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# School News

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**Covering the Carlsbad Unified School District**

**VOLUME 9, ISSUE 41**

**FEBRUARY–APRIL 2014**

## Journey to the Common Core



**Suzette Lovely**  
*Superintendent*

Every school district across the nation is trailblazing its own way to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Yes, some resources are available to be shared, and various conferences and meetings will provide places where teachers and administrators can get together to share their knowledge and experiences. But education happens at the local level. And each school district, reflecting its own community's personality and student needs, will go about the process in its own unique way.

Here is a progress report on Carlsbad Unified's journey.

The 2012-13 school year was one of building awareness of the Common Core. Teams of teachers and administrators participated in professional-development activities and became familiar with the major instructional changes—or “shifts”—that

*See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 10*



**Students at Buena Vista Elementary use iPads and catapults to determine variables that enable projectiles to fly the furthest.**



**Student experiment with electrical circuits, and then write their hypotheses.**

## One of California's Schools to Watch

*From the District*

Students, staff, parents, district leaders, school board members and community members are celebrating the redesignation of Calavera Hills Middle School as one of California's Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage model middle schools.

“We are thrilled to have received this recognition,” said Principal Michael Ecker. “Our student-centered model is a flexible one, attuned to each student's pathway to academic achievement. This award is a testament to the hard work of our staff and students in making this exciting and challenging program a success.”

Dr. Irvin Howard, President of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, noted, “Calavera Hills Middle School is a model of what an outstanding middle school can be. School leaders from across the state will now turn to Calavera Hills Middle School for guidance on improving their programs to better serve their students.”

Calavera Hills Middle School serves six through eighth grade students in Carlsbad Unified School District. California's Schools to Watch-Taking Center Stage program uses a competitive, rigorous review process to identify high performing, high impact middle schools so that all middle schools may have models of real-world success. Calavera Hills Middle School is one of just of 59 model schools that have been identified statewide since 2003, and one of only 12 California middle schools to be honored this year.



**Students studying collaboratively at Calavera Hills Middle School.**

Calavera Hills Middle School was first designated as a School to Watch in 2011, and was invited to re-apply to the program in the fall of 2013. The rigorous application process, involving the entire school staff, requires an in depth self-study in the areas of Academic Excellence, Developmental Responsiveness, Organizational Structures and Processes, and Social Equity.

The program is provided by the California Middle Grades Alliance, which includes the California League of Middle Schools (CLMS; the lead agency), California Department of Education, and other statewide educational organizations who are partners in the California Middle Grades Alliance.

Representatives from Calavera Hills Middle School will receive their recognition award from State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson at the California League of Middle Schools conference in Sacramento on February 28, and will be honored at the National Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, D.C. on June 28.

For more information on the program, contact Dr. Irvin Howard, director, at (951) 318-7515 or STWCAL@gmail.com or contact Katie Winchell, director of communications, CLMS, at (800) 326-1880 or editor@clms.net; or visit [www.clms.net/stw](http://www.clms.net/stw).



## Enrollment Fees Eliminated for H.S. Students



**Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent/  
President

High school students taking college courses at MiraCosta College will no longer have to pay the 46 dollar per unit enrollment fee, thanks to a change in policy approved by the MiraCosta College Board of Trustees. This is great news for local high school students and their parents. It removes a substantial financial barrier while giving them a chance to earn college credit, get a taste of college life and inspire them to continue their education.

The change follows the college's partnership with Carlsbad Unified School District to offer college-credit courses at Carlsbad's newly opened Sage Creek High School. At the time, MiraCosta College agreed to waive enrollment fees for all concurrently enrolled Carlsbad Unified students taking

MiraCosta College credit courses, whether at Sage Creek, the college's campuses in Oceanside and Cardiff, or online. The board's action extends this to all concurrently enrolled high school students who are enrolled in less than 12 units at MiraCosta College, though these students will still have to pay for books and supplies, in addition to parking and other fees.

The MiraCosta Community College District's board of trustees made the move in a unanimous vote.

The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships says that concurrent enrollment "facilitates close collaboration between high school teachers and college faculty that fosters alignment of secondary and postsecondary curriculum." Meanwhile, the state Education Code states that concurrent enrollment is part of an effort "to provide educational enrichment opportunities to high school students" and "also to help ensure a smoother transition from high school to college for pupils by providing them with greater exposure to the college atmosphere."

See **MIRACOSTA COLLEGE** • Page 6



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year! The holidays seem so long ago as the new year is underway and students are focused on the new semester and the anticipation of Spring Break.

Superintendent Lovely on the front page gives you an update on the implementation of the Common Core. As she says, "Common Core is not a destination, but a journey." If you are a reader without school age children, you will be most surprised with the classroom changes. I would venture to say most of us would find it challenging to return to the classroom.

Our next issue is May 14.

Covering the  
**CARLSBAD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## "MiraCosta College

has a variety of useful resources to guide students' transfer success. The Honors Scholar Program provides opportunities for students. The supportive community motivates students to participate in academic experiences."

Genuine MiraCosta College Student

GENUINE

Genuine MiraCosta College Student

**Karolyn Krebs**, Carlsbad High School and **GENUINE** MiraCosta College graduate, transferred to UC Davis as a business major

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## New Park, Art Exhibits and More!



**Kristina Ray**  
Communications  
Manager

It was great to see so many local families enjoying the grand opening of Alga Norte Community Park last month, including two lucky Carlsbad Unified students. A second grader from Kelly Elementary and a middle school student from Valley joined Triathlon World Champion and Olympian Michellie Jones in the official “first jump” into the new competition-sized pool, following a dramatic countdown led by the Carlsbad City Council.

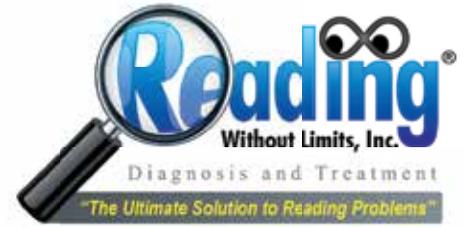
If you haven't had a chance to check out your new park, be sure to stop by. In addition to the largest pool in coastal North County, the aquatic center has a 25-yard instructional pool heated to the high 80s. This means kids can take swimming lessons year round. Parents can get in on the fun with water fitness classes, including paddleboard yoga. Personally, I can barely manage yoga poses on solid ground, but I must say doing it on a paddleboard sounds like a really fun challenge.

The new park also has a dog park with special areas for small and large dogs. It has been so fun to watch our four-legged residents enjoy their new park, too. There are dog agility props and even doggie drinking fountains, plus shaded areas to relax while the pooches party. We are also offering for the first time agility training and obedience classes in a special training area.

I can't believe it's already time to sign up for spring break camps. The new park will feature a swimming camp (of course!) as well as skateboarding camps and multi-sports camps. Camps will be offered at other parks, too. Visit our new online registration website at [www.carlsbadconnect.org](http://www.carlsbadconnect.org) to get all the details and sign up. If you had an account with our old registration system, you'll have to create a new one. This time, your email is your user name, and you can choose your own password – much easier than having to remember your “family pin.” I could never remember mine!

See CITY OF CARLSBAD • Page 11

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# Spring Break Camps April 7-11

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- European Fantasy Factory Sports Camp**  
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- Master Sport Jr.**  
Ages 4 - 6 ★ 9 a.m. - noon
- Master Sports Xtreme Dodgeball**  
Ages 7 - 13 ★ 9 a.m. - noon
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# Aviara Oaks *Elementary (K-5)*

6900 Ambrosia Way, Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6000 • www.aoes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Leslie Harden**  
*Principal*

## Community-Building Environment

At Aviara Oaks Elementary, building a strong educational program begins with establishing a school climate that is positive and inclusive, encourages involvement of parents and students in and out of the classroom, and creates an environment that builds community. Over the past few months, examples of our community-building

have been seen on and off our school campus.

In November, AOE celebrated Veterans Day by honoring many of our military and their families at a recognition breakfast hosted by our Boy and Girl Scouts and a schoolwide celebration of their commitment to service. In addition to breakfast, our guests were treated to a Marine Corps flag raising and a presentation by Student Council representatives.

Students in grades K-3 performed selections of holiday songs at AOE's literacy night sponsored by a national bookstore chain. Grade levels learned and practiced their selections in weekly music classes, and music specialist Vanessa Gerads led them in song throughout the evening. PTA parents worked the gift-wrap table for any families purchasing books for holiday giving.

One of our favorite events of the year, our Fall Fancy Father-Daughter Dance, had many dads and daughters in attendance. Dads in their suits and tuxedos, accompanied by their daughters in party dresses, danced to the sounds of DJ Lancer Dancers, and Excalibur performed. A Hula-Hoop contest was the hit of the evening.

Our library, under the supervision of Mrs. Oshima, creates a welcoming environment for our students and parents at AOE. Available before, during and after school, the library offers parents and students opportunities to extend



**Kindergarten students perform songs of the holiday on the Barnes & Noble stage.**

learning through use of computer software to support reading, math and language acquisition; shares new titles and selections through interactive book displays and student reviews; and generates interest and enthusiasm for reading through a variety of yearlong contests and activities.

While student learning is always a priority, we know that by building a school climate that is positive and welcoming to all, student success and academic achievement will thrive.

# Aviara Oaks *Middle School (6-8)*

6880 Ambrosia Ln., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6100 • www.aoms.schoolloop.com



**Megan Arias**  
*Principal*

## Technology: Gateway to Real-World Education

It is an exciting year for AOMS students as our school continues to expand the use of technology. By introducing these technologies, we engage our students, make learning interactive, and meet the needs of diverse learning styles. Additionally, we help our students expand their learning beyond the walls of the classroom and prepare them for college and careers. In English, math, social studies, science, and visual and performing arts, students at AOMS use technology to understand and explore their curriculum in ways we might not have imagined in the past.

AOMS recently added two new class sets of Chromebooks purchased with donations to FAME. The result: positive classroom impact! The Chromebooks are used to prepare students for the Common Core online tests as well as to provide access to many educational Web resources. Students will use Chrome-based extensions to annotate online documents and nonfiction text, create diagrams, make digital flashcards, and draw with Web 2.0 tools. They'll also use online math interaction to build 21st Century skills.

Chromebooks integrate seamlessly with our Google Apps for Education pilot. Students are able to use Google Drive to create, share, and collaborate in real time on documents that they design in class individually or as a group. Students can create digital portfolios of their written work and build collaboration skills. The Chromebooks make learning fun and innovative!

This year, our computer lab received a refresh from CUSD Prop P funds. New computers and a new server replaced 38 aging computers. The older computers were used to replace some teacher computers and to provide more student computers in the classrooms. Classes use the computer lab for research, writing with My Access, and preparing presentations.

AOMS teachers can also check out a class set of iPads that allow their students to further investigate the curriculum through a variety of applications. The iPads are loaded with applications such as virtual dissections, real-time data on earthquakes, math tools and expanded details for the periodic table of elements. They can also be used for research in the different subject areas and for creating iMovies and other presentations.

Class sets of netbooks are also available for teachers to check out. These are used for the My Access writing program, researching the day's curriculum topics on the Internet, and preparing presentations.

In each core classroom, students view the lesson on an interactive Promethean Board. Teachers prepare lessons by using flip charts and integrating videos, virtual demonstrations and hyperlinks on the Internet. Teachers may request that students text answers to questions by using an Active Expression device. This mode provides teachers with immediate feedback. In the elective classes, technology is widely employed. For example, students film and digitally edit the "Falcon News" in broadcasting class. Using Photoshop, students manipulate images for projects in photography class.

AOMS is committed to continuing our integration and expansion of technology into curriculum to assist our students in achieving success this year and in the future as well.

# Buena Vista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Tina Howard**  
Principal

## Welcome to Mr. Daniel Fischer!

Buena Vista Elementary School (BV) staff and students are excited to welcome back Dan Fischer, who began teaching a new third-grade class in January as part of the district's class-size reduction initiative in K-3 classes. Mr. Fischer began teaching at Buena Vista as a first-grade teacher in 2009 and continued his service as a third-grade teacher during the 2010-2011 school year. Unfortunately, class-size increases the following year eliminated two teaching assignments at our site, and Mr. Fischer was unable to return in his full-time capacity that year.

Mr. Fischer's recent hiring shows that through determination and a positive outlook, time can help you reach your goals. When Mr. Fischer's position was cut, he remained optimistic and accepted an hourly instructional position, serving as a technology teacher. This was a new role for him, and he quickly adapted to the task, researching apps and creating engaging and innovative lessons for our K-5 students, while also supporting the staff with electronic tablet implementation and usage. During this time, he also served as a certificated hourly teacher, tutoring students in our Special Education program.

As teachers became more adept with electronic tablet instruction and usage, this role was eliminated, so Mr. Fischer moved to Valley Middle School, where he tutored the school's English-language learners. While Mr. Fischer thoroughly enjoyed his time at Valley, he was eager to get his "own class." His goal has been realized.

What makes Mr. Fischer's return even a little more unique is that his wife also teaches at Buena Vista and has since 2008. In addition, their son, Cameron, attends the school and is in second grade. When asked about this unusual work arrangement, Mr. Fischer said, "You'd think we'd see a lot of each other, but surprisingly there are days when I don't see Rosey until we get in the car to go home. Being able to carpool is pretty neat though."

Members of the BV school community often comment on what a "family feel" our school has. Having the Fischers together at our site each day makes this a reality. Mr. Fischer says that seeing his son on the playground is really the strangest part. "I have to remind myself that we're not at the park on a Saturday; I can't just run over and tackle him and give him a kiss."

Prior to returning to North County in 2008, Mr. Fischer taught sixth-through eighth-grade students in the Los Angeles area for three years and taught a semester at San Diego High School in downtown San Diego in 2009 before coming to BV.

Are you looking for me? This is one of the page numbers you need for the contest on page 11. I'm hidden in one more place in this issue.



# Calavera Hills

4104 Tamarack Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008

*Elementary (K-6)*  
760/331-6300 • www.ches.schoolloop.com  
*Middle School (6-8)*  
760/331-6400 • www.calavera.schoolloop.com



**Michael Ecker**  
Principal

## Small-Group Instruction

Within the wall of a successful school, there exist pathways of success for every child. These pathways connect a campus, move through hallways, and are ever changing course. At Calavera Hills Elementary and Middle Schools, we believe that to nurture these pathways we should be flexible when tending them. To this end, we create opportunities for flexible, small-group instruction. This allows students to receive needed support regardless of qualification or application.

An impactful example of small-group instruction occurs within the learning center programs at both Calavera Hills schools. The learning centers provide direct services to students with disabilities, English-language learners, and general education students through a Response to Intervention (RtI) plan. While some students are programmed into the learning center, others are referred to the learning center on an as-needed basis.

Teamwork is essential to the effective support of the students. A staff member refers the student and provides an explanation of what the student is expected to accomplish. The student may work with adults either individually or in small groups to pre-teach a concept, re-teach a lesson, or remediate.



**Ms. Doan working with students in a small group setting on sequencing.**

An additional component of our small-group learning focus is our investment in credentialed intervention teachers. Sarah Anderson, Laura Doan, and Lisa Clifner work with groups of students ranging from first through eighth grade. Students who are performing below grade level receive small-group support in their area of

need with the goal of helping students reach proficiency and develop habits of success. In these small-group settings, students receive more exposure, more focus on essential skills, more opportunities for guided practice, close monitoring of student performance, and immediate feedback. Additionally, these small-group settings allow students to immediately correct errors as soon as they are made, which decreases the rate of repeat mistakes. Students are becoming more confident in themselves and more proficient as each day goes by.

Strategic small groups are prevalent within elementary classrooms as well. Small-group rotations are established to help students excel and extend, as well as provide opportunities for teachers to address needs within their classroom. Many elementary teachers are considered seasoned experts with different grouping methods. However, it is quite rare to see this practice occur at the secondary level. Our middle school teachers are working to create such a model. Within an eighth-grade English class, English teacher Bobby Allen, Education Specialist Marisa Leong, and English Language Development Specialist Marlene Bullard have created Project Comprehend. This innovative program creates small groups that use parallel instruction to cater to each child's needs. This small-group strategy has assisted teachers in addressing a myriad of needs and helps students overcome significant barriers toward success. Project Comprehend is built to keep each child in mind. We believe the results will change the trajectory for several young men and women who have thus far experienced more failure than success in school.

In classrooms across the Calavera Hills community, teachers are breaking down traditional models in exchange for flexible grouping. The journey of achieving college and career readiness looks different for every child. With the implementation of the new Common Core State Standards, this journey is changing each day as teachers transition their lessons and programs. The exciting part is how we will use this focus on alternative grouping models to support our students on their journey.

# Carlsbad *High School (9–12)*

3557 Lancer Way, Carlsbad, CA 92008 • 760/331-5100 • www.carlsbadhs.schoolloop.com



**Matthew Steitz**  
Principal

## Lancer Pride

By Kelsey Aijala, Editor in Chief – Lancer Express

A new semester brings a fresh start for students and new opportunities for Carlsbad High School (CHS) to showcase its talented student body and many achievements. As CHS pushes into 2014 after a year of multiple accomplishments and awards, we have high expectations to add to this success.

Carlsbad Unified School District (CUSD) has been selected as one of 477 schools throughout the United States and Canada for the fourth annual Advanced Placement (AP) District Honor Roll. Schools selected for this award demonstrated an increased accessibility to AP courses and pass rate among students taking AP exams. As a district, 18 percent more students took AP exams from 2011 to 2013 and 80 percent of those students received a three or higher. This is the first year that CUSD has received this honor, but with upcoming AP exams in May of this year, Carlsbad High School is preparing its students to pass their tests and work towards another AP District Honor Roll achievement.

While, as a whole, CHS demonstrated success, many students and groups have earned honors of their own. Senior Allison Choi and junior Eric Yu were selected as part of the All-State Band and Orchestra for violin and soprano clarinet respectively. These students auditioned along with thousands of other California band and orchestra students and were selected to participate in a four-day conference in February, where they will have the opportunity to work with renowned conductors and music directors. The students will rehearse 12 hours a day for three days with a full symphony of the best high school musicians in California and put on a concert on the final day. It's this kind of hard work and dedication demonstrated by CHS students which brings the school pride in all areas.

Carlsbad High School's sports teams were also very successful. Girls volleyball, tennis and cross country all made it to CIF. Boys cross country advanced to state for the second year in a row. Football made it to CIF semi-finals while boys water polo reclaimed their spot on the throne with a CIF championship victory over Vista High School after a two-year drought.

The Lancers hope to continue their athletic domination with the winter and spring sports. Winter sports are coming to the close of their regular season with girls water polo, boys and girls soccer, wrestling, and boys and girls basketball aiming to make it to CIF playoffs once again. Meanwhile, as the weather warms up, so are spring athletes. Boys and girls swimming and diving, boys and girls lacrosse, track and field, baseball, softball, and boys golf are preparing for seasons that will draw large crowds and hopefully earn titles.

Sports are not the only thing CHS students have to look forward to for second semester, however. The theater department will put on "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" for this year's spring musical and are allowing students to audition and showcase their dramatic side. ASB is putting on a winter formal this year with a masquerade theme. For students who want to be a part of creating these dances and showcase their school spirit, Associated Student Body (ASB) elections will be held in March.

Whether you're into sports or drama, attending school dances, or playing classical music, or if you have so much school spirit that you want to partake in all these activities, there is a lot of Lancer Pride going around at Carlsbad High School.

## MIRACOSTA COLLEGE • From Page 2

In fall 2013 semester, there were approximately 175 concurrently enrolled students taking classes at MiraCosta College, a high number of them from Canyon Crest Academy and Carlsbad High School. With the recent agreement to have college courses at Carlsbad's Sage Creek High School, the district is expecting a boost in that number.

Founded in 1934 as Oceanside-Carlsbad Junior College, the MiraCosta Community College District stretches from Camp Pendleton south to Carmel Valley and Rancho Santa Fe. It serves about 14,500 students in credit courses at its San Elijo and Oceanside campuses and online, in addition to some 2,500 students taking noncredit classes at the Community Learning Center on Mission Avenue in Oceanside.

# Hope *Elementary (K–6)*

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



**Richard Tubbs**  
Principal

## Less Gets More!

Hope Elementary and our community members made it a priority at the beginning of the year to lower class sizes by improving the teacher-to-student ratio. We raised enough donations to employ three intervention specialists to work in first through fifth grades. This allowed us to create targeted intervention classes in the mornings three to four times a week and increased the enrichment opportunities for our students with lower class sizes at various times of the day. With our district's improved fiscal picture, we were authorized to hire an additional teacher, which has further reduced our class-size averages in first, second and third grades.

## Welcome Back, Ms. Gordon!

We welcomed Lindsey Gordon in January to serve as our new third-grade teacher. She graduated cum laude with her teaching credential from California State University, San Marcos in 2003. She majored in elementary education with an emphasis on child development. After graduation, she worked at Ditmar Elementary School in Oceanside as a Title I Support Teacher in grades 1 through 5. From there, she transferred to Menifee Union School District where she taught third grade for a year and then two years as a second-third combination teacher. After her time in Menifee, she transferred to Carlsbad Unified and worked at Kelly Elementary as a first-second combination teacher. At the end of the school year, she had her second child and decided to become a stay-at-home mom. However, that didn't last long, as Ms. Gordon realized she missed her passion in life—teaching. She jumped right back in the following year subbing for the Carlsbad School District. That turned into a long-term sub job in first grade.



**Lindsey Gordon with some of her students.**

For the last two years, Ms. Gordon has been the intervention specialist at Hope, where she has taught second grade and, this year, fifth-grade math. She has also been actively involved at Hope as a parent, a PTA board member and a teacher for the past four years. She is very excited to be at Hope and be part of the Hope Hawks community.

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Chad Lund**  
Principal

## International Baccalaureate Program

*By Laurel Ferreira, Coordinator – International Baccalaureate Program*

Jefferson Elementary School's International Baccalaureate (IB) Program focuses on developing the whole child academically, physically, and socially while creating lifelong learners. Jefferson offers unique programs including the World Language Program, where students from second through fifth grade study Spanish, French, Mandarin, and German. All students participate in the daily motion program that promotes the health and well-being of the student through physical training to enhance fitness and focus. Jefferson has clubs including band, chorus, ukulele club, dance and drill team, organic garden club, running club, KJEF broadcast club, Kids for Peace, IB Ambassador Student Leadership, and the largest Lego Robotics Club in Carlsbad.



Jefferson is one of the first few schools in California which began offering the IB Primary Years Program in 2007. The IB program, which is offered in 3,699 schools in 147 countries, is an inquiry-based program to develop critical thinking, creativity, and curiosity. The program offers authentic learning and a challenging academic environment. Our highly educated and dedicated teachers nurture a joy of learning. Learning should be constructive, which engages students to explore, ask questions, and think critically. IB students can transfer their skills and knowledge to real-world situations. Within the Primary Years Program (PYP), each grade level has six thematic units and because these units are trans-disciplinary in nature, students work on projects that span across the subject areas. This means your student may be working on a research project that incorporates science, math, and language arts skills, which are central concepts to Common Core State Standards. In fact, instructional practices to implement the new adoption of the Common Core and the IB program share many parallels. The research of Stanford University professor and IB-trained educator Linda Darling Hammond is being primarily used to create the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which all Carlsbad students will be piloting this year. Many are predicting this will give IB trained students an advantage.

IB students are encouraged to be open-minded, principled, and creative as well as work collaboratively and respectfully to take into consideration the perspectives of others. The IB program provides students with opportunities for: authentic learning experiences which is a vital part of 21st-century education; career readiness within a global economy; and preparation for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program and the IB Diploma Program in high schools.

If you would like to learn more about this magnet program offered to all Carlsbad residents, we have school tours at 8 a.m. on February 13 and 21, as well as a community event that explains the program in more detail at 6 p.m. on February 20. All curious minds are welcome.

Please feel free to contact Laurel Ferreira, the IB coordinator, for more information at (760) 331-5598 or [ibcarlsbad@gmail.com](mailto:ibcarlsbad@gmail.com) or check out our Web site at [www.jefferson.schoolloop.com](http://www.jefferson.schoolloop.com).

# Kelly *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Tressie Armstrong**  
Principal

## The Heart in Our School

*Volunteers are love in motion!*  
~ Author Unknown

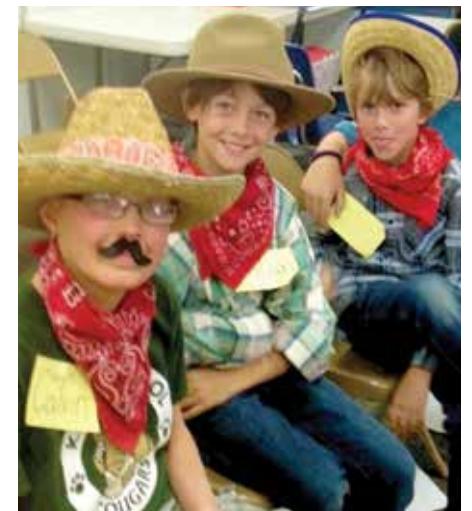
One of the characteristics that make Kelly Elementary so special is the sense of collaboration and unity of all of the stakeholders! Our PTA and parent volunteers are integral parts of our community, as valued and important as every other spoke of the wheel that makes Kelly School turn for the success of the children.



**A student using her I-Pad and connecting it to her home screen television to learn the United States and their capitals.**

As our vision is to ensure that we address the needs of our children in a whole-child fashion, our PTA volunteers support, supply, and participate alongside of us to make that happen. As we embark on the new journey of Common Core State Standards, they have worked diligently to provide us with the funds to purchase two iPad carts to further our ability to put technology into the hands of children and to provide certificated classroom support to help alleviate class sizes and offer more opportunity for small-group instruction for the children.

Through providing funding for simulation-type learning experiences such as Walk-



**4th grade in-school Walk through California PTA provided assembly.**

Through California for fourth grade, Walk-Through the American Revolution for fifth grade, Farm Day for first grade, in-school assembly visits from a wild-animal park for kindergarten, and field trips to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon in third grade, our PTA helps our students receive rich and engaging activities to support mastery of standards in all curricular areas.

Our PTA works hard to provide Family Nights for fund-raising and fun and to support a collaborative and unified approach to working together for children. And most importantly, not a day goes by when there are not three or four of our volunteers working in the classrooms alongside the teachers to do whatever it takes to ensure a rich and productive learning experience for the students, play with the children during recess and lunch to increase the visibility of adults on campus for safety, and just be there.

Our Kelly Elementary School PTA volunteers are truly "love in motion!" We are so thankful for the work they do to support all of the components that make Kelly School a good place for staff and children alike!

# Magnolia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Jimmy Hines**  
Principal

## Looking to Achieve!

Magnolia Elementary School is proud to announce their participation in a district-sponsored pilot utilizing Achieve 3000! Achieve 3000 is a Web-based, differentiated, reading-support program. We are able to capture this opportunity to add content-rich, technology-driven curriculum with the addition of our new computer lab on campus! The use of Achieve will enable our teachers to better define students' current reading lexiles, a valuable piece of information about reading levels and the difficulty of a text. This allows teachers to make instructional adjustments to better meet individual needs.

The benefits of using Achieve are many: accurate student reading levels; tailored reading text to each student's reading level; systematic acceleration as students progress; infusion of Common Core State Standards; and a concrete mix of both literacy and content-area knowledge assessment. Simply put, use of the program enables teachers to work with the whole class on the same primary content but adjust the text and tailor it to each student's current lexile.



**Magnolia first grade students working on our new Dell Optiplex 7010 series desktop computers!**

of Achieve is another crucial step toward better preparing our students to meet the instructional shifts toward Common Core and further assisting our teachers with the proper tools.

Our students will be required to read specific, non-fiction text with greater complexity and answer follow-up questions that mandate they refer back to the text to formulate specific opinions supported by facts. Achieve 3000 also offers a great means of further emulating test questions that will be embedded in the Smarter Balanced assessment that all California schools will be participating in this school year.

The adoption

# Pacific Rim *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Robert Devich**  
Principal

## Adopt-a-Family

Carlsbad Christmas Bureau's Adopt-a-Family program helps provide both gifts and food for Carlsbad families in need. In December, second-grade teacher Judy Pounds led the organization of this service event for Pacific Rim Elementary. All 28 classrooms participated in this program to offer a brighter holiday season for Carlsbad families.

Each class was assigned a family and was provided with the first names and clothing sizes for its adopted family. Large boxes were provided by the Christmas Bureau for the gift collection. Room parents and students decorated the boxes with festive and fun designs. Students were encouraged to help participate in the selection and wrapping of their donations. The generous families at Pacific Rim donated so many items that each classroom had two or more large collection boxes for its assigned family! More than 65 boxes full of gifts were donated to the program. Additionally, 20 boxes of nonperishable food and sundries were donated by Pacific Rim families to this charitable cause.



**Mrs. Pounds 2nd grade students, Suchir, Niha, Aurora and Ella Rose collect gifts.**

Pacific Rim has been adopting families for over 10 years, and it is an event that students look forward to each year. The children at Pacific Rim know that it is important to treat others the way you want to be treated. Participating in the Christmas Bureau program is another way to live by the Golden Rule.

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# Poinsettia *Elementary (K-5)*

2445 Mica Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92009 • 760/331-6500 • www.pes.cusd.ca.schoolloop.com



**Marjorie Giordani**  
Principal

## Understanding the Community and the World

Poinsettia Elementary School conducted the second annual geography bee with fourth- and fifth-grade students. This is the 26th year the National Geographic Society has had the National Geographic Bee for students in the fourth through eighth grades. Thousands of schools across the United States participate in the bee, and Poinsettia is the only elementary school in Carlsbad.

The winner of this year's bee is Nick Simpson, a fifth-grade student. In the final rounds Nick answered all the questions correctly. He will advance to the next level of competition with a written test to determine if he will participate at the state level with other fourth- through eighth-grade students. This competition is in Washington D.C. on May 19-21. Best of luck, Nick!

If you want to test your own geography knowledge, go to [www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee).

Poinsettia started a Kids for Peace chapter this year. Mrs. Swanson, a fourth-grade teacher and the club's advisor, works closely with the students to develop



**Nick Simpson winner, and Michael Ryan runner up.**

community service projects. Mrs. Swanson feels Kids for Peace is helping students realize their potential through working in the community.

In November students created placemats for Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheels was able to give families brightly decorated placemats with each meal delivered. This year they are planning on planting trees and

creating a "buddy bench," which students can go to when they need a friend, feel lonely, or want someone to play with. Other students can go to the bench to invite them to talk or play. The club has many creative ideas to give back to the school and to the community.



**Geo Bee Top 10 finalist on stage.**

# Sage Creek *High School*

3900 Cannon Rd., Carlsbad, CA 92010 • 760/331-6600



**Cesar Morales**  
Principal

## Rigor and Application

The word is out! Sage Creek High School provides Carlsbad students with an exceptional high school experience. The excitement about our Bobcat experience is evident by the over 1,300 eighth-grade parents and students who attended two information sessions, and by the weekly tours that range from between 25 and 80 interested attendees.

The buzz surrounding Sage Creek "stems" from its commitment to innovation, academic rigor and application. In addition to a rigorous curriculum, our students can choose from diverse opportunities in the visual and performing arts (VAPA), compete in successful athletic programs, participate in campus clubs and organizations, and benefit from a teaching staff that is committed to designing cross-curricular academic experiences.

As an example of these efforts, our Sage Creek theater students had a successful fall season of competition at the Drama Teachers' Association of Southern California's Fall Festival. Two Sage Creek theater groups went on to represent the school at other events, including the Drama Teachers' Association of Southern California's "49th Salute to the Winners" at the Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro.

Theater II students Lizi Cudal, Madison Surency, Julia Hayashi and Avery Johnson performed their award-winning scene from the play *A Piece of My Heart*. Bravo! Additionally, Mike Townzen, Skyler Beckett, Kara Kirkpatrick and Viradis Panter will perform their scene from *Forrest Gump* at the 17th<sup>th</sup> annual California Youth in Theater Day in Sacramento.

Our Sage Creek theater department is currently rehearsing its first full-length production, *Stuart Little*. The event will take place at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center on March 21 at 7 p.m., and on March 22 at 2 p.m. Hope to see you there!



The Sage Creek mathematics and science departments continue to inspire our students to form connections between mathematics and the physical world. By linking the geometry and physics courses, our students are applying their studies of trigonometric functions to the periodic nature of pendulums. Based on the Common Core Standards, the students are learning to model and graph sinusoidal waves, and are visualizing wave forms by constructing pendulum wave machines.



**Wave machines created by Sage Creek freshmen demonstrate the relationship between periodicity and trigonometric functions.**

Through this unprecedented marriage between math and science at the freshman level, our Sage Creek students are taking their learning in geometry and physics to new heights with an application and project-based curriculum.

For more information about our programs, prospective families are encouraged to go to the Sage Creek High School homepage, at [sagecreekhs.carlsbadusd.net](http://sagecreekhs.carlsbadusd.net). Here they can find further information about the great academic, athletic, and visual and performing arts opportunities being offered at the Carlsbad Unified School District's newest high school.



**Tom Bloomquist**  
Principal

## Parent Nights

There are a number of different factors that need to be in place for students to become successful in school. Studies have shown that children with parents who share in their education tend to do much better in school than children whose parents are less involved.

At Valley Middle School, we encourage parents to be involved in their students' education in a number of ways. While parents are typically very involved during the elementary years, they often tend to stay away during the middle and high school years.

We are thankful for all of the parents who help support their children as field trip chaperones, in-class volunteers for science projects and poetry slams, Parents-on-Campus volunteers at lunch, library volunteers, dance chaperones, and Career Day volunteers. We are also grateful for their help as Red Ribbon Week helpers, volunteers in the student store, the PTA Reflections contest, the eighth-grade promotion, and so much more.

As school officials we recognize the importance of these contributions, but realize that even more help is needed. We believe it is important to provide our parents with outside resources that can help them become even more supportive of their children. To this end, this year we have added three specific parent nights that feature a variety of topics.

The first parent night in October had Jon Moffat talking about cyber-education, and Fred Becker speaking about "How to develop self-reliant and responsible children." The third topic was an informational meeting on our middle school adopted writing program called MyAccess.

Our second installment took place on February 11. Fred Becker once again returned to talk about our students' "Emotional IQ." The Sage Creek High School staff was also there to talk about the uniqueness of the Bobcat experience. Our third topic that evening had counselors and students from Carlsbad High School presenting the a-g high school graduation requirements.



Our final parent night for the year will take place on April 29 from 6-8 p.m. Fred Becker will be back to talk about the transition from middle school to high school. We will have district representatives covering the transition to the Common Core State Standards. There will also be an admissions director from CSUSM to talk about how to prepare for life after high school at the university level.

Hopefully our parents will benefit from such a variety of choices! By doing so, they will continue to invest in their children's future, and help make Valley Middle School "the place to be!"

## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Suzette Lovely**

the Common Core requires. By the 2013-14 school year, teachers had begun to examine curriculum. Megan Smith, a teacher at Pacific Rim Elementary School, said, "We are looking to realign our standards. We examine what are we teaching, for how long, and in what order, and then look for what is missing. We are doing this together, so there is a cohesiveness within the grade level."

In the English Language Arts area, writing is a focus.

Teams of teachers are now adopting or creating lessons and instructional units aligned with the Common Core Standards, and all teachers will teach a minimum of two Common Core-aligned lessons this year. Under a district-wide writing program, Learning Headquarters, all teachers, grades K through 5, are receiving the same training and using the same vocabulary in their writing instruction.

According to Ashley Crawford, an 8th-grade physical science teacher at Aviara Oaks Middle School, "Teachers are learning that they don't need to reinvent what they already do, but to add depth to it. Students are reading more non-fiction across the curriculum, and learning to find evidence in the text to support their conclusions."

"One of the big paradigm shifts is to teach students to be thinkers, to learn by doing, to analyze like historians and lawyers. Students work together, look at different texts from different perspectives, and then find the answers in the text," says Carlsbad High School's Chris Robertson. Teachers have learned that Common Core instruction takes more time. Students can get frustrated that there isn't always a correct answer. But, in the end, teachers feel that students have a better understanding of important concepts.

But teachers need guidance and resources to support Common Core implementation. "There's nothing that says 'Common Core—Here's how to do it.'" says Robertson. CUSD teachers are working on curriculum-alignment processes, different content-delivery models, performance-task preparation, inquiry-based lesson design, and teacher training—as well as identifying additional training and resources where they are needed.

Superintendent of Instructional Services Dr. Robert Nye reports, "When I'm out visiting classrooms I see fantastic teachers, experts in their subjects, who have taken the bull by the horns and are teaching this new curriculum." As CUSD grapples with the challenge of making these new standards the basis for the instructional program in our classrooms, we are learning that the Common Core is not a destination, but a journey.



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## iFantastico!



Kate Karp

Whether you're teaching a dual-immersion or a bilingual primary class in English and Spanish or if you just want to introduce English-only children to Spanish, Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band's *iFantastico!* fits its title (that's *fantastic*, natch).

The indie-rock band is a combo of accordions, harmonicas, percussion, guitars and vocalists, including Diaz's wife, Alisha Gaddis. The Jam Band's music has been featured on a major soft-drink commercial, and their previous albums have won praise, including being named Best New Children's Artist by *USA Today*. Their latest collection, sung entirely in Spanish, will have children and parents latching on to the music like a grab bar in a train and joyfully riding it all the way to the last stop.



Some of the songs on the CD were translations of previously recorded Jam Band tunes; the others were written for the CD. "*Los números*" ("The Numbers") will teach number names in Spanish, and "*El gato astronauta*," ("The Astronaut Cat"), charming in its own right, will extend the knowledge to simple addition. "*A bailar*" ("Let's Dance") involves directionality and body awareness through movement and a very catchy tune. "*Tres ratones*" ("Three Mice")

is a charmer of a repetitive tale: the title characters try to hold on to their own tales in a garden as they hide from a cat. The song's lyrics are simple and a natural fit for the rhythm and the accompanying Dylanesque harmonica played by Joe Harpcat.

The Spanish can be easily translated by anyone with a working knowledge of Spanish. They're available for free download at [www.luckydiazmusic.com](http://www.luckydiazmusic.com).

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

### CITY OF CARLSBAD • From Page 3

Results from our annual residents' survey were released last month, and once again our library services got top marks. Not only do our library staff offer really great programs and events, they are always looking for new resources to offer the public. One of these is a new online language learning system called Pronunciator. It's free with a library card and offers more than 50 languages. The system can be accessed from home, school or anywhere there's an Internet connection. Features include speech recognition for help with pronunciation, scored quizzes, a virtual coach and even an app for learning on the go.

Our library staff is also busy getting ready to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America. The National Education Association's Read Across America program is a reading celebration that takes place each year near Dr. Seuss' birthday and brings together kids, teens and books with the goal of motivating youth to read. Enjoy a special story time with a guest reader on March 4 at the City of Carlsbad's Cole Library.

Speaking of the Cole Library, next time you're there, leave a little time to visit the city's sculpture garden, just north of the library at 2955 Elmwood St. A new exhibit just opened, "Steel and Glass: the Sculptures of Jeffrey Laudenslager and Deanne Sabeck," featuring seven works by two well-known Encinitas artists. The Sculpture Garden, open to the public Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is a beautiful space to enjoy art and take a break from our hectic lives. I love it there.

Another great art exhibit just opened at the City of Carlsbad's William D. Cannon Art Gallery (at the Dove Library complex). "Our Lives, Our Stories: America's Greatest Generation," is a free exhibition that explores the life arc of the World War II generation as told in their own words. Drawing on memories and oral histories, the exhibition begins with the babies of the 1910s and 1920s, and then explores the human impact of events that marked major turning points in the lives of the Greatest Generation, including the Depression, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, World War II, the rising awareness of Civil Rights and the growth of media-driven consumer culture during the postwar boom.

All this, and the year has only just begun! Get more info on things I've mentioned here plus much more at the city's website.

# Contest!!

This chicken is somewhere twice in this publication. When you find it, email the two page numbers to:



[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
(Please put CUSD in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by April 15, 2014. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations Alyssa!  
The winner of our last Word Search.

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