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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

JUNE 2012

A Very Special Science Teacher



Fountain Valley School District Teacher of the Year, John Wood with his students.

*By Marc Ecker, Ph.D., Superintendent
Fountain Valley School District*

It is an honor and a pleasure to recognize the 2012 Fountain Valley School District Teacher of the Year, Mr. John Wood.

Mr. Wood is indeed a very special science teacher at Talbert Middle School. Aside from the routine traits indicative of many of our outstanding teachers, Mr. Wood actually practices what he teaches. He does this by participating in scientific expeditions around the globe while he maintains regular connectivity with his students back home.

Yes, indeed, Mr. Wood exhibits very effective instructional techniques and strategies. He is knowledgeable and quite expert in his subject area. He expects his students to fully engage in planned learning activities through the scientific method. He asks them to go beyond the four walls of the classroom in seeking information that now can be attained through the Internet. He takes his greatest pleasure is observing curiosity grow within the

SEE A VERY SPECIAL SCIENCE TEACHER • PAGE 9

Mayor's Messages



John J. Collins
Mayor
City of
Fountain Valley

During my terms as Mayor, I have written over 100 Mayor's Columns and the "barking dog" article has always generated the most comments from readers, so, I thought perhaps it was a topic worth repeating when I became Mayor again.

I have lived on both coasts and can say with assurance that barking dogs are a common annoyance across our country. City, County, and State laws prohibit the ownership of any animal which by sound or cry disturbs the peace of a neighborhood, or interferes with any person's reasonable enjoyment of life or property. Unfortunately, this problem is all too frequent and is not always easy to solve.

The first step in dealing with a barking dog is to contact the owner and try to work out a solution.

SEE CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY • PAGE 4



Don Hansen
Mayor

Summer is here, and thoughts turn to swimming. Are you comfortable in the water? Do you feel your children are safe in the water? If you have any doubts, you need to enroll yourself or your children in swim classes. The city of Huntington Beach has many different levels of classes at different times and days. You can check out the swim class schedule in the Sands Recreational Guide.

You can view the Summer Sands either by picking one up at a local community center or by checking online at the Web site at www.hbsands.org. If you have any questions, call the city's Community Services Department at (714) 536-5486.

Are you planning to go to the beach this summer? You can go online at www.huntingtonbeachca.gov to check the water conditions or call Beach Operations at (714) 536-5281. Whatever you do, make sure you stay safe in the water this summer.



Margie Rice
Mayor

There is a great deal to look forward to this summer with the many activities to be enjoyed in our community with family and friends.

Despite our current budget crisis, caused by the dissolution of California redevelopment agencies, Westminster's aquatics program, sports activities, and numerous classes and excursions will continue throughout the summer months. Our summer recreation program truly offers something for everyone, including supervised activities for children at five neighborhood parks.

Since everyone enjoys spending time outside during the warm weather months, keep the Splash Pad at Sigler Park in mind, especially when planning summer parties. It will be open to the public from noon to 5 p.m. on weekends from May 26 to

SEE CITY OF WESTMINSTER • PAGE 4

Inside: OC Dept. of ED *page 4* • Food & Nutrition Svcs *page 5*
FVSD *pages 6-9* • OVSD *pages 10-15* • WSD *pages 18-22*
HBUHSD *pages 23-30* • Camps/Activities *pages 15-17* • Contest *page 14*

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



As this school year comes to a close I would like to thank you for being loyal readers. I appreciate you including *School News* among your reading choices.

Congratulations to the teachers and administrators retiring this year. We appreciate their years of dedication to education.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Our Camps/Activities section pages 15-17 offer lots of choices for your children to enjoy their summer days both academically and physically. Don't forget to include the library in your summer plans.

Our next issue is September 12.

School News

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HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL
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A large, circular inset image showing two young girls with light brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. The girl on the right is wearing a pink and orange striped scarf. The background of the entire advertisement is a light blue and white wavy pattern.

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John J. Collins
Mayor
City of
Fountain Valley

FROM PAGE 1

Many times, the dog owner is unaware of the problem and will be responsive to your request to resolve it.

If the problem persists and you want to file a barking dog complaint, go to www.ocpetinfo.com, or call Orange County Animal Care Services (OCACS) directly at (714) 796-6460. Once a complaint is submitted, OCACS will contact the responsible person in an effort to resolve the reported problem.

Barking dogs can create neighborhood arguments and resentments. Homes in most neighborhoods are not separated by great distances, so it is important to be sensitive to how our actions, and those of our pets, impact our neighbors. Treating others with respect is certainly the first step in preventing bad feelings and disputes.

The City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

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



Margie Rice
Mayor

FROM PAGE 1

September 2 and daily from June 18 to September 3. In addition, the splash pad is available to rent for private parties from 10 a.m. to noon and 5 to 7 p.m. on its days of operations. Please contact the Community Services Department at (714) 895-2860 for more information.

Beginning July 12, please plan to join us between 6 and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings in the Civic Center sunken gardens for our summer concert series. Bring a picnic or you can purchase a variety of food there from some of the non-profit groups that

support our community. On May 3, the new parking structure was opened so there will be ample parking available for events at the Rose Center and civic center.

On behalf of the Westminster City Council, we hope you enjoy a wonderful summer and spend some of it enjoying recreation activities with us.

Orange County Department of Education

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

"Be the Beat" Student Pilot Project



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

While sudden cardiac events at school are rare, appropriate action at these critical times may save lives. Today, more than ever before, schools may have an Automated Electric Defibrillator (AED) located on campus that requires bystanders who are ready, willing, and able to perform Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Using the American Heart Association's (AHA) Be the Beat School Challenge, a web-based CPR/AED educational program, teachers encourage students to register and complete the Challenge during a 1-2 hour online, interactive lesson that includes games, videos, and giveaways. Students learn the basics of emergency response, hands-only CPR, and AED use.

The mission of the Be the Beat School Challenge is to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest, especially among youth, and to educate kids, teachers, and parents about using AEDs and CPR to save lives. Timely response to a sudden cardiac arrest, using an AED together with CPR, can increase survival rates from under 10% to 50% or greater.

Students at four Orange County middle schools are currently participating in a Hands-Only CPR Education (CPR7OC) Pilot Project being conducted by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) in partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA). The goal of the CPR7OC Pilot Project is to assess the viability of launching a countywide student CPR education initiative in 2013. Participating pilot schools include Corona del Mar Middle School and Ensign Intermediate School, Newport-Mesa Unified School District; Hewes Middle School, Tustin Unified School District; and Lakeside Middle School, Irvine Unified School District.

I am pleased that we have had such a positive response from principals and teachers. We hope to see as many as 1,000 students take advantage of the pilot project to learn more about CPR, while increasing self-confidence, and participating in an essential community service. I hope that all Orange County middle schools will take advantage of this training once the countywide CPR education initiative launches next school year.

The CPR7OC Pilot Project is sponsored by the Shauna Ann Stuewe Foundation, with additional support provided by the Orange County Fourth District PTA and Irvine Unified Council PTA. Lori and Kirk Stuewe started the Foundation six years ago to commemorate the untimely death of their 14 year old daughter, Shauna Ann, who suffered sudden cardiac arrest during cheer-leading practice at school.

Visit www.bethebeat.heart.org to participate in the Be the Beat School Challenge. Adults can get information about preventing sudden cardiac arrest and opportunities to learn CPR by visiting www.heart.org. To learn more about the OCDE Pilot Project, contact Chris Corliss, Project Coordinator, Center for Healthy Kids and Schools, Orange County Department of Education, at ccorliss@ocde.us or (714) 966-4355.



Please see our ad on page 31.



For more information please see our ad on page 29.

Hydrate Your Day the Healthy Way

By *Natalie Verderame, Dietetic Intern*
California State University, Long Beach

Swimming, biking, a day at the beach, and just playing outside with your family are all great ways to enjoy the summertime. This means more physical activity in the summer, which is part of a healthy lifestyle. In fact, students should be active for 60 minutes each day and adults for 30 minutes each day.

When you are active, you need to stay hydrated. Choosing drinks such as water, low-fat milk, and 100-percent juice will help your body perform well each day. Soda, energy drinks, and fruit punch all provide more sugar than your body needs. For example, one 20-ounce soda contains 17 teaspoons of sugar, which equals 22 sugar packets! Choosing these drinks too often can lead to weight gain, type 2 diabetes, and dental problems. Sports drinks are also popular and contain minerals such as sodium and potassium. These beverages are for people who are active for over 60 minutes or performing strenuous activities. Make sure to read the nutrition facts label before making your choice.

Here are some ideas to keep your family hydrated this summer Decorate water bottles with fun designs and use them throughout the day. Serve water or low-fat milk with each meal. Jazz up your water by adding slices of your favorite summer fruit, such as watermelon or strawberries. Cucumber and mint are also refreshing choices. So this summer, rethink your drink and choose drinks that will hydrate your day the healthy way!

To learn more about nutrition activities, contact Huntington Beach Union High School District Food and Nutrition Services Department at (714) 894-1698.

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you need to stay hydrated...
students should be active for
60 minutes each day and
adults for 30 minutes each day.

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marc Ecker

Fountain Valley's 21st-Century Classrooms

The Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees will be considering the adoption of five Board-initiated interests, one of which focuses on the development of 21st-century classrooms for the future. Following a fall trip to Cupertino and a visit to Apple Headquarters, a team of educators, which included two trustees, came back to the district in support of a new technology visioning system that would begin a path toward this goal. Thanks to the work of our technology team headed by the Director, Assessment and Accountability, Dr. Julianne Hoefer and our Assistant Superintendent, Ms. Anne Silavs, the process began.

Rather than approach our technology needs through a compliance document, the visioning took on a bigger picture, one that wasn't driven by a certain type of technology, piece of equipment, or structural change in software. Rather we asked ourselves how we might change the teaching and learning system we have now toward one that results in increasing the amount of available information for students and teachers that is not limited to the walls of a classroom, the knowledge of one individual, or the material in a textbook. We began looking at ways the accessibility and use of technology might increase the effectiveness of the instructional process.

Our Board is now looking at ways to attain greater resources for the funding of such an initiative. We are excited about our future as we seek to secure 21st-century classrooms for all of our schools.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ian Collins
President

Some Things Never Get Old

By Ian Collins, President

We all know the universal truths about some things never getting too old: mothers, love of country, apple pie, and children. But as a Board member, I can tell you that there are many other people and personnel who fit into this category.

When I visit schools, it never gets old to be warmly welcomed by the office staff and see how they treat both students and parents. After all, they are the first contact in our schools. When visiting different classrooms, I am always pleased to see teachers who are enthusiastic, ones who work well in whole-group as well as small-group instruction. It does my heart good to see them demonstrate care for the individuals in their rooms. Having had the privilege of being an educator all of my adult life, I find it never gets old to observe children having fun during the learning process and reaching their highest potential.

When I meet on a monthly basis with the PTA and PTO presidents, I am always amazed by their energy and enthusiasm in making our schools a better place for children. There are literally hundreds of parent volunteers, both in and out of our classrooms, who show their dedication to helping all students; this never gets old either.

Our classified staff and the district leadership support our school sites in many ways that are above and beyond their job description. They find ways to make our schools and district a good place to learn and to work.

In any organization, great leadership is vital to its success, and we are most fortunate to have that in our school district. Where would you find a superintendent who would volunteer to be a part of the Mr. Fountain Valley Contest to help raise funds for our Fountain Valley Educational Foundation?

When I see children singing, participating in an instrumental music concert, or experiencing the joy of discovery doing a science project, it reminds me why I became a member of the Board. Having a School Board that understands that its purpose is to work together to make our schools a great place for teachers to teach and students to learn never gets old either.

My favorite thing that will always be in vogue, and indeed will never get old, is the sound of children's laughter.

Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Keep Us in Mind



Nicola Weiss
President

Summer is here, and our children are celebrating the long days in the sun. All thoughts of school and programs are set aside. This is when the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation works the hardest.

During the summer, we prepare for the school budget cuts that are coming once again. What programs will stay? Which ones can we try to save? Unfortunately music, arts, and science are the first ones to suffer. But our students need them to be well-rounded and prepared.

So, as you enjoy the summer, keep the foundation in mind! How? Simple. Do you have a smart phone? Download the free application for "Communities For Cause." When you shop, eat out, or enjoy an activity, scan your phone at participating locations. Just like a dine-out fund-raiser, proceeds come back to the foundation.

Another way to support is to donate for a teacher who made a difference in your student's life! Every penny of your donation will go towards teacher grants. We've all heard the studies saying music may boost our IQ and grades, and we know how important science is today and will be tomorrow. So help us support these programs to help our students succeed.

Visit the foundation at www.fvef.org.

Help us support programs
to help our students succeed...

Visit the foundation
at www.fvef.org.



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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen
Principal

Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Moeller for being selected as the 2012 Courreges Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Moeller has been teaching in the Fountain Valley School District for seven years. As a teacher, Mrs. Moeller

goes above and beyond to meet the individual needs of her students. She differentiates her instruction to meet all levels of students in her class and gives special attention to those students most in need of educational and emotional support.

From a staff member's point of view, Venus is a natural leader. She works extremely well with all staff members and understands the individual needs of everyone at

Courreges. Mrs. Moeller is a first-rate teacher who always conducts herself in a highly professional manner and is truly loved by our staff, student, and parent community. Best of all, Venus works hard and plays hard, and her attitude inspires others around her to be the best they can be.



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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Farewell, and Congratulations

James H. Cox will soon be wishing a fond farewell to Mrs. Laurie Frandsen.

Mrs. Frandsen has been the cornerstone of our Cox community for the last 18 years, and a model of integrity, excellence and wisdom. She has taught both kindergarten and first grade, and has also served as our reading clinic teacher for the past six years. Thank you, Mrs. Frandsen, and enjoy your retirement!

Each year we also like to recognize one of our own employees as the James H. Cox "Teacher of the Year." So for 2011-2012 we are proud to recognize second-grade teacher Mrs. Christine Carrasco!

Simply put, Mrs. Carrasco is an amazing instructor. Not only is she naturally talented as a teacher, she also goes out of her way to learn new skills and strategies. And somehow, she also finds the time to serve our school and the community in numerous other ways.

So congratulations to Mrs. Christine Carrasco for being our Teacher of the Year for 2011-2012.



Laurie Frandsen



Christine Carrasco

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

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



Jennifer Perkins
Principal



Paul Andre White
Assistant Principal

Farewell to a Fabulous Duo

At the end of the school year, Fulton will say farewell to two of its cornerstones, Chris Warren and Roger Rybacki. They will be retiring this year after 81 combined years of service to the FVSD.

Mrs. Warren began teaching in the district 42 years ago at Tamura before moving to Fulton. She has taught every grade during her tenure in Fountain Valley except fifth. Mrs. Warren shared that teaching has been a lot of fun for her and that it has never felt like a job but rather some-

thing she looked forward to every day. Mr. Rybacki has taught in the District for the last 39 years. He began at Gisler and came over to Fulton to help open it as a middle school. Over the years, Mr. Rybacki has taught sixth, seventh and eighth grades and additionally taught at Plavan for a period of time. We thank them for all they have done for Fulton!



Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Joyce Buehler
Principal

Carnival Time

Gisler Elementary School enjoyed its annual carnival on June 1. This year's theme was a safari, and lots of fun activities were planned! Competitive events such as sack races, tug-o-war, and a hula hoop contest entertained students and parents, as well as an exotic animal booth, a balloon artist, and every child's favorite, the goldfish booth. Opportunity baskets, face painting, and interactive inflatable activities, such as an obstacle course and a large slide, kept our families busy.

At this year's safari carnival, we also had fun with hay rides and a country jailhouse. Students and their families were able to get their faces painted and danced the night away with the disc jockey at the dance contest. They even won cakes and treats at the cake walk.

There was plenty of good food, too, including grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, cotton candy, sweet shop specialties, drinks, and frosty ice pops.

We are grateful for your support of this exciting annual event!

Are you
looking for this
symbol for the
contest on page 14?



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Chris Mullin
Principal



Heather Harrison
Assistant Principal

Future Business Leaders

Eighth-grade students from Masuda Middle School were invited to the 2012 Students in Business Day, which offers opportunities to interact with professional business men and women. The event creates a positive educational experience for aspiring youth in pursuit of career choices, as well as motivation and inspiration for those students who may be undecided about their future in the work force. The event exposes these future professionals to the business community and enables community leaders to take part in helping students discover where they may best fit into the business world and explain possible paths through high school and college.

Students are paired with mentors in the professions of their career choice, where they have the opportunity to evaluate and explore further the different aspects of the professions they are considering. Masuda students enjoyed being paired with engineers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, teachers, and medical professionals. One of Masuda students even won a \$750 scholarship, courtesy of Dave Osborn and the Kelly Osborn Memorial Fund.



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

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

Celebrations!

Another wonderful year has come to a close. The 2011-2012 school year was filled with fun, individual success, and school-wide accomplishments!

Springtime at Newland School means benchmark and Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing. Our students are doing better than ever. They continue to excel academically and have shown us throughout the year that they truly care about the needs of others. Our students have obviously learned that level of care from their parents, who have volunteered at our school in record numbers this year.

Newland is fortunate to have an amazing group of caring and committed people who continue to serve our community. Many thanks to the helping hands that join together to enrich the quality of our school. A special thanks to the PTA and volunteers for their commitment, financial support, and all of the extras that make every year so wonderful. Thanks also to our dedicated teachers for creating so many rich memories and meaningful learning experiences.

Newland is a special, distinguished, and fine school. We continue to rise to the challenges that confront us. We wish the best of luck to our fabulous fifth-grade students and departing parents.

Thank you to all, and have a relaxing summer!

Fred Moiola *Elementary (K-8)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

Heartfelt Farewell

As many of you know, 2011-12 will be the last school year for Moiola K-8 school. We recently took our entire school on a field trip to celebrate the spirit of Moiola. It was a time to bring eight buses with close to 490 students, teachers and parents together and share in an experience not many of them had ever had: A movie at a historic theater in Hollywood.

It is going to be hard to say goodbye to our wonderful school. I have had the privilege of being the principal for the past four years and have grown immensely and gained so much from our students, staff and parents. For many teachers, Moiola has been their only home. They have worked in teams with one another for years. I know in my heart of hearts that every student and staff member will find a new home and that the new home will truly benefit from what our Mustangs bring. We have some of the most polite, hardworking and funny students with supportive families, and I cannot wait to see the ripple effect they will have on their new campuses. I want to take a moment to thank my staff for their support, closeness, willingness to try new things, and most of all, their ability to laugh!

May you always find chocolate at your new schools! To all of our Mustang students, I wish you the best in all your endeavors. May you always remember to be responsible, respectful and safe.



Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Putting Students First

Oka Elementary is proud to announce that two staff members have recently been honored for their exemplary work on this campus by putting students at the top of their priority list.

Certificated Teacher of the Year Jeanie Moussa-Zahab is a stellar fourth-grade teacher. Referred to as Mrs. M-Z, she is beloved by her students for the engaging lessons she brings to the classroom. In addition, she handles a number of roles and duties, such as Oka's Student Study Team coordinator and testing coordinator.

Successful teaching involves an incredible amount of energy and commitment; however, Mrs. M-Z makes everything appear effortless, despite the rigors and demands of this profession. Her colleagues especially appreciate her expertise in quickly solving various technology problems. Mrs. M-Z has that infectious energy that so often transforms learning from an activity into a remembered experience for her students.

Kathy Musacchio, or Mrs. Kathy, as she is known to most of us throughout Oka, is Oka's Classified Employee of the Year. By title, she is an instructional assistant in our primary-grade special day classroom; however, she is really much more than that. You will often find Mrs. Kathy working above and beyond the call of duty to help any student on our campus. Whether running a station at Science Night, tutoring students after school or helping students successfully access various curriculum, Mrs. Kathy is a vital component of Oka's success!

Congratulations, Mrs. M-Z and Mrs. Kathy! You make OKA proud!

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

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



Cara Robinson
Principal



Jennifer Kadjasz
Assistant Principal

Fun Run

Families, friends, neighbors and alumni of Talbert Middle School enjoyed working up an appetite during a "Fun Run" early in the morning around the school track and then enjoyed stuffing their faces with all-you-could-eat pancakes and sausages to help raise money for the PTO. The PTO holds various events throughout the year to help raise money to support classroom supplies, Noon Leagues, field trips, after school clubs and

much, much more. This annual breakfast has been a hit in the community for the past several years. Students helped donate food items, board members came out to cook, as well as eat the fine cuisine, and teachers helped flip pancakes all the while enjoying one another's company.

It was a great way to spend a Saturday morning while helping support Talbert Middle School!



A VERY SPECIAL SCIENCE TEACHER • FROM PAGE 1

minds of his students, and he wants more than anything for his students to experiment with proving a hypothesis through trial and error as they exhibit higher levels of thinking and problem-solving skills. It goes without saying that his students absolutely love their teacher.

It is true that our many exceptional teachers exhibit these skills, but Mr. Wood goes a step further. The first of his expeditions took him to Mount Erebus, Antarctica, where he spent nearly two months in late 2008 as a member of an international scientific exploration team collecting active volcano research. He next traveled at the invitation of yet another scientific exploration team to Central Alaska in April 2011 to collect geological samples, returning in June. Mr. Wood again returned to Central Alaska, doing research on climate change, and just recently returned.

During his travels, Mr. Wood stays in contact with his students and communicates with their long-term substitute, who, as you might guess, works very collaboratively with Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood plays an important role in the ongoing planning of his students' activities while thousands of miles away. He establishes challenge projects for the students and holds them accountable for these upon his return.

The best part of this incredible story about one incredible teacher is that Mr. John Wood is a learner, a lifelong learner. He steps outside of the comfort zone and encourages his students to do the same. He has ultimate respect for his fellow colleagues and sets an example that a teacher should always seek to find new ways to increase his or her students' abilities to think creatively, problem solve, and reach heights never thought possible. Mr. John Wood is one great representative for the many fine teachers that represent our district and our county.

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

Going Green!

In honor of Earth Day, our Plavan fifth-grade students presented a PowerPoint presentation to our whole school highlighting their findings from their Watershed Research Project. Our fifth-grade students chose to research bottled water compared to tap water and the environmental impact. They concluded that there was no difference between Fountain Valley tap water and bottled water! Their research also showed that disposable water bottles may take from seven to 70 years to decompose depending on the plastic type. These bottles are filling landfills all over the country. They encouraged others to drink tap water and save our environment by using fewer plastic bottles.

Our fifth-grade students wanted to take action for our environment. They received a grant from the Mi Ocean Foundation to purchase a reusable water bottle for every student and staff member at Plavan School!

All our students are now working together to make Plavan School disposable water bottle free! We are very proud of their efforts.



Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jay Adams
Principal

Tamura's Fabulous Faculty!

Tamura is proud to honor first-grade teacher Patti Pitaccio and speech/language assistant Patty Coe as our Employees of the Year. Both of these ladies work incredibly hard to make sure that each student they come in contact with is well cared for and prepared to take on the day.

Ms. Pitaccio is a master teacher whose specialty is all areas artistic. She has a true gift for bringing out her students' many talents, and for taking them to levels they never thought possible. She brings an appreciation of life's beauty to all who know her.

Ms. Coe brings compassionate assistance to any student who is challenged in the area of speech. She is creative at developing different learning activities, and loves to get right down to her little students' level by playing and teaching at the same time. Her work ethic and positive attitude are amazing!

We are proud to present these two individuals as our Employees of the Year because of their outstanding contributions to the lives of the children (and adults) whose spirits they touch daily.

Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. William V. Loose

Focus on Attendance Pays Off

Parents and schools alike acknowledge that regular attendance at school is a necessary part of the learning process, yet districts across California face the same challenges over student absenteeism. Research shows that students who are chronically absent are putting their futures in jeopardy. Continual absences and trancies are behaviors that lead to students dropping out of school, and regular attendance is essential for student achievement. In fact, chronic absence in sixth grade predicts drop outs in high school!

In an effort to increase attendance, the Ocean View School District undertook a quest to improve attendance through a Web-based program that provides near real-time daily data while streamlining clerical duties related to parental notices and conference scheduling. The district took a more active approach in its outreach to parents, which became a critical part of the process, both in expressing the negative impacts of absenteeism in regard to student performance and in the fiscal impact it has on the school district. Not to be overlooked is the importance of instructional time in the classroom. It also took considerable effort on the part of everyone, from district administration, principals, and teachers to the parents and students themselves, to increase attendance. For example, the year prior to implementation of the program, OVSD had 274 chronically absent students, and now that number has decreased to only nine students.

One year after the program was implemented, Ocean View saw an increase in revenue of nearly \$140,000 and the associated recovered learning time totaled the equivalent of 3,778 days. Central to the success was the focus on parent notification. State law considers students truant after being absent or tardy three times without a valid excuse. Each unexcused absence prompts a notice home to parents. In Ocean View, once these absences were identified and processed into the system so that notices went home to the parents, the results were dramatic. Ocean View's total absences dropped 66 percent after the first letter went out.

Student attendance incentive programs have been implemented at many of our school sites, and monthly meetings among administrators to share techniques and receive feedback play an important role as well. In addition, the program has brought the entire community together to help address attendance issues. The requirement that every school follow the process for tracking and verifying student absences, student incentives, and the focus on attendance by teachers, staff, and PTA/PTO groups all contributed to the improved attendance. The program requires very little administrator or teacher time and ensures consistency across the district so that students are treated with equity.

Schools in Ocean View that have improved attendance are awarded a share of the additional revenue that is received, as well as recognition by our Board of Trustees. To date, the Ocean View School District has a 97.3 percent student attendance rate for the 2012 school year, and I could not be more pleased about the impact this will make on student achievement.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Tracy Pellman
President

Finishing on an Upbeat

Two of the many components that contribute to the success of our students in the Ocean View School District (OVSD) are strong parent involvement and support from the community. Reflecting on this past year and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I appreciate the strong effort of the district's Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC) members and the hard work and commitment they provided to our district in giving the Board of Trustees a community viewpoint of facility needs, which included both short and long-term goals for all schools.

It was after an extensive evaluation of all district facilities, attendance areas, and the maintenance and improvement needs of our open and closed school sites that the FPAC brought forth a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to consider a bond measure for the November 2012 ballot. The Board approved the recommendation brought forth by the FPAC, and with this recommendation we will continue to provide information to the community about the district's facility needs and to seek their input in the development of a plan that can best serve the educational and teaching needs of our students, teachers, and staff. There is \$22.2 million in state funding available to access if OVSD can provide the \$14.8 million in matching funds. The passage of a local Proposition 39 General Obligation Bond Measure will enable OVSD to provide the necessary matching funds to access the state funding, thus paying for many of the basic repairs and improvements needed for our schools, including technology and health and safety upgrades.

As we look back at the accomplishments of our dedicated teachers, staff, and schools during the 2011–2012 school year, we cannot help but let our pride show. Despite the impact of deep funding cuts by the state to education, hundreds of hardworking Ocean View School District certificated, classified, and management employees remain steadfast in their commitment to our students. As a Board of Trustees, we celebrate the successes of all of our schools as we move into the 2012–2013 school year and continue in our commitment to strive for excellence in providing a quality education for our students.



Tracy Pellman
President



Debbie Cotton
Clerk



John Briscoe
Member



John Ortiz
Member



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Circle View *Elementary*

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



Karen Sandors
Principal

It's Year-End Fun!

The last few months of school have brought many fun activities to Circle View. Our primary grade parents were treated to the annual "Spring Sing" event under the direction of their wonderful primary music teacher, Julie Rierison. Our third-grade GATE classes also presented their Author's Showcase, where guests were treated to original stories written by our very own authors.

Miss Gaglione's students approached the subject of bullying by performing a mock trial event, with classmates and guests serving as an actual jury. The smell of hot dogs was in the air, too, when our second-grade families came together for a morning of softball and fun.

Since many of our teachers incorporate theater into their programs, there were also a number of plays performed to the delight of our Circle View families.

So as we say good-bye to the school year, I would like to note what a pleasure it has been to serve as your principal. I also want to thank all of the students, staff and parents who have worked so hard to make Circle View such an amazing school.



Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Celebrating Success!

A California Distinguished School

It is with great pride and enthusiasm we say thank you to all the families and friends who supported our efforts in receiving the California Distinguished School Award. In March, the Validation Team was able to find evidence validating our Golden Rules Program (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports or PBIS) and Data Drive Collaboration Meetings. Besides the hard work every day of our staff and students, we are fortunate to have amazing parent and community support that without them, the Distinguished School Award would not have been possible. A special thanks to the following students, community members, and OVSD administrators: Dylan Honrath, Jason St. Pierre, Dustin Herft, Aidan Knipe, Gracie Knoth, Emma

Fisher, Cailey Collado, Sophia Sola, Makayla De La Vega, Jimmy Campbell, Gavin Kells, Patricia Hahn, Christie Headley, Patty Nagatoshi, Wendy Luhm, Kim Doyle, Cindy Ferreira, Kathy Frazier, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and Superintendent, Dr. William Loose.



College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

Wildcats Are Fast!

Our annual jog-a-thon, held on Thursday, April 26, was a huge success. After the rain subsided, our swift Wildcats ran numerous laps, while students, parents, and staff members enthusiastically cheered, marked lap cards, and cooled the students down with water. A wonderful time was had by all, and every child tried his or her very best!

Mrs. Teresa Kettler, our PTA jog-a-thon chairperson, did an outstanding job of organizing the event. The goal was to maximize our fund-raising potential while providing a fun event for the children.



Teresa and her parent volunteers arranged for the water, Popsicles, and oranges to be donated. Pictured is one of our College View Elementary School runners enjoying a refreshing orange, which was donated by the Network for a Healthy California.

On behalf of the entire Wildcat Pride, we want to thank our PTA for their effort and dedication to our children. Well done!

Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

They Make a 'Wonderful World!'

This April, Pat Sakaida's adorable Preppie Kindergarten class treated Dr. Bill Loose and the Ocean View Board of Trustees to their rendition of the song "What a Wonderful World." This amazing group of five-year-olds sang the lyrics while also presenting the song using sign language. This is just one of the many enriching educational opportunities Ms. Sakaida and her colleague Shannon Dominelli provide for their Preppie Kindergarten students.

As the state of California begins the process of adjusting the start date for our kindergarten students, Ocean View continues to be on the forefront of moving from our Preppie program into the Transitional Kindergarten program. At Harbour View, we look forward to continuing the opportunity to provide quality developmental instruction for our youngest students, where it truly is a wonderful world!



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Hope View's Spring Sing

Friends and families were in attendance to enjoy a wonderful Spring Sing that was performed by our Hope View kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

Under the direction of our fabulous and talented music teachers, each grade level performed a delightful tune! Our kinder through third-graders shared their talents with upbeat melodic songs performed under the direction of Sue Martin. Our fourth- and fifth-graders, under the direction of Kim Robles, all sang, played their recorders and performed spectacularly.

We are very grateful to these music teachers and the PTO for providing our students with such a dynamic exposure to the visual arts program. The event concluded with our Hope View chorus performing their interpretation of the production *On the Radio*, again under the direction of Mrs. Robles. Our students were truly professional, well-prepared and energetic in their rendition of the songs.

A special thank-you goes to our PTO for providing refreshments, and to Mr. Manny and Dale for the setting up and taking down of our equipment.

Hope View students, you were wonderful! You should be proud; it was fantastic!

Marine View *Middle School*

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



Roni Ellis
Principal

All That Jazz!

The Marine View Jazz Ensemble has been extremely busy this year! In April, we were asked to perform at a major theme park in Orange County. In May, we were honored to be the main performers at the California Distinguished Schools Awards ceremony in Ontario, which honors award-winning schools from Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson was there to present to two Ocean View Schools that were recognized: Golden View and Star View.

While Marine View's Jazz Ensemble, led by Lynn Silver and Karen Sanford, performs at many exciting events, we were the front runners that led to the school winning \$10,000 by participating in a glee competition earlier this year. Finally, Marine View Middle School's music department presented our annual music department fund-raiser, "Spring Fling 2012: Encore!," in May, featuring Marine's Jazz Ensemble, Dance Team, Jazz Band and Choir along with special guests Golden West College's Monday Night Jazz Band and Ocean View's Superintendent Dr. Bill Loose.



Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

NASA Summer Camp

Children aren't the only ones who go to summer camp! This July, Mrs. Sandi Lewis and Mrs. Lori Nash, two fifth-grade teachers at Lake View, will be spending a week at the NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia.

The Clouds and Earth's Radiant Energy System instrument (or CERES) is part of NASA's Earth Observing System, also known as EOS. Scientists use observations from the CERES instrument to study the energy that is exchanged between the sun, the Earth's atmosphere, its surface, clouds, and outer space.



Mrs. Nash and Mrs. Lewis.

So Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Nash will be joining other educators, scientists and engineers from the Atmospheric Science Data Center to see how NASA receives data from the satellites and learns to interpret it.

They will be investigating the data to understand the causes of global climate change. They will also learn about the classroom connections that are available through three NASA education projects. Then they will bring this information back to their classrooms next year.

Lake View is fortunate to have such dedicated teachers working with our students. We hope everyone has a fun and learning-filled summer!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Leona Olson
Principal

Thank You, PTSO!

As the year comes to a close, we recognize and celebrate the efforts and support of Mesa View Middle School's PTSO! At Mesa View, the PTSO is a critical part of the school community. The dedication of our Board, including President Brandi Knox, Vice President Laura Fewell, Treasurer Susan Kosareff, Secretary Jeannie Wolk, and Communication Coordinator Alison Chennault, and other involved parents allows the PTSO to provide support for students, parents, and teachers alike. Through the PTSO, endless hours of volunteer work are coordinated, along with fund-raising events. For example, through parent volunteers our students and families benefit from a student store, which provides a place to purchase school supplies at a much reduced price. Parents also supervise the lunchtime game room, give time in classrooms, and assist with room decorations or prepping for events. In fact, it is through the coordination and efforts of the PTSO that our eighth-grade students were able to celebrate their successes at their promotion dance.

PTSO funds have contributed tremendously to the updating and improvement of technology on campus and provided for fund for classroom furniture. In addition, library purchases, Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing incentives and special events, such as end of year barbecues, would not be possible without PTSO support. Through the generosity of our parents, the PTSO supply drive provided additional day-to-day supplies for our teachers.

Mesa View students would not be as successful without the continued partnership with parents and collaborative efforts between school and home.



Laura Dale-Pash
Principal

Two Days in the Museum

Oak View Elementary's Preppie Kindergarteners enjoyed a special trip to the La Habra Children's Museum in February. Forty-eight students spent a wonderful day touring the museum and participating in interactive exhibits. This year's theme was "Rhythm and Dance around the World." Students wore multicultural costumes while playing instruments from many different cultures. The trip was made possible by a generous grant from the museum that paid for admission and transportation.

Also, the grant included participation in Family Day, during which the children were allowed to return to the museum in April with a parent.



Again, entrance and busing were covered as well as a picnic lunch and arts and crafts. Twenty four students, along with their parents, learned about animals, played grocery store, drove cars and did much more. The grant not only helped connect student learning across content standards but also enabled students to spend a fun and educational outing with their parents.



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Preschool Teachers Make a Difference

As we approach the end of the 2011-2012 school year, it is with great pride that I want to recognize our Oak View Preschool staff for their dedication and commitment to the preschool program.

It is hard to believe that Oak View Preschool has been part of the Ocean View School District for 11 years! Approximately 50 percent of all four-year-old children who attend Oak View Preschool started kindergarten at Oak View Elementary. The other 50 percent attended 10 other OVSD elementary schools.

Kudos to our outstanding instructional staff (teachers and assistants), office manager Adriana Boyer, and custodians Jose Gonzalez and Guillermo Arana, who always keep the preschool running in top form. The preschool educators who work diligently with our children are Thi Diep, Theresa Crockett, Rekha Powar, Norma Vasquez, Kathy Blythe, Wilhelmina Bunoan and Luz Elena Joya.



Together with the instructional assistants, they provide a developmentally appropriate program that better prepares our children for kindergarten. They make a difference to the OVSD!

Pleasant View

Ocean View Preparatory Preschool

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



Paul James
Principal

OVSD Board Visitation

On Friday, May 1, Superintendent Dr. Bill Loose, School Board President Tracy Pellman, Trustee Debbie Cotton and Director of Student Services Liz Williams visited Pleasant View/OVPP.

The morning started out with an informational roundtable meeting that discussed various facts about our school. Our visitors also had the opportunity to gather information about Pleasant View, as well as ask a number of questions that pertained to the school's best instructional practices.

During the visitation, staff was able to showcase their wonderful talents by demonstrating the many valuable programs that help make our school a unique site. Our special visitors were able to see our seven special day classes, ABA program, occupational therapy room, speech and language programs, preschool assessment team, and our regular education program called Ocean View Preparatory Preschool.

Pleasant View feels very lucky and fortunate to have such a great staff. Many thanks goes to teachers Cynthia Atkinson, Michelle Wall, Elke Day, Kathie Favazza, Marie Schools, Katy Nachbaur, Christina Llata, Vanessa Croushorn, Jackie Meza, Genie Peterson, Melanie Fenger, Anne Lang, Anh Mai, Vicki Kincaid, Becky Lenhausen, Ruth Ketchersid, Patty Mulcahy, Rebecca Kim, Linda Still, Lynn Trittipio, as well as our great support staff. They all make each day a very special journey of learning for our students.



Jason Blade
Principal

A Chance to Brag

Too often in education we get caught up in what is going wrong and don't take the time to celebrate what is going well. As principal, I relish the opportunities I have to brag about my students' and staff members' accomplishments, whether it be a student's academic success, the success of a sports team, or simply watching a student grow into his or her full potential. Whatever the reason, taking time to celebrate success is a vital component of any school or business.

In May, Spring View Middle School had the honor of hosting a visit from our district leadership, including Superintendent Dr. Bill Loose, Assistant Superintendents Kathy Frazier and Mark Schiel, Director of Student



Support Services Liz Williams, and Ocean View School District School Board Trustee Debbie Cotton. The Spring View staff was excited to share our many successes and our plans for the future. We would like to thank our district leadership for taking the time out of their busy schedules to come and see all the great things we have going on at Spring View.



Dr. Pauline Tressler
Principal

PTO Rounds Us All Out

The Star View PTO has worked tirelessly to assure that our students have had a well-rounded school year filled with activities to strengthen and expand the instructional program. During the year, our students have had the opportunity to attend field trips, assemblies and a variety of activities, thanks to our PTO's dedicated spirit and hard work. This wide variety of activities includes our monthly Family Nights during which our families have had the opportunity to enjoy being together with other Star View families at a variety of local restaurants. Students can attend Skate Nights several times a year. Our PTO helps Star View students to see the value of physical exercise through our annual Jog-a-thon. They help keep our classrooms supplied with instructional materials and support our art program.

At the end of the school year, we will hold our annual Carnival. Everyone looks forward to this fun event, made possible by the generous work of our PTO. Volunteers coming together truly make a difference for our school. Their work and dedication is much appreciated. Together, we make a difference!



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Sunshine and Water Fun!

At the end of each year, students in Mrs. Mc Laughlin and Miss Jamie's classes go on a fishing expedition at Carr Park, sponsored by our city and assisted by the police and fire departments and Rotary Club. Students get fishing poles, a lake full of fish, lunch, warm smiles and helping hands.

This year was extra-special—fourth-grader David Hernandez won a third-place trophy for reeling in three catfish weighing collectively over 4 pounds. Fourth-grader Matthew Martin made an unexpected full-body splash as he attempted to reel in his big catch!

Creating the Standards (CTS) arts coordinator and muralist Kimberly Fleming guided the creation of a classroom mosaic stepping stone with a sun design. It's



cemented on a path leading to our front-entrance flagpole. A special thanks to kindergarten student Ryo Barrantes's dad, Juan Barrantes, for his time, effort and aesthetic touches installing this project. It was a nice culmination to a wonderful year.

Contest!!

This recycle symbol is hidden somewhere in this publication **3 times.**

When you find it, email all **3 page numbers** to:

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Your entry must be received by July 15, 2012.

From the correct entries, we will draw 2 winners to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Slater's 50/50 8082 Adams Avenue, Huntington Beach.

Congratulations to the May winners!
Julia Tran and Charlotte Poulsen



Jodi Novy
Principal

Summer Reading Goal

Village View Elementary School students, parents and teachers know that reading is a key for student success. Reading is utilized in all subject matter, and the development of language and vocabulary is very crucial. This is why we have set a goal to continue to read vigorously over the summer break.

A brief letter will go home, along with a phone message, with four different strategy suggestions for developing academic language and reading skills. Parents and students can read aloud



together. Reading aloud is a powerful way to build language and vocabulary. Instructional discussion also gives children the opportunities to initiate and participate. Along the same line, student reading is one of the strongest predictors of reading comprehension. Lastly, writing will help your student practice this vocabulary and respond to literature.

We know the value of reading, and we promote literacy in every way. Let's have a wonderful summer and read, read, read!

Vista View *Middle School*

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



Star Testing

Each year, we review our STAR test scores, celebrate improvement and achievement with our students, and set goals for the following year as part of our preparation for STAR Testing Week. In 2011, we challenged students to improve our API Score by 15 points, and they exceeded expectation by improving by 25 points. With an API of 860, we're again working on a 15-point improvement.

Robert Miller
Principal

Our theme revolves around *Sesame Street*. With the help of our ASB/Leadership class under the direction of Devon LaPier, we hosted a Rally for excellence in May. Students were treated to a video focusing on good test-taking strategies, a skit and a song that helped communicate this year's goals.



As students left the assembly, they took the stage with their teachers to "walk the cobblestone path" to help us reach our goal and get to 875 Vista View St. As they exited, each student received a "Don't Stress Test Your Best" Vista View pencil.

Westmont *Elementary*

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



809, We Will Shine!

The students at Westmont School have been busily preparing for the STAR test with many fun and motivating activities. All students who scored Proficient or Advanced on the 2011 test were honored at a Green Carpet Assembly in April. We rolled out the green carpet instead of the red one for these successful students because green is the color we associate with the Proficient and Advanced levels.

Carol Furman
Principal

All second-through-fifth-grade students also participated in a spirit-filled Pep Rally, where each grade level created a cheer to express their excitement about STAR testing! Each student received a green necklace and was encouraged to wear it daily as a reminder of our commitment to excellence on the STAR test!

Our countdown to testing culminated with our spirit day: 809, We Will Shine! Students came to school with T-shirts, hats and other items decorated with the number 809, our schoolwide API goal this year. Test your best, Westmont Eagles!



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Inside the Outdoors is an environmental education program administered by the Orange County Department of Education.

KAMPS/ACTIVITIES FOR KIDZ

Pages 15-17

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Festivals, Reading Programs & Shows



Barbara Richardson
*Acting Senior Librarian
Programming and Youth Services*

This year's kick-off event for our summer reading program, "Festival of Folktales," will be on Tuesday, June 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Central Library.

"Dream Big, Read" is this year's summer reading program for children. Children can earn a prize for the books they read or listen to. They will also be able to attend a special musical show featuring Razzle, Bam, Boom on August 17.

Teenagers can join our teen reading program called "Own the Night," where they can earn chances to win an iPod Nano and other prizes.

There will also be an adult reading program, "Between the Covers," where adults can earn chances to win gift baskets or a Nook eReader.

Children, teens and adults can sign up for these programs at www.hbpl.org, or at any Huntington Beach Library branch starting on June 26.

Keep up your school skills during the summer! Use our online database "HelpNow" for practice tests, online tutoring and learning games.



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Westminster School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Richard Tauer

Johnson Middle School Student and Teacher Win Essay Contest

I recently had the pleasure of attending a ceremony at which a Westminster student and teacher were honored. Gracelyn Vu, a seventh-grader at Johnson Middle School, were honored for winning the Barnes and Noble “My Favorite Teacher” Essay Contest. Students throughout the region were asked to write essays sharing how teachers had influenced their lives and why they appreciated and admired them. Gracelyn eloquently wrote about her math teacher, Mrs. Robin Kirk. At the special ceremony, Gracelyn and Mrs. Kirk received framed award certificates, and Mrs. Kirk was given a special set of illustrated, classic books. Congratulations to Gracelyn and Mrs. Kirk! Here is Gracelyn’s winning essay:

Mrs. Robin Kirk Is My Favorite Teacher

By Gracelyn Vu, Student – 7th Grader



“My Favorite Teacher” essay contest winner Gracelyn Vu, 7th grader at Johnson and her math teacher Mrs. Robin Kirk.

School is a center where dreams are realized, created, and strived for. It’s a place that provides students with a combination of learning, dreaming, and practicing. Providing students with everything that they require, school is where they can enrich their minds and lives through classroom experiences and social interactions. Teachers are the guides for those of us learning, students. However, my teacher isn’t like that. Mrs. Kirk doesn’t just guide you through math lessons and pages of homework; she helps us to recognize what we want for our futures and how to achieve them through hard work and perseverance. She is the definition of dedication, dedication to her students and their dreams. Because of these traits, she amazes and inspires me and many others.

As I said before, Mrs. Kirk isn’t just a normal teacher. Not only does she teach algebra in a simple and effective way, she helps pave the way to our future through constructing special projects. One of these special projects is choosing a career and finding colleges that provide the subjects you wish to major in, along with other information on the colleges. Through this, she prepares us for the future while still teaching us what we need to do in the present in order to achieve our goals later on in life. While working on this very project, she helped me to picture and pursue what I want to do in the future and who I want to be when I grow up. She also assigns mathematical art projects, which are performed in groups, thus helping us learn the benefits of working together to create something absolutely incredible. Oftentimes, she says that sometimes we can’t do things on our own, and knowing how to work with each other will assist us if we learn how to use team work now.

However, there is more to Mrs. Kirk than just helping us plan our futures. To me, this particular attribute of hers is the most fantastic. She is one of the district’s most authoritative people. She frequently visits schools all over the district to help the staff assemble efficient math courses for that school’s students. Furthermore, she is the utmost respected safety chief of Johnson Middle School. In fact, she co-created the safety plans and procedures of my school. She prides herself for being the most trustworthy teacher on campus, having shelves full of emergency supplies and the doors to her classroom always locked. “Your safety is my top priority; I promise that in my hands nothing bad will happen to any of you,” Mrs. Kirk said.

Most importantly, even with all these achievements, she is humble. When faced with an unfair situation, she will speak out, yet remain modest if praised for her work.

Conclusively, Mrs. Kirk isn’t just “a teacher” but a wonderful inspiration, not only to me, but to all she meets. Additionally, she gives knowledge and confidence to her students, helping them to empower themselves and to reach for the stars.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Sergio Contreras
President

Clegg Elementary School Receives Top Honors

Clegg Elementary School has been named a 2012 California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education. This is a tremendous honor, and I would like to congratulate the staff, students, parents, and community partners that work together to make Clegg such an impressive school.

The most valuable resource at the school is the people who are all committed to the success and achievement of the children. The principal and teachers are second-to-none, and the campus is filled with additional support staff members who contribute to the education, health, and welfare of the students.

Clegg’s mascot is a cougar cub, and staff members worked together to create the PAWS motto: students will be Prepared to learn, Act responsibly, Work and play safely, and Show respect. This motto helped to create a positive learning environment, where every student is given the opportunity to take responsibility for his or her own learning in order to achieve full academic and personal potential. Staff members meet on a regular basis to look at data, discuss curriculum ideas, and evaluate current programs so that improvements may be made. This strategy has been incredibly successful. Last year Clegg Elementary posted a 41-point gain on their Academic Performance Index (API) for a score of 888, far exceeding the state goal of 800 for all schools.

On a typical school day students can be found engaged in: guided reading groups, Cognitive Guided Instruction (CGI), math, reenacting historical events, hands on science experiments, creating Thinking Maps, Physical Education activities, using the computers for a variety of purposes such as Spatial Temporal (ST) Math and Accelerated Reading (AR). Students can also be found working in small groups with parents, cross age tutors, peers, and teachers as they build reading fluency, language, writing and math skills. After school and on weekends, students continue to be involved in learning through programs including: Stacey Drama, choir, Fun and Fit, Avid Tutors, extended library hours, and Afterschool Academy.

Clegg parents play a major role in fostering the sense of family and community that makes the school a place where children want to come and learn every day. The very active and involved parent community is comprised of and supported by 368 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members. The PTA provides funds for Art Masters, field trips, teacher mini-grants, Red Ribbon Week, Student of the Month pizza, and assemblies, such as Walk Through California, Walk Through the American Revolution, Meet the Musicians, and Imagination Machine. In addition, they sponsor events such as family campouts, science night, Barnes and Noble reading night, lunch on the lawn, movie night, carnival, reading reward day, family baseball night, bingo night, book fair, T-shirt sales, yearbook, and the Jack Show. It is this commitment to community involvement that has led Clegg alumni to remain in or intentionally move back into the neighborhood so they can send their own children to a school that nurtures a family environment.

Principal John Staggs said, “Clegg is a place where students, parents, teachers, and community work hard to provide a well-rounded educational experience.” Clegg Elementary is a truly special school and is most deserving of the Distinguished School designation. Congratulations to the entire Clegg community!

Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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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

Hear Our ROARS!

At Anderson School, we are Respectful, Organized, Attentive, Responsible and Safe (ROARS). With all these positive traits, we wanted a way to give back to the community and help others. So Community ROARS was formed so that upper-grade students could participate in service projects to help the community.

We had over 100 students join the club in the first two weeks. So far the students have written to service people in the Marines, made winter and Valentine cards and crafts for the Garden Grove Senior Center, and worked on fund-raising to support National Police Memorial Week.

The staff and students have held fund-raisers to pay for several street banners to honor the five fallen Garden Grove police officers who have died in the line of duty.

Community ROARS sponsored a luncheon for the Garden Grove Police Department in May to say thank you for the work they do to keep us all safe. This year we opened the luncheon to include our Anderson families so they may also respect, honor, and remember our officers.

The caring students at Anderson believe in giving back. Listen for their ROARS!



Police Memorial Luncheon

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



A Visit to Rancho Paradise

By Julia Anderfaas, Amanda Nguyen, Kathleen Nguyen and Elise Tran, Fourth-Grade students in Mrs. Morris's class

In April, DeMille fourth-graders went to Rancho Los Alamitos. Let's start with history! The owners of the ranchos were Florence and Fred Bixby. They owned more than 4,000 acres of land, but soon, they lost it. Florence discovered oil, and it made them rich, but it harmed her plants.

One of the places we went to at the Los Alamitos Rancho was the gardens. There were the Cactus, Friendly, Main, Cutting and Native gardens. They were all planted by Florence. The Friendly Garden got its name because Florence's friends gave her flowers that were planted there. In the garden, there is even a man-made tennis court that was for the girls to play in.

Fred H. Bixby had an office to work in. In the office, they had dead animals for decoration and Fred's light-brown coat and hat. There was a giant picture of the rancho he used to own and a storage room that they locked all accounting books in. They used stamps for proof. The doors were very thick and were made from adobe bricks.

Next, we went into the kitchen. We learned about the cook's kitchen appliances and how she used them. She had a fire-heated oven and a toaster that looked like a grater. She used a bell to call the staff to get their meals. For festivities, she would make special meals of chicken, and for dessert, she would make a rich, creamy chocolate cake.

As you can see, the fourth-graders learned a lot, and everyone had a great time!

Clegg *School*

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



John Staggs
Principal

A Job Well Done

The year is coming to a close, and students have worked hard in the past few weeks to master the standards and succeed on their California Standards Tests. We know they did their best, and we are very proud of their efforts.

Our librarian, Ms Varga, has taken a full-time position at California State University, Long Beach. Ms Varga did an amazing job at Clegg, and we want to wish her the best. We have finished the interview process for her replacement, and I am pleased to announce that Mr. Peter Fatzun will be joining the Clegg family as our new librarian. Welcome to Clegg, Peter!



Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Keeping the Arts Alive

On April 24, the Westminster School District Foundation for Educational Excellence presented the Westminster School District Choir at the Rose Center Theater. Under the direction of sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Brandi Robinson, 32 of our Eastwood students participated in the extravaganza.

This year's theme of "seasons" brought out such songs as Seasons of Love, Sounds of Winter, Here Comes the Sun, Pocketful of Sunshine and Summer Breeze. The performance is unique in that the students have only one practice session with the participating schools prior to the evening's performance.

But the result was incredible! It was evident by the smiles on their faces that the students loved every minute of it.

Eastwood's annual variety show, which is organized, produced and choreographed by parent volunteers, proved also to be a great evening filled with dance, music and theater. The student talent was extraordinary, highly diverse, and wonderfully enjoyable! Participants in the after-school dance and musical theater programs performed Run the World and Oh, the Thinks You Can Think, along with the Eastwood Choir's presentation of Firework and Put Your Records On.

The standing-room-only audience listened to beautiful music from a piano, an ancient stringed instrument, a guitar, and also enjoyed vocal performances and dance routines from students of all ages.

We look forward to continued greatness on the part of our Eastwood students next year, and would like to thank Mrs. Lori Pilatos for her vision and hard work with the variety show during the past six years.

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Hiacynth Martinez
Principal

Down Our Red Carpet

Fryberger is lucky to have such dedicated and highly trained teachers! This year, fifth-grade teacher Gabriel Rodriguez did an outstanding job representing our school as he donned the coveted title of Fryberger Teacher of the Year. His commitment to literacy, scientific exploration and physical fitness are just a few reasons why he is so highly respected. Thank you, Mr. Rodriguez, for leading the charge this year!

The teachers at Fryberger have spoken! The 2012-13 Teacher of the Year is kinder teacher Megan Kresge! This is a huge honor for her, especially since she was a former Fryberger student and is celebrating her 10th year in WSD. Because of Mrs. Kresge's collaborative nature, forward-thinking abilities and dedication to academic excellence, it's no wonder that her leadership is being honored in such a special way. Congratulations, Mrs. Kresge!

Adrianna Glazener and Thuc Luu have been selected to serve as one of WSD's new instructional support specialist beginning in 2012-13! They will be joined by 10 other newly appointed teachers to help further the advancement of student achievement through innovative practices and 21st century instructional models. Mrs. Glazener and Ms. Luu exemplify what it means to be among the best and brightest in the teaching profession!

Toni Laurenza was voted as CSEA's Employee of the Year for Food Services! "Ms. Toni" always has a warm smile that greets each student daily. She is the reason students are able to focus and achieve! We are proud of Ms. Toni!

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Linda Reed
Principal

Pack Up Your Rucksacks for Summer Camp!

For the first time in 28 years, summer camp will be held at Hayden Elementary. We are very excited to provide this opportunity to our community. Peter Barajas, the camp director, has more than 20 years of experience in the Extended School Program (ESP) and will be in charge of the program. He has already lined some great field trips and special events.

The summer camp includes trips to a nearby theme park, H.B. Park Pool, a water park and many more excursions. The summer camp will offer many clubs and clinics such as arts and crafts, water games, baseball, soccer, basketball, and track and field. Along with those fun activities, the summer program will also focus on academics. The academic focus will be on math facts, fluency, writing and reading comprehension. The summer camp will also include lessons on child safety and how children can protect themselves from predators. For more information, please call (714) 894-7311, ext. 1063.



Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutierrez-Garcia
Principal

An Evening Fit for...Fitness!

Our first-ever Finley Family Fitness Night, sponsored by the Nutrition Network, the Extended School program and the after-school PRIDE program, taught students and their families about healthy nutrition and the importance of physical exercise. "Feed Your Brain" began with a PowerPoint presentation and discussion, led by registered dietician Tracey Zoleta, about the importance of eating a healthy breakfast, especially when preparing for the California Standardized Tests. Then, students and parents went to one of four exercise rotations that included milk-jug catch; "Coursing Around," a series of chalk-drawn stations; "Power Up in Ten" for stress-releasing repetitions; and soccer skills-development drills.



Keith Benitez dribbles a soccer ball around cones to try and improve his time as Mr. Garcia prepares to launch another ball to the next person in line.

The most exciting thing was the interaction among family members and watching moms giggle like little girls as they polished their eye-hand coordination and gross-motor skills, with toddlers in tow. The evening finished with a healthy menu item that families could prepare as a portable breakfast and an opportunity drawing for fitness-related items. This truly a night to remember!

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Shane Vinagupta
Principal

Reaching Out and Giving Back

It is well known that schools operate as part of a larger community and that any involvement between these two entities can produce enriching experiences and benefits beyond the classroom. The Johnson Middle School (JMS) learning community has partnered with local agencies in an effort to present the Second Annual JMS Boot Camp. This event is sponsored by our PTA and gives opportunities for students to visit different presenters, whose common theme is the importance of health in your future.

This year's presenters include the Westminster Police Department Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team, the Westminster Fire Department, representatives from the armed Forces, sports and martial arts, and the Westminster School District Nutrition Network.

JMS is giving back through our National Junior Honor Society's participation in beach clean in support of the Surfrider Foundation. Also, in an effort to give back to those who serve our country overseas, Operation JMS was started by staff members and supported by our ASB. Donations were collected to create care boxes for troops overseas, which included amenities and comforts that we take for granted, but are considered commodities where they are stationed. Items such as beef jerky, instant coffee, and typical toiletries are tops on the list for troops. All care boxes will be mailed and given to individual soldiers along with handwritten letters from Johnson students thanking them for all they do for our country.

Getting involved and giving back to the community are important values at Johnson, and we continue to look for ways to make a difference.

Land School

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



Beverlee Mathenia
Director, Child Development Programs



Leisa Winston
Administrator, Student Services

Arts On the Move

Land School is thrilled to announce that Benjamin Van, a student in Ms. Gayle Gehrke's class, created artwork that was selected to represent the Westminster School District in the annual traveling art exhibit, Arts on the Move. Benjamin's artwork was submitted by Ms. Gehrke, who also volunteers her time to coordinate WSD's submissions of artwork to the Very Special Arts organization.

Benjamin's original artwork will be displayed at the Westfield MainPlace mall in Santa Ana from April 19, 2012 through May 13, 2012. His work will be retained for about one year, in order to travel to additional places locations throughout Orange County, including the Orange County Department of Education.

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jerry Gargus
Principal

Wrapping Up a Great Year

The 2011-2012 school year has been packed with accomplishments. We began with the great news of our Academic Performance Index (API) score increase of 43 points, from 766 to 809, surpassing 800 for the first time in our school's history. We also met all of our federal Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) growth targets.

Our staff worked diligently to help 51 of our English-language learners achieve Fluent English Proficient status, bringing our total to 141 students reclassified over the past three years. We recognized these students and their families at a special awards breakfast in May.

We were thrilled to recognize Kristina Elliott as our Teacher of the Year. She brings a high energy level and teaching expertise to her kindergarten classroom each day and has been an integral part of our school's leadership team.

PTA honored another one of our excellent kindergarten teachers, Tanya Dang, with an Honorary Service Award for her dedication to supporting PTA programs.

Our students were also recognized by PTA for participation in the Reflections program. Samuel Hepler, a first-grader in Mrs. Fedorchek's class, and Heather Foster, a fourth-grader in Mrs. Nguyen's class, also earned recognition at the district level.

As we come to the close of another great year, we look toward the future. We anticipate strong API growth and look forward to exiting Program Improvement status next year by meeting all of our AYP targets on this year's California Standards Tests (CSTs). Schmitt Elementary School is a great place to learn, and we get better every day!

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Volunteers Make a Difference

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

—Margaret Mead

At Schroeder Elementary School we know our volunteers make a difference everyday. They generously give their time, skills, and talents. You make Schroeder great and we THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts. Because of you, all of this is possible. Wow, you are amazing!

Rolling Readers, Guided Reading, Classroom Helpers, Copying, Cutting, Laminating, Blooming Garden, Skate Nights, Dining Nights, Carnival, Spirit Wear, Fundraising, Camp Out, Book Fair, Holiday Boutique, Newsletter, E-Waste Recycling, School Site Council, Boy/Girl Scouts, Parent Teacher Association, Assemblies, and Field Trips.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Everybody Learns at Meairs

The year is quickly coming to an end, and we are very proud of the students and staff at Iva Meairs Elementary School. They have all worked hard and done their best.

This year our students have grown tremendously in their academics. They have worked on their physical fitness. They have learned to be better citizens. They have accumulated thousands of points in Accelerated Reading, and have completed countless levels of ST Math (spatial temporal) with Jiji the Penguin.

Our students have also been to the zoo, the farm, museums and even the opera. Even our parents have gotten in on the learning this year by participating in Latino Literacy, healthy cooking classes and Parenting Partners.

The whole community comes out to learn at Meairs. We will keep right on working up until the last day of school, and when September rolls around we will be ready for 2012-2013!



Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tammy Steel
Principal

Making it Work

It has been another fabulous year here at Sequoia, with numerous activities for our children. The staff has worked diligently to help students succeed and move ahead with their academics. After a much deserved rest we are looking forward to another wonderful year.

Our PTA has been a wonderful support to all of our students. It provides field trips, art programs, class parties, assemblies, family night celebrations and a myriad of other daily support activities for our classrooms. Thank you for being dedicated and willing to volunteer so much of your own time and money to our school family.

To the wonderful Sequoia team and its fabulous families, I have to express my deepest respect and admiration for a job well done. This year you have taken some of the most challenging situations, and yet still continue to work diligently for all of our students. Your "can do" attitude is refreshing, and it is appreciated more than words can ever express.



We have CRAZY hair.

Thank you for your flexibility and attitude of "let's make this work." I am truly fortunate to have such wonderful people around me to help support and assist in our great efforts. Our successes could not have been made a reality without you.

I wish everyone a safe and restful summer. And remember to read, read, read. Always soar high with Eagle Pride!

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

A Night to Remember

By Shay Reardon, Assistant Principal

The Westminster Rose Center opened its doors in April to accommodate the school choir groups from across the Westminster School District. The schools came together to sing a variety of songs, which the students had been practicing for months.

On Monday, April 23, Stacey Middle School students joined students from six other schools from the district to sing songs about the seasons. Staff members, district administration personnel, and family members enjoyed this special evening performance. The Stacey choir, under the direction of Michelle Sale, Stacey's choir director, met regularly to practice the songs in preparation for this performance.

The Stacey choir will also be performing at the upcoming PTA Honorary Service Awards evening and the groundbreaking ceremony for Measure O on the Stacey campus.



Stacey choir having fun

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Sharing the Good News

On April 13-15, the Orange County Fairgrounds hosted the annual Orange County Youth Expo. This was a great opportunity for local students of all ages to share artwork, technology and various projects for display.

This year Webber Elementary was honored to have a number of winning entries. The fourth-graders in Mrs. Chamberlain's class entered projects in art, social studies and technology. Donna Pham-Tran won a first-place ribbon for her beautiful artwork, and Mimi Vo and Jason Do both won ribbons for second- and third-place in art.

There were also three first-place winners in the social studies division. Marco Aburto, David Cerda and Mayra Ramirez won for their Mission projects. Lastly, we had 15 students enter the technology division and walk away with either a first- or second-place ribbon for their PowerPoints!

Daisy Castillo won as the overall division winner, and received a beautiful ribbon and trophy from the Youth Expo.

We are so proud of these Webber fourth-graders, and are very excited to share this news with the community!



Willmore *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

We Celebrate One of Our Own

On behalf of Willmore Elementary School, I would like to take an opportunity to introduce you to one of our fabulous teachers, Christina Cota. Ms. Cota is a native of Westminster and went to school in the Westminster School District. She attended elementary school at Webber and Schmitt, middle school at Warner and high school at Westminster High School. Her college track included Cal State Long Beach and UCLA. She earned her masters degree at National University.

Ms. Cota is an integral part of our leadership team and represents the fifth grade. Her thoughtful and reflective approach to her craft is why she is regularly requested to be a master teacher, and many student teachers have benefitted from her tutelage. She is in her eighth year of teaching at Willmore, and we couldn't be more proud to serve our community alongside her. She is our Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Ms. Cota!



Warner *Middle (6-8)*

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



Matthew Skoll
Principal

Leadership Team Speaks Up

Here is how students sum up their time at Warner:

Warner's a great school! We always have fun learning and participating in school activities. Sadly, since this is my last year at Warner, I will miss all the teachers and the friends I'll be separated from who are going to different schools. Warner's a great place with lots of memories for me. —Jasmine Nguyen, president

For the past two years, I've been in Leadership, and it's had a great impact on my life. Leadership provided me with a home, and I can call them my family. Even though we have fun, we get things done for our school. It warms my heart to see my class help others. —Khin Soe, vice president

The past year was a good experience for me. I think that it's because of Leadership and my role as an ASB officer. There are amazing people in this class that help others, not because they want recognition or thanks but because they sincerely want to see others smile. My last year at Warner was exciting and well spent, thanks to Ms. Casato and my peers. —Kathy Vu, treasurer

Being secretary here at Warner made my eighth-grade year 10 times better! Leadership got me out of my shell, and I'm no longer afraid to get up on stage. I even cheered in front of the whole school with the other officers at the April Assembly. I'm glad that I got more involved this year, and I think my life would've been so different if I hadn't. —Tracy Hoang, secretary

Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Welcome and Congratulations!

I would like to take a moment to welcome Dr. Duane Dishno to the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Beach Union High School District. Dr. Dishno was chosen by the Board to serve due to the passing of Trustee Brian Garland. He began his appointed term on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, after taking the oath of office at our traditional May meeting. The appointment of Dr. Dishno will last up until the November elections, at which time the seat will be available for a two-year elected term of office.

Our district is so pleased and proud to have Dr. Dishno join our efforts on behalf of all the students and families in our school community. He is a retired educator and administrator. He has lived in the community for more than 40 years. Professionally, he has served as the superintendent of elementary, unified, and high school districts. He is married with two children, and his wife, Polly, taught for many years in the Westminster School District. Dr. Dishno is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for his professional and community service. He served on the Huntington Beach Centennial Celebration Committee, the Pier Plaza Grand Opening Committee, and the Infrastructure Advisory Committee, as well as the City School District's Bond Oversight Committee and on the Board of Directors of several local organizations.

Very best wishes to all of our students, teachers, staff, and families as we continue the exciting and sometimes nostalgic march towards graduation...yes, the class of 2012 will graduate in less than a month. It is always a special time of year and connects us very clearly to our mission of "College and Career Readiness." Oh, and seniors, yes there is a "rule" that states you must pose for as many pictures as your parents and family request. Smile, graduates!



Tuyen Dinh
*Student Representative
Board of Education*

A Day of Dialogue

Every year, the Bridges program hosts an event called Day of Dialogue, which a small handful of students from every high school in the Huntington Beach Union High School District are chosen to attend. Day of Dialogue is an all-day event hosted at the Huntington Beach Public Library. Attendees participate in discussions about their community and school. It provides a place for honest dialogue to explore topics of diversity and create community through the practice of civil conversation.

I had the opportunity to attend this year's Day of Dialogue on April 4. It was my first time attending such an event, and I found it to be truly memorable. During one of the activities, we sat in a large circle and shared personal stories about ourselves that we normally would not talk about. The activity taught us to improve our listening skills and stop judging people by what we may have heard about them or by their looks. The day continued with more teambuilding activities and circles. We ended the day by splitting up into individual schools and creating lists of pros and cons about our schools. Sharing our lists allowed for a flow of ideas and information on how to create a more positive atmosphere for all students and staff members.

After having attended Day of Dialogue, I really wish we were able to integrate more students and allow them to voice their opinions as well.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Dr. Michael Simons
President

Closing the Gaps of College and Career Readiness

It has been recently estimated that over 40% of the jobs our students will be entering into when they graduate college have not been created yet. So how do we develop a plan to prepare them to meet the challenges of the future?

Initially we need to have a focus on developing the attributes of College and Career Readiness that includes early interventions, real world learning and authentic assessment. This can be accomplished by including the following:

- Alignment with common core and college entry requirements
- Instruction targeting key concepts and cognitive strategies
- Formative assessments measuring application of skills/concepts
- Student mentoring, academic support and career explorations
- Leaders at all levels creating high performing school culture

Once the focus has been established, the plan can be initiated utilizing these action steps:

- College and Career Ready Gap Analysis / Academic Program Design
- Early Identification of At-Risk Students / Systemic Student Support
- Data-driven Instructional Cycles / Accelerated Learning
- Personalized Curricular Pathways / Community Partnerships

There are certain skill sets that will help define employability, potential for upward mobility into management and executive roles, and ability for businesses to maintain a competitive advantage in the market place. These are referred to as The Four C's.

- Effective Communication: the ability to synthesize and transmit ideas in written and oral form both clearly and persuasively.
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving: the ability to make decisions, solve problems and take actions as appropriate.
- Collaboration and Teamwork: the ability to work effectively with others, including those from diverse groups and with opposing points of view.
- Creativity and Innovation: the ability to see what's not there and make something happen.

College and Career Ready Students should be able to possess the ability to solve real world problems through the conceptual application of key knowledge using higher order skills. We can achieve this by creating and maintaining a college-going culture in the school and emphasizing key cognitive roles while holding high expectations for all students and providing differing degrees of scaffolding based on student need. Additionally by creating assignments and grading policies that more closely approximate college and career expectations and by promoting self-management skills and economic behaviors toward skill/behavior development, we can better provide a better pathway to College and Career Readiness.

With thanks to InnovateED and American Management Association.

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



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Coast *High School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Expanding Options for Our Students

As we prepare for the always exciting and joyful graduation ceremony of our Coast High School students, we are really excited this year about the new location for the ceremony. For the first time in Coast High School's history, the ceremony will be held indoors, thanks to Ocean View High School (OVHS). We have been given the opportunity to use OVHS's theater for our ceremony, at which time we will present diplomas to an estimated 60 students who have met all district and state graduation requirements. Many of these graduates have earned their diplomas while maintain full-time professional careers or dealing with significant personal challenges that make attending a comprehensive high school five days a week impossible.

At Coast, we pride ourselves on the flexibility of our program to work with and around the challenging schedules of our students. Next year we will be making a significant leap in our ability to be flexible. In September, students will have the option to take an online course in one of the core areas: English, math, science, and social science. Although our structure of once-a-week appointments with teachers might still be the same, students will benefit from a more modern and efficient instructional delivery system. Add to this the fact that our students are very comfortable in on online environment, so the ability to receive instruction through an online learning system provides a great opportunity for students.

For the past year and half, staff members have been researching online learning systems, including Plato, Odysseyware, K12.com, APEX, Canvas, Moodle, and a number of others. Instead of settling on one system, we will be working with two: Odysseyware and Moodle. These systems will provide teachers with the options and flexibility they need to develop rigorous academic courses that take into account our course content and students learning styles.

Odysseyware is a versatile, adaptable, media-rich, and broad scope curriculum for students in third through 12th grades. It can be seamlessly integrated into any educational environment to reach a diverse range of students. Fully Internet-based, each Odysseyware course is an interactive experience that engages 21st-century learners.

The heart of Moodle is courses that contain activities and resources which allow teachers to customize their curriculum based on their specific needs and preferences. Moodle gives teachers full ownership of the content delivered and provides students with a personalized virtual classroom experience.

Coast High is also proud to report that our recent Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) mid-term accreditation visit was a great success. We just received a letter from WASC commending us on the excellent job the Coast staff and Huntington Beach Union High School District are doing to provide outstanding educational experiences for Coast students. WASC also commented that it has full confidence in the school's ability to carry out the school improvement plans laid out in its Action Plan.

Community Day School

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

A Firm Foundation

We are extremely honored to announce that in May, Matt Linville was awarded a college scholarship of up to \$20,000 by the Simon Youth Foundation. Dr. Michael Durnil, president and executive director, and Dr. Arleen Peterson, vice president of educational services, of the Simon Youth Foundation came from Indianapolis to present the award to Matt. Matt plans to attend Golden West Community College in the fall before entering a four-year university. All the students and staff at Community Day School (CDS) are very proud of Matt and his accomplishments.



We welcomed a visit from Dr. Durnil and Dr. Peterson. They spent an afternoon of in May touring classrooms, visiting students and staff, and discussing plans for the next school year. The Community Day School's relationship with the Simon Youth Foundation and a local shopping center continues to be very strong and special. The joint partnership will continue to flourish as CDS enters its tenth year in 2012-13. In the past 10 years, students from the Huntington Beach Union High School district have benefited from the Simon Youth Foundation's support though lease-free use of mall space, scholarships for students, grants for teachers, purchasing of school supplies and equipment, and the expansion of classroom space. These are just a few examples of how the Simon Youth Foundation supports students and staff.

A Backdrop for Our Success

Tenth-grader Gloria Vela has assumed the role of resident artist at CDS and has continued painting the mural that runs the length of our school. Gloria is a gifted artist and painter who enjoys helping at school and contributing to Hornet pride. Putting her talents to use not only builds her confidence as an artist but also further builds on the family atmosphere staff works hard to create, where students feel safe, approved, appreciated and supported.

Staff and students prepared for the STAR test, which was completed by the end of May. Our students were well prepared and ready for the challenge. The STAR tests cover multiple subjects, including English, mathematics, science and social science. Students study these subjects throughout the year, and this test allows instructors and administrators to identify areas in the curriculum and instruction that need improvement.

Staff is now busy preparing for the graduation of a number of students. The ceremony will be held on June 15, and staff, school board members, students and parents will honor those students who have overcome significant challenges, persisted through rigorous coursework, and maintained good attendance and citizenship in order to earn a high school diploma. Although CDS staff will miss these students the following year, they are already busy preparing for the arrival of new students in September.

School News

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Dr. D'liese
Melendrez
Principal

Students Go Overseas

By Lindsey Thomas, MUN student

Being a student in Model United Nations (MUN) at Edison High School has its benefits: better speaking skills, increased knowledge of world issues, strategies for debate...did we mention international trips to countries like England? Oh, well, those are included, too!

The junior students in MUN had the privilege this year of attending the largest conference in the United Kingdom. It was held at Kingswood School in Bath, which is one of the most prestigious schools in England. Over 2,000 delegates attended, 23 of whom

were from Edison. During the course of the conference, delegates debated world issues ranging from water sanitation in Africa to nuclear weapons in the Middle East. In the end, Edison received many individual delegate awards as well as recognition for group delegations. One student even received the highest delegation, or best delegate in the debate. Overall, the conference was a wonderful experience, and being in a different country made it all the more interesting. It was an eye-opening experience to see how students from other countries view international issues and topics.

After the three days of competing in Bath, our sightseeing began. First, we went to Stonehenge, which was an amazing sight to see. From Stonehenge, we went straight to Windsor Castle, which is where the Queen resides in the summer. It has been a royal fortress for about 900 years, so it was another very special sight to see.

We spent the next few days touring major sights in London, including Big Ben, the London Eye, Westminster Abbey and the Lambeth Bridge, which stretches over the Thames River. We visited St. Paul's Cathedral, which was one of the only buildings that survived the World War II Blitz bombing, and the British History Museum. The Museum was enormous and had information on just about anything and everything occurring in the British past. After crossing the Tower Bridge to get to the Tower of London, we saw the marvelous crown jewels.

All That, and Paris, Too!

We took the Eurostar to Paris, a train that travels underwater. The first night, we enjoyed the famous Parisian cuisine and took a night tour down the Seine River. The Eiffel Tower literally sparkled under the moonlight, and it felt so surreal. In Paris, we visited many major French landmarks, including Notre Dame, Le Musée d'Orsay and Le Louvre, which is home to the iconic Mona Lisa. Of course, it wouldn't be Paris if we didn't visit the Eiffel Tower, which many students bravely climbed all the way to the top. On the last day in Paris, we visited the Château du Versailles, which was the extravagant summer home of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Everything—the art, architecture and beautiful gardens—was absolutely magnificent. We also took a bike ride through the wonderful gardens of Versailles, which was an excellent way to end the trip. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience that the junior students of MUN will never forget.



Students compete in Bath, United Kingdom

Wavy line border

School News

ROLL CALL

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Class of 2012

Graduation cap

Fountain Valley *High School*

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Chris Herzfeld
Principal

2011–12: An Exciting Year in Review

2011–12 was an amazing school year! FVHS has a strong reputation for academic achievement. Once again, the Barons were among the highest-scoring high schools in Orange County, with a record 886 API. But there is more to life than test scores. FVHS has a culture and climate of caring students, enthusiastic staff and supportive parents. This year, however, the already positive culture jumped up to a whole other level. Here are a few highlights.

Baron for Life

The year got off to a spirited start as the staff returned to participate in team-building activities and a bigger schoolwide focus. Morale built as the Baron 4 Life T-shirts and student-recognition program were announced. One student from every classroom was selected each month for demonstrating the school's expected schoolwide learning results. Nominated students' names were placed in a bin and selected during a lunchtime rally, and selected students won a \$50 gift card and a Baron 4 Life T-shirt. Staff wore their blue B4L shirts every Friday.

Instructional Rounds

FVHS teachers and administration, led by Assistant Principal Joshua Arnold, started a practice of teachers observing one another to identify and share best instructional practices. Suddenly, teachers who had never set foot in other departments were watching their peers implement strategies in other subjects. Interdependence, professional trust and energy grew. Math teachers observed social studies. English teachers observed math. Art teachers watched English. Ideas and discussion flowed, and all of this was done voluntarily and at no cost.

Every Fifteen Minutes

The FV Police and Fire Departments staged the Every Fifteen Minutes anti-drunk-driving program for juniors and seniors. The program included a simulated car crash complete with injuries, deaths and arrests. This is a powerful program. While EFM is not a cheerful event, it certainly builds strong bonds among students and participating families.

Baron Games and Broadcast News (BBN)

New assistant principal Joe Fraser worked with the ASB to create a new spirit week called Baron Games. The school was split into Blue and Gold squads. Competitions at lunchtime, promotional videos and talk on Facebook built up energy never seen in the school before. Over 2,500 students participated in cheering lunchtime events, and the culminating assembly saw all 3,500 students and 150 staff engaged in healthy, spirited activities.

For the past six years, our student video news magazine, BBN, has been broadcast via DVD in English classes. This was a burden on English teachers and did not allow all teachers to see what the students were seeing. This year, we went schoolwide so that everybody could see the broadcast at the same time. Now all the teachers are aware of the references and news that only some had seen, and the ability to build schoolwide culture, understanding and connections grew. Students who produce the BBN had to raise their standards and make better editorial decisions because they would have a more critical audience and limited time. The new limits more closely resemble the real world of broadcast journalism.

International Culture Fair

We hosted our first after-school international culture fair after school in late April, and it was a big success. Over a thousand students, staff and community members came to enjoy a variety of food, games and entertainment.

Those are just a few of the ways that school spirit and a caring student and professional culture grew at FVHS this year. We are excited to continue these new traditions and add to them next year. These activities combined with the success of our arts, athletics and academic programs made for a memorable school year.

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Summer Offerings

This summer, HBAS is proud to continue its summer Academic Prep program to both current and incoming Huntington Beach Union High School District students.

Working with high school teachers from Edison High School, Huntington Beach High School and Marina High School, HBAS has developed courses that will prepare students for the rigors of college prep and advanced placement.

Although these courses are not required for regular placement into classrooms during the school year, nor do they receive high school credit, they are recommended by teachers especially for those students who have struggled with these subjects in the past.

Honors English Prep helps for a successful year by gaining increased abilities in advanced study, writing, reading and reasoning skills. Honors English Prep is a skill-building program that helps to ensure that the student will confidently transition in the fall.

Algebra 1 and 2 and Trig Prep classes will provide students with a background that can assist in the transition to the fall class, or for extra enrichment practice. These classes will primarily serve students who have qualified for Algebra 1 or Algebra 2/Trig, but would like to get some review and preview practice on some of the more difficult topics that will be covered in that course.

AP Calculus Prep is designed for the high school student who has not had any AP calculus (BC) previously. It will provide the student with a background that can assist in the transition to the class in the fall.

More Math

Geometry Prep is a course designed primarily for incoming ninth-grade students who have passed algebra in the eighth grade, but did not score high enough on the Geometry Placement Exam to feel confident about taking geometry. Some of the students may be qualified for geometry but desire further practice and skill-building time, or may want to attempt accelerated geometry.

Chem Prep is a summer, fee-based course that is designed for the high school student who has not had any chemistry previously. It will provide them with a strong chemistry background. It is intended for students who plan on taking AP chemistry or regular chemistry in the fall.

We are also very excited to partner with APA again to offer the APA Kids! and APA Jr. programs. Children will participate in a program of arts education designed for each age group. Its aim is to enhance self-esteem, build bridges among diverse groups, and broaden creative skills. The children will experience the arts through active participation in instructional activities conducted at the newly renovated visual and performing arts facility at HBHS. It will culminate in a showcase performance and mini art show on the last day.

The second session's theme will differ from the first session, for students who would like to take both sessions. For more information about our programs, please visit our Web site at www.hbas.edu, or call us at (714) 842-4227.

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Huntington Beach *High School*

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Sustainability Program

By Greg Goran, Social Science Teacher

The HBHS Environmental Sustainability Program has been steadily growing since its inception three years ago. The program currently consists of two elective classes, a study body club and a new entrepreneurial component that will be implemented in the fall of 2012.

Janie Hoy
Principal

As the sustainability teacher and director of the program, I am very pleased with the attention the program has received and the direction in which it is heading. While the organic garden and various projects around campus, such as the solar power station the program members are currently working on, have been keeping my students and me very busy, and next year should be even more exciting. We are currently getting a lot of support from the local community and businesses such as an energy-reporting software company, an environmental home products company and a business entrepreneurial center that has partnered to help us do a comprehensive environmental audit to our school. This business has also helped us start an entrepreneurial component to help students make money and find jobs in the green sector. Students will now get the opportunity to make money for themselves and the program through projects such as the Green Earth Initiative, in which they will be conducting energy audits and selling utility conservation kits and software to friends, family and small businesses in the community.



Partnering with the Community at Large

The Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce is also helping with the initiative with 15 local small businesses that are also conducting environmental audits to help their companies save money on energy, water, waste and transportation costs. Other local companies that manufacture environmentally responsible products have also committed to helping the program at HBHS. One business will be helping the school with reusable water bottles and hydration stations next year, while Mike Hill from another company is currently working on signs and banners made from recycled and renewable materials.

I hope that our sustainability program at the high school will become an integral part of helping the students and the entire community become environmental stewards to save resources, money, and ultimately, our planet's health and future. For more information contact me at ggoran@hboilers.com or e-mail the club at sustainablehbhs@gmail.com.

Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

Parents Make a Difference

Remember back in elementary school when you first dropped your child off to that mysterious kindergarten class? Remember the impact you made when you started volunteering in that class? Throughout elementary school, you looked for every possible way to get involved. Then came middle school. You were still interested in supporting your child, but you were feeling a bit overwhelmed; however, you stayed involved and joined PTSA. Well, here you are in high school! Do you really need to stay involved? Does the school even want you there? What will your children think if they see you at their high school?

Volunteering in high school is one of the most important things you can do for your student. Your visibility on campus, your commitment to the school, and your presence have been shown through research to make a difference—a big one!

At Marina High School, parents are an integral part of what makes our school a home away from home. It is their presence and involvement that help our school grow and find the resources and support that make Marina High School an outstanding place for students and families. At Marina, you can get involved in many ways.

The Marina Education Foundation is a dedicated group of parent and community volunteers, most of whom have or had students attending Marina. Why would anyone want to keep volunteering after their student has graduated? The answer is simple: they make a difference! The foundation meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This volunteer-run organization has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the school in the form of computers, books, art equipment, scientific tools, and field trips, and the list goes on. Currently, the foundation is in the process of expanding to include athletics and performing arts while still supporting students in the classroom. We are looking for a new president of the organization to help guide us into the future. If you are interested, please join us at our next meeting and become a part of this outstanding and growing group of parents and community members.

The Marina PTSA is a special group of people who celebrate and focus on the education of parents, teachers and students. Marina's PTSA has sponsored some outstanding programs, such as our recent anti-bullying assemblies, parent education forums, staff appreciation activities, and the annual Reflections program. Their support helps our band, choir, annual musical, and other school-wide programs. Think about being part of the PTSA, and make a difference! The PTSA meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The School Site Council is a group of parents, teachers, students, and administrators that meets the first Tuesday of the month at 3:15 p.m. This group of volunteers helps us monitor our School Improvement Plan, learn about the many programs happening around school, hear from our various departments about how they operate, review the school goals, and assist Marina in continuing its positive growth. You are always invited to attend these meetings, listen in, and participate in great discussions about students, learning, and the art of teaching!

If you are interested in sports, cheer, music, or singing, you may be just the person to get involved in some of the most active parent groups at Marina. Our booster clubs focus on supporting their organizations. Be it football, soccer, badminton, grad night, choir, or band, booster club parents donate their time and talents to their organizations to help their groups achieve outstanding goals. Marina booster organizations have significantly impacted this school. Their efforts have resulted in supporting our sports teams during these tough economic times. At Marina, you can see the fruits of their efforts in the outstanding baseball and softball fields, football equipment, track building, swim program, choir and band trips, new marching band uniforms, an outstanding yearly musical, and so much more.

So, think back to elementary school, when it was a great time to get involved and it was important to your son or daughter. High school is not the time to quit; it's the time to increase your involvement. Our students need us more than ever in their high school years, so drop by Marina and ask how you can get involved. You just might be the person who makes a difference, who helps a needy student, who makes a future a reality rather than a dream! Come home to Marina High School, Home of the Vikings!



Valley Vista *High School*

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



Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

Tears, Smiles and Memories

Early in the school year, the Valley Vista High School senior class selected a motto to be the theme for their final year. It was, “Life brings tears, smiles, and memories. The tears dry, the smiles fade, but the memories last forever.”

Before the craziness of graduation began, I gathered 14 seniors to meet with me and reflect upon their time at Valley Vista, and their class motto. I asked them to comment on the “tears” that they had experienced when they were new to our school, and to think about those events or people that had made them smile, as well as to identify the most important memories they would be taking with them.

Nicole remembers that, “Arriving at Valley Vista, I thought I have already failed as a student, but over time I found this school to be a better choice for me. Tears do dry over time.” Flor recalls that, “Arriving at Valley Vista, at first I thought I had already failed. I felt I had let my family down because they never liked the fact that I was coming to a continuation school.”

Sincere and Mature Reflections

Bianca remembers that her “first smiles came from the welcome and open arms from the teachers.” Jennifer smiles, too. “When my friends tell me they’re proud and can’t wait to come to my graduation and scream their lungs out. That’s what makes me smile.”

Michelle will always remember Mrs. Rich doing a yoga handstand in class. Colby will remember “the connections and friendships I made with the teachers, students and staff.” And Sianna is sure that, “The best memory I have from Valley Vista is making the best friends I could ever have.”

The students really enjoyed reminiscing, and I gleaned a lot of different thoughts and comments that I can use in my remarks at the graduation ceremonies. I was most struck by how much these seniors had grown from troubled students at risk of not graduating. The open, honest, sincere and mature young adults who now shared their thoughts with me bring a smile to my face, and the faces of the teachers and staff members who have helped nurture them to this point in their lives.

Their memories are our memories, too. The tears will soon come for us, as they leave tears of joy when we contemplate their future success.

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

A Look Back—and a Look Ahead

With another successful year almost behind us, the time is right for reflection, so I wanted to share a little about what we’ve been able to accomplish this year and what we look forward to doing better in the future.

The Ocean View High School (OVHS) staff helped lead the move from non-college preparatory to college-preparatory English for our students. That means all of our students will have English classes which are University of California approved.

All ninth-graders are taking biology next year, and life and physical science will be eliminated. Every OVHS student will have biology and chemistry by the end of the sophomore year. That means more room to seek out interesting and rigorous electives!

OVHS will offer Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry to sophomores next year. This class hasn’t been in our course offering for years!

Everyday algebra has helped students who have traditionally struggled in math this year. The data shows they are at the same place as the algebra students who meet every other day.

PTSA and the Ocean View Foundation helped fund the purchase of 40 Google Chromebooks, complete with scientific probe software and hardware for the Science Department.

All 10th- and 11th-grade students will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) during the week next year, which will allow us to share AP Potential data and continue the conversations about becoming college ready with all of our students!

We are building some significant interventions to help students achieve in math and science. It is true—we are pushing students to take more rigorous classes, and we’ll continue to do so with support for our students.

The Career Center piloted Job Readiness Training, a three-hour workshop where students learned about soft skills, work ethics, resume writing, and interviewing.

Fourteen teams made the CIF playoffs in 2010–2011. Sixteen teams have made the CIF playoffs in 2011–2012 seasons, as of this printing.

Our staff moved our Sacred Wednesdays to Sacred Mondays for next year because Mondays will be easier for teachers to attend, since we don’t have other trainings or conferences on Mondays. This change will be beneficial for students because our teachers will have time to look at data, talk about how to improve instruction, and attend without worrying about getting to another meeting somewhere else!

OVHS offers after-school academic intervention for all students recommended by their teachers for extra help. This class is staffed with three Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) tutors and teachers.

We are nearing the end of the process of creating the OVHS Core Values to guide and inspire everything we do here at school. More information will be available soon.

In the future, we will be increasing the use of formative assessments across the board in all subjects. We want to make sure we get and give good feedback on how well students are learning our standards.

We will get even better at sharing best practices and focusing on teaching and learning during our Sacred Monday time.

To ensure that our students are career ready, the Career Center will offer a full curriculum aligned with Career Technical Education (CTE) standards in job readiness training. Upon completion of the 12 hours of training, each student will receive a certificate to present at interviews.

We will continue to increase enrollment in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Honors courses.

Here is a nice bottom line for Ocean View: We want to make sure our students master the standards in their subjects, and we want to make sure they are fully prepared to enter the college or career of their choice.

This is just the short list of the highlights and challenges—my original list had 57 highlights and 23 challenges! We are pleased to continue to meet the challenges and celebrate the highlights! The stakes for our students have never been higher, and it’s never been more fun to meet those challenges head on.

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Westminster *High School*

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Shirley Vaughn
Principal

The Best of the Best

The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) honored Mrs. Hanh Le as Westminster High School Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Le started

her position as the Vietnamese community liaison specialist at Westminster High School (WHS) in 2005. Mrs. Le is the only Vietnamese translator on campus, and with 40 percent of our 2,700 students being Vietnamese, she helps a tremendous number of students.

Mrs. Hahn Le works closely with parents and students who are new to the country to assist them in navigating the American educational system. She translates orally and in written form for families with special needs during assessments and in Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings. She coordinates parent nights to educate our families on important topics such as graduation requirements and tutors students in our after-school program. Mrs. Le was recognized for her consistent standard of always going above and beyond, in every way possible, to help our students and families. Congratulations, Mrs. Le!

Two Westminster High School students, Kathryn Ngo and Johnny Nguyen, were selected as Gates Millennium Scholars, funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The two seniors who received this very prestigious award will have their entire college tuition paid for up to 10 years at the colleges of their choice!



Mrs. Hanh Le



Gates Millennium Winners, Johnny Nguyen and Kathryn Ngo with principal, Shirley Vaughn

Kathryn Ngo plans to attend University of California, Riverside and study biochemistry with an emphasis in medical science and genetic engineering. After earning her doctorate, Kathryn plans to study stem cell research. During her biology classes, she studied genetics and found it even more interesting because of a family genetic disorder that affects only some of her family members. Discovering the dynamics of genetic disorders is what made her realize she wanted to study this field for a lifetime.

When she found out she was selected for this award, she said, "I can't believe this, and I thank my mom for all the things she has done to support me. A great financial burden has been lifted from me."

Kathryn is grateful that everyone at WHS is nice and the teachers are very willing to help students succeed. One of the things she will remember about her senior year is how she and other students started the Harry Potter "Dumbledore's Army." She had so much fun dressing up as Voldemort and encouraging other students to join the club. She feels she is a more outgoing person because of her teachers and her involvement in the club, and, of course she is going miss all her friends.

Johnny Nguyen also plans to attend University of California, Riverside. He plans to study chemical engineering with a minor in biology. His studies will be in pharmaceuticals, and he plans to work in cancer research. Johnny's goal is to earn a doctorate degree.

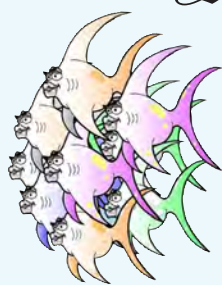
"Thank you, God, that this happened," Johnny said when he learned he had received the award. He prayed every day during the process of writing the scholarship application. Johnny's mother sent him a text message when the letter arrived: "You got a letter, and your dad and I are crying right now." Johnny's sister, Kelly, also won the Gates Millennium Scholarship in 2009. She is currently attending the University of California, San Diego.

"I would not be the person I am today without the help and support of my teachers," Johnny shared. His most memorable experience was when he volunteered for Project Light and helped with donations of food and clothes for homeless families. Johnny was impressed with the student groups and clubs that participated, and he was proud that the majority of the participants were from his school. He learned from this experience that no matter what happens in life, as long as you have support from friends and family, anything is possible. He also learned that when a person feels passionate about something, it is possible to change lives.

Six Westminster High School students have met the requirements to enter the 2013 National Merit Scholarship program. The qualifying students are: Michael K. Dinh; Kim M. Ma; Lincoln Nguyen; Thien-Y C Nguyen; Kelly M. Trinh; and Kim-Lan T VoIn. In recent years, approximately two WHS students qualified for the program. This year we have surpassed our average. With a Selection Index score of 200 or above, each of these students is among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants of 1.5 million program entrants. From the 50,000 students, 16,000 will be named National Merit Program Semifinalists in September.

Congratulations!

School News



Have a fun summer!

**Our next issue is
September 12**

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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,
give us a call today!

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