

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the following school districts:

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

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 41

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

MARCH / APRIL 2011

Ocean View School District Superintendent to Retire in June



Student Eric Anderson, who was awarded "Principal for the Day" at College View School, used the opportunity to have a meeting with Superintendent Rasmussen to discuss possible changes to the school day schedule...like lengthening recess! Sidelined Principal Kathleen Jaquin assisted!

By William V. Loose, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services

Every once in a while, school districts are fortunate to have a superintendent who combines exceptional leadership skills with a passion for student achievement. Ocean View is one of those lucky districts – we've had Dr. Rasmussen's inspired support and leadership. For the past four years his commitment to academic achievement and his ability to bring people together has strengthened the District. Sadly, our treasured Superintendent is retiring in June.

Previous to his time in Ocean View, Dr. Rasmussen served as Superintendent of Merced City School District in central California, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Educational Services in Huntington Beach City School District, and was an elementary and middle school principal and classroom teacher. In 2001, Dr. Rasmussen received the Gold Award from the California Teachers Association for his support of public education and in 2004, the Association of California School Administrators recognized him as Superintendent of the Year for Region IX. Currently, he is involved in

SEE OCEAN VIEW SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 13

Letter Sounds Feel Great!



Oak View Elementary School students practicing their English and learning new vocabulary words.

By Joyce Horowitz, Principal
Oak View, Ocean View School District

Diane Taylor, kindergarten teacher at Oak View School, applied for a grant on DonorsChoose.org. She asked donors to help her students to learn by providing funds to purchase a Mystery Box and Letter Games. Mrs. Taylor was fully funded by private donors through this website for teachers. She was able to order materials for her students and has since requested books for her class.

Mrs. Taylor said, "It's fun and I receive great materials for my students. Kindergarten students have loads of energy! They love to play and explore their world. What better way to introduce letter sounds each week than with toys?"

"My students are go-getters. They work hard every day to learn the state standards and have fun while they are doing it. When

I set a goal, they challenge themselves to meet it. Almost all my kindergarten students are second language learners. They must work twice as hard to reach the same level as their English-speaking peers. They come from homes where their parents are struggling to find work or may be working several jobs to make ends meet.

"Every week, the students learn a new letter sound. I try to immerse them in that letter all week through stories, songs, poems, games, and writing. The mystery box is a way to get students involved in touching and interacting with the objects of different letter sounds. They may not remember everything on the word cards that I show them, but they will remember the toys they found in the mystery box."

Confucius said, "What I hear I forget, what I see I remember, what I do, I understand."

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



This is our 7th year anniversary publishing *School News* covering these districts. Our best wishes to Ocean View School District Superintendent Dr. Rasmussen as he retires. He will be greatly missed, but his many years of service greatly appreciated.

Thank you for all of your entries for our two contests in our last issue. The winners are announced on page 18 where you will find our new contest. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is May 4. Have a fun Spring Break!

School News

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Covering the School Districts:
FOUNTAIN VALLEY
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL
OCEAN VIEW
WESTMINSTER



FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
714/454-9552 • Fax: 562/430-8063
Patti Wahlberg
patti@schoolnewsrollcall.com

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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The City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

10200 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, 92708 • 714/593-4400 • www.fountainvalley.org

Communication is Key



Steve A. Nagel
Mayor

With the beginning of every new year comes the beginning of a new legislative season in Sacramento and Washington D.C. As the legislatures reconvene after the holidays, new bills begin to be introduced. These bills will be debated and amended for the next nine months until the season ends in September. The majority of the bills introduced will never be heard of by the public until they become law, and citizens and business must then abide by them.

Each year thousands of bills are introduced by the state and federal legislatures. The volume and depth of these bills make it impossible for cities, a business or resident to stay informed about proposed laws and regulations that may adversely affect them. It's the job of your local, state and federal representatives and their staffs to not only stay informed regarding these bills but to also receive your input on the impacts they may have on you or your city or business. Communication with your representatives is key to them being able to truly represent you.

Last month the Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Legislative Reception. It was the perfect opportunity for citizens and business owners to initiate communication with their representatives to discuss legislative concerns with local, state and federal representatives. We must get involved.

The City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

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

Alive With Activities and Energy



Joe Carchio
Mayor

As the weather turns warmer, Huntington Beach comes alive with activities and energy. There are events and activities that will interest residents of all ages.

If you have not visited Shipley Nature Center lately, it is worth the trip. There are trails to follow that will remind you of the days when Native Americans were living in the Bolsa Chica wetlands. And speaking about the Bolsa Chica – restoration days are held every first Sunday of the month where you can learn about the work being done to restore the Wetlands and help in the clean up and preservation of this invaluable resource.

Have you visited Surf City Nights lately? Every Tuesday night, Main Street is packed with fresh vegetables, fruits, homemade goodies and loads of entertainment. Stroll down the street and see what the businesses have to offer.

Spring is the start of many special events in Surf City. March 12th and 13th will be the annual Kite Party. Come down to the Pier and watch the talented kite flyers show off their stunts and tricks. April 23rd is the Annual Easter Hunt in Central Park. Sponsored by the City's Community Services Department and the Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club, this event is for the whole family to enjoy games, music, food and the traditional Easter Hunt. Then don't forget the Taste of Huntington Beach on May 1st. The Sports Complex will be busy with restaurants displaying and sharing their new recipes and old favorites.

For more information on these and other great activities, check out www.surfcityusa.com.

Have a great and energetic Spring!

The City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/898-3311 • www.ci.westminster.ca.us

Proud of Our Progress



Margie Rice
Mayor

Last fall I reported on the Midway City Sanitary District (MCSD) partnership with Rainbow Disposal Company in the Learn to Earn program, which promotes recycling and provides funds to Westminster schools. I am pleased to provide an update on this program. In February, MCSD presented a check for \$2,802.39 to Westminster schools, covering funds raised by 15 schools in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Also in February, the city of Westminster sponsored a very successful TET Parade down Bolsa Avenue, which attracted approximately 10,000 celebrants. On February 23, the city hosted high school students during our annual Youth in Government Day. This popular event pairs students as counterparts to city officials and teaches them about local government, including providing the opportunity to participate in a mock council meeting. Some of the students came back that evening to attend an actual city council meeting.

Looking forward, the Mayor's State of City Luncheon, co-hosted by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Tuesday, April 5, and the Mayor's Mardi Gras Ball is scheduled for Saturday, June 4. Both of these events will be held at the Westminster Rose Center. I invite you to attend either or both of these events. I also encourage you to check out our beautiful civic center area, where the new state-of-the-art Police Building recently opened. We in Westminster continue to be very proud of our city's progress.

Mayor's State of City Luncheon, co-hosted by the Westminster Chamber of Commerce,

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Fountain Valley School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marc Ecker

Fountain Valley Music Live

On January 29, 2011, a special event took place at Huntington Beach High School Auditorium entitled Fountain Valley Music Live. During the evening a first ever Fountain Valley professional benefit concert was held in which a near capacity crowd at the historic auditorium enjoyed an eclectic display of wonderful jazz, classical, vocal, pop and rock music. The event was planned by a devoted committee of the district and the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation for the sole purpose of raising money to continue the district's instrumental music program in our schools.

During the previous spring the Board of Trustees approved over \$3 million in cuts which included the instrumental music program taught in our elementary and middle schools before or after school. This was as you might guess a very painful decision and the Board in an attempt to provide avenues to save the program chose to do so but with the proviso that the costs for the program were to be offset. That was all the committed music lovers needed and beginning in August, the committee sprang into action.

Aside from raising the necessary funds, the concert focused community attention on the Fountain Valley School District and the importance of preserving the performing arts for the cultural and academic benefit of our students. The very distinct and now quite popular Music Live logo, created by my Executive Assistant Rina Hansen adorns offices throughout the city. It serves as a reminder that even in bleak financial times preserving the performing arts and passing this investment down to our children will reap long term benefits. Fountain Valley School District extends a sincere and grateful appreciation to the Fountain Valley Music Live Committee for keeping music in our heart and soul.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Ian Collins
President Pro Tem

Budget Challenges / Opportunities

With the continuing California budget deficit our Board faces many difficult choices and how to best prepare for the 2011-2012 school year. The scenario facing all school districts is based on Governor Brown's proposal. If it passes we will have a rollover budget, although not what we would like it to be, it would be better than the painful decisions we would have to face if the proposal fails. Fountain Valley has cut the budget to a point where we have no excess programs that helped our most needy students coupled with furlough days and a reduced student school year.

As far as opportunities are concerned our teachers, staff and administration have found ways to make the best of bad economic times. As I visit the schools with my Board colleagues I continue to see engaged students and great teaching. In talking with the site principals they find ways to challenge their staff and promote excellence in our schools. District administration and support staff are working with a reduced work force and yet display confidence that we can get the job done.

Recently, a group of volunteers got together and created a Fountain Valley Live concert that raised money to save the performing arts program. Under the auspices of the Fountain Valley Education Foundation, Linda Ecker, (superintendents' spouse) and Christine Alcorn, (Board Member) and other dedicated parents and school employees were able to convince graduates of our district who are in the entertainment field to donate their services. The concert was a great success and an example of how adversity can be turned into an opportunity.

Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

17210 Oak St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

A Bargain for Science



Carla Neeld
President

The Fountain Valley Educational Foundation began the new year by holding its meeting at the Science Works warehouse in Huntington Beach. The FVEF is proud to be one of the sponsors of this great program, whose district funding was severely cut last spring.

FVEF Board Member and Science Works Coordinator Susie Crandall hosted the event and led the group on a tour of the facility. She presented statistics that showed a dramatic improvement in FVSD science scores since the program first began five years ago.

The Works staff assembles and ships hands-on science kits to five different school districts, including 5,000 units just for the FVSD students alone. Each student has the opportunity to conduct over a dozen experiments per year at a cost per student of only \$15.

A special community committee, working through the FVEF, hosted a recent Fountain Valley Music Live concert at the Huntington Beach High School auditorium on January 29. Featuring talent from the Fountain Valley area, this program included everything from professional pianists, orchestra musicians, classical singers, pop vocalists, rock groups and jazz bands.

The community response was great, and we are grateful to those members who sponsored the event. We also want to applaud the concert committee for successfully raising enough money to sustain our before- and after-school instrumental music for another year. This is another program whose district funding was eliminated last spring.

Upcoming FVEF events include three big student showcase concerts for orchestra, band, and vocal music; a 5k Fun Run at Mile Square Park; Teacher Grants; our Teacher "Tribute" program and a spring membership drive.

For more information about the Foundation's activities and our amazing upcoming Festival of the Arts Concerts, please visit our website at www.fvef.org.



Judy Edwards
President

Fountain Valley School District Board of Education



Ian Collins
President Pro Tem



Christine Alcorn
Clerk



Sandra Crandall
Member



Jimmy Templin
Member

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Joyce Buehler
Principal

Students Participate in the PTA Reflections Art Contest

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition program for students. The goal of the Reflections Program is to generate student participation and appreciation for the arts. This program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and receive positive recognition for originality which is inspired by a pre-selected theme. This year's theme was, "Together We Can" Students may submit an entry from any of the following categories: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, film/video production.

Courreges School is extremely proud of the following students for submitting entries into this year's Reflections Contest: Andrea and Hunter Augustus, Jacqueline Brooks, Grant and Kate Edmonds, Madelyn Fuduka, and Ian, Megan, and Sean Weiss. All of their pieces displayed enormous creativity, talent and originality. The theme for next year will be "Diversity Is" and we hope many of our students will participate and submit entries in this wonderful program.



(Back) Hunter Augustus, Andrea Augustus, Jacqueline Brooks, Sean Weiss, Megan Weiss
(Front) Madelyn Fuduka, Grant Edmonds, Kate Edmonds, Ian Weiss

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

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



Chris Christensen
Principal



Paul Andre White
Assistant Principal

Fulton's New Journalism Elective By Heather Snyder, 8th Grade Student

We were excited to hear about a new elective class at Fulton this year that gives students a chance to create a school newspaper. As eighth grade students, we were happy to join a class that allows us to use our writing skills in a fun, and creative way.

Our teacher, Ms. Patriarca has helped us to make school-wide newspapers for students and teachers here at Fulton. Every two weeks we are each assigned to a new subject to write about, including current events, sports, trends, interviews, and an advice column. We are never bored, because we get to choose a new subject to write about for each newspaper.

In this class, we are students who write for other students concerning the issues that kids experience in and out of school. Our newspaper is called *The Falcon Flier*, which is distributed throughout the school and can be found in the school library. When we create the *Falcon Flier*, we try to fill it with interesting subjects that other students can relate to.

In Journalism we enjoy the opportunity to strengthen our writing and interviewing abilities. We are proud to see our work displayed and we are learning responsibility because of the deadlines that we have to meet. As students, we love spending time in this class, and believe that many more eighth graders will in the future.

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

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



Julianne Hoefer
Principal

Cultural Celebration Week

During the week of January 31st, Cox Elementary hosted its first ever cultural celebration week to acknowledge and celebrate our students' ethnic diversity. Cox School serves a varied student population, with approximately half of the students from an ethnic minority group. During the cultural celebration week, students made crafts and played games from Cox's two largest minority groups, Mexico and Vietnam. The students attended an assembly in which a storyteller with the help of Cox students acted out folktales from around the world. The culminating activity was the



annual Multi-cultural fashion show. For this twenty plus year tradition, more than seventy students modeled traditional clothing from seventeen countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iceland, India, Jordan, Laos, and the Philippines. At the conclusion, as a surprise the Ane Thanh Lion Dance team performed a traditional lion dance. The interactive lion experience was for many the best part of the entire week!

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jennifer Perkins
Principal

The Gator Way

Gisler Elementary School has received a grant to participate in a schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program (PBIS) for the next three years. This is part of an evidence-based program that is designed to build a positive school culture and promote social and academic success.

The program and its training have already provided our staff members with some fantastic new ways to support and celebrate positive student behavior. For example, every Friday morning our entire school comes together for a "Gator Gathering." This is where we draw the names of those students who have followed our "Gator Way" motto to, "make good decisions, show respect and solve problems!" Our spirit shirts are also celebrating this schoolwide motto.

The idea behind Gisler's Peer Assistance Leadership program (PAL) is built upon the need for creating trust in each other. PAL members have been working together this year to enhance their ability to build trust in their peers. This goal has continued to resonate throughout the year within all PAL members as they focus on building self-confidence, effective communication skills and a positive self-image.

The PAL group is fortunate to be able to meet once a week during the school day under the guidance of fifth-grade teacher Julie Mastropaolo. Here, peer-to-peer discussions influence students on how to respond to both the positive and negative situations in life.

For more information about starting a "PAL" at your school, please visit the Orange County Department of Education, at <http://pal.ocde.us/curriculum.htm>.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Chris Mullin
Principal



Patrick Ham
Assistant Principal

Well Balanced Lifestyle

The staff at Masuda encourages a well balanced lifestyle to our students. We encourage excellence in academics as well as an active and healthy lifestyle. Our elective, physical education, and science courses stress the importance of regular exercise and a healthy diet. One way we achieve this goal is by giving every student an opportunity to get involved in organized sports and recreation. In addition to our four sports tournament teams –

soccer, basketball, softball, & track and field, our students at Masuda have numerous opportunities to participate in organized sports noon leagues such as basketball, flag football, and dodgeball. With high demands of academics and other competing influences, students often ignore this very important aspect of their lives. Because of these factors, it is so wonderful to observe our students get involved and be active in our sports teams and leagues. Live Healthy and Have Fun. Go Monarch!



Monarchs in action during noon league flag football.

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

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

Newland's Research Findings

We began our fifth grade year with our Watershed Project. After a field trip to the Ocean Institute in Dana Point learning how to test and gather data, our scientists were ready to gather data on our own watershed here in Huntington Beach. We took a second field trip to gather data on water samples from the Huntington Beach Pier and the Santa Ana River Jetty. We were surprised about the quality of our water. A third field trip landed us at the Ocean Institute again in late January where we presented this data to other fifth grade classes and men and women in the science community. Through a generous grant from the Ocean Institute and our Watershed experiences our fifth graders have become REAL scientists whose data is recorded at the Institute.



Fred Moiola *Elementary (K-8)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Earlier this year we received a grant to participate in a school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This program is an evidence based practice for building a positive social culture that will promote both social and academic success. Students are working hard to be Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. When they are “caught” showing these characteristics they receive a certificate that gets turned into the office for a weekly drawing. When they turn this slip in, they also receive a bracelet: red for responsible, black for respectful, and white for safe.



Students wearing the bracelets they received for being Responsible, Respectful and Safe.

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Brandi Loyd
Principal

ST Math

In January, 2011, all classroom teachers received training in the implementation of our new ST Math program. This school-wide, web-based program allows students to acquire math concepts in a visual format. Students will receive two time periods of math instruction per week in our computer lab. All students will begin this program within the next week.

Thank you to the PTO and MIND Institute for granting partial funding for this program.

What is ST Math?

Spatial/Temporal math is an on-line math program which helps students to visualize math concepts. Born out of neuroscience research at the University of California, Irvine, MIND's unique approach accesses the brain's innate “spatial temporal” reasoning ability. This ability allows the brain to hold visual, mental representations in short-term memory and to evolve them in both space and time, thinking multiple steps ahead. MIND's approach consists of language-independent, animated representations of math concepts delivered via computer software games.



Oka Students love Jiji—the mascot students use to identify the MIND program mascot.

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Thank You, Mrs. Manderscheid!

Plavan School would like to take this opportunity to thank Marilynn Manderscheid for outstanding teaching and contributions to our school and district. We have had the privilege of having her as our resource specialist for the past three years. Mrs. Manderscheid has made the decision to retire and spend quality time with her family. This decision was not easy for her because she is a true teacher and always has the best interests of the children at heart. She gives 100 percent in everything she does.

Mrs. Manderscheid challenged, encouraged, and brought out the best in our students. Each person is an individual with certain needs, and she taught accordingly. We have seen great success in many of the students since she has been at Plavan. She is eager to help and volunteer with her fellow teachers and principal. She is always willing to do something for someone. Mrs. Manderscheid is caring, enthusiastic, firm, challenging, encouraging, compassionate and fearless.

In addition, Mrs. Manderscheid has created musical awareness for Plavan and the Fountain Valley community. She has developed an interactive musical program to accompany our Brummitt-Taylor Music listening program. The students and I are inspired to listen and learn the music. Mrs. Manderscheid continues to give as a Fountain Valley Foundation board member and co-producer of the Fountain Valley LIVE music fund-raiser, which benefits the music programs for our schools.

A simple article could never encompass the amazing knowledge and loved shared by Marilynn Manderscheid. She has inspired us to become lifelong learners, and she will always have a special place in the hearts and lives of the students and staff at Plavan School.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Making a Difference

Tamura's Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society has been hard at work in the community throughout this fall and winter!

First, during the month of November, we held a food drive to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank; over 455 pounds of food were brought in by students to help those in need in our community. In January, we sponsored a toy/DVD/book drive to benefit the pediatric unit at the Fountain Valley Regional Hospital. The response we got was overwhelming, and we took in so many donations, that we had to split them among the hospital and the Huntington Beach Assistance League!

Coming up next is our annual Jump Rope for Heart to benefit the American Heart Association. We have raised more than \$15,000 over the past few years and can't wait to increase that total! We are all busy "taking a second to make a difference" in our homes, our school, and our community!



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

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



Cara Robinson
Principal



Erik Miller
Assistant Principal

Congratulations Mr. John Wood

Talbert Middle School is delighted to announce that Mr. John Wood was recently recognized as a finalist by the California League of Middle Schools as their Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Wood is most deserving of the accolades and honors he has received for his outstanding work at both Talbert and within FVSD. Below are just a few of the highlights supporting his outstanding efforts:

While he was living in a tent on the exterior of Mount Erebus in Antarctica conducting hundreds of experiments, he was also communicating with his students and bringing his experiences to their classroom thousands of miles away. Since his return, his students have done some amazing projects that highlight the Earth's Polar Region.

Mr. Wood has graciously given numerous presentations for students throughout our district by highlighting his trip in Antarctica. He has been able to capture and bring to life various experiences that not even *National Geographic* or the Discovery Channel can compete with.

Just a few months ago, Mr. Wood was able to teach his class while being a featured presenter at a scientific conference in Oslo, Norway. While there, he was able to video chat with his students and bring science from "real-life" into the classroom. These hands-on experiences are balanced with teaching students how to master the standards and curriculum in their Earth Science textbooks as well. His science sections allow for students to be individually successful, but also provide a significant reliance on positive teamwork amongst students in cooperative groups. The level of student engagement he provides in his classroom is spectacular. This helps set a solid foundation for our students as they enter Life and Physical Sciences the two years that follow in middle school.

Congratulations to Mr. John Wood, Talbert is extremely proud of your work.

Superintendent Parent Council

17210 Oak St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Keeping the Arts in Our Schools

By Patti Wahlberg, Parent Volunteer

For the 25th year in a row, Fountain Valley School District has hosted the District Art Show. The mission of the show is to give students from every grade level, in all eleven schools in the district, the opportunity to submit artwork to be chosen and presented at a reception at the FVSD office. Each school is asked to submit 20- 24 of the best pieces, being careful to include some from each grade level. This year, 249 entrees were received.

Spearheaded by Nicola Weiss, Co-First Vice President of the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation (FVEF), the art was collected and hung at the district office for the open house reception held on January 25th. After the showing, the pieces were voted on by district staff, and eighteen pieces were chosen, representing each grade level at all eleven schools. These pieces will be professionally framed and hung in the district offices starting in June, for the 2011-12 school year. The 2010-11 pieces hanging there now, will be removed in June and returned to the student artists.

In light of drastic budget cuts impacting so many of our school programs, the FVEF is dedicated to keeping the arts in our schools. To quote Nicola Weiss, "We are making sure the arts still impact our children's educations, giving them a sense of accomplishment beyond the academic arena." Drop by the district office on the corner of Brookhurst and Slater sometime and see for yourself the talent we are cultivating in our Fountain Valley Schools!

In light of drastic budget cuts impacting so many of our school programs, the FVEF is dedicated to keeping the arts in our schools.

Ocean View School District

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Debbie Cotton
President

If you have been watching the Ocean View School District over the past five years you have noticed many changes in our District, specifically with the position of Superintendent. For the past three and a half years we have been so very fortunate to have Dr. Alan Rasmussen at the helm of our District. Dr. Rasmussen joined us a year prior as a consultant and we saw such value in his leadership we pulled him out of retirement to be our Superintendent. Dr. Rasmussen is now ready to once again retire and spend time with his family.

No one could have predicted that when Dr. Rasmussen came out of retirement that a statewide budget crisis would come with him. The past three and a half years have not been easy. Tough decisions have been made and structures became uncertain. Through Dr. Rasmussen's leadership the District has remained solvent and the Board's goal of keeping kids first has been strengthened. During Dr. Rasmussen's tenure with Ocean View we have developed a leadership compact, set District goals, piloted our third grade GATE program, launched the Ocean View Preparatory Preschool, maintained class size reduction, brought new and improved programs to our schools, and much more. Dr. Rasmussen's vision has kept Ocean View a leader not only in the State, but the Nation.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we want to thank Dr. Alan Rasmussen for his contribution to making Ocean View great and wish him well in retirement. Dr. Rasmussen was certainly the right man at the right time. We will miss his daily presence in our District and we are better for having worked with him.



Debbie Cotton
President



John Briscoe
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Member

Circle View *Elementary*

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

Photo Talking Albums

Antoinette Gaglione, Speech/Language Pathologist at Circle View Elementary School wrote a grant to purchase Photo Talking Albums and was a grateful recipient from Orange County Community Foundation.

The language and social groups use their Photo Talking Albums to development narrative skills. Personal and informative narratives are part of effective communication. The students have generated over 40 stories since January 5, 2011.

Miss Lelani Myburgh, SLPA said, "Since the students are able to re-record, they take many more risks while generating their stories." Some students work cooperatively in groups of two or more. This assists them in the development of problem solving and negotiation skills.

The following state standards are addressed: Listening and Speaking Strategies, Comprehension, Reading, Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication.

The students feel empowered and "beam" when they share their Photo Talking Albums with family, friends, teachers, staff and the principal, Kathleen Jaquin.



Kathleen Jaquin
Principal



Dylan Villanueva, Lelani Myburgh, Orion Calef, Antoinette Gaglione, Tyler Halterman & Danny Lippold



Dr. Kristine White
Principal

New Bikes!

"New bikes!" was the exuberant response from College View kindergartners when they first saw the four new tricycles ridden out on to the playground by some of their friends. How can a school afford new tricycles at a time when school budgets have been so drastically cut? Lisa Banuelos, a kindergarten teacher at College View, explored other resources to try to meet the tricycle needs of our kindergartners and found "DonorsChoose."

Donors Choose is a website where teachers can post items they would like donated for their students and potential donors can browse through they various requests and select the one they would most like to help out. Lisa Banuelos asked for \$1200 for four tricycles on the site and then spread the word to her family and neighbors. Some donors were anonymous. Two had received Donors Choose gift cards on Oprah and selected to support the acquisition of the tricycles.

The arrival on the playground of the new trikes brightly decorated with balloons was accompanied by bursts of joy from the kindergartners. A long line of students eager to tryout their new tricycles formed. Thanks to all the community members for their support our educational programs!



Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Newest Farm Members

Golden View is happy to announce the newest members of our farm, two beautiful Tom Turkeys named Tom and Jerry! However, these aren't just your average turkeys. These were part of the original 25 hand-picked by President Obama to be pardoned. A special thanks to Rick Luther for help making it possible and to Ira Brister and Yubert Envia of Foster Farms for overseeing the transition to Golden View. The turkeys love their new home, and the students enjoy this unique and wonderful opportunity.

Jump Rope for Heart

On January 28, 2011, Golden View participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart event, and raised a total of \$1,079.51 for the American Heart Association!



Tyler Adams, Cameryn Johnson, Bradley Vega, Katiria Toledo

The students enjoyed jumping for a good cause. The top fundraiser was 5th grader, Bradley Vega! Our first runner up was Tyler Adams, second runner up was Katiria Toledo, and, finally, our 3rd runner up was Cameryn Johnson. Thanks to all the fourth and fifth graders for their hard work!

Hope View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

Students and Staff ... Color Outside of the Lines

Did you know that creativity is the No. 1 skill that is needed to compete in the global marketplace?

At Hope View, we believe in the "arts" and the value of authentic art experiences. We know that they can enhance a strong, standards-based educational program and also prepare our students for the future.

Hope View offers a variety of arts experiences. In addition to our after-school art enrichment classes in musical theater, dance and the visual arts, we have also strengthened our core offerings with a new curriculum in music.

Six enthusiastic and dynamic educators from Hope View School have represented the Ocean View School District in the "Arts Advantage" training program offered through the Orange County Department of Education. Mrs. Hanoian, Mrs. Weschler, Ms. Davis, Mrs. Peasley, Mrs. Cabellon, and our 4/5 vocal director, Mrs. Robles, are currently piloting the program in their own K-5 classrooms.

All of our teachers have committed to three training sessions at the district, which includes classroom application, lesson-plan analysis and review. This has proven to be a very unique opportunity as well as a rewarding experience for our Hope View staff and children.

Success in the workplace begins with imagination in the classroom. The visual and performing arts can build a student's creative capacity and help them become successful and creative problem solvers, innovative thinkers and confident communicators and collaborators.

At Hope View we foster these skills, and encourage our students to "color outside of the lines."

Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Hurray for Sonya Pedersen

Harbour View is very proud to announce that our own Mrs. Sonya Pedersen is the Ocean View School District nominee for Orange County Classified Employee of the Year! Sonya is so deserving of this honor as she demonstrates on a daily basis her value to us both at school and in the community. Her job description goes far beyond being our school librarian! She is kind and personable, having developed a wonderful rapport with students, staff and the community. She provides invaluable translating support as both a bilingual interpreter and listening ear to those who need it. She is a tireless advocate for our Hispanic population, often providing translation to parents and students needing help with school communication, homework assistance, or life necessities. Mrs. Pedersen runs our morning "Homework Helper" program in the library before school, providing assistance both to students and parents. She is professional and flexible, maintaining the confidentiality of students, teachers and site record information. We are so proud of Sonya Pedersen!

Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Sailing into Retirement

After fourteen years of making wonderful memories at Lake View School, Mrs. Beth Parker, our office manager, has retired. Lake View students gave her a surprise sends off! "Miss Beth" thought we were having a fire drill, but what we really planned was a celebration! When she walked out of the building everyone was already in place and the music and cheering began! The entire school sang "Happy retirement to you" and gave her three big cheers! Classroom representatives presented her with beautiful cards and posters wishing her well.

We will miss Miss Beth, but know that she will enjoy traveling with her husband on their boat and spending lots of time with her grandchildren. We don't have to worry about Miss Beth getting bored! She will also help us out by substituting for a few days until we get our new office manager in place. She promises to always answer the phone when she sees that Lake View is calling. Congratulations, Miss Beth!



Mesa View *Middle School*

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

Leona Olson, Principal

No Article This Issue

Marine View *Middle School*

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



Roni Ellis
Principal

A Busy Winter

Marine View students have been busy this winter with activities that are educational, creative, and fun. The Huntington Beach Police Department presented a school-wide assembly on the subject of internet safety. Students were told how the internet goes beyond what they learned about “stranger danger” when they were young. Strategies were shared for dealing with cyberbullying. Students were also given suggestions on how to protect their privacy on social networking sites and other websites. The officer explained how others may not be what they claim to be — a 16-year old girl online could turn out to be a 35-year old man in person.

Who knew duct tape was an art form? Marine View students recently showed off their creativity in the first-annual Duct Tape Creation contest. Coordinated by teacher George Fotinakes, students used duct tape in many colors and patterns to make their creations. Prizes were awarded for the most creative designs. For wallet designs, the winners were James Carter, Kelly Thompson, Zach Medina and Ally Pavelea. For overall creativity, the winners were Katelyn Sparks-Jackson, Marie Ishie, and Kaitlyn Earnest. Designs ranged from using multiple colors of tape to make a flower vase holding roses to multi-pocket wallets that can be used everyday.

Finally, on February 10, Marine View guys and girls “dressed to impress” at the first evening dance of the year. While twinkle lights created atmosphere, attendees enjoyed music, refreshments, and an exciting Best-Dressed competition. Chaperones roamed the crowds, awarding paper hearts to contestants who then paraded up onto the stage for the final awards. The winners, Haylee Winburn and Chris Napoli were chosen by audience applause.

Pleasant View Ocean View Preparatory Preschool

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



Paul James
Principal

CAMP OVPP, Summer Program

Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) is excited to offer a summer program for 2011. Located on the Pleasant View School site, Camp OVPP will follow an eleven week summer program for children ages three to five years old. Our highly motivated and enthusiastic teachers have designed their lessons using the same academic curriculum following the four California Preschool Learning Foundations. Embedded in the curriculum, students will also enjoy a more playful camp schedule that will consist of art projects, games, spirit activities, cooking, water play days, special visitors, special events, and much more. At Camp OVPP, our students will make new friends, learn new concepts, and have fun in a safe, nurturing environment. Camp OVPP will start on June 20, 2011 and consist of the following weekly themes: America the Beautiful, Western Round Up, Fairy Tales, Commotion in the Ocean, Incredible Insects, Books, Books, Books, Let's Get Fit, Space Explorers, Science Wonders, Multicultural Week, and Community Helpers. Come join us for a summer that guarantees to keep our students learning, laughing, and enjoying the summer.

IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Getting a whooping cough shot will help protect your child against the ongoing threat and will meet the new school requirement.

Please see page 31 for more information.

Oak View *Elementary*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Letter Sounds Feel Great!

Please see our article on the front page.

Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Dr. Claudine Dumais
Coordinator

Exceptional People Doing Great Things!

Preschool Family Literacy Program has five mothers who had perfect attendance in Parent Education and ESL since September. Angelica Samperio, Bertha Flores, Lorena Coxtinica, Toefila Gonzalez, and Diareli Juarez and their children were rewarded with a field trip to Build-A-Bear workshop in Newport Beach. The children made a bear and received a book. After the trip, wrote about their trip in their journal.

We are extremely proud to introduce our new highly qualified Preschool Instructional Assistants at Oak View Preschool. Danielle Barron holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University Long Beach. Geanine Jubran earned her Bachelor Degree in Liberal Studies with a Minor in Child Development from California State University Long Beach. Ruth Tran earned her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential from California State University Fullerton. Nona Cacho has her teaching credential from the Philippines. Theresa Crockett holds an AA in Business and a Child Development Teacher Permit.



Family literacy perfect attendance winners.

Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Hands On Activities Helps Students Learn

Having an eye on the future, the staff at Spring View Middle is committed to student achievement. In order to meet the needs and interests of a diverse population of learners, a variety of engaging learning activities are a regular part of the curriculum at Spring View. One of these activities was recently with held after school where seventh grade students took part in a hands-on lesson designed to create an interest in the study of DNA, as part of the seventh grade science curriculum. Mrs. Treece, a seventh grade science teacher, worked with attending students to create “genetic jewelry”.

Double helix spirals were constructed out of colorful beads and wire then fashioned them into earrings or a key chain. The learning activity incorporated math, language arts standards and science standards. By bringing a holistic approach to activities like this, students are able to make meaningful connections to what they are learning in the classroom.



Village View *Elementary*

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



Jodi Novy
Principal

A Focus on Writing

It is amazing to walk through the classrooms at Village View Elementary School and celebrate the excitement the students are feeling about writing. Our focus at Village is on making the writing process simple and easy to remember and fostering the love of writing. By utilizing a multi-modal approach, students explore the five stages of this process. At each grade level, students master skills of increasing length and complexity. By understanding how to write, our students grow into phenomenal authors who exhibit confidence in choosing a topic that will propel them into a world of action, adventure, fantasy or future. Writing is an exercise of love and passion for these budding authors.

To enhance this love for literature, we recently held our annual Author's Day. On this day, three children's authors visited our campus. Students rotated from author to author, receiving presentations on books that they have written and

their life paths and journeys. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and relate to the authors in a very personal manner. Visiting with these authors assisted Village View students in learning the value of exemplary writing and helped them to exhibit confidence in their own communication skills.

At Village View, we are preparing our students to be creative, innovative thinkers who are 21st-century learners!



Star View *Elementary*

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



Dr. Pauline Tressler
Principal

Jr. Achievement Day

Twenty three representatives from business, community and higher education brought their knowledge and expertise to the students at Star View as part of Jr. Achievement Day. Students took part in

standards based lessons that demonstrated the everyday application of the subjects that they learn in school each day. Through the hands on lessons, they learned about essential business components including product design, production, marketing and cost analysis. The adults had a wonderful time communicating their expertise and the students gained valuable information from experts in the field. Everyone had a wonderful day!



Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Sun View Teachers are Making a Difference!

Sun View teachers have participated in staff development training on Differentiated Instruction delivered by researchers and staff developers, Dr. Vicki Gibson and Dr. Jan Hasbrouck. Differentiated instruction allows all students to receive a guaranteed and viable curriculum tailored to meet their individual needs. For example, our gifted and accelerated students receive small group instruction at the “Teacher Table” each day then rotate to other centers or “Work Stations” to build collaborative and independent skill reinforcement. This approach ensures that each child is taught at his or her instructional level.

Congratulations to Sun View school who was honored recently in the *Orange County Register's* Best Public Schools report, a measure of the quality of local public schools based on academics and school environment. Sun View School earned a bronze medalist status as a top-ranked school in terms of academic achievement. Approximately 400 OC schools (including Irvine, Saddleback, Capistrano, Huntington Beach City, Los Alamitos, etc.) were reviewed based on 2010 State test scores and recognition was given to 138 schools for exemplary status. Sun View met the mark! Keep up the good work! 2011 state testing begins May 9.

Sun View students will be featured in *Special Edge Magazine* for outstanding academic growth in English Language Arts over a five year period. Sun View teachers are some of the finest in the County and State! We've got what it takes – a winning recipe for student success!



Robert Miller
Principal

Promoting School Spirit

Each month our ASB/Leadership class creates, organizes, and supervises fun activities for our students to participate in through their Advisement, or Home Room class. These events include Advisement class competitions, Advisement fund-raising and service projects, as well as student dress-up days. The goal is to promote school spirit by providing activities for our students to take part in. In order to promote student participation, activities such as Super Bowl Jersey Dress-Up Day, are advertised and promoted throughout the week. Each Advisement class teacher tallies the number of students participating and the winning Advisement team color receives spirit points.

Fun at school energizes and connects our students and staff. By promoting fun and competition through Advisement classes, we encourage participation and increase school spirit.



OCEAN VIEW SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

many professional organizations, including the American Association of School Administrators, the Association of California School Administrators, the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and both the Northern and Southern California Superintendents' Associations. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of LaVerne.

"Dr. Rasmussen is a man of impeccable credentials, proven leadership, and is highly respected throughout the state of California. Dr. Rasmussen's leadership, guidance, and commitment to the success of each student, as well as each employee, helped steer Ocean View through unprecedented state budget cuts. The Board of Trustees appreciates his high level of integrity and vision, both of which have kept Ocean View focused on high quality academic programs," said Trustee Tracy Pellman.

Married for more than 40 years to his lovely wife Jan, Dr. and Mrs. Rasmussen have two children who are high school teachers in Orange County. When asked about his retirement, Dr. Rasmussen stated he is "looking forward to spending time with his two new grandchildren, one born in January and one in March."

"It is with great pride that I have been at the helm of such an exceptional school district. The partnership between the Board of Trustees, teachers, staff, and community has been the cornerstone for this District, and it is quite impressive to see these four entities come together to build and maintain such a rich and caring educational environment," said Superintendent Alan G. Rasmussen, Ed.D., who retires after 40 years in public education – the past four as Superintendent of Ocean View School District. "Ocean View is a wonderful District, and I have been privileged to be part of a progressive and successful team that is committed to the academic achievement of all students."

The Ocean View community wishes Dr. Rasmussen a richly deserved retirement!



Carol Parish
Principal

Differentiated Instruction

So what is so "different" about Differentiated Instruction? The teachers at Westmont School have spent the first half of the year implementing this instructional strategy, and the results are showing! Teachers are delivering the majority of language arts and math instruction in small groups. One group of students spend time at the "teacher table" getting direct instruction in the CA state standards. With the help of instructional aides and volunteers, students in another group received guided practice on a previously learned skill. The remaining students participate in small-group and independent activities to reinforce their learning and understanding of the standards.

This method of small-group teaching, Differentiated Instruction, gives the teacher the opportunity to modify and adapt lessons to meet the needs of particular groups of students. Feedback from parents and students has been overwhelmingly positive, and rising assessment results are the fruits of our labor!

The staff of Westmont is motivated and excited at the gains our students are demonstrating and our increased ability to deliver instruction at a specific student's level of learning.

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Camps & Fun Activities

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BY SUSAN PETERSON

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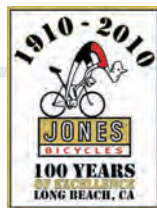
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Keeping Up With the Jones'

Wear It—Or Don't Ride!

By Lisa Genshock



Some of my best Summer memories are of riding my Schwinn Stingray Fair Lady bicycle. It was a hand-me-down from my older sister, and I loved it. I had a mod flower power banana seat with orange, red, and purple daisies all over it. The purple metallic paint sparkled in the sun. To me, it signified freedom. Peddling happily, I would ride to my friend Linda's house, one-half mile away.

I loved the wind blowing through my hair as I rode. So, when my Dad came home one day with a helmet, I was mortified. "Wear it" he said, "Or don't ride your bike."

According to the latest statistics from the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) nearly 50 percent of children 14 and under hospitalized for bicycle-related injuries are diagnosed with a brain injury. In California, it is law that all persons under the age of 18 years must wear a helmet while bicycling.

Parents, put a helmet on your child and wear one yourself. You are the example.



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Parent to Parent

Sign Up Now for Spring & Summer Activities



Jodie Lynn

Q. We have four kids in school, ages six to twelve, and are being bombarded with sign up forms. Is it really necessary to get our kids signed up in February for spring and summer activities? With as many kids as we have, it gets expensive very quickly. Are there any other options when a family is on a budget?

A. While it may currently be financially overwhelming, getting kids signed up in February for activities that begin in the spring and summer can be crucial in securing a spot. However, let me remind you things happen and even in early April, there may be vacancies for the summer due to other conflicts, so don't panic yet.

Also, be mindful that due to the current economy, many organizations, including sports, art activities and classes, dance, music, science, math and even computer programs, etc., are trying their best to offer scholarships to families who qualify. Many are trying to cover everything pertaining to the cost, uniform, equipment and shoes by offering a full scholarship, while others are trying to help with at least a twenty to thirty percent savings with a partial one. Before you make any final decisions, call the organizations your children are interested in and ask if they offer any type of financial assistance, full scholarship, or a partial one for their spring and summer program. Ask where the information is posted or printed so that you can get a copy. Once you do, look it over carefully and call with any concerns or questions regarding the criteria guidelines. Check to see if there are any rules against submitting more than one application per household. For example, sometimes kids will be grouped together according to a specific age range and will be assigned to play on the same team but both may not qualify for help by the same organization.

If you cannot secure financial aid soon enough, perhaps think about allowing the older kids to participate in one sport for the spring and one for the summer. This way, they will be signed up, ready to go and if a scholarship comes through or even a partial, you will have the freedom of signing them up for one other important activity, or even passing it on to the younger kids.

You may also want to ask if there are any active volunteer positions that need to be filled that might offer an advantage of lowering the cost of an activity and take that into consideration as well.

Last but not least, get yourself organized early by also planning activities for the little ones to do that will still be a ton of fun, yet free:

- trips to various parks that offer different activities during the week that are free to the general public
- visits to the local libraries, which continue to add new things for kids to do at no cost whatsoever
- neighborhood plays (or, just one for your family right in your own back yard), creating costumes, jewelry, hats, scenes and music from things simply lying around the house
- movie nights with kids helping to cook same/similar type of theme as movie via special meal; loads of fun!
- take the younger kids to the older kids' games as a family; it shows continued support and is truly a family affair to have fun.

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 14 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.

School News



**To place *your* activities ad
in our May issue (714) 454-9552
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com**

Westminster Library

8180 13th St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-5057 • www.ocpl.org

Kids & Teens the Library Awaits



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

The Westminster Library has great activities for kids and teens!

The new Book Club for Kids meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:30 pm. On February 9th, we'll discuss *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick, and on March 9th, we'll discuss *Half Magic* by Edward Eager.

The Craft Afternoon for Kids will be held on February 10th at 3:30 pm. For any questions about programs for children, please call our Children's Librarian, Anna.

We need Teens to join our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) to help us plan programs and choose materials you want! The TAB meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm.

Teens are you sick of hearing about love this year? Come to our Teen Anti-Valentine's Day Party on February 14th at 4:00 m for an anti-conversation heart contest, mangling broken heart cookies, and more!

Kaplan will give a free practice SAT test on February 19th from 10 am to 2 pm.—stop by the Information desk to sign up. The scores will be given back on Thursday, February 24th at 6:30 pm.

Teens are invited for a Movie Afternoon on Wednesday, February 23rd at 4:00 pm. We'll watch *Fantastic Mr. Fox*. The Teen Movie Afternoon in March will be held on 3/16/11 at 4:00 pm. Also, come celebrate Teen Tech Week at the library from March 6-12, 2011. We'll have a special program on Saturday, March 12th. Stop by and ask our Teen Librarian, Brynn, for more information.





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ymcaoc.org

BECAUSE WE
ROCK

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.

From the Boathouse

Indoor Rowing Classes

Created in 1932 for the rowing events of the Xth Olympiad, Marine Stadium in Long Beach was the first manmade rowing course in the United States. Its width allowed four rowing teams to race abreast, eliminating additional heats and allowing oarsmen to enter the finals at the peak of their form. Later, the row course served as the venue for the 1968 and 1976 United States men's Olympic rowing trials and the 1984 United States women's Olympic rowing trials. The site remains an important training and competitive rowing center for many top rowers, including our National and Olympic teams. The boathouse is a unique indoor rowing gym with an inspiring view of the water.

The Powerhouse Fitness Center offers indoor rowing, Spinning, and new Zumba dance classes, taught by US National Team athletes. Rowing is the new sport of choice in Long Beach—and the only place you can try it.

Long Beach Rowing Association is also home to the Long Beach Junior Crew which is where I started to row in 1996 at the age of 16. LBJC currently has over 105 young men and women coming from Southern Los Angeles County and North Orange County schools to participate in the fall and spring rowing seasons and also offers summer rowing camps for beginners and conditioning camps for returning rowers. Through my experience on the Junior Crew in high school I was offered a full-scholarship to Cal Berkeley and then went on to represent the United States Senior National Rowing Team for five years!



Jack Nunn/Owner, Powerhouse Fitness Center, 5750 Boathouse Lane, Long Beach, CA 90803
562/688-1716, www.powerhousefit.com.

Note-ables

Swimming in Noodles



Kate Karp

Jim Cosgrove is a lot of fun. He's a daddy who treats his children and yours as well to silly songs set to foot-tapping styles and genres that ramble from acoustic to zydeco. His "Stinky Feet" has been requested so often that it's earned him the dubious moniker Mr. Stinky Feet, but Mr. Cosgrove doesn't seem to mind.

No stinky feet, though, on his latest offering, *Swimming in Noodles*, probably because there are too many songs about food on the collection "Cookie Time," "Spaghetti and Goofballs" and "Chips and Salsa" are side dishes to friendship and task breaks.

There are cozy family songs, such as the Cajun-flavored "Cool Daddy," which recalls the New Orleans classic "Iko Iko." Others can be used for science, personal development and social studies, like "We're Electrons," "Nobody Does It like You" and "Just Like You." In the whimsical "Hang On Mama," Mom disappears under a load of laundry, not exactly the way she does in real life but she'll relate, and we're guests in the otherworld of a child who protects a mysterious animal from the zookeeper. Listen for the surprise ending.

The recording was produced using live musicians and in collaboration with Grammy award-nominated producer Tor Hyams, who founded Kidzapalooza, the children's musical version of the annual Lollapalooza music festival. The CD jacket is peppered—there's that food theme again—with fun facts relating to the songs. Bet you didn't know that electrons are smaller than a freckle on a fly or that salsa is the number-one condiment in the United States. *Swimming in Noodles* will be a tasty accompaniment to car trips, playtime and classroom hands-on time.

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

String Instruments Word Search Contest

NEW 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 is the word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put "FHWO" in the subject line)

Entries must be received by March 15, 2011
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| Balalaika | Guitar | Sitar |
| Banjo | Harp | Ukulele |
| Bass Viol | Harpsichord | Viola |
| Cello | Lute | Violin |
| Clavichord | Lyre | Zither |
| Contrabass | Mandolin | |
| Dulcimer | Piano | |

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

Congratulations January Winners!
Charlotte Desorcy— Word Search Contest!
Christian Mounier— Puzzle Contest

Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Richard Tauer

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and district, I would like to salute our staff members that have been recognized as outstanding employees this year. All of these people go above and beyond the call of duty in performing their jobs and they demonstrate a dedication and commitment to children that is second-to-none. Congratulations to our 2011 Classified Employees of the Year!

Teri Holloway – Office & Technical Category: Teri is an Administrative Secretary in the Human Resources department and has been with the District for 20 years. Her degree of professionalism, attention to detail, sound judgment and commitment to parents, students and staff is exemplary. She has excellent organizational and communication skills which contribute to the success of her department. Teri's positive attitude and calm demeanor is an invaluable asset, as she is often the first person to interact with an upset parent or staff member. She is viewed as a leader among her colleagues and she is respected and well thought of by everyone she works with.

Frankie Ponce – Transportation Category: Frankie is a Bus Driver and has been with the district for 12 years. He is responsible for transporting children with special needs, including severely handicapped students, to several different schools. Frankie displays great enthusiasm for his job and his smile and warmth are contagious to his co-workers, parents, and students. He has the personal touch to maintain a healthy and safe atmosphere while delivering a high standard of care. Frankie is a friendly man with a big heart and he is a great asset to our district.

Angie Quach – Support Services Category: Angie has been a Vietnamese Community Liaison at Anderson Elementary School for seven years. She acts as Anderson's "eyes and ears" and direct link to the Vietnamese community. Customer service is a passion for Angie. With many students enrolling straight from Vietnam, Angie greets the families with a big smile, assists with their paperwork and leaves them at ease and less nervous about coming to a new school. Angie also provides access to and encourages students to participate in a variety of support services to optimize their academic achievement and social success. Angie's knowledge and initiative is impressive and she always goes above and beyond what is required of her.

Sophia Tisdale – Paraeducator & Instructional Assistance Category: Sophie works at Anderson Elementary as a Paraeducator/Instructional Assistant with Health Assistant duties in our preschool and primary Special Day class with students that have moderate to severe disabilities and who may be medically fragile. She is adept at working with students one-on-one or in groups. Sophia has a wonderful demeanor, she is a consistent worker and maintains good communication with staff and parents. She provides guidance and encouragement to her students and assists with mainstreaming students in wheelchairs with special needs into regular education classrooms. Her devotion to students with special needs is evident in her dedication to her work.

Sue Upmeyer – Child Nutrition Category: Sue is a Food Service Delivery Driver/Worker and has been with the District for 22 years. She drives a large delivery truck filled with food carts and supplies from our Nutrition Center to six school sites each day. She is incredibly committed to sanitation and food safety. Sue brings a "can-do" attitude to work every day and she leads by example. Whatever task she's assigned, she completes with a high degree of accuracy the first time. Sue is amazing when it comes to training other employees. She has a way of helping and guiding people to reach their potential and be successful. Sue has a heart of gold and she takes pride in everything she does.

Sheldon Walker – Maintenance & Operations Category: Sheldon is a Senior Custodian at Warner Middle School and has been with the District for 13 years. He can fix or repair almost anything. His many skills and talents meet the constantly changing needs of a busy middle school. Sheldon has a great sense of humor and a strong desire to make his site the best it can be. Sheldon is a loyal employee with an exemplary work ethic and endless energy. He is a willing and quick learner with a talent for training and coaching newer employees. His commitment to education is demonstrated by his countless volunteer hours helping children, families and employees of the Westminster School District.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Jo-Ann Purcell
President

Recently, I had the privilege of attending one of the most poignant and heart-warming awards ceremonies of the year. The Westminster Educational Leadership Association (WELA) annually honors students who have succeeded against all odds, beyond expectations or who simply won the hearts of the educators that helped them achieve their goals. WELA recognizes students who have made a special effort to succeed and triumph over obstacles such as: overcoming physical and mental barriers, changing their attitude, improving their grades, increasing their attendance, or resisting bad influences. In addition, they are active in school programs, student conflict resolution, cross-age tutoring, community activities and peer mediation.

Many of these students have overcome extreme adversity. Several of our winners have been battling serious physical challenges like a cleft palate, leukemia or blindness, but they have not let these difficulties hinder their accomplishments. Conquering these types of obstacles takes both mental and physical toughness.

Every one of these students has shown tremendous courage and determination. They set very lofty goals for themselves and have met or exceeded them. These winning students are an inspiration to us all.

2011 Every Student Succeeding Winners

Jet Nguyen, Anderson Elementary; Patrick Lane, Clegg Elementary; Calvin Vu, DeMille Elementary; Nicolas Caruso, Eastwood Elementary; Matthew Montero, Finley Elementary; Emily Som, Fryberger Elementary; Devin Zeller, Hayden Elementary; Jesus Blanco, Meairs Elementary; Emily Phan, Schmitt Elementary; Julianne Loy, Schroeder Elementary; Deanna Hines, Sequoia Elementary; Kevin Huynh, Webber Elementary; Armando Gonzalez, Willmore Elementary; Alma Ruiz, Johnson Middle School; William Leahy, Stacey Middle School; Justine Choi, Warner Middle School.

Jet Nguyen, a 6th grader at Anderson Elementary has been selected to represent the district and to be honored at the regional level of the Association of California School Administrators.



Jet Nguyen, 6th grader at Anderson Elementary and Dr. Lori Rogers, Principal of Anderson Elementary.



Jo-Ann Purcell
President



Dave Bridgewaters
Clerk

Westminster School District Board of Education



Sergio Contreras
Member



Mary Mangold
Vice President



Andrew Nguyen
Member

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

8902 Hewitt Place, Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/894-7201 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/Anderson/index.htm



Dr. Lori Rogers
Principal

Junior Scientists

Anderson's fifth grade student scientists from P-4, Ms. Ferraro's class, were featured in the OC Register in January of 2011, for their work at the annual Kids' Conference on Watersheds at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point. All of Anderson's fifth grade students traveled by bus to the Ocean Institute to participate in a grant funded project. This event drew over 2,000 fifth-grade students over an 11 day period from local counties. Students learned proper methods of scientific investigation and the importance of paying attention to the results. Students learned to take water samples,

constructed models, worked on hypotheses and tracked pollutants. Anderson pupils reported that they enjoyed the research opportunities and the chance to share their learning with other students in the Orange County. Student test scores in the area of science on state tests in fifth grade at Anderson are at an all time high thanks to the hard work and dedication of the students and teachers at our school! Go, Anderson Tigers!



Katie Kamikubo and Nathan Cardenas.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Families Delight in a Super Science Night

On Tuesday, January 25, 2011, approximately two hundred DeMille parents and students participated in our first DeMille Family Science Night. Upon signing in, families were issued a passport and sent on their science journey for the evening. Throughout the evening, families traveled to different stations. At one station our super scientists learned about fingerprinting. At the Balls and Ramps station, families explored different kinds of ramps. Families got their hearts pumping at the Human Body System station where all could learn about the circulatory system. At the water station families played a game to learn how water is a precious resource,

and at the weather station families made clouds. The properties of sand, clay and humus were explored at the Soils station. At the final station, families were challenged to build an electric circuit. The evening was filled with science and smiles.



The Lam family scientists work together to build an electric circuit.

Clegg *School*

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



John Staggs
Principal

Fun & Fit Club

Clegg students in grades 1-5 have a great opportunity to be involved in our Fun & Fit Club. Fun & Fit Club was created and is run entirely by our PTA at Clegg Elementary every Wednesday directly after school. Mrs. Diana Remp and other parents in our community set up the activities and provide instruction to students for a great afternoon of fun and exercise.

Students are provided a chance to run, jump, and participate in sporting games for one hour. Students engage in stretching, running and some time is spent at the beginning to discuss the activities for that day. There are two fields set up for soccer or field hockey, and



another field is set up for kickball or flag football. The black top area offers paddle ball, basketball, hand ball, jump ropes, hula hoops, and aerobics. There are currently over 200 first - fifth grade students enjoying Fun & Fit Club this year. We would like to thank everyone that makes this program possible for our students.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Outdoor Education

Eastwood Elementary School sixth-graders have just returned from a week-long field trip in the San Bernardino Mountains, where the focus was on outdoor education, science and leadership. Students were provided with hands-on, field-based activities that brought classroom science to life.

The geology/engineering module in the science category was a favorite. Students learned how rocks and minerals are formed and classified. They also gained knowledge about the geologic history of Southern California, the different layers of the earth, plate tectonics, and the causes of earthquakes. Basic engineering principles were presented as students designed their own models of buildings and tested them against a realistic earthquake simulator. Students gained an understanding of geologic principles and the ever-shifting landscape.

Several modules in the leadership category were high on the students' favorites list. The rock wall challenged students to problem solve as they achieved heights not thought possible on the climbing tower. They were encouraged to push themselves to their physical limits and complete several exercises of varying degrees of difficulty. Students were unaware they were learning about self reliance and independence as they were enjoying this activity.

Night hikes are always a highlight while camping. Eastwood students learned about a world that buzzes with mysterious activity and were taught about animals of the night and how they survive in a nocturnal environment. They engaged their senses through legends of pirates and alien visitors. The hikes included an exploration of the senses, echolocation and bioluminescence as part of the evening's experience.

Students returned exhilarated!

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutierrez-Garcia
Principal

Parents are Valuable Partners

Finley School parents are valuable partners at Finley Elementary School. Each year more parents at Finley School are in leadership positions through School Site Council, the English Language Advisory Committee, PTA, and the Finley PBIS site team. To further support this integral partnership and to expand our Positive Behavior Intervention System, 25 Finley parents have been attending a Parenting Partners workshop series that meets every Friday from 8:00-10:00am for a total of eight sessions. The classes are taught by a team of professionals including Sheree Newman, District Prevention Specialist, Yolanda Moreno, District Translator, and Peter Barajas, Director of the Extended School Program from Hayden Elementary School.

The curriculum is specifically tied to the 40 Developmental Assets and provides parents with practical tools for positive parenting. Among the topics presented are: Positive Parenting, Creating Confident Kids, Communication That Works, Deflecting Arguments and Setting Boundaries, The Discipline Difference, What Children and Teens Need to Succeed, and Parents Involved for Academic Success.

The goal is to then use a trainer of trainer model in which these 25 graduates of the Parenting Partners train other Finley parents and assume positions as Room Parents to increase the communication between the school and the home. By learning together and working in partnership we will provide students with safe, healthy, calm, and predictable learning environments.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Linda Reed
Principal

International Night

Last month Hayden Elementary hosted International Night. Hayden School is very proud of its diverse population in the surrounding community. To celebrate and appreciate these great cultures, Hayden School, with support from the staff, PTA and ESP program produced an International Night. It was an opportunity to learn about the many cultures that make up Hayden along with enjoying some great entertainment and fabulous food. We had many students and community members perform traditional dances, play instruments and sing in their native languages.

Many thanks need to be given to Peter Barajas, Ms. Hahn, Jenny Mariscal, Jenny Lam and Cathy Renaker. They worked tirelessly to help decorate, prepare the food and choreograph the dance routines. With their support and leadership International Night was a great success with many students and families attending. Hayden is looking forward to continuing the tradition of International Night in the future.



Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Hyacinth Martinez
Principal

On the Road to Cultural Proficiency

Fryberger students and staff take pride in our quest for culturally proficient teaching, learning, and student engagement. Support staff, teachers and administration are invested in providing a welcoming and nurturing learning environment for all students to strive and thrive. We are creating pathways to learn from our students as we recognize and understand the importance of the rich experiences and backgrounds which make us a wonderful diverse community of inquiry-based learners.

At a recent assembly we learned about the various cultures and musical instruments of South America and Mexico. We also were delighted by the outstanding performance from three of our very own, Kenneth, Duy, and Gordon. They performed a Dragon Dance to mark the first day of Tet Lunar New Year and Chinese New Year.



Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Donations Beautify Our School By Monique Bedolla, Grade 7

You might have seen people wearing bright orange shirts working around JMS on Thursday and Friday, January 13th and 14th. (No they weren't a prison crew) They were the nice people donating their time and hard work for some beneficial improvements for our school. In addition to a \$5,000 gift card we have a vegetable garden next to Ms. Collingwood's class. We have some awesome benches and sitting areas around our beloved tree by Ms. Findlay's class. There is a very stunning and peaceful Zen garden next to Mr. Winterfeld's class that has benches, potted plants, and an orange tree. We are so lucky to have such a generous people. This is a great example of communities working together.



The Volunteers and Johnson students proud of their hard work.

Land School

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



Beverlee Mathenia
Director, Child Development Programs



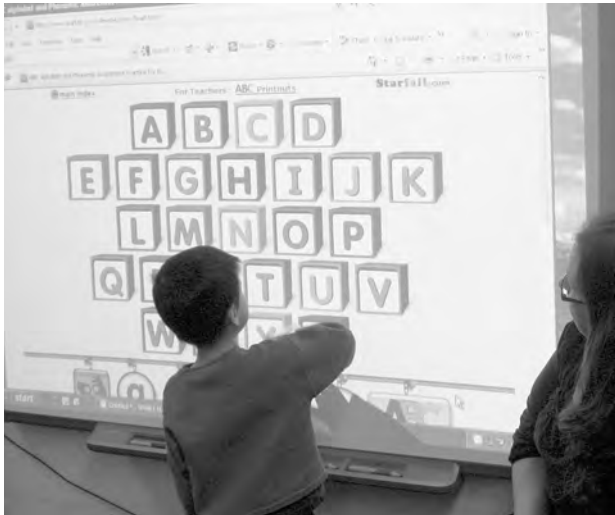
Leisa Winston
Administrator, Student Services

Land Preschool Goes High Tech

Preschool teachers at Land School are now integrating SMART Board technology into the curriculum. Preschoolers, who are hardwired for technology, are fascinated with the interactive component of the Board and are engaging in the learning process at a much higher level. Teachers love how the SMART Board captures the attention of children and transforms instruction into a dynamic, hands-on lesson. In addition, a SMART Table, which is the first interactive table designed to let several children work and explore on the

display at once, is another feature of Land.

Researchers have found that preschoolers, who used computers with supporting activities for key learning goals, had more gains than children without computer experiences. Among others, these included gains in knowledge, long-term memory, verbal skills, problem solving, and manual dexterity.



Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Every Child Succeeding

By Mrs. Weedon—Teacher 2nd Grade

Julianne Loy, who is vision impaired, doesn't let her vision keep her from doing anything she wants to do.

When she first came to us at Schroeder, we were nervous that she would get hurt at every corner, as if she were made of glass. At first we practically hovered around her at every turn, especially outside on the big toy. But Julianne would have none of that. To our dismay, she would try to lose us, using lightning speed to move from one part of the big toy to another. We quickly realized her fiery spirit and fierce independence.

Julianne quickly educated us to that fact that she does not let her vision limitations stop her from doing the things that her second grade peers do, and then some.

Julianne is spunky. She can be found singing inside and outside of the classroom, always wanting to be in the middle of the action. Julianne wants us all to know that she is more than just her "vision." We've heard you Julianne, loud and clear. You are truly an inspiration to us all. Congratulations to Julianne Loy, Schroeder Elementary School's Every Child Succeeding Award Winner!



Julianne and her family.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Tricia Urbaniec
Principal

Celebrating Diversity

One of the greatest gifts we have at Meairs is the diverse cultures that come together to make our school a rich place to learn. We share and learn from each other every day. This year our "Taste of Meairs" event was an opportunity for all of us to share songs, dance and food together.

Each grade level presented a song that highlighted ideas about world unity. Thank you to our teachers for these wonderful presentations. Our fourth grade team shared a good old American square dance. Our fifth grade students created culture information

boards. Mr. Giang, a Meairs parent, coached a group of students in the art of Chinese dragon dancing. Jenny Mariscal, a community member, led a group of folklorico dancers. The families and our students really enjoyed all of the festivities. A parent commented that this event is what makes Meairs a real learning community.

Thank you to our PTA who hosted a potluck for all of the families and students. We all enjoyed the delicious treats! Each day we, the Meairs Eagles, do our BEST to learn about each other and to find the ways that we can come together to provide a positive future for our students and our community.



Warner *Middle (6-8)*

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



Matthew Skoll
Principal

Take Time for Good Times!

By Darlene Vasquez, Student-8th Grade

The word around Westminster School District is that if you're looking for fun, Warner Middle School is the place to be. It's true! Warner is the ideal place to be if you're looking for a good time during lunch or during a Spirit Assembly. Here at Warner, we believe that no student should feel left out. This is why we do our very best to get each and every Wildcat involved in our school activities.

A recent Wildcat event was our Chinese New Year activity. Every Wildcat was given a red envelope. Since it's the year of the rabbit and the cat, each envelope that contained a picture of a rabbit or a cat was given a prize. We like to keep things at Warner multicultural so that everyone gets a taste of different cultures and customs.

Another recent school activity was our Warner's Next Top Model competition. We took three Wildcats from each grade to create a dream outfit using only trash bags, paper bags, tape and scissors. This activity appealed to all students because it involved creativity, strategy and confidence.

Just by naming two of Warner's latest activities, you get a hint of all the amusement at Warner Middle School. We are also pleased by our recent Silver Medal Award given by a local newspaper for having the seventh-best academic middle school in the county. Go Warner!

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tammy Steel
Principal

Andrew Brumback
October 23, 2002 – January 19, 2011

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Awesome | Bookworm |
| Newsman | Reliable |
| Dedicated | Utmost Fun Guy |
| Remarkable | Memorable |
| Entertaining | Baseball |
| Wonderful | Amazing |
| | Cute |
| | Kind-hearted |

AJ was a wonderful little boy who will hold a very special place in our hearts FOREVER.



Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jerry Gargus
Principal

Family Nutrition Night a Huge Success

On Thursday, January 20, Schmitt Elementary School hosted its first ever Family Nutrition Night. Over 175 parents and students joined with us to learn some new strategies for eating healthy on a budget.

The evening's activities were sponsored by the Network for a Healthy California. It was led by Joey Van Kamp and Tracey Sacapano, with additional support provided by teachers recruited with the help of our site's network liaison, Ami Nelson.

Tracey shared with parents an informational PowerPoint presentation about the dangers of childhood obesity and associated diseases like diabetes. After her presentation, everyone took part in an "Instant Recess," of which I had the pleasure of leading.

As is the case with all of Schmitt's parent seminars, no one left the event empty-handed, or with an empty stomach! Every family in attendance received an "Eating Healthy Cookbook," a DVD with additional easy-to-prepare healthy meals for kids, and a pedometer for every parent.

The highlight of the evening was certainly the healthy snack that the team had prepared for everyone in attendance. The fruit parfait cups, which consisted of low-fat yogurt, granola cereal and blueberries, were a great way to wrap up the evening. We are already looking forward to hosting a similar event during the 2011-2012 school year!

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

14142 Hoover St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7288 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/WebberWebpage/index.html



Orchid Rocha
Principal

A Success Story

This year, I had the honor of introducing Webber's Kevin Huynh as our role model for the "Every Child Succeeding" award.

Kevin Huynh has been at Webber since kindergarten. He is the oldest of five children, all of whom live with their grandmother and uncle. He is a great mentor to his younger siblings and is always looking out for and protecting them.

Now in the sixth grade, Kevin is a model leader. He has demonstrated joy in helping others. He has also volunteered a wealth of time to assist other students during his free periods. During cooperative activities and group projects, Kevin's strong values and high level of integrity guide his decisions.

His teacher, Ms. Thach, has also noted his exceptional perseverance. Kevin is always putting forth his best efforts even when he doesn't meet with immediate success.

When Kevin first started in PRIDE three years ago, he was constantly on the verge of dismissal from the program. Over the years he has become an outstanding member! Rather than engaging in bullying behavior, he is now the one who stands up for others.

Kevin is a leader, and a very positive role model for the other members. He helps staff and is always willing to go the extra mile. He also has a great sense of humor that attracts everyone who knows him.

Kevin Huynh is a kind and intelligent human being. The Webber Family is proud of him, and hopes that he will continue on this path of positive behavior and success.

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

Respect: Self, Others, Learning and the Environment/Property. That is our mantra at Stacey Middle School (SMS). As the year progresses, we continue to implement our Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) program.

Lessons were taught in September emphasizing the expected behaviors for the year. At the same time, the positive rewards were also rolled out. Students can earn Cougar Cash for displaying the appropriate behaviors in the classroom and around campus. Students also have the opportunity to earn Cougar Gold. It is given out by substitute teachers and other guests on campus and is double the value of Cougar Cash. This cash can be spent at the Cougar Store to buy school supplies and other trinkets. Students can also save up for larger items, such as a pizza to share with their friends, or they can cash in to pick out the music played on the morning announcements or a give a birthday shout out to a friend. Cougar Cash can also get you an occasional after-school treat or a bingo card to play for additional prizes.

Several times a year we will revisit the lessons taught that first day of school so students will always have the SMS mantra in mind as they go through their day. Our hope is that by participating in this program we will see a decrease in negative student behaviors and an increase in school pride and connectedness. So far, we have seen some great results. Go, Cougars!

Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Celebrating Culture

Willmore School takes great pride in the diversity of our students and staff. A good portion of them come from Vietnam and have brought many

aspects of their culture with them. One of the most recognizable events on the calendar is the lunar new year, or for our Vietnamese families, Tet.

For years we have been fortunate to have our local high school's Vietnamese Club come and perform The Dragon Dance. This year we were also treated to a serenade of Vietnamese music played on a string instrument called a dan tranh, which is related to the Japanese koto. Our students always enjoy this event, even former Willmore students who are in high school, performing.

We know that celebrating one holiday does not make a school culturally proficient, but this exhibition and celebration of culture through art is a wonderful experience for all of us.



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Duane Dishno

Since beginning my tenure as Interim Superintendent two months ago, I have been warmly welcomed and I am greatly enjoying working with the staff and the schools in this outstanding school system. Having been a member of this community since the mid-1960s, I am deeply committed to this community and have always known that the schools in Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, and Westminster are among the very finest in the state.

Some of you may already know me from my years as Superintendent in the Huntington Beach City School District.

For those of you who are not familiar with me, I also served as Superintendent in the El Monte City School District and in the Bonita Unified School District. My career began, however, as a classroom teacher in Westminster. I have also served as a school principal, a director of special education, and an assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

I am pleased to now have the opportunity to serve as your Interim Superintendent and to work with a compassionate and talented classified, certificated, and administrative staff. My approach in this District will be based on candor, transparency, collaboration, and open lines of communication. I am well able to appreciate and support a system which attends not only to the needs of all students, but creates and sustains high expectations of performance. Our high schools are truly places where ‘magic happens everyday.’

Each of us — individually and collectively — shares in the responsibility to create and ensure success for every student. We are fortunate to be blessed with a Governing Board of Trustees that understands how each and every decision reached affects our schools and our students. As a team, everyone in this district works diligently to make a positive and meaningful difference in the educational experience of students.

One issue I would like to briefly address concerns the financial health of the district. The revenue problems we have confronted in the past few years will likely continue to be with us in the next school year. The Governor has proposed to combat the state’s budget crisis by making additional cuts and extending taxes that would otherwise expire. While the state’s spending plan seems to be built on shaky revenue assumptions, which likely means mid-year cuts in Sacramento, we still project a positive ending balance this year and next. We will keep the community informed as further information is received.

Finally, a school calendar for 2011-12 has been adopted and may be found on the district website – www.hbuhd.org.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Susan Henry
President

The Huntington Beach Union High School District is in transition. At the end of 2010 our Superintendent of nearly eight years, Dr. Van Riley, chose to retire. We wish him well as he enjoys traveling with his wife and spending time with his grandchildren. Dr. Riley leaves our district in excellent condition. With a well managed bond issue our facilities are modernized, clean and beautiful and through diligent financial planning we are one of the few districts to have avoided taking any furlough days or pay cuts. HBUHSD is in great shape!

During this period of transition we are happy to report that the Board has selected Dr. Duane Dishno to serve as Interim Superintendent. Readers may recognize his name as he was formerly a Superintendent for the Huntington Beach City School District. We appreciate his leadership, commitment, and dedication to the community.

The Board of Trustees now has the task of finding a new Superintendent. The Board has retained a search firm to assist us in this effort. In fact, we have hired the same firm, Leadership Associates, who assisted us eight years ago when we hired Dr. Riley. As this is one of the most important responsibilities that a school board will undertake we will be seeking input from our community. Be assured that the Board will consider all information that will be gathered from all stakeholder groups. As we proceed through this process there will be updates to the community at our monthly board meetings.

As our district is in such an incredible location and in such excellent shape there will no doubt be much interest in this position. We anticipate a large field of candidates to choose from. We hope to be able to announce the new Superintendent of the Huntington Beach Union High School District by the end of the school year.



Fouad Rider
Student Representative Board of Ed.

The Need for Blood

Every day, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed. Whether it is for a transfusion or for blood loss, much blood is needed. Donating blood takes about 45 minutes, and saves lives. One pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.

To donate blood, one must be 17 years old and weigh more than 110 pounds. Every donor is given a mini-physical, checking the donor’s temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and red blood cell count to ensure it is safe to donate. After using a sterile needle to draw out a pint of blood, the donor is given refreshments and snacks.

Most high schools in our district host at least one blood drive per year, which allows students the opportunity to give back to their community. Blood donation gives people a sense of accomplishment and an opportunity to participate in a community service.

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



Susan Henry
President



Dr. Michael Simons
Vice President



Bonnie P. Castrey
Clerk



Brian Garland
Alt. Clerk



Kathleen Iverson
Member

Coast *High School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Innovative Scheduling

As the Huntington Beach Union High School district continues to weather the storm of the state financial crisis, many students have felt the crunch when trying to fit all the courses they want to take into just six periods per day. There are many students throughout the district who have “impacted” schedules.

There aren't enough periods in the day to take all the required classes such as math, English, history, science, PE, foreign language, band and athletics. In the past, this might have been possible through before-school classes or summer school, but because of budget cuts, these options have dwindled dramatically.

What was needed was an alternative and innovative method to offer students the ability to take all required graduation courses as well as the courses students were most interested in. This was a perfect opportunity for Coast High School to try to help its fellow schools. Because of Coast High's independent study format, a pilot program was developed to offer students of three high schools—Fountain Valley High, Huntington Beach High and Westminster High—an opportunity to take courses through Coast High School.

In this pilot program, students can take a full schedule of six classes at their home school and an additional class through Coast High's independent study format. Students meet with an instructor once a week to receive an instructional unit of work. Each week, the students work on their assignments independently and return their completed work the following week. An assessment will be administered to students for each completed unit. Students can expect to work an average of 20 hours per week on their Coast High School class. Courses are offered in all four core subject areas: English, math, science and social science. Another great part of this program is that the courses are offered on their home campus—no need to drive to Marina High School where the Coast High School campus is located.

Is It for Everyone?

Too good to be true? In fact, it can be for some students. As mentioned earlier, a student participating in this program will be taking seven classes at one time. Add to that the possibility of an after-school sport or activity, and the practicality of enough hours in a week to do all this makes it very difficult for many students to participate. Is this program for your son or daughter? We highly recommend seeing your guidance specialist to see if this program is a match for your child's needs and schedule. To ensure proper placement, a student must receive approval from his or her home school to attend this pilot program. Seating is limited, so every effort will be made to ensure that students with the highest chances for success are able to access this service.



Community Day School

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



Dr. Connie Mayhugh
Principal

Learning in Store

The start of second semester has gone smoothly. Our students continue to surprise us with their skills and talents as well as their commitment to work toward success. Two of our students, Matt Linville and Aileen Nguyen, are working on a mural that will run the length of the school. The theme of the mural is “Outdoors.” Our artists are adding beautiful paintings of trees, birds and flowers to bring the outside in for students to enjoy. They are almost halfway finished, and we are looking forward to enjoying their completed artistic rendering.

The Huntington Beach Union High School District Adult School has brought an Adult School English class to our site on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Students who are behind in credits have the opportunity to extend their day to earn the credits toward meeting graduation requirements. In addition to the Adult School program, the Coastline Regional Occupational Program offers a Retail Sales and Design ROP class on our campus on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Our students and students from around Orange County have an opportunity to learn about retail sales and to gain valuable real world experience through interning in several shops at a nearby mall.

Seven Community Day School students participated in the “Dream of Family” showcase held in January at the mall. Several of our students contributed pieces of artwork, poems and oral presentations. We are very proud of all of our students who participated and are very pleased to be able to share that a Community Day School student took home the first place award of \$200.

The Community Advisory Committee recently held a meeting. The committee includes representatives from the mall's management, school staff, a parent and a student representative. Among the topics that were discussed were the plans for the presentation of student awards sponsored by mall management. Students will be recognized for academic excellence, demonstrating the most improvement, and outstanding school service. We look forward to sharing the names of our recognized students with our community after the awards are presented. We also discussed possible opportunities for students to find employment in the mall. Several former students continue to work in mall shops, and since our students do such a fine job, more shops are looking to employ more Community Day School students. Community Day School also recognized and thanked the mall for the improvements that have been made to the facility, including the new sidewalk outside the rear door.

As we head toward spring, we know that good things will continue to happen at the Community Day School!

Two of our students,
Matt Linville and Aileen Nguyen,
are working on a mural
that will run the length of the school.
The theme of the mural is “Outdoors.”

Join Our Sales Team!
Please see page 13.



Edison *High School*

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



**Dr. D'iese
Melendrez**
Principal

Digital Arts

By Tyler Vandeveer and Kevin Johnson, Students

Edison High School is expanding the digital arts courses as part of the Career/Technical Education program. One such class recently visited the Disney Studio Lot in Burbank.

On January 20, 2011 a group of students from Mrs. Seals' Entertainment Art class went on a wonderful and enlightening experience. Our first stop was the Frank G. Wells Building. Upon entering, we immediately saw several costumes from movies such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Prince of Persia*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. We then took the elevator up to the third floor and met up with one of Mrs. Seals' good friends, Natasha Kopp, who is the line producer for *Phineas and Ferb*. She is one of the many crew members who helps



**Kevin, Jordan and Jeff learn about storyboarding
from a Phineas & Ferb storyboard artist.**



**Kim and Aron learn about animation timing
from a Phineas & Ferb Timing Director.**

went into a dark cube designed for color designers. They need it dark so they can see the natural rich color without light bouncing off the monitor. Next we visited a timer, whose job is to control the mouth movements and every action the characters make. The last thing we did before lunch was visit the editor, Ted, and watch a clip from the new *Phineas and Ferb* movie. Ted showed us how he cuts the picture together.

We ate lunch at the commissary and from there headed into a sound stage. There were giant comfy chairs usually reserved for Disney executives, and some of us were lucky enough to sit in them while we learned about sound design and post production.

Overall, the trip was very fun and inspirational to everyone who went. This was a great experience for us to be able to see the pros in action, in their unique creative environment. This class has been a ton of fun. I highly recommend Entertainment Art to anyone who wants to be a part of the artistic world.

create the show for the Disney Channel. Natasha then led us to meet some storyboard artists. They had a humongous board with a lot of sticky notes on it describing the scenes and episode in order. They use a program called Storyboard Pro and draw on 21-inch Wacom tablets.

Next, we moved on to the sound room, where they add sound to the animation, using Final Cut. Then we visited a prop designer who draws props, such as hairdryers and lint brushes. Our next move was to the actual storyboard room, with the whole episode drawn out on paper and in order. We got to see an entire episode planned out. From there we

Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

A New Track and Field

Last summer we wrote about the "Full Speed Ahead" campaign to raise money for a synthetic field to go along with our new track at FVHS. While we weren't able to raise the funds for the synthetic field in the short time frame provided, we are excited to celebrate our new track and field facilities that are being completed today.

And what a difference! The new track is beautiful, and adds immensely to the aesthetics and functionality of the school site. Over a thousand physical education students and athletes will benefit immediately from this investment.

No longer will our athletes be kicking up clouds of dust as they run over lumpy, uneven surfaces. We can now take pride in our track, and our athletes and students can run on a surface that resembles the tracks on which they compete. Our California Distinguished School has an athletic facility worthy of the title "distinguished." FVHS can host events with pride, and student-athletes will be glad that they chose to be a Baron.

Head track coach Brian Bivens says, "I feel a lot calmer now. I don't have to spend the time and money chalking out the lines and setting up relay zones." He is excited that all levels and distances can now practice together, thanks to the permanent lane lines.

The practices can be shorter, too, which gives students more time with family and homework. Bivens added, "Now schools from all over are trying to get meets with us. This will add to our competitiveness."



Maintenance-Friendly

So what about that field? Well for now, the natural grass is absolutely beautiful and among the best surfaces available at any school. The trick is to balance field use with recovery and maintenance schedules.

One game on a muddy day can ruin a natural field for months, so we will do our best to balance usage and maintenance and enjoy the quality surface. We will also continue to pursue the funding to install a synthetic field in the near future in order to eliminate the use versus maintenance problem.

A small downside in having such wonderful facilities is that we are obliged to protect the investment by restricting access. The track can be ruined with improper use, including vehicles, street shoes, high heels, soccer cleats and football cleats. A field can be ruined with one muddy game. So unfortunately, we will not be able to keep the track and field open for unscheduled use by the community.

We are currently planning a grand opening celebration to show off the new facility. Details will be posted on the school's Web site, at www.fvhs.com.

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

714/901-8106 • www.hbadultschool.com



Steve Curiel
Principal

Parent and Me

By Cathy McGough, Assistant Principal

Would you like to attend a class with your toddler and have him or her gain early learning skills while you gain effective parenting strategies? Are you looking for an outstanding preschool with a 25-year reputation for excellence? Do you want to be hands-on in your child's first classroom? Do you want credentialed teachers teaching your child the California Preschool Standards? Would you like an adult-to-child ratio of 1-8 or less?

The Huntington Beach Adult School is proud to offer outstanding preschool and toddler classes that are founded on parent education. In these programs, parents enroll along with their children. The classes are designed to ensure kindergarten readiness for the children through nurturing and enriching classrooms. At the same time, the parents are learning parenting skills and recent research in child development while observing child behavior and practicing their own skills.

Parent-Smart Toddler Classes



Suzanne Chen, teacher, and parents working in preschool.

Parent Smart teachers are trained in organizing and monitoring such engaging and productive environments and are also skilled in parenting techniques, research in child development and toddler behavior.

Parents attend one morning a week alongside their toddlers, aged 12 months to 3 years old. This one-on-one time is critical for busy families. Parents and toddlers work together in a variety of structured learning stations, indoor and outdoor physical exercise, and reading and learning activities. Lisa Marcinko, or Miss Lisa, organizes the classroom schedule to teach cognitive and social skills to the children and appropriate parenting strategies for the parents, providing a wealth of information.

Parents and grandparents enjoy rotating attendance in the preschool one morning a week alongside their children. Two- and three-day programs are offered for 3-year-olds and 4-5-year-olds are taught by Suzanne Chen, Cassi Perruccio and Cathy McLean, multiple-subject credentialed teachers and parent educators. In the classrooms, parents act as assistant teachers and practice the parenting skills that they are learning. Parents also gain "Smart" parenting skills by completing three distance-learning units each semester.

Preschool parents attend four evening seminars for parents each semester. They cover such topics as age-appropriate discipline, child health and safety, nutrition, brain development and kindergarten readiness. These seminars are open to the general public as well, for a \$10 fee.

New Location and Registration

Currently, these programs are offered in classrooms at Westmont School in the Ocean View School District. This summer, the Parent Smart Programs of HB Adult School are moving to the front of Marina High School into a new early learning center.

Many parents want their toddlers to experience activities that enhance early childhood learning. However, the amount of work a parent must accomplish in order to provide the rich and varied experience of a classroom can be overwhelming.

Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Janie Hoy
Principal

Bridges Makes Big Impact

By Jason Ross, Assistant Principal – Guidance

Many large, comprehensive high schools struggle to find ways to connect the dozens of clubs and equal-access groups on campus. Most work independently of one another on their own individual goals. However, one group at Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) is working to break the mold and bring the campus together.

The Bridges Club at HBHS works under the direction of the Orange County Human Relations Task Force and its dedicated teacher advisors, Mrs. McGlaughlin, Mr. Stickney, Ms. Jimenez and Mrs. Quidwai. The goal of Bridges is to create a safe, inclusive and equitable school climate. A second goal of Bridges is to connect the many student groups on campus who are working on similar issues to bring a greater awareness and energy to their campaigns. Recently, members of Bridges, along with members of Model United Nations, ASB, Amnesty International, National Honor Society and the Academy for the Performing Arts (APA), spent two days at Bear Paw, a cabin donated to Orange County Human Relations, getting to know each other and planning their spring activities.

When the trip began only a few students knew each other. The students were from various demographic, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds; however, through a series of team-building activities, the students quickly became friends. Nothing brings people together like a ropes course. Once the students became comfortable with each other, they dove right in to tackling issues on campus. In one workshop titled "The Power of Words," the students discussed ways to address derogatory and discriminatory words on campus.

On the last day, the group spent two hours planning three major events for the spring: International Week; Campus Pride Day; and Social Justice Week. It was amazing to see the students working together to better their school. Each student brought a unique and valuable perspective to the discussion.



International Week will be held April 12-15 and will bring cultural awareness and appreciation to HBHS. Students and staff will be able to experience food, song, dance and art from the cultures being celebrated each day. One student, a recent immigrant from Thailand, said her mother would donate food for Asian and Pacific Islander Day. An APA student dancer said she could line up the dancers for each day. Others said they would canvas local businesses for support. As an administrator who loves his school, I couldn't have been more proud of our students.

Next, the group moved on to planning Campus Pride Day, which will be held on April 9. Over the past three years, Campus Pride Day has evolved into an outstanding event. Over 200 students, parents and staff will come together to show their pride in HBHS by working to clean it up. In addition to helping clean up their school, students will attend a series of workshops led by students. The workshops will include presentations on human rights issues, diversity awareness, the power of words, and breaking down gender stereotypes.

Finally, students began planning Social Justice Week, a week of activities designed to bring awareness to social issues inside and outside of our community. The event culminates on Friday, when the students put on an art show, concert and poetry reading.

If you are interested in supporting International Week, Campus Pride Day, or Social Justice Week, please contact Jason Ross, Assistant Principal, at (714) 536-2514 ext. 4404.

Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

ePortfolios

The Marina High School World History Department is pioneering an electronic portfolio (ePortfolio) project for its sophomore students. Last spring two Marina teachers won an Orange County Department of Education technology grant to purchase 15 netbooks for implementation of the ePortfolio project. Starting in September, over 180 students began creating their own Web sites to showcase their collections of work, which include individual and group projects, for the school year. The ePortfolios integrate technology into the world history curriculum and enable students to learn and utilize technology skills that will build a foundation for future success in the digital age.

In October students created a digital poster detailing the causes, course, and consequences of the French Revolution. Students worked in collaborative groups to research Web site, text, and primary source materials to build a multimedia poster, or glog, that they presented to their peers. Glogs are online poster templates that allow creative integration of text, videos, and images for any subject. Students were introduced to this popular new platform in class and used the netbooks to create dynamic posters detailing major topics of the French Revolution. The easy-to-use glogs combined technology use with fun, student-centered learning.



The next project was an individual writing assignment covering World War I. Students created a fictional character living in Europe between 1914 and 1918. Using guided online research, they wrote three journal entries about their characters' experiences in a class forum posted on the teachers' class Web sites. Using online forums gave the teachers a large amount of flexibility with the project and made research more efficient, as students had access outside the classroom. Each "storyline" integrated another character from the class forum posts, requiring students to read their peers' entries and include details that were creatively intertwined with their own.

By the end of the first semester, students built an ePortfolio that included a home page, an about me page that described their interests outside of school and personal plans for the future, and pages for the French Revolution and World War One projects. In the second semester students will create a video newscast for World War Two and complete the school year with a current events project. The ePortfolio project will be complete in June, with four major projects showcased, as well as pages dedicated to global issues and student interests.

The future of ePortfolios at Marina High is bright; cross-curricular projects with English and other subjects are being planned for next year. Additional world history projects will be added for next year's sophomores. Student input will be used to improve the projects assigned and for ideas on how to make the entire process of building ePortfolios a fun, creative, and practical way to learn world history.

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

We're a Little Feisty—and That's a Good Thing!

Three years ago, the organization that accredits schools in California came to visit OV for a few days. The organization is called the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The team talked to teachers, staff, students, parents and community members about how OV was doing as a school. What they saw was a school on the move that needed to get better at a few things and continue to do the good stuff that was in place while celebrating the progress on the journey! We were fully accredited at the end of the visit, but they gave us some things to work on as a team. We embraced the chance to get better. Here's what's been happening:

We needed some way to really look as a team at student assessment data in quizzes, essays, tests and so on and have discussions about how that data should help us become better at teaching students. What did we do? We got a new system to capture and organize student assessment data and created focused time, aka Sacred Wednesdays, to look at that data and get better at teaching, because our teachers would have a chance to see what students weren't understanding.

We had to reestablish the Assessment Committee to address issues for all students who are not achieving, particularly English Learners. What did we do? We built up the Assessment Committee and Student Success Committee, which work very hard at studying those achievement issues, and have made some fantastic recommendations—think embedded tutorial here—to help students become successful.

We needed to develop common formative assessments to address state curriculum standards. What did we do? Our district worked very hard with all our departments to offer training on how to create valid formative assessments. We are in the first year of schoolwide use of formative assessments in the classroom. They give excellent snapshots as to where students are in their learning in each class. That data is discussed in Sacred Wednesday meetings and is used to change teaching to help students learn more.

Inclusion for Succeeding

We needed to enhance course offerings for English Learners. What did we do? We have been adding LEP classes that meet UC A-G requirements so that students in those classes will qualify for admission to university once graduated from OV. We will be adding more classes for English Learners next year as well.

We needed to increase identification and appropriate supports for at-risk students, including English Learners and Title I students. What did we do? Our teachers created new Math Intervention classes to help students who continually struggled in math before coming to OV, and we have hired a teacher on special assignment to meet with students who have low attendance rates and get them back in school.

We think about Ocean View as a place where we continue the pursuit of creating an excellent school. We are feisty about that idea and embrace being better than we were last year, last month—even yesterday. Tomorrow's coming, and we get another chance to shine!

**Be Sure to Enter Our
String
Instruments
Word Search Contest
page 18**

Valley Vista *High School*

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



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

We're Glad You're Here!

Spring cleaning at Valley Vista High School began last summer. After our recently completed campus renovation, a deep cleaning of every room in the school was urgently needed.

Our special-use facilities, such as the foods and art classrooms, and our on-site child care center (the NEST), all needed special attention. The interior walls, floors, ceilings, the exterior walls, and especially the landscaping, parking lots and grounds all needed a lot of remedial attention.

Two new school utility workers arrived in July and got right to work. Norm Dobrofsky, our full-time utility worker, and part-timer Carlos Ruiz, took on the challenge with a great “can do” attitude and a commitment to quality. These two men have positively influenced the culture of VVHS by the diligent and dedicated way in which they perform their jobs.

Research in the field of environmental psychology tells us that physical environment directly affects behavior. A clean, well-maintained school can indicate to the students that they are important and valued. A dirty, poorly maintained school can suggest the opposite.

Norm and Carlos work very hard to make sure that our facilities let the students know that, “we’re glad you’re here.” And all of our students have noticed and appreciated their efforts. The professional, dedicated, focused and productive way that they perform their jobs is a visible role model that encourages the other students to approach their own “job” of making academic progress in the same way.

Knowing that a trash-free central courtyard says that we care about our school, Norm has made sure that there are plenty of trash receptacles in easy reach during break and lunch periods. And it has worked. At first the students made fun of it, but then they used them. Now putting trash in its place is the norm rather than the exception. The students are even picking up each other’s trash!

The instructional and support staff also appreciate Norm and Carlos. Their day goes better and their jobs are made much easier when maintenance and repair requests are met with a “yes, of course” or a, “it’s already done.”

Our staff can count on the tasks being done well the first time. This directly results in better instructional delivery and the ability of our teachers to focus on teaching.

In addition to his other tasks, Norm sees his biggest challenge as being that of coordinating the major campus repair and maintenance tasks, and completing minor renovation projects. Carlos enjoys taking on special projects in addition to his regular assignments.

I am convinced that the cleanliness of our campus, and the helpful and friendly demeanor of the men who are its custodians (in the best sense of the word) has much to do with the more cooperative, positive and supportive social environment that we have seen on campus this year. I am sure that the breath of spring they brought with them last summer will last all year, and far into the future.



Carlos Ruiz and Norm Dobrofsky

Westminster *High School*

14325 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/893-1381 • www.whslions.com



Shirley Vaughn
Principal

Academic Decathlon Championship

The Westminster High School Academic Decathlon team once again showed their pride and determination by recapturing the first place Division 1 title in the 2010-11 Orange County Academic Decathlon competition. This is the fourth championship for Westminster High School over the past five years.

The Westminster High School team won sixty-seven meals which included the Super Quiz trophy and the First place Team trophy.

The team consists of the following decathletes: Kathy Le, Brandon Nguyen, My Vo-Luong, Johnny Tran, Michelle Nguyen, Ray Tan, Kent Nguyen, and Kimberly Phan.

The team is coached by Carol Sebastian (Head Coach), Eric Brothwell, Daina Anderson, Pat Angus, Sue Harmon, Elaine Lanz, and Vickie Adams.

The Westminster High School team received a \$2,000 check to assist with the traveling expense while they represent Orange County at the State Academic Decathlon Competition held in Sacramento, California on March 11-14. The theme for competition this year is The Great Depression, and the students are required to compete in 10 academic fields related to the era.

Following are few of the endearing statements made by the team members:

Seven coaches, 8 members, 10 subjects, one family. —My Vo

Twenty-five years from now, this team will still be my family. —Kimberly Phan

I’m so proud of our team. In these past eight months we’ve grown so much and come so far, but we still have a long way to go. This is what Academic Decathlon is about. —Johnny Tran

The last three seconds before they announced the 1st division winner was the most intense moment of the night. We held hands, closed our eyes, and every emotion ran through our minds. When they announced Westminster, the screams were so loud I had to cover my ears. —Kent Nguyen



Westminster High School Academic Decathlon team



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Implementing Quality Preschool Education



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

If we could do one thing to improve education for all children, it would be to implement a high-quality preschool program for all four-year-old children. Research tells us that such programs provide children with the foundation they need to enter kindergarten prepared to learn and to succeed. Yet we invest very little, from an educational standpoint, in early childhood programs.

Kindergarten is not what it used to be. We have far higher expectations for five-year-olds who enter the school system today. Kindergarten teachers are often faced with the challenges of meeting the varying needs of students who are delayed in the areas of language development and school readiness skills. Quality preschool programs allow children to receive an advantage in both of these areas.

Children who start kindergarten after having high-quality preschool experiences are much further ahead academically and socially than children who have not, and they have a greater chance of success. The Chicago Longitudinal Study examined the long-term benefits of high-quality preschool programs and found that such early interventions improved students' later

performance on standardized tests in reading and math, decreased the likelihood of special education placement, and minimized the risk of repeating a grade.

In addition to providing benefits in the area of academic achievement, high-quality preschool yields returns to our economic and community well-being. Every dollar invested in early childhood education produces significant benefits to society, including a lower dropout rate, a higher graduation rate, a more highly skilled workforce, and reduced crime rates. In looking at the data from the Chicago study and other longitudinal research, we see that for every dollar spent on high-quality preschool, there is a return on investment of \$7– \$16 from increases to tax revenue and reductions in government spending on education, the criminal justice system, and public assistance.

With all of the talk about education reform, now is an opportune time to think creatively and stretch the conventional thinking of educators, board members, and community leaders to find new and different ways of making our existing dollars work better for us.

It is time to think differently about getting children a quality preschool experience and finding an affordable way to do it. By involving educators, families, and community members in exploring this concept, a workable solution could be developed. Let's start the dialogue on how we can invest in high quality preschool now so we can begin to experience the benefits sooner than later.

Let's start the dialogue
on how we can invest
in high quality preschool
now so we can begin
to experience the benefits
sooner than later.

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Food & Nutrition Services

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Rethink Your Drink

By Tracey Sacapano, Nutrition Specialist

HBUHSD Food and Nutrition Services

Administrator FNS, Lauren Teng

March is National Nutrition Month and our Food and Nutrition Services along with the Network for a Healthy California is encouraging you to Rethink Your Drink! Think about it! How many calories are added to your daily intake through added sugar in drinks? Often people choose to drink fruit drinks, energy drinks, and soda which all provide more sugar than needed. A 20-ounce soda has about 17 teaspoons of sugar. A person who drinks one 20-ounce soda each day for a year consumes almost 54 pounds of sugar. This can lead to gaining almost 27 pounds a year! Weight gain raises the risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers. In order to maintain a healthy weight, we need to burn the calories we take in. For instance, if an average teen boy wanted to burn the 240 calories from a 20-ounce soda, he would need to jog for thirty minutes or walk for more than an hour.

We encourage you to STOP and Rethink Your Drink!

Here are tips to make smart drink choices:

- Read the Nutrition Facts Label
- Choose water, diet, or low-calorie drinks instead of drinks with added sugar
- Carry a water bottle and refill it during the day
- Serve water with meals
- Make water exciting by adding slices of lemon, lime, cucumber, or watermelon
- Choose low fat or fat free milk to get less calories and good nutrition
- Be a role model for your friends and family

IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Getting the adolescent whooping cough shot now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of whooping cough but will also meet the new school requirement.



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California. Many students have had to miss school because they were sick.



To help protect your children and others from whooping cough, a new California law now requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough.

- **For the 2011 – 12 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.
- **Thereafter, in future school years, only students entering 7th grade** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.

By law, students who do not have proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school. (The tetanus-diphtheria booster shot, Td, will not meet the requirement.)

We want to make sure your child starts school on time. Parents are urged to:

- **Get your child's Tdap shot now**

A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your child's doctor or clinic for your child to get a Tdap booster shot now. Avoid the back-to-school rush.



- **Save your proof of immunization**

Be sure to keep the written proof of your child's Tdap booster shot in a safe place. Your child will need to provide proof of immunization in order to start school.



- **Submit your proof of immunization**

Be sure to give a copy of your Tdap booster shot to the school health office before the last day of school.

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are the important principles for keeping waste out of the landfill! Another way to help reduce waste is to COMPOST our food scraps. Composting can be a fun, educational way to learn how our food scraps along with garden clippings can become rich organic mulch for our flowerbeds and gardens.



To learn how to reduce waste by Composting and Vermicomposting (using worms) you might want to attend a seminar at

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www.shipleynature.org
Seminars are limited to the first 50 registered.

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-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &
Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)



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