

FREE

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Districts of: Centralia, Cypress, & Savanna

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

MAY–AUGUST 2012

Building Conceptual Understanding in Centralia School District

*By Diane Scheerhorn, Superintendent
Centralia School District*

Centralia School District is the lead local education agency for Collaboration for Leadership and Improvement in Math Education (CLIME).

This California Math and Science Partnership Grant includes: the Centralia, Magnolia, and Cypress School Districts; three local private schools; California State University, Fullerton; and Chapman University. The 68 teacher participants receive 84 hours of professional development annually, with a focus on improving student achievement in mathematics while building independent problem-solving skills.

Math lessons in grant participants' classrooms revolve around the central idea that students need to develop a conceptual understanding of math content before they can be



Danbrook School third grade teacher, Denise VandenRaadt, with students Riddhi Fnu and Jesus Valle.

expected to apply algorithms. To aid students in developing this understanding, teachers use manipulatives to teach content and then ask students to use these same tools to find answers and justify findings. Students learn to represent the problem-solving process in the form of pictures,

graphs, tables, and other visual representations. They then transition to using algorithms to solve equations and justify their reasoning. "How did you get that answer?" is a common question posed in CLIME classrooms. Grant participants value student ability to articulate the problem-

solving process as much as they value the actual answer.

In Centralia School District, grant participants have noted an increase in the students' ability to think critically and persevere in the problem-solving process. Teachers have also reported that many students are now motivated to independently tackle challenging problems, which will serve them well as we transition to the Common Core State Standards.

Centralia School District has two Teachers on Special Assignment who facilitate this program. Ms. Amy Edmundson is the project director, handling all of the documentation and day-to-day managerial needs of the program. Dr. Renamarie Gibbs, the professional coordinator, handles the professional development.

Centralia's students have already seen the benefits of this partnership in increasing math achievement and understanding. We are grateful for the opportunity to bring this program to our students and multiply their math abilities.

Cypress Library Events

By Susan Pina, Children's/Teen Librarian

Cypress Library offers live homework help on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3–5 p.m. Elementary and middle school students are welcome to come into the library's community room for free homework assistance from high school volunteers. Peer tutoring and high school students assisting other high school students is also encouraged. Homework Help will end for the school year on June 6.

Story Time is on Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. (for toddlers), and 10:30 a.m. (for preschoolers). Upcoming dates are May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Bodey the Storytime Dog is coming to the library! Children may read to a "really good listener," because Bodey will be here from 2–3 p.m. on Saturday, May 12 and Saturday, May 26. Also on Saturdays are our Movie Matinees in May. The movie titles and dates will be announced.

The Summer Reading Program begins in July, with preregistration starting on June 25. E-Reader and computer training sessions are also offered by appointment.

Especially for teens: The Summer Reading Program is right around the corner. Teens (those entering grades 7–12) are invited to volunteer at the library this summer. Applications will be available starting on June 2. The teen volunteer orientation will be held on June 14 from 3–5 p.m. in the library community room.

For more details: 714/826-0350 • 5331 Orange Ave., Cypress • www.ocpl.org



Please see page 5–Danbrook Elementary School.

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92628
714/966-4000 www.ocde.us

English Learners: Where do We Shine the Light?



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

In the past decade, the achievement gap of English Learners (ELs) in the United States has received considerable attention. The achievement gap refers to the disparity measured by test scores or graduation rates between different groups of students. Under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, these groups are based on racial or ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic status, student disability, or English language proficiency. In Orange County, the test scores for non-native English speakers continue to rise and be above state averages, a gap persists between ELs and monolingual English speakers.

While shining a light on the achievement gap has drawn resources and attention to disparities in performance, one downside is a tendency for stakeholders to point fingers in search of causes. Attention on who is to blame hinders efforts to ensure that all students achieve equal outcomes. Instead, educators, parents, and community members must work locally and collaboratively with a focus on promising practices that serve all of our children. These practices range from knowing our students and examining data to professional development and leadership.

In terms of knowing our students, ELs are a diverse and often misunderstood group. Data shows that 75% of ELs are born in the United States, and while three-quarters of ELs speak Spanish at home, ELs speak more than 150 different languages. This diversity requires targeted solutions. According to prominent researcher Laurie Olsen, newcomers have different instructional needs than Long-Term English Learners (LTELs), students who are typically born in the United States but speak a language other than English at home, and have been struggling academically for a number of years.

SEE OC DEPT. OF ED • PAGE 10



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is our last issue for this school year. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Congratulations Caleb Kwon—winner of our Word Search in March. We did not have space for a contest in this issue, but you can take our Survey on our web site and be entered to win \$100. Just log onto www.schoolnewsrollcall.com and click on the Mr. Ruler cartoon.

Have a wonderful summer and we'll be back with our next issue in September.

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
CENTRALIA, CYPRESS,
AND SAVANNA
SCHOOL DISTRICTS



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Canyon Panther Soccer Academy
est. 1998
"Development is our goal. Teaching is our business."

2012/13 CLUB SOCCER TRYOUTS U9 – U18

Tryout Dates
U9 thru U14
Looking for Players
U15 thru U18 April/May
Check Website for Dates & Times

SCAN THIS QR CODE with your Smart Phone

Canyon PSA is an organized youth soccer club for girls and boys ages U9 to U18. We participate in The Coast Soccer League, play 10 months out of the year.

- Club Director **Eddie Carrillo** (Men's Soccer Coach, Chapman University)
- Asst. Club Director **Sal Lopez** (Men's Asst. Soccer Coach, Chapman University)
- Technical Director **Luis Balboa** (Former International Professional Player)

We provide a very experienced and professional staff:

- Goal Keeper Coach, **Bob Amman** (Men's Soccer Coach, Cal State Fullerton)
- Girls Coach, **Lindsey Huie-Morinaga** (Former U of Portland player & National Player)
- Girls Coach, **Dale Irvine** (Former Professional Player)
- Boys Coach, **Ivan Polic** (Former Professional Player)

We are a strong competitive club that continues to grow and thrive and develop solid players on and off the soccer field. We measure success by the number of our players in collegiate level soccer and their success in all aspects of life.

www.canyonpsa.com

The Theatre Guild and Children's Repertory Theater Presents

12 Dancing Senioritas from Brazil

A salute to the great music of Latin America based upon the story of the "12 Dancing Princesses"

May 31 – June 10, 2012
Thursday – Saturday at 7:30p.m.
Sundays at 2:00p.m.

Regular Prices: Adults \$15 • Children / Seniors \$13
Sunday June 10: Children's Service Organization Day
Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts & Camp Fire USA Members in Uniform \$5 / Parents \$10
Sundays: Senior Days: Seniors \$10
Fridays: Jr. & Sr. High School Students \$10 with ID

For information call (714) 827-9141 or visit www.seclo.org
Liberty Theater, Los Alamitos JFTB • corner of Lexington/Farquhar

Liberty Theater Presents

Summer Camp!

2012
7 Weeks of theater fun!
9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Monday thru Friday

This will be our 4th summer camp and it will be even bigger and better. The program includes:

- acting • singing • dancing • classes on lighting
- stage craft • make-up • ballroom dancing.

The last two weeks of camp are in production for the fabulous "Aladdin" and the traditional Cotillion.

For information call (714) 827-9141 or visit www.seclo.org
Liberty Theater, Los Alamitos JFTB • corner of Lexington/Farquhar

Registration Monday June 18, 2012

Pre-Registration beginning May 1 at www.seclo.org

Tuition: 1 Child ... \$499.00
2 Children ... \$770.00
3+Children \$1020.00

Payment programs available. Military families are eligible for scholarships.

Centralia School District

6625 La Palma Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3100 • www.cesd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Diane Scheerhorn
Superintendent



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President



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Cristi Woodward
Member



Centralia Education Foundation

The purpose of the Centralia Education Foundation is to provide funding for education, technology, and the arts for all students.

We invite our community to join us for meetings and become a volunteer and contributing member of the Foundation.
For information call 714-228-3131.

Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to:



Centralia Education Foundation
c/o Dr. Nancy Nien
Foundation Treasurer
6625 La Palma Avenue
Buena Park, CA 90620



Centralia School District

Child Care Center

- 25 Years of Experience in providing on site care by a well-educated staff, trained in Child Development
- Before and After School Activities
- Winter, Summer, and Spring Programs
- Reasonable Rates

Club CASA

- An After School Program located at Danbrook, Centralia, San Marino, and Raymond Temple Schools
- Promotes Homework Assistance and other school assistance
- Reasonable rates

Learning Links

Parents are not only their children's first teachers they are the most influential teachers children will ever have, —Andrew Griffin

- A comprehensive interactive center for parents and their children
- Ages 0 to 5 years
- No cost

Walter Knott Education Center

7300 La Palma Avenue, Buena Park, CA 90620
(714) 228-3153

Neighborhood Resource Center

320 Danbrook S. Anaheim, CA 90804 • (714) 228-3235

The mission of the Neighborhood Resource Center is to

- improve the quality • efficiency
- safety for the population of the Centralia School District
- Resources include
- Health Insurance Applications
- Referrals for Medical
- Vision and Dental needs
- Referrals for shelter, food, clothing,
- School needs
- Assistance for Homeless families
- Weekend nutrition backpack program

Preppy Kindergarten - School Year 2012–2013

6625 La Palma Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • (714) 228-3196

- 2 Year Program
- Age 5 by December 2, 2012
- Students given "the gift of time" to develop socially, and academically and master the rigorous Kindergarten Standards
- Placement determined by the Kindergarten assessment
- First year fills in the 'gaps' to ensure kindergarten readiness
- Second year is the kindergarten year

Transitional Kindergarten (TK) - School Year 2012–2013

6625 La Palma Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • (714) 228-3196

- Age of 5 by November 1, 2012
- 2 year program (TK and K)
- TK year is developmentally appropriate curriculum
Aligned with K standards
- Credentialed teachers
- Multiple assessments
- Continuous parent communication

Buena Terra *Elementary*

8299 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3220



Peter Cole
Principal

Literacy Step by Step

As adults, we forget how daunting it can be to learn to read, but without that skill, learning becomes impossible. At Buena Terra, we work very hard to make sure every student leaves second grade a proficient reader.

Our kindergarten students are introduced to the world of print and are moved along from recognizing letters to connecting them to sounds to reading simple sentences.

In first grade, students are taught to take their decoding skills and put meaning to print. By this time of year, it is wonderful to hear first-graders reading stories with accuracy and with expression.

For some, reading comes easily, but for many students, it takes a great deal of repetition. Students are proud to reach a goal and receive a certificate showing they've reached a new level of instant words or a higher benchmark book.

Buena Terra is proud of our students and their reading progress.



Mrs. Moeller shares stories with her students.

Danbrook *Elementary*

320 Danbrook St., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/228-3230



Erasmo Garcia
Principal

Great Things Are Happening!

The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. —Dr. Seuss

Knowing the strong impact that reading has on student success, Danbrook School worked to motivate students during a monthly celebration of Read Across America. Danbrook kicked off their reading celebration on Read Across America Day with a school-wide assembly, where students gathered to recite the Reader's Oath together. Parents, students and staff celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday on Family Literacy Night with exciting reading activities. Each Friday was a spirit day related to reading.

In alignment with NEA's 2012 Read Across America's theme of "Read with the Trees," 700-plus students buddy-read with the trees on the field and worked on engaging literacy activities in their classrooms. Guest readers were invited from the community to share their own reading experiences. In addition, Danbrook encouraged reading through a schoolwide Read-a-Thon during the month, in which numerous winners were chosen to celebrate with popcorn, movies, raffles, and most importantly, an increased love of reading!

Centralia *Elementary*

195 N. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 • 714/228-3210



Norma Martinez
Principal

Great News Must be Shared!

We are pleased to boast that our very own third-grade teacher Ms. Linda Koning was recently selected as the CSD's Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Koning serves as a wonderful example to all of us about how important it is to have strong expectations for students coupled with exemplary teaching skills. Under her tutelage and special rapport with children our students have flourished and succeeded. Way to go, Ms. K!

We also celebrated the many achievements of our Centralia scholars by recognizing those students who have shown great improvement and proficiency in both ELA and math. While it is almost impossible to be "perfect" in any one thing, we also recently celebrated the 12 students at our school who earned perfect scores on either the math or ELA tests.

Way to go too, Centralia Scholars! We are very proud of your accomplishments, and are looking forward to seeing you continue to achieve academic success here at Centralia School.



G.H. Dysinger *Elementary*

7770 Camellia Dr., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3240



Randy Helms
Principal

Proactive

"You're going to see the principal." That phrase normally stops even the most difficult sixth-grader right in his or her tracks. Most principals would prefer that this did not create the sense of dread that it normally does. At Dysinger Elementary School, we believe it is important to be proactive with students and give them the tools necessary to be successful on a daily basis. Still, there is that select group of students that needs a reminder almost every day, and that is why we developed our Morning Focus Group.

This group is composed of students who have difficulty controlling their behavior. These second- through sixth-grade students meet with me every day immediately after our morning assembly. Each day they present their previous day's behavior assessment to the group. If they've done well, we congratulate them. If they have not, we all help them with ideas about how to do better. Before they depart to take on the day, I shake each student's hand as he or she looks me in the eye and says, "I'm going to have a great day, Mr. Helms." Then we all put our hands in the middle and say, "Great day!" This is not a cure-all, but it lets them know we care about them, and for many of them it is just the little reminder they need. It also takes away the image of the principal as the big, bad wolf and makes me more of a mentor, which is a role I much prefer.



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Los Coyotes *Elementary*

8122 Moody St., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/228-3260



Robyn Yarbrough
Principal

Communication and Strong Partnerships

The faculty and staff at Los Coyotes School believe firmly in effective communication between campus and home. Through several different means, parents and the community are kept informed about important dates and events.

Our school marquee is updated often with highlights for the month, and the bulletin board has new additions weekly. Our Web site at www.cesd.us/loscoyotes is revised with new information twice weekly. There's also a suggestion box in the office, where anyone can leave feedback. Our teachers also maintain classroom

Web sites with valuable information for both parents and students. As is tradition, each week on Sunday evening a Blackboard Connect phone call goes to the homes of all Los Coyotes families with that week's important announcements. Teachers also send home weekly folders, and upper-grade students have daily planners they utilize, courtesy of our incredibly supportive PTSO.

Creating strong partnerships with parents and the community is a primary focus for Los Coyotes. We team up with the city of La Palma for several events throughout the year, the most recent being the Arbor Day Celebration and Art Contest. We've also partnered with Kennedy High School to assist over a dozen Regional Occupational Program students in their desire to become more effective tutors, or perhaps even future educators. Our school's PTSO keeps parents very involved with the school, as well as creating partnerships in the community, local retail establishments, and philanthropic organizations.

Raymond Temple *Elementary*

7800 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3290



Sara Pelly
Principal

Band Jumpers Celebrate Achievement

Our Raymond Temple students, staff and parents recently celebrated their achievement on the 2011 California Standards Test (CST) with a special "Band Jumper" assembly.

The CST is scored by using five levels of achievement: advanced, proficient, basic, below basic and far below basic. Students who moved up a level or "band" in either math or English language arts were awarded bracelets inscribed with the words "Achieve" and "Believe." In addition, those students who were at the proficient level or above in each area received a medal.

Awards were also given out to students who had progressed or reached proficiency on the California Modified Assessment (CMA) and the California Alternate Performance Assessment tests (CAPA), which are given to students in special education.

It was such a great experience focusing on the positive achievements of our students, and also an exciting way to gear up for the upcoming 2012 tests. Congratulations, Raymond Temple scholars!



G.B. Miller *Elementary*

7751 Furman Rd., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/228-3270



Jeanette Salinas
Principal

Miller Fifth-Grade at Tiger Woods

Our Miller fifth-graders had an exciting opportunity to spend a week at the Tiger Woods Learning Center and participate in their Career Orientation Program. This program provides students with an interactive and innovative learning experience to get them thinking about the role that education will play in their futures.

The students' week was filled with fun classes that revolved around the field of marine science. Here they discovered the many aspects of ocean life, including exploration of oceanic regions, analysis of sand samples, and the classification of marine life. They also had an opportunity to dissect a squid in order to learn about its internal and external parts, and to discover the adaptations that help it survive in the marine environment.

To top it all off, our students then received an introduction to golf where they learned how to properly hold and swing a golf club!

The students were ecstatic about their week at Tiger Woods. They all had a great time!



San Marino *Elementary*

6215 San Rolando Way, Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/228-3280



Maria Poulin
Principal

Readers Are Writers and Writers Are Readers

Many children love to read, however some fear writing assignments. Here's why reading improves student writing and writing improves reading comprehension. Correct use of grammar and practicing correct sentence structure in student writing provides students with skills to better comprehend the author's point of view, track the plot and to follow the text's chronology. It is also critical that students make the connection between the writing process and a completed writing assignment. Here are five steps to make writing easier.

Step 1. Prewrite: This is a time to brainstorm and talk about the topic. Share ideas with someone else before moving on.

Step 2. Draft: Write a first copy - without worrying about mistakes! It can be messy, as long as it's readable.

Step 3. Revise: Read through the paper at least once. Does everything make sense? Are there more exciting or sophisticated ways to say things?

Step 4. Edit: Read through the paper again and check small details, including grammar, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.

Step 5. Review: Almost finished! Read the paper aloud to catch any remaining mistakes.

Cypress School District

9470 Moody St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6900 • www.cypsd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Beverly M. Hempstead
Superintendent

School Modernization on Track

In 2008, Cypress School District passed a General Obligation Bond for modernization of its schools. With the passage of Measure M, the modernization of schools continues on track. Despite the state's current financial condition, the Board of Trustees is to be commended for their commitment to prioritizing our schools. Vessels Elementary School was the first school modernized, with the beautifully renovated school site opening for the 2010–2011 school year. King Elementary School held its grand reopening on October 14, 2011, showcasing a beautiful state-of-the-art computer lab and SMARTBoards in every classroom. Morris Elementary School students continue to meet at Dickerson Elementary School in their interim housing, with modernization scheduled for completion at Morris by the opening of the 2012–2013 school year.

As a result of the state's current financial condition and depressed property values, the Board took action to slow the program, modernizing one school rather than two next year. We are looking forward to the upcoming modernization and expansion of Luther Elementary School, which will begin in the fall of 2012. Luther students will be located at their interim site for 2012–2013, on the closed Swain School campus. Cypress School District's updated modernization schedule is below:

- 2009–2010: Vessels expansion and modernization completed
- 2010–2011: King modernization completed
- 2011–2012: Morris modernization completed in fall 2012
- 2012–2013: Luther modernization on track
- 2013–2014: Arnold Elementary School modernization
- 2014–2015: Landell Elementary School modernization
- 2015–2016: Contingency projects at all sites

The Cypress School District continues to be appreciative of the community support we have received, and we will continue to provide updates about the progress of our school modernization projects using Measure M funds. For more information, please see the Web site at www.cypsd.k12.ca.us.

Arnold Elementary

9281 Denni St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6965



Denine Kelly
Principal

Spring Celebrations

Arnold Elementary School has been busy this spring! We have several new tools available this year to help teachers determine where students' strengths are and where they need additional support. With full implementation of our District Benchmark Assessments and the availability of Study Island, teachers can see which of the state standards students have mastered and which require more instruction. This allows us to target specific needs more accurately and better prepare our students for success.

Grade-level teams are working together to design instruction appropriately. We can't wait to see our students shine on state testing this year!

Arnold is once again excited to participate in the Orange County Math Field Day event. Our team of fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students is preparing to compete against other schools in the county in math-related activities. The team members can be spotted walking around campus with their Rubik's cubes, trying to master the cube faster than their fellow competitors. Thanks to teachers Jan Wright and Erin Kahlert for coaching our team this year!

Arnold was also excited to celebrate the return of the PTA Carnival on April 28. It has been several years since Arnold hosted a carnival, so the anticipation was high for this great family event. The international theme included food and fun from different cultures. Thanks to our PTA for their hard at work lining up food, games, talent, and more. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Arnold families to come together!



Donna Erickson
President



David Giese
Clerk

Cypress School District Board of Education



Brian Nakamura
Vice President



Stephen Blount
Member



Valeri Wagner
Member

King Elementary

8710 Moody St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6980



Carol Erbe
Principal

Community Partnerships

We are proud to announce that King School has received a grant to become a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) School! This grant will help to fund training, substitutes, materials and ongoing coaching to enhance our positive school climate. Benefits of becoming a PBIS School include increasing prosocial behaviors, closing the achievement gap, increasing instructional minutes, enhancing safety procedures, decreasing discipline referrals, increasing attendance, and improving school culture and climate. We are excited about the positive changes

that this grant will bring to King School.

In addition to PBIS, King is also fortunate to be supported by many other organizations and community-support services. We are proud to participate in the MIND Research Institute's ST Math Program, a computer-based critical-thinking program that allows students to use computer simulations to strengthen mathematical reasoning skills. This is in addition to our newly acquired computer program, Study Island, which focuses on grade-level standards and is used by all grade levels, both in the computer lab and in the classrooms.

King's longtime partnership with a professional symphony orchestra continues with our Class Act Music Program. This year, our students are studying the American composer Aaron Copland. Class lessons are taught by a professional percussionist. Students are enjoying history, music appreciation and performance-based music lessons from this partnership. All students will participate in a

Class Act BRAVO Assembly on Friday, June 8, to showcase what they have learned from their Class Act music lessons.

The King Community appreciates the support we receive from all of our community partnerships.



Clara J. King School completed modernization

Landell *Elementary*

9739 Denni St., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6960



M. J. Beatty
Principal

Caring for Our Waterways

Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers and oceans are important to us all. We thank the fifth-grade staff for writing and successfully receiving a grant from the Ocean Institute in Dana Point for our fifth-graders to participate in an in-depth study of our local watersheds in Cypress. To prepare for this local activity, the Ocean Institute provided hands-on learning activities, including a field trip to Dana Point in the fall during which boarded the *Sea Explorer* to collect samples from the ocean floor and then returned to shore to dissect specimens and analyze their findings.

In the following weeks, students continued with an in-depth study of their own local watersheds. Using the scientific method, they worked in cooperative groups in their classroom labs to prepare their experiments under the guidance of our fifth-grade teachers, scientists from the Institute and Gonzalo Vazquez, water quality-control manager for the city of Cypress. Mr. Vazquez provided a presentation on our local water issues, shared concrete examples of waste in our local area, and brought water samples from throughout the city for students to analyze.

The students worked in teams to prepare PowerPoint presentations that they gave in January at the auditorium at the Institute to students from other schools, parents, staff and other dignitaries. There was an enormous sense of pride as we listened to our Landell fifth-graders share what they had learned along the way. We can be certain that these students will do their part to protect our waterways and will enthusiastically participate in future Science Fair projects.

Morris *Elementary*

10051 Bernadette Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/220-6995



Jeannette Lohrman
Principal

Literally—and Literarily—Accomplished

Spring has come quickly, and Morris Mustangs are raring to go! We started the month by showcasing our Young Authors' outstanding creative writings in kindergarten through sixth grade. This wonderful evening affair was attended by the parents, grandparents and siblings of the promising young writers. The dedication of Morris teachers to comprehensively teaching the writing process was evident in the students' work. All the families in attendance enjoyed listening as students had the opportunity to read their works to the audience assembled.

March also brought us our Awards Assemblies in which individual students are recognized for accomplishments such as outstanding academic work, personal success and citizenship.

Morris PTA is sponsoring a Book Fair on campus. Our Book Fairs expose students to a variety of literature and are a cost-effective avenue for getting books into the hands of students. Our goal is for our children to read, read, read—every day!



Modernization construction on site of Juliet Morris School

And we did show off a bit! We rounded out March with Open House—one of the most exciting events of the school year for everyone. Students and teachers worked extremely hard to prepare classrooms and student work to share with friends and family. If you were there, you saw for yourself!

Luther *Elementary*

4631 La Palma Ave., La Palma, CA 90623 • 714/220-6918



Jacki Teschke
Principal

Journey to the Planets and Beyond

Luther Elementary School's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students visited the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a federally funded research and development facility managed by the California Institute of Technology for the National Space and Aeronautics Association (NASA). Students observed the model of Curiosity, a new probe going to Mars and scientists at the Mission Control Center sending signals to the space probe. They also learned that Curiosity uses plutonium for its power. Students were intrigued to watch scientists conducting tests on Curiosity, and they watched a video depicting what it will look like when Curiosity lands on Mars.



Student Evan L. stated that visiting the laboratory helped him understand how important it is to test things before you use them. Danica P. commented that the scientists appeared very devoted to their jobs, and she wants an important job like that someday. Justin C. said that he would like to be an analyzer someday and help test the probe or make batteries from plutonium.

Vessels *Elementary*

5900 Cathy Ave., Cypress, CA 90630 • 714/220-6990



Jane Snyder
Principal

Healthy Habits

Academics aren't the only priority at Vessels School. We also encourage students to develop healthy habits. The students recently finished four weeks of Walk Around America (WAA). We began this annual journey with a kick-off on February 14 at our Loved Ones Luncheon. As a school, we traveled 9,550 miles.

During noon recess, each student was required to complete at least two laps on the quarter-mile track. However, most students completed additional laps, striving to meet the benchmarks of the Five- and 10-Mile Clubs. At the end of WAA, students with the highest miles participated in the school-wide kickball game with the staff. Our top primary students traveled 52 miles, or an average of three and a half miles per day. Our top upper-grade student traveled 72 miles, or an average of four miles per day.

WAA is one of our actions plans to support our school improvement goal of improving physical fitness. Our goal reads that at least 80 percent of our students



Frank Vessels School completed modernization

must meet their grade-level benchmarks on our quarter-mile track. The benchmarks for first through fourth grades are one lap for each grade level. Fifth- and sixth-graders complete four timed laps without walking.

Savanna School District

1330 S. Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3805 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Sue Johnson
Superintendent

Letting Our Pride Show!

As we look at our accomplishments during the 2011–2012 school year, we cannot help but let our pride show! When a school district holds great expectations and believes that the best opportunities are yet to unfold, wonderful things can happen for students. Cerritos School modernization is nearly complete with a ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony for the newly renovated campus planned for Thursday, May 31 at 3:15 p.m.; the modernized campus will be ready for occupancy beginning in the fall.

We welcome the community to take part in our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, which will be followed by guided tours of the newly modernized campus. Photos of the progress on Cerritos School can be found on our Web site under the School Bond Projects drop-down menu. These capital improvements will affect our children's education and our community for generations to come.

It is the goal of the Savanna School District to provide the most exemplary educational opportunities for children both now and into the future. With the elimination of state funding for our next two school modernizations, it is necessary to fund all projects with local monies. It is because of this that the Board of Trustees has placed Measure G on the June 2012 ballot. Funding from this local bond measure will ensure Reid and Holder Schools receive the same level of modernization as Cerritos and Hansen Schools. If you would like to learn more about Measure G or volunteer to assist, please visit www.greatsavannaschools.org. To maintain strong student achievement and high-quality education, all of our local elementary schools, including Reid and Holder, need essential improvements, repairs and upgrades. Our schools must add 21st-century learning technology to support today's academic standards in reading, math, science, and writing. Measure G will provide local funding, which cannot be taken by the state, to complete improvements and repairs to our 50-year-old local elementary schools. Our students deserve no less.

We are very proud of student learning that can be evidenced throughout classrooms in the district, including the implementation of a Transitional Kindergarten program at two sites. The Transitional Kindergarten program is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program designed to prime young kindergartners for school success. This program has provided students with a

strong educational foundation in a stimulating environment, which has fostered physical, social-emotional and intellectual development. We can't help but let our pride show in the student successes resulting from our Transitional Kindergarten program! We would love to share all the wonderful examples of student learning with our community, and we welcome you to attend any of the Open Houses scheduled during the month of May, where you will see firsthand why we are so proud of our students and staff!

Our pride also shows in the increased reading comprehension and fluency levels of all of our students this year. Our newly implemented benchmark assessments have provided teachers with immediate, formative feedback on how their students are performing, which ensures the instructional program is appropriate to students' needs. These assessments have helped teachers determine whether students are meeting or exceeding standards. These benchmark assessments have demonstrated increased student achievement in all areas of the curriculum. We have seen remarkable growth in students' reading comprehension and fluency. Fluency is the ability to read text accurately and quickly. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. They group words quickly to help them gain meaning from what they read. Fluent readers read aloud effortlessly and with expression. Fluency is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. This commitment to focused, strategic teaching and learning for our students has resulted in incredible success! We are very proud of all the hard work and dedication to learning on the part of all of our students and staff!

When I reflect on what makes a good school district a GREAT school district, I recognize that it is people: people like our staff, who are committed to what they do each day to ensure student success that we can be proud of; people like our parents, who provide the home support for our students so that they can reach their potential; and people like all those in our community, who have contributed to our successes in so many ways. Our successes are YOUR successes. Because of all of the support from a wide variety of people in our community the 2011–2012 year has been a successful one in which we take tremendous pride, and...The Best Is Still Yet To Come!

Savanna Educational Foundation

Purpose: To support the educational and enrichment programs for students in Savanna School District.

Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to:

Savanna Educational Foundation



Mail to:
Albert Acosta
Foundation Treasurer
1330 S. Knott Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92804



Carol Sundman
President



Chris Brown
Vice President



Linda Weinstock
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John Shook
Member

Savanna School District Board of Education

Cerritos *School*

Corner of Holder and Orange Ave.s, Buena Park, CA 92804 • 714/236-3830 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Cerritos/cerrhome.htm



Dr. Jerry Friedman
Principal

A Community Effort

Many Cerritos staff members took on a different role in March when they helped to raise funds for our PTA. It turns out that quite a few of us worked at the McDonald's restaurant on Valley View Avenue in Cypress!

There were an amazingly large number of Cheetah families who went to McDonald's to see us in action. We were even told that we set a record for the most sales of any school! It was a great community event which raised a lot of money for the Cerritos PTA, and a great time was had by all.

Cerritos School was also fortunate to receive the services of the Anaheim Achieves Literacy Project to help assist third- and fourth-graders with their reading. Small groups of students participated in lessons taught by a credentialed teacher to help increase fluency and improve comprehension.

The students were recognized for their efforts in a culminating event at which they all received certificates and awards. One student commented that, "Now I feel like I can volunteer to read aloud in class!" The program was a great success.

Thanks to funds from Measure N, the buildings, internal structures and general facilities at Cerritos School are currently being modernized, upgraded and updated. We are now looking forward to moving back home and beginning the 2012-2013 year at our new, modern school!

We are all very appreciative of the community for voting to approve the original bond issue that made this happen. Thank you!

Hansen *School*

1300 South Knott Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3835 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Hansen/hanhome.htm



Shannon Wyatt
Principal

Students Are the Inspiration

Many times the most inspiring ideas come from the most innocent places. At Hansen School, the inspiration for a few of our most successful programs comes directly from our exceptional students.

When we asked for a way to increase student attendance, one of our Hansen Huskies suggested the idea of a fast pass. At each lunch period, the classroom with the best attendance the week before gets to "cut" in line and be the first to get their food!

Students can't wait for the Monday morning announcement to see which class wins the fast pass for the week!

At a student's recommendation, we've begun Buddy Lunches, where each sixth-grader is assigned a kindergarten buddy and each fifth-grader is assigned a first-grade buddy. The older buddy helps the younger buddy through the hot lunch line, assists with opening their milk, and helps throw away the trash. Not only has this system helped with the efficiency of the lunch period, lifelong friendships have been formed between older and younger students.

When we wondered how we could celebrate good students at our school, one of our students suggested the Outstanding Club. All students, regardless of academic achievement, who receive all Os on their report cards for work habits and citizenship receive bracelets inscribed with the word "Outstanding." Teachers and staff members can now easily recognize the wonderful students who make Hansen a great place to learn.

Holder *School*

9550 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/236-3840 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Holder/holdhome.htm



Ona Sandi
Principal

A Half-Century of Success

2011-12 marks Holder School's 50th birthday! This is a huge milestone in the school's history and a once-in-a-lifetime event! Holder School opened its doors in the fall of 1962 and is gearing up to celebrate 50 years of educating children. To commemorate this special occasion, a schoolwide community event will take place on May 31 with the unveiling of a time capsule, a commemorative tile wall mural and class performances of songs from the past five decades. As part of our celebration, we are reaching out to find former students, staff, parents and community members who would like to join in the celebration. If you are a former student, parent or staff member or are a part of the Holder School community and would like to participate in helping to celebrate the past 50 years, we are looking for you!

As Holder School celebrates the past, we are also looking toward the future and are excited about continuing to provide an outstanding education for students during the next 50 years! Come help us celebrate the wonderful legacy that is Holder School as we work to prepare the next generation.

Twila Reid *School*

720 S. Western Ave., Anaheim, CA 92804 • 714/236-3845 • www.savsd.k12.ca.us/Reid/reidhome.htm



Dr. Bob Pipes
Principal

Celebrating Reading

Twila Reid School emphasizes the importance of reading all year long, but we also occasionally celebrate it officially.

That's because each year a week-long celebration of reading takes place during our popular "Read Across America" event. During this time guest readers can be found in our classrooms engaging in a variety of constructive reading activities with the children.

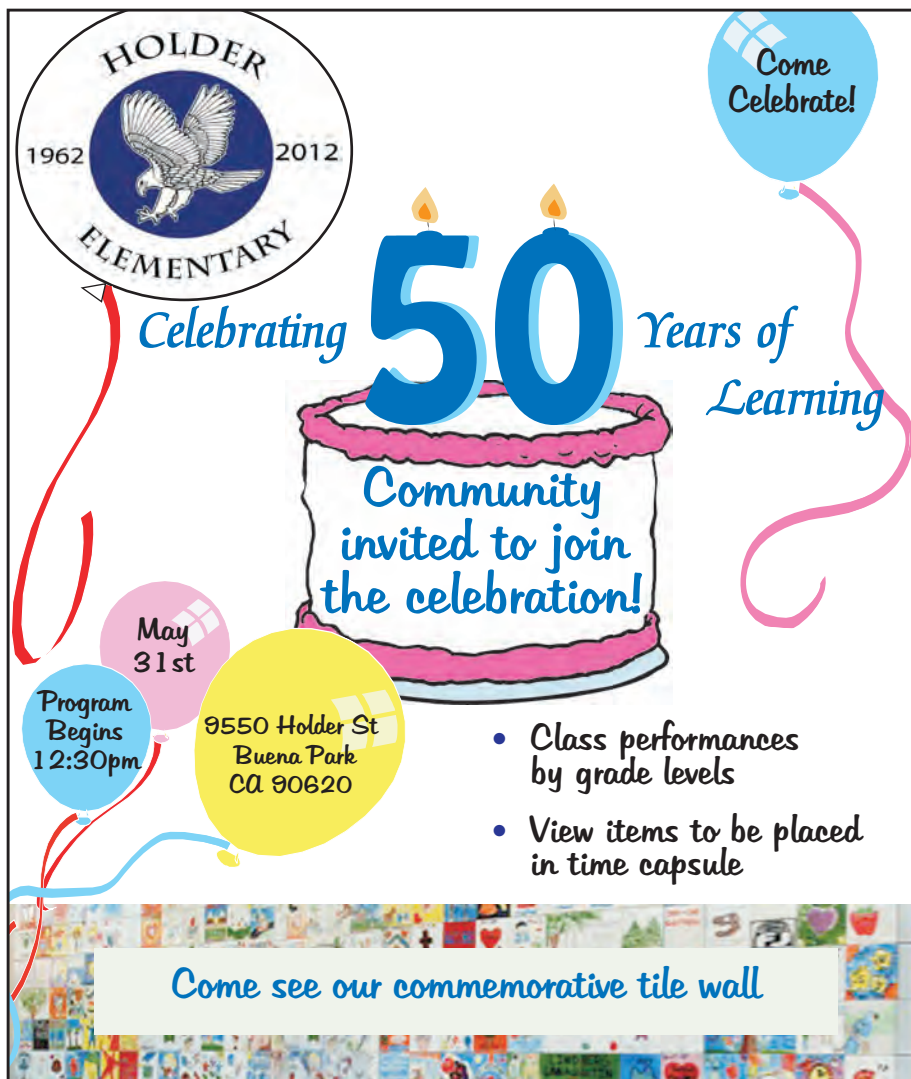
But the highlight of the week is definitely the Dr. Seuss Reading Parade. Each student creates special posters to carry in the parade that feature either a favorite book, a favorite author, or just proclaim the student's love for reading. Many students and teachers also wear a "Cat in the Hat" hat during the parade, too.

The local high school even participates in this special event. Band members provide marching music and high school cheerleaders wave their pompoms and do stunts as the students pass by. The student council members from the high school also form a victory tunnel through which our students and teachers pass amid the many cheers and shouts from the crowd.

The Dr. Seuss Reading Parade is a family celebration. Parents and other family members attend it taking photos, hugging their children or just cheering everyone on as they march by! At its conclusion the parents remain with us to have a special lunch with their families.

Read Across America Week, and the Dr. Seuss Reading Parade, are both shining examples of how reading is celebrated at Twila Reid School.





Holder Elementary
1962 2012

Celebrating 50 Years of Learning

Community invited to join the celebration!

May 31st

Program Begins 12:30pm

**9550 Holder St
Buena Park
CA 90620**

- Class performances by grade levels
- View items to be placed in time capsule

Come see our commemorative tile wall

Come Celebrate!

OC DEPT. OF ED • FROM PAGE 2



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

Fortunately, certain best practices have demonstrated effectiveness for ELs. The California Department of Education's recent publication, "Improving Education for English Learners: Research-Based Approaches", details such promising practices as bilingual and dual language immersion programs, English Language Development (ELD), and sheltered content instruction to name a few.

Comprehensive professional development is necessary to meet the specific needs of ELs. For instance, Orange County Department of Education's "Leadership for EL Success" program consists of five modules ranging from knowing our EL students to leadership and infrastructure. Such models of professional development move beyond simply addressing classroom strategies to weaving research and practice in a facilitated series that provides local leaders the opportunity to support their schools in the area of English language development.

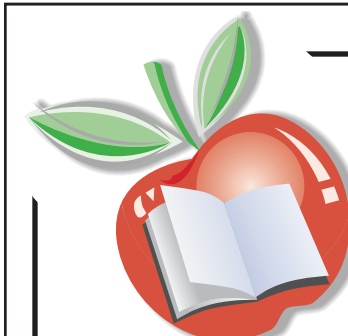
Shared leadership is critical if we are to improve outcomes for ELs. Teachers and principals, students and parents, county and state educators, and business and community members with the courage and discipline to work together will ultimately shine the light on solutions that best serve our children.

For more information, visit www.ocde.us/SSI/Pages/Secondary-School-Leadership-for-English-Learner-Success.aspx or contact Val Callet, Services for English Learners Coordinator, at 714-966-4159.



Have a wonderful summer!

Our next issue is September 5th.


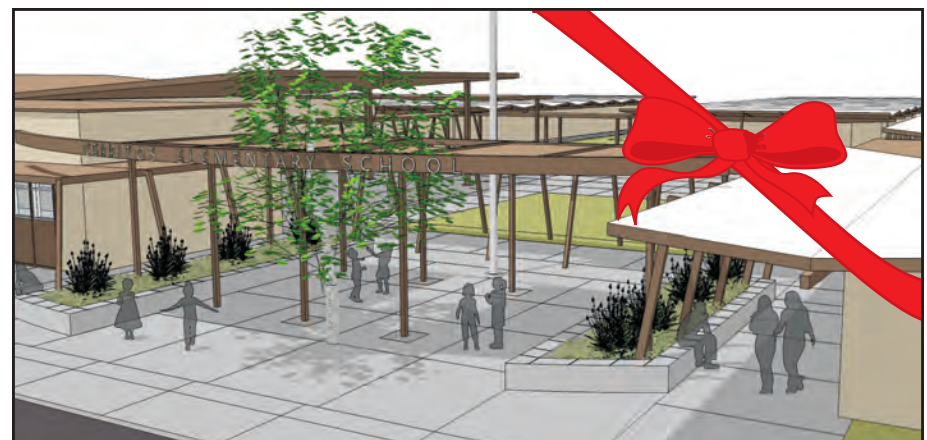


Savanna School District

Full Day Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Programs 2012-2013 School Year

Cerritos School 3731 Cerritos Ave. Anaheim, CA 92804 8:05 am – 2:35 pm	Hansen School 1300 S. Knott Avenue Anaheim, CA 92804 7:50 am – 2:20 pm
Holder School 9550 Holder Street Buena Park, CA 90620 7:40 am – 2:00 pm	Reid School Corner of Holder St. & Orange Ave. Buena Park, CA 90620 8:30 am – 2:45 pm

For registration information, call Savanna School District:
714-236-3800

Cerritos School

Ribbon Cutting

3731 Cerritos Avenue • Anaheim

- Thursday, May 31
- Beginning at 3:15 p.m.

*Tours of the site every 20 minutes immediately following ceremony
Last tour will leave at 5:00 p.m.*



Savanna School District



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Grades 9-12

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