

FREE

School News

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Covering the Wiseburn School District



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MARCH 2011

Wiseburn Schools Face Budget Challenges of Historic Proportions



Dr. Tom Johnstone
Superintendent

Wiseburn schools, and indeed all California schools, are reeling from four consecutive years of funding cuts due to the worst economic stagnation since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Since California K-12 schools comprise 30% of the annual State budget, the fate of our schools is tied closely to California's economy. California's unemployment rate — at 12.4% — is the third worst in the United States behind only Michigan and Nevada. While there are some indications that the economy is improving, or at least not getting any worse, full recovery is not expected until 2016.

Added to the economic crisis is the fact that California's K-12 spending per student lags behind that of the rest of the United States more than at any time in the past 40 years. According to National Education Association research, California ranks 43rd in the United States in per student spending and is \$2,580 per student below the national average. Since 2007-08 funding for K-12 education in California has been slashed by more than 10%, equaling a loss of 18 billion dollars in cuts and deferrals. In comparing what schools should be receiving from the State by law, with actual dollars received in 2010-11, California schools are only receiving \$0.82 on the dollar.

What impact does California's budget woes have on Wiseburn schools? Since 2007-08, our actual funding per student (Average Daily Attendance — the actual money we get each year per student) has dropped from \$5,704 per student to \$5,123 per student, a loss of \$581 per student. When this is multiplied by the 2,450 students that attend our four schools every day, the loss of revenue is an astounding 1.42 million dollars. Federal stimulus funds received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and Edu-Jobs have greatly helped in temporarily bridging the gap, but in order to balance the budget, the school year has been cut by five days for every Wiseburn student and every Wiseburn employee has at least seven furlough days this year. Class sizes have grown significantly at the K-3 level and the district has had to delay the purchase of all new textbooks. (Note: Thanks to the generosity of Chevron and Belkin International, new mathematics textbooks were purchased for grade levels K-5 this year).

Wiseburn, and all California school districts, are bracing for further cuts of at least \$350 per student, and possibly as high as \$1,000 per student, if a tax extension

is not placed on the ballot in June and approved by California voters. Why are these further cuts to education a real possibility? California faces a huge budget deficit of 25.5 billion dollars that must be addressed if California is to regain its economic health. When Governor Jerry Brown took office in January, he proposed a balanced plan of both cuts and revenue to deal with the massive deficit. First, he proposed to make permanent cuts of 12.5 billion dollars to the budget, primarily in the areas of Higher Education, Health, Human Services, Jails and Pension Reform. Brown's proposal spares K-12 education from further cuts, acknowledging that education has already taken more than its fair share of cuts over the past three years. Second, Governor Brown has proposed that the temporary taxes approved by the California legislature in 2009, be extended for five years to address the other half of the budget deficit. The tax extension includes sales tax, vehicle license fees and personal income tax. Brown points out that he is not requesting any new taxes or any increases but rather an extension of taxes already approved by the legislature.

If the legislature can agree on 12.5 billion dollars in painfully deep spending cuts by March, and if they approve a special June election where the voters are able to cast votes to determine the fate of a five-year tax extension, California will be much closer to a balanced budget in 2011-12. If a special election to extend the taxes is held in June, but voters reject the tax extension, the legislature must make additional permanent cuts of 12.5 billion dollars in order to balance the 2011-12 budget. K-12 education would receive a large portion of these cuts. For Wiseburn, this would equal a loss of at least \$850,000 on top of the 1.42 million dollars already cut. This would eliminate Class Size Reduction entirely in grades K-3 and would likely result in a significantly shortened school year.

How can the community help? Urge your legislators to be courageous and make the painful non-K-12 cuts of 12.5 billion dollars that are necessary to help balance the budget. Spread the word that in order for Wiseburn schools to maintain the excellence that the community has expected for 115 years, we need to pass the tax extension and avoid further cuts. The future of our community and the economic well-being of our State and Nation depend on the education that we provide for our children today. Abandoning this generation of students is not an option. Our children are counting on us! Thanks for all that you do for us and for your untiring support of Wiseburn schools!

Wiseburn School District Board of Education



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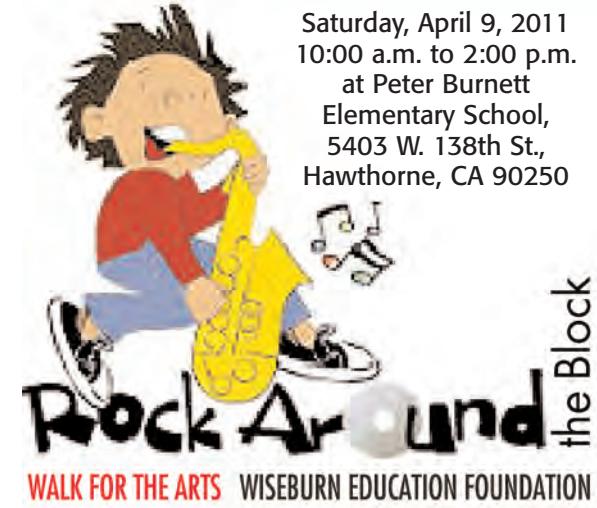


Susan Andriacchi
Member

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Fundraiser for the 2011-12 school year

Saturday, April 9, 2011
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
at Peter Burnett
Elementary School,
5403 W. 138th St.,
Hawthorne, CA 90250



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WALK FOR THE ARTS WISEBURN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Community Vision for a Future Wiseburn High School

By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent

What does the Wiseburn Community want to see in the future high school? What is the relationship of the Da Vinci Schools to the future Wiseburn High School? These are two of the essential questions that the Superintendent's Future Wiseburn High School Advisory Committee grappled with at the first committee meeting on February 7, 2011. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide input on the community's vision for the future school and to disseminate information to all of the District's constituencies on the progress of the meetings. The committee is comprised of 20 residents of Wiseburn representing the neighborhood associations, the four school PTAs, Wiseburn teachers and classified staff, AYSO and the Little Leagues, the Chief Petitioners, Da Vinci Schools and District Board Members and Administration.

On November 2, 2011, the Wiseburn community overwhelmingly approved Measure AA, a School Construction Bond to build a Wiseburn High School. Measure AA passed with an approval rate of 76%, which was the second highest in the State. To our knowledge, this is the first time in the history of the State that a K-8 school district has approved bonds to build a full service high school.

The mandate of the Measure AA ballot measure was "to improve Wiseburn School facilities and build a modern high school that accommodates all Wiseburn children, focuses on math, science and the arts... and allows students to continue to achieve some of the highest test scores in the South Bay..."

To give an historical context to the passage of Measure AA, the Wiseburn community has long coveted a high school of their own. In 2001, Chief Petitioners launched a drive for unification to make Wiseburn a K-12 unified school district. This effort, currently in its tenth year, has reached the State Board of Education twice, but has been stalled by litigation. Frustrated by years of delays in the unification effort, the Wiseburn School District followed Lawndale, Hawthorne and Lennox School Districts in authorizing charter schools to provide a high school alternative to Centinela Valley. Both of the Da Vinci

To our knowledge, this is the first time in the history of the State that a K-8 school district has approved bonds to build a full service high school.

Schools (Science and Design) were authorized by the Wiseburn Board of Trustees with the expressed intent of providing a high school education, in Wiseburn, for Wiseburn residents. From the very outset, it has been the intent of the Wiseburn Board to work with the Da Vinci Board to develop a world-class high school program for all Wiseburn students, while the unification effort continues towards a successful conclusion. Our focus is providing an excellent education right now, and for the long-term future, and this education, from both the Wiseburn and Da Vinci Boards' perspective, should look the same whether the District is K-8 or unified, and whether the high school is non-charter, dependent charter or independent charter. Both Boards consider the Da Vinci

Schools an integral part of the Wiseburn School District and a natural extension of the Wiseburn K-8 program. In every sense of the word, the Da Vinci Schools are Wiseburn Schools. Like the future Wiseburn High School, the Da Vinci Schools are ours; they belong to the Wiseburn community and are fully responsive to the needs of the Wiseburn community. Due to limited facilities, the DaVinci Schools have not been able to provide a full range of extra-curricular activities that eventually can be provided at a larger site. Ultimately, when unification is achieved, the vision is one Wiseburn High School, and all schools and programs, charter and unified, on the same campus, operating as one single and united school community of approximately 1200 students. To reinforce this vision, when the Wiseburn Board of Trustees approved the charter for the Da Vinci Design School in February 2009, the language of the Charter Agreement made it clear that, "In the event that the unification effort is successful, Wiseburn School District reserves the right to 'adopt' the Da Vinci Design Charter as the seed for a full service Wiseburn High School."

With this frame of reference the Superintendent's Future Wiseburn High School Advisory Committee will, over the next several months, articulate a community vision for a full and all-inclusive Wiseburn High School Program for all Wiseburn children.

Plans for the Future Wiseburn High School Gaining Momentum By Tom Cox, Chief Business Official, WSD

On November 2, 2010 the Wiseburn community approved Measure AA, which authorized \$87 million in general obligation bonds to build a Wiseburn High School. The election authorizing the funding was the necessary first step to build a high school. Acquiring land and building a new school is a complicated and time extensive process that involves many State regulations and approval of many State agencies and it can take many months before construction can begin. We are working diligently to complete the process in a timely manner.

The following activities have taken place since the election:

(1) we are working with the California Department of Education and have hired a commercial/industrial real estate broker and we are evaluating several pieces of real estate for potential purchase;

(2) the Bond Oversight Committee has held its initial meeting. This committee will meet quarterly and review all bond expenditures;

(3) the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on the Future Wiseburn High School, has also had their first meeting. This committee, consisting of 20 community representatives, will provide input regarding school environment and extra curricular activities that they would like to see in the new school.

The entire process is starting to gain momentum! Thank you for your support of our students and providing a Wiseburn education for our students grades Kindergarten through grade 12!

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Covering the

WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Editorial

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

Production

Laura Brune

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193

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400 South Sepulveda Blvd • El Segundo, CA 90245
310-322-0202 • www.golfthelakes.com

The Big Bang Orchestra

By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent

The Visual and Performing Arts, including music, play a critical role in ensuring that the children in the Wiseburn School District receive a well-balanced education



**Project harmony at work—
a Wiseburn student, Lauren Larios
and her mother, Maria Alarcon.**

workshops on Monday and Tuesday afternoons between 2:15 and 4:15 p.m. in the Juan Cabrillo Performing Arts Center. On Saturday mornings, these students and their parents join another 180 students from Lawndale and Lennox for the Big Bang Orchestra conducted by Diane Louie. Ms. Louie is a composer, pianist and teacher from Toronto. Her credits include work with American Idol and the Miss America Pageant.

With the Big Bang Orchestra, the Arts and Music continue to thrive in Wiseburn!

Starting a Life of Saving & Investing

Wiseburn Teams Up With Kidworth.com to Help Kids Build Their Financial Lives

As part of its interest in helping students develop life skills, the Wiseburn School District has launched an initiative to encourage students to develop long term financial goals. We are working with Kidworth.com, a free online service (featured on FOX TV, *Early Parenting Magazine*, among other places) to help families and kids set and achieve meaningful financial goals and develop a lifelong habit of saving and investing.

Kidworth helps families identify intelligent financial goals (such as college savings, musical instruments, educational travel, charitable giving), share these goals easily and track progress. Kids focus their financial resources (typically gifts, allowance and earnings) towards these goals, developing an appreciation for the power of saving and a lifetime habit of achievement.

Families Use Kidworth:

- To establish a financial road map for kids;
- To channel weekly allowance and other earnings towards meaningful objectives;
- On birthdays & holidays, to help gift givers know what the child is working towards.

To use Kidworth, a parent creates a free account and creates a space for each child. We believe that the program can do much good for families and the District is delighted to bring this to you.

Kidworth has agreed to have family financial planning experts available to meet with families from the District free at various events, to be announced from time to time. Also, email support is available through the site.

Get started at <http://Kidworth.com>.

New Online!

Autism Certificate Program

This 18.5 quarter unit program includes 4 courses plus a practicum and meets the requirements of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the Education Specialist Added Authorization ASD credential. Innovative courses that focus on current research and practical application are open to all, and may be of special interest to parents, mental health professionals, administrators and paraprofessionals.

Topics include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| • ASD characteristics | • Academic and social/behavioral strategies |
| • Effective team collaboration | • Fieldwork opportunities |

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

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Property Management Available

From the Dugout

By Carlos Diaz, President

Aviation Little League will be celebrating our 52nd Regular Season of Softball and Baseball. Opening Day was held on Saturday March 12th and we started off our season with the traditional Player Parade through the Del Aire neighborhood, enjoyed our 2nd annual Pancake Breakfast and topped off the Opening Ceremonies with a sports themed Fair plus a Major Division Game.

Our league will be stronger this year due to the valuable experience that was gained last year in the Carl Magee Tournament, District 37 All-Star Tournament, the Lynwood Winter Ball League, and the District 37 Fall Ball Season.

We also celebrated a Championship last year that was won by the Softball Minor Cardinals in the Carl Magee Tournament.

Aviation has experienced three consecutive seasons of growth (2009 Fall Ball Season, 2010 Regular Season and 2010 Fall Ball Season) and we continue our quest to grow our league and help our players to improve and become better young adults.

Our growth is possible due to the hard work of our volunteer members and also because the Wiseburn School District allows us the use of the fields on which we play and practice with our teams.

Our league offers many levels of play in both our Softball and Baseball programs (ranging from 4-16 yrs). For more information please visit our website at www.eteamz.com/aviation or email us at diazemail@netzero.net.

With 28 teams and close to 350 registered players this year, we hope to continue improving the quality of play in the league and allowing our players to enjoy and learn the game of Softball/Baseball.

We are excited to welcome back our returning players and look forward to meeting the many new players joining us this year!

Hawthorne National Wiseburn Little League

310/289-4113 www.wiseburnlittleleague.org

Play Ball!

By Andrew Goslin, President

Spring is in the air, and the start of the 56th season of Wiseburn Little League is here! We have a very exciting season planned for the boys and girls in our program. Recently, we held our 1st annual Player's Clinic, with a special guest from the Los Angeles Dodgers who joined us and helped with teaching baseball and softball fundamentals. We have over 300 players in our league this year, ages 4 to 16, participating in the program.

Our theme this season is Wiseburn PRIDE—we are proud of the children in our community, and we will be reflecting this through supporting good sportsmanship, community involvement, and teamwork on the ball diamonds.

Games are held in the evenings and on the weekends through the month of June. All community members are welcome to come out and cheer on the boys and girls as they compete in a fun and safe environment. Go Wiseburn!

School News



**Enter our
Baseball Terms
Word Search
Contest on page 11**



AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne

310/335-0242 ayso.biggdog@att.net



Wiseburn Community Understands

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

First and foremost, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne wants to congratulate the Wiseburn School District on the passage of Measure AA. As one of the youth program stakeholders, we are looking forward to a new high school that will serve the educational needs for many of our future players in our AYSO soccer program. The phone calls, distribution of flyers, neighborhood door-to-door visits, and community BBQ was all well worth the effort. With such a high margin of victory (over 75%) we are proud of the voters of the Wiseburn community who understood the importance of providing a world-class high school within the boundaries of our district.

Although our main focus is to provide a world-class premier youth soccer program, we continue to serve the Wiseburn School District. As a former Wiseburn School District trustee and Unification Chief Petitioner, I currently serve on the Measure A and Measure AA Bond Oversight Committees. Regional Commissioner, Ramon Pulido, has joined me on the Measure AA Bond Oversight Committee. This will not only provide the opportunity to work with other community members ensuring that we yield the best return on every bond dollar spent on projects but will also allow for the tracking of our new soccer field included in the wording of the Measure A Bond.

Before the school district can start the construction of a new state-of-the-art soccer field on the old Richard Henry Dana Middle School site, Da Vinci School administrators must have a place to house their students (which includes many of the players of our soccer program). This will be a long process that at the end of the day will be well worth the wait. In addition, there has been discussion about a restroom, a snack stand and field lights. Both AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne and the Wiseburn National Little League have agreed to contribute \$3,000/year for the next 10 years to assist with the construction of the restroom and snack stand. There is no discussion about lights for the existing fields (although the infrastructure is in place) but it is felt that the fields that will be built at the current Da Vinci site are likely a better fit for field lights.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne completed the fall season in December 2010. Boys and girls teams from the Under-10 through Under-14 program who won their respective Division titles went on to compete in the Area 1-D Beach Cities League Championship Cup. Although all Hawthorne teams played with heart and enthusiasm we had but one team receive medals. Congratulations to Boys Under-10 Coach Mendoza for capturing 4th Place. We had two teams win the Area League Sportsmanship Award including Boys Under-12 Coach Centeno and Girls Under-10 Coach Bautista. At the time of this writing, we are approaching the final weekend of the Area 1-D Beach Cities All Star Championship Cup. We have one team in contention for the medal round and one team vying for the Sportsmanship Award. In the Under 16-19 Division, Hawthorne did exceptionally well capturing 1st in Boys Under-19 (Coach Gonzalez); 2nd Place in Girls Under-19 (Coach Acosta), and 2nd/3rd Place in Boys Under-16 (Coach Urbaitel & Coach Rayas). CONGRATULATIONS to all the teams.

During January 2011, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne hosted the 11th Annual VIP Friendship Festival for mentally and physically challenged players. Over 150 players from all over Southern California converged on the Dana playfields to participate in this all day event. The feedback from the parents is they can't wait until next year to come back to Dana and expose their kids to this experience. We want to thank all the sponsors who provided goods and services to make the event a success.

We will have 17 teams or ~300 players participating in the Area 1-D Beach Cities Spring League. This is an opportunity to play teams from other regions throughout the South Bay. Many players enjoy playing soccer year round and we are more than happy to accommodate them in this sports endeavor.

We once again, want to thank the Wiseburn School District for the use of all soccer fields (Anza, Aviation, Cabrillo and Dana). As stated earlier, we are looking forward to the next and final field to be constructed on the current Da Vinci School site. We are all hoping this will be an artificial turf field to complement the state-of-the-art schools.

Please watch out for flyers and banners advertising our 2011-12 fall sign-up in the months of May and June. Check the Region 21 Hawthorne web site http://www.aysoregion21.org/Default_css.aspx for registration dates and locations.

The success of AYSO is based on the hard work of VOLUNTEERS. Please contact Danny Juarez at ayso.biggdog@att.net or call (310) 335-0242.

PTA's

Anza PTA

Susan Crain, PTA President • 310/725-2150

Everyone Participates for Success

The Anza PTA is enjoying a wonderfully successful and exciting year.

Our fundraising this year has been a top priority in response to our technology needs, with the drastic budget cuts in the state of California being a major concern to everyone. As always, the community at Anza came through!

Our fall fundraiser raised over \$10,000, and our continuing fundraiser Box Tops for Education was well over halfway to our goal of \$1,600 in December! We have had very successful fundraisers partnering with our neighbors Islands Restaurant, and Fresh and Easy Neighborhood Market. We are proud to be able to continue to provide our students with fantastic class field trips, school assemblies and live presentations, and much needed instructional materials and art supplies.

The Growing Great program has had another successful year, with all classes participating in either the garden program lessons, which is provided to Kindergarten through second grade classes, and the nutritional program which is provided to our third through fifth grade students. The garden provided fun fall garden parties, where the students tasted the carrots, lettuce, broccoli, radishes and sugar snap peas that they grew themselves! The nutritional program teaches students to make healthy lifestyle choices for their food. To see pictures of our garden, or to view our classroom lessons, please visit the student life section on our website at www.anzaeagles.org.

The PTA sponsored a very well attended Family Fun Craft Night, which has become a tradition in early February. For the third year on a very rainy night, several hundred people gathered in our GMC to make Valentine themed crafts! Parents watched and provided a needed hand while their children made fun crafts to take home. Popcorn, cookies and hot chocolate were enjoyed while attendees visited. A large group of volunteers oversaw tables filled with joyous children, and we appreciate each and every one of them.

The Anza PTA appreciates the participation of everyone...neighbors, students, parents, staff and teachers to make our school successful in everything we do.

Here is a link to the box top site that has a page about why do it
<http://www.boxtops4education.com/learn/WhyJoin.aspx>

Cabrillo PTA

Andra Taylor, President • 310/725-5451

Supporting Our Cubs

The Cabrillo PTA is thriving. Our members continue to support our teachers and students in every way possible. We were proud to sponsor the second Hands on Art Project of the year Feb. 28th through March 11th. This winter's project was inspired by Joan Matsui. She uses Chigiri-e to create beautiful pieces of art work from torn paper. Parent volunteers led one hour instruction classes where our students learned about Chigiri-e—the Japanese art form of tearing paper to create a collage. The project taught our students how to paint with paper by using layering, tearing, and overlapping of paper. An experience our students would not have benefited from without the dedication of our member volunteers.

We also want everyone to know that our Cabrillo PTA elections were held at our open association meeting on Monday March 7th. Our annual walk a thon will be March 16th. We hope you will support Cabrillo Cubs as they seek pledges for their walking efforts!

Cabrillo PTA is also proud to support the Wiseburn Education Foundation in Rock around the Block on April 9th by hosting a booth that will offer donated DVD's, computer games and CD's for sale. We thank the community for its continued support and look forward to providing our Cubs with everything they need to receive a well rounded education in a fun and inspiring environment.

Burnett PTA

Jennifer Morgan, President • 310/990-5455

Growing Great & Inspiring Healthy Eating



GrowingGreat's volunteer docents teach students in the classroom why and how to make healthy food choices and to choose foods closest to the source.

Lessons are delivered monthly. To reinforce and review, we begin each new lesson with questions and see if the students have used our ideas and implemented healthier food choices and shared our ideas with their parents. Fun filled activities such as tasting colorful and healthy foods, role-playing, food-based experiments, and projects provide students with practical tools to make better food choices in everyday life. Lesson themes include:

- Feed Your Engine – Proteins, Fats and Carbs
- Fuel Up with Whole Close to the Source Foods
- High Quality Fuels vs. Low Quality Fuels
- Filling Up: What is a Serving Size
- Label Reading
- High Quality Breakfasts
- Cooking with Beneficial Fats
- Refueling with Whole Grains
- Interpreting Your Body's Signals
- Kids and Advertising
- Digestion, Helping Your Body Use Its Fuel



Hands on Art

We were inspired by Gustav Klimt for our second project in Hands on Art. Klimt is known for his Birch Trees. We used vibrant water colors, tape and a technique called "wet on wet" to make our own version of Birch Trees. The children had a lot of fun and the teachers were pleased with the outcome.

Dana PTA

Gerald Chestnut Riberio, President

Collaborating for Our Children

By Ellen O'Loughlin-Villa, Dana PTA Secretary

The Richard Henry Dana Middle School PTA has been very happy to support our middle school students by funding the purchase of LCD projectors and document cameras for Dana's classrooms this year. We hear both teachers and students appreciate the updated technology, which enhances teaching and learning. With this new equipment, all students can easily see exactly what the teacher is demonstrating and can also present their work to the whole class. Additionally, the PTA has donated \$5,000 for new books for the school library. Due to the success of our Fall Cookie Dough fundraiser and Spooktacular Halloween Carnival. Dana's PTA was able to make these contributions as well as fund grade-level field trips and Student Council activities. Many thanks to all the parents who helped make these events possible — parents and teachers, working together, to build a strong foundation for our children.

By Dr. Matthew Wunder, Executive Director

Da Vinci Science Wins ASEE Engineering Education Collaboration Award

The American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE)/Corporate Member Council (CMC) selected Da Vinci Science as a recipient of the 2011 Excellence in Engineering Education Collaboration Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in member organizations and companies that demonstrate partnerships or collaborations with education and industry to promote engineering education for young people.

Da Vinci Science was selected for its extensive collaboration with Northrop Grumman and with local universities including Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly Pomona, CSULA, LMU, Otis College of Art and Design, UCLA, USC, El Camino College, and West L.A. College. Northrop Grumman provided significant resources to establish the Northrop Grumman Innovation Lab on campus and also has a continuous presence at Da Vinci with employee/engineers on campus weekly for software training, project support, tutoring and seminar/workshop activities.

Da Vinci Science students have participated in many STEM- focused (science, technology, engineering and math) project-based learning activities, including Project Lead The Way college courses, Engineering seminars, and the NAE Grand Challenges Summit at USC Viterbi School of Engineering in collaboration with Cal Tech, Duke and Olin College.

In October, Da Vinci Science was cited by the U.S. Department of State as a “best practice” example demonstrating how industry, government, academia and the K-12 community can effectively collaborate to engage students in STEM education.

New K-8 Program, Change in Leadership

In January 2011, the Da Vinci Schools' Board of Trustees approved an important study that could result in the formation of a small Kindergarten through 8th grade school, tentatively called the Da Vinci Innovation Academy, to complement and

support the excellent work that the Wiseburn School District is already doing. This K-8 fulfills our state charter requirements of operating a K-12 program within five years of opening our doors. If approved by the Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees, the Da Vinci Innovation Academy would open in Fall 2011 and offer three unique educational models that combine school-site instruction with home-based learning.

To lead the exploration of the K-8 school the board has chosen Dr. Nicole Tempel Assisi, the former principal of Da Vinci Science and Design Schools. Dr. Tempel Assisi is highly experienced in new school start-ups and eminently qualified to lead the charge for the K-8. Steve Wallis, the former Da Vinci Science and Design's assistant principal, was named the principal of Da Vinci Science and the Interim Principal of Da Vinci Design for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

The Innovation Academy has already generated strong community interest and support. In February, we began holding information meetings to share information, foster a dialogue about what parents want from their schools, and accept lottery applications. Admission to the Innovation Academy will be by lottery if the number of applicants exceeds the number of enrollment spots. For more information, please visit www.davincischools.org/innovationacademy.shtml or contact Dr. Nicole Tempel Assisi at (310) 725-5800 or natem@davincischools.org.

The Da Vinci Innovation Academy is based upon thousands of hours of research, visiting exemplary models, partnering with outstanding organizations, and listening to families and other vested stakeholders in focus group meetings.

Three Educational Models:

2 Full Days (Grades K-5) - 2 days of core instruction at-school, 2 days of supported work off-site, optional 1/2 day of electives, monthly meetings with teachers

Half-Day Model (Grades 5-8 only) - 4 days of 1/2 day of direct and collaborative instruction at-school, 4 optional 1/2 days of lab at-school or off-site work, optional 1/2 day of electives

Independent Model (Grades K-8) - 5 days a week off-site, optional 1/2 day of electives, monthly meetings with teacher for support, benchmarks and goals set by family and teacher.



Program Highlights

- Personalized learning
- Small class sizes
- Multi-age groupings
- Project based classroom instruction combined with at-home learning
- Hands-on, interdisciplinary projects that tackle real-world problems
- Optional weekly electives & support classes
- Social and emotional learning & cooperative learning
- Personalized, gifted & talented education for all children
- Not just more work, but more depth and complexity
- Opportunity for student voice & choice
- Diversity of ages & abilities
- Public presentations of learning
- Technology-rich environment
- Compassionate/nonviolent communication
- Personalized learning plan for every child
- Monthly workshops and training for families
- Credentialed, experienced and dedicated teachers
- Open to all students
- Free educational option
- Member, Coalition of Essential Schools
- Member, California Charter Schools Association

It is with much joy that we take these new steps as an organization. We will continue to keep you informed about the latest developments both at the High School and Elementary/Middle School level.

College Planning & Preparation

At Da Vinci Schools, college planning and preparation begin in the 9th grade. As part of the Da Vinci College Bound Program, every Da Vinci student goes on yearly college visits to experience campus life firsthand, take tours, meet college students, and learn about admissions requirements and criteria. In February, every Da Vinci student visited at least one college campus. Some of the Southern California colleges and universities we visited included: Pitzer College, Harvey Mudd, USC, UCLA, Caltech, Pepperdine, LMU, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and Art Center School of Design. We are in the process of rolling out Naviance Family Connection, a web-based research tool for students and families to research colleges and careers, track applications, and get the latest information about scholarship opportunities and financial aid.

Athletic Director Sergio Siderman Recruits Top Talent, Expands Sports Program

Da Vinci Schools are committed to providing high quality sports programs where there is interest and support. In February, we added boys' and girls' soccer coached by Sasha Andrews, a member of Canada's women's national soccer team and a bronze medalist at the 2007 Pan American Games. About 40 kids are participating in twice weekly soccer drills to improve their soccer skills. In the spring, students will be playing in local soccer tournaments. Adidas made a generous donation of \$10,000 to Da Vinci Schools to pay for practice equipment, jerseys, balls and other sports gear. The donation was secured by Da Vinci Schools' Board Treasurer Gary Wayland who also serves as president of the Manhattan Beach Athletic Foundation. This semester, we also added boys' basketball coached by Sean Terrell who played college ball at Tuskegee University. Boys' basketball meets twice a week at Vistamar School. Last semester, we had a very popular co-ed, intramural flag football team coached by Justin Hart, a recent USC grad and Trojan defensive back. Students also have opportunities to participate in lacrosse and fencing that are being offered in conjunction with our community partner and neighbor, Vistamar School. As Da Vinci Schools grow, more sports and fitness activities will be added giving students more opportunities to participate in team sports and other healthy lifestyle activities.

High School Enrollment Update

Da Vinci Charter High Schools continue to generate tremendous community interest and support. We had standing room only crowds at our recent information meetings. A record-number 684 students applied for admission to Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design for the 2011-2012 school year.

For more information about high school enrollment, please visit www.davincischools.org/apply.shtml or contact Yolanda Saldana-Bautista at (310) 725-5800 or ysaldana@davincischools.org.

We have a number of exciting events planned for new students and families during the spring and summer to integrate them into the Da Vinci Community. Incoming students will also be paired with a Da Vinci student mentor to help them make a successful transition to their new school.

Annual Giving Update/Chevron Matching Challenge

As of February 15, the Making Dreams Come True Campaign has raised \$30,075. Thank you to everyone who has contributed! We are excited to announce that Chevron Corporation has generously donated \$25,000 toward a matching challenge. During March, all donations and pledges will be matched by Chevron dollar-for-dollar up to \$25,000!! We are enormously grateful to Chevron and all of our community partners for their continued support of Da Vinci Schools and our local educational community.

Juan de Anza

12110 S. Hindry Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2100

Elementary School
(K-5)



Anza Reading Program Guides Student Reading Choices

Over the past year, Juan de Anza Elementary School teachers have been introducing a new and effective reading monitoring program for our 2nd-5th grade students: Accelerated Reader (AR). Through a diagnostic reading test, each student is given a reading level called a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). All our school library and classroom library books have been labeled with a reading level that correlates to each student's ZPD to help them find reading books that are at an appropriate level for independent reading. Because students select their own books from a wide variety of options at their reading level, there is a strong buy-in for students who work at their own pace and level. When the students finish reading their library books, they are able to take a computer based comprehension and vocabulary test that confirms that they have understood what they have read. Each teacher is monitoring and encouraging students



Madison Bonillo is enjoying a good book at the Anza Library.



Caleb Cappasola checks his progress on Accelerated Reader.

to continue to challenge themselves in their reading and understanding. A folder system has been created by Mrs. Pittluck in the Anza Library to help teachers with tracking student success. The AR program also allows teachers to continually monitor student progress on the computer. We are very grateful to Mrs. Pittluck and to all the Anza teachers for their help in getting this program off the ground. Happy Reading!

Peter Burnett

5403 W. 138th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2151

Elementary School
(3-5)



Building a Strong Foundation

Peter Burnett students, teachers, and parents continue to build a dynamic environment for learning. Building a strong foundation is the key to successful programs. With the support of parents, PTA and community members we recognize the important contributions adults make toward a child's success in school. What is modeled on a daily basis for children plays a significant role in their lives.

Laura Sullivan
Principal

Growing Great and Hands-On Art are two programs coordinated by parents and shared with classroom teachers. First, Parents receive training and products to share with students. Next, lessons are planned to share in classes. Finally, parents conduct lessons by preparing food for students and implementing the lesson plan. What we focus on matters to students. It is important for parents, teachers and students to continue working together.

Several activities have brought out the support of teachers, parents, and community members. Rock-It-For Burnett was held in January for the second year in row. Everyone was entertained by Mrs. Rowland and the "Beatless Band." We

received donations from New Zealand Natural Ice Cream Company thanks to Harley Hoff, US Foods thanks to David Gilner, and a special thanks to Melissa Matthias, and Darrelyn Rowland, for coordinating the entire event with In-and- Out Foundation and the "Beatless Band." Several hundred people attended the event and everyone had a great time. The Burnett PTA and staff members have worked countless hours setting up fundraising events for students. We attribute the success of our Fresh and Easy Night, Friday Night Skating Party, Cookie dough Fundraiser, and Custom bags Fundraiser to our wonderful staff and parents. We must continue to work together to support our most valuable resource "our children."



Juan Cabrillo

Elementary School (K-2)

5309 West 135th St, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-5400



Margaret Lynch
Principal

Building a Strong Foundation at Cabrillo

Thanks to our amazing and dedicated teachers and staff that provide a strong foundation in core curriculum and embrace opportunities in the visual and performing arts, Juan Cabrillo Elementary School students are receiving unique artistic experiences this year.

Hands on Art

In the visual arts, PTA is completing the second of three "Hands on Art" projects where parents, who have attended afternoon or evening training, go in to their child's classroom and teach a special art lesson. The current project is called "Chigirie" which is Japanese torn paper collage art inspired by the artist Joan Matsui.

Clay

In addition to Hands on Art, two classes at each grade level are working in clay with retired Cabrillo teacher, Rise Sedillo. Under Ms. Sedillo's guidance, students are creating and glazing their pieces.

Folk Dance

In the performing arts, every classroom is participating in five sessions of folk dance instruction with a visiting professional dancer. Kindergarten classes are learning folk dances from Denmark and Taiwan. First grade are learning two folk dances from the United States. Second grade are learning folk dances from Mexico and India. Parents are invited to the final class to observe how students apply choreographic principles, processes, and skills they have learned.

Harmony Music Big Bang Orchestra

Second graders at Cabrillo and Anza schools are participating in the Harmony Music Project's Big Bang Orchestra. Sixty Wiseburn students have the privilege of receiving music lessons on Monday and Tuesday afternoons at Cabrillo and then coming together with other young musicians from Lennox and Lawndale every Saturday at Lennox Middle School for the Big Bang Orchestra.

Visual and Performing Arts Sponsors Are Appreciated!

The visual and performing arts programs would not be possible without the financial support and caring contributions from our PTA, the Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF), the Harmony Music Project, parent donations through the companies they work for, and our amazing volunteers. Cabrillo students are indeed receiving a balanced and strong educational foundation and "learning and growing together" through the arts.



First graders in Ms. Kae's class create clay figures.

(Front) Paola Carrasco and Emily Nguyen. (Back) Matthew Santana and Miguel Sanchez



Second grade students from Cabrillo and Anza participate in the Harmony Music Project's Big Bang Orchestra on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and on Saturday.



Second grade students in Ms. Anaya's class learn the movements of a folk dance from India with instructor, Dawn Dyson.



Retired Cabrillo teacher, Rise Sedillo, guides Kindergarten students Raymond Edwards and Reese Felt with their clay projects in Mrs. Zirbel's class.

Richard Henry Dana

Middle School
(6-8)

5504 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-4760



Building a Strong Foundation

On any given day at Richard Henry Dana Middle School, visitors will find students engaged in a variety of healthy and positive activities — even after the school day ends. These many activities, both academic and recreational, contribute to the building of a strong foundation of learning for Dana's students.

For active students, Dana's athletic teams play as part of the Centinela Valley League, which matches middle school students in positive competitions. Volleyball, basketball, soccer, flag football, softball, cross country and track teams are all available to students.

Dana's outstanding facilities are fully utilized by our talented student athletes throughout the year. For students looking for academic support, Dana offers Homework Club, the Backpack Club and curriculum-based tutorials supported by student tutors from the Da Vinci Charter High Schools. Students interested in the arts can join the afterschool show choir, play production, or jazz band. For those looking to incorporate community outreach into their day, Dana Middle School sponsors SHOC Wave, a student service group that helps others in the community.

In all cases, students are supported by Dana staff as they meet the expectation of developing individual interests and using time beyond the bell in a productive and purposeful manner. All these options provide a strong foundation for our students as they learn and grow at Dana.



Dana 8th grade student Gala Macias accepts her Junior Agent certificate from FBI Assistant Director in Charge, Mr. Steven M. Martinez, Dana Principal, Aileen Harbeck and Wiseburn Superintendent, Dr. Tom Johnstone.



The Swearing-In Ceremony for the Junior FBI Agent Program.



Dana 2011 Girls Basketball Team (B) Michelle Gil, Jalyn Riggs, Desreee Mitchell, Kamilah Sonko, Kierra Wilder, Coach Vasquez, London White, Patience Taylor, Leatha Parie. (F) Brianna Anderson, Rayvn Basinger, Kyra Brady, Le'Phina Cabico, Terrin Sullivan, Areianna Purry



Dana 6th and 7th grade Basketball Team
(B) Coach Williams, Brandon Ephriam, Jared Harrell, Phillip Bordenave, Coach Chipley
(F) Shane Williams, Christopher Simmons, Tyler Currie, Mason Chipley, Addae Madison

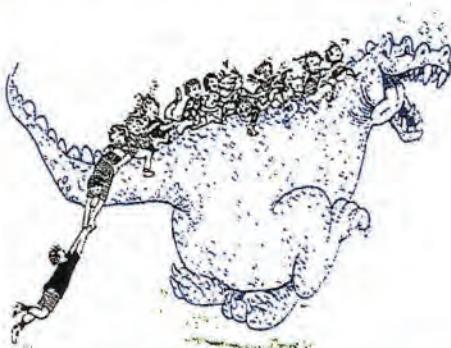


Dana 8th Grade Basketball Team (B) Coach Nguyen, Anthony Gonzalez, Michael Ray, Roman Davis, Justin Teamer, Coach Okasinski (F) Amir Adams, Grayson Brewer, Akil Hall Reese

Rainbow River Child Development Centers



5 STAR PROGRAM!!



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Anza
K - 5th grade
(310)643-8511

Anza
Preschool
3 - 5 years old
(310)643-8511

Baseball Terms 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 "Wiseburn" in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2011

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

Balk	Curve ball	Home run	Second base
Ball	Donnybrook	Infield	Short stop
Baseman	Dugout	Manager	Sinker
Batter	Error	Out	Strike
Bench	Fielder	Outfield	Third base
Bullpen	First base	Pitcher	Umpire
Catcher	Floater	Rhubarb	Walk
Coach	Foul	Runs	
Crowd	Home plate	Screwball	



**Congratulations!
Lorena & Sergio Medrano
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!**

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



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As a Neighborhood Market, we're always looking for ways to help our neighbors. From supporting local charities with \$1,000 donations at our Grand Openings, to creating our Shop for Schools program to help local schools with fundraising, we're here to help support all our neighbors like you.



Neighborhood Market



Rosecrans & Aviation

A graphic for the "Shop for Schools" program. It features a green "fresh & easy" logo with a clock icon. Surrounding the logo are various white line-art icons: a bicycle, a pencil, a basketball, a backpack, a star, a book, and a graduation cap. Below the icons, the text "shop for schools" is written in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font. A green callout box contains the text "is in session now through Dec. 31." Another green callout box below it contains the text "Give your receipts to a participating school and we'll give them a \$1 donation for every \$20 receipt they collect. To find out more, visit freshandeasy.com/shopforschools." The background of the entire graphic is a light green color with faint white star patterns.