a context away from the classroom and watching them grow artistically through the rehearsal process,” said Mrs. Gerads. “We are so fortunate to have so much talent, and our production of ‘The Wizard of Oz’ was our best yet.”



Dorothy (Grace Porter), Scarecrow (Tess Kelly), Cowardly Lion (Bridget Palmer), Tin Man (Tayla Pike) and Toto (Kaitlyn Jensen) travel the yellow brick road in search of The Wizard of Oz.

Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Bryan Brockett
Principal

Fantastic Finish

It is a fun and exciting time at school as we roll into spring and on through to the end of the school year. Students have a number of opportunities during the spring to celebrate and showcase their hard work over the course of the year. The broadcasting students attended the Student Television News conference for four days in April. They were among 2,700 student broadcasters from all over the nation who were there to learn from industry leaders and compete with their peers. The AOMS crew made a strong showing, with a second-place award for “Crazy 8s,” and students Brady Caskey and Noah Secades brought home an honorable mention in the Spot Feature category.

Broadcast students aren’t the only ones who have had the opportunity to hone and showcase their skills this spring. AOMS dance students performed at the Dance Showcase, an assembly for their peers and parents. Students in orchestra, art, drama, and dance all had opportunities to attend workshops at Disneyland or Universal Studios this spring, providing the students with opportunities to learn from some of the best in the entertainment business and to show off their talents as well. Finally, band students make their biennial trip to San Francisco in late April for the World Strides Heritage Festival. There they competed against students from all over the country in two days of performances.

We are also making final preparations for exciting end-of-the-year activities for our eighth-grade students as we celebrate their transition to high school. Activities include an eighth-grade dance, a barbeque, and a yearbook signing day. The promotion ceremony itself will be held June 11 here at AOMS.

As we bid farewell to our eighth-graders, we are also preparing to welcome a new class of sixth-graders to AOMS for 2015–2016. Student orientation days and a parent information night are already behind us, and our Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) team is preparing to welcome approximately 360 incoming sixth-graders for an orientation day in late August—and we will start building up to all of the exciting events of next year.

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Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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Tina Howard
Principal

Final Improvement Phase

Each year, the CUSD School Board develops goals tied to our district's state funding. This local-control accountability plan guides the school district's program for the school year. This coming summer, Buena Vista will benefit from the final stage of a three-year capital-improvements plan tied to these goals and this plan.

The first project will be removal of the Torrey Pine trees. These trees, while amazing in stature and treasured for their longevity on the campus, need to be removed. The trees drop sap that is very difficult to remove from buildings, sidewalks, and children's clothing and shoes. Many of the trees are also beetle infested. But the main reason is that they are dangerously close to buildings and their roots are impeding our sewer lines. Once removed, the area around the trees will be planted with drought-resistant plants, giving our campus a fresh, modern update.

The next project is the complete remodel of both our kitchen and auditorium. The 52-year-old structure will remain the same externally, but the interior will be completely gutted. Inside, we will have a new stage, curtains, lighting, sound system, flooring and doors. There will be a new HVAC system, too. The kitchen will be brought up to current code requirements, and the building will be ADA compliant.

Finally, our school garden will be replaced with a new garden with a raised-bed planter and a watering system. Our classes will be able to work together to grow fruit and vegetables that they can then prepare for snacks in their classrooms. Our current greenhouse and arbor will be relocated, which will add nicely to our new garden area.

While the BV students are away this summer, the Buena Vista campus will be bustling with construction crews and specialists. When students and families return this fall, they will be amazed by the wonderful cosmetic and structural improvements provided to their school site. Thanks go to our CUSD School Board and Dr. Lovely for prioritizing the Buena Vista campus in this way!

Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6300 • www.ches.schoolloop.com



Dr. Amy Bryant
Principal

Steaming Along!

Calavera Hills Elementary continues to be ahead of the pack, with innovative science, technology, engineering, and math projects (STEM).

Thanks to the leadership of two teachers – Michele Ward and Jessie Dooley – our students found a way to apply the knowledge they have learned in both the regular classrooms, as well as in the hands-on enrichment science classes as provided by the Carlsbad Education Foundation (CEF).

Since Calavera Hills Elementary has an esteemed arts program, our students decided to add an extra “A” to represent the arts and create a “STEAM focus” for its magazine. Completely student run, written, and produced, *The Coyote Howl* brings local community members into our school to share how our teachers and students now focus on STEAM academic areas.

On Fridays, the students also produce a podcast featuring one of our local community members as a special guest. For example, Carlsbad Unified School Board Trustee Claudine Jones, local artist and muralist Bryan Snyder, and Carlsbad Mayor Pro Tem Keith Blackburn have all been highlighted in the podcasts.

The community is taking note of this project, too. In fact, the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce has recently selected *The Coyote Howl* team as a finalist for Outstanding Education Program Award in the STEM category.



The TEAM!

Our Coyotes are definitely “STEAMing” down the coast in academics, and building community partnerships all along the way! Please check out *The Coyote Howl* by visiting our webpage at <https://ches.schoolloop.com>. Click on the link “COYOTE HOWL.”

Calavera Hills *Middle School (6–8)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-6400 • www.calavera.schoolloop.com



STEM

This year at CHMS, volunteers made up of staff members and parents joined a design team to examine the identity of Calavera Hills Middle School work in order to brand it with a signature practice, a new logo and specific colors. What came from this team was a decision to focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education at CHMS. The decision was purposely made as a way to add to an area of strength. Calavera is known for a tradition of excellence in science education. Teachers work hard every day to ensure that science in the classroom is engaging, student driven and experiential.

Using Project Lead the Way curriculum, we will be adding two new STEM electives this coming year: a course called Automation and Robotics and a biomedical course called Medical Detectives. Additionally, our three-year plan places a new STEM elective to be added to the school in each of the following two years. The first of these courses will be called Design and Modeling and will make use of 3-D imaging and 3-D printing, coming onboard in the 2016–17 school year.

One of the perks of being a student at CHMS is a science-based field trip in each grade level. With the addition of the Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab field trip for eighth-graders, Calavera now will have students attending a STEM-based field trip in each grade level. Sixth-graders go to the labs at the San Diego Institute of Conservation Research to study the effects of climate change on the polar bear, and students in their seventh-grade year also attend the institute to study reproductive endocrinology in African elephants. Additionally, we will continue to offer our outstanding Science Olympiad and Lego Robotics programs to all students. These exciting extracurricular programs are teacher sponsored, supported by the community, and offer students a unique opportunity to experience STEM-based teamwork, collaboration and competition outside of classroom.

The future is bright and engaging at CHMS. Go Coyotes!



Michael Ecker
Principal

Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

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



Dr. Joshua Porter
Principal

Making an Impression

By Talia Cain and Kiana Pestonjee, Lancer Link Editors

As another year comes to an end, CHS is preparing to graduate over 700 seniors in June. These students have been accepted to prestigious universities such as Dartmouth, USC, NYU, the Naval Academy, Princeton, Cornell, Cal Tech, MIT, and Harvard, as well as most of the UCs and CSUs. CHS also completed another year of successful AP testing, and looks forward to celebrating the successes of our students.

CHSTV continued their successful streak at the national Student Television Network Convention in April, winning the Award of Excellence for the eighth consecutive year. Our broadcasting program faced their most competitive convention to date, with over 100 schools from across the nation participating.

CHSTV was also featured on the PBS NewsHour in April for their original documentary about the shooting at Kelly Elementary. This documentary leaves viewers with the message that we can rise above adversity and come together to build a stronger community. Their piece, along with work from students across the nation, is now being featured on the PBS NewsHour's website in a new student-produced series called The New Safe.

The CHS Drumline placed second in the championships at the SCPA regional competition. In order to make it to the championship round, the band had to place in the top three in the preliminary against four other sections in San Diego and Los Angeles County. Their advancement to championships was the first in over six years of marching band history. Many hours were spent preparing, and the practice was geared specifically towards achieving success in the championships.

Seven CHS students from Odyssey of the Mind recently placed first in their regional, which qualified the team for state competition at UC Riverside. Competing at State against over 100 teams, Paulina Roche-Vasquez, Stefan Brkovic, Nelson Girod, Trevor Martin, Kate Carter, Hale Ambrose and Sydney Hack used their creativity and understanding of physics to push the limits and become the only team to win the highest award in the program, the Rantra Fusca.

The students will be moving on to the World Finals Competition at Michigan State University in late May, where they will compete against over 800 teams from around the world.

Carlsbad Village Academy

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



Continuation High School Means Opportunity

According to the California Department of Education, a continuation high school is an option that has been around for students since 1919. It is designed to meet the high school diploma requirements of students who are 16 years of age or older and have not yet graduated from high school, and have not yet reached the age of 18.

Continuation is a program for students who are at risk of not completing their schooling, or who are behind in their credits for graduation. It is also a program that is designed to provide a flexible educational environment for those who need to work or have other family obligations. Overall this model provides the opportunity that many students need to finish high school.

Carlsbad Village Academy fits the model that has been set by the California Department of Education. Its schedule works well for students because of the later start and earlier dismissal times. This provides ample opportunity for students to seek employment or attend a community college class. The school is also on the trimester system, which gives students the opportunity to recover a significant number of credits during an entire school year.

Jorge Espinoza
Principal

Carlsbad Seaside Academy

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

Continuation also has smaller class sizes, which means that our teachers get an opportunity to interact with students on a regular basis. Teachers and students also have a greater chance to form more positive relationships in continuation school, which is often the driving force behind many students deciding to refocus their efforts and finish high school.

There is often a misperception about the students and programs at a continuation high school. This often changes once people realize that the teachers and staff are supportive, and genuinely want to see students succeed. This makes Carlsbad Village Academy a great option for those individuals who just might need the smaller environment and flexible schedule in order to succeed.

The best advice to give to a parent who has a son or daughter referred to this program is to meet with our staff and see how Carlsbad Village Academy can provide a real opportunity for success.

Those parents and students who are interested in enrolling at the Carlsbad Seaside Academy can attend an informational meeting on Monday, June 15 at 4 p.m.

Congratulations Class of 2015!



Hope Elementary (K-6)

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



Richard Tubbs
Principal

The Power of Kindness

Kindness, an important part of our school culture, has been reinforced since the beginning of the school year in weekly messages from the principal during assemblies and emphasized by teachers in the classroom. We took another step to redefine what it means to practice Helping Another With Kindness (HAWK) when our school psychologist, Vandy Frost, created an acronym to reflect this new school goal.

Like hundreds of schools across America, Hope Elementary School was an active participant in the Great Kindness Challenge; we were also one of the original schools to start the program. To

continue to create opportunities for acts of kindness, we started Team HAWK, a club where we focus on being kind through our actions. Students currently meet every other week with the coordinator, Mrs. Lyon, to develop activities that meet the needs of others. Our group of students has enjoyed reaching out to the community by creating cards and notes of encouragement, which we delivered for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day to the residents of Sunrise Senior Living community.

Our biggest Team HAWK project has students currently working to support Project Hope Alliance, providing homeless children with backpacks filled with school supplies, lunch bags, books, and personal hygiene kits. Our gofundme.com/pfdemc Web site has generated donations for these supplies, and we also received 350 bottles of soap from a soap manufacturer to include in the hygiene kits.

We are proud of our Hope Hawks and their efforts to show our community the power of kindness.



Students demonstrate what it means to be a H.A.W.K. by sharing cards with community members at Sunrise Senior Living.



Members of Team H.A.W.K. delivered notes of encouragement to Sunrise Senior Living community.

Kelly Elementary (K-5)

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



Tressie Armstrong
Principal

Wonder Workers

We can do no great things, only small things with great love.
~ Mother Teresa

Congratulations to the incredible team of Kelly Elementary School Instructional Aides for being selected by Carlsbad Unified School District to receive a prestigious Team Power award!

As Mother Teresa states above, small things done with great love truly are the great things in our world. At Kelly Elementary School, there is a group of educators who embody the concept of performing seemingly small acts day by day, minute by minute.

They are caring for the physical needs of children who may not be able to do these things themselves. They serve as eyes for some, legs to walk for others and a voice at times for still others. They ensure that students understand assignments and break them down into smaller chunks to make the curriculum accessible for children in situations where academics may be a bit more challenging.

These professionals are unassuming and spend their days quietly going about their business in support of case managers, teachers, parents and most importantly, the children. These true angels are our team of incredible instructional aides. What makes the team at Kelly Elementary School extra-special is their true and evident love for the job they do. They are cheerful and dedicated, and work as a strong team. There is support for one another and a sense of joy that accompanies them. At times, I'll be sitting in my office and be able to hear their laughter with the children and one another. These times fill me with a great sense of gratitude.



This team truly cares about one another and the children. They are dedicated, complete their work uncomplainingly and unfailingly, and do it all with great professionalism. This team understands all of the nuances that accompany their work: confidentiality, physical hard work, gentle words and the sense of collaboration necessary for the children to make positive progress in academics and, more importantly, in life-skill development. Their schedules have them begin their day as the children arrive, and their day ends as soon as the children leave, so it's difficult at times to truly celebrate them in a fashion that captures the high-quality service they provide our children.

For these reasons and more, the incredible team of Mirande Cornell, Sharlene McQuerry, June Frieze, Denise Hoey, Vicki Larson, Kerry Martinez, Erica Folkert, Margaux Banks, Alice Keeney, Carey McCormick, Ami Padilla and Judy Jordan have been honored with the CUSD Team Power Award. Congratulations, Team! You are incredible!

Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chad Lund
Principal

A Multicultural Affair

Our students and teachers are hard at work preparing for Jefferson Elementary School's annual Multicultural Festival. While the event is a major fund-raiser, it really provides an opportunity for our school to celebrate our diversity and promote a more global perspective within our community.

This year, there will be several food trucks, inflatable slides and an obstacle course, carnival games, old-fashioned fair games (such as potato sack races), arts and crafts, and many silent auction baskets to bid on. Students will be performing throughout the day, showcasing songs and dances from other countries.

As part of Jefferson's International Baccalaureate (IB) focus, students are encouraged to be active within their community and seek out ways they can make a difference. Our teachers focus on providing educational experiences that will develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

Our children put their learning into practice by giving back to other communities in need. Past projects include providing student-created books for children in Africa, sending socks to people in Japan affected by the tsunami, raising money to save sea turtles, and donating funds earned through recycling to help provide a service dog for a person in need. We've discovered that these small acts of kindness and support for others have gone a long way in building our students' self-esteem and self-empowerment. They are lessons our students carry with them for life.



By hosting our Multicultural Festival, we are able to invite the local community to share in this cultural exchange together. All are welcome—and admission is free. Tickets can be purchased for food, inflatables, games, and other activities. Our Multicultural Festival will be held Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Volunteers are still needed! If you want to have a great time and help raise money to support our students, please send an e-mail to jeffersonpta@gmail.com. High school students can earn community service hours for volunteering! We hope to see you here!



Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Jimmy Hines
Principal

An Association of Support

As I reflect on this past school year, I can't help but think how fortunate Magnolia Elementary is to have the ever expanding and supportive PTA involved in so many aspects of our school. Our PTA continues to grow, given both the increase of the overall population and a greater desire on the part of the community to become more involved in the daily workings of our school.

The resources that our PTA provides are unending and span all grade levels. This year alone the PTA has provided the following: four new classroom computers; 450 hours of high-quality instructional support in grades one to three; an ongoing art program; physical education instruction; kindergarten aides; student planners; a fourth-grade Mission trip; school assemblies; and teacher mini-grants worth \$4,500 in all.

In addition, our PTA continues to support the many annual school functions like the Father/Daughter and Mother/Son events, Science Day (a student favorite), and Staff Appreciation Week. The PTA also supports our continuous "Going Green" recycling campaign that continues to raise thousands of dollars each year.

Perhaps more unique than any of the previously mentioned support, our PTA also takes the initiative to raise the resources for each Magnolia student to receive their own Spirit Wear T-shirt. When anyone visits us on a Spirit Wear Friday they are amazed at the sense of spirit and energy that is created by the presence of so many students wearing and showing their Magnolia pride!

In all, our PTA, led by President Mrs. Heather Bensen, does a terrific job of looking at the "whole" school in terms of providing support. They know well and understand that building support for a school site goes far beyond academics. They take into account what a school's culture represents to the entire learning community.

More importantly, our PTA understands that it's the "people power" which makes the biggest difference in terms of contributing to a school campus. It is not just about getting volunteers for events, but rather, taking the time to get in the classrooms and support the important work of our teaching staff.

As we move forward in these times of continuous change – where there is the appearance of some uncertainties – I am comforted by the thought that Magnolia School has a PTA that continues to grow in every way, and will continue to build capacity regardless of any future challenges.

Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Robert Devich
Principal

The Green Team

Pacific Rim Elementary has some exciting news. We are kicking off 2015 by going Green!

Our Student Council and a dedicated team of parents have created the Pacific Rim Green Team. Parent Megan Biehl and fifth-grade teacher Miss Megan Smith are guiding this environmentally conscious group to take on the recycling and composting tasks on our school grounds.

Fifth-grade Green Team members Christa Prvanov, Cassie Wood, Hayden Logan, and Peter Knorr attended Pacific Rim's first 2015 Character Trait Assembly in January. Each student delivered an educational message to the student body about composting and recycling.

As a result, Pacific Rim now has a garden that includes composting and vermicomposting (worm compost). Worm composting is the use of worms to recycle food scraps and other organic material into valuable soil. The fertile soil can then be used to grow plants.



CarlyRae Jones and Kolby Kuball are 3rd Grade members of the Green Team preparing to guide fellow students on recycling and composting options through lunchtime.



Pacific Rim Fifth Grade Green Team Members Peter Knorr, Hayden Logan, Cassie Wood and Christa Prvanov present green messages to the student body at an outdoor assembly.

A program for collecting uneaten fruits and vegetables is also taking place every Thursday in the cafeteria. New signs on a compost cart, as well as on the recycling and garbage cans, now make it easy for students to follow the plan.

This program has received such a positive response that there are now dedicated Pacific Rim Green Team members. These students wear green "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" shirts, and volunteer during recess time to educate their fellow students about recycling and compost options.

As the program grows, our long-term goals are to add more students to the Green Team and more composting days to help reduce snack and lunchtime waste.



Sage Creek *High School*

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



Cesar Morales
Principal

Adding an "A"

Sage Creek High School is demonstrating that a focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) can coexist with the building of a strong visual and performing arts program. This evolution is creating an enriched STEAM academic experience for all of our Bobcats.

In February we debuted our first-ever musical production of *Grease: School Edition*. With rave reviews and a sold-out run, this experience was a delight for our Carlsbad community! The show's cast, crew, and live band consisted of talented Sage Creek students directed by theatre teacher Jillian Porter. Additionally, Jim Jacobs, the co-writer of *Grease* and a Carlsbad resident, happily collaborated with the production from our first auditions to the final bow!

Jacobs not only helped cast the production, he also frequented rehearsals and coached the student-actors one on one! This experience was truly a once in a lifetime affair for everyone involved, and has paved the way towards a bright future for our Sage Creek High School Theatre.

Come check out the department's next endeavor, as they collaborate with Carlsbad's acclaimed New Village Arts Theatre for a production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Performances will be held at the Center on May 22 and 23. Visit www.sagecreekdrama.com for updates.

While expanding our great visual and performing arts opportunities, our school's signature programs in biomedical science and engineering – which enroll nearly 50 percent of the student body – are also offering new opportunities. The biomedical science elective pathway will offer a medical interventions class, which is the third in a four-course sequence that challenges students to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease.

The students in the engineering pathway will have the opportunity to take "Principles of Engineering," which is the second of a four-course sequence and covers a broad range of topics like strength of structures, automation, and mechanisms. Both of these courses utilize the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Please visit the following site for more information about Sage Creek's STEM pathways: <https://sagecreek-cusd-ca.schoolloop.com/stem>.

These are a few examples of how Sage Creek High School lives out its mission to intentionally create an interconnected community of learning, one that will prepare its students to thrive as responsible citizens in an ever-changing world.




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Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Marjorie Giordani
Principal

Mini March Madness

Mini March Madness took place at Poinsettia Elementary School on March 5. Carlsbad Unified School District (CUSD) in collaboration with the City of Carlsbad Recreation Department hosted the annual basketball tournament. The teams are comprised of fifth-grade boys and girls teams from all nine elementary schools in the CUSD: Aviara Oaks, Buena Vista, Calavera Hills, Hope, Jefferson, Kelly, Magnolia, Pacific Rim, and Poinsettia Elementary Schools. This is an opportunity for the community to

support students and cheer for the players in the district in an active, positive environment. This event displays a great partnership between CUSD and the city, incorporating the Teaching Respect, Unity, and Sportsmanship through Teamwork (TRUST) code of ethics. The perpetual trophy was presented to the winning schools.



Mini March Madness.



Teacher of the Year.

Teacher of the Year

Albert Einstein once said, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Poinsettia's Teacher of the Year, Joyce Lee, proves that statement to be true. It is quite an honor to be nominated by your peers. Ms. Lee's creative strategies and positive attitude are contagious and bring the best out in her colleagues and students. She has a deep understanding of each of her students' abilities and works diligently to help students overcome their challenges to reach their potential. She is admired and respected by all teachers, parents, and students at Poinsettia.

Valley *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Tom Bloomquist
Principal

Tuned In

"Lights, camera, action!" are words we all associate with a theater or drama class. However, more and more, we are starting to hear these words echoed in student broadcasting classes throughout the United States. Valley Middle School and Carlsbad Unified's Teacher of the Year, Doug Green, is one of the teachers that can take the credit for what is happening nationwide.

A very humble and generous man, Mr. Green won't take the credit for the success of such popular programs, but because of his hard work and dedication, students at Valley Middle School have a class that gives them a direct link to the real world. Whether it is in front of the camera, behind it or mixing in the studio, Mr. Green provides students the skills necessary to work in an elite broadcasting program. His ability to inspire and empower his students is a gift that he gladly and energetically shares every day.

In addition to his teaching duties, which regularly go way beyond a regular workday, Mr. Green also runs the Student Television Network, which includes schools from all over the nation. Every year, thousands of students gather for the STN conference, which is being held this year in San Diego. Valley students will be competing in this prestigious gathering during the first week of April. We anxiously await the status of our accomplishments, but even if our students don't win, they are already winners through their time spent with such an inspiring individual.



Mr. Green being congratulated by Principal Tom Bloomquist for winning Teacher of the Year.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

2. The Smarter Balanced assessments are new computer based tests that measure student knowledge of California's English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics standards. These new assessments replace the former paper-based, multiple-choice assessments for students in grades three through eight and grade eleven. The first statewide administration of these assessments is now underway.
3. The new assessments are needed because California has adopted more rigorous academic standards. These emphasize not only subject knowledge, but also the critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem-solving skills students need to be successful in college and career. These standards set a higher bar for California's students to help ensure they are prepared to succeed in the future. Because what students need to know and be able to do has changed, our tests must change as well.
4. These new assessments were developed collaboratively. California worked with 21 other states as part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium to develop these new assessments, as well as the professional and instructional resources provided to help students, teachers and schools throughout the year. Educators – from K–12 to higher education – were deeply involved in the design, testing and scoring of these new assessments. California conducted both pilot and statewide field tests of Smarter Balanced assessments over the last two years.
5. Smarter Balanced Assessments are an improvement over previous statewide tests. The Smarter Balanced assessment system uses both computer-based and computer-adaptive tests, providing students with a wider range of questions tailored to more accurately identify the knowledge and skills individual students have mastered. They include performance tasks that challenge students to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving. The tests measure standards that our K–12 and higher education systems all agree address appropriate expectations for the preparation of high school graduates who are ready for success.
6. Computer-based assessments have benefits for students. Since the tests are taken online, results are available to teachers, schools and school districts much more quickly than results from previous tests. Also, the tests include supports for English learners and students with special needs, allowing these students the ability to effectively demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Additionally, the new system is designed to measure student growth over time, and will provide teachers and schools important information to guide learning.



Students practicing for the new computer-based California assessments.

7. The Smarter Balanced tests are only one measure of student learning. These tests provide one measure of student knowledge of the subject matter, critical thinking, analytical writing, and problem solving skills they need to prepare for and succeed in today's world. These assessments provide important information as to whether students are on track to pursue college and career by the time they graduate from high school.
8. We expect results from the Smarter Balanced Tests this summer. CUSD administration will keep students and families informed as we receive further information from the state.
9. The new tests are too fundamentally different from the old exams to make any reliable comparisons between old scores and new. This year's results will establish a new baseline for the progress we expect students to make over time. Based on trial runs of the new assessments in California and other states, many if not most students will need to make significant progress to reach the new standards set for math and literacy that accompany college and career readiness.
10. This system will help improve teaching and learning. The Smarter Balanced assessments are an academic check-up, designed to give teachers the feedback they need to improve instruction on the new state standards. The tests measure critical thinking, analytical writing, problem solving, and subject area knowledge, providing teachers with multiple sources of actionable information about student strengths and areas where students need additional support.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR • From Page 1

the High School Broadcast Journalism Program National STN Award of Excellence (2008-2015). VMS has won fifteen iVIE Awards and the State of California Golden Bell Award; CHS has won nineteen Student Emmy Awards and a National Telly Award. CHSTV's film component (chstvFILMS) has won numerous international film festival awards for three documentary films; the Peacemaker Award from the National Conflict Resolution Center for the Holocaust film "We Must Remember" (February 2010); the Multiple Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Educational Program" Awards for Technology and Innovation (2000-2007); and the National Technology Educator of the Year Finalist Award (2003).

These awards are a tribute to the high quality teaching and dedication that Mr. Green brings to his middle school students each day.

Of the three highly acclaimed documentaries made by his CHS students — "We Must Remember," "One in Seven: The New Face of Hunger," and "Invisible Threat"— Mr. Green says, "These three documentary films have helped change our world in ways that cannot be measured. That is my greatest accomplishment. Together with my students we have shown that young people are perfectly capable of telling stories that are important and life-changing."

An army of Mr. Green's former students now work in the professional world as news anchors and reporters, filmmakers, and special effects artists — including even an Oscar-winning film editor who started out in Mr. Green's middle school program

"Mr. Green is truly one of a kind," says CUSD Superintendent Dr. Suzette Lovely. "His keen eye for what makes good television has prompted dozens

of CUSD students to pursue advanced degrees and careers in broadcasting and filmmaking. Mr. Green exemplifies the way great teachers become great influencers."

Two other site Teachers of the Year — Lisa Papera (CHS) and Lindsay Stough (Calavera Elementary) — together with Mr. Green, were the three district finalists. Mr. Green now will represent CUSD in the San Diego County Teacher of the Year program.

Also honored for their remarkable work this year are CUSD's site level Teachers of the Year:

Jami Rushing — Aviara Oaks Elementary School
Marina Hall — Aviara Oaks Middle School
Mary Northridge — Buena Vista Elementary
Lindsay Stough — Calavera Hills Elementary
Doug Perelli — Calavera Hills Middle School
Lisa Papera — Carlsbad High School
Rachel Newman — Carlsbad Village Academy
Ann Lovick — Hope Elementary
Yolanda Tatum — Jefferson Elementary
Michelle Gizzi — Kelly Elementary
Francis Roth — Magnolia Elementary
Anne Blakely — Pacific Rim Elementary
Joyce Lee — Poinsettia Elementary
Jeff Simon — Sage Creek High School
Doug Green — Valley Middle School



Acclimating



Tyler Robert Armstrong

Every Step – What 7 year old wants to climb Mt. Whitney? I do! After months of hard work I was ready to try to set a record as the youngest person to climb Mt. Whitney in a single day.

Mt. Whitney is the highest mountain in the contiguous United States. It stands at an alarming 14,505 feet. Mt. Whitney is located in California. The Sierra Nevada is the home to many 14 thousand footers in California including Mt. Whitney!

The drive took us about four hours from my house to Mt. Whitney. The drive felt long, really long. All I could see for miles and miles was just desert, cactuses, and road. Then finally I saw little hills which got bigger until they were humongous mountains! As soon as we got to the Mt. Whitney Portal we unloaded and setup our campsite. After setting up and putting our food in bear boxes, we were able to relax by the fire and get a good night's sleep (except for me worrying about the bears coming into our tent).

The next day we had breakfast, nothing fancy, just oatmeal and bananas. We decided to take a hike about a quarter of the way up the Mt. Whitney trail to acclimate. We stopped at Lone Pine Lake. The lake was on the edge and looked like it was hanging onto the mountain. The lake had a beautiful blue color and was very cold. There was a very big patch of snow that seemed like it was dripping one drop at a time into the lake. It was very peaceful and quiet. We spent about an hour and a half acclimating at that lake and eating lunch.

After we hiked back down we went inside our tent to relax and pack for the next day making our packs as light as possible. We went to bed early because we had to get up in the middle of the night to start the hike. The next morning (really more like later that night) came quick. My dad woke me up at 1:00 am to get dressed and eat in a hurry. I was excited because it was the day I was going to set the record and climb Mt. Whitney!

When we got to the trail we...(to be continued)

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

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City of Carlsbad

Summer Fun 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 CUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by July 30, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome | Lessons | Sunscreen |
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| Beach | Picnics | Swimming |
| Fireworks | Pool | Vacation |
| Fun | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot | Sand | Water |
| Ice Cream | Summer | Wave |
| Lemonade | Sunny | |

**Congratulations to Harshini
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!**



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.

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