

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Wiseburn School District**



**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8**

**JUNE–OCTOBER 2011**

## Celebrating Wiseburn Students and a Broad Based Curriculum

*By Dr. Tom Johnstone  
Superintendent*

As the 2010-2011 school year comes to a close, the Wiseburn School District would like to once again thank the entire Wiseburn Community for your overwhelmingly positive support this year. Despite all of the challenges that result from a stagnant economy, our students continue to grow and excel. The theme of this issue is “Celebrating Wiseburn Students and a Broad Based Curriculum.”

Our DaVinci Charter Schools continue to gain recognition nationwide in both STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and Design. This spring, the DaVinci Schools and Northrop Grumman received the Excellence in Engineering Education Collaboration Award from the American Society for Engineering Education. The Design School is collaborating with Belkin International, Otis College of Art and Design, the Getty, Northrop Grumman and Gensler to enhance learning and career options for Design students. The DaVinci Schools had a robust recruitment season that resulted in more than 700 applicants for 256 seats in the 2011 Freshman Class. With both DaVinci Science and DaVinci Design reaching three full classes of freshmen, sophomores and juniors, the total DaVinci enrollment



**Juan Cabrillo English Language Development (ELD) Teacher, Grace Houzicka, works with the Los Angeles County Bilingual Director's Association, Wiseburn Volunteer of the Year, Dulce Stein.**

SEE CELEBRATING • PAGE 11

### Wiseburn School District Board of Education



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### Dulce Stein Wiseburn School District Volunteer of the Year

*By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent*

On April 19, in Long Beach, Burnett and Dana parent, Dulce Stein was recognized by the Los Angeles County Bilingual Director's Association as the Wiseburn Volunteer of the Year. Mrs. Stein is a tireless volunteer in the Wiseburn School District who truly makes a difference! She has children in two different schools but provides services to three schools and the Wiseburn Public Library. First and foremost is her love for the classroom. She is the first parent to volunteer for projects at her children's schools. Mrs. Stein started a reading program with a local vendor to encourage children to read on a daily basis. Children earn certificates for reading five books. She has created resources and ways to support English Learners through the use of visual aids, music, and art. Mrs. Stein started a Homework Club at Peter Burnett to help children apply English strategies in all academic areas. She recruited high school tutors to work with children in the Club.

In addition to supporting the schools of her own

children, Mrs. Stein volunteers weekly in the ELD class at Cabrillo, a school that her children have graduated from! She has a heart for English Learners and supports our EL students throughout the district. For the past two summers she has helped EL students bridge the gap of summer by extending the ELD curriculum that was covered during the school year. Mrs. Stein holds the summer program in the public library two days a week for two hours a day over an eight week period that culminates with a barbeque at a local park where parents, administrators and Board Members join in. The public librarian says, “Dulce is amazing. She organizes the parents and the children and she is totally committed to the group. I love it when her group is here.” Mrs. Stein has done this work without personal or program funding. She gathers crayons, paper, and worksheets from classroom teachers at the end of the year to create her program. Mrs. Stein's reward is the progress and

SEE DULCE STEIN • PAGE 11

# Wiseburn in 1969...



**Richard Henry Dana School**

To some degree the history of the Dana School parallels that of the Wiseburn School District, in that Dana was once known as the "Wiseburn School." The story is a most interesting and lengthy one, which cannot be told in this limited space. All the facts are well recorded in the excellent *History of Wiseburn*, written by Jack Goode, and available at the Hawthorne Library.

School first began in Wiseburn in 1893 in a railroad depot located one-quarter mile west of the Anza School. It continued in a temporary building located west of the Sepulveda School. By 1897 this barn type of facility was moved to the Dana site.

A permanent school building of Victorian architecture was built in 1898 near the Dana School flagpole. Then known as the Wiseburn School, the little gray school house served the children of the area until 1925.

Several large buildings were constructed in the late 1920s, including the present north wing. More construction came during the war years when temporary rooms were built as Dana's present south wing.

In 1948 the school received its main hall and office. It was then renamed the Richard Henry Dana School. Construction in the mid-fifties added an auditorium, industrial arts room, conference rooms, classrooms, and lavatories.

Construction in the sixties gave the school more classrooms and a library. The latest addition to the Dana plant was the locker and shower facility, constructed in 1967.

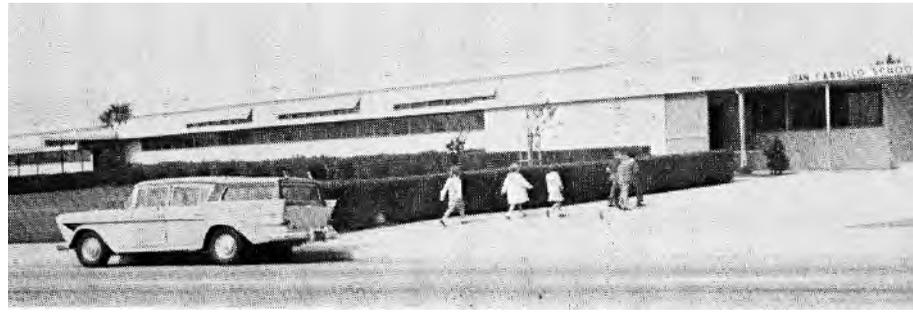
Dana School now offers an excellent departmentalized program to over 600 seventh and eighth grade students each year.



**Juan De Anza School**

The Wiseburn Board of Trustees purchased the present seven acre Anza School site from the Leuzinger family in 1944 for \$1,800 an acre. Anza School was the second school built in our district. Construction began in 1945 and the school was completed in October, 1946 at a cost of \$89,500. With increasing enrollment more classrooms were needed. In 1947 the south wing and one kindergarten room were added to the original structure. In keeping with the historical context of the southland the new school was named Juan de Anza. The school now contains fourteen classrooms. Grade levels at Anza have fluctuated over the years, but basically it has been a primary school with a grade level span of kindergarten through second grade, and an enrollment of 489 children this year.

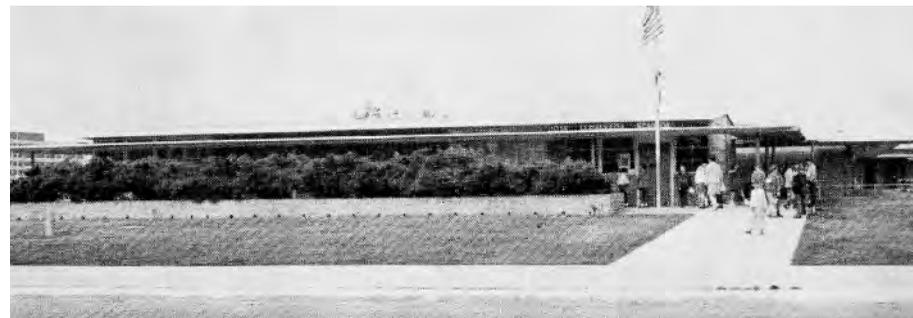
The current staff possesses a wide background in training and experience. The combined number of years of service totals 158 years.



**Juan Cabrillo School**

In September 1946, the drawings for Wiseburn School District's third school were presented to the Board of Trustees. After a long search and resolution of many problems, the Board purchased the nine acre school site from the Johnson Land Company for \$1,800 an acre in early 1947. A contract for construction of the school was awarded to the Gallinger Construction Company in October, 1948, and the new school consisting of ten classrooms and two kindergartens was completed in September 1949 at a cost of \$257,378.

In 1953, seven additional classrooms brought Cabrillo to its present size. Miss Charlotte Ferris was appointed as the first principal of Cabrillo, in 1949, and Mr. Victor Ferragamo was appointed as assistant principal of the school in 1954. Mr. John McCarthy became principal of the school in 1962. When his duties were increased to include administration of the Don M. Smith School in 1963, an assistant principal, Mr. Jack Goode, was assigned to serve under his direction.



**Jose Sepulveda School**

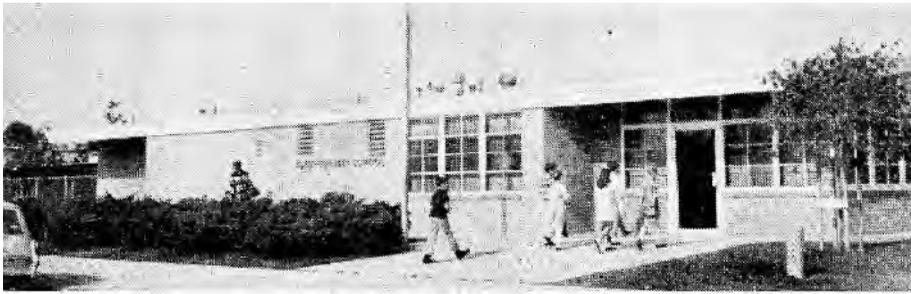
When it was time to build a fourth school in Wiseburn the Board of Trustees considered a number of possible sites. In June of 1951 an offer was made to the Leuzinger family for approximately ten acres of land, at \$4,500 per acre, at the northwest corner of El Segundo Boulevard and Isis Avenue. Because of increasing population and the move toward industrialization in the area, the Leuzinger family believed that the land was worth materially more than this amount. After many negotiations and a friendly suit, agreed upon so that a qualified unbiased court of law could set a reasonable price, an 8.67 acre plot at the corner of Isis and 125th Street was purchased for \$18,500 per acre, as set by a jury. The final sale of land amounted to \$162,597.76.

A contract for the construction of the school was awarded to the Heirshberg Construction Company in the amount of \$310,950.00. Improvement in the plans after the contract was awarded resulted in a total cost of buildings of \$348,303.92. Immediately upon completion of the new school it was filled with third, fourth, and fifth grade children from the Anza School who had been on double session because of lack of classroom space.

Miss Margrate Bennett was appointed as first Principal of Sepulveda School and she served in this capacity from 1956 to 1959. At that time Peter F. X. Mannion who was Assistant Principal at Dana School became the principal of Sepulveda, a role which he filled until June of 1966 with only one brief break during which he served as Curriculum Director for Wiseburn School District. In September 1966 Mr. Mannion was appointed as Principal of the Dana School and Mr. Donald Kobabe assumed the leadership of the Sepulveda School.

The 16 room plant has housed approximately 450 children in grades 3 through 6 during its nearly fourteen years of service.

# A Blast from the Past



**Peter Burnett School**

The seven acres of land for the Peter Burnett School were purchased in July, 1954, at a cost of \$57,870.50 from Mercliff Co., a subsidiary of the Grandview Builders. The site is at the corner of 138th Street and Isis Avenue. Flewelling and Moody were named architects of the building. The contract for construction of the school was awarded to Gerstenberger and Pierson on May 20, 1955. The building was completed in March, 1956 at a cost of \$410,894.89. Classes were started immediately in the 18 classrooms.

The original enrollment was 560 children of the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. The school was named for the first constitutional governor of California.

Peter Burnett School is of masonry construction and combines economy of maintenance with a modern look and functional architecture.

During the building of the school the Board members were: Mrs. George Schultz, Mrs. Marion Sellers, James Mitchell, Don Rung, and H. W. Chauncey.

The first principal of the Burnett School was Mr. Victor Ferragamo and he was succeeded by Mr. Jack Fitzgerald in 1960.



**Don M. Smith School**

The newest school in Wiseburn was named for the man who served the district longest. Mr. Don M. Smith began as a teacher-principal in Wiseburn in 1929. In 1941 he became superintendent of the district and his term of service extended until 1963. It was during his administration that the district developed into one of the finest school systems in the nation.

The site for the school, consisting of 8.2 acres, was purchased from the Mercliff Company in 1954 for approximately \$80,000. A contract for three kindergarten rooms was awarded to the C. G. Carter Company on August 28, 1962 in the amount of \$74,943, and the buildings were completed in February, 1963. A contract to build six classrooms was awarded on May 1, 1963 to Richards Construction Company in the amount of \$218,300, and the building was completed in February, 1964.

The school has served children in Kindergarten through third grade for nearly six years, with Mr. John McCarthy as its principal.

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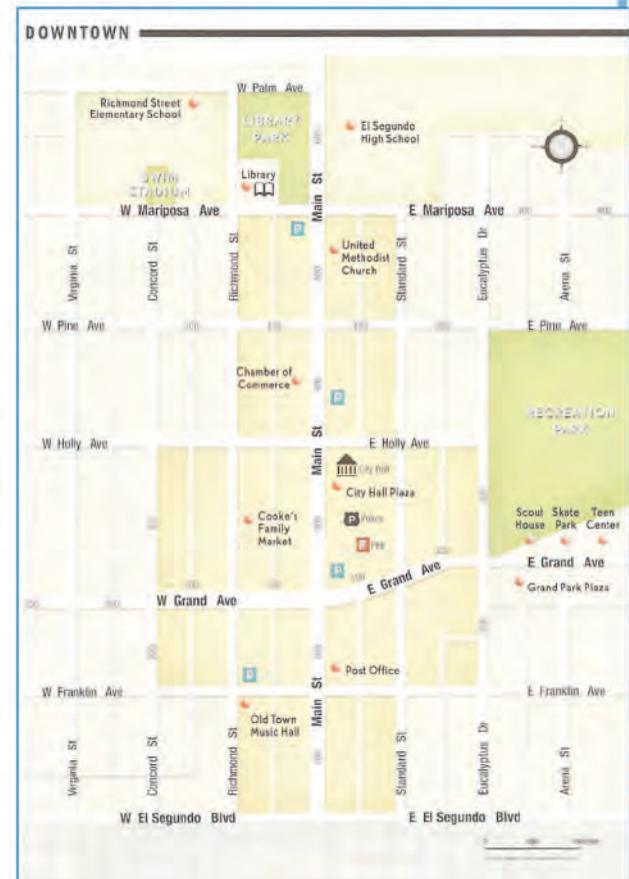
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# Greetings All

Wisburn Watch would like to extend a big thank you to the Wisburn Ed Foundation and the Rock around the Block planning committee for inviting us to join them at their fun filled event this past April 9th.

Wisburn Watch wanted to contribute in making this year's RAB a memorable event so in addition to our own booth we contacted the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept. California Highway Patrol and LA County Fire Dept. personnel and inquired of them if they would like to participate. All three Agencies are always interested in ways to promote the positive image of their departments so, of course, they said they would be happy join in on the fun.

On the day of the event everyone in attendance was treated to a wide variety of booths, displays, bouncers and inflatable type rides for the kids along with food and fun for all. A big red LACoFD fire truck was on display along with Sheriff and CHP booths, both of which had static displays, hand-outs and Patrol cars for everyone to see & sit in. In addition, six deputy's from the LASD COPS Bureau along with K9 Deputy "Wilson," one of the LASD's bomb sniffing and gun residue dogs, came along and joined us at the event.

The highlight of the day was the flyover by (1 of 17) LASD's "Aero Bureau" helicopters. The pilot made a couple of high speed passes then settled into a tight left circling turn pattern demonstrating the versatility of the helicopter. The crowd really seemed to enjoy this aerial ballet as many in the crowd cheered and raised a "thumbs up" to the sky. However, having said that I think it is fair to say that the "premiere" attraction has to go to "K9 Wilson." As I witnessed first hand many children and their parents enjoying listening to his partner/handler Deputy Brown tell stories of Wilson's exploits along with petting him and watching him play with his favorite toy—an empty plastic water bottle of all things! (Keep in mind that although Wilson is a highly trained K9 and a Deputy Sheriff, he is and will always be a dog!) Thanks again LASD, CHP and LACoFD... You guys are the best!

We are pleased to announce that Wisburn Watch is rapidly approaching the

400 member mark; therefore, we have set a goal to get 500 members signed up by January 1st 2012. As most know by now Wisburn Watch is a community based organization for the unincorporated LA County Community of Wisburn. We cordially invite any homeowner, property owner and/or renter residing within the LA County unincorporated Wisburn community (properties east of the 405 frwy, west of Inglewood Ave., south of El Segundo Blvd., north of Rosecrans Ave.) to join us by attending a Watch meeting. To join or for more information contact us through our website at <www.wisburnwatch.com>

Wisburn Watch will be aggressively promoting our CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) efforts through the summer months. Our goal is to get 100 or more people, who reside within our community, CERT trained and certified. Wisburn Watch has been blessed with two dedicated members, Phil and Mary, who have become our CERT coordinators and we are confident through them our goals can be met.

Wisburn Watch is also gearing up for our own two big events of the year.

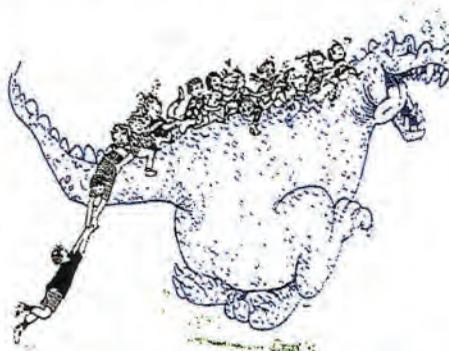
**National Night Out August 2nd 2011:** National Night Out is a community/law enforcement awareness-raising event held the first Tuesday of August all across the United States. The event is meant to increase awareness about law enforcement programs in communities, such as drug prevention, neighborhood watch and other anti-crime efforts. Initially communities held lights-on vigils. Now, many communities hold block parties, festivals and other events to help bring neighbors together. At our event we will have face painting and bouncers for the kids, two bicycles to be raffled off as prizes donated and much more. Food at the event will be provided by Nathans Hot Dogs with a percentage of the proceeds going back to Wisburn Watch. The American Red Cross "Blood Drive" mobile will be present to take much needed blood donations from anyone willing to do so. To sign up to donate blood please contact us at <www.wisburnwatch.com. More details on this event will be available as we get a little closer to the date.

**Annual Santa Stops: December 17th 2011:** The Wisburn Watch Santa Stop endeavor has become our signature event and gets better every year. LACoFD, LASD and CHP are with us always and provide escort including flashing lights and sirens. This year we are participating and collecting gifts for the CHP "Chips for Kids" annual Xmas toy drive. You have to come out & see Santa and his elves on the Fire truck! Stay tuned for more details on this one folks!...Bill Magoon

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

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

## Burnett PTA

Jennifer Morgan, President • 310/990-5455

# Thank You Volunteers

The Burnett PTA has had a busy Spring with Growing Great, Hands on Art, Rock Around the Block, Movie Night and a Surprise Teacher Lounge Make-over for Teacher Appreciation week. We thank the volunteers that make all of these events go off without a hitch.

## Cabrillo PTA

Gloria Gutierrez, President • 310/725-5451

# Help is Already Here!

Our schools need help! That's the message we are inundated with everyday and it is very true, we need the government cuts to stop! Today however, I want to tell you about the help that is already here through the collaboration of willing parents and our Cabrillo Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

Due to the continued educational budget cuts, our students would not have enjoyed the following if it were not for the hard work of our PTA members: Four assemblies in total, one exposed our students to animals with Mr. Valentine and three assemblies giving unparalleled introductions to music with One World Rhythm, the Alley Cats doo wop singing group and dance group Christy Lanes Dare to Dance—this was one more assembly than the previous year! All of our students also took a field trip, locations varied by grade level. Through combined efforts of WEF and the PTA we were able to provide our students with six sessions of dance classes! Our PTA also pays for the Physical Education teacher that works with all of our Cabrillo students. As you can see many of these things are what we took for granted as part of the education experience twenty years ago, but today it takes the work of the PTA to ensure that our students have exposure to an educational experience that touches upon more than the basic reading and math instruction.

## Wiseburn Little League

310/289-4113 [www.wiseburnlittleleague.org](http://www.wiseburnlittleleague.org)

# From the Dugout

*Andrew Goslin—President, Wiseburn LL*

The Wiseburn Little League season is well underway and the season has been very exciting! The players at every level, from T-ball (4 yrs) through the Juniors (13+) have performed very well in competitive regular-season games. We have seen tremendous development from the players, both in baseball/softball skills and in character.

We are approaching the annual Carl McGee and All-Star tournaments, and teams are preparing for competition with little leagues from throughout District 37. Our major Reds recently competed in a nationwide Little League Urban Initiative tournament, and made it all the way to the semi-finals, finishing 3rd. Congratulations to the Reds on their big accomplishment!

Our softball program is thriving. Our Mini-minor Bandits and Minor Pirates softball teams have blossomed from 1st time players into seasoned athletes in a very short time. They have definitely brought the PRIDE back into Wiseburn softball!

As we approach the end of our season, I want to personally thank every parent and volunteer for all of your hard work. It is what you do, setting the example for the players, that help them develop into successful and community-oriented adults. From working the snack stand to volunteering on the fields, and everything in-between, thank you!

Go Wiseburn!

## AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne

310/335-0242 [ayso.bigdog@att.net](mailto:ayso.bigdog@att.net) • [www.aysoregion21.org](http://www.aysoregion21.org)



# From the Soccer Field

*By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director*

To date, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne has held a total of three registrations for the 2011-2012 Fall season. There are two remaining dates – June 11th and June 25th. The location is the Cabrillo Multi Purpose Room, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Soccer age is determined by the player's age on July 31, 2011 or be 4 years old by September 1st. The regular soccer season is from September through December. We also have a program for mentally and physically challenged players – the VIP (Very Important Player). You'll need a Player Form to register your child. To Download the form from [http://www.ayso.org/parents/player\\_registration\\_form.aspx](http://www.ayso.org/parents/player_registration_form.aspx), Bring three copies of the completed form with payment and birth certificate (for new players), to registration. Save yourself time and register on-line through <https://www.eayso.org/start.aspx>. Follow the same steps as stated above after completing the form. It is not too late to join your friends in playing the world's sport – FUTBOL (or as we call it here in the states – SOCCER).

Just another note on registration – each child that registers will receive one free McDonald's kid's meal card and one free Major League Soccer Chivas USA game ticket. More information about the date of the match as well as how to purchase more tickets will be available at registration.

Opening Day Ceremony is coming back and is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th. After a number of years without this region event, a committee is busy working behind the scenes to bring back to our families a fun-filled event. A team parade will give participants an opportunity to show off their team banners. Don't be left out and start designing your team banners today – let your imagination run wild and perhaps your team will win the grand prize.

The Hawthorne Presidents Council held its Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day. This gives each member organization the occasion to express their gratitude to volunteers who have stepped it up during the previous season for going above and beyond the call of volunteer duty. This year's award winners were Elizabeth Kalinowski, Darryl Letchworth, Christian Mendoza, and Alfredo Perez. Congratulations to each of our award winners. Look forward to next year's group of award winners.

After years of being located within the Wiseburn School District — 15 years, the AYSO National Support & Training Center will have a new home and new name—the AYSO National Office. Passed unanimously by the National Board of Directors, the new name reflects the nationwide nature of AYSO and the National Office's role as its business and administrative center. The new address is: AYSO National Office, 19750 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 200 Torrance, CA 90502.

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 insuring 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.

From now until the start of the season in September, we will be selecting coaches for the 100+ teams that will need to be formed and conducting coach/referee training. Training classes and the resource material is FREE. The cost to you is your valuable time. The success of AYSO is based on the hard work of VOLUNTEERS. Every aspect of running the region depends on individuals who step up to be a coach, an assistant coach, referee, team mom, team dad or board member.

By Dr. Matthew Wunder, Executive Director

## New Leadership

We are pleased to announce that Colleen O'Boyle has been named principal of Da Vinci Design effective July 2011. Ms. O'Boyle currently serves as Academic Dean for both Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science. Ms. O'Boyle replaces Steve Wallis who has been serving as Design's Interim Principal since January.

Ms. Boyle began her education career nine years ago and has a long track record of success working with students, both in and out of the classroom. Ms. O'Boyle joined Da Vinci Schools in 2009 as a Humanities teacher during our inaugural year and was appointed Academic Dean in 2010. Prior to joining Da Vinci Schools, she taught at High Tech High in San Diego. As Academic Dean, Ms. O'Boyle has been instrumental in building a college going culture, getting more students enrolled in college level classes, and starting our internship program.

Ms. O'Boyle earned her M.A. in English Literature at Middlebury College, Vermont. While at Middlebury she studied at Oxford University, England, and St John's College. She received a B.A. in American Literature from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Mr. Wallis will continue in his role as Principal of Da Vinci Science. Erin Hughes will continue to serve in the Assistant Principal role.

All of us on the leadership team are deeply committed to ensuring that every Da Vinci student graduates college-ready, career-prepared and community-minded.

Please take a few moments to complete the survey on the future Wiseburn High School on the elements that you would like to see in the future Wiseburn High School. The survey may be linked at: <https://www.surveymk.com/s/FutureHS>

## Da Vinci Innovation Academy (K-8)

The Da Vinci Innovation Academy will officially open its doors on August 25, 2011, offering families a new approach to K-8 education that combines school-site instruction with home-based learning. Admitted families will have the option of enrolling students in a two day model in which students attend class on campus two days per week with three days of supported work off-site or an independent model in which all learning takes place off-site under the supervision of a family member. Both models include personalized learning plans for every student, monthly meetings with credentialed teachers, elective workshops, parent education workshops, and more.

The Da Vinci Innovation Academy is based on the belief that education is a shared responsibility of students, faculty, parents, and community through blended teacher supported education and family facilitated learning. The new K-8 school will also incorporate project-based learning, a social-emotional curriculum, and challenging and engaging content to accommodate diverse learning styles.

"There's nothing more exciting than creating a new school," says Dr. Nicole Tempel Assisi, the Innovation Academy Principal, who has been involved in two other new school start-ups. "We can't wait to create an inclusive and cooperative community for learning — a place we will be proud of and will build as one."

The Innovation Academy has generated strong community interest and support. More than 485 applications were received for the 2011-2012 school year and nearly 400 teacher candidates applied for teaching positions. An admissions lottery was held on Apr. 1. We are currently accepting waitlist applications only at this time.

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.

This K-8 fulfills Da Vinci Schools' state charter requirements of operating a K-12 program within five years of opening our doors.

For more information about the Innovation Academy, please contact Dr. Nicole Tempel Assisi at (310) 725-5800 or [nassisi@davinischools.org](mailto:nassisi@davinischools.org) or visit [www.davinischools.org/innovationacademy.shtml](http://www.davinischools.org/innovationacademy.shtml)

## Awards & Achievements

A team of 11th grade students from Da Vinci Science won the Best Community Service Award as part of the QuikScience Challenge, a national competition sponsored by the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies,

Quiksilver, Inc., and the Quiksilver Foundation to improve science education through students' love of the ocean. Team Da Vinci was recognized for its creative community service project in which students held a recycling event at the Del Aire Farmers Market to teach about safe alternatives to plastic bags and the effect of plastics on the ocean. QuikScience Challenge entrants had to submit an ocean science lesson, a community service project, a solution to an environmental problem, student reflections, and a creative presentation of the team's work.

A team of students from Da Vinci Design placed 3rd in the Raytheon Engineering Games competition when students visited Raytheon on Feb. 23 as part of National Engineers Week. Without any prior knowledge of the game or opportunity to study, students tested their math and science skills and were challenged to construct an "ion lifter." Students only had access to raw materials and their knowledge of physics.

Da Vinci Schools was selected as one of 10 semi-finalists in the State of California in the Vans Custom Culture Shoe Design Competition. Each school submitted four pairs of shoes—one pair per theme. The themes were: art, music, action sports, and street culture/fashion.

## Da Vinci Design "Disruption" Day

Students, staff and a group of outside design professionals and educators participated in Da Vinci Design "Disruption" Day on April 1 — a half-day meeting focused on strategic planning for the Design school. The purpose of the strategic planning process was to "disrupt" — or break free from conventional thinking — as we imagine what makes a great design school and how we can bring Da Vinci Design one step closer to being a premier design school. Participants looked at other successful programs, discussed the principles of great design, the role of partnerships, and the importance of students knowing their strengths and talents as they begin to envision their future. We also began the process of identifying the specific technical skills and real-world design principles that students need to know for existing creative jobs and jobs that have yet to be created.

Disruption Day was facilitated by Jonathan Schleyer, Da Vinci's Director of Design Integration and an Associate Planning Director at Avrett Free Ginsberg, an advertising agency. A seasoned marketing, research and advertising executive, Jonathan coined the term "edu-creation" and facilitated an earlier disruption workshop that resulted in the naming of Da Vinci Schools by a group of students.

Students enrolled in Da Vinci Design are preparing for college and 21st century careers in digital media, industrial design, product design, user experience design and other jobs that call for skills in art, science and technology.

Da Vinci Design has partnerships with many local design leaders, including Otis College of Art and Design, Belkin International, The Getty, Northrop Grumman, Art Center College of Design, Gensler, and Siltanen & Partners, that offer job shadowing opportunities, internships, mentoring and project support to help students master the real-world skills and knowledge that do not appear in the California content standards.

## Annual Giving Update/Chevron Matching Challenge

We had a tremendous response to Chevron Corporation's matching challenge. Chevron challenged Da Vinci Schools to raise \$25,000 during March Pledge Month — and WE DID IT!

Thanks to the amazing support of our families and community friends, we raised \$69,163 in donations and pledges during March bringing our total to \$98,024 since the Annual Giving Campaign began on Oct. 1.

We are humbled that so many people joined together toward a common good. Donors of all levels, ranging from \$1 to \$10,000, gave to The Chevron Challenge.

At a time when California schools are facing severe budget cuts, a successful Annual Giving Campaign allows Da Vinci Schools to enhance our college readiness and career preparation programs when others are cutting back. Donations are being used for college field trips, internships, college workshops, Naviance, and project based learning materials for each teaching team. We will also be able to fund 1.5 new college counseling positions thanks to the generosity of our donors.

Da Vinci Schools would like to acknowledge the generous \$25,000 matching gift from Chevron. We are enormously grateful to Chevron and Lily Craig, Chevron's External Affairs Manager, for their ongoing support of Da Vinci Schools and for their generosity in establishing The Chevron Challenge.



**Dr. Chris Jones**  
Principal

## Anza Students Learn Music Through Recorders

Upper elementary grade students have been learning about music through formal classes over the past six years. In grades four and five, there is a weekly music class taught by a specialist from P.S. Arts. Since 2009, our third grade students have also been receiving formal music training using the recorder. The third grade recorders were bought with a grant written by Mrs. Sarah Nitsos. The instruction includes learning about the notes, reading the notes, and learning to play the recorder, a beginning instrument. Learning to play the recorder can be an inexpensive gateway into the world of instrumental music. This instruction allows them to continue their musical journey in the 4th and 5th grade music program, which is funded by the Wiseburn Education Foundation. Students enter this program prepared and ready to progress to higher levels, allowing them to build on their prior experience and knowledge, rather than returning to the basics. While the initial journey to mastering the recorder does require patience, the end result is well worth the effort. On June 7th at 10:00 a.m. the third graders will present their 2nd Annual Recorder Concert to showcase their songs and skills.



**Margaret Lynch**  
Principal

## Cabrillo Recognizes Library Clerk Bev Mulligan!

Cabrillo's beloved library clerk is retiring this year after 13 years of bringing books to life for kids. A highlight every week for every child at Cabrillo is their visit to the library where they listen to Mrs. Mulligan read aloud a story. Her favorite stories, like "Paper Bag Princess" and "Pierre," have morals and messages that teach our children. Thanks to Mrs. Mulligan, every book in the library is now labeled and catalogued in Accelerated Reader, a huge accomplishment. Students have shown their pride in Cabrillo library facilities by their positive attitude in the library and responsible behavior with books. Mrs. Mulligan says that not only the kids but also "Cabrillo teachers are wonderful. They are always enthusiastic and involved." Bev Mulligan's husband is also retiring this year. When asked what she's looking forward to in retirement, she said, "New adventures but I'll still be reading everything like I do now: children's books, science fiction -my favorite, and craft books- I check those out of the library. In fact, that's where you'll see me—at the Wiseburn Public Library!" Cabrillo School sends Mrs. Mulligan forward with love, gratitude, and wishes for continued great adventures in life and in books!



## Cabrillo Students Inspired by DaVinci Authors

Students from Michelle Rainey's and Billy Omer's DaVinci English classes took on the project of writing children's stories. They began their research by visiting Cabrillo classrooms to observe teachers reading aloud children's stories. Then they interviewed Cabrillo students to see what types of stories they would enjoy reading. DaVinci students then wrote and illustrated children's stories embracing favorite topics of animals and kids. On "Author's Day" every Cabrillo classroom hosted two readers as students listened to the stories and asked questions of the DaVinci authors. Several Cabrillo teachers shared that their students were delighted by the DaVinci project and inspired to write their own stories!

## Cabrillo Students Honored in Wiseburn Library Story Writing Contest

Cabrillo young authors were recognized at a Saturday celebration at the Wiseburn Library. Barbara Johnson, Wiseburn librarian, coordinated the annual event for all the Wiseburn schools. This year the following authors from Cabrillo were honored by teachers and library personnel reading their stories aloud:

Kindergarten: Ava Rivera and Brady Hubler; 1st grade: Grace Trpin, Christian Ong, Joel Kelly, Amanda Pochter, Mia Aguilar, Chloe Kooper, and Derek Stoetzer; and 2nd grade: Aaron Guerrero.

We are so proud of Cabrillo students' efforts in writing!



# Peter Burnett *Elementary School* (3-5)

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



**Laura Sullivan**  
Principal

## Another Successful School Year

Reflecting on the 2010- 2011 School Year, I would like to thank the Burnett Staff, students, and parents for working together to create another successful school year.

The Wiseburn School District provides a rigorous curriculum to challenge and support their students. Peter Burnett students accepted the challenge by concentrating daily on their standards based curriculum. The students received 10 out of 10 points in the Similar Schools Ranking report according to the 2010-2011 Accountability Progress Report.

Another milestone for fifth grade students will take place in late May when three 5th grade students will be honored by Senator Roderick Wright for their academic accomplishments and school service.

Burnett students have recognized the numerous natural disasters that have occurred throughout the world and the countries that have been affected by them. Burnett students decided to step forward to show their support by collecting coins. The students presented a check for one thousand dollars to Mr. Mark Solnick, a representative from the Santa Monica Red Cross to support relief efforts in Japan.

Another accomplishment at Burnett was Earth Day. Several students from Mrs. Fraser fourth grade class organized Earth Day and planned numerous activities culminating with a picnic on the field. Everyone had a great time.





**Aileen Harbeck**  
Principal

## Celebrating a Broad-Based Curriculum

R.H. Dana Middle's broad-based curriculum often reaches beyond the classroom. This year Dana's students have enjoyed a wide variety of field trips generously sponsored by various groups.

In April, Dana's 8th grade students visited the Griffith Park Observatory joining in several different tours revolving around mythology, life on earth, and the nuclear furnace inside the sun. Students visited the interactive theater program and viewed the sun using a special filtered telescope. In May, Dana's 8th grade students were transported back in history to the time of the Civil War.

Thanks to the generous "Keeping History Alive" grants attained by the eighth grade teacher teams and the continued support of the Dana PTA, students went to Riley's Farm in Glen Oaks. While spending time with Confederate and Union soldiers Dana students learned about their home states and the issues they faced." ([http://www.rileysfarm.com/index\\_st.html](http://www.rileysfarm.com/index_st.html)) After a "soldier's lunch," students participated in a large mock battle.

Donations from Flewelling & Moody and the Dana PTA supported both Advanced Art and 7th grade class trips to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Led by museum docents, students actively participated in studying "Art of Many Cultures" and "Art and Writing" both related to history and English curriculums.

Sponsored by Dana's PTA, 6th grade students had the opportunity to visit both the California Science Center and the Natural History Museum last month. Students explored various exhibits and dioramas featuring different mammals and skeleton specimens, tracing mammal evolution over 65 million years, and later learned about technology and communication, air and space technology, ecosystems, and more by exploring the many exhibits and hands-on activities at the Science Center. Experiences beyond the classroom truly broaden student learning at Dana.



**Dana students inside the Griffith Observatory**

## Student-Led Conferences

Dana's broad-based curriculum is best celebrated through the school's student-led conference event. Throughout the year, students develop individual culminating projects entitled, Portfolios for Student Growth which reflect the breadth and depth of their learning in all courses. The portfolios are key to Dana's student ownership of learning theme which focuses on broadening students understanding of their personal growth via goal-setting and reflective learning. Portfolios are shared with parents and guardians at the student-led conference event in April.



**Dana students Erik Myers and Jaren Williams with FBI special agent Anthony Montero**

## FBI Program Focuses on Broadening Learning

Thirty Dana students have met with FBI agents the past five months to learn about issues surrounding gangs, drugs, bullying, and the inner workings of the FBI. On a Saturday in April, these junior agents traveled to FBI headquarters, and in May students participated in a mock trial coached by special agent Anthony Montero, FBI Assistant Division Counsel.



**Tia Brown grade 8 shares her portfolio at student-led conferences**



**Kenyce Smith shares her portfolio at student-led conferences**



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**

will reach 925 students in August. Since the Old Dana Middle School campus has a capacity of no more than 700 students, the District will need to re-open the Sepulveda Elementary School site as a *temporary* home for the DaVinci Design School (please see page 7.) DaVinci Design will house 410 freshman, sophomores and juniors.

With very generous support from the Wiseburn community, the Wiseburn School District passed Measure AA in November authorizing \$87 million to purchase land and build a permanent world class Wiseburn High School. The District is currently exploring several options in Eastern El Segundo and has initiated environmental reviews of potential school sites. The District welcomes your input on the scope of the high school program through your participation in a survey through Survey Monkey. In order to be included for consideration, the survey may be accessed at <https://www.surveymk.com/s/FutureHS>. The survey must be completed by June 10, 2011. If you would like to fill out a survey and you don't have access to a computer, you can stop by the Wiseburn School District Office at 13530 Aviation Boulevard and complete a paper copy of the survey, which will be input for you.

This year Wiseburn Schools continued to excel in the Arts. In February the Harmony Project/Big Bang Orchestra was launched for second graders at Anza and Cabrillo Schools through P.S. Arts. Second graders and their families joined with students from Lawndale and Lennox for three months of percussion and choreography training before initiating a program of string instruments in May. At Dana Middle School, music was increased to three periods and next year we will add two more periods. More than 40 Dana students performed Shakespeare in January. Dana Middle School students also excelled in athletics winning a League Championship in Flag Football and reaching the championship in Boys Basketball and Cross Country. Twelve Dana students completed the Los Angeles Marathon in March. In April, Dana 7th grader, Andrew Clark reached the State Finals in the National Geographic's Geography Bee.

In April the District was notified that both Burnett and Cabrillo Elementary Schools were recognized by California Business for Education Excellence as Honor Roll 2010 schools. Four hundred seventy-seven (477) schools statewide out of more than 10,000 schools received this recognition for significantly increasing student achievement over 4 years and for making substantial progress in eliminating the achievement gap between different demographic groups. On the Academic Performance Index (API) on the similar schools rankings, three Wiseburn Schools achieved a perfect 10 out of 10 and all Wiseburn Schools scored at least an 8 out of 10. All Wiseburn students in grades 2-11 take the standardized (STAR) tests in May and the results will be released in August 2011.

On behalf of all Wiseburn teachers, staff and administrators, I would like to wish all of you a wonderful and safe summer. We look forward to another outstanding year in 2011-2012.

**Wiseburn School District**

**13530 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • (310) 643-3025**

**DULCE STEIN • FROM PAGE 1**

affection of our English Learners. For our students, she is a crusader and hero.

At the governance level, Mrs. Stein is an active member of the English Language Advisory Councils (ELAC) at both Burnett Elementary School and Dana Middle School and she is actively involved as a member of the District English Language Advisory Council (DELAC). Representing these councils, Mrs. Stein makes presentations to the Wiseburn School Board twice each year.

Finally, beyond touching all English Learners, Mrs. Dulce Stein desires to also nurture parents and has created a weekly exercise class for community parents to come together. She is sweeter than her name and our gratitude for Dulce Stein's positive impact on English Learners in the Wiseburn School District is more than she can imagine. Dulce Stein is a Wiseburn treasure and she richly deserves this recognition!

# String Instruments 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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Wiseburn in the subject line)**

**Entries must be received by July 15, 2011**

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

- |            |             |         |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| Balalaika  | Guitar      | Sitar   |
| Banjo      | Harp        | Ukulele |
| Bass Viol  | Harpsichord | Viola   |
| Cello      | Lute        | Violin  |
| Clavichord | Lyre        | Zither  |
| Contrabass | Mandolin    |         |
| Dulcimer   | Piano       |         |

**Congratulations to Farida Patel  
Winner of the December Word Search Contest!**

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



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Rosecrans & Aviation

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