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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Tom Johnstone

The Wiseburn Way

As we continue to power through the first two months of the new school year, we have a lot to be thankful for and a lot to look forward to. The beginning of each new year is a

time when hope and optimism spring eternal and the possibilities are endless. Wiseburn is a community of innovators and doers and a place where we thrive on the intersection of ideas and the action that it takes to implement them. It could easily be argued that Wiseburn has been doing things a bit different then other districts throughout our 119-year history and the way we operate can proudly and appropriately be labeled “The Wiseburn Way.”

“The Wiseburn Way” probably means something a little different to each one of us who live or work in Wiseburn but there are most

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A Huge Milestone in the History of the Wiseburn Community

By Carla Levenson,
Managing Director of External Relations
Da Vinci Schools

Construction is officially beginning on the development of one of the most innovative campuses ever envisioned for 21st century learning.

About 500 school officials, community members, architects, project consultants, and local education leaders gathered for a groundbreaking celebration on Aug. 20 marking the official start of construction of Wiseburn Unified’s \$140 million, four-story, 217,000 SF high school facility for real-world, 21st century learning at 201 N. Douglas Street in El Segundo, CA. The facility, known as Wiseburn High School, will house Da Vinci Schools’ three independent charter high schools: Da Vinci Communications, Da Vinci Design, and Da Vinci Science that serve as Wiseburn’s “home” high schools. Each floor of the new facility is designated to a specific school with its own principal and faculty.



Designed by [Gensler](#) and David Stephen of [New Vista Designs for 21st Century Learning](#), award-winning architectural design firms known for delivering innovative and flexible learning spaces, the 13.7 acre campus will serve more than 1,200 students in a combination of day and evening classes offered by Da Vinci Schools. The main building features vibrant and flexible learning environments that support real-world, project-based instruction aligned to workforce needs. The new campus will serve both as an educational and community hub of small learning communities, state-of-the-art performing arts, and recreational facilities for school and community use.

See A HUGE MILESTONE • Page 11

Employees of the Year – 2015

By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent



Jamie Ehring
Classified Employee of the Year

exceptional example of the literally thousands of outstanding classified and certificated educators that have left their fingerprints on the fiber of the Wiseburn community, permanently changing for the better, the lives of our students.

Classified

The recipe for success in any organization boils down to one key ingredient – the people within the organization. The Wiseburn Unified School District, throughout its 119 years, has been very blessed to attract some of the smartest, most creative and hardest working people that you will find anywhere... and they are very loyal to our students and the Wiseburn Community! We like to call this the “Wiseburn Way”! Our 2015 Employees of the Year have truly served this community as excellent examples of the Wiseburn Way of Doing Things.

Our Classified Employee of the Year, Cabrillo School’s Jaime Ehring, is an



Mary Nies
Certificated Employee of the Year

Like our Classified Employee of the Year, our Teacher of the Year started her career in education as a volunteer and Co-President of the PTA at Meadows Elementary School in Manhattan Beach. Our Teacher of the Year was educated out of state but came to Wiseburn with

Teacher of the Year

One thing that all of our seven Wiseburn Teachers of the Year since 2009 have had in common is, not only do they love teaching, but they love being students too! This year’s Teacher of the Year went to no fewer than 4 universities, including two of our Nation’s largest. Not only that, but she graduated Magna Cum Laude, was Phi Beta Kappa and received a Fulbright Award. In all of her undergraduate and graduate coursework combined, every single grade was an “A” with the exception of 4, and all of those were B’s. We are blessed to have very smart teachers!

See EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR • Page 13

Wiseburn Receives Baseline Scores for New CAASPP Testing

The first-ever Smarter Balanced test results, using new Common Core-aligned content standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, were released in September by the California Department of Education. The tests, given to students in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11, were designed to promote more critical thinking and problem solving skills in the real world.

These new tests were developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) as part of the comprehensive new testing program called California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), which replaces the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program that expired on July 1, 2013. Previous STAR test scores should not be compared to the new Smarter Balanced tests as these are much different tests measuring much different standards. After more than two decades of students from the United States losing ground to students throughout the world in the areas of math and science, the Common Core establishes higher (international) expectations that will enable our students to compete again on a world stage. The Smarter Balanced results establish new baseline data to monitor students' progress toward college and career readiness.

In California, there are four levels of achievement: standard exceeded, standard met, standard nearly met, or standard not met. "Standard exceeded" can be roughly compared to the former rating of "advanced." "Standard met" is similar to the former "proficient." The objective is for students to land in the top two categories.

Wiseburn Results Exceed State Averages

For the SBAC tests, students were assessed in English Language Arts and Mathematics. For the first time, statewide testing was conducted in a "computer adaptive" format, with all Wiseburn students using either a desktop computer or a Chromebook to take the test. In Language Arts, Wiseburn students in grades 3-8 registered at 60% of students met or exceeded standards, compared to the statewide average of 44%. In Mathematics, Wiseburn students in grades 3-8 registered at 37% of students who met or exceeded standards, compared to the statewide average of 33%. These results provide a baseline score on which to build. Teachers and community committee groups will be more deeply analyzing these testing results by grade and by significant subgroups including ethnicity, gender, English learner status, disability status, foster youth and socio-economic status. With only baseline data to analyze, it will be important not to overstate the significance of these first results. Over time, these data will become an important part of a broader-based accountability system that will replace the Academic Performance Index (API) in California.



Dr. Chris Jones
Deputy
Superintendent
Instructional
Services

Three Priority Areas for 2015-16

The Wiseburn Leadership Team met in August to review the SBAC data and other relevant information to develop a plan for continuous improvement. Three priority areas were established: 1) Positive Behavior Support for Students, 2) Technology Tools for Students and Teachers, 3) Mathematics Instruction. These priority areas will serve as the focus of professional development for the upcoming school year.

Positive Behavior Support – With the guidance of consultants from Los Angeles County Office of Education, each elementary school is revitalizing its student behavior plan with a focus on Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) for students. Teacher leaders met over the summer to begin work on these plans, which will be developed throughout the school year. At Dana Middle School, the CORE program has been launched with the start of the school year to provide students with the resources that they need to make positive choices in their behavior.

Technology Tools – Under the guidance of Mary Nies, Technology Teacher on Special Assignment, the Wiseburn Unified School District is going Google! Within the private Wiseburn.org domain, teachers, students and parents can access the suite of tools available through Google Apps for Education. Tools such as Google Drive, Docs, Forms, Sheets, Sites and Classroom allow for creativity and interaction in new and exciting ways. To get students connected the 1:1 ratio of electronic devices to students has been achieved for grades 4-12. Also during this year, primary grade classrooms will be piloting devices as part of the plan to increase the level of computer access in the primary grades.

Mathematics Instruction - In response to our commitment to increase overall math proficiency, a plan was developed several months ago to enter into a partnership with Loyola Marymount University's Math Leadership Corps (MLC) led by MLC Director Kathy Clemmer, who had previously worked with Dana Middle School as part of the Center for Math and Science Teaching. The partnership with LMU-MLC is designed to improve math instruction and student engagement and achievement. Teacher leaders and mentors have been identified at each school site to help guide best practices. Teachers' lessons are videotaped and critiqued as part of a peer-review process that includes weekly one-on-one coaching. The MLC program aims to impact student learning through teacher leadership that results in consistent implementation of high impact instructional strategies. A K-12 initiative through LMU that began in 2014 with Culver City Unified School District, MLC was expanded in 2015 to include Da Vinci Schools, Wiseburn Unified School District, and El Segundo Unified School District. Math teachers across MLC schools are developing communities of professional practice to improve student engagement, interest, and success in mathematics.

For more detailed information about SBAC testing results:

<http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov/sb2015/Search>

Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox Rotary Club

By Doug Krauss, President, Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox Rotary

The Rotary Club of Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox would like to thank the Wiseburn Unified School District, DaVinci Schools, and all of the Holly Glen community for its support and cooperation with our July 4 fireworks stand on Aviation Blvd. You may have noticed the red, white and blue stand outside the Wiseburn Unified School District Office during the week leading up to July 4th. It was full of Rotarians volunteering their time to sell safe and sane fireworks and raise money for some great local programs.

Fireworks are legal in the City of Hawthorne and all the stands you see in town are staffed by charitable groups and service organizations that in turn help this community. The Rotary Club has been serving the Hawthorne community since 1929 and was fortunate this year to be selected to have a fireworks stand. This is a great way for these groups to raise money to support the many activities we do in the community.

The Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox club has participated in countless beneficial activities during its nearly 86 years. These include both local programs as well as service all around the world, including working to end polio, improve water quality in developing countries, and promote literacy.

Some of the club's most effective programs though are implemented right here at home. These include annual teacher grants to fund creative classroom projects in our schools. In 2015, 5 Cabrillo teachers were recipients of Rotary Teacher Grants. Available to all the schools in Hawthorne, this program has given thousands of dollars in grants to Wiseburn teachers over the last decade. In addition, the Rotary Club sponsors the Interact Clubs at DaVinci Science and Hawthorne High. Interact helps show students the value of community service and it happens to be the most popular club on campus. These students have provided thousands of hours of volunteer service to the community. Hawthorne Rotary also sends 8 Da Vinci students to the Rotary Youth Leadership- Assembly (RYLA) each year up in Lake Arrowhead. RYLA does an exceptional job of developing leadership capacity in our students and has been a life changer for many of our students! The Rotary Club has also awarded thousands of dollars to local high school students over the decades as part of its annual scholarship program.

We would like to thank everyone that visited our fireworks booth and reassure you that your money was well spent. Feel free to contact us with any questions at hawthornelaxlennox@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Wiseburn Watch

P.O. Box 1284, Hawthorne, CA 90251 • Harley Hoff, Co-Founder/President • www.wiseburnwatch.com

Greetings All

By Bill Magoon, Co-Founder/Vice President

Hard to believe but here we are nearing the end of 2015. 2016 will be a national election year and early gossip tells us it will prove to be an interesting one...The big news for the Wiseburn community is that on July 1, 2015 LACOE (LA County Office of Education) tentatively approved our petition for the transfer of territory of the Choice/Orphan Blocks from the Lawndale and Centinela Valley Union High School Districts to the Wiseburn Unified School District. (The Choice/Orphan Blocks are Wiseburn community residential properties of 139th St. - 142nd St., residential properties on the 13900 - 14200 blocks of Inglewood Ave. and residential properties on the 4800-5100 blocks of Rosecrans Ave.) Without a doubt this is a huge deal for us and we are very excited and pleased with this result. However, the transfer is contingent on the completion/results of a CEQA study. We, of course, do not believe that anything in this study will turn up to derail the efforts; therefore, we remain positive and optimistic and look forward to the day when these long-awaited school boundary lines are redrawn. Wiseburn becomes a whole community and all of us, who chose to do so, can "without permit" have our kids attend the Wiseburn Schools which for most of us has always been our "School District of Choice." So for now we wait for the final outcome for it is then and only then will we be able to close the book on this endeavor.

Back on August 4, 2015 the Wiseburn community and "Wiseburn Watch" once again held our annual National Night Out event. As I am sure most of you know NNO is held every year on the 1st Tuesday of the month. This year was

the 15th anniversary of NNO and we had a big turn out of folks. For the first time, because of generous donations and the hard work of many volunteers, we were able to provide a multitude of entertainment items as well as food and refreshments free of charge. We had an outpouring of support in the form of booths, personnel and static displays from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol. We even had one of our Sheriff's Department Helicopters make numerous low altitude passes of our event. As in years past the event was a huge success and folks had a good time. Coming up in December will be the annual, ever popular "Wiseburn Santa Stops." Stay tuned on this folks, for this, is our signature event — more details to come a bit later.

Wiseburn Community Walking Path project (unimproved land area along La Cienega - east side of the 405 freeway) has had more hiccups and delays than anything in recent memory. That said, I am told all the nonsense has finally been sifted through and the project is back on track and we hope to break ground very, very soon. The Wiseburn community remains committed to this project and are looking forward to see it come to fruition.

In closing, the Wiseburn Community in conjunction with "Wiseburn Watch" cordially invites any homeowner, property owner and/or renter residing within the LA County unincorporated community of Wiseburn (properties located East of the 405 Freeway, 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 you can contact us through our website www.wiseburnwatch.com.



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Anza PTA — *By Kelly Takeshita, President* **Getting Off to a Great Start**

As the school year begins at Juan de Anza, our PTA has been busy laying a strong foundation to ensure that we have another successful year.

There are several activities we are required to start the year off with and which keep everyone very busy. Some of these include our membership drive, which is in full swing; the assembly and sale of emergency kits; Anza Wear; and our first major fall fundraiser. We are also busy collecting Box Tops for Education. What a great start to the 2015–2016 school year!

Our students have already transitioned from their first days of school jitters, which came from not knowing what the new school year would bring. The jitters held them all waiting (mostly in nervous silence) for those great big blue doors to open and lead them into the unknown.

Now our students are bustling with excitement and renewed energy! They are displaying increased confidence and happiness, as expressed in the form of audible laughter when they greet their friends with an eager, “Good morning!”

This is the reason why we at the PTA do what we do. It is for the love of our students, our school, our teachers, and our staff. We work tirelessly to ensure that these first few weeks and months will run smoothly for everyone. But the Anza PTA could not be doing all of this without the support and generosity of the WEF. We look forward to forming a stronger and more supportive relationship with our friends “across the street”!

The Anza PTA wishes all of the Wiseburn schools a safe and productive school year.

Cabrillo PTA — *By Laura Heredia, President* **We Belong**

The Juan Cabrillo Elementary School PTA is so excited to welcome back all returning and new Cabrillo families! Our 2015–2016 Board has scheduled many events and programs to bring families together and to enrich the community.

In September, we welcomed back our amazing teachers and staff with baskets of goodies to express our appreciation. We are so thankful for all they do. We also rolled out our fall fundraiser. As a prize for contributing, the students are eagerly awaiting a BMX bike show in December. On October 9, we held our annual Movie Night. The children loved watching “Big Hero 6” surrounded by family and friends under the stars.

On September 24, with the vision of Mrs. Lynch and the support of Cabrillo dad George Gonzalez, we started an innovative program for fathers and father-figures called Watch Dads of Great Students (DOGS). This program gives Cabrillo men a special opportunity to be actively involved in the school day. Dads, granddads, uncles, step-dads and adult brothers are all welcome to volunteer throughout the year in their student’s class and around the campus. We had been hoping for the past few years to get more fathers involved in Cub life, and now Watch DOGS has made this possible. Be on the lookout for them in their special t-shirts!

We would like to invite the Wiseburn and Del Aire community to our first All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, November 21 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tickets are available on Evitebrite.com or at the door. The restaurant has agreed to donate a portion of sales back to our school. More information is available on our Web site.

Save the date for our second annual Bear Bazaar, Saturday December 5. We’ll have a variety of vendors for parents to enjoy while the students shop from their own Kids Corner store. This community event was fun and well received last year, and we look forward to seeing you and your friends there!

Please feel free to visit our Facebook page and Web site for weekly and monthly updates on all upcoming events, including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Night and the classroom Santa visit. With Cabrillo PTA, “we belong!”

Dana PTA — *By Cynthia Jussen, President* **Thanks for the Support!**

We are in full swing here at Dana PTA, with membership starting off great.

Dana PTA is working hard getting ready for the first of many fun activities to meet our fundraising goals for the school year and to simply connect as a school community. Our cookie and magazine fundraiser is going on now, and Dana’s biggest and most exciting family event, Spooktacular, took place at Dana in October. Guests came dressed in their Halloween costumes and joined us for a night of fun, food and games, with raffle prizes that included football team merchandise and many more goodies! At Back to School Night, we received a generous \$1,000 donation from the Wiseburn Education Foundation.

Because of fantastic parent and community support of PTA, our Dana students’ educational experience is benefiting from current technologies, reading resources and programs that foster a positive school culture. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Burnett PTA — *By Liza Somilleda, President* **Looking for Great Volunteers**

The school year has gotten off to a tremendous start, and time is moving at a very quick pace! The holidays are right around the corner, fall activities are in full swing, and the PTA at Burnett Elementary School has gotten off to an incredible start this year. Our PTA has been working diligently to inform parents about all the school “extras” PTA provides—from assemblies and field trips to Bulldog Best prizes, technology enhancements, and classroom programs like Growing Great and Hands on Art. Our families heard us, and we are incredibly proud that before the first month of school was finished nearly 75 percent of Burnett’s families joined the PTA!

This fall, our school community was able to see the fruits of last year’s labor with the arrival of a classroom set of Chromebooks and a charging cart, which will be used this year. While Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funds are providing more technology than ever in classrooms, this donation of over \$4,500 from PTA allows more students than ever to begin working with Chromebooks and Google Classroom applications. PTA is extremely proud of this gift to Mrs. Sullivan and her amazing team of teachers.

When you look at the children before, during, or after school, they look happy. PTA works hard to enhance the school culture at Peter Burnett, and it shows all the time! Students are wearing their Bulldog t-shirts and hoodies daily, students are laughing and chatting with their friends in line for ice cream on Wednesday afternoons, and their backpacks are decorated with spirit sticks they’ve collected and earned. Hundreds of families took part in our Welcome Back Ice-Skating Night, restaurant nights, and our fall fundraiser. All of these small pieces come together to build happy children.

Our parents are happy as well. After the first day of school, one of our Facebook posts invited families to share their “first day” photos. The collection of pictures proudly shared all the first-day emotions you’d expect: wary students, welcoming teachers, happy parents, and friends thrilled to see one another after the summer break. Those photos reaffirmed the mission of PTA, which is “Every Child, One Voice.” At Burnett, our PTA Board and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that voice is a strong one by combining the never-ending efforts of parents with those of our amazing teachers and staff.

Before the end of 2015, we will be holding a family craft night, which is always a fun event. Families come out to make holiday crafts together and eat yummy treats while we listen to holiday music and visit with one another. We’ll also be filling holiday giving baskets for families within our own Wiseburn community who are going without necessities, let alone extras, during the holiday season.

Please support our PTA by becoming a member and by giving your time this year. Whether you can give 15 minutes or 50 hours, we are grateful for your help. Our PTA



Principal Sullivan enjoying a Wednesday ice cream break with Susan Szabo-Varga, one of our parent volunteers who runs ice cream sales

is made up entirely of volunteers...and we always need more! We need volunteers who: have accounting skills; can draw or paint; are able to build a Web site; would like to teach a lesson; are willing to scoop ice cream or assemble gift baskets; are available to run a cash register; can decorate and design posters and banners; have the time to photocopy, collate and staple; can solicit donations or write grants; have a talent at writing thank you notes or making phone calls; can speak Spanish or translate documents; are willing to bake desserts or serve food; or like to play games... you name it and we need it!



See You On the Pitch

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

August 20, 2015 will be a date for the ages. Many individuals diligently worked together for over a decade towards a common goal to have a high school within the district boundaries. I was honored when Superintendent Johnstone mentioned my name as one of the Chief Petitioners in this long journey. Reality set in when the dirt hit the ground from the shovels of the Wiseburn Unified and Da Vinci School officials to kickoff the building of a four story charter high school with sports facilities, including a soccer field.

Soccer enthusiasts could not have asked for more of a soccer-filled summer than what we experienced. The United States Woman's National Team (USWNT) traveled to Canada to compete in the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup. This group of young ladies played on the pitch with skill and determination with one goal in mind. At the end of play, the USWNT were crowned champions for the third time at the end of the 7th [FIFA World Cup](#) revenging their 2011 loss to Japan with trouncing before a television audience of 25 million.

There was more soccer on the men's side with the United States Men's National Team (USMNT) and Los Angeles Galaxy in action. The COCCACAF Gold Cup, International Champions Cup and Lamar Hunt US Open Cup highlighted the skill set of our home-grown player Gyasi Zardes. He developed his game acumen while playing in AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne under the coaching eye of his father Glenn. Gyasi scored his first international goal against Netherlands in a 3-2 victory.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne was chartered as an official region back on December 15, 1972. On September 12th we kicked off our 43rd season serving the youth of our community. Regional Commissioner Darryl Letchworth blew the whistle at the first match and we now are in full swing with about 1,400 players and 130 teams participating in this world-class premier youth program which includes boys and girls with ages ranging from 4½ to Under 19 years of age.

Transgender players will participate on AYSO teams as the gender they identify with regardless of their biological or birth gender. Efforts will be taken to maintain the player's privacy regarding this matter. A transgender player will not make the team co-ed or change the team's gender.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne received rave reviews about the Under 5 Jamboree program. Before the U5 Jamboree Program, we did not have children at the age of 4 play on a team. Some 4 ½ year old children were put on a team with children who were 5- and 6-years-old and, no surprise; there was a big difference in attention span and abilities. This program just for 4-year-olds has been successful in other cities across the country. Due to the age of the children, the Jamboree program does not conform to the more traditional "team" format as the older children do. There are no practices and no team assignments. Instead, the skill training (practice) and games are incorporated into the weekly Jamboree sessions held every Saturday morning by the seasoned Board Members Ramon Pulido and Eddie Rayas.

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the AYSO Very Important Program (VIP). We have once again registered a number of players who participate in the VIP Program. This program provides a quality soccer experience for children and adults whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult to successfully participate on mainstream teams. Disabilities may include blind or visually impaired, amputees or with conditions that impair mobility, mentally or emotionally challenged, autistic, Down's syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. On Saturday, October 24, 2015, we will be hosting the 16th Annual VIP Friendship Festival at the Dana Sports Complex. This is a fun-filled day for participants and their families.

I was recently asked an interesting question, "What do kids hate about soccer?" Drawing on my 40 years of experience in youth sports, here is my response. What kids hate most about soccer is the car ride home. Too often, the first thing a parent has to say after a game is a critical remark, an accusatory question or offer "you should have!" to their kids. This only causes young players to lose interest in playing. Parents often don't realize the impact of their words and forget that kids seek approval and want to impress them during games. When players feel put down, they can lose their love for soccer. Have your kids avoid this feeling by having parents become their kid's biggest fan, focus on the positive, let them make mistakes, and encourage goal setting and measure progress.

The regular soccer season is from September through December. Bring your used soccer uniforms, socks, cleats and other soccer equipment to the field and give them to the board member on duty to help needy children around the world. Children from Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Philippines, Belize and Nicaragua have benefitted from this yearly collection. And don't forget to patronize the snack stand at Dana Field where 50% of the net proceeds will go to the Wiseburn Education Foundation.

We are very appreciative of the Wiseburn Unified School District for the use of the all soccer fields (Aviation & Juan de Anza in Del Aire and Peter Burnett, Juan Cabrillo and Richard Henry Dana in Holly Glen) within the district boundaries. Juan de Anza is under construction with the completion of a synthetic field set for sometime in early Fall. With the recent groundbreaking behind us, the future for two new soccer fields at the old Richard Henry Dana and the Wiseburn High school sites will be a reality. Just a friendly reminder to visitors to the playfields, the fields are not a dog park.

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. If you want to be part of a world-class and unique experience – carve some time out of your busy schedule and VOLUNTEER. If you are too busy to volunteer, make sure that you thank those who have stepped up to volunteer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Regional Commissioner Darryl Letchworth at (310) 739-3933 or dletch38@yahoo.com.

Curious George Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Wiseburn in the subject line

Entries must be received by November 30, 2015.

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

Amazing	George	Party
Animals	Giraffe	Rhino
Climbed	Headquarters	Water
Curious	Hippo	Wild
Danced	Leaves	Wonderful
Fun	Park	Zookeeper

Congratulations to **Alexandria De Simone** Winner of the June Word Search Contest!



Da Vinci *Charter Schools*

13500 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-5800 • www.davincischools.org



Dr. Matthew Wunder
Chief Executive Officer

August marked the beginning of our 7th academic year at Da Vinci Schools! It is hard to believe we opened our doors in 2009 to 445 students and today we serve more than 1,600 students across 4 schools. More important than the number of students we serve, or how many schools are in our organization, is the quality and commitment our faculty and staff provide to each and every child who attends a Da Vinci school, each and every day. This is, and always will be, what is most important.

As the 2015-16 school year begins, we wish to share a number of updates and new initiatives focused on ensuring our students graduate college-ready, career-prepared, and community-minded.

Career Pathways

Typically, U.S. students have self-selected (or have been placed) into one of two tracks: an academic track for college-bound students or a vocational track for working-class kids. At Da Vinci, we believe both tracks are essential to thrive in the 21st century, and all Da Vinci students follow a dual-track approach combining rigorous college prep academics with a hands-on, real-world curricula aligned to workplace needs.

Da Vinci high school students take all of the college prep core classes that can be found at neighboring high schools, including math, English, science, history, foreign language, and more. In addition, Da Vinci students take career-oriented “pathway” classes as part of the core curriculum to expose students to real-world professional skills and industry-related knowledge that are not taught in the Common Core State Standards.

Career pathway classes provide students with opportunities to gain technical training in high-need, high-skill occupations. At Da Vinci Communications, students may choose between computer programming and media communications pathways. At Da Vinci Design, students may pursue architecture or graphic arts pathways. At Da Vinci Science, students may choose from an engineering pathway or a new biomedical pathway featuring Project Lead The Way curriculum. Many of Da Vinci’s career pathway classes are dual enrollment classes that provide both college and high school credit through UCLA Extension, El Camino College, or Antioch University Los Angeles.

In addition, each school offers an array of seminar (elective) courses that provide more career-based learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. For example, Da Vinci Design currently offers Architecture, WoodShop Design, Vehicle Design, and 3D Design. At Da Vinci Communications, students can take a coding and app class at DIRECTV. Da Vinci Science offers seminars in robotics, flight school, game theory, and more.

Additionally, Da Vinci offers many other seminar options, including work experience, yearbook, drama, dance, youth and government, yoga, photography, music production, SAT prep, basketball, volleyball, CrossFit, and much more.

DVIA Update

The Da Vinci Innovation Academy offers families a new approach to K-8 education combining school-site instruction with home-based learning. We call this approach a “home-school hybrid” model.

DVIA hosted the first of three parent educator conferences scheduled this year on August 26. Parents and faculty came together for an exciting day of professional development. Workshop topics included: Nurturing the Developing Mind, Integrating Art & Music into Homeschooling, Real-World Writing, Planning Rich Field Trips, Compassionate Communication, and more.

Now in its 5th year, DVIA families are truly co-educators and are reaching out to each other more than ever to form homeschool groups and take advantage of the real-world learning and field trip opportunities all over Los Angeles.

To learn more about DVIA, please visit www.davincik8.org or come to one of our upcoming information meetings. See http://www.davincischools.org/dvia_enrollment_dates.shtml.

Da Vinci Institute

This year, we launched Da Vinci Institute, a practice sharing and professional development institute for educators. Since January of 2014, Da Vinci has hosted more than 100 educational organizations from six continents. This interest is a testament to the high degree of innovation taking place in our schools and to our efforts to prepare students with real-world, 21st century skills. It also represents educators’ sincere desire

to learn new ways to engage, motivate, and ensure student success in college and in the workforce so as to maximize high-skilled job placement. The Institute serves as an incubator for new ideas for Da Vinci school leaders and staff as well as they interact and share best practices with visitors from around the world. The Institute offers various professional learning opportunities designed to meet the diverse needs of the educational groups interested in learning more about Da Vinci.

This school year also brings the creation of a new position on our team: the Da Vinci Fellow. The dual purpose of the program is to provide Fellows with the opportunity to learn from Da Vinci’s best practices in preparation to step into a school leadership role, while also collaborating with the Institute to contribute to Da Vinci’s work through a year-long project that is responsive to the organization’s current needs and priorities. Da Vinci’s first Fellow is creating a book that captures the work of Da Vinci teachers in hopes that other schools can learn from our best practices. As part of their preparation to lead their own school, Fellows will also write a charter petition that could serve as a foundation for the creation of a new, independent school in the future.

Da Vinci Extension

Also this year, we launched Da Vinci Extension (DVX), providing an optional 5th year of high school for Da Vinci students who wish to stay at Da Vinci for an extra year of high school to complete their freshman general education college coursework through UCLA Extension at night while gaining on-the-job work experience during the day. Currently, there are 35 students enrolled in this pilot program. Students who complete the program can earn up to one year of college credit at no cost to families. All earned credit will apply toward a bachelor’s degree at the UC or CSU systems.

DVX students participated in a one week boot camp at UCLA in August focused on cultivating grit and resilience. Students also met one-on-one with mentors from the award-winning advertising agency, 72andSunny, to discuss their career goals and to better understand the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the 21st century workplace.



Da Vinci Extension students meet one-on-one with 72andSunny mentors.

DVX students have access to a rigorous college education and Da Vinci’s real-world, project-based curriculum, internships, tutoring, advising, and teacher/professor support while moving through the program with a group of students who share a common bond and are taught by committed Da Vinci teachers who students know well. Additionally, students have easy access to high-demand general ed courses that are frequently overenrolled in local community colleges.

Blog Documents Construction of New Campus

Wiseburn Unified and Da Vinci Schools Launch Blog, www.douglasat201.org, to Document Construction of New Campus

Get the latest news and information about the progress on our new 21st century high school campus at 201 N. Douglas St. Sign up for free updates at www.douglasat201.org.

We’ve just added a 24/7 live streaming webcam to view construction progress. The webcam will provide continuous live streaming video of the 13.7 acre construction site that will house Da Vinci Communications, Da Vinci Design, and Da Vinci Science high schools. The campus also will house both Wiseburn and Da Vinci administrative offices and include a multi-purpose/theater space to support visual and performing arts, an athletic field, gymnasium, and aquatic facility. Students from all three Da Vinci high schools compete in CIF sports as one team known as the Wiseburn-Da Vinci Wolves. In a joint-use agreement with the City of El Segundo, the Department of Parks and Recreation will maintain the pool and run the aquatics programs, which will be available to both El Segundo and Wiseburn residents.

Delivering College and Career-Ready Results

Da Vinci's 2015 graduates are enrolled in colleges and universities across the state and the nation. They received acceptances to 9 University of California schools, including Berkeley, UCLA and Davis, 16 California State University schools, including Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and many other prestigious public and private institutions, including Stanford, Yale, M.I.T., Columbia, Brown, Princeton, U of Penn, Purdue, USC, LMU, and many more. About one-third of Da Vinci graduates are the first in their family to attend college.

Visit <http://davincischools.org/delivering-college-results-2015.shtml> to see a full list of colleges and universities that accepted Da Vinci's 2015 graduates.

In addition, close to 600 students have gained valuable work experience through our Work Experience Program.

Enrollment Update

Wiseburn Residents are guaranteed a spot at a Da Vinci high school as Da Vinci Communications, Da Vinci Design, and Da Vinci Science serve as Wiseburn Unified's "home" high schools.

In order to reserve your spot, you must apply and complete the enrollment process. The online application for the 2016-17 school year will be available at www.davincischools.org beginning November 2, 2015. Wiseburn Residents must complete an application so we know you are interested in a space.

The Priority Application Deadline is February 29, 2016 at 11:59 pm. Late applicants may not receive their first choice of school.

Wiseburn Residents who apply to the high schools by the priority application deadline will be emailed a registration packet in early March 2016. If you have not received a packet by March 20, 2016, please contact the enrollment team at enrollment@davincischools.org.

This coming year all enrollment documents will be submitted electronically.

For more information about our enrollment process, upcoming information meetings, and shadow days, please visit <http://davincischools.org/apply.shtml>.

The enrollment team can be reached at 310-331-8097 or via email at enrollment@davincischools.org.

You're Invited!

Da Vinci Femeineers

Don't miss our free girls-only engineering days for girls in grades 2-8 on the second Saturday of each month from 3-5 pm at Da Vinci Science, 13500 Aviation Blvd. Come join and participate in fun engineering activities with the DVS Society of Women Engineers. For more information, please contact Jamie Larson at jl Larson@davincischools.org. October 10, November 14, December 12



The DV Femeineers program hosts fun, girls-only events every month to introduce girls in grades 2-8 to science, technology, engineering and math careers.

Exhibition Nights

Please join us for our upcoming Exhibition Nights in which all students in grades K-12 exhibit their major projects from the semester. Come see our real-world, project-based learning in action.

Da Vinci Innovation Academy
November 16 & 17
5-6:30 pm

Da Vinci Science
November 18
6-8 pm

Da Vinci Design/Communications
November 19
6-8 pm

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Thinking of buying or selling?

Please contact me to answer your questions.

Buyers

- Interest Rates are still low which means you can afford more before they rise.
- Inventory is still low, yet the demand for homes is high. This is what is called a Seller's Market. It is very difficult to get an accepted offer due to multiple offer situations. I have been very successful representing "buyers" in this market. Please call me to discuss.
- I have upcoming listings in the Wiseburn School District. Call to inquire.

Homeowners

- We are in a Strong Seller's Market with higher prices and multiple offers on homes priced correctly. I have a proven track record in getting top \$\$ for homes in the Wiseburn School District.
- Call today for a FREE Market Analysis of your home or if you need advise on how to get your home ready for sale to maximize profit.



RE/MAX
ESTATE PROPERTIES



DeCosteRealEstate@gmail.com • www.JulieDeCoste.com

Juan de Anza *Elementary (K-5)*

12110 Hindry Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2100 • www.anzaeagles.org



Sarah Nitsos
Principal

Building Relationships

The Wiseburn Way is a frame of mind, and at its heart is a focus on relationships. At Anza, we make a tremendous effort to foster and nurture good relationships between our students, staff, families, and the community at large. Our PTA is just one way that we reach out to the community, and the number of volunteers we have who work here at school and at home is tremendous.

Another way that we are working on building relationships is through our school counselor, Mr. Paz. Through your support, plus the foresight of our Wiseburn Unified School Board, and Local Accountability Funding, we were recently able to fund the amazing resource of a full-time school counselor!

Every day Mr. Paz is very busy helping to oversee arrival, recess, lunch, and dismissal. He is able to provide on-the-spot assistance for those children who are having a hard day, or who might need assistance with a conflict or more pressing issues. With parental permission, he also runs special groups for students who need just a little more time and support. Mr. Paz has already made a tremendous impact on our school and community, and we are so fortunate to have him as a part of our Anza family.



Exploring how to collaborate with our new tools.

Another way that we are building relationships is through technology. This year we launched a 1:1 implementation of Chromebooks for all of the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students. This technology is opening new ways for us to communicate and collaborate.

Through the use of Google Classroom, our students are also now able to partner and complete their assignments in new and exciting ways. The ability for our children



Anza students are excited to work on the new Chromebooks.

to have constant access to technology is very exciting, and we are looking forward to the many new opportunities it will afford.

For those of us who use the computer on a daily basis, we know how we feel when we're faced with having a different device. We are confident that by providing our students with frequent access to their own devices, their comfort level will improve. Hopefully this will translate into good results when they take the California State Test on their computers in the spring (the third through fifth grades only).

With the third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders having their own devices in the classrooms, we are now able to provide greater access to the computer labs for our kindergarten through second-grade students. Our teachers take great care to make sure that their use of technology is carefully woven in to help support the basic instruction, and that everything is educationally related.

Through the support of our PTA and the district, we have also been able to purchase multiple online academic programs that are available for home use. To help your child access these tools, please visit www.anzaeagles.org and go to Anza Online Student Resources under the "Resources" tab.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the families who joined us at our annual Anza Pizza Picnic. What a wonderful evening of dancing and making new friends! It will be even better next year when we can dance on our new turf field. What a great way to kick off the year and showcase the primary feature of the Wiseburn Way: building relationships!



Geronimo Stilton visits the Anza book fair.

Peter Burnett *Elementary School (3-5)*

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



Laura Sullivan
Principal

Valued Relationships

Establishing relationships is a great way to start off a new school year. In Wiseburn, two notable organizations have come together to support our students and schools. These organizations deserve special recognition for not only providing valuable support for our educational programs but also for continuing to inspire our students. The Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF) and the Burnett PTA have formed a beautiful relationship to benefit the Burnett Elementary School students.

Technology has been designated as an area of focus in Wiseburn. The WEF continued its strong relationship with the Wiseburn Unified School District by supporting each site with a substantial donation to start off the 2015-2016 school year. Both the WEF and the Burnett PTA have embraced our willingness to prepare students for 21st-century learning through the use of technological devices. Burnett students are excited to have Chromebooks on campus to assist with a rigorous curriculum and provide continuous growth in the area of technology. This past summer, many teachers attended a Google Summit in order to gain strategies to share with their students.

Burnett is very proud to have our own computer technician, Mrs. Tupper, working in classrooms to support students and teachers. Mrs. Tupper has taken a huge step to provide training for teachers, support

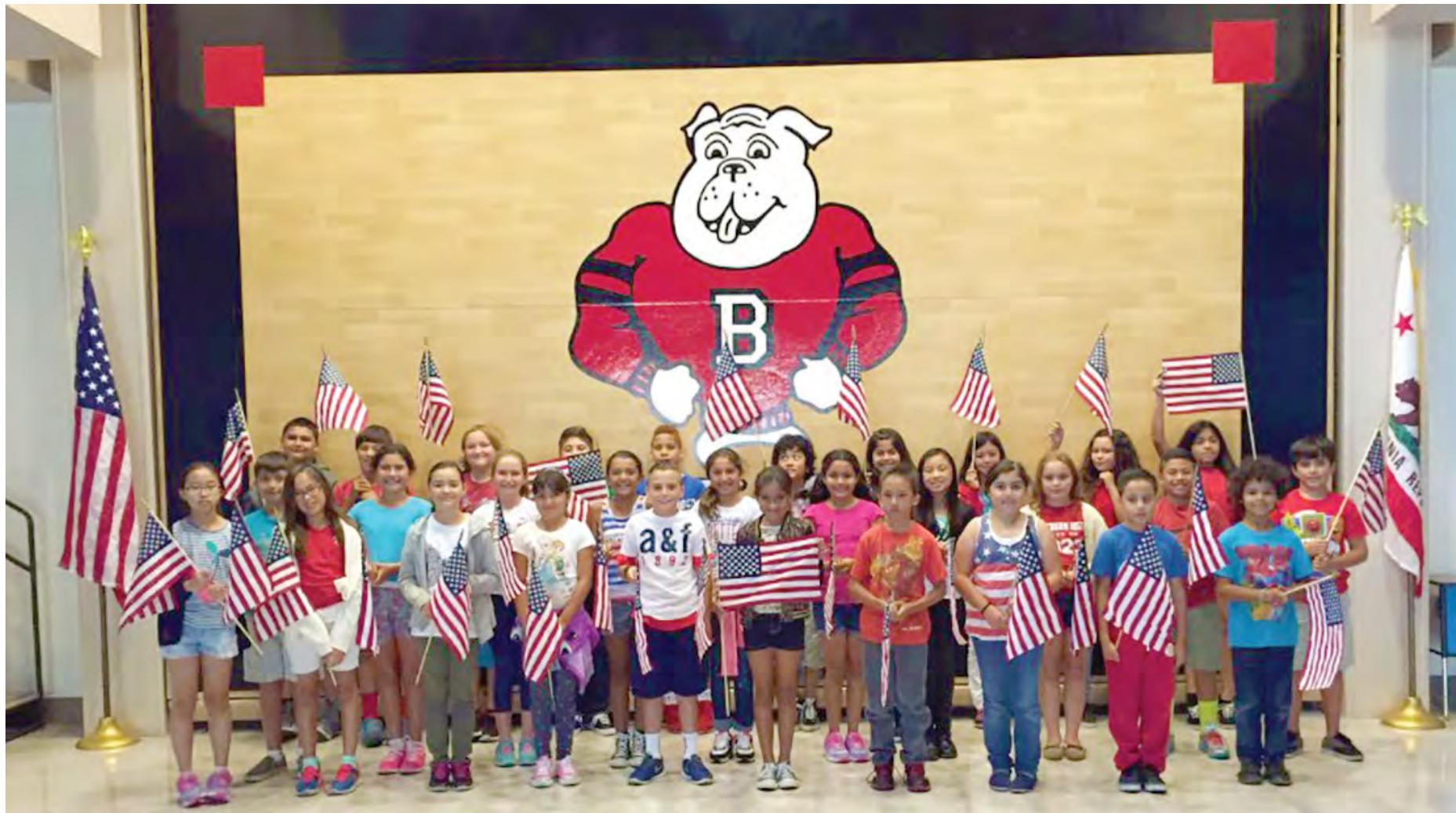
staff, and students. Burnett students are forming relationships with each other by using computers and netbooks to assist with projects. By working diligently in collaborative groups, they get to experience technology through exploration and classroom discussions.

Mrs. Tupper has also found a way to involve Burnett families in the use of technology by providing a Parent Technology Night. Mrs. Tupper's commitment and passion for technology was apparent during her presentation. She spoke to a packed crowd and shared ways for parents to help their children use computers and Chromebooks. Parents left the training with a complete list of ideas and resources to use at home.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the WEF, Mrs. Tupper, PTA President Mrs. Liza Somilleda, and the Burnett PTA for building a wonderful working relationship.



Burnett students celebrate Constitution Day.



Constitution Day Assembly

Juan Cabrillo *Elementary (K-2)*

5309 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-5400 • www.juancabrillo.org



Margaret Lynch
Principal

Increasing Technology

Students and teachers are “growing and learning together” at Cabrillo this year as we increase technology tools and licenses. There is heightened energy in teaching and learning with the addition of these devices and programs. Another way we are growing and learning together is by helping students learn the behaviors of school and celebrating those efforts. Read more in this article about our Chromebooks, new tech licenses and the addition of our school counselor that will together make 2015–16 a spectacular year!



First grade students in Ms. Sarah Anaya’s class receive a preview of new programs from Ms. Stephanie Gonzalez, technology aide, before they log on in the computer lab.

The district goal of one-to-one devices for all students for the 2016–17 school year is moving closer. For the 2015–16 school year, our technology mentors—one in first grade and one in second grade—and each of their partner teachers are piloting one-to-one Chromebooks with their students. The district, with PTA support, expanded the pilot to all second-grade classrooms having two-to-one Chromebooks and charging carts.

This year, we have expanded program licenses for students. All kindergarten through second-grade classrooms will continue to have Lexia licenses. Lexia reinforces phonemic awareness, phonics and reading fluency in a game format. In addition, all kindergarten through second-grade students will have licenses to



First grade teacher and technology mentor, Mrs. Lissette Ochoa, introduces Chromebooks to students Sophia Owens, Daniella Zago, Azyk Gomez Carmona, and Alina Vizcarra.

Razz Kids, a reading program that emphasizes reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. For math, all kindergarteners, first-graders and second-graders will have licenses to Big Brainz to reinforce addition and subtraction skills and number sense. Second-graders will continue to have Accelerated Reader (AR) licenses and check out books from the library that correspond to their AR level. Our new technology aide, Stephanie Gonzalez, spent summer hours personalizing accounts to provide students access to these programs for the first weeks of school. Student responses to the various programs are overwhelmingly positive as they express that “this is fun!”

Counselor Elisa Lopez

Elisa Lopez has been hired as a shared counselor between Juan Cabrillo Elementary School and Peter Burnett Elementary School. She is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University, where she completed both her undergraduate and master’s degrees. Ms. Lopez comes to us with 15 years of experience as an educator. She has taught in the classroom; served as a teacher on special assignment, supporting teachers and students at a district level; and has counseling experience from kindergarten through high school.

One of the ways in which she will be supporting all students this school year will be to focus on the implementation of PBS (Positive Behavior Support). A district goal is to bring PBS to each school across the district. Cabrillo has selected three B’s of expectations for behavior: “Be respectful, be responsible, be safe.” We are recognizing student behavior that is respectful, responsible and safe, especially on the playground, at lunch and in the classroom. Ms. Lopez is at the heart of this good work for children.



Ms. Elisa Lopez, new counselor at Cabrillo, supports every child by writing “Cub Cards” for students who are practicing one or more of our 3 B’s: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe.



Miguel Chavez, Cabrillo custodian, retired the end of this summer after 28 years in Wiseburn District and Cabrillo staff lined up to honor Miguel as he left on his final day.

Richard Henry Dana *Middle School (6-8)*

5504 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-4700 • www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us



Aileen Harbeck
Co-Principal



Dr. Blake Silvers
Co-Principal

Immersed in Technology

By Dr. Blake Silvers, Co-Principal

R.H. Dana Middle School is paving a digital trail. The new school year finds students immersed in technology. The trail is marked with robust network adapters, school-wide use of Google Apps for Education, Chromebooks in nearly every classroom for every student, and an array of other tools to support student learning in the 21st-century cyber world of education. The full-fledged commitment to technology is sparked by a unique force that can only be described as the Wiseburn Way. This decades-old philosophy is rooted in the common goal that students always come first, a commitment that requires an unwavering dedication to make well-planned and informed decisions about how our school community can best educate our students.

Google Classroom serves as an online portal for teachers to manage their classes in cyberspace, and many of the other Google tools



Student, Isabel Umekubo, using a Chromebook.

support our students as they venture into classrooms filled with less paper and more technology. Ultimately, the outcome will center on students' and teachers' ability to communicate seamlessly from any device to support each other via Wiseburn's use of Google Apps for Education. As is consistent with many of Dana's endeavors, the parental community played a crucial role in ensuring the success of our Chromebook initiative. Safe use of technology in the cyber world is key, and more than 98 percent of our parents participated in prerequisite cyber safety presentations during the first weeks of school, committing to a partnership with Dana to appropriately supervise students' safe use of the Internet.

Technology at Dana is a multi-faceted path, but the Dolphins remain trailblazers. Through invaluable relationships and a commitment to excellence, the Wiseburn Way shines brightly at Dana, as revealed by the successful launch of a one-to-one technology learning environment in our classrooms. We are excited about this year and beyond, and we are always excited to be Dana Dolphins.



Students with teachers.



SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Tom Johnstone

certainly common threads. Our people, our families and our relationships are at the core of our success and are our greatest asset. Loyalty and longevity are mainstays of the Wiseburn Way. Our families stay in Wiseburn for generations and many of our employees serve their full careers here. As an example, I am only the 7th Wiseburn Superintendent in our 119-year history.

We are innovators, risk-takers, hard workers, and we persevere. We practice productive persistence. We are resilient. We are small but mighty! We collaborate and practice teamwork.

When we have a clear goal or objective, we roll up our sleeves and we do whatever it takes to accomplish it. The most clear-cut examples of this determination and long-term effort are Wiseburn Unification and the cutting

edge innovation and creativity that are occurring on a daily basis at Dana Middle School and our Da Vinci Schools.

In Wiseburn we strive for excellence in education. We believe in continuous improvement and a growth mindset. We live in a "can do" culture and a culture of "yes". When new opportunities, possibilities and challenges arise, we embrace them rather than coming up with a fistful of reasons why we can't do them. We take on the difficult and even the impossible, with a smile and a sense of optimism. We are always moving and looking forward, out of the windshield, with occasional glances in our rear-view mirror, with a healthy respect for where we have come from. We are all important threads in the Wiseburn tapestry and pieces of the broader Wiseburn puzzle. Thanks to all of you for all that you do to support the Wiseburn Way. You make a huge difference in the lives of our students and our wonderful community. Here's to an awesome and productive 2015-16 school year!

A HUGE MILESTONE • From Page 1

"We are extremely proud and grateful to Wiseburn community members for their huge investment in our schools. The people and resources connected to this world-class facility will ensure our children achieve success in college readiness, college completion, and career preparation for the 21st century," says Roger Bañuelos, president of the Wiseburn Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Da Vinci Science will be housed on Floor 2, Da Vinci Communications on Floor 3, and Da Vinci Design on Floor 4 in order to maintain Wiseburn and Da Vinci's commitment to small learning communities where every student is known, seen and valued. The first floor will house administrative offices for Wiseburn and Da Vinci, as well as a board room, community space, music rooms, and kitchen facilities. In response to the hundreds of visitors who have come to Da Vinci from six continents to study its best practices, a professional development center, known as Da Vinci Institute, will provide adult learning opportunities for educational practitioners around the globe to study and engage in collaborative practice sharing.

The campus also will include a multi-purpose/theater space to support visual and performing arts, an athletic field, gymnasium, and aquatic facility. Students from all three Da Vinci high schools compete in CIF sports as one team known

as the Wiseburn-Da Vinci Wolves. In a joint-use agreement with the City of El Segundo, the Department of Parks and Recreation will maintain the pool and run the aquatics programs, which will be available to both El Segundo and Wiseburn residents.

The new campus, that once housed aerospace engineers working on fighter aircraft, is being built with a combination of funding that includes \$87 million in local bond Measure AA monies (passed by voters in 2010) and state matching funds of \$52.7 million from the Charter School Facilities Program.

"Wiseburn Unified School District and Da Vinci Schools are engaged in an unprecedented district-charter relationship built on mutual trust and solidified by innovative MOU and legal agreements. This partnership leverages the benefits of both a traditional school district and an independent charter school organization. This project sets new standards for collaboration, articulation, and community and industry engagement," says Chet Pipkin, the president of the Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees and the founder, chairman, president and CEO of Belkin International.

According to the construction timeline, the main building will be available for use by students in August 2017. The gymnasium, pool, and athletic fields are expected to be completed by Spring 2018.

Just a few of the many
restaurants & businesses to discover in
Downtown El Segundo...

- Andiamo! Pizzeria
- Beach Mex
- Big Mike's Philly Steaks & Subs
- Blue Butterfly Coffee Co
- Britt's BBQ
- Burgers Etc.
- Canton Low Restaurant
- Chef Hannes
- Chicken Dijon
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Deluca Trattoria
- Domino's Pizza
- The Donut
- El Segundo Brewing Company
- El Segundo Fish Company
- Fantastic Café
- Farm Stand
- Good Stuff Restaurant
- Hana Naru
- Hanabi Japanese Grill
- Harry O's
- Havana Sandwich Co
- The Hummus Factory
- I Love Teriyaki
- Indian Summer
- Little Gourmet
- Main St. Café
- Mandy's Family Restaurant
- The Office Downtown
- Old Town Patio
- O-Shun
- Our Daily Grind
- Playa Blanca
- Purple Orchid
- Richmond Bar & Grill
- Rinaldi's
- Rock & Brews
- Second City Bistro
- Siam Bay Thai Cuisine
- Starbucks Coffee
- Steve's Burgers
- Stix & Straws
- Stuff Pizza
- Taco Mex
- The Soup Bar
- The Tavern on Main
- Vinny's Pizza
- Wendy's Place Café

For a complete listing of Downtown
Restaurants, Shopping & Services,
Downtown El Segundo Guides are
available at the Wiseburn School
District Offices!

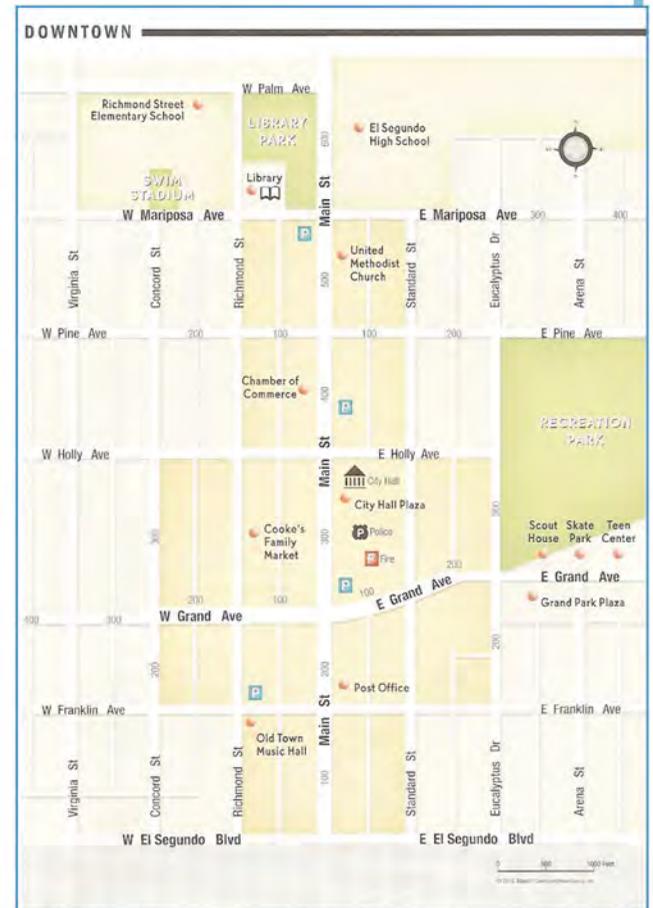


Downtown EL SEGUNDO

Discover Downtown El Segundo

Enjoy a walk along beautiful tree lined streets as the incredible aromas from over 50 restaurants entice your taste buds. Discover unique stores tempting you with fabulous selections from the hottest designer fashions to popular surfwear. A sampling of fabulous Downtown El Segundo Retailers...

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- Colors Custom Furniture
- Cooke's Family Market
- D'Arte Connection
- El Segundo Tailors
- Electric Bikes LA
- Frocks & Rocks
- Gasoline
- Holly Main Liquor
- Industrial Lock & Security
- The Jewelry Source
- Kahanamokus Swimboat
- Natural Simplicity
- R. Chameleon
- The Slipt Stitch
- Studio Antiques
- Studio Joseph Watts
- Tawnie's Pet Depot
- Tyler Surfboards
- Vintage Canvas
- Wrapsody



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Our 2015 Classified Employee of the Year is the personification of hard work, flexibility and the “Wearing of Many Hats.”

Like many of our classified rock stars, Mrs. Ehring was born locally and has lived in Wiseburn for her entire life. She started Kindergarten at Cabrillo Elementary School in 1958. She also attended Peter Burnett, Dana, Hawthorne High School and El Camino College. Jaime is married and has 3 sons who attended Wiseburn schools. After graduating from Hawthorne High School in 1971, and attending El Camino College for a couple of years, Mrs. Ehring went to work at Lucky Supermarket (remember those?) at the corner of Palms and Sepulveda in Culver City. She started as a checker but building on the strength of her Wiseburn education, she was soon promoted to Accounting and Office Manager.

After getting married and raising three sons, Jaime started like most of our classified employees of the year in Wiseburn, by becoming highly involved in Wiseburn schools as a volunteer, as a PTA Hands on Art docent, a room mother and PTA officer.

Her first day of employment in Wiseburn was October 3, 1990 at Dana Middle School. She was hired as an instructional aide and playground aide. To improve her craft she completed six years of Adult Education in Child Growth and Development and completed several child growth classes at El Camino College. Mrs. Ehring served 3 years at Dana before transferring to Cabrillo to continue her service as an instructional aide. In 1994 her principal, Jane Comitz, commented, “Jaime always goes above and beyond what is expected. She is reliable and well-organized. She interacts exceptionally with students and she is outstanding in her role as Title I aide”.

After seven full years as an instructional aide at Dana and Cabrillo, with 7 years of outstanding evaluations, she applied for a Health Clerk position at Cabrillo, and not surprisingly, she got the position. Her supervisor described her first year performance.

“For her first year out, she has shown an incredible ability to take on a new job with minimal support. She is a self-starter and has excellent organizational skills. She also shows great compassion for our children and a wonderful tolerance for the chaos that sometimes comes to the Health Office. She always has a smile on her face and is always pleasant!”

In the Wiseburn Way, this individual is a “Go To” person at Cabrillo. In addition to being an outstanding classroom aide and health clerk, she processes lunch applications, does Kindergarten registration, processes new enrollees in PowerSchool, provides office coverage, does playground supervision, and has even assisted with clerical at the District Office. Over the years, her performance has been captured by such words as compassionate, accommodating, “always willing to help”, caring, pleasant, accurate, precise, enthusiastic, exceptional, cheerful, ingenious, respected, articulate, organized, reliable, tactful, resourceful and “above and beyond.”

Always a student and always a teacher, Mrs. Ehring is always looking for new ways to become even better. She has taken courses at El Camino College which were pre-requisites for the nursing program and she worked on a committee at El Camino to develop a curriculum for their School Health Clerk Program. She served on the Wellness Committee for our district and in 2008 she wrote, “I appreciate the experience of training a substitute Health Clerk as well as developing a Health Office that is a model for other schools in our district.”

Our 2015 Classified Employee of the Year has spent her entire life in the Wiseburn community and the last 25 years in the Wiseburn Unified School District – with 22 of those years at Cabrillo Elementary School. She is an institution at Cabrillo and a pillar of our community. If you see Mrs. Ehring around town, please take a moment to congratulate her on this well-deserved honor!

some impressive credentials. Her first day of employment in Wiseburn was September 6, 1996 at Dana Middle School.

Her original employment application included 3 letters that were a crystal ball in predicting a bright future in Wiseburn. A letter from one of her university professors stated, “In my 20 years at the University of Arkansas, I have never encountered a student who was more prepared to immediately become an effective teacher.” Her supervisor of student teachers added, “Mary is, in my opinion, a model student teacher. That is, she displays maturity and confidence while in the classroom. She is always willing to learn new ideas and techniques to make her the best teacher she can be for her students.” Finally, a Manhattan Beach administrator wrote, “The first thing one notices about Mary is how positive and pleasant she is. She is extremely responsible, hard-working and dedicated. She is compassionate, creative and caring. One of her greatest gifts is her ability to make you feel special. She always has a smile on her face.”

Our Teacher of the Year, Dana Middle School’s Mary Nies, earned her dream assignment – a humanities/social studies position at Dana in September 1996. She dove right in and also participated on the Language Arts Textbook Adoption Committee, School Site Council, drama production, intramural coach, pep squad and student dances. With only about 600 students at Dana in 1996 and 18 teachers, teachers volunteered to be on the front lines of multiple fronts. After barely getting her feet wet, in 2000 Mrs. Nies moved back home to Arkansas, to be closer to family, but before she left she jumped aboard the technology bandwagon becoming proficient with HyperStudio software, PowerPoint and the use of the Internet. She begged, borrowed and stole to get 5 computers in her classroom – two of them with Internet access.

When Mary Nies returned to Dana on September 1, 2005, she had piled up another satchel of impressive letters! The 6th grade reading teacher at Lingle Middle School in Rogers, Arkansas wrote, “I have worked in the field of education as a counselor and teacher for 22 years, and I can say that Mary Nies is unsurpassed in effective leadership qualities, problem-solving abilities, training and the establishment of community outreach partnerships. She holds the highest vision for each and every student and staff member at Lingle. She is the moving force behind the environment of respect and rapport that we experience at Lingle. She provides others in the profession a “benchmark” with which to judge successful teaching.” Her principal at Lingle Middle School described her as the “consummate professional” and “one of the best teachers that I have had the opportunity to know in my career.” Mary was voted Teacher of the Year in 2004-05 by her peers at Lingle Middle School.

At Dana Middle School, Mary has been a trailblazer and a leader of leaders. In 2006 she was a driving force in the writing of Dana Middle School’s initial application for the National Forum Schools to Watch. She represented Dana in Washington, D.C. in 2006 as well as at Schools to Watch re-designations in 2009 and 2015. In 2007-08 she was recognized by the California League of Middle Schools as the Statewide Educator of the Year. She has supported the overall outstanding instructional program at Dana Middle School through her leadership with AVID, GATE, BTSA Support Provider, Project Lead the Way, the California League of Middle Schools, National Forum Schools to Watch and over the past two years District Leadership with the launch of Chrome Books and Google Apps. As a veteran teacher and relative late comer to the teaching profession, Mary most definitely has 10 times the energy of the Energizer Bunny.

Our 2015 Teacher of the Year is the embodiment of the way we do things in Wiseburn and truly provides a clear pathway for all of us to follow. She brightens the future for all of us! When you see her, please congratulate Mary Nies!

School News 
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Covering the
WISEBURN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Support the Wiseburn Education Foundation's "Together We Make a Difference" Annual Fall Campaign!

Show your Wiseburn Pride by making a donation to the Wiseburn Education Foundation during our first-ever Annual Fall Campaign— now thru Dec. 31, 2015. You, too, can join in with the rest of the Wiseburn community to show your support.

Founded in 1996, the Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF) conducts fundraisers and seeks donations to provide supplemental funding for the Wiseburn Unified School District. The Wiseburn Unified School District includes four district schools, Juan Cabrillo Elementary, Juan de Anza Elementary, Peter Burnett Elementary, and Dana Middle School, and four independent charter schools, Da Vinci Communications, Da Vinci Design, Da Vinci Science, and Da Vinci Innovation Academy. The Wiseburn Education Foundation's mission is to help support district programs that give our children invaluable opportunities in music, arts, nutrition, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), and many other wonderful programs that help them grow.

This year, as a THANK YOU to those who donate \$100 or more, you will receive a "Together We Make a Difference" Yard Sign. (Limited quantities available)



For more information, visit us online
at www.wiseburnedfoundation.org

WEF
WISEBURN
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

DON'T WAIT! MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

2015 Donation Levels:

HONOR ROLL \$25 - \$99

You will receive a WEF Spirit Stick (available with donation only), a sustainable tote bag and an acknowledgment of thanks on the WEF website.

SCHOLAR \$100 - \$499

You will receive a WEF "Together We Make a Difference" Yard Sign, a WEF Spirit Stick (available with donation only), a sustainable tote bag and an acknowledgment of thanks on the WEF website.

VALEDICTORIAN \$500+

You will receive FOUR (4) All Access Bracelets to Rock Around the Block (on March 19th, 2016), (2) WEF "Together We Make a Difference" Yard Signs, a WEF Spirit Stick (available with donation only), a sustainable tote bag and an acknowledgment of thanks on the WEF website.



To Donate Online: www.wiseburnedfoundation.org

YES! I would like to donate to the Wiseburn Education Foundation's Annual Fall Campaign!

Donor Name _____

This gift is made in the honor of the following students _____

Name of School Child/Children Attends _____ Grade Level _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____ Email _____

District Association: Parent Grandparent Staff Member Community Member Business Partner

DONATION INFORMATION (Please Check)

- \$25 - \$99 Donation (Spirit Stick, Tote Bag, and listing acknowledgment)
- \$100 - \$499 (Yard Sign, Spirit Stick, Tote Bag, and listing acknowledgment)
- \$500 + (4 RAB bracelets, 2 Yard Signs, Spirit Stick, Tote Bag, and listing acknowledgment)

TOTAL DONATION AMOUNT:

Payment Method:

Cash Credit Card CC# _____ Exp. Date (mm/yy) _____

Check CCV# _____ ZIP _____ Email _____

You may pick up your WEF yard sign, tote, and spirit sticks at Our Annual Fall Appeal Kickoff Food Truck Event on Friday, October 16th at Dana Middle School. Arrangement for delivery will be made if you are unable to attend this event.

Please check here if you **Do Not** want to be listed on the website or other listings.

Please make checks payable & send to: Wiseburn Education Foundation · 13530 Aviation Blvd. Hawthorne, CA 90250

The Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF) is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible as defined by the IRS. Tax ID 95-4583405



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