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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Fullerton School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2014

Technology in Our Schools



Dr. Robert Pletka
Superintendent

Technology in Our Schools

What will our students need to be successful in a world in which the jobs of their future do not even exist? When any job that can be outsourced, or packaged into a routine for a computer or robot to run will become obsolete, the need for creativity, non routine problem solving, and collaborative

leaders will be necessary in this Brave New World. The ability to innovate, create and leverage 21st Century communication and collaborative technologies becomes vital for our children's success in this new global economy.

In 2004, the District first implemented Laptops for Learning, a 24/7 program at Fisler, Golden Hill, Hermosa Drive Schools and Nicolas Junior High. As a result, this year marks the sixth year that Fisler School has been designated as an Apple Distinguished School. The great success from this program has set the stage for the implementation of additional technological programs.

All teachers in the District have the opportunity to utilize laptops for everyday use in the classrooms. This is complemented with mobile carts at the schools with laptops, iPods, and iPads for use by students in the classrooms. The integration of iPods has been successful as exemplified by the iPods in Education Learning Project at Valencia Park School, which has been designated as an Apple Distinguished Program for the second year.



In March of this year, the Fullerton School District will implement the 1:1 iPad Visible Innovation Program (VIP) for all 6th and 7th grade students across the entire District and extend this program to all 5th through 8th grade students very soon. Our 5th through 8th grade students will have the device to utilize at school and at home 24/7. When our educators inspire passion for learning in our children, students will be able to pursue that learning beyond the school day in areas of their choice such as writing, arts, engineering, science, or wherever their learning takes them. For those students who need extra help, we will have resources such as screencasts of their teachers lecture that they can access at home. Within the context of the school days, the iPad will allow students to work collaboratively with professionals on real world projects, receive immediate feedback on their work and create new designs with digital tools such as 3D modeling software. Additionally, we will be able to further personalize learning for our children with a wide array of supports and extensions.

This new iPad Visible Innovation Program is an exciting opportunity for our children. Our students will have greater opportunities to pursue their interests, learn whenever they are able, create with innovative tools and connect their learning to the real world learning. Every child deserves the chance to be masters of their destiny and their dreams. At Fullerton School District, we are committed to providing this destination for our students.

Arts Are a Birthright



All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation

The All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation believes passionately that the arts are the birthright of every child.

This organization is a grass roots community effort that champions the arts while actively raising funds to supplement the Fullerton School District's ongoing support of arts education. The Foundation has donated nearly \$2 million to ensure that every single child who attends the Fullerton School District receives an outstanding arts education that includes visual art, music, dance, theatre, and moviemaking.

See ALL THE ARTS • Page 9

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Lynn Thornley, Clerk; Dr. Robert Pletka, Superintendent; Chris Thompson, Vice President; Janny Meyer, Board President; (front) Beverly Berryman, Member; Hilda Sugarman, Member.

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Kay Coop
 Founder/Publisher



Thank you for your positive emails to our first issue and your contest entries. Be sure to enter the contest on page 9.

The Superintendent's message on the front page is very exciting news for students. His statement, "Every child deserves the chance to be masters of their destiny and their dreams...we are committed to providing this destination for our students."

Have a wonderful Spring Break!
 Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is April 30, 2014.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Fullerton Education / Technology Foundations

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Continuing Educational Accomplishments

Fullerton School District is honored and respected across the State and nation for its continuing accomplishments in education. This has been possible through an ongoing effort between the Fullerton School District, the Fullerton Technology Foundation, and the Fullerton Education Foundation. Together, they supply the District and teachers with grants and needed support, this year totaling over \$145,000. Tapping the resource of local businesses and generous community members, these organizations have fundraised to allow for exceptional academic enrichment.



Foundation Education/Technology Foundation.

All of our dollars are visible and working in every classroom through Gizmos, Haiku Learning, and Discovery Streaming Video to support every teacher and student in the Fullerton School District. Grants for classroom projects, iPads, and student fieldtrips have allowed educators the ability to provide a more effective education. Included in this year's school grants was the generous support of Fullerton Cares; funding technology to be used directly in the District's Autism programs. Ingenuity from innovative teachers together with these amazing tools allow students opportunity to tap creativity in a collaborative environment. The success of these educators can be measured by greater classroom engagement, superior attendance, and higher test scores. In efforts to meet the requirements of Common Core Standards and skills necessitated for the 21st Century job market, educators are innovating new and exciting approaches to learning.

Celebrate with us our success in providing an excellent education to all Fullerton children!

For more information on teacher grants, our events or how to get involved visit www.FullTech.org.


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Post-doctoral Certificate in Orthodontics, UCLA
DMD, Harvard School of Dental Medicine
BS in Mathematics, UCI

(FUN FACTS)
Dr. Moon is a "foodie" who loves rock climbing and the newest technology



MATTHEW MACGINNIS DDS, MS

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Post-doctoral Certificate in Orthodontics, UCLA
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School of Dentistry
BS in Biology, Point Loma Nazarene

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Acacia *Elementary*

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Dr. Karen Whisnant
Principal

Acacia Authors

Twenty-four of our fourth- and fifth-grade Acacia students recently completed a program called the “Writers’ Guild.” Spearheaded by Superintendent Dr. Pletka, students from four schools participated in this unique opportunity to give local children a chance to share their voice through writing.

For six weeks, Acacia students voluntarily met after school with their writing teacher, Mrs. Nancy Regitz. The focus of their lessons was on heroes. The curriculum for the Writers Guild program was created by the teachers and principals of our district.

A highlight for students was the experience of meeting with real authors who could also mentor and serve as models. A proud celebratory culmination was held in December, with the students and families from each school in attendance.



Our Acacia authors are exceptionally proud of their writing. In a short period of time they have grown in their confidence and understanding of the writing process, and are excited to share their knowledge with others.

Beechwood *Elementary*

780 Beechwood Ave., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-2850 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Julie Graham
Principal

Budding Writers

IMAGEWriters Workshop is a signature practice at Beechwood School. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade are enriched by a research-based program that teaches students how to write authentically.

The Beechwood Foundation was pivotal in the fiscal support of these endeavors: funding the teachers’ participation in the Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University and purchasing curriculum.

Students are beginning to see their lives as unwritten stories. They are exposed to rigorous writing standards via direct instruction in the form of mini-lessons, mid-workshop teaching points, and class closure. The independent writing time, where students are released to apply their newfound skills, is the time when teachers are able to focus on individual students and small-group conferencing. The outcome of this feedback moves students along meaningful trajectories of development.

Beechwood is exceedingly proud of our student writers!



Commonwealth *Elementary*

2200 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7705 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Anita Lomeli
Principal

And, Action!

Commonwealth students are researchers, screenwriters, actors, directors, producers, and ... totally engaged in learning!

As one of two district schools fortunate enough to be a part of Project Create (Children Reaching Excellence in the Arts and Academics through Engagement), our students have been busy learning the art of filmmaking and creating historical movie vignettes about the Gold Rush and the Boston Tea Party.

The “Arts Lab Bus” is a former school bus that was converted for service as a movie-making classroom. As it rolled onto our campus, the students quickly honed in on their Common Core 4C’s: critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity. In groups of peers they transformed the chapters of their history books into storyboards and dialogue. They also learned how to film from different angles to produce a desired effect.



The students performed their vignettes in front of the camera and then edited their film. The final product was a movie that the students produced; a history lesson never to be forgotten; and the 4C’s completely infused in learning!

Fern Drive *Elementary*

1400 W. Fern Drive, Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7710 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Yaelan Choo
Principal

21st-Century Learning

The Fern Drive Elementary School Foundation for Education and Techknowledgey was formed during the 2012–2013 school year. The foundation’s mission is to support the implementation of mobile technology in kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms in order to enhance students’ development and utilization of 21st-century learning skills.

In November of this school year, the foundation sponsored a fitness-a-thon fund-raiser where students participated in a variety of cardiovascular activities to raise funds for technology.

In December, the foundation held a holiday boutique. In addition to the local vendors that sold holiday decorations and goods, the boutique also featured pictures with Santa, cookie decorating, a baked goods sale, the sale of Fern

Drive Christmas ornaments, and the amazing performance of holiday songs by students at each grade level.

Proceeds from these two events totaled over \$9,000 and were used to purchase new electronic tablets for our students!



Robert C. Fisler

1350 Starbuck Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-2890 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us

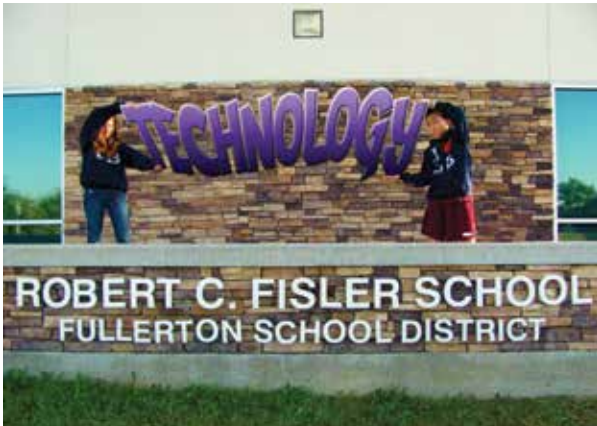


Trang Lai
Principal

Teaching with Technology

Robert C. Fisler School has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for 2013 to 2015 for its 1:1 Laptops for Learning program, where students in second through eighth grades learn 24/7 with their laptops. The Apple Distinguished School designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence and demonstrate exemplary learning environments. Fisler School has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School since the inception of the program in 2007. Fisler is the only school in the nation that has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the last seven years.

Fisler's continued innovation is due in large part to its creative and dedicated staff. Our mission provides the direction for both students and staff: "At Robert C. Fisler School, we empower each other to create, communicate, collaborate, and think critically in a technology-rich environment."



Hermosa Drive *Elementary*

400 E. Hermosa Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7720 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Robin Gilligan
Principal

Healthy Choices

Hermosa Drive School is passionate about health and wellness! We provide unique and engaging opportunities for physical fitness and nutritional lessons with our community partners, the Anaheim Ducks, the Dairy Council of California, and the Fullerton Nutrition Center. Our goal is that students develop lifelong habits of healthy living.

Students in third and fourth grades organize fun and exciting school-wide events such as our annual A-Z Salad Bar, the Got Milk photo booth, the Re-Think Your Drink exhibit, and sample food from the Harvest of the Month program. Our fourth-grade students also participate in the Anaheim Ducks street hockey program. Teachers then select and coach a hockey team that competes in May at the Honda Center.

Students at Hermosa Drive are proud to encourage others to live a healthy and active lifestyle!



Golden Hill *Elementary*

732 Barris Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7715 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Robert Johnson
Principal

The Arts at Our School

A focus on the arts is an important part of Golden Hill School. Teachers and staff incorporate arts education into instruction on a regular basis. All students at our school complete visual-art projects that reinforce their learning. Students in each of our kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms also study an artist and a musician every month.

Throughout the year, all students receive lessons in visual arts, drama, dance and music from professionals in their fields through the All the Arts for All the Kids program. In addition, each grade level participates in a large-scale musical performance based on their curriculum.

Even our school psychologist visits kindergarten and first-grade classes with his guitar on a weekly basis to share his love of music and song.

It is our hope to inspire our students to continue a lifelong appreciation for the arts through their experiences at Golden Hill School!



Ladera Vista *Junior High School*

1700 E. Wilshire Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7765 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Randa Schmalfeld
Principal

Growing and Learning

At Ladera Vista Junior High School (LV), students value their partnership with California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). Through the Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience (U-ACRE) and Project Learning Tree Programs, graduate students work with LV students to collect and enter data, such as the number of tomato flowers on a given day, and retrieve information, such as the nutritional benefits of a tomato or the regional history of a particular plant. Student-generated information is stored on a university server to be downloaded

for LV activities, such as a photo of a flowering plant for an art project, the soil temperature over time for graphing exercises, or the weight of school-grown tomatoes to estimate the amount of beta carotene. These activities reinforce math skills, information literacy, and knowledge of nutrition

The school also recycles green lunch waste into a school bio-safe, creating rich fertilizer to enhance the beautiful garden spaces across campus. Students greatly benefit from these outstanding, hands-on, learning experiences!



Laguna Road

300 Laguna Road, Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7725 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Harold Sullivan
Principal

Code Challenge

During the week of Dec. 8, all 683 students at Laguna Road Elementary participated in Hour of Code. This event was sponsored by Code.org to promote computer science. Bill Gates, President Barack Obama, President Bill Clinton, Mark Zuckerberg, will.i.am and other influential celebrities strongly feel that learning to write code expands creativity and advances problem-solving skills.

Students also participated in “Code Challenge,” sponsored by our PTA. Students used Scratch, a visual scripting program, to create animated holiday cards. Judges were astounded by the creativity and complexity of the coding. Richard Woo from Leggo GT donated classes to the grand-prize winner. Students will learn to write codes in his workshop. Students were engaged and motivated to continue to write code.

Teachers at Laguna Road are dedicated to inspire, increase, and extend students’ knowledge gained from the classroom and use the information in meaningful ways. We are preparing our students for success.



Nicolas Junior High School

1100 W. Olive Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7775 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Mathew Barnett
Principal

PLTW Class Works on Robotics

Student in the Nicolas Junior High Project’s Lead the Way class will be focusing on robotics for the second semester. The students will be using VEX robotics kits to complete challenging tasks in class and demonstrate their new knowledge. Students will also learn how to program robots using the RobotC programming language.

In the previous semester, the students learned about 3-D design using AutoDesk Inventor computer-aided design software. Utilizing their understanding of computer-aided design, the students created a children’s playground, a custom light-switch cover and a pegboard toy. In order to draw the various shapes, the students had to learn

to extrude three-dimensional objects from two-dimensional objects and also learned to create a helix from a circular shape they created. Mrs. Desai, the project’s teacher, led the way. Robotics and 3-D design classes is inspiring the next generation of creative problems solvers through the Project Lead the Way curriculum.



Maple Elementary

244 E. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7590 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Susan Mercado
Principal

New Communication Academy

In 2012, when Dr. Robert Emery, Human Communications/Forensics, CSUF and a team of graduate students filmed the documentary *Taking Conflict out of the Community—The Maple Neighborhood* and posted it on YouTube and the CSUF website, Principal Susan Mercado joined forces with CSUF to launch Maple’s Argumentation and Communication Leadership Academy (ACLA) for grades 4–6. Now, two years later, the ACLA team has successfully competed in two tournaments at Irvine Valley College, under the tutelage of adjunct professor Willie Washington and Maple faculty members Theresa Ryan and Devi Sok-Huynh.



The opportunity to participate in intellectual competition through individual events and debate—skills that will prepare students for college and career—is enhanced by ACLA’s commitment to developing students’ critical/analytic research skills as well as those of teamwork, responsibility and leadership.

Thank you, Maple PTA and other community partners, for your support with tournament fees and team uniforms. View our documentary at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4xsnCM70ZU>.

Orangethorpe Elementary

1400 S. Brookhurst Rd., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7730 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Amanda Segovia Hale
Principal

Technology Plays an Important Role

Students in kindergarten through the sixth grade are interacting with a variety of new technologies as they explore, question, and individualize their learning.

In Mrs. Sanchez’ and Mrs. Hernandez’ kindergarten classes, students solve math problems by using the Strip Design app to photograph and label three-dimensional objects. The first-graders love using their iPads to practice fluency skills in reading. They become motivated by recording and listening to themselves reading the passages.

The second-graders in Mrs. Rowatt’s class use the “Educreation” app to create social studies projects. The third-graders use their laptops to solve math equations on ST math. Our students also use an interactive projector to explore concepts through BrightLink. With this tool they are able to visualize and physically work with the materials and concepts.

Along with interactive projectors, we also use Active Expression Responders. This powerful tool can motivate learning as well as monitor individual progress towards learning goals. Mrs. Walker’s fourth-graders use the Responders to select an answer, view it in class, and then get immediate feedback.

Our multi-age students recently used laptops to enhance a condensation lab. They digitally recorded the process of condensation, used iMovie to edit-in a speed increase to quickly review the process, and then embedded the video into a keynote.

Fifth-grader Ryan Simpson remarked, “Mrs. Hawkey showed us how to use virtual manipulatives on our iPads to help understand and compare fractions.” The sixth-graders have also created a keynote on the five ecosystems, and explored the Outdoor Science Camp to become expert scientists.

Pacific Drive

1501 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7735 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Yolanda Castillo
Principal

Moving into the 21st Century

Sixteen dedicated Pacific Drive teachers recently posted their classroom projects on the “Donors Choose” Web site in hopes of finding a magnanimous donor. Each project focused on improving the effectiveness of instruction and student learning. While each project was unique to the needs of its own classroom, each also requested new technology.

New technology is intended to fulfill our vision of being a 21st century school. We understand the importance of learning how to collaborate, communicate and think critically. But we also believe it is essential to have technology integrated into the curriculum in order to give our students the best possible education.

Because of their perseverance, and our generous donors, several of our students will now have the technology to enrich their learning experience. In total, Pacific Drive received 40 iPads, eight iPods and one audio enhancement device for oral presentations. Thank you, Donors Choose!



Raymond *Elementary*

517 N. Raymond Ave., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/447-7740 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Yolanda McComb
Principal

Mixing the Raymond Balance

Great recipes start out with all the right ingredients, but when an ingenious chef is willing to explore a new technique or add an unexpected flavor, perfection can result. Just like the quest for a signature entree, teams of Raymond Elementary School students and teachers frequently search for innovative vehicles to foster learning.

Sometimes a paintbrush washing over an art journal page (thanks to our four-year partnership with Project CRE+8)

best depicts a message of beauty and understanding. Elsewhere, an aura brings social studies content to life through three-dimensional animation through the use of an electronic tablet. Student bloggers, crafting opinion pieces, articulate responses while interacting with trusted classmates. Actors meaningfully portray historical events. Junior engineers in kindergarten collaboratively experiment and design the best vessel to float across the water.

Everywhere you look, Raymond School features a savory balance of creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication skills!



Parks *Junior High School*

1710 Rosecrans Ave., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7785 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Sherry Dustin
Principal

Published Authors Class

A new addition to our curriculum at Parks Junior High School is our Published Authors Class. With the help of five published author mentors, the class of 30 students work together to publish short stories, non-fiction essays, and poetry. These young authors created fiction stories or essays about their heroes. The professional mentors, Coley Fisher, Melissa Buell, Lyndsey LeFebvre, Jonathan Blank, and Lois Farr, meet weekly with groups of students to venture through the writing process. They are using technology to aid in drafting, editing, and finalizing their pieces. Students also learn about a variety of publishing forums and develop an understanding of what it takes to be a published author.

In December, the students and their mentors celebrated their successes with an awards ceremony at Ladera Vista Junior High School. Students shared their hero stories with parents and other young authors from the Fullerton School District.



Richman *Elementary*

700 S. Richman Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7745 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Estella Grimm
Principal

Preparing Students for Tomorrow and Beyond!

How do we prepare students to compete in a global economy? By giving them the skills they need to communicate, collaborate, create, critically think, and innovate, we are providing students with the skills that they need to be college and career ready and to succeed in life.

Did you know that Richman School has over 300 laptop computers and 400 electronic tablets and portable media players to engage and support student learning in the 21st century?

With this technology, our emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM), as well as writing and communication, Richman students will be well prepared for their future. Also, our students

have been honing their writing skills by participating in the Fullerton School District's Young Writers Guild Program and Richman's Author's Showcase, where students shared their electronic tablets with families who scanned Quick Response (QR) codes to read student book reviews and view STEAM lessons.



Rolling Hills *Elementary*

1460 E. Rolling Hills Dr., Fullerton, CA 92835 • 714/447-7795 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Paska Juncaj-Yehya
Principal

A Curriculum Rich in the Arts

Rolling Hills has a strong history of educating students by using the creative and innovative power of the arts. We believe that students can achieve more in school with a comprehensive and academically challenging arts-infused curriculum, one that will foster critical thinking and creativity.

Today's technology offers a number of ways to accomplish this goal alongside the established curriculum. Our aim is to foster knowledgeable teachers who can perform well in a learner-centered creative process. This means working with colleagues, students and families in a classroom environment that can provide access to technologies which will introduce and reinforce 21st century concepts and skills. The combination of technology and the arts will also help to create new and collaborative ways to keep students motivated and engaged in the learning process, and the world around them.

The teachers will be using new technology to reduce learning barriers, by working the arts into the general and special education curriculum. Coupled with a rich arts-infused curriculum, this technology can also help our students develop connections between the classroom and the outside world. This will increase overall student interest, promote class participation, teach new skills related to technology, and introduce new career opportunities in the digital arts.

We are excited to be advancing our programs with the introduction of a 1:1 iPad policy in March. Each sixth-grade student will receive an iPad for school use. A priority for the 2014–2015 school year will be to continue this program with our fifth-graders.

Valencia Park *Elementary*

3341 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7755 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Helene Morris
Principal

The Apple Distinguished Program

We are proud to announce Valencia Park Elementary School's renewal as an Apple Distinguished Program for its IAM Learning Project and The Young Scholars After-School Program. This is a two-year designation from 2013 through 2015.

In order to receive this honor, we had to demonstrate strong evidence of the five best practices of an Apple Distinguished Program: visionary leadership, innovative teaching and learning, ongoing professional development, evidence of success, and a flexible learning environment.



This journey first began in 2010, with 600 iPod touch devices. It has evolved to include a 1:1 iPad program in 28 of our 32 kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms.

This technology is a vehicle for great instructional practices, and helps individualize the learning experience for each student. Its strong focus on professional development, technology integration and student engagement has helped to instill a love for learning in our students, and a culture where children love to come to school.

Sunset Lane *Elementary*

2030 Sunset Lane, Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7750 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Paula Pitluk
Principal

Let's Go Green!

"What can we do about the amount of trash on campus? How can we get students to conserve, recycle, and reuse whenever possible?" As students asked these questions, the opportunity for exploration through project-based learning was born.

The resulting Green Team provides students with a multitude of opportunities to model and encourage stewardship of our planet. Members monitor recycling bins during lunch periods, with proceeds being used to purchase drought-tolerant plants for classroom gardens and pots. In addition, members encourage students to pack "waste-free" lunches and give raffle tickets to those who do. The winning students receive pencils made from recycled materials.

Members attend a monthly meeting for planning and learning. A California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) student instructed the team on the value of vermicomposting using redworms. As a result, lunch scraps are collected on certain days to feed the worms. The result is rich compost which helps Sunset Lane Elementary School's gardens bloom.

The Green Team takes the preservation of Mother Earth seriously.



Woodcrest *Elementary*

455 W. Baker Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 • 714/447-7760 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Hilda Flores
Principal

Learning and Growing Together

Woodcrest is a home for every Wildcat! We proudly provide opportunities for all students to work together to build community and school spirit. The 472 students at Woodcrest include four classrooms for children with moderate to severe disabilities. The highly specialized instruction provided to these students in separate classrooms gives them exactly what they need to be successful.

Our staff and students do amazing work and get great outcomes. In 2005, Leanna Pionke, a third-grade teacher, started



a buddy program that has now blossomed to include over 150 students. Each week, third- and fourth-grade students join their buddies for 30 minutes of collaboration on visual and artistic projects. This has helped to bring students and staff together and keep our school strong and connected. At Woodcrest, we make sure that all students have an opportunity to get to know one another and learn together!

All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7484 • www.allthearts.org

Arts Are a Birthright



Lauralyn Eschner
President

CONTINUED From Page 1

Studies have shown that creativity and innovation are critical keys to success in the 21st Century. An outstanding arts education engages students and nurtures creativity in a way that nothing else does, and is essential for making sure that our students develop the imaginative capacity to find solutions to today's problems.

The All the Arts for All the Kids Foundation provides funding for lessons taught by expert artist/educators, as well as for the Arts Learning Activities Buses which bring expert artist/educators

to mentor students as they make short digital films about what they are learning in their classrooms.

The Foundation also supports the instrumental music program, funds Teacher Arts Grants so that every classroom teacher can make their arts dreams come true for their students, as well as funds the Children's Art Museum and Creativity Center.



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Leadership Word Search Contest

Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
 When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Fullerton in the subject line)

Entries must be received by March 15, 2014
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Accomplished | Organized |
| Caring | Powerful |
| Confident | Responsibility |
| Determination | Role Model |
| Drive | Strong Willed |
| Enthusiastic | Suitable |
| Focused | Teamwork |
| Independent | Trustworthy |
| Initiative | Understanding |
| Intelligent | |

Congratulations to Sandy Pak
 Winner of the December Contest!
Chandra Nguyen and Julijona Venckute
 Winners of Sophie Word Search

Word Search by Gunnar Coop

Y	O	G	T	E	A	M	W	O	R	K	H	F	T	L
Q	T	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I	X	T	U
G	N	I	R	A	C	V	G	D	T	F	B	D	N	F
D	E	D	L	D	R	I	V	E	U	A	A	E	E	R
Z	L	N	X	I	J	T	F	C	J	Y	C	Z	G	E
P	C	A	E	L	B	A	T	I	U	S	C	I	I	W
D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	L	O
I	B	S	X	G	W	T	S	U	F	B	M	A	L	P
A	B	R	Q	V	J	I	Z	N	M	I	P	G	E	D
T	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C	O	K	L	R	T	N
P	I	D	P	K	R	I	G	S	T	P	I	O	N	L
E	I	N	E	N	T	H	U	S	I	A	S	T	I	C
T	R	U	S	T	W	O	R	T	H	Y	H	E	K	F
T	S	T	R	O	N	G	W	I	L	L	E	D	R	T
V	G	O	Y	N	R	O	L	E	M	O	D	E	L	D

So You Think You Can Drive



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

My children are in their 40s, and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since I parented them. One of the most memorable areas of difficulty is when they learned to drive. It is bad enough that your precious baby is on the roller coaster of hormones and exhibiting moments of extreme independence; now he or she wants to get behind the wheel of a car and disappear into the teenage world. Yikes! Besides ensuring that your teen has lots of supervised practice with driving, which will allow him or her to react appropriately when faced with an unexpected situation, it's also important to impress upon your young person the magnitude of the responsibility the privilege of driving entails. Following are some thoughts to share with your children at this important stage of life.

It is critical that your teen understands that driving an automobile is wielding a deadly weapon. You are not only risking your life but someone else's life. Can you live with being the cause of another person's death? My high school pal and I were in her car when a drunk driver ran a signal, broad-sided our car on her side, and killed her. The loss of my friend was horrific! But let's also look at what happened to the man who was driving the car. He awoke from his drunken haze in jail and found out he had killed someone. How do you live with that the rest of your life? His life was forever changed due to a really poor choice.

Today's teens also have to deal with the impact of the world of electronics on their driving. Texting and driving is the same as playing Russian roulette, only the stakes are higher, because more lives are at risk. According to textinganddrivingsafety.com, there are 1.3 million crashes involving cell phones each year. If you look down for five seconds while driving 55 miles per hour, it is the same as looking down while driving the length of a football field. Too many people have lost their lives or killed someone else while texting and driving. Whatever you have to share can wait.

Drinking and driving is not new, but it is still unacceptable. I warned my children that if they came in from an evening with friends and I could tell they had been drinking or doing drugs, they would lose their driving privileges. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) has plenty of graphic pictures on its Web site, which clearly illustrate that alcohol dulls the clarity of a person's thoughts. Quite a few years ago, my former husband and I came out of a party. I held out my hand for the keys, as he was clearly past his limit. He said he was fine. I started walking down the street. Angry, he let me drive home, and halfway there he passed out. What could've happened had he driven home? I'm glad I don't have to know. Alcohol inhibits your ability to make wise choices, so it should never be mixed with driving.

Distracted drivers are also a danger on the road. Driving a car requires your full attention. Reaching into the glove box, turning to talk to friends, or singing and bouncing around, as in the movie "The Blind Side," distracts a driver. Once on a winding road on the coast, a van filled with teenagers tried to navigate at too great a speed. Passengers were killed and one girl paralyzed when the van rolled. The driver was not drunk or on drugs; he simply disengaged from driving and was unable to navigate a curve.

All of these behaviors need to be emphasized with young drivers. But they all boil down to one truth of life: you always need to be responsible and make good choices. From incurring parking tickets or allowing someone else to drive your car to driving while intoxicated, poor choices have serious consequences for your teen, and he or she should know that before you hand over the keys.

Finally, before you send your teen out on the road solo for the first time, remind your child how much you love him or her. Let your teen know that you are aware of the dangers driving may impose and you trust him or her to make good choices. When your child knows that your trust is at risk, hopefully he or she will think twice before making a life-threatening poor decision.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 35 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho www.ParentingSOS.com and Kindle

iFantastic!



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 *iFantastic!* 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.

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

College 4 Less

Inspire Your Kids to Achieve Greatness!



**Susan D.
Marshall**

This past month I had the privilege to be on the campuses of both UCLA and UCI for some advanced coursework. I loved it! Just being there made me want to be a part of it. It also made me remember and realize just how important it is to start talking to our children about college by the time they are 5 years old.

Everywhere I looked people were engaged. There were some young scholars in middle school taking summer courses. Other students were studying with laptops, some sitting in groups and working on projects. I laughed when I watched a student walking backwards on a campus tour telling jokes to the incoming freshman and their parents.

Young children were following their parents. Each had books and their own work to do. It made me remember just how important it is to have our children begin experiencing the "college life."

It used to be a few decades ago that a high school degree was essential. Now a college degree is the norm in the workforce. Many times a master's or advanced designations are required.

It may seem like college is a long way off. Unfortunately, it will be here faster than you can imagine. Most parents can't believe how fast the years have passed and they are not emotionally or financially prepared to send their children off to college. Spending time on campus will make it a reality for everyone. The most important thing you can do is to weave college into the fabric of your lives. If you have children in grade school; go see competitions, a play, a game. Spend time on the campus playing softball or hanging out. Just being there will give your child a vision. College will become a part of their vocabulary. Your children will become inspired. Give them a vision of going to college someday. It isn't if you go to college, but when you go to college.

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 contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

Business Services

1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton, CA 92833 • 714/447-7412 • www.fsd.k12.ca.us

FSD on Solid Financial Footing



Susan Cross Hume, CPA, CIA, CGMA
Assistant Superintendent

Through careful financial management and prudent budgeting, the Fullerton School District has reported another positive year for the District's finances. FSD ended the 2012-13 school year with net income in the General Fund for the 6th year in a row. This resulted in an Unrestricted Ending Fund Balance (equivalent to our "retained earnings" in a for-profit company) of \$20.3 million.

Despite several years of continued cuts from the State (including a 15% cut to the District's Revenue Limit [general purpose] apportionment income), the District has continued to post positive financial results. The District achieved this by parents, staff, the Board and community members working together to develop a prudent budget plan which would keep

the District financially sound while maintaining our high quality educational program. Some steps taken included increasing class size, eliminating some positions, implementing an early retirement program, and using Federal ARRA and Education jobs funding. Additionally, all budgets were scrutinized and reduced where possible, while District employees did their part by taking furlough days to help close the budget gap.

Due to the improving economy and the new State Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), the District's financial future is looking brighter. The Board, staff, parents and the community now have a different task: come up with the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), a detailed guide on how the District will use State funding to achieve its educational goals. Stay tuned!

For detailed information regarding the District's finances, please see the District website or call the Business Services Department.

Fullerton S.D. Saves Money AND the Environment with Propane Buses

FSD is saving resources and the environment by replacing 30 year old diesel fuel burning buses with clean burning Propane buses. The buses were purchased with a \$2 million grant from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD), so the net cost to the District for 16 buses was only \$8,743.

Transportation Department leaders Debbie Vasquez and Jon Andrews were responsible for finding the grant for the District, as well as putting together the detailed application. Thanks to their hard work and attention to detail, the District was able to benefit from this highly competitive program (not all Districts that apply receive funding).



The District received its first shipment of three buses (walk-on/wheelchair) in November. The second group of six conventional passenger buses (72 passenger) were received in December. An additional seven buses will be received in January and February. Buses will be used to transport students from home to school, as well as for field trips.

Risk Management

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Opportunity for Parents to Get Involved!



Laurie Bruneau
Risk Manager

At the Fullerton School District, traffic safety is something that we passionately believe in and always appreciate parent support. If you would like more information on how to become a volunteer for the occasional traffic duty, contact your school's office for more details.

Otherwise, if you are unable to volunteer, another way to make a difference is to remember these basic safety principles while driving near a school.

- 1) Follow posted signs, area crossing guards, and those directing traffic.
 - 2) Be an early bird and allow enough time each day to safely drop off/pick up your child.
 - 3) Demonstrate patience and take a deep breathe. You are not the only one in a hurry trying to get somewhere (really).
 - 4) Put down the cell phone and pay attention to what is happening outside your vehicle. Children are unpredictable and can walk directly into traffic.
 - 5) Make sure your student enters/exits the vehicle on the safe side. The safe side is the one closest to the sidewalk or curb. Never allow your child to cut through moving traffic.
 - 6) It's better to yield to another driver than to push your way through.
 - 7) Set the example for your child, always use crosswalks or marked intersections.
 - 8) Never leave your car unattended in a student loading/unloading area.
- These seem to be basic tips, but always worth repeating for the sake of our children's safety.

Remember it starts first with you and I setting the examples for others!



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