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Covering the Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach Union High School, Ocean View, and Westminster School Districts

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 52

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2013

Abalone Project Captivates Students at Warner Middle School

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

Anticipation filled the air as Mr. Travis Garwick's seventh-grade science students awaited the arrival of six green abalone, which would be coming to live in their classroom.

As the students studied protozoa and algae under microscopes, the excitement was building. Then, marine biologist Nancy Caruso from Get Inspired! Inc., bounded into the room with a container holding the very special guests. "So, you guys are now charged with taking care of the abalone," she told the class.

Throughout the rest of the school year, Mr. Garwick's students will nurture the green abalone, a species of special concern to both state and federal government officials, which lives and relies on the kelp forest ecosystem. Their goal is to reverse the trend of the dwindling abalone population that only exists in pockets along the Orange County coast. The abalone will remain in their carefully prepared tank, with students keeping strict control of environmental conditions, until their likely release



Christine Dang and Kelly Nguyen, 7th grade science students at Warner Middle School conduct an experiment.

off our coast in June. The Department of Fish and Game has issued what is likely the first-ever permit for the release of over 200 green abalone, all of which will be raised in the classroom.

As project facilitator for the Orange County Ocean Restoration Projects, Mr. Garwick connects professional scientists with students to learn how to restore local marine habitats and preserve marine life. He houses the marine life in his classroom, and the students take the lead to monitor development, collect data, and document growth. They also maintain the abalone's specially prepared tank and measure and adjust pH levels. Students study how their local neighborhoods impact the ocean—from the seafood they select to street runoff.

Working with living things and seeing habitats restored firsthand instills a contagious sense of pride among students. Parents are thrilled that, along the way, their children are sharpening their understanding of science, chemistry, and even engineering. The project also encourages student leadership, communication, critical and creative thinking, and teamwork.

See ABALONE PROJECT • Page 24

Hyundai S.T. Math Lab Comes to Gisler Elementary

By Marc Ecker, Superintendent – Fountain Valley School District

For the second year in a row, Hyundai Motor America has stepped up to fund an important technological learning tool for the Fountain Valley School District.

Last year, Plavan Elementary School was the recipient of the Hyundai Donation, and this year, students and teachers at Gisler Elementary School will soon have the opportunity to engage in this digital learning lab. The spatial and temporal math component matches well with the newly adopted and soon to be implemented Common Core Standards. Students meet a dear friend, Ji Ji, the penguin. Ji Ji takes the students through the concrete and abstract foundations of our elementary math curriculum. Students work to get Ji Ji across from one side of the screen to the other as they practice the elements of solving math problems. The software is the brain child of the Mind Institute. Students can access their individual records with Ji Ji at home and engage in practice activities seven days a week or in the evening. The S.T. math program blends closely with the instructional program provided by the teachers in the classroom. Since all but one of our schools has S.T. Math, we have been able to document tremendous student progress through recorded data and expect that math achievement now at Gisler will similarly increase as a result of the new program.

See HYUNDAI S.T. MATH LAB • Page 7



Gisler Student Council President, Mateo Lopez is joined by Superintendent Marc Ecker and Principal Erin Bains as they accept the generous donation of an ST Math Lab from Hyundai Motor America. Pictured Mayor Mark McCurdy; Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Board Ken Duong; and from Hyundai Motor America Dotty Diemer, John Krafcik, B.H. Lee, Chris Hosford, Walter Rodriguez, Zafar Brooks and Yong Sohn.



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FOUNTAIN VALLEY
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL
OCEAN VIEW AND
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



Happy New Year!

After the holidays it always seems the months go by quickly as seniors have applied to the colleges of their choice and now await the results, middle school graduating students are anticipating high school, and all students are focused on academic excellence.

The positive involvement of parents and the community are essential to the success of the students.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is March 13.

Food & Nutrition Services

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

Parents Support Good Nutrition

By Tracey Zoleta, RD

Since September, over 200 parents attended the Network for a Healthy California's Parent Nutrition classes in Ocean View and Westminster school districts. Topics included the importance of breakfast, proper portion sizes and nutrition in the media. Each topic led to a great discussion, followed by Zumba Fitness. And of course, there's no better way to end a nutrition lesson than with a hands-on cooking demonstration! Parents prepared delicious, healthy recipes the whole family would enjoy. They graduated the series and received a certificate and a bag filled with cookbooks, MyPlate placemats and an apron.



If you are ready to become a champion for good nutrition, pop in to any of the new classes starting in January. Classes will be held at Westminster High School, Oak View Preschool, Anderson, Schmitt and Sequoia elementary schools. For more information, please contact our office.



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Fountain Valley School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marc Ecker

Second Annual FV Music Live

On Friday evening, January 25, 2013, our second annual FV Music Live Concert will be held at the Huntington Beach High School Auditorium. This concert will feature professional musicians playing for the benefit of the performing arts program in the Fountain Valley School District. As in 2011 when a packed auditorium crowd cheered on the performers at the inaugural event, we expect another enthusiastic gathering to support the students in our school district.

Nicola Weiss, president of the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation, is chairing the event. With the help of our music teachers, other foundation Board members, and members from the community, this flagship event promises to be as successful as the first one held two years ago. The Fountain Valley Educational Foundation has worked very hard to raise badly needed funds to support arts education in our school district. The idea of our first FV Music Live came from two volunteers who believed that the importance of the arts can best be illustrated through an actual performance by those whose musical careers stemmed from their roots in our community.

Over the past generation, we have seen the investment in schools dwindle. The arts is but one of the many parts of our curriculum that have been reduced or eliminated. Educating our future generation is as important now as ever before. Yet we find ourselves less able to do so without the help of our community. Remember, January 25, 2013 is your chance to support this effort and to make this contribution to the future.

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Sandra Crandall
Clerk

Understanding Poverty's Impact on Education

When discussing the concept of poverty with a fellow educator, I learned of a "must-read" for anyone who is an educator, policymaker, or employer. The book, entitled *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, is well researched and impactful.

Orange County certainly has pockets of poverty, with some school districts serving great numbers of children from homes where daily survival is the family's number one goal.

Knowing that Fountain Valley School District serves some families living at or below the poverty level, I needed to read with an open mind for a broader context to our specific district.

I found that context when generational poverty, referred to as living in poverty for two generations or longer, was contrasted with situational poverty. Illness, death, divorce, or loss of employment, for example, are circumstances which cause situational poverty. Situational poverty has a shorter time line.

Our school district's free and reduced lunch population has increased over the years, more students are living in single parent homes, others are living with grandparents, and the disposable income of many of our families is decreasing. Changing family circumstances are fueling these shifts in our population.

Education and relationships help to move people out of poverty.

As a school district, our mission is to educate. Those doing the educating can be a cost-free influence on students when developing relationships which emulate an appropriate role model.

Understanding both generational and situational poverty is helpful as we work to improve the achievement of students, knowing that poverty does impact their decisions, work habits, and learning.

Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

10055 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • www.fvef.org

An Instrumental Part of Our District!



Nicola Weiss
President

Once again, the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation is hosting the Fountain Valley Music LIVE Concert! Featuring many accomplished performers, the Music LIVE event is a professional concert benefitting the programs that are being cut in our schools, like music, arts and Hands-on Science. The concert is highlighting the critical role that music plays in enriching our students' academic experience.

And we at the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation are committed to making sure that the teaching of instrumental and vocal music remains an integral part of our students' education.

The event is an opportunity for the community to come together while enjoying great entertainment so as to make sure these programs remain for our students.

Many known artists, all with a connection to the city of Fountain Valley, will be performing for your enjoyment. Among them are the Hat Rack Jazz Combo, Sea Funk Brass Band, Popdudes, Walter Clevenger & the Dairy Kings, and many more!

So please join us in saving the arts on Friday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m. at Huntington Beach High School Auditorium. Tickets and sponsorship are easy! You can order online at our website and use your credit card.

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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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Chris Christensen
Principal

Cougars “Jog” for \$50,000!

The Courreges Jog-A-Thon was held on Thursday, November 15, raising over \$50,000 to fully fund this year’s PTA programs. Each year, the Courreges PTA is instrumental in funding thousands of dollars toward curriculum enhancement, technology upgrades, assemblies/field trips, and many more school programs. A special “thank you” to Monica Maytorena, Jog Organizer, for her tireless efforts in organizing such a successful jog-a-thon.



Mrs. Villarreal, teacher, and Mr. Christensen, principal, jog with the Courreges students to show their support for the jog.

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

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



Jennifer Perkins
Principal



Inger Kent
Assistant Principal

Science Is Sweet!

Dirty water investigations, rocket launches, and stargazing were just a few of the topics explored in November at Fulton Middle School’s first annual Science Night, sponsored by a local medical group. Thanks to community support, 20 stations were available for curious minds to visit.

With Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers being the trend of the future, Fulton is committed to ensuring that our

students are prepared to lead and succeed at top universities and companies. Science Night supported our school’s vision of providing meaningful opportunities and connections to science.

We would like to recognize and thank our staff, parents, PTA, and business community for their support. Special thanks to the Orange County Zoo, Orange



Coast College, Orange County Astronomers, Orange County Water Treatment, and an international oil company. To top off an evening of science, families paid a visit to the gelato truck, underscoring how sweet science can be!

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

17615 Los Jardines E., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4240 • www.jhces-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Patrick Ham
Principal

Celebrating Writing and Physical Education

Celebrating excellence in writing has been a tradition at Cox Elementary School during our winter months. Principal Trimester Writing Award recipients spend 45 minutes on a Wednesday afternoon sharing healthy snacks and their writing projects with their peers and their principal, Patrick Ham. Research projects, poems, personal narratives and expository essays are a few writing genres that students have shared during this celebration.



5th Grade Students: Principal Writing Award



Engaged in flag football

A new winter tradition at Cox Elementary School is our Noon Flag Football League in which upper-grade students from each homeroom created their own teams to compete and develop leadership and collaboration skills. The championship game is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 1. Numerous students are learning a new sport while many others are building confidence and collaboration skills.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

18720 Las Flores, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4210 • www.regs-fvdsd-caschoolloop.com



Erin Bains
Principal

STEM Teachers Have Roots Here!

Congratulations to Mrs. Mastropaolo, fifth-grade teacher, and Miss Nilsen, third-grade teacher, for being selected as STEM Specialists for the Next Generation. Only 50 teachers from all over the county were selected for this honor, and Mrs. Mastropaolo and Ms. Nilsen are two of only six from the Fountain Valley School District. With the support of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation, Mrs. Mastropaolo and Ms. Nilsen will take a two-year intensive professional-development journey to develop leadership skills and gain tools to lead other educators, parents and the community regarding the new national science standards. This training will also promote inquiry-based, hands-on science learning in their classrooms.



Mrs. Mastropaolo and Miss Nilsen have always shared their love of science with their students, and we could not be happier or more proud of them as they continue to expand their vast knowledge.

We know our Gators will truly benefit from their efforts.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6-8)*

17415 Las Jardines W., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4250 • www.masudams.fvdsd.ca.schoolloop.com



Chris Mullin
Principal



Heather Harrison
Assistant Principal

Honoring Our Best and Brightest

Walk onto the Masuda Middle School campus and you will find a place overflowing with amazing staff members, teachers, students and parents. Once in a while we also have the privilege of recognizing and honoring some of our best and brightest. This month we had the opportunity to recognize two tremendous individuals who stand out among many bright stars.

For commitment to excellence, dedication to student success, phenomenal teaching practice, and passion and care for her students, Masuda recognized Mrs. Lorri Walton as a California League of Middle School Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Walton exemplifies the virtues of an effective and outstanding teacher and is more than deserving of this recognition.

Equally exciting, the Fountain Valley Rotary Club provided Masuda with the opportunity to acknowledge one eighth-grader with a Most Improved Student Award. Joshua Steffen was unanimously selected by our teachers and administrators as the recipient of this prestigious award.

Since his sixth-grade year Joshua has improved by leaps and bounds. To the teachers he is a model student, to the administration he is a positive example of remarkable citizenship, and to the students he is a great inspiration. We are so proud of Joshua and his tremendous improvement and effort!

It is teachers like Mrs. Walton and students like Joshua Steffen that make Masuda a special place. We are honored to have them as part of our school. We are a better place because of them!

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.ioes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Erik Miller
Principal

Student-Leadership Success

Oka Elementary has started a new venture this year! Out of 50 fourth- and fifth-graders who applied to be on our newly developed Student Leadership Team, 16 excellent candidates were chosen. Together, this group of students works as a team to do what is best for their school. Some of the main goals of the Student Leadership Team are to work together to be positive behavior examples for Oka students. They are leaders by demonstrating initiative, respect and responsibility. Leadership is about being positive and including everyone in all activities.

Throughout the year, the Student Leadership Team will be working on many projects. The first of these is trying to earn money and donations for the purchase of board games in order to give students more choices of recess activities. We're excited to see this great group of student leaders help the Wolfpack achieve even more success!



Student Leadership Team with Advisors Miss McDaniels and Ms. Angeles.

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

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Kathy Davis
Principal

Special Persons

November was the month to remember and express our thankfulness for the gifts in our lives. To thank all the special people in the lives of Newland Elementary School students, the children invited them to attend Special Persons Day.

All of the students worked hard to practice and perform songs and poems for the special guests to say how much they appreciate their special persons. Each year, Newland's Special Persons Day is held just before Thanksgiving break. Refreshments are provided for the guests, including coffee, juice, water, doughnuts, bagels and cream cheese. There is a photo booth to capture the students with their special guests and opportunity drawings for chances to win special prizes.

This day provides an opportunity for our student council to raise money for their annual service projects by selling turkey grams. The grade-level performances begin first thing in the morning. Our fifth-graders share a song from their play, "Turkeys Go on Strike," which is performed annually for their families on the Friday before the break. When the performances are over, the guests may visit the students' classrooms.

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

9675 Warner Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/378-4230 • www.uhpes-fvdsd-ca.schoolloop.com



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Panthers Are Roaring Readers!

Plavan Elementary School has developed many opportunities for students to become inspired to read! Students are encouraged to read through a variety of programs. Our second-through-fifth-grade students participate in a reading program called Accelerated Reader. Each child is able to set a personal goal of how many books he or she would like to read within a trimester. Once a child completes a book, he or she may take a comprehension quiz on the computer. Each test is scored and counted toward the child's personal goal. This program inspires students to read for understanding and helps them to read at their instructional level. This trimester, we had 120 students accomplish their reading goals and beyond.



Students in kindergarten and first grade participate in a program called RAZ Kids. It is an online reading program that helps students improve their reading skills by listening for modeled fluency, providing reading practice, recording their reading, and checking comprehension with quizzes. The stories are exciting and fun for the children to read.

Plavan Panthers' reading is really something to roar about!

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

17340 Santa Suzanne St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/375-6226 • www.htes-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com



Jay Adams
Principal

Making a Difference

Tamura's chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society has been hard at work in our community during the fall and early winter seasons!

We kicked off our community involvement in October with a service day at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands Preserve. There were approximately 30 Tamura representatives out in force helping to make our community a better place to be. Additionally, the NEHS also spearheaded our schoolwide Red Ribbon Week activities, which promoted the importance of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle for everyone.

Then, during the month of November, we also held a food drive to benefit the Southwest Community Center. Three overflowing barrels of food were brought in by our students to help those in need in our community.

At the end of the first trimester we will be looking at our fourth-grade students' GPAs, and then invite those with a 3.0 or higher to apply for admission. We're definitely looking forward to another stellar year, as everyone is busy "taking a second to make a difference" in our homes, our school, and our community.



Tamura Honor Society with Adviser Steve Sakelios and Principal Jay Adams.

HYUNDAI S.T. MATH LAB • from page 1



Dr. Marc Ecker

The Fountain Valley School District is very much appreciative of the support we receive from the business community and especially from Hyundai Motor America. As we see their new national headquarters being built in our city, we are thrilled that Hyundai takes so seriously the importance of investing in our schools and our classrooms. The students of today will become our future of tomorrow, many of them hopefully taking jobs, as expressed by Hyundai's chief executive officer, with Hyundai, when they have completed their education.

As we begin to see the absolute necessity of transforming our schools and our classrooms into 21st-century learning centers, we see as well how critical it is for our community to invest in our schools. Expanding our reach for information beyond the walls of the classroom is essential if our students in Fountain Valley will be able to compete with their peers for places in the best colleges and universities in the nation and the best jobs in a global economy. We thank you, Hyundai, for setting an example for those of us who believe that excellent schools are the precursor to a quality community.

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

9101 Brabham Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4220 • www.talbertms.fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com



Cara Robinson
Principal



Jennifer Kadjasz
Assistant Principal

Closing the Achievement Gap

Talbert Middle School's students made the sky the limit when taking the annual state Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) tests last year. The Academic Performance Index (API) score rose 56 points, moving from 812 to 868! In addition to an outstanding score school wide, all subgroups showed improvement, hitting their targeted goals.

When the school reflected on what made the difference, several ideas came to mind. Letters from home were requested for every single student to encourage them to take the testing seriously and to try their best. It served as an everyday reminder that success is right around the corner. New student engagement strategies were incorporated school-wide, as well as release time for peers to watch one another implement these new ideas and then take those ideas back to their own classrooms. Administration wanted to do their part, so they had conferences with students who did not hit proficiency the previous year to set personal goals. When asked what would make them more motivated to do better on the standardized testing, a celebration was the first thing on the students' minds, so Talbert hosted the first ever Overachiever Party for those students who improved by at least one proficiency band or who scored proficient or advanced in both English language arts and math. The students enjoyed the pay off of all their hard work by dancing and eating and dunking their teachers and peers in a dunk tank.

Congratulations, T-birds, for a great year of growth. We are looking for more great things in 2013 to cheer about!

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Tracy Pellman
Outgoing President

Ocean View Welcomes Superintendent Balderas

The Board of Trustees extends a warm welcome to Gustavo Balderas, Ocean View School District's new superintendent. Mr. Balderas was selected as the district's new leader from many applicants for this position, and we feel very fortunate to have him join the Ocean View team.

A superintendent search began in early September and due to the new restrictions for retirement under California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS), the district has been led by two interim superintendents during the time of this search and the completion of the selection process. Mr. Balderas comes to us from the Madera Unified School District, where he has been superintendent to 19,500 students, 27 school sites, and a budget of \$140 million. Members of the Ocean View School District Board visited Madera Unified, where the highest praise was given of Mr. Balderas by Board members, senior cabinet leaders, school site administrators, employee associations, parents, and city and community leaders.

Mr. Balderas is celebrated for his strong facilitation and collaboration skills. His instructional expertise is evident with the launch of successful initiatives in curriculum, instruction, and assessment of student performance. He also brings experience in long-range facility planning, technological advances, and professional development for all employee groups, and has been a catalyst for community-wide involvement and support of the schools.

We look forward to what Mr. Balderas brings to the Ocean View School District; his vast experience and strong leadership will greatly benefit the students, staff, and community.



Debbie Cotton
President

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Karen Sandors
Principal

Living History

Circle View School's fifth-grade classes recently explored the historical figures of the United States by transforming themselves into a "living" wax museum. This "push-button" project provided a creative variation on the standard biographical book report.

Each student chose a figure from any genre, from the political world like Abraham Lincoln and John F.

Kennedy, or a sports star such as Michelle Kwan and Lou Gehrig, to historical figures like Betsy Ross or John Muir. They then had to research and write a brief biography to help explain their character's childhood, rise to fame, and what they are doing now or when they died.

The students also developed specific costumes and props for their characters around the school's multipurpose room. The younger children and their parents were then invited to walk around and push the button next to the student to "activate" their figure and hear its biography.



College View *Elementary*

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Kathy Smith
Principal

Help for Local Shelters

Bunny's Kids is a non-profit organization that delivers essentials, toys, books, and gifts to Orange County's homeless, women's, and children's shelters. This year Bunny's Kids partnered with the Ocean View School District and families from College View, Golden View, and Lake View Elementary Schools, Marine View and Mesa View Middle Schools, Oak View Preschool, Sts. Simon and Jude School, and a Girl Scout troop from Hope View Elementary School.

Generous donations from our community members allowed Bunny's Kids to provide over 700 bags of essentials and hundreds of toys and books for five Orange County shelters. Pictured are students from the Ocean View School District and community members who generously donated their time to assemble the bags and gifts.

Thank you to all of the families who participated in this amazing community outreach and service project.



Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Spreading the Holiday Spirit

December is a time of year that is very important to Harbour View Elementary School and the surrounding community.

Once again, our Student Council and Brownie Troop 1982 (under the direction of Ms. Pamela Schrubbs) invited everyone to participate in the school's annual "Wish Tree" donation drive. And because of the generous support of our wonderful community, we were able to collect gifts for 25 Harbour View families in need!

Each family consisted of children from ages three weeks to 15 years. Not only were they given necessities, but they also received a ray of hope, and a feeling of being loved and cared about.

This gift drive was the perfect opportunity for our students to experience a true sense of fulfillment. The Wish Tree contained tags that requested special gift items, and was placed near the front office. Family, staff members and the community then took the tags off of the trees so that they could shop for the items and return them to the school for sorting and delivering.

Not only did the receiving families benefit from this experience, but our children enjoyed helping out as well. A special thanks goes to the girls in Brownie Troop 541 for donating 15 teddy bears! What a great way to spread the holiday spirit.

We would also like to thank the Huntington Harbour Hearts, under the leadership of Mrs. Eva Kilgore, for their very kind and generous donations. Their support during this holiday season and throughout the year is so very much appreciated!

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Giving Back

It's that time of the year where we want to take a few moments to recognize what is important to us and then give something back. But whether this recognition is in the form of kind words or a small gesture of appreciation, or more, it is important to let others know that we care.

Golden View students and staff members recently took the time to recognize those people who have made a difference in their lives, as well as those who have fallen on harsh times this holiday season. Our remarkable Student Council, headed by Athena Florence, Deborah Salcido and Julie Neubert, brought this holiday spirit to as many families as possible by both collecting pennies for Storm Sandy and items of need for a local program called Bunny's Kids.

They also donated their weekends to work with College View Elementary School volunteers to help organize these donated items. Our schoolwide Giving Tree program also helped relieve some of the holiday burden with gift certificates from local retailers.

We are thankful to everyone who participated in and organized this gracious event. Happy holidays to all, and best wishes for a great 2013!

Hope View *Elementary*

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



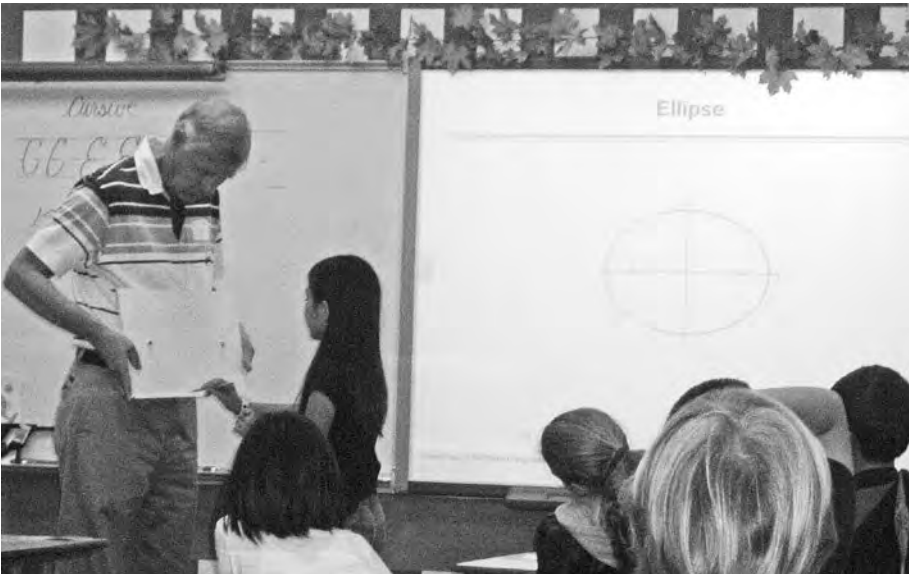
Carrie Haskin
Principal

A Mathematical Journey

By Grace Sidell

Our nation is in need of more mathematicians, scientists, and engineers. Many schools are pursuing initiatives in the national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. For the last few years, Hope View Elementary School's Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students have taken part in a math enrichment class taught by Dr. Gary Green. This class provides brief insights into advanced mathematical concepts that few encounter until post-calculus college classes.

The purpose is to show the beauty of mathematics without encumbering the students with all the necessary (and often painful!) mechanics usually required.



Dr. Green takes the students on a mathematical journey, exploring the many wonders of the world that can be more easily understood by breaking down the science of math.

In this picture, students are studying cones and learning how conical sections that generate circle, ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas can explain architectural wonders.

Lake View *Elementary*

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



**Anna
Dreifus**
Principal

Math and Music Working Together

Lake View is one of the few elementary schools in California to offer the ST Math+Music program. This K-5 program combines a research-based music curriculum with the ST (Spatial/Temporal) K-5 math program.

Research shows that music training improves spatial/temporal reasoning, the cognitive skill that is used by the program to teach and illustrate math principles. In combination, this music training and the program's special instructional software have achieved some dramatic gains in test scores.

Music has a mathematical architecture. As young students learn music they also learn to recognize patterns and symmetries, and experience the concepts of counting and fractions. There are four levels of instruction for reading sheet music and playing the piano. Every other week



the classes rotate through the music room to learn keyboarding with Mrs. Sue Martin, our ST Music instructor.

We are proud to offer this research-proven tool for teaching and learning mathematics through non-language based visual instructional software. If you would like to see a sample of ST Math, please visit their Web site at <http://www.mindresearch.net>, and try it out for yourself!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Twenty for Tech

At Mesa View Middle School, we want our students to be able to integrate knowledge and ideas through technology in meaningful and innovative ways. To accomplish this, we must provide our students with the tools and resources they need to gain the 21st-century skills necessary for higher educational demands and to compete in a global economy.

We are proud that the Mesa View community has embraced our endeavor to update student computers through the PTSO's Twenty for Tech initiative. This program is designed to support our long-term technology plan and collects donations from our parents and the community with the sole purpose of updating and supporting computers for student use. After only a few months, we have raised enough money to purchase six new computers to replace older technology in our computer lab and purchase additional computers for use in our after-school Homework Club.

We believe it is vital that our students have the ability to connect and collaborate in a knowledge-based society, as well as complete the next-generation, computer-based assessment tasks which will be used to validate their learning through the Common Core State Standards. We are also looking forward to building skills and opportunities for our students to strategically and capably use technology and digital media by adding additional computer labs in the common areas of our buildings.

Our Twenty for Tech program, with the support of our PTSO, parents, and community, will ensure success in the digital age and beyond for all Mesa View students.

**Stephanie
Henry**
Principal

Marine View *Middle School*

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



**Shelley
Morris**
Principal

Marvelous Mariners!

I cannot believe the second trimester is already here! The time has flown by, and I am very proud to share that our Mariners have accomplished so much in such a short period of time. Our Performing Arts Program held a delightful Winter Concert, and Jazz Ensemble has represented Marine View twice with phenomenal performances at a major theme park! Early in the fall, our Mariner athletes came out on top in Cross Country and took first place for seventh- and eighth-grade girls' and boys' volleyball teams in early December! Our unparalleled PTSA hosted yet another incredibly successful, not to mention

delicious, Spaghetti Night right on the tail of finishing up their annual magazine-sale fund-raiser—the commitment of our Mariner parents, students and staff is nothing less than top notch!

I am most proud, however, of the level of compassion our Marine View Community has for citizens in need. In November, we held a fund-raiser called Sixty Seconds of Support for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Our school community raised over \$6,500 in literally 60 seconds, including a matching contribution from one of our very generous Marine View families! Later in the month, our devoted ASB students and advisors joined forces with five other OVSD schools to organize a toy, clothing and book drive for the nonprofit group Bunny's Kids. Our contributions provided almost 900 bags of necessities and 270 brand-new toys for our local shelters.

As principal, I continue to beam with pride and sheer awe at the wonders that make up our Marine View Middle School community!

Oak View *Elementary*

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



**Laura
Dale-Pash**
Principal

Student Teachers

"He who teaches, learns." This famous quote by Comenius epitomizes the philosophy of the Learning Together after-school program currently implemented at Oak View School. This program utilizes the peer teaching model which is based on research which shows "struggling students achieve more academically, socially, and emotionally when they learn collaboratively."

Fifteen fourth-grade students are matched with second-grade students to work on comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and writing, using high-interest literature. Our fourth-grade tutors



participate in Leadership Academy to learn skills they need to tutor their younger tutees. The second-graders participate in Scholars Academy to learn about the program and basic reading skills. Trisha Field and Wendy Grant coordinate and teach the program, which runs four days per week. One day the tutors learn the lesson, and the following day, their tutees join them. In addition to reading skills students grow in leadership capacity, gain confidence, and become role models.



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Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

A Genuine Santa's Workshop!

The "elves" at a local senior center spend all year building, painting and distributing more than 3,000 toys for needy children across the county. For the second year in a row, these kind holiday workers have generously donated over 250 toys to our children.

Each year, the senior elves make these handcrafted toys for the following Christmas. Some cut wood, others paint, and some crochet or sew. "Every year, we try to introduce a new toy," said club president Jean MacLennan, 84.



One of our teachers, Rekha Powar, helped select toys from a large variety of items that included bumper cars, mail trucks, race cars, helicopters, trains, teddy bears in rockers, baby dolls in cradles, ducks and stick ponies! These gifts make a difference in the lives of the 3- and 4-year-old children attending the preschool. For many of them, it will be the only holiday gift that they'll receive.

Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Making the Transition

What an amazing opportunity we have before us, and what a great group of people to enjoy the journey with! It's my honor and privilege as principal to work with a tremendous group of educators as we begin our transition from the California State Standards to the Common Core State Standards. We know that with any major change there will be bumps along the way and difficult decisions to make. However, we're excited about the challenges and possibilities that the Common Core Standards can bring.

The new standards are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that our students will need for success in college and their future careers. Emphasis is on critical-thinking and problem-solving skills to best prepare our young people for jobs, careers and challenges that may not even exist yet.

Can "arguing" with your child help support this transition and his or her future? Yes. One major change with the new Common Core Standards is the transfer from persuasive writing, which emphasizes emotion, to argument writing, which emphasizes fact. Of course, we're not asking you to argue with your child but to have healthy debates and question his or her opinions. By encouraging children to support their opinions and positions with facts, you're also encouraging them to become well informed and are fostering lifelong learning as well. But be ready to support your own opinions and positions, too, because there's one thing we know about middle school students—they question everything!

We're looking forward to making the transition to the Common Core Standards and welcome the challenges that it presents.

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

located at Pleasant View School, 16692 Landau Ln., 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. At Pleasant View, we offer two different types of programs for our children. Our Itinerant Speech/Language Program serves students from our surrounding area who 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, Anne Lang, Vicki Kincaid and Anne Fujiwara, 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 serve our families and students.

Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Kinder
Principal

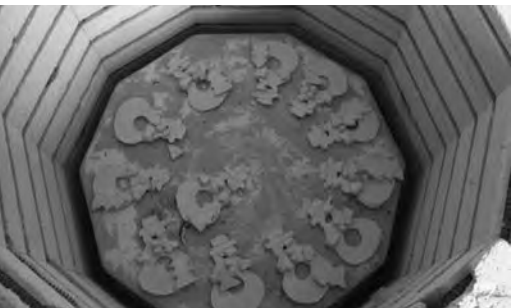
Our Stars are Talented

Beyond reading, writing and mathematics, the teachers at Star View work daily to build the students' creativity through the visual and performing arts. Many of our staff members have a background in the visual and performing arts. Whether they have a degree in art, play an instrument, or were dancers when they were younger, they all believe that creativity and the arts increase academic success in children.

Throughout the year, the students will paint, create clay masterpieces, sing, dance, perform plays for the school, and

do other creative things. The first half of the year, the teachers focus on visual arts and instructing the students how to make creations that correlate to the core curriculum. The latter part of the year is filled with performances from each classroom.

As Albert Einstein once said, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." There is joy all around us at Star View!



*A Moment of Silence
for the families of the victims in the Newtown, Conn. tragedy.*

Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

First Grade Gets a Helping Hand

Friday, December 7, 2012, first grade students had the opportunity to participate in One OC's Spirit of Giving Service-Learning program designed to engage first-grade students in "the spirit of giving" by teaching and modeling the importance and value of giving back through volunteerism.

One OC Service Leader and former Ocean View School District graduate, Teddy Hennes, coordinated the Event Day and greeted our VIP volunteers, CEO Patty Brotherton, and General Counsel, Martha Mosier, from Prudential. Our volunteers read the book "Reach Out and Give" by Cheri J. Meiners as well as presented each child with their own copy of *The Berenstain Bears Lend a Helping Hand*.



Westmont *Elementary*

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



Carol Furman
Principal

A Thrifty Success

The Westmont Elementary School PTO is celebrating the success of a brand-new event this year! Under the wonderful leadership of Kennie Sheehan, a dedicated grandparent and PTO Board member, our very first thrift store was opened, and it was a resounding success!

For two weeks prior to the December 1 event, the committed community of Westmont brought thousands of items for donation. A wonderful team of moms made over 300 tamales, and a large crew showed up to volunteer on the day of the event. Thanks to excellent advertisement, the thrift store was well-attended,

with shoppers coming from as far away as Long Beach to peruse the wonderful items for sale! The event was so well-received, that we look forward to hosting another thrift store in May of 2013!



The PTO is proud to support the students of Westmont by providing art and music enrichment programs for our students and looks forward to continuing and increasing this support through successful events like the thrift store!

Village View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Tryon
Principal

Community Support

Village View students and staff have been working very hard this school year. We are not only working on academics, but also on ways to support our community as well.

Did you know that we have a recycling program? We recycle our paper, and our fifth-grade leadership students organize the recyclables for pick-up each week. We are also supporting our community by collaborating with the Huntington Beach chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.

Our third-grade students were able to hear a very informative presentation that focused on bringing awareness to and educating them about preserving the world's oceans and beaches. Some of our students were also able to attend a recent beach clean-up day to further the cause of helping the community.

While we are working with our students to support the community, our community is also continuing to support us! We have a very active parent community that has truly been instrumental in providing exemplary programs that our students can benefit from each week.

We are indeed very fortunate to have such dedicated and hard-working parents. Our staff works extremely hard to support our students, and we appreciate all that our community does to enrich our efforts. We will continue to celebrate our community and everything that it does for us.

Vista View *Middle School*

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



Amy Kernan
Principal

Students Gone Wild

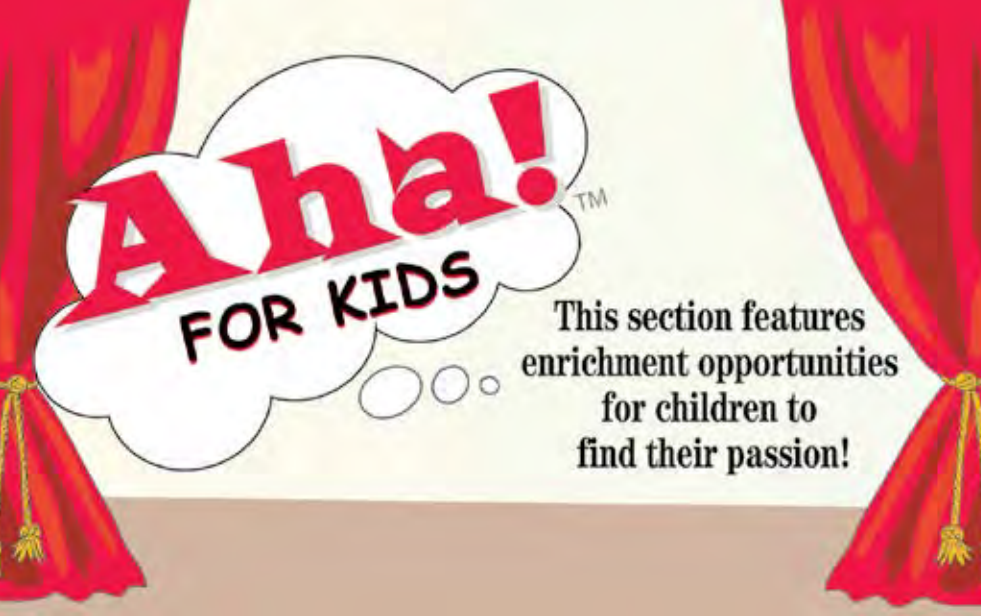
December was a busy time for the Vista View Middle School Falcons. Students completed benchmark exams and writing prompts and prepared for the end of the trimester. Our teachers were actively engaged in learning more about the Common Core State Standards and 21st Century Learning Strategies so they can better prepare our students for college and career. Everyone seemed incredibly enthusiastic about teaching and learning.

One Friday in December, Vista View went wild! Our drama class performed the play "Born to be Wild" for a packed house. Students acted out hilarious scenes as animals, including "cat

poetry." Everyone had a great time, and our actors were worthy of Tony Awards.

Mr. Shetland and his choir class performed songs from the musical "Seussical" for parents, staff, and students at their concert. The students worked incredibly hard to fine tune their harmonies, and the audience was treated to a great show.





Orange County Department of Education

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

Transitional Kindergarten



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

The kindergarten classroom of today is a very different place than most of us remember. As we strive to remain competitive in a global economy, our youngest students face a more challenging educational climate, and kindergarten curriculum is more rigorous than ever before. The challenging curriculum, coupled with California's longstanding trend of starting children in kindergarten at a younger age than most other states, has resulted in too many students beginning school without the maturity or social skills needed to succeed.

Research indicates that giving students under the age of five an extra year of academic preparation before they begin traditional kindergarten can make a big difference in their long term academic success. In fact, children who receive high quality early childhood education are less likely to be placed in special education or to be retained in later grades, and they are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.

California's Kindergarten Readiness Act, signed into law in 2010, changed the kindergarten entry date from December 2 to September 1 so that children enter kindergarten at age five. The new entry date is being phased in beginning with the 2012-13 school year with full implementation in 2014-15. Along with this historic reform to kindergarten education, California legislators also created Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to address the needs of children who no longer have the option of beginning kindergarten before the age of five.

Taught by credentialed teachers, TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program available to students whose fifth birthdays fall between September 2 and December 2. TK is aligned with California's kindergarten standards and offers curriculum and classroom environments designed to support growth in the cognitive, physical, and social-emotional domains of development. For many children who do not have access to quality preschool, TK could make the difference in providing them with the foundation they need to be better prepared for success once they enter traditional kindergarten.

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) will support district leadership with implementing TK programs by offering a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Spring Institute in May 2013 and creating a Transitional Kindergarten Teacher Network to focus on curriculum and assessment, along with planning and organizing the TK classroom. OCDE has also set up two model Transitional Kindergarten classrooms that offer tours and observations of teachers implementing curriculum. In collaboration with the California Kindergarten Association, OCDE will feature these model classrooms in a series of TK training videos that are scheduled for release in winter 2012.

High-quality early childhood programs like TK are designed to be a bridge between early learning and kindergarten. The academic and social gains provided by such programs are an important step to ensuring California's youngest students enjoy success in kindergarten and beyond.

For more information, visit www.ocde.us/SEED/Pages/Transitional-Kindergarten.aspx.

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Ask Dr. Shari

The Single BEST Memory Skill?



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Dear Dr. Shari,

Over the years, we've clipped your column and collected the memory tools in your articles along the way but we want to know if you could only recommend ONE of the memory skills, what would it be? We want to get started in helping our son and want to start with the best one.

—Pam D., RI

Pam!

One? That is like asking a mom to identify her favorite child. Okay, not exactly but it sure is tough to pick just one. Since every student has different preferences, interests, skills, and uses different techniques for different subjects... I recommend an exposure to many skills.

However, Pam, you asked a very direct question and I am not going to wimp out of the challenge.

One week later....I couldn't do it Pam. I kept writing down a "top 3" purely weaseling out of this challenge. So, I decided to ask the students in one of the schools that use my program. And the winner is (after much debate) "The Mind Explosion."

The students (all 5th graders) were exposed to this skill as a "group" and they indicated that they enjoyed the freedom, creativity and "newness" of the project.

So, here is what that looks like for you:

This extremely simple tactic involves nothing more than a box of markers or crayons (Yes! Even for big kids!) and a huge piece of paper. I recommend investing in a roll of butcher paper or the big roll of paper.

The next time your student has a test coming up, clear the table and put nothing but this piece of paper there. Now have your child begin to write, draw, represent each concept on this paper, in whatever creative way he decides. Encourage the use of different colors, the development of different representations (like the use of stick figures, funny letters, balloon captions, bullet points etc.) and feel free to allow them to do this alongside a friend who is doing the same. Allow them to engage, talk, laugh and develop their poster in any way they see of value.

When complete, have your child refer back to the notes or text to make sure all of the information for the test is represented.

This poster will serve as a very powerful study tool and it will actually be "fun" to study. Mind you, these are the words of the "Sunrise Mountain High School" students sitting next to me right now...though the arguing is still going on about which skill is actually more fun.

Have fun Pam, enjoy creating Mind Explosions with your son! Please do not hesitate to use more than one skill at a time, however. Keeping a student engaged with "new ideas" and an opportunity to be creative through the study process is one of the most powerful ways you can support his success!

Dr. Shari Sweetnam is the Founder of BRAINPOWER *The Ultimate Program for Schools*. Author, Motivational Speaker. Follow on Youtube and twitter: DrShariS, contact: info@doctorshari.com

Fountain Valley Library

17635 Los Alamos St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708 • 714/962-1324 • www.ocpl.org

Something for All Ages



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

Homework Help for children and teens, elementary through middle school weekly on Wednesdays from 5-6pm.

Story hour on Tuesday mornings from 10:30 – 11:15 for ages 3 to 5 years old and family story time for the whole family on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 7:45pm. Stories, crafts and music.

Shelving program for teens ages 16 years and older, needing community service hours for graduation requirements, honor society hours or college preparation. Teens may pick up an application from the library.

Free family entertainment from magicians to drawing programs scattered throughout the year. Check with the library for more details. January 23 at 7 PM David Cousin, an award winning juggler, and February 13 at 7 PM Annie Banannie will present a balloon show for the Family Evening Program.

Friends of the Library Bookstore sells gently used books for all reading interests, including children's fiction and non-fiction. Donations are also accepted at the bookstore. The Friends hold movie matinees every fourth Friday of the month at 1:00 PM with refreshments for older teens through adults.

The library will be hosting a parenting workshop conducted by Boys Town California. This is a free six week workshop for parents or caregivers of children ages 13 – 18 years old. These classes provide techniques to help with parenting challenges. Registration and orientation will be on January 28, 2013 from 6:00 – 6:30 P.M. Class dates are on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 PM on the following dates: 2/4, 2/11, 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18.

On January 24, 2013, the library will be hosting a lecture on Chinese jade by a speaker from the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana. The lecture will be held from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. To attend the lecture, please contact the library to register.

Huntington Beach Central Library

7111 Talbert Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/374-5338 • www.hbpl.org

Books/Authors/Children—Oh My!



Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and Youth Services

The Friends of the Children's Library are hosting their annual Authors Festival and Surf City Kids Book Fest Jan. 28 through Jan. 31.

On Monday, Jan. 28, author Stacia Deutsch teaches a writing workshop for third- through sixth-grade students at 4:30 p.m. The material fee is \$5. Space is limited.

On Tuesday, Jan. 29, events include author Chris Epting giving a class at 4:30 p.m. for third- through eighth-grade students on storytelling, writing nonfiction and local history. There will also be a special children's Pajama Storytime and Parade at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, events include author Laura Knowlton giving a Princess and Pirate Storytime at 10:30 a.m. The Pop-Up Book Workshop for second- through fourth-grade students is at 4:30 p.m., and the Improv Workshop for sixth- through eighth-grade students is at 6 p.m. The material fee for the workshops is \$5. Space is limited.

Tickets for all the workshops went on sale Jan. 7.

Thursday, Jan. 31, is the 25th annual Authors Festival from 2:30–5 p.m. Meet children's book authors and illustrators. All attendees will receive a ticket for a chance to win free children's books. There will be drawings every 10 minutes. Have authors sign your books! An awards ceremony for the winners of the writing and illustrating contest will be held at 3:45 and 4:30 p.m. Visit our website for more information.

From January through March, HB Reads is hosting special events that include story times, films and a guest appearance by Jay Asher, author of *Thirteen Reasons Why*. Find out more information at www.hbread.org.

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Grammaropolis



Kate Karp

I don’t often review multimedia, but this assemblage is exceptional. If you cringe at grammatical and usage errors and want your children to use language correctly—a key to future success—send them to Grammaropolis.

Grammaropolis is the hometown of the parts of speech. There’s even a mayor—his name’s Coert Voorhees, and he built this town. Mayor Voorhees is a former seventh-grade language teacher who found that his students had more fun personifying parts of speech than memorizing them. They learned them thoroughly, too, which is the idea.

“Sure, you can memorize the fact that an adverb modifies a verb,” the Mayor said. “But if I show you a video of an adverb pulling a verb over for speeding and giving him a ticket, not only are you going to connect more deeply with that information but you’re also going to have more fun doing it.”

The CD, produced by indie-rock artist Dr. Noize and performed by the Mayor and other vocalists, is your Grammaropolis guidebook. Meet Roger the Pronoun who has this indefinite feeling about himself. Power couple Vinny the Action Verb and Lucy the Linking Verb rescue nouns from inaction and link up insecure ones with states of being. Interjections, the lives of the party, get invited everywhere. And there’s Slang, spouting street stuff and stealing the show. Children—and you—can interact with them all through the website’s games, e-books, quizzes, entertaining slide presentations, and hilarious, clever videos starring the sentence builders themselves.

Grammaropolis’s website, www.grammaropolis.com, has a number of subscription options. Go play for a spell—or an entire paragraph.

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

Parent To Parent

Don’t Touch Other’s Belongings



Jodie Lynn

My son-in-law collects baseballs. He keeps them in protective cases displayed on a lower shelf in the TV room. He and my daughter have three children ages two, three and five, and he is quite stern with them about not touching the cases. However, as their grandfather, I know that it is a disaster waiting to happen because the kids, who are all three boys, do not understand what the big deal is with touching them. They are, after all, balls. How can I try to get my son-in-law to consider putting the cases up where they cannot be reached without sounding like a know-it-all, nagging grandfather? — C. V. W. in Hilton Head Island, SC

From Jodie:

With younger children, it can sometimes be quite a challenge to train them not to touch certain items in the house, in other people’s homes, in stores, etc. Surely your son-in-law doesn’t think that just because he told them not to touch his collection, they won’t. If so, he is in for a rude awakening, to say the least. Just to be safe, he needs to move it somewhere else. In the meantime, he can help them understand the importance of respecting other people’s belongings by encouraging them to begin some type of collection of their own.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

Holidays Are Over—Now What?



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel

Now that the holidays are over, how do we get out children back into the school routine?

It is best to get children back on school sleep hours, cut the amount of sugar they are eating, and begin creating some sort of routine before school actually starts. Given it might be too late for that, the sooner you get a routine established the easier children will fall back into a routine.

Bedtime is First

One of several issues child advocates are concerned about these days is that children are not getting enough sleep at night. A regular bedtime is essential to the health and growth of your child.

If eight o’clock is the child’s bedtime, it is made clear that there is no room service or further negotiating after eight. “I am done with my mothering/fathering for today. Your job is to get some sleep. Once I leave the room, any requests, complaints or fooling around noise will cost you fifteen minutes off of when you go to be tomorrow night. Two complaints means you go to bed tomorrow night at seven thirty. It is time to sleep. I will be glad to see you tomorrow.” Hugs and kisses are given and the line drawn in the sand—no more communication.

Study Time

Children need a regular study time each day. This is sometimes difficult with the multiple interruptions provided by the after school extra curricular schedule. To the extent the time is regular will the child be able to adapt to doing the work at hand.

With a child who has trouble focusing, it is best to have the child show you what the homework is and then show you what he/she has accomplished at the end of the homework period. Tell the child up-front that work must be legible (Your teacher will love you for this one!) and the work must be done. Work that is not legible will be copied over.

Keep an eye on your child’s progress. Too many children flounder in school, drown and then don’t have the initiative or skills to catch up again. Ask the teachers for a grade report long before the school schedule provides one. Let the teachers know you will support them and that you want to know if your child slips behind. A letter to the teacher might say, “Thank you for choosing to teach school. We want our son/daughter to be successful this semester and request that you let us know if he/she begins to fall behind, not do homework or otherwise fail to do his/her job in school. Thank you for your time and caring.”

Inspire Your Child

Inspire your child, help your child and do not do for your child what he/she needs to learn to do for self. As a former classroom teacher, I can tell you that it is easy to spot work that is done by a parent, not the child. This is especially true with projects. When one California mission is crudely glued together with popsicle sticks and another one has architectural design involved, a teacher knows that the parent probably took over the project.

Working together on a project is great fun, and it is important not to take the “child” out of the project. A good grade is not as important as a sense of doing something yourself. And, if the child puts off a project let him/her fail. Failing is an important lesson that inspires a child to make better choices. Rescuing a child does not teach responsibility.

Most important, make it clear that your child has two jobs in your home: (1) to be a good human being and (2) to do his/her best in school.

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



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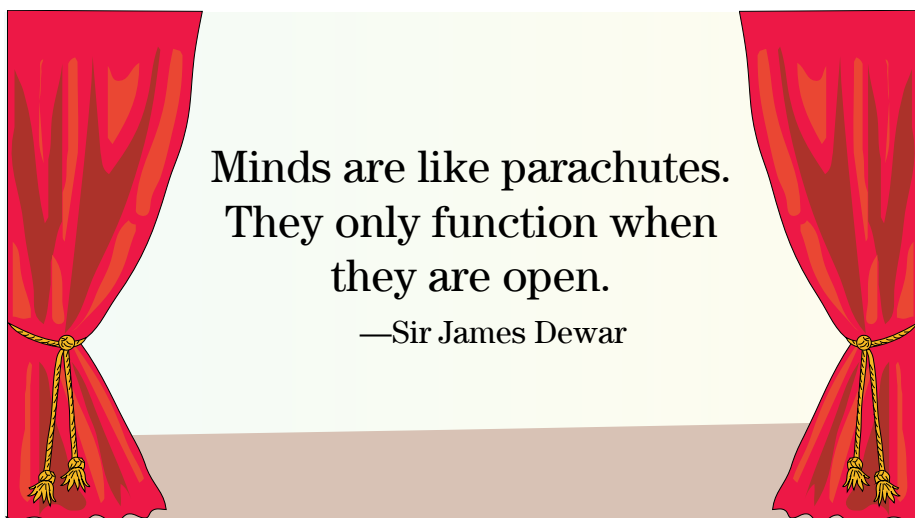
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PERRY YMCA	(714) 968-6163	300605941	19231 Harding Lane
PETERSON YMCA*	(714) 536-0068	304270419	20661 Farnsworth Lane
SEACLIFF YMCA*	(714) 596-5411	304270610	6701 Garfield
SMITH YMCA*	(714) 960-5553	300605119	770 17th Street

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ymcaoc.org/asc

The Y is a nonprofit charity. Scholarship assistance is available. Call today for more info. The YMCA of Orange County does not discriminate against any person on the basis of his or her disability by any YMCA program, you have a right to file a complaint with the School District under the District's section 504 complaint procedure.

Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert
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Domestic Cat Word Search Contest



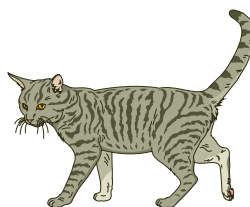
Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you
email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put **FHOW** in subject line)

Entries must be received by **February 15, 2013**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Slater's 50/50.
8082 Adams Avenue, Huntington Beach

Abyssinian	Himalayan	Russian Blue
Balinese	Korat	Shorthair
Birman	Maine Coon	Siamese
Burmese	Manx	Tabby
Egyptian Mau	Persian	Turkish Angora
Havana Brown	Rex	Wirehair



Congratulations to **Alexia Ventura**
Winner of the **November** Word Search Contest!

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

Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Richard Tauer

Superlative Spellers!

The top spellers from each school site recently competed in the Westminster School District annual district-wide Spelling Bee. 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 “pasteurized,” “masquerade” and “aeronautical.” The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders had to tackle words such as “surveillance,” “debris” and “hydraulic.”

4th and 5th Grade Spelling Bee Winners:

- 1st place Abraham Nguyen, Hayden Elementary
- 2nd place Katy Nguyen, Schmitt Elementary
- 3rd place Jennifer Nguyen, Fryberger Elementary

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

- 1st place Emily Pham, Warner Middle School
- 2nd place Danielle Nguyen, Johnson Middle School
- 3rd place Peter Nguyen, Schroeder Elementary
- 3rd place Stacey Nguyen, Stacey Middle School (3rd place tie)

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



4th & 5th Grade Spelling Bee Winners
Katy Nguyen, Former Trustee Jo-Ann Purcell, Jennifer Nguyen, Superintendent Tauer, Abraham Nguyen



6th, 7th & 8th Grade Spelling Bee Winners
Stacey Nguyen, Peter Nguyen, Superintendent Tauer, Danielle Nguyen, Former Trustee Jo-Ann Purcell, Emily Pham

4th & 5th Grade School Site Winners:

- | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Anderson | Katelynn Le | Clegg | Laura Groomer |
| DeMille | Elise Tran | Eastwood | Bali Hoang |
| Finley | Angelica Cayanan | Fryberger | Jennifer Nguyen |
| Hayden | Abraham Nguyen | Meairs | Cindy Vo |
| Schmitt | Katy Nguyen | Schroeder | Juslyn Nguyen |
| Sequoia | Peter Pham | Webber | Danny Nguyen |
| Willmore | Jason Le | | |

6th, 7th & 8th Grade School Site Winners:

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Anderson | Sandra White | DeMille | Jesse Du |
| Eastwood | Darlene Nguyen | Johnson | Danielle Nguyen |
| Schroeder | Peter Nguyen | Sequoia | Ann Truong |
| Stacey | Stacey Nguyen | Warner | Emily Pham |
| Webber | Thuy-Vy Pham | | |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mary Mangold
President

\$7,500 School Lounge Makeover Awarded

Warner Middle School won a \$7,500 School Lounge Makeover contest sponsored by California Casualty. Math and science teacher Richard Gentile submitted the winning entry, which made him a big hit with his colleagues. The school was notified in September that they were going to receive the makeover, and representatives from California Casualty met with the faculty to determine what was on their “wish list” for the makeover. Among their top requests were comfortable seating, new appliances, and a separation of the working/copy area from the eating/lounge area. Local designers partnered with California Casualty and got right to work on the makeover plan.



The staff gathered together for the unveiling of the new lounge on December 11. They were thrilled with the results and considered it a wonderful holiday gift!

First a storage wall made from freestanding bookcases was installed to act as a divider for the large space. This helped create separate areas for work and eating. The work area now has a new large meeting table, which seats eight comfortably and stylishly.

A fabric panel system was hung along the freestanding bookcases to further aid with noise reduction and to provide a visual divide. A fresh coat of colorful paint was applied to liven up the space, and a fun touch of chalkboard paint was applied to the walls to replace a whiteboard that had been removed.

The new dining area saw a repurposing of their existing tables with an update of new, comfortable and vibrant seating. A new stainless steel refrigerator was installed in the eating area as well. The coffee bar was given a facelift by removing a message board and installing decorative faux zebra wood wall panels. The panels serve the same purpose as a message board, but with pizzazz!

A comfortable and engaging lounge area was created, with beautiful blue sofas, red retro rocking chairs, a chevron print rug and a round coffee table. Fun accessories and live plants were placed throughout the room to help breathe new life into the space as well!

On behalf of the Westminster School District and Warner Middle School, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to teacher Richard Gentile for submitting his winning entry and to California Casualty for giving our staff a well-deserved school lounge makeover!

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Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Pl., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/anderson.aspx



Dr. Lori Rogers
Principal

Dairy Council Cow Visits Anderson School

Anderson School hosted four free assemblies in early December sponsored by the Dairy Council of California. “Feizty”, a lovely brown Holstein, patiently endured petting by hundreds of students from preschool through sixth grade. Handler, Steve Miller, provides a great presentation for student assemblies and educates students about dairy cows. The



Preschool and special education students smiled from ear to ear as they had the chance to meet a real dairy cow face to face.

assembly integrates math, reading and science standards while teaching about agriculture’s contribution to our food supply. Students learn about the anatomy of a cow, what a dairy cow eats and drinks, and how milk gets from the cow to the milk containers in their homes. A surprise visit by new board member, Amy Walsh, made the occasion even more special for staff and students.



New board member, Amy Walsh with Principal Dr. Rogers.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

15400 Van Buren St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7224 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/demille.aspx



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

A Great Future Starts Here!

By Emily Truong, 6th grade

A super after-school program called “After School Education Safety Program,” or ASES, holds a lot of activities that both are fun and educational for students. The staff helps all the students reach their goals by educating and informing them. Plus, the program provides free snacks for all the students. The snacks are healthy and nutritious for each child. During homework time, which is called Dolphin Review, students get an hour to do their homework. The staff helps each and every single child when they don’t understand something.

Every day, the staff works hard and tries their best to help ASES students. Activities like sports and clubs are provided for students to try new things. Many lessons are about math, science, spelling and technology to help prepare students for the future. The students get exercise during sports and Footloose. Footloose is a time when all of the students come outside and get free play.

I just want to say that ASES is a great program, and I recommend that all students join. Thank you, ASES!



STEM activity for engineering. Tallest Tower of Terror with fifth grade.

Clegg School

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7218 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/clegg.aspx



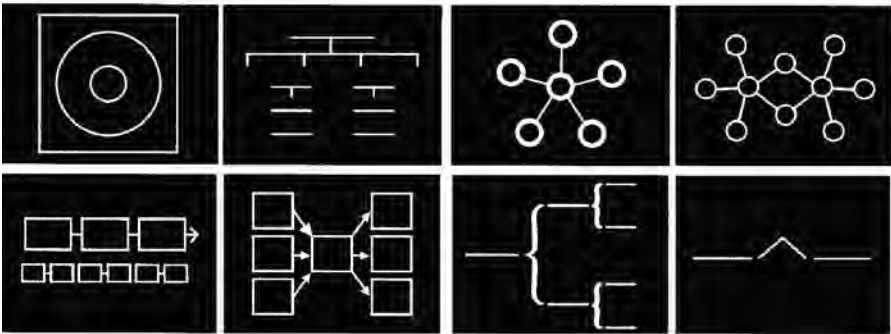
John Staggs
Principal

Thinking Maps: No GPS Needed

Have you seen your child use a Thinking Map? Students in every classroom at Clegg are being trained to use these maps to organize their thinking.

What is a Thinking Map? It is a language of eight visual patterns, each based on a fundamental thinking process. These patterns are used individually and in combination across every grade level and curriculum area as an integrated set of tools for lifelong learners.

All of our students learn in different ways. Currently, the research tells us our ability to learn visually is greater than any of our other senses. By students visualizing their thinking through the use of Thinking Maps, it allows them to have a concrete image of their abstract thoughts. There are eight different Thinking Maps your child is learning to use to organize his or her thoughts. Students at lower grade levels may use only the basic ones, and as they move to higher grades, they will begin to use the more advanced maps.



Circle Map, Tree Map, Bubble Map, Double Bubble Map, Flow Map, Multi-Flow Map, Brace Map, Bridge Map

Talk to your child about Thinking Maps and have him or her explain to you how they are used. They are amazing tools.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

13552 University St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7227 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/eastwood.aspx



Donna Brush
Principal

Student Achievement

The most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status but the extent to which a student’s family is involved in their child’s education.

Parents are a child’s first and foremost teachers. Parents, and only parents, can set the stage for their children’s success by providing unconditional love, establishing rules, and expressing high expectations. When parents talk to their children about school, expect them to do well, make sure that out-of-school activities are constructive, and help them plan for college, their children perform better in school. Parents are in the best position

to model the personal qualities and learning habits they want their children to develop. Parents have the power to help their children paint an attractive picture of their future and plan ahead to make it happen.

When there is a strong partnership between parents and their children’s school, students make greater gains. Being involved in a child’s school means different things to different people. Parent involvement could be in the areas of communication, for instance, ongoing communication with the child’s teacher and the school regarding the child’s progress; volunteering in the child’s classroom, as a room parent, as a member of PTA or to work school events; and decision-making roles such as becoming a member of the school site council, the English-language learners advisory council or the PTA.

Eastwood prides itself on having a strong partnership with parents and the community. Working together in support of learning ensures the success of every Eastwood student.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

13521 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-7764 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/finley.aspx



Maria Gutierrez-Garcia
Principal

Teachers and Parents—We All Learn, Too!

Finley Elementary School has been a hub for learning! Students, parents and staff continued on their journey as a community of lifelong learners during November and December!

Finley School teachers in grades two through five took part in a series of training sessions to promote oral fluency following a five-day protocol that integrated Thinking Maps, reading comprehension and academic vocabulary. These sessions were provided by a team of Westminster Support Specialists—April Derr, Donna Carrington-Shelley and Maureen Turnbaugh—who demonstrated the strategies in various classrooms where grade-level teams sat and watched as their students participated. With the help of the instructional support specialists, the teams collaborated on valuable follow-up lessons to continue throughout the year. Students in Mrs. Tarkanian's $\frac{3}{4}$ class worked on oral fluency in pairs.



Several Finley parents participated in an eight-week Parenting Partner's Seminar, an asset building program for positive parenting, taught by Amy Walsh, Finley parent and WSD School Board member, and by Ruth Lopez and Van Nguyen, primary-language community liaisons.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

14782 Eden St., Midway City, CA 92655 • 714/894-7261 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/hayden.aspx



Mark Murphy
Principal

We Jog! We Soar!

The Hayden Hawks were soaring around the track last month! Hayden held its second annual Jog-A-Thon in November, and it was a huge success. Over 880 students from Preppie K to fifth grade circled the track as many times as they could in 30 minutes.

Hayden's Jog-A-Thon went off without a hitch in large part because of the staff and parents who volunteered their time to organize and promote this fun event. This fund-raiser helped collect enough money to help support all of our field trips for the year. A special congratulation goes to Mrs. Renaker's and Mrs.

Nguyen's class for collecting the most sponsors and winning a pizza party for their class. Also, congratulations to Abraham Abrego, Seth Carr and Izabell Vo for collecting the most individual sponsors.



We also had over 70 students earn a free Jog-A-Thon T-shirt by collecting over \$50 in sponsors. The Hayden community looks forward to next year's Jog-A-Thon!

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

6952 Hood Dr., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx



Dr. Hiacynth Martinez
Principal

Fryberger Is Buzzing Over Spelling Bee Victory

Fryberger is honored to recognize Jennifer Nguyen for being our #1 speller! Jennifer, a 4th grader in Mrs. Clarke's class, recently competed in Westminster School District's Spelling Bee where she valiantly claimed victory by winning 3rd place! She competed against thirteen other elementary school students from across our district. Jennifer's spelling accolades deepen Fryberger's tradition of placing either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in district-level competition. She truly is a SMART Flying Falcon and we are very proud of her. Congratulations again Jennifer Nguyen!



Great speller & hard worker



Jennifer and classmates from Mrs. Clarke's class

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

13603 Edwards St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7244 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/johnson.aspx



Shane Vinagupta
Principal

Hitting Our Stride

As we bid farewell to the first trimester, we have done many exciting things. All of our students took the first benchmark test to demonstrate their knowledge. Teachers and students are focused, and it shows as I visit classrooms and witness evidence of learning and student engagement in every room. Content-area teachers are creating and delivering fantastic lesson plans, with differentiated instruction, hands-on activities, and technology enhancement. Our English Language Development (ELD) classes are supporting students to acquire the academic language necessary for success in school and beyond. Our industrial and visual arts classes are finishing up beautifully crafted projects, and our music and drama students are putting the finishing touches on their upcoming performances. Our after school STARS program is ensuring that our at-risk students have the grades necessary to receive middle school diplomas, and our PRIDE program is enriching students beyond the regular school day. Our student athletes are competing at maximum levels and are showing the competitive spirit worthy of the name Warriors. Johnson Middle School is humming on all cylinders, and we look to keep our momentum into and through the second trimester.

I am very proud of my staff and students and invite you, the reader, to visit and see for yourself. Our learning community goes beyond our campus walls. It includes the entire community, so you get credit for our success as well. Here's to the new trimester, new challenges, and new learning.

Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us
714/894-7311 Student Services • 714/898-8389 Child Development



Beverlee Mathenia
Director, Child Development Programs



Reagan Lopez
Administrator Student Services

Preschoolers Get a Honey of a Deal

At Land School, we're on the lookout for students who strive to be safe, kind, and attentive. Much of preschool is about learning to function in a social environment, so focusing on our school-wide expectations gives our preschoolers the support they need to learn appropriate behaviors.

Every time a class exhibits great behavior choices, such as walking quietly through the halls, using playground equipment safely, or acting appropriately during music time, the students are rewarded with a sticker to add to the

classroom honeycomb. Once all the sections of the honeycomb are filled, they get to participate in a monthly fun activity.



Preschooler receives a PBIS recognition certificate on the behalf of the entire class

Every month, all the classrooms with filled honeycombs are recognized and cheered at a school-wide assembly. Some of the monthly activities are movies and popcorn, face painting, water play, bring-your-bear day, or special treats.

So, you can see, preschoolers at Land who focus on being safe, kind, and attentive get a "honey" of a deal!

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

7200 Trask Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7264 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schmitt.aspx



Paul Andre White
Principal

Spelling Our Way to Success

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Schmitt Elementary School Spelling Bee! As you can imagine, participants in fourth and fifth grades had to correctly spell a vast array of terms in order to move on to our district-level competition. Spelling her way to first place was Katy Nguyen, a fifth-grader from Mrs. Garvey's class. Stephanie Bui, a fourth-grader from Ms. Nguyen's class took second place, and Thy Phan, a fifth-grader from Mr. Gerlarch's class, came in third.

By securing first place, Katy moved on to the district competition, where she spelled words such as pasteurized, masquerade and aeronautical. By the time the district competition was over, Katy had done so well that she brought home the second place trophy!

The entire Schmitt community is incredibly proud of all our contestants and congratulates each of them on their efforts.



Katy Nguyen, Stephanie Bui, Thy Phan

Meairs *Elementarty (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/meairs.aspx



Kathy Kane
Principal

Outdoor Learning

Recently the fifth-graders at Meairs Elementary School attended Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Outdoor Science School at Creekside near Forest Falls in the San Bernardino Mountains. The following article was written by one of the fifth-graders who was lucky enough to attend:

Science Camp

By Albert Phan, Student – 5th Grade

This is a whole week of fun, and I wish everyone could go. This was a four-day trip. It was fun, and I am going to share with all of you.

First of all, we were all welcomed to Science Camp. Once you step inside, it's like stepping into a five-star hotel. The nights and early mornings are freezing, but luckily they have heaters and STEAMING showers.

The fancy food there is scrumptious, and I guarantee you that the food is out of this world! Also the dessert is so good that I sometimes cried when I came home. Now, let's talk about the hikes. The hikes are really physical, and the days are full of activities you can attend. Some of these activities are going to blow your scientific brains away, for example panning for gold, rock hammering, and astronomy. Even I enjoyed this!

In conclusion, the if you are lucky enough to attend Outdoor Science School, I guarantee that you are going to have the time of your life. So I hope you go there, and you will smile like a happy clown.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

15151 Columbia Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7268 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/schroeder.aspx



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

The Power of Cross-Age Tutoring

At Schroeder Elementary School, every student has the opportunity to help another student learn. With cross-age tutoring, an upper grade classroom is paired with a primary classroom. The older student becomes a "big buddy" to the younger student, the "little buddy." Buddies meet a few times a month to work on reading, writing, math, and hands-on projects. Academically, cross-age tutoring provides little buddies with extra practice on skills they have already learned, as well as direct guidance and help completing more difficult tasks. There are other benefits too. The bonds of friendship are built, school connectedness is improved, and students feel proud and successful. Way to go Mustangs!



Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

5900 Iroquois Rd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7271 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/sequoia.aspx



Tammy Hubbard
Principal

Happy New Year!

I hope your holiday was happy and restful. 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 at the prospects of the great items available. Thank you to Carol Compher and her elves for all the long hours of work to make the Elves Workshop a huge success. It is volunteers with this type of dedication that makes Sequoia Elementary School such a wonderful place.



Peter Pham (5th grade) and Ann Truong (6th grade)

Congratulations to our spelling bee winners, Peter Pham and Ann Truong. They represented us very well at the district spelling bee in December. They are incredible students and excellent role models. Keep up the fantastic work!

I extend my wishes to you of hope and love for a fabulous 2013!

Soar high with Eagle pride!

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/webber.aspx



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Spelling Prowess

By Spelling Bee Coordinators Kim Thach and Martha Perez-Sanchez

Webber Elementary would like to congratulate our 2012-2013 Spelling Bee participants. These students competed for the chance to represent our school at the district competition.

Eighteen students in grades four through six took to the stage. Danny Nguyen, competing for a place in the elementary competition, won by correctly spelling the word “twentieth.”

For the middle school competition, Thuy-Vy Phan won by correctly spelling the word “questionnaire.” Both students represented our school at the district competition on November 30 at Stacey Middle School.



Danny is a fifth-grade student in Mr. Dunlap’s class. He made us proud because he lasted until the eighth round. Thuy-Vy, a sixth-grader in Ms. Thach’s class, stayed calm as she competed against older and more experienced students. Although we didn’t place at the district level, we are very proud of Danny and Thuy-Vy for having the courage to go on stage in front of an audience of administrators, teachers and parents to spell their hearts away.

We are proud of our contestants for a job well done. Please be sure to congratulate all of our spellers on their spelling prowess!

Stacey *Middle School*

6311 Larchwood Dr., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/894-7212 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/stacey.aspx



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Darkfest and Dodge Ball

By KD Dressendorfer and Brianna Ho, Students – Multi-Media

Two favorite fall events at Stacey Middle School are the Dodge Ball Tournament and Darkfest. The fifth annual Darkfest, held on November 7, drew a crowd of over 350 Stacey students and raised nearly \$2,500 for field trips, class parties, and future campus events. Before the movie, “A Series of Unfortunate Events,” was shown, students watched an amazing recreation of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” and an original song performed on the piano by eighth-grader Isley Nguyen.

The second annual Dodge Ball Tournament, held on October 31, featured 12 teams competing against each other for cash prizes, while the audience ate snacks and listened to Mr. Yohn, the announcer, and music. This event followed our Halloween festivities, which included hot chocolate, a costume contest, and a dance performance. The tournament winners were the first place Black Mambas, the second-place Gangnam Stylers, and the third-place Deathly Hallows.



Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

14171 Newland St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7281 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/warner.aspx



Matthew Skoll
Principal

A Day Made Better

By May Nguyen, Student – Leadership Class

Warner Middle School’s amazing teachers are always striving to educate their students in the best way possible. Warner is a good learning environment as well as a fun place, thanks to the contributions of Valerie Casato. Not only does she teach algebra, Ms. Casato also leads our school’s wonderful leadership class. Ms. Casato hosts and organizes our awesome lunch activities, spirit assemblies, dances, and so much more! Ms. Casato is a determined, hardworking person, who does her best to make students’ experience here at Warner a fantastic one.

Ms. Casato’s efforts have not gone unnoticed. This year, she received the A Day Made Better Award from a national office supply chain store. Every year, Ms. Casato generously buys classroom supplies for her students with her own money. Hopefully there is no need for that anymore because she has been rewarded with classroom supplies, which should last her for years to come.

This award was well deserved. Ms. Casato, a kind hearted and caring teacher, helps each and every one of her students. As soon as you walk into her classroom, you’re greeted with a bright smile. If you ask any of the teachers on campus what they think of Ms. Casato, you’ll hear adjectives such as cheerful, bubbly, funny, nice, and hardworking. She really is a role model that students look up to and respect. If anyone deserves to be rewarded, it definitely is Ms. Casato.

Warner Middle School is proud to have her as a Wildcat!



Rob McKane
Principal

Family Reading Night

Willmore continues to focus its energy on reading fluency. Every day we bring reading to our students, and every night our students bring reading back to their families. But as with so many other schools, a number of our families are not native English speakers, and they often struggle to participate in this exercise with their children.

So, we decided to bring our families to reading! With the help of our community liaisons, we recently held a special “family night” where we were able to translate a number of strategies and questions that everyone could use to participate in this most important of exercises.



The idea of good reading was modeled for all, and we often stopped for much parent/student interaction. After a story was over, everyone at the event was encouraged to discuss any aspect of it that they had found interesting or curious. The night ended with milk and cookies as the families chose books to read together.

This was our most successful family night, and we look forward to holding several more.

ABALONE PROJECT • from page 1



Marine biologist Nancy Caruso talks to student Nathan Cardenas and his class about the type of environment the abalone need in order to thrive.

“Giving students responsibility for the welfare of these fragile organisms is a powerful approach that conveys my belief in the strength of the youth voice and builds confidence in a way that a test grade can’t,” Mr. Garwick said. “Having the Department of Fish and Game grant a permit for release was exciting. Impacting a government policy is a powerful lesson for a seventh-grader to learn.”

One class of 25 students participated in the abalone program last year, and it was so successful that Mr. Garwick sought out another teacher to help him expand the program. Mr. Joe Acquarelli was more than happy to help!

“Joe and I couldn’t decide which single class to involve, and we really thought that we owed it to every seventh-grader in the school to participate in this program. Between us, we teach science to them all, so we decided to spread the program school-wide, and we actually have about 400 students involved this year!”

Mr. Garwick and Mr. Acquarelli believe that successful teaching starts by connecting with students in a way that is relevant and unexpected, sparking their curiosity and intrinsic desire to learn. Empowering students as partners in the journey builds trust and confidence to take on new challenges that inspire their development.

The abalone project does just that. Warner Middle School is proud to host a program that is educational and engaging, while serving the community and preserving the environment.

School Subjects

Across

- 1. writing skills
- 7. compute numbers by addition, subtraction, multiplication or division
- 8. predominant language of South America other than Brazil
- 10. study of the composition and properties of substances
- 12. predominant language of the United States and Great Britain
- 13. a method of calculation using a system of notation in symbols
- 14. system to generalize arithmetical operations by using symbols instead of numbers
- 17. the gathering, writing, editing and dissemination of news
- 18. language of ancient Rome
- 19. to learn or gain meaning from written material
- 20. learning to use a keyboard proficiently

Down

- 2. study of political institutions
- 3. physical and mental well-being
- 4. mathematics dealing with points, lines, surfaces and space
- 5. science dealing with properties of matter and energy
- 6. study of production, distribution and consumption of wealth
- 7. study of the stars, planets and other heavenly bodies
- 9. study of language dealing with word and sentence structure
- 11. to place letters of a word in the correct order
- 15. study of plants and animals
- 16. recorded events of the past

Answer key on page 28



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

A District Health Check

January always brings with it an invitation for reflection. Yes, the traditional and well-meaning resolutions follow, but I am referring to reflecting on our work as schools. The ability to point to data that demonstrates we are providing a healthy learning environment for our students is of paramount importance. The standard measures of success and health are easy to find and calculate: a college-going culture; the number of students participating in both the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT); the college entrance measurement of A–G coursework completion; counselors and psychologists for our students to connect with; and a clean and orderly campus environment, just to list a few. All of those are typical “between the bells” (first period to sixth period) activities or resources.

While all of those indicators are of vital importance to overall school health, I would encourage us to also look at those activities and opportunities that are created for students “outside the bells” (before and after school). These are the “sticky” ones—the events that bond and connect our students to their high school experience and become the building blocks for so much in their futures. Just in the first few months of school, our district has seen: CIF Champion and League Championship teams; marching bands from each of our six comprehensive high schools receive awards in state competitions; two of our schools receive the coveted and prestigious Golden Bell Awards for program excellence in California; our Model United Nations teams dominate competition up and down the state; national and state awards for outstanding individual and cast performances in stage and in vocal music; community service events that, simply put, change lives and touch the hearts of so many in need; and teachers being recognized for excellence in their profession.

Reflection on our health check: Huntington Beach Union High School District passes with flying colors of success. Thank you to so many community members and families who volunteer and support the important “sticky” activities that make our schools special places.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bonnie P. Castrey
President

Pride in Our Accomplishments

On behalf of the Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees, I thank you, our wonderful, supportive community, for helping to pass Proposition 30. Its passage is so important for helping to repair the structural deficit of the state budget, so that public education does not lose additional billions of dollars statewide. For our district, the additional loss would have been in excess of eight million dollars. So again THANK YOU on behalf of our district.

We also are deeply appreciative of your confidence in our Board as you re-elected Dr. Simons, Mrs. Henry and elected Dr. Dishno. Together we will maintain our strategic focus on providing a very fine public education to all of our students.

As the year ends and we welcome the New Year of 2013, our students and teachers are preparing for the end of this first semester and beginning of the spring semester. Football has finished with all of our teams doing well, and Edison High School is going to the Regional CIF playoffs for the first time since 1985. While the team did not prevail, the students and community are to be commended for their fabulous display of character and sportsmanship. The Edison Chargers had a great year!

Our district has maintained co-curricular programs at each of our campuses so that our students receive a well-rounded education. In addition to sports, we have maintained both visual and performing arts. The Academy for the Performing Arts and its award-winning staff is nationally and internationally recognized as one of the finest high school academies.

You helped us to renovate all of our facilities to provide a 21st-century learning environment for our students; so please contact our schools and come for activities that are of interest to you. Did you know that we have a working farm at Westminster High School? Our students learn to raise animals and care for them 24/7 and also plant wonderful fruits and vegetables. Here they apply science “hands on” and gain useful life skills.

Please take time to visit our newly designed district Web site and click on both the school sites to learn more about each school and also the district’s Parent University. The Parent University has up-to-date articles to help us all understand the issues and pressures our young people face, including drugs, alcohol and suicide. Many of these articles also have helpful intervention strategies. Further, there are dates of community meetings which are being held on a variety of current topics. Please join us as we bring our community together to solve important issues together.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2013. Remember to also celebrate the Lunar New Year on February 9, 2013!



Bonnie P. Castrey
President

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



Kathleen Iverson
Vice President



Susan Henry
Clerk



Dr. Duane Dishno
Alt. Clerk



Dr. Michael Simons
Member



Brian Reams
Student Representative

In True Holiday Spirit

This holiday season, all the schools in the district were focused on giving back to the community! The students over at Huntington Beach High School took 60 seconds out of their day to raise money for Hurricane Sandy victims on the East Coast. Within that minute, they raised a total of \$2,500 schoolwide!

Multiple schools had been participating in the UCI blood drive. Many students had given the great gift of life this holiday season by taking time out of their day to donate a whole pint of blood. The students at Edison High wrote down their most-desired wishes and dropped them off in the ASB room. Once sorted through, our ASB will grant the most genuine and realistic wishes. It is so great to see each school in the district organize events to help those in need during the holidays.

Happy Holidays!

Coast *High School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/848-5160 • www.coasthighschool.com



Steve Curiel

Principal

Math Made Easy

By Carole Maken, Chair – Mathematics Department

When a Coast High School Independent Study Program student is given an appointment with me to complete one semester of mathematics, his reaction to our first meeting is fairly predictable. He is either supremely confident that he possesses the skills necessary to master the standards embedded in that math course or he is sure that there is no way he can possibly be successful in that course because he “can’t do math,” “could never learn math,” or “hates math.” In the second situation, I have become the living embodiment of his worst nightmare:

he is mine for the next three weeks. He will deal only with me, only with one textbook (and it happens to be a math textbook), and only with one set of math standards. So how can this student possibly succeed in a course for which he is underprepared and unmotivated?

The answer to that question is the reason why many Coast students complete the six semesters of math courses required for graduation and then elect to take one or two more semesters of math for elective credits—they have learned that YES, they can “do” math! At the very first appointments, I can try to break through the affective filters by helping them discover where they started having difficulty with math. We remediate the problem, and then they can begin to acquire mathematical literacy.

Independent study math courses at Coast shift the burden of learning from the shoulders of the teachers to those of the students. Coast was truly a “flipped classroom” long before the term became popular. Our students all take the required rigorous Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 courses to meet the California Math Standards, as well as the Common Core Math Standards and the Huntington Beach Union High School District graduation requirements. The only difference between Coast courses and those at the other district high schools is the delivery system. There is no “sage on the stage” at Coast. The teacher’s role is that of a coach, a facilitator, a resource, or a guide through the course. Students acquire time-management skills and math skills while earning credits toward graduation.

Many of my students had never read a math textbook before enrolling at Coast. They only used their textbooks as a source of homework exercises. Now the textbook (along with teacher-produced supplements individualized for their particular needs) becomes their primary source for information about a math concept. Students are encouraged to use their computers, tablets, or smart phones to access videos explaining various math standards and the skills necessary to master those standards. Their textbook lists Web sites they can go to for more information about a particular concept. If necessary, tutorial time in the classroom can be arranged to help students move through the curriculum.

One of my junior students, Sienna Tuinei, is taking geometry, and she is on her way to earning an A in the course. Her assignments are so well-done that I can use them as examples of how to learn mathematics. As she goes through her weekly assignments, she makes a list of those concepts with which she is having difficulty, and we go through those during her appointment. Sienna has mastered the learning skills necessary to be successful on any college or career path she chooses to pursue—and that is the primary goal for all our Coast students.

Coast High School provides a truly unique alternative path toward a high school diploma and beyond.

Community Day School

1022 Westminster Mall, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/799-1414 • www.hbuhd.org



Steve Curiel

Principal

A Story of Strength

By Darla Merrill, CDS Teacher

Community Day School is home to many talented and outstanding students. As a Community Day School teacher, I have had the pleasure of working with hundreds of students, each one unique. It is my pleasure to introduce you to one of our talented and outstanding students, Sharon Jasso Meza, class of 2014.

I asked Sharon how she ended up at Community Day School. She said it was because of her bad decisions and her attitude of not caring. She said that school was the last thing on her mind.

Sharon ditched school regularly, and it finally caught up to her three months into her freshman year. She realized she had attended school only 40 percent of the time.

Once Sharon got to CDS, it became clear to her that, because of poor decisions she made in her freshman year, she no longer attended a traditional campus and was no longer surrounded by all her friends. In the beginning, she said, she came with an attitude and continued her bad habits. Her mom kept

pleading with her to quit. After talking with her mom for the hundredth time, Sharon decided to prove to her that she could stop whenever she wanted. Sharon did quit, and she said that she realized who her true friends were—who stayed around and who left. She’s buckled down and started doing schoolwork.



Sharon Jasso Meza and Logan Neppi playing chess.

Not a Solo Endeavor

I next asked Sharon who inspires her. She said that her biggest inspirations are her mom, who never gave up on her, and her boyfriend. She said that he always tries to keep her positive and tells her to keep up with her work. Sharon said that she has really wonderful teachers at CDS and is very thankful for that. She also said that a recent field trip to the Museum of Tolerance inspired her and her classmates to create an antibullying video. Sharon is looking forward to going to a local nonprofit in Orange that houses families of sick children to bake cookies for the families there. She went on to say that she never really cared for school activities or school projects before coming to CDS, but her teachers really encouraged her to come out of her comfort zone and work on her leadership skills.

Lastly, I asked Sharon what she wants to do with her life. She said that her goal is to become a lawyer or anything that involves helping people. Lately, she has been thinking that she could become a teacher. Sharon said that when she helps other students in class, they say that she should become a teacher. Sharon wanted to say that she is truly thankful for all of the people who care about her and want her to succeed. She hopes to take all the advice she has received at CDS and use it in her everyday life.

It was a pleasure to interview Sharon and share her story.



Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert & Long Beach Animal Care Services present...

ANIMAL CARE AND CRUELTY PREVENTION CONFERENCE

For more information please see our ad on page 18.

Edison *High School*

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



Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

Edison Wins a Golden Bell Award!

On Saturday, December 1, a group of representatives from Edison High School received a Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association in San Francisco, as Superintendent Plutko and the HBUHSD Board of Trustees cheered them on. The award was given for a model program at EHS called SUCSESS, which stands for the Systematic Utilization of Comprehensive Strategies for Ensuring Student Success.

Once the need to create an educational program for high school students with moderate or severe autism was recognized, our district staff, along with parent input, worked with SELPA staff to come up with a solution by the use of the county's SUCSESS model and various training opportunities.



SUCSESS Teachers Lori Matsumoto & Dave Yonts; Program Administrator, Elliot Skolnick

The resulting program at Edison is exemplary for the following reasons: 1) its placement on a comprehensive high school campus, which allows for academic and social integration; 2) the Special Abilities Cluster (SAC), which provides for a greater range of individual service possibilities through the Core and LINC programs; 3) its dedicated classroom space, which is designed to meet the students' needs and provide academic and life skill acquisition; 4) a 2:1 staffing ratio; 5) a full-time speech and language pathologist; (6) the contracted services of a behavior specialist; and, 7) its extensive curriculum offerings.

A Varied Curriculum

The unique curriculum components are the vocational training opportunities, which include a schoolwide recycling program that provides for a multitude of skill acquisition experiences; daily Community Based Instruction (CBI) opportunities, where the students can take skills learned in the classroom and apply them to real life situations; Water Exploration (WEX), which satisfies sensory needs while learning water safety and recreational activities; technology integration using video modeling; SmartBoards for increased student participation; and the use of computers and iPads, which help to meet each student's academic and sensory needs.

SUCSESS students also participate in the annual football team barbecue, Best Buddies program, general education classes, and on-site jobs which underscore faculty and peer support. Community support includes providing CBI experiences in independent living skills, off-site vocational training

experiences in local businesses, and numerous Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award community service projects.

Edison High School's 2011 WASC review recognized SAC as a program strength. It stated that, "The Special Abilities Cluster is an exemplary program that connects special education students to the greater student body and creates a culture of acceptance and understanding on campus."

SUCSESS has proven itself to be a valuable program for preparing our students to live more independently as adults.



Students learn to recycle

Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Shakespeare's Globe Enhances Our Campus

By Robert Zick, Theater Teacher, and Chris Herzfeld, Principal

The FVHS theater program continues to grow in remarkable ways. A few short years ago, the theater program at FVHS included "safe" productions of light comedies and murder mysteries suited for the tiny space that the theater shares with the dance and cheer programs.

Fast-forward a couple of years, and we see that the proverbial curtain has just closed on a five-night run of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, performed outdoors on a custom stage built in the image of the famous Globe Theater. Professional and visiting-student reviewers gave the production, stage and costumes high marks.

Twelfth Night began as an idea following last year's production of The Drowsy Chaperone. Theater teacher Bob Zick believes that high school theater should be a part of the school culture. With English classes focusing on Shakespeare, Twelfth Night had the potential to enrich the studies for FVHS students. From here, the planning of the next FVHS theater production began.

Last July, theater booster Bill Billetter and Robert Zick wandered out to the courtyard between the theater classroom and the history building and began to imagine what could be built. The idea of a miniature Globe Theatre began to grow. Billetter and Zick recruited Pamela Clauss, a local artist and designer, to draft plans for a stage that would have two levels and extend out toward the audience, with a roof similar to the drawings of the old English theaters. With these plans in hand, Zick obtained the go-ahead from site and district administration.



The Stage Is the World!

The idea of this stage brought excitement to parents and to students auditioning for a role in Twelfth Night, though there was a fair amount of doubt as to whether it could be accomplished. Jake Wells, who played Malvolio in the production, reflected, "I didn't think it would work out." Many others shared his apprehension. If not for the dedication and imagination of the theater-booster parents and students, the set likely wouldn't have become a reality.

As the production team was building the Globe, students Kim Newman, Erin Bola, Abby Yasumura, Darian Furlong and others went to work building theatrical flats that would make up the façade. They painted, sanded and added dimension. Toward the end of September, the Fountain Valley Globe Theatre took shape.

While the stage was taking shape, student Ally Fiallo designed and constructed nearly all the costumes worn in the production. This was a task equal to that of building the Globe! Each costume was made to fit each character individually. Ally even created patterns in order to make hats that fit the time period and the overall look of the character.

Twelfth Night was a Herculean endeavor that called on the best of many in our Baron community. The work done still stands in the form of a miniature Globe Theatre, in recorded performances and glowing reviews, and in the Elizabethan costumes that hang in the costume closets for future actors to wear.

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

17321 Gothard St., Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/842-4227 • www.hbas.edu



Steve Curiel
Principal

Brain Fitness Class Promotes Healthy Aging

By Sharon Fleming, Instructor

The mission of the Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS) is to promote lifelong learning by providing a relevant educational program that meets individual needs and enables students to become productive workers, involved citizens, and effective family and community members. A variety of learning opportunities are available at the HBAS main campus, which is located at 17231 Gothard Street in Huntington Beach, as well as at many other satellite locations located throughout the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

One of the most unique programs offered through the HBAS is Brain Fitness. This computer-based program, which does not require any prior computer training, helps participants strengthen and sharpen their brains. It is designed for any age, but it is particularly valuable for adults over 40 years. It is based on the concept of plasticity—the brain can be changed for the better at any age. It's a matter of creating new synapses or connections, which can then strengthen memory, concentration, better communication including word retrieval, and hearing.

Diane Charles-Murphy, a Brain Fitness student, shared: "I firmly believe my memory for directions, names, and facts, plus my ability to focus and word retrieval are slowly improving. The more effort I put into the program, the greater the results. I can feel my self-confidence returning, which is a wonderful and necessary part of the whole picture.

"The Mental Gymnastics class continues to help improve my memory with many activities and current vital information that scientists are now exploring. Scrabble gives me an opportunity to learn and socialize at the same time. I have recommended these classes to family and friends."



PositScience reports that the Brain Fitness program makes the brain 10 years younger, but it has been my observation with students that it is more like 20 years. Many of them seem to be new people, more youthful and with sharper brains and increased confidence.

If you would like more information about the course offerings at HBAS, please visit our Web site at www.hbas.edu or call (714) 842-4227.



Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Rocky Murray
Principal

Honorable Individuals, Honorable Acts

Before we wrap up the first semester, it is exciting to reflect on some of the wonderful things that have taken place this school year. We have to say "some" because there are so many, but only a few will be mentioned!

Recently, teacher Ken Ostrowski and the Scientific Research Program were honored by receiving a Golden Bell at the annual California School Board Association conference. Golden Bells are awarded for "reflecting the depth and breadth of education programs necessary to address students' changing needs," according to the association. HBHS teacher Greg Goran was also

honored recently by receiving the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce Educational Partnership Award for his leadership and expertise in the environmental-sustainability program.

The HBHS Associated Student Body is also making significant contributions to our school, community and country. Recently, they organized a "60 Seconds" event. During fourth period, students and staff were given a 60-second break to donate to those suffering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy. With many students and staff having connections to the East Coast, Sandy is definitely a catastrophe that is close to our hearts. As a school, we raised \$2,500 in just 60 seconds. This is a great indicator of who we are and what "Oiler Pride" means to our students and staff.

Our ASB also held an Ameri-Can dance. Students who donated two cans of food entered the dance for \$5. Ultimately, they filled four large carts with food products for the food bank. Again, this is another example of the conscious decisions our students make to help those in need.

The 'Best' Is Yet to Come

Model United Nations (MUN) has also experienced tremendous success this semester. They have garnered top honors at four major conferences. At the Edison Conference, they earned Best School Delegation. At the UCLA Conference, they were awarded Best California Delegation. They attended a conference at William and Mary and won Best Small School Delegation and finally, at the regional conference in San Francisco, earned the award of distinction for Best School Delegation. One of these awards would be outstanding, but four places them at the apex of MUN programs.

We have many other outstanding people and programs we can discuss, but we will save that for later. Oiler Pride is not just a slogan; it is a motto we model through our actions and behavior. Our school has been here for 106 years and will be here for hundreds more. The present students and staff are making their mark and will create lasting impressions for those who come in the following years. Go Oilers!

School Subjects Crossword Answer key from page 24



Marina *High School*

15871 Springdale St., Huntington Beach, CA 92649 • 714/893-6571 • www.marinavikings.org



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

Addressing New Challenges

*By Paul Morrow, Principal
and Kira Hurst, Assistant Principal*

At Marina High School, our Guidance and College Career Centers are working to make certain that our students are prepared for their future college and/or career goals. Whether a student chooses to be a mechanic, welder, chef, doctor, video-game designer, teacher, or lawyer, we realize there are different pathways to prepare our students to explore. Whatever the goal, college and career readiness is crucial. Although every career does not require a four-year college education, both colleges and employers share the same perspective that students need to have essential knowledge and skills to hit the ground running. Here at Marina, it is our goal to prepare all students to enter college and be career-ready upon graduation from high school.

Today's students are facing a world of economic uncertainty and competition, and there has been a rising demand for qualified job applicants and college-ready students. The Marina teaching staff and Guidance Department share in our school vision regarding college and career readiness for every student, regardless of the path a student chooses.

In response to these challenges, Marina has developed a comprehensive counseling program to prepare all students for the opportunities beyond graduation. School Counselor Diana Miler and College/Career Specialist Don Bui have worked collaboratively with the Guidance Department to expand services for post-high school planning. This planning emphasizes four elements: awareness; exploration; preparation; and action.

The Guidance Department and the College and Career Center have completely updated their methods of communication in order to make relevant and meaningful information more accessible and to reach the students in ways that they best communicate. In addition to individual meetings with parents and students, communication has been expanded to include e-mail, the guidance Web page at marinavikings.org/guidance/, the Career Center Web page at marinavikings.org/google-sites/mhs-career-center/, and most recently the Career Center Facebook page at facebook.com/MarinaCareerCenter. Students have responded very positively to the more interactive methods of communication.

The College and Career Center is engaging students in dialogue about having a plan, multiple plans, finding the right college fit, researching scholarships, strategizing the college application, and understanding the job market. They continue to survey parents and students to assess areas of need. As a result, our College and Career Center has adapted the current workshops and information nights, is getting information out sooner, and additionally is providing a series of small-group discussions on student-driven topics. Getting relevant information out sooner has increased awareness of the services related to academic support, tutoring, and scheduling, which will translate into more college- and career-ready students. For example, a presentation designed to assist students in composing their personal statements, which is normally conducted in the senior year, is now presented in the spring of the student's junior year, allowing students more time to formulate personal statements and more effectively market themselves as prospective college students. Our counselor and our college career specialist are pleased that there has been a growing number of families attending the evening workshops and informational events. If a student or parent is unable to attend an information night presented here at Marina, those presentations are now available on the counselor corner subpage of the guidance Web page.

To realize Marina's vision and to reach students at all levels of awareness, exploration, preparation, and action, students must start early with planning their futures. The world is rapidly changing, and the Marina High School Guidance Department is adapting to meet the rising demands our students face. The college career specialist is here to guide students as they explore their opportunities. We look forward to serving the needs of our students as they find and embark upon their different paths of life.

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

Did You Know?

Common Core State Standards are a new set of standards we are teaching our kindergarten through 12th-grade students right now. Most all of them align with our previous edition of California State Standards. Here's what is different about the new standards:

The writers of the Common Core State Standards, who included college and university faculty, began by defining the knowledge and skills in mathematics and English language arts/literacy that students need to be ready to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing coursework and the high-skill workforce. To do this, the standards writers consulted existing college-readiness benchmarks, research on student academic preparation, and surveys of business leaders, as well as content standards for top-performing states and countries. The standards writers sought to create standards that are: aligned with college and work expectations; include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills; build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards; informed by top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and evidence and/or research-based.

The Smarter Balanced assessment system (the testing consortium California is part of) will measure the full depth and breadth of the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The authors of the Common Core State Standards explicitly focused on the cognitive skills and knowledge that students need to be ready to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. Critical-thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills are a major focus in the standards. Through innovative items and performance tasks, Smarter Balanced will measure these important skills (Smarter Balanced, 2012).

In 2014, we begin using the Smarter Balanced assessments to measure the Common Core State Standards. The tests won't be just multiple choice. Questions will have a writing component, asking students to explain their answers, solve problems, or communicate why they their answers are the best ones—skills we use and practice in everyday life and ones they'll need to be college- and career-ready.

We are focusing on teaching high levels of inquiry—they match what the Common Core Standards expect us to teach! We use Costa's Three Levels of Inquiry as a model. Level-one questions ask students to recall information and input the data into short-term memory, but if they don't use it in a meaningful way, they forget it. This skill teaches them to list, recall, recite, define, match, and name. Level-two questions enable students to process information. They expect students to make sense of information they have gathered and retrieved from long- and short-term memory in order to analyze, explain, classify, compare, contrast, and infer. Level-three questions require students to go beyond the concepts or principles they have learned and to use these in hypothetical or novel situations to imagine, plan, judge, predict, invent, speculate, and generalize.

Our goal at Ocean View High School is to push students to answer level-three questions. We don't want students just to know things; we want them to be able to use them well, too.



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

It's All in the Numbers

Lang Hurst, math teacher, had heard it before from an algebra student: "I hate math." This student's story was, unfortunately, typical. She had encountered a specific concept and set of problems she couldn't quickly master, fell behind, and failed the course.

The answer to the problem was clear: The at-risk students we serve need an individualized, self-paced, supportive instructional approach to continue to advance. The fast pace of comprehensive high school math courses had identified prior deficiencies in this student's preparation for higher-level math. Our individualized approach, which incorporates the Kahn Academy online programs that are also available to students at home, takes each student back to his or her "sticking point" and helps him or her get past it with a careful review of the underlying skills, a clear explanation of the new basic concept or process, helpful hints for solving problems and online videos that show entire solution processes. Perhaps more importantly, the approach allows the instructor to quickly focus on the specific skill needed by the student and to work privately with the student so that he or she won't need to ask a question and look like a "dummy" to the rest of the class. The individual computer-based instruction also allows easily distracted students to remain focused and on task without needing to look up at the board, take notes, listen to the teacher, refer to their textbook, or work on problems at the same time.

Supplying the Missing Factor

Shaun Lopez, another math teacher, uses an equally effective, more hands-on group approach. Each student attempts to solve a problem on his or her own small white marker board, and then the whole class holds the boards up, kind of like waving placards for their favorite team. Mr. Lopez can quickly scan the boards, determine which students have mastered the skill, and more importantly, demonstrate the correct solution process and direct them to the



Mr. Lopez Math Class

computer lab for more practice on the new skill. He's then able to focus on the small group left in the classroom and point out problem framing, solution process or arithmetic errors; then, in discussion with the students, he can determine exactly where the confusion or misunderstanding lies. These students are also soon off to the computer lab—and a sticking point that could have derailed a student is quickly and effectively overcome.

Enabling students to successfully complete algebra is a big deal. Algebra is an essential academic and life skill and a key component of state standards. It is the gateway to geometry and Algebra II. Overcoming math phobia and insecurity is an even more important life lesson.



Mr. Hurst Math Class



Owen Crosby
Principal

The Parent Institute for Quality Education

By Jesus Ortega, Community Outreach Specialist

One brisk Wednesday evening in December, a parent of a freshman student stood before 95 other Westminster High School parents and families to express the fact that three months earlier she had believed it was impossible for her child to follow their dream of becoming a nurse. "I thought my student would have to choose another vocation," our parent told the crowd.

Just three months earlier she had heard WHS Principal Owen Crosby talk to the parents about a journey that they would all soon be taking with their children. The students were at the very beginning of their high school education, just as the parents were at the beginning of their own journey, i.e., being able to participate in the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE).

On the first day of class our PIQE staff provided the parents with an orientation in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Classes were then formed that would meet every subsequent Wednesday morning and evening. Over the course of the next 12 weeks, approximately 95 different parents soon learned about high school graduation requirements, university admissions requirements, financial aid options, the importance of a good GPA, and much more.



Principal Crosby addresses the graduates and their families.



Mr. Brian Nguyen gives a graduation speech.

The Parents Graduated, Too

The PIQE staff also partnered with school staff members to give our parents an opportunity to use the information that they had learned. They were taught how to access the Parent/Student Portal, have individual conferences to help create a four-year plan, and were even given the opportunity to ask questions and speak with Principal Crosby.

After successfully completing these classes, our parents then participated in a special graduation ceremony, and received a diploma from PIQE Executive Director Felipe Moreno and Principal Crosby.

Three graduate representatives were chosen to give speeches that same Wednesday evening. The parent who had thought that their student could not become a nurse? They said later that, "I learned about the many options, including financial aid, and I am relieved to know that I can help my student follow their dream!"

Our parents will continue to have these opportunities to attend workshops offered by the Westminster High School staff.



Principal Crosby welcomes parents to the Parent Institute for Quality Education.

Student Safety On the Streets



Mark
McCurdy
Mayor

The holidays are over now, and we are back at school once again. That means one of our most precious resources, our children, will be making their way to and from school at the same time many of us are traveling to and from work. Let's be extra alert and conscientious when driving near schools. The most important school crossing times are from 7 to 8:35 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

When schools open, the Fountain Valley Police Department will again focus its traffic enforcement efforts to monitor motorists' speed and enforce crosswalk and crossing guard violations near school-related intersections. Pedestrian safety in crosswalks depends on recognizing the authority and assigned responsibility of crossing guards. According to California Vehicle Code Section 21100.3 Local Regulation of Traffic, "It is unlawful for any person to disobey the traffic directions of a person appointed or authorized by a local authority to regulate traffic pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 21100 when such appointee is wearing an official insignia issued by the local authority and is acting in the course of his appointed duties." Ignoring the presence and direction of a crossing guard is illegal and dangerous to our school children and crossing guards.

To all safety-conscious motorists, I express my thanks for making our community's children your top priority. Also, let me compliment and thank all crossing guards for the great job they do. Pedestrian safety is not only a crossing guard's responsibility, it is also ours! Have a great rest of the school year, Fountain Valley!

Resolve to Be Involved in Your Community



Connie
Boardman
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 Web site at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov.

This Web site will connect you to city council meetings and agendas, city departments, and other organizations within the city. Through the Web site, you are also able to e-mail me 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 Mondays of the month in the City Council Chambers at 2000 Main St. The meetings start at 6 p.m. and are also Web cast 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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