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# School News



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**Covering the following school districts:**

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

**VOLUME 8, ISSUE 47**

**www.schoolnewsrollcall.com**

**MARCH / APRIL 2012**

## OVSD Charts Course for the 21st Century



**Marine View Dance Team**



**OVSD SteAm Leadership Team**

*By Tracy Pellman, President  
Ocean View School District Board of Trustees*

Despite the impact of state budget cuts, Ocean View School District (OVSD) maintains its strong commitment to student achievement and the belief that each school should be equipped with the necessary tools to help students succeed and maximize their potential.

School districts throughout the state of California continue to feel the impact of millions of dollars in funding cuts over the past five years. However deep the cuts may be to school districts, together we continue to move forward in our goal to provide students with the best opportunities for successful education. The Ocean View School District has much to celebrate, and we are very proud of the many successes at each of our schools.

The Marine View Middle School Music Department was recently honored by the National Association

for Music Education and two of our schools, Golden View and Star View Elementary Schools, have each received California Distinguished School nominations. With changing times and the speed at which technology is evolving, OVSD is now preparing students for the future by moving forward in the development of a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics (STEAM) for the 2013–2014 school year.

OVSD values and seeks the input of its community members in establishing its goals and objectives. By working with parents, teachers, principals and community members, our goal this past year was to develop a fiscally responsible School Improvement and Funding Plan to present to the community. In March 2011, the district asked for input from the community by placing applications at the school sites and in the newspaper to establish a Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC). Members were appointed by the Board of Trustees, and their role was to look at all district facilities, attendance areas, enrollment patterns, maintenance and improvement of existing open and closed school

*SEE OVSD CHARTS COURSE • PAGE 10*



**Giana Gonzalez from Circle View Elementary in Ocean View School District always finds time to visit Page at School News.**

**Inside:** Mayors of Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach & Westminster *page 4* • Food & Nutrition Services *page 5*  
Fountain Valley School District *pages 6–9* • Ocean View School District *pages 10–15* • OC Dept. of Ed. *page 19*  
Westminster School District *pages 20–25* • Huntington Beach Union High School District *pages 26–33*

**KAMPS/ACTIVITIES  
FOR KIDZ** **Pages  
16–19**



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



Time certainly goes by quickly. This is our 8th year publishing *School News* for these fine districts and the good news never ends. While the districts struggle with the budget constraints, the excellence in the classrooms continues to pick up momentum.

We have moved into the Social Media with Facebook and Twitter and appreciate you following us. We have a web APP you can launch from our web site so you are only a click away from *School News*.

Our next issue is May 2nd. Have a wonderful Spring Break and don't forget to enter our contest on page 19.

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**HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL**  
**OCEAN VIEW**  
**WESTMINSTER**



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## Out of the "Cube" Thinking for 5th Grade Students

During the 2010/2011 school year, Discovery Science Center, in partnership with Rainbow Environmental Services, the Cities of Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley, and Westminster, and Midway City Sanitary District, taught almost 4000 fifth graders key concepts associated with Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling. For example, did you know:

- Most individuals throw away about 5 pounds of trash daily!
- Musical greeting cards are hazardous waste!
- Convenience shopping costs you and the environment more, due to extra packaging.
- "Zero-waste" lunches are smart and economical!

Students learned this information and more during these **FREE** 45-minute, educational, assembly-style programs delivered in their classrooms by Discovery Science Center's highly trained instructors. Discovery Science Center is the premiere informal science resource for all of Southern California, teaching over 290,000 students annually both at the Center and in the surrounding schools.

The participating students used high-tech, individual-response key pads (resembling TV remote controls) that enabled them to key-in their answers to questions asked during an educational game show-style presentation. In addition, other teaching props were used to augment the interactive assembly program. For example, students were asked to classify different types of trash and to assess what items comprise a "zero-waste" lunch. A zero-waste lunch is easy to understand; everything is either washed and reused, such as plastic containers, a thermos and silverware, or eaten. Students were also encouraged to share this information with their friends and families.

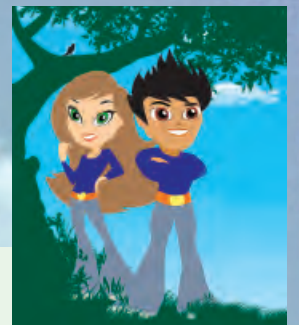


Following the program, each student was given a reusable backpack made from recycled water bottles and a grade-specific, educational "Rick and Rachel" booklet, highlighting the program content and supplying the students with tips and activities. (We hope that all of you with participating students enjoyed the booklet as well.)

The booklet contains a coupon that can be redeemed for a special item at the Household Hazardous Waste Center (HHWC) at Rainbow (17121 Nichols Lane in Huntington Beach, enter gate 6), so if your child participated in the program, don't wait to redeem your coupon. All you need to do is deliver your used batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs, or other household hazardous waste to Rainbow's HHWC facility in Huntington Beach. If your child has not been in the program, have your child's teacher contact

Discovery Science Center at 714-913-5030 to reserve a Rainbow program for their class.

Don't wait too long; the program is filling up fast!



This new program is proving to be a shining success. In the words of Baysia, a student at Eastwood Elementary School, "Thank you for showing us your presentation. I really loved it. It helps me learn more things about recycling. I'll remember the words, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle."



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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

# Green Strategies = Smoother Travels



**John J. Collins**  
Mayor

Fountain Valley has always been a leader in Orange County for the maintenance of its streets and traffic signal network. Grant funding has provided over \$75 million for the city's traffic management system and street rehabilitation program.

With a state-of-the-art centralized Traffic Management Center, the daily traffic flow of 300,000 vehicles through Fountain Valley is effectively managed. Each intersection is synchronized to the next, so they operate in harmony. The result is motorists enjoy fewer stops, less congestion, and improved fuel consumption. More efficient signal timing also creates a reduction in pollution.

Another key element to the city's transportation network is its street system management. The aging residential street network is getting a facelift. Instead of the traditional thin slurry coat application, residential streets are receiving a new one-and-one-half-inch asphalt cap. This makes the streets look new again, while adding much needed strength.

Main streets are prioritized based upon pavement condition. Though there are temporary inconveniences during construction, the final outcome is a new, smooth, safe street surface. The smooth surface, as well reduced road noise, is achieved using an asphalt mix which contains recycled tires. In every half-mile section that is repaved, 8,000 tires are diverted from landfills and recycled as part of the asphalt mix.

Environmentally conscious pavements and signal timing provide more "greens" than "reds." One can see how Fountain Valley is truly providing smoother travels using green strategies.

## The City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

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

# A Very Special Game



**Margie Rice**  
Mayor

One of the joys of spring for me is the return of youth baseball to our local parks. Many children's first introduction to organized sports is through their participation in city recreation or little league teams. Young people are able to learn teamwork and good sportsmanship while enjoying outdoor exercise. Unfortunately some children have not been able to share this experience.

Recently, the Kiwanis Club of Greater Westminster has elected to support the Little League Challenger Division. This division was established in 1989 to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages four through 18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy the game of baseball. With special equipment and a buddy system, these children can safely enjoy a fun activity. Today, more than 30,000 children participate in more than 900 Challenger Divisions worldwide.

Challenger Division teams play at Buckingham Park in Westminster. As president of Kiwanis, I'm proud that we are focusing our fund-raising efforts on providing equipment and adapting a park, which has not yet been selected, to give these children an opportunity to participate in America's favorite pastime. More information on the Little League Challenger Division is available online or by contacting [challenger@LittleLeague.org](mailto:challenger@LittleLeague.org).

You can help these children, enjoy a great event, and support the Kiwanis fund-raising efforts by attending the Third Annual Taste of Westminster at the Westminster Civic Center on Saturday, August 25.

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## The City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

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

# Surf City Warms Up



**Don Hansen**  
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 of Bolsa Chica, restoration days are held every first Sunday of the month.

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 10 and 11 will be the annual Kite Party. Come down to the pier and watch the talented kite flyers show off their stunts and tricks. April 7 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. Join in the fun for the games, music, food and the traditional Easter Hunt. Then don't forget the Taste of Huntington Beach on April 29. 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](http://www.surfcityusa.com).

Have a great and energetic spring!

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## Food & Nutrition Services

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

# March Into Good Nutrition

By Amanda Haney, CSULB Dietetic Intern

Put on your marching shoes and spread the news: March 2012 is National Nutrition Month! The theme for this year's message, "Get Your Plate in Shape," is based on the MyPlate program, with advice that makes a big difference in how your child performs at school. Before you eat, think about these tips to help your family stay healthy.

Make half your plate fruits and vegetables.

Try new produce, and decorate your plate with color. Each color offers different vitamins and minerals!

Eat more whole grains. Whole grains provide fiber and help lower cholesterol. Look for breads, cereals and pasta that are 100 percent whole grain. Try to make half your grains whole!

Try low-fat or fat-free dairy products to reduce your intake of calories and fat. They have the same amount of calcium and vitamin D, so you will still receive all the great health benefits dairy provides!

Include a variety of protein foods. Remember, turkey, beans and eggs are great protein foods. Nuts are also tasty snacks that pack a powerful protein punch!

In addition to nutrition, you need to get moving. Students should get 60 minutes and adults 30 minutes of physical activity each day. Try activities such as dancing or bicycling with family or friends to make physical activity fun!

This spring, get moving and "Get Your Plate in Shape!" For more information, visit [www.chooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.chooseMyPlate.gov). If you want to learn more about nutrition activities, contact Huntington Beach Union High School District Food and Nutrition Services Department at (714) 894-1698.

March 2012 is

National Nutrition Month!...

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[www.chooseMyPlate.gov](http://www.chooseMyPlate.gov).



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# Fountain Valley School District

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## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Marc Ecker**

### A Difficult Decision for the Long-Term Good

As the community knows, the Fountain Valley School District has been engaged in one of the most difficult tasks to be completed by a Board of Trustees. One year ago, the district began a process to study and implement a plan to reduce its operating sites and restructure its existing school attendance boundaries. On December 12, 2011, the Board acted to close Moiola Elementary School, and at a January 31, 2012 special meeting, it voted to adopt new boundaries, both effective July 1, 2012.

Although losing one of our active school sites is certainly painful, especially for the students, families and staff of that particular school, the actions taken by the Board were fiscally prudent, necessary, and quite courageous. It was an act that traded short-term pain for long-term gains. It was a move for the future, and it serves to balance our enrollment while positioning the district to better serve each of its 6,300 students.

This spring all of our schools will be conducting open houses and school tours during the day and evening. Each of our principals and their staffs will welcome the community from within and outside of our school district to visit and consider one of these exemplary schools for their children. Fountain Valley has a record of outstanding academic performance, placing our district at or near the top of the county each year. We hope to show off our California Distinguished and Gold Medal schools and encourage the community at large to meet the staff of professionals who make this happen.

We know that a school closure and new boundaries mean changes for many students and their families. We will be implementing a transition plan, with the intent to mitigate the negative impacts to the degree possible for all those affected by these changes. We additionally seek to create the opportunity for our constituents to safely move outside a known comfort zone and to offer to those who might not yet have come to experience the exceptional nature of our schools a chance to visit and enroll their children for the 2012–2013 school year. Change is indeed difficult, but we are confident that this change will prove beyond a doubt a good one for our future and for the general welfare of our entire school district.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Sandra Crandall**  
*Clerk*

### A Right Versus Right Dilemma

In the Fountain Valley School District, there has been a significant decline in student population, resulting in underutilized school sites and a challenge with school funding. These circumstances were the impetus to undertake a year-long process to evaluate the wisdom of closing a school and redrawing attendance boundaries.

The process began in February, 2011, when a school closure committee was formed. A 20-member committee, comprised of representatives from each school site, administration, bargaining units, and the community at-large, regularly met. The recommendation of the majority, brought to the Board, was to close Moiola School. Moiola is configured as a K–8.

Easy decisions are made when the alternatives represent a right premise versus a wrong premise. The reason this decision was challenging was because it posed a moral dilemma. This was a right versus right dilemma.

It is right for each of our school communities to expect the effective delivery of instruction provided by nurturing, caring professionals in a safe and welcoming environment. Those who had given us their input, via e-mail, telephone calls, or in person, found those characteristics at Moiola School.

It is also right for our school communities and community at-large to expect efficient operations of schools and for Board members to consider all the facts and be good stewards of revenues.

The Board unanimously voted to close Moiola School, effective June 30, 2011. Four options to redraw the boundaries were then presented, and an option was chosen.

A thoughtful and thoroughly crafted transition plan to shepherd the students, parents, teachers and staff to their newly assigned schools is now in place and being implemented.

As we came to a final decision, it was with a conscious sense of vision for our district, knowing that right versus right is at the heart of the toughest decisions.

## Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

## Mr. Fountain Valley Contest!



**Nicola Weiss**  
*President*

On May 18 on what is sure to be a memorable night, the Fountain Valley Community Foundation and the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation will join together in hosting the first Mr. Fountain Valley Contest. All Contestants are representing local nonprofit organizations in the irreverent “pageant,” and 100 percent of the proceeds will go toward their causes.

The event will feature David Truong, Marc Ecker, Dave Osborn, Tim Davis and Pat Tucker competing in Formal Wear, Talent and—you guessed it—Swimwear. Tickets will be sold for \$30 as the event nears and will include a buffet dinner. A silent auction will be held during the cocktail reception, and special guests are planned as well.

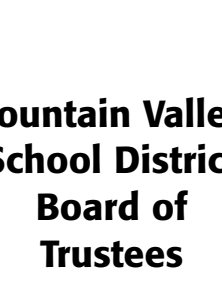
The Educational Foundation is proud to announce that Fountain Valley’s superintendent, Dr. Ecker, will be competing on our behalf. This event is created to excite the many who are not as often involved with local schools, and it should make for an entertaining evening for all. If you are interested in purchasing some \$1 votes, would like to buy your event tickets or want further information, please visit our website. This is one evening you do not want to miss. It is sure to be the talk of the town and the topic at your water coolers!



**Ian Collins**  
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**Sandra Crandall**  
*Clerk*



**Christine Allcorn**  
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**Judy Edwards**  
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*Member*



# Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Chris Christensen**  
Principal

## Chinese School Visits Courreges

On Friday, February 3, 2012, 29 students (5th/6thgrade) and 5 teachers from Tsinghua University Primary School, China visited Courreges School for a special full day visit. They began their day performing for our school during two morning assemblies. The performances ranged from bamboo flute and ancient Chinese instruments, to cultural art demonstrations and dancing. Following the assemblies, the students visited the 4th/5thgrade classrooms to see what it was like to attend an American school. Tsinghua also enjoyed a typical American lunch along with the Courreges students. Finally, the groups concluded their day by each visiting two K-3 classrooms for a couple of brief activities with the lower primary students. Thank you Tsinghua University Primary School for visiting Courreges Elementary!



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

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



**Jennifer Perkins**  
Principal



**Paul Andre White**  
Assistant Principal

## Fulton Basketball

The annual district basketball tournament took place on Wednesday, January 25 at Masuda Middle School. We are so proud of our girls and boys teams. They both took first place at the tournament!

The boys team included Justin Bebout, Danny Cassaro, Anthony Dang, Brian Hoang, Nathan Hong, Calvin Le, Michael Lightbody, Neil McHenry, Christopher Meyer, Preston Nguyen, Richard Nguyen, John Oliver, Hayden Silva, Sean Strom, Michael Thomas and Viet Vu. Their coaches were Miss Gaebel and Mr. Edmunds.

The girls team included Marci Bott, Adrienne Dang, Morgan Felix, Samantha Gray, Aimee Kim, Anna Krause, Katherine McCutcheon, Danielle Naughton, Hope Nguyen, Ruth Nguyen, Courtney Suruki, Reanne Wang, Lauren Wong, Karen Winthrop, Anderson Zumbo and helper Sam Kemper. The girls team was coached by Mr. Rybacki.



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

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



**Patrick Ham**  
Principal

## Multicultural Celebration and Fashion Show

In February, Cox Elementary hosted its annual cultural celebration week to acknowledge and celebrate our students' ethnic diversity. Our students have the great privilege of attending Cox with its rich diversity and cultures. Cox School serves a varied student population, with approximately half the students from ethnic-minority groups.

During the cultural celebration week, students made crafts and played games from Cox's two largest minority groups, Mexican and Vietnamese. The culminating activity was the annual multicultural

fashion show. For this 20-plus year tradition, more than 90 students modeled traditional clothing from more than 15 countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iceland, India, Jordan, Korea, Laos and the Philippines. At the conclusion of the week, the Ane Thanh Lion Dance team performed a traditional lion dance in celebration of the lunar New Year.

Cox is proud to celebrate our ethnic diversity as our students enter into their more global future.



**Ane Thanh Lion Dancers perform for the students at Cox during Multi-Cultural week.**

# Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Joyce Buehler**  
Principal

## The Gator Way

"The Gator Way: Make Good Decisions, Show Respect and Solve Problems!" This is the second year that Gisler Elementary School has participated in the schoolwide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. This grant is part of an evidence-based practice for building a positive social culture that will promote both social and academic success for our students and staff.

The PBIS program has helped our staff to develop and implement positive behavior reinforcements for appropriate student behavior at our school. For example, every Friday morning, our entire school comes together for our Gator Gathering where we draw names of students who have followed the "Gator Way" during the week to reward and recognize.

Please reinforce the Gator Way with your Gisler child by using the same language as our teachers: "Make Good Decisions, Show Respect and Solve Problems."



# 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



**Heather Harrison**  
Assistant Principal

## Just Getting Started

This month, Masuda Middle School is proud to spotlight one of our wonderful clubs.

Masuda's Helping Hands Club is a charitable club that helps people who are less fortunate than others. This year they are collecting aluminum pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House charities. They also held a schoolwide canned food drive in December for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County.

For the soldiers, the Helping Hands Club recently sent out little bits of comfort to help aid in our servicemen and womens' stressful lives. They made holiday cards to show them that, as a school, we truly appreciate all that they do for us as a country.

To share love with the senior citizens in our community, the Helping Hands Club also recently made Valentine's Day cards. Their next effort will be a fund-raiser for the Leukemia Society. The entire school will be asked to donate money from March 5-23, with the Helping Hands Club coordinating the efforts. In return, the homeroom that collects the most money will get a complimentary pasta lunch from the Olive Garden.

When asked about all that the Helping Hands Club of Masuda does to help our community, they reply: "To be honest, we're just getting started!"

# 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

## Budding Scientists

Newland Elementary School's fifth-grade classes have once again been busy at sea, thanks to a grant offered by Ocean Institute's Watershed Education Program. Students explored the science of our own Huntington Beach watershed.

There were three field trips for the complete program. Students first traveled to Dana Point for an ocean cruise on the R/V Sea Explorer in order to test water and sand. Students were instructed on water and soil testing techniques so they would be able to test the watershed in our area. They were taught the scientific method, and they used this knowledge for their own watershed and a second field trip. First, they came up with a testable question, and then created a hypothesis about the question. Next they tested their hypothesis, recorded their findings and data, and analyzed their findings to see if their hypothesis was correct. On the third and final field trip, each class presented their data in a PowerPoint presentation at the Ocean Institute, discussing whether their hypothesis about their watershed was correct at the Kids' Conference on Watersheds.

This is hands-on science at its best!



# 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

## Helping Out

This year Moiola has been fortunate to start a Spotlight Intervention Program. Two of our outstanding teachers, Rose Kunze and Andrea Story, both teach physical education lessons to different grade levels three days a week. This allows our classroom teachers to work with small groups of students in reading and math interventions.

In addition to nine grade levels of P.E., Ms. Kunze and Ms. Story also teach reading and English/language arts interventions with groups of sixth- to eighth-grade students. They are extremely organized, and plan outstanding lessons on sports and skills for the benefit of all our students. They have truly become a part of the Moiola Family!



**Moiola spotlight teachers**  
Kelly Donnelly, Rose Kunze, and Andrea Story

Just recently, Ms. Story accepted a teaching position in South Korea, and we will surely miss her. We wish her the best of luck. For the remainder of the school year Kelly Donnelly will be joining our Spotlight team. Thanks for all of the outstanding work, ladies!

# Isojiro Oka

*Elementary (K-5)*  
9800 Yorktown Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4260 • www.fvdsd.k12.ca.us/oka/oka.html



**Erik Miller**  
Principal

## Famous Visitors

During the month of January, Oka Elementary School's fourth- and fifth-grade students were visited by a number of important individuals.

Walk Through California gave each fourth-grader student the opportunity to become an expert in a particular area of significance in our state. For some it was a landform or a time period of growth, while for others it was a person of note, such as Governor Jerry Brown. Walk Through the American Revolution allowed Oka fifth-graders to "meet" American heroes, including Paul Revere and Benjamin Franklin. In addition, students, parents, and guests had the opportunity to learn about how the impact of customs and tariffs enacted by the British

Parliament affected American colonists during the 1700s.

Both of these interactive programs brought history to life, as many students were dressed in costume, spoke publicly for an audience, and acted out their areas of expertise. Oka is fortunate to have such a generous and supportive PTO, which helped fund these learning opportunities.



**A few of our 5th graders getting prepared for their Walk through American Revolution roles.**



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

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



**Julie Ballesteros**  
*Principal*

## Fifth-Grade Students Making a Difference

Plavan's fifth-grade class had the opportunity to participate in the Ocean Institute's Watershed Education Program. This year, more than 2,000 Southern California children learned about the challenges of urban-runoff pollution by attending this program.

The learning continued as the children returned to their classrooms, where they planned and implemented their own local watershed research projects. Our fifth-grade students chose to research bottled water versus tap water and the environmental impact. After analyzing their collected data, they prepared presentations and delivered their findings at the annual Kids' Conferences on Watersheds, held at the Ocean Institute.

Our fifth-graders were outstanding presenters. Each student had a speaking part that followed his or her very thorough PowerPoint presentation. They shared their scientific processes and overall conclusions. Our students concluded that there was no difference between Fountain Valley bottled water and tap water! They encouraged others to drink tap water and save our environment by using fewer plastic bottles.

Our fifth-grade students are inspired to share their knowledge with the Plavan Students and wish to continue their work to help our environment. We are very proud of their hard work and look forward to learning from them.

# Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Jay Adams**  
*Principal*

## Future Stars

During the month of January, Tamura School recognized some of our outstanding students: Tamura's Top Tigers for the 2011-2012 school year. At the School Board meeting on January 12, we held a celebration to honor these fabulous students for their accomplishments and their exceptional contributions to our school. We are proud to applaud: Riley Pace, kindergarten; Anabel Irwin, first grade; Emma Chavez, second grade; Ryan Rodriguez, third grade; Julie Cavanaugh, fourth grade; and Haley Wittick, fifth grade.

The entire school staff, especially the students' teachers, Mrs. Monsoor, Ms. Sutton, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Dao, Mrs. Peat, and Mr. Sakelios, are extremely proud of the students' accomplishments and are incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work with such stellar students.

Also honored were two outstanding parent volunteers, Christie Araiza and Christy Bell. These PTO members have spent years going above and beyond for the students and faculty of Tamura. There aren't enough thanks in the world to show our appreciation to these two moms and the rest of our phenomenal PTO.



**Tamura's Future Stars!**

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

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



**Cara Robinson**  
*Principal*



**Jennifer Kadjasz**  
*Assistant Principal*

## A Worldwide Reach

Have you ever wondered what life is like in the Arctic? If so, then go have a chat with Mr. John Wood, because he can fill you in on some of the details!

Mr. Wood is a science teacher who affects our students' lives while on campus, as well as thousands of miles away. Mr. Wood was involved with the National Science Foundation for many years conducting experiments and doing research.

This makes him one of the top-notch teachers that we have here at Talbert Middle School.

Even though he has found his calling in influencing the lives of our students, he is still yearning for more adventure. And so he has found a way to do both. Polar TREC is a program that enables Mr. Wood to travel to places like Antarctica, where he was in 2007 living on an active volcano. He also went to the Arctic in 2010, and he will be returning there this April to conduct a study that concerns the effects of warming and drying on the tundra's carbon balance.

Now while Mr. Wood is away, he can still connect with his students through the Polar TREC Web site. That's because he uploads photographs, journal logs and even poses questions to them that they can actually answer back!

This means Mr. Wood is able to hit the ecology standards of the state curriculum without even being in the same room, and not even in the same state. So if you would like to follow Mr. Wood and his journey into the Arctic, just log onto the Web site [www.polar trec.com](http://www.polar trec.com). Good luck, and safe travels!

**School News**  
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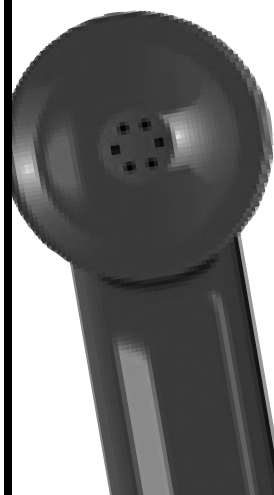
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# Ocean View School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Building SteAm

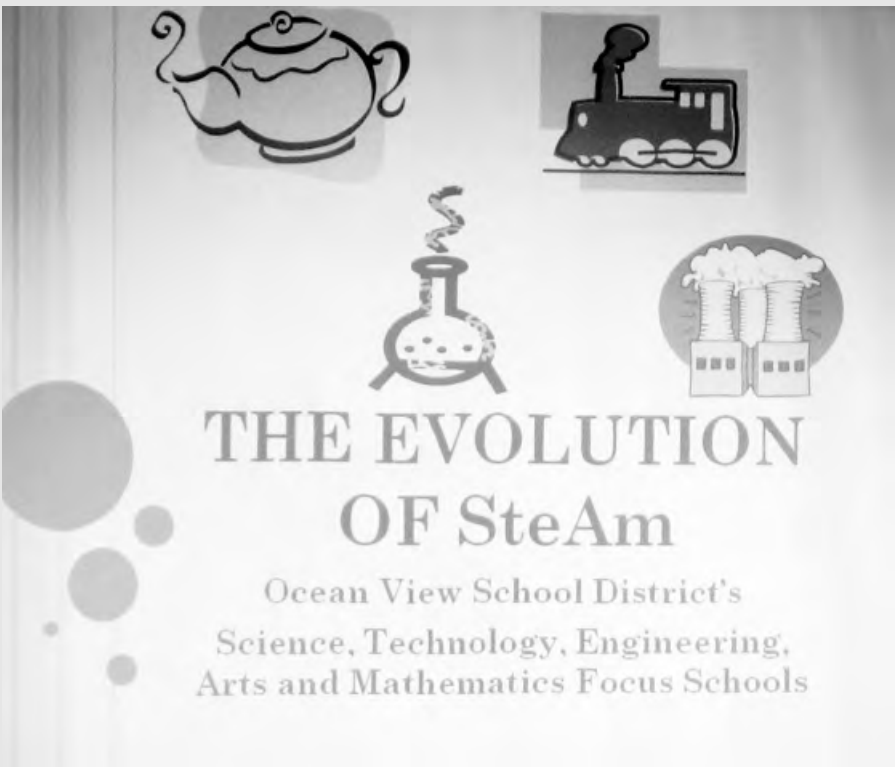
Greetings to all! It is with great pleasure that I share with you a vision and a dream I have for Ocean View. Last summer, I presented to the Board the vision of developing an educational and cultural climate in Ocean View which fosters imagination, innovation, and creativity as hallmarks of a 21st-century skills that our students of today will need as adults of tomorrow.

We are acutely attuned to the work of: Daniel Pink, author of *A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future*; Tony Wagner, author of *The Global Achievement Gap*; and Sir Ken Robinson, author of *Out of Our Minds: Learning to be Creative*.

Our Leadership Team has focused on these concepts through a study of Sir Ken Robinson's book. The themes and concepts of imagination, innovation, and creativity are discussed monthly at our team meetings, as we begin to build our educational program and culture to embody these attributes.

We believe a primary vehicle to obtain this vision and provide the students with this kind of an educational program is through a SteAm curriculum. SteAm is an acronym representing the curricular areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. While this concept is still in its infancy and is in the conceptual phases, we continue to work diligently to ensure its fruition.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is based on skills generally using the left half of the brain and is logic-driven. We believe that integration of the arts into this type of curriculum, SteAm, which uses the right side of the brain to an even greater degree, fosters additional creativity, which is essential to innovation and will prepare our students for what their future holds.



### The Evolution of SteAm

President Clinton's former Secretary of Education, Richard Riley, summed up the need for innovation to drive our future when he predicted, "The jobs in the greatest demand in the future don't yet exist and will require workers to use technologies that have not yet been invented to solve problems that we don't yet even know are problems."

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 14

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Tracy Pellman**  
President

### OVSD CHARTS COURSE • FROM PAGE 1

sites, field usage, and the best uses for closed school sites. The FPAC was able to provide a community viewpoint to the Board of Trustees, which included both short- and long-term goals for all schools in Ocean View.

Over a period of seven months, the FPAC had 15 meetings and two town hall meetings, completed extensive school site reviews, and professionally conducted a community survey of local residents. The community survey indicated strong support and interest in our schools, including strong support for the establishment of a neighborhood school with a curriculum focused on science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics.

In November 2011, the committee brought a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to consider placing a bond measure on the November 2012 ballot. There is \$22.2 million in state funding available to access if OVSD can provide the \$14.8 in matching funds. The passage of a local Proposition 39 General Obligation Bond Measure will enable OVSD to provide the necessary matching funds to access the state funding, thus paying for many of the basic repairs and improvements needed for schools, including health and safety upgrades. Additionally, this bond will fund upgrades to school science labs, computer labs, and basic technology to provide our students with the education that prepares them for high school and college.

At the December 6, 2011 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the FPAC's recommendation to place a measure on the November 2012 ballot. The Proposition 39 General Obligation Bond will require strong fiscal accountability requirements. All funds remain local, just to benefit our Ocean View schools and students. Funds cannot be taken away by the state, nor can they be used to fund salaries or pensions.

While several priorities have been identified, our school community, along with teachers and staff members, is in the best position to inform the district about individual classroom and school needs. In the coming weeks and months, we will work to refine a plan that can best serve the educational and teaching needs of our students, teachers, and staff. We will work diligently to create a plan which reflects all input, to ensure that every school receives its fair share of funding should a bond be adopted. No other segment of state spending has been cut as deeply as public education. Although charting a course for our students in this fiscal environment is a challenge, the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees remains steadfast in its commitment to strive for excellence in providing a quality education for our students.



**Tracy Pellman**  
President



**Debbie Cotton**  
Clerk



**John Briscoe**  
Member



**John Ortiz**  
Member



**Norm Westwell**  
Member

### Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



# Circle View *Elementary*

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



**Karen Sanders**  
Principal

## Korean Visitors

Circle View was recently visited by a group of elementary and middle school students from South Korea.

The leader of the group, Jae Hyun Cho, was a former student at Circle View! Along with learning English, he wanted his students to be able to experience various aspects of American life, including home, school activities, food and people.

The day consisted of such activities as taking our Korean friends on a tour of the school, watching lessons in the classrooms, visiting music and physical education classes, and having lunch with the student council members.

After lunch we were treated to a PowerPoint presentation by the Korean students in which we learned about their transportation, food and military. We even learned some Korean words!

Our friends gave us an insight into what it is like to go to school in another country. We learned that many of these students have school until 10 o'clock at night! We had a great time sharing in each other's cultures, and making some new friends.



# Golden View *Elementary*

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



**Elaine Burney**  
Principal

## Fitness is Golden!

The fourth- and fifth-grade students at Golden View worked hard this month to help raise money for the American Heart Association during their annual Jump Rope for Heart event. This year the students raised \$1,142.15!

Mrs. Neuberts's fourth-grade class and Mrs. Salcido's fifth-graders won a class set of jump ropes for having had the most students participating. We would like to extend a special "thank you" to Lucas Pantel from Mrs. Neubert's class for having raised \$125. This made him the top earner at Golden View! Thanks also goes to physical education teachers April Henderson, Darcy Richardson and Jill Betance for making this event so successful.

Thanks also to parent volunteer Patty Nagatoshi for organizing our after-school Kids on the Run program (KROC). Each week the students log their completed miles before they participate in the OC Marathon event in May, during which they run the final 1.2 mile distance. The students focus on drills, relays, races and endurance runs. Hopefully they will discover their own inner strength, motivation, and (ultimately) a passion for fitness.

A big thanks also goes to our amazing PTO for another spectacular Jog-A-Thon event. The students had a great time jogging laps to help raise money for the school. The parents enjoyed cheering, marking laps and then cooling their students down at the water stations. We appreciate everyone's time and support!

# College View *Elementary*

6582 Lennox Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3505 • www.ovsd.org



**Kathy Smith**  
Principal

## A For the Arts

Five of our talented teachers are participating in a music professional development program through the Orange County Department of Education. Kindergarten teacher Ms. Davis, first-grade teacher Mrs. Armijo, second-grade teacher Ms. Schleich, third-grade teacher Mrs. Munoz, and fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Richards are learning to infuse the music standards and curriculum into the instructional day. Our College View School staff is learning how music can enhance other curricular areas and, in turn, improve student achievement.

It's not just music that is beautifying our campus this year. College View parent Mr. De Jesus has graciously donated his time to enhance the appearance of our school. Mr. De Jesus' murals are depicted throughout the campus, and he is pictured in front of the wildcat he recently painted in the main office of our school. On behalf of the entire school and community, thank you!



# Harbour View *Elementary*

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



**Cindy Osterhout**  
Principal

## First Flight Field Trip

On February 7th, all 4th and 5th grade Harbour View students and teachers had an incredible opportunity to participate in the First Flight Field Trip at the Honda Center, home of the Anaheim Ducks hockey team. Our students joined more than 15,000 students and teachers for this free one-day event

as they explored the math and science of hockey in Southern California's largest and most exciting classroom! The activities combined learning from hands-on exhibits and displays, workbook activities, and best of all, the students were taught live and in-person by hockey experts—the Anaheim Ducks players and coaches! This national award-winning program provided a truly memorable day for all.





# Hope View *Elementary*

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



## A New Treasure

By Danielle Chatt – PTO President

We have reason to celebrate as we enjoy our beautiful atrium! Please take some time to walk through the hallway at Hope View and get a look at our gorgeous, lovingly remodeled Hope View atrium and pond. This area was given new life via a special project taken

**Carrie Haskin**  
Principal

on by our very own Mrs. VonDulm, several Hope View staff and the always generous Tolly, Hower and Serafin families. They all put a tremendous amount of their own time and considerable artistic energy into this — the result is nothing short of amazing! We thank our Hope View PTO for funding the materials necessary to upgrade our atrium. Thank you everyone!



# Marine View *Middle School*

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



## Science, Spanish, Video Production and Yearbook—Oh, My!

We're proud to present Kristin Spencer, who for the last seven years has taught interactive science and produced impressive yearbooks for our school. She also teaches the Spanish and video production electives and coaches girls' basketball and volleyball. An outstanding teacher, she's always inspiring her students to perform at their best. All this variety keeps her busy!

**Roni Ellis**  
Principal

Oh—did we mention that she's also a loving, dedicated mother of two: David, age 3, and Elizabeth, 7 months.

This year, Mrs. Spencer was selected as Marine View's Teacher of the Year. She was then selected to represent the OVSD in the Orange County Teacher of the Year contest in January. She was chosen from 12 other candidates as the Region 11 representative. In February, she went to Sacramento to compete in the California League of Middle School Educator of the Year contest.

Kristin Spencer is one of the most impressive individuals we've met. Her willingness to help others succeed is a gift that helps provide MV with pride!



# Lake View *Elementary*

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



## Be Curious!

As a NASA Explorer School, Lake View prides itself on following the latest in space exploration. We are especially excited about the Mars rover, *Curiosity*, which was launched on Nov. 26. It is scheduled to land on the Red Planet on Aug. 6. We are following the mission closely, and once it lands, we will keep tabs on the two years of research it will undertake.

**Anna Dreifus**  
Principal

About the size of a small SUV, NASA's *Curiosity* rover is well equipped for a tour of Gale Crater on Mars. This impressive rover has six-wheel drive and the ability to turn in place a full 360 degrees! Curiosity is already at work monitoring space radiation as it hurtles toward its destination.



**Lake View students update the Curiosity Rover countdown.**

Lake View students are monitoring Curiosity's progress and have designed a bulletin board to keep everyone informed. The countdown to landing is updated daily! At Lake View School, we agree with the saying ["Be curious always! Knowledge will not acquire you; you must acquire it."]

# Mesa View *Middle School*

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



## A Shared Approach

Mesa View Middle School continues to be recognized for its achievements. To begin the year, the school received its second state Leadership Site Award, this time in the area of Positive Behavior Intervention Systems. This recognition came from CalSTAT, which is a special project of the California Department of Education's Special Education Division.

For the past three years Mesa View has implemented a special set of 3Rs. These are respect yourself, respect others and respect the environment. They are explicitly taught and reinforced through activities such as Eagle Wings, Eagle Postcards and spirit assemblies. And as a Leadership Site, Mesa View also shares its approach and methods with other schools and districts. In return, our staff has access to excellent outside resources which can help enhance and refine the school's academic and behavioral climate.

Recently, Mesa View teacher Lori Manz was nominated for the California League of Middle Schools Educator of the Year Award. This annual award recognizes those teachers in the different California regions who exemplify the spirit of educational excellence, and who have made a significant effort to implement elements of reform in the middle school.

Mrs. Manz was one of six finalists within the local region who were honored at a recent dinner in Long Beach. She has been teaching middle school for 15 years, with the past nine here at Mesa View. In addition to being a dedicated classroom teacher, she also sponsors clubs and coaches. She has served as coach for a number of different teachers through the Beginning Teaching Support program (BTSA).

We are proud of the hard work and dedication of all our Mesa View teachers, staff, students and community members. We will strive to continue building on this success as our Eagles continue to achieve excellence.



**Laura Dale-Pash**  
Principal

## Award-Winning Authors

Congratulations to Anayrani Tlatelpa and Chidera Anthony-Wise! These students wrote winning essays for the Living in the Library contest, sponsored by the Huntington Beach Public Library.

Anayrani and Chidera were honored at an awards ceremony on January 31 at the Central Branch of the library during the Author's Festival. In attendance at the ceremony were Dr. William Loose, Ocean View School District Superintendent, Dr. Kathy Frazier, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, and Ms. Dale-Pash, Oak View School Principal, as well as the girls' parents and teachers, Mrs. Field and Mrs. Salas-Yoshii.



Anayrani won Most Creative in third grade for "Robot versus Spy," and Chidera won the Award of Merit in fourth grade for "The Enchanted Library." Their winning essays will be on display for the next month in the children's section of the Central Branch of the library. Oak View is very proud of Anayrani and Chidera!



**Joyce Horowitz**  
Principal

## Virtual Pre-K: A Home-School Connection

*By Viviana Jelinek*

Virtual Pre-K, our Oak View Preschool's Home/School Connection Program, is a grant sponsored by a national department store corporation. This family education and outreach program helps parents prepare their preschoolers for kindergarten; we're integrating it to enhance the parent-teacher partnership through parent education.

This "tool kit" can be utilized for parenting classes, meetings, home visits, family nights and parent-child classes. Activities are based on parent-child interactions that tie in to school curriculum. Parents are invited to attend a two-day workshop to learn about the program and practice some of the activities and lessons before introducing them at home. The activities are designed to be fun, easy, creative and open-ended. All attendees receive a Virtual Pre-K tool kit that includes how-to lesson plan cards, DVDs and materials for the home activities. The DVD demonstrates the lessons in the classroom, at home and in the community.

Incorporating Virtual Pre-K into our program teaches parents that learning experiences for their children can take place virtually anywhere!



# 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

Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) is excited to offer a summer program for 2012. Located on the Pleasant View School site, Camp OVPP will provide a 10-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 followed by the four California Preschool Learning Foundations. Embedded in the curriculum, students will enjoy a more playful camp schedule, which will consist of art projects, games, spirit activities, cooking, water play, 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 25 and will highlight 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. For more information or to schedule a tour of Pleasant View/OVPP, please contact our school at (714) 845-5000.

# Spring View *Middle School*

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



**Jason Blade**  
Principal

## Well-Rounded Students

Even with the drastic budget cuts that we've had over the last several years, Spring View, along with the other Ocean View schools – has worked hard to be able to offer a wide variety of opportunities for students to showcase their talents.

The past two weeks was a perfect example of this effort. On Thursday, February 9, Spring View had the privilege of hosting its Honor and Jazz Band Concert. These two bands are made up of some of the best musicians that the Ocean View School District has to offer.

The bands are led by Spring View's own Mr. Robert Shetland, as well as Mr. Dennis Nicolosi. As an added bonus, this year Superintendent Dr. Loose led the Honor band in a song as its honorary conductor. A good time was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

While some Spring View students have been showcasing their skills onstage, others are making us proud of their talents on the basketball court. This season, three of our four Spring View basketball teams will be playing for a championship in their respective divisions.

As principal, I am very proud to see the efforts that our staff and students are making in excelling in so many different areas.





**Dr. Pauline Tressler**  
Principal

## Applause!

Each year, students across Star View School have the opportunity to participate in musical theater. Research shows that involvement in the arts can bolster academic achievement. Our classroom plays include the opportunity to learn songs, dialogue, movement and choral reading. We have found that these activities lead to increased understanding in all curricular areas by reinforcing oral fluency skills, script-related vocabulary, and the contextual basis for historical, scientific and social events.

In addition to performing in our plays, our upper-grade students have the opportunity to learn to become “techies.” Under the

supervision of a former Star View teacher, Carlone Herman, they learn about the equipment and run the sound and lighting for each of our productions. Our students perform for one another during the day and for their parents and family in the evenings. The arts are alive at Star View!



**Mrs. Ikemori (2/3) and Mrs. Wahrenbrockis (2)**  
**play Friendly Neighborhood Helpers**  
**Firefighters: Brian Dang, Mervin Nguyen, Nathan Tran, Alan Le, & Paris Tran**



**Kristi Hickman**  
Principal

## Fourth Grade Rockets into Space

Fourth grade students experienced first hand the thrill of sending a rocket into orbit (in simulated fashion). Fourth grader, Gavin Flack brought his dad to school on Friday, February 10 for the big event. Mr. Flack works for Space Ex, a private company in Hawthorne, who builds rockets and is currently developing space capsules for NASA.

According to 4th grader, Dade Morphis, “we are learning about open, closed, and complete electrical circuits in science. Today we learned that you need a closed circuit in order to launch a rocket.” It was not only fun it was one of the best days ever! Just ask a fourth grade student.



## SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 10

On January 23, the entire Leadership Team worked with Jim Warford of the International Center for Leadership in Education. Jim currently serves as the center’s senior advisor and keynote speaker, working with states, districts, and schools nationwide. Jim was K–12 Chancellor of Education for the state of Florida prior to joining the International Center for Leadership in Education. Jim’s expertise and guidance were especially helpful to us, as he has developed elementary schools that have featured a curricular focus similar to SteAm.

Following the Leadership Team meeting, Jim met with our Core SteAm development team. Our current team consists of district staff, as well as representatives from the Orange County Department of Education. Our team is expected to be expanding soon by including parent advocates and representatives and hopefully a university that is interested in pursuing a SteAm focus at the elementary level.

Ocean View School District (OVSD) is committed to preparing our students for what their future holds. By integrating SteAm into our curriculum, we believe that our students will be prepared to excel at the next level. We desire to inspire our students to reach higher, dream bigger, and work harder to achieve their life pursuits and goals. We want them to be able to successfully compete in the global job market with the skills that will put them at the top of their chosen vocational fields and be in the greatest demand. We believe that adding the arts to the STEM curriculum will open the doors of creativity for our students to an even greater degree. We believe that SteAm will inspire our students to look for new and innovative solutions, which have been the hallmarks of America as embodied by our great Americans, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and Walt Disney. We believe that a SteAm program can give students these skills they will need to become successful adults in the 21st century.

We as educators are well aware of the changing times, how fast technology is evolving, and our need to prepare our students for the world they will encounter as adults. We will continue to share this journey with you as we work to evolve our educational programs and offerings for the maximum benefit of our students.



**Jim Warford**

# Village View *Elementary*

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



**Jodi Novy**  
Principal

## Our Students Lead the Way

The fifth-grade students at Village View Elementary School are “leading the way” to help model good leadership skills for the rest of the student body.

Our “Leadership Students” consist of a Spirit Committee, a Recycle Committee and Conflict Managers. It is only the exemplary student who can meet certain criteria that is allowed to be a part of these committees. That’s why our Leadership Students are very dedicated. They have excellent character traits and great academic skills.

One dynamic subcommittee part of this group is the Spirit Committee. It is dedicated to enhancing our school spirit through activities like the Friday Flag Day Ceremony, an event which leads off our school in the Village View chant.

They are also very active in planning our special monthly spirit days. Our most recent event was a big hit: it was called Mustache Day! And the most rewarding event was the canned food drive that was held during the months of November and December. Our school collected over 1,026 cans to help feed the hungry!

As you can see, the Village View Leadership Club is definitely leading the way! We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that they give to being model Village View Dolphins.



# Vista View *Middle School*

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



**Robert Miller**  
Principal

## Hoops for Heart

The Vista View physical education program promotes good health and physical fitness in many ways each and every day. During the month of February, Vista View students participated in Hoops for Heart, an annual event sponsored by the American Heart Association. During this two-week program, students learned about the causes of heart disease, its long-term effects and how to prevent it with diet and exercise. The fund-raiser culminated in a two-day Hoops for Heart basketball tournament. All proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association.

Hoops for Heart is just one of many activities we do as a school to promote healthy living, community service and the spirit of giving. With our staff and parents leading the way by example, our students are learning the importance of helping others. We are proud to participate in events like Hoops for Heart that educate students about the importance of good health and physical fitness while providing them the opportunity to participate in community-service projects and fund-raising events.



# Westmont *Elementary*

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



## Literacy Celebration

Westmont Elementary School students and staff are gearing up for the biggest literacy fair in our school’s history! Thanks to the support of the staff of a local teacher resource company, Westmont’s annual Dr. Seuss-themed literacy picnic is going to be a spectacular event this year! As part of their 35th anniversary, the local company chose Westmont as the recipient of a service project.

**Carol Furman**  
Principal

On March 2, company volunteers joined parents, students, and staff at Westmont for a day to celebrate literacy! The day’s activities included a school-wide reading picnic, a painting of a life-sized, reading-themed mural, and the development of a garden especially for reading! Editors from the teacher resource company will be paired with classes at all grades, pre-kindergarten through fifth, to facilitate classroom activities focused on literacy, in addition to reading with the students during the picnic. Students will enjoy the mural and have the opportunity to plant seedlings, which will grow into fruits and vegetables to enhance our science curriculum. We are grateful to all the members of the Westmont community who helped prep our garden area in February.

Are you  
looking for me  
for the contest  
on page 19?







Huntington Beach Central Library  
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## Upcoming Library Events



**Barbara Richardson**  
Acting Senior  
Librarian  
Programming  
and Youth  
Services

Since 2007, the people of Huntington Beach have been coming together to participate in HB Reads One Book. The idea: all adult readers, students and families in Huntington Beach read the same book at the same time for a community-wide experience. This year's book is *Emergence: Labeled Autistic* by Temple Grandin. HB Reads has many events planned. There will be an author reception March 21 from 4 to 6 pm. Tickets are \$75 per person and are very limited. While Ms Grandin's speech at the HB gym is sold-out, there may still be limited standby seating at [www.hbread.org](http://www.hbread.org). Standby ticket holders will be seated on a first-come first served basis if space allows. For information about the author reception, to purchase tickets, and to find out about other HB Reads events, visit [www.hbread.org](http://www.hbread.org).

Get your taste buds ready! It's time again for our annual Taste of Huntington Beach and all that wonderful food! This year's event will take place Sunday, April 29 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Huntington Beach Sports Complex. VIP Reception is from 11:00 to noon. Before March 31, tickets are \$60 each and \$80 VIP. After March 31, tickets are \$65 and \$85. Money raised goes towards the Children's Library. Price is all inclusive. There will be a silent auction, music and a raffle. To purchase tickets and to get more information about this event, go to [www.tastehb.com](http://www.tastehb.com).

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### Westminster Library

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## Keeping Busy



**Mary Ann Hutton**  
Branch Manager

Join us at the Westminster Library during April and May for our Imagination Celebration! Every Thursday afternoon between April 26 and May 17 we will be hosting special children's craft events at 3:30 pm. You can also visit the library and check out a book during our Children's Book Week from May 7–13.

The Children's Book Club will meet at 3:30 p.m. on three Wednesdays: March 14, April 11 and May 9. We will be discussing the monthly selections and also have fun activities related to the books. Call the library for more information.



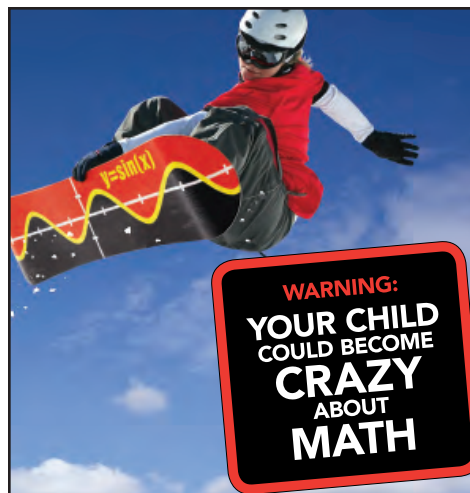
Children of all ages are invited to join us for our Craft Afternoon on Thursday, April 12 at 3:30 pm. And don't forget our weekly storytimes where we read books, sing songs and end with a craft! The preschool and toddler storytimes are every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., and the family storytime is on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Please support the Westminster Library by visiting us during National Library Week from April 8–14. Contact the library for more information about special events.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. Teens who are interested in contributing ideas for library programs and materials should definitely attend!

There will also be VolunTEEN orientations on Wednesday, March 21 and Tuesday, April 17 at 3:30 pm. New volunteers should pick up an application at the Information Desk prior to orientation. Teens ages 12–18 are invited to apply.

Watch for more information coming soon about our Summer Reading Program in July!



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Being Something Larger than Yourself



Kellie Kawaguchi  
Guest Columnist

We all go to college hoping for the best four years of our lives to explore and meet new people. We go to our classes, Economics, Psychology, Statistics, Biology, Accounting; pick an empty chair, take a few notes, listen to our professors and move on.

I wanted have the ultimate college experience: go to football games, meet new people from around the world, join a sorority, succeed in academics, and find the dream job/internship. Though I am living the ultimate college experience at USC, in addition there is always one place that grounds me and opens my eyes to a whole new world: Taper Hall Room 208, every Wednesday nights with

forty complete strangers. We all have a love for one thing: the entertainment industry. As Business Administration majors specializing in the entertainment industry, the other students and I finally came together for the first time, after being accepted into a competitive business cinematic arts program in our senior year of high school. Taking our first real entertainment business class, we all wondered what our journey would be for the next 18 weeks.

I walked into my entertainment business class, thinking that I would just learn about the entertainment industry for three hours and get tested on the information; but was I wrong as soon as my professor stepped in the door. Although the students and I did not know each other, we all looked at one another knowing that this would be a long journey when we noticed our professor walking in with confidence, strong body language, and intense energy. Our professor, Mr. Danny Sussman, paced in front of the classroom, made eye contact with every one of us and analyzed our every move before saying one word to the class.

Danny Sussman, a successful talent manager at Brillstein Entertainment, is very well respected in the entertainment industry for his loyalty, honesty, knowledge and passion. Growing up in Queens, New York, Danny started his career as a journalist after graduating Ithaca College in history and journalism. He worked in the financial wire services division at Shearson Lehman Bros. writing about complex political situations. Soon he found a job for a film company, writing about the finances of the film industry but shifted careers to hopefully become an agent. Starting out in the mailroom at William Morris Agency, he volunteered to work on any task whether it was taking out the trash or driving to pick up envelopes. His hard work was noticed by his colleagues and was soon given the opportunity to analyze numerous screenplays and provide script coverages for his bosses. After much dedication, hard work, and service to his co-workers, Danny found his niche and became an agent at William Morris for eight years but soon joined Brillstein Grey to work in talent management. His client roster includes actors such as John Stamos, Chloe Sevigny, Lili Taylor, Noah Wyle, Kaley Cuoco, and Heather Locklear.

With Danny's intimidating resume and a strong background in the entertainment industry, I was ready to learn everything about the business, but came out learning so much more.

The very first thing Danny said to our class was, "In order to make it in this industry and in life, you have to belong to something larger than yourself. You must root for each other, support each other, and be each other's family." From that moment on, it became a theme of most of our lectures for the next 18 weeks. Although he taught us about ratings, different agencies and networks, and making deals, throughout the course, he taught us all to be a citizen of the world; a team player that supports one another to create and impact something greater than ourselves. He emphasized that to be a citizen is something beautiful yet it takes hard work by servicing the community, being courageous, overcoming obstacles, and fighting through it all.

In the midst of midterms seasons, many of us had a big Economics test the next day, yet we all went on the field trip to LA Live on Danny's birthday. During our trip to LA Live, we analyzed how AEG has recreated the ultimate entertainment experience for the people in Los Angeles. But nervous about my midterm the next day, in the back of my mind I felt guilty for studying something that I love—the entertainment business, rather than studying for Econ.

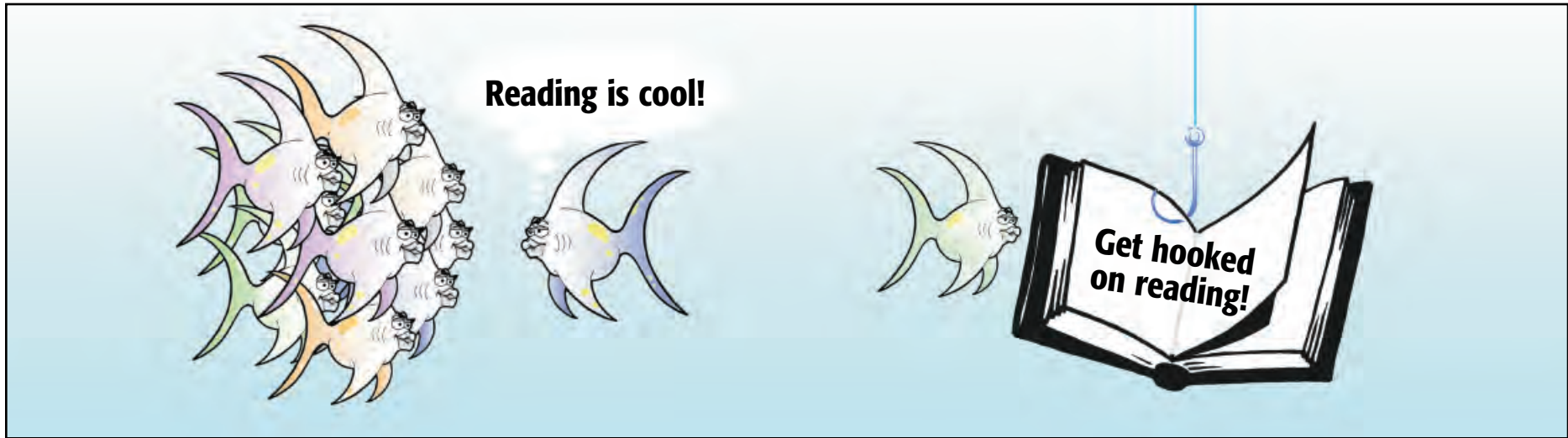
The trip concluded with a dinner and a lecture that I will never forget. As I am attempting to read my notes during dinner, Danny states, "Today is not just my birthday. Today is your birthday and the start of something great. We all have a moral obligation to give back to the world. We are each given something beautiful by God; the more you can tap into that gift, the more you can share it with others and use it. Every single one of us has the power to create change, but it is in our own hands." He continued on his lecture by stating that some academic classes are important, but it doesn't matter in the large scheme of life when we have the ability to inspire and make a difference by touching the hearts of others through art, culture and entertainment.

At the conclusion of the course, he told our class, "Come back from the holidays strong, with a passion that excites you. Think about who you want to be and what the institution (school) can do for you and what you can do for it. Check your ego out the door and learn respect, patience, time, investment and love. Be knowledgeable, honest, and trustworthy; be prepared for anything. Believe in what you are doing; offer something unique, and live with pride. You can't do it if you don't love it. If you get all those things, you give it back and do something with it."

Yes, I did learn about Economics, Accounting, and Statistics in college thus far, but what I have come out of this journey is far greater than what I anticipated. My professor taught us that we should stand like we belong and give back to the world that has given so much to us already. In just a few weeks, the forty other students and I were no longer just students taking notes; we learned to become citizens in the world so that one day we can take our love for entertainment and hopefully take "the things that we are inspired by, [and use it as] the lifeblood of the entertainment industry." Although the teachers are there to teach you the necessary subject matter, abide by the syllabus, and stick to a strict schedule, they also have a story; they have advice for you; and they can open your eyes to a whole new world that can lead you to the start of a new beginning.

Opportunity is a door that is made of gold. It manifests itself in life only once in a while and you have 2 responsibilities: recognize it and have the will power to walk through it.

—Danny Sussman.



## Orange County Department of Education

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

### Using Technology to Support Student Success



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent

Integrating technology into core curriculum enhances learning by helping students acquire the skills they need to thrive in a complex, highly technological world. Incorporating technology in classroom instruction deepens learning through problem solving, active engagement, and team participation. Technology integrated project-based learning allows students to be intellectually challenged while providing them with a realistic experience of modern working environments. An added bonus is that using technology makes teaching and learning both meaningful and fun.

For the past ten years, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has created an opportunity to highlight the innovative, replicable ways teachers integrate technology in the classroom, and to share the successes students achieve on a regular basis. The best student curriculum technology integration projects within Orange County schools are chosen to participate in the OCDE sponsored, Student Technology Showcase (STS), an anticipated component of the Orange County Computer Using Educators (OC CUE) Technology Festival and the statewide CUE Conference in Palm Springs, California. The Student Technology Showcase serves to inform parents, teachers, administrators, legislators, and higher education representatives about curriculum-based student technology projects being undertaken in public schools in Orange County.

To start the process, teachers complete an online application describing their student project, technology's role, and how teaching and student learning have changed as a result of the technology tools used in their classrooms. A volunteer review team made up of teachers, district technology coordinators, business/non-profit leaders, and OCDE staff read and rate each application and decide which projects merit a site visit. The site visits provide a hands-on opportunity for students to describe and demonstrate how they are using technology to learn specific content areas and how technology has been integrated into the learning process. The review team then selects the most innovative classrooms to present at the local and state level.

Another aspect of OCDE's STS process is the "dress rehearsal" held prior to the Showcase. This provides students the initial opportunity to present their projects in a science fair format to an audience of adults, and it gives the review team a final chance to select the projects that will represent Orange County at the statewide STS. In 2012, teams have an additional opportunity to be selected for the STS at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) conference being held in San Diego in June.

This year, projects include the use of iPods and iPads to increase reading fluency and comprehension and to improve math, science, and other skills; Story Kit, an application that incorporates pictures, text and sound; blogs; video broadcasts and much more.

For more information about the Student Technology Showcase, visit <http://www.k12hsn.org/resources/showcase/gallery/index.php/ocde/>.

## School News

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## Contest!!

This drawing is hidden somewhere in this publication **4 times.**

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



Your entry must be received by April 15, 2012. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

**Congratulations to the January winners!**  
**Misty Lam and Alejandra Trejo**



# Westminster School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Employees of the Year

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and district, I would like to salute our staff members who 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 2012 Classified Employees of the Year!

**Richard Tauer**

### Mina Anderson – Paraeducator & Instructional Assistance Category

Mina is a paraeducator/instructional support staff member currently assigned to Sequoia Elementary School. She has been working for Westminster School District (WSD) for seven years and currently works with students with severe autism. Her wonderful listening ability is just one of the things that endears her to her students. Mina has volunteered many hours for the Positive Behavior Intervention Support Program and collaborative staff activities. She puts forth maximum effort in every endeavor, and that has helped her entire team excel. Mina is highly regarded by staff and parents and is considered extremely fair and professional in every situation she encounters.

### Karen Hulbert – Child Nutrition Category

Karen has two jobs in the district; she is a food service worker at Finley Elementary School and a lead food service worker at DeMille Elementary School. She has been with the district for six years and has lived in Westminster for 36 years. In addition to following food safety regulations, keeping up with equipment repairs, training new staff, and making sure special diet needs are met for students, she provides excellent customer service. Karen likes having fun with the students while she works and makes it a point to know all of their names. She is very active in the community and is a member of the Red Hat Society and the Soldiers of Angels Foundation, which makes quilts and cookies for military service members in Iraq. Karen is

dedicated to her family, job, and community and spends most of her time helping others.

### Dave McGovern – Maintenance & Operations

Dave is the senior custodian at Schroeder Elementary School and has been with the district for 29 years. His peers have such high regard for him that this is the second time he has been named an Employee of the Year. Dave is a fantastic employee, and he always goes the extra mile. He took classes in

Community Emergency Response so he would be well prepared to work with many different agencies on behalf of the school in the event of an emergency. Dave is known as a “nurturer” of the school, students and staff. On cold days, he heats up the classrooms before students and staff arrive. He volunteers his time on evenings and weekend to help with activities at the school, such as Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, holiday programs, carnivals and more. A Schroeder teacher commented, “Dave actually does hold up the school. Without him here, the walls would come tumbling down.”

### Debbie Valerio – Office & Technical Category

Debbie is the intermediate clerk typist for the Nutrition Services Office and has been with the district for 15 years. Debbie demonstrates an outstanding work ethic, attention to detail, loyalty, dependability, and a huge heart of gold. She is referred to

as the department’s “computer queen,” because she is incredibly adept at understanding new technology. She can resolve almost any computer problem at any of our 17 kitchens or the Nutrition Services Office. Debbie has a knack for finding ways to work smarter not harder and then sharing her methods with colleagues, which is greatly appreciated. She is efficient, effective and ethical. Debbie takes pride in all that she does, whether it is work, family, or the community. She always goes beyond what is expected and brings a level of excellence that sets the bar for others.



**Classified School Employees of the Year:**  
**Debbie Valerio, Dave McGovern, Karen Hulbert and Mina Anderson**

## Have a fun Spring Break!



**Our next issue is May 2nd**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sergio Contreras  
President

Every Student Succeeding

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 cerebral palsy, lymphoma or hearing loss, 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.

2012 Every Student Succeeding Winners

Desirae Romero	Anderson Elementary School
Mariah VandeBrake	Clegg Elementary School
Kelly Vu	DeMille Elementary School
Juli Stock	Eastwood Elementary School
Micah Heaton	Finley Elementary School
Julio Molina	Fryberger Elementary School
Jimmy Nguyen	Hayden Elementary School
Renee Martinez	Meairs Elementary School
Selina Tang	Schmitt Elementary School
Daniel Lopez-Salgado	Schroeder Elementary School
Jenna Nguyen	Sequoia Elementary School
Alex Tovar	Webber Elementary School
Angel Guajardo	Willmore Elementary School
Austin Gallo	Johnson Middle School
David Dang	Stacey Middle School
Janelle Watson	Warner Middle School

Janelle Watson, an 8th grader at Warner Middle School has been selected to represent the district and to be honored at the regional level of the Association of California School Administrators. Despite many hurdles, Janelle raised her grade point average from a 1.6 to a 3.8 in one semester. Congratulations to Janelle and all of our school site winners!



Every Student Succeeding winner Janelle Watson, 8th grader at Warner Middle School with her principal, teacher and family members

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

Healthy Watersheds: Our Responsibility to Our Community

By Juliann Dodosh, 5th-Grade Teacher

Wow—what a journey! Anderson’s fifth-grade students had a unique experience this past January. A recent field trip to the Ocean Institute gave them the opportunity to become junior scientists and experts on the contributions of their local watershed. Fifth-grade students researched and designed experiments to determine whether contributing factors such as: pH, coliform bacteria, and phosphates and nitrates were contaminating our coastal regions. Students gave presentations and designed posters that would educate their community about maintaining a healthy watershed.

The Ocean Institute in Dana Point offers an experience for our students that is absolutely priceless. They are given a chance to develop their scientific-inquiry skills at a field trip earlier in the year. Students have a chance to go out on a marine exploration voyage, test water samples and share their discoveries with their classmates. What a collaborative way to incorporate science into their daily lives! Funding for this field trip project is based on an annual grant.



Anderson students presenting at the Ocean Institute.



Sergio Contreras  
President



Dave Bridgewaters  
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# Clegg School

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



**John Staggs**  
Principal

## Have Fun Staying Fit!

Clegg students in grades one through five have a great opportunity to be involved in our Fun & Fit Club. Fun & Fit Club was created four years ago and is run entirely by our PTA at Clegg Elementary every Wednesday directly after school. Diana Remp, who is the parent who created the club, and a large group of volunteer 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 a number of sporting games for one hour every Wednesday after school. Students engage in stretching and 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 blacktop area offers paddle ball, basketball, handball, jump ropes, Hula-Hoops and aerobics.

There are currently over 220 first-through-fifth-grade students enjoying Fun & Fit Club this year. We would like to thank everyone who makes this program possible for our students.

# DeMille Elementary (K-6)

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



**Shannon Villanueva**  
Principal

## Fifth-Grade Field Trip

*By Jenny Ha, Cindy Pham, and Kenny Du*  
*Students in Ms. Doppenberg's 5th-Grade Class*

In January, the fifth-graders went to the Ocean Institute in Dana Point Harbor for the Kids Conferences on Watersheds. At the Ocean Institute, the fifth-graders saw and heard different presentations on different watersheds: "Lake Machado," "Tap Water vs. Bottled Water," "Does Pollution Affect Plant Growth?" and "Preventing Pollution in Vista."

DeMille students presented "We're Bitter about Litter" and "Trash in Our Storm Drain Gives Us a Pain." Our investigation concluded that Park West Park was filthier than Palos Verdes Park. The group that presented "Tap Water vs. Bottled Water" concluded that tap water was healthier than bottled water because bottled water has more nitrates than tap water. We also learned that Lake Machado was polluted but could still support life. Our visit to the Ocean Institute was a great learning experience.



DeMille 5th graders presenting at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point Harbor.

# Eastwood Elementary (K-6)

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



**Donna Brush**  
Principal

## Fun-Filled February

We began February with our annual Pennies for Patients campaign to raise funds to assist scientists in finding a cure for blood cancers, such as leukemia and lymphoma. Last year Eastwood School students raised \$3,500, and our goal this year is \$4,000. If we reach our goal, our principal will be come to school dressed as an animal and extend recess by 10 minutes. Here's to reaching our goal once again!

Eastwood girls danced the night away on February 3 at our annual Father/Daughter Dance. There were 270 dads and daughters rocking out to the beat of the disk jockey in the magically transformed multi-purpose room. The evening began with a photo shoot and ended with girls eagerly participating in the chicken dance, a hula hoop contest, and a dance contest. The food table was never without a crowd, and many tired young ladies were carried out on dads' shoulders at the conclusion of the evening. A good time was had by all!

The month ended with our sixth-grade students going off to camp. They enjoyed the much anticipated week of fun and outdoor learning. Students gained a greater understanding of the world around them through the wonders of outdoor education, with activities such as exploring trails, shooting arrows, cooking over an open fire, and weightlessly flying through the air. Students also made a deeper connection with the natural world by meeting and feeding four-legged friends at the nature center.

# Finley Elementary (K-5)

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



**Maria Gutierrez-Garcia**  
Principal

## Activity and Proactivity

Finley School is a constant hub of activity! Staff members recognize students who demonstrate the 3AEagle Way (Acting Respectfully, Acting Responsibly and Acting Safely) by issuing each one a 3AEagleWay blue slip, which the teachers collect and then have weekly drawings. The principal, Mrs. Gutiérrez-García, announces one winner from each class every Friday. The winners report to the office, receive a cool 3AEagle Way bracelet in one of the school's colors and then take a group photograph, which is then mounted on the office Wall of Fame.

Teachers in grades 3-5 have now been trained in GLAD (Guided Language Acquisition Design Strategies) and are incorporating the Cognitive Content Dictionary, the Inquiry Chart, Retell, Pictorial Input Chart and the Process Grid in their lessons. Finley parents attend classes in the school's parent center, where the focus has been on promoting healthy nutrition for cognitive development in preschoolers for language development and learning.



# Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

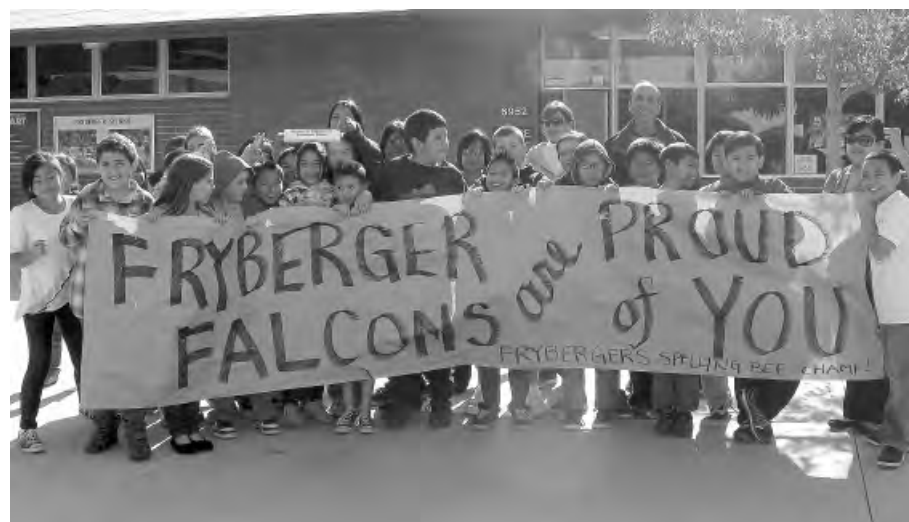
6952 Hood Drive, Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7237



**Hiacynth  
Martinez**  
*Principal*

## Fryberger's Top Speller

Fryberger is so proud to honor and recognize Danielle Dababneh for being our #1 speller! Danielle is a wonderful student who takes pride in her school work and is driven to do her best. She truly is a SMART Flying Fryberger Falcon who is a perfect example of the vast majority of our students. Congratulations again Danielle!



# Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Shane Vinagupta**  
*Principal*

## PTSA Honors Teacher with the Golden Oak

On February 2, Johnson Middle School held its annual Arts and Awards Night. This event is sponsored by the PTSA to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to support our students and PTSA. We also take this opportunity to pay homage to our fabulous art programs and showcase amazing pieces of student work for all to admire.

Mr. Wes Rippeon displayed finished pieces from his woodshop classes, Mrs. Virginia Weber had student multi-media work on hand from her art classes, Mr. Jon Mann led the string orchestra in two selections, and Mrs. Colleen Dudas directed her drama students in two numbers from their winter production of "Annie." The wonderful art presented a beautiful backdrop for our honorees, their friends, and their families.

Our PTSA president, Amy Walsh, helped present the awards, which were all well deserved. Very Special Person Awards were presented to our entire front office staff: Diane Topor, our office manager; Nancy McKernan, our registrar; and Esperanza Morales and Van Tran, our community liaisons. English teacher Valerie Cason was given the Very Special Person Award, physical education teacher Karen Checho and librarian Jennie Bolotin both received the Honorary Service Award, and science teacher Phil Hunter received the highest PTA honor, the Golden Oak Award.

The celebration ended with cake as the Johnson community came together to share a special moment. Congratulations to all of our award recipients, and thank you for helping to make our school a great place to be!

# Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Linda Reed**  
*Principal*

## Parents Getting Prepared

Hayden Elementary School is always looking for ways to support and connect with its families and the local community.

One of our most successful efforts has been the Latino Literacy Project. With the help of our community liaison, Marisela Edelbrock, we now have over 22 parents who are coming to school every Wednesday to attend a 10-week course that covers a wide range of topics.

The classes run from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., and are presented by Monica Munoz, a translator for the district. Some of the topics include fluency, reading to children, information on CSTs and report cards, how the AR program works, and taking a tour of the public library.

Each week the parents can check out books written in both English and Spanish to read to their children. There are also a few sessions on how to prepare students for high school and college. The feedback from these classes has been so good that a waiting list has already been started for the next sessions.



# Land School

15151 Temple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/894-7344 Special Ed. / 714/898-8389 Child Dev.



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



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

## Maximizing Success

The Positive Behavior Interventions and Support initiative at Land School (PBIS) has been underway since the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year. PBIS is a framework (or approach) that assists our staff in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum, one which will enhance the academic and social-behavior outcomes of each student.

As part of the initiative, every week our students gather together for a schoolwide assembly to

celebrate their success in using the behavior matrix. As each class is recognized for their efforts in following school rules, they move one step closer to the "honey pot." Once a class reaches the honey pot the students earn a special reinforcer.

The Land focus on PBIS has helped to support both academic instruction and social learning in our preschool students. It has also created a more positive and safer school climate that helps maximize the success of our students.



**At a weekly assembly, PBIS Coach and Land Speech and Language Pathologist Jennifer Solano announces the classes that received positive recognition.**



# Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

8441 Trask Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92844 • 714/372-8800



**Kathy Kane**  
Principal

## Extended Learning

*By Laura Costa, Site Director*

In Extended School Program (ESP), we are focusing on completing our homework daily and keeping our bodies healthy with our nutritional snacks. In academics, we use Thinking Maps to help with math, language arts, science, and social studies. Daily outside activities, such as our organized games and exercises, help keep our bodies in shape. Once a month, we make healthy snacks.

We enjoy all these activities in a fun, exciting environment, which allows us to feel safe and valued while we interact with our

peers and continue to expand our physical, social/emotional, and cognitive domains of development. With the help and guidance of positive role models, peers and parents, we are able to grow in every aspect. We learn and explore through the use of play, increase our problem-solving and communication skills, express our unique, creative personalities through art and music, and continue to learn every day!



# Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jerry Gargus**  
Principal

## Science Success

On Thursday, February 16, Schmitt Elementary School hosted its annual Family Science Night. Again this year, we had a great turnout of parents, students, and teachers for this fabulous night of fun and learning. With assistance from Westminster School District's outstanding science coordinator, Wendy Osborn, we were able to conduct four different engaging science labs, which coincide with the science kits our teachers use in the classroom. Our parents and students had the opportunity to build a variety of different circuits, test the floating properties of different types of woods, explore chromatography, and make clouds. Our teachers and a number of our student teacher volunteers worked together to host a wonderful event.

Our next major parent event, our combined Open House and Family Reading Night, will take place on Thursday, April 5 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We are expecting a huge turnout for this great evening, when our teachers and students have the opportunity to show off the great work they have been doing throughout the 2011-2012 school year. This year's Open House reading theme is a new twist for our school. It will give students and parents the opportunity to learn strategies for improving reading fluency and comprehension skills that they can practice at home and will also provide lists of suggested books for students to read over the summer.

# Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kim Breckenridge**  
Principal

## The Rainforest Comes to Schroeder

Thanks to the fabulous support of the Schroeder PTA, the students participate in several assemblies every year. Just last week, the Wildlife Company presented the animals of the rainforest. On stage we had a centipede, Madagascar cockroach, talking parrot, and a honey bear. The highlight of the show was the boa constrictor that three students were able to hold and all students were able to pet. The students learn so much from assemblies. Thanks PTA!



**Corie Combs, Gavin Lopez, and Wyatt McClure holding a boa constrictor snake.**

# Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Tammy Steel**  
Principal

## Every Student Succeeding

Every year the Westminster Educational Leadership Association (WELA) honors one student from each school that has demonstrated incredible perseverance in their life. We are honored to announce that Jenna Nguyen is our recipient. Jenna has overcome many personal obstacles to become a successful student. We are very proud of you Jenna! Congratulations!!!



**Jenna Nguyen**

## Classified Employee of the Year

We have a fabulous staff here at Sequoia that always strives to take the needs of all students in consideration. We are proud to announce our "Classified Employee of the Year" is Mina Anderson. She is a vital part of our team who takes special care of our students. Thank you Mina for being part of the Sequoia team!



**Mina Anderson.**

# Stacey *Middle School*

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



**Heidi DeBritton**  
Principal

## Multi-media Class

*By Megan McNamara and Kennedy Simons*

Stacey Middle School is unique in many different ways. For example, Stacey offers the Multi-media class, which is an elective made up of students from grades six through eight. Every year in Multi-media, the students are challenged and encouraged to expand their minds and to be creative.

The students in Multi-media learn to create videos, take good quality photos and build Web pages. The Multi-media students are given creative freedom to design the Stacey website, yearbook and

video yearbook with the guidance of Mr. Andrews and Mrs. Redmond. All year long, the Multi-media students work hard taking and editing photos, producing videos for the video yearbook, and designing and updating the school website to keep the students, parents and staff informed.

The goal of the Multi-media students is to capture the memories of all Stacey students so that they are able to remember the amazing times they had at Stacey for years to come.



# Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Orchid Rocha**  
Principal

I would like to share with the community how proud I am of the Partners in Parenting program at Webber School. Our liaison, Mrs. Ha Nguyen, and our Outreach Consultant, Sheree Newman, have done a fantastic job connecting with our parents and sharing a wealth of information to support families. The class includes prizes, free materials and free childcare. These six week series is held every Wednesday in the Webber Multipurpose room for only 90 minutes. Some of the topics included are Reading Aloud, Discipline, and Self-Esteem. I encourage anyone to visit this outstanding program. It's run as an open discussion time to share great ideas and strategies. I enjoy it every time I visit, and have picked up some new strategies that strengthen relationships with children.

Are you  
looking for me  
for the contest  
on page 19?



# Warner *Middle (6-8)*

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



**Matthew Skoll**  
Principal

## New and Improved

*By Students Francisco Avalos, Bianca Avila, John Dang, Jesse Fernandez, Eddie Gonzalez, Cindy Nguyen, Henry Nguyen, May Nguyen, and Pamela Rodriguez,*

Warner Middle School rocks, and we have proof! The students at Warner feel very lucky to have Mr. Skoll as our principal and Ms. Roehling as our assistant principal. They work hard every day to improve our education and make our school a better place.

For example, when they saw that lunch lines were long and students weren't eating lunch, they created the express line. The express line speeds things up, and more students are motivated to eat every day.

Also, this year there are more survey classes than ever. Students are more interested in the subjects added by Mr. Skoll and Ms. Roehling this year, such as drama, debate, health, yearbook, and many more.

Students even want to spend more time at school participating in sports activities after school. More students are active and involved than ever before, and students are cheering on their teams at games and showing their Warner Wildcat spirit!

Mr. Skoll and Ms. Roehling are also helping to improve our education by over-seeing the construction being done on our campus. Eventually we will have an awesome science lab to do hands-on experiments, and we'll have a gym for the first time ever.

Thanks to Mr. Skoll and Ms. Roehling, Warner Middle School is new and improved, and students now have a wonderful education center!

# Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Rob McKane**  
Principal

## Parent Involvement

For many schools, getting parents involved is a challenge. One of our most successful efforts is our Parenting Partners classes, which are held over a series of weeks. Parents work together to refine their parenting skills and learn new techniques for handling difficult situations now and in the future. The program culminates in a graduation ceremony with a potluck dinner.

The most moving part of the ceremony is when the graduating parents share something they have learned and worked on over the course of the program. They stand in a circle and take turns. The parents become very emotional as they consider where they were and how far they have come in their learning.

This wonderful program is not just helping these parents, but also building Willmore School's momentum in increasing parent involvement. I would like to thank our families who were involved, Willmore's community liaisons, Myrna and Hannah, and Sheree Newman, who facilitated our efforts. Great job, ladies! You make us very proud!





# Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Gregory S. Plutko**

I recently shared a story about the famous violinist Itzhak Perlman with a group of our students and members of our district team. As both groups reflected on the message, the thread of understanding that connected the generations was strong. Both groups could identify with personal challenge and knew that despite the challenge, expectations were still high for their performance. I want to share the story with our ever-supportive school community...and once again say thank you for helping us to "make such beautiful music" in our district.

By Jack Rierner, *Houston Chronicle*

On Nov. 18, 1998, Itzhak Perlman, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. If you have ever been to a Perlman concert, you know that getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches.

To see him walk across the stage one step at a time, painfully and slowly, is an unforgettable sight. He walks painfully, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he sits down, slowly, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward. Then he bends down and picks up the violin, puts it under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play.

By now, the audience is used to the ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. They remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs. They wait until he is ready to play. But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap - it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what that sound meant. There was no mistaking what he had to do.

People who were there that night thought to themselves: "We figured that he would have to get up, put on the clasps again, pick up the crutches and limp his way off stage - to either find another violin or else find another string for

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 32

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Dr. Michael Simons**  
*President*

### Facilities Improvements

The recent dedication of the newly constructed campus of the Huntington Beach Union High School District Adult School, adjacent to Ocean View High School, marked the final phase of construction in Measure C that was passed by voters in 2004. As one of the co-chairs of the ballot initiative, along with Susan Henry, I have monitored the successful completion of a major renovation in district facilities. Thanks to the support of voters in Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley and Westminster who passed Measure C, as well as additional state and developer funding, we have been able to invest over \$300 million in bringing our campuses into the 21st century.

It is easy to see the obvious when one drives by our campuses: the completely renovated stadiums, including pro-turf fields, at Huntington Beach High School and Westminster High School; the new Olympic size pool and additional bleachers at Ocean View High School; the remodeled parking lots at Fountain Valley, Marina and Edison High Schools; and the new artificial tracks and field upgrades at all campuses.

What are not easily evident are the internal upgrades inside the high schools and in the Historic District Auditorium, located on the campus of Huntington Beach High School. Not only were additional classroom buildings constructed at Ocean View, Huntington Beach, and Fountain Valley High Schools, but the existing classrooms at all sites were completely renovated to facilitate 21st century technology, including pole-vault systems that enable teachers to bring the world into each classroom. Every gymnasium has been completely rebuilt from the walls out, including new floors and bleachers.

If you haven't been to one of the many wonderful productions of the Academy for the Performing Arts or local theater or dance companies at the Historic District Auditorium, you are in for a treat. The auditorium has been restored to its original elegance that it displayed when constructed in 1926. Care was taken to retain the features that were utilized when it was initially constructed, and you are transported back in time. Our students are also the beneficiaries of being able to perform and perfect their crafts in theater arts in such a wonderful venue.

The Board of Trustees and I and our students and staff are indebted to the community for giving us the ability to create campuses that will serve the next generations of learners.



**Dr. Michael Simons**  
*President*

### Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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### Save a Life

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day. Have you ever thought about donating? Sure, you see the signs while you're sitting at the doctor's office waiting to be called in for your check up, but have you ever really thought about it? You probably have, but thinking about donating is entirely different from actually doing it.

Donating blood is about a 45-minute process. It can be broken down into four simple steps: registration, medical history and mini-physical, donation, and refreshments. The actual donation itself takes only about 10 to 12 minutes. So why not do it? In 10 minutes, you could be saving up to three people's lives.

This year at Ocean View High School (OVHS), we sponsored two blood drives. Hosted by the OVHS Associated Student Body (ASB) and the University of California, Irvine (UCI) medical team, the blood drives were a great success. We received many donations from teachers, staff members, students, parents, and family friends. Of course, we are not the only school to host a blood drive, so if you are interested in donating blood, visit the UCI Medical Center or look for more information at your local high school.

# Coast *High School*

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



**Steve Curiel**  
Principal

## Improvements Abound

As many of you know, we have been travelers for the past three years. Three years ago, our home was the Park View Elementary School campus. That summer we moved to Marina High School, while our new campus was being planned and built. This past August, we moved again. It was a good thing we kept most of the boxes from our first move; those moving boxes are expensive! This move, hopefully our last move, was into our new campus next to Ocean View High School on Gothard Street.

In January, Coast High School (CHS) along with the Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS), held a dedication ceremony for the new campus. The ceremony was attended by students, teachers, district personnel, School Board members, and many community supporters. Along with tours of the facility, guests were able to meet some of the staff and learn about both the CHS Independent Study program and the HBAS programs offered on the new campus.

We had many compliments about the impressive, new facilities. Here are just a few of the improvements we are enjoying. This site is just one of the over 40 different sites where we offer classes. The total cost of the facility is 8.3 million and is being paid for by both bond money and a loan taken out on the adult school's behalf. (I guess I've got two mortgages to worry about now.) The entire building floor space measures just over 20,000 square feet or about one-third the size of a football field. In these 20,000 square feet are 12 classrooms, including two computer labs, a science and art room, a medical assistant training room, and our main administrative offices. The build time from ground breaking to move-in was just over 14 months. The student capacity of the facility is just over 400. Needless to say, we have an awesome facility for our students, with plenty of room for more.

Not only has our facility been improved, but Coast is also going through a self-assessment process through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). CHS is in the middle of its six-year term of accreditation, which requires our staff to report back to WASC regarding the progress we've made in improving student learning since our last WASC visit in spring 2009. The process brings teachers and administrators together to look at such things as student performance data, staffing, resources, and curriculum. Through this process, our school continues to adjust and enhance its program for the benefit of our students.



**Principal Steve Curiel, Board of Trustees President Dr. Michael Simons, Superintendent Dr. Gregory Plutko, Board of Trustees Member Susan Henry, Former Principal Doris Longmead**

# Community Day School

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



**Steve Curiel**  
Principal

## CDS Student Recognized for Talent and Turnaround

One of the great joys of being a principal is seeing a student get recognized by outside organizations for the kind of hard work and dedication that all of our students demonstrate every day.

We know how special our students are, but some people might call us biased (like a parent with their own child). So when a prestigious national organization like the Simon Youth Foundation recognizes one of your own, I can't help but share what they had to say. Below, is a recent article by them about our very own Matthew Linville: (Adapted from Simon Youth Foundation article <http://simonyouthfoundation.blogspot.com/2011/12/education-empowers-simon-youth.html>)

Linville, a student at the non-traditional high school for at-risk students that is supported by Simon Youth Foundation and the Huntington Beach Union High School District, has spent recent semesters decorating the school's walls with hand-painted murals.

The largest of his creations decorates a long hallway and features a forest scene, which is fitting imagery for Linville's personal story. He has had to persevere through the wilderness that life can be when a young man's parents are not present in his life.

"My mother has been in and out of my life," Linville says. "I have never met my father, and I am trying to confront those demons and move beyond my troubled past."

Linville, who now lives with a grandmother, says his work on the school murals is a part of his process. They are an expression of his belief that any circumstance can be changed, improved or made more beautiful.

"I believe that as a person, I need to keep moving and keep striving for change to move away from where I have been before, and the murals are like this feeling of change when you can start from scratch and make the wall what you want it to be," Linville says.

"Matthew brought the idea of the murals to me, and I believed that it was a great opportunity for him to express himself," says Dennis Herzog, the administrator at the Academy. "He is often here after class time to work on the murals, which have brightened our learning space."

The murals also have brought the school's students closer together. What started as a one-man job quickly became a group project with as many as 15 classmates designing and painting the murals under Linville's guiding eye.

Herzog says leadership and inclusiveness are a part of Linville's strong character, a character that has helped the 17-year-old student earn the credits needed to achieve senior status a semester early. He'll graduate from the Academy in January, 2012.

Linville will be attending Golden West Community College after he wraps up his high school diploma. It's an achievement that conjures visions of a mural, where the edge of a deep, dark forest opens into a lush, green, sun-drenched river valley.

"Education should be used when it is given," Linville says. "I have a very emotionally tall wall to get over in my life, but education will help me better myself so that I can move on from my past."

Are you  
looking for me  
for the contest  
on page 19?







Dr. D'liese  
Melendrez  
Principal

Special Abilities Cluster

For over 20 years, the Special Abilities Cluster (SAC) has been an integral part of the Edison High School campus. The students in SAC have been diagnosed with autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities and a variety of syndromes. To the students at EHS, they are just that: students!

Over the years, SAC students have been integrated into many general education classes, including Art, Photo, Ceramics, Science, Computers, Chorus, Drama, PE, Video Production and Film Appreciation. SAC students have participated in football, wrestling, basketball, track and field, and swimming.

SAC students contribute to the EHS campus in many ways. SAC students and staff run the EHS Going Green— Recycling Center and collect cans, bottles, paper and computer cartridges from every classroom and office. The shredding of documents for all departments is done by SAC students. School mail and attendance reports are distributed by SAC students. They even collect compostable products on campus to support their organic garden.



Graduation Day! a 2011 graduate with Principal Melendrez

Students All

Every semester, 20 to 40 general education (Gen Ed) students receive credit as student aides in SAC classes. Best Buddies, an international organization set up to nurture friendships, has its only chapter in the district at Edison. Most of these Gen Ed students describe their experience as life changing—so much so that student aides often move on and become paid aides in the district.

EHS students often seek out ideas from SAC staff to complete their Eagle Scout, Gold Award or senior projects. Students at EHS have built planter boxes and tool sheds, organized recycling efforts and done many other things. Some students have raised thousands of dollars for SAC through dodge ball tournaments and the Miss Huntington Beach Special Needs Pageant. Specific clubs and teams support the students, build friendships and develop understanding through specific programs. The Charger football team has been sponsoring a summer barbecue for more years than anyone can remember. The Fashion Club has organized fashion shows involving SAC students for the past four years. The Dance team trains SAC students to perform in their spring recital. EHS Cheer now includes 12 SAC cheerleaders for football and basketball games.

This type of integration on campus and in classrooms fosters understanding and compassion for students and adults alike. After 20 years, most students at EHS would say, “It’s nothing ‘special’—we are all just Edison students!”



SAC Cheer



Ceramics class



Foods class

# Fountain Valley *High School*

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



**Chris Herzfeld**  
Principal

## Genius Team Applies Itself

*By JR Ginez-Orinion*

At the start of this academic year, the Huntington Beach Union High School District decided to adopt Google Applications for Education and implement it districtwide. Google Applications for Education is a free suite of web-based programs that allow users to communicate and collaborate with one another effectively and efficiently. It is composed of a reliable and powerful e-mail client in Gmail, a document creation and collaboration tool in Google Docs, a website creator in Google Sites and many other useful applications that teachers can incorporate into their instruction inside and outside of the classroom.

Training on Google Applications for Education for the entire district poses a unique challenge. Providing technology instruction for a population of over 16,000 students, staff, teachers and administrators is a daunting task for our technology specialists. The question we had to answer was "How do we provide effective differentiated technology instruction to a large population with minimal to no resources?"

We decided to use the largest resource we had to our advantage. Our students are constantly exposed to technology and may already be using Google Applications in their daily tasks. We set up an announcement on the PA for students interested in becoming part of a team of Google Apps trainers, and the Google Geniuses were born.

The Google Genius Team is composed of FVHS students from all grade levels. They were chosen by an interview process and by competency in Google Apps. They are highly skilled in these applications and use them on a daily basis. We have deployed the Google Geniuses on weekly open training sessions with students in the library. Students can come up to the Geniuses in the media center and ask them anything about Google Apps. But what we have found to be the most powerful function of the Google Genius Team is in teacher-technology training.

## Effective Role Reversal

Teachers make appointments with a Google Genius through our Staff Page, and the Google Genius can help them with any questions they may have regarding Google Applications. From the start, the Geniuses have received rave reviews. The Geniuses have worked with our teachers with everything from sharing Google Docs and starting a Google Calendar to creating department blogs and Google sites. The survey responses after the trainings mention that the Geniuses were very knowledgeable, helpful and professional.

From our short time together, we've found that the Geniuses benefit from their experiences by improving their communication skills, learning about technology training, leveraging current collaborative technologies to prepare them for college and boosting their résumés for prospective employers. The teachers and staff benefit from customized and personalized technology training and by improving their instruction using Google Applications.

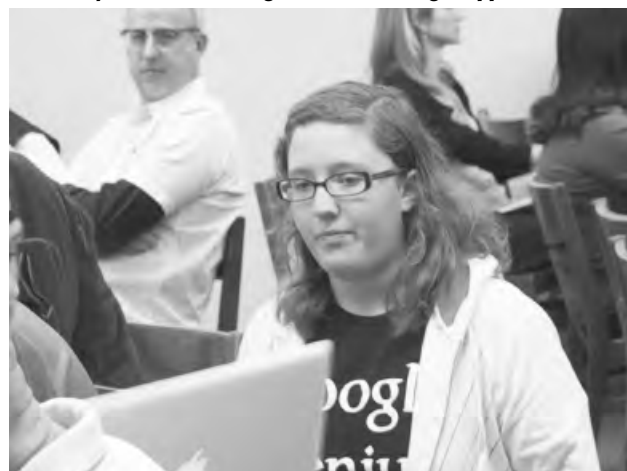


**Google Genius Team at Fountain Valley High School**



**Google Genius Team Member Ray Tu demonstrating how to use Google Applications.**

The Geniuses are now being requested to be a part of our district-hosted technology trainings in the next few months. If you would like to learn more about the Google Geniuses at FVHS, please don't hesitate to e-mail me at [gd.go@hbuhdsd.edu](mailto:gd.go@hbuhdsd.edu).



**Google Genius Team Member Rachel Phillips helping a teacher on Google Applications.**

**Please see our ad on page 35.**



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**Janie Hoy**  
Principal

## High School Theatre Festival

By Robert Rotenberry, Theatre Department Chair

APA spent three action-packed days at the California Educational Theatre Association's High School Theatre Festival, which was held in January at Servite High School in Anaheim. The theatre department's fall production of *Leading Ladies* was entered in this year's festival. Judges attended our production and named it the top show in Area 2 (Orange County). In the theater equivalent of the state playoffs, APA got to remount our entire production at the festival for a sold-out audience of over 900 theater students, teachers and parents. It was a once-in-a-lifetime thrill for our students to perform for an audience that erupted in laughter and applause that actors only dream about. The standing ovation at the end was exhilarating. The audience's response added another 10 minutes to the show. There were three other area schools performing full-length shows at the festival as well as seven scenes from the runner-up schools. A team of judges watched the performances and awarded APA several honors.



**Zack Carlson, Bryce Miller and Alyssa Grimaldi selected to perform a scene from *Leading Ladies* at the California Youth In Theatre Day in Sacramento.**

Out of the four Main Stage shows, the judges selected *Leading Ladies* to represent CETA at the state capital to perform at the California Youth in Theatre Day in March. CETA awarded scholarships to me and to students Zack Carlson, Alyssa Grimaldi and Bryce Miller, who performed a scene from *Leading Ladies* in Sacramento. Out of the numerous girls in the four plays, they awarded the trophy for Best Supporting Actress to Alyssa Grimaldi as Audrey. For best use of movement in the 11 plays and scenes performed, the Flip Reade Award was presented to Zack Carlson as Jack. By far, the biggest challenge of remounting our show at the CETA Festival was the transporting, loading in, building and striking the huge two-story set. The technical staff at the host school—in this case Servite—selects the school with the most efficient and smooth load-in, construction, technical run of the show and strike of the set. They selected APA as Best Tech Staff. The most amazing aspect of this award is that the students ran the show alone for the first time ever, as APA's technical director, Joe Batte, had to work and was only able to be at Servite for the first couple hours of load-in and construction. For our students to be able to achieve this is amazing. The set move and construction were only possible with the dedicated support of several theatre guild parents, led by President Frank Jean as well as tech college assistants and staff.



**Alyssa Grimaldi- Best Supporting Actress  
Zack Carlson- Flip Reade Award  
Bradley Smith- Best Tech Staff**

## A Terrific Ensemble and Repertory

A big thank-you goes to the students who ran the lights, sound, props and set changes. Courtney Suter-Gilo and her costume students rose to the challenge of bringing all of the varied costumes and running the show with professional precision. Our incredible musicians also performed the songs for the show live and were wonderful. The cast was probably never better, and the most incredible aspect for the actors was the appreciation shown to them all weekend by the very talented students from the other schools. The leads were often surrounded by students wanting to talk to them and meet them.

Arlene Hood, President of CETA praised the productions as "examples of the finest high school theater." APA also had two films entered in the student film festival. Michael Keane came in second place in the first year that APA has entered this category.

The students attended three workshops of amazing variety that gave them excellent educational experiences. The entire trip would not have been possible without the support of our parent chaperones led by Theresa Grimaldi and Teresa Stauffer. APA is so proud of our talented students in this show and festival.

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# Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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**Steve Curiel**  
*Principal*

## Career Technical Education Growing

As we begin to see signs of an economic recovery both locally and statewide, we become hopeful of better times ahead of us. But hope without action only gets people so far. At some point, an individual has to look at the changing economic and employment landscape and make necessary adjustments in his or her education and skill sets in order to be prepared for opportunities as they evolve.

At Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS), students have surveyed the landscape and see potential opportunities. They are preparing themselves through Adult Education. Whether it be a class in Microsoft Excel or a full training program such as medical assistant, HBAS offers a variety of training and skill-building opportunities.

As a fully accredited public postsecondary institution, HBAS prides itself in providing relevant educational programs that meet individual needs and enable students to become productive workers. In fact, this is part of our mission. At HBAS, we offer full training programs in administrative assistant, general office clerk, medical assistant and pharmacy technician. We also offer classes in Microsoft Office applications, QuickBooks, Photoshop Elements, Google Apps and many other popular software applications. We hope to expand these offerings next year by offering more training programs that local labor-market studies indicate will be in demand, such as dental assistant, veterinary technician and medical records technician.



**In December, HBAS graduated its 4th group of Pharmacy Technicians**

## Preparing for the Workforce

Our newest training program, Pharmacy Technician, has had great success in getting students graduated, certified and employed. This past December, the program graduated its fourth class with its first formal graduation ceremony. Nineteen students completed all coursework requirements, qualifying themselves to become registered pharmacy technicians in the state of California. More impressive is the fact that 10 of the graduates became nationally certified by passing a third-party national assessment. This makes it 54 students in a row who have become nationally certified pharmacy technicians (CPhT). In fact, only one student who has completed the program and taken the certification exam has not passed. Students are now either employed or looking for employment. One student decided to increase her odds of getting a job by acquiring more skills through the Medical Assistant program!

As HBAS continues to grow, we look forward to building more training programs for our community and helping people get back to work. As changes continue in our workforce demographics and labor markets, we see it as part of our mission to help bridge the two—workforce and labor market—in order to support a healthy economic recovery. As such, our training programs will include bridges between our large diploma and ESL programs. Many of these students are currently acquiring basic academic skills with an end goal of getting a job. We are hoping and planning to help them reach that goal. It's good for them, good for our school and good for our community.

# Marina *High School*

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



**Dr. Paul Morrow**  
*Principal*

## Collaboration of Technologies: The Passive Solar House

Clearly, programming courses should teach methods of design and construction, and the selected examples should be such that a gradual development can be nicely demonstrated.

— Niklaus Wirth, Swiss computer scientist

Marina High School has an extremely active and progressive industrial technology department, which offers course in Auto 1,2,3 and 4; metal machines; construction; and drafting. The primary goal of the department is to ensure that the students have a quality hands-on learning experience that prepares them for possible careers after high school. Many of the students follow up their high school training with post-secondary certificates or degrees within the industrial technology fields.

Last year, the construction students applied their newly learned skills to frame, wire and plumb the basic structure of a house. Students were able to see the work in progress during passing periods and before and after school. It was a highly successful project that the entire school watched each day.

This year, the department is taking this experience a step further by joining the science department to construct a thermodynamic house. Mr. Meade's industrial tech and ROP construction students will construct the passive solar house. The concepts, explanations of the science, and the visual diagrams and tours will be conducted by Mrs. McKernan's chemistry classes.



The technology is a revolutionary way of using the sun and thermal mass within the structure to heat and cool the house. When the four-week project is finished, students who take the tour will see the function of Trombe walls, along with convection currents, as a functional way to store, transfer and move either hot or cool air.

This entire project is a wonderful example of the rigors of science and scientific explanation as well as the relevance of construction skills. This allows students to make their knowledge meaningful and relevant. The project will be open for tours to students, staff and guests in the spring.





**Dan Bryan**  
*Principal*

## Globally Minded

At Ocean View High School, we are living up to our standard of building students who are internationally- minded. We have begun a pilot program called the Global Sustainability Project. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program and the Earthwatch Institute have collaborated with the Kenneth A. Picerne Foundation to sponsor the participation of eight students and one faculty member in a 12-day teen expedition to South Africa this summer to aid research scientists in the study of wildlife sustainability. The Picerne Foundation will be funding scholarships for the students and our faculty to participate in this marvelous opportunity.

An integral part of a student's IB course of study at Ocean View is the Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) program.



The CAS requirement is a fundamental part of the program and takes seriously the importance of life outside the world of scholarship, providing a refreshing counterbalance to academic studies. Creativity is interpreted broadly to include a wide range of arts activities, as well as the creativity students demonstrate in designing and implementing service projects. Action can include not only participation in individual and team sports but also taking part in expeditions and in local or international projects.

Service encompasses a host of community and social service activities. Some examples include helping children with special needs, visiting hospitals, and working with refugees or homeless people.

Students are expected to be involved in CAS activities for the equivalent of at least three hours each week. Each school appoints a CAS supervisor, who is responsible for providing a varied choice of activities for students. Programs are monitored by IB regional offices.

A system of self-evaluation encourages students to reflect on the benefits of CAS participation for themselves and for others and to evaluate the understanding and insights acquired. –the IB Web site, [ibo.org](http://ibo.org)

I am grateful that some of our students have the opportunity to go out into the world and make a difference now because they are part of this fantastic academic program! We are very excited about this one-of-a-kind offering.

I am very proud of the connections we have made with the community. Because of our willingness to say yes to opportunities for our students, we have a chance to make our students "walk the talk" when it comes to service learning. Becoming internationally minded will take on a whole new meaning for these Seahawks.



**Kerry Clitheroe**  
*Principal*

## Celebrating 20 Years

Anniversaries are remembrances of specific days in the past. But if an anniversary continues to be remembered and celebrated as the original day recedes into history, it becomes a testament to the success of the vision and goals of that auspicious day.

Valley Vista High School accepted a challenging mission 20 years ago. As a continuation high school serving at-risk youth, our mission from 1982 to the present has remained essentially the same: provide a nurturing academic environment within a small school setting that supports the unique learning challenges that are faced by its students.

Our smaller class sizes; teaching, guidance and support staff dedicated to meeting the needs of our special student population; and a specialized, flexible approach to curricula and credits, all enable our students to better achieve their academic and personal goals. Our students, primarily eleventh- and twelfth-graders, transfer to VVHS from the six comprehensive high schools in the district. Our task is then to engage each student in mastering the curricula and to help support them as they accept the responsibility to learn.

There have been many changes over the last 20 years. The most visible and far-reaching has been the explosion of technology in all facets of delivering and monitoring instruction. Students now rely on the use of personal computers both in and out of the classroom, for all subjects. Teachers now have a wide array of high-tech presentation media at their disposal, including LCD projectors hung from the ceiling and the use of "smart" whiteboards.

## Different Needs

Our curriculum and instruction has also increasingly emphasized the needs of English learners and students with disabilities. VVHS students have recently undertaken the production of a yearbook that celebrates their unique tenure at our tiny campus. The entire student body is also actively engaged in projects that benefit a wide range of community needs. For instance, we are proud of our on-campus "NEST," a child development center for infants and toddlers that supports our school's pregnant and parenting teen program.

Our instructional and support staff have changed as well. None of the original staff remain. Three principals have come and gone, and a counselor has been added along with a network aide. But the cooperative and collaborative spirit that was present when VVHS opened is still here. There is an increased emphasis on active teaching strategies that address identified academic standards, encourage the acquisition of positive social skills, and prepare students for career and college pathways.

There are many ways to measure success related to an educational institution. One of the best is to observe the seniors who are graduating. More and more of our seniors are graduating and continuing on to college, or leaving well-prepared to pursue challenging and rewarding careers. There are smiles on all the faces at our graduation ceremony, and tears in most of the eyes. These are the indicators of success that were first envisioned 20 years ago.

## SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 26

this one." But he didn't. Instead, he waited a moment, closed his eyes and then signaled the conductor to begin again. The orchestra began, and he played from where he had left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before. Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, and you know that, but that night Itzhak Perlman refused to know that. You could see him modulating, changing, recomposing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never made before.

When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then people rose and cheered. There was an extraordinary outburst of applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were all on our feet, screaming and cheering,

doing everything we could to show how much we appreciated what he had done. He smiled, wiped the sweat from this brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said, not boastfully, but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone: "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left."

What a powerful line that is. It has stayed in my mind ever since I heard it. And who knows? Perhaps that is the [way] of life - not just for artists but for all of us.

So, perhaps our task in this shaky, fast-changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all that we have, and then, when that is no longer possible, to make music with what we have left.

# Westminster *High School*

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



**Shirley Vaughn**  
Principal

## Teachers of the Year

The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) has nominated Mrs. Harmon as Outstanding First-Year Teacher. She has also served as the senior class advisor and the advisor to the Mock Trial team, worked with students in the Conflict Mediation program, and served as the Westminster High School Social Studies Department

Coordinator. She now serves as the HBUHSD Social Studies Facilitator.

Currently, she voluntarily coaches the Academic Decathlon team, which has won four Orange County Championships. She currently sponsors four clubs on campus: Government "S" Club, Glee Club, Hip-Hop Dance Club, and the Polynesian Club. The S Club is very active and has over 50 members completing various service projects, including collecting Toys for Tots and serving Thanksgiving meals to the homeless. She has received numerous awards from community service organizations, from the city of Westminster, and most recently from the Huntington Beach Mason Lodge for being Westminster High School's Volunteer Teacher of the Year!

Mrs. Harmon works extensively with the Westminster community, inviting guest speakers to her classroom to bring history lessons alive to her students. She has taught at a variety of levels, from sheltered courses to English as a Second Language students, Advanced Placement (AP) students, and gifted and talented students. She teaches Health Academy and AP Government courses, in which she uses the latest technology and teaching techniques to build active members of our community.

Mrs. Harmon has taught every level and every elective course in her department since the beginning of her career at Westminster High School. In addition, she often works with other departments, integrating curriculum for student projects and serving on numerous site and district committees.

Susan Harmon is the epitome of dedication, as evidenced by her teaching and mentoring of Westminster High School students. Students describe her as a great teacher who is energetic and fun. There is a sign hanging behind her desk which the students made for her. The sign reads, "Teacher of EVERY Day: Harmon."



**Mrs. Harmon outside of her classroom with her students.**



**Susan Harmon**

## National Merit Scholars

Over 1.5 million students took the 2011 PSAT last October. Of the 1.5 million students, 34,000 were named Commended Students on the basis of a National Selection Index qualifying score. Commended students place among the top five percent of the students taking the test.

As demonstrated by their outstanding performance in the highly competitive program, Hung H. Nguyen and Khue V. Tran were named Commended Students. These students represent some of the most academically talented in the country.

Hung is interested in attending University of Southern California (USC) to major in psychology. Khue plans to attend University of California, Berkley or USC to major in bio-engineering.



**Khue V. Tran and Hung H. Nguyen wearing their Orange County Academic Decathlon metals from this year's event**





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## On The Run Stress Fractures



**Dr. Doug Richie**

Sometimes, a dull aching pain on the top of the foot may represent the beginning of a serious injury. Stress fractures in the bones of the feet can occur in runners of all ages and sometimes lead to long term disability. These injuries seem to be on the rise with the popularity of barefoot running and “minimalist” shoes.

The bones of the feet are subjected to tremendous bending forces during running and somehow seem to adapt and perform miraculously despite the punishment they receive. Sometimes, however, the applied stress exceeds the capacity of the bones to strengthen and adapt. This will occur when a runner suddenly increases the length or intensity of their training sessions. The sudden increased stress will cause the bone to crack or fracture.

Stress fractures in the feet do not always begin with extreme pain. Many runners will unknowingly continue running with a fracture assuming that the dull ache they feel will soon go away. The metatarsal bones across the ball of the foot are the most common location of stress fractures in the feet. The pain is almost always felt across the top of the foot.

Usually a stress fracture begins with a microscopic fracture which will not show on x-ray. It may take two weeks until the healing process of the fracture will finally be visible on the x-ray. Therefore, whenever there is a suspicion of a fracture, rest is always the best advice. Once diagnosed, most stress fractures heal with immobilization in a special boot. However, the runner will usually miss at least 4 to 6 weeks of training. Prevention, through better training techniques is the best remedy for stress fractures of the feet.

Dr. Doug Richie is a sports podiatrist who has practiced in Seal Beach for 28 years. He is president-elect of the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and serves as a medical advisor to U.S.A. Track and Field. 562/493-2451

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