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School News

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Covering the Hawthorne School District

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8

MAY 2012

Spotlight On Our Schools

This month I would like to highlight some events that have taken place at some of our schools around the District.

On March 2nd I had the pleasure of reading to a second grade class at Ramona School. I was one of many community members at the school to read a Dr. Seuss book to a class of students. Each year Dr. Seuss Day is recognized to spark a joy of books and reading. The event was organized by the wonderful parent group at Ramona and they did an incredible job! There was a large selection of Dr. Seuss books in both English and Spanish to read to the children. We had volunteers from the El Segundo Air Force Base, a group of Hawthorne Rotary members, parents, and administrators. Some readers truly got in the spirit of the day by wearing Dr. Seuss clothing, Cat in the Hat hats, and stickers all representing Dr. Seuss. I know the celebration and activities continued after I departed. It was great fun for both the children and the adults who volunteered their time.

Washington School has shown such tremendous growth over the last few years that they were given the honor of applying for Distinguished School recognition by the California Department of Education. The schools that are eligible to apply for this distinction must meet several criteria, complete a comprehensive application, and be visited by an outside team of educators who make the determination if they should receive the honor. The Washington School visit took place on March 13th. The day was filled with the Distinguished School Team visiting classrooms, observing teacher collaboration, and interviewing many different groups of stakeholders. The team indicated that they were very pleased with what they had seen. We look forward to a positive outcome and I am confident that Washington School will join the other Hawthorne School District Sites that have received this honor in the past.

Parents at Eucalyptus, York, and Ramona Schools have voiced their concerns regarding the safety of students crossing the street to get from one side of campus to the other during the school day. Our school district has been working closely with the city of Hawthorne to arrange for the streets at these three sites



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent



Dr. Seuss Day at Ramona School

Destacando a Nuestras Escuelas

Este mes me gustaría destacar algunos eventos que se han llevado a cabo en algunas de las escuelas en nuestro distrito.

El 2 de marzo tuve el placer de leerle a una clase de 2do grado en la escuela Ramona. Fui uno de muchos miembros de la comunidad en asistir a la escuela para leer un libro de Dr. Seuss a los estudiantes. El día de Dr. Seuss es reconocido anualmente para despertar el gozo en los libros y la lectura. El evento fue organizado por el maravilloso grupo de padres de la escuela Ramona ¡los cuales realizaron un trabajo increíble! Había una gran selección de libros de Dr. Seuss tanto en inglés como en español para leerles a los niños. Tuvimos voluntarios de la Base de la Fuerza Aérea del Segundo, un grupo de miembros del Rotary de Hawthorne, padres, y administradores. Algunos lectores mostraron su espíritu usando ropa de Dr. Seuss, sombreros del libro El gato en un sombrero, y calcomanías representando a Dr. Seuss. Sé que la celebración y actividades continuaron aun después de mi partida. Fue una gran diversión tanto para los niños como los adultos que se ofrecieron como voluntarios.

La escuela Washington ha mostrado un tremendo crecimiento en los últimos años por lo que tuvieron el honor de poder meter una solicitud para el reconocimiento de Escuelas Distinguidas del Departamento de Educación de California. Para que las escuelas puedan ser elegibles para esta distinción deben cumplir con una serie de requisitos, completar una

solicitud extensa, y recibir la visita de un equipo de educadores los cuales tienen la autoridad de determinar si deberán recibir este honor. La visita a la escuela Washington se llevó a cabo el 13 de marzo. Todo el día hubo visitas a salones, observaciones de colaboración de maestros, y entrevistas a diferentes grupos de interés común. El equipo indicó estar muy contento con lo que habían presenciado. Esperemos tener una respuesta favorable y tengo la confianza que la escuela Washington compartirá este honor con otras escuelas del Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne que han recibido este reconocimiento en el pasado.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 7

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 7

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Inside:

- Bud Carson MSPage 4**
- Eucalyptus.....4**
- Hawthorne Math/Science Academy 4**
- Hawthorne MS.....4**
- Jefferson5**
- Kornblum5**
- Prairie Vista MS5**
- Prairie Vista South Campus5**
- Ramona6**
- Washington.....6**
- York.....6**
- Zela Davis6**



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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Now that Spring Break is over thoughts turn to the final weeks of this school year, which has gone by far too fast.

One common thread throughout this issue is how much the District appreciates the support of the parents and the community.

Congratulations to the April Contest Winner, Erick Donoso! We do not have a contest in this issue due to lack of space; however, you may enter our survey on our web site (www.schoolnewsrollcall.com) for a chance to win \$100. Thank you for reading *School News*. Our next issue is June 6.

School News

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Covering the
HAWTHORNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Hawthorne School District



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FAX (310) 219-2839

**Zela Davis Universal
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Nonie Smith, Project Facilitator LAUP Preschools • nsmith@hawthorne.k12.ca.us

Bud Carson *Middle School*

13838 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-1908



Patricia Jordan
Principal

Husky Excellence, from Basketball to Bridges

March proved to be a “slam dunk” success for our students in both athletics and academics. In March, BCMS hosted the 12th Annual Joanne Posey Basketball Tournament in an effort to raise breast cancer awareness as well as provide all students and families of Hawthorne a day full of fun, excitement and hoops. In the end, Zela Davis Elementary and our own BCMS Huskies placed first in their respective categories.

Again in March, the BCMS MESA students continued the winning streak at the MESA Day Preliminaries hosted by USC. All year students have worked to prepare for various competitions in math, speech and bridge building, and it showed—12 BCMS students brought home medals for their top placement in six of the seven events! With extracurricular success like this and the continued academic achievements made throughout the school day, it’s clear that BCMS is truly “Where Champions are Made!”



Students playing hard at The Joanne Posey Basketball Tournament

Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369



Gretchen Janson
Principal

Fifth Graders Shoot for the Stars at Griffith Observatory

By Ken Takata and David Rosato - Fifth Grade Teachers

As a culminating activity to our language arts unit, “Our Corner of the Universe,” the 5th graders went to the Griffith Observatory. This “Fifth Grade Only” education program meets the California State Science Content Standards. While there, students learned about water in the universe, constellations, moon phases, the sun, eclipses, the Earth’s rotation, comets, the Periodic Table, and much more. There were spectacular views of Los Angeles and the Hollywood sign. The world-class observatory was reopened in 2006 after a 93 million dollar renovation, and it is amazing, both inside and out.



The Griffith Observatory is a Los Angeles icon. It is 1,134 feet above sea level and can be seen just east of the Hollywood sign. Admission is free. Visit griffithobservatory.org for more information.

Bus transportation costs were raised through “healthy snack” fundraisers after school by teachers Karen Barrera, David Fink, Anita Padilla, Maria Leyva-Lohman, David Rosato, and Ken Takata with help from parent volunteers Isabel Villalta and Norma Saldana. Ashley Carpenter, Natasha Aldaco, and Michelle Villaseñor were great student helpers.

Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620



Esau Berumen
Principal

Essay Contest

By Catherine Hall, 11th Grade English Teacher

This January, each HMSA student entered a submission to Chapman University’s Holocaust Art and Writing Contest, “Memories Matter.” The goal of this contest was to help survivors share their powerful experiences with an emerging generation in order to help preserve memories.

The HMSA English Department assigned the writing portion. It asked students to listen to video testimonies of survivors and then find one specific memory to connect with and write about as a new “rememberer.”

We selected Alexia Pineda, Linda Ho and Kristine Locsin as our school’s winners. They were able to attend an inspiring ceremony on March 3, where they also heard that Linda’s essay had been chosen as one of the six finalists for the high school prose division. There were nearly 150 schools represented at the ceremony, and so this was a huge accomplishment!

Overall it was a great day, one that focused on both the students’ achievement and the gravity of the task at hand.



Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167



James Eder
Principal

Money Matters

In late March, eighth-graders from Hawthorne Middle School went on a field trip to Junior Achievement Financial Park to take on the real-life experience of being grown-ups and learning first-hand about budgeting and finance. Eligible students were given hypothetical life situations, a salary, and “jobs.” They budgeted their expenses, including buying a car, purchasing a house, paying for insurance, and spending money on recreational privileges. The students were expected to make appropriate choices and set goals by the end of the month.



Eighth graders on the trip to Junior Achievement Financial Park.

Most eighth-graders were excited about the opportunity to show their abilities in financing, but others didn’t fare as well, going over budget due to unwise choices. The most successful students were given prizes for superior life decisions. This was a great step toward understanding the financial responsibilities they will all face as adults.

Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Parent Workshops

It is no secret that there is a direct correlation between student achievement and parental involvement. When schools and families work collaboratively, student achievement rates are higher.

With this in mind, many Jefferson Elementary School parents have requested additional support, training, and resources. Jefferson continues to support our parents with morning and afternoon workshops, based upon parent feedback and suggestions.

Throughout the school year, the counselor and literacy coach have provided workshops on a variety of topics including: children's learning styles; effective discipline; hosting family game nights; protecting your child from bullying; academic expectations; hands-on language arts and math

skills; technology; Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) exam preparation skills; and reading comprehension. These workshops provide parents with new skills and resources that enable them to become more effective educators of their children at home, to advocate for their children in school, and to become leaders within their community.



Sondra Stotesbury, Literacy Coach, leads the STAR parent workshop to prepare parents and their children for standardized testing.

Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W.El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294



Jennifer Beekman
Principal

A Special Time

Our Kornblum mothers recently had the opportunity to "step out" and attend a Hollywood-themed date with their sons!

The Parent Club worked diligently to organize this fun-filled Mother-Son Dance. Approximately 200 people attended the event in our well-decorated cafeteria, where the admission was free. Our parents even donated refreshments such as punch, fruit and cookies. Staff members volunteered to assist with pictures, and also acted as chaperons for the crowd.

The idea of the dance was set up by several parents who wanted to build upon those special bonding moments between mothers and sons. "The dance was very special," said one happy mother. "I had an enjoyable time with my son, and I thank the school for organizing this event!"

As the disk jockey played music the boys and their mothers danced the night away! The plan now is to alternate yearly between a father-daughter and a mother-son dance activity.



Mom and Son Dance

Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, Ca 90250 • 310/679-1003



Christine Fagnano
Principal

Learning and Doing

By David Cooper, Sixth-Grade Teacher

The PVMS Fine Arts Academy is proud to be partnering with the Getty Villa in Malibu!

The Getty Villa is a re-creation of an ancient Roman villa (home), and a world-famous art museum. This year our entire sixth-grade participates in the Villa's Ancient Art Academy, making three trips to the facility to study Roman frescoes (paintings), mosaics (ceramic tiles) and sculptures. Getty Villa teachers lead lessons in the museum so that our students can later create their own such frescoes and mosaics, or learn to use sculptors' tools.

After the last visit, workshops of five or six students were assigned frescoes, mosaics or sculptures, and had to complete a proposal to restore an imaginary ancient villa that was damaged in an earthquake.



The villa's owner has specific requirements, and so the students have a good opportunity to utilize their artistic creativity. The workshops then present their projects to the gallery teachers and answer questions about what they have learned.

Our students create amazing projects, and learn about ancient art at the same time.

Prairie Vista *South Campus*

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, Ca 90250 • 310/970-7550



David Mallchok
Site Administrator
Assistant Principal

Even Start Program

The Even Start Program at Prairie Vista South is committed to providing a high-quality, fully structured educational program in a safe, nurturing professionally supervised classroom environment. The program is designed to strengthen and encourage the development of children enrolled in the program as well as their parents and the family as a whole. The agenda gives those enrolled the opportunities to learn and to be involved in the educational process through a variety of learning-centered activities.

The Even Start Program is based on the premise that each child and parent possesses a wealth of unique experiences to share. The classes promote and enhance the student's natural abilities and potentials while recognizing individuality. Developmentally appropriate activities and lessons are provided through an integrated curriculum that stresses critical thinking, decision making, task completion and problem solving. This model allows for optimal social, emotional, cognitive, linguistic and physical growth and development.

The educational approach focuses on each child's social, emotional, cognitive, linguistic, and physical growth and development by offering concrete hands-on activities for students to explore, cultivate and advance. Staff support and encourage the cultivation of creativity, initiative, responsibility and confidence, all of which are imperative for the child's success in school and the community. Skills are developed through active involvement with classmates, parents, materials, events and ideas.

The course's goals are to develop the talents and abilities required for both children and parents to approach school with a positive attitude, engage in meaningful experiences and ensure future academic success.

Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189



Michael Collins
Principal

Making Learning a Family Event

Last month, parents and students were treated to two family nights that tied into math and reading.

At Family Math Night, students were greeted as they walked into the cafeteria with free pencils. Stations were set up that parents and students could visit to learn about math activities which incorporated skills such as fractions, multiplication, number sense and geometry. Parents also visited the computer lab to learn about fun Web sites they could use at home to help their children with math instruction. It was great to see such a huge turnout!



On Literacy Night, sessions presented by teachers offered family reading games and activities. Students also took home books through our book exchange. Last month, students donated the books. Then, on Literacy Night, the books found new homes. It was a positive experience for everyone!

Thank you to all of the staff, parents, and students who made these events so successful!

York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189



Mike Goldstein
Principal

More Than Just a Game

The York Superstars recently took to the basketball court against our neighbors from Jefferson Elementary School, and the result was more than just a great basketball game!

Our parents, families, students and staff members were thrilled with the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity within the district. The game was actually inspired by the Posey Basketball Tournament held earlier in the school year, where teams from all of the elementary and middle schools had a chance to compete on the courts.

York had a great experience with this tournament, and so we decided to reach out to the other schools in the district to play additional games throughout the

year. Cecil Smith, York custodian, and Manuel Miranda, York/Jefferson security, also volunteered their time to help coach the schools.

Our families and staff members enjoyed this opportunity to both interact with and cheer on the students. Overall, the event was a huge success, and we hope to schedule future games.



Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422



John Rounds
Principal

Many Ways to Win!

The students at Washington School are constantly rewarded for their successes at school. They can earn the following: Wildcat Playday, benchmark ribbons, STAR medals, Gold Card prizes, award certificates and classroom rewards.

Each student that goes a month without a pink slip or an office referral earns an extra 15 minutes of recess, called Wildcat Playday. Students that score proficient or advanced on the Hawthorne School District Unit benchmark in math and language arts receive a green ribbon during an awards assembly. Depending on the grade level, the students have up to seven opportunities to earn a ribbon in math and five in language arts.

In October, the third-, fourth- and fifth-graders who scored proficient or advanced received a medal during the Go for the Green awards assembly. Students and staff wore green that day, students were presented with a medal, and food services provided a barbecue.

Each month, students earn Gold Cards for their positive actions in the classroom and on the playground. Each teacher collects the Gold Cards and chooses a winner. That student reports to our special-projects teacher to choose a prize.

At the end of each trimester, students are rewarded with certificates in the following four categories: perfect attendance, outstanding effort, principal's list and honor roll. The parents are invited to attend an awards assembly for the particular grade level, which is truly a special event.

Finally, the grade-level teams choose a goal for each benchmark test based on previous results. The teachers communicate the goal to the students. Then, the classrooms that score at or above the goal are rewarded with a classroom prize of popcorn or a similar type of treat.

Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771



Kathy Carbajal
Principal

Parents On the Move

At Zela Davis School, our Parent Education Partnership continues to grow. We truly appreciate all the support our parent volunteers provide to students and staff. They assist with classroom projects, student supervision, advisory councils, parent workshops, and all fund-raising activities. Our parents have also done a phenomenal job supporting our efforts to achieve silver recognition from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. They support our bi-weekly student walking clubs, participate in the Hawthorne 5K, and provide their children with healthier options for school snacks.

This year they have taken their support one step further by being excellent role models to our students and stressing the importance of making exercise part of their daily routines. Led by our School Site Council chair, Angel Santiago, our parents meet on campus three times per week for morning calisthenics, stretching, and jogging. Our parents have a great time coming together, with the added bonus of becoming physically fit!



SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent

to be closed to through traffic during the school day. The city has been extremely helpful in this process and we have made excellent progress. A public hearing is scheduled at City Hall on April 24th on the matter. The City Manager, City Attorney, the Mayor, and the entire City Council have been very supportive of our collaborative efforts. I look forward to resolution to this issue in the very near future.

I would like to congratulate Jaylen Moulton of Hawthorne Middle School who is our Spelling Bee champion. The sixth annual Hawthorne School District Spelling Bee took place on March 28th at Hawthorne Middle School. Each K – 8 school is represented by students who were determined to be the champion in individual classrooms and then went on to a school contest. The students are eligible in fourth through eighth grades. It was a great competition and each of the participants should be very proud of their accomplishment.

As we enter the last quarter of the school year there are many more events to come. Hawthorne School District has so many wonderful opportunities for our students and families. I look forward to highlighting more in the near future.

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

Los padres de las escuelas Eucalyptus, York, y Ramona han expresado sus temores con respecto a la seguridad de los estudiantes al cruzar la calle para llegar de un lado de la escuela al otro durante horas de clases. Nuestro distrito ha estado trabajando muy de cerca con la ciudad de Hawthorne para que las calles en estas tres escuelas estén cerradas al tránsito durante horas de escuela. La ciudad nos ha apoyado en este proceso y hemos hecho un progreso excelente. Se ha programado una audiencia pública sobre este asunto en el ayuntamiento de la ciudad el día 24 de abril. El administrador de la ciudad, abogado de la ciudad, alcalde de la ciudad, y el comité completo de la ciudad, han sido de un gran apoyo en nuestros esfuerzos colaborativos. Espero tener una solución a este asunto en un futuro próximo.

Quisiera felicitar a Jaylen Moulton estudiante de la escuela Intermedia de Hawthorne y campeona del Sexto Concurso de Ortografía que se llevó a cabo el 28 de marzo en la Escuela Intermedia de Hawthorne. Todas las escuelas de niveles de K-8 grado son representadas por estudiantes que obtuvieron el campeonato en sus respectivos salones y después en concurso a nivel escuela.

Estudiantes del cuarto al octavo grado son elegibles para este concurso. Fue una gran competencia y todos los participantes deberán sentirse muy orgulloso de sus logros.

Se avecinan muchos eventos en estos cuatro últimos meses del año escolar. El Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne tiene muchas y magnificas oportunidades para nuestros estudiantes y sus familias. Espero con ansiedad poder destacar muchos más de estos eventos en un futuro cercano.

Hawthorne School District

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Estimados Padres,

Usted puede haber leído acerca de que el USDA permite el uso de carne magra de textura fina del suministro nacional de carne de res molida. Aquí están algunos hechos.

Carne de res magra de textura fina (LFTB) por sus siglas en ingles.

- LFTB es seguro, un producto de proteína de alta calidad, y es muy bajo en grasas.
- LFTB es el resultado de recortes de carne de res de alta calidad, como bistec. La grasa se separa de los recortes, resultando en la LFTB.
- LFTB ha sido un componente aceptable de la carne molida comprada por el Departamento de Agricultura (USDA) para su distribución, no sólo para los almuerzos escolares, pero en los restaurantes y tiendas de comestibles, por casi dos décadas.
- El hidróxido de amonio mantiene nuestro suministro de carne molida de res segura.
- Hidróxido de amonio se utiliza como una ayuda de proceso para producir LFTB.
- El hidróxido de amonio se encuentra en la lista GRAS de Food and Drug Administration, "Generalmente Reconocida como Segura".

De la carne proporcionada por USDA para el programa de almuerzos escolares del Distrito de Hawthorne, menos del 6% tiene LFTB este año y el próximo año tendrá cero por ciento. Con o sin LFTB, nuestra carne es segura y sabrosa. Tenemos más de una opción de almuerzo, por lo que su niño puede decir que no a la carne de res y aún así ser alimentado en la cafetería de su escuela.

Así es como la historia de la carne se desarrolló:

- Beef Products Inc., (BPI) el productor de LFTB no fue transparente a todos sus clientes.
- El USDA no fue transparente a los distritos escolares, cuando nos dieron la carne molida de res.
- La activista no proporcionó todos los datos a los periodistas y fueron llamados "los agresores".
- Los periodistas hicieron la historia sensacional de 30 segundos en el noticiero de las 6, sin un informe completo.
- BPI cerró plantas en Amarillo, Texas; Condado de Finney, Kansas; y Waterloo, Iowa.
- Aproximadamente 650 personas fueron despedidas.
- Los precios de la carne subirá.
- La moraleja de esta historia es que seamos transparentes en nuestras acciones con los demás y de basar nuestras decisiones en hechos.

En el Distrito Escolar de Hawthorne, el personal del Departamento de Servicio de Comida seguirá haciendo todo lo posible para proporcionar a los estudiantes alimentos seguros, saludables, sabrosos y aceptables que estén dentro de las restricciones presupuestarias y las regulaciones federales. Ponemos nuestro mejor esfuerzo hacia adelante, porque nos importa.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud por favor llame al 310-263-3990.

Dear Parents,

You may have read about the USDA allowing the use of Lean Finely Textured Beef in the nation's supply of ground beef. Here are a few facts.



Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB)

- LFTB is a safe, high quality protein product, and is very low in fat.
- LFTB is the result of trimming higher quality beef cuts, such as steaks. The fat is separated from the trimmings, resulting in the LFTB.
- LFTB has been an acceptable component of the ground beef purchased by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for distribution, not just for school lunches but in restaurants and grocery stores.
- Ammonium hydroxide keeps our ground beef supply safe.
- Ammonium hydroxide is used as a processing aid to produce LFTB.
- Ammonium hydroxide is on the Food and Drug Administration's GRAS list, "Generally Recognized as Safe".

Of the USDA meat provided to us for the Hawthorne School District lunch program, less than 6% has LFTB this year and zero percent will have it next year. With or without LFTB, our beef is safe and tasty. We have more than one lunch choice, so your child may say no to the beef and still be nourished in your school's cafeteria.

Here is how the beef story unfolded:

- Beef Products Inc., (BPI) the producer of LFTB was not transparent to all their customers.
- The USDA was not transparent to the school districts when they provided us with ground beef.
- The activist did not provide all the facts to the news reporters and were called "bullies".
- The news reporters made "pink slime" the 30 second sensational story on the 6 o'clock news, without a full report.
- BPI closed plants in Amarillo, Texas; Finney County, Kansas; and Waterloo, Iowa.
- Approximately 650 people were laid off.
- Beef prices will rise.
- The moral of the story is for us to be transparent in our dealings with others and base our decisions on facts.

At Hawthorne School District, the staff in the Food Service Department will continue to do our best to provide the students with safe, healthful, tasty, acceptable foods that stay within budgetary constraints and federal regulations.

We put our best forward because we care.

Please call 310-263-3990 if you have any questions or concerns.