

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Wiseburn Unified School District**

**VOLUME 8, ISSUE 23**

**JUNE 2016**

## Wiseburn: A Shining Moment

*By Dr. Tom Johnstone  
Superintendent*

The theme of our final issue of *School News* for this school year is “A Shining Moment.” This year the sun has continued to shine brightly on the Wiseburn Unified School District. We began the year by breaking ground for the construction of our new and beautiful Wiseburn High School which will house our three Da Vinci high schools – Da Vinci Science, Da Vinci Communications, and Da Vinci Design. Construction is on schedule for completion of the main building in June 2017. Phase II of construction, which includes the 54 meter competition swimming pool and the gym and sports field is scheduled to begin in the fall with completion by December 2017.

We have enjoyed many other shining moments this year. Our own

*See WISEBURN • Page 15*



**With artist Tiffany Graham from left to right: Josiah Castro, Inez Jimenez, Elina Esparza, Joselyn Gutierrez, Jacqueline Gutierrez, Adrienne Barajas, Daniel Barajas, Arianna Quevedo, Isiaiah Castro, and Celeste Contreras.**

## Dana & Da Vinci Science Students Connect at Cal Poly SLO

During Spring Break on March 29, students from Dana Middle School joined high school students from Da Vinci Science (DVS) to visit the engineering program at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. This “shining moment” day trip was a part of a special collaboration between Cal Poly and DVS, which had been initially planned last summer when the entire DVS staff spent several of their professional development days at Cal Poly working with the engineering department to better understand the expectations of the highly-regarded engineering program on that campus. As part of the ongoing collaboration, several Cal Poly seniors developed their senior project to create an engineering challenge specifically for juniors and seniors at Da Vinci Science; the March 29 trip to San Luis Obispo was the opportunity for the unveiling of the engineering challenge to the high school students.

The bus full of 50 students included DVS upperclassmen along with freshmen and sophomores from the Society of Women Engineers



**Cal Poly San Luis Obispo engineering seniors lead a design brainstorm session with students from Dana and Da Vinci Science on their March 29 visit to the Cal Poly Campus.**

(SWE), a club on the DVS campus. As part of their outreach program to encourage girls to pursue the engineering field, the Society of Women Engineers invited 13 girls from the Project Lead the Way program at Dana Middle School. Upon arrival at the campus SWE girls received an orientation

*See DANA & DA VINCI SCIENCE STUDENTS • Page 15*

## Refinancing School Bonds

*By Dave Wilson, Chief Business Officer*

On Thursday, April 14, 2016 the District authorized the refinancing of approximately \$37 million in previously issued General Obligation bonds. The bond refinancing did not extend the term of the bonds, as the outstanding bonds will still be paid in full within the same time frame as when they were originally issued, with the last of the refinanced bonds being paid in full by 2041.

It is estimated that over the life of the refunding, a 26 year period, the savings to District taxpayers will be approximately \$7.3 million. The savings is attributed to refinancing the bonds at a lower interest rate. The previous average interest rate of the refinanced General Obligation bonds was 5.62%. The average interest rate of the refinanced bonds is now 3.34%, an overall difference of 2.28%.

The average single family home within the District has an assessed value of \$315,000. The estimated annual average savings in property taxes for a home owner with a house assessed at \$315,000 is a savings of \$11.76 per year, over 26 years.

It is estimated that the holder of the largest

*See REFINANCING SCHOOL BONDS • Page 15*

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

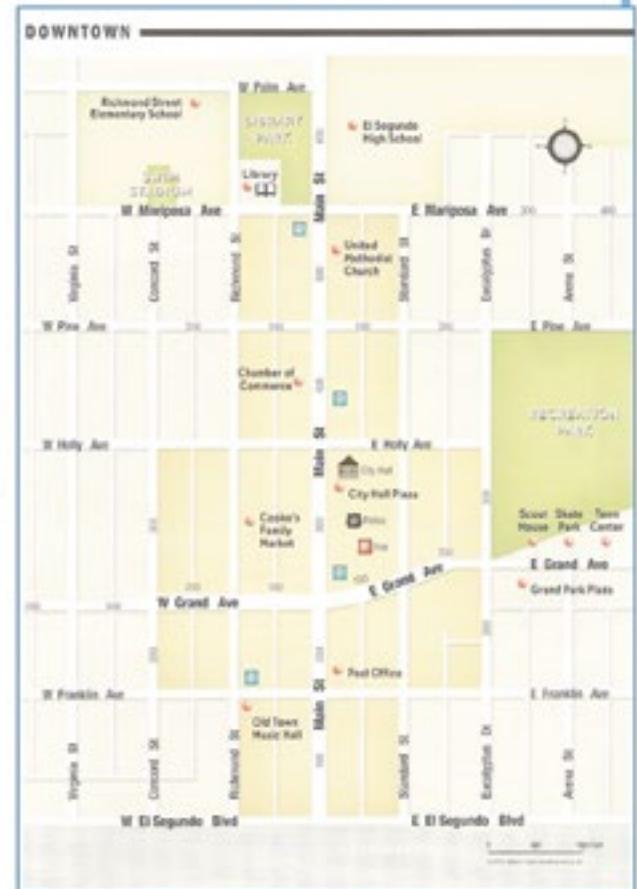
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## Discover Downtown El Segundo

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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Restaurants, Shopping & Services,  
Downtown El Segundo Guides are  
available at the Wiseburn School  
District Offices!



 [www.elsegundochamber.org](http://www.elsegundochamber.org)

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## Dr. Chris Jones Honored as ACSA Region 14 Central Office Administrator of the Year



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**  
Superintendent

It would be hard to imagine another individual being better suited to be the Central Office Administrator of the Year for ACSA than Dr. Chris Jones. Dr. Jones has served as the Deputy Superintendent of Education Services in Wiseburn and Da Vinci Schools since 2014. Given our small size in relation to most school districts in Los Angeles County, all of our administrators must wear

many hats. The multi-talented Chris Jones could not be better suited for the broad range of roles that he plays in supporting education in Wiseburn schools. At once Dr. Jones is the instructional leader of the district, the director of technology, the arts coordinator, the community liaison and the athletics administrator for Da Vinci CIF athletics. Dr. Jones thrives and excels in all of these roles.

Every year in August, Dr. Jones convenes a team of 40 district teachers and administrators who work collaboratively to set annual SMART goals that provide our schools with a blueprint for student academic growth. This process has enabled us to pinpoint some very strategic focus areas that have led to outstanding improvement in both English Language Development and mathematics. Dr. Jones was also instrumental in setting up strategic partnerships with Loyola Marymount University and the Talking Teaching Network through UCLA. With these pieces in place, Wiseburn's Academic Performance Index (API) rose from 808 in 2008 (on a scale from 200 to 1000) to 882 in 2012, with every significant subgroup scoring at least 851.

Dr. Jones has been largely responsible for shepherding Wiseburn schools into a 21st Century mindset to be Future Ready schools. With tremendous support



**Dr. Chris Jones (center) is accompanied by his wife Kim (to his right), Dr. Tom Johnstone (to his left) and board members and the administrative team at the Annual ACSA Region 14 Administrative Awards Dinner in Long Beach.**

from Measure CL all Wiseburn students in grades 3-12 have daily access to technology at a ratio of 1 device for every student. With Chromebooks being the device in most cases, Dr. Jones has worked with our Technology Teacher on Special Assignment Mary Nies and our principals and technology mentors to thoughtfully implement Google Apps for Education, Google Classroom, and a variety of other student-friendly applications.

In aligning K-8 and high school practices and signature programs, Dr. Jones has successfully directed the expansion of the STEM focused Project Lead the Way Program to both Dana Middle School and our elementary schools at Anza School and Peter Burnett. The Project Lead the Way programs focus on engineering and more specifically on automation, robotics and coding. The Wiseburn STEM programs have been greatly enhanced through Dr. Jones cultivation of

partnerships with Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and Boeing.

Perhaps Dr. Jones greatest contribution to the success of Wiseburn schools has been in his role as the "bridge" between our Wiseburn K-8 program and the Da Vinci high schools. He works closely with our Da Vinci Communications, Design, and Science high schools to articulate curriculum and instruction K-12. Dr. Jones absolutely shines in this capacity and he literally completes the work of two administrators!

If you see Dr. Jones around our schools as the school year comes to a close, please take a moment to congratulate him and thank him for all of the shining moments that he has had his finger prints on in Wiseburn over the past decade. He is a Central Office Administrator of the Year of the highest caliber!

## FREE Summer Classes at El Camino College!

**Free college classes available to eligible high school juniors and seniors!\***

*Earn college credits while still in high school!*

**Two summer sessions to choose from:**

Eight-week session begins  
Monday, June 20

Six-week session begins  
Tuesday, July 12

Eligible high school juniors and seniors must apply online and submit a Concurrent Enrollment Application. For more information visit [www.elcamino.edu/free](http://www.elcamino.edu/free).



**EL CAMINO COLLEGE**



\*Enrollment fees are waived for California residents.

Apply online today at [www.elcamino.edu/free](http://www.elcamino.edu/free)



Wiseburn Education Foundation would like to thank the sponsors and volunteers for making the 13th annual Rock Around the Block Family Fun Day a tremendous success! Thank you also to the school administrators, teachers, staff, parents and community for all of your support and contributions – we couldn't have done it without you!

### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors



### Copper Sponsors



### Special Thanks Goes To:

- \*Roosevelt Christmas, Toby Harwell, Nicole Jeffrey and Nichole Polizzi, leading the music performances
- \*Scott Morgan, for another year of being our wonderful emcee
- \*AMK Design Inc. (volunteer t-shirts), Mr. Rod (music/sound), Gypsy Skincare & Makeup Artistry (face painting)

With the support of Rock Around the Block, the Wiseburn Education Foundation has raised over \$75,000 this year!



<http://WiseburnEdFoundation.org>

We Look forward to seeing you all again at Dana Middle School

# Saturday, April 1st, 2017

# Wisburn Education Foundation

13530 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/643-3025 Ext 55 • [www.wisburneducation.org](http://www.wisburneducation.org)

## Update

The Wisburn Education Foundation wants to thank everyone who participated in our 13th Annual Rock Around the Block this year! Whether you were a participant, volunteer, vendor, donor, or just enjoyed the day, we want to thank you for your support. It was a fantastic turnout, and we couldn't do it without the support of the Wisburn Unified School District, Principals, Teachers, and wonderful Wisburn families!

With the support of Rock Around the Block, the Wisburn Education Foundation has raised over \$75,000 this year! Make sure to check out the newly painted "Together We Can Make a Difference" tree hanging up at the Wisburn Unified District offices (on Aviation Blvd.)! It's still not too late to make a difference and donate to our campaign <http://www.wisburneducation.org/>. We hope to get to over \$100,000 this year!

You might be asking yourself, where does your donation go? It is our mission 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 programs that help them grow. This year we have been able to kick off some new programs, including Teacher Grants. This program allowed teachers to enhance the educational experience of over 80% of the kids in the district. We were also able to purchase a new stage that will be used for several school functions in years to come.

We are thrilled to show off our new stage at the first annual "Spring Concert on the Green." It is Wednesday, June 8th, from 4pm-7:30pm. The night will begin with food trucks, and end with fantastic music from our wonderful school musicians.

The Wisburn Education Foundation is already busy working on events for the 2016/2017 School Year. Don't miss out on watching our very own Jane Comitz as she participates in the Hot Ballroom Dancing Night Competition on Friday, September 17th from 7:00-9:30 at the Hermosa Beach Community Center. As many of you know Mrs. Comitz served as Cabrillo Principal for 15 years. She has selected to support WEF and as her charity of choice and all proceeds from ticket sales will support the Wisburn Education Foundation. For more information go to <http://www.hotballroomnight.org/about-the-event/>.

It's never too early to start planning for Rock Around the Block!!! The date is set- Saturday, April 1, 2017-put it in your calendars now!

As the Wisburn Education Foundation continues to grow, we are always in need of volunteers. We are currently looking for help with our website. You can contact us at [board@wisburneducation.org](mailto:board@wisburneducation.org) or visit our website at [www.wisburneducation.org](http://www.wisburneducation.org) for more information.

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- I have upcoming listings in the Wisburn School District. Call to inquire.

### Homeowners

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## Burnett PTA

Liza Somilleda, President • lasomilleda@aol.com

### Greetings

Thanks to all the parents, teachers, and community members who have made this a great year at Peter Burnett PTA. The outpouring of support and enthusiasm for our programs has been tremendous. The only hard part is choosing a single “shining moment” to talk to in this year-end article! The shining moment for me as a PTA leader is seeing the results of all the planning that goes on throughout the year. When the PTA Executive Board sits down and reflects back at all the experiences we’ve brought to our school it’s impossible to do anything except to smile. And the planning for next year has already begun, with both new and returning board members heading to the CAPTA statewide convention in San Diego, and local leadership training sessions during May and June.

Shining moments are those that bring our home and school communities together, and that help to bridge that school-home connection that is vital to success. This year PTA sponsored two Hands on Art sessions, and five Growing Great programs in every classroom which gave parents the chance to connect with their children in the classroom by teaching art or nutrition lessons. Parent volunteers Jenny Childs and Jen Ludwig dedicated a tremendous number of hours to developing lessons throughout the year that were meaningful, fun to teach and memorable for both students and the parents who come in to lead them. Spring also brought two of our most loved events: Mother/Son Sports Night, led by Tameka Runnels-Gibson, and our Father/Daughter Sock Hop. Laura Heredia brought a night of engineering exploration to our Burnett families that was sponsored by the Robotics Team at Hawthorne High School. Watching so many different parts of our community interacting together and enjoying a chance to learn and laugh together is what makes PTA such a meaningful experience, and all of these memories together are the “Shining Moments” of the 2015-16 school year.

Finally, a heartfelt “Thank You” to the wonderful PTA leaders who will be moving on to new adventures next year. Mediatrix Kehl, Anne Tittle, Renee Hubler, and Erick Breneman, thank you for your service and dedication to our students. PTA wishes you a relaxing and meaningful summer vacation filled with many shining moments of your own! Your PTA officers will be rekindling their energies and are excited to welcome you back in the fall and to introduce new families to our very special school.

## Dana PTA

Cynthia Jussen, President

### A Wonderful, Busy School Year

With the efforts of parents, students, teachers and administrators we have all been working together to maintain Dana’s positive and productive school-home connection. The fundraisers we’ve held have funded field trips and educational assemblies for all grades and we look forward to continuing to provide support to the student incentive programs and technologies here at Dana Middle School. We enjoyed two more family restaurant nights, one at California Pizza Kitchen and another at McDonalds, which was “McTeacher’s Night.” Several teachers were there at McTeacher’s Night in uniform serving Dana families. It was a packed house and a very enjoyable evening. Dana PTA was also pleased to support Wiseburn Education Foundation’s “Rock Around the Block” in March for which we provided a basket of toys for the silent auction. PTA provided our fabulous teachers with many goodies the week of May 2nd to show them how much we appreciate all they do.

We held an election for the vacancies on the 2016-2017 board and have a new President, Jamie Delgado, Vice President, Gayle Waller, and Membership Vice President, Irena Costello. Please welcome them and let them know if you are interested in volunteering in the fall. PTA supports students and teachers through funds and organizational support of student programs, educational enrichment, new and improved technologies, library books and other classroom enhancements which directly benefit the students.

Have a great summer and congratulations to our graduating Dana Dolphins!

## Anza PTA

Kelly Takeshita, President

### Happy Spring from the Anza Halls

It’s hard to believe the school year is in its home stretch! And what a year it has been filled with amazing Anza family nights, successful fundraisers and many heart-warming moments.

The Anza PTA had a very successful Spring Fundraiser, those delicious desserts and stylish reusable bags were a big hit! With the success of this fundraiser the PTA was proud to sponsor several in-house performing arts assemblies with a theater presentation for our 1st graders, a dramatic storytelling experience for our 5th graders and an energetic musical experience for the Kindergarteners. The students have also enjoyed unique and exciting field trips outside the school, all sponsored by the PTA. The kids gain so much from these various field trips; it’s why the PTA works tirelessly to provide them. Each of these different experiences is a shining moment for the Anza PTA. It makes all of our hard work and tireless volunteering worthwhile. The kids take away so much from these field trips that we feel like it’s our shining moment, when they glow with excitement from new knowledge and boundless energy.

This time of year is also very busy inside the halls at Anza. We had a wonderful time at our annual Variety Show. It was an amazing showcase of our kid’s talent and passion. Even our teachers and principal kicked up their heels celebrating the great evening together. This night is a very special night at Anza where our kids and beloved teachers and staff show off their hidden talents!

Another night we’re all looking forward to is our annual Art Show/Ice Cream Social. This is the evening where the multi-purpose room transforms into a magical art gallery. The kids beam with pride as they show off their artwork to friends and family. We will also be unveiling a stunning mural that everyone has been working very hard on. With the generous support of WEF and PS Arts the mural has literally come alive.

These final months of school are the most marvelous time of year at Anza Elementary. A feeling of accomplishment fills the air and the excitement of the impending summer inches closer and closer.

## Cabrillo PTA

Laura Heredia, President

### Another Great Year

We have provided amazing assemblies, fun field trips for all classes, and family nights. We could not have done it without the support of the Cabrillo Cub families.

We are still working hard to finish the school year. We just had a successful Spring Book Fair and hosted a sold out Scooters Jungle Family night. As we are saying our good-byes to our Second graders at their special picnic, we are welcoming our in coming Kinders at orientations, and giving hi-fives to our current Kinders at their promotion ceremonies.

Our 2016-17 Board wishes everyone a safe summer and we can’t wait to show you what we are planning for the upcoming school year.

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**Covering the  
WISEBURN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## A Shining Moment

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

The theme of this edition of *School News* is “A Shining Moment”. There are three such recent moments that come to mind that in my humble opinion are worth mentioning in this article.

The first and certainly most important “shining moment” is the collaborative decision by the Boards of the Wiseburn Unified School District and Da Vinci Schools to expand the Real World Learning Programs across the Da Vinci Schools. The AYSO community applauds our school leadership team for providing the unique opportunities to make sure that our young men and women are prepared and equipped to deal with challenges of the journey into the future.

A second “Shining Moment” that is related to the world of soccer took place earlier this year in the month of March in the City of Hawthorne. Da Vinci students collaborated with the LA Galaxy Foundation to design and paint several murals at the Hawthorne Memorial Park. The enthusiastic work by these talented students was accomplished in conjunction with the opening of three futsal courts. Native son of Hawthorne, Gyasi Zardes’ who is known by his most distinguishable trait of his blonde Mohawk, emerging member of the U.S. National Team and a vital part of the LA Galaxy was on hand for the ribbon cutting. With monetary funding provided from the Chevrolet’s Beautiful Possibilities Program neglected tennis courts were transformed into a recreational destination where soccer was previously banned. The contribution of the Da Vinci students will have an everlasting affect on the community.

The third and last “Shining Moment” is a group of 8 and 9-year-old girls who accomplished a feat that took this writer over 20 years to achieve. The group of eight talented and gifted players go by the name of Pink Avengers. The Pink Avengers assembled in Bullhead City, Arizona for a 3-1 win over South Lake Tahoe and a 4-1 win over Santa Barbara to take home the GU10 League Championship Cup. We’re so proud of how the girls gelled together as a team through the Area, Section and Western States tournaments. Each player’s skills grew immensely as each found their role and truly excelled. The members of the team include: Isabela Borth (Saint Anthony School), Gabriella Herred (Saint Anne School), Yarissa Lopez (Peter Burnet Elementary School), Lillian Martinez (Peter Burnet Elementary School), Layla Mendoza (Madison Elementary School), Alexia Munoz (Juan De Anza Elementary School), Izabella Munoz (Saint Joseph School), and Ashley Sanchez (Payne Elementary School). Other members include Head Coach Ben Borth, Assistant Coach Juan Carlos Munoz, and Team Mom Ninfa Borth Altadonna. Well done Pink Avengers!!!

On the world front FIFA has elected a new president. Gianni Infantino who is Swiss and the 45-year-old UEFA general secretary, secured the presidency during the second round of voting to take the decisive majority. Soccer leaders all agree that that Infantino has all the qualities to stabilize FIFA after a corruption crisis in the world soccer governing body. Both U.S. Men’s and Woman’s National Teams are preparing to participate in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The men’s team qualified by winning the [2015 CONCACAF Olympic Qualifying Championship](#) and the women’s team qualified by winning the [2016 CONCACAF Olympic Qualifying Championship](#). The dates of the matches start on August 3rd and finishes on August 20th. Go USA!!!

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne scheduled only four registration dates for the 2016-2017 Fall Season. The number of walk-in registration dates was reduced this year to encourage on-line registrations. The region is doing its best to be environmental conscious and reducing paper.

In addition to returning player, it was encouraging to see so many new player registering in AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne and the number of players transferring from other region in the South Bay. Regional Commissioner Darryl Letchworth has announced that after the last registration date of June 22nd special arrangements will need to be made for registering for the Fall season with your child being put on a waiting list. All player registrations will be done on-line through eAYSO - [www.eayso.org](http://www.eayso.org). RC Letchworth will make every effort to place your child on a team. Remember that soccer age is determined by the player’s age on July 31, 2016 or be 4 years old by September 1st.

The regular soccer season is from September through December. Beside our core soccer program, we have a program for participants with physical or mental disabilities known as VIP (Very Important Player). The board voted not to charge a registration fee for these participants. The 2016-17 Fall season starts September 10, 2016 with our opening day ceremonies. Longtime volunteer Jim O’Connor continues his mission of collecting used soccer uniforms, socks, cleats and other soccer equipment. Clean out your closet/ garage and all items to Picture Day to help needy children around the world. Guatemala Mission USA will distribute the collected items to different locations - Los Vados, Quesque, San Rafaelito and Zhamito. And don’t forget to patronize the snack stand at Dana Field to help defray the annual expenses for the upkeep of the synthetic field at Juan de Anza Elementary School.

There are two new rules awaiting several age groups with the start of the 2016-17 Fall season. These new rules and regulations flow down from the AYSO National Board of Directors. In the Under-8 division, there will be no goalkeepers. In the Under-12 and below divisions, heading is banned. This is consistent with the U.S. Soccer. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the opposing team if a player age 10 or younger, deliberately touches the ball with his/her head during a game. The indirect free kick is to be taken from the place where the player touched the ball with his/her head. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the attacking team inside the opposing team’s penalty area, must be taken on the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the player touched the ball with his/her head. Neither cautions nor send offs shall be issued for persistent infringement or denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity related to the heading infraction.

From now until the start of the season in September, we will be selecting coaches for the 100+ teams that will need to be formed and conducting coach/referee training. Training classes and the resource material is FREE. The cost to you is your valuable time. The success of AYSO is based on the hard work of VOLUNTEERS. Every aspect of running the region depends on individuals who step up to be a coach, an assistant coach, referee, team mom, team dad or board member. If you want to be part of a world-class and unique experience – carve sometime out of your busy schedule and VOLUNTEER. Thanks to all for your support. If interested in volunteering or if you have any questions about our program, please contact RC Darryl Letchworth at [dletch38@yahoo.com](mailto:dletch38@yahoo.com) or call (310) 739-3933.

See you all on the pitch (soccer field)!!!





**Dr. Matthew Wunder**  
Chief Executive Officer

## A Stellar Year at Da Vinci Schools

By *Matthew Wunder, CEO and Carla Levenson, Director of External Relations*

Da Vinci Schools celebrated its 7th anniversary this year, and it has been a stellar year!

We are thrilled to celebrate the Class of 2016, our fourth full graduating class of seniors from Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science. We celebrate the individual accomplishments of our 235 seniors and the outstanding passion and dedication of our teachers and staff.

Today, we have a track record of success with 98% of our students on track for graduation, 98% of whom are eligible for University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) admission, and 80% of whom were accepted to 4-year universities (as of May 1). Students from the Class of 2016 have been accepted to top schools across the nation, including: Yale, Stanford, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins, Vassar College, Reed College, Claremont McKenna College, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, USC, Brown University, Boston University, Syracuse University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Maryland Institute College of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Bard College, Loyola Marymount University, New York University, Rochester Institute of Technology, Tuskegee University, and many more.

Da Vinci Communications, Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science offer a college and career-ready curriculum for the 21st century providing a rigorous and relevant education that is infused with real-world, project-based learning, career pathway classes, internships and work experience, partnerships with industry and higher education leaders, dual enrollment college classes (at no cost to families), comprehensive college counseling, a small and personalized learning community, and much more. Da Vinci high schools serve as the “home” high schools for Wiseburn Unified and offer tremendous opportunities for all students, including special education and gifted and talented students.

## Nurturing a Culture of Real World Learning and Collaboration

By *Natasha Morse, Director of Real World Learning*

This year, Da Vinci Schools’ Real World Learning program has undergone an exciting expansion with increased internship opportunities, career speaker workshops, industry partnerships, and crucial integration of real world skills within curricula and projects. The goal of the Real World Learning Program is to bridge the gap between the classroom and the workplace.



**Da Vinci Design teachers traveled to Guild offices to experience firsthand the creative intersection of art, architecture, design and technology.**

Students have applied for over 60 internship placements at FIDM, Go Stellar Digital Design Agency, Susan G. Komen, and beyond. Four Da Vinci Science juniors - Cindy Magaña, Kelly Crabtree, Nabihah KhanQadri, and Anthony Landaverde - were recently selected through a rigorous application process to be a part of Boeing’s prestigious national summer internship program! All students participating in internships will gain invaluable career exposure, workplace skills, and resume boosters.

On April 22nd and 29th, 21 professionals visited Da Vinci’s three high school campuses to speak to over 650 students about their individual industries, roles, and pathways to success, while sharing career tips and other insights into the working world. A wide array of industries were represented including Design, Engineering, Advertising, Politics, Entertainment, Web Design, Marine Biology, Accounting, and Construction.

Students are not the only ones gaining valuable career insights, as Da Vinci faculty members have been learning a lot, too! Last month, 31 staff members from Da Vinci Design visited Guild, a creative agency that represents esteemed clients including Nike, Sprint, and Diane Von Furstenberg, to learn best practices in design and collaborate with Guild team members about upcoming student projects. Art teacher Cari Werz shared that it was “enlightening and exciting to see what other artists are doing” while Biology teacher Helena Cheng was surprised to learn that “not all students need to be on the creative side of design -- design firms also need experts in finance, engineering, project management and building.”

Da Vinci Schools are preparing students for success in college and careers, aligning real world experiences to the needs of future employers. For more information about Da Vinci’s Real World Learning program, please visit: [www.dvrealworldlearning.com](http://www.dvrealworldlearning.com).

## SPOTLIGHT: 72andSunny and Da Vinci Schools Working in Partnership to Prepare the Next Generation of Creative Problem Solvers

At Da Vinci Schools, partnerships are essential to our mission that every student will graduate college and career-ready. We work closely with many of the area’s top aerospace, tech, and creative firms to identify the knowledge and skill sets students need to know to thrive in college and the 21st century workforce.

One such company is 72andSunny, a leading advertising agency based in Playa Vista, known for its work with Samsung, Google, Starbucks, Benneton, Carl’s Jr., the national Truth campaign to end youth smoking, and other top brands.

72andSunny has been a deeply engaged partner with Da Vinci over the past two years, providing numerous opportunities for students to gain real world experience and exposure to the creative workforce. 72 staffers have worked closely with Da Vinci to co-develop real world projects and curricula, guest lecture, assess student work, host interns, field trips, speaker series and professional development, serve as mentors, and much more.

“72andSunny is an amazing partner,” said Nathan Barrymore, principal of Da Vinci Communications. “They are ‘all in’, providing students with multiple opportunities to see creative careers and spaces and to engage with professionals who they might not ever see.”

This year, 72andSunny designers have been working closely with Da Vinci Communications teachers and administrators to design DVC’s media communications pathway and projects. 72 also has hosted DVC field trips for every grade level and worked with students on two video projects involving Internet memes and journalism. 72 also worked closely with Da Vinci Design 12th graders to design and paint a huge mural on La Tijera Blvd. in Westchester last month in connection with a 72 staffer’s passion project. Meanwhile, Da Vinci Innovation Academy teachers have held several professional development workshops at the agency’s headquarters that once housed the offices of famed aviator and film mogul Howard Hughes.

Last year, 10th grade students at Da Vinci Communications worked alongside 72 designers and brand strategists to conduct research, create story boards, strategy maps, and a final deliverable to raise awareness of the Truth campaign. 9th graders worked on the Made with Code project inspired by 72 client Google’s initiative aimed at inspiring girls to try coding by pairing the things they’re passionate about with technology.

The 72+Da Vinci partnership is mutually beneficial, providing Da Vinci students with access to the tools, resources, opportunities and people they need to explore careers in the creative field, while 72andSunny is able to gain a different, creative perspective and to develop a creative class of diverse people who are good at problem solving. In addition, the 72+Da Vinci partnership is generating wide-scale interest among 72 employees as part of its Brand Citizenship practice devoted to using creativity to better society.

“We partnered with Da Vinci because our missions are aligned, and might even overlap,” said Jim Moriarty, 72andSunny Director of Brand Citizenship.

“Our company and our work is at its best when we include diverse points of view and let those views inform and shape our work. And by partnering with Da Vinci, we gain insight from different perspectives. Our partnership with Da Vinci Schools makes us better, stronger and more culturally relevant.”

Like 72andSunny, Da Vinci Schools are developing hybrid, multi-disciplinary problem solvers and thinkers for the modern era.

We are immensely grateful for the time, talent and deep commitment of the following 72 team members who have been key in facilitating this partnership: John Boiler, CEO and Founder; Glenn Cole, Chief Creative Officer and Co-Founder; Matt Jarvis, Chief Strategy Officer and Partner; Evin Shutt, Partner and Chief Operating Officer; Jim Moriarty, Director of Brand Citizenship; Autumn Abbruzzi, Brand Director; and Tish Fletcher, Brand Coordinator. We also wish to express our gratitude to Da Vinci Board of Regents members Jen Cole, an education consultant, and Michael Druckman, Executive Chair of Schools That Can, who connected us to 72andSunny.

## Making An Impact Across the Globe

Da Vinci Schools continue to attract local, national, and international attention for our real-world, project-based curriculum, career pathways, industry partnerships, and mastery-based grading practices. Since 2014, we have hosted more than 150 educational groups to learn about our innovative programs and practices.

This school year, we have hosted educators from Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Italy, Denmark, Serbia, Turkey, Greeley-Evans School District (Colorado), Menta schools (Illinois), Los Angeles Unified School District, Alpine Union School District (San Diego), Alliance College-Ready Public Schools, City Charter School, California Charter Schools Association, and many more.



**A group of business leaders from Russia visited Da Vinci Schools to study how we engage with industry. Also pictured: Scott Weatherford, Director of Da Vinci Institute (2nd from left).**

As leaders in progressive education, our leadership team has been invited to speak at several industry events this school year, including Deeper Learning and Linked Learning conventions both in San Diego, K12 MindSHIFT Summit in Dallas, California Charter Schools Conference in Long Beach, and Schools That Can’s “Reimagining the Education Pathway” Forum in New York.

## In the Classroom: Rock Opera Project

At Da Vinci Schools, all K-12 students learn by doing through an instructional strategy known as project-based learning (PBL). PBL can be traced back to Confucius, Aristotle and Socrates, all of whom championed and modeled the merits of learning through experience. Leonardo da Vinci has often been described as the archetypal Renaissance artist, scientist and engineer who learned by doing. This integrated approach to learning was the vision for Da Vinci Schools.

Da Vinci Innovation Academy students in Core 3 (2nd and 3rd grade) recently participated in a 10 week interdisciplinary project known as Rock Opera. This real world project explored how to write and perform a rock opera about transportation methods of earlier days (boats, trains, street cars, cars, planes), and the impact that new transportation had on Los Angeles and its inhabitants.

Students investigated three driving questions: How do changes in transportation affect society as a whole? How can we work together to write and perform a rock opera about transportation? What do we need to learn about songwriting in order to create a rock opera?



**Students created rock operas inspired by The Beach Boys’ Sloop John B and other songs about transportation.**

Students worked individually and in small groups and produced the following deliverables: a research report on one mode of transportation, a timeline of the changes in transportation in L.A. over time and the effect these changes had on society, and a reflection journal on the process of creating a rock opera. Students described how location, weather and physical environment affect the way people live. The students also studied songwriting, rhyming, developing musical expression, and music editing. The class as a whole wrote lyrics, built sets, designed costumes and , culminating in a rock opera performance on Exhibition Night and at Saint Rocke, a music venue in Hermosa Beach. A field trip to the Natural History Museum’s “Becoming Los Angeles” exhibit provided more context about the history and growth of L.A. What an inspiring and engaging project created by Core 2 teacher, Robin Brown, herself a musician!

According to a PBL research, project-based learning is linked to improved student outcomes, including greater classroom engagement, problem solving, collaboration, and creativity skills. We see the results firsthand with students who are excited about learning!

## Sports Update

We continue to expand our sports offerings under the direction of Athletics Director Thomas Curry. This school year, more than 200 student athletes participated in varsity and JV sports in the following areas: co-ed cross country, co-ed track, girls volleyball, boys volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, and co-ed archery (non-CIF).

The boys varsity volleyball team played very well in the Culver City Invitational Tournament winning first place in the silver bracket. The archery team placed 2nd in the state championships, and earlier this year the Wiseburn Da Vinci girls’ volleyball team advanced to Round 2 of the 2015 CIF Southern Section (Division 5A) play-offs.

All Da Vinci students, regardless of their fitness level, have many opportunities to engage in sports and fitness activities in their seminar (elective) classes. These include: cross fit, yoga, marathon training, rock climbing, dance team, walkercise, cardio fitness, and more.

Go Wolves!

## 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, you must apply and complete the enrollment process. Wiseburn residents must complete an application so we know you are interested in a spot. Applicants who apply after our priority application deadline may not receive their first choice of school. For more information, please contact Maria Venegas at (310) 331-8097 or [enrollment@davincischools.org](mailto:enrollment@davincischools.org).

## 3 Schools, 1 Campus, 1 Spirit – Opening August 2017

Get the latest news and updates on the future home of Da Vinci Communications, Da Vinci Design, Da Vinci Science, and the Wiseburn Unified and Da Vinci Schools administrative offices. The new campus is located at 201 N. Douglas Street in El Segundo. [www.douglasat201.org](http://www.douglasat201.org)

# Juan de Anza *Elementary (K-5)*

12110 Hindry Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2100 • [www.anzaeagles.org](http://www.anzaeagles.org)



**Sarah Nitsos**  
Principal

## Four Panels of Beauty

The playground at Juan de Anza Elementary School now has a decidedly different look. Most of the 600 students have contributed to a four-panel mural inspired by the theme “Our Eagles Soar!” The theme was the result of artist Tiffany Graham and principal Ms. Nitsos thinking outside the box. Ms. Graham believes that children respond well to themes that can be interpreted magically because they promote creativity.

The mural project was led by Tiffany Graham, our very own Wiseburn resident artist who is also responsible for the very beautiful student-created murals at Juan Cabrillo and Peter Burnett elementary schools.

Students first attended workshops taught by Ms. Graham in early March to learn about mural art and create individual works of art inspired by the theme. They each contributed at least one image with “Our Eagles Soar!” in mind. Ms. Graham then photocopied the students’ thumbnail sketches, made four black-and-white collage-models, and projected these onto 84-by-92-inch Masonite boards, keeping the integrity of the children’s original imagery entirely intact. Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students started painting in April, half a class at a time, in the outdoor area where the murals gradually became more and more beautiful. It took six weeks of students painting once weekly to complete the eight half-panels that together made up the four-panel mural quartet. All of the painting was done by students while parent volunteers helped with the white outlining of every image.

Were students at Anza excited about the opportunity to contribute to this lasting piece of art? Yes, they were! Students asked Ms. Graham if they could paint before and after school and at lunch. Every time they saw Ms. Graham, students pled with her to let them paint.

## ‘They Love to Paint!’

“The great thing about visual art is that all kids are great at it and they succeed every time,” Ms. Graham said. “Kids love color—they love to paint!” There is also a sense of pride and the enjoyment of collaboration. Children at Anza now understand the process necessary in creating a mural and will appreciate this art form all the more, having been an integral part of the “Our Eagles Soar” project. The mural belongs to them, and Ms. Graham predicted that the children will interact with this mural in the same way that Burnett students do with the mural on their playground, making up stories about the images during recess.

Only the kindergarten children didn’t participate in this project, but they will have an opportunity next year when the second four-panel mural is created.

In May, there was a Family Mural Day for the first-and-second-grade children and their parents. This gave the younger students a chance to contribute to the painting of the mural that contains their imagery.



Ms. Graham is an oil painter by trade and is well known for her dreamscapes and symbolic portraits. She is responsible for the creation of over 20 community murals. You can enjoy her work by visiting her website, [tiffanygrahamart.com](http://tiffanygrahamart.com), and watching a video of the painting and an unveiling of the mural at our very own Juan Cabrillo Elementary School!



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

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



**Laura Sullivan**  
Principal

## One Shining Moment

One shining moment can transform learning. That is what six third- and fourth-grade classes learned two weeks ago when they had the opportunity to participate in Google Expeditions, sponsored through Google for Education. These expeditions take students on an interactive, three-dimensional adventure through various tours of the world.

The tours are pre-loaded and can be accessed through the use of an android tablet and Google Cardboard, a virtual reality experience that uses a cardboard box with special lenses and a smart phone. Cardboard turns pictures into three-dimensional, walk-through experiences. Through Google Cardboard, students are swept away to places they have never seen and may never have gotten the opportunity to see otherwise.



These students are enjoying a walk through the California State Parks.



This classroom is looking up at the majestic Redwood forest of California.



It really feels like you are there. This is amazing.



It feels like you can touch the picture in front of you.

Our third-grade students visited the many different biomes of the world. Through Google Expeditions, they were able to take a trip from the desert of California to the savannah of Kenya and the rainforest of the Amazon in a matter of minutes. Students were able to compare the conditions and biodiversity in each of these biomes.

Our fourth-grade students journeyed to five different state parks to increase their knowledge of California and to see the beauty of our great state up close. They were able to travel to Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, Torrey Pines Park Natural Reserve, Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Angel Island State Park, and Huntington State Beach. They also took a tour of the Living Roof Museum in San Francisco, where they walked the living roof and saw living elements in action, including several of the energy-efficient features of this unique building.

This opportunity provided a hands-on learning experience that goes beyond the classroom. Teachers are able to lead their students on immersive virtual journeys that bring learning to life.



Room 16 being led by Ms. Milias; enjoying a visit to the biomes.

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# Juan Cabrillo *Elementary (K-2)*

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



**Margaret Lynch**  
Principal

## Shining Moment(s)

### Cabrillo Recognized as Gold Ribbon School!

Recently the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Schools were announced, recognizing 772 elementary schools in California “that have made gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education” and Juan Cabrillo is one of them!

### Signature Practice of English Language Development (ELD)

The Cabrillo staff successfully completed the California Gold Ribbon Schools Program application process identifying the signature practice of our English Language Development (ELD) Program. Our ELD program gained statewide notice in 2012 when it became one of the first schools in the state with no achievement gap between English Learners (ELs) and other students. We have extended the day for our Kindergarten, first, and second grade ELs to participate in a program that was named by the students when one ELD student said aloud to his friends’ “. . .it’s like a club!” and we now refer to it as “CLUB ELD.” The name captures the spirit and intent of our program: to provide rigorous ELD services through a positive learning environment that creates a sense of belonging and fun, eliminating any stigma. Parents report that their ELD students see CLUB ELD! as a place “you get to go” – where there are no grades, homework or pressure – the emphasis is on the process not the product.



**Joseph Puente practices making “short a” words in ELD**

### ELD Extended Day Model

Cabrillo’s extended day model revolves around ELD students receiving 50-60 minutes of English Language Development before or after school. The CLUB ELD! teaching team consists of a credentialed teacher with a certificate in English Language Learners and Leadership, a BCLAD credentialed teacher, and an experienced bilingual paraprofessional. They provide direct standards-aligned instruction to small groups of students through SDAIE strategies, differentiated instruction, rotation of centers, skill level technology instruction, and learning games. The point of these activities is to frontload instruction, interact with high-frequency words, and other ELA concepts they will use in the classroom. By the end of the school year, participation in CLUB ELD! provides each EL with an additional month of instruction.



**Maria Davila and Manuel Rosales complete partner work in ELD**

### ELD Program Goals

- The goals of Cabrillo’s ELD program are:
- To provide a high quality educational experience accessible to our ELs without lowering the rigor of the standards
- To exceed state CA English Language Development Test (CELDT) goals
- For ELD students not to miss any regular instruction in core subject areas
- For ELD students to receive an equivalent of an extra month of school
- For a minimum of 80% of ELs to reclassify by the end of their 3rd grade year
- On an end of year survey for parents to respond they have a better understanding of the ELD report card and state ELD standards compared to the beginning of the year.

### CELDT data since CLUB ELD! was implemented shows strong achievement.

CATEGORIES	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
# Total EL Students	113	101	114
# Annual CELDT takers	69	74	73
AMAO 1 - % Increasing 1 CELDT level at Cabrillo	68.1%	82.4%	88.9%
CA – AMAO 1 target	57.5%	59%	60.5%
AMAO 2 – % Attaining Eng prof. in under 5 years at Cabrillo	35.4%	48.5%	51.8%
CA – AMAO 2 target	21.4%	22.8%	24.2%

### Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO)

- Since the beginning of CLUB ELD!, Cabrillo ELs have exceeded AMAO targets set by the state in AMAO 1 and AMAO 2.
- In 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Cabrillo students met AMAO 2 targets at double the expectation rate of the state.
- Since the inception of Club ELD!, state expectations for AMAO 1 have increased 1½% annually, Cabrillo students have increased AMAO 1 proficiency by 33%.
- The most recent data shows Cabrillo students achieving 28.4% higher than the state target in AMAO 1 and 30.6% higher than the state target in AMAO 2.

### 2015-2016 CELDT

- For 1st grade, 27/27 increased their CELDT score, ranging from 9 points to 123 points. Some students even increased 2 CELDT levels. 23/27 or 85% of our students are at a proficient level of early advanced or advanced.
- For 2nd grade, 18/26 increased their CELDT score ranging from 7 points to 76 points. 16/26 or 62% of 2nd grade students are at a proficient level of early advanced or advanced.

### Parent Surveys

Another effective monitoring for effectiveness mechanism continues to be the annual English Learner Program Needs Assessment Survey. Parent survey responses continue to be positive. Some parents wrote as voluntary responses in the annual survey: “I like how classroom lessons are reinforced with ELD;” “My daughter has improved a lot in her speech and in making friends;” “I love that ELD reinforces what was taught in class.”

### Success in Creating a Positive Learning Atmosphere

Our school motto is “we learn and grow together” and CLUB ELD helps the whole school move forward together. Having CLUB ELD! increases our awareness of who our ELs are and our PTA and the Wiseburn Ed Foundation support us in programs like art, dance, and gardening that do not require language to be successful but at the same time provide opportunities for all our students to develop vocabulary and language through hands on experiences.

Tom Torlakson’s, state superintendent of public instruction, email stated, “The award reflects your school’s success in creating a positive learning atmosphere for your students. Such success is a direct result of your dedicated, creative, and talented staff, and your supportive school community.” Cabrillo thanks our supportive school community, for being part of this shining moment!

See JUAN CABRILLO • Page 13

**Cabrillo Teachers Selected as Fellows  
in Cotsen Foundation Program for Math!**



**Cabrillo Cotsen Team, Left to right: Jen Williams (Mentor) and Fellows:  
Lorrie Cariaga, Liza Hough-Skovron, Deedee Zirbel, Lissette Ochoa, and Cara Nakama**

Another shining moment for Cabrillo is our participation in the Cotsen Foundation “Art of Teaching” program to provide elementary teachers powerful professional growth and development as they implement Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) in math. Five of our teachers applied for and were selected as Cotsen Fellows: Deedee Zirbel, Lorrie Cariaga, Liza Hough-Skovron, Lissette Ochoa, and Cara Nakama. In addition, Cotsen selected a Mentor, a dedicated full-time position to support the work of the Fellows and serve as a “change agent” within the school. Jennifer Williams is on a two-year leave from her first grade classroom to take on the role of Mentor. Williams meets weekly with each Fellow to plan lessons, observe lessons and debrief lessons with Cognitively Guided Instruction that the District has implemented to address our Common Core Standards. She and the Cotsen Fellows also attend conferences and participate in monthly inquiry sessions together to study “best practices” in teaching.

**Cognitive Guided Instruction**

Williams explains that cognitively guided instruction is “a research based pedagogical lens where the student is the focus. In math lessons, the teacher poses a problem and students are allowed to use any strategy to solve it. Teachers ask students probing questions to support them as they explain their thinking.” This open exploration builds students’ mathematical thinking and encourages multiple ways to solve a problem and persevere in solving it.

**Teacher Mentoring**

Teaching Fellows share that CGI math has revitalized their teaching. Deedee Zirbel shared, “I couldn’t have made the transformation in my practice without our mentor.” Cara Nakama expressed, “I like having someone to plan with and then review the lesson as a sounding board to guide me through a productive struggle.” Lissette Ochoa said, “The students are doing so many amazing things and there’s someone there for me to share their success with.” Liza Hough-Skovron reflected, “Having Jen with me gives another set of eyes and ears to help me focus on student-led learning. I’m so encouraged by her.”

**Student Success**

The problems presented to students are personalized to relate to real life situations. Teachers are seeing students able to know and explain their thinking and not just follow a procedure. Students are now seeing themselves as mathematicians and saying “I love CGI math!” and “You are smarter than you think you are.”

**Next Steps**

At a presentation for Wiseburn Unified School District Board in April, Williams posed a problem that students had been asked to solve and noted different ways Board members solved it. Then they watched video clips of students solving and explaining the same problem. The Board members noted that CGI “teaches children how to think and how to express and present their thinking which is exactly what the standards ask them to do.” This summer the district will be providing training opportunities for teachers in CGI and next year the CGI Fellows have agreed to open their classrooms to Cabrillo teachers to come and see what CGI looks like. “We’re on fire now!” says Lorrie Cariaga, first grade teacher, “anyone can come in my room to check out CGI anytime. We are all learning together.” For more information on the Cotsen Foundation’s “Art of Teaching,” go to [www.cotsen.org](http://www.cotsen.org).

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# 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

## A Special Place

*By Dr. Blake Silvers, Co-Principal*

Still in the spirit of March Madness, Dana Middle School continues to flourish while looking for those shining moments that add to the wonderful sense of community at our school.

Some shining moments are subtle: students receiving merits for preparedness, respect, integrity, determination, and/or empathy – our guiding behavior expectations. Some of these

moments taught our students the agony of defeat as seen in the boys and girls championship basketball games where the Dolphins came up just short.

Certainly however, even in these shining moments that may not end in victory, the Dolphins bond, create lasting relationships, and learn how to take it all in stride. Still other shining moments display the tremendous character that exists at our thriving middle school. Our students for instance achieved their personal best in a physical education activity, taking first place in the National Spelling and Geography competitions, or being recognized at a Student of the Month/ PRIDE Assembly for leading their classrooms and teams in positive character traits, the most recent being RESPECT.



**Student receiving a Student of the Month PRIDE Certificate.**



**Students worked hard in a CrossFit P.E. workout.**



**Clayton Skaggs (6) with the WUSD School Board accepts his 1st Place WUSD Spelling Bee award. Clayton went on to represent the WUSD at the LA County Spelling Bee.**

The Dana Middle School students have worked hard this year both in their academic and character development. The large number of successes and shining moments that many of our students have experienced and reflected upon are part of their training for what's to come. After nearly a full school year of diligent work in the classrooms, on the sports fields, and in the extracurricular opportunities offered by Dana, our students are ready for the larger shining moments that lay ahead.

First, students put their hard work to the test as they persist through the CAASPP standardized testing exam, where we are certain they will shine. In

May, the culmination of a year of work, organization, goal-setting, and student reflection also shined as our students led their own student-led conferences, one of Dana's signature practices and also one of the best days of the year for parents and guardians.

Finally, the eighth-graders will embark upon the final weeks of school, which lead up to one of the most memorable moments in their young lives, the eighth-grade promotion.

Dana is lucky to shine as a school, but the reality is that we are only as good as the students who shine through our hallways and classrooms every day. We are thankful for the students, teachers, staff members, and other stakeholders for the sacrifices they make to keep us shining. It is not one shining moment, but a culmination of many that make Dana Middle School the special place it is.



**DMS National Geographic GEO Bee 1st Place winner Katherine Taylor (8) accepts her award from Superintendent Dr. Johnstone.**



**Dr. Chris Jones**  
Deputy  
Superintendent  
Instructional  
Services

from the university chapter of the SWE about college life in the engineering school. The Dana and Da Vinci students paired up to participate in a build activity that required teamwork and collaboration. The main activity for all students was the reveal of the robotics challenge presented by the Cal Poly seniors. Presented as faux crime-mystery, the challenge requires students to build a robot that can maneuver from an outside quad area into an administration building to “protect” the Dean of Engineering. The juniors and seniors from Da Vinci Science are currently working on this robotics challenge as part of their work in class and will participate in the actual challenge in June back at the Cal Poly campus.

The student visit to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo is representative of the commitment of Wiseburn and Da Vinci Schools to build a K-16 education-to-employment pipeline. Engineering is one of the pathways that can provide a broad entry into a variety of fields and specialties. The participation of the Society of Women Engineers reflects our interest in creating gender equity across a field that has historically had an imbalance. This trip also provided an opportunity for middle school students to connect with high school and college students with similar interests. Students and teachers are looking forward to returning in June for the final challenge and to continue the collaborative work with Cal Poly into the future.

**REFINANCING SCHOOL BONDS • From Page 1**

commercial assessed value will save approximately \$100,000 in property taxes over 26 years. Similarly, the owner of the property with the 10th largest commercial assessed value will save approximately \$27,000 in property taxes over 26 years.

If we combine the estimated savings of this refinancing with the estimated savings from the 2015 General Obligation bonds refinancing, the total combined savings to the Wiseburn Unified School District’s property owners is approximately \$10.2 million.

The Wiseburn Unified School District Board of Trustees, along with District staff are very pleased to have had the opportunity to lower the property taxes of land owners within the District.

This refinancing further confirms that the Board of Trustees and District staff are continuously staying diligent in their efforts to be great providers in education but also great custodians of the funds the District’s tax payers have so generously provided. Thank You!

Dr. Chris Jones, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services was honored in April by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) as the Central Office Administrator of the Year for ACSA Region 14, which includes approximately 40 school districts in West Los Angeles County. This is a tremendous honor for Dr. Jones and for Wiseburn and is well-deserved.

On May 24, 2016 Cabrillo and Burnett Schools were honored by the California Department of Education as Gold Ribbon Award Schools of Excellence. Cabrillo was honored for their outstanding “Club ELD” that provides rigorous English Language Development services to students learning English, and Burnett was honored for their excellent work with Professional Learning Communities that include teachers, students, and parents.

Our arts programs continue to shine! This spring the district convened a group of 25 administrators, teachers, members of the WEF board, and arts professionals to establish an arts strategic plan for Wiseburn for the next five years. Our Wiseburn Education Foundation sponsored an extremely successful Rock Around-the-Block Festival on March 19 to showcase the district’s outstanding music programs. On Wednesday, June 8 at 6:00 p.m., Wiseburn musicians from our elementary schools, Dana, and the Da Vinci high schools will perform during our first annual “Spring Concert on the Green” at Dana Middle School. The entire community is welcome to the outdoor concert and there will be food trucks!

The visual arts have continued to shine this year too. Muralist Tiffany Graham worked with Cabrillo kindergarteners to complete a beautiful and colorful mural for the kindergarten play yard. She has also worked with all of Anza’s students, K-5 to complete 8 mural panels that will add tremendous beauty and color to the entrance to the upper grade wing from the Anza play ground. The Anza murals will be unveiled on Anza’s Annual Art Show/Ice Cream Social on June 10.

Technology implementation had a shining year this year in Wiseburn. By Christmas we reached one device (Chrome books) per student in every grade 3-12 classroom. Next year we will focus on grades K-2. Under the very capable direction of Wiseburn Teacher of the Year Mary Nies, Wiseburn teachers and students are making tremendous gains in mastering Google applications and our schools are becoming more and more paperless. Also related to technology our Project Lead the Way Program continues to expand and serve more grade levels. Wiseburn/Da Vinci students excelled this spring in FIRST Robotics Competitions and the Sea Perch Underwater ROV Competition at CSU Los Angeles.

We sincerely thank Wiseburn residents and the community for your generous support of Wiseburn schools through Measure CL and countless other ways. Thanks for helping us to continue to shine!

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Have a wonderful summer!**



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