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# School News



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**Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District**

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 37

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NOVEMBER 2012–JANUARY 2013

## SUPERINTENDENT



### A Place Where the Future Happens

As the new superintendent in Carlsbad Unified School District (CUSD), I would like to thank the Board of Education for the opportunity to lead this exceptional school district. Wherever I travel—be it visiting classrooms, talking with teachers, consulting support staff, meeting parents, or attending community events—the reaction is the same. People are proud of their affiliation with our world-class organization.

**Suzette Lovely**

By almost any measure, a good education is the best preparation students have for the opportunities and obstacles that lie ahead. To that end, the CUSD governance team has identified four areas of emphasis for the 2012–2013 school year to prepare students for their future. Each area of emphasis, along with its corresponding priority actions, guides staff efforts in providing a high-quality learning environment for every student:

1. Fiscal Fitness: take appropriate measures to ensure the fiscal stability of the district.

2. Universal Student Achievement: ensure that every student makes significant yearly progress toward achieving meaningful standards in preparation for college and career; begin implementation of the common core curriculum; and expand student access to technology, including on-line learning.

3. Successfully Open a Second High School: ensure Sage Creek High School is embraced by the community and equally as attractive as Carlsbad High School.

4. Enhance Morale: recognize the value and contributions of employees.

Every member of CUSD's workforce is committed to delivering the purposeful learning experiences students deserve and families expect. Test scores continue to outpace both county and state averages. In 2012, the Academic Performance Index (API) grew 14 percent over the previous year to reach an all-time high of 881. Through the collective efforts of teachers, principals, parents, classified staff, and the Board of Education, Carlsbad remains a place where the future happens!

## School is Off to a Great Start!



Aviara Oaks Elementary School 4th grade students are introduced to recorders from Miss Dye.



Kelly Elementary students Nicole Burke, Shaylyn Foley, Angela Austria enjoy the school's Secret Garden.



Aviara Oaks Middle School students encourage Kindness and Respect for Everyone (KARE)

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## MiraCosta College Helps Students Secure High-Paying Local Jobs

North San Diego County native Bryan Taggart took a less traditional route in his pursuit of higher education. After completing high school, like many of his peers, Taggart went away to college, graduating from the University of California Santa Cruz with a bachelor's degree in marine biology. But when he moved back to San Diego, he found the job opportunities in the field were limited. After searching for some time, Taggart learned there were plenty of job openings in the biotechnology industry and decided to enroll in MiraCosta College's Biotechnology Program.

Initially, Taggart only intended to take one or two classes, but after one year he had taken every biotechnology class offered. He earned certificates in laboratory skills, bioprocess technology, and research and development, and then secured a job as a laboratory technician/operations intern at Stemgent, a biotechnology company located in San Diego. After one year and a lot of hard work, Taggart was promoted to research associate.

"In my current position, I work with stem cell cultures, do quality control, and perform research," he shared. "MiraCosta College prepared me very well for my job. Even before I started working at Stemgent, I knew how to operate all of the equipment that I work with in the laboratory every day."

Biotechnology is one of more than 60 areas of study offered at MiraCosta College that prepares students for lucrative, local jobs and a lifetime of higher earnings. An economic impact report prepared by EMSI, a leading provider of socioeconomic impact and strategic planning tools to community colleges, found that students enjoy an attractive 16.9 percent rate of return on their MiraCosta College educational investment. Over the course of a working career, the average MiraCosta College

SEE MIRACOSTA COLLEGE • PAGE 6



**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



Congratulations to Suzette Lovely as your new Superintendent. CUSD truly is a place where the future happens as she states in her article on page one. The City of Carlsbad, MiraCosta College, the Carlsbad Educational Foundation, PTA's, parents, students and the community as a whole come together to support the districts efforts for a positive result.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving. We are always mindful of the men and women serving in our armed services who will not be home with their families for the holidays. We are grateful for their service.

Our next issue is February 20, 2013!

## Covering the CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Parents Need “Me Time” Too



**Kristina Ray**  
Communications  
Manager

If you're like me, you probably scour all the latest catalogs for camps, classes and sports leagues for your kids, but when is the last time you went looking for fun grown-up activities? With kids settled back into the school routine, now is a perfect opportunity for parents to get some much deserved “me time.”

Whether you're looking to stay in shape, de-stress, meet new friends or just get a short break from the demands of parenthood, the City of Carlsbad has so many low-cost and local ways to play.

Why should kids have all the fun playing sports? The city has a very popular adult sports program with leagues for basketball, soccer and softball. Experience the fun once again of playing on a team, while getting exercise and having fun!

Has “Dancing With the Stars” inspired your inner ballroom dancer? How about trying belly dancing – a great workout for the abs! From country line dancing to salsa and merengue, the city offers a variety of dance classes just for grown-ups. Give it a try. You'll be surprised how much fun it can be.

Swimming is great exercise and a wonderful stress reliever, too. Did you know the city's Monroe Street Pool is open seven days a week? The Masters Swim program provides a supervised, coached workout for adults. Don't worry, it's only cold when you first get in.

Or, try a new fitness class, like Health Barre, Tai Chi Chuan, yoga or Jacki Sorenson's Aerobic Dancing. Even if you've never picked up a racquet or swung a club, you can learn to play tennis or golf with the city's professional instructors for as little as \$12 a class.

One of my favorite ways to stay in shape is walking, and the city has more than 45 miles of public trails to explore. You can download trail maps on our website to find out locations, level of difficulty and trail features.

Is art more your thing? How about taking a class in watercolor painting or even Oriental Sumi-e painting?

Speaking of art, the city's Cannon Art Gallery is featuring more than 275 originally designed skateboards and skate decks in its “Full Deck: A Short History of Skate Art” exhibition this fall. These eye-catching pieces are among the purest form of self-expression—highly personal and created without artistic boundaries—just like skateboarding itself. “Full Deck” is on display now through Dec. 30.

And finally, we always are encouraging our kids to read, but when is the last time you enjoyed relaxing for an hour of uninterrupted reading? Carlsbad city libraries are open seven days a week and always open online. The library has a large collection of downloadable audiobooks and audiobooks on CD. E-books are new to the library and can be downloaded from the library's website to iPhones and iPads as well as a variety of e-readers. Titles include everything from best sellers to mysteries to romance. Like to talk about what you're reading and meet new friends? The library's book clubs provide an opportunity to meet new people and read and discuss a wide range of books.

To see the full array of city classes and activities, and to sign up, visit [www.carlsbadconnect.org](http://www.carlsbadconnect.org).

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**CITY OF CARLSBAD**



**Leslie Harden**  
Principal

## A Learning Community

With momentum already in full swing, Aviara Oaks Elementary School (AOE) began the 2012–2013 school year by welcoming a new principal, introducing two new teachers, and celebrating the accomplishments of the previous year.

Principal Leslie Harden was formally introduced at our first day Parent Coffee. She shared with parents her strong belief in the home-school partnership, applauded the commitment to parent involvement already evident at AOE, and shared that she is excited to be a part of such an outstanding educational community.

We also welcomed two classroom teachers and a speech and language specialist to campus. These professionals are new to AOE, but not to teaching. Fifth-grade teacher Joanne Haeussinger comes to AOE by way of Calavera Hills Elementary School and Poinsettia and Calavera Hills Middle Schools. With experience in both elementary and secondary education, she is also a Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) certified master teacher, who believes that all students can accomplish the challenge of a rigorous curriculum. Mrs. Haeussinger said, “I’m looking forward to providing a challenging and enriching environment for all my fifth-grade Eagles.”



**Joanne Haeussinger and Rob Brown**  
are all smiles at being AOE Eagles.

Second-grade teacher Rob Brown was previously at Jefferson and Poinsettia Elementary Schools and Valley Middle School and spent three years teaching in San Diego City Schools. He is highly skilled in differentiated instruction and served as an English language teacher while at the middle school. While student achievement is his primary focus, Mr. Brown also believes strongly in developing strong character. His favorite quote is “Responsible is doing the right thing when no one is watching.”

Kimberley Latham, our speech and language specialist, graduated from California State University, San Marcos and has interned in the Carlsbad Unified School District since 2010 throughout the district. She is excited to be a part of our teaching community. She takes her role in building language seriously, sharing, “If silence is golden, then speech is platinum.” We welcome them to AOE!

Student achievement continues to grow based on last year’s recently released state test scores showing an Academic Performance Index (API) increase of 22 points from 939 to 961. Congratulations to students, staff, and parents for the collaborative efforts made toward continued student achievement!

Many thanks go out to our PTA, the Carlsbad Educational Foundation, and the Friends of Aviara Maintaining Excellence in education (FAME) for their generous support of program specialists on our campus. In place and providing weekly instructional support to our students are a language arts specialist, two physical education specialists, a music teacher, and a science teacher, who provides bi-weekly science instruction. Additionally, support of technology through equipment, software, and training allows our staff to offer an instructional program which integrates technology and enhances our core curriculum. We are so fortunate to have the support of our parents and community!

Aviara Oaks is truly a learning community. Go, Eagles!



**Megan Coelho**  
Principal

## Falcons Already Soaring to New Heights!

In addition to our continual focus on academic achievement by all students, Aviara Oaks Middle School is also focused on creating a dynamic school culture. Our goal is to increase school unity with students, parents, staff and the community. We design activities and programs aligned to our school motto, the Falcon Four: “Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Work Together.” We treat one another respectfully and appreciate how diverse and unique we are. We take responsibility for our actions and ourselves. We conduct ourselves safely. We work together to support and help one another achieve our goals.

October is Bully Prevention Month. At AOMS, our anti-bullying program is composed of a variety of activities designed to promote both kindness and empathy on campus. In October, AOMS held its annual Challenge Day program to kick off the theme. Challenge Day is a program designed to break down barriers so that students get to know one another, build compassion and become positive change agents. Each child is challenged to perform positive contributions or acts of change.

Last year’s Challenge Day spurred the creation of the Be the Change after-school club. Students designed activities to support the mission of being a positive change agent on campus. One activity was hosting an anti-bullying video competition in which students created videos to promote anti-bullying. Other activities included Pay It Forward messages written around campus and kindness challenges to spread positive messages.

## Being the Change

We have many other ways our school encourages kindness and anti-bullying. Our Kindness and Respect for Everyone (KARE) Committee promotes connections between students by introducing new students to our Falcon family. Lunchtime activities are organized so that students interact with one another. Mix-It-Up Days encourage students to mix up whom they eat with at lunch and get to know new people. Our Associated Student Body (ASB) team of students organizes dances and weekly lunchtime activities to support the monthly character traits.



Flash-mob dances and freeze mobs send anti-bullying messages. Our dance classes worked out a flash mob to spread an anti-bullying message and performed a dance against bullying. Drama students created and acted out skits against bullying. Photography students took pictures that showed the negative effects of bullying.

If it sounds as if our Falcon team is busy, we are, but we never take our attention off outstanding academic achievement as the measure of our success. We look forward to a positive and productive school year and appreciate your support. It is surely a great time to be a Falcon!

# Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

1330 Buena Vista Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5400 • www.buenavista.schoolloop.com/



**Tina Howard**  
Principal

## Celebrating the Holidays in Style

Get your Christmas trees, garlands and wreaths at Buena Vista this year! This will be our third year offering high-quality, competitively priced wreaths, garlands and trees. The sales start on November 1, and will run through the third week of the month, with delivery on December 1 at our Holiday Hootenanny.

Our Holiday Hootenanny is scheduled for Saturday, December 1 from 9-1 p.m. Visit with Santa, play games, treat yourself to sweet treats and learn about the multitude of parent businesses that you can support through our school community.

Congratulations goes to all members of BV's learning community for their continued growth on the California Achievement Test. Students in all subgroups and schoolwide made significant gains, including the White-only subgroup, and the socio-economically disadvantaged and Latino-Hispanic subgroups. Check out our school's achievement snapshot at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sq/>.



A big thanks to Campout Chairperson Sally Smith, who organized a fabulous event for everyone who attended. Close to 100 people participated in our annual BV Campout this year. Participants ate burgers and hot dogs, played flag football and watched a movie, all before snuggling up for a night of rest under the stars.

Coffee awaited the adult campers in the morning, along with yogurt, muffins and other yummy breakfast treats. Hats off to all of our tireless parent volunteers for their efforts in building our BV community spirit!

# Calavera Hills *Elementary (K-6)* *Middle School (6-8)*

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008

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**Kimberly Huesing**  
Principal

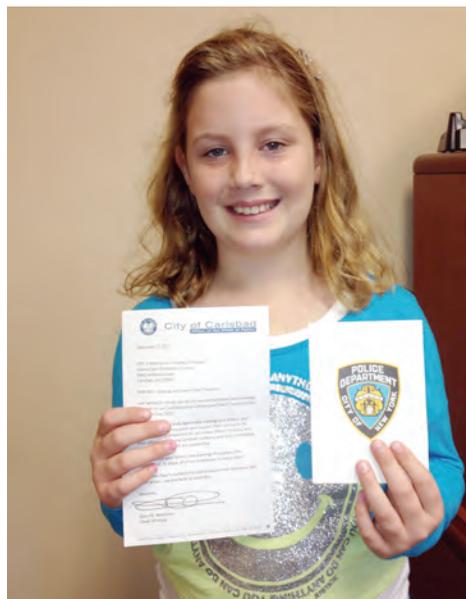
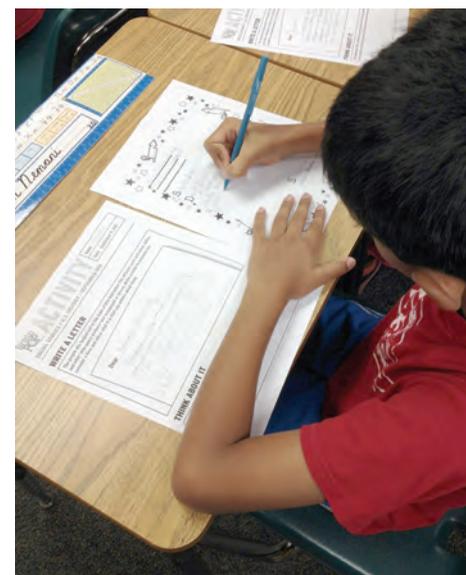
## Patriot Day

Calavera Hills Elementary School and Calavera Hills Middle School combined efforts in September to recognize Patriot Day, the events of 9/11, and the heroic response of community service workers across the country in the wake of the most devastating attack on the United States since Pearl Harbor.

Students in our schools know no other life than that of post 9/11. As appropriate, our teachers reviewed the historically significant event and helped students understand that what makes the United States of America so special is that, in difficult times, our people come together, helping and supporting one another. In an effort to recognize the altruistic character demonstrated by so many who answered the call for help in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania, our teachers led a letter-writing assignment aimed at thanking the community workers in North County San Diego who keep us safe and make our way of life possible.

Every teacher at the elementary school and the English teachers at the middle school instructed students on the format of a friendly letter. The students then composed individual letters to Carlsbad police officers, doctors, lifeguards, teachers, firefighters, veterinarians, border patrol officers, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the president, all of the branches of the armed forces, and many other organizations. Once completed in final edited form, the student letters were sent to the office, where they were sorted by middle school students working in the office as aides. Cover letters were included by Principal Huesing and Assistant Principal LaBreche, and the packages were mailed out across Carlsbad and the country.

This small act, which is relevant to our students' writing strategies, social studies curriculum, and citizenship, has already made an impact in our community. Several students have received letters back, including a personal letter from the CIA, a thank you from Rady's Children's Hospital, and a letter from President Obama. Most importantly, however, our students were able to make a personal connection with Patriot Day by honoring the efforts of others who serve our community.



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**MIRACOSTA COLLEGE • FROM PAGE 2**

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MiraCosta College's impact reaches across the state as well. Once MiraCosta College current students become active in the workforce, they will promote business output, raise consumer spending and increase property income. Altogether, higher student income, associated effects on business productivity, and social savings add \$77 million to the state economy each year.

"The results of this study demonstrate that MiraCosta College is a sound investment from multiple perspectives," said MiraCosta College Vice President, Business and Administrative Services Jim Austin. "The college enriches the lives of students and increases their lifetime incomes. It benefits taxpayers by generating increased tax revenues from an enlarged economy and reducing the demand for taxpayer-supported social services. Finally, it contributes to the vitality of both the local and state economies."

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## Things to Consider Before Saving for College



Susan D. Marshall

Saving for college can be an overwhelming thought for young families that are just starting out and are trying to buy a first home. If you are also saving for retirement, the cost of college can be paralyzing.

The changes in governmental rules also provide challenges. For example, 529 Plans originally were not considered in the financial aid calculation but now are. Here are four suggestions that can smooth your way.

1) Make sure you contribute to your retirement plan before you contribute to a college savings plan. Most advisors recommend contributing the largest affordable percentage that your employer will match. If you are a stay at home spouse, set up an IRA or a Roth IRA. Just be aware that these plans typically are invested in stocks, bonds and mutual funds that carry greater risk. The good news is that currently, retirement accounts are generally not considered in the financial aid calculation at most schools.

2) Buying your own home should be a top priority as soon as it makes financial and practical sense. It will serve as a future investment. You will build equity over time and it may provide you with collateral that may be used in the future to help pay for college.

3) Make sure your income is protected. What does that mean? Should you lose your job, become disabled or not make it home; will your family be able to have the resources to go on? Make sure you have the life and disability insurance to protect your family's future.

4) Have an accessible and safe emergency fund. The accounts that provide savings and liquidity are Long Term CD's, Fixed Annuities, Indexed Annuities and Cash Value Life Insurance. Many times working with a trusted advisor will help you find money you don't realize you have. By repositioning assets you may increase your cash flow and add to your savings. When you do begin saving for college, plan and save to maximize your funds and minimize any penalties.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article, e-mail Susan@College4Less.com.

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# Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

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## A Whole New World

The reconstruction of Carlsbad High School (CHS) has reached its final stretch, much to the relief of students and staff alike.

A 400-space parking lot opened to the public at the start of the new school year, alleviating the congestion in surrounding streets. One hundred of the parking lot spaces are reserved for staff, but the remaining 300 spots are available for student use. Students aged 15 through 19 can acquire parking passes by attending a two-hour course called Start Smart, provided by the California Highway Safety Patrol. The free course aims to teach students the dangerous affects of distracted driving to make for safer, more defensive drivers. Registration information and dates for the next classes are located on School Loop. Students and their parents/guardians must attend the course together.

The parking lot marks the last few improvements to the recently renovated campus. The demolition of a few buildings and the refurbishment of the baseball and softball fields will complete the transformation to a more modern, practical campus.

This year, the Lancers celebrated a particularly early homecoming compared to other high schools in the county in order to avoid last year's weather complications. The 2011 Lancer Day Parade was canceled due to a late October storm, but the homecoming court was welcomed back to participate in the parade this year.



CHS recognized Tom Robertson, beloved teacher and Associated Student Body director, as this year's Grand Marshall of the Lancer Day Parade during the coronation assembly in the Lancer Arena on September 28, prompting a standing ovation. Robertson will be retiring after this year, following over 40 years of teaching.



Prior to Lancer week, seniors placed nominations for homecoming court, which were later narrowed down to 12 seniors—six boys and six girls—and voted upon by the entire student body. The winners, King Scott Snow and Queen Seannie Bryan, were announced at the coronation assembly in a manner much reflecting the Disney theme of this year's celebration. The assembly included performances by Natalya Phillips, the Choral Department, the Lancer Dancers, Drama Club and featured the trumpets of the Marching Lancer Band, all to the tune of popular Disney songs.

At 7 p.m. the varsity Lancer football team kicked off their game against Fallbrook High School, which they won with a final score of 24–0. At halftime, the Lancer Dancers, Xcalibur, Varsity Cheer, Junior Varsity Cheer, Frosh Cheer, all levels of dance, and the color guard choreographed a massive halftime show to a compilation of songs from Disney productions. The Hall of Fame inductees and homecoming court were introduced prior to the start of the show. The show concluded with four confetti cannons spewing streamers into the crowd.

# Hope *Elementary (K–6)*

3010 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5900 • www.hope.schoolloop.com/



## Always Improving

Our Hope Elementary School Hawks continue to soar, and we had another great start to the school year. We congratulate our Hope Hawk community as our Academic Performance Index (API) score has remained above 900 for six straight years now! Our biggest success is the support of our parents and staff for our hardworking students. In our efforts for continued academic success, we have adopted a new theme this year: "Always Improving," and the students have demonstrated an eager desire to learn and grow.

In addition to student growth, our campus population has grown as well, with 42 new students in first through fifth grades and 10 new staff members to serve our deaf and hard-of-hearing population. In our next *School News Roll Call* article, we will spotlight this new program on our campus and learn more about the staff and students. We welcome Mrs. Lyon to our second-grade team, as we increased to four classes at that grade level. We are also please to have Ms. Schofield join us as a member of our first-grade team, replacing Mrs. Jansen, who moved to fourth grade.

At the end of last school year, our Friends of Hope Elementary Foundation took the initiative to address the growing concern about increased class sizes. In support of that effort, many parents donated directly to the campaign; eight businesses and two families provided matching funds. This fund-raising campaign brought in \$25,949 from our Hope community, \$5,000 from Friends of Hope Elementary, and \$14,101 from PTA. Thank you to the friends and families of Hope for raising \$45,050 for our Intervention Specialist Program!

These funds have allowed us to hire four credentialed teachers to provide additional instruction to our first- through fifth-grade students, while improving our teacher-to-student ratio. These grade levels now receive approximately three hours of intervention instruction three to four days a week.

The teachers developed a plan to identify the necessary classroom support at each grade level. This support is designed to enhance the students' ability to learn and succeed. While an emphasis is placed on improved reading strategies and reading comprehension, many support systems also include math and enrichment instruction.



Students showing their patriotic spirit for Constitution Day.

All these intervention programs have been in place since the beginning of October, which has lowered the number of students for every credentialed teacher on campus so that every student benefits!

Again, thanks to all of the Hope families and friends who supported this effort! We appreciate your partnership towards our goal of always improving!



Student love celebrating and supporting our CHS Lancers!

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

3743 Jefferson St., Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5500 • www.jefferson.schoolloop.com/

Chad Lund, *Principal*

## Developing a Polyglot Community

Jefferson Elementary is a school diverse in culture and language. In accordance with the status of International Baccalaureate, a key component is to expose students to a language beyond the English taught in the classroom. This year, Jefferson has instituted a two-tiered, global approach to language learning. Through a generous parent donation, we were able to purchase the Rosetta Stone language program for each student as well as all staff members. Instead of one language option, we are now able to utilize any of the 30 languages the program offers. Currently, each grade level from second through fifth is learning a language unique to that particular grade level. Second grade is learning Spanish; third-grade, French; fourth-grade, Mandarin; and fifth-grade, German. This is an online course that can be accessed from school, home or simply an Internet-ready device so that students can spend as much time as they would like mastering their particular language.



Third grade students studying French.

## Communication at Home and At Large

In addition, students with ties to another language may simultaneously study that language as well. We have students of Vietnamese, Russian and Persian descent, to name a few, who are now learning the language of their families and can start to communicate with extended members. This is not only creating better prepared students but it is also strengthening our community bond.

In addition to the language program, we wanted to create interaction and application so that what was learned would become useful, and students really digested the information. From this idea, the World Language Program was born. On a regular basis, students would be exposed to native speakers in an environment where they were able to utilize vocabulary and terms learned from Rosetta Stone. Many of our native speakers come from our school community as well as the neighborhood community. One of our French-speaking parents is looking forward to sharing his language and culture in an informal setting where children are able to communicate as if they were in another county or with a group speaking a different language.

The feedback thus far has been very positive, and students are excited about learning.



# Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

4885 Kelly Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5800 • www.kelly.schoolloop.com/



Tressie Armstrong  
*Principal*

## Sharing Our 'Secret'

Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity.

—Lindley Karstens, noproblemgarden.com

Fall arrives, and we feel that sense of anticipation in the air as the doors of schools reopen to admit laughter, joy and a very large sense of purpose. It is the time when children come refreshed from summer fun and hold a new promise for success academically, socially and emotionally.

At Kelly Elementary School, we strive to provide our students a wide range of opportunity so that each child can find something special for himself or herself in the learning. We are a school where no child is invisible and all children have gifts, and we work to provide whole-child learning experiences. We know that Kelly Elementary School is a garden in itself, where children receive the nurturing, caring and careful attention that encourages them to grow into 21<sup>st</sup>-century learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to find the answers to questions that will be presented to them and build the positive relationships that will carry them throughout their lifetimes.

Under the direction of parent volunteer extraordinaire Brenda Harai, we have one such opportunity in our "Secret Garden." This little hidden corner of the campus has beautiful raised beds that grow seasonal vegetables and fruits to teach children to make healthy nutritional choices. There are native plants that support science and social studies curriculum standards. We recently harvested three of our very own pumpkins to raffle off to students who submitted "Cougar Coupons" that they received for "being good." The three students were delighted



Halen Dresser, Johnny Gieson

by their special awards! Figs grow naturally along the back fence and are harvested and made into special fig jam for purchase by our community, and concrete benches with shade umbrellas are strategically placed for students to just sit, read and think.

This peaceful environment that changes with the seasons is simply a nice place to sit and learn: grow in the soil, get a little dirty without feeling guilty, and just take the time to soak up a little peace and serenity. Can't we all use a place like that from time to time?



Nicole Burke, Shaylyn Foley, Angela Austria

# Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

1905 Magnolia Ave., Carlsbad, CA, 92008 • 760/331-5600 • www.mes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Jimmy Hines**  
Principal

## Artistic Endeavors

Magnolia PTA has made a commitment to enrich our students' education by providing another amazing year of art with Mrs. Vaupel as our credentialed art teacher. Our art program provides students with instruction that builds both their artistic knowledge and skill and also enhances their learning and development across academic disciplines.

This year, our students will have the opportunity to experience two-dimensional and three-dimensional forms of art. These projects will introduce students to a variety of media through visual and spatial concepts. Currently, our students are working on colorful interpretations of *mola* art from the country of Panama. This painting project incorporates building knowledge of geography, social studies and science with regard to animals and their habitats. It also utilizes student creations, providing families with the opportunity to have their children's art made in to art cards.

At the end of last year, Mrs. Vaupel, with the help of many Magnolia families and teachers, created an amazing student art exhibit. This display transformed our multipurpose room into a fabulous gallery during our Open House. This exhibit showcased one piece of art from each Magnolia student. The students enthusiastically shared their artistic techniques and creative inspirations with

their families. In addition to our wonderful show, Mrs. Vaupel worked with each class to create collaborative pieces of art. These works contributed to our silent auction and were on display during the student art exhibit.

We thank our Magnolia families and teachers for participating in our silent auction and purchasing all 14 pieces of art! This became a great fund-raiser that helped the PTA jump-start this year's art program.



**Auction pieces ready to go!**



**Art show preparations**

# Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Camino De Las Ondas, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6200 • www.pacificrim.schoolloop.com



**Robert Devich**  
Principal

## Feeling Fit

At Pacific Rim Elementary School, physical education is something the whole school community takes very seriously. The program is led by Mike Plumb, "Coach Mike" as the students call him. The 15-year teaching veteran is also an athlete himself, having qualified for the Olympic Trials twice, for track in 1980 and the marathon in 1984. He also competed for 15 years as a professional triathlete. But it's not a one-man show with Coach Mike. He meets with each class in the school once per week. The classroom teachers then carry out the program with their classes on the other days. It is something that the classroom teachers and the parents see as beneficial. One just has to look at the playing field any morning during the school-wide Jogging Club to see the number of parents and teachers who join with the children in running each morning.



**Students preparing for a game of Ultimate Frisbee**

The program at Pacific Rim is sports- and fitness-based. In the lower grades, the children are focused on developing motor skills and exploring personal space. The upper grades move onto more complex skills, such as developing sports-related actions in both individual and team-based sports. The fitness component of the program is maintained throughout all of the grade levels, as evidenced by the results of the State of California Physical Fitness Testing Program. Each year the fifth-grade students complete a five-component physical fitness test, which is mandated by the state. Each year Pacific Rim has not only scored above the state average, but the students have consistently posted some of the highest scores in Carlsbad and San Diego County.

"It is a total team effort," said Coach Mike. "The program is successful because everyone supports it and buys into it. The students, teachers, administration, and parents all believe in what we are doing, and the results show because of the total support that all involved give."



**2nd grade students during warm up exercises**



**Marjorie Giordani**  
Principal

## Our First K-5 Grads!

Poinsettia Panthers are awesome! The pride is evident in the faces of our students and parents and in the excellence of our staff. As the new principal, there are so many things to look forward to in the 2012–13 school year. In addition to a new principal, there were three new teachers added to the staff: Debra Schwend, Jennifer Bannock and Joyce Lee. We are also pleased to have Mike Wright as our head custodian and Debbie Johnson as our food-service lead. Adding these amazing staff members to an already great team gives us a great opportunity to shine.

Poinsettia opened its doors in 2007. Our fifth-grade students will be the first group to have matriculated through Poinsettia as kindergarteners. The fifth-grade students have already stepped up to many leadership positions this year, to include Student Council, Yearbook Committee and broadcasting. They will finish up strong at Poinsettia and be proud to have been a Panther.



**Student's participating in Playground Partner Activities at Lunch.**

The parent association at Poinsettia is amazing. They have pulled together to support many great programs on campus. Some of the upcoming assemblies sponsored by PTA are “BMX,” “Mainly Mozart” and “Lazermania.” Because of the PTA’s amazing commitment, we are also able to support student learning through Compass Learning, Excel Math, Reading Counts, weekly PE and Wordly Wise. The PTA also plans fun learning activities, to include Playground Partners, Running Club, Science Day, Science Fair, Spelling and Geography bees, and many other great experiences for our students. Thank you, Poinsettia PTA!



**Ms. Baima's first grade class engaged in Compass Learning in the Poinsettia computer lab.**

Red Ribbon week is the last week in October, and our students are pledging to make healthy choices. There are many great activities to participate in, to include Red Day, Sock It to Bullying Day, Harvest Parade, Team Up for Healthy Choices, Panther Pride Day and a door-decorating contest. The districtwide theme is “Students Make Healthy Choices.”



**Tom Bloomquist**  
Principal

## What a Fine WEB We Weave!

Valley Middle School is off to another great start to the school year. Although the administration has changed, all the great programs are continuing to be run by a fantastic faculty and staff. We are excited to have new staff members, including assistant principal Bryan Brockett; English teacher Mark Sammons; science and math teacher Ryan Bentley; special education teachers Debbie Wolfson, Julia Spanier and Shannon Del Rio; and our new EL tutor, Dan Fischer.

Thanks to our WEB program, the 2012–13 school year at VMS started out with a successful sixth-grade orientation the day before school started. There were 39 amazing student WEB leaders and three dedicated teachers—Jennifer Cockerham, Aida Salah and Linda Payne—who led over 300 sixth-graders through the orientation. WEB stands for “Where Everybody Belongs,” and it is a transition and mentoring program designed to ease the tension and anxiety of incoming sixth-graders and help them smoothly transition to middle school.



**6th graders had a chance to meet up with their WEB Leader a few weeks after the start of school to say hi, check in, and have fun!**

Besides helping the sixth-grade class, WEB also promotes leadership skills and training for the eighth-graders who mentor and work with the sixth-graders. Eighth-grade WEB leaders work with approximately 10 sixth-graders during orientation and throughout the year, building friendships, instilling knowledge, and modeling good behaviors. WEB leaders are really looked up to on campus. Throughout the year, there are social and academic follow-ups that keep the mentoring opportunities and contact going.

WEB is also designed to build the school and campus connectedness and really foster a caring and supportive environment in school. WEB goes beyond the program itself and infiltrates the school as a whole while building a positive community on campus. This year, our program is stronger than ever, and we hope to see it continue to grow and help our students become successful in all aspects of their lives.



**8th grade WEB leaders showed the new 6th graders around campus so they knew where to go the first day of school.**



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