

**FREE**

# School News

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**Covering the following school districts:**

**Fountain Valley School District • Ocean View School District  
Westminster School District • Huntington Beach Union High School District**

**VOLUME 6, ISSUE 40**

**JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011**

## HBUHSD Has Cause To Celebrate!



**Assistant Superintendent Kathy Miller, Superintendent Van W. Riley, and Assistant Superintendent Debbie Coleman**

*By Dr. Van W. Riley*

### Huntington Beach Union High School District – A Top Workplace in Orange County

Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) has cause to celebrate! We learned at the beginning of this school year that one of our employees nominated our district as a Top Workplace in Orange County, sponsored by the *Orange County Register*. In December, it was announced that we received the second-place award in the category of large companies (those that have more than 500 employees). More than 18,000 employees from 111 companies across Orange County responded anonymously to the Top Workplaces survey. Workplace Dynamics analyzed 19 questions encompassing six factors in a workplace: Pay and Benefits; Managers; Conditions; Execution; Career; and Direction.

According to the *OC Register's* annual Top Workplaces survey, the Huntington Beach Union High School District earned the No. 1 spot on the issue of Meaningfulness. The district also earned the top spot in the Special Awards Opportunities category.

Of the 14 organizations ranked in the large employer category, the district ranked No. 1 in Pay and Benefits with employees indicating they felt their benefits package is good compared with others in the industry. Employees gave high marks to the district in the Conditions factor. They feel genuinely appreciated and have

*SEE CAUSE TO CELEBRATE • PAGE 24*

## Major Middle School Makeovers

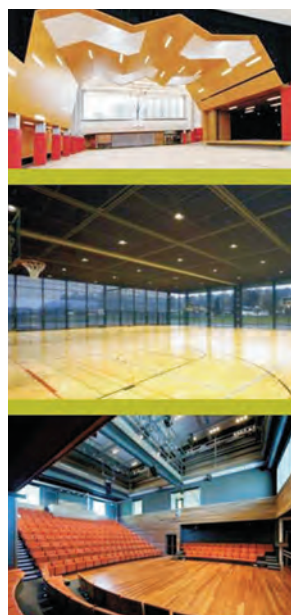
*By Trish Montgomery, Public Information Officer  
Westminster School District*

The Westminster School District has big plans for its three middle schools. Thanks to the funding provided by a bond measure that voters passed, Johnson, Stacey and Warner Middle Schools will undergo major transformations that will enhance the quality of education our students receive.

First, a Priority Planning Committee established guiding principles to be used in the development of all plans for Measure O projects. These six guiding principles are a shared reflection of our vision, values and dreams for the children in our district.

- Provide 21st Century Learning Environments.
- Develop Schools as Centers of Community.
- Promote Safe and Healthy Schools and Lifestyles.
- Facilitate Exploration as the Key Component of Learning.
- Value Stewardship and Accountability in all Activities.
- Promote Staff Development and Collaboration.

Secondly, an Exploration Committee that consisted of teachers, support staff and principals convened to brainstorm about the



**Measure O – Gymnasium**

ways they thought we could improve the educational experiences of our students. Teams of people made site visits to some of the most innovative and impressive schools in Southern California. The Exploration Committee ultimately created a wish list of things they would like to have at their schools. Then our architect and builder combined the guiding principles and wish list to develop plans within our budget for our middle school expansion and remodel.

Each middle school renovation will have four basic components: a new gymnasium/multi-purpose room, a resource center, an exploration building and a variety of site enhancements.

The gymnasium/multi-purpose room will include indoor and outdoor learning areas. The indoor area will be 100' x 120' and will have seating for 1,500. In addition to basketball courts and a performance/lecture stage, it will have a fitness studio, drama studio and music studio.

The Resource Center will include a state-of-the-art library, media center, work spaces for small groups or large teams and a contemporary food services wing.

*SEE MAJOR MIDDLE SCHOOL • PAGE 31*

**OC Dept. of Ed page 4; Food & Nutrition Services page 4; Westminster Library page 4; AHA for Kids pages 14–16; Contests pages 8 & 14**  
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Huntington Beach Union High School District pages 23–29; FV Mayor page 30; HB Mayor page 30; Westminster Mayor page 31



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**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



Happy New Year! The beginning of a new year is always refreshing and like a clean slate offering hope that this year will be better than the last.

I want to say thank you to Dr. Van Riley, Superintendent Huntington Beach Union High School District, for his dedication and commitment to education and our youth. He has been a delight to work with since we launched *School News* six years ago covering these four districts. Dr. Riley is retiring and his article is on page 23.

We had a record number of entries in our November contests. The winners are announced on page 8 and 14. Be sure to enter this month!



Netragednik  
Neta Madison

## School News

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FOUNTAIN VALLEY  
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OCEAN VIEW  
WESTMINSTER



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562/493-3193  
[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

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# Teen Advisory Board has Begun!



Mary Ann Hutton  
Branch Manager

Westminster Library Children’s Department has a new Book Club for children ages 9-12 years of age. We invite you to join this new Book Club! It meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm. Call Miss Anna, our Children’s Librarian, to find out which book is being read. Kids of all ages are invited to our Special Craft Days the 2nd Thursday of each month at 3:30 pm. All craft supplies are provided and there is a different theme each month! Come and join in on the fun of handicrafting!

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has begun! We also have a new Teen Librarian, Brynn Burke, and she is anxious to meet you and begin new and adventuresome ideas for our Teen community. Teens may earn volunteer hours while having fun planning activities for the library, suggesting materials for the library and assisting with library Teen programs. The TAB meets the first Wednesday each month at 4:00 p.m. A free SAT practice test will be held on February 19th at 10:00 a.m. Call or stop by to sign up. Meet local mystery author, Max D. Lechtman, on February 15th at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Lechtman will read from his book, *A Sense of Rumor* and answer questions from the audience.

We are, again, offering basic computer classes on topics like the Internet and email. Please call or come in to register. Use Wifi in the library with your laptops or use our computer we have available to the public in the library. Our Librarians are ready to assist you in any way they can.

The Westminster Friends of the Library has a Used Bookstore and needs your donations and would love for you to volunteer to help in the bookstore. Teens can assist in the bookstore, which looks good on a college application. Call or drop by and visit our unique bookstore which offers gently used books at low, low prices. Call: 714.898.4245.

Children’s Dept. has a new Book Club  
The Teen Advisory Board has begun  
Basic computer classes are available  
Our Librarians  
are ready to assist you  
in any way they can.

## Food & Nutrition Services

Huntington Beach Union High School District • 714/894-1698

# To Eat or Not to Eat...

By Lauren Bernardo, HBUHSD Food and Nutrition Services

“Lose 2 pounds or more per week without dieting!” “Eat what you want: the more you eat the more you lose!” “Improve weight loss by wearing a patch or using a cream!”

We are all overwhelmed with nutrition statements like these every day. Deciding if a statement is true or false can be tricky. Be a savvy consumer by learning to question the nutrition information you hear. Common “red flags” include:

The promise of permanent weight loss; Claims that sound too good to be true; Cutting out an entire food group; Anything labeled “good” or “bad;” The promise of a quick fix; Recommendations to help sell a specific product.

So you may be wondering...where can I go to find good nutrition information? A great website to visit is MyPyramid.gov. With this website you can find your calorie needs, learn about serving sizes, and even track your progress.

Another trustworthy website is Eatright.org where Registered Dietitians provide a “Tip of the Day,” the latest nutrition news, and information on how nutrition relates to lowering the risk of disease.

Now you know there is no miracle patch for good health! The only way to meaningful weight loss is to eat less calories and increase physical activity. Set your nutrition goals for the New Year using the information available at these websites. For more ideas on eating healthy, contact a Nutrition Specialist from the Network for a Healthy California at (714) 894-1698.

## Orange County Department of Education

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

# Deaf and Hard of Hearing



William M. Habermehl  
Superintendent

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Program guarantees access to quality education in a regional setting for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Venado Middle School and University High School are located in Irvine, and the Career Adult Program and vocational program is based in Costa Mesa. Together, these three programs serve over 135 deaf students in grades 7-12. Students from every school district in the county attend the program. At University High School and Venado Middle School, students have the opportunity to be mainstreamed in general education classes.

Along with a rigorous academic course of study, our OCDE staff provides students with many extracurricular activities. Venado Middle School students have been busy with a “Reading Counts” competition, and this month six students were recognized and rewarded for their ardent reading with a lunch trip to McDonalds. In addition, the students are getting ready to participate in a school-wide track and field competition.

Through grant funding, both Venado Middle School and University High School students have had the opportunity to take art lessons. Laguna Beach artist David Milton has been working with the students on watercolors, and their work will be exhibited in the Kalmus art gallery at OCDE in the near future.

University High School students competed in the Southern California Basketball and Cheerleading Tournament in Los Angeles in April 2010 and had a great experience. The basketball team won the championship and the cheerleaders took second place. University High School’s Deaf Academic Bowl team competed in the National Finals in Washington, D.C. to defend their national title. The team had a wonderful experience and placed in the top ten deaf programs in the nation. Every year University High School has participated in this competition, the team has had a top ten finish.

During recent meetings at the National Technical Institute of the Deaf, a College of the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Principal Jon Levy had the opportunity to have dinner with three OCDE graduates from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. The students are a wonderful example of the success and achievement that Deaf and Hard of Hearing students can achieve with support and dedication. Two of the students are getting Master’s Degrees in Information Technology and the third is a freshman majoring in Astrophysics.

Students in the Career Adult Program (CAP) are also doing well. In addition to learning how to find and rent an apartment, they are learning how to develop a budget. They are also working on functional academics and studying for their driving tests. At the same time, all of the students participate in job site internships. The internships are based in a variety of retail settings, including a flower store, an auto body repair shop, and a drugstore. CAP students are looking forward to transitioning to adulthood and paid employment.

It is very gratifying to have this wonderful OCDE program that is bringing so much student success and pride while ensuring that Orange County delivers a world class education where every student succeeds.

To learn more about the OCDE Deaf and Hard of Hearing program, visit [http://sped.ocde.us/ocde\\_ss/OCDE\\_Special\\_Schools\\_Sites/ss\\_rdhhp.htm](http://sped.ocde.us/ocde_ss/OCDE_Special_Schools_Sites/ss_rdhhp.htm) and [http://sped.ocde.us/ocde\\_ss/OCDE\\_Special\\_Schools\\_Sites/ss\\_ocrdhhp.htm](http://sped.ocde.us/ocde_ss/OCDE_Special_Schools_Sites/ss_ocrdhhp.htm).

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# Fountain Valley School District

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/843-3200 • www.fvsd.k12.ca.us

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Honor the Best

The Fountain Valley School District is blessed with a host of teachers who count themselves first as learners. They strive to improve their already skilled teaching techniques and strategies to reach a goal that many of us find difficult to attain. Teachers have not taught, they believe, until their students have learned. No student can be permitted to slip through the cracks and all students are capable with the right intervention to reach proficiency.

#### Dr. Marc Ecker

We indeed are very fortunate to have many in our fold that gain their sustenance, their desire to become always better tomorrow than they are today by engaging in meaningful conversations around teaching and learning with their fellow colleagues. They seek new ideas, new instructional delivery systems, more creative approaches to mastering curriculum and interesting perspectives in motivating students from those who teach next door, across the quad or around the district. These teachers are the best, not as they necessary are today, but for the capacity they continue to build within themselves.

Three of these teachers were recognized this fall. Mr. Michael Brunner, Science Teacher at Masuda Middle School was honored by the Orange County Department of Education, the Schools First Federal Credit Union and Disneyland for being selected as the 2011 Fountain Valley Teacher of the Year. Ms. Claudia Angelici and Mr. John Wood, also middle school science teachers at Fulton and Talbert Middle Schools respectively were recognized by the California League of Middle Schools for being two of ten region middle level educators of the year. I had the privilege of attending the recognition dinners of all three. I want to extend to these three outstanding "learners" my appreciation for setting the bar high for so many of our fine teachers to strive and to successfully reach. On behalf of the students they serve, thank you.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Christine Allcorn**  
*Clerk*

### Welcome New Board Members!

On December 9, 2010 The Fountain Valley School District welcomed two new members to the school board. Jimmy Templin and Sandra Crandall were sworn in as trustees and will serve the district for the next four years. As trustees they bring their own unique experiences, opinions, and skills to the board all in an effort to continue and improve upon the excellent foundation that has been built by the community, staff and board members who have previously served.

As the five board members work in concert to minimize the impacts of the state's financial calamity we will all focus on the important role we hold in the community. The board's role is to set the direction for the schools, establish an effective and efficient structure for the school district, provide support to staff, ensure accountability to the public, and act as community leaders. While we are five individuals who bring different perspectives, we are one board and our strength is in our collaboration, teamwork, and the knowledge that we are working for the good of the community.

Unfortunately, many districts become mired in the politics of personalities and schools and children suffer. We are fortunate indeed to be part of a district where board members stay focused on teaching and learning in the classrooms and leave personal agendas outside the boardroom. Fountain Valley is a nice place to live and a great place to send children to school.

We welcome our two new trustees and wish them much success during their tenure.

## Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

17210 Oak St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

## Upcoming Events



**Carla Neeld**  
*President*

Both the FVEF board and executive administrator have had a busy fall season. School orientations, a booth at the Chamber Expo, a number of back-to-school-night presentations and a fall membership drive have kept everyone very active.

Our signature event was the eighth-annual "Taste of Fountain Valley/Casino at the Club" activity. This fabulous evening included delicious tastes from 15 local restaurants, a silent auction, opportunity drawings, a performance by the FVSD Honor Marching Band and great entertainment from our very own music teachers.

A lucky grand-prize winner also received a Las Vegas travel package that included two nights in any of six resort properties, along with dinner for two and tickets to their choice of headline show.

The FVEF is gearing up for six more fund-raisers this winter and spring, beginning with the Fountain Valley Music Live Benefit Concert on January 29th at the Huntington Beach High School auditorium. This event will showcase the talents of local professional musicians as part of an effort to save our instrumental music programs. Ticket information can be found on our Web site.

We are also planning a 5K Science Works run, a "Teacher Tribute" event, spring membership drive and the ninth-annual "Festival of the Arts."

There has never been a greater time of challenge for quality education in California. Anyone can join and support the Foundation. So as the new year begins, please consider making a tax-deductible investment in your community by supporting our local schools.



**Judy Edwards**  
*President*

## Fountain Valley School District Board of Education



**Ian Collins**  
*President Pro Tem*



**Christine Allcorn**  
*Clerk*



**Sandra Crandall**  
*Member*



**Jimmy Templin**  
*Member*



# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

18313 Santa Carlotta, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4280 • www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/courreges/courregs.html



**Joyce Buehler**  
Principal

## Thank You PTA

Under the outstanding leadership of Courreges PTA President Kaz Augustus, our students and staff have experienced an overabundance of generous support during this school year. We are so grateful to have parents and community members contribute their time and energy toward our student's social emotional and academic education. THANK YOU Courreges PTA for your passion, commitment and dedication toward our students and staff. YOU are amazing and are truly appreciated by all. We love our Courreges PTA!

This year, our PTA will gift the Courreges children with: Art Masters, Accelerated Reading Program, Best Paw Reading Program, Book Fairs, Class Parties, Classroom Enhancement Money, Computer Lab Supplies / Technology Upgrades, Field Trips, ST Math (JiJi), Science Night, Talent Show, and Year End Carnival.



**Jim Rose, Michelle Eichinger, Mitch Sigal, Jennifer Edmonds, Cathy Griffin, Diane Mundo, Rachel Hernandez, Carolyn Wang and Jim Frederisy**

# Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6-8)*

8778 El Lago St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-2816 • http://fultonms.fvdsd.ca.schoolloop.com/



**Chris Christensen**  
Principal



**Paul Andre White**  
Assistant Principal

## 2010-2011 CLMS Educator of the Year Finalist

Fulton science teacher, Ms. Claudia Angelici, was nominated and selected as a finalist for the 2010-2011 California League of Middle Schools (CLMS) Region 11 Educator of the Year. Claudia was honored on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at the Long Beach Yacht Club along with 9 nine other finalists from Southern California middle schools.

Claudia has been teaching at Fulton Middle School since 2007. Although relatively new to the field of education, Claudia has proven herself as an outstanding and dedicated science teacher; committed to creating a rigorous and innovative science classroom. Ms. Angelici currently teaches 6th and 8th grade science at Fulton Middle School, in Fountain Valley.



**Mr. P.A. White, assistant principal, Ms. Claudia Angelici, nominee, Mr. Chris Christensen, principal.**

# James H. Cox *Elementary (K-5)*

17615 Los Jardines East, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.coxelementary.org



**Julianne Hoefer**  
Principal

## Works of Art

On November 4, 2010 James H. Cox Elementary School hosted its first ever Kids Art Fair evening. Throughout the month of November, Cox students worked diligently to create magnificent works of arts. They used a variety of mediums including pencil, crayon, watercolor paint, paint, and pastels. The teachers and were extremely proud of the quality that resulted. All of the art-work displayed that evening was framed, thanks to our parent volunteers. Parents and family members were excited to take their art home to hang on the wall. To add ambiance a former student who performed in our advanced orchestra and is now in middle school, provided background music. Everyone who attended had a fabulous time. At James H. Cox Elementary School, we value the fine and performing arts. In spite of budget cuts, the Arts continue to be an important part of the education we provide.



# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4210 • www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/Gisler/gisler.html



**Jennifer Perkins**  
Principal

## Student Council Organized Canned Food Drive

*By Tiffany Laird, Student Council Advisor*

Each year Gisler's Student Council holds a canned food drive to benefit the Southwest Community Center that is located in Santa Ana. This center provides over 600 food bags per month to help families make ends meet. This year, under the guidance of President Rachel Simurda, Vice President Ian Wilfert, Secretary Sam Parks, and Executive Board Members Dylan Sorce, Kaili Arruda, and Alec Vierthaler, the Student Council held another successful food drive to benefit families in need. The food drive was planned and organized by the officers and nine room representatives that make up the Student Council. All Student Council members reported to each



classroom on campus about the food drive and hung posters around campus. They also organized boxes for collecting donated items that students brought into classrooms and collected the donations throughout the week of the food drive. By the end of the week, Gisler students had brought in over 1,000 cans! Student Council thanks the Gisler Gator students and families for their donations.



# Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6-8)*

17415 Las Jardines West, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/Masuda/masuda.html



**Chris Mullin**  
Principal



**Patrick Ham**  
Assistant Principal

## New Faces

As we enter 2011, we welcome two outstanding teachers to our Masuda Middle School family: Jill Crooks and Erin Fouse.

A graduate from Chapman University with a degree in English and creative writing, Jill Crooks received her teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and is currently enrolled in history courses at Coastline College to get authorization to teach social science. She completed her student teaching and held a long-term substitute position at Fulton School. She loves teaching literature, but her favorite subject to teach is writing. "I love teaching students that they have something to say and that their voice matters." She inspires her students to "always strive to be the best possible version of yourself."

Erin Fouse graduated from Principia College with a double major in business administration and sports management, with a minor in coaching. She earned her teaching credential from CSULB and is currently taking additional history courses. She started her career by volunteering at Moiola School and completed her student teaching at Tamura and Gisler Schools. She held a long-term substitute position at Moiola as one of the first teachers to participate in the Spotlight program. Mrs. Fouse taught at Masuda from 2004-2008 then moved to Colorado due to her husband's promotion. It was another promotion which brought her back to us. "I feel grateful and very fortunate to not only get a full-time position, but also to be back at Masuda!" Her advice to her students is to "do what you love and love what you do!"

Masuda is truly fortunate to have two outstanding teachers who are lifelong learners and love working with middle-school students. Thank you, Mrs. Fouse and Mrs. Crooks!



**Jill Crooks**



**Erin Fouse**

# William T. Newland *Elementary (K-5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/newland/newland.html

## Special Person's Day

November was a memorable month and we were able to express our thankfulness for the people in our lives. To thank all the special people in the lives of Newland students, the children invited them to attend Special Persons Day. All of the students worked very hard to practice and perform songs and poems for the special guests to say how much they appreciated their special people. Each year, Newland's Special Persons' Day is held just before Thanksgiving Break. Refreshments are provided for the guests, including coffee, juice, donuts and bagels. There is also a silent auction and opportunity drawings. The grade-level performances begin early in the day, and guests may visit the students' classrooms after the performances.

The last week before the break our fifth graders performed the play "Turkeys go on Strike", which has become a part of the November tradition here at Newland.



**Kathy Davis**  
Principal

# Fred Moiola *Elementary (K-8)*

9790 Finch St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4270 • www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/Moiola/moiola.html



**Erin Bains**  
Principal

## Special Persons Day

Moiola celebrated the community tradition of Special Persons Day. Students invited family members and friends to join us for a morning honoring the important people in our lives. Relatives came from all over the United States and even as far as the Philippines. They were treated to a delicious breakfast and wonderful entertainment. Each class performed songs with our patriotic theme. Classes contributed items to create theme baskets that were raffled off by our PTA as a traditional fundraiser at this event. After the performances, our Special People were invited into the classrooms where fun activities occurred, such as pie making and art projects. We hope our guests enjoyed this event as much as we did.



# Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.fvsd.k12.ca.us/oka/oka.html



**Brandi Loyd**  
Principal

## Recognition and Thank You

Each year our board of trustees recognizes those outstanding students who have demonstrated high achievement, great improvement or extraordinary effort.

This year, Mrs. Loyd and our Oka teachers nominated the following students for the School Board Recognition Award, which was celebrated on November 18. They were David Boyack, kindergarten; Cora Stone, first grade; Angelina Sotelo, second grade; Ruby Mora, third grade; Cynthia Espiritu, fourth grade; and Rodrigo Flores, fifth grade.

Also recognized at this event were two parents who have given most generously of their time and talents: PTO President Mrs. Toni Brown and Hospitality Chair Mrs. Heather Lerma. Both individuals have dedicated countless hours to our students and staff.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Lerma have been active PTO members for many years, and have assisted with a number of different school and classroom programs. They were also instrumental in helping Oka receive the California Distinguished School Award, so we especially want to thank them for everything they have done!

The evening ended with some hearty thanks and congratulations to two departing board members. We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication of Mrs. Nicola Weiss, who, after first being appointed, then willingly stepped in and did a most tremendous job. And we were also sad to say "goodbye" to Mr. Tony McCombs, who has so admirably served on the board for almost 13 years. His dedication to the Fountain Valley School District will be missed.

We wish both of you much success in the future, and want to thank you for serving well our children, staff and parents.

# Samuel E. Talbert *Middle School* (6-8)

9101 Brabham Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.fvds.us/p\_home.asp?tid=5



**Cara Robinson**  
Principal



**Erik Miller**  
Assistant Principal

## Feel the Power

Students and staff were treated to an amazing assembly when Jon Pritikin came to Talbert Middle School to share his life story.

Jon showcased his feats of strength, which have been featured in *The Guinness Book of World Records*. He tore a phone book in half, rolled a frying pan into the shape of a burrito, and bent a steel rebar—while it was clenched in his teeth. Then Jon shared stories about how he was bullied as a youth because he was different. Tears flowed from students and staff as Jon broke down and cried, as if reliving the events for the first

time. He challenged Talbert students to never let another student eat alone. He also left students with the message that no obstacle can keep you down when you put your full determination into making your dream a reality.

Talbert has already seen the benefits on our campus—and we thank Jon Pritikin for visiting our school. More information can be found at [www.feelthepower.org](http://www.feelthepower.org).



# Urbain H. Plavan *Elementary* (K-5)

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.fvds.k12.ca.us/Plavan/Plavan.html



**Julie Ballesteros**  
Principal

## The Panthers are Wild About Reading!

Plavan Elementary School has been developing many opportunities for its students to become inspired to read, read and read!

This year, our school library theme is called “Wild about Reading.” Our students are being encouraged to read with the help of a variety of activities. The second- through fifth-grade students are participating in a program called Accelerated Reader. Each child is now able to set their own personal goal of just how many books they would like to read within the trimester.

Once they complete a book, the students then take a comprehension quiz on the computer. Each test is scored and counted towards their personal goal.

This program inspires the students to read for understanding, and it also helps them to read at their own instructional level. This year, Plavan students have already taken 2,376 accelerated-reader tests!

The kindergarten and first-grade students participate in a program called RAZ kids. It is an online reading program that helps them improve their reading skills by listening for modeled fluency. It also provides reading practice, and gives them the added ability to record their reading and check their comprehension with special quizzes. The stories are always exciting and fun to read.

We are very proud of our “Wild” readers!

# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary* (K-5)

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.fvds.k12.ca.us/tamura/tamura.html



**Jay Adams**  
Principal

## Accelerated Reader Program

One of the great programs here at Tamura is our Accelerated Reader Program. All students in grades one through five participate in this fabulous independent reading program, which measures their individual reading levels throughout the year and matches them with appropriate books to read. Each student has a goal set for each trimester, and we are amazed at how many of the students reach, and even exceed, their goals! By the end of November alone, Tamura students had read more than 7,900 books for a total of over 46 million words!! Wow!

We have a “Millionaire Club” for those students who have read over one million words throughout the year. By the start of December, we had already honored the following students for reaching this milestone: Calvin Huynh, Jennifer Nguyen, Kelly Nguyen, and Calvin Tu (who is actually already a multi-millionaire). A-MA-ZING!!



Calvin H., Jennifer, Kelly, and Calvin T. show off some of their favorite books!

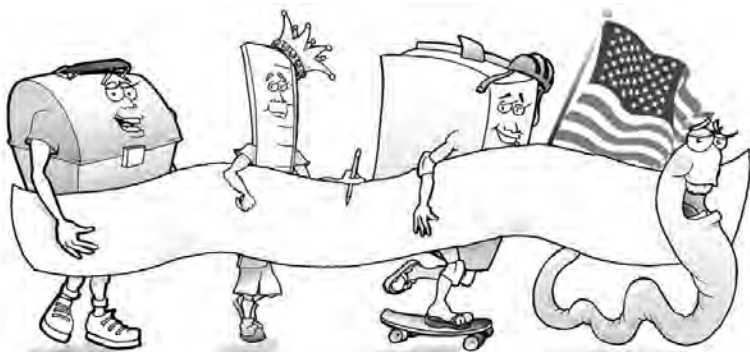
## Contest!!

To find out what is written on this banner you'll have to find the four pieces hidden throughout this publication. email the answer to:

**Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com**  
(Please put “Contest FHWO” in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by February 15, 2010.

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble



“

”

—Socrates

**Congratulations! Kim Tran**  
**November Puzzle Contest Winner**



# Ocean View School District

17200 Pinehurst Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2551 • www.ovsd.org

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Alan G. Rasmussen Ed.D.**

### Kindergarten Preparation for Success

Kindergarten is a special time for children and a significant milestone in their lives as they begin to take their first steps on the path of education. In addition to developing necessary skills that will serve as a foundation for all future learning, kindergarten teachers will develop relationships and attitudes that will impact their success in school. In Ocean View School District, it is our goal to support every child during this important transition so that each student may fully experience the joy of learning.

We are preparing now for next year's kindergarten class by hosting our annual parent meeting on January 25 at the Spring View Middle School gymnasium. At this well-attended event, parents will have an opportunity to meet with our eleven elementary school principals and our preparatory preschool principal. Parents will learn about the three kindergarten programs we offer: full-day kindergarten, traditional half-day, and Preppie K, as well as our Ocean View Preparatory Preschool for children three to five years of age. All of our program choices are tailored to address the needs of our youngest students, and instruction in all kindergarten and preparatory classes are aligned to the California Content Standards. The programs we offer in Ocean View ensure the most appropriate educational setting for each individual child and lays the essential foundation to maximize academic development and support school success.

Enrollment forms will be available at the parent meeting and enrollment begins in February. We can't wait to meet our new school parents and welcome their child to the Ocean View family.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Debbie Cotton**  
*President*

### Giving Thanks to Those Who Serve

Sometimes education is not always about the three Rs. Sometimes education is about showing pride for our country and saying "Thank You" to those serving that country.

With Veteran's Day just behind us it was time for the "Thundering Third" to come home. The "Thundering Third" is the nickname for the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps, stationed in Camp Pendleton, California. The 3/1 Marines were initially activated in March 1941 and subsequently deactivated. The 3/1 Marines were re-activated during World War II and have been active since the Korean War. The 3/1 has been a major force during the Global War on Terror. In April 2005, the 3/1 infantry was adopted by the City of Huntington Beach.

In an assembly at Marine View Middle School, the staff and students honored the "Thundering Third." With a combination of songs, dances, cheers and some really good "Hoo-rahs," the Marines were welcomed home. Students made signs and cheered for our soldiers as they walked through the gymnasium doors. The assembly was about 40 minutes long and the Marines left with care packages prepared by the school and knowing that their service for our country is appreciated.

Principal Ellis made it clear that part of a student's education is helping them to understand the relationship between 9-11 and what is happening in Afghanistan and Iraq, since many of them were too young to remember it first hand. In teaching them history and patriotism, they received a lesson most of us take for granted. That lesson is that there are real people fighting every day to keep us safe and keep us free. A special thank you to the 3/1 Thundering Third, and all those in the military, for all that they do in serving our country.



**Debbie Cotton**  
*President*

### Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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# Circle View *Elementary*

6261 Hooker Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/893-5035 • www.ovsd.org



**Kathleen Jaquin**  
*Principal*

## Push Button Activated Project

In November, Circle View School's fifth-grade classes explored historical figures of the United States by transforming themselves into a live wax museum. This "push button- activated" project provides a creative variation to the standard biography book-report.

Each student picked a figure from any genre of fame, whether it was a political figure like Amelia Earhart and John F Kennedy, a sports star such as Michelle Kwan and Lou Gehrig or an historical figure like

Mary Lincoln

and John Muir. Each student had to research and write a brief biography to help explain their figure's childhood, their rise to fame, and what they are doing now or when they died.

The students then developed costumes and props for their character and themselves around the school's multipurpose room. Younger students were then invited to walk around and push the button next to the student to "activate" the figure and hear their biography.



**Student as Amelia Earhart**

# Golden View *Elementary*

17251 Golden View Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-2516 • www.ovsd.org



**Elaine Burney**  
*Principal*

## That Holiday Spirit

With a diverse range of festive songs, our amazing fourth- and fifth-grade chorus, led by Mrs. Robles, provided an entertaining holiday performance celebrating various cultures. The jovial tunes reminded us to be thankful and to embrace the holiday spirit, which is at the heart of Golden View students; looking beyond themselves and so graciously towards others.

Our remarkable student council, headed by Janie Williams and Sue Fox, is helping to bring that holiday spirit to many families by collecting food items for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. Our Giving Tree will help relieve some of the holiday burden by providing Golden View families and friends with gift certificates to local retailers and grocery stores. We are thankful to all who have participated and to Lilia Bernardo, Tara Hytrek, and Patricia Hahn for organizing this gracious event.

Happy holidays to all, and best wishes for a great 2011!



**Student Council members make posters for the food drive.**

# College View *Elementary*

6582 Lennox Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3503 • www.ovsd.org



**Dr. Kristine White**  
*Principal*

## New Partnership

College View Elementary was excited to be adopted by a new business partner. Community business and agencies are able to adopt schools to work in partnership with them to promote the educational success for students.

Even before the new business had opened this fall, representatives from the store came to College View to work on a special art project with some of our fourth and fifth grade students. The business brought china plates and paints for the students to use. Each student was able to decorate a plate and the plates were displayed at the front of the new business. For the holidays, the business donated canned vegetables that helped to fill the holiday dinner boxes our PTA put together for some of our families struggling in these economic times.

College View is thrilled with our new partnership! Community support for are educational programs is essential for the success of our College View Wildcats.

# Harbour View *Elementary*

4343 Pickwick Circle, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-6602 • www.ovsd.org



**Cindy Osterhout**  
*Principal*

## The Experience of Giving

December is a very important time of year, not only for Harbour View Elementary School, but also for the community. So the Harbour View Student Council (under the direction of Ms. Pamela Vanderham) once again invited everyone to participate in its annual "Something to Share" holiday food and gift drive.

With generous support from our wonderful community, we collected food and unwrapped gifts to put in the hands of 10 Harbour View families in need. They were not only given the necessities of the season, but also a ray of hope and a wonderful feeling of being loved and cared for.

During the first half of December, each classroom collected non-perishable food donations. Members of the student council then went around to collect them. This food and gift drive created a perfect opportunity for our children to experience a real sense of fulfillment.

In addition, a "Wish Tree" was placed near the front office. It held tags that requested specific gift items. Family and community members took these tags from the tree and then shopped for the desired items, after which they returned them to the school to be sorted with the food.

Not only did the receiving families benefit from this experience, but the children really enjoyed helping out. What a great way to spread the holiday spirit!

We would also like to thank the Huntington Harbour Kiwanis, under the leadership of Mrs. Eva Kilgore, for their many donations. Your support throughout the year is so very appreciated!



**Wonder**

**Are you looking for me?**

**Find the other three pieces  
hidden in this publication.**

**Then enter the  
Contest on page 8.**

**Good luck!!**



# Hope View *Elementary*

17622 Flintstone Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-8571 • www.ovsd.org



**Kathy Smith**  
*Principal*

## Achieving Our Goals

In January, our Hope View School staff feels a sense of renewal as they plan for the remainder of the school year. Teachers and administrators continually meet in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to analyze student test data, calibrate pacing guides, align instruction with the California State Standards, and restructure the Response to Intervention leveled reading groups. This dynamic process is designed to assure that each and every child receives exemplary instruction in all curricular areas.

In tandem with strong instructional programs, we continue to advocate for high standards of accountability in the areas of behavior and attendance. We believe in holding our students accountable for the school-wide rules and regulations developed through our Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS) program, which allows our students to work in a safe and supportive environment. In addition, regular attendance is imperative for student achievement. As you can see from the chart, we are working diligently to encourage parents and students to put a high priority on attendance. After all, there is a direct correlation between high student achievement and regular attendance at school.

A big thank you to our students, parents and staff for helping us support the Every Student, Every Day Attendance Campaign and achieving our attendance goals!

District-Wide Attendance	2010/11 Attendance Rate	2009/10 Attendance Rate	Month/Month Variance
Month 1	98.04%	97.73%	.31% Increase!
Month 2	97.63%	96.72%	.90% Increase
Month 3	97.20%	95.47%	1.73% Increase

# Marine View *Middle School*

5682 Tilburg Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-0624 • www.ovsd.org



**Roni Ellis**  
*Principal*

## Proud to Be Americans....

Marine View students experienced something that they will remember forever! They gave back to those who have given so much to us as Americans. 860 Marine View students and their teachers and community members welcomed home the "Thundering Third" Marines from Afghanistan. A giant roar and cheers erupted in the gymnasium as the Marine View Band proudly played the Marine Battle Hymn. The stunned but grinning Marines walked in to red, white and blue clad students waving American flags, holding "We Love You" placards surrounded by patriotic balloons. The chorus beautifully sang a patriotic medley, the Marine View Dance Team moved gracefully to Stars and Stripes Forever and the Marine View cheerleaders saluted our heroes. In addition, 8th grade students Sarah Hill, Nicolette Slender and Meagan Schoeff read from their award-winning Patriot's Pen essays why "Patriotism is still important in America." The Marines left with full gift bags and equally full hearts.



# Lake View *Elementary*

17451 Zeider Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-2589 • www.ovsd.org



**Anna Dreifus**  
*Principal*

## Star Party 2010

Lake View students have stars (and planets) in their eyes! On December 2, Lake View hosted its annual Star Party. Volunteers from the Orange County Astronomy Society set up six telescopes for night time viewing. The weather cooperated, so students got to see amazingly clear views of Jupiter and four of its moons, the Pleiades (Seven Sisters), a double cluster of stars, and many more fabulous astronomical sights.

A planetarium was set up in the multi-purpose room so students could create their own constellations and then see how they



would look in the night sky.

Computers were connected to the NASA website for those who wanted to conduct a little research. Our PTO made the event extra special by serving popcorn and of course, hot chocolate. What a wonderful way to learn and have fun at the same time!

We are already looking forward to next year!

# Mesa View *Middle School*

17601 Avilla Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-6608 • www.ovsd.org



**Leona Olson**  
*Principal*

## Talent and Enthusiasm

The seventh- and eighth-grade students in the performing arts program at Mesa View Middle School are filled with excitement and anticipation as they prepare for their production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." The cast is comprised of 42 talented singers, actors, and dancers, who auditioned to be part of the program last spring.

The school year began with an intensive study of stage terminology and performance techniques. After mastering these new skills, students went through a formal audition process to earn roles in our musical production. Each cast member earned a significant part acting, singing or dancing in the show.

In addition to their performance on stage, students will also be responsible for the technical part of the production. The cast will design and paint the sets, act as stage crew, and control sound and lights during the performance. Teamwork has



become an essential part of the program, which brings a wonderful support system among our students! It is a delight to watch such talent and enthusiasm come together on stage. We would love to see you at our performance on February 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mesa View gymnasium!



# Oak View *Elementary*

17241 Oak Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4459 • www.ovsd.org



**Joyce Horowitz**  
*Principal*

## Getting Into Science!

El Viento teacher Jesse Rothman has created a science-pilot-program curriculum for the fifth-graders of Flight 11. Oak View's fifth-grade team volunteered to help students with a pig dissection. Pat Singer, Lisa Helo and Robert Stoner dressed in lab gear and operated small instruments to assist students in identifying parts of the body's respiratory and digestive systems.

The STEM curriculum is a state standards-based curriculum that emphasizes a hands-on expansion of concepts. Students observe, develop and ask questions, and hypothesize. They participate in experiments, collect and analyze data, draw conclusions, and publish the results.

One of the El Viento program's goals is to better prepare students to be university bound at grade level in both science and math. The mission is to provide children and young adults with opportunities for success as responsible citizens through a long-term relationship based upon mutual trust and respect, exemplary character, skills building, leadership, learning and teamwork.



# Pleasant View Ocean View Preparatory Preschool

located at Pleasant View School, 16692 Landau Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/845-5000



**Paul James**  
*Principal*

## Speech and Language Itinerant Program

The Speech and Language Program at Pleasant View school serves preschool children ages 3 to 5 years old. At Pleasant View we offer two different types of programs for our children. Our Itinerant Speech/Language Program serves students from our surrounding area that have been identified and are eligible for speech and language services. These students attend different general education preschool sites, but are transported daily by their parents and are provided with a variety of instructional time blocks throughout the day. Our three Speech and Language Pathologists, Vicki Kincaid, Becky Lenhausen, and Ruth Ketchersid, along with our Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant, Jayne Nance provide intensive instruction in individual and group sessions each day that focus on articulation, voice disorders, language development, stuttering, and social skills. This dynamic and systematic team services over 100 students. Pleasant View is fortunate to have these outstanding and dedicated individuals to service our families and students.

# Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

17131 Emerald Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/843-6938 • www.ovsd.org



**Dr. Claudine Dumais**  
*Coordinator*

## Annual Harvest Parade

Our annual harvest parade was a success once again! The Preschool Educators and children prepared their costumes and song during the month of October. The children in Ms. Thi's classroom performed Dingle Dangle Scarecrow, the children in Ms. Rekha's classroom performed Lolly Pop, the children in Ms. Norma's classroom performed Fruit Salad Salsa, the children in Ms. Kathy's classroom performed Autumn Leaves, and the children in Ms. Mina's classroom performed the Itsy Bitsy Spider. The Preschool Educators and children did a fantastic job!

President, Iran Bello, along with the Parent Advisory Committee beautifully decorated the courtyard. Student performances meet the California Preschool Learning Foundations in the area of Visual and Performing Arts, Language and Literacy and English Language Development.



The preschoolers in Ms. Thi's classroom perform Dingle Dangle Scarecrow.

# Spring View *Middle School*

16662 Trudy Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/846-2891 • www.ovsd.org



**Jason Blade**  
*Principal*

## Focus on Instruction

In the midst of these uncertain times when everything we thought we knew has been turned upside down, Spring View teachers have done a wonderful job of focusing on what is in their control; Instruction. Through our RTI (Response to Intervention) and our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) structures, Spring View teachers have dedicated themselves to working together to meet the needs of our students both academically and behaviorally. Teachers work together in grade level and curricular teams to ensure that students are receiving high quality instruction in the classroom. In addition, led by the PBIS team of teachers, they have worked hard to develop and implement lessons designed to give students a clear understanding of behavioral expectations both in and out of the classroom. It is our goal to give every Spring View student the tools necessary to be successful both academically as well as socially. By focusing on instruction and working together using our RTI and PBIS structures, we believe we can best meet the needs of our students both now and in the future.



# Star View *Elementary*

8411 Worthy Drive, Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/897-1009 • www.ovsd.org



**Dr. Pauline Tressler**  
*Principal*

## Mike Goes the Extra Mile

Star View's staff and parents work together to provide a well-rounded, positive program for our students. For the past 25 years, our school Custodian, Mike Kakuuchi, has been part of that effort, coordinating and supervising Star View's Lunch Time Sports Program. Students in the 4th and 5th grade have the opportunity to play volleyball in the fall, basketball in the spring and an occasional handball tournament at the end of the school year. During his lunch break, Mike plans the schedule and oversees the games. At the end of each tournament, Mike hands out awards and at the end of the year, he presents the Steve Herman Memorial Award for Outstanding Sportsmanship. Mike goes the extra mile and he makes a difference at Star View School!



# Sun View *Elementary*

7721 Juliette Low Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-9643 • www.ovsd.org



**Kristi Hickman**  
*Principal*

## Sun View Rings In A Healthy New Year!

The New Year brings a renewed opportunity for growth and achievement. Sun View continues to focus our energies on improved attendance – GOAL 96.75%, academic gains and growing healthy kids. Thanks to our partnership with The Network for a Healthy California, a public health initiative led by the California Department of Public Health and administered by the Public Health Institute, our students participate in weekly activities focused on improved eating habits, healthy food choices and overall good health. Students learn about reducing their long-term risk of chronic diseases, especially cancer, heart disease, and obesity and take home each month a 3-5 lb bag of fruits and vegetables thanks to our Farm to Kids program. We know first hand that “healthy kids” have better attendance and academic outcomes. Cheers to a healthier 2011! It's a choice – Choose wisely!

# Vista View *Middle School*

16250 Hickory St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/842-0626 • www.ovsd.org



**Robert Miller**  
*Principal*

## Health and Learning Success Go Hand-in-Hand

Our staff believes in the importance of a healthy diet and daily exercise as lifelong objectives for our students. As educators, we also understand the link between health and attendance and the impact of positive daily attendance on academic achievement. In addition to the many benefits of a healthy diet, studies report improved test scores and memory function among students who eat a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables and get physical activity every day.

Vista View School is proud to participate in Harvest of the Month, sponsored by The California Department of Public Health's Network for a Healthy California, which creates innovative partnerships for low-income Californians that promote healthy eating and the physical activity patterns as part of a health lifestyle. Each month, students receive and taste samples of various fruits and vegetables, some of which the students have never heard of. Teachers incorporate lessons and activities, which connect what they are doing in the classroom with their tasting experience. The goal is to get students to try new fruits and vegetables in the hopes that they'll go home and ask for them at meals. By promoting healthy behaviors, we can have a positive impact and influence lifelong healthy lifestyle habits of our students.

# Village View *Elementary*

5361 Sisson Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/846-2801 • www.ovsd.org



**Jodi Novy**  
*Principal*

## Reading Counts at Village View

Village View students are excited about our new reading program called Reading Counts! Reading Counts! will be replacing our RAH program that has been utilized in the past. It is a program that enables our students to read books at home and then access the computers in their classroom to take a comprehension test. Village View students are held accountable for understanding what they read; a key idea in developing good readers.

The amount of books available to take a test on is immense. Students and parents can access the list online, making it more convenient and eco-friendly. Also, students generate personalized reading lists that are based on their reading abilities and interests. They select or are assigned books from the list and read them independently. Unique quizzes draw from a bank of up to 30 questions which test their comprehension skills.

Reading Counts! provides our students with immediate feedback and celebrates student success with age-appropriate congratulations screens. Our new program helps students build personal responsibility toward increasing their reading achievement by allowing them to help set quantifiable reading goals and to track their own progress.

With our new program, which is aligned to both state and national standards, Village View students are improving their reading skills. They are showing excitement towards reading and are reading many genres and topics. Reading Counts! Is a great addition to our current program and will support our readers across the curriculum. Village View students are feverishly reading, reading, reading!!

# Westmont *Elementary*

8251 Heil Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/847-3561 • www.ovsd.org



**Carol Parish**  
*Principal*

## Perfect Attendance is Our Goal

This year, Westmont's focus has been on increasing attendance, and our families should be applauded for their success in this effort! In the first two months of the school year our attendance has exceeded the schoolwide goal of 97.1 percent.

In months one and two of this year, our attendance rates were 97.61 percent and 97.65 percent, respectively. Way to go! All of our families are making a tremendous effort to be at school every day, and it is showing up in these increased attendance rates.

At Westmont, we realize the importance of rewarding those special students who recognize the need to come to school each and every day. So every month, students with perfect attendance are rewarded with a certificate for a free children's meal at a variety of local restaurants.

The classes with the highest percentage of attendance for each month also receive trophies that they can display in their rooms all month long.

As we typically see a drop in attendance during the holiday period, this year we offered a special incentive for students who attended school every day during December. These hard-working learners attended a special “Perfect Attendance Party,” where they danced, sang and celebrated their commitment to school.

Thank you, Westmont families, for supporting the Ocean View School District's attendance initiative, and making sure that we live up to the expectation of “Every Student, Every Day.”





This section features enrichment opportunities for children to find their passion!

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## Circus Word Search Contest

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 is the word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put "Contest FHOW" in the subject line)

### Entries must be received by February 15 2010

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Acrobats	Horses	Tent
Bareback rider	Lions	Tigers
Barnum	Nets	Tightrope
Brothers	Popcorn	Trapeze
Clown	Ringling	Tungsten
Cotton candy	Ringmaster	Zinc
Elephants	Rings	Zirconium

Congratulations to  
Jessica Moss

Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

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



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## Note-ables

### Learning in Two Languages



Kate Karp

When I first began teaching, I heard one of Hap Palmer's award-winning recordings in one of my methodology classes—I can still picture the little chalkboard drawings on the album's dust jacket. I thought, hey, I can just let this guy teach my whole class with these songs.

Hap Palmer's first recording, *Learning Basic Skills through Music*, was released in 1969. Over 40 years later, Mr. Palmer is still singing, playing musical instruments and teaching teachers how to teach basic skills through music and movement. The only changes from the early years are the CD format and the brightly

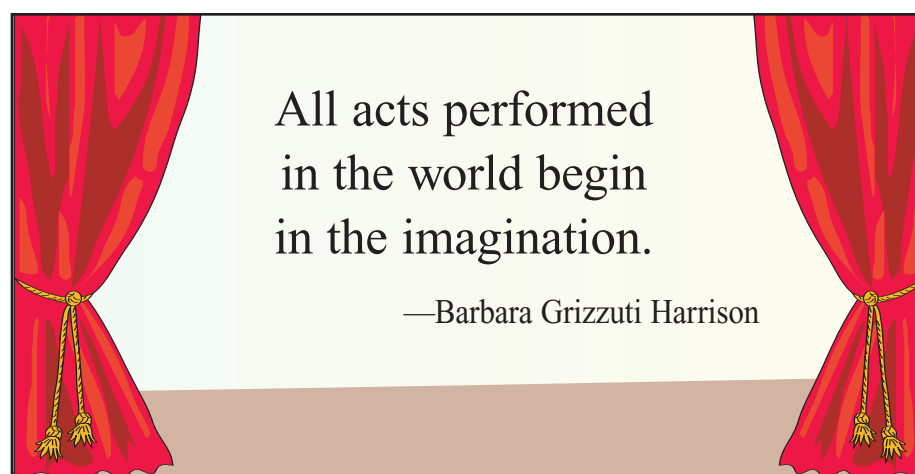
colored pictures on the booklets. His latest release, *Learning in Two Languages*, teaches clothing, opposites, days of the week, colors, directionality, body awareness and adverbs in paired English/Spanish versions of songs, delightfully performed by Mr. Palmer and a band of accomplished studio musicians. The instrumental tracks for each number are included in the last section, to use when children have learned the words. The songs are perfect for assemblies, teaching language at home, and second-language classes in either language, and production quality is as excellent as the CD's contents—during “What Is This Sound?” I rushed to answer a nonexistent doorbell and the cats perked up at a *meow* from the speakers.

Mr. Palmer's coupling of music with body movement, or Total Physical Response (TPR), is a long-recognized best practice for teaching language development: “If you're wearing pants, stand up. If you have any pockets, stand up.” The familiar sequence of days of the week gets an additional boost from the idea that the week doesn't stop at Saturday—or Sunday in Spanish—but starts over again. In “What do the Animals Say?” Mr. Palmer cleverly teaches the importance of listening by singing, “But the rabbit says nothing—it just listens, listens, listens.”

Listening, music, movement and learning—Hap Palmer's still expertly combining them all.

Lyrics and activities for each CD are available at [www.happalmer.com](http://www.happalmer.com).

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



All acts performed  
in the world begin  
in the imagination.

—Barbara Grizzuti Harrison



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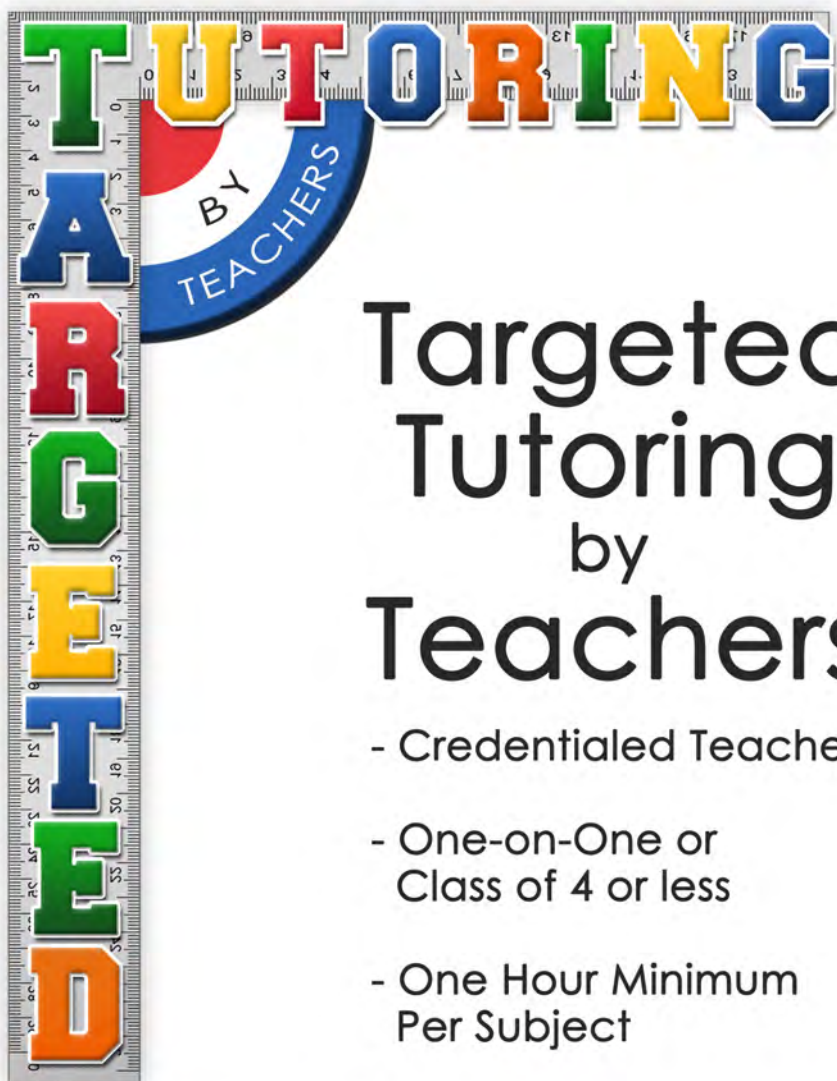
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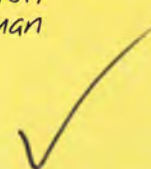
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# Westminster School District

14121 Cedarwood Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7311 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Richard Tauer**

### PTA President Makes History

The Westminster School District has a new PTA Council President this year. Her name is Nancy Nguyen and she is the very first Vietnamese-American PTA President in the United States. We are honored that this distinction has been realized in our District and we are very proud of Nancy who has already immersed herself in her job and is working diligently for our students. I chatted with Nancy recently and her answers to my questions will help you get to know a little bit about her.

**How long have you been involved in the PTA?** I've been involved with the WSD PTA for six years and spent two years as the President of the PTA at Webber Elementary.

**How many children do you have in the District?** I have two children, a son and a daughter. My son is in high school now and my daughter is a 7th grader at Stacey.

**What motivated you to take on the challenges of leading the PTA for the district?** Well, when I was one of the people nominated for PTA President by other PTA members, my children were very excited. I had been actively involved in other programs they were in and they really encouraged me to go for this leadership position. My children had more confidence in me than I had in myself. So, I guess first and foremost, I'm doing this for my kids.

**What is your main focus for the WSD PTA this year?** There are several areas that we are focusing on including student attendance, punctuality, safety and health and wellbeing. Encouraging good attendance is important so that we may maximize funding for our district. The district loses about \$30 for each child that is absent for any reason. During these extremely tough budget times, we need to preserve the funding that we have access to. Reminding parents about the importance of sleep and proper nutrition for their child is also important. If a child is not well rested or has not had breakfast, they are not really ready to learn. And, of course student safety is always a priority. We are always trying to improve drop-off and pick-up procedures at our schools and overall parking lot safety.

**How did you find out that you are the first Vietnamese-American in the country to be a Council PTA President?** I had a feeling I might be the first one, so I did a little research on the internet first and I could not find any other Vietnamese-American PTA Presidents. Then, in October I went to a PTA conference in Ontario and I met Jo Loss, the California PTA President and she confirmed that I am the first Vietnamese-American PTA President in the United States, which is such an honor for me and my family.

**Does this honor give you an added sense of responsibility?** Yes, it is exciting to be forging new ground and making advances on behalf of the Vietnamese-American community. Approximately 40 percent of the students in our district are Vietnamese-American and I want to be a good role model for them.

**Is there anything like a PTA in Vietnam?** To be honest, I don't know. I came to the United States when I was 10 years old and before I left Vietnam I was home-schooled by my parents and grandmother. However, the Vietnamese place a very high value on education both here and in Vietnam.

**What does the WSD PTA need most right now?** More parent involvement. We'd like to see more parents in the classroom, outside the classroom or helping in any way they can. One of the specific challenges that we face with Vietnamese-American parents in particular is that they are reluctant to take an active role in their child's education because they consider teachers or educators the "experts" and they don't want to interfere. We need to change the way parents look at the parent/school relationship and get them to think of it as a "partnership."

**What should parents do if they want to help?** Parents can always go into their child's school and let the principal know that they would like to get involved or they can contact me at (714) 891-3905 and my email is: hoabinh63nancy@gmail.com.



**Nancy Nguyen**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Jo-Ann Purcell**  
*President*

### Superlative Spellers

The top spellers from each school site competed in the Westminster School District annual district-wide Spelling Bee in December. Two competitions took place—one for 4th and 5th graders, and the other for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The 4th and 5th graders were challenged with words such as aeronautical, porcupine, and atrocious. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders had to tackle words such as masquerade, electrolyte, and moccasins.

#### 4th and 5th Grade Spelling Bee Winners:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1st place | Danielle Nguyen, 5th grade, Finley Elementary |
| 2nd place | Long Nguyen, 5th grade, Willmore Elementary   |
| 3rd place | Alan Tran, 5th grade, Fryberger Elementary    |



**The 4th and 5th grade winners:**  
**Alan Tran, Long Nguyen and Danielle Nguyen.**

#### 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Spelling Bee Winners:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1st place | Daniel Freedland, 8th grade, Warner Middle School |
| 2nd place | Ann Gutierrez, 6th grade, Anderson Elementary     |
| 3rd place | Jalon Flores, 7th grade, Stacey Middle School     |

The top three winners of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade competition will compete in the Orange County Spelling Bee in February. Here is a list of the competitors who proudly represented their schools:



**The 6th, 7th, 8th grade winners:**  
**Jalon Flores, Ann Gutierrez, Daniel Freedland.**

#### 4th & 5th Grade Competitors:

Anderson, Katie Kamikubo; Clegg, Shirley Tang; DeMille, Steven Nguyen; Eastwood, Kelsey Penn; Finley, Danielle Nguyen; Fryberger, Aan Tran; Hayden, Maylinh Nguyen; Meairs, Linh Chau; Schmitt, Vy Pham; Schroeder, Peter Nguyen; Sequoia, Ann Truong; Webber, Stephanie Tran; Willmore, Long Nguyen

#### 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Competitors:

Anderson, Ann Gutierrez; DeMille, Khang Nguyen; Eastwood, Zaharaa Hijara; Johnson, Rosa Nguyen; Schroeder, Ana Fux Menendez; Sequoia, Lailani Pho; Stacey, Jalon Flores; Warner, Daniel Freedland; Webber, Rose Hoang



# Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Place, Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/Anderson/index.htm](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/Anderson/index.htm)



**Dr. Lori Rogers**  
*Principal*

## Successful Carnival

*By Laura Buck, Second Grade Teacher*

On November 5, 2010, the Anderson Elementary School PTA sponsored a fall carnival. This was the first carnival held in several years and boasted a terrific turnout. Parents, teachers, local high school students, and girl scouts worked together to ensure a great time was had by members of the community. Students and their families participated in games, sang karaoke, and jumped in bounce houses. Local businesses generously donated gift cards and merchandise that were offered as opportunity prizes.

Participants also had a chance to spend carnival tickets on pretend tattoos, balloon animals, and face and hair painting. The carnival was a great way for Anderson to encourage community and family involvement, while raising money to be used toward field trips and other educational opportunities.



# DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224



**Shannon Villanueva**  
*Principal*

## S.M.A.R.T. Indeed!

DeMille Elementary School is very excited to be participating in a grant to become a PBIS School. What is PBIS, you might ask? PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. The goal of PBIS is to improve the social and academic success of our students. PBIS is a proven data-based positive-behavior program that has been shown to be successful at many schools. The DeMille PBIS team is made up of teachers, a parent, our after-school program supervisors, the school psychologist and the principal. Over the next three years, the PBIS team and the staff will learn how to define and teach schoolwide behavioral expectations, reward positive behavior, implement consistent consequences, collect data, and create and implement a continuum of interventions.

When you come to DeMille Elementary School, you will begin to see that DeMille Dolphins are S.M.A.R.T. S.M.A.R.T. stands for the schoolwide behavioral expectations that students at DeMille Elementary will learn, know, and follow wherever they are on campus or in the classroom. S.M.A.R.T. is spelled out as follows: **S**–Stay Safe; **M**–Make good decisions; **A**–Act Responsibly; **R**–Respect others; and **T**–Try your best! Students in grades preschool–grade 6 will know what it means to be a S.M.A.R.T. DeMille Dolphin, and those behaviors will be expected everywhere from the classroom to the cafeteria to assemblies to the playground and up to the front office.

DeMille School is working hard and looking forward to the positive outcomes that becoming a PBIS School will bring.

## Westminster School District Board of Education



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# Clegg *School*

6311 Larchwood Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218



**John Staggs**  
*Principal*

## The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive

*By Lori Florgan, ASB Director*

The Clegg ASB students participate in monthly community service projects throughout the school year. This month our students are taking part in The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive which is put on by Scholastic Books. The mission is for our school to provide an abundance of pajamas to children in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages. Scholastic is matching a new book for each pair of pajamas donated. Our ASB officers and representatives packed up the pajamas on December 8th and shipped them off to help out those in need. We are very excited to share the gift of a good night's sleep and a sweet bedtime story.





# Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227



**Donna Brush**  
Principal

## Home of Scooby the Scarecrow!

The preppie kindergarten program at Eastwood is a true two-year program in that the students and teacher stay together for both years. During the spring of the 2009-10 school year, two Eastwood teachers worked collaboratively with the Westminster High School agricultural instructor to create a plan to bring the kindergarten science content standards to life for our students. Once the plan was approved, an area was staked out, the grass was removed, the ground was tilled, a grant was written and funded for the purchase of all supplies and tools, and students began clearing the area for planting.

Kindergarten students had the assistance and expertise of our upper-grade multiage class throughout the process, and parents have frequently stopped by to help out with weeding, general cleanup and picture taking. Students in the Extended School Program maintained the garden during the summer, so our returning students came back to sunflowers in full bloom. This year, students have planted and cultivated beans, corn and squash, along with other seeds and plants. They have connected their learning and work experiences to Native American stories they've read, songs and the writing process.

To ensure the garden's success, kindergarten students saw the need for a scarecrow. Thanks to one of the families, he arrived, and the students determined that he had to have a name. The class had a contest to name it and, as you can see, Scooby was the choice!

# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Drive, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237



**Hiacynth Martinez**  
Principal

## Way to Go Alan!

Fryberger is proud to honor and congratulate Alan Tran for winning 3rd Place in the WSD Spelling Bee. This was his first time participating in the Bee; he displayed great sportsmanship during the school-level competition. Throughout the WSD competition, Alan remained calm while displaying a humble confidence as he valiantly rose to the top of the heap. When he returned to school, Alan was greeted by close to 250 of his biggest fans, classmates, mom and younger sister. Alan Tran, we are PROUD of YOU!



Alan with his mother and his class.

# Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764



**Maria Gutierrez-Garcia**  
Principal

## Presenting Research Findings

Finley School fifth graders have been very busy, both in and out of the classroom working to complete various requirements to prepare for the Orange County Ocean Institute's Kid's Conference where they will present their research findings to other fifth grade students from other schools in Orange County.

The Finley students began their journey on September 30 as they left the shores of Dana Point aboard the Research Vessel Sea Explorer for a voyage onto the ocean, to study in labs in preparation for their assignment. While on board they sorted through live specimens, collected scientific data, investigated topics that included marine life, life cycles, and completed fish dissections utilizing state-of-the-art scientific oceanographic research equipment.



During the week of December 13-15, our students received their research project topic: Water quality with a mixture of well and imported water in the city of Westminster, along with their three samples to be tested.

Our teachers and students are truly grateful for these unique experiences that cannot be replicated in the traditional classroom.



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# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261



**Linda Reed**  
*Principal*

## Volunteers in the Classroom

In December the Hayden Hawks were fortunate to experience a JA Day. A JA Day places volunteers in the classroom to teach JA school curriculum in an exciting, half day event. Junior Achievement (JA) coordinates a partnership between businesses and education, JA recruits volunteers to facilitate hour long economics-oriented lessons for our students. Volunteers become role models to students, presenting important life concepts through their diverse “outside” perspectives. During the classroom sessions, the volunteers share information about themselves and their jobs, while helping students understand the basic concepts of financial education, entrepreneurship and work readiness and showing students how their education is relevant to their future success in the workplace.



This year over 60 volunteers spent the morning in our classrooms from Kinder to 5th grade. All the students spent the morning being thoroughly engaged and learning about real life economic situations that related to their everyday life.

# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244



**Heidi DeBritton**  
*Principal*

## Johnson Science Rocks

At Johnson, we expect science to be an integral part of each student's learning. It is inquiry based and has many interactive activities. The Johnson science team wrote and received a grant from Irvine Regional Park to allow all our students to attend a half day science program. All grade levels have been able to complete their field trip and each field trip was too much fun! Students focused on the grade level standards for science but also got to participate in nature hikes, archery, zip lines and more. All teachers were able to also participate in the field trip along with many of our parents. It was a great educational experience for all.



# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7344



**Beverlee Mathenia**  
*Director, Child Development Programs*



**Leisa Winston**  
*Administrator, Student Services*

## PBIS

During the last several months, Land staff have participated in training and school-wide implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a framework that has been shown to improve students' academic and behavior outcomes and ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible.

Land is supported by a PBIS implementation team, which includes Land staff members Robyn Yorke, Darcy Spicer, Beverly Schwendinger, Michelle Miller, Ellen Fitzsimmons, Lien Che, Beverlee Mathenia, and PBIS coach, Jennifer Solano. The PBIS implementation team attends regular implementation trainings and guides the staff through data collection and analysis, as well as the development of a framework specific to Land and preschool-aged students.

PBIS emphasizes proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting students' appropriate behaviors across all school settings, including the classroom, hallways, playground, restrooms and parking lot. The focus on shaping positive behavior at the preschool level will prepare students for academic and behavioral success as they enter the K-12 school system.

# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/638-0450



**Tricia Urbaniec**  
*Principal*

## Families as School Partners

We have joined the national PTA in this year's theme “Together We Can.” Our goal this year is to increase parent involvement at Meairs.

Our community liaisons, Mrs. Soyla Guttierrez and Mrs. Oanh Giang, are hosting family literacy classes weekly. The parents work together to learn how to support students at home. Also, Mrs. Monica Munoz from the district office facilitates these events.

We have increased our parent academies this year. Erin Runnion, from the Joyful Child Foundation, presented a series to inform families about safeguarding children. The Network for a Healthy California is presenting free healthy cooking classes monthly. In addition, we have begun the Farm 2 Kids program which provides a bag of food to each student monthly that include nutrition lessons.

Our PTA participation has increased this year. Thank you to our selfless volunteers who work hard to support our classrooms, field trips, arts programs and all of our extracurricular activities!



**Johnson Middle School Measure 0**  
**See page 1**  
**Major Middle School Makeovers**



# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264



**Jerry Gargus**  
*Principal*

## Technology Amplifies Progress

Schmitt Elementary School is proud to carry on Westminster School District's tradition of utilizing cutting-edge technology in our classrooms to support student learning.

In addition to securing the Mind Institute's ST Math Grant to provide research-based mathematics instruction in our computer lab, we are also implementing cutting-edge technology this year by installing and utilizing sound-field amplification systems in each of our kindergarten and first-grade classrooms to complete the three-year project of rolling out the systems schoolwide. This technology provides an excellent tool for increasing student engagement and students' attention spans during classroom instruction. The amplification systems are being met with rave reviews from both teachers and students. Teachers report that they are less fatigued by the end of the day because of the reduced strain on their voices during direct instruction, and students report that they are more engaged in instruction and enjoy being able to hear their peers respond to questions from the teacher.

As a school, the Schmitt staff is committed to identifying new and exciting technologies that will support student learning and help close the achievement gap. The ST Math Program and sound-field amplification systems are just two examples of how our school is working hard to meet the needs of 21st-century learners.

# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268

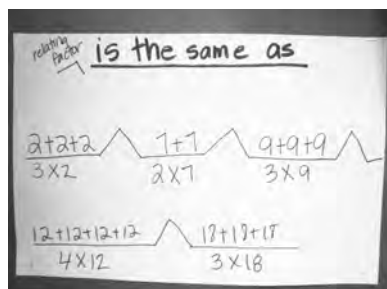


**Kim Breckenridge**  
*Principal*

## Write Away!

At Schroeder Elementary School, we've made writing a focus for all students. We know that research shows that writing is one of the most powerful strategies for student learning across all curricular areas. With our recent

adoption of Thinking Maps, we've taught our students to organize their ideas using one of eight different maps. Then students take their maps and transform their ideas into fabulous pieces of writing. We have students writing for everything – language arts, math, science, social studies, and even art and PE. At Schroeder, we believe just as William Zinsser said, "Writing is thinking on paper."



**Stacey Middle School Measure O  
See page 1  
Major Middle School Makeovers**

# Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Road, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271



**Tammy Steel**  
*Principal*

## Happy New Year!

I hope your holiday was happy and restful. We had a busy, fun December that included craft classes, programs, recitals, skate nights and excellent learning. Our kindergarten team put together a fun program that entertained a large crowd of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. Teachers and students did a fabulous job preparing and giving their performance.

In addition to the kindergarten program, students participated in the Elves' workshop again this year. This is a special place that students can purchase nice gifts for their friends and families. The room was buzzing with excitement as the prospects of the great items available. A special thank you to the PTA for their hours and hours of work put in to make this a huge success. It is parents with this type of dedication that makes Sequoia wonderful.

I extend my wishes to you of hope for a fabulous 2011!



**Two of our special kindergarteners were dressed so cute for their performance.  
Our drummer is Max Bui and our dancing girl is Alyssa Manson**

# Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212



**Kathy Kane**  
*Principal*

## Beating Last Year

*By Mrs. Topor-Madry/Valverde, Teacher*

In light of our holiday "Cougar" spirit, Stacey Middle School is proud to announce its annual "Great Stacey Offering." Every year the AVID and Leadership programs have teamed together to help pump up the holiday spirit through feeding the needy. AVID stands for the college preparation "Advancement Via Individual Determination" program.

Our school is promoting a "Respect for Others" theme. We are challenging students to actively model this worthy cause in our community. As part of this effort, the students recently walked through our local neighborhoods to help fight hunger and promote the awareness of this need.

It was awesome to see our neighborhoods donate to the effort! Now, this year AVID and Leadership is challenging everyone to break our old record of 7,000 items of donated materials, and replace it with a "Cougar-stomping" 10,000! Remember, every dollar equals 12 items of donation.

We are proud to announce that Mr. Ryan Yohn, Mrs. Valverde/Topor-Madry and Mrs. Jackman are pumping up their AVID and Leadership students to become great leaders and participate in this event. We are challenging all of our local schools to beat last year's record, because we know that you can't beat our new one!

This is a call to action! So please contact the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County, at [www.feedoc.com](http://www.feedoc.com), to learn about how your school can become great, too. Everyone can make a difference one "can" at a time, just like we are! "Don't sit on your power!"



# Warner *Middle (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281



**Matthew Skoll**  
Principal

## **The Happiest Place on Earth** *By Tiffany Vu, Student - 8th Grade*

They say the happiest place on Earth is Disneyland. Obviously, they haven't been to Warner Middle School. Wildcat laughter fills the classrooms, happiness all around.

Here at Warner, students and staff work together to reach success while having fun. Teachers at Warner make learning a fun and enjoyable experience for students, not to mention, easier to understand. They're here to make sure that no child is left behind and everyone gets a good education. Students have worked harder than ever, and test scores have been magnificent.

Not only are we succeeding, we've been helping our community by having a toy and canned-food drive to help families in need. To pump up the spirit at Warner, we have many activities going on around the school. Lunch activities are held on Fridays. Students love listening to music and participating in games. We also have grade competitions for spirit points, and the grade with the most points at the end of the school year gets a party. Spirit assemblies are held on the last Wednesday of every month. During these assemblies, we recognize all the Warner Wildcats who have been working hard and deserve to be honored, followed by exciting activities. Every month, our school has a theme. In October, our theme was Halloween, and we had many activities and contests relating to it.

At Warner, we're always aiming high for success, having wins, and setting goals—and there's never a day when we give up. Every day is an enjoyment.

# Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • [www.wsd.k12.ca.us/WebberWebpage/index.html](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us/WebberWebpage/index.html)



**Orchid Rocha**  
Principal

## **Parent Workshops at Webber School**

Attending parenting classes is a win-win situation – you have nothing to lose at all. Chances are high that you will learn a lot of new things while interacting with teachers, administrators, nutritionists, counselors, child specialists, and other parents. Putting it simply, parenting workshops equip you with essential parenting skills to raise a healthy, happy and responsible child who can enrich the family as well as the society with their positive contributions.

Webber School has offered a variety of workshops for all parents. Some of these workshops include: Internet Safety, Discipline Tips and Tricks, Reading Aloud to Children, Homework Help, Cooking Healthy on a Budget, Child Safety and Money Saving Options for College Workshop. Our sessions are offered in all three languages and we provide raffles to encourage our parents to continue attending these FREE and beneficial opportunities.

# Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765



**Rob McKane**  
Principal

## **Reading Buddies**

An exciting part of our reading program at Willmore School matches upper-grade students with primary-grade students in a program called Reading Buddies. The buddies look forward to spending time together, finding a place in the classroom or outdoors to enjoy a book together.

Some classroom buddies read from an Accelerated Reader book, and the upper-grade buddy asks questions that help prepare the primary buddy for the computerized Accelerated Reader quiz. Teachers coach students to ask questions, such as, "Who are the main characters? What happened at the beginning, middle, or end of the story?" The upper-grade students are practicing the reading strategies they've learned by teaching the younger children these same strategies. The best way to learn is teach someone else!

As the buddies continue through the school year, they write stories and draw pictures together. Students also become pen pals, and each one loves receiving a letter from his or her buddy. In addition to learning an appreciation of reading, the children develop a special big brother/sister relationship. Buddies look for one another on the playground and talk about what's happening in their classrooms or play games together. Each Reading Buddy grows in self esteem, enjoying the benefit of a special relationship, as well as a love for reading.

## **School News** Education+Communication=A Better Nation

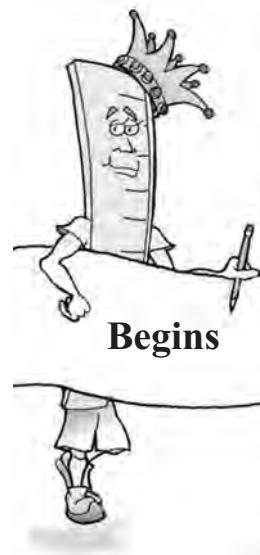
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# Huntington Beach Union High School District

5832 Bolsa Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/903-7000 • www.hbuhd.org

## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Van W. Riley

I wish to offer my sincerest thank you to the Huntington Beach Union High School District community for making my 7 1/2 years here a time that I will always cherish. I believe that together we have accomplished some great things and that the direction in which we are headed is very positive. We have been successful because we value each other, and we focus our decisions on what is best for students...ALL students. From our employee committees like TBC and RBO, to our booster groups and PTSA's, it is not by accident that our relationships are the foundation of our collective values.

Trust and openness have allowed us to succeed and have provided a strong foundation to move forward even in these financially troubling times. I believe we have something very special in this district and I will certainly miss that in retirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible certificated and classified staff for working together for the benefit of our young students. We have been through some tough times, particularly in the past three years with all the budget problems in our state. Yet we have set our priorities and have worked out incredibly difficult issues together. It has been my privilege to have served as your superintendent for these past 7 1/2 years.

Of course, I can't leave without making a couple of suggestions/recommendations. First, don't ever forget that we are here first for our students, and next for our wonderful employees. Everything else comes after providing for students and staff. Second, keep it all "pristine and park-like"...not an easy task, but very important. We take pride in our facilities, and that pride shows in our programs as well. And third, respect each other. We are all very different individuals, but have some common goals. Stress those positive goals and honor the diversity that is part of each of us.

Thank you again for your part in making Huntington Beach Union High School District the very best district in the state.

## Miss HB Special Needs 2010



Fouad Rider  
Student  
Representative  
Board of Education

On December 8, 2010, the first ever Miss Huntington Beach Special Needs pageant was held at the Huntington Beach High School auditorium. Katelyn Gutierrez, a senior Edison High School Center for International Business and Communications Studies student, put together this event as her senior project. She wanted to help others develop a deeper understanding of how unique and special those young women are.

Before the pageant, many of the girls had the opportunity to get their hair and makeup done at a beauty salon owned by Denise Gutierrez, Katelyn's mom.

The event was hosted by Katelyn and her friend Monica Stainer, who was Miss California's Outstanding Teen 2009. Nine wonderful contestants took the stage for introduction, talent, and evening gown presentations. Each girl had the chance to answer an interview question as well. Many of the contestants are on Edison's cheer team and together performed a cheer as their talent.

Judges for this event included: Dr. Melendrez, Edison's principal; Amber Papst, Ms. Laguna Beach 2010; and Kylie Wells, Edison's 2010 homecoming queen. Each girl was given a crown and an award ranging from most outgoing to most athletic. The panel had a hard time choosing a winner, but finally Nancy Rico was crowned Miss Huntington Beach Special Needs 2010.

Nancy Rico, a 16-year-old student, is an active participant in cheer and dance. She loves to listen to hip hop music and eat coffee-flavored ice cream. She was thrilled to be given the opportunity to participate and thoroughly enjoyed her time on stage.

Overall, the pageant was a great success, attended by over 250 enthusiastic supporters. By the end of the night, many attendees had tears in their eyes, touched by the poise and grace these beautiful girls exhibited.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Susan Henry  
President

### Being a Good Board Member

Being a school board trustee is a rewarding and challenging job. It takes an entire community of dedicated, hard working individuals to educate our students and the school board's role is to ensure that happens. To that end we make plans and policy, oversee and direct. Sometimes it's a balancing act, sometimes it's making a tough decision, but always, it's with what's good for kids in mind. A newly elected trustee recently asked if I had any advice. My recommendations ranged from the broad to the specific and I present them here in no specific ranked order:

**Listen:** Be open to many points of view and when contacted by the public, staff, parents or students let them know that you have heard them. In conversation be sure to confirm your understanding of what you have heard by mirroring a condensed version of their statement. Many times people just want to be heard and an honest, open conversation can go a long way to really get to the heart of their concerns. Thank them for their input and convey what steps you plan to take going forward. Be wary of making promises.

**Be Fair:** By listening and gathering as much information as possible there is a much better chance that a reasonable, fair opinion can be formed. There are always many sides to an issue and exploring all of them not only aids in understanding but can sometimes lead to unexpected forms of resolution. Be open and unbiased, thoughtful and deliberative, but realize that you can't always make everyone happy all of the time.

**Read:** A good board member is well informed and, therefore, well prepared. There is a lot of information that board members must process; from budget analysis to curriculum standards and now, with technology, so many new ways to access it. Just be sure to do your homework! There is a steady stream of printed material crossing my desk, not to mention emails. And speaking of emails...

**Be careful with emails:** They are a printed record and subject to subpoena. As wonderful as email can be, providing instant accessibility and virtual anonymity, it can also be instantly disastrous. Some school districts have made the mistake of using email to communicate internally and externally only to find themselves in the newspaper the next morning. Which brings me to...

**Stay out of the newspaper (except School News):** It's great when our districts are recognized in the newspaper for our accomplishments, but more often than not that's not what makes "news." It's unfortunate to read about the troubles that students must face and horrible accidents and parents' nightmares and I am thankful every time it's not our district. Someone once said "any publicity is good publicity." I do not agree.

Being a good board member is something to strive for and work toward. It takes dedication, patience, and a lot of time. Sometimes the hours are long, the thanks are few, but the reward in making a difference in the lives of our students will last a lifetime.

## Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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President



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# Coast *High School*

15871 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/901-8106 • www.coasthighschool.com



**Steve Curiel**  
Principal

## Teacher Appreciation Night

This year, Dr. Francene Kaplan was selected as our Coast High School Masonic Teacher of the Year. With a new principal and new assistant principal who were just getting acquainted with the staff, I thought that choosing someone for this honor would be very difficult, and it was. Coast High has some excellent instructors. However, Dr. Kaplan and what she does both inside and outside the classroom stood out to us the most. And so, the decision was easy in that respect.

Dr. Kaplan, who has been with the HBUHSD for 27 years, started teaching in the district's hospital/drug-rehab home-study program for teens in 1984. Because she loved to work with students who may be at a disadvantage, she began to teach in the math and science classes for the district's Independent Study Program, later named Coast High School, where she currently teaches classes in science, health, psychology and photography.

When most think of alternative education, immediate thoughts turn to "those students," but the reality is that Dr. Kaplan relishes working with "those students." "Those students" have given Dr. Kaplan the drive to go out of her way to ensure the success of students who are often thought of as unteachable. Her passion to help students succeed is evident as she teaches and counsels students at Coast High School.



## Extending A Community Hand

Throughout her tenure in the HBUHSD, Dr. Kaplan has often devoted time to various endeavors to help students see beyond their immediate circumstances to show that success comes in many shapes and sizes. She sits on the Coast High School scholarship committee to ensure that

students have funds to attend postsecondary institutions, and she also chairs fund-raising events such as book sales and recycling drives.

Dr. Kaplan's efforts to support students outside Coast High School are evidenced by her volunteer work as a director on the board of Hope Institute, a sober and therapeutic high school in Orange County. She also serves on the board of directors of the Organic Gardening Club of Orange County and as a steward for Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave Desert Land Trust.

We are proud to have Dr. Kaplan as a member of our staff at Coast High School and are most appreciative of all of her efforts. Thank you to the Huntington Beach Masonic Lodge and its support of teachers such as Dr. Kaplan.

# Community Day School

1022 Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/799-1414



**Dr. Connie Mayhugh**  
Principal

## Exceptional Teacher Honored

The Community Day School has a teacher extraordinaire in our midst. The philanthropic Simon Youth Foundation has named Darla Merrill as the 2010 National Teacher of the Year for their Educational Resource Centers that are located nationwide. She was selected from over 85 nominees by a panel of teachers and administrators from across the nation.

Darla Merrill has been with the Community Day School since its beginning in 2004. Ms. Merrill teaches a breadth of subjects as well as electives to students in grades 9–12. She uses a variety of instructional strategies to enhance student learning and meet the needs of individual student learning styles. She goes to great lengths to ensure that students are learning by reteaching information for greater understanding before moving on to new topics. Ms. Merrill strives to make learning relevant to students by engaging them in their learning and in the learning process. She understands the importance of working as a member of a team to support students. She interfaces with school staff and public agencies on students' behalf. She works in partnership with parents to ensure that students are successful in the school environment.

Ms. Merrill touches the lives of the students and adults that she encounters. Eric Ruiz, a 2010 graduate from Community Day School, stated, "Ms. Merrill is a really caring teacher. She tries hard and wants you to be the best you can be, not just in school but also in life." Her teaching colleague at Community Day School, Josh Lamar, said that he has "benefited tremendously from working with and learning from Ms. Merrill. Her leadership and spirit have helped me to become the best teacher I can be for my students." Dennis Herzog, the administrative designee and school psychologist for Community Day School, finds Ms. Merrill to be "one of the most talented educators I have ever worked with....The area that I most admire is the rapport and depth of relationships she builds with the students and their families."

Darla Merrill's passion is her students. She is instrumental in helping them find success. At the bottom of every e-mail that Ms. Merrill sends is the quote "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you are absolutely right. Attitude and thought are everything, guard them well." Darla Merrill believes that her students can succeed, and she helps her students see that they can succeed as well. Thank you, Ms. Merrill, for all that you do for students.

## CAUSE TO CELEBRATE • FROM PAGE 1

the flexibility they need to balance their work and personal life. Most believe they are well-informed about important district or site decisions and have opportunities to learn and grow within the organization.

Employees have confidence in the direction of the district and believe HBUHSD operates by strong values and ethics. They feel confident about the future at the district and believe senior management listens to staff ideas and suggestions.

Employees were asked to respond to the statement, "My job makes me feel like I am part of something meaningful." Shawn Werner, English teacher and District Educators Association president is quoted as saying, "We have the greatest job in the world because we see what it's like when that proverbial penny drops. The light goes on, and they get it." The three bargaining units and the district have worked together to avoid the financial difficulties many districts are facing. HBUHSD has avoided unpaid furlough days, salary cutbacks, and decreased employee benefits.

Our district is very proud of this honor, especially as the results were tabulated from anonymous employee feedback. It is rewarding to know that the HBUHSD family is united in working for a company that values our contributions for student education, while our employees feel valued and appreciated.

# School News

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# Fountain Valley *High School*

17816 Bushard St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-3301 • www.fvhs.com



**Chris Herzfeld**  
Principal

## FVHS Choirs Fill Segerstrom

Monday, December 13th was a dream come true for current Fountain Valley High School Vocal Music Director Kevin Tison, bringing 35 years of history, tradition and excellence together on one stage at the renowned Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. The spectacular event featured FVHS's six current choirs, the Fountain Valley Middle School Singers and an alumni choir of 160, totaling almost 450 singers, accompanied by a full professional orchestra and supplemented with some of our own high school string players! The sold-out audience of 1,700 included many special guests, such as Mr. Tison's three predecessors, Tom Antal, Ted Reid and Brett Stewart. All four directors performed a surprise holiday quartet performance of 'African Noel.'

Students in the choir worked extremely hard and reflected on the experience.

"I knew all our hard work had paid off when I saw the smiles on the faces in the audience."

—Amber Schultz (Trouvere)

"Breathtaking! Singing on that glorious stage is like nothing I've felt before."

—Eric Cota (Concert Choir)

"This was by far one of the most fun and best shows I have ever had the honor to be a part of."

—David Coulter (Concert Choir)

"The sound and radiance of the hall blew my mind!"

—Chris Schmiesing (Concert Choir)

The concert was the most memorable and special because of getting to perform in Segerstrom Hall. It was the highlight of my Christmas."

—Hannah Fuhrman (Les Chanteurs)

"This concert was definitely the highlight of my holiday season because the beautiful concert hall combined with our music really made our families happy and brightened their spirits."

—Wei Yan (Troubadour)

"I saw my Principal in the audience and I was motivated to sing my heart out!"

—Josh Nguyen (Baron Choir)

"As a freshman, this was my first concert, and I wouldn't have had it any other way! The Christmas concert was phenomenal and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Amazing!"

—MacKenzie Sheppard (Concert Choir)

"The hall was amazing and it was fantastic to sing in. We have been looking forward to this concert for over a year and it was beyond what we had imagined. It was a spectacular night for all in attendance."

—Alex Pratt (Troubadour and Student Director)

Parents, staff and alumni had very positive things to say to Mr. Tison via e-mail.

"I just wanted to personally thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the hard work of putting together the Alumni concert this week. I can't tell you how exhilarating it was to sing again in a choir! Plus, seeing so many old friends—it had been 15 years since seeing some of them! And, the chance to see Ted Reid again was priceless...the Vocal Music program at FVHS shaped my high school experience and my best memories of high school.

I can only imagine how hard it is (just to prepare for a concert!) to put such an effort together. Let me just tell you that your efforts paid off and were MUCH appreciated by the alumni!! Congrats to you for a program that continues to thrive...your groups sounded just amazing!" —Suzanne Burns (Kendall) 1996

"WOW! Thank you for your vision, your energy, and the never ending work you put into your passion. The students are so blessed to have you as a teacher, as well as anyone who has the opportunity to hear one of your concerts.

The concert hall was beautiful, what a perfect place for you and the performers.

Really enjoyed your quartet! How fun for you guys!"

—The Tickenoff family, Paul, Linda, and Rachel

"I wish I could put it into one word—like fabulous, but that would be shortchanging the hard work of you and your magnificent choirs! Although the ending with

the Alumni Choir — Silent Night and the Hallelujah were incredible, the BaronTones left me and my husband speechless. It was if we were sitting in a monastery listening to monks — very moving and haunting! Great, great job - congratulations!!!" —Kerry Doll (Consumer & Family Studies Teacher-FVHS)

"I will make this brief for now but last night was very significant for Tom (Antal) and his former students. It was also an amazing testimony for the music program and the development of the students at a very important stage of their lives.

Many students shared with him their overwhelming thanks for the significant part he played in their musical lives making every student a star and the character lessons that were taught along with the music.

So thank you so much for the beautiful program of music you produced with all the students and wonderful venue." —Joyce Anne (Antal)

As principal, I spent the night alternating between a lump in my throat from the sheer splendor of the performances and beaming with pride at the thought of all of the hours of dedication and hard work that hundreds of students, staff, parents and alumni put in to make this event happen.



**Former and current FVHS Choir Directors showcase their talent at Segerstrom Hall  
Ted Reid, Brett Stewart, Kevin Tison and Dr. Tom Antal.**



**Current and former members of FVHS choirs perform at Segerstrom Hall.**



# Edison *High School*

21400 Magnolia St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/962-1356 • www.edisonchargers.com



**Dr. D'iese Melendrez**  
Principal

## Ms. Huntington Beach Special Needs Pageant

Edison High School is filled with ambitious students striving to make a difference in their school and community. One special program that provides such opportunities is our CIBACS program—Center for International Business and Communication Studies. This four-year program, taught in a small learning community of English and social studies classes, culminates with a senior project.

In December, senior Katelyn Gutierrez produced a new pageant called Ms. Huntington Beach Special Needs at the Huntington Beach District Auditorium. Katelyn had to research how to produce a pageant, obtain donations from vendors, organize her volunteers, recruit contestants, and maintain a budget. The event was a huge success!

The nine high school special-needs ladies who attend the special-abilities cluster at Edison High School had their hair and makeup done by volunteers. They then walked the red carpet, performed a cheer for the talent portion of the event, wore lovely evening gowns, and finally answered an interview question. Other students and family members decorated the stage, sold tickets, and escorted the young ladies on the runway. There was thunderous applause, shouts of support and tears of joy from everyone in attendance. The three judges had a difficult time deciding who should wear the Ms. Huntington Beach Special Needs crown!

In the end, every contestant was awarded a crown and certificate of participation, with Nancy Rico being crowned Ms. Huntington Beach Special Needs. Her smile was radiant and her face beamed when the crown was placed on her head and flowers were handed to her. It was an emotional, fun and fulfilling event enjoyed by the contestants, judges, participants, friends and families. Those who attended will never forget this wonderful event. Thank you, Katelyn, for making a difference to your community!



**Crowning Ms. HB Special Needs**



**Pageant couple**



**The contestants and their escorts**

# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

714/901-8106 • www.hbadultschool.com



**Steve Curiel**  
Principal

## New Career Training Options

Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS) is excited to be of service to the community by offering more options for career training. This year we have expanded our training curriculum by adding a pharmacy technician program. The first class will have graduated by the time you read this, and a new group will be beginning receiving instruction in the second session starting on January 10. A third session is scheduled to begin April 4. Each session is 12 weeks long and 20 hours per week.

Why offer a pharmacy technician program? The short answer:

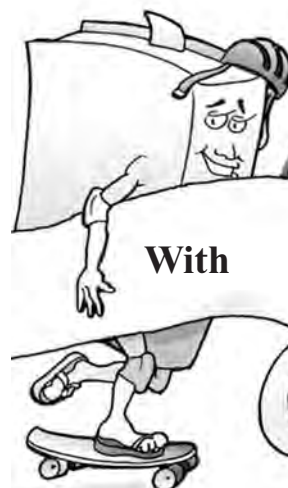


jobs. HBAS continues to develop programs with high employment opportunities. In the Orange County area, pharmacy technician is the fourth fastest growing occupation that does not require a degree (based on Employment Development Department labor market data). By targeting resources toward programs such as this one, HBAS provides students with the training they need to find jobs and compete in this tough labor market.

So what do pharmacy technicians do? Working under the direct supervision and control of a licensed pharmacist, they perform repetitive, basic

routine tasks related to the processing of prescriptions in a pharmacy. Pharmacy technicians may count tablets; measure, mix, pour, and record amounts and dosages of medications; label bottles; and package pharmaceuticals.

HBAS is also excited about offering more classes in the accounting field. These classes are designed for those working in small business offices. This next session, you'll see new classes such as Accounting 1 and 2, Accounting for the Tax Season, Finance for the Non-Financial Manager, and QuickBooks 1 and 2. Students can pick and choose which classes to take, but it is recommended that Accounting 1 be the first class taken. Accounting skills are becoming more important in small offices, as employees are asked to do more and more during these difficult economic times.



**Are you looking for me?**

**Find the other three pieces hidden in this publication.**

**Then enter the Contest on page 8.**

**Good luck!!**



# Huntington Beach *High School*

1905 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-2514 • www.hboilers.com



## Great Things are Happening

By Karen Dabney, Ed.D., Assistant Principal of Supervision

In a time where budget cuts threaten to eliminate many performing arts programs throughout the state, we are very fortunate to have the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA) here on the campus of Huntington Beach High School.

Janie Hoy  
Principal

APA is the Huntington Beach Union High School District's Performing Arts Academy, which serves over 600 students majoring in acting, dramatic production, technical theater, costuming, musical theater, music media and entertainment technology (MMET), popular music, MMET media, orchestra and dance. The APA's student body is representative of students district-wide from each of our comprehensive high schools, as well as those who attend on interdistrict permits from surrounding areas.



The APA's students and instructors have received numerous accolades over the past years. Among these are 12 top awards from the fifth-annual National Youth Theatre Awards, and the 2010 L.A. Music Center Spotlight Award.

Additionally, our APA alumni and graduating seniors won the Grishko International Award at the Prague Dance Festival during the summer. At the National Theater Festival, Musical

Theater Director Tim Nelson and Artistic Director Diane Makas also took home awards for best director and best choreographer, respectively.

Our season got off to an amazing start with *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, directed by Tim Nelson. This big musical hit was followed in November by *Play Ball*, directed by Robert Rotenberry. The talents displayed by the actors, dancers and musicians in both shows were remarkable. As an administrator and former theater teacher who is new to HBHS this year, I can tell you there is nothing "high school" about an APA production.

Without a doubt, the level of talent and commitment that the students and staff bring to APA is representative of a professional theater company. It is unlike anything I have seen in my 20 years in education. The inspiration, motivation and passion for the arts can be seen not only in the acting, singing and dancing, but in the set designs, costumes and musical quality of our outstanding orchestra, which is under the direction of Gregg Gilboe.

This month, our Huntington Beach Union High School District and Coastline ROP Music Media Program (MMET) received the California School Board Association's Golden Bell Award for "Outstanding Visual and Performing Arts Program, Music, Media & Entertainment Technology." Instructors Jamie Knight and Mike Simmons, along with Superintendents Dr. Van Riley, Darlene Le Fort and Board Member Bonnie Castrey, all traveled to San Francisco to receive this well-deserved and prestigious award.

Now in its 31st year, the Golden Bell Awards program promotes excellence in education by seeking out and recognizing innovative and exemplary programs in school districts throughout the state. This year there were nearly 200 entries in 19 different categories.

We are beaming with "Oiler Pride" when it comes to anything and everything APA! How fortunate we are to have such a distinguished and inspiring program on our campus. Please visit our Web site, at [www.hbapa.org](http://www.hbapa.org), for more information on the upcoming performances and events that you will not want to miss.

Student applications for the 2011-2012 school year are being accepted in the spring, and are due in the APA office by February 4, 2011. For more information on the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA), please call (714) 536-2514, Ext. 4025.

# Marina *High School*

15871 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/893-6571 • [www.marinavikings.org](http://www.marinavikings.org)



Dr. Paul Morrow  
Principal

## Innovations and Collaboration

*Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.*

—Steve Jobs

When someone hears *Marina High School*, the word *innovation* comes to mind. We are a leader in our district in providing engaging opportunities for students to learn beyond the textbook. Our teachers at Marina strive to find new ways to connect the concepts in meaningful ways for the students. Our mathematics department has been at the forefront of providing these opportunities.

Approximately six years ago, an innovation emerged at Marina High School called Co-Lab. These classes were a response to data that indicated that some of our students were not getting enough support to be successful in the state-required classes. The administration at that time looked at what resources were available. The best resource was human capital. Special education and general education teachers were paired up to team-teach the content. Using this configuration allowed the teachers to reduce the net student-teacher ratio, creating more opportunities to work one-on-one with these students. According to teacher Mike Grasse, the first two departments to embrace this new innovation were mathematics and social science. As the program evolved, the departments housing Co-Lab classes increased to include science and English.

Given the state requirement for Algebra I and the conceptual standards that are too difficult for some students to acquire, the special education and mathematics departments as well as the administration decided that Algebra I would be the most logical strand of mathematics on which to focus resources. These classes provide the additional support necessary for our students to develop the concepts needed to not only meet the state requirements but also to help students to understand that they can do mathematics as well as apply the concepts to real-life situations. The innovation has been so successful at Marina that, in 2009, the district directed all sites to add these classes to their campus as a way to support student learning.



## Auto-Matic Algebra Connection

"During my sophomore year, I was in an algebra class taught by Mr. Grasse and Mr. Merickel," said senior Jake St. Clair. "The two teachers worked together to motivate me to complete and understand the material. They connected the algebra concepts with my personal interests of cars and music to make it a meaningful learning experience. The personal attention that I was able to receive from Mr. Grasse

helped me to stay focused. He consistently made sure I was taking notes and asking questions. He made me feel comfortable to ask the necessary questions for me to understand the algebra material. The best part of the class was I knew they cared about me learning the material."

Another area where our mathematics department has taken the lead is in our Advanced Placement Calculus BC course. Our mathematics students enjoy applying their knowledge of integrals by creating a physical model of an object, such as a character from *Star Wars*. According to AP Calculus BC teacher Rick Boogar, "these semester projects have proven to be an integral component in helping students visualize calculus in space." These projects are truly an application of the algebra, geometry and trigonometry they learned throughout the years. This project gives meaning to the otherwise paper-pencil process of integrating a function.

At Marina, we have fostered an innovative environment. This has allowed us to stay the leader in creating a place where students have a meaningful learning experience as well as a place where teachers are able to try new ideas that help students.



# Ocean View *High School*

17071 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-0656 • www.ovhs.info



**Dan Bryan**  
*Principal*

## The New Year

Since I have been principal, OV has undergone so many changes that it's time to update you all!

The pool is in! Take a drive or walk down Gothard Street and you'll see the only 50-meter pool in the school district. We are very proud of it, and our community is grateful to have such a beautiful and useful facility.

New construction of the courtyard has been ongoing. Finally, we can look all the way down our new courtyard from the Warner parking lot to the inner lot and see beautiful trees and seating areas for our students.

Speaking of the inner lot, where once we had open and undeveloped land that was full of weeds, now we have a practical area for staff and parent parking, especially if they want to use the new pool or the new track!

This brings me to the new track: as you are reading this, an asphalt base is being laid, and on top of that our new rubberized track will be installed. We will also have new, natural athletic turf for our combined football/soccer/field facility.

These are only the physical things that make OV a new school for the New Year. But the great thing about our campus is the people. We believe in getting better, so we are always thinking of new and different ways of doing things, like embedding a tutorial period after each class in our new schedule!

Low grades like 'D's and 'F's have dropped off by the hundreds, as the simple by-product of our students being able to learn more. The goal is to have more students earning better grades and gaining more self-confidence in their academic abilities, as well as enrolling in more honors-level courses.

One of our teachers said that it is a great time to be a Seahawk because the school is so new. This is readily apparent to us here, but as I look to the future, I believe that it will be a good time to be a Seahawk then, too!

That is, if our goal is to get better at what we do for every student, every single year! And we have the ability and the will to do just that at OV.



**New courtyard view**



**Are you looking for me?**

**Find the other three pieces  
hidden in this publication.**

**Then enter the  
Contest on page 8.**

**Good luck!!**

# Valley Vista *High School*

9600 Dolphin Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/964-7766 • www.vvhs.info



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

## A Bountiful Harvest

Harvest of the Month is a new program at VVHS that started in September. Nancy Wikes, district Nutrition Specialist, had met with VVHS's Foods Teacher, Kathi Richey, and Health Teacher, Brandon Futagaki, and myself last Spring to describe the purpose and benefits of the program, and to plan for implementation in the 2010-2011 academic year. The goal of the program is to introduce new fruits and vegetables to our students to encourage them to make healthier eating choices by providing a sample of a different fruit or vegetable every month for each VVHS student. The program is intended to enhance student health and well being and lead to better attendance and academic performance.



**Foods class prepares the pears.**



**Mr. Futagaki and students enjoying Harvest of the Month!**

Teachers receive information cards that enable them to share pertinent information with their class while they enjoy that month's fruit or vegetable. One interesting presentation, called "Rethink Your Drink", demonstrated how much sugar is in a soft drink or power drink. Many students were very surprised to learn that they would consume over 50 lbs. of sugar in one year by drinking just one soda per day. Ms. Wikes also works with our teen parents, addressing the nutritional needs of both our new mothers and their children. Our math teachers had their students calculate how much activity it takes to burn off the calories they consume. Students had to determine how many calories there were in a 10 ounce serving of fried versus baked snack foods, the origin of the calories, and how the serving related to the recommended daily range of

calories for each macronutrient. Our English teachers are preparing to introduce research projects about nutrition related topics.

In September, students were already well acquainted with apples. In October, a few students were surprised to find that pumpkins were more than a Halloween decoration or pie filling. November brought persimmons to campus, an exotic fruit that most students and staff had never tasted. Pears were a popular treat in December. Coming months will feature fresh Mandarin oranges, sweet potatoes, cabbage, asparagus, and the program will conclude with avocados in May.

Harvest of the Month is a healthy and fun snack for the whole school. Students like the program, and several report that it has led to better food shopping and nutrition at home. The teachers have strongly supported this program with innovative, applied curricula. An important indirect benefit is that the entire school, all the students, teachers, and staff, share in the experience at the same time on the same day each month. The talk around campus on "Harvest Day" is positive and upbeat. Harvest of the Month builds stronger students through better nutrition, and school spirit too.



# Westminster *High School*

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**Shirley Vaughn**  
*Principal*

## Westminster High School: AP Scholars

The Westminster High School class of 2010 and 2011 received 59 AP Scholars Awards! Twenty five students who received a score of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams received the AP Scholar award. These students are: Robert Aguilar, Alejandro Almanzar, Kristen Bui, Avery Do, Andrew Duong, Jaydeep Kar, Erika Le, Linda Le, Xuan-Nhien Le, Vivian Lee, Thong Ngo, Andy Nguyen, Anthony Nguyen, Kimberly Nguyen, Brian Pham, Alicia Quintero, Serina Tabisola, Michelle Thai, Diana Tran, Julia Tran, Thien Tran, Tuyetngan Tran, Mike Van, Baotran Vo, and Kha Vu.

Fifteen Westminster High School students who averaged a score of at least 3.2 on all AP exams taken and who scored a 3 or higher on four or more exams were given the AP Scholar with Honors award. Students receiving this award are : Tiffany Do, John Doan, Peter Lam, Linh Luong, Steven Ma, Heba Mohammad,

Kang Nguyen, Mai Trang Nguyen, Jacob Peterson, Elizabeth Sweet, Johnny Tran, Tan Tran, Jennifer Trieu, and Jenny Truong.

AP Scholars with distinction awards were earned by thirteen students. These students earned this award because they received an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams and scored 3 or high on five or more exams. Recipients of this award are: Mathew Hilton, Kevin Lam, Andy Le, Tina Luong, Andrew Mai, Eddie Morales, John Nguyen, Michael Vu Nguyen, Bao Pham, Phuc Pham, Tri Phan, Elizabeth Richards, Sate Sukserm, and Christopher Thompson.

Six Westminster High School students received the highest AP award offered; the National AP Scholar award. Students who received this top honor received an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scored 4 or higher on eight or more exams! These student are: Mathew Hilton, Kevin Lam, Andy Le, Tina Luong, Phuc Pham, and Tri Phan.



Westminster High School AP Scholars.

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## The City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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# Volunteers are Priceless



**Steve A. Nagel**  
Mayor

As we begin 2011 and reflect upon some of our New Year's resolutions, I think of the many times I have observed community volunteers reach out to make the lives of others better. Volunteerism is truly an admirable quality and what better time to make a commitment to help serve others.

In Fountain Valley, we are blessed and surrounded with community volunteers who want to give back to those in need or serve others by sitting on various City committees, commissions or boards, assisting at the Center at Founders Village doing office work or serving food at the lunch program, serving as a member of our Police Department in the Reserve Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), or volunteering with the Fountain Valley Fire Department—Fire Inspection Retired Seniors Taskforce (FIRST) program.

The Fountain Valley Community Foundation was recently formed to help promote and fund community programs and events. The Foundation offers sponsors and contributors a non-profit organization with tax exempt 501(c)3 status. Contact Community Services Manager Mark Nix at 714-593-4449 for more information.

Volunteers save the City thousands of dollars by performing necessary tasks. Fountain Valley has many churches, sports programs, and service clubs offering services and assistance to the community. We encourage you to volunteer.

Volunteers are not paid but are "priceless." So make that New Year's resolution and commitment to volunteer and see the results of your actions. You will be glad you did!

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Volunteers save the City  
thousands of dollars  
by performing necessary tasks...  
We encourage you to volunteer.  
Volunteers are not paid  
but are "priceless."

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## The City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • www.surfcity-hb.org

# Community Input Valued



**Joe Carchio**  
Mayor

The holiday season is over, and winter is upon us. I was appointed Mayor of Huntington Beach in December, and I, like many other people, made many New Year's resolutions. One of my resolutions this year, is to make Huntington Beach an even better place to live in.

One of my New Year's resolutions, as Mayor, is to encourage more feedback from the citizens of Huntington Beach. By doing this, we can incorporate more citizen ideas into the decision-making process at City Hall. How can you become educated on these decisions and involved in your community? Well, first I suggest that you check out the City's website, [www.surfcity-hb.org](http://www.surfcity-hb.org).

This website will connect you to City Council meetings and agendas, City Departments, and other organizations within the City. Through the website, you are also able to email myself or any other City Council members.

Another great way to become educated about the City you live in is to attend a City Council meeting. City Council meetings are held on the first and third Monday of the month in the City Council Chambers at 2000 Main St. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. and are also webcast for those who don't subscribe to cable TV or Fios.

Please make a New Year's resolution to learn a little more about the City you live in and to become involved. As you learn about the City, please take the time to educate your children as well, because someday they will be in charge of making decisions for Huntington Beach.

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One of my resolutions this year,  
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Please make a New Year's resolution  
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## The City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

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# New Chamber Building



**Margie Rice**  
Mayor

As we all begin planning for 2011, I want to be sure you are aware of the recently completed Westminster Chamber of Commerce offices at 14491 Beach Boulevard. This \$5 million, 4,765 square foot building was paid for with redevelopment funds and promises to be a real asset for our community. It was named the Miriam Warne Community Building in honor of our long time resident and generous community supporter. I invite you to visit the building, meet Chamber staff and learn about the kinds of information and resources they have to offer.

In addition to housing Chamber offices, the building also includes a kitchen and a community room. This provides a much-needed meeting



**Westminster new Chamber building.**

space available for local non-profit organizations and community groups as well as Westminster residents. For information regarding this room, contact the City's Community Services and Recreation Department at (714) 548-4100.

## MAJOR MIDDLE SCHOOL • FROM PAGE 1

The Exploration Building will be a two-story structure that will emphasize creativity, technology and science.

Perhaps the most significant site enhancements will be our commitment to "going green." A green school is a building or facility that creates a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while conserving energy, resources and money. An environmental site assessment was conducted at each school. Water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality was analyzed. The new designs for our middle schools promise to be environmentally friendly while conserving resources.

Measure O is a \$130 million bond measure. However, when a bond measure passes the money is not received all at once. At this time, we have \$65 million to work with and we decided to focus on our middle schools first because eventually all of the students in our district will go through our middle schools and benefit from these improvements. We are extremely excited about the out-of-the-box thinking that went into the plans for our middle schools. Everyone involved in this process has been dedicated to creating schools that truly provide 21st century learning environments that give our students the tools to compete in a global economy.

For more information about our middle school makeovers, visit our website at [www.wsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.wsd.k12.ca.us)



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