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School News

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Covering the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District

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JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2014

SUPERINTENDENT

Our students are achieving at high levels. The number of students graduating from the Norwalk-La Mirada School District is at an all-time high! The graduation rate has significantly improved to 94%. This success can be attributed to the hard work of students, educators, staff, community, and most importantly, YOU. With your support, our students will have a successful future.



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

Nuestros estudiantes están logrando a niveles altos. El número de estudiantes que se están graduando del Distrito Escolar de Norwalk -La Mirada se encuentra en un máximo histórico! La tasa de graduación ha mejorado de manera significativa a un 94%. Este éxito puede atribuirse al arduo trabajo de los estudiantes, educadores, personal, comunidad y lo más importante, USTED. Con su apoyo, nuestros estudiantes tendrán un futuro exitoso.

Felicitaciones a nuestras Escuelas Galardonadas de 2014 en el NLMUSD. Galardones a Escuelas Distinguidas de California

- Escuela Primaria Escalona
- Escuela Primaria Dulles
- Negocios de California para la Educación
- Escuelas de Excelencia en Cuadro de Honor
- Primaria Eastwood
- Primaria Escalona
- Primaria Gardenhill
- Primaria Johnston
- Primaria Morrison
- Primaria La Pluma
- Primaria Lampton
- Intermedia Hutchinson
- Intermedia Los Alisos

Congratulations to our 2014 Award Winning Schools in NLMUSD

California Distinguished Schools Awards
Escalona Elementary School
Dulles Elementary School

California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll Schools
Eastwood Elementary,
Escalona Elementary
Gardenhill Elementary
Johnston Elementary
Morrison Elementary
La Pluma Elementary
Lampton Elementary
Hutchinson Middle
Los Alisos Middle

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

A Moment of Reflection

With just a few weeks left in the 2013-2014 school year, we can all look back on an eventful year filled with successes. Here, I will share just a few. This was a momentous year for our student athletes. The Norwalk High School football Lancers made it to the CIF Southern Section Finals. Their perseverance was admirable and won the hearts of the community. The La Mirada High School football Matadores, having a long tradition of players signing on to play college football, signed on seven student athletes from the



Margarita Rios
President

Un Momento de Reflexión

Con sólo unas pocas semanas restando en el año escolar 2013-2014, todos podemos mirar hacia atrás, un año de intensa actividad lleno de éxitos. Aquí, voy a compartir sólo algunos. Este fue un año trascendental para nuestros estudiantes atletas.

Los Lanceros de fútbol americano de la Escuela Secundaria Norwalk llegaron a las Finales de la Sección Sur del CIF. Su perseverancia fue admirable y se ganaron el corazón de la comunidad. Los Matadores de futbol americano de la Escuela

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 12

California Distinguished Schools



Dulles students are proud to be a California Distinguished School!

The California Department of Education recently named Escalona Elementary and Dulles Elementary California Distinguished Schools! This prestigious award recognizes those exemplary schools from throughout the state that possess exceptional instructional programs and outstanding student achievement. Approximately five percent of California's public schools are selected for this recognition each year.

To be selected, schools must participate in a rigorous and competitive process conducted by the California Department of Education. Selection criteria include high expectations for all students; implementation of signature practices that lead to high levels of academic achievement; visionary and collaborative leadership; varied teaching strategies that provide challenging learning experiences for all students; academically competent and caring teachers; strong professional development measures; and, the ability to meet all designated federal and state accountability measures (AYP/API).

Principal Robin Padget said, "In our application for Distinguished School, we highlighted our teachers' commitment to provide a balanced literacy program and individualized instruction in math. Our students are both challenged and nurtured in the classroom. Dulles has also raised its API score by 16 points, and six of our students earned an impressive perfect score on the math CST state assessment!"

A validation team visited Dulles in April to inspect our school's programs and meet with staff, parents and students. The visitation team was impressed with our students' eloquence and enthusiasm about Dulles, and the education they receive here.

After spending a day on our campus, the team described Dulles Elementary as a, "little piece of heaven on earth!"

Escalona Principal, Bonita Lytle, said, "This recognition could not have been achieved without the unending support and commitment of our Escalona staff, parents, students and district leadership. We also received, for the fourth year, the California Business for Educational Excellence Award. This honors and recognizes those high-performing schools from across the state that are closing the achievement gap.

Way to go, Escalona Eagles. You are soaring high on the wings of knowledge!"

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Covering the
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Congratulations to the Class of
2014! The Superintendent and Board
of Education articles are positive and
such a great way to end the year with
so many accomplishments.

We have been introduced to the
Common Core Standards and look
forward to learning more next year.
Students are being prepared to
compete in the 21st Century.

We appreciate you including
School News among your reading
choices. This next issue is October
15 when we will begin publishing the
exciting new school year...until then
have a wonderful summer!

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Class of 2014



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Ramona Head Start *Pre-School*

14616 Dinard Ave., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/921-7610



Laurel Parker
Director

Big Doings With Dad

Our Daddy, Read Me a Story Night in March was a lot of fun! We had lots of literacy activities for children, their fathers and other important adults in their lives to do together. They made handprint pictures, created books, read together, wrote with chalk, created art, and then enjoyed cookies and milk at the end of the evening. We were honored to have Mr. Chris Pflanzner, NLMUSD board member and former Head Start parent attend.

The annual Family Fun Night was in May at Ramona. It was another evening of fun activities for preschoolers and their families.



Do you have a preschooler or know someone who does? We are currently accepting applications for all programs—free to low-income families—for 2014–15. Programs will start in August or September, with new service areas in north Norwalk and Downey. Please call our office or stop by our office at Ramona to apply.

Adult School

15711 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk CA 90650 • 562/868-9858

15920 Barbata Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/670-9279 • www.nlm.usd.edu



Sharon Renfro Todd
Director

Educational and Employment Rates in Our Region

Recent data from the California Department of Education shows that of the 435,000 adults in the region of Norwalk, La Mirada, Bellflower, Cerritos and Downey, more than 90,000 are in need of a high school diploma or equivalent; 40,000 are unemployed; more than 180,000 are English- language learners; and nearly 70,000 need basic literacy skills. Those numbers indicate a significant need for adult-education services, and our mission is to improve the literacy, English language, graduate and employment rates of the adults in our communities through quality educational programs.



Adult students focus on learning critical skills.

This summer, the Norwalk-La Mirada Adult School will offer a nine-week session of courses to build those critical educational and employment skills. The summer session will run on Monday through Thursday mornings and evenings from June 23 through Aug. 21. We welcome you to join thousands of other adult students who will make progress on important goals this summer!



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1 We offer a variety of programs (Head Start, State Preschool & LAUP) across multiple sites. Home Base, classes for three and four-year olds, beginning in the Summer & Fall. Classes are currently being filled.

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Benton *MS Visual & Performing Arts Magnet*

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



Michael Gotto
Principal

Down the Rabbit Hole!

In April, Benton Middle Magnet School presented Disney's *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* Under the direction of drama teacher Erin Strauss, this spectacular production was the culmination of countless hours of hard work and a true collaborative effort between our Visual and Performing Arts departments.

Students from our Drama, Music, Dance, Choir, Art, Media Arts and Photography classes were involved in the production. With endless support from parents and community members, students took the spotlight over the course of eight performances during which hundreds of audience members experienced the curiosity of Wonderland.

Above all, we are proud of the hands-on learning opportunities that students shared throughout this production. Students gained exposure in every facet of theater production. From acting to prop and program design to set decoration to sound and lighting, students learned priceless skills that they are able to take with them to high school and beyond.



Benton students shine on stage in Disney's Alice in Wonderland, Jr.

Corvallis *MS Arts & Technology Magnet*

11032 Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-2678 • www.nlmusd.org



Bob Easton
Principal

Guest Speaker Brings Positive Message

Corvallis students were treated to a special assembly with Actor Noel Gugliemi, who is known for his roles in movies including *The Fast and the Furious*, *S.W.A.T.*, and *Bruce Almighty*. With a great sense of humor, Noel

talked about his roles in the movies, how he got started in acting, and about the importance of being a person of good character and working hard to achieve one's dreams. He shared about how he grew up in very difficult circumstances and made poor choices, but was able to change the course of his life through acting and the support of others. Many students commented that he was someone to whom they were able to relate and that they appreciated his message.



Actor Noel Gugliemi speaks to Corvallis students about the importance of good character.

Chavez *Elementary School*

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



Robert Rayburn
Principal

Blended Learning and 21st Century Skills

Our world is demanding that our students have mastered technology and collaboration skills for college and career. At Chavez all our students have access to the latest technology available and the know-how to use it! Recently one of our 3rd grade classes was seen using iPads and our new online learning system called Schoology to create collaborative projects as part of their Common Core Reading unit. Today all universities have crucial parts of their curriculum online and our kids must be able to use these tools! We are working hard at Chavez to be sure that 100% of our students are the best in the world at using technology to learn and succeed!



Chavez 3rd graders using the latest technology to learn the skills need to succeed in college and career!

Dolland *Elementary School*

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



Lorena Sierra
Principal

Let's Dance!

It has been a dynamic year at Dolland Elementary School! One very special event this spring was having our students participate in an African dance program. This program was designed to support the understanding and appreciation of the African culture, with an emphasis on learning about Nigeria and its culture, traditions, and language.

All our fourth- and fifth-grade students performed the dances they had learned for our entire school and their families. It was an extraordinary experience, rich in aesthetics and harmony. Our students gained a true admiration for another culture and, in turn, learned to appreciate their own culture and traditions even more.

We are grateful for the support of Karen Calhoun, our district's Art Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA) for bringing this wonderful resource to our school. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Awe, for bringing out the musicians and dancers in all our students. Our community has greatly benefited!



Fourth grade Dolland students participate in African Dance!

Dulles *Elementary School*

12726 Meadow Green Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/943-6734 • www.nlmusd.org



Robin Padget
Principal

A California Distinguished School!

Please see our story on the front page.



El Camino *High School*

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



Darryl Brown
Principal

Seminar for Success

On April 10, students in the Seminar for Success elective held a school-wide assembly based on the theme of "Born to Achieve." The assembly was completely planned and promoted by our students. Its purpose was to expose them to the kind of adult role models who could explain the importance of setting goals and keeping persistent enough to meet them.

The guest speakers included Ken Menchuca of the Norwalk PRIDE program, Ricky Ellis of Goals for Life counseling, a representative from the American Society of Professional

Estimators, as well as El Camino High School counselor Valarie Mejia and Principal Darryl Brown.

The students from the Seminar for Success class did an outstanding job. Mrs. Burnett is also to be commended for helping to facilitate the work of her students. This is the second year that our Seminar students have planned and held a student motivational assembly. We look forward to next year's event.



El Camino High School students are Born to Achieve!

Escalona *Elementary School*

15135 Escalona Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 714/521-0970 • www.nlmusd.org



Bonita Lytle
Principal

A California Distinguished School!

Please see our story on the front page.



Eastwood *Elementary School*

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



Yvette Cantu
Principal

Celebrating Student Success

Eastwood Elementary School is proud to be recognized for the third year as an Honor Roll School by California Business for Education Excellence. The 2013 Honor Roll recognizes public schools that demonstrate consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps.

This award reflects our commitment to quality professional development, which includes grade-level team curriculum planning, developing best practices, coaching sessions, and collaborative response to student intervention needs. Teachers routinely monitor student progress and use data to inform daily instruction. Students identified as English learners receive 30 minutes of daily, small-group instruction using research-based curriculum for developing English.

We also contribute to academic progress with many opportunities for students to experience hands-on learning activities. Math, social studies, and science curriculum are brought to life through gardening projects, the hatching of chicks, and observing the life cycle of trout or butterflies. There are field trips to the theater, zoo, tide pools, city hall, and the mission, along with a week-long science camp for fifth-graders.

Creating celebrations and school traditions, such as writing celebrations, Student of the Month awards, Golden Eagle raffle in honor of strong character, Academic Trimester Awards, and High Five monthly class recognition all help to make the positive learning atmosphere necessary for the success of all Eastwood students.

Edmondson *Elementary School*

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



Jacob Muñiz
Principal

A New Test

Edmondson is approaching lift-off time when it comes to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)! Along with most of the students in the United States, our children are part of this new testing era. Our Eagles in the third thru fifth grades will now be taking the SBAC during the month of May. It is actually a test of the test, which means we will not receive any scores.

The exciting part of this test is that it is also administered entirely on the computer. Instead of simply asking multiple-choice questions, the ante has been raised. The SBAC is now much more rigorous than the CST ever was!

I am proud of our teaching staff because they have been eagerly anticipating this new era. They are spending quality time to help our students do their best on this new test.



Edmondson teachers logging onto Schoology to access info regarding SBAC."

Foster Road *Elementary School*

13930 Foster Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/921-9908 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Jean Maddox
Principal

First Steps to the Future!

We are on our last few months of school—it's amazing how fast this year is passing by. When we reflect on all our accomplishments, we can see we have been laser focused and in high gear getting ready for the new Common Core Standards. Teachers have been in grade-level training as well as cross-grade-level training. They have been trying on the new Common Core units of study, and we have teachers piloting one of the new math programs. This has been a very busy productive year!

Our goal is college and career readiness for all students. As our teachers increase their techniques and strategies, our students will become ready for college and careers without the need for remedial coursework. They will be equipped with sufficient knowledge and skills to follow their own individual dreams. Each student is unique, with different interests each needs to develop. The measure of success is the students' success in their chosen fields. We want to give them the foundation and the critical-thinking skills to pursue a variety of choices. Building on their skills, their self-confidence, their motivation to do their best, goal setting, time management and organizational skills contributes to developing as successful lifelong creative learners. Even our little kindergarten students are all saying they are going to college! The career path is open for them, and they are taking the first steps in developing their skills. Foster Road students are going to college!

Glazier *Elementary School*

10932 E. Excelsior Dr., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/863-8796 • www.nlmusd.org



Kristine Cvar
Principal

Spring Has Sprung!

The Glazier Elementary School staff, students, and families welcomed the spring season by holding a Spring Festival on March 28. The evening was a complete success!

Los Alisos Middle School Cheer performed for the crowd. Glazier's musical theater group, as well as the flutes and choir class, provided beautiful music. Different games were available, including Fish Toss, Cake Walk, Bottle Pick-up, Can Knockdown, and Bingo. Guests of all ages could have their faces painted or paint ceramic tiles to be mounted on the walls of Glazier forever.

Avid shoppers could find craft vendors selling items from place mats to jewelry. PTA provided a plethora of scrumptious foods to please any palate.

Profits from the Spring Festival supported the fifth-grade Science Camp trip. We look forward to making the festival a tradition for years to come.



Karlie Field, speech therapist, is excited about the tile painting.

Gardenhill *Elementary School*

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



Eileen Burkholder
Principal

Dedicated Students

What makes Gardenhill Students so great? They work hard on their academics with an API of 915, and they work hard serving our community and world. Gardenhill students just finished up our annual PTA jog-a-thon. Students and families worked hard to raise money for our school! Students also recently raised \$2,588 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society participating in "Pennies for Pasta." Additionally, we are proud of our partnership with By Grace Orphanage in Kenya. Students and families have donated "Love Packs" and have raised over \$4,000.00 for the orphanage. We are developing such amazing students and are proud of their great character and their hard work with the new Common Core Standards!



Gardenhill's annual PTA jog-a-thon.

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Glenn *High School*

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



Greg Puccia
Principal

A Spectacular Ending

As John Glenn High School (JGHS) finishes the 2013–2014 school year, we have much to celebrate. We are preparing to graduate the Class of 2014 and welcome the Class of 2018. We still have many important and engaging activities remaining as we end the school year.

The Class of 2014 is looking forward to senior activities, including the Senior Awards, Senior Breakfast and graduation. We are very proud of the Class of 2014 and look forward to celebrating their various achievements as they prepare to start

the next phase of their lives.

JGHS students participated in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Common Core Pilot Testing in April. The results of these tests will be used to develop the test that will be administered across the country next year. Over 300 JGHS scholars took Advanced Placement (AP) tests in 13 subject areas in May.

Other school activities this spring included the spring play, Dance Showcase, the spring concert, Fine Arts Night and powder puff football. Our student-athletes just finished competing in baseball, softball, track and field, tennis, volleyball and golf. We are very proud of their efforts and dedication.

Please visit the school Web site at www.jghs.org and join us next year for a sporting event, art program or other activity open to the public. The school is always open to visitors by appointment.

Johnston *Elementary School*

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



Veronica Lizardi
Principal

An Exciting Year

This 2013–2014 school year has been filled with so many exciting events! Teachers and support staff have been busy learning and “trying-on” new Common Core State Standards. Third through fifth grade students piloted the new online state test and did a great job at the new system. In addition, Johnston Roadrunners continued to practice their T.R.R.F.C.C. skills by following the six pillars of character. We believe that being a great Citizen means making your world a better place to live. Students enthusiastically welcomed the Environmental

Defenders to our school as they helped us celebrate Earth Day and our role in helping make our world a better place. We also have been supporting Team Johnston’s fundraising events for the Relay for Life race this June. Go Roadrunners! And thank you to all our parents for supporting us this year!



The Environmental Defenders helped students celebrate Earth Day!

Hutchinson *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

13900 Estero Rd., La Mirada, CA 90638 • 562/944-3268 • www.nlmusd.org



Sara Siemens
Principal

Hutchinson Hawks Shine

Hutchinson Middle School students enjoyed several great accomplishments this spring. Under the direction of Mr. Craig Jordan, Hutchinson Band students participated in the SCBOA Band festival and scored Unanimous Superior ratings in late March. The festival was hosted by Hutchinson Middle School and NLMUSD at Excelsior Auditorium in Norwalk, inviting middle school and high school band programs from local area schools. Hutchinson’s band continues on to Regionals this May. Additionally, our 7th and 8th grade Academic Pentathlon students participated in the Orange County Academic Pentathlon



Hutchinson Middle School's 8th grade Academic Pentathlon Team.

tournaments and brought back 125 metals in the categories of Language Arts, Math, Science, Super Quiz and Overall Individual Performance. Pentathlon teams also placed in the areas of Super Quiz and Overall Team Awards. Hutchinson continues to focus educating the whole child!

La Mirada *High School*

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



Bill Seals
Principal

Skills USA

During spring break, while most of us were maximizing our time off, Brent Tuttle, Derek Wood, Andrea Wood, Lori Marshall, Debra Moreno and Mr. Opper were busy. These teachers took a group of 46 students to compete at Skills USA. Students represent the various academies and pathways here at La Mirada High School. These programs include ACE Academy, APPLE Academy, PLTW Engineering Academy, Medical Pathway, Health Occupations, Mechatronics and Welding.

Skills USA is a forum in which students compete in career and technical skills. They make presentations on current topics, submit welding projects, and make presentations to compete for contracts, which is similar to what companies do in the real world. There were over 6,000 competitors in 98 different events.

Our students took home 10 gold medals, seven silver medals and 11 bronze medals. Congratulations, students, and thank you, teachers for your endless hours of student support!



La Mirada students bring home Gold!

La Pluma *Elementary School*

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



Terry Pace
Principal

Embracing the Gift of Music

Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity are the four Cs of the Common Core State Standards. We believe that students also need exposure to the arts in order to achieve and realize their academic goals and creative talents.

The students at La Pluma Elementary School have had the privilege of participating in music school-wide, as well as choir for our third- through fifth-grade students. We are grateful to PTA, Karen Calhoun, and our teachers, Mrs. Wheatley, Mrs. Kim, and Mr. Ortiz. Because of their efforts, students are developing their creative talents through singing, reading music, understanding music theory, and exposure to world percussion, recorders, guitar, trumpets, and a variety of other musical instruments. We are embracing this gift of music and look forward to highlighting our students in concerts, school-wide assemblies, and Family Fun Nights!

Together, we are teaming up to inspire students to think, collaborate, and create!



Our Singing Panthers Choir, headed by Mrs. Wheatley.

Lampton *Elementary School*

14716 Elmcroft Ave., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/462-9273 • www.nlmusd.org



Cindy Rayburn
Principal

Time to Play

At Lampton Elementary School, we believe that healthy, positive play is important for everyone. On March 22, hundreds of families came together to enjoy a morning of playground games at Community Play Day, organized and hosted by Playworks Coach Doris Zamora and her fourth- and fifth-grade junior coaches.

Tennis shoes and t-shirts were the attire of the day. Parents and staff played handball, four square, volleyball, basketball, and soccer with their children. One brave mom even showed off her double-dutch jump rope skills. Hula-hoops, Ro-Sham-Bo hopscotch, and line dances were also popular.



Parents and students play together at Community Play Day!

Lampton's PTA provided snacks and water for hungry and thirsty players, both student and adult. Prize raffles were held every 15 minutes. Several attendees won books, hats, Frisbees or water bottles, and a few even won Playworks or Ro-Sham-Bo t-shirts.

All in all, Community Play Day was a huge hit. We welcome you to come play with us!

Los Alisos *MS Math, Science, Technology Magnet*

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



Mike Garcia
Principal

Congratulations!

Los Alisos Middle School attended the 2014 Los Angeles County Science Fair. Eleven students were selected to attend, based on their use of the scientific method to solve real-world problems. The students spent time after school, preparing their display boards, speeches, and projects for the day of the fair. The students had fun presenting their hard work to judges, who are current professionals in the fields the students studied. These students also attended the International Science and Engineering Fair on May 15.

The Los Alisos seventh- and eighth-grade Pentathlon teams competed at Bolsa Grande on April 5. They did an outstanding job. Students won 39 individual medals and four team medals, including first place in the seventh-grade team super quiz and third overall. Our students and teacher coaches worked hard to prepare for the competition!

We are also very proud of the Los Alisos soccer team and the girls basketball team for taking first place in the middle school sports tournament. Congratulations and great job!



L.A. County Science Fair contestants.

Los Coyotes *MS Centurion Honors and Medical/Forensics Magnet*

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



Dr. Christina Stanley
Principal

A Musical Season

Our band director and students are having a busy season! We proudly announce that the LCMS Wind Ensemble scored the highest rating possible, Unanimous Superior, at the February Whittier SCSBOA Festival. The LCMS Festival Ensemble went on to score a Superior rating at the March SCSBOA Festival hosted by Hutchinson Middle School.

The band program hosted a spaghetti-dinner concert in April, featuring performances by all four band levels, multiple soloists and small ensembles. Also that month, the LCMS Forum Concert Band was the only ensemble to score a Gold rating at the Forum Music Festival at Fullerton College. Wind Ensemble performed at the SCSBOA Regional Festival at Kennedy High School and, as Festival Ensemble, performed at the SCSBOA Regional Festival at Redlands East Valley High School.

Our final concert of the year will be the Spring Concert on June 10, 7 p.m., in Crowell Hall at Biola University. Please join us for these amazing performances!



The Los Coyotes Concert Band continues to impress!

Moffitt *Elementary School*

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



Maureen Bixby
Principal

A Great Time to Be a Mustang!

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of the school year. I am so proud of the accomplishments of our Moffitt community, and look forward to their continued efforts. Moffitt is dedicated to implementing a rigorous, standards-based curriculum, one that can prepare every student for college and career as well as instill a life-long love for learning.

In addition to our hard work in the classrooms, we also celebrated special events like Read Across America, College Week, and the Dodgers/Playworks community caravan. We have even taken on improvement projects such as fundraising for a new mural, renovating a garden, and creating an additional computer lab.

There have also been various community service efforts like Pennies for Patients, Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, and a bone marrow drive.

The smiles on our children's faces, and their many accomplishments, have truly made this a great time to be a Mustang!



1st grade students are excited to show Mrs. Bixby their library books!

New River *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Centeno
Principal

End-of-the-Year Activities

The end of the school year may bring thoughts of warm days and vacation to some, but not us! We're extremely busy!

The SBAC is the state's new assessment, aligned with the Common Core State Standards, and this year is a practice version. We were selected as a pilot school, and our third-through-fourth-graders' responses will be sent to the state to assist in refining next year's test.

Our second annual Jump Rope for the Heart raised money for the American Heart Association and promoted awareness for a healthy, active lifestyle.

PTA sponsored several events. Muffins with Moms and Donuts with Dads honored our wonderful parents. A Volunteer Tea was also held to recognize the many parents and community members who support our year's events. And of course, our K-5 Jog-A-Thon was a tremendous success.

Thank you, parents and community, for your tremendous support and helping create many memorable events!



New River students participate in the "Jump Rope for Heart" event for the American Red Cross.

Morrison *Elementary School*

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



Rudy Gonzalez
Principal

Exploring the Arts

This year our students are enjoying the Meet the Masters experience again, and are continuing our school's tradition of working with the visual arts.

We begin with multimedia assemblies using artwork, realia, and music. The children also learn about the fascinating lives and famous works of three master artists. This year the students in grades one to five learned about Vincent Van Gogh's textures, Pablo Picasso's abstracts, and Maria Martinez's pottery designs.

Once the children have a true connection to the artist it is then time to introduce the techniques that made this art revolutionary.



Morrison students participate in the Meet the Masters art program.

Back in the classroom, the teachers lead the students on a step-by-step journey through an art project. Often working in the same medium, style or subject matter as the master, our students soon discover their own creativity, while also developing confidence in their individually unique abilities.

These beautiful creations are later displayed in the classrooms and in our display cases throughout the school. The arts are alive and well at Morrison!

Norwalk *High School*

11356 E. Leffingwell Rd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.org



Dr. Ryan Smith
Principal

We Did the Math!

It's amazing to think that the end of the school year is almost here! As I look back on this year's accomplishments, I am truly amazed at how hard our teachers and staff have worked to provide our students and families with the best educational experience possible. One of the best things about this time of year is all of the celebrations that take place. I hope that everyone enjoyed our annual Cinco de Mayo event and is looking forward to the Renaissance Assembly, which recognizes academic excellence, senior awards night and, of course, graduation.

As you may know, we are very excited about our strong partnership with Cerritos College. A few weeks ago, we started a program to help seniors who are headed there in the fall to improve their math placements. Unfortunately, most of the students who attend Cerritos College do not take college-level math courses. This joint venture between our schools is aiming to change that! Cerritos College math professors have been working with our students to improve their math skills, and the results have paid off—all of the students improved their math scores significantly, and half of the students placed into a higher math course than they were in before! Unique partnerships like this one are what make Norwalk High School stand out from the rest!

If you would like to learn more about our school, please visit our website. Follow me on Twitter @PrincipalLancer to receive regular updates about all of the great things happening at our school.

Nuffer *Elementary School*

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



LaTasha Buck
Principal

Another Productive Year

Where has the time gone? Throughout the year, our teachers have collaborated weekly to focus on learning. They have also been learning Common Core State Standards and strategies, as well as essential elements of effective instruction. We're confident these efforts will improve and guarantee the quality of instruction in every classroom.

Our parents have also played an important role this year. They attended workshops to improve their own learning; they supported PTA through events and fund-raising; and they ensured that their children arrived daily, prepared to learn. Our students' success is a collaborative effort that reaps great rewards for years to come, so many thanks to our staff and parents for working together!

Yes, indeed, it's been great year! We wish everyone a relaxing and fun-filled summer, and we look forward to seeing our students return on Thursday, September 4, the first day of the 2014–2015 school year!



Sanchez *Elementary School*

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



Alicia Rubio
Principal

Career Day

Sanchez students and staff members celebrated Career Day by inviting speakers and learning about different colleges and universities.

Our students made university flags and wrote about what they'd like to do when they grow up. They also learned about different careers from our guests, who each represented a profession like space engineering, business, veterinary medicine, the performing arts, firefighting and police work.

The speakers talked about their childhoods and their educations, and about how each helped to prepare them for the futures they wanted. They also brought PowerPoints, photographs and shared goodies from their professions like coloring books, space vehicle pens and officer stickers.

The guests encouraged our students to think about the careers they'd like to go into, and how to make good choices to help them achieve their goals. It was a great opportunity to reach out to the community and build business relationships, as well as to look into the future.

Waite *MS Careers Magnet*

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



Willie Norman
Principal

Waite Panthers Career Paths working with Parents

Waite uses *evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement*, Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp in 2002 conclude that there is a positive and convincing relationship between family involvement and student success, regardless of race/ethnicity, class, or parents' level of education. To put it another way, when families are involved in their children's learning both at home and at school, their children do better in school. The report points to specific types of involvement as being especially beneficial to children's academic success.

The more parent and community activities, the more students learning improves. Learning-focused involvement activities may include: Family nights on math or literacy, Family-teacher conferences that involve students, and Family workshops on planning for college.

Southeast *Academy*

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



Sgt. Marty Schafer
Director

School Culture

I want to mention the success of our learning community at Southeast Academy High School. The class of 2014 will soon be receiving their high school diplomas. Earning a high school diploma at Southeast Academy reflects success and our motto "Strength Endurance and Achievement."

I want to reinforce how powerful our school culture is to learning and the success of Southeast Academy High School. In these days of accountability numbers, such as test scores and daily attendance, we must not forget the importance of school culture. School culture goes back to the 1930s and beyond. Colleges and universities such as United States Military Academy West Point and Harvard University, evoke very positive images of traditions and cultures. We have a culture and a personality of our very own. Southeast Academy High School has developed cherished traditions, school-wide student expectations, and a proud heritage of our past and a sense of school spirit. Cadets take an oath symbolizing the culture of Southeast Academy. Our staff feels responsible for student learning, and teachers are not quick to blame the students for not being successful. I am proud to say our teachers volunteer extra time when needed for their students' academic success.

Speak to our cadets and families and you will consistently here how we focus on strong academic achievement, school safety, and a positive school culture that is conducive to learning.



Waite parents using art as an expression of life.

SUPERINTENDENT

From Page 1

We are very proud of the hard work and dedication of students and staff. We are grateful to parents and community for their support. Our schools could not achieve without the collaboration of parents and community.

Corvallis Middle School and Benton Middle School have begun the much awaited renovation of their buildings. This is all made possible because of your past support of Measure "S" tax funds and because of the exemplary leadership of our School Board of Education. Thank you for making this possible for our well-deserving students.

We have had a very busy "learning" year for all. Teachers and administrators have been involved in much professional development on the new Common Core State Standards. We are working diligently to prepare our students to experience success. Please help us to encourage our students to remain focused on their studies. When our students achieve, we all achieve!

With heart and a strong will to achieve, YES we can!"



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

Estamos muy orgullosos del arduo trabajo y la dedicación de los estudiantes y el personal. Estamos agradecidos con los padres y la comunidad por su apoyo. Nuestras escuelas no podrían lograr sin la colaboración de los padres y la comunidad.

La Escuela Intermedia Corvallis y la Escuela Intermedia Benton han empezado la renovación tan esperada de sus edificios. Todo esto es posible gracias a su apoyo del pasado a la Medida "S", fondos de los impuestos, y por el liderazgo ejemplar de nuestra Junta de Educación Escolar. Gracias por hacer esto posible para nuestros bien merecidos estudiantes.

Hemos tenido un año de "aprendizaje" muy ocupado para todos. Los maestros y administradores han estado involucrados en cuantioso desarrollo profesional sobre los nuevos Estándares Comunes Estatales. Estamos trabajando diligentemente para preparar a nuestros estudiantes para experimentar el éxito. Por favor ayúdenos a animar a nuestros estudiantes a permanecer enfocados en sus estudios. ¡Cuando nuestros estudiantes son exitosos, todos somos exitosos!

¡"Con Corazón y ganas, Si Se Puede"!

12820 Pioneer Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 • 562/868-0431 • www.nlmusd.k12.ca.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION

From Page 12

class of 2014. This year our employees received prestigious recognitions. Ms. Karen Calhoun received the 57th Assembly District Distinguished Women of the Year Award for her dedicated work with our VAPA programs, and Mr. Darryl Brown, principal at El Camino Continuation, was honored as Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). This year the District added to its list of California Distinguished Schools. Escalona and Dulles Elementary earned the distinction for narrowing the achievement gap, bringing our total of California Distinguished Schools in the District to nine (and counting). Also this year, the 21st Century/After School Education and Safety program (ASES) implemented Reading Together. A peer tutoring program aimed at helping students build confidence and self-esteem by improving their reading skills. At NLMUSD the commitment to our students does not stop at the end of the school day. I also must share that the most recent data for our high school graduation rate is available, and the District once again showed an increase. We are at 94%; a great success for our students! Although our work is never done, NLMUSD has much to be proud of. Finally, I want to extend a sincere thank you to all students for always doing your best, parents for encouraging your children and your continued support for our schools, teachers for your hard work to provide a quality education, and support staff for accomplishing important everyday tasks that keep this District running. Thank you! Have a safe and fun summer.



Margarita Rios
President

Secundaria La Mirada, que tiene una larga tradición de jugadores que firman a jugar fútbol americano universitario; firmaron a siete estudiantes atletas de la clase de 2014. Este año nuestros empleados recibieron prestigiosos reconocimientos. La Sra. Karen Calhoun recibió la premiación del 57^o Reconocimiento de Mujeres Distinguidas del Año del Distrito de la Asamblea por la dedicación a su trabajo con nuestros programas VAPA, y el Sr. Darryl Brown, director de la Escuela Secundaria de Continuación El Camino, fue honrado como Administrador del Año por la Asociación de Administradores Escolares de California (ACSA, por sus siglas en inglés). Este año el Distrito añadió a su lista de Escuelas Distinguidas de California. La Primarias Escalona y Dulles ganaron la distinción por la reducción de la brecha en el rendimiento, con lo que nuestro total de Escuelas Distinguidas de California en el Distrito es de nueve (y contando). También este año, el Programa de Educación y Seguridad Escolar de Después de Clases del Siglo 21^a (ASES, por sus siglas en inglés) implementó "Reading Together". Un programa de tutoría entre los mismos estudiantes destinado a ayudar a los estudiantes a construir la confianza y la autoestima al mejorar sus habilidades de lectura. En el NLMUSD el compromiso con nuestros estudiantes no se detiene al final del día escolar. También tengo que compartir que los datos más recientes de nuestra tasa de graduación de las escuelas Secundarias está disponible, y el Distrito una vez más mostró un incremento. ¡Estamos a 94 %; un gran éxito para nuestros estudiantes! Aunque nuestro trabajo nunca termina, NLMUSD tiene mucho de que estar orgulloso. Por último, quiero extender un sincero agradecimiento a todos los estudiantes por hacer siempre lo mejor posible, a los padres por alentar a sus hijos y su continuo apoyo a nuestras escuelas, a los maestros por su arduo trabajo para proporcionar una educación de calidad, y a el personal de apoyo por llevar a cabo importantes tareas de todos los días que mantienen a este Distrito en marcha. ¡Gracias! Que tengan un verano seguro y divertido.



Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District Board of Education



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Benign Neglect



Nancy

I've spent my morning weeding, transplanting, thinning and cutting flowers. It is almost impossible for me to sit at my dinner table without a small bouquet on it. Now "bouquet" may vary



from some beautiful roses I have cut and paired with oregano and spears of rosemary as fillers, or iris and peony and lilac with gone-to-seed parsley heads, or maybe tiny little glasses at each plate with coral and blue weed flowers and a sprig of thyme to fill it out. With so much blooming around us all the time, it seems shameful not to celebrate it somehow.

As I was pulling weeds this morning and doing some pruning I could not help but remember a glorious stand of iris I had seen in one place and a beautiful wisteria in another, both places long abandoned by humans and both plantings without care for years. The iris stand could possibly have been greater in number or larger in bloom with some feed and thinning and the wisteria possibly heavier with bloom had it been pruned back, but the neglect given these plants did not keep them from bursting forth with their gorgeous flowers. Perhaps a little benign neglect in the flower world is a good thing. I certainly hope so because my flowers will be getting their measure of that this year I fear.

Gates are meant to open and to close and my hired man did both, moving on to different pastures in another part of the state. After 4 years of having assistance with the weed pulling, shredding of leaves and compost, mowing, weed eating, spraying and heavy lifting, I am deciding just what actually needs to be done and what can benefit from that benign neglect.

As I get older and my load seems at time to get heavier, I am learning not everything has to be done every day. Caring for my mother who has suffered some memory loss due to a head injury is teaching me patience in constant repetition, and helping me set priorities as I go through each day. It is not absolutely required that the little table in the corner be dusted today or that weed over there be pulled, but it is without a doubt a priority that some light be shed in relationships.

I wish you health, happy gardening, and the ability to practice some benign neglect in areas of your life.

Publisher's note: Nancy is a rancher in Northern CA. I don't think I have ever known anyone quite as appreciative of nature as Nancy. She can stand in the middle of a field of weeds and find beauty in the gentle swaying of the tassels. At the end of her busy day, rather than settle down for a much needed rest, Nancy is preparing sugar water to not disappoint the hummingbirds the following morning. After much arm twisting, I convinced Nancy to share with our readers a few tidbits of her days on the farm. Enjoy!

So You Think You Can Drive



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel

My children are in their 40s, and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since I parented them. One of the most memorable areas of difficulty is when they learned to drive. It is bad enough that your precious baby is on the roller coaster of hormones and exhibiting moments of extreme independence; now he or she wants to get behind the wheel of a car and disappear into the teenage world. Yikes! Besides ensuring that your teen has lots of supervised practice with driving, which will allow him or her to react appropriately when faced with an unexpected situation, it's also important to impress upon your young person the magnitude of the responsibility the privilege of driving entails. Following are some thoughts to share with your children at this important stage of life.

It is critical that your teen understands that driving an automobile is wielding a deadly weapon. You are not only risking your life but someone else's life.

Today's teens also have to deal with the impact of the world of electronics on their driving. Texting and driving is the same as playing Russian roulette, only the stakes are higher, because more lives are at risk. According to textinganddrivingsafety.com, there are 1.3 million crashes involving cell phones each year. If you look down for five seconds while driving 55 miles per hour, it is the same as looking down while driving the length of a football field. Too many people have lost their lives or killed someone else while texting and driving. Whatever you have to share can wait.

Drinking and driving is not new, but it is still unacceptable. I warned my children that if they came in from an evening with friends and I could tell they had been drinking or doing drugs, they would lose their driving privileges. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) has plenty of graphic pictures on its Web site, which clearly illustrate that alcohol dulls the clarity of a person's thoughts. Alcohol inhibits your ability to make wise choices, so it should never be mixed with driving.

Distracted drivers are also a danger on the road. Driving a car requires your full attention. Reaching into the glove box, turning to talk to friends, or singing and bouncing around distracts a driver.

All of these behaviors need to be emphasized with young drivers. But they all boil down to one truth of life: you always need to be responsible and make good choices. From incurring parking tickets or allowing someone else to drive your car to driving while intoxicated, poor choices have serious consequences for your teen, and he or she should know that before you hand over the keys.

Finally, before you send your teen out on the road solo for the first time, remind your child how much you love him or her. Let your teen know that you are aware of the dangers driving may impose and you trust him or her to make good choices. When your child knows that your trust is at risk, hopefully he or she will think twice before making a life-threatening poor decision.

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

Parent To Parent

Confidence for Beginning Drivers



Jodie Lynn

Question: Our son is planning on getting his driving permit this summer. This means he will be able to drive on his own without supervision. What are some easy guidelines to make him feel more comfortable about driving that we could set up for him so we don't constantly nag him or make him feel uncomfortable?

From Jodie: When our teenagers got their license, we had already let them drive around our neighborhood high school parking lot when there were no other cars. We practiced parallel parking, backing up, going around soccer cones, and in and out of them, while they were still new drivers. However, when it came time for driving in real traffic, even though they knew most of the traffic signs and procedures, it was clear that they

simply needed more experience with real-life driving situations. They needed to understand what was required of them while driving in rain, sleet, snow and ice. They also needed to become comfortable with busy streets, highways, overpasses, etc. Driving schools, pretty much meet the requirements needed to give them the confidence that they lacked in these specific areas. The one-on-one attention with an adult who wasn't going to be grading or nagging them was exactly what was missing. Of course, in today's society, making sure that teens do not text and drive, is also one of the missing elements. SnapSecure created an infographic to illustrate the dangers of texting and driving and offer a driver's safety app which disables texting, calling and internet functions of a phone when you are driving over 15mph. Helpful for parents who are worried about the safety of their teens, the motion activated technology also alerts parents if the block is removed.

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

Buy One Get One Flea, Dog on Fleas



Kate Karp

For some time, creators and performers of young people's music have been dispensing with the cheap, synthetic sound of electronic tracks and replacing them with real live instruments. I'm surely not the only one who's delighted beyond words. Dog on Fleas is one of the groups that plays in its own band, called the Backyard Orchestra; the combo includes but is not limited to a sousaphone, duck calls, a bass drum, a bassoon, a clarinet and several kazoos. The wacky instrumentation and the wordplayful monikers of group and band indicate one slaphappily good CD.

The content is composed of songs original, familiar and obscure. Imagine, if you will, "Over the Waves" and the "Grand March" from the opera *Aida* played solely by kazoos, albeit skillfully. The original songs, written by Grammy Award-winning producer and band member Dean Jones, are based on themes that both child and parent will appreciate. "Hundredaires" is about the joys and disadvantages of a simpler life and a lighter wallet. "It's a Ruse" warns about things that seem too good to be true and likely are. "Pardon My Pajamas"—well, who hasn't longed to spend an entire day in jammies?

And "Hinterlands" is plain wonderful—brilliantly arranged and tuneful, with an energy that you can jump on and ride. You're certain to get an itch for Fleadom.

Smiley Face Sticker, Mr. Palindrome

Ding, dong! Madame, I'm Adam. Said the flea, let us fly; said the fly, let us flee! Those are examples of onomatopoeia, palindromes and alliteration. Big words, but not so big that Mr. Palindrome, aka Australian musician Natan Kuchar, thinks that your young child can't have fun learning them. His new CD features a song for each of the aforementioned types of figurative language. "Alove Alliteration" actually rolls off the tongue. "Onomatopoeia" asks, "Do you have any i-de-ah what's an onomatopoeia?" and sings out examples. The palindrome has two songs, "The Palindrome Song" and "Backwards Alphabet," which practices singing the ABC's backward, stopping and starting with the British English *zed*, and shows how a word like *kayak* is spelled the same backward and forward.

"The Real Adventures of Incy Wincy Spider" will encourage parents, teachers and children to compose further adventures of favorite storybook characters. And to let you know that the collection isn't just about the lyrics, "Smiley Face Sticker" has a great melody line and thumping beat, enough to leave you with an incy wincy earworm.

Mr. Palindrome, as he puts it, wants to teach very small children very big words with very silly songs. Even better, your child's experience with figurative language will be enhanced by some even sillier videos and doodlings available free, along with lyrics to all the songs, on Mr. P's website, www.mrpalindrome.com.

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

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 RBUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2014

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

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

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

Congratulations to Rissa Caybell Winner of the Last Contest!

Summer is the Time for Edu-tivities



Susan D. Marshall

Typically I write to address the parents, but this is for you and your children. Soon we will all be thinking, "Hooray! School is out!" This is the time to swim, play sports, and enjoy some R&R.

One question though: Have your children ever wanted to study sea animals or to learn to play an instrument but there just isn't enough time during school to do it? Maybe they wanted to learn about rockets, how to cook or sew, the choices are endless!

Kids: Now is your chance to learn about what you are interested in, to discover and to explore things that YOU have always wanted to find out about. Now is the time to satisfy YOUR curiosity.

Simply stagnating for 3 months will eliminate some of the knowledge your children gained throughout the year. As a parent, I always wanted to cultivate my children's desire to learn and explore. If they were interested in something we would research that subject, learn all we could and then do an activity related to their research. Sometimes time is not on our side but I found that having a membership to museums, the zoo, or an amusement park would allow us to explore for a shorter amount of time on days throughout the year would allow us to gain more access and a better experience than trying to fit all of the attractions into one day.

The benefits of membership at different venues stretch far beyond simply the ability to visit the various attractions. They typically have special member only classes for the children, discounts for behind the scenes tours, and much more. If money for a family membership sounds out of reach there are FREE activities to be found.

Of all the venues for learning opportunities, the best place is still your local library. Before you say "sounds boring..." ask yourself when was the last time you went? Library cards are FREE! You can get videos, music, even find books that can rock your world. There is story time and other shows at many libraries, but you won't know about them until you look. Plus, the knowledgeable librarians will help you on your quest, showing you the right sections to find the information you need.

Who will you be at the end of summer? It's up to YOU...

Note to the college bound: Your summers are as important as the school year. Stay competitive, be productive.

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

Strategic Plan—A New Way Forward



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

I am pleased to announce the release of a new strategic plan that outlines the Los Angeles County Office of Education's course of action for the next three years.

The plan identifies outcomes – with key goals designed to capitalize on LACOE's strengths – and articulates a vision for an innovative, contemporary education agency that is ready to meet new challenges and opportunities.

The plan was conceived more than two years ago not long after I joined LACOE – and after the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) completed its review of LACOE operations and made recommendations to enhance efficiency.

The FCMAT review gave us some immediate things that we needed to get done, but did not really give us a long-range view of what, strategically, we want to see happen in the County Office. This prompted us to come up with a more formalized strategic plan that will produce the best work possible for the county's 80 K-12 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

The LACOE Strategic Plan was developed following critical conversations on the Office's purpose, core values and focus areas that provided the framework for the plan. It is focused on Common Core, Innovative Systems and Schools, Fiscal Direction and Solvency, and Partnerships. Specific goals are identified under each of these areas.

Collaboration with school districts plays a big role in the strategic plan. Our purpose statement speaks to the area of how we serve the school districts, how we communicate to them, and how we adjust our services to them in ways that they find helpful and are based on their specific needs.

The plan, for example, targets increased collaboration with the districts on initiatives relating to Gov. Jerry Brown's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) programs. LACOE will now play a key role in the rollout and implementation of these programs, assisting districts as they develop and manage budgets in accordance with the new state guidelines on funding.

Under the new strategic plan, LACOE will strengthen partnerships with school districts, charter schools, community colleges and local agencies to enhance student learning opportunities. There will also be a strong focus on maximizing the use of technology to increase efficiency and improve communication and information sharing with the districts.

I'd like to invite you to learn more about the LACOE Strategic Plan by visiting our website: www.lacoe.edu.

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nation's largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

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Karley Cable

Karley Cable, (16) has formed a new non-profit organization: The M.A.D. Movement=Making/A/Difference. "It's a group of socially-conscious artists using their talents to make the world a better place." She created a website: <http://themadmovement.weebly.com> and is working on her first big project: A 'Don't Text and Drive/It Can Wait' awareness campaign being sponsored by Verizon, AT&T and several local businesses.

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