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School News



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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 9

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

APRIL / MAY 2012

Music: the Universal Language

By Karen Calhoun, Teacher on Special Assignment – Visual and Performing Arts

In December, the Norwalk High School Steel Pan Band and World Percussion gave a rousing performance, which opened the Second General Session of the California School Boards Association State Convention in San Diego. Norwalk High School is just one of the schools in the district to include multi-cultural music instruction in its classrooms. Thanks to the tremendous talent of the Norwalk High group and others like it, world percussion is becoming very popular in many of our schools in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD).

Our elementary music programs all include multi-cultural drumming and music making at the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade levels, integrated with other types of instruments, such as xylophones, recorders, and African



Moffitt Mustangs Bring World Percussion to the District's Honor Band Concert

tongue drums. Working with percussion instruments and drumming allows students to improve their focus and listening skills, as well their team-building skills. It also provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their improvisational creativity in a group setting. Just recently the fifth-grade world percussion group from Moffitt Elementary School opened the Prelude Showcase for the 31st Annual Honor Band Concert with an outstanding performance of drumming and musical pieces from Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and Asia.

Our middle school music programs also include world percussion courses, where students not only gain an understanding of world rhythms and cultures, they learn to explore, listen, create, feel, and perform world music. Middle school students also have the opportunity to perform on xylophones and steel pans.

SEE MUSIC • PAGE 15

SUPERINTENDENT

Thank you for your support as we continue to work hard on student achievement in the District.



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

Gracias por su apoyo continuo en lo que continuamos trabajando arduamente por el éxito estudiantil en el distrito.

¡Ya nos estamos preparando para el año escolar 2012-2013! Para mantenerlo actualizado sobre los "acontecimientos" en nuestro distrito, planes para el próximo año incluyen nuevos cursos de Colocación Avanzada y de Artes Visuales y Escénicas para los estudiantes de secundaria, así como oportunidades de cumplir con sus horas de práctica como internos. ¡Además, tendremos programas emocionantes para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes de 6° y 9° grado con la

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 14

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Darryl R. Adams
Board President

Norwalk-La Mirada is an exceptional district! Despite the numerous budget cuts and financial difficulties, we have thrived because of a strong administration at the district level, great teachers and classified in addition to exceptional site administrators. Our success does not rest there, for we have our PTA and our secret weapon...parental volunteers.

They come in all shapes, sizes and desires. Parents who want to offer assistance in many ways, care takers and community leaders who value a quality education and offer their expertise, heart, desire and willingness to make a difference. There are those who have no children at the site, but a passion to make a difference.

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 14

Darryl R. Adams
Presidente de la Junta de Educación

¡El distrito de Norwalk-La Mirada es excepcional! A pesar de los numerosos recortes del presupuesto y las dificultades financieras, hemos prosperado debido a que tenemos una administración fuerte a nivel distrito, muy buenos maestros y personal clasificado y administradores excepcionales en los sitios escolares. Nuestro éxito no para ahí, tenemos a nuestra PTA y nuestra arma secreta...padres voluntarios.

Vienen en todas formas, tamaños, y anhelos. Los padres quienes quieren ofrecer su ayuda de muchas maneras, las personas a quienes les gusta cuidar de la gente y los líderes de la comunidad quienes valoran la educación y ofrecen sus conocimientos, el corazón, sus anhelos y la voluntad de hacer una

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 14



Laurel Parker
Director

Preschool Plans

Recently, we completed our self-assessment for our preschool programs, and we were pleased to discover that we had no findings at all for nine areas of our program! We have some corrections to make in other areas, but of 530 Head Start Performance Standards, we were in compliance with 517. We will work diligently to ensure that all corrections are completed by April 30.

We are excited to announce that we were approved by the district to open up two half-day classes at Morrison Elementary School in September. We thank Principal Rudy Gonzalez for his invitation to become part of the Morrison family.

On May 23, we will be having a Family Fun Night. All preschool children and their family members are invited to participate in some friendly competitions. This evening will include workshops for parents and information from a variety of community agencies. Please join us at Ramona School, beginning at 6 p.m.



Jesus shows off his spider at the 2011 Family Fun Night.



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This issue has lots to offer from preschool information to signing up at the Adult School to further your education and achieve your goals. In fact, the NLMUSD is all about motivating students to set goals and achieve them. We are never too old to learn and it helps to know you are not alone.

Thank you for your contest entries. The winner is posted on page 13 where you will find this month's contest...have fun!

Our next issue will be focusing on the end of this school year and looking ahead to next year.

Covering the
NORWALK-LA MIRADA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Preschool Programs

Apply Now For Preschool
Aplique ahora para preescolar

2012 - 2013



Monday - Friday
lunes a viernes
7:45am - 3:45pm
Ramona School Office
14616 Dinard Avenue, Norwalk
(562) 623-7127

1 Come apply for our **FREE** preschool programs!
¡Pueden aplicar para nuestros programas GRATUITOS de preescolar!

2 We offer a variety of programs and sites, including Home Base and classes for three and four-year olds, beginning in July and September. Ofrecemos una variedad de programas y lugares, Home Base y clases de niños de tres y cuatro años, empiezan en julio y septiembre

To apply, please bring (por favor, traiga con usted):

- **Child's birth certificate** certificado de nacimiento
- **Proof of income (2011 tax return)** declaración de impuesto a las ganancias
- **Proof of address (Utility bill)** prueba de domicilio (factura de servicios públicos)
- **Child's immunization record** certificado de vacunas del estudiante

The programs serve all eligible children regardless of sex, race, religion, ethnicity, or disabilities, and refrain from religious instruction or worship. Estos programas sirven a todos los niños elegibles, sin importar raza, sexo o incapacidad, y no proporcionamos instrucción religiosa.

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Adult School



Open Doors

What is your motivation for learning English? Although teaching strategies and modes of learning have changed over the years, the answer to this question has remained consistent.

“It is one of my goals to learn to speak and write in English. Maybe not perfectly, but still well enough to get a better job,” said Ignacio in ESL 5. He added, “My family is my motivation. I want to be a good example to my children.”

Esperanza from Level 5 said, “My goal is to get the GED or a high school diploma in the future.” And Maria in Level 1 told us, “I feel more confident, more empowered, when I speak English.”

For some students it is becoming a U.S. citizen. For others it is the first step in their education. But whatever your motivation may be, the doors of the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School are always open for you to come in and join others in achieving your goals and dreams.



ESL students focus on studies.

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Optometry

*“Judge each day,
not by the harvest,
but by the seeds you plant”*
—author unknown

John Larcabal, O.D.
Sandra Stevens, O.D.
Diane Almanza, O.D.

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Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

15709 E. Olive Branch Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-1553



Michelle Green
Principal

Bound to Entertain

Spring is in full bloom at Benton! On the heels of our Band and Orchestra Festival, we are celebrating the rousing art exhibit that just took place, aptly named “Visually Speaking!”

To the delight of everyone who attended, our media arts, technology, video production and studio art students produced some amazing creations using mixed media. We are also in full production for the upcoming musical *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

Based on the children’s book, this new production is bound to entertain as the audience travels with the characters to lands far and wide. Ticket sales begin on April 1 for 10 shows during May 3-5 and 10-12, including two matinee elementary performances.



Students critique their artistic creations

Our dance students will soon take to the stage for their recital *Fire & Rain*. Our costume room is overflowing with leotards and tutus, and the props are coming out of our ears! The adrenaline is reaching a fever pitch as the students develop their passion for the arts. Come watch us blossom!

Chavez *Elementary School*

12110 E. Walnut St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3565



Robert Rayburn
Principal

Engaging in School and Life!

We focus so powerfully on academic standards that we can lose sight of the things in life that we accomplish because of academic proficiency. Recently, the all-around excellence of Chavez students and their desire to be well-rounded people, able to take advantage of the choices their hard work in academics affords them, has been demonstrated. First, the Chavez girls’ basketball team recently attended a USC women’s basketball game, met some of the players and toured the famous campus! It was a wonderful day for the students—and the parents!

Another wonderful example is the leadership shown by some of our fifth-grade students who have involved themselves in community service and charity. They



The Chavez Charitable Donation Club and their teacher Mr. Williams present a SEAACA officer with their donation.

raised nearly \$100 for a local animal shelter! The director of SEAACA and Norwalk City Council Member Cheri Kelley honored them at our last awards assembly. These students have also been volunteering at FastFriends.org, a local greyhound rescue group! It is an honor to serve a school where the students soar academically while engaging in life and community!

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678



Bob Easton
Principal

Celebrating High Academic Achievement

Over 80 students successfully completed Honors classes in one or more core subject areas during the second trimester. These students earned an average grade-point average of 3.88! Honors students are clustered into select classrooms and engage in more rigorous learning. They are graded on a separate scale for designated assignments which reflect increased rigor, and therefore the overall course grade is weighted to reflect the increased rigor. In addition, 23 students are excelling in advanced-level mathematics course in preparation for college.

Lastly, 125 students are participating in the Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program. This spring, our GATE students will compete in an engineering challenge and participate in a Web cast with a Holocaust survivor. Our students are well prepared for the challenges of high school and beyond.



Students Recognized for Achievement

Dolland *Elementary School*

15021 S. Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-9934



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Career Day

I would like to begin by sharing with you our wonderful Read Across America and Career Day celebration that took place early this spring. It was a special day dedicated to helping our students learn about various careers, and how the work that they perform now is connected to who and what they will aspire to be in the future.

Our guest speakers included Kaiser Permanente administrators and doctors, Apple computer programmers, helicopter pilots, Trader Joe’s workers, Rose Dental employees, engineers, and workers from Mitsubishi Motors, Norwalk Public Safety and many more.



Guest speakers share their careers with Dolland students.

It was a magical day for all of the students, and I would like to thank our many community sponsors and guests for helping to enrich the lives of our students and for making this Read Across America and Career Day a grand success!

Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadowgreen Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734



Susan Shanks
Principal

Science through Technology

We cannot overestimate the power technology plays in the learning of our children. At Dulles Elementary School, our students are expanding and sharing their knowledge through the use of iPads. Science has come alive as our students research topics, such as atoms and molecules, water, weight and density, and the solar system, and then produce Keynote and iMovie presentations to exhibit their knowledge and share with their peers.

Student David Kim said, "Using an iPad is more interesting than researching with a book. I think a movie presentation is better than making a poster to show what I have learned."

To see some of the wonderful presentations our students have completed, please go to our Web site at www.dulleselementary.org. Click on teacher sites, then Morin, Jim, then Meet the Teacher, and finally JIM.weebly.com. Wow! You will be amazed at the high technology learning our students are achieving. We are 21st-century learners!



High tech learners

Edmondson *Elementary School*

15121 S. Grayland Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-9501



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

English Learners

The data is in and our Eagles continue to fly high. We recently received our CELDT scores, the test that examines our English Learners (ELs) proficiency in English by testing the following: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The expectation is that every student will grow by one proficiency level and that our students who are already advanced will graduate out of the EL program, or reclassify as fluent English proficient.

According to our data from this past fall, a phenomenal 228 students improved their score on the CELDT. That is a whopping 75% of our kids who grew! We successfully are reclassifying 46 students—more great news!

This is why at Edmondson we say: "Eagles don't just soar, they surpass!"



Edmondson students building background knowledge for English Language Development (ELD) at the Natural History Museum.

Eastwood *Elementary School*

15730 Pescados Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-6480



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Academically Sound and College Bound

The third annual Eastwood Elementary School College Week was filled with activities that enlightened and inspired our students to reach their academic goals and career dreams.

We started off the week by wearing college spirit wear. Tuesday's highlight was Career Day. Guest speakers shared their educational backgrounds and interesting career choices. Many students came dressed for their future careers. Wednesday's Read Across America celebration was quite epic! The students were thrilled to be read to by volunteers and from a local retail store and by Taylor Gray, the star of the Nickelodeon show "Bucket and Skinner's Epic Adventures." Thursday was info and quiz day. Our PTA hosted a very informative



Career Day speakers and students dressed to impress!

parent education session on college admissions and financing. In the afternoon, students participated in a fun game show assembly designed to test their college knowledge. The week ended with laughter as students engaged in some spirited field activities known as College Bowl Games.

El Camino *High School*

14625 Keese Dr., Whittier, CA 90604 • 562/944-0033



Darryl Brown
Principal

Celebrating Success

At El Camino High School, "success begins at 7:50 a.m." This slogan is intended to remind students of the importance of attendance and being on time.

Our first semester awards assembly was held on February 10. We were excited to celebrate with over 100 students being recognized! Students received certificates for outstanding academic achievement, most improved in a subject area, and perfect attendance. The Marines again honored our students with outstanding community service awards for their work during the annual Toys For Tots program benefitting needy families during the holiday season.

At El Camino, as at every school, attendance is how the magic happens. We are very proud of all our awards recipients. Our challenge to each of them is to be back on stage at the second semester awards assembly—and this time influence a friend to do the same.



Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970



Bonita Lytle
Principal

Enriching the World

Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Through their philanthropic efforts, our Escalona Eagles have set out to change the world. Reaching out to others through various community service campaigns, the Escalona students are learning about needs beyond their own. They are becoming aware that even the simplest act of putting others first can make them winners!

For two weeks in February our children participated in the Pennies for Patients campaign. Their efforts to bring in spare pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters netted over \$1,500 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Escalona Eagles are truly helping to eradicate these terrible diseases.

Collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities continues to be an ongoing school-wide service project as well. This year Escalona has already provided approximately 30 pounds of pop tabs to help support our local Ronald McDonald Houses, a charity that provides a "home away from home" for families whose child is hospitalized with a serious illness or injury.

Additionally, Escalona students recently learned that their words of encouragement and kindness can make a world of difference for our soldiers overseas, too, when they wrote cards and letters to servicemen and women to help brighten their day and let them know they are remembered.

Indeed, our Eagles continue to soar. Escalona School is a rich academic environment where our students also learn to enrich the world!

Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 E. Foster Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

Well-Rounded School!

As a school, we are proud of the recent results of the CELDT (California English Language Development Test). Foster Road continues to make progress with our English learners who showed growth by moving up a language level on their annual assessment. State and federal law require that school districts administer a state test of English-language proficiency to newly enrolled students whose primary language is not English and to English learners as an annual assessment. The CELDT has three purposes: to identify students who are limited English proficient; to determine the level of English-language proficiency of students who are limited English proficient; and to assess the progress of limited English-proficient students in acquiring the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing in English.

Foster Road School is doing many things besides doing well on tests. Foster Road is a place where students have fun learning and enjoy coming to school. The teachers look at current brain research for optimal learning and brain development. It is a school that offers a relationship-based community. Building a "school family" is the core of our programs. The goal of our school family is to create problem solvers and critical thinkers and build respectful relationships. The students use communication skills expressed through safety, cooperation and respect. We learn self-control so that we have the ability to reach out and empathize with others, to accept and celebrate differences, to resolve conflicts in constructive ways, and to enjoy being contributing members of our school community.

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

14607 E. Gardenhill Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-6128



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

The Sweetheart Dance

Gardenhill held a family community event in February, called the Sweetheart Dance. Fathers brought their daughters, mothers brought their sons, and others brought

their loved ones to enjoy an evening of dancing and fun. There were no "wallflowers" to be found. Everyone was "kicking up their heels" and having a good time. Fathers kissed their daughters during the father-daughter dance, and mothers held their sons tightly during the mother-son songs. It was a beautiful display of love and joy.

To satisfy any hungry dancers, the Gardenhill PTA president's family donated time, money and energy providing spaghetti dinners for the crowd. It was a very special PTA-sponsored event that will go down as a legendary good time!



Gardenhill Families enjoy the Sweetheart Dance.



Kristine Cvar
Principal

Finalist in Norwalk Cup Tournament!

Our fierce Glazier soccer team advanced to the finals in a Norwalk tournament hosted at Chavez Elementary School. Our team took 2nd overall after playing a total of 4 competitive games all in one day. The soccer team is under the direction of Coach Ortega (Glazier teacher) and Coach Ruvalcaba (Glazier parent). The Glazier co-ed soccer team consists of students in fourth and fifth grade. The success of our team is contributed to our wonderful, dedicated coaches, hard-working soccer players, and supportive parents and staff members. Come out and support us in April for our next tournament as we prepare to "close the gap" on becoming the Norwalk champions. Go Gladiators!



Glazier Gladiator Soccer Team Ready to Dominate!

Glenn High School

13520 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431



Rick Ronquillo
Principal

WASC Accreditation Committee Visit

At the end of March, John Glenn High School (JGHS) took the next step in the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation process. JGHS hosted a visiting committee of seven educators, which validated the JGHS Self-Study Report of 2012. The staff, students, and parents of JGHS prepared for more than a year, mostly during late start and after-school meetings.

The WASC process certifies to the public that JGHS is a trustworthy institution of learning. Essentially, this process validates the integrity of JGHS's overall school program and student transcripts. The WASC Visiting Committee looked at how we regularly assess, plan, implement, monitor, reassess, and support student learning. Finally, the process assures the community that JGHS's vision is appropriate and is being accomplished through a viable educational program.

The visit was an opportunity to showcase all that we offer students at John Glenn High School. At the end of the visit, the WASC Visiting Committee identified areas of strength and growth needs as we continue to strive for increased student achievement.

Johnston Elementary School

13421 S. Fairford Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-2508



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

Roadrunner Representatives

Building great character one pillar at a time is one of the many wonderful things happening at D.D. Johnston Elementary School. Every month, students work diligently on one of our 6 pillars of character throughout the day. Students and staff connect these pillars while they are reading stories, analyzing characters, discussing motive, or just interacting with each other. Our Kids Care Club that is comprised of 5th graders, show their citizenship on Mondays and Fridays by wearing their sashes that say "Roadrunner Representative" and greet students and parents as they enter the school. Our students are demonstrating their responsibility by getting prepared for the "Big Test," otherwise known as the California State Test. As you can see, Johnston Roadrunners are busy being Kids of Character!



Roadrunner Representatives greet students and parents before school.

Hutchinson

13900 Estero Road, La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268

MS Math, Science,
Technology Magnet



Sara Siemens
Principal

Plugged In to Success!

Hutchinson continues to expose magnet students to the various aspects of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). Engineering students from Cal State Los Angeles met with our magnet students and introduced them to a variety of engineering careers as well as the programs offered at CSULA. CSULA students then helped our students build circuit boards to power windmill blades, sound speakers and lightbulbs.

Students have also had the opportunity to meet with Plug In America, which introduced them to the Tesla high-performance electric car as they explored the field of environmental engineering. Eighth-grade magnet students also met with La Mirada High School to learn about the Energy Engineering Technology Academy. Students are excited about the opportunity to continue their engineering studies next year.

This spring, magnet students will begin Skype conversations with engineering students and professors at LeTourneau University as they continue to investigate the field of engineering.



La Mirada High School

13520 Adelfa Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/868-0431



Bill Seals
Principal

Welcome!

On Monday, March 5, La Mirada High School welcomed the Class of 2016 to its campus. Students from Benton, Hutchinson and Los Coyotes were greeted by ASB members, the school band and cheerleaders for a fun-filled morning of activities.

After a brief greeting from the principal, ASB President Natalie Sanchez informed our newest Matadores of all the opportunities that are available to them at LMHS.

Academies, athletics, ROP programs and the band and beauty shop quartet shared information about their programs. At the conclusion of the presentation, students exited the bleachers and visited tables on the basketball court to gather additional information or sign up for activities.

Once the students were finished, ASB members then walked them around the campus and pointed out various places of interest. The tour concluded in the MPR, where the students met with their counselors and received registration information. They were given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions and then loaded into their buses to return to the middle school.

All said, it was a wonderful day. I would like to thank our counselors, teachers, and, most importantly, our great students. They all did a wonderful job in welcoming these newest Matadores.

We look forward to welcoming back these talented students in September. I am confident that they will live up to the high standards that were set by the Class of 2012

Welcome, Class of 2016!

La Pluma *Elementary School*

14420 La Pluma Dr., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-7104



Terry Pace
Principal

Oh, The Places They'll Go!

Our students are off to great places! From our youngest students to our fifth-grade leaders, our La Pluma Elementary School Panthers had the opportunity to imagine their futures during our recent College Week.

To kick off the week, our students demonstrated their Panther Pride by wearing college spirit wear. Many of our students wrote inspiring narratives about their future dreams, and we hosted guest readers on our campus, who visited and read to each classroom.

Our week culminated with one of our School Board members, Mr. Chris Pflazer, reading to all 508 students during a school-wide assembly. Mr. Pflazer delighted us with a Dr. Seuss classic, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*

At La Pluma, our students are on their way to great places as we equip them to think, care, and create!



Board Member Chris Pflazer reads to La Pluma Elementary School students.

Los Alisos

14800 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0865

*MS Math, Science,
Technology Magnet*



Dr. Gloria Jimenez
Principal

Memorable Achievements

Los Alisos Middle School (LAMS) has had a great year so far! Here are just a few of the highlights. In the Middle School Sports Tournament the football team won the championship for the second undefeated year in a row. In the Winter Sports Tournament, both soccer teams earned first place. Girls basketball also took the top prize, and boys basketball took second place. Our cheer squad won first place in the Cheer for a Cure competition.

Several of our performing arts students were selected to participate in the District Honor Band. A LAMS student was the first-place winner in the Norwalk Lions Peace Poster contest, and another student received third place in the national PTA Reflections program.

Students and parents enjoyed our Vital Link Career Expo, Career and College Week, Career Day, and our Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) carnival. The Saturday Academy of Math (SAM) is going strong with 48 students attending every Saturday. Students have visited the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Columbia Memorial Space Center, Cabrillo Museum, California Science Center, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Knott's Berry Farm event, Museum of Tolerance, Griffith Observatory, Catalina Island Science Camp, Leadership Camp at Big Bear and Disneyland, Getty Museum, Ocean Institute in Dana Point, and numerous colleges and universities, including: University of California, Irvine; California Polytechnic University; University of Southern California; University of California, Los Angeles; and Mount San Antonio College.

Academic competitions also keep our students busy. Students participated in the Orange County Academic Pentathlon and the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement robotics competition. In March our Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) and AVID students took the EXPLORE test developed by the American College Testing Program (ACT), a college readiness test which measures academic development in reading, math, English, and Science. Wow!

Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroff Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Sharing the Joy of Reading

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." –Dr. Seuss

The students at Lampton Elementary School are definitely going places! They spent an entire day celebrating reading and books.

Over 60 guest readers shared their joy of reading with our students during our annual Read Across America event on March 2. This national event honors the birthday of famous children's author Dr. Seuss. Guest readers included a judge, a professional musician, a sheriff, a college professor, our superintendent, and even members of the Clippers' and Lakers' dance teams.



The Silva family enjoying a book together at Lampton's Read Across America "Book-nic."

After a wonderful morning of listening to stories, family members joined our students and staff on the lawn to share snacks and read together at our "family book-nic." It was an amazing day! So, if you love books like we do, come and share a book with us at Lampton.

Los Coyotes

14640 Mercado Ave., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/739-2368

*MS Centurian
Honors Magnet*



Dr. Sylvia Begtrup
Principal

Arts and Sciences

Igniting our students' passions is just one of the many focuses here at Los Coyotes. In addition to a strong core curriculum and honors program, we also offer vast opportunities for our students to explore the world.

One such program is the science exploratory. This course of study provides students with many hands-on opportunities to explore anatomy, physiology, aerospace and marine biology. It affords students multiple opportunities for lab activities like dissecting squids and frogs.

Not only do we have an enriched science curriculum, we also have a variety of courses in the arts, including photography. Students in the photography class recently completed a final project which consisted of a portfolio that showcased



Frog Dissection

25 of their best photographs. They used the Photoshop Elements program to edit and combine their work and experiment with various effects and filters.

Now the students have moved into the video portion of the class, where they are learning all aspects of moviemaking and will be editing their projects using iMovie.

Moffitt *Elementary School*

13323 S. Goller Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/864-3071



Maureen Bixby
Principal

Gearing Up for Our Future

Moffitt Elementary School students are college bound! We celebrated a week dedicated to our belief that all students can attend college. Staff members, students, and parents wore college shirts, students interviewed friends and family who have attended college, and they even created college pennants and posted them around campus. Our week culminated with a Read Across America celebration. Over 100 guest readers visited our campus to read stories to students and to share their personal stories about how reading helped them to achieve their goals in life.

In addition to celebrating College Week and Read Across America, we are gearing up for the California Standards Test (CST). Students are provided



GATE students participating in science enrichment activities.

instruction that is data-driven and rigorous. We are also providing additional enrichment activities before and after school to support our students on their road to success. We believe that all students will show growth on the CST and that we can achieve our goal of all Moffitt Mustangs attending college.

Morrison *Elementary School*

13510 S. Maidstone Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9878



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

The Arts Are Alive and Well!

Our students are enjoying the Meet the Masters experience again this year, continuing our tradition of working with the visual arts. We begin with multimedia assemblies using artwork, realia and music in which the children learn about the fascinating lives and famous works of four master artists. This year, students in grades one through five will learn about Rosa Bonheur, Henri Rousseau, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Piet Mondrian.

Once the children have a true connection to the artist, it is time to introduce the techniques that made the art revolutionary. Back in the classroom, our teachers lead the students on a step-by-step journey through an art project. Often using the same medium, style or subject matter as



the master, our students discover their creativity while developing confidence in their own unique abilities. These beautiful creations are displayed in the classrooms and in our display cases throughout the school. The arts are alive and well at Morrison!

New River *Elementary School*

13432 S Halcourt Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-9848



Michelle Centeno
Principal

Celebrating Read Across America Day

New River Elementary celebrated Read Across America Day with our annual Community Read-In. Many district officials, parents, and community members came to read their favorite books and share their love of reading with our students. Readers also had an opportunity to talk about their own educational backgrounds and stressed the importance of being life-long learners. The week concluded with a Family Reading Picnic sponsored by our PTA. Parents and other family members joined each of our classrooms and read to their children. It was wonderful to see children, parents



Children are made readers on the laps of parents. —Emilie Buchwald

and teachers all share in the experience of reading great books!

If you are interested in volunteering our classrooms and helping students develop their reading skills, contact us.

Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Road, Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431



Dina Wilson
Principal

Student Receives ACSA Accolades!

Last month, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 14 honored several students in the area at their annual Every Student Succeeding awards. They recognize students who have overcome many challenges in their lives and excel academically.

Norwalk High student Paul W. was recognized for his efforts and academic achievement. In addition to receiving this local award, Paul was chosen to advance to the state level! He will be recognized at the state conference in San Diego next November.

Paul credits his loving family and supportive counselors and teachers for helping him to achieve his goals. He feels much supported by his school team. He reports that



NHS Student Paul W. with members of his school support team: Counselor Irene Rifilato and Principal Dina Wilson

his teachers motivated him and feels as if they really understand his situation and want to help.

“They all stuck by me,” he said. Also, his counselor is always there with motivating words that make him feel he can “thrive more.”

Nuffer *Elementary School*

14821 S. Jersey Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-3788



LaTasha Buck
Principal

Building and Improving

As a new principal, I have had the opportunity to see many great things happening at Nuffer Elementary School, but I also see areas where we still need to grow. While I may have ideas about ways that Nuffer can improve, I believe that it takes the collective effort of many to see true change happen on any school campus. I've decided to host a three part-series on Vision Building in order to include all stakeholders' voices in our efforts to improve.

The first session, held on March 7, was focused on suspending reality to imagine Nuffer at its best in the year 2015. Over 40 stakeholders, including teachers, classified staff members, and parents collaborated to envision the behaviors and feelings that would surround Nuffer's accomplishments. The next Vision Building session on April 4 asked all stakeholders to take a step back in time to 2012 to discuss what was happening. At the final last Vision Building workshop on May 16, everyone will start bridging the gap by laying the foundation for a revised action plan.

As a result of this Vision Building series, the rational outcome is: to expand and clarify the vision for what we are really trying to accomplish; to identify opportunities and avenues for focused improvement; and to guide purposeful actions. Furthermore, our experiential outcome is to build community amongst all stakeholders.

Southeast *Academy*

12940 E. Foster Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/809-6237



Sgt. Marty Schafer
Director

Working Hard

Our spring semester is off to a flying start. The third quarter ended on March 30, and our seniors will soon be graduating.

Our cadets have many things happening between now and graduation day, including the California High School Exit Exam, the California Standards Tests, and registration for next year's student body. As the year comes to an end, the seniors are also working with the underclassmen, preparing them to take over the responsibilities of the Academy. The teachers are preparing for testing, and our support staff continues to work hard.

During this busy time we must reflect upon the accomplishments of our cadets. With daily homework and uniform inspections, they understand how hard work can pay off.

The majority of our seniors started at Southeast Academy High School (SEA) three years ago. Some advantages to attending SEA include the ability to acquire the kind of skills that ensure a cadet's success in college and life, like the ability to study hard, apply themselves, manage their time, set goals, think for themselves, and get along with others.



On June 20 we will be graduating 54 seniors. This senior class has had an overall GPA of 3.26 for seven semesters. Thank you to our teachers and staff members for working countless hours in preparing our seniors for graduation. And to the Class of 2012, you are proof that hard work pays off. Congratulations on a job well done!

Sanchez *Elementary School*

11960 E. 162nd St., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/926-2365



Maribel Galan
Principal

A Family School Engaged!

Families, students and teachers of Sanchez Elementary participated in a literacy picnic to share the joy of reading in honor of Dr. Seuss. We're excited to share this wonderful lifelong skill with the community.

Students also participated in College Week to learn about the many opportunities that college can provide. Principal Galan and Keyna Kirklen Cobb, founder and executive director at a professional development and event planning company, encouraged students to start thinking about their futures. Ms. Cobbs is a doctoral candidate at Pepperdine University and a former Chargers cheerleader. She worked with our Sanchez Cheerleaders to encourage them to make college a priority.



Sanchez Families enjoy a literacy picnic!

Jermaine Pearson, also from Pepperdine University, presented to a few of our students on the importance of planning and making college a future goal.

The goal of College Week was to inspire students early on to motivate them to start thinking about their education and future.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

14320 S. Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/921-7981



Willie Norman
Principal

Showing Panther Pride: Winter Achievements

Waite has celebrated several recognitions among staff and students. Eighth-grade teacher Kelly Baker received the Classroom of Excellence Award from the California Association for Teachers of English, an annual honor given to only two middle school teachers in the state! Two of our eighth-grade graphic design students won the districtwide competition for Wellness Logo. Congratulations, Justin and Shawn!

Eight of our band students earned seats and performed in the District Honor Band. Our seventh-grade pre-algebra test results



Kelly Baker and students are in a classroom of excellence!

were number one in the district based on Benchmark 2 results. Our Math Ambassador Program was presented to the Chancellor of California State Universities to discuss impressive midyear data results. And 64 of our English learners met reclassification standards based on CELDT scores, CST results and current GPAs.

Come take a tour today and see Waite's work in action!

Ready, Get Set,...Create!

As a parent, I really now understand what everyone was saying when my sons were born: “It goes by so fast! Before you know it they will be....” And it is true! Since they grow so fast, I often think, what are the “seeds” that we parents should plant in our children? Manners? Of course! Respect? Of course! Self-esteem and self-confidence? Yes and yes!

But as I my youngest child moves into elementary school, I truly believe that giving children the opportunity to think critically, problem solve, imagine, and create will elevate them even more as they continue to grow.

Math calls for it. Social studies calls for it. Playing in the yard and getting into arguments call for it—the ability to analyze a situation, concretely or theoretically come up with solutions, and communicate those solutions through thought, speech, written word, movement, or art.

I opened Art To Grow On Children’s Art Center, Inc. in 2000. There were not as many demands on our children as there are now. Kindergarten is truly the new first grade. Our children’s minds need to be agile, sharp, open to new ideas, curious, passionate, and creative, no matter if they will become chemists, professional athletes, teachers, artists, musicians, or business executives.

If you can give your child a gift in 2012, take the time to do something creative with him or her. Get out those cardboard boxes and turn them into a race car or doll house. Get out wire, tile, and glue and play. Read books, take walks and collect rocks, write letters, and talk! These life skills will be a gift to your child.



Lauren Perelmutter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children’s Art Center, Inc.
www.art2growon.com (310) 625-6028

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important



Kate Karp

Chicken Joe is an orange cat who loves rock and roll. Trout Fishing in America, aka folk-rockers Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet and creators of this endearing character and the “funny farm” he lives on, tell Joe’s story in original songs with country-flavored rock and plain ol’ country. This latest CD is a follow-up to *My Name is Chicken Joe* and is available either solo or with a whimsically drawn storybook illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch. In this story, narrated by Grimwood and Idlet and augmented by their band, Chicken Joe sleepily arises, as cats will, from his bed in the hen house and tries hard to remember an important thing he’d forgotten. After talking to the hens, the dog named Miss Kitty, and a very odd kazoo-playing mule, he lies down to take a much-needed nap, as cats also will. You and your children will undoubtedly have picked up on the clues and try to shout Joe into waking, which could be why he remembers what he’d forgotten when naptime’s over.

The songs are accompanied by guitars, banjos and synthesizers, and spoons, hand claps and a frottoir—that’s your washboard! They’re wonderfully clever and can be considered the show after the story. Roosters crow “Rock and roooooo!!!” in “Rock and Roll Roosters,” and all the farm animals display their eccentric and species-bewildered behavior (“Hello, My Chicken Thinks He’s a Dog”; “You’ve Got a Funny Name.”) One in particular, “The Fish Swim Backwards in the Sky,” is lovely in a mountain-ballad way; mournful strings eerily contrast with whimsical lyrics like “Don’t hold hands with a cactus tree.” And it’s not all silliness and games. “Where Did Everybody Go” tells about taking a wrong turn in life and making your way back, and “Dance with Me” is simple love and friendship, flavored with Cajun filé gumbo.

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important is simply a fine time—and what’s that pig doing in the bathroom?

Magic Book Garden

10 Surefire Ways to Get Kids Reading



Rozanne Lanczak Williams

1. Read aloud to your kids every day. Reading together can help build close relationships and sends the positive message: I want to spend time with you.

2. Two words—buy books. Children need to own books of their own. Favorite ones will be read over and over and will give readers a chance to experience the books in different ways. Rereading builds fluency and comprehension skills!

3. Visit the library and check out books, sign up for special programs and story-times at libraries and bookstores. Attend book festivals together.

4. Read aloud to your kids every day. Reading and storytelling build word power—the power to communicate.

5. “Read the world!” Invite your child to read street and store signs, billboards, cereal boxes, recipes, grocery lists, mail, etc.

6. Talk it up! Discuss the books you are reading with your child. Ask questions like: “Why do you think . . . ?” “What would happen if . . . ?” or “Can you think of a new ending for the story?”

7. Read aloud to your kids every day. Reading aloud promotes good listening skills. Good listeners are good learners.

8. Turn it off! Whether it’s the TV, electronic game, ipod, computer game (the list goes on!) Involve your child in the real world!

9. Sing songs, chant rhymes and simple poems. Play word games like “piglatin” and board games using reading such as Monopoly Jr.

10. Read aloud to your kids every day! Research proves that reading at home gives your child an advantage in school. Children learn to read by reading!

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: www.magicbookgarden.com

Songs from the Baobab

This beautiful collection is one that parents may play even if the children aren’t home, particularly if they were fans of Miriam Makeba or were blown away by the South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Paul Simon’s *Graceland*. The set includes a CD and a colorfully illustrated book by French children’s book artist and illustrator Élodie Nouhen; it includes lyrics, explanatory notes translated into English, and geographical information that shows children that Africa isn’t one large country but 54 independent ones, with different languages spoken throughout.

On the disc are lullabies, game songs, and nature anthems, all to be sung to or by children. The lullabies calm and amuse crying, upset children through rocking and movement. In light of the hard lives that so many African children endure, it isn’t surprising that the greater part of the songs falls into the lullaby category. A lilting shepherd’s flute threads plaintively through “Yun-maa yehii jaabe,” (Your Mother Has Gone to Search for Jujubes); in the song, the child’s mother is absent, and the singer tells the child that the mother was out hunting fruits. Orphaned African children are often taken in by other families; “In Ga” and “Faatime Hawwaa” tell of the sadness of children who know that they aren’t as valued as are the birth children.

There are joyful songs as well. “Itä Zäke” translates from the Sango tongue to “Frère Jacques”; it was taught as a “time to wake up” song in Central African French schools. Game songs include “Kabuye Kanjye” (My Little Pebble) with clear instructions for playing a stone-passing game, and there is a Togo version of “This Little Piggy,” titled “Eya Bé” (He Says).

A best-seller in France, *Baobab* is set to tell its stories on this continent. Welcome it into your home, heart and ears.

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

Protect Your Child's Brain Development



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

Recently I spoke at the Parent Participation Preschool Convention and was able to attend a workshop presented by the author of *Parenting Well in a Media Age*, Gloria DeGaetano.

Bottom line: a child should not participate in watching TV, using a computer or playing video games for more than one hour a day until the age of twenty two! How can that be true?

The brain is the only organ in the body that is not fully developed at birth. It takes 22 years for the brain to fully develop. What allows the brain to grow properly is three-dimensional learning. That means playing or working in any three dimensional arena.

The television, computer and video games are on a screen and are therefore two-dimensional.

It doesn't get much more complicated than this—the brain requires three dimensional learning and those mediums do not provide that. Therefore, it is imperative that children do not spend hours a day on any of the three mediums mentioned.

Proper brain growth allows feelings of kindness, generosity, creativity and intuition to develop and flourish. If that part of the brain is not encouraged to grow through three-dimensional learning, the child will regress to living in the reptilian part of the brain. Such children MAY suffer from hyperactivity, an inability to focus and more aggressive behavior.

In my parent coaching work, I ask a parent who thinks their child has ADD or ADHD to cut daily TV down to one hour, and the majority of parents see an immediate decline of those traits.

When a parent says to me, "We only watch Baby Einstein" or some other "safe" program, I remind them that any program on the television is two dimensional, therefore a problem.

When a child watches television, it is important that no show may be watched until viewed by a parent. Today's cartoons have a lot of violence in them. The sitcoms are not modeling basic morals and values. Have a list of acceptable shows and keep televisions out of children's rooms so that programs may be monitored.

Talk to children about what they saw, what they learned and what they remember from the media they do watch each day. Doing so develops memory, thinking skills and exercises the brain to help it develop properly.

Parents need to pay attention to how much video watching their children are subjected to each day. Does your child watch a video in the car? Are you aware that they are experimenting with creating shopping carts with videos in them to distract active children?

The American Pediatric Society recently stated that NO child under the age of two should be allowed to watch television.

Let me be clear about the outcome of not providing children with three-dimensional learning on a daily basis. I already mentioned possible hyper-activity and an inability to focus; more frightening to me is that children who live in the reptilian part of their brain are less feelings oriented and more aggressive.

Finally, I am deeply concerned about the impact on children who watch violence on a daily basis. Although this is a whole column in itself, I'm not sure it will be safe to live in a world where children grow into adults who have become numb to the idea of people or property being harmed.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written three books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 20 years. Sandy lives in Meridian, Idaho. www.ParentingSOS.com

Boundaries Deflect Negativity



**Dr. Shari
Sweetnam**

Dear Dr. Shari,

A few weeks ago, on the morning show we heard you talk about boundaries in a way we had never heard before. You were talking about what you allow near you, in terms of attitudes. I would love to teach my kids about this, It is so important. I want them to grow up with this kind of attitude and strength. Could you share your chalk-line story again? —Jonathan Y.

Dear Jonathan,

Sure thing! The idea of having boundaries is about more than just protecting you from your surroundings. Your boundaries (what you allow around you) are actually defining of you. In large part, they determine who we are and what we become. Few of us realize that self perception and self esteem hinge on the boundaries that we have in place. What we tolerate, when we speak up, and what we stand for are indicators of our value system. They determine who we are. I admire your commitment to teaching your children this and I would be happy to run that story again!

My Chalk Line:

There a lot of kids in my neighborhood. I love kids, they know that. When we are home, there are kids in my garage, playing with toys, shooting hoops, painting and playing games. It is a high-energy good time, as it should be with kids around. On occasion, an altercation will break out. Someone might say something mean, a disrespectful comment might float, out or someone might even pull out a negative attitude. This is when I take out the chalk. I draw a half circle around the front of my garage. I let everyone know that within the circle are all of the good attitudes. I tell them that everyone is respectful and appropriate in the circle. Everyone has a great time in the circle and everyone is welcome here. However, if you are carrying negativity, inappropriateness, or the slightest amount of doubt of whether you can be respectful to everyone within the circle, then you are asked to step on the other side of the chalk line until you decide that you are more interested in being a part of the atmosphere in here.

It's a decision that you get to make. You are welcome to take on whatever attitude suits you outside of the circle and no one (in here) will say a word about it, but you can only bring the best of you inside. We hope you choose to stay in here, because it is so fun. .. and we like having you in here.

I take this very seriously. I escort children to the other side of the line, when necessary. I let them know that the rules do not bend. It is the only way I can promise kindness and respect within the circle...All of the kids know this.

The truth is, Jonathan, I really enjoy watching the expression of a kid who has been escorted outside of the chalk line. It is always the same. They stand there, for a moment, looking in... and you can just see them thinking...

"It's so much fun in there... I would so much rather be in there...and they want me in there... and all I have to do is respect everyone? I can DO that."

Each one of us needs to draw this circle. We have to carry an attitude of "You are welcome near me, with your goodness, your respect, your positive energy, but otherwise I will have to ask you to stand outside of my chalk line." By tolerating less than this, you are diminishing who you are. By allowing negativity into your world, you are cheapening the experience of being near you. The party isn't as fun, there aren't as many smiles, you become eroded and have less to offer.

You know the people who have a chalk line because you wouldn't dare bring your negativity around them. You love being near them. The energy is high, the attitude is great. It's a wonderful place to be.. and its your call.

Thanks for bringing it up Jonathan, It is one of the greatest values you can teach your children.

Dr. Shari is the founder of the "Brainpower" program for schools, Author of "*The Learning Toolbox - Memory Skills for Everyone*" used in schools nationwide, "*Inspiring the Love of Learning*" and "*The Algebra Toolbox - The UN MATH Solution*" in schools Fall 2011. Dr. Shari is a syndicated columnist, radio host and author of over 200 articles on the topics of Learning and Memory. Contact Dr. Shari at info@doctorshari.com. For a schedule of radio and television appearances see www.doctorshari.com.



Separation Anxiety



Jodie Lynn

Question:

My husband's job requires him to travel out of town for two weeks at a time. Our daughter is only two and seems to have a hard time connecting to her dad once he returns. Any tips on building a better relationship between them while he is gone?

Reader's Advice:

My husband was in the U.S. Navy when our children were very young. I made a recording of him reading all their favorite stories. It played each night when I put our sons to bed if he was gone. They knew their dad through his voice when he returned and reconnected quickly. (This is before cell phones.) Also, put a picture on the refrigerator showing their dad with each child, both children or the family. Talk about him and point to the picture. Since most adults seem big to young children, remember to put the picture up high on the refrigerator. This way, when dad appears, the child doesn't expect someone their size and become afraid.

— Cheryl Cobb in Holts Summit, MO

same time which may make the current situation a little more intense. For example, even though she is already experiencing difficulty with separation from you, but is learning that you will appear again later the same day, her dad is absent and at the end of the day she still does not get to see him. Therefore, it's important to keep her daily routines and bedtime rituals as close to normal as possible when your husband is away traveling. This also means that if there are certain things that her dad usually does with her or for her on a daily or nightly basis, it's a good idea to try to keep his involvement intact as much as you can by either hearing his voice, seeing his face or both. There are various applications on cell phones that will allow her to see her dad when he talks, sings or shares a story with her and vice versa. You can also consider video chat on computers via a free program like Skype. Make recordings of his voice singing a song or reading a story, as suggested above, and play them whenever the two of you are home without him. I also like the tip above about putting a picture on the fridge and talking of him often.

From Jodie:

Being two is no easy task. This is the age where children are more or less finally coming to terms with the idea that they are a separate individual from mom and dad and are asserting a tad more independence. However, this separation from parents, commonly referred to as separation anxiety, can be pretty traumatic for some. So in essence, she is dealing with two big challenges at the

Jodie Lynn is an award-winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best-selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having, Doing, and Surviving It All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.



Dinosaurs Word Search Contest

NEW Rules!!!

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

Entries must be received by May 15, 2012

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

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Allosaurus | Parasaurolophus |
| Anatosaurus | Segisaurus |
| Ankylosaurus | Spinosaurus |
| Apatosaurus | Stegosaurus |
| Brachiosaurus | Torosaurus |
| Coelophysis | Triceratops |
| Diplodocus | Tyrannosaurus |
| Iguanodon | Ultrasaurus |

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

Congratulations to Mireya Arreola, Winner of the February Contest!

There are thousands of volunteer hours being contributed to our campuses and that has made a considerable difference at the various schools. We appreciate these individuals who have stepped in to impact the educational programs and offerings of activities from pre-K to the Adult School. Our principals appreciate the efforts, our children love it, our staffs are grateful, and we can only hope that as a district we have benefited you as much as we have been enriched by the numerous hours of dedication.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. We crave your assistance in what you can provide, and in what hours you are able/willing to help. No contribution is too small; no amount too large, for there are many ways you can help us. Read a book, assist on the yard or on special projects. This is a special thank you to all of you that have given and an invite for others who have time, energy and desire to help their community schools. Thanking you in advance and always appreciative of your support. Si se puede and Yes we can....



Jesse Urquidi, Ana Valencia, Karen Morrison, Vice President Ed Hengler, Board President Darryl Adams, Margarita Rios, and Chris Pflanzler.

diferencia. Están aquellos que aunque no tengan hijos en el sitio escolar, tienen la pasión para hacer una diferencia.

Existen miles de horas de trabajo voluntario que se están contribuyendo a nuestros planteles escolares y eso ha hecho una gran diferencia en varias escuelas. Apreciamos a los individuos que han tomado la iniciativa para participar y dejar huella en los programas educativos y de ofrecer actividades desde pre-Kínder hasta la Escuela de Adultos. Nuestros directores valoran el esfuerzo, a nuestros hijos les encanta, nuestro personal está agradecido, y nosotros solo podemos esperar que como distrito le hayamos beneficiado tanto como nosotros hemos sido enriquecidos por las numerosas horas de dedicación.

Esto solo es la punta del iceberg. Anhelamos la ayuda que nos pueda brindar, y las horas que pueda y/o esté disponible para ayudar. Ninguna contribución es demasiado pequeña; ninguna cantidad demasiado grande, ya que hay muchas maneras en las que nos pueden ayudar. Leer un

libro, ayudar en el patio de la escuela o en proyectos especiales. Este es un agradecimiento especial a todos ustedes que han contribuido y una invitación para otros que tenga el tiempo, la energía, y el deseo para ayudar en las escuelas de su comunidad. De ante mano les doy las gracias y siempre valorando su apoyo. SI se puede y YES we can...

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

in our elementary schools! We, at the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District, will continue to offer specialized programs in order to provide our students an enriching curriculum that serves multiple needs and develops interests. Our middle school magnets are thriving-Math and Science Magnet Schools: Hutchinson and Los Alisos Middle Schools; Arts and Technology Magnet School: Corvallis Middle School; Visual and Performing Arts: Benton Middle School. Centurion Scholar Academy for Accelerated Learning: Los Coyotes Middle School; and Career Academies in Public Service, Technology, Project-Based Science, Video Production, Art, Film and Music Pathways: Waite Middle School.

We recently celebrated College and Career Week in all elementary and middle schools. Students have shared with me that as a result of participating in college preparatory programs, such as AVID, they feel encouraged to attend college. Norwalk La Mirada students are receiving the message that college is attainable, and that there exists multiple careers they can aspire to in the future. Furthering that message, teachers have also shared with students that it is important to prepare NOW by earning good grades and exploring options.

Budget Challenges

On another note, these are very troubling economic times for all of us in education. The Governor is placing a TAX PROPOSAL on the ballot in November. Approval of these taxes will save the NLMUSD from further cuts.

While I cannot tell you which way to vote in November, I do have a responsibility to share with you the impact this will have in our District. The School Board, myself, and our unions, want to save as many jobs as possible and provide our deserving students with the resources and support that they need. However, we need the money provided through the tax measures to do so.

Thank you for your continued support.

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Dr. Ruth Pérez

transición a sus nuevas escuelas, programas de apoyo de verano para ayudar a los estudiantes en Lenguaje y Literatura y Matemáticas y más música en nuestras escuelas de primaria! Nosotros en el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Norwalk-La Mirada, continuaremos a ofrecer programas especializados con el fin de proporcionar a nuestros estudiantes un plan de estudio enriquecido que cumple con necesidades múltiples y desarrolla intereses. Nuestras escuelas intermedias magnet son escuelas Magnet prosperando en matemáticas y ciencias: Las escuelas intermedias Hutchinson y Los Alisos; Escuelas Magnet de Artes y Tecnología: Escuela Intermedia Corvallis; Artes Visuales y Escénicas: Escuela Intermedia Benton; Academia Erudita Centurión para el Aprendizaje Acelerado: Escuela Intermedia Los Coyotes; y Academias de Profesiones de Servicio al Público, Tecnología, Ciencia Basada en Proyectos, Producción de Vídeo, Arte, Caminos Hacia el Cine y la Música: Escuela Intermedia Waite.

Recientemente celebramos La Semana del Colegio en todas las escuelas Primarias e intermedias. Los estudiantes han compartido conmigo que como resultado de participar en programas de preparación para el colegio como AVID, se sienten alentados para ir a la Universidad. Los estudiantes de Norwalk La Mirada están recibiendo el mensaje de que la Universidad es alcanzable, y que existen varias profesiones a las cuales pueden aspirar para el futuro. Llevando este mensaje más allá, los maestros también han compartido con los estudiantes que es importante prepararse AHORA obteniendo buenas calificaciones y explorando opciones.

Retos de Presupuesto

Por otra parte, estos tiempos son muy preocupantes económicamente para todos nosotros en la educación. El gobernador está haciendo una PROPUESTA DE IMPUESTO en la boleta electoral en noviembre. Aprobación de estos impuestos protegerá al NLMUSD de nuevos recortes.

Aunque no puedo decirles cómo votar en noviembre, tengo la responsabilidad de compartir con ustedes el impacto que esto tendrá en nuestro Distrito. La Junta de Educación, yo y nuestros sindicatos, deseamos rescatar tantos empleos como sea posible y proporcionar a nuestros merecedores estudiantes los recursos y el apoyo que ellos necesitan. Sin embargo, necesitamos el dinero proporcionado a través de las medidas de impuestos para hacerlo.

Gracias por su apoyo continuo.

School Board Meeting Dates

April 23	May 21	June 25
May 7	June 11	

The world percussion and steel pan class at Norwalk High was designed to include multi-cultural music at the high school level. The group performs music from Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and South America, as well as music from popular culture. The Norwalk High Steel Pan Band received such outstanding reviews from their December performance at the California State School Board Conference, they have been asked to perform at the 2012 Association of California School Administrators State Conference in San Diego in November.

In the NLMUSD, music really is a universal language!



Middle School students learn about World Rhythms and Cultures

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"I want to express my sincere gratitude for the academic support you and your staff have provided to my son during the past year. I can attest to the significant impact the Tutoring Club experience has made in his life. As a result, he has earned A's and B's and is less frustrated when given difficult homework assignments. Beyond this, he has developed the academic self-confidence needed to be successful. I attribute a great deal of my son's academic success to the team at the Tutoring Club. Thank you for making a difference!!"

Paul R. de Dios
Dean of Cypress College



Raising grades.

- **Homework Support**
- **Study Skills**

"My son always fought me to do homework, and this would be an all night thing. I tried everything, then I found Tutoring Club. Putting him in the Tutoring Club is the best thing I could have done for him. It has boosted his confidence and he is reading on his own."

Judy Karr-Mugica
mom of a 9 year old
Luther Elementary School, Cypress



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- **Positive Motivation**
- **Praise**

"Our goal was to get our son ready for Kindergarten, and the program exceeded our expectations. We are very pleased with choosing the Tutoring Club."

Tracy Blaylock
mom of student at
Landell Elementary School, Cypress

"Expert and caring teachers, an organized system, flexible hours, reasonable prices and a welcoming environment. That is what helps my grandsons and can help your child too!"

Cynthea Vanasse
Grandmother of students at
Miller Elementary School, Centralia



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