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VOLUME 8, ISSUE 48

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

MAY 2012

Setting the Bar Even Higher



Mr. Olsberg assisting two students with a Chem-Comm lab that is measuring counts of Alpha, Beta & Gamma radiation and the effects the different type of shields would have on it.

*By Dr. Donald Austin - Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services HBUHSD*

The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) is committed to preparing all students for college and careers.

The California Common Core Standards will significantly redefine expectations for all students and change the assessment tools used to measure success. We are creating a plan of action that will position our students well as admissions to local colleges and universities becomes more competitive and high-demand careers require post-secondary education. Our schools are enthusiastically adapting to the changing needs of our students by increasing access to our rigorous courses and providing a consistent and challenging curriculum for all students.

Recent work with our partner, InnovateED, has helped us to identify six key components to closing the gap of college and career readiness. The key steps are: focus on college and career ready student attributes; establish clear performance outcomes of college and career readiness; engage all students in a rigorous, college-aligned course of study; formatively assess performance indicators of college and career readiness; ensure early identification and systematic support of at-risk students; and create a culture of high performance.

SEE SETTING THE BAR • PAGE 31

Fountain Valley Superintendent Competes in the Mr. Fountain Valley Pageant

By Marc Ecker, Ph.D., Superintendent

A very special community-wide fund-raising event takes place on May 18 in Fountain Valley.

The Mr. Fountain Valley Pageant will be held at the Fountain Valley Recreation Center on Brookhurst Street, displaying the efforts of five gentlemen seeking the “coveted” honor of the title “Mr. Fountain Valley.” Each of the five contestants will be representing a worthwhile 501 3c benefit corporation which serves their constituency in and around the Fountain Valley community. The five contestants seek the support and, of course, the votes of the community. Each dollar raised goes to a very worthwhile charity, and for every dollar donated in the name of the charity, one vote is secured for the contestant in his bid for the title.

Additionally, business sponsors are being sought



Mr. Fountain Valley hopeful Marc Ecker with students of the Fountain Valley School District.

for the event, and this helps earn votes for the contestant. A sponsorship of the event in the name of the candidate earns that contestant even more votes, depending the amount of the

sponsorship. Finally, on May 18, the five contestants will compete at the pageant in five categories, including: presentation and knowledge of their charity; talent; swimsuit; and, yes, male evening apparel. I have been reassured that all categories are above board and great fun, at least for the audience. Regardless, admission into the event is limited to those community members 21 years of age and over.

In an effort to raise badly needed funds for our schools through the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation, I have agreed to put myself up for humiliation. Every dollar I raise and each sponsorship I gain benefits the students of the Fountain Valley School District. Information on the event is available and donations can be made by going to the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation's Web site www.fvef.org or the Fountain Valley Community Foundation's Web site www.fvcommunityfoundation.org.

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English Learners: Where Do We Shine the Light?



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

In the past decade, the achievement gap of English Learners (ELs) in the United States has received considerable attention. The achievement gap refers to the disparity measured by test scores or graduation rates between different groups of students. Under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, these groups are based on racial or ethnic backgrounds, socioeconomic status, student disability, or English language proficiency. In Orange County, the test scores for non-native English speakers continue to rise and be above state averages, a gap persists between ELs and monolingual English speakers.

While shining a light on the achievement gap has drawn resources and attention to disparities in performance, one downside is a tendency for stakeholders to point fingers in search of causes. Attention on who is to blame hinders efforts to ensure that all students achieve equal outcomes. Instead, educators, parents, and community members must work locally and collaboratively with a focus on promising practices that serve all of our children. These practices range from knowing our students and examining data to professional development and leadership.

In terms of knowing our students, ELs are a diverse and often misunderstood group. Data shows that 75% of ELs are born in the United States, and while three-quarters of ELs speak Spanish at home, ELs speak more than 150 different languages. This diversity requires targeted solutions. According to prominent researcher Laurie Olsen, newcomers have different instructional needs than Long-Term English Learners (LTELs), students who are typically born in the United States but speak a language other than English at home, and have been struggling academically for a number of years.

SEE OC DEPT OF ED • PAGE 18



Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



Summer is on its way and the count-down has begun. Students are testing, parents are signing up their kindergartners, elementary students are preparing for their transition to middle school, and parents are wondering where the years have gone as the seniors plan for their future. It is an exciting time. The one common thread is the focus of the school districts to provide the best for the students. Teachers and administrators are already planning for the next school year. Congratulations to the designated teachers of the year. Certainly, we congratulate all of the teachers everyday and thank them for their dedication to educating our youth.

Our next issue is June 6.



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



FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop

562/493-3193

kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:

562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune



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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

562/493-3193

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"15 Minutes" Makes a Difference



John J. Collins
Mayor

Since 1998, the Fountain Valley Police Department has partnered with local high schools to present an educational program called Every 15 Minutes. Targeting high school teens, the program is designed to educate them on the harmful effects of drinking and driving.

The program title reminds participants that someone in the United States dies or is seriously injured every 15 minutes in an alcohol-related traffic collision. This year, Every 15 Minutes took place at Fountain Valley High School on March 29 and 30.

This powerful program

is designed to create awareness among students that they are not invincible, and it helps open the emotional doors, addressing the problem most teens do not know exist. One of the primary objectives of the Every 15 Minutes program is proactive education.

During the program, everyone involved is reminded that drinking and driving is not an accident. These crashes and injuries are predictable and preventable. The Fountain Valley Police Department is very serious about preventing deaths and injuries caused by drinking and driving, which is why Every 15 Minutes is scheduled prior to high school prom and graduation activities.

Drivers under 21 are subject to zero tolerance laws. Underage, impaired drivers are subject to very strict penalties, such as license revocation, hefty fines, and extended community service. It does not pay to drink and drive. Be smart, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

Drivers under 21 are subject to

zero tolerance laws...

It does not pay to drink and drive.

Be smart, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

The City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

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

The Ducks are Coming!



Don Hansen
Mayor

Summer is just around the corner, and Surf City is getting ready for our busiest season by holding some great events down at the beach. One of my favorite events of the year, the Duck-A-Thon, will be held again this May. This event raises money for a great cause, the Community Care Health Centers, and is a lot of fun for the whole family.

During the Annual Duck-A-Thon, thousands of rubber ducks will be dropped from the Huntington Beach Pier into the ocean.

The ducks then will race to shore to win prizes for their owners.

The main event will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 19. On Sunday, May 20 at 3 p.m., the 20th anniversary ducks, sponsored by local businesses, will be launched off the pier.

On the Friday before the big race, enjoy a sunset view of the pier at the annual Duck-A-Thon Wine Tasting. There will be a variety of excellent wines featured, live and silent auctions, and a sampling of dining from local restaurants.

For more information on how to become involved in these great events, visit www.duckathon.org or call (714) 500-0382.

The Duck-A-Thon and the other exciting summer events are old favorites for me, and, if this is your first time attending, they will be sure to become a yearly tradition for your family. So come down to the beach and enjoy the great weather and the entertainment and get ready to have a great summer in Surf City!

The City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

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

A Bright Future



Margie Rice
Mayor

Recently, students studying government at Blessed Sacrament School in Westminster wrote to me with questions about our city government and my role in it. I found their questions interesting and decided that, rather than responding in writing, I would prefer to meet with the class.

Principal Rosheen McCary arranged for me to meet with that class and also visit every classroom in the school. The students shared some of their goals with me and told me about their community involvement. I met with students from preschool through eighth grade in their classrooms and on the playground.

This was an enjoyable and informative day for me. I was impressed by the maturity of the students and all they do for our community. The amount of volunteer time they contribute is truly amazing. Spending a day back in school has made me feel much more positive about our future.

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Tasty Outing Plays a Role in School Menu

By Emily Bastia, Nutrition Assistant, Network for a Healthy California

Rather than complain about school food, some students are now giving input on menu selections that can ultimately appear on the school lunch menu. The HBUHSD's Nutrition Advisory Councils (NAC) from Ocean View and Westminster High School went on a field trip to sample foods, learn about nutrition and participate in physical activity.

Students were taught to "Re-think Your Drink." Drinking just one 20-ounce bottle of soda a day for one year equals 54 pounds of sugar and possibly a weight gain of 15 to 25 pounds. They were given the "skinny" on reading nutrition labels and learned about the benefits of switching to fat-free and 1 percent dairy products. They also explored the new MyPlate, which replaced the MyPyramid, and learned that fruits and vegetables should make up half their plate.

Before the food tasting, students participated in Zumbatomics, "Dance, Dance, Dance!" and Power It Up! with Power Play! Some favorite foods tasted were fresh salad, lemon muffins and lemongrass chicken. These students also sample food at their schools whenever possible. They give input on whether each item should be added to the lunch menu, provided it meets all the government regulations.

Don't forget—meal applications are accepted every day. If you would like to learn more about the school meal programs and nutrition activities, contact our office.



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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marc Ecker

Every Student Succeeding: An Event that Steals Our Heart

Each year the Association of California School Administrators sponsors a very special recognition for students in our public schools who have overcome incredible odds to become very successful students. We have incredible children in our system, many of whom have beaten the odds, have turned their faces away from adversity and have, through their own perseverance and often the help of a support team, become successful beyond words. They are today’s heroes, and they set an example for us all.

We find these students in classrooms throughout California in kindergarten through 12th grade. Too many times we find ourselves overlooking these special students, failing to appreciate the difficult road they traveled to success. Thanks however to the Association of California School Administrators, an annual state recognition program was established and school districts throughout California have the opportunity to recognize these students.

The Fountain Valley School District has gone one better. Thanks to the Fountain Valley Rotary Club and especially one of our members, Dave Osborn, the owner of Fountain Bowling Center, we hold a breakfast in our district where we honor an Every Student Succeeding (ESS) nominee from each of our schools. Each principal takes the opportunity to speak about his or her ESS student and the particular challenge each has overcome. These challenges could be physical or emotional. They could be family related or the result of an unfortunate accident. It could involve a particular learning disability. Yet these students have stepped up and beat the odds.

Congratulations to these students. Their stories often bring tears to our eyes, but they most certainly warm our hearts.



Dr. Marc Ecker, Dave Osborn and Joe Kagel join the Fountain Valley School District’s Every Student Succeeding honorees.

Students recognized included:

- Daniel Camacho, 5th Grade, Courreges School
- Anthonie Smith, 1st Grade, Cox School
- Zachary Summers, 8th Grade, Fulton Middle School
- Emma Marchesi, 1st Grade, Gisler School
- Nicholas Ridens, 7th Grade, Masuda Middle School
- Stephanie Eilders, 7th Grade, Moiola School
- Jeanne Schmidt, 1st Grade, Newland School
- Lydia Schroeder, 2nd Grade, Oka School
- Michael Lee, 4th Grade, Plavan School
- Daniell Drieseen, 8th Grade, Talbert Middle School
- Vina “Mimi” Tran, 4th Grade, Tamura School

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jimmy Templin
Member

Growth and Success

As an educator for over 18 years and a father of three students in the Fountain Valley School District, one would think I was prepared to deal with the challenging circumstances and difficult decisions that would come with being a School Board member. Little did I know that during my first year our Board would have to vote to close a school and redraw school boundaries. With all the expected controversy and emotion that accompanies difficult decisions such as these, I found myself questioning my role on the School Board.

Then a number of events took place throughout the district that allowed me to pull back the curtain of budget cuts and difficult decisions and reminded me of the wonderful world we know as public education. During visitations to our schools, I was able to see campuses flourishing with safe and supportive environments, principals proudly giving tours of their schools, teachers using new advances in technology in their classrooms, students actively engaged in their curriculum, student work displayed throughout the classrooms, and parents visiting their children’s classrooms.

I am grateful to be part of a school district that works so hard at preparing students for the future. I am grateful to be a Board member and to have the opportunity to play a role in our students’ successes. And I am grateful to be a part of public education that continues to provide the best opportunities for student growth and success.



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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

Reading is a Walk in the Park

Every Monday, five canines and their owners visit Mrs. Johnson's fifth-grade class at Courreges Elementary School. Students have the opportunity to read to the dogs and improve their reading skills in a non-judgemental atmosphere.

Canine Literacy is sponsored by the Orange County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OCSPCA) as part of their award-winning pet-assisted therapy program. It is designed to help reduce children's anxiety with reading aloud, to improve their reading skills, and to make reading fun. In the reading environment, therapy animals create the same atmosphere that volunteer/pet teams experience in healthcare settings, offering a calm and accepting presence.

The students enjoy reading to the dogs for six weeks, and the program is a big success. For these fifth-grade students, the Canine Literacy Project has helped to make learning a walk in the park—the dog park, that is.



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



Paul Andre White
Assistant Principal

Jannette Johnson, Teacher of the Year

Fulton is proud to recognize Jannette Johnson as our Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Johnson began working in the FVSD in September 1998. She began as a fifth-grade teacher at Oka before moving to Fulton, where she is teaching art. She has previously taught English and social studies.

Mrs. Johnson continually goes above and beyond to help students, parents and staff. She is not only Fulton's activities director but also the cheer and ASB advisor. Mrs. Johnson is committed to making our school a

place where all students feel that they belong and are a part of our school community. She continually looks for ways to involve more students in Fulton life and to make them feel that they truly belong and matter. As activities director, Mrs. Johnson is in charge of coordinating all spirit activities, school dances, pep rallies and campus events. She is also a part of our school Leadership Team and PTA. She is a committed, hardworking individual who is an asset to our school in so many ways.



Mrs. Johnson

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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Run The Wave

Each year one of the favorite Cox PTO events is the annual jog-a-thon. This year was no different. Our RUN THE WAVE Jog-a-thon was held on March 29th and commemorated with our mascot surfing the wave on our wonderful yellow t-shirts. All the students walked or ran for a half hour and had a great time raising money for our school. Even with less students this year than last, we were able to raise well over \$31,000 which will help fund many wonderful opportunities and activities such as field trips, Art Masters, classroom supplies, assemblies, school wide incentive programs, and much more. A very special thank you to our co-chairs Rachelle Chawke and Gill Paradise, and the many volunteers and sponsors who made the event a huge success.



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Joyce Buehler
Principal

Our Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Rigdon for being selected as the 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year for Gisler School!

Mrs. Rigdon has taught second grade at Gisler for six years. She received her master of arts degree in education/administration from Cal State Fullerton. She was also selected as a Cotsen Fellow, and received professional growth through the "Art of Teaching" grant and "Balanced Literacy" training in the Reading and Writers Workshops.

The learning environment in Mrs. Rigdon's classroom has been transformed into an immediately engaging one. The students interact with their own education every single day. Their curiosity and love for learning is evident throughout her room.

As a teacher, she has succeeded in igniting her students' curiosity to help build knowledge. This is reflected in everything she does, from her desire to promote the best in student learning, to her strong devotion to best educational practices.

Congratulations Mrs. Rigdon: you are the best of the best.



Mrs. Rigdon

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 26?



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Chris Mullin
Principal



Heather Harrison
Assistant Principal

Masuda PAL

Masuda PAL students presented a “Transition to Middle School” presentation for the 5th grade classes at Cox Elementary School. During this presentation the students shared all the exciting things Masuda Middle School has to offer!

PAL shared what makes middle school different than elementary school, and how they may felt coming into this new experience. They shared some of their favorite things about Masuda; the array of elective classes available, school dances, Got Grades assemblies, after-school clubs and sports offered. PAL also shared a few common myths and facts about middle school, such as their own fears about starting middle school, making friends, bullies, changing classes, changing for PE, and the dreaded lockers! PAL also prepared some creative, short videos and skits to help illustrate



these fears and the truth behind them! To close the presentation, the 5th grade students asked the veteran middle school students questions about this exciting journey they are about to take.

William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

Honoring Ms. Kimberly Phillips

Newland is proud to present Kimberly Phillips as its Teacher of the Year!

Kimberly is a teacher of commitment and integrity, and with a great love for learning. She enjoys the challenge of working with each student and helping them realize their full potential. She also enjoys working with her fourth-grade colleague in planning rigorous and exciting educational experiences for the students.

Her grateful students love being in her classroom because she knows how to pace instruction. They know that they have a variety of ways to learn and be valued in the classroom. She always focuses on high standards, too, with much of her time being spent on making sure that the students will attain them.

The scaffolding of their learning is a continual process. At first she spends a lot of time reading with students and teaching them the strategies they need to get the main idea and understand the content. She teaches them study strategies that will help them in not just the fourth-grade but also in the years to come. Kimberly hopes to send her students down a path where they can continue to work rigorously and do well in college and life.

Our students, parents and staff members are thrilled to honor Ms. Phillips as Newland's Teacher of the Year.



Ms. Kimberly Phillips

Fred Moiola *Elementary (K–8)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

A Herd of High Flyers

Every year, the Board of Trustees recognizes students who demonstrate high achievement, improvement or extraordinary effort. This year, these Moiola Mustangs were nominated for our School Board Recognition award: kindergarten—Aiden Morozenko; first grade—Ethan Anguiano; second grade—Vy Nguyen; third grade—Paige Fiduccia; fourth grade—Maya Bello; fifth grade—James Carpenter; sixth grade—Sabella Tran; seventh grade—Autry Johnson; and eighth grade—Mikey Mawson.

This year, we also recognized four outstanding parent volunteers: Dina Reynolds, Amy Christiansen, Misty Hutchinson and Laurie Zone. Thank you for being so dependable, flexible and awesome!

Congratulations to Sage Lambert, who received the Fountain Valley Rotary Award for Most Improved Eighth-Grade Student: for the winter of 2011–12. Sage also won the 2012 Eighth-Grade Rotary Speech Contest. She did a great job at the Rotary Award Breakfast, where she read her wonderful speech. Congratulations also go out to Stephanie Eilders for being nominated for the 2012 Every Student Succeeding award from the Association of California School Administrators. This award recognizes students who overcome challenges with courage and motivation. Stephanie and her parents were recognized and treated to a breakfast earlier in the month.

Moiola also had the following eighth-grade students submit winning entries for the Elks USA's Americanism Essay Contest: Karen Le, Mikey Mawson, Elena Mosham, Connie Nguyen, Luke Oien and R.J. Rahimi. Finally, congratulations to Zoey Berg, who was selected to attend the fifth annual Fountain Valley School District Spring Art Camp at The Art Studio. We are so proud of all our students and love the opportunity to recognize their efforts and accomplishments.

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Every Student Succeeding—Especially Lydia!

Annually through the Every Student Succeeding Program, sponsored by the Fountain Valley Rotary Club and Dave Osborn, each school in the Fountain Valley School District honors one student who has overcome a major obstacle in life. These are students who have been dealt a challenge that the vast majority of us will never have to face.

This year, Oka is proud to recognize Lydia Schroeder as our representative. In addition, Lydia was selected to represent our district at the county level. In late March, she was honored at two separate breakfast ceremonies for overcoming the absence of her fibula bone in her left leg at birth. When Lydia entered Oka as a kindergartener, she used a wheelchair. In first grade, Lydia was assisted by a walker. This year, in second grade, Lydia uses her two feet to run around the playground and blend in completely with everyone else. Lydia is a shining example of what a human being can achieve when he or she shows perseverance, determination and a willingness to never give up!

Congratulations, Lydia—you make us proud!



Erik Miller, Principal; Lydia Schroeder; Dr. Marc Ecker, Superintendent

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Our Teacher of the Year

Plavan is proud to present Amelia Terich as its Teacher of the Year. She is an extremely dedicated fifth-grade teacher who deserves recognition for a job well done.

Amelia gives her heart and soul to make sure that all of her students leave her classroom with a mastery of state standards and a sense of self-worth. One of her skills is the ability to inspire students to be scholarly and achieve more than they ever thought they could. She has a natural gift for teaching that can put students in the palm of her hand.

She is also a lifelong learner. Each month Amelia seems to have a new adventure or experience which she has either researched or written a grant for so that her students can have a more exciting, hands-on education.

Outside the classroom Amelia is always a volunteer. She is a member of our leadership team and participates on the ELA and district math and writing committees. She also serves as a district art trainer for other teachers. Next year she will be on the leadership team for our new PBIS program, and is currently serving as an after-school EL tutor.

It is almost impossible to list the amazing opportunities she offers her students. She treats them as her own, and even provides each with a hardbound memory book of their fifth-grade year. She also displays their work and accomplishments on a daily basis!

The sky is the limit in her classroom. We are truly blessed to have her as a Plavan Panther.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jay Adams
Principal

Tamura's Got Heart!

The Tamura staff and I want to extend our sincere thanks for the great outpouring of love and support that each member of the community gave to our recent Jump Rope for Heart event. Benefiting the American Heart Association, this year the goal was to earn \$5,000 to help those with heart disease. Our generous families, however, donated more than \$7,000!

A special thanks goes out to our top earner, Zak Weber. He collected \$500 in donations! Also, Mrs. Boktor's class was on fire. They earned \$870! Mr. Osborne's class rocked too, at \$680. Wow!

This money has been sent on to the Association, which was thrilled to accept it with much gratitude. Our students had a fabulous time jumping, learning about heart health and building a strong sense of community and teamwork, all while benefiting a great cause.



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

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



Cara Robinson
Principal



Jennifer Kadjasz
Assistant Principal

Art to Good Use

Talbert is proud to recognize Amanda Brooks and Kaylee Nguyen for their efforts in helping to stop the negative influence of youth being exposed to smoking by actors in movies and television. These ladies participated in the Tobacco and Hollywood Project sponsored by the Orange County Health Care Agency Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP). Amanda and Kaylee entered their artwork among 100 other entries from throughout Orange County. Only 8 pieces of art were selected, Talbert being the only middle school.



The artwork they produced is proudly displayed at the bus stops near Magnolia and Hyde Park Drive, so if you are ever in the area, keep your eye out for the creativity that is, we hope, going to make a difference in someone's life to make the smart decision to stop smoking. We applaud these students for stepping up to be role models when it is not always easy.

Survey Says...

Take our survey online and you will be entered in our drawing for a chance to win \$100. Your survey entry must be received by June 30, 2012.

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Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. William V. Loose

Honoring OVSD Teachers and Staff

On behalf of the Ocean View School District (OVSD), it is with tremendous pride that I share with you continuing great news about our district. Recently, I had the pleasure, along with our Board of Trustees, of recognizing two of our outstanding middle school teachers, Kristin Spencer from Marine View Middle School and Lori Manz from Mesa View Middle School, as California League of Middle Schools (CLMS) Educator of the Year Honorees. Ms. Spencer and Ms. Manz were two of the six finalists for Region 11, and both teachers were honored in January at a dinner in Long Beach, where Kristin Spencer was named Region 11 Educator of the Year. At the March 20, 2012, Board meeting, Peter Murphy, Executive Director of CLMS, commended these teachers for their exemplary work which promotes the success of middle school students.

In addition to this, we celebrate College View Elementary School teacher Jill Schulten and Mesa View teacher Katie Andruss, who have been selected as Ocean View School District 2013 Teachers of the Year, and Marine View's school office manager, Cindy Delgleize, who was named 2012 Classified Employee of the Year. Nominated by staff and the community, these dedicated employees are truly deserving of this recognition and will be honored at the May 15, 2012, Board meeting.

I am also very pleased to announce that two of our elementary schools, Golden View and Star View Elementary Schools, have been named 2012 California Distinguished Schools. We recently received this fantastic news, and I congratulate the hard work and dedication of the teachers and staff at both schools for this outstanding achievement. Along with our Board of Trustees, I look forward to attending the 2012 California Distinguished School Awards ceremony in May. Ocean View will be providing the entertainment at the California Distinguished School ceremony. We are proudly featuring Mrs. Lynn Silver and her jazz ensemble from Marine View Middle School.

I would also like to recognize the achievement of one of our Ocean View students, Sienna Cole, who is a first-grade student at Village View Elementary School. Sienna won the Award of Merit at the California state level for her entry in the Reflections Art Program contest. Sienna's film production will be on display at the PTA Convention in April, representing Village View, the Ocean View School District, and the city of Huntington Beach. I congratulate Sienna on her accomplishment and believe that her achievement will be an inspiration to other students to get involved in the arts. Sienna will be recognized at a Board of Trustees meeting on April 17, 2012.

There is much to celebrate in our district, and it only becomes possible to achieve excellence when you have dedication and commitment from those who strive to make a difference. I am very thankful for the many hardworking certificated, classified, and management employees who go above and beyond to demonstrate their dedication and commitment to students in the Ocean View School District.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Tracy Pellman
President

Focusing On the Future

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am proud to acknowledge that all schools in the Ocean View School District are award-winning schools. Thirteen schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, six schools as Title 1 Academic Achieving Schools, four schools as Golden Bell winners, one school as a NASA Explorer School, and two schools received the National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award. With Golden View and Star View Elementary Schools being named as 2012 California Distinguished Schools, we continue to celebrate the successes of each of our schools and to focus on preparing our students for careers in the 21st century.

Recognizing that technology will continue to be a driving force in the workplace in the 21st century, the use of technology in the classroom not only enhances learning, but helps students acquire skills they will need to prepare for high school, college, and careers in a technology-driven world. Our goal in the Ocean View School District is to upgrade school science labs, computer labs, and basic technology to enable our schools to keep pace with newer technology. In addition to technology upgrades, many of our elementary and middle schools were built in the 1960s and are in need of basic repair and improvements. The facility needs of our schools were reviewed by a District Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC) over a period of seven months. During this process, the committee reviewed all district facilities' maintenance and improvement needs, including existing open and closed school sites. The FPAC brought a recommendation to the Board to consider placing a bond measure on the November 2012 ballot, and this recommendation was approved in December 2011 by the Ocean View School District Board of Trustees.

In the months ahead, our district will continue to provide information about our facility needs and to seek input from the community. The goal of the Board of Trustees is to equip each school in the Ocean View School District with the necessary tools to help students be successful and to maximize their potential for learning.



Tracy Pellman
President



Debbie Cotton
Clerk



John Briscoe
Member



John Ortiz
Member



Norm Westwell
Member

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 26?



Circle View *Elementary*

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



Karen Sanders
Principal

AstroCamp

Recently the fifth-grade students at Circle View School loaded the buses for a three-day adventure they would never forget. They were off to AstroCamp, a science camp located in the San Jacinto Mountains near the town of Idyllwild. The students had many opportunities to increase their knowledge, interest, and passion for science through a variety of activities.

Students experienced the feeling of near weightlessness as they completed a mission in the indoor pool. They experimented with pressure, temperature, density, and other gas properties. They did

several fun activities with liquid nitrogen, which included biting into a nitrogen-dipped potato chip or marshmallow. They even built and launched their own rockets. The most popular activities were the zip line and the sky coaster. According to Flora Wong, "The sky coaster was scary, fast, and fun!"

Not only did the fifth-graders have an awesome time, but for many it helped spark a lifelong passion for learning.



College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

The Pride of our "Pride"

The College View Wildcats are very proud of Mrs. Jill Schulten. That's because she was selected as the 2012 Ocean View School District Elementary Teacher of the Year!

Mrs. Schulten has 20 years of teaching experience. During her tenure she has been an inspiration and mentor for teachers at College View and throughout the District. In addition to her classroom responsibilities she also serves on the district math committee.

As a student-focused coach, she mentors teachers on the implementation of differentiating instruction. She is a true leader, and is well-respected by her students, staff members and the community.

Mrs. Schulten was also selected to represent the Ocean View School District in the Orange County Teacher of the Year competition. We wish her luck in her future endeavors, and want to thank her for her years of dedication to the teaching profession.



Mrs. Jill Schulten

Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Proud Pelicans!

At Harbour View, we love to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, and the following two fifth-graders in Jeni Delachica's class are prime examples of this. Caitlin Yee decided to make bookmarks and sell them in the office. She used the money she earned to buy books for our school library. During a three-month period, Caitlin made and sold 300 bookmarks, earning \$150, which was then used to purchase 36 books for the library. In addition, the Book Fair donated 36 books in Caitlin's honor to children's charities.



We are also very proud of Madison Frost, also a student in Ms. Delachica's class. Madison applied for a Carson Scholarship, which acknowledges students who demonstrate positive citizenship and leadership traits. She was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship, and a perpetual trophy has been given to Harbour View to mark her achievement.

Harbour View salutes these two amazing young ladies!

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Enjoying the Garden

A special part of Golden View is the Student Environmental Learning Facility, (SELF). This unique two-and-a-half-acre farm and garden provides students with wonderful experiences and is a beloved part of our school. In the garden, children plant, observe and sample their garden harvests. Staff and volunteers assist students in the garden, enabling them to learn about plant anatomy, cycles, and seasonal changes of plants, trees and soil, and to help integrate the current curriculum into their learning experience.

Each classroom has its own garden bed, and students learn to work together with other students and parent volunteers. They plant seeds according to seasons and are responsible for garden maintenance and harvest. Students share gardening tools and equipment, water and weed the garden, and are responsible for equipment and area cleanup.

Golden View students enjoy seeing their gardens grow. They are excited about being able to distinguish the difference among various plants, see the growth and most importantly, taste their harvest! Focusing on nutrition becomes fun. Having students experience eating vegetables from their own garden is a wonderful opportunity most children don't get to experience. They learn how the various colors of a plant or a vegetable influence the vitamin and fiber—and therefore nutritional—content.

Additionally, our garden program promotes social skills, nutrition, and the physical, life and earth sciences. Having the support from families that volunteer adds excitement for the students and builds that home-school connection. We are fortunate to provide these amazing experiences to our students!

Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Bringing History to Life

The “Walk Through the Revolution” program is an engaging and interactive educational presentation of history through the use of literacy and the arts. It was sponsored by the PTO for the benefit of our fifth-grade students. The program is officially facilitated by, “an animated and trained presenter who guides students through historical events using dynamic, kid-friendly stories and activities...”

The students learn about the important individuals and events in our history in an active and engaging manner. As they learn their parts, take on roles, create costumes, reenact scenes from history and spend many hours learning to portray our revolutionary figures, they also have an opportunity to become a clear and active part of this history as well.

Our fifth-graders learn about their characters, the roles they filled, and the perspectives of the other parties involved. They also have an opportunity to create their own newspapers called *The Rebel Times*, *Tory Times*, *The British Chronicles* to name just a few.

It was an exciting day at Hope View when we saw these important individuals and historic events being reenacted on our very own campus! Thank you fifth-graders, teachers, parents and the PTO for providing us with such a wonderful opportunity for learning!

Marine View *Middle School*

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



Roni Ellis
Principal

AVID's Inaugural Family Dinner Night!

Marine View Middle School was excited to announce its inaugural AVID Family Dinner Night that took place in April. During the fifth year of having AVID at Marine View, the staff set out to establish more parent involvement within the program. Many staff members joined the dinner, which allowed parents the opportunity to meet their children's teachers on a more casual level. Parents, students and staff were able to dine together and celebrate the success of the AVID students.

During this event, students were able to show off their college reports they have been working on in class for the past month. Parents were also able to share their dreams for their children's future success in college and beyond. The staff really enjoyed seeing parents and siblings of the AVID members participate in this event, and the night was a big success.



Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

Teamwork!

Lake View School is fortunate to have a dedicated staff and extremely supportive PTO. We recently enjoyed several special events, and they wouldn't have happened without the hard work and dedication of our parents and teachers.

To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, our PTO sponsored a read-a-thon. We had authors and many guest readers, including fire fighters, police officers, a Marine captain, and the mayor! Everyone wore their pajamas and enjoyed a wonderful day full of reading.

Two weeks later, our PTO sponsored our annual jog-a-thon.



Every grade level participated and enjoyed a juice bar when they were done. It was the perfect treat after a long run! We had lots of volunteers there to hand out water, mark laps, and cheer enthusiastically. What a healthy way to raise funds for our school! It is also a wonderful example to our students that when everyone works together, a lot gets done. That is what makes Lake View such a wonderful place to be!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Leona Olson
Principal

Teacher of the Year

“She is a positive role model, mentor and teacher for all,” read the Teacher of the Year nomination for Mesa View's Katie Andruss. Ms. Andruss began her teaching career at Circle View, and then joined the Mesa View family three years ago.

Ms. Andruss knows how to inspire her students each and every day. She can connect to their interests and make science come alive. Her passion for the performing arts can also be seen as well, because she works hard to cultivate a sense of enthusiasm in her musical theater class.

When you walk into her classroom you can just feel the energy and excitement from the students. She truly knows how to connect with our diverse student population and build within them a great sense of success and belonging.

Yet, despite the success of her students, Ms. Andruss strives to keep adding to her own instructional repertoire by being a life-long learner herself. And her efforts and dedication do not end in the classroom. She is also one of the co-advisors of the ASB club. Here she coaches and guides our student leaders and teaches them how to connect with others. Her involvement has inspired a great sense of school spirit in our collective student body.

Katie Andruss is an outstanding educator, one who justly deserves the recognition and award as our Ocean View Middle School Teacher of the Year. She will be honored at the Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, May 15.



Oak View *Elementary*

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



Laura Dale-Pash
Principal

Outside Opportunities

On Saturday, March 17, El Viento inducted 25 Oak View fifth-grade students into Flight 12. El Viento is an organization that was formed in 1997 “to provide opportunities to local kids and young adults so that they have a chance for a successful life.”

The program will follow these fifth-grade inductees through middle school, high school and into college. El Viento students will be provided assistance and guidance opportunities, as well as extracurricular experiences like swimming lessons, sailing and various field trips.

In attendance at the ceremony were Laura Dale-Pash, Oak View Elementary principal; Dr. Kathy Frazier, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction; Oak View’s fifth-grade teachers; speech teacher Mary Thompson; and Frank Salas, Oak View custodian.

“Despite the rainy weather it was a wonderful day. The Oak View staff is extremely proud of its students, and has confidence in the great people they are, and the amazing people they will become,” remarked Ms. Dale-Pash.



Pleasant View

Ocean View Preparatory Preschool

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



Paul James
Principal

Preschool Foundational Fun

Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool students enjoyed a fun, active, and creative way of learning during this year’s Spring Party. Using the California Preschool Learning Foundations our dedicated and hard working teachers found ways to incorporate the foundations with our students by utilizing their amazing talents. During our annual egg hunt our students worked on name recognition, and some Pyramid of Success character traits such as fairness, honesty, and being respectful of others.

Students also learned to sort and classify by colors using jelly beans. They then learned to create different types of graphs to show their conclusions of the numbers and colors of jelly beans. Using rich literature our teachers read stories about bunnies and other animals focusing on life cycles and other animal topics. Students and their parents also played the game of BINGO and recognized different letters, sounds, and pictures on each card. Students also enjoyed the “Pass the Bunny Game” and of course a traditional favorite of dying eggs. It was a fun filled day for our students, parents, and teachers.

Oak View

Preschool & Education Resource Center

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Developing Language

The Building Blocks of Communication program is a parent education unit developed by the Providence Speech and Hearing Center. With it, parents can learn the theory behind language development and how to help their children expand their language skills.

One of the program’s techniques is called CAR. This stands for “Comment And Wait.” Which means, just ask a simple question and wait, and then respond by adding a little more.

The program is used to help parents remember these techniques. The five-week series is conducted in both English and Spanish. Its focus is on developing a child’s language skills and understanding how learning two languages at once can impact language learning.

Congratulations goes to the seven “graduates” who received a certificate of recognition for completing this coursework. The class was taught by Viviana Jelinek, lead preschool educator, and Joyce Horowitz, preschool principal. The students are Margarita Garcia, Dora Patricia Lopez, Miriam Gonzalez, Lorena Rodriguez, Alma Raya, Rosana Valle and Caritina Gaspar.



Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

Positive and Connected

As any educator will tell you, the more connected and positive a student feels about their school, the more likely they are to be successful both academically and socially, either now or into the future.

It is with this thought in mind that Spring View has entered into a partnership with the Orange County Human Relations organization. Its goal is to maximize resources so that we can provide the best possible environment of success for our students, teachers and parents.

Beginning in the 2012–2013 school year, Spring View will be offering a class for our young leaders to be able to work with the Human Relations group to “get all students connected” in a positive and productive way.

The goal is to bring out the best in our children. By doing so, we believe that Spring View students will have a more positive impact on the community as a whole.

Star View *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Pauline
Tressler**
Principal

School of Distinction!

Star View is proud to be the recipient of the California Distinguished School Award. We are one of only 387 elementary schools statewide to receive this award. We were invited to apply in November, and we wrote an application highlighting our two signature practices: data-driven planning and instruction and positive school environment.

Our teachers review student data and then meet regularly in professional learning communities to plan a program of instruction. We differentiate our instruction to meet the needs of all of our students. We believe that it is important for our students to learn within a positive environment, and through our Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS), we teach and reward positive behavior. Everyone at Star View is excited to be recognized with this award.



Village View *Elementary*

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



Jodi Novy
Principal

A Budding Filmmaker

The Reflections program is a national recognition and achievement program for students in the area of the arts. Village View had many students who submitted entries. One Village View student in particular was recognized for her accomplishments.

To commend her for her outstanding creative achievement, Sienna Cole, a first-grader, was given an Award of Merit at the state level for her film production entry for the 2011-12 theme "Diversity Means...." She received a certificate as well as a commemorative medallion, and her entry will be displayed at the California State PTA Convention.



Sienna won the Award of Excellence at the HUC and Fourth District levels before winning the Award of Merit at the California State level. A total of 44,639 students from PTA/PTSA schools throughout California submitted entries for this year's Art Reflection's program. The California State PTA presented one Award of Excellence and three Awards of Merit in each art category and age division.

Participation in Reflections provides the opportunity for students to explore the world around them through the arts. We are very proud of Sienna's hard work and creative abilities. She truly represents the innovation our Dolphins possess at Village View Elementary School!

Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

A Spring Harvest

There were 75 first-grade students in the combined Mrs. Campbell's, Tilton's, Boggess' and Douglas' class who collaborated on the rock opera *Stone Soup*, and to the delight of their family, friends, board members and district officials.

The opera's story is simple. Three cute first-grade soldiers return from war famished and looking for food. After being turned away from three different houses, the soldiers create a plan to make Stone Soup. Curious villagers then begin to share their resources, such as vegetables, broccoli, potatoes, etc. In the end, the town villagers celebrate with a feast, and decide to change their town's name from No-dogooderville to Do-gooderville!

Speaking of vegetables, the kindergarten garden is getting prepared! Thanks to a nonprofit partnership with OneOC and Boy Scout Troop 671, they will soon be ready to support the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Under the leadership and direction of Edgar Jaramillo, Sun View's garden was refurbished with the help of 25 volunteers and over 224 hours of labor. The first- and second-grade students have already planted their vegetable seeds, and are now hoping for a bountiful spring harvest.



Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 26?





Robert Miller
Principal

Using Our Hands and Hearts

Vista View School had a great foreign language learning opportunity in March. Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) seniors who have taken two years of American Sign Language (ASL) came and taught our Vista View sixth-graders ASL and deaf culture.

Our students got to learn how to sign the alphabet, numbers, food items, common greeting phrases, and idioms. The seniors answered questions students had about the language and why it is considered a foreign language credit at the high school. They quickly learned that ASL is not simply gesturing, nor is it universal.

The event ended with a Guess Who the Leader Is game, where a student standing in the middle of a circle of students had to guess who was initiating the signs and facial expressions.



Our students earned a sense of pride in the ability to use some sign language and were conversing in the language on their way out. The seniors said they love the language so much that they would gladly come again. Thank you, HBHS Oilers!



Carol Furman
Principal

Thank You, Volunteers!

It's been a busy spring at Westmont School. Students are working hard to master grade-level standards in the classrooms and having lots of fun at the same time! Our PTO has busy, too, planning fun events for our students and community.

The first-annual Family Formal Dance was held in our multi-purpose room and attended by over 180 people. Our students danced with their parents, took photos, and enjoyed an Italian dinner and raffle at this starry-night-themed event. What fun!

We also enjoyed our annual spring book fair in March. This year, we had Special Friends Day at the book fair, and many of our brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and grandparents came out to support our PTO by buying books with their students.

We are currently in preparation for a handful of upcoming events, including Family Movie Night, Bingo Night, and our annual Open House.

We are so blessed to have such a hardworking PTO Board and group of parent volunteers to make all these events possible. A big thank you to the many volunteers who make being at Westmont School a fun and enjoyable experience for our students!

School News



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KNOW THE SIGNS OF STROKE

FACE

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ARM

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SPEECH

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Every second counts when the first stroke symptoms appear. Time lost is brain lost and it's important to take immediate action. Fountain Valley Regional Hospital is a designated Stroke-Neurology Receiving Center by Orange County EMS. We have also been awarded the Gold Seal of Approval™ by The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification program and the Get With The Guidelines — Gold Plus Plus Quality Achievement Award by the American Heart and American Stroke Associations.



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Art To Grow On

Ready, Get Set,...Create!

As a parent, I really now understand what everyone was saying when my sons were born: "It goes by so fast! Before you know it they will be...." And it is true! Since they grow so fast, I often think, what are the "seeds" that we parents should plant in our children? Manners? Of course! Respect? Of course! Self-esteem and self-confidence? Yes and yes!

But as I my youngest child moves into elementary school, I truly believe that giving children the opportunity to think critically, problem solve, imagine, and create will elevate them even more as they continue to grow.

Math calls for it. Social studies calls for it. Playing in the yard and getting into arguments call for it—the ability to analyze a situation, concretely or theoretically come up with solutions, and communicate those solutions through thought, speech, written word, movement, or art.

I opened Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc. in 2000. There were not as many demands on our children as there are now. Kindergarten is truly the new first grade. Our children's minds need to be agile, sharp, open to new ideas, curious, passionate, and creative, no matter if they will become chemists, professional athletes, teachers, artists, musicians, or business executives.

If you can give your child a gift in 2012, take the time to do something creative with him or her. Get out those cardboard boxes and turn them into a race car or doll house. Get out wire, tile, and glue and play. Read books, take walks and collect rocks, write letters, and talk! These life skills will be a gift to your child.

Lauren Perelmutter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc.
www.art2growon.com (310) 625-6028

Note-ables

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important



Kate Karp

Chicken Joe is an orange cat who loves rock and roll. Trout Fishing in America, aka folk-rockers Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet and creators of this endearing character and the "funny farm" he lives on, tell Joe's story in original songs with country-flavored rock and plain ol' country. This latest CD is a follow-up to *My Name is Chicken Joe* and is available either solo or with a whimsically drawn storybook illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch. In this story, narrated by Grimwood and Idlet and augmented by their band, Chicken Joe sleepily arises, as cats will, from his bed in the hen house and tries

hard to remember an important thing he'd forgotten. After talking to the hens, the dog named Miss Kitty, and a very odd kazoo-playing mule, he lies down to take a much-needed nap, as cats also will. You and your children will undoubtedly have picked up on the clues and try to shout Joe into waking, which could be why he remembers what he'd forgotten when naptime's over.

The songs are accompanied by guitars, banjos and synthesizers, and spoons, hand claps and a frottoir—that's your washboard! They're wonderfully clever and can be considered the show after the story. Roosters crow "Rock and roooo!!!!!" in "Rock and Roll Roosters," and all the farm animals display their eccentric and species-bewildered behavior ("Hello, My Chicken Thinks He's a Dog"; "You've Got a Funny Name.") One in particular, "The Fish Swim Backwards in the Sky," is lovely in a mountain-ballad way; mournful strings eerily contrast with whimsical lyrics like "Don't hold hands with a cactus tree." And it's not all silliness and games. "Where Did Everybody Go" tells about taking a wrong turn in life and making your way back, and "Dance with Me" is simple love and friendship, flavored with Cajun filé gumbo.

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important is simply a fine time—and what's that pig doing in the bathroom?

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

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Communicating With Your Child’s Teacher



Rajeshri Gandhi

In my 15 years as a teacher and school administrator, I have learned that parent involvement is a critical component to a child’s success. Children crave and need validation from the important adults in their lives and when teachers and parents have a strong relationship, the child benefits. Knowing how to communicate with your child’s teacher is critical to the health of this relationship. We’ve all heard about the Mars/Venus phenomenon when it comes to men and women communicating with each other. I would argue that a similar dynamic can exist between parents and teachers. As a parent, if you should find yourself in a situation that warrants raising a concern to your child’s teacher, I offer the following advice.

- **Remember that the person on the other side of the discussion is your professional partner, not your adversary.** Teachers choose their profession because they have a deep yearning to better the lives of young people. They spend a great deal of time with your child (and many others) and there is professional knowledge, supported by experience that drives decisions. There is great potential for a mutually beneficial resolution and that possibility is greater when you start from a place of collaboration and trust.
- **Resist the urge to communicate in any form—phone, email, in person meeting—when you are overly emotional.** Anyone who works at a school understands that their student is your baby and that as parents, your job is to protect and support your child. Once your initial reaction has subsided, take a moment to define for yourself your actual concern, the potential impact on your child and what outcome(s) will best serve your child. Be open to compromise and alternative solutions and bear in mind that the teacher has his/her own rationale. Keeping the conversation focused on the issue and moving towards a resolution will allow for more effective communication and the strengthening of your relationship.

- **Go directly to the teacher rather than initially jumping levels and involving supervisors/principals, etc.** Many parents feel uncomfortable and are some times intimidated to approach their child’s teacher, even though that is the best person to address concerns. A good administrator will always ask, “Have you spoken to the teacher yet?” and if your answer is no, expect to be directed back to him/her and for the teacher to know that you already went to his/her supervisor. 99% of issues can be constructively resolved by the parties directly involved. In the rare case that you feel you have to go beyond the teacher, let the teacher know that you appreciate his/her consideration and understand that s/he is doing what s/he feels is right and within his/her jurisdiction, but that it is not personal and you would like to speak to another party who may have more ideas.
- **Address concerns as they come up.** I cannot tell you how many times I spoke with parents who said, “And this is not the first time I have experienced this issue.” My response was always the same, “Clearly this is important to you—why did you wait to bring it up?” Prolonged feelings of concern can build resentment, which can result in a small issue exploding into a big deal. Identify your concern, evaluate the impact on your child’s overall education and if it’s something you deem important, address it immediately. Teachers have no opportunity to address your concern or explain their rationale unless you communicate with them. Once you have laid out your concerns, be supportively persistent in getting a resolution and immediately address any future concerns.
- **Never put your child in the middle and never disparage or criticize your child’s teacher in front of him/her.** I once heard Dr. Phil say that one parent criticizing the other parent shames the child because s/he is a part of both. I would say that the same is true of students and their teachers. Avoid putting your child in the position of choosing a side—it’s unhealthy. Your word as a parent is extremely powerful (even though your child may not ever tell you that) and sticks longer that you might expect.
- **Act as an individual and do not rally the troops around an issue.** While it may feel as though there is strength in numbers, it is always better for you to address your concerns and to let other parents do the same. Going in as a group immediately puts the teacher on the defensive and can undermine your actual concern as it is highly unlikely that everyone has the same concern for the same reason. However, if multiple parents raise the same concern individually and in a reasonable manner, the teacher is better able to develop a resolution that benefits all parties.

Rajeshri holds a BS from the University of Michigan and a MA in School of Leadership with Principal Certification from Harvard University. She uses her background in public and private schools both teaching and administration to collaborate with students, parents and schools about the various educational options available. Rajeshri may be reached at rgandhi24@gmail.com www.rajeshrigandhi.com

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William M.
Habermehl
Superintendent

OC DEPT. OF ED • FROM PAGE 2

Fortunately, certain best practices have demonstrated effectiveness for ELs. The California Department of Education’s recent publication, “Improving Education for English Learners: Research-Based Approaches”, details such promising practices as bilingual and dual language immersion programs, English Language Development (ELD), and sheltered content instruction to name a few.

Comprehensive professional development is necessary to meet the specific needs of ELs. For instance, Orange County Department of Education’s “Leadership for EL Success” program consists of five modules ranging from knowing our EL students to leadership and infrastructure. Such models of professional development move beyond simply addressing classroom strategies to weaving research and practice in a facilitated series that provides local leaders the opportunity to support their schools in the area of English language development.

Shared leadership is critical if we are to improve outcomes for ELs. Teachers and principals, students and parents, county and state educators, and business and community members with the courage and discipline to work together will ultimately shine the light on solutions that best serve our children.

For more information, visit www.ocde.us/SSI/Pages/Secondary-School-Leadership-for-English-Learner-Success.aspx or contact Val Callet, Services for English Learners Coordinator, at 714-966-4159.

Volunteer Opportunities



Barbara Richardson
Acting Senior
Librarian
Programming
and Youth
Services

Teenagers interested in volunteering for the Library's summer reading programs may apply online from May 1 through June 15 at www.hbpl.org.

Applicants must be at least 12 years old. Duties will include registering children, teenagers and adults for the summer reading programs, and handing out prizes or helping with various activities. Volunteers must attend a mandatory training meeting on June 22 or June 23.

There is a volunteer workshop on the first Wednesday of each month for teenagers who are interesting in shelving children's books and/or reading aloud to children. The workshop is at 4 p.m. in the Tabby Theater. Those attending will receive one hour of credit. Volunteers 18 years or older will need to be fingerprinted.

Adults interested in reading aloud to children may attend a quarterly GAB workshop and join our Grandparent Readers Program. You do not have to be a grandparent to join. The next workshop is on May 16. Please call (714) 374-5330 to RSVP.

Adults interested in helping with our children's programs can also join The Friends of the Children's Library. Annual dues are \$10. There is a monthly meeting on the first Friday of each month at 9:15 a.m. in Room B.

During the school year volunteer tutors are needed for our Homework Club. Computer coaches are also needed throughout the year. For more information about any of the volunteer jobs that are available, please visit our Web page at www.hbpl.org or www.volunteermatch.com.

Help make a difference in your community!

Westminster Library

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

A Happening Place



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

The Library is a fun place to be this Spring! So hop on in and see what's happening in the kids and teens departments.

Join us in May for our Imagination Celebration! On Thursday afternoons through May 17 the library will be hosting special children's craft events at 3:30 p.m. We'll make collages on May 3, puppet-making is on May 10, and May 17 will be a watercolor painting day.

Also visit the library and check out a book during our Children's Book Week from May 7—13. The Children's Book Club meets on May 9 at 3:30 p.m., where we will be discussing the monthly selection and do fun activities related to the book.

Don't forget about our weekly storytimes too, where we read stories, sing songs and end with a craft! Preschool and toddler storytimes are every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively. The family storytime happens on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Teens who are gearing up for college should attend our College Preparation Program on Tuesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. Santiago Community College Counseling Instructor Melody Vaught will cover everything you need to know about applying and preparing for college. Teens and parents are encouraged to attend and bring questions for the Q&A session.

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m.; teens who are interested in contributing should come! There will be a VolunTEEN orientation on Tuesday, May 15 at 3:30 p.m.

New volunteers should pick up an application at the Library prior to orientation. Teens ages 12—18 are invited to apply. And watch for information coming soon about our Summer Reading Program in July!

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What is Proper Running Form?



Dr. Doug Richie

There is a lot of “buzz” in the running community regarding barefoot running, minimalist shoes and running form. Much of the debate focuses on injury prevention and efficiency of running. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of research to validate the notion that any type of shoe or running style will prevent injuries. On the other hand, we have valid biomechanical studies which can give us direction to enjoy running while avoiding injury.

Barefoot running enthusiasts advocate a “forefoot strike” pattern where the runner lands on the ball of the foot and avoids hitting the heel on the ground altogether. This running form is commonly seen in elite sprinters and world class long distance runners who are very fit and athletic. For the average jogger, running on the forefoot requires extra muscle strength and may actually increase the risk of strain on the arch of the foot (the plantar fascia) and the Achilles tendon. Certainly when a runner wants to increase speed and performance, they will have to learn how to run on their toes. However, this has to be done gradually while the body adapts to the increased strain.

For the average runner, a “heel-strike” pattern is more natural and far less demanding in terms of muscle strain. Running heel- to- toe reduces strain on the calf and shin muscles, but may slow down the overall pace and speed. For the runner who has a previous history of injury in their plantar fascia, Achilles tendon or shin muscles, a heel-strike running pattern would be recommended.

There is nothing wrong with a heel strike running pattern as long as you have no aspirations to reach the Olympic Trials. If you have read websites which promote the notion that running on the forefoot will prevent injury, wait for more scientific research which can prove this theory. So far, we have noticed that the average runner will select a heel strike running pattern because it is more comfortable and puts less strain on the muscles of the foot and leg.

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

Why Surfing?

By Chad Wells

I was just five years old when I was introduced to surfing. My older brother, Jeff, who had already been surfing for a number of years, brought me down to San Onofre to teach me.


Needless to say, I didn’t fare so well. I spent a lot of time with my face in the sand and didn’t set foot on a board again until six years later. When I was 11, I found a Harbour Surfboards twin fin under the Christmas tree. A few difficult days falling off my new board led me to discover that I wasn’t ready for such a short board. So my dad bought me a mini longboard, and my love of surfing began. I spent a few years learning on shorter and shorter boards until finally I was ready for the one I got for Christmas.

Though I had a rough start, I have been surfing for 32 years. All the other sports I played as a child have drifted away, but surfing has really stuck. Personally for me, surfing provides a break from the day-to-day grind. Once you get out on the water, you immediately forget about anything on land, as the ocean demands your full attention and respect. I plan to enjoy surfing well into my senior years, as the thrill never gets old.



Costa Rica 2010

Chad Wells is a resident of Seal Beach, class of 1987 Los Alamitos High School. A 2X Masters National Champion and Surf Program Coordinator for Quiksilver, Inc.



Insects Word Search Contest

NEW Rules!!!

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

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

Entries must be received by May 15, 2012

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

Butterfly

Caterpillar

Cockroach

Cricket

Dragonfly

Fire Ant

Firefly

Gnat

Grasshopper

Honey Bee

Hornet

House Fly

Japanese Beetle

Labybug

Mosquito


Moth

Praying Mantis

Termite

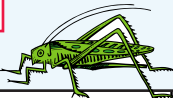
Walkingstick

Wasp



Congratulations to Hamza & Faizaan Lakhani

Winners of the March Word Search Contest!



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

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Westminster School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Richard Tauer

Awesome Anderson Teacher

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Wendy Osborn, a second-grade teacher at Anderson Elementary School, has been named the Westminster School District Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Osborn has been a teacher for 10 years and has had an incredibly positive impact on the lives of hundreds of children. Mrs. Osborn's philosophy on teaching and commitment to her students are eloquently revealed in her application for Teacher of the Year. She said: "My greatest accomplishment is establishing a comfortable, warm, student-centered classroom. I am open-minded and experiment with different motivational strategies and changes to maximize student learning. As an example, I attended the Nutrition Network Summer Institute, where I learned how important physical fitness is for our students' learning. Consequently, last fall I rearranged all of my classroom furniture to provide a large clearing so I can offer my students a five- to 10-minute Fitness Fun Break every day. We stretch and exercise to music, with the main objective to keep our bodies active and our minds alert. My students are invested by contributing and suggesting which exercises we do and how they should be done. We decide as a class if we agree to this new exercise change. This open discussion promotes a sense of pride and ownership in our classroom. I notice that my students feel re-energized and more attentive after this mini-physical workout....I hope my flexible, positive attitude toward change inspires my students to take risks and try new things."



WSD Teacher of the Year, Wendy Osborn, and her 2nd grade class at Anderson Elementary.

Anderson Principal Dr. Lori Rogers commented, "Mrs. Osborn is a stellar classroom teacher, as evidenced by her engagement strategies and numerous student successes." Mrs. Osborn is highly respected by students, staff, and parents, who not only think of her as a teacher but as a role model, team player, and mentor as well.

We are all very proud to have Mrs. Osborn represent the Westminster School District in the Orange County competition for Teacher of the Year, and we are also proud of our Teachers of the Year who represent each one of our school sites. Congratulations, Mrs. Osborn and all of our exemplary Teachers of the Year!

School Site Teachers of the Year

Anderson Elementary School
Clegg Elementary School
DeMille Elementary School
Eastwood Elementary School
Finley Elementary School
Fryberger Elementary School
Hayden Elementary School
Johnson Middle School
Meairs Elementary School
Schmitt Elementary School
Schroeder Elementary School
Sequoia Elementary School
Stacey Middle School
Warner Middle School
Webber Elementary School
Willmore Elementary School

Wendy Osborn
Margaret Heyward
Kim Morris
Brandi Robinson
Lisa Tarkanian
Megan Kresge
Trang Tran
Wes Rippeon
Ed Hwang
Kristina Elliott
Vickie Hungerford
Isabelle Karsh
Kellie Redmond
Joe Acquarelli
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Kid Conference

The annual Kid Conference took place at Warner Middle School in April, and it was an amazing event. The objective of the Kid Conference was to promote leadership skills and asset development in students. A group of about 70 Warner students from the Peer Assistance Leadership program and the Associated Student Body Leadership class worked with teachers and staff to plan the event for the entire school.

The day started with breakout sessions, followed by a community fair and lunch, and ended with a motivational talk by a keynote speaker. The breakout sessions were typically interactive and hands-on. The sixth-graders rotated through four sessions: Maze; Smart Stomp; Values Auction; and Perilous Journey. In Smart Stomp, students worked as a team to pop balloons that had math, science, social studies, language arts, and leadership questions in them. The goal was to be the first team to answer all questions correctly. They discussed questions among themselves and were able to use provided textbooks. The idea was to get them to work as a team to achieve a common goal. In Perilous Journey, students discussed why getting an education is important and how making good choices will lead one to be successful in life. Then, students were split into teams that led one blindfolded walker through an obstacle course. The blindfolded walker had to listen carefully to his teammates as they gave him verbal directions to guide him through the obstacles.



Warner students on the Perilous Journey

Seventh-graders rotated through four sessions as well: Art and Identity; Hunger/Pain/Awareness; High School; and a Chat with the Counselor. In Hunger/Pain/Awareness, they discussed the poverty, famine, and poor living conditions found in other parts of the world, and then they participated in an exercise designed to increase awareness, understanding, and empathy.

The sessions that eighth-graders rotated through included: Motivational Speaker; Internet Safety; and High School. In the High School session, faculty from Westminster High School talked to students about the variety of opportunities available at the school and what they need to do to ensure that they'll be ready for high school.

The Community Fair had an abundance of fun and games. Students enjoyed face painting, a bean bag toss, hoop shots, hula hoops, cotton candy, snow cones, and much, much more. Members of the West County Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) were there to talk about safety as well.

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lori Rogers
Principal

Anderson Teacher of the Year

Anderson Elementary teachers and staff send congratulatory wishes to Wendy Osborn, Teacher of the Year at both the site and the district level. Wendy has been teaching for ten years and currently teaches second grade. She uses highly engaging teaching strategies ensuring her young students stay on task and focused on their learning. Wendy's passion for her work is evident in her recent accomplishments as the district level Science Works coordinator. She organizes teacher training, family education nights, and ensures science materials are in the hands of teachers and students. Wendy's warm demeanor and positive spirit are contagious. Students, parents, and teachers all agree that Wendy Osborn well represents this school and district as Teacher of the Year!



The conference wrapped up with keynote speaker Tyler Durham talking to the students about the impact of good choices and choosing their destiny. He spoke about students wanting to be heroes and wanting their lives to mirror a good movie. He pointed out that common characteristics of heroes are that they care more about others than themselves and that they live for something bigger than themselves. He gave students tools to ensure that they are all able to "live inside a great story."

The Kid Conference was a fun and meaningful experience for the students at Warner. I'd like to thank the staff and students who went the extra mile to put this extraordinary event together!



Warner students participating in the Smart Stomp.

Clegg *School*

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



John Staggs
Principal

Celebrating Our Success

I am proud to announce that Clegg Elementary School was recently named a California Distinguished School by the state of California. We are very proud of this recognition by the state. It is proof of all the hard work each and every staff member, student, and parent in our community does to make Clegg such a very special place for learning. This is an award that everyone has worked hard to achieve over the last couple of school years and I would like to congratulate the entire Clegg family for the accomplishment.

Clegg students are also working very hard towards the school-wide goal of 6,500 Accelerated Reader points. Students in kindergarten through fifth grade are reading books they enjoy and taking small quizzes to ensure they understand the material in order to accumulate points. Once we meet our goal, we will have a celebration on the last day of school.

Keep up the hard work, Cougar Cubs!



Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Dolphin Details

Eastwood School is proud to recognize Mrs. Brandi Robinson as our 2012-2013 Teacher of the Year. Prior to becoming a credentialed teacher, Mrs. Robinson was a site coordinator for the Extended School Program at Eastwood.

Her 14-year career as a teacher has included all grade levels except the first. She has mastered the art of teaching combination classes, as well as a fourth/fifth/sixth multi-age class.

Mrs. Robinson has a bachelor of arts from California State University, Long Beach, and a master of arts in teaching from National University, with a specialization in educational technology. She is an outstanding teacher, one who provides her students with an environment in which they are encouraged to take risks. She sets high academic and behavioral standards and treats her students with respect and dignity.

But her teaching goes beyond the content standards, because she also models life skills such as integrity, social responsibility and leadership. She knows how to hold her students accountable for their own learning and behavior, as they work through purposeful activities to reach intended outcomes. She truly brings out the best in each one of her students.

Mrs. Robinson is also adept at balancing the demands of a wife, mother, teacher and community member, while also maintaining her desire to be a life-long learner. She is always seeking new ways to expand her expertise in both teaching children and developing her own educational knowledge base.

The Eastwood students, parents and staff members are thrilled to honor Mrs. Robinson.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Food, Fitness and Family Fun!

In February, DeMille families had the opportunity to learn all about fitness and making healthy food choices at our Family Nutrition Night, which was sponsored by the Network for a Healthy California. When families arrived, they were issued a passport to the various stations and lessons being presented. Students and families were sent on a nutrition and fitness journey that included lessons and activities on fats in foods, yoga, choosing

whole grains, martial arts, monitoring your heart rate and more. Families in attendance received cookbooks, exercise books and other resources containing valuable information on making healthy choices. There were also healthy treats to enjoy. The spa water, the "Berry Good Banana Splits" and the "Bodacious Broccoli Slaw" were delicious. It was a fun, tasty and informative evening.



Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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

Maria Gutierrez-Garcia, Principal

No article this issue

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Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Hiacynth
Martinez**
Principal

Community Heroes

As part of the Kindergarten social studies curriculum, Fryberger students are taught about various community members who make a difference by making our neighborhoods a safe place to live and learn. The students in Mrs.

Kresge's class were treated to a special visit from several true community heroes from the Los Angeles Airport Police Department. They learned about the importance of driver safety, physical fitness, investigations, professional training, and the dynamic functions of LAXPD K9s!



Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Linda Reed
Principal

RadKIDS

Student safety has always been very important to all the stakeholders at Hayden. Hayden has been very fortunate to begin an after-school program called Resisting Aggression Defensively KIDS (radKIDS) to ensure student safety.

RadKIDS is a program that teaches students how to deal with strangers and abductions. Erin Runnion is the founder of the program and volunteers her time to help teach and train students, staff and parents. Hayden had three teachers volunteer their time to be trained at the local police station: Mrs. St Martin, Ms. Courtemarche and Mrs. Logan. These staff members, along with our ESP director, Mr. Barajas, have trained all of our ESP students with the plan of moving the trainings to more students.



The trainings take place after school for two hours a day and last for the entire week. Students are shown how to use a safety word, verbal and physical resistance, and how to make a 911 call.

Land School

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

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Shane Vinagupta
Principal

School Connectedness: It Begins After School

At Johnson, it is important that students feel connected to their campus. School connectedness gives students a sense of belonging, security and increased self-efficacy. There are many programs in place that give our student body options to get involved through meaningful and enriching activities.

For the student athlete, we offer many competitive field sports, including flag football, track and field, and even Chinese fencing. The major league Angels also sponsors RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner City), whose season is currently underway. This year, the Johnson Warriors brought home league championships in boys' flag football, girls' powder puff, boys' and girls' basketball, and girls' soccer.

For those with hidden talents, we offer Glee Club, sewing club and ukulele club. Glee Club will perform this spring with the district choir, whose theme this year is "Seasons." For those students who need extra academic support, there is high school mentoring and ZAP (Zeros Aren't Permitted). The focus of these two programs is to help students increase their academic achievement and graduate middle school with a diploma.

Students have many options beyond their school day to stay off the streets and do something positive for themselves, and many of our students are taking advantage of these opportunities.



Beverlee Mathenia
*Director, Child
Development
Programs*



Leisa Winston
*Administrator,
Student Services*

Laying the Groundwork for Success

According to researchers, 40 percent of kindergartners enter school one to three years behind, and every year schools must look for programs and resources to help these students catch up. The percentage is even higher for poor children. School readiness is extremely important; nearly every educational benchmark—from achieving at grade level to staying in school—is related to school readiness.

Fortunately, Land School, the hub of the Westminster School District's early childhood education programs, has recognized for years the value of early childhood education and has embraced the expanded continuum of learning which includes children from ages three to 13. More than 800 Westminster School District preschoolers will participate in pre-kindergarten graduation exercises this June—which means 800 kindergarten students will start school ready to learn. Preschool is more than a commendable goal; it is essential to making sure all children have the opportunity to succeed and reach their academic potential.



Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Family Reading Night

In March, Iva Meairs Elementary School hosted Family Night. Students brought their families to school to enjoy Open House with a twist. The focus of the evening was reading. Teachers prepared presentations that not only encouraged families to read together but gave parents ideas on how to check for understanding, look at new vocabulary, and read aloud with their children. Many teachers provided reading lists with grade-level book titles, and some students even walked away with brand-new books to share with their families at home.

While visiting the classrooms families also had the opportunity to read the walls of the classrooms and see all the wonderful things our students have been working on in the past months. Meairs students write, write, write, so there was plenty to read, as well as art work, math, science and social studies to look at.

At the same time, the fabulous Meairs PTA held a book fair in the multipurpose room to give parents the opportunity to buy books for their children and make money for the school at the same time! There were lots of happy faces walking out the door with new books under their arms. When it was time to lock up for the night, the shelves were almost bare, but the cash register was full. That goes to show that Meairs Eagles fly high when it comes to reading!

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

How Does Your Garden Grow?

With the help of a grant and the generous support of a Boy Scout Eagle Project, our Schroeder garden is blooming! Under the direction of Mr. Collier and Miss Carlson, our garden grows fruits, vegetables, and flowers. Students who have joined the garden club work hard to plant, weed, water, and harvest. Right now we have lettuce, tomatoes, and artichokes that are sprouting up. The garden also provides a quiet place for students to read during recess and lunch. It is our own oasis right here on campus.



Ben Wilson working in the school garden.

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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

Tammy Steel, Principal

No article submitted

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jerry Gargus
Principal

Open House a Big Success!

In April, the staff of Schmitt Elementary hosted nearly 200 parents for our annual Open House. The theme for the evening was Family Reading Night, and a wide variety of activities was planned by each grade-level team to feature the outstanding work that is being done to help our students foster a love of reading. Some of the activities included making puppets to perform the story "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," playing Sight-Word Bingo, shared-reading of classic stories, Jeopardy games aligned with our core language arts programs and poetry readings by our students.

Our fifth-grade team featured reader's theater activities, a hands-on science lab and the opportunity to see our students work with the ST Math Program in our computer lab.

In addition to these great activities, our outstanding PTA hosted a Buy One, Get One Free Book Faire throughout the week. The Faire provided families with a great opportunity to purchase books for their children. As principal, I am very excited about the focus that our school has placed on encouraging reading for pleasure and am proud of the large number of Accelerated Reader points that our students are accumulating this year!

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

A Spirit-Moving Concert

Middle School Band concerts can often be rather difficult to sit through, but not at Stacey. Under the direction of Jordan Woodruff, the Stacey Band program performed an uplifting concert with our Super Band, Epic Strings and Phoenix Band performing flawlessly at the annual concert in March. Students demonstrated superior skill in harmony and working

together to make music that moves the soul.

Mr. Woodruff is a new band teacher to Stacey, but not to teaching music. He previously led the Johnson music program to superior ratings at competitions over the past five years. The goal at Stacey is to build a competitive music program that allows students to learn advanced skills while enjoying "Music for the Sake of Music, Always." The concert definitely was a highlight.



Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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

A Team Effort



Orchid Rocha
Principal

I am proud to share that Webber had a very successful community event on March 14, 2012. Every grade level team of teachers hosted a Science Experiment. Webber also enlisted the support of our PRIDE staff, Westminster High students and the Nutrition Network. It was team effort!

I think it was a HUGE success. The third grade classroom was filled with families coming and going the entire hour. I love to see the parents engaged in a positive, learning experience with their children! —Kathy Stahlin, 3rd Grade

I thought it was a wonderful night and the parents seemed to enjoy it as much as the kids did. Several parents hopped on computers too. —Carrington-Shelley, 2nd Grade



The second grade team saw parents working side-by-side with their students, conducting observations on the various soils and recording together on their science journals. —Mrs. Ellis, 2nd Grade

Warner *Middle (6-8)*

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

Kid Conference



Matthew Skoll
Principal

By May Nguyen, Student

Warner Middle School is constantly working on improving itself.

This year, on Wednesday, April 4, we improved our knowledge of hunger, pain awareness, the school and our future. Kid Conference, taught by our own Warner students, educated us and taught us about taking care of ourselves and others. Leadership and PAL taught us many important lessons throughout the Kid Conference.

One lesson was called Perilous Journey, in which one member of a group was blindfolded and needed to go through an obstacle course. Other group members helped the student by giving them directions throughout the game. The purpose of the game was to learn how to communicate better and to build trust with each other.

Another lesson was Smart Stomp. Students popped balloons and found questions inside. They worked as a team to answer each question from the balloons. The objective of this game was to learn how to work better with others.

Then, there was Hunger, Pain and Awareness. Many people around the world are starving and in pain. This activity was to help raise awareness for them. We hope that Warner understood and will start to help by donating food, clothes and money.

There are many activities in Kid Conference. All of them help us throughout school and in our future. The teachers of Warner Middle School hope the students not only had a good time, but also discovered educational values in all of the lessons.

Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

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

Community Access



Rob McKane
Principal

Willmore continues to provide onramps and build the capacity of our families. Recently, community members communicated their need to learn basic computer skills. Once again, Willmore team members stepped up to meet those needs and began a computer class for parents. Basic skills in internet navigation were taught as well as internet safety for their children. For our parents whose primary language is not English, internet based translating programs were accessed and they had the opportunity to try them out. This is not just a proud moment for us, but also the parents.

For some it takes a lot of courage to come to school and learn something completely new to them. Equally as important, it sets an excellent example for their children. Way to go Willmore families!



Contest!!

This drawing is hidden somewhere in this publication **5 times.**

When you find it, email all **5 page numbers** to:

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



Entries must be received by May 15, 2012

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

Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Tribute to a Champion

Service, passion, dedication, and love are just a few of the words that describe the life of Trustee Brian Garland. It was over a month ago that I sat at my office computer in the early morning, with the very sad task of communicating to our school community about the passing of Brian Garland. I began that e-mail with the following sentence: "It is with a heavy and sad heart that I am writing this today. Early this morning, our district lost a very special educator and friend; moreover the students he served for so long lost a great champion. Brian Garland (Board Member) passed away at age 71." In the weeks that have followed, the stories, tears, laughter, and, yes, even old yearbook photos, have firmly affixed him with that descriptor of a "great champion for education." Education often uses the phrase "kids-first" as a guiding principle, and Mr. Garland was someone who not only used the phrase, but demonstrated both actions and behaviors that let you know he believed it to his core.

Mr. Garland served over 30 years as a teacher, counselor, and administrator in the Huntington Beach Union High School District. He was one of the charter teachers when Edison High School opened its doors in 1969 and later served as Edison High School's principal from 1988 to 2002. Mr. Garland has also served the education community through his leadership on the School Board of the Huntington Beach City Elementary School District. Mr. Garland's wife, Elaine, also taught in the district for 22 years, first in the Guidance Center and then the Special Abilities Cluster at Edison High School.



Brian F. Garland

His brothers were also both very successful teachers in our district at Ocean View and Huntington Beach High Schools. One can only guess what the conversations were at the Garland Thanksgiving table, but I'm sure they always included a focus on "kids-first."

Brian was remembered by friends, colleagues, students, and community members on March 25, 2012, in the Edison High School Gymnasium. It was a thoughtful memorial service that highlighted his love of education and the many people he touched along that path. During the service, Scott Garland, Brian's son, pulled from his pocket small and well worn "Post-it" notes. On the notes, Scott shared his father's thoughts about how important it was to be a teacher and the qualities of great teaching. As I sat in reflection, each quality Brian had scribbled on those notes really represented the positive characteristics we would hope for in all people. Brian realized that the relationships we grow line the journey we take.

William James was quoted as saying, "Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does!" This simple statement is a powerful reflection of Brian's portrait—a portrait that is rich with texture, color, and a diversity of thought. It was that diversity that allowed him to serve so many students, families, educators, and his own family. As we reflect on his special benchmark of a career and life, it becomes so easy to identify that this champion made a difference for which our school community will always be thankful.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bonnie P. Castrey
Vice President

Appreciating Our Accomplishments

At mid second semester, we take a deep breath and then start assessing this school year and planning for next school year. President Simons brought you all up to date on our facilities work in the last issue. This past month I was honored to meet with our community leaders and district and school site staff to dedicate the fabulous new track and field at Edison High School. We thank our community for again stepping up to provide first-class sports facilities for our students. Our co-curricular classrooms are vital to the healthy learning environment of our precious young people. These classrooms provide education for well rounded and healthy students.

In the curricular area, two of our schools completed their self-study process for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation. Huntington Beach High School (HBHS) and Huntington Beach Adult School both undertook the process with the seriousness of purpose and rigor of study which we expect from all our students. During a three-day visit to the sites, they studied the "self study of each school," visited classrooms in every area, and talked with students and staff. The visiting WASC teams gave their verbal reports indicating that both schools did very well and should be very proud of their work. The visiting team was particularly supportive of the advanced level courses provided at the Academy for the Performing Arts in the HBHS campus. The district thanks you on behalf of our community for continuing to assure the highest quality education for our young people in these very challenging times.

With the untimely passing of our longtime colleague, Trustee Brian Garland, on March 13, 2012, who also represented Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) on the Coastline Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Board, I have once again been asked to serve on the ROP Board and Trustee Kathleen Iverson is the alternate to the ROP Board. Our district has historically provided cutting-edge ROP classes on each of our campuses, including culinary arts, construction, automotive, health care, technical support in theatre and broadcast, to name but a few. These courses are designed with both rigorous curriculum to meet today's career and industry standards and hands-on experience. The combination of didactic lessons and practice helps young people to gain skills, to look at a variety of possible careers post high school, and in some courses to gain certificates of completion which lead immediately to employment. Many students go directly into careers in our diverse industries in Southern California, and many use their knowledge and experiences to make college choices for their majors. Coastline ROP is a leader in our state in career and technical education, and many of the courses meet the A-G college course requirements.

Finally, this month we honor both our certificated and classified staff, with a week each of special appreciation, to recognize their continuing dedication and work on behalf of the public education of our young people. Educating all of our young people is one of the important cornerstones of our democracy!

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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Real-Life Risks

Life lessons are best learned through firsthand experience. The Every 15 Minutes Program is based on the statistic that every 15 minutes someone dies from an alcohol-related collision. The group travels around the nation educating schools and communities about the risks of alcohol-impaired driving through eye-opening re-enactments and demonstrations without the real-life risk. It is a model of both school and community-based alcohol prevention, which incorporates alcohol-related consequences with community elements, including students, parents, educators, administrators, and law enforcement employees. This two-day event is designed to instill teenagers with the knowledge of the dangerous consequences of driving under the influence.

Many schools in the Huntington Beach Union High School District host the Every 15 Minutes event every two years. Fountain Valley High School just hosted its event in March. The simulation brought by this program is so realistic that the streets in front of the school were shut down for a day in order to create an accurate reenactment. To make the impact of the message more memorable, the program asks for participation from students who attend the school because no one thinks that anything like this could happen to someone they know. Real city police officers and paramedics are called in to participate in the simulation as students watch in silent horror.

The two-day event is followed by an assembly with a video montage of the reenactment. Guest speakers and students are called in to tell stories about their own personal experiences with losing a loved one to an alcohol-related collision.

No one believes that anything so dreadful could happen to them. The Every 15 Minutes Program aims to change this mentality and reduce the number of alcohol-related deaths in the nation through their live simulations.

Coast High School

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Accreditation Update

This April, Coast High School will go through an accreditation mid-term review.

As a high school accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Coast must also go through an annual self-study process reported in an official "Self-Study Report." Every three or six years we must also be visited by a team of peers from other schools who can confirm what is reported in our self-study.

This is a significant event for Coast, in that it validates what we are doing at our school. It plays a significant role in setting the direction for us over the next three years.

Below you will find our school's areas of strength. These were identified through the self-study process by our teachers, administrators, students and parents, and were confirmed by a visiting team of peers:

Parent support and understanding of the academic programs offered at Coast High School is at a high level.

Expectations of students' personal and academic success is shared by all stakeholders.

Construction of a new site will enable the teaching of a variety of classes in a 21st century secondary school academic environment.

Communication with parents is given in the three primary languages (English, Spanish and Vietnamese).

The campus is a clean, safe, orderly and nurturing environment for students, parents and staff.

That Coast offers an optimal environment for encouraging student learning.

There is one-on-one communication with teachers to develop a rapport with students.

This rapport results in improved attendance, effort and academic success.

As you will find in any organization, there is always room for improvement in how it operates or how well it performs, and so it is with Coast High School.

Through our self-study effort, the teachers, administrators, students and parents also identified a number of areas of concern that needed follow-up. These concerns were then analyzed as a whole, and discussions were held as to how to go about addressing them.

Aiming for the Future

What was developed were four new goals which have broad implications for our school. Their overall purpose is to address most if not all of these areas of concern.

Below are the four goals which have been in place since 2009, and continue to influence and direct our program:

Goal 1: Improve and update our career exploration curriculum and expand awareness of postsecondary options.


Goal 2: Enhance staff and student use of technology across the curriculum.

Goal 3: Expand elective offerings to meet the needs and interests of Coast students.

Goal 4: Increase literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum.

So what does this mean for Coast High students? It means that our students and parents can expect a continued improvement in our programs. The students will have access to more elective course offerings; they will have access to new and better technology; they will be better prepared in deciding what to do after graduation; and they will see more reading, writing and mathematics in all of their courses, not just in English and math.

We are very excited about our upcoming visit from the WASC committee. They will see a school staff that is dedicated to providing a high quality education for each student. They will also notice an amazing facility that supports the students, and a genuine community desire to improve what we do for them.



Targeted Tutoring by Teachers

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- 4 Sessions for \$100

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Subjects

- Social Studies
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- United States History

Test Preparation

- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate

Study Habits

- Note Taking
- Writing Skills
- Reading
- Critical Thinking Skills

Community Day School Edison High School

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

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Partners in Hope

The Community Day School (CDS) applied for and received a \$2,500 grant from the Simon Youth Foundation (SYF). The money will be used to purchase equipment and materials to support the expansion of elective class offerings, improve the technology resources available to teachers in order to better support student learning, and provide incentives for our students to improve their performance in their classes. More than just allowing CDS to purchase much-needed equipment and supplies, this grant reaffirms the great work that the CDS staff is doing for its students.

The Simon Youth Foundation is a wonderful partner with the Community Day School and provides support in a number of ways beyond this grant. As a national 501(c)(3) public charity headquartered in Indianapolis, SYF ignites hope through educational opportunities for students who are at risk of dropping out of high school. In partnership with local public school districts, SYF supports 23 Simon Youth Academies in 13 states. Primarily located in Simon malls, Simon Youth Academies offer flexible schedules and small class sizes that make learning accessible to students who struggle to connect with material in a traditional classroom or school because they are homeless, bullied, battling serious illness, facing parenthood, working full-time to support their families, or facing other challenging personal circumstances.

Other Milestones

The Community Day School also participated in the Pennies for Patients program for the first time in March. The money raised for the program goes to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Through the hard work and dedication of our student council, our students were able to raise almost \$100, which is extraordinary for a small school.

The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) was administered in March. Just like comprehensive high schools, CDS students are required to meet requirements needed for graduation, including passing both the math and English language arts components of CAHSEE. A pancake breakfast was provided to the students by the staff prior to testing on both days. Our students gave an excellent effort, and we anticipate their scores will reflect their effort.

Two CDS students have recently completed workshops on job-related skills and have been placed in paid internships at a local convenience store. The job training and internships were provided by the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA). Being able to work while continuing their education and work toward a diploma motivates students to both continue their studies and makes what they are learning in school much more relevant. CDS looks forward to expanding more of these opportunities for students in the near future.

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 26?



Dr. D'liese Melendrez
Principal

A Trip to New York

By Nicole Blumer, Senior

On February 16, 2012, senior students Nicole Blumer and Lexi Coco led the senior CIBACS class to see the business side of New York City. CIBACS stands for the Center for International Business and Communication Studies.

We had our first group dinner at America's historic first pizzeria: the famous Lombardi's Pizza in Greenwich Village. This began a series of great memories and experiences that we created and shared together during the following week.

In New York we navigated the subway system, paid a visit to Columbia University, and then walked to Harlem to see the historic Apollo Theater. We also explored Central Park, and went to the same ice rink that the students knew from Holden Caulfield in *The Catcher in the Rye*. We also rode the ferry to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island to experience first-hand what we had simulated in our social studies class.

Not All Business

We even paid a visit to Wall Street and took a group photo at the famous bull. We also did a fair amount of sightseeing, enjoying the culture that abounds in the Big Apple. One morning we woke up exceptionally early to stand outside of ABC's *Good Morning America*. With our professional look and CIBACS charm, we were soon invited to watch the taping from inside the studio, and even made an appearance on the show!



CIBACS Students on Good Morning America!

Our visit to the 9/11 Memorial left us extremely moved, too. Among our business adventures was an outstanding two-hour presentation from the famed Random House Publishing Company, after which we were invited to speak with several of their executives, including technology experts, editors and vice presidents. We then went to Merkle and Partners Advertising Agency and found the world of advertising an exciting career possibility.

Our trip was one of cultural explorations and business experiences. It is now a memory that has bonded our group of CIBACS students forever.

Fountain Valley *High School*

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



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Baron for Life, Evening of Culture

By Assistant Principals Kirk Kennedy and Joe Fraser

Each year, Fountain Valley High School celebrates student diversity with an International Week. In the past, this event has primarily revolved around the different clubs offering a variety of food for sale during lunch, along with some cultural performances on the stage. Changes in food sales laws have prompted us to look at different ways to celebrate the diversity of our student population in a more meaningful way that does not center on lunchtime food sales.

Student club officers brainstormed ideas with administration. What if we still had lunchtime activities and performances during the week but added a huge evening event to bring the community together?



FVHS Key Club Members rally during International Week

Students and administration developed an event to include the local community in our intercultural celebration. We decided to offer a street-fair-style atmosphere in the evening—a social festivity bigger and better than anything we’ve offered in the recent past. In April, the gates of the school were flung open after school, and parents, family and neighbors helped celebrate the diversity that our students and faculty experience every day. Over 20 clubs offered food for sale while a variety of live performances entertained us all. By the time you are reading this, the event will be a memory. We hope you had the chance to visit our campus, experience the diversity and help us enjoy an evening filled with what we call the “Baron for Life, Evening of Culture.”

Fountain Valley High School is a school with rich traditions of academic and athletic achievement blended with a diverse mix of students from different cultural backgrounds. The roots of the school’s success are entrenched deep within the values of the community and our commitment to educating students and developing relationships that often extend beyond the four-years of high school.

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 26?



Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Lifelong Learners

Every year, teachers from the Huntington Beach Adult School (HBAS) nominate students from their classes that they have identified as Lifelong Learners. Life Long Learners are students who have demonstrated a commitment to improving their lives through education, no matter what challenges they might be facing. Whether these challenges have to do with prior education, finances, time, or age, these students have persisted through them and have seen the benefits of their hard work. HBAS considers them role models for the community and has therefore awarded them with our most prestigious award—Life Long Learner. They were honored at a special Board of Trustees meeting, at which they received a glass plaque and a reception hosted by the HBAS staff.

Information on a few of our 14 awardees is given below. For more information on our other award recipients, please visit our school Web site at www.HBAS.edu.

Faith Mäki

Faith Mäki came to the Huntington Beach Adult School after making the decision to take computer classes while on vacation with her husband. She brought the schedule of classes with her and decided that the Huntington Beach Adult School had the programs, classes and schedule for her. She started her endeavor with our Computer Basics 1 class and has taken every class we have offered. She now feels ready to conquer the job market in search of a great job.

Faith is currently enrolled in classes to attain a certificate in the Administrative Assistant program. She has mastered Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access, achieving test scores above 80 percent in each application. Faith says the Career Training Center (CTC) has changed her life in the most positive way. She has helped us market our program by attending Board meetings and talking to friends about our programs and classes. She loves the teachers, classes, and friends she has made over the years at the school. She loves to learn and loves all of the teachers in the CTC. She is honored and blessed to receive the Lifelong Learners award.

Lilia Merihue

Lilia Merihue began the program at the Westminster satellite campus in 2011. She has worked in the insurance industry for many years and suddenly found herself out of a job when her position was eliminated. She quickly adjusted to her new life by acquiring skills in the Medical Assisting Program, so she can run her physician sister’s facility. She has been extremely dedicated to the task at hand and completed classes one right after another without a blink of the eye. She said she “had not been back to school for a number of years” and was worried she would not be able to remember all that was necessary. She had one of the highest scores of her student group.

Lilia is currently doing her externship at her sister’s medical office in a brand-new facility, a new challenge for this woman who faces them with determination.

Maria Lourdes Campos

Maria Lourdes Cortez has made a very good impression as a model adult school student, striving to polish her job skills and get ahead in her career goals. Maria enrolled in HBAS classes a few years ago, and recently she jumped into adult education classes. She is enrolled in two English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, which accounts for six hours per day. She is also taking the General Educational Development (GED) class on Wednesday nights, and she is improving her computer skills in an Excel class. It is amazing how many hours a day she puts in as a student. Though she is busy with her job, she is the first student in the class every morning.

Maria is enthusiastic about taking every advantage of the wonderful educational opportunities our adult school has to offer. In short, “self-motivated” is the word that describes Maria. Such a person deserves recognition as a “Lifelong Learner.”

Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Janie Hoy
Principal

College-Level Work

By Ken Ostrowski, AP Chemistry and Environmental Science

How would high school science students carry out an experiment if they were responsible for designing the procedure themselves?

The AP Environmental Science Program at Huntington Beach High School, developed by Ken Ostrowski and Greg Gardiner, recently visited Yosemite National Park to find out. Teams of students conducted field research during the week. As they hiked the scenic trails of Yosemite they also tested water chemistry, performed Sequoiametry, and measured biodiversity using band transects and global positioning coordinates.

But field research opportunities such as this are not typically found at the high school level, this being reserved primarily for college students. However, for the past seven years APES students have counted themselves lucky to have had an opportunity to participate in this kind of research as they prepared for their future careers in science.

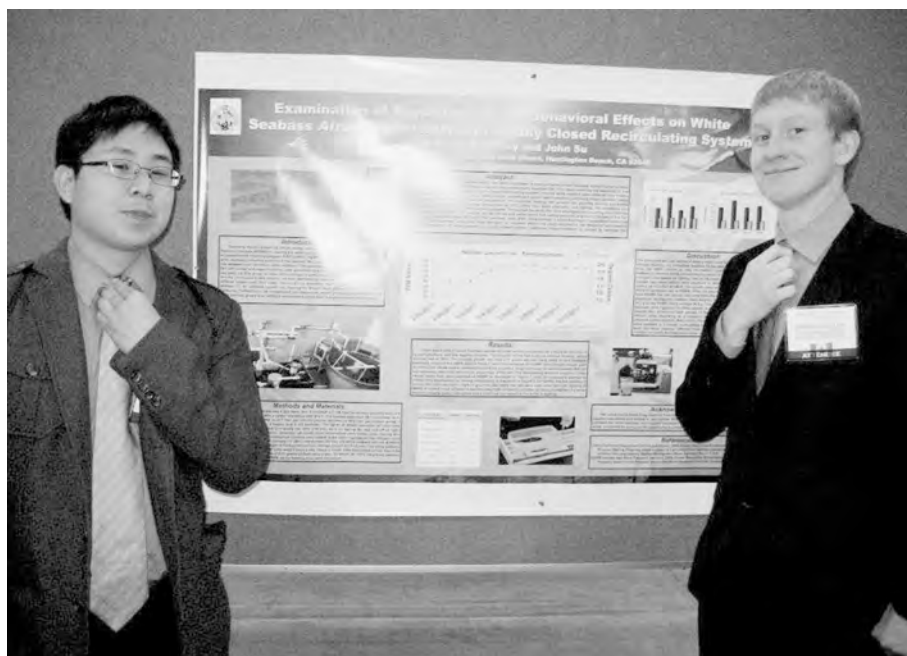
The Huntington Beach High School's AP environmental science classes also do field research off of Catalina Island. However, they were not investigating the land as they did in Yosemite. Instead, they were actually performing research under the water. Students trained for weeks to become certified scuba divers and then put their hard work to practical scientific use.

As they swam through kelp forests and rocky reefs they recorded data on an underwater slate pertaining to whatever scientific experiment they wanted to research. These projects ranged from measuring biodiversity by recording the abundance of species along a 100-foot line, to investigating the significance of kelp to underwater organisms.

In addition, the AP Environmental Science Program boasts sustainability projects that help restore the environment, such as growing native plants at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, and developing an aquaculture system that grows white sea bass and green abalone for release into the ocean.

Sustainability the Goal

Two students, Sam Holley and John Su, spent several hours a week during their junior and senior years to help build the white sea bass system and collect data about how it functions, which they then summarized in a college-level research paper for the Southern California Academy of Sciences. After their findings were published, they were invited to present them nationally at the annual



meeting of the 2012 American Association for the Advancement of Science in Vancouver. There they introduced their research and had an opportunity to meet nationally acclaimed scientists.

These environmental science field research trips and sustainability projects were made possible through the help of various private and nonprofit organizations. The diving trips were coordinated by John Sims' Ocean Gear scuba diving program, which has been collaborating with our Huntington Beach High School students for the past seven years. Sims' private organization brings rare educational opportunities to high school students in addition to training recreational divers on the side.

Nancy Caruso, a marine biologist, runs a nonprofit organization called "Get Inspired," which works with the AP Environmental Science Program to help carry out these field research trips to Yosemite and Catalina. Caruso also introduced the white sea bass, abalone, and native plants sustainability projects to the school. He recently remarked that, "I work with over 31 high schools in Southern California, and no school is doing anything approaching the level of what is being accomplished at HBHS."

Our school is providing significant educational opportunities for those students who are interested in pursuing a career in science. But these field research and sustainability projects are not only helping the students, they are also doing a service to the community as a whole.

SETTING THE BAR • FROM PAGE 1

Our schools are redefining success in traditional college readiness indicators, such as Advanced Placement (AP) exams, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), and the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), through the lens of increased access. Huntington Beach High School will administer over 1,100 AP exams this year, demonstrating an increase of 24 percent over the previous year. The average student taking the PSAT will improve his or her potential for the SAT by roughly 100 points. Fountain Valley High School (FVHS) set a recent record by administering 353 PSAT exams in October. Results were explained to students and parents through a series of evening events. Additionally, FVHS runs a free SAT preparation class for all interested students.

Ocean View High School has plans to offer the PSAT to every sophomore and junior in the fall of 2012, in an effort to underscore the importance of college preparation and providing valuable feedback to their students. Their commitment to college and career readiness also includes promoting the International Baccalaureate Program, Every Day Algebra, and plans to dramatically increase college-prep courses in science. Edison High School demonstrated their commitment by increasing the number of college-preparatory courses by 20 percent and increasing the number of students taking AP exams 10 percent in a single year.

Westminster High School eliminated non-college-preparatory English classes at the junior and senior levels, resulting in an over 30-percent increase in college eligibility in a single year. District-wide, our schools took steps to increase our University of California/ California State University course eligibility for over 500 students this year. Marina High School is taking a leadership role in developing support systems for students needing help to meet more rigorous academic expectations. Senior exit interviews provide lifelong career readiness skills for their students and allow for an authentic method of assessing their learning.

The Adult School serves the entire community and is dedicated to helping students obtain post-secondary training to compete for high-demand jobs. Their role in career readiness development is invaluable. Valley Vista High School is preparing students with skills necessary to transition back to the comprehensive high school setting or directly to post-secondary pathways. Community Day School is creating opportunities for students to learn the desired attributes of future members of the workforce, concentrating on responsibility and a commitment to lifelong learning.

This is an exciting time for HBUHSD. The commitment to college and career readiness is combined with an ongoing commitment to a robust extracurricular program, innovative elective offerings, and a desire to produce model citizens. The bar is high!

Marina *High School*

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Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

March Madness and Common Core

The Marina High School Science Department is taking a lead here at Marina High School as we begin to incorporate the new Common Core State Initiatives into our curriculum. With Common Core, both content and skills are important; curriculum must include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order thinking skills. “March Madness of Endangered Species” is one of those activities our science department has initiated here at Marina.

Ask any high school student this question: “What feels like the longest month of the school year?” Without a doubt, they will say “March!” In an effort to harness their students’ pre-spring-break energy, teachers look for creative ways for their students to learn and express their skills in a meaningful and fun forum. Now in its fifth year, the Marina High School Science Department has continued to develop a very effective unit of study called the “March Madness of Endangered Species.”



Hundreds of students from dozens of life-science classes form small groups to compete in the March Madness. The competition encourages the students to collaborate, research and learn about various endangered animals on our planet. Each group then creates a persuasive essay based on research about why the animal their group has chosen is the most endangered on Earth. However, that’s just the beginning of the fun. The students then engage in intense battles against each other as they defend their chosen endangered species in a public-speaking forum. Equipped with flashy PowerPoint presentations, meticulously researched facts and an arsenal of debate skills, each group attempts to stimulate the mind and pull at the heartstrings of the judges to prove the worthiness of their species. Students go as far as group T-shirts and baked goods to gain a competitive edge. However, their ability to formulate fact-based scientific arguments, recognize quality sources and avoid logical fallacies ultimately determines a champion. Student groups work diligently in and out of the classroom and intimately learn about the endangered animal they have chosen to support and defend.

Fighting for Earth’s Creatures

Student groups are placed in classroom brackets and face off in head-to-head battles featuring epic debates. This year, over 35 Marina staff members volunteered their conference periods and helped judge these spectacular presentations. Competition becomes more and more fierce each round in an effort to win their classroom’s bid into the interclass bracket matchups. The event culminates in an eventual school March Madness grand champion! In a highly contested run, last year’s ultimate champion endangered species was the Amur leopard. Led by team captains Oliver Speed and Brandon Randall, the Amur leopard group passionately argued their research to narrowly beat out the polar bear group representing students involved in our Pathways program to earn the crown and title of March Madness Champion!

Yes, the Common Core Standards initiative is already part of Marina High School’s outstanding science department. Who will this year’s March Madness Champion team and animal be? Well, it’s up to the reading, writing, public-speaking and scientific-research skills of this year’s teams. Finalists to date are in Mrs. Marcin’s third and fifth periods, with sea turtles; Mrs. Zeller’s fifth period, with the manatee; and from Mr. Padden’s Endeavors Program, with the gray wolf!

Ocean View *High School*

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Dan Bryan
Principal

IB Students Travel to South Africa

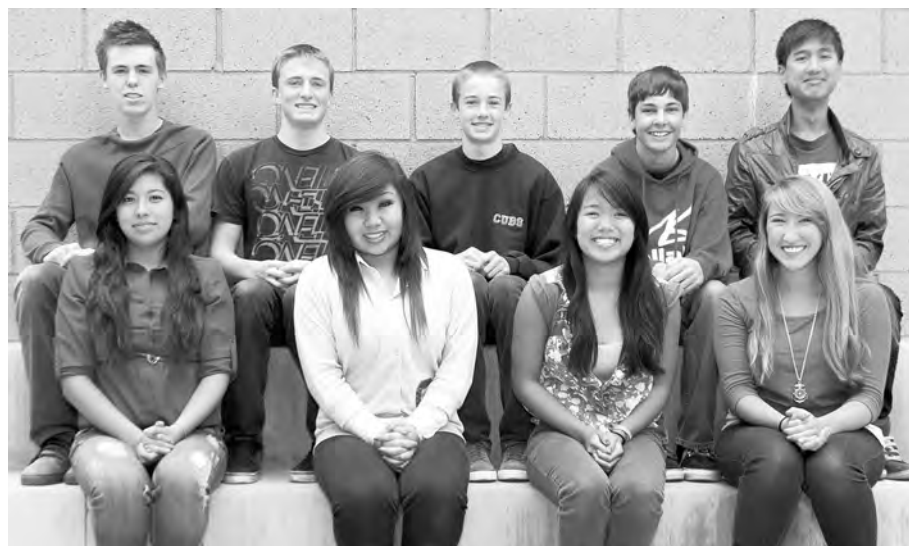
The Kenneth A. Picerne Foundation created the Global Sustainability Project (GSP) in collaboration with the International Baccalaureate Program (IB) at Ocean View High School and the Earthwatch Institute.

The Foundation is supporting an intensive educational and experiential program. It will be providing scholarships for nine students and one teacher to participate this summer in a 12-day field expedition to South Africa. The students will aid research scientists in studying ecological sustainability among Africa’s wildlife, particularly with hyenas and other scavengers.

The Foundation’s mission is to create innovative, impactful programs to enhance healthy human development. The GSP fulfills the Foundation’s objectives in that it is unique, demonstrates significant social value, is scalable, and follows an entrepreneurial business model.

The program’s intent is to create a meaningful, potentially transformational opportunity for high school youth to actively engage in ecological sustainability, both locally and internationally.

Its year-long intensive educational and experiential program will enrich a two-week scientific field expedition conducted by the Earthwatch Institute at Pilanesberg National Park in South Africa. Upon return, the students will then create local sustainability projects in their communities. A two-year pilot program at Ocean View High School will serve as a model for future programs throughout Orange and San Diego Counties.



Why was Ocean View High School Selected?

The Foundation’s founder, Ken Picerne, is an international real estate investor with his home and offices in Orange County. He feels strongly about giving back to his community. The Foundation already had a program at the school called The Artist Outreach Project. Principal Dan Bryan is always very interested and supportive of new ideas and opportunities for his Ocean View students, and so it was critical to the success of the GSP to have strong, committed partners.

The Foundation’s intent with all of its programs is to provide growth opportunities for the “best and brightest” individuals. So the IB was an obvious choice. There was a natural and easy fit between the goals of the GSP and the IB CAS, as well as the leadership of the IB program and the Foundation itself.

The Creativity, Action and Service Program (CAS) is a fundamental part of the overall IB program. It takes seriously the importance of life outside the classroom, and also provides a counterbalance to academic studies.

Its notion of “creativity” includes a wide range of activities, such as designing and implementing service projects. Action includes participating in individual and team sports, and taking part in expeditions and local or international projects. Service encompasses community and social service activities, including helping children with special needs, visiting hospitals and working with refugees or homeless people.

For additional information, please email bknight@hbuhsd.edu.

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Valley Vista *High School*

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Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

The ABCs of a Healthy Event

Valley Vista High School is a participant in the Harvest of the Month program, which is specially designed to showcase California-grown fruits and vegetables. The program encourages students to try a different food item each month.

In March, VVHS celebrated National Nutrition Month by providing an “A–Z Salad Bar” for all of its students to enjoy at lunch. The selections included “E” for edamame, “K” for kiwi, “V” for very nutty almonds, and an “X” for that extra-special ingredient, kale.

This special event served 100–150 students (almost half of our student body). It was organized under the direction of Nancy Wikes and Emily Bastia from the HBUHSD Food and Nutrition Department, and VVHS teachers Brandon Futagaki and Kathi Richey. There was also assistance from school support staff, as well as Mrs. Richey’s second- and third-period consumer and family studies classes

The vegetables and fruits were delivered whole to campus. Mrs. Richey’s students then cleaned, chopped, diced, sliced and attractively arranged them in separate bowls and plates on long tables set up in the middle of the central quad.



Mrs. Richey’s students preparing food.



Staff serving students in the quad.

The benefits from this simple event went way beyond the obvious results. In a fun and experiential way our students learned a lot about locally grown healthy food. They also got practical experience in preparing and serving it.

The event also became a safe and fun schoolwide mini-party that brought the students together. The teachers and staff got to work closely with food services personnel, practice teamwork, and demonstrate a personal and caring example of service to their students. And everyone had the opportunity to try something new.

There were a lot more healthy outcomes at the A–Z Salad Bar than just eating your way from avocados to zucchini!

Practical Experience

The students’ enthusiastic response to the event was evident as soon as the bell rang for lunch, when the teachers, support staff and office personnel quickly assembled to serve them.

Although not familiar with many of the items, the students were still willing to try them out. Some of the students tried every single one of them. One student asked our attendance clerk serving jicama, Mrs. Matua: “What does this taste like?” She replied, “It’s kind of a cross between a radish and an apple.” The student responded, “Great, I’ll try it.” He liked it a lot!

Westminster *High School*

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



Shirley Vaughn
Principal

Academic Decathlon Team Experiences Success!

Westminster High School’s California Academic Decathlon (CAD) team received more medals than ever before at the state competition in Sacramento this past February. The team of eight students was divided based on GPA. The Honor Team included 12th-grader Stephanie Le, 11th-grader Lily Pham and 10th-grader Aileen Pham; the Scholastic Team included 12th-grader Khue Tran, 11th-grader Dennis Dang and 11th-grader Sarah Ibrahim; and the Varsity Team included Hung Nguyen and 12th-grader Kimberly Phan. Students Hung Nguyen, Khue Tran and Aileen Pham brought home three individual bronze medals in economics. The team increased their overall score from their 2011 performance by scoring 42,865 points (out of 60,000) to this year’s score of 43,593.7 points and a 15th-place ranking in the state championship. This is an impressive accomplishment, as more than 300 schools participated in the competition.



Westminster High School California Academic Decathlon Team

The team was coached by Vickie Adams for interview/speech, Daina Anderson for art, Pat Angus for language and literature, Eric Brothwell for science, Cindy Donovan for math, Sue Harmon for economics, Elaine Lanz for speech/essay and Chris Morton for economics. The team was headed by Carol Sebastian, history and music coach.

Soroptimists Honor Teacher and Student

Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities throughout the world. Almost 95,000 Soroptimists in about 120 countries and territories contribute time and financial support to community-based and international projects that benefit women and girls.



Jessica Pham and Susan Harmon

Westminster High School’s Government “S” Club helps students develop and understand the obligations of civic-mindedness and community service, including voting, being informed on civic issues, volunteerism and public service.

The Soroptimist Violet Richardson Award is a recognition program for young women ages 14 to 17 who are engaged in volunteerism in their communities or schools. The award is given to young women whose contributions make the community and world a better place. This year’s winner was Westminster High School student Jessica Pham. In addition to contributing numerous community volunteer hours, Jessica organized the Christmas Shoebox Project. The awards were presented at a special luncheon attended by the honorees’ friends and family.

The 2012 Soroptimist of the Year Award was given to Westminster High school teacher Susan Harmon for her work with Westminster High School’s Government “S” Club. Susan Harmon has taken the idea of helping women one step further to ensure that all people benefit and strive to be their best.



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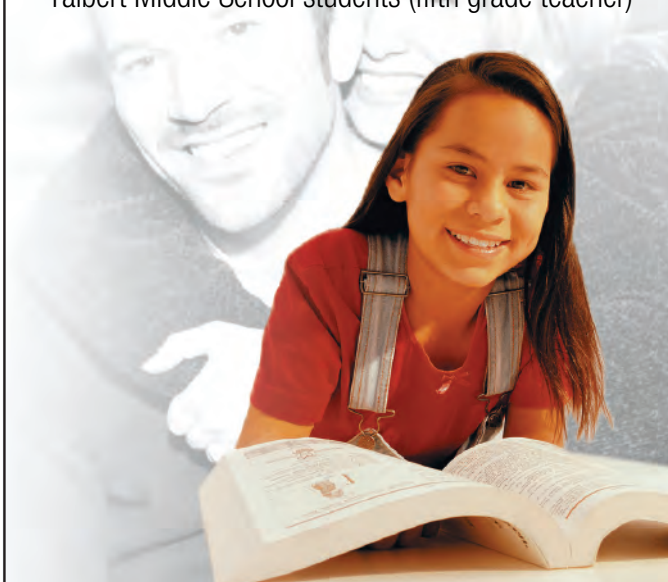
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Talbert Middle School students (fifth grade teacher)



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Elementary School

Kindergarten – Students should be familiar with all letters and many basic sight words.

1st-3rd - Early elementary students need to become proficient readers and memorize all basic math facts. Any issues with comprehension and phonics can be worked on with our summer reading programs (If students are still counting on their fingers by the end of third grade they will be overwhelmed with the amount of math covered in later grades).

4th & 5th - Extremely important years for future academic success.

Students should understand fractions and decimals, and be able to interpret word problems. Students need to draw conclusions when reading and be comfortable writing structured paragraphs.

Middle School

6th - Come October, we will have more 6th graders than any other age.

The jump from the friendly confines of an elementary classroom to having more than one teacher leaves many preteens shell-shocked. Most of our sixth graders are overwhelmed with the amount of math covered, and lack the study skills for the transition to middle school. If your student has struggled with any area during elementary school, these deficiencies will become amplified in middle school.

7th & 8th - Writing and Algebra are the two areas 7th and 8th graders tend to struggle with the most. If your child passes into Algebra 1 for 8th grade, it is important to master all core math concepts, as there will be no time for review.

High School

9th & 10th - For some reason all high school students think summer means brain freeze. Maybe we should tell them summer break is three months because most children used to work on the farms for their parents. Now, we allow them to spend endless hours on the beach and hang out playing PS3 and Xbox. Our athletes spend countless hours practicing for the upcoming sports season, but do nothing to help themselves academically. Summer is a great time for course reviews and previews, especially in math and science courses.

11th - Junior year is the most stressful for students planning to go to a four year college. Unfortunately, many 11th graders try to cram for the numerous standardized tests at the end of the year when their classes are the most difficult. The Tutoring Club has individualized test prep for both the ACT and SAT standardized tests. Students who take our classes during the summer can devote all their attention to the tests, and not worry about sports and academic obligations.

12th - If students have not taken any of their standardized tests they have until November of their senior year to complete them. Students should use the summer to prepare for the exams so they can focus on college applications in the fall.

If Tutoring Club can be of assistance,
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