

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Wiseburn School District



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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

JUNE 2012

## Balfour Beatty Springs into Action

By Dr. Tom Johnstone,  
Superintendent

**Balfour Beatty Construction has been on the job in Wiseburn for only two short months but their impact is immediately evident.**

In early April, Balfour Beatty broke ground on a brand new Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) on the Peter Burnett campus. Burnett is the only Wiseburn school without an MPR. In the 1950s, when the school was originally built, none of the Wiseburn schools had MPR facilities. The new construction at Burnett will include a 5,000 square foot auditorium with a retractable stage, a modern kitchen, a conference room, a classroom for the daycare program and abundant storage space. Balfour Beatty set an ambitious construction schedule to



DaVinci Design students take a moment to enjoy the beautiful new garden benches that were constructed during Sharefest Workday on April 28.

complete the project by early October. The Burnett Project will include new electrical service to the entire campus. Simultaneous to this project, Balfour Beatty will complete a new Snack Bar / Restroom for Little League, AYSO Soccer and Dana Middle School on the Dana campus adjacent to Isis Avenue.

On another front, Balfour Beatty was very active in this year's Sharefest Activities on April 28, 2012. Sharefest Workday is an annual event that brings thousands of volunteers together throughout Los Angeles County to improve schools and neighborhoods. Both of the Da Vinci schools were very fortunate recipients of the Sharefest activities on April 28, 2012, and Balfour Beatty provided much of the people power and construction expertise.

SEE BALFOUR BEATTY • PAGE 4

### SUPERINTENDENT



#### Unification on the Way to Becoming a Reality

After 12 long years of community organizing and legal maneuvers, the reality of K-12 unification is within our reach! During the first week of May, the School Boards of Lawndale, Centinela Valley, and

Dr. Tom Johnstone

Wiseburn approved a Joint Powers of Authority Agreement (JPA), which stipulates that the districts will no longer oppose Wiseburn unification or legislation through Senator Roderick Wright's office. This will pave the way for a Wiseburn unification vote in 2013. The Hawthorne Board of Trustees approved the JPA on May 9, 2012, and the Lennox Board indicated their approval on May 17, 2012.

The Joint Powers of Authority comes on the heels of 12 years of disagreements with

Centinela Valley and the other feeder districts to Centinela, where the approaches on both sides of the argument were "winner takes all/loser loses all." The prospects for ever achieving Wiseburn unification under these circumstances were extremely slim.

Beginning in the summer of 2011, the five districts began to meet to explore ways that each of the districts could benefit from a region-wide solution.

Essentially, Wiseburn wanted unification and an assurance that Wiseburn taxpayers would never have to pay taxes on another Centinela Valley school construction bond.

Centinela Valley wanted to be able to maintain the status quo, in terms of their ability to include the commercial area of Eastern El Segundo in future school construction bond measures. Centinela Valley also wanted to be assured that Wiseburn would continue to pay its share of the

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 11

### English Language Development

By Dulce Stein, Friends of the Library Volunteer

The English Language Development (ELD) Summer Review invites all K-3 ELD students to join us from July 3rd- August 23rd. This year the program includes the following:

- An academic review of ELD strategies learned throughout the school year, math, social studies, reading comprehension, writing composition, reading and book reports.
- Art at the Park – This year we will be making an aquarium from paper mâché that we will be exhibiting at the Santa Monica Aquarium.
- Drama at Hollyglen: Acclaimed actor/director, Tony Duran, will be teaching this class that explores body expression, body language and acting culminating with a short play for everybody to enjoy.
- Environmental Awareness: Joining forces with Heal The Bay this class will prepare us to make greener choices in our everyday lives. We will learn about endangered species and we will visit the aquarium and learn how to manage our everyday trash.

Remember! The only solution to pollution is... Do NOT Litter!

Please contact your ELD teacher to put your students' names on the Wiseburn ELD Review Waiting List and we hope to see you this Summer.

Inside:

Wiseburn Watch page 2 • Hollyglen Homeowners Association page 3 • Anza, Burnett, Cabrillo PTA's page 4 • Vistamar School page 4  
AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne page 5 • Wiseburn Little League page 5 • Da Vinci Charter Schools page 6 • Juan de Anza Elementary page 7  
Peter Burnett Elementary page 8 • Juan Cabrillo Elementary page 9 Richard Henry Dana Middle School page 10

# Wiseburn School District



## A Taste of Chinese ~more than just food

### Startalk Good Will Program

is a federal government subsidized language program that provides a rigorous but fun Chinese Language Immersion Program during the summer of 2012.

In this year's programs, students will learn the language based on the theme of "Technology in our life." The students will be given ongoing and varied opportunities to develop their language skills and learn about the richness of Chinese culture through cultural activities on

Chinese Puppetry, Lion Dancing, Chinese Diabolo, Calligraphy, Chinese Crafts, and others.



### Start Talking Chinese

**Location:** Richard Henny Dana Middle School  
5504 W. 135th Street  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

**Dates:** June 25 – July 27, 2012 (except July 4th)  
Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

**Eligibility:** RL1: 6th – 7th grade student  
RL2: 8th – 9th grade student

**Tuition:** Free

**Material fee:** \$50



**Register Now!**

[www.teachingchinese.org/wiseburn](http://www.teachingchinese.org/wiseburn)

Question? Please send e-mail to: [contact@teachingchinese.org](mailto:contact@teachingchinese.org)

## Wiseburn Watch

Harley Hoff, Co-Founder and President • [www.wiseburnwatch.com](http://www.wiseburnwatch.com)

## Greetings, All!

By Bill Magoon, Cofounder and Vice President

Springtime is upon us, and the long days of summer are just around the corner. Therefore, Wiseburn Watch will be gearing up for our 2012 National Night Out event. NNO is a nationwide annual community event held each year on the first Tuesday of August. Its purpose is to heighten crime and drug-prevention awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement/community partnerships, and send a strong message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. More information on our event will be made available as we get closer to the actual date. Any local businesses or entity who would like to join or participate with us this year, please contact us through our website.

The Wiseburn community has recently learned that we have lost three of our Sheriff's Department COPS Team deputies to other assignments within the department. News such as this is always bittersweet because on one hand, we had depended on them heavily over the years and grown quite fond of "our guys." But on the flip side, we are pleased to see them advance in their careers and, of course, wish them all the best in their new positions. We will anxiously await their replacements and will look forward to forging new relationships.

Wiseburn Watch would also like to extend a big thanks to our friends at the California Highway Patrol. The WLA Office of the CHP continues to play an intricate role here in our community. They keep a watchful eye for crime issues, traffic hazards and concerns on our streets for the benefit and safety of all of us. Our CHP office has recently been assigned a new captain. We have not had the pleasure to meet him as of yet, but we are looking forward to that day so that we can welcome him with open arms and congratulate him on his new command.

### Community Walking Path Project

Our greenbelt/walking path project on the east side of the Interstate 405 along La Cienega is still on schedule and moving forward, although a bit too slowly for some of us. Many of our residents are chomping at the bit to get some much-needed green space in our neighborhood. But as with any governmental-type process, the wheels can turn very slowly at times, and Los Angeles County is no different. It's hoped that we will have some new information to post in the near future. In addition, we have heard unconfirmed rumors that the Wiseburn community is on the books to get our streets repaved. This is a good thing and is much needed, so we are looking forward to this project as well, should it come to fruition.

### Crime Rates Decline

Since the inception of Wiseburn Watch, we have seen a steady, gradual decline in our overall crime issues. It's not perfect by any means, but the Sheriff's Department 2011 uniform crime-reporting statistics showed the Wiseburn community having the lowest number of overall reported incidents of crime out of the three South Bay unincorporated LA County communities. This is good news indeed, but we cannot put down our guards or become complacent. We must always remain vigilant.

Last, Wiseburn Watch cordially invites any homeowner, property owner or renter residing within the LA County unincorporated community of Wiseburn—that is, properties located east of the Interstate 405, west of Inglewood Avenue, south of El Segundo Boulevard and north of Rosecrans Avenue—to join us by attending a Watch meeting. To join or for more information, you can contact us through our website.

**Have a fun summer!**



**Our next issue is October**

# Hollyglen Homeowners Association

Gary Parsons, President • 310/765-4802 • www.hollyglen.info

## Join Us

Greetings from the Hollyglen Homeowners Association! We are pleased to introduce our 2012 Board of Officers and committee chairs. They are President Gary Parsons; 2nd-Vice President Jim Matthews; Secretary Carla Cooper; Treasurer Cindy Parsons; Trustee Mark Cohen; Trustee Carol Cohen; Trustee Julie DeCoste; and Newsletter Distribution Coordinator Darlene Rourke.

Did you know that volunteering is a great way to meet your neighbors and stay informed about what is happening in the community? And do we have volunteer opportunities! The Hollyglen Homeowners Association is always looking for volunteers to help with the Association's Web site Welcome Wagon, or with distributing newsletters, etc. If you would like to get involved, then please contact us.

How do you feel about the "No Left Turn" restriction at Isis and Rosecrans? The HHA will be conducting a survey of Hollyglen residents regarding this and other topics. You can look for it in our May Newsletter.

Let's beautify Hollyglen and plant parkway trees! Parkway trees provide shade, help clean the air and beautify the neighborhood. If you would like to have a tree planted in your parkway, the City of Hawthorne will plant one for you, and for free!

Over the years many of the street trees in Hollyglen have either died off or been removed. Some blocks have hardly any street trees left, and look barren. Tree-lined streets beautify our homes' exteriors and add to their value. To request a tree for your parkway you can contact the City of Hawthorne Public Works Department, at (310) 349-1664.

The Hawthorne Del Aire Certified Farmers Market is held at 135th and Aviation every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It features farm fresh fruit and veggies, fresh eggs, prepared foods, and more. Shopping at the market is a great way to meet your neighbors, eat healthy and support our local farmers. As one person told us, "Shopping the Farmers Market is like having a garden in your own back yard, but without the work!"

The Hollyglen Homeowners Association is a volunteer organization that monitors what is happening in and around our community to help keep Hollyglen residents informed. The Association hosts community meetings, distributes informational newsletters and addresses various issues that affect our community. Membership in the Association is open to all Hollyglen residents. The dues are \$10 per family per calendar year.

To join the HHA, please download a membership application from the Association's Web site at [www.hollyglen.info](http://www.hollyglen.info), and then mail it to P.O. Box 1755, Hawthorne, Ca., 90251.

If you would like to receive email announcements from the HHA, please send your email address to [HHABoard@hollyglen.info](mailto:HHABoard@hollyglen.info). You may also contact us at (310) 765-4802.

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

# PROPERTIES FOR SALE



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## Anza PTA

Sue Crain, President • 310/725-2150

# Successful Year

Spring has sprung at Juan de Anza Elementary. Our Growing Great gardens are indeed growing great. Because of the great successes we have had with fundraising this year, we have been able to invest in tools and storage to support our gardening program. This is a reflection of the commitment of our families, teachers, and students to learning good health practices that will only continue to strengthen the children in their learning. It's a great place to be!

It was also great to be around Anza for some of the terrific events that round out our school year. The Variety Show was an amazing display of our kids talents but also of our teachers and principal. Not only can they all kick up their heels for a footloose dance, but the teachers in particular worked very hard at making the show run flawlessly and to tremendous effect. It was a wonderful evening followed not long after by another night of fun with the Anza Art Show and Ice Cream Social. The event name tells it all. Just imagine a general purpose room bedecked with amazing art projects, kids dancing, laughing and hula-hooping, and grownups relaxing together and you have the picture.

It's a lovely thing to be at Anza where everyone is someone special!

## Burnett PTA

Liz Martin, President • 310/725-9570

# Thank You!

Looking back on the school year, I would like to first and foremost thank all our outstanding parents and volunteers for their generous support this year. We were able to accomplish great things this year because of the support of our awesome Burnett Families.

This year we focused on upgrading the technology at Peter Burnett. Working with the school, we were able to help put new computers in all our classrooms! I am thrilled PTA was able to be part of that. We were also able to continue supporting great programs such as Hands-On Art, Growing Great, Ice Skating Night, assemblies, yearbooks, and field trips. We also had our first Family Dance, Walk-a-Thon, and Talent Show, where our Bulldogs were able to show that Burnett's Got Talent! These events were all possible because of the hard work of our outstanding volunteers. Thank you for all that you do! I would also like to give an enormous thank you to Mrs. Sullivan. She is an amazing principal and she supports our PTA every step of the way. We could not do it without her. So, thank you to everyone that helped make this year better for our kids!

## Cabrillo PTA

Gloria Gutierrez, President • 310/725-5451

# Education a Priority

Elections for Juan Cabrillo PTA were held April 2, 2012 and a new board was elected for the 2012-2013 school year. Our elections were originally scheduled for March; however, we did not have enough members present to meet quorum requirements. Turns out that was a great thing because it moved a parent to send an email that really made a difference! This parent realized that while most think the PTA has great participation there were fewer than the 15 people needed to hold the vote at our March meeting. From then on we have been able to count on this parent. They have joined those that make their children's educational environment a priority and make it to that meeting every month. A very special welcome and thank you to our new board members listed. We thank our current board members for their service and we welcome our new members. Also we would like to extend our thanks to all of the PTA members and volunteers who do so much to help make Juan Cabrillo such a great place to grow and learn.

President Anne Tittle; 1st Vice President Liza Somilleda; 2nd VP Membership Simone (Roselyn) Robinson; 3rd VP Way & Means Marilyn Comitz; 4th VP Communications Erick Breneman; Secretary Susan Szabo; Treasurer Bridget Cawthon.

# Vistamar School

737 Hawaii St., El Segundo, CA • 310/643-7377

By Ryan Tillson, Director of Admissions and External Relations  
ryantillson@vistamarschool.org or 310-643-7377

## Sumer Discovery at Vistamar School

Summer Discovery at Vistamar School engages 7th and 8th graders at a higher level than your typical summer camp. The program is ideal for students seeking both a challenging environment and a fun summer experience. With two distinct sessions and four periods a day, students can choose from a variety of activities.

Session I - July 9 – July 20 • Session II – July 23- August 3

Questions for space availability, registration or program questions, please contact Shanell Leggins at 310-643-7377 or email summerdiscovery@vistamarschool.org.

## BALFOUR BEATTY • FROM PAGE 1

At Da Vinci Science, Sharefest/Balfour Beatty erected a beautiful shade structure adjacent to the basketball courts and patched a leaky roof in the main hallway. Sharefest volunteers also built garden boxes/benches for both Da Vinci Science and the Innovation Academy and a space-age mural was painted by Sharefest volunteers in the main quad.



Sharefest Workday 2012

At Da Vinci Design, Sharefest/Balfour Beatty volunteers installed coverings over walkways outside the main office, installed much needed shelving in classrooms, planted flowers and shrubs and built many beautiful benches/garden boxes to provide color and places for students to sit and congregate.

In the blink of an eye both Da Vinci campuses have become sights to behold! Thank you, Sharefest! Thank you, Balfour Beatty Construction!

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Covering the  
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## Sign Up for Soccer!

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

To date, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne has held a total of three registrations for the 2012–13 fall season. Soccer age is determined by the player's age on July 31, or he or she must be four years old by Sept. 1. There will be two additional registration dates: Saturday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday, June 20, from 6 to 9 p.m. All registrations will be held at the Juan Cabrillo Elementary School Elementary School PAC Room.

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. Download the form from our website, fill it out completely and bring a printout along with payment and birth certificate for new players to registration. It is not too late to join your friends in playing the world's sport, fútbol—or as we call it here in the states, soccer! If interested in signing up, please contact me.

### C'mon and Volunteer!

From now until the start of the season in September, we will be selecting coaches for the 100-plus 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, a referee, a team mom, a team dad or a board member. If you want to be part of a world-class and unique experience, carve sometime out of your busy schedule and volunteer.

And speaking of volunteers, the city of Hawthorne recognized over 250 volunteers to assist the number of nonprofits in our city. AYSO Region 21 had the opportunity to honor four exceptional volunteers who played a major role in the success of last year's youth soccer program. The volunteers were Norma Diaz, Christina Lopez—formerly Christina Juarez who was married to Henry Lopez on Cinco de Mayo last month, Henry Lopez and Ricardo Virgin. Congratulations!

### Big Doings On the Pitch!

Twenty teams participated in the Area 1-D Beach Cites Spring League Program. Many of the players enjoy playing soccer year-round, and we are more than happy to help out in this endeavor. As of this writing, there were several Hawthorne teams battling it out for the top three spots in their respective divisions.

In addition, we have four coaches who will take a Boys under 12, a Girls under 12, a Girls under 14 and a Boys under 19 group of talented players across the ocean to participate in the AYSO Rainbow Classic on the Big Island of Hawaii. To date, fund-raising activities are underway to ensure that all expenses are met. If approached by these teams, please support them financially, as this is an experience of a lifetime.

We once again want to thank the Wiseburn School District for the use of all soccer fields—Dana, Burnett, Cabrillo, Anza and Aviation. This allows all age divisions to have home games. We are looking forward to the next and final field to be constructed on the current Da Vinci School site. We are all hoping that this will be an artificial-turf field to complement the state-of-the-art schools. Before the start of the fall season, the Dana Sports Facility will have a new snack stand. AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne is making a wise investment by partnering with Wiseburn Little League and the Wiseburn School District to bring this much-needed addition to the sports field.

See you all on the pitch—that is, the soccer field!

## From the Dugout

Andrew Goslin—President

The year's Wiseburn Little League season was a huge success! Thank you to all of the parents, volunteers, umpires, coaches, managers, board members, and the community for supporting our kids. This season, we exceeded our expectations, with players of all skills and abilities learning great life lessons on the ball diamond while having fun. Our major boys team placed 5th in the Urban Initiative Tournament this year, and our tournament teams played well in the Carl McGee and All Star tournaments. We kicked off a new division for 12-13 year old baseball, the "50-70" division and it was a huge success.

Our little league community is very excited and looking forward to the Bathroom/Storage/Snackstand construction project, which is now underway. Thank you to the community for your support in making this important fixture a reality. Our families and community residents will have a much better experience at the fields, with amenities that befit quality organizations (AYSO, Little League, and the numerous after-school programs).

Wiseburn Little League is fully committed to providing a quality, safe, and fun baseball and softball experience for the children of the Wiseburn and Holly Glen communities. All children ages 4-16, regardless of ability, gender, or disability, are welcome to play. Please visit our website for additional information.



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By Dr. Matthew Wunder, Executive Director  
**Congratulations First Graduating Class**



We approach the end of the school year with much excitement and enthusiasm as we prepare to honor Da Vinci Schools' first graduating class. We are so proud of the Class of 2012. Their hard work and dedication are paying off. As of early May, 80% of our seniors have been accepted to a 4-year university! Da Vinci students are college-ready — achieving great things both in their families and their community.

### Delivering College Prep Results

Da Vinci Schools are delivering college-prep results. At press time, 80% of the Class of 2012 had been accepted into four year colleges and universities! Da Vinci students are ready for college and ready for life. More than 95% of our seniors have completed their UC/CSU A-G course requirements — this is a remarkable achievement in a city where fewer than 70% of high school seniors graduate and fewer than 50% have completed the necessary coursework to go to a state college. Da Vinci Schools congratulate our seniors who have been offered admission into the following colleges and universities: American University of Paris, Arizona State University, Art Institute, Azusa Pacific University, Cal Lutheran University, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Channel Islands, CSU Chico, CSU, Dominguez Hills, CSU East Bay, CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Maritime, CSU San Marcos, Drexel University, Georgia State University, Hofstra University, Humboldt State University, Laguna College Art & Design, Marymount College, Menlo College, New Mexico WUE, Northern Arizona University, Oregon State University, Otis College of Art and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology, San Francisco State University, Sierra Nevada College, Sonoma State University, UAT—University of Advancing Technology, UC Davis, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, Univ of Alabama, Univ of Arizona, Univ of Bridgeport, Univ of Hawaii Manoa, Univ of Kansas, Univ of La Verne, Univ of New Mexico, Univ of Oregon, Univ of Pacific, Univ of Utah and Weber State University.



Senior Class



Robotics Team

### Robotics Team Wins Top Rookie Team

Da Vinci Science's Robotics Team, the Vitruvian Bots, earned the Highest Rookie Seed award at the Los Angeles Regional FIRST Robotics Competition held March 15-17 in Long Beach. The Da Vinci team finished its inaugural season #5 out of 66 teams with an 8-1 record.

With the support of teachers Aaron Tostado and Josh Thomson and sponsorship by JC Penney, 27 students worked side-by-side with professional engineers from Raytheon, Boeing, COM DEV and DARPA to design and build a robot that could navigate a court and shoot as many basketballs into their hoops as possible during a 2 minute and 15 second match. All teams had to conform their robot to certain weight, height, size and monetary restrictions.

The Vitruvian Bots: Aydee Borroel, Kevin Garcia, Tatiana Baquero, Kimberly Carrillo, Ariana Chavez, Jonathan Dao, Rosa Garcia, Adriana Henriquez, Amy Hu, Marc Iwamoto, Carlos Lopez, Enrique Mejia, Allan Murillo, Tyler Murray, Mathew Nunez, Sal Olivares, Huzaifa Patel, JohnPaul Ramirez, Christian Santizo, Anthony Stuart, Tiffany Stuart, Kan Thongnoppakun, Kat Thongnoppakun, Alyssa Tomlinson, Ruqayya Toorawa, Brian Vallelunga and Tristian Vo.

A huge thanks to our dedicated mentors who supported and inspired us every step of the way: Ted Dang (DARPA), Fazlul Zubair (Raytheon), David Stuart (Boeing), Ralf Ihmels (COM DEV) and Bill Kummer (Raytheon).

### K-8 Update: School and Family Collaborative Education

As a school and family collaborative education model, the Da Vinci Innovation Academy offers K-8 families many opportunities to learn from each other and from experts in their fields. Every month, there are outstanding parent workshops offered that support collaborative education and hands-on, minds-on learning. All workshops are free and open to the public!

Past workshops have included: Setting Limits With Compassion, Math and Cognitively Guided Instruction, Multiple Learning Styles, Mindfulness, Geometry, and Executive Functioning Skills, among others.

For more information about upcoming workshops, please contact Brianne Allen at ballen@davincischools.org.

### Annual Giving Update

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 \$67,470 in donations and pledges during March bringing our total to \$125,429 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 continue to build on the signature programs that define the Da Vinci experience. Gifts to the Annual Giving Campaign touch every K-12 student in the Da Vinci community and are being used to provide hands-on curriculum for every age level; innovative academic and enrichment programs; state-of-the-art technology; field trips; college visits; art materials; professional development; and the day-to-day operating expenses that are not funded by the state of California.

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

## ELD Helps Students Soar!

In 2009, the Wiseburn School District focused its efforts on a complete restructuring of the English Language Development Program (ELD). This program serves approximately 12 percent of Wiseburn students who are designated as English Language Learners (ELLs), with a focus on early intervention in the primary grades. The schools in the district have worked together to build a program that is designed to help English learners build their English skills, particularly in the challenging academic environment in Wiseburn.

At Juan de Anza Elementary School, the program is coordinated by Amber Franco, a credentialed teacher with a passion for helping students. She is supported by two instructional aides who work under her direction to provide services to over 100 students at Anza. The ELD team works with groups of students throughout the school day in structured academic lessons that connect with the classroom curriculum. All services are provided to students in addition to their regular school day. For upper-grade ELD students, this means arriving to school at 8 a.m. For primary students, the Early Bird and Late Bird hours are used to avoid pulling students out of their regular program. This system was developed with the oversight of the District English Language Advisory Council with participation of parents, teachers and instructional aides.

The curriculum for the ELD program is based on the California English Language Development Standards. Instructional resources include the Houghton Mifflin English Language Learner Handbook, which is a component of Wiseburn's language arts textbook that the students use within their general education classes, and *Avenues*, an ELD textbook. The four main areas that ELD classes focus on are speaking, listening, reading and writing in English. A big emphasis is placed on improving the vocabulary of our ELD students.

## Cross-Curricular Validity

An important component of making the program work is the "Intervention Connection." Under this system, the Anza teachers write down exactly what is being taught in their classrooms each week in order for the ELD teacher to support that learning. The ELD teacher preteaches and reteaches concepts that are covered in the general education classes. Learning is aligned in both classrooms. Classroom teachers and the ELD teacher also communicate regularly on the individual academic, social and emotional progress of the ELD students. Additionally, ELD students and other struggling readers make use of Lexia, a computer program that helps with reading fundamentals: phonics, letter/word recognition, rhyming, vocabulary and sentence structure.

Part of the philosophy behind the ELD program is to build a sense of community among English learners. Although all of our instruction is in English, we encourage students to build their skills in two or more languages, as this helps build language skills. It is also vital that the students view the program as a positive extension of the learning day. To achieve this goal, the ELD teacher creates lessons in which students play educational games to practice reading skills, vocabulary, phonics and so on; act out stories and the meaning of words, e.g., reader's theater; learn in groups or with partners where learning is social; incorporate songs, chants and poems; share and value one another's culture; use realia, pictures, charts and short movies to help support learning; and receive rewards and recognition for being successful in the ELD classroom as well as for their grades they get in the general education classroom.

The concept is for students to actively use their verbal skills in a safe and comfortable learning environment. The positive results of this program are indicated by fast-rising test scores for ELLs on the California Standards Test



The Kindergarten ELD class practicing math vocabulary with playdoh.



The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade ELD class after a fun game of BINGO that focused on reviewing punctuation marks.

and the California English Language Development Test. Perhaps most telling about the program's success is that students want to continue in the program even after they have been reclassified as Fluent English Proficient students. A recent survey of parents indicates widespread support for the program and appreciation of the ELD staff. Thanks to the hard work of the ELD Team and our classroom teachers, our English Language Learners are soaring!

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

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



**Laura Sullivan**  
Principal

## Student Council Steps Up

As the school year comes to an end, the students and staff at Peter Burnett have a chance to reflect on the busy 2011-12 school year. This year, we integrated all groups into a seamless whole to focus on new activities.

Leadership took on a new meaning this year, starting with our Student Council. The following teachers and one parent joined forces to organize Student Council: Mrs. Fraser, fourth-grade teacher; Mrs. Elder, third-grade teacher; and Mrs. Morgan, parent and PTA member. An election was held, and after some powerful speeches and an energetic campaign, the following students were elected: Isabella Barba, president; Carlie Morgan, vice president; Olivia Bautista, secretary; and Tony Damian, treasurer.

Student Council and our amazing PTA created new activities for Burnett students, staff and families.

## Earth Day



Students are expected to not only take on leadership roles in their classrooms but also to fill schoolwide leadership roles. Students planned and organized various activities, including Earth Day, which was held in April. Parent Mr. Prieto held two morning presentations to inform students about recycling, the ocean and setting positive examples. Students learned various strategies to do their part to keep our environment clean.

The highlight of Earth Day was guest speaker Bob Meistrell, CEO of a water-sports equipment company. Mr. Meistrell had many interesting stories to share with students and staff. He has made significant contributions toward changing the entire culture of surfing and diving in California and around the world in a positive way.

## 16th Annual Wiseburn Story Writing Contest

The 16th Annual Wiseburn Story Writing Contest, which is held each year at the Wiseburn Library, allows children to express themselves through writing. Mrs. Johnson, the librarian, has created an atmosphere where children feel comfortable to share their creativity and artistic ability in print. The following third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students were recognized from Peter Burnett: Diego Almendariz, Rachel Andriacci, Andrew Baeza, Tony Damian, Gaby Diaz, Alexis Gonzalez, Gillian Harris, Alyssa Hubler, Maegan Lind, Nicholas Mazzotti, Dylan Ryan and Julliana Tabuada



Everyone is a winner



MC Scott Morgan is checking his list

## Enjoying the Arts

Burnett established a student choir under the direction of Lissie Quishenberry. The choir serenaded the entire student body during two Wednesday morning assemblies. Now, we are anxiously awaiting their culminating recital in June. Congratulations on a job well done!

The first parent-student dance was sponsored by our PTA and organized by parent Marta Prieto in April. Everyone had a great time, and the parents surprised their children with their energetic dance steps.

In May, Burnett held its first student talent show. The talent displayed by the students was unbelievable. The students displayed their singing, dancing and musical ability to a packed audience. Special thanks to parents Norma Diaz, Yolanda Bautista and our multitalented MC, Scott Morgan. Everyone had a special gift to share. What a talented group of boys and girls! Everyone had a great time.

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K – 2nd grade  
(310) 536-9353

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3 – 5 years old  
(310) 725-9955

# Juan Cabrillo *Elementary School (K-2)*

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



**Margaret Lynch**  
Principal

## A Distinguished School

Cabrillo School has recently received notification from California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson that Cabrillo was selected as a California Distinguished School and a Title I Academic Achievement School!

Cabrillo is one of 390 exemplary California public elementary schools that were named 2012 California Distinguished Schools for innovative education programs which encourage students to learn and help close the achievement gap. We are so proud of the hard work and loving dedication of our teachers, staff, and district leadership together with parents and community partners, which has allowed us to do excellent things for children!

This announcement was preceded by a validation visit of our California Distinguished School application. The team of five educators was led by a member of the California State Board of Education to verify our two signature practices of English-Language Development and art. The team interviewed teachers, staff members, parents, our superintendent, our chief financial officer, School Board members, and community partners, in addition to observing every Cabrillo classroom.

At the end of the day, the team verbally validated our signature practices and also highlighted the tremendous sense of community they felt in all the groups they interviewed. We are grateful to those who represented the voices of others, articulating the many ways we grow and learn together in support of children.

Cabrillo has also been recognized as one of 117 Title I Academic Achievement Schools for narrowing the achievement gap between all subgroups. Title I funds assist schools in meeting the needs of students living at or below the poverty line. The criteria to qualify for the Title I award have become more rigorous in recent years. Schools must now demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards.



**Dr. Tom Johnstone, Wiseburn Superintendent; Dr. Art Delgado, LACOE Superintendent; Margaret Lynch, Principal; Karen Welker, Title I Aide; Grace Houzvicka, ELD Teacher; and Dianna Meyers, ELD Teacher represent the Cabrillo Staff at the CA Title I Achievement Award Ceremony.**

Additionally, the schools' socio-economic disadvantaged students must have reached achievement targets for two consecutive years.

On May 3, our superintendent, Dr. Tom Johnstone, and four representatives from the Cabrillo staff attended the California School Recognition Program Awards Ceremony. Thank you to all who invest wholeheartedly in each of our children!

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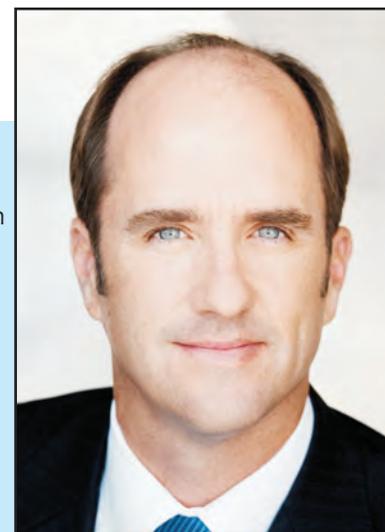
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## Project Lead the Way

In the fall of 2011, Dana Middle School teachers, staff, students, local businesses and community members came together to support Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a new hands-on project-based program with a state-of-the-art technology lab. Dana is the third middle school in the South Bay to offer PLTW. PLTW presents science, technology, engineering and math in a high-tech, creative environment that students love. By completing fun projects, students are introduced to potential careers in engineering and related subjects.

**Aileen Harbeck**  
Principal

With the support of a \$20,000 Chevron/El Camino start-up Grant, Dana was able to provide teacher training, a laptop computer, robotics design kits, tools, tool chests and supplies for class projects. As part of the plan-

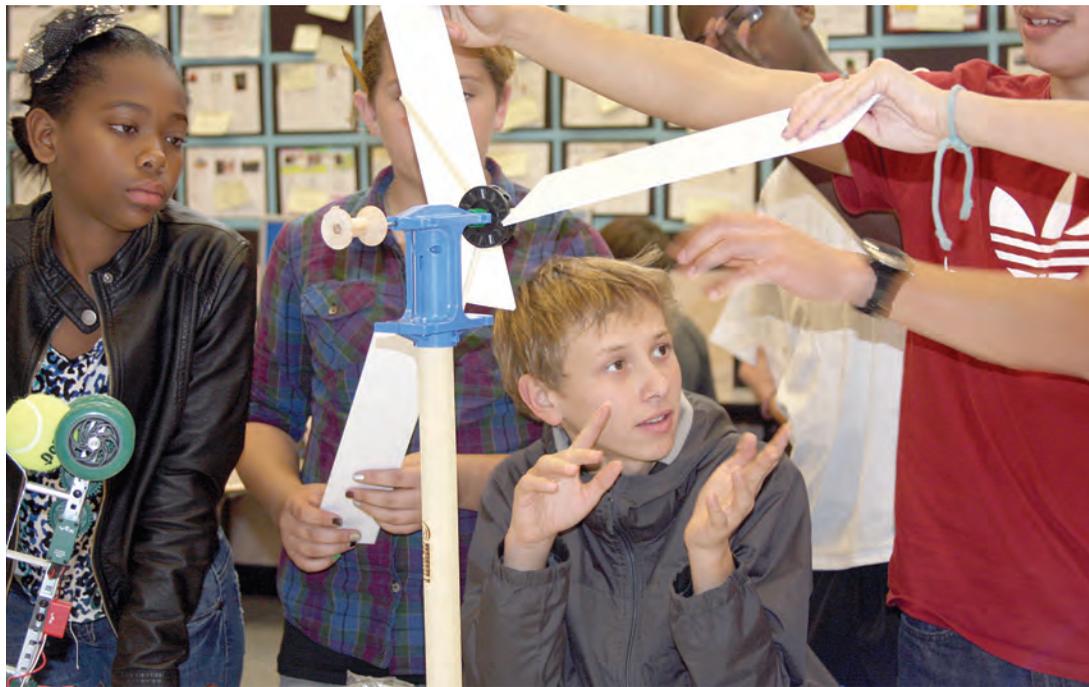
ning process, two teachers volunteered part of their summer to complete 80 hours of training at the University of Colorado to become certified to teach PLTW. Computers in the classroom were reconfigured to support a high-end design program called Autodesk, and the classroom was fitted with project stations designed to promote collaboration and building skills.

Two PLTW courses, Plugged in Design and Extreme Engineering, were added to Dana's elective offerings. After school, 35 Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students began a new Introduction to Technology program that extends the benefit of the lab and PLTW tools to more students. In addition, \$1,000 in community donations helped purchase lab supplies such as tool carts and project towers.

There is an overwhelming demand from students and parents for PLTW. Dana hopes to expand the program from two to three sections next school year. The PLTW program engages students on multiple levels, exposes them to subjects that they typically would not pursue, provides them with a strong foundation for achieving their academic goals in any chosen field of study and, if pursued, establishes a proven path to college and career success in STEM-related industries.



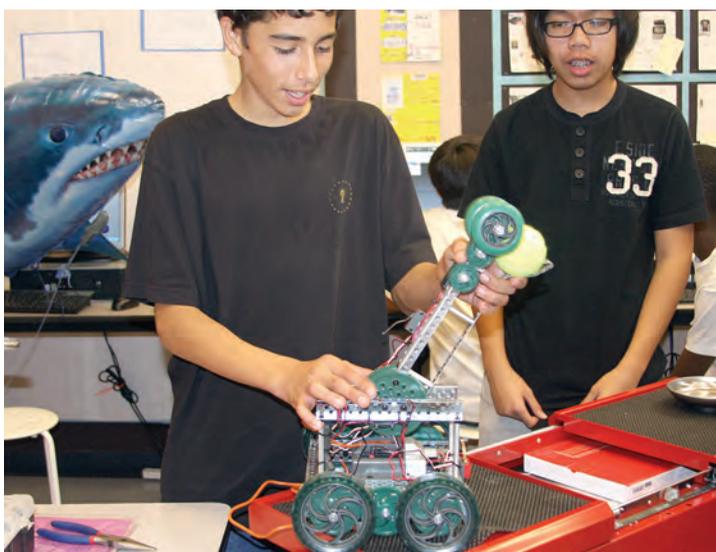
PLTW student Bryan Reyes puts the final touches on his windmill project.



Skyler Smith-McAllister, Kaitlin Mathieu, Andrew Damian, Tailon Taylor, and Bryan Reyes collaborate to learn about the pitch of windmill blades in PLTW class.



PLTW student Tailon Taylor develops a pegboard online using the Autodesk Inventor program.



Students Joshua Barrantes and Jose Eusebio learn about robotic arms in PLTW class.



PLTW students Skyler Smith-McAllister, Kaitlin Mathieu, Andrew Damian, Tailon Taylor, and Bryan Reyes build a wind turbine in class.



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**

previously approved Centinela Valley school construction bonds from 2000, 2008, and 2010.

Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Lennox wanted to ensure that Wiseburn residents would continue to pay on the Centinela Valley school construction bonds that were authorized by voters in 2000, 2008, and 2010, so their residents would not be unfairly subjected to tax increases that would ensue if Wiseburn were absent. All three districts also wanted to curb the number of students from their districts who enroll in Wiseburn schools on inter-district attendance permits.

Through the JPA and other separate agreements, the needs of all five districts have been met to a degree where all of the districts have agreed in writing not to oppose Wiseburn unification. In May, all five superintendents met with Senator Roderick Wright to present a united front on Wiseburn unification, and Wiseburn also received a written endorsement from the Los Angeles County Committee on District Reorganization.

One very important element of the Joint Powers of Authority agreement is the call for a parcel tax election on November 6, 2012. This is not something that Wiseburn—or any of the four other districts—take lightly. California schools are in the midst of the most severe funding crisis in our state’s history. In 2012–2013, funding for California schools will be in the bottom three of our 50 states, with the prospect of going to dead last if threatened cuts of \$455 per student are enacted. Currently the Wiseburn School District receives \$5,067 for each student who attends our schools, if the student comes to school every day of the school year. By law, under Proposition 98, we should be receiving \$6,383 for each student who attends school every day. Due to the funding priorities of our state legislators, Wiseburn, only receives 79 cents on the dollar to fund our education programs, and we receive even less funding than we received seven years ago in 2005–2006. The state of California has completely abdicated its responsibility to fund its public schools, and our children are paying the price.

Several local districts have taken matters into their own hands to protect their students. In 2011, both Palos Verdes Peninsula and Santa Monica-Malibu passed parcel taxes to fill the void in state-provided funding for education. Similarly, the city of Manhattan Beach and the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation allocate millions of dollars annually to keep their schools whole in terms of funding.

Wiseburn has been very blessed over the years to boast some of the best schools in our region and in the state of California. On May 3, 2012, our Juan Cabrillo Elementary School was recognized as a 2012 California Distinguished School and a Federal Title I Academic Achievement School. Only nine schools out of the thousands of schools in Los Angeles County earned both of these honors. On June 22, 2012, Dana Middle School will be redesignated as a National Forum School to Watch in Washington, D.C., one of only three in Los Angeles County. Wiseburn teachers and staff have become experts at doing more with less funding, but we are at the breaking point. For the past three years, Wiseburn students have endured five fewer school days. Wiseburn teachers have endured seven non-paid furlough days, and administrators have had to absorb

eight non-paid furlough days. In Wiseburn, we fully understand that our students, families, and staff have to do our part in getting California through this fiscal crisis, but education has been asked to shoulder a far greater burden than any other segment of the California state budget.

What would be the impact of a parcel tax on the residents of Wiseburn, Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Lennox? What would Wiseburn do with the proceeds of such a parcel tax?

The parcel tax in the JPA calls for two cents per square foot on residential properties. There will be exemptions for seniors and handicapped individuals. Based on the average size of a parcel in Wiseburn (44 feet by 110 feet), the average annual cost would be \$97 dollars, or about 27 cents per day. We know that the Wiseburn community has been more than generous in supporting Wiseburn schools, but we also know that the state is miserably failing to fund our schools at even a minimal acceptable level. A parcel tax does not go to Sacramento. It stays right here in Wiseburn. Outstanding Wiseburn schools increase the value of your property and will hopefully add much more than the \$97 the average homeowner will pay each year.

A parcel tax of two cents per square foot of residential property, combined with the revenues from the commercial properties in the community would generate approximately \$2.12 million in annual revenue. What could Wiseburn do with this much-needed funding?

- Restore the five student school days so Wiseburn students return to a 180-day calendar.
- Restore the employee furlough days so all staff members are at the same level they were in 2008.
- Stabilize and restore lower class sizes at all grade levels. This will eventually help to reduce out-of-district enrollment at all of our schools.
- Invest in the technological infrastructure of Wiseburn schools in preparation for the introduction of the Common Core State Standards in 2014 and online assessment for all students in the spring of 2015.
- Restore funding for the visual and performing arts, particularly in the areas of drama and music. Students who participate in the Harmony Project with violins, violas, and cellos will reach fourth grade in 2012–2013. In two years, they will reach Dana Middle School, which currently has no string instrument program. We need to keep pace and invest in string instruments.
- Develop Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) “bridge” programs to link Anza and Burnett Elementary Schools with Dana Middle School and to link Dana with our future Wiseburn High School.

The JPA mandates the formation of a parcel tax oversight committee, which will work with the district to ensure that all proceeds are spent wisely and with a maximum benefit to our students.

Wiseburn is all of us! Thank you for everything you continue to do to support our schools and make Wiseburn a wonderful place to live and learn!

I wish all of you a happy and restful summer!

**Wiseburn School District**  
**13530 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250**  
**(310) 643-3025**

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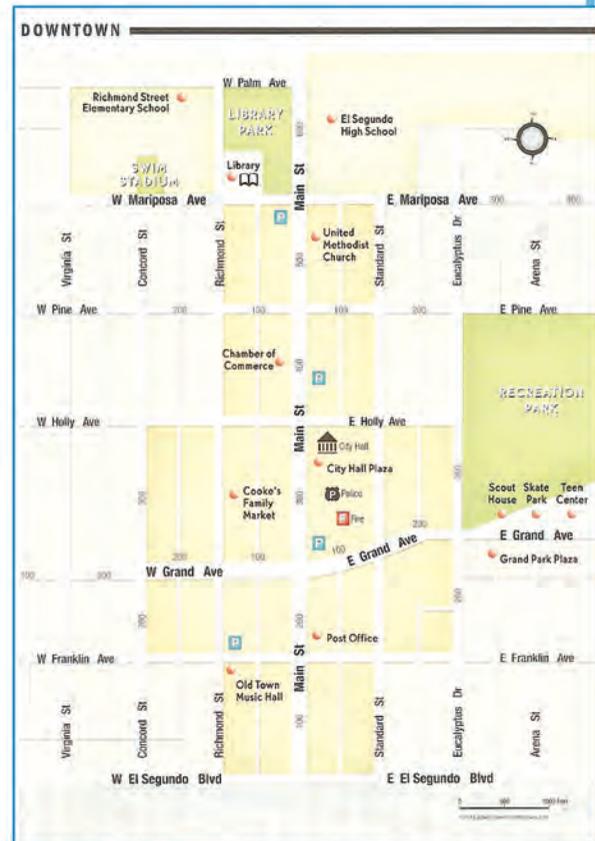
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