

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



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

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A Once In a Lifetime Opportunity



Edison High School seniors visit the nation's capitol.

By D'Liese Melendrez, Principal – Edison High School

Two of Edison High School's Center for International Business and Communication Studies (CIBACS) students, Melanie Daw and Brooke Simon, planned an itinerary and raised funds for their senior class to visit the nation's capitol. Planning began many months before the trip took place. They contacted their congressman to obtain tickets to the inauguration and secure a tour of the White House. They scheduled a meeting with the chief financial officer of a global medicine program at Johns Hopkins Hospital and arranged tours of the many memorials and museums. The trip took strategic planning and multiple fund-raising efforts to defray the cost, and the result is lasting memories.

"A once in a lifetime opportunity" was the mantra as the students set out on inauguration morning in 16-degree weather with one million others to watch President Obama take his oath. Daw said, "This is what holds our whole country together, to be able to be there, to see everyone in unity. No one was fighting. No one was upset about anything. It didn't matter who we were, what we believed in, or what we looked like. Everyone believed in each other and cheered as one." The students were proud to be in attendance at this commencement of leadership, a tradition since George Washington first took his oath.

Another highlight was meeting with former CIBACS students who work on "The Hill." They provided insightful reflection and wisdom and a tour of the U.S. Capitol. For the seniors who have been together for four years in CIBACS, this trip was a defining moment, a once in a lifetime opportunity they will forever share.

See **A ONCE IN A LIFETIME** • Page 29

A Million Things to Do!



Connie Boardman

Mayor
Huntington Beach

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

If you have not visited Shipley Nature Center lately, it is worth the trip. There are trails to follow that will remind you of the days when Native Americans were living in the Bolsa Chica wetlands. And speaking about the Bolsa Chica—restoration days are held every first Sunday of the month.

Have you visited Surf City Nights

See **MAYOR H.B.** • Page 27

Mayor's View



Mark McCurdy

Mayor
Fountain Valley

Service clubs play a critical role in our community. Many volunteer organizations give their time and energy promoting service projects and fund-raisers that benefit organizations and individuals in our city.

The Fountain Valley Woman's Club meets at 11 a.m. at Claim Jumper Restaurant on the second Tuesday of each month. Among its projects is a scholarship program for high school seniors. If you are interested in joining, call Carol Hedenberg at (714) 531-3424.

The goal of Friends of the

See **MAYOR F.V.** • Page 28

Promoting Student Success



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
OC Dept of Ed.

Research shows that healthy children are more likely to have positive outcomes in school as well as improved physical fitness and mental health. Recent data at the national, state, and local levels raise much concern about obesity and the overall wellness of American citizens. Since 1980, obesity among children and adolescents in the United States has almost tripled. According to a recent study by Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the number of obese adults has also grown dramatically

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Happy Birthday
Dr. Seuss
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HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL
OCEAN VIEW AND
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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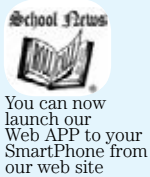
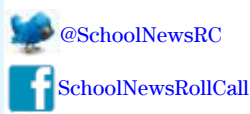
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Kay Coop
 Founder / Publisher



This is our 9th Anniversary publishing the excellence from these four districts. That means since our first issue students could have graduated, completed college and come back to teach in their almatmater. I'll have to research that and get back to you with results!

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

We received a record number of entries in our contest last issue. This issue we have two contests for you!

Our next issue is May 1st.

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- 1 Size:** Make sure it fits snugly. It shouldn't rock back and forth.
- 2 Position:** It should sit level on your head and low on the forehead.
- 3 Chin Strap:** Tighten until it is snug – no more than two fingers should fit under the strap.



For fun tips on how to be bike safe, visit us at MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares



MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent
OC Dept of Ed.

in California over the past fifteen years, and is expected to grow significantly in the next twenty years. In 1995, the adult obesity rate was under fourteen percent, and by 2011, it had increased to almost twenty-four percent.

In Orange County, only thirty-nine percent of fifth, seventh, and ninth graders passed California's Physical Fitness Test in 2011. In addition, economic disparities have the potential to negatively impact the health and academic success of an alarming percentage of students in our county. Among fifth graders whose families have low-incomes, fifty-four percent are overweight or obese, compared to twenty-nine percent of non-economically

disadvantaged students. Almost forty percent of low-income fifth graders are at high risk for Metabolic Syndrome (the precursor for Type Two Diabetes), compared to seventeen percent of their non-economically disadvantaged peers.

The economic implications can also be felt statewide. A study published in 2005 by the California Department of Health Services described the economic costs of obesity and physical inactivity and their collective impact on health care expenditures and worker productivity. The study found the total annual estimated cost to California for obesity and physical inactivity was \$41.2 billion. For Orange County alone, the estimated cost was \$3.3 billion.

It is clear that we have a lot of work to do to improve the health and fitness of our residents. Researchers propose using evidence-based strategies to improve nutrition and increase physical activity in our schools, neighborhoods, and work places, in order to significantly reduce obesity-related diseases and health spending in California. The school environment is one of several settings that can influence positive nutrition and fitness habits, and the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is committed to collaborating with schools and community members to address these important issues. Earlier this year, OCDE formed the Center for Healthy Kids and Schools which has staff dedicated to the areas of student health services, physical education and fitness, youth sports, nutrition education, and school-based mental health.

This year, the Center has established the Focus On: Obesity campaign which aims to prevent and reduce childhood obesity through programs such as Move More, Eat Healthy OC Schools!, a county-wide campaign designed to identify and spread solutions for improving health and fitness; Healthy for Life, a revolutionary approach where Healthy Classroom Fit Kits are being distributed and teachers are being trained to integrate physical fitness into their daily routine; and Kids Run the OC, which provides free training, tools, and resources to start an after school running program for students ages 6-12.

These are just a few of the programs available to support schools with implementing health and fitness activities on their campuses. I hope you'll take advantage of the many tools and resources available through the Center for Healthy Kids and Schools. We are committed to helping create cost-effective, sustainable partnerships and programs leading to systematic changes in school health environments that will produce healthy, fit kids who are ready to learn.

For additional information, www.ocde.us/healthykids; www.ocde.us/healthyschools <http://www.ocmarathon.com/kids-run-the-oc/registration-kids-run-the-oc.aspx>

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Fountain Valley School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



A Blue Ribbon Day for Fountain Valley

The Fountain Valley School District was informed that we have one of six schools in the county that was nominated for a National Blue Ribbon Award. To qualify for this nomination, schools must demonstrate that the academic performance of their students reaches an 88-percent proficiency level in all subgroups while data shows that students have grown dramatically in English language arts and math at all grade levels. Plavan Elementary School, under the leadership of Principal Julie Ballesteros, is to be commended for their commitment to setting high goals, dedicating themselves to the implementation of small-group, differentiated instruction and focusing on closing the achievement gap.

Dr. Marc Ecker

Plavan secured a grant from Hyundai Motor America for the installation of an ST Math Lab, which has been a central focus of their math emphasis. Plavan also has been very much involved in the Accelerated Reader program and has emphasized a home/school partnership in improving student reading and writing skills.

Although thrilled with the nomination, an honor in itself, Mrs. Ballesteros, with the help of Assistant Superintendent, Instruction Anne Silavs, has been completing the application to be submitted and evaluated by the Department of Education. The content of the application, describing the working team at Plavan and the collaborative practice of improving the delivery of instruction and use of community support to drive the focus on teaching and learning, will be read and evaluated. However, the school must continue to show, as demonstrated on the California Standards Test in May, continued academic progress.

We are very proud of Plavan and its teaching and learning team. We are especially confident that Plavan will be awarded the Blue Ribbon and be invited to Washington D.C. to receive from President Obama its due recognition.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Judy Edwards
Clerk

Safety Is Always a Priority

Since that terrible day at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December, all of us in education have done everything we could to ensure that this could not happen in our schools.

Fountain Valley School District has met with the police departments of both Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach. These departments have, in turn, met with our principals and the leaders of the PTO/PTA units and outlined ways that we can make our schools even safer than they already are. We are keeping all outside doors locked, and we are checking all individuals who visit our campus.

Another safety issue on many of our sites has been the traffic in and around the schools at drop-off and pick-up times. We have unfortunately had some close calls. Dr. Ecker is meeting with the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee in an attempt to find a solution to the problem of unsafe driving practices around some of our schools. We need to be mindful of everyone's children when dropping off our own children.

Beyond basic safety procedures, we are trying to keep our parents and students informed of ways they can make sure they are safe from outside influences. Our middle schools are having outstanding assemblies that speak of the danger of cyber bullying. With the help of the police departments and the Orange County Department of Education, we are helping families understand what they need to be aware of to protect their children. Recently Talbert Middle School presented a parent boot camp on cyber bullying, including the film "Teen Truth Live." Those who planned this event underlined its importance to parents by providing free food and babysitting. The film's producer, JC Pohl, gave the presentation, as well as an assembly earlier in the day for all students, followed by sessions with the ASB officers and the Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) students. These very impactful presentations gave everyone serious things to think about as they develop plans to protect our students from those who present a danger to our schools.

We are reassuring parents and the community that the safety of our students is our utmost concern and that we have established policies and procedures to follow in case of emergency. We are doing all we can to be vigilant about the safety of our students and staff. This will always be a priority of the Fountain Valley School District.

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Mr. Fountain Valley Pageant



Nicola Weiss
President

Fountain Valley Educational Foundation once again will attempt to win the Mr. Fountain Valley Pageant!

The second annual event is cohosted by FVEF with the Community Foundation and promises once again to be an evening filled with friends, laughs, great food and 5 regular guys competing for the title for their non-profit cause. Our candidate Franck Bideau will

compete for the crown in Evening Wear, Talent and of course the Swimwear portion. Last year this event was a sell out and sure to sell out again this year. So come help us out and help us win for the children of the Fountain Valley School District! How? Visit us at www.fvef.org and sponsor Franck, buy some votes or place an ad to show your support!



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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

New Learning Stations

Cox Elementary School has transitioned from four traditional half-day kindergarten classrooms to five full-day classes. Our school now has five terrific kindergarten teachers who utilize differentiated and small-group instruction on a daily basis to help meet the individual needs of our kindergarten students.

Each classroom utilizes instructional aides and parent volunteers to set up five different rotation stations in a small-group setting. Each station is differentiated for the individual student's literacy level. Thinking Maps, leveled readers, sight-word and number bingo

games, Smartboard technology, phonics, number-sense games and blends and vowels are just a few of the wonderful learning stations that you will observe when you visit one of these classrooms.

A special thank-you goes to all of the parents who volunteer in these kindergarten classrooms every day. And a big congratulations goes to Grandma Nori and Grandma Nan for their years of service to our students.



Mrs. Sankey's Kindergarten Gingerbread Performance

Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen
Principal

"Zero the Hero" celebrates 100th day of school

A special guest named, "Zero the Hero" visited the Courreges kindergarten students on 2/15/13 in celebration of the 100th day of school. He gave out "100th Day of School" erasers to all the kindergarten students, as well as read the book *Zero*. The kindergarten students have been eagerly awaiting (and counting) all year for this day to arrive, so it was a wonderful day indeed. Happy 100th Day of School!



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

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



Jennifer Perkins
Principal



Inger Kent
Assistant Principal

Falcon Basketball

Dribble, pass, shoot! Fulton boys and girls basketball teams played hard and brought home first place trophies! Special thanks to Masuda students and staff for hosting this year's event. All of the games were filled with excitement and highlights. Great ball-handling skills and shot selection helped lead our teams to victory. Boy's Coach Mr. Drew and Girl's Coach Mr. Phan, were very happy with their teams game day execution of plays and credit their wins to

focused practicing and teamwork. The cheerleaders, coached by Mrs. Johnson, also did an amazing job of keeping the crowd in the game. Good sportsmanship was center stage as teams shook hands and started thinking ahead to next year's tournament. Everyone is very proud of our students and will enjoyed celebrating their victories. Go Falcons!



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

The 100th Day

Day 100 is not only an important day in kindergarten, but it is also a fun day! Its importance stems from the critical concept of place value, which is a major component to building numbers. For the first nine days of school, all the numbers the kindergartners recorded “lived” in the ones’ house, as they were single digit numbers. On the 10th day of school, when a double-digit number needed to be built, a zero held the place in the ones’ house and a numeral 1 “moved” to “live” in the tens’ house. When day 100 arrives, another “move” will take place. On this day, two zeros will hold the place of the ones’ house and the tens’ house. The numeral 1 will “move” to “live” in the one hundreds’ house, and triple digit numbers will be built. To celebrate Day 100, kindergarten students participate in many exciting, fun activities to mark this historical day!



William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

8787 Dolphin St., Huntington Beach, CA 92646 • 714/378-4200 • www.wtnes-fvsvd-ca.schoolloop.com



Kathy Davis
Principal

Student Scientists

Newland’s Elementary School’s fifth-grade classes just completed their seventh annual Watershed Conference at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point. Thanks to a grant by the Ocean Institute, the fifth-grade classes were able to attend three different field trips centered around water science and the scientific method. Our first trip allowed the students to experience hands-on science by dissecting fish, testing water, and learning about the importance of keeping our watershed healthy. Our second trip was to our own watershed, the Huntington Beach Pier and the Santa Ana River Jetty, to test the water quality and the health of our soil. Our young scientists recorded the data collected from Talbert Watershed. Mrs. Johnston’s class investigated the quality of the water as Mr. Tilka’s class examined the health of our soil. Students then created a PowerPoint with this data. In January we headed back to the Ocean Institute to present the data to other schools, scientists, and professionals. We reported what all of this collected data means to our watershed. Both classes were quite impressive with their depth of knowledge about watersheds, science, and especially our Talbert Watershed. We thank the Ocean Institute and MiOcean for their generous donations and sponsorship. This is a learning experience every student will remember.

Kazuo Masuda *Middle School(6–8)*

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



Chris Mullin
Principal



Heather Harrison
Assistant Principal

Got Grades!

In January, Masuda held its annual “Got Grades” assembly for students who received a 3.0 or better on their previous report cards. Masuda was amazed to have 660 of Masuda’s 817 students attend the assembly. In fact, over 300 Masuda students received a 4.0 in their first semester! Our “Got Grades” assembly is a celebration and a validation of good grades and hard work. Teachers manned bounce-house games and additionally passed out shirts, pins and cards that



allowed free entry to dances and treats to all of the students who participate. We had music to enjoy and different sports games for students to participate in. Furthermore, we held a raffle for the students. This year, we had donations from a sunglass manufacturer and local eating establishments, and we were given electronic equipment as well. This is just one of the many ways Masuda staff strives to acknowledge the work and dedication our students put in!

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Family Science Night

One of the reasons why Oka is so special is because of its students. However, leading those students are our incredible teachers. Oka is very blessed to have such a wonderful staff, and just recently they helped to make our Oka Family Science Night happen. For the second year in a row Oka hosted this fun-filled evening. It provided our students and their families with an opportunity to experience a variety of hands-on activities. This included science stations that featured fingerprint identification, gases and air pressure, the movement of electricity, chromatography, and many other exhibits, all hosted by Oka teachers. The students and their families were able to roam throughout the Oka



Mr. Pate demonstrating air pressure without blowing off the roof.

campus and visit many, if not all, of our eight station labs. Oka was also fortunate to be joined by the Orange County Astronomers. This group of enthusiasts donated their time and talents by providing telescopes to help us get a glimpse of some amazing things in our galaxy. The students and their families enjoyed seeing Jupiter and the moon with incredible clarity.

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Plavan Panthers: Past and Present

The Plavan Elementary School Student Council representatives have taken interest in the history of their school. A small group of fourth-grade students took the time to research past newspaper articles and look through old Plavan yearbooks. They have found that our school has changed significantly over the years but our traditions have stayed the same.

Urbain H. Plavan School first opened its doors in 1972 as K-8 school for orthopedically handicapped children. At the time, it was considered a unique facility in the state for its mingling of physically handicapped and non-handicapped students. During its dedication, Dr. Waldo Price, the principal, said, "The school's aim is to bring the handicapped into the mainstream of life." The spirit of inclusion was alive and well at Plavan long before Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) became law in 1974—and it continues today.

Plavan is still a vibrant school and home to a diverse community of learners. Approximately 10 percent of our school population is comprised of students with unique needs that require special services. These students are provided with daily inclusion time in the regular education classrooms to promote social interaction with general education students.

The Plavan community still believes that all students should have opportunities to interact together and learn from one another. Every student has a special gift to share with others, and we will continue to support Plavan's vision from the past and take it into the future.

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

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



Cara Robinson
Principal



Jennifer Kadjasz
Assistant Principal

We're Stepping Up!

Talbert had the opportunity to have a speaker from Teen Truth, JC Pohl, come to campus and speak to our student body about bullying and how it can lead to school violence. Students were asked to step up and say something when they are being bullied or if they see someone else being bullied.

It didn't end with the assembly. JC stayed to have a brainstorming session with the ASB and PAL members to identify the main challenges on campus. These students helped bring to light

what they see and hear on campus and came up with numerous solutions to remind students to step up the whole year through.

The day continued into night—TMS held the third and largest Parent Boot Camp of the year. Almost 200 parents showed up to learn what they could do help prevent and support their children through bullying situations.



Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jay Adams
Principal

Team Tamura!

On the crisp, chilly morning of February 9th, Team Tamura gathered at Mile Square Park for the Fountain Valley 5K Fun Run. 1 Principal, 1 School Board Member, 14 Teachers, and over 50 Students, Parents, and Friends came out to help raise funds for Tamura and support our school! Regardless of the frosty air and some muddy conditions, fun, frolic, and laughter abounded! Third grader Parker Kendig, when asked about the best part of the race, stated it was "running through the finish line when everyone was cheering for me!" He said he raced to "support my school and to get nice and fit for life." Why support Tamura? His words: "Tamura is just a really great school...all of us are like brothers and sisters." I couldn't have said it better myself!





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SUPERINTENDENT



Gustavo Balderas

The Governing Board of the Ocean View School District as well as the staff, students and community are pleased to welcome Gustavo Balderas as the Superintendent of Schools. Superintendent Balderas began in this position on January 2, 2013.

Mr. Balderas was the Superintendent of the Madera Unified School District in California's central valley. He is thrilled to be part of the OVSD community where he and his wife, Cindy, have enrolled their 6th grade son. Their eldest son is completing his last year of high school.

In the short time he has been here, Mr. Balderas has met with local Superintendents and community leaders, local agencies, all district staff, and has been on every OV school campus. He is a hands-on leader and he believes that good communication and strong relationships are key to the success of any district. Superintendent Balderas is known for establishing strong community relations through the facilitation of regular community listening sessions which have been scheduled for the next few months with topics including school safety, common core curriculum and budget. All of the dates, topics and locations are available on our website at www.ovsd.org.

Prior to his leadership in Madera Unified, he served for twenty years in Hillsboro, Oregon, the fourth largest school district in Oregon with 21,000 students. He was a teacher, a counseling coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of School Improvement, the Executive Director of the Office of School Improvement and since 2009, as the Assistant Superintendent of Support Services.

"I am incredibly excited to be part of the Ocean View team. Ocean View has a stellar reputation as an innovative leader in education. We are working to build on our successes and looking for new areas to expand our efforts."

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Debbie Cotton
President

Focus on Student Achievement

In an effort to provide students with an opportunity to recover lost instructional time due to absences, the Ocean View School District has implemented a Saturday Academy Program that began in the second trimester of the 2012-13 school year. The goal of the Saturday Academy is to provide students not only a chance to recapture "lost learning", but also an opportunity to work on their academic skills with our teachers in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, enrichment activities such as fine arts, performing arts, hands-on science, PE and other curricular areas may be offered. Students attending any of the scheduled Saturday Academy sessions will recover a full-day absence that may be applied toward perfect attendance status.

All Ocean View students receive invitation letters to attend this enrichment program whether or not they have had an absence. However, if a student who attends the Academy has been absent, the district can recover the ADA compensation that was lost due to the absence, regardless of the reason. The Saturday Academy sessions are taught by Ocean View teachers, and are held usually two Saturdays per month from 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at most of our school sites.

The program has had tremendous success with over 1400 students attending the first session. Students enjoy the benefits of Saturday learning by participating in many instructional activities. Students are excited to conduct science experiments; others work on presentation skills, health education instruction, tutorials, thematic arts and crafts, intramural relays, while some of our middle school students put their "Go-Green" spirit to work at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

The Board of Trustees and District Administration is excited to offer our students the opportunity to attend Saturday Academy and to further instill the importance of learning and attendance, two significant life skills that will determine a student's success in their academic and employment career.

Circle View *Elementary*

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



Karen Sandors
Principal

The Write Stuff

January 31st was an exciting day at Circle View!

We started the day off by welcoming authors Christina Das and Mary Ann Easley to our school. Ms. Das did a wonderful presentation for our K-3 students. She talked about what it is like to be an author, how a book is created, and what inspires a story.

Ms. Easley presented her talk to our upper-grade students. She encouraged them to draw from their own experiences and turn their incidents, adventures, and day-to-day living into fictional stories.



Writing contest winners:

Ava Warren, Joshua Girgis, Matthew Quach, Diana Ledezma, Stuart Holton, Olivia Hahn, Kylie Joe, and William Tran.
Not pictured: Sherry Babawi, Zen Vezeua, Xolani Hodel

After class the fun continued at the Huntington Beach Children's Library, where an awards ceremony took place for the winners of The Friends of the Children's Library writing contest.

Out of the 21 kindergarten through fifth-grade winners, eleven were from Circle View.

Way to go, Eagles!

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



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Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Our Golden Running Club

The Golden View Elementary School Running Club is now up and “running!” This year 120 students are participating in the running program sponsored by Kids Run the OC. The goal of the program is to have students run and log their distance each week, with the final program culmination where students will run the final mile of their marathon at the KROC event at the Orange County Fairgrounds on Saturday, May 4.

Beginning in February after school twice a week, students excitedly lace up their shoes and earn mileage through games and timed, mile runs. Students also learn about healthy eating habits while gaining a love of exercise and running. Each child who earns a new, best, one-mile run time is recognized for his or her effort.

We are fortunate to have the support of our many parent volunteers and our coordinators, Wendy Luhm, Yvonne Redford, and Patty Nagatoshi.



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

An Amazing Author's Day

On Author's Day, our kindergarten and first graders were thrilled to have award-winning author and illustrator Laura Lacamara share her experiences with them and learn firsthand how authors create stories. Ms. Lacamara guided the children through a reenactment of her book *Floating on Mama's Song* in both English and Spanish.

Another award-winning author—Caroline Arnold, author of more than 100 children's books—discussed her books and what it's like to be an author and illustrator. Our second- and third-graders were engaged while learning how she researched factual information for her book *Birds*.



Children's book author Derek “The Ghost” Taylor Kent enthralled our fourth- and fifth-graders with his Scary School series. The students loved the books and the author.

We thank our PTO and Mrs. Bielicki for her organization and coordination with our two lead teachers, Mrs. Banchiere and Mrs. DuFresne. Many thanks to the volunteers and authors for making Author's Day a tremendous success!

College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

Character Education Is a Wildcat Priority

College View Elementary School is proud to recognize our students who exemplify our monthly character traits, such as respect, generosity, friendship, compassion, self-discipline, honesty, responsibility, acceptance, and perseverance.

Our monthly school-wide flag assembly serves as the perfect opportunity to introduce the new character trait of the month. Students and teachers focus on the new trait by conducting lively discussions and completing character-building activities in the classroom. Children who exemplify the monthly character trait receive a Proud Board ticket. The Proud Board tickets are entered into a drawing, and every month 12 students in kindergarten through fifth grade are chosen to have pizza with the principal. In addition, every child who receives a Proud Board ticket has the ticket “proudly” displayed in the multipurpose room for the entire year. Thank you to our wonderful College View Wildcats for being such good citizens! You make us proud!

We would also like to thank Mr. De Jesus, a very special Wildcat parent, who has painted numerous murals to adorn and beautify our campus. Two of his latest creations embellish the multipurpose room. The Proud Board mural displays College View students who exemplify the character trait for the month, and the American flag mural is proudly displayed on our stage. On behalf of the entire staff and community, I want to thank Mr. De Jesus for donating his time. His generosity and dedication to College View are appreciated!

Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Disco for Dollars

Get your groove on! It's time for Saturday Night Fever! The Harbour View Elementary School PTA is preparing for its 19th annual Casino Night Fund-raiser, being held at Meadowlark Golf Course on Saturday, March 23 at 7 p.m. This fun-filled night features fabulous teacher donations, amazing silent auction items, and an incredible live auction featuring vacation getaways, sporting event tickets, and signed memorabilia among other items.

Casino Night is our biggest fund-raiser of the year, and this year promises to be another memorable and successful event.

As a result of last year's fund-raiser, and through the incredible generosity of our community, we were able to continue to enhance and upgrade our technology program and fund a new computer lab. This year's proceeds will continue to keep us on the forefront in our technology offerings for students, as well as providing support for necessary instructional materials and programs affected by the current budget issues we are facing.

So grab some friends, and disco down to Meadowlark Golf Course. Can you dig it?

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Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Star Party 2013

In February, Lake View hosted its annual Star Party. Volunteers from the Orange County Astronomers set up several telescopes for nighttime viewing. Students got to see views of Jupiter and several of its moons,

the Cassiopeia constellation, a nebula in Orion's belt, a very close-up view of the moon and many more fabulous astronomical sights.

A variety of hands-on astronomy activities were set up in the multipurpose room. Students created their own constellations to see how they would look in the night sky and created a miniature planetarium. They made their own craters in flour and sand and also went on a scavenger hunt for constellation facts. A NASA program was running continuously on our SmartBoard to share important information about the latest NASA events. It was a fun, learning-filled evening for students and parents alike!



A closer look at the night sky.



Making craters

Oak View *Elementary*

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



Laura Dale-Pash
Principal

Making Waves

On February 5, 2013, Oak View Elementary School hosted the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees meeting to accommodate students and families in attending a special celebration.

Graffiti is an ongoing challenge on campus. At the meeting, Luis Camarena and Robby Foster, district maintenance workers, were presented with the Wave Maker Award for their efforts in cleaning graffiti and assisting in the declining incidence of tagging at Oak View.



The custodial team of Tom Rezvan, Thin Le, and Frank Salas received the Sparkle Award for their dedication in keeping the campus neat and tidy. Frank Salas was highlighted for his 17 years of service. A Wave Maker Award was also given to Martha Cervantes for her many years of commitment as a volunteer in the Oak View community.

A community member stated, "If Oak View Elementary is the center of gravity in the neighborhood, then Frank and Martha are the magnetic pull."

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Stephanie Henry
Principal

Weekend Learners

At Mesa View Middle School, we are proud to share our new Saturday Academy with our community. The Saturday Academy was developed to allow students to gain instructional time for days that they missed, while earning back attendance-related funding for our schools. Mesa View's approach to this exciting new program has been to offer courses for enrichment, tutorials, and community-service activities. For our first two Saturday Academies, over 300 students participated in academic enrichment courses, such as Revolutionary War re-enactments and oceanography and lifeguard courses. Some students chose to focus

on hands-on activities in the Woodshop Academy and basketball clinics. Other students demonstrated their commitment to the value of community-service and making the world a better place by volunteering and participating in planting activities at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, as well as supporting the Huntington Beach Surf City Marathon by volunteering and learning more about the free wheelchair mission supported by this event.

We look forward to offering more educational experiences through the Saturday Academy program. We are planning themed Saturdays, such as a California Standards Test review in English language arts and math for each grade level in May. Also, Mesa View is planning an Articulation Saturday in June for students to meet some of their new teachers for the following year.

I am proud of our teachers for embracing the idea of creating rich learning experiences for our students. The possibilities are endless!



Marine View *Middle School*

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



Shelley Morris
Principal

Future Scientists at Work

Marine View Middle School students continue to thrive in 2013! Under the direction and dedication of two amazing science teachers, Mrs. Kristin Spencer and Mrs. Dianne Robinson, our very talented eighth-grade students are incredibly focused now as they prepare to present their science projects at the second-annual Marine View Science Fair. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their skills and apply what they have learned to a real competition setting.

These eighth-graders will be presenting their projects to a panel of judges. This will include professionals working in the fields of science and engineering, teachers, community members, and site and district administrators. The students will be prepared to respond to a battery of questions about their respective projects, while also backing up their responses with evidence and data.

Meanwhile in our classrooms, the sixth- and seventh-graders will be participating in critical thinking lessons in science that incorporate the educational strategies for the upcoming Common Core State Standards. They will have an opportunity to enjoy the science fair as well, ask the eighth-grade students questions about their projects, and hopefully gather some insight and inspiration to use when it is their turn to compete as eighth-graders.

Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Robinson, we are hoping that out of approximately 300 participants, we will be able to narrow the field down to 20 finalists for competition at the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. Best of luck to our eighth-grade Mariner Scientists!

Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Welcome, School Readiness Nurses

We would like to welcome two very special people to the Ocean View School District: our new School Readiness Nurses Heidi Tucker and Michelle Mora.

Ms. Tucker has been a parent and volunteer in the OVSD for over nine years. She has two children who attend Ocean View schools in the fifth and seventh grades. Ms. Tucker has been a registered nurse for 15 years. She received a BS in nursing from USC and enjoys volunteering in youth sports and spending time with her husband and children. She is excited to be working with our children and families at Oak View Preschool.

Michelle Mora is married and a mother of three children: two daughters ages nine and seven, and a 10-month-old son. She attended Pt. Loma University in San Diego. Ms. Mora has a BS in nursing and her experience includes working at St. Mary's Hospital.

She has also served as a public health nurse working with children and their families. She has helped families with health education, assessments, screenings and community resources. Ms. Mora looks forward to working with the children and families at Oak View Preschool.



Heidi Tucker



Michelle Mora

Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Kinder
Principal

Star Celebrates the Snake

On Friday, February 8th, the students and staff of Star View celebrated the Vietnamese New Year (Tet) and the start of the "Year of the Snake." Each year, first grade teacher Audrey Tran organizes a day full of activities for the students at Star View. This year, each grade level attended an informational assembly about the Vietnamese culture and Tet traditions. First grade students also performed the play "The Spirit of Mountain and the Spirit of Sea." The biggest treat was the performance by the Westminster High School Vietnamese American Culture Club (VACC). They performed a Dragon Dance accompanied by a live percussion band and a fashion show of Vietnamese attire. The students were so excited to "feed" the Dragons their red envelopes, as a sign of good luck. The Star View community looks forward to this grand event every year!



Star View students "feeding" the dragon.

Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



Paul James
Principal

Summer Program

Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) is excited to offer a summer program for 2013. Located on the Pleasant View Elementary School site, Camp OVPP will follow a nine-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 and following the California Preschool Learning Foundations. Embedded in the curriculum, students will also enjoy a more playful camp schedule, which will consist of art projects, games, spirit activities, cooking, water-play days, special visitors, special events, and much more.

At Camp OVPP, our students will make new friends, learn new concepts, and have fun in a safe, nurturing environment. Camp OVPP will start on July 1 and consist of the following weekly themes: America Rocks; Super Heroes/Fairy Tales; Under the Sea; Incredible Insects; Fitness Fun; Space Explorers; Mad Scientists; Everyone is Different; and Luau Week.

Come join us for a summer that guarantees to keep our students learning, laughing, and enjoying the summer.

Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Thank You, PTSA

The Spring View staff would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful PTSA. In addition to its ongoing support of our school's technology needs, field trips and many other student incentives, this year they have also generously donated \$19,000 for the purchase of some new exercise equipment for the sixth-grade side of our campus.

I would like to recognize our PTSA Board. It consists of Amy Brassard, Lisa Minisohn, Doreen Noguera, Leesa Behrens, Georgia Alvertos, Laura Anderson, Gwen Taniguchi, Naydeen Hodges, Laura Dubow, Tracy Harris, Lisa Hennessy, Cindy Coots and Dianne Duke. There are also many other parents, community members and outside volunteers who have given their time and money to help make Spring View a fantastic place.

Our students are lucky to be benefiting from a wonderful partnership between committed and caring parents and teachers. We look forward to a strong and continued relationship with the community and our parents, one that will ensure the success of our students.

Contest!!

Dr. Seuss' hat is hidden somewhere in this publication.

When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put FHOW in the subject line)



Your entry must be received by April 15, 2013
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive
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Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Pioneers Pave the Way!

On Tuesday, February 5, 2013, fourth grade students in Mrs. Folsom's room experienced first hand what it would be like to have lived during the Pioneer Days. In an effort to extend the curriculum and study of the Westward Movement, students had the opportunity to grind stone, pan for gold, make beads, grind wheat into flour, use old fashion wash boards to clean clothes and lasso a bull head. According to fourth grade student, Estefani Lopez, "This is a lot of work!" However, most students agreed it was a lot of fun – at least "for a day!"



Village View *Elementary*

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



It's Always the Right Time to Write!

Our talented staff and students spend lots of time reading and writing at school and at home. Our teachers host a Writer's Club that allows upper-grade students a chance to share their writing, get expert help and pursue their passion.

Our school also collaborates with our local library. We encourage our students to participate in the many programs and services they offer. Village View had two students who participated in the 2012–13 Writing and Illustrating Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Children's Library. Hayden Pettijohn won the Fourth-Grade Award of Merit. River Pettijohn won the Kindergarten Best-Illustrated Story.

Our monthly Author's Tea is a special time when students bring their own writing and read it to the principal and their peers. The young authors read in their own voice about things important to each of them. We also host an annual Author's Day at school, and this year, authors Kristyn Pertierra and Sara Louise Kras shared their stories in their own voice. We also displayed their work so that students could see their accomplishments.

We continue to celebrate writing throughout the year. In March, our fourth graders take the annual STAR Writing assessment. This is always an exciting time for us. We know our students have worked hard all year, and we look forward to their being able to show what they know on this test and on all the writing they do in class. We know we'll see our student's names on the cover of published works in the future!

Vista View *Middle School*

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



Amy Kernan
Principal

Saturday Academy

Vista View held its first Saturday Academy in January. It was a tremendous success, and almost 100 students came. A great time was had by all, and the students actually want to come to school on Saturday!

In fact, we are expecting three times the number of students for our next academy!

The Saturday Academy is focused on enrichment classes that students can attend in order to make up for absences. For our first Academy, students participated in art and ceramics, drama, Japanese and improvisation. All of the students and teachers had an amazing time, and most are looking forward to attending in the future.

For our upcoming Academies, students will be able to participate in other classes such as games and logic, science lab, writing workshop, nutrition, soccer, test prep, drama, art, Vietnamese and many more. This is an amazing opportunity for our students to be able to experience activities not always possible during the regular school day.



Westmont *Elementary*

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



Carol Furman
Principal

Saturday Academy

Students at Westmont are getting a dose of fun and excitement at our new Saturday Academy!

Twice a month on Saturdays, students of Westmont are invited to participate in math, science, games, art, music, and nutrition lessons as a part of our efforts to recoup attendance monies and provide student enrichment. In Mrs. Partida's science class, students created chemical reactions. On another Saturday, they made FLUBBER! Students have also learned about world-famous artists and created their own works of art. Another popular

academy consists of nutrition lessons and hands-on cooking activities. Saturday Academy has been a wonderful addition to the enrichment opportunities provided at Westmont.

Our Eagles are excited to see what each new Saturday has to offer.



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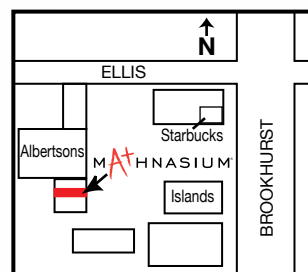
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Life Without Technology



Kent Kawaguchi

“What would you do if you didn’t have Internet, a cell phone, text messaging, video games, or Facebook?” This was the first question author, columnist, and ESPN sports analyst, Mike Lupica asked his audience as he began his presentation to young readers, teachers and parents. He explained to his attentive loyal fans in Newport Beach, California that he didn’t have all of the technology that is available today. Instead, he stated that “books can transport you into the life of another.”

Mr. Lupica is known for writing many young adult sports novels such as Travel Team, Heat, Miracle on 49th Street, Summer Ball, and his latest novel True Legend. As a TV anchor for ESPN’s “The Sports Reporters,” columnist for multiple newspapers and magazines, and author of national bestsellers and award winning novels, Mike Lupica inspires others to use their time to read and learn life lessons through his two passions: sports and reading.



Kent with Mike Lupica

These are life skills and topics Mr. Lupica enjoys writing about. Mr. Lupica said that his “books do not contain vampires, wizards, or werewolves, yet kids love to read them. They are about friendship and kids trying to do something great in sports through teamwork and loyalty.”

In Mr. Lupica’s novels, his characters portray qualities of being a good teammate and persevering toward their ultimate goal. Through his writing and his characters, he hopes his young readers will be inspired and learn from what they read and apply it to their own life. He said, “Playing sports is more than just throwing or hitting a ball. It’s about learning how you get up after getting knocked down and that is truly the measure of your talent, heart, and character.”



It's so hard to watch your child struggle. It's harder still not knowing why.

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We took away his cell phone. Then his car. But nothing we did motivated our son Dillon to study more or do better in school.

Despite all our efforts, he just couldn't do it.

It hurt to listen to him read, or to watch him struggle for hours over homework. By the time Dillon reached high school, he seemed ticked off most of the time. He was acting out in class. He was disrespectful at school and at home.

I'd tell him to study for a test and he'd refuse, saying, "I don't have to study. I understood the homework."

But how was I supposed to believe him when he failed every test?

The turning point came when we got him tested at LearningRx. Suddenly everything made sense!

One of Dillon's brain skills called auditory processing was really weak, ranking in the ninth percentile. And since auditory processing is foundational for reading, no wonder homework took forever! His long-term and working memory skills were also weak. In other words, he'd been telling us the truth! He really had understood the concepts as he learned them; he just couldn't hang on to them.

No wonder my son was frustrated

and mad at the world. And we had not only doubted what he'd been telling us, we'd accused him of being lazy!

Within weeks of starting brain training, Dillon was spending less time on homework. Midway through the program, we saw C's and D's turning into A's and B's.

"...what I really loved was that Dillon became happier and more confident. Suddenly he didn't have to fight so hard."

But what I really loved was that Dillon became happier and more confident. Suddenly he didn't have to fight so hard. His English

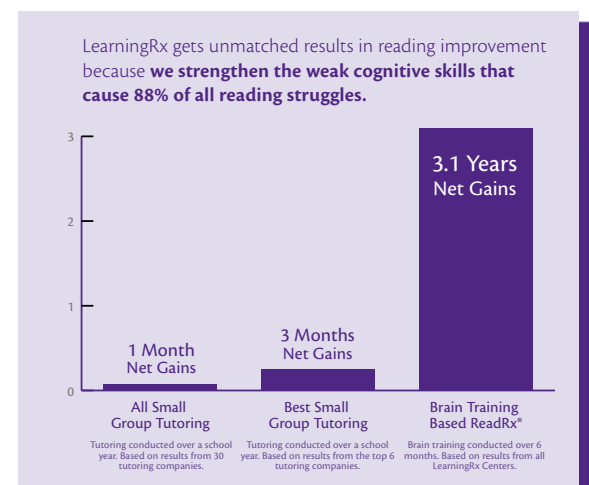
teacher told me Dillon was like a completely different kid. In science, he did so well he was asked to tutor other kids. He told me, "Mom, this stuff is easy." I'd never heard that before!

By the time Dillon finished the program at LearningRx, he had gained 39 percentile points in auditory processing and 33 percentile points in long-term memory. His executive processing speed—good for planning, paying attention and follow through—showed the biggest gain, jumping 56 points from the 23rd to the 79th percentile!

His final year of high school, Dillon took tough classes he never would have attempted before brain training, like honors chemistry and an advanced calculus class.

To this day he'll try something new and say, "Mom, before LearningRx I couldn't have done that."

And you know what? I believe him.
—Shannon, Dillon's mother



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Spring Event : Author Jay Asher



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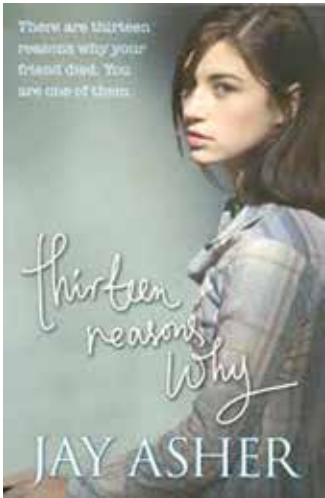
Local community reading group HB Reads has chosen *13 Reasons Why* as its 2013 book. This novel deals with bullying and how one’s actions can have a greater effect than one can imagine. The events that HB Reads has sponsored this year relate to the book’s antibullying theme.

On Wednesday, March 13, there will be a free showing of the movie *Bully* at 7 p.m. in the Central Library Theater. On Thursday, March 21, HB Reads will host two events featuring the book’s author, Jay Asher. At 4 p.m., there will be a special author reception and fund-raiser.

For more information on

location, price and reservations, go to www.hbreadreads.org.

Thursday evening, March 21, at 7 p.m., there will be a free public lecture given by Mr. Asher in the Huntington Beach High School Gym. This event is open to the general public. Copies of his book will be available for sale and autographing. Book signing may be limited. Antibullying bracelets promoting students to “Speak Up, Stand Up, Stop Bullying” will be available for a nominal purchase.



Upcoming Events



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

Homework help is available for students elementary through middle school weekly on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m., except on March 27.

Our shelving program is a great resource for teens ages 16 years and older needing community service hours. Interested teens may pick up applications at the library.

Free family entertainment opportunities are scattered throughout the year. Beach Animals Reading to Kids (BARK) is coming up on March 16 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Check with the library for more details.

Friends of the Library Bookstore sells gently used books for all reading interests. Donations are also accepted. The organization also holds movie matinees every fourth Friday of the month at 1 p.m. for older teens through adults.

The library will be hosting a parenting workshop, conducted by Boys Town California, in Vietnamese. This free, six-week workshop for parents or caregivers of children ages 13 to 18 provides techniques to help with parenting challenges. Registration will be March 25 from 6 to 7 p.m. Class dates will be April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 and May 6.

The Association of American Retired Persons (AARP) is offering free tax preparation for low- to middle-income individuals, as well as the elderly and disabled, on Wednesday afternoons at the library. Call the library to schedule an appointment.

The library offers knitting classes for beginning through advanced knitters. The next session runs on Tuesdays from April 9 through May 14. The cost for the class is \$60 and can be prorated. For more information, contact the library.

We Love Our Dogs Word Search Contest

Rules!!!

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

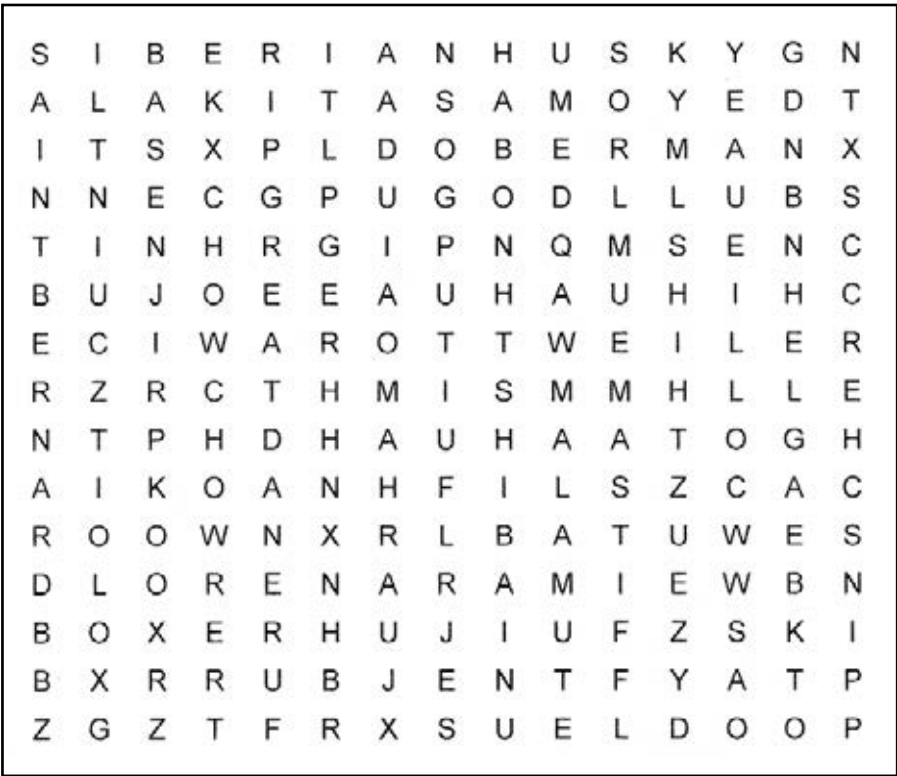
Thank you John Wong for the words to this Word Search

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

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

Akita	Dalmatian	Puli
Basenji	Doberman	Rottweiler
Beagle	Great Dane	Saint Bernard
Bloodhound	Labrador Retriever	Samoyed
Boxer	Malamute	Shiba Inu
Bulldog	Mastiff	Shih Tzu
Chihuahua	Pinscher	Siberian Husky
Chow Chow	Poodle	Weimaraner
Collie	Pug	Xoloitzcuintli

Congratulations to **Kenady Osborne**
Winner of the January Word Search Contest!



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Note-ables

Get Moving with Ella Jenkins



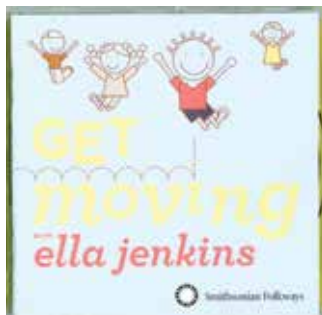
Kate Karp

If you were in preschool or early elementary school any time after 1962, listen to “London Bridge Is Falling Down” or “Skip to My Lou” from Ella Jenkins’s new collection, *Get Moving with Ella*. I can almost guarantee that you’ll have an immediate olfactory memory of the waxy smell of crayons and that thick white paste that came in a jar.

You may even remember how it tasted.

Ella Jenkins’s songs and activities, sung in her gentle, firm voice accompanied by her guitar, have been the first introduction to integrated music and vocabulary for many young children within the past 60 years. Her 33rd release, *Get Moving with Ella Jenkins*, is a compilation of 15 of these songs, three of which are previously unreleased. The collection will have young children getting up and getting on some healthy moves and enriching their language through repetition and rhythm, a long-practiced, successful methodology. “Who Fed the Chickens?” features personal pronoun usage along with farm animal names; “Head and Shoulder” mixes exercise with learning the names of body parts; and “Play Your Instruments” involves music making while learning the names of instruments. And there’s a really neat reworking of the old jump-rope rhyme “Teddy Bear.”

First Lady Michelle Obama recommends exercise to keep children fit. *Get Moving* will provide children with a good measure of it along with smart, healthy play—just like the kind you got as a child if you danced and moved to the sounds of the First Lady of Children’s Music.



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

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 2013 Classified Employees of the Year!

Richard Tauer

Kandy Downing – Support Services & Security Category

Kandy started working for the district as a noontime supervisor in 2001 and became a health services assistant in 2005. The health office is a challenging environment, as staff are required to multi-task numerous responsibilities. In addition to her job duties, she organizes and manages several programs at Warner Middle School, including holiday resources, Operation School Bell, immunization clinics, lung association air quality programs, and other health and safety activities. In addition, Kandy helps our students understand the importance of making the right choices through education programs on the dangers of drugs/tobacco/alcohol, good school attendance, and staying out of trouble.

Maria Fuentes Transportation Category

Maria was hired as a student transportation assistant in 1996, and less than one year later, she was promoted to bus driver, where she has been ever since. Maria’s supervisor and co-workers describe her as a dedicated and caring employee who goes above and beyond her duties. She is a devoted district parent as well as a stellar employee, and she is always friendly and helpful and makes all students feel loved and appreciated. Her co-worker said it best: “Simply put, Maria deserves great awards for just being her.”

Olga Mendez – Para-educator & Instructional Assistant Category

Olga was hired as a bilingual instructional aide for Warner Middle School in 1995 and was reclassified to a para-educator/specialized health in 2011. Working with special-needs students can be a challenge for anyone, but Olga embraces it with open arms. She assists students in adventures many of us take for granted, such as field trips, eating at restaurants, shopping, and participating in community fairs and festivals. She coordinates the trips and accompanies the students to ensure their safety and enjoyment. Olga is an invaluable and cherished resource to the teachers, students and parents. She has undoubtedly earned the title of “Warner’s Mom.”

David Truong – Maintenance & Operations Category

David was hired in 2003 as a substitute custodian, and in 2005 he became the permanent night custodian at Warner Middle School. David’s character is not only evidenced by his productivity and school pride, but by his relationships with the school staff and students. David teaches students the importance of hard work, good manners, school pride, and giving back to the community. David is also the liaison between the school and the local adult school that uses the campus for English classes for adults. David is hardworking and devoted to keeping the school safe and clean, and he serves as a mentor to the students.

Randy Upmeyer – Child Nutrition Category

Randy was hired in 1993 as a substitute custodian and maintenance worker. In 1994, he became the permanent food service warehouse/utility worker for the Nutrition Services Department. Randy’s work responsibilities include the receiving, distribution, and inventory of food supplies for all the site kitchens and the Nutrition Center. He is also part maintenance worker, part mechanic, part custodian, part delivery driver, and part food service worker. It is easy to see why he is called “Handy Randy.” Stacey Middle School PTA has Randy to thank for initiating the recycling program for fund-raising. All proceeds are donated back to Stacey’s PTA for the students, because Randy believes that’s where it belongs. His supervisor said, “He truly takes pride in everything he does.”



Classified School Employees of the Year:
Maria Fuentes, David Truong, Olga Mendez, Kandy Downing, Randy Upmeyer
(Diane Ybarra not pictured)

Diane Ybarra Office & Technical Category

Diane was hired in 1980 as a bilingual instructional aide for Clegg School. In 1982, she was promoted to account clerk at the district office. In 1989 she was reclassified to her current position of data systems operator. Diane’s supervisor said, “She is the type of employee you want others to emulate; her work ethic is phenomenal.” Diane is responsible for training all district employees at all 17 sites in the use of the BiTech system. She demonstrates professionalism and patience in her interactions with everyone and takes ownership and pride in everything she does. For over 30 years, her commitment has never wavered. She is a department leader and role model.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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President

Succeeding Despite Challenges

Recently, several Board members had the privilege of attending one of the most poignant and heartwarming awards ceremonies of the year. The Westminster Educational Leadership Association (WELA) annually honors students who have succeeded against all odds and beyond expectations or who have simply won the hearts of the educators who 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 attitudes; 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, such as cerebral palsy, cleft palate, 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.



Every Student Succeeding Winners
(Back) Traver Powell (Webber), Mitchell Phan (Willmore), Lesli Diaz (Clegg), Jose Solorzano (Johnson),
Cheyenne Ramos (Stacey), Sydney Rogel Ambriz (Warner), Jasmine James (DeMille),
(Front) Tommy Vuong (Anderson), Eric Ordaz (Finley), Eric Hanrahan (Eastwood),
Manaia Crooks (Hayden), Oscar Rangel (Meairs), Keiny Garfias (Schroeder)
Not pictures: Marina Morales (Fryberger), Grecia Soto (Schmitt), Calvin Nguyen (Sequoia)

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Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lori Rogers
Principal

The Reality behind the Slogan

By Miki Schooley and Mary Ferraro, Fifth-Grade Teachers

Recycle, reduce, reuse! These are words we've all heard before. Yet do we really know what they mean?

Fifth-grade students at Anderson had the opportunity to find out. Following our field trip to the Ocean Institute, where we studied the effects of pollution in our watersheds, we were inspired to do our part to help protect our ocean. We came together and formulated a plan. First, we surveyed students and teachers to see how environmentally friendly our school was. Next, we decided to launch an awareness campaign at our school.

We began researching and designing informational posters and pamphlets. After much hard work, it was time to campaign. We set up a booth during lunch recess and invited all to visit. We had a huge turnout! Posters were on display, pamphlets were distributed, and many questions were addressed. Did we make a difference? We sure hope so!



Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Reducing Waste

This year Clegg School is participating in a program through Inside the Outdoors called Project Zero Waste. The objectives of this program are to educate the students at our school about where waste goes and how to reduce it. We recently kicked off a service learning project. Students watched a video on how to reduce waste in their lunches and where to place their waste after eating lunch. We have three bins: one for water bottles; one for juices pouches; and one for food scraps.

One of the ways we are teaching our students to recycle is through a program called TerraCyle. They take previously non-recyclable or hard-to-recycle waste items and create collection and solution programs, called brigades, for all kinds of typically non-recyclable waste. These brigade programs are free for us to join, and for each unit of waste we collect we earn points redeemable for gift donations.

We also have four composting bins at our school, turning food scraps into soil-like materials using our decomposers, red wiggler worms. Composting is an easy and fun way to teach our students about the importance of decomposers, how nutrients are cycled, and how to reduce the waste going to our landfills.

We hope to educate our students about the many ways they can take part in reducing waste on our campus.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

The Music Mobile Visits DeMille

By Ms. Wilson's 3rd Grade ELD Class

Volunteers from the Orange County Philharmonic Society visited DeMille School in January to educate students about the symphony orchestra. They taught that the orchestra is divided into four families: woodwinds, brass, percussion, and string. Students learned how differences in vibration can cause large instruments to produce low sounds and smaller instruments to make high sounds. The docents played tapes to give examples of various instruments, and showed students how to hold and play the instruments. One volunteer even played the trumpet! Eventually, students were encouraged to touch and play all of the instruments. Students received stickers and a newspaper about the orchestra. The volunteers from the Music Mobile know how to make music fun!



DeMille third graders learning about the string section of the orchestra.

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Author Lincoln Pierce Visits Eastwood

Big Nate author Lincoln Peirce thrilled Eastwood students recently with an entertaining and educational hour-long presentation. Nate shared his personal experiences as a student and his early interest in cartooning, including the fact that some of his escapades are modeled after the author himself.

The highlight for many students was watching how he could take random curvy lines on a piece of paper and easily transform them into a cartoon character. An important message conveyed by Peirce was also the idea that there's always room for improvement in everything that you do, no matter how old you are.

Peirce is currently traveling across America in his huge, colorful *Big Nate* bus! Thanks to the efforts of our librarian Mrs. Edwards, and in conjunction with a local bookstore, we were the only Orange County school that was selected for a visit. This unique opportunity was an experience that our students will always remember.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutierrez-Garcia
Principal

Learning Never Stops

The learning never stops at Finley Elementary School! During the week of January 28-February 1, 2013, Finley School hosted a Guided Language Acquisition (GLAD) training for the Orange County Department of Education. Educators from Chicago, Illinois, Seattle, Washington, and San Bernardino, California joined Finley staff members in Ms. Stephanie Perry's fourth grade class. They observed as her students participated in a fourth grade common core social studies unit that promoted Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency, critical thinking, and the integration of expository writing in addition to poetry and narrative pieces.



Students in Ms. Perry's 4th grade class working on sentence building using a Team Flip Chart as GLAD National Trainer, Nicole Chavez, looks on.

By working in collaboration, students and staff continue to value authentic opportunities for the use of academic language that best utilizes the time of the trainers and trainees and creates a language functional environment.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Beating the Timer

What's that buzzing sound coming from Hayden Elementary School? Why, it's all of the Hayden Hawks who are learning their multiplication facts!

Honeycomb Math is a technique that helps our students memorize these facts. For multiplication tasks, rather than give our students the factors and have them come up with the product, we give them the product and they come up with the factors.

The factors are placed in a honeycomb grid starting with the number four, and going all the way up to 81. In order for a student to join the Honeycomb Club they must be able to verbally state all of these factors and products in under 60 seconds.

For example, when the timer starts, the student would say, "two and two is four, two and three is six, two and four is eight," etc. If a student beats the 60-second timer then he or she is now in the Honeycomb Club, and receives a special certificate. They are then invited to a Honeycomb celebration before school, where they can eat as much Honeycomb cereal as possible!



Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Hiacynth Martinez
Principal

Thank You Fryberger PTA!

Thanks to our awesome PTA for sponsoring our Fall Fundraiser DJ Glow Party! The "red carpet" was literally rolled out for all students who sold at least 10 items. The students entered the Multipurpose Room (MPR), which was transformed into a lively kid-friendly techno club, ready to party. Due to the high number of fundraiser items sold, Mr. Rodriguez' whole class qualified to attend the party along with other students from Preschool – 5th Grade! The students had a great time showing off their cool dance moves. Not only are Fryberger students S.M.A.R.T., but they can also "shuffle"!

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Shane Vinagupta
Principal

A Night to Honor Students, Staff and Parents

In January, we honored our art programs as well as individuals who help make a difference. Hosted by our PTA, the annual Founder's Day Awards and JMS Arts Night is a wonderful event that brings school community members together to share in honoring our creativity and teamwork.

The evening began with our beginning band who, led by Jon Mann, played five upbeat rock standards. Joyce Dudas then gave the audience a glimpse into her folktale plays. The performance that night was a folktale from the Middle East that taught the audience the age-old moral "If it's too good to be true, it probably is." Also on display were amazing pieces from Mrs. Weber's art class as well as Mr. Rippeon's woodshop.

The festivities concluded with the honoring of award recipients. Music teacher Mr. Mann, SDC teacher Mr. Perez, PTA parent Carla Bailey and parent Vivian Ngo were all honored with PTA awards for service to the school and students above and beyond the call of duty. This was a wonderful evening, and I would like to thank my PTA parents—Ronda Jenkins, Candy Montes, and Carla Bailey—for their endless support.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

A Walk Through the Ancient World

Schroeder sixth grade students learned all about the ancient world in a unique and fun format. Students were divided into three ancient civilization teams – Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Rome. After studying the history of each civilization, students became characters from the ancient world. Homer, Caesar, Cleopatra,

and even a mummy came to sixth grade. They had costumes, props, maps, timelines, music and scripts to turn the classroom into the ancient worlds from long ago and far away. With the help of a 'director,' the students performed historically accurate skits depicting important events. Strung together, these skits told the story of the ancient world in a memorable and meaningful way. Students had fun and learned a lot too. Special thanks to our PTA for making possible.



Camille Ferguson



Gracie Gillett

Land School

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



Beverlee Mathenia
Director Child Development Programs



Reagan Lopez
Administrator Student Services

What Makes a Child Ready for School?

By Darcy Spicer, Early Learning Specialist

This month our parents will start to see information everywhere about registering for kindergarten and preschool. There will be banners hanging on fences and over city streets. Flyers will be sent home from school with the children. Announcements will appear in local newspapers.

But why is there so much effort getting the word out about signing up for this level of education? Aren't the preschool years pretty much about playing and sharing?

It is true that play and peer interaction are a huge part of a preschooler's development, but there is much more going on in the preschool classroom than just play. Some research points to a student's success as being tied to how ready they are to enter kindergarten. This means that they are ready to follow directions, handle writing tools appropriately, and know how to work independently.

While it isn't critical that new kindergartners know their ABCs, or are able to count to 20, there are studies which indicate that the students who started out being knowledgeable about these things tended to fare better academically.

Land School serves as the hub for the preschool and child development programs in the Westminster School District. Here teachers meet monthly to improve their teaching skills. Parents also have access to the Parent Resource Center, a location that provides parenting and child development classes, informational handouts, and even a room for parent-child interactive playtime.

All of these services are to ensure academic success for our youngest WSD members, and start them off ready for school. Is your child ready?

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Paul Andre White
Principal

Having an Udder-ly Good Time!

Schmitt Elementary was recently visited by a benevolent bovine named Feisty. She came to our campus along with her human, Steven Miller, who spoke on her behalf to just over 500 captivated students and staff. Mr. Miller shared all sorts of interesting facts about Feisty, ranging from the number of gallons of milk she can produce in a day to how many compartments there are in her stomach.

The learning, however, did not stop there. A number of teachers jumped at the opportunity to deepen their students' understanding of new and exciting vocabulary by extending their learning through the use of GLAD strategies and Thinking Maps. Overall, it was a fun and exciting day, and for an overwhelming number of our students, this was the first time they had been so close to a cow and had the privilege of learning about it from a real cowboy.



Feisty and her human, Mr. Miller

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Celebrating the Year of the Snake

On Friday, February 8th the 1st grade classrooms at Meairs Elementary School celebrated TET/Chinese New Year to welcome in the Year of the Snake.

The students learned about the stories and traditions surrounding this holiday. Their new knowledge was evident by the student's writing and artwork on the walls of their classrooms. At the end of the day the students came together to share a meal of authentic Asian cuisine donated by many of our families. All the children were given chopsticks, but forks were available for the students and adults that couldn't quite master them! Some of the students came to school in beautiful traditional dress.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students of all backgrounds to appreciate the culture of our Asian community. Happy Year of the Snake to all.



Meairs first graders celebrate the Year of the Snake.

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tammy Hubbard
Principal

Every Student Succeeding

Every year the Westminster Educational Leadership Association (WELA) honors a single student from each school who has demonstrated incredible perseverance in their personal life. We are honored to announce that Calvin Nguyen was our recipient this year, and we are very proud of his accomplishment. Calvin has overcome many obstacles to become a successful student. Congratulations!

It is also with great pleasure and pride that we can honor Mrs. Regina Alves as Sequoia's "Teacher of the Year." Mrs. Alves works diligently every day to make sure that the students in her charge are all receiving quality instruction. She is always open to assisting every student on campus.

A colleague wanted to share with us that, "Regina has a deep conviction for her profession and goes the extra mile to help her students. Her students are always pushed to their potential."

So thank you, Regina, for a great job! We are glad to have you as part of the Sequoia team.



Regina Alves

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Well Done!

Congratulations to Cheyenne Ramos, our representative for Every Student Succeeding. Cheyenne is an Honors Level student who has overcome health issues and who brings a smile to everyone who meets her. Cheyenne is also the District candidate to the regional Every Student Succeeding Program. We know she will represent Stacey well.

The Stacey Glowtime Dance on February 14 was well attended and all students had a blast jamming to “love songs”. Thank you to our leadership students for designing a beautiful Glow time area for refreshments and cool decorations. The student body appreciates all of your hard work.

The drama production of Little Mermaid was a huge success. Thank to you all of our students and parents who worked so diligently on sets, costumes, songs, dances, and dialogue. It was amazing and well done.

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

A Special Tradition

On Friday, February 8, Webber School celebrated the Vietnamese New Year, which is more commonly known by its shortened name of Tet. This is the most important and popular holiday and festival in Vietnam.

Tet takes place from the first day of the first month of the lunar calendar (around late January or early February) until at least the third day. Many Vietnamese prepare for Tet by cooking special holiday foods. There are also a lot of different customs practiced during Tet, such as visiting a person's home on the first day of the New Year, ancestral worshipping, wishing New Year's greetings, giving lucky money, etc.

During Tet the Vietnamese will also often visit their relatives and temples, forgetting about the troubles of the past year and hoping for a better upcoming year.

During our own mini-celebration, the Webber students, families and staff members were greeted by the Dragon Dance as well as other traditional Vietnamese dance forms. There was even a Vietnamese fashion show! After the show we continued on with our celebration by having the families share their traditions and delicious food.

We are very grateful to Westminster High School, the Vietnamese American Cultural Community, and their coach, Thao Nguyen. We are also grateful to our Vietnamese liaison, Mrs. Ha Nguyen, who coordinated this event for our children. We learn so much about our community through special traditions and celebrations such as Tet.



Warner *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Matthew Skoll
Principal

What's Going On at Warner

By An Truong, Student

If you go to Warner Middle School you would know what a wonderful place it is. Even with over 1,000 students, Mr. Skoll and Ms. Morgan still manage to keep things organized. Recently we had a day where no students were late to school ... not one! To celebrate this, we had a raffle at our spirit assembly, and the students who were chosen won a whole pizza to share with their friends.

Also, if you didn't know, Warner is currently being remodeled, and there are some disadvantages to that. There's noise from construction and power outages, but we always find a way to deal with them. Ms. Casato and Mrs. Bhanushali, the teachers who are closest to the construction, have to deal with these mishaps, yet they still make it through the day smiling. See how amazing our teachers are?

And it's not just them. Sheldon and David, our custodians, are well-respected and appreciated at our school. They are always cleaning up after us, and they stay at school for more hours than we stay at school!

We had another great accomplishment this trimester. The boys basketball team had an awesome victory against Stacey. Unfortunately, even with a great coach, Jeovan Davila, and skilled basketball players, the boys lost to Johnson. As the saying goes, “You win some; you lose some!”

Our girls football team, on the other hand, beat Johnson and Stacey in both games! Mr. Garrett and his team have done well; congratulations to them.

Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

7122 Maple St., Westminster, CA 92683 • 714/895-3765 • www.wsd.k12.ca.us/willmore.aspx



Rob McKane
Principal

Community Partners Share Dr. Seuss With Our Students

Like many schools across the country, Willmore celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday and participates in Read Across America. Students and their families read at school and throughout the community every day. But on this day, the community comes to Willmore.

Every year Willmore invites community members from near and far to share their love of reading with our students. And we are proud that so many join us to fill each classroom with the words and rhymes of Dr. Seuss. Everyone from administrative assistants to assistant superintendents to School Board members bring their joy of reading from the district office. Representatives of the City of Westminster and the Boys and Girls Club visit us to share their time as well. Community business partners contribute to this day. We even see folks from the Westminster Police Department joining in from officers to detectives.

This is a great way for community partners to join the educational process, show the value and importance of community and teach our children the joys and wonders of reading. We thank all of Willmore's partners for sharing their time and their love of reading with our students.

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

An E-Ticket Ride!

In the early 1940s, Walt Disney had a dream to build an entertainment park for people in and around Southern California. His passion was to create a place which would exist to make people laugh, forget their troubles, and find joy.

Walt took his idea to his Board of Directors. Their feedback was not all that positive—in fact they thought his idea was crazy and would never work. In fact, Henry Ford, who was on his Board of Directors, said, “I wouldn’t give a dime to build a carnival in the middle of a bean field.” And so the challenge had begun...to build something special and impact peoples’ lives in a new and exciting way.

It was Disney’s unwavering focus for his project and determination to finish that made it such a success. And, it was this characteristic that Mr. Disney carried with him throughout his career. “When you believe a thing, believe it all the way, implicitly and unquestionably,” Disney said. “When we get into a new project, we believe in it all the way. We have confidence in our ability to do it right. And we work hard to do the best possible job.” It is on that foundation that I see the powerful and dynamic relationship between teachers and students... they both have a determined and unwavering focus of belief in their future! A powerful learning bond is forged, and possibilities begin to soar. Disneyland, created by Walt Disney, opened in 1955. It is the No. 1 place people visit when they come to Southern California. It is very clear to those who work at Disneyland that their responsibility is to serve those who come. Like Disneyland, schools must honor their mission and purpose. Our purpose is to prepare students to meet an ever-changing and complex world. (Yes, as the song goes, “It’s a Small World After All.”) Students must leave our schools well equipped to think, to create, and to contribute to our world. Seeing our students walk across the stage at graduation and attend so many colleges and universities, I know we are true to the mission and purpose.

Whether you’re working on a specific project, essay, or challenging problem, your vision, mission, and purpose are the keys to your success. Kathryn Alesandrini, author of *Survive Information Overload*, wrote, “Nothing else is as important to your success as developing and communicating your vision to others.” Kathryn also said, “A mental vision is good, a spoken vision is better, and a written vision is better still. But a vision explained through a variety of methods is the most effective.” Our teachers, much like Walt Disney, complete life-changing projects through the lives and futures of their students. Our daily mission and purpose are clear...it’s a full E-ticket ride!



Brian Reams
Student Representative

Having Fun and Giving Back

In the winter months, the district schools rolled out annual fund-raisers and dances for all to enjoy.

One school sponsored Pennies for Prevention, a school-wide fund-raiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Donation boxes were placed in each classroom, and students contributed their loose change over a three-week period.

Huntington Beach Union High School (HBHS) students participated in the Children’s Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) Heart Patient Reunion 2013. Approximately 450 patients and family members were entertained with music, dancing, cookie painting, and stringing “beads of courage.” This volunteer opportunity meant as much to the HBHS students as it did to the CHOC families and patients.

Winter is a fun time of year, with many assemblies and dances! Huntington Beach High School celebrated with “A Lovely Night of Elegance,” and Edison High School treated its students to the Edison Music Awards.

The winter months were filled with having fun and giving back to the community, and we could not be any more proud of the schools in the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bonnie P. Castrey
President

A Busy Season

Spring semester is well underway with school projects, activities and special award ceremonies to honor students, staff, and community.

I invite you to visit the Web site for our district at www.hbuhd.edu and the links to each of our school sites to find the most current information on activities at the schools. On the site, down the left side you’ll also see a number of areas to access, including Parent University, which has timely information and articles as well as meeting dates for special topics. This is an important community resource, so we hope that you will read the materials and come to the meetings for the topics which interest you.

Westminster’s Academic Decathlon Team has once again taken first place in Orange County, and they are on their way to the state competition in Sacramento.

The Academy for the Performing Arts is presenting the popular musical “Hello, Dolly!” on March 15–18 and 22–24. Then the theatre Department is performing “The Diary of Anne Frank.”

At every site, registration is going on for next semester. Be sure to look seriously at all of the Coastline Regional Occupation Program offerings, as these classes are “hands on” and offer great skill-building opportunities for our students. There are many offerings in all the technology-based areas, including medical technology and building “green” cars! Often students have the opportunity to meet with industry specialists and learn firsthand about career opportunities. These classes may help to inform your student about choices in college and/or career pathways.

Spring is busy and a time of renewal. Enjoy a trip to your local high school and see how beautiful our campuses are, since they are all renovated and modernized. Once again, thank you to our great community for making that renovation possible.



Bonnie P. Castrey
President



Kathleen Iverson
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Coast *High School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

A Brief Background History

By Gerald McIntyre, Department Chair of Social Studies & PE

Coast High is an alternative high school that utilizes an independent-study delivery system and serves students from Huntington Beach, Fountain Valley and Westminster. Originally known as Huntington Beach Alternative High School in the 1980s, CHS was at that time under the Huntington Beach Adult School umbrella. By the 1990s, Coast became a general-fund independent-study program and aligned with the seven other high schools in the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

Although separated by funding, CHS currently shares a new campus with Huntington Beach Adult School.

Coast High's main function is to serve as an alternative for those students in the district who are unable or unwilling to attend the traditional comprehensive five-day-per-week high school. Students who enroll at Coast may be involved in performing arts primarily as actors, singers, and dancers; professional sports as hockey players, ice skaters, pro skate boarders, motor-cross professionals and other types of athlete; fashion modeling; or cosmetology. Some students who have health issues that prevent them from attending a daily program at a traditional high school may transfer to CHS as well. These health issues may include anxiety, depression, addiction or other health problems.

Students behind academically may qualify for Coast High. These students may accept the challenge that Coast has to offer to earn credits at a quicker pace through our independent-study courses. Some come with a preconceived notion that it is easier than "regular" high school. Reality soon hits, and the responsibility of completing assignments and courses of study shifts to the student. Daily hours of reading, writing and completing assignments on your own requires excellent time-management skills and maturity levels. Many students step up and accept these challenges; some do not and are transferred to more appropriate programs.

Mall Rats Need Not Apply

In addition to our academic courses, we also offer a physical education course that meets every Friday morning for class and also a workout session. PE students must complete a minimum of eight hours of physical activity outside of class each week. This is then documented in a journal and verified by a parent or guardian. PE facilities are graciously provided by Ocean View High School every Friday morning.

Those activities accepted for PE are determined by me. Despite voracious protests, shopping at the mall and going to theme parks are unacceptable activities for physical education at Coast High School.

We hope this article sheds some light on Coast High School. We think it is a great school.

MAYOR HUNTINGTON BEACH • From Page 1



Connie Boardman
*Mayor
Huntington Beach*

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. There is also a great farmers market at Peter's Landing on PCH past Warner every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Spring is the start of many special events in Surf City. March 30 is the Annual Easter Hunt at the Sports Complex. Sponsored by the city's Community Services Department and the Huntington Beach Kiwanis Club, this event is for the whole family to enjoy games, music, food and the traditional Easter Hunt. Then, don't forget the Taste of Huntington Beach on April 28. 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.

Community Day School

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Getting Back to Class

One of the goals of the Community Day School (CDS) is to have students get back on the graduation track so that they can return to their home high schools and graduate with their peers. This is sometimes challenging, because children grow to like the environment at CDS and don't want to leave! However, with encouragement and confidence building, some of the students will eventually return to their home school.

Our teachers and staff members show their concern by constantly checking on the students after they have left CDS to see how they are now doing in the "big school" culture. We are always happy to hear from them about how much better things have gotten at their home school after their CDS experience.

In fact, we currently have a former CDS student who is getting straight A's in all of her classes, and another student who had a 3.75 GPA last semester. Now that is great news!

One area of study that is proving to be a challenge for both CDS and the comprehensive site is mathematics. Math is a subject that everyone learns at a different pace. We have also learned from our sister schools that it can't be a one-hour per day class for some students. So, CDS has added an entire new class period in addition to the core math class.

After just a few weeks of this additional math support time both our instructors and students are seeing a dramatic improvement. We look forward to seeing improved results, which we think will be reflected in more passing scores on both the math classes and the CAHSEE.

Appropriate Behaviors

Another area that our staff is working on is the teaching of appropriate decision-making skills regarding student behavior. In fact, quite a bit of time is spent on teaching appropriate choices, since this has a direct impact on classwork. Over the years our staff has also been developing valuable partnerships with outside agencies to provide additional resources and information that will help our students make better choices.

One partnership that we are proud of involves the Whittier Law School. They help to coordinate visits by law students, who also bring in practicing lawyers, district attorneys, police officers and judges to talk to our students about "street law." Our students are instantly engaged in this topic, too, and always report back that they receive a lot out of their time with these guest speakers.

As our program grows in popularity as a viable option for struggling students, we are actively looking for new ways to better inform our community of who we are and what we do. One of our latest additions has been an updating of our school's Web site at cbs.hbuhd.edu, where parents and students can find information about our bell schedule, calendar, school assignments, etc.

Our staff is also looking at other means of communicating via the Web, such as with Facebook and Twitter. So keep an eye out for opportunities to "follow" or "like" us!

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Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

Math Immersion—in the Fishbowl!

By Kendra Rosales, EHS Math Teacher/District Math Facilitator

In February, I transplanted my Algebra 1 classroom to Edison's faculty dining room in order to host the district's first Fishbowl. The purpose of the Fishbowl was to provide math teachers from around the district a professional-development day that would provide hands-on training mixed with real-time classroom observation.

The day was broken into three segments. First, Andy Brown and I guided math teachers through the newly revised math content standards as well as the mathematical practices. With this acquired knowledge, teachers were then "thrown into the Fishbowl" to learn a variety of formative assessment and instructional strategies. Many of these strategies will help teachers transition toward a more relevant and rigorous math curriculum.

In the second segment, the teachers moved out of the Fishbowl, and the students swam in for their typical fourth-period Algebra 1 course, except that on this day, they had dozens of adult eyes watching their every move. During this segment, teachers observed me implement several of the formative assessment and instructional strategies that were highlighted in the first segment with my fourth-period students.

Reeling In Staff and Students

One difference between my class and other math classrooms is that most of the students worked together in teams rather than seated in isolated rows. Also, throughout the period, I constantly checked for understanding and then immediately responded to my students' needs. Students were encouraged throughout the day to translate their learning into writing.

The final segment of the day was a debriefing session. During this time, each teacher had the opportunity to direct a comment, concern or clarifying question to me. Several issues were raised and discussed. Some such issues included the quarterly-team format, homework review, methods of direct instruction and classroom-management techniques. I reiterated several times that I did not work alone to create my lessons or instructional methods. It is my belief that solidifying our professional learning communities is the key to a smooth transition toward Common Core Standards. At the end of the day, teachers left inspired—and hooked.

MAYOR FOUNTAIN VALLEY • From Page 1



Mark McCurdy
Mayor
Fountain Valley

Fountain Valley Library is to provide financial support to the library in order to assist with needed items and special programs. Volunteers are always valued and welcomed. For information, call Cathy Whitney at (714) 962-5280.

Fountain Valley Kiwanis is a group dedicated to serving community needs with an emphasis on youth. They recently partnered with UNICEF on the Eliminate Project, to help eliminate maternal/neonatal tetanus from the face of the earth. To learn more, visit www.fvkiwanis.org or call Anne Crowley at (714) 887-4453.

The Fountain Valley Rotary Club meets every Tuesday in Fountain Valley Regional Hospital's Saltzer Conference Room at 7:30 a.m. to plan vocational, community, club, and international projects. Please contact Ed Sussman at (714) 968-7526 or SussmanFV@verizon.net for more information.

Fountain Valley Seniors meets on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Center at Founders Village at 10 a.m. for a short business meeting, followed by donuts, coffee, and bingo. For more information, call Joan Mendoza at (714) 848-3909.

The Fountain Valley Neighborhood Watch is a joint effort to fight crime, protect property, and ensure safe neighborhoods. Call (714) 593-4488 for more info or to become a volunteer.

Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Student Leadership Summit

Over the past few issues of *School News Roll Call*, we have reported on events that have helped build community and culture at Fountain Valley High School. I am happy to report another great event: the Student Leadership Summit.

In February, 35 students representing every corner of the campus participated in a Student Leadership Summit, a collection of facilitated activities intended to break down barriers and build understanding. Assembled students came from cheer, ASB, football, theater, special education, wrestling and Advanced Placement classes, representing a variety of ethnicities, ages, interests, family situations, personal relationships and faiths. Four teachers also participated. The event was facilitated by Don Han from Orange County Human Relations and cofacilitated by FVHS staff Cynthia Olaya, psychologist, and Jessie Marion, assistant principal.

Sophomore Maddy Hughes said, "It was so interesting to learn about other students and the hardships they've been through. It really made me appreciate my own situation. There were happy students with some sad stories."

One of the activities included six prompts that students shared aloud in a circle. Prompts included family background and cultural traditions. Junior Nikki Tran enjoyed the activity because "I didn't know anyone—but I felt close to them even though I didn't know them until that moment. Some stories made us laugh, and some made us cry. We need to be taken out of our shoes and placed in someone else's."



English teacher Steve Schultz shares with students at the Leadership Summit.

Trying On the Shoes

Senior Bryan Nguyen reflected about stereotyping. "We all do it—it's hard not to. But you just have to think about the individual and not the group." He added that he would like to see the same group get back together later in the year. "It's up to us to influence our friends now," Bryan said.

Both Bryan and Nikki summed it up well. The intent of the Summit was to spread understanding and patience to replace judgment and conflict. All of the participating students raved about the culture and student climate of FVHS, yet they all know someone who has been treated poorly by other students.

Participating English teacher Steven Schultz said, "Leadership is about relationships. This initial leadership summit set the framework for students to forge relationships with students they wouldn't normally connect with. [Participants will] expand their influence in every direction of our campus and community; making the Baron culture more spirited, welcoming and synergized."

As I was writing this, I received a phone call that FVHS was selected by OC Human Relations as a Distinguished School for our comprehensive approach to building a positive student culture. FVHS will be recognized at the Awards 42 banquet on May 2 at the Grove Theater.

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

An Alternate Path

By Brian Huffine, HBAS Math Instruction

The Huntington Beach Adult School is a fully accredited alternative school within the Huntington Beach Union High School District. The Adult Diploma Program serves adults and concurrent high school students. District high school students can attend the Adult School with their home school's permission to make up deficient credits and bolster necessary skills in preparation for college and careers.

Our adult students complete the same standards-based assignments and curriculum as the students in the other district schools so that they can earn their high school diploma from the Huntington Beach Union High School District. For example, last semester one local student was unable to complete her high school program because of medical issues during her senior year. She was able to complete her remaining classes at the Adult School, and received her diploma in November. She then started at Orange Coast College in January.

Adult students frequently face the additional challenges of work or family obligations, but they are working toward the same goals of college or career advancement. Adult students must also pass the same High School Exit Exam as required of students statewide in order to earn their diploma.

Several Options

The goal of many adult students is to gain the skills they need for success at the college level. Others are acquiring the skills to be successful in the various vocational training opportunities they may want to pursue. Vocational training at the Adult School includes pharmacy technician, medical assistant and medical billing, and computer applications/office administration courses.

GED preparation is also offered as an option within the Diploma Department to those students who choose an alternative certification of their educational achievement. Just this fall a student named John, who was also a U.S Marine veteran with two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, recently studied for his GED at the Adult School. In December he passed all sections of it. John now plans to study criminal justice and enter the police force in the future.

The Adult School diploma staff are privileged and honored to have an opportunity to help students like John achieve their goals in a safe and nurturing environment.

If you or someone you know is interested in completing their high school diploma or earning a GED, the Adult School is here to help. Our teachers and guidance staff will be happy to discuss a training plan that can fit your needs and career or college goals.

They can be reached at 714-842-HBAS (4227)

Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Rocky Murray
Principal

Random Acts of Kindness: What Are They?

By Rosie Harshman and Misha Sibiglia, English Teachers

Random acts of kindness are selfless acts performed by a person or people wishing to assist, cheer up or influence an individual person or people. As a way to motivate and inspire, we are challenging their students to complete random acts of kindness. Throughout the months of February and March, HBHS students are to complete one kind act for another individual every day, therefore completing a minimum of 20 random acts of kindness by the end of the month. Their acts should be selfless and kind in nature, teaching students the inner happiness that can come from helping another.

Why?

While reading Jay Asher's novel *13 Reasons Why*, rather than focusing on the prominent confusion and despair that floods the novel's characters, we thought it important to focus on the positive lessons and morals that can be found—for instance, that kindness can make a difference and even save a person's life, and that human inaction can be detrimental. Throughout this unit, HBHS students will read and explore a variety of texts that teach them the power of kindness as well as the price of inaction.

During?

Along with completing random acts of kindness, students will also be journaling and photographing their experiences. These journals and photographs will then be used as a culminating project at the end of the unit and will be published on Mrs. H and Mrs. S's Class Kindness website. In addition, students will be completing daily activities that ask them to reflect on their lives in a positive way. Rather than focusing on the 13 reasons why Hannah Backer, the novel's protagonist, decides to take her life, students will be reflecting on the 13 reasons why they live and who or what makes their life worth living. Students will compile their 13 reasons and create a final culminating notebook that will be a continuous reminder as to why their lives are meaningful and special.

After?

Upon completion of their 20 days of kindness, students will then construct a short essay describing their experience. Essays will then be revised, shared, and published on the Mrs. H and Mrs. S's Class Kindness website. After this unit on kindness, we hope to continue this theme through different venues, thinking more locally and globally. We hope to teach an important lesson: "When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace" (the 14th Dalai Lama).

A ONCE IN A LIFETIME • From Page 1

The CIBACS program at Edison High School prepares students for the outside world. The enriched curriculum focuses on public speaking, technology, and critical thinking skills, not only preparing them for college, but for the business world as well. They act as marketing and research and development teams, and they job shadow in careers of their choice, while learning interview skills and resume building.

By senior year, CIBACS students must create a culminating project and write a business plan. Successful



projects put them a step above others when applying for colleges and finding a job. Notable projects include writing books, planning surf contests and other events to raise funds for charitable organizations, and opening flourishing companies, from pool cleaning services to food vendors. They are film-makers, farmers, firefighters, nurses, pilots, politicians, teachers, artists, and movers and shakers. With these unique opportunities, the CIBACS students are ready to achieve things that few other high school students could only dream of.

Marina High School

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



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

Advanced Placement

Is your son or daughter headed to college after high school? Is he or she looking for a challenge that will prepare him or her for a success-filled future? If so, Advanced Placement (AP) courses may be just right for your student in planning for the future. The successful completion of AP classes has benefits during both the college application process and undergraduate life.



Marina High School, Home of the Vikings, offers a number of AP courses that definitely prepare our students for success in readiness for applying to and moving through college and into success-filled careers. Marina's AP course offerings are varied and complete. They include: art history, biology, calculus, chemistry, computer science, economics, English literature and composition, physics, psychology, human geography, Spanish language and literature, environmental science, Japanese, music theory, French, and statistics.

We understand that, at nearly every college in the country, a student's academic record is the most important part of college application and career success. Success in difficult courses is the surest sign of a student's preparedness for college and career. The most challenging courses, of course, are college-level AP classes. They require the type of high-level calculating and critical thinking that students will encounter in the first year of college. If they can write essays and solve problems successfully for AP classes, they've mastered many of the skills that will lead to success in college and in life. If our students take enough AP classes, they can potentially graduate from college a semester or even a year early. Early graduation isn't always a good idea, but for a student who isn't receiving financial aid, it can save tens of thousands of dollars.

Aside from being prepared for success in college, each year the AP program recognizes students who have performed exceptionally well on AP examinations. Exams are taken in May, and awards are usually granted the following November. AP students, during graduation, can be awarded honors such as AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honors, AP Scholar with Distinction, National AP Scholar, and AP State Scholar.

In the last three years, 67 Marina Vikings have been awarded AP Scholar status, 46 have been designated as AP Scholars, and 28 have been awarded the most prestigious designation possible as AP Scholars with Distinction! So encourage your son or daughter to join the college movement and challenge himself or herself in high school so future goals will be well within reach!

Marina High School and its excellent staff, including teachers and support personnel, are dedicated to our mission: "All students will succeed, whether their paths lead them to four-year institutions or directly into the work force." Data shows that Marina students have consistently succeeded over the last seven years. Some of this data comes from graduation rates, college persistence rates, state testing improvement, and AP exams earning a score of 3 or better. Marina's academic program lends itself directly to a student's readiness for post-secondary endeavors.

As you prepare for next year, and the future of your students, we invite you to take the time to visit Marina and see for yourself. We have no doubt you will see that Marina, with its dedicated staff, is a great place to learn and become both college and career ready.

Ocean View High School

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

New Assessment Tools

Last issue I wrote about the Common Core State Standards, what those standards are asking our students to perform, and what we are doing to teach those standards. I left off with the teaching of high levels of inquiry and how to ask good questions.

Here are three other parts of the picture: we call them Cornell Notes, Pacing Guides, and Common Formative Assessments.

Cornell Notes: this type of note taking was developed by a Cornell University Professor. The bare-bones description of the note format is that in the right hand column are notes from the lecture, presentation, film, etc. In the left hand column go questions about what the notes will answer.

By writing questions about the notes, the student is forced to think about the note material in a way that clarifies meaning, reveals relationships, strengthens memory and predicts test question. The bottom two inches of the page are for a summary of the notes.

Think about this: if you had to summarize something, it must make sense. If it makes sense, then you know it. If you know it, you own it.

The teachers at OV teach a version of this note-taking style across campus. They call them Corn Dogs, Cornells, notes, etc. But it doesn't matter what they call them; if the notes are reflective then they are the best kind of notes!

The teachers in each subject also have Pacing Guides so that they can teach the same material in time with their colleagues. This enables them to have meaningful discussions whenever they talk about student achievement data. If the teachers are all over the place and not connected in their pacing, then how can they have a meaningful conversation about what is working (or not working) in the classroom? How can they get help?

But if they are paced together (not lock step, just in the ball-park), then the teachers can help each other plan better lessons and get solid feedback.

Other Tools

Common Formative Assessments (CFAs) are the same thing as when you are cooking and you taste the soup before you serve it. Ok, it needs a little of this, a little of that ... you get the idea. When we all bring our "soups" together we can talk about how they tasted, or what we added.

This is the same idea as giving a common quiz in algebra or chemistry across the department, and then getting together and talking about how well the students did (or did not do) on certain questions.

Those little assessments help us make the next lesson or "soup" even better. We have developed English 9/10, algebra, and geometry CFAs district-wide. At Ocean View we have also developed them in social studies, science, and English 11 and 12. Consequently, our discussions about improving learning are much richer, and we believe that we are improving our teaching because of them.

By the way, formative assessments get our students ready for summative assessments (STAR, AP, SAT, final exams), or, when the dinner guests taste the soup! Here's to Ocean View doing some serious cooking this year!



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Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

The Value of Chrome

Literacy is one of the most challenging goals to meet in a continuation high school. It's so much more than being able to read with comprehension. Literacy that does not include the ability to use computer and communications based technology does not adequately equip students for academic or vocational career paths. Literacy arrives in our classrooms in the form of two rolling carts that each holds thirty Google Chrome Books, mini-computers that have complete access to the "cloud" and Google apps. The carts are used by a variety of teachers every day, and the students' proficiency with the technology is growing quickly. The Chrome Books allow our students to:

- produce flexible, changeable, basic life resources: "I use the Chrome Books in my Life Management Class. The class wrote individual resumes and cover letters and they were able to share them with me for corrections and revisions immediately," said Kathi Richey, Consumer & Family Studies."
- interact in real time with teachers in a confidential dialogue and provide an opportunity to become proficient with technology that may not otherwise be available: "As a teacher, I am able to provide almost instant feedback to students' work. They can share their docs with me and I can comment, or even chat with the students about their mistakes and editing issues. For EL students, it's a great way for them to ask for help because it completely takes away the pressure and embarrassment of asking for extra help. Some of our students do not have computers at home and the Google Chrome Books are a way for them to begin to learn how to use technology in the classroom," said Seena Rich, English & English Learners."
- use technology to communicate more effectively: "Students are creating e-portfolios, and all are using Google Docs to save, post, and share their work. Students have also researched, created, and presented utilizing the presentation application in Google," said Andrea Atkinson, English.
- access and analyze information and make presentations: "My classes used the Chrome Books in a team format prior to the national elections in November to research the propositions on the ballot and then make presentations," said Lisa Simpson, Government.
- become comfortable with essential technology skills: "The Chrome Books work seamlessly with Google drive and Google apps. In science we use Google Docs to write reflections essays on our learning or to write science article summaries. We use Google Draw to create concept maps and flow charts that can import pictures from Google Images searches. We also use Google Sheets to create spreadsheets and tables to organize information, and then synthesize the results in graphs and pie charts," said Gabe Roberts, Science.

The Chrome Books are also incredibly efficient: "No more lost paper essays – the Chrome Books are totally interactive and mobile: the computer lab comes to us instead of us relocating," said George Higi, English. A new standard has been set in technology-based literacy instruction. It's more than gold. It's chrome.

Westminster *High School*

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



Owen Crosby
Principal

A Winning Tradition!

By Eric Brothwell, Science Teacher

We are so proud of our Lions' academic and athletic performances! As I write this, our men's and women's basketball teams and soccer teams are advancing in CIF, as are several of our wrestlers. In fact, we'll be hosting the CIF SS Wrestling tournament!

For the past seven years, the Lions have been known for another tradition: the Academic Decathlon. The current program showcases students in three academic teams participating in specific subjects. This year's theme is "Russia," which includes Russian art, music, history, economics, literature and the Space Race, including mathematics and statistics. Students will prepare their own speeches, deliver impromptu speeches, conduct interviews and write essays about science and the novel *Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak. The additional competition, Super Quiz, will test students in six academic areas—they'll answer 12 questions in front of an audience.

Westminster started its Academic Decathlon tradition seven years ago in 2007, taking home our first OCAD title and competing in the state competition for the first time. Since then, we've claimed four more county championships and won the Super Quiz four times. We've been invited to the state championships for the past seven years. This year, the state competition will take place March 15 and 16 in Sacramento, and the team will enter at the 11th highest score in the state.

Our Team: Students and Staff

The Westminster team is composed of eight young men and women who have studied consistently for the competition: seniors Daniel Nguyen and Lily Pham and junior Aileen Pham are the honor team. Seniors Sarah Ibrahim and Dennis Dang and junior Vivian Nguyen are the scholastic team. Senior Ringo Nguyen and junior Jacob Vela are the varsity team. Combined, they earned 47,722 points out of a possible 65,400 points. Jacob was sixth overall in varsity, Sarah was fourth overall in scholastic, Lily was third overall in honor, Dennis was second overall in scholastic, and Ringo was first overall in varsity. The OCAD Association provided these decathletes with \$3,600 of academic scholarships for their future studies.

A dedicated staff of teachers and volunteers have helped these students year after year. Retired Westminster High School Latin and social science teacher Carol Sebastian has led the team for decades, orchestrating recruitment, dealing with materials, and coaching the music and social science components. Vicky Adams, who is a Toastmaster, has assisted for years with the students' interview and speaking skills. Daina Anderson and Teresa Strombotne have helped the students in art. Pat Angus worked with the students for the language and literature portion of the competition, including the analysis of *Dr. Zhivago*. Eric Brothwell worked with the students in science. Cindy Donovan and Andy Brown taught the students the necessary mathematics and statistics to succeed. Sue Harmon and Chris Morton worked with the students on economics. Elaine Lanz initiated the formation of speeches and worked on essay-writing skills.

We wish the team well as they get ready to represent not only their school but also their district and county. They will, as they have in the past, continue to make us very proud to be Westminster High School Lions!

Food & Nutrition Services

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

Amazing Salad Bars

By Tracey Zoleta, RD, HBUHSD Food and Nutrition Services

Did you know that apples, bananas, strawberries, broccoli and corn are among the most purchased fruits and vegetables in the grocery store?

Think about what you last had in your shopping cart. Were the items similar to the ones above? It's too bad that we stick to just a few fruits and vegetables when we live in a state that has such a huge variety of produce.

One example of this is kiwi. Ninety-five percent of US kiwis are grown in California, and are available in grocery stores all winter. But did you buy any?

Our mission is to expose children to as many fruits and vegetables as possible. So to celebrate National Nutrition Month in March we will be conducting our "A to Z Salad Bars" at several middle and high schools in the Huntington Beach Union High School, Ocean View and Westminster School Districts.

These new salad bars will give our students a chance to try over 20 different kinds of fruits and vegetables; all the way from edamame to jicama to water chestnuts. Our hope is that the students will change their eating habits and add some new fruits and vegetables to their meals.

You too can help encourage this change by trying out new fruits and vegetables with your own family. A fun way to do this is to choose any letter from the alphabet and then buy a fruit or vegetable that starts with the same letter. You can choose something different every week!

For more information, please contact the Huntington Beach Union High School District, Food and Nutrition Services, at 714-894-1698.

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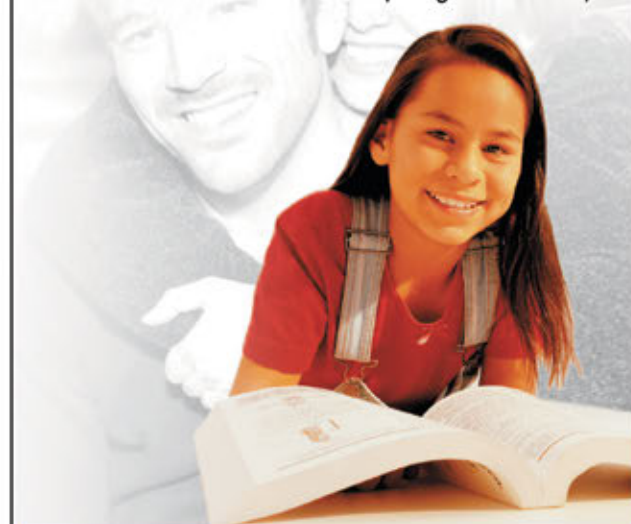
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-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &
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