

School News

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

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JUNE–AUGUST 2013

So Much More than Strong Academic Programs and Winning Athletic Teams

*By Connie Mayhugh, Ed.D.,
Executive Director – Curriculum,
Instruction, and Categorical Programs*

If you have stopped by the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) office anytime since mid-March, you have seen the amazing artwork that students from all district high schools created. The display included 3D artwork, paintings, pencil drawings, sculptures, and ceramic pieces. At the art show opening, Board members, the artists and their families, teachers, and community guests were welcomed with a reception and invited to view all the artwork on display. It was an exciting opening event. Much of the artwork rivals the quality produced by professional artists. Student work was also on display at the Huntington Beach Art Walk from April 18 through May 7 in downtown Huntington Beach.

The award-winning HBUHSD performing arts program, this year and for many years, has been recognized locally, at the state level, and on a national level. The Edison High School Charger Pageantry Corp, which includes the Marching Band and Color Guard, has earned first- or second-place recognition at many state band competitions. The spring theater production was performed for more than 800 audience members over three nights. The video production program, “Bolt TV,” creates high-quality, award-winning movies and videos.

Fountain Valley High School’s instrumental music program earned high marks for their Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and Chamber Orchestra, their Color Guard earned top awards in national competition, and their percussion group performed at the Percussion Group Championships in Dayton, Ohio. The vocal music program was recently awarded top honors at a San Diego competition. In the fall, the theater program presented Shakespeare at their own Globe Theater, and the spring musical was met with rave reviews.

Huntington Beach High School’s Academy of the Performing Arts (APA) program was recognized for its excellence in theater performances at the



National High School Music Theater awards and the Jimmies, the high school version of the Tony Awards. The Music Media Entertainment and Technology Program (MMET) received Apple, Inc. Distinguished School Status for the fourth consecutive year and has produced five commercials, which are being aired on national television.

Marina High School presents Broadway-style shows, bringing high-quality entertainment to the West Coast each spring. The instrumental music program has earned top awards at the California State Band Championships and the California State Symphonic Band Festival. The Jazz Band earned Outstanding Trombone Section

honors at the Irvine Jazz Festival, and Winter Guard has earned high marks, including gold medals, at their championship competitions. The new String Orchestra also earned high honors at the State Festival. The Digital Media Production Class received 11 nominations and won gold in four categories at the Orange County Student Film Festival.

Ocean View High School’s Seahawk Squadron continues to excel. They earned their third consecutive Division 1A championship title at the California State Band Championships. The Westminster High School Entertainment Unit, including the Lion Marching Band, the Steel Drum Band, the Drum Line, the Jazz Band, and the Color Guard, have placed in the top five in more than 10

local and state competitions this school year. The theater group does multiple full-length plays each year, and the video production group is on YouTube, with over 34,000 views and many subscribers.

As you can see, the visual and performing arts are alive and well in the HBUHSD! Our student performers and creators are guided to greatness by our outstanding visual and performing arts teaching staff. Be sure to check all the school Web sites for upcoming theatrical and musical events. Keep your eyes and ears open...there is so much more to come.

Fountain Valley



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OC Dept of Ed., Mayor’s of City of FV and HB

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Covering the:
**FOUNTAIN VALLEY
HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL
OCEAN VIEW AND
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:
Netragrednik by Neta Madison

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune

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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



Testing is over and the final days
of the school year are counting down.
Congratulations to the Class of 2013!

Traditions are important as Mark
McCurdy Mayor of Fountain Valley
writes in his article on page 30 about
Flag Day celebrated on June 14. We
are always mindful of the service men
and women serving our country. Have
a Happy 4th of July and a wonderful
summer.

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activities, the libraries offer programs
for all ages and our camp/activities
section is full of choices. We have two
contests in this issue...have fun!

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Fountain Valley School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marc Ecker

Our New Energy Program

Commendations go to Steve McMahon and his Chevron Energy Team for another excellent presentation on our energy conservation project. They worked very hard to make sure that information on the project was distributed in the community and that this information, along with the location of the solar panels, was posted on the Web site. A community outreach program will be coordinated by Chevron, in which the community will be invited to attend information forums to ask questions and receive answers from the experts.

Information was gathered from Trustees from Huntington Beach City School District, who spoke highly of the Chevron project. They in fact are so enthusiastic about their savings that they are strongly considering additional work with Chevron in the near future. It was pointed out that the Chevron staff member charged with the community outreach is visible and remains with the project from start to end.

I am very confident that our community, knowing our district's need to obtain and preserve resources for our instructional program, will be quite supportive of our forward thinking, environmentally friendly, educationally supportive, and fiscally sound way of saving district money while we improve our energy infrastructure.

The district staff thanks the Board for its unanimous support of the resolution and the lease purchase agreement. As we move ahead with the project, we will seek to mitigate to every reasonable extent any negative aesthetic impacts on the neighbors while maximizing the savings potential from solar energy.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jeanne Galindo
Member

FVSD: The Lighthouse District

What is it that makes Fountain Valley School District (FVSD) a lighthouse for education in Orange County? What beckons parents from surrounding cities to send over 1,000 students (16 percent of our enrollment) to this small 10-school district?

FVSD produces the highest scoring elementary students in Orange County. They are motivated by teachers with years of experience in schooling children of various backgrounds and with multiple needs. With the longest serving superintendent in the county, FVSD has been able to attract an administrative staff that is experienced, innovative, and willing to spend time on effective programs. School principals and support staff exhibit similar exemplary skills.

The attendance rate is high, and the truancy rate is low. Students like going to school. Parents are invested in their children's education. The PTOs and PTAs actively raise funds for projects that the district budget cannot afford in difficult financial times.

All-day kindergartens, transitional kindergartens, and the state preschool program give flexibility to working parents and a head start to children.

The School Board is focused and financially responsible. The district meets the state's emergency fund requirement, which gives it safe harbor in a tough financial environment.

Continual staff development, including sharing best practices, encourages a high-achiever teacher mentality. Teachers seek out and receive honors such as Distinguished School Awards, a Blue Ribbon School nomination, and a California State Teacher of the Year semi-finalist.

Add continuing growth of technology use and business, city, and foundation support, and Fountain Valley is a district steadily, brightly shining its light forward.

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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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Chris Christensen
Principal

New Partnership

On April 6-13, 2013, Mr. Christensen traveled to China, along with Jay Adams (Principal - Tamura), Dr. Marc Ecker (Superintendent), Anne Silavs (Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum/Instruction), and Ian Collins (School Board Member). They visited high performing schools in Beijing, Chongqing, and Xi'an during their week-long adventure. Tsinghua University Primary School, Beijing, China now has an official "sister" school partnership with Courreges. Tsinghua University is considered

to be the "Harvard" of China and the primary school (located on the same campus) educates most of the children of the professors from the University. Several Tsinghua students visited Courreges last year and both Courreges and Tsinghua look forward to fostering a lasting friendship and partnership for years to come.



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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

Technology and Cultural Awareness at Cox Elementary

Every student at Cox Elementary School has opportunities to use technology to work on their mathematical and literacy skills. Each student has their own login and password to work at their appropriate level in

reading comprehension, fluency, and phonic skills. A life sized Ji-Ji the Penguin visited our school for a photo op with our top achieving students for ST Math.

Each year, Cox Elementary School celebrates our diversity and cultural awareness. This year our staff and the PTO organized our Multi-Cultural Fashion Parade as well as the Anh Thanh Lion Dancers. Big thanks to Mrs. Jennifer Hopkins and Mrs. Kathy Lewis to organizing this year's events and assemblies.



Ms. Kim O'Donnell's top ST Math Achievers:
Angeline Tran, Kenny Quan, Hghi Vu, & Giselle Do.

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Harry C. Fulton *Middle School (6–8)*

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Jennifer Perkins
Principal



Inger Kent
Assistant Principal

Thinking Outside the Box

On April 11, Fulton was named a 2013 California Distinguished School. This honor was granted based upon our outstanding academic achievement, as well as on two signature practices that the state evaluated during the application process and a visit to the school.

Here at Fulton, we pride ourselves on offering our students an excellent academic program which supports the whole child. Our two

signature practices of curriculum planning and master scheduling support the needs of all learners, and our focus on community building ensures that we do just that!

Curriculum planning is how we design instruction to meet the multiple needs of our students. For example, we offer classes based upon student needs, whether it's Advanced Placement math or English, as well as academic support through our co-teaching model and support electives. The result of our "think outside the box" scheduling is the greater number of students who achieve at high levels on the state testing and high school placement exams.

Community building is at the core of our positive school climate. Fostering a sense of belonging within the school community at the middle school level is key to making these years positive, successful and memorable for our Falcons.

Some of the programs that we have been able to bring to our campus, thanks to the support of the community and PTA, include student clubs and campus activities, Family Science Night, eighth-grade science camp, sports teams and cheerleading, peer-mentoring programs, elective classes, teacher grants, field trips, and technology.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Julie Mastropaolo

Gisler Elementary School is proud to nominate Julie Mastropaolo as our 2012–2013 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Mastropaolo has been teaching for six years at Gisler. She has dedicated her life to the children and to the classroom. Julie is an amazing teacher!

According to a nominating peer, "Every year we are more and more impressed with her teaching skills and creativity. She truly teaches all children. She constantly creates new ways to bring curriculum to her students so every child, no matter his or her ability, can have access to that material. Her skills at differentiation are impressive; from Gifted And Talented Education to Special Day Classes, all of her students achieve to their highest potential. She is willing to share and collaborate with other teachers, regardless of grade level, to help us all be better teachers. Julie truly cares about her students, her colleagues, and her school."

Erin Bains
Principal

It is a joy to walk into Mrs. Mastropaolo's classroom. There is a positive feel to her room, and students are engaged with numerous activities in all subject areas. It is a privilege to work with an educator as fine as Julie Mastropaolo. I am proud to present her as our Teacher of the Year on the basis of her outstanding contributions to the lives of the children and adults she works with daily.

William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Our Teacher of the Year

Michele Couvertier teaches special education to the kindergarten through second-grade students at Newland. She has a great ability to engage each student as she teaches them social and daily living skills along with academics.

As a SUCSESS Academy participant, her trainings have ignited some powerful teaching. As well as teaching daily living skills, she has been trained in behavior modification, PECS (Picture Exchange Communication) visual icons and video modeling.

This is her eighth year at Newland, where she has been on the School Site Council and Leadership Committee. The last seven years she has taught special education preschool at Newland. This is her first year teaching the kindergarten and first- and second-graders.

Michele knows that every child can learn, and that every child learns differently. So she creates activities based on her students' unique needs as dictated by their Individualized Education Plans (IEP). She also feels that students learn best when they explore on their own using both kinesthetic and multisensory learning approaches. She feels that when they discover things on their own it helps their learning and retention.

Also, working one-on-one with children who need extra care really helps as well. When using peer mentoring, she pairs up children who have similar personalities so that are able to help each other with group work. She also teaches her students strategies to help them become lifelong learners.

Michelle collaborates well with our staff members, who all work together to support each student. And like most committed teachers, Michele spends much additional time to ensure that all students will find lifelong success.



Chris Mullin
Principal

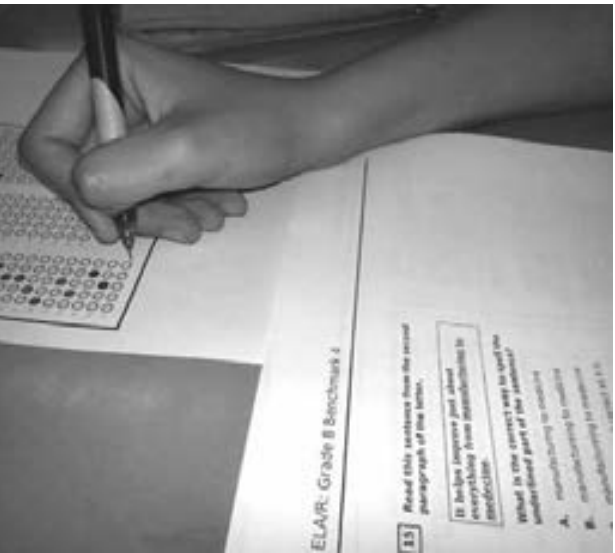


Heather Harrison
Assistant Principal

Striving to Be the Best

Masuda School has seen double-digit-growth in its API scores over the last four years. Although proud, we know that we cannot rest on our past achievements. So this year, in preparation for the California Standardized Tests, Masuda implemented a number of innovations to keep us heading in a positive direction.

The week prior to testing, identified students attended special assemblies called "Test Talks" led by the assistant principal and counselor. These assemblies focused on proficiency levels, the student's previous test scores, and the creation of personal testing goals. In addition, the students learned about test preparation and test-taking skills and ideas.



Preparing for the California Standardized test .

During the two-week CST testing period, the students were also given many positive encouragements and quotes. Many of them were given supportive and affirming messages from their parents. All of this was meant to enhance and complement the work that our teachers and students have been doing all year in the different curriculums. At Masuda, we continue to strive to be the best that we can be.

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

Putting Students First

Oka Elementary School 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 lists.

Certificated Teacher of the Year Mrs. Cyndi Harrell is a stellar teacher, who is currently teaching a first- and second-grade combination class. She is one of those teachers who is adaptable anywhere you put her when she is working with students. She has taught for 16 years, all of them at Oka, and is greatly appreciated because of her ability to get things done throughout our campus.

Despite not having any aspirations to be an administrator, Mrs. Harrell does so many things that give her colleagues the impression and comfort she would be a great one someday! Mrs. Harrell consistently helps organize and orchestrate a variety of schedules that impact all staff and students in a manner that ensures no one feels like they're getting the short straw. Students in her classroom are expected to achieve success through her support and unwavering commitment to seize every learning opportunity.

Classified Employee of the Year Mrs. Mary Clements is a wonderful part of the Oka staff because she never wavers in putting students as her top priority. As an instructional assistant in Oka's fourth- and fifth-grade Special Day Class classroom, "Mrs. Mary" has a huge heart for students, especially those with special needs. Whether working with small groups in her classroom or helping students integrate and mainstream into general education classrooms successfully, her focus is on helping students through her nurturing heart.

Congratulations, Mrs. Harrell and Mrs. Mary! You make Oka proud!

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jay Adams
Principal

Future Stars

During the month of April, Tamura School recognized some outstanding students: Tamura's Top Tigers for the 2012-2013 school year. At the School Board meeting held on April 16, we held a celebration to honor these fabulous students for their accomplishments and their exceptional contributions to our school. We are proud to applaud: Reese Proli, kindergarten; Emma Valenzuela, first grade; Audrey Rush, second grade; Jack Falkenstien, third grade; Mindy Doan, fourth grade; and Taylor Tran, fifth grade.

The entire school staff, including their teachers, Mrs. Lopez, Ms. Daniels, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Dao, Mrs. Boktor/Mrs. Siefker, and Mrs. McHale/Mrs. Moore, is extremely proud of their accomplishments and is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work with such stellar students.



Tremendous Tamura Tigers!

Also honored were outstanding parent volunteers Yolanda Mathey-Chavez and Marina Rodriguez. These two PTO members have spent years going above and beyond for the students and faculty of Tamura. There aren't enough "thank yous" in the world to show our appreciation to these two moms and the rest of our phenomenal PTO.

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

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Julie Ballesteros
Principal

We're Reading for Charity

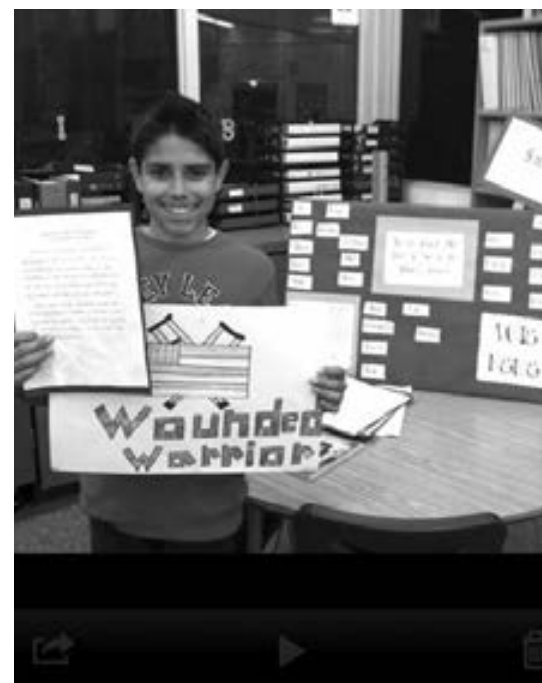
Mrs. Jessica Craig, Plavan's resource specialist, is inspiring students to "Be the Change" they wish to see in the world.

Mrs. Craig recently challenged a small group of students to read for charity. Beginning in January, the students have been earning quarters by reading books and taking and passing comprehension tests through our Accelerated Reader program. Each book is equal to one quarter.

In addition to encouraging reading, Mrs. Craig has also challenged each student to research a different charity, and then complete a poster and essay about that organization's purpose. Each charity was displayed and voted on so that the children may decide where they would like to donate the money they raised.

To date, the children have earned \$150, and will continue to earn more until the last week of school. Their hard work has also inspired a few families to match the amount they've raised.

We are extremely proud of their efforts, and are inspired by their desire to "Be the Change."



Fifth grade student reading for the Wounded Warrior Charity.

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

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Cara Robinson
Principal



Jennifer Kadjasz
Assistant Principal

Amazing Accomplishments

It's great to look back, and even more promising looking forward! Talbert Middle School has been full of amazing accomplishments this academic year!

One of Talbert's science teachers, John Wood, won Teacher of the Year for Orange County and made it to the top 10 for the state of California. John's love of teaching is evident to anyone who walks through his door, and his motto, "Make it a great day!" rings true in the walls of his own classroom.

Talbert's principal, Cara Robinson, was named Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Middle School Administrator of the Year, due to her relentless quest to help intertwine more interventions and incorporate good teaching strategies, such as student engagement, into every student's day.

One of our PTO members, Lisa Schultz, was recognized with the Outstanding Service Award for her time and effort to make Fountain Valley a better environment by working on everything from book fairs to bond measures.

Our student body has accomplished quite a great deal as well. Keoni Gandall, an eighth-grader, is taking his science fair project, "Engineering Pink Salt," to the national level after winning first-place honors at the state level. Elizabeth Markus, also an eighth-grader, earned top honors for her poem, "And the Snow Still Falls," at Chapman University's Holocaust Art and Writing contest, which earned her a study trip to visit Washington D.C. Talbert's cheer squad's infectious attitude has been noticed, based upon the first-place finishes they have earned through their hard work and dedication.

Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Prepared for the Future

California school districts are progressing toward the implementation of the California Common Core State Standards (CCSS). It is important to know the goal of CCSS: To better prepare students with the skills necessary for success in college and careers. The standards provide a clear and consistent definition of what students are expected to learn in each grade level and define the knowledge and skills that successful students need to master. They focus on rigorous content and application of knowledge through higher order thinking skills and real-life application. All 21st-century students need to be prepared to compete in a globally society, and the CCSS are internationally benchmarked to meet this need.

It is important to note that California currently has some of the highest quality academic standards. For that reason, California's standards greatly aided in the development of the Common Core Standards (CCS). Many of the authors of California's standards also worked on the CCS, especially for elementary mathematics and foundational reading.

We have learned how important it is today that teachers start preparing students for jobs that have not even been created yet, helping them use new skills to build towards creativity and innovation. Real-world applications and a variety of techniques for the children to utilize are very important. The Common Core State Standards will help create better critical thinkers and students who are better prepared for college and/or the work force.

How can parents support student success? Actively discuss topics and areas of study being taught in school at home with your child. Provide opportunities for your child to practice keyboarding and basic computer operation skills, such as using a mouse. Encourage reading of informational, nonfiction text along with fiction and literature. Practice basic math facts in the early grades with your child. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and sticks with trying to solve a problem or understands something for the first time.

Together, we can equip our children with the tools they need to be successful individuals in the ever-changing 21st-century world in which we live.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Debbie Cotton
President

Myths vs. Facts

In today's world, all students must be prepared to be successful in college and the workforce. California adopted the Common Core State Standards (Common Core) to help make this a reality. As the state transitions to the new standards, we outline the facts about what the Common Core will mean for our students and families.

Recently, a television personality claimed lots of things about the Common Core - learn what are facts and what are myths. Read on and take action by contacting your local principal and board members to ensure these standards are upheld to benefit students.

Myth 1: Common Core is an effort of the Federal Government to nationalize education and force states to teach all students the same way.

Fact: Common Core is a state-led initiative by governors, state superintendents, and nonprofit agencies to modernize education standards. It is research-based and molded with more than 10,000 comments from the public. The California State Board of Education voluntarily adopted the Common Core in 2010. California received no incentives from the federal government for taking this action and our local school boards believe implementing these standards will better prepare our students for college and careers.

Myth 2: Our previous standards were judged superior to Common Core.

Fact: While our current standards are high compared to many other states, children are still leaving school unprepared for what lies ahead. In addition to the students who do not graduate from high school or choose not to attend college, many students who do attend college require remediation in math or English. The Fordham Institute, one of the organizations often cited praising California's standards even said some of the Common Core shifts "would benefit our already-strong standards," and the Common Core State Standards are quality standards for the nation. (source)

Myth 3: States may not adjust the new Common Core State Standards to meet their state-level needs.

Fact: Common Core allows states to add standards on top of the Common Core. California added a few standards in mathematics and local school boards adopt the standards that best meet their students' needs.

Myth 4: Common Core Standards represent a national curriculum and implementing 100% of Common Core means that the standards tell teachers precisely how they must teach.

Fact: Standards, by definition, are not a curriculum. Common Core defines the "what" rather than the "how" of teaching. Common Core is a set of standards that outline what students should know at a particular grade level in order to be on track to learning the skills and content to be prepared for college, careers, and beyond. Curriculum, course content and instructional strategies appropriate for different grade levels are all determined at the local level.

Myth 5: Referring to the Common Core as "National Standards" is the most accurate way to describe them.

Fact: Neither Congress nor the U.S. Department of Education was involved in the development of Common Core, nor have they mandated Common Core adoption. Not all states have chosen to participate. In fact, the Common Core are nationally aligned state standards because they were developed in collaboration between state and education leaders across the country.

Myth 6: California taxpayers will end up paying more for technology and curriculum updates under Common Core than they would have had to under the current standards.

Fact: Check edfacts for details.

Myth 7: Under the Common Core State Standards, students may graduate from high school reading at a 7th grade level.

Fact: The fact is that currently there are too many students graduating high school reading at a 7th grade level and even lower. This is a major reason why the Common Core were established in the first place. Common Core standards push students to read at even higher levels earlier in their school careers.



Debbie Cotton
President



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Member



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Circle View *Elementary*

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



Karen Sandors
Principal

Circle View Turns 50!

April 30 was a day of celebration for the students, staff, community, and alumni of Circle View Elementary School. Although much has changed in the past 50 years, Circle View remains a school with strong community involvement and pride.

The day began with student essay winners sharing their views of what they think Circle View will be like 50 years from now. Next the audience was treated to performances by the grade levels, singing songs from each decade over the past 50 years.

After the performances, students and guests continued the celebration with a community barbecue, where we served over 700 hamburgers and hot dogs. The festivities also included games, dancing, and face painting. With the help of our wonderful staff and volunteers, Circle View's 50th birthday celebration was one we're sure our students will remember for the next 50 years.



College View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Smith
Principal

Our Wildcats Give Thanks

As the year winds down, it is time to reflect and give thanks to our College View community partners.

I would like to start by thanking the fantastic College View PTA. All of our students have benefited from the educational and fun field trips, assemblies, technology, instructional materials and more that were made possible through the generous donations and fund-raising efforts of our PTA and community.

A special thank-you goes to PTA President Talea Magnusen, who has led a dynamic group of parents who dedicate many hours to our school. In addition, our community partnerships with Boeing, the Kiwanis of Huntington Beach, and the Network for a Healthy California have provided money and/or resources for technology, school supplies and our "Farm 2 Kids" fruit and vegetable program.

We are also very excited to announce that our kindergarten team of teachers – Mrs. Banuelos, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. Hamasaki and Mrs. Morgan – wrote a garden grant that was funded! The Whole Foods Garden Grant of \$2,000 will support an educational and edible garden.

The teachers will now have the ability during the 2013–2014 school year to obtain hands-on experiences for their Common Core units of study. All of the grade levels will be able to take advantage of this great learning opportunity as well.

Once again, thank you for helping our College View students learn and grow.

Harbour View *Elementary*

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



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Celebrating Our Volunteers

On May 29, we will be honoring our amazing volunteers with our annual Parent Volunteer Luncheon. This provides our students and staff with the opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to our volunteers for the support they provide during the year.

We are appreciative of the many parents and grandparents who come to Harbour View Elementary School on a weekly basis to help out in areas such as working in small groups for reading and math, preparing instructional materials, supporting PTA-sponsored fund-raisers and events, volunteering in the reading and computer labs, and so much more. In fact, I am so proud to announce that, through the monumental efforts of the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to present our annual Casino Night fund-raiser, our PTA raised over \$80,000! These monies will be used to enrich our educational program by enhancing technology in our computer lab. This is a critical component for student success, especially as we transition into the California Common Core State Standards beginning in the 2013–2014 school year.

Thank you, volunteers, for all you do to make Harbour View a wonderful place to work and learn!

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

Enjoying Our Garden

Golden View students are fortunate to have the experience of working in garden beds on our school farm. With the guidance of a parent volunteer, fourth grade students work each month to plant, weed, and deadhead vegetables. Each student in the classroom is responsible for tending to a plant in the garden. Their most recent harvest yielded beets, cauliflower, and celery. During a "farm to table" activity in the classroom, the fourth graders enjoyed eating their fresh organic produce. The students

sampled cream of cauliflower soup, harvested beets, and celery with cream cheese and raisins. Not only was this culinary experience enjoyed by all, but the students felt the pride involved from working hard and seeing the fruits of their labor.



Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Family Science Night

In April, Hope View PTO, under the direction of our PTO co-president Joe Belsito, co-hosted an interactive science night with students and their families. There were over 250 Hope View scientists involved, with eight different science-related stations. For an hour, we participated in an exciting night of fun doing hands-on science activities.

Our students came, and they found out how much water a coin would hold, discovered why bees buzz, skewered a balloon, and learned that they could step through an 8 ½-by-11-inch sheet of paper by creating their own “paper porthole!” Fun was had by all at the spin-art station as well as by creating their own boats and finding out how many coins it would hold before sinking.

We could never have hosted such a great event without our incredible adult volunteers. I’d like to give a huge thank-you to our parents and grandparents who volunteered at the various stations helping our students to understand the science concepts as they participated in the fun activities. Our parent volunteers truly made a difference here at Hope View!

Mesa View *Middle School*

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



Stephanie Henry
Principal

Distinguished Accomplishments

Mesa View Middle School is proud to be a recipient of the California Distinguished School Award for 2013. This award is a validation and recognition of many years of commitment, hard work, and success by our students, staff, and community. Mesa View Middle School qualified for this prestigious award by making significant progress in closing the achievement gap between subgroups of students while maintaining a high level of academic success. Through the application process, the Mesa View staff highlighted two key practices which contributed to these achievements: our Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) program and our use of Data-Informed Interventions to increase student literacy and academic growth.

Through our PBIS program, Mesa View creates a common language for behavioral expectations, and students are rewarded for positive behaviors. When student behavior is improved, students are more engaged in the classroom and able to focus on learning. Additionally, students who maintain a high grade-point average and appropriate behavior for each trimester participate in a grade-level assembly full of fun class competitions and performances. Students are motivated to behave appropriately so they do not miss the fun!

Mesa View’s data-informed interventions have successfully addressed the academic needs of our students for several years. These interventions include several components, such as roundtable discussions by grade-level teachers for at-risk students, support classes to improve literacy and math skills for students in need, and embedded processes for monitoring student progress.

I am so proud of the accomplishments of our students, staff, and community! Congratulations!

Lake View *Elementary*

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



Anna Dreifus
Principal

PTO/Community Support Makes All the Difference

We believe that through the concerted efforts of school, home and community, our children will be successful in both classroom and life. We teach a rigorous standards-aligned core curriculum and our students are showing impressive growth, but we don’t stop there.

With the support of our PTO and our community, we are able to provide educational experiences that go well beyond the textbooks. Field trips and visiting programs bring the concepts learned in the classroom to life. It’s one thing to read about stars or see pictures of them, but when you’re looking at them through a telescope at our Star Party, the concept gets cemented!

PE is alive and well at Lake View! Our upper-grade students have a structured PE program focusing on the skills needed to score well on the physical fitness test and be fit for life. This program begins in fourth grade and continues through the middle school years. The SPARK PE program helps students practice skills through fun, noncompetitive games and activities. Our annual Jog-a-thon is a big fund-raiser and a lot of fun!

To excel in school, students must eat a healthy diet and take part in exercise. Lake View is a partner in the Network for a Healthy California. Every month, students learn about healthy food choices and sample a healthy food they may never have tried before. Students also take home a bag of produce several times a year!

Thanks to a hard working PTO, a supportive community and a dedicated staff, Lake View students get an in-depth education in all curriculum areas.

Marine View *Middle School*

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



Shelley Morris
Principal

The Best Learning Experience Possible

It’s so hard to believe that the school year is almost over. Our Marine View Mariners have accomplished so much this year in academics, artistry, attitude and athletics – and I could not be more proud!

In early May, Mariner minds were put to the test as our students tackled the challenges of STAR assessments head on. Our teachers have done a fabulous job all year in providing students with the best learning experience possible. This being said, I am very confident that STAR was no sweat for our Mariners, and look forward to seeing what is certain to be amazing results!

I would also like to recognize the incredible support we have received all year long from our parent community, business community, volunteers, and, of course, the PTSA. These groups have provided essential funding for the growth of Marine View’s academic, performing arts and athletic programs, as well as helped kick-start our Technology Tune-Up program to help students meet the challenges of the 21st century.

We are so grateful for this support, and look forward to working with all of you again next school year.

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Oak View *Elementary*

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Laura Dale-Pash
Principal

A Hero Among Heroes!

Oak View has a special hero! Alma Barraza is an amazing young lady with an incredible story of bravery. Alma is a fifth-grader at Oak View, and at the age of 8, she saved a young girl from an assault. She not only found entry into a locked apartment but also grabbed the girl and took her to safety.

Alma has received many honors as a result of her bravery. In March, she received an award from the Huntington Beach City Council. In April, she was honored by a group called Crime Survivors. At a hotel banquet with 500 attendees, Alma was spotlighted as the Citizen of the Year by Orange County police agencies and sheriffs. She met Sheriff Lee Baca as well as Eileen Frere, KABC News Orange County bureau chief. Alma will also be recognized as a Huntington Beach Character Counts nominee.

Oak View is proud of Alma and her courage!



Pleasant View *Ocean View Preparatory Preschool*

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



CAMP OVPP

Ocean View Preparatory Preschool (OVPP) is excited about this year's summer program, CAMP OVPP. OVPP is part of the award-winning Ocean View School District, providing early literacy and knowledge to preschool-aged children who are three to five years old.

Our summer program is scheduled to begin on July 1 and will conclude on August 28. Each week our "little campers" will follow a theme, learn new concepts, and have fun in a safe, nurturing environment. The camp schedule will consist of art projects, games, spirit activities, cooking, water play days, special visitors, special events, and much more.

When the summer fun is finished, the 2013–2014 school year will begin on Wednesday, September 4. OVPP offers a developmentally-appropriate, academic preschool experience, which lays a strong foundation for K–12 education. The OVPP program is aligned with the California Preschool Learning Foundations and will provide children with the opportunity to develop their cognitive, social, emotional, physical, linguistic, and creative abilities.

Oak View *Preschool & Education Resource Center*

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

Parent-Participation Preschool

The Oak View Preschool staff and children owe a great deal of thanks and appreciation to their families. Oak View Preschool is truly a "parent-participation preschool." Parents have donated over 10,800 hours of classroom volunteer time! In addition, some parents work more than six hours per month in their child's classroom.

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins do many things to help keep the preschool running smoothly. They get the playground ready for our children to play outside by cleaning off the equipment and putting out all of the toys. They play soccer and lead other active games. Inside the classroom, our volunteers talk and play with the children as they work together with puzzles, play dough or blocks, or they do an art project. Volunteers clean, sweep, cut, glue, count, staple, and organize.



Many of our families have volunteered two or more days per month so far this year. They help make our program an exceptional one! Here is the percentage of families who have volunteered two or more days per month. May and June are yet to be counted, but we know the numbers will be great!

September: 85 percent, October: 95 percent, November: 89 percent, December: 90 percent, January: 95 percent, February: 91 percent, March: 91 percent, April: 92 percent

Spring View *Middle School*

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



Raising the Bar

Spring View Middle School students and staff are working hard to surpass last year's Academic Performance Index (API) score of 842. Last summer, Spring View received an API score of 842, which represents the record for the highest API score in the school's history. While the Spring View staff and students are proud of our work thus far, we recognize that we still have much room to improve.

The API is one of the key indicators that the county and state look at to evaluate a school's overall performance. A score of 842 represents six-point growth from the previous year. This year the Spring View staff is looking to build on our momentum and break through the 850 mark. To that end, earlier this year students set their own personal California Standards Test (CST) goals, with help from their advisement teachers, and outlined the steps they needed to take in order to achieve their goals. In addition, throughout the year teachers have been continuously monitoring their student's progress, making every effort to ensure that all students are prepared not only to do well on the Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) test, but more importantly to make certain that students have mastered the skills necessary to be successful in the future.

We anxiously await the release of the new API scores in August!

Star View *Elementary*

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



Jamie Kinder
Principal

Jogging for Technology

Imagine 557 children all running, listening to music, and having a blast together. These are the memories that will last forever for the children of Star View. On April 24, 2013, the Parent-teacher Organization (PTO) held our annual Jog-a-thon to raise funds for technology. The committee organizers, Gary and Sandi Frahm, set up three tracks on our large grass area, which allowed all the students to enjoy this event together. The students gathered pledges and asked for donations to try to win prizes such as a specially designed t-shirt, a park trip with the principal, or a bike. In addition to monetary prizes, the PTO is also awarding the students who ran the most laps in each grade level with ribbons and trophies. Thanks to all of our runners and donations, Star View has approximately \$7,000 to add to our future computer lab!



Sun View *Elementary*

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



Kristi Hickman
Principal

A Commitment to Success

Another wonderful year is coming to a close. As we reflect upon these past few months, we are reminded that it has once again been a period of fun, hard work, strategic focus and accomplishment!

All of our efforts have been directed towards providing each of our students with a school environment that is safe, stimulating, academically powerful, and focused on success. It is gratifying to work in a community where so many people give of their time, talents, energy and commitment to help serve our students.

During the past few weeks Sun View has concluded its STAR testing, celebrated our wonderful staff, moms, and volunteers, performed a first-grade rendition of "Tiki Tiki Tembo," attended Centennial Farm, hatched chickens, and participated in the annual fishing derby at Carr Park.

Preparation is also under way for the end-of-year annual Talent Show, the fifth-grade promotion, our Open House celebration, and the fifth-grade field trip to the Tiger Woods Learning Center.

Our commitment to student success is the result of a united effort and open partnership between teachers, parents, students, and community members like the Kiwanis, Rotary and OCOne. We also can't forget our board members, district personnel and staff!

Willa Foster said the following: "Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution." Thank you to everyone for your support of Sun View School. It is a wonderful place to grow and learn.

Are you looking for me for the game on page 28?
You'll need this page number for the answer.



Village View *Elementary*

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



Kathy Tryon
Principal

Reenacting History

We are fortunate to have so many outstanding experiences for our students! Our fifth-graders learn

a lot about United States history throughout the year. Their teachers work very hard to provide memorable opportunities so that the students can really get a feel for actual historical events.

Our fifth-grade students just participated in the California "Walk through the American Revolution." This program is standards-aligned and covers many aspects of that time in history. It is an interactive experience where students become notable people from the time of the American Revolutionary War. They learn their assigned character, memorize a script card, and dress as that person would have dressed.



They then teach the audience about their character through acting and storytelling. Famous battle scenes are depicted, as well as important events like the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The students had a blast and did a great job in their various roles. We had many wonderful parents who also came to participate and watch this great experience.



Amy Kernan
Principal

Fashion and 'Force'

There are many exciting things going on at Vista View as the 2012–13 school year nears the end. Vista View held its annual Mother Daughter Fashion Show in April, and it was a huge

success. Several of our eighth-grade girls, escorted by some very stylish eighth-grade boys, showed off the latest fashions for the eighth-grade promotion and dance. The girls looked very chic as they strolled down the runway in their dresses in front of a large crowd of parents, families and photographers.

STAR testing is also coming up, and this year, Vista View students are using “the Force” to help achieve success. To kick off the testing season, the staff held a fun-filled Star Wars assembly geared toward preparing to do one’s best on the



test. Staff members dressed as Darth Vader, Chewbacca, Queen Amidala and other characters entertained students as they planned goals for the upcoming tests. It was a great time for all, and the students are definitely ready to show off their skills and knowledge.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 8

For example, the current standard for a 9th grade reading level will become the new standard for a 7th grade reading level under full implementation of the Common Core.

Myth 8: Under the Common Core, “College Readiness” means preparation for a selective two-year college, not a university.

Fact: An education rooted in the Common Core standards would actually prepare students to enter a university setting having spent the last 12 years building up to the complexity of material they will encounter at higher levels of education. Nowhere in the Common Core initiative or research do the authors define “college readiness” as readiness for a “two-year college” instead of a university. (source)

Myth 9: 70% of the texts read in English Language Arts classes must be information text in 12th grade, which prevents students from learning culture through high quality literature..

Fact: Common Core standards call for 70% of all texts (not 70% of English Language Arts texts) read in 12th grade to be nonfiction, which includes content area texts, such as science and history. (source) This was done to support literacy instruction in other content areas and underscore the role that all teachers must play in literacy efforts. (source) This will help ensure students are graduating high school adequately prepared to read rigorous college and career-level material, a majority of which are informational texts. (source)

Myth 10: The Common Core will be adopted in place of all California Academic Standards in all subject areas.

Fact: The Common Core standards provide new standards for English Language Arts and math only, not social studies, science and technical subjects. Nor will these other subjects be evaluated on the new Standards aligned tests. Current California Academic Standards will be used for these subjects. (source)

Westmont *Elementary*

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



Carol Furman
Principal

Testing Our Best

The students at Westmont School have been busily preparing for the Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing with many fun and motivating activities. All students who scored proficient or advanced on the 2012 test were honored at a Green Carpet Assembly in April. We rolled out the green carpet for these successful students, instead of the red one, because green is the color we associate with the proficient and advanced levels.

All second- through fifth-grade students also participated in a spirit-filled pep rally, where Mrs. Furman donned a green wig and sunglasses, and the students cheered and chanted our way to success! Students received bracelets as rewards for their efforts and were encouraged to wear them daily as a reminder of our commitment to excellence on the STAR test!

Our countdown to testing culminated with our “821, We’ll Get it Done” spirit day! Students came to school with T-shirts, hats, and other items decorated with the number 821, our school-wide Academic Performance Index (API) goal this year.

We know our Westmont Eagles tested their best!



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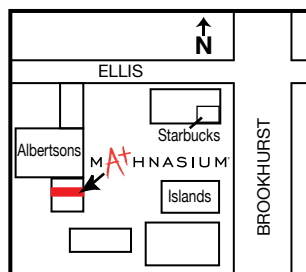
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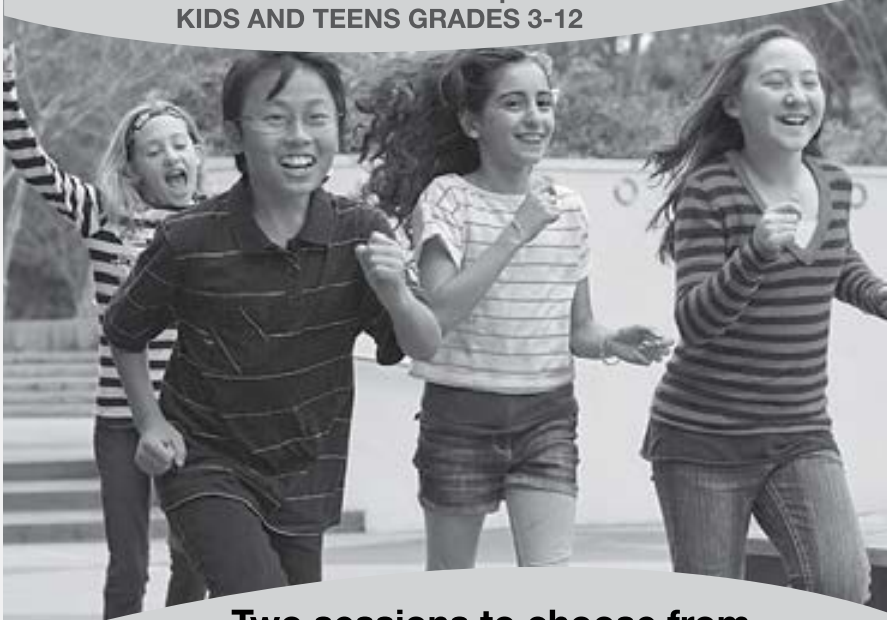


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Summer Fun at the Library



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

The Summer Reading Program runs from June 24 through August 3 this year. All young people age three and older may participate and win fun prizes and incentives for reading all summer long. We will have educational programs every Tuesday evening, with a kick-off program on Wednesday, June 26. All programs begin at 7 p.m.

Teens 13 through 18 may volunteer to assist with the reading program and may pick up applications at the library. Orientation is required, so please check with the library staff for dates in June.

We offer weekly Homework Help for children and teens, elementary through middle school, on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. through June 5. The program will begin again in the fall.

Fountain Valley Library has a shelving program for teens ages 16 years and older needing community service hours for graduation requirements, Honor Society, or college preparation. Teens may pick up applications from the library.

Beach Animals Reading to Kids (BARK) continues through June. Check with the library for more dates and registration.

Free family entertainment from magicians to art and drawing programs are scattered throughout the year. Check with the library staff for more details.

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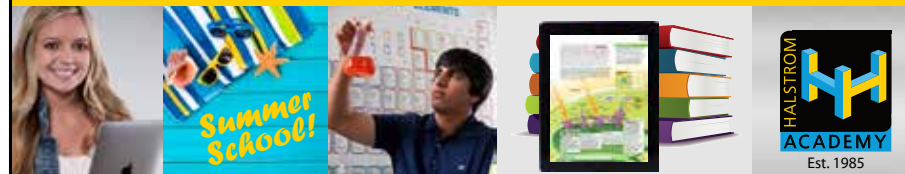
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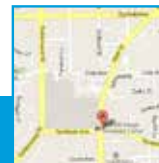
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What's Happening!



Barbara Richardson
Senior Librarian
Programming and
Youth Services

Start the summer by joining one of the Huntington Beach Library's summer reading programs. There's "Dig into Delicious Reading" for children, "Groundbreaking Reads" for teens, and "Reading is So Delicious" for adults. Sign up and qualify to earn prizes for reading. Programs start June 24 and end August 2. Register online at www.hbpl.org, or at any Huntington Beach Library branch.

Don't let your brain fuse burn out this summer! Ignite it with the Library's Brainfuse HelpNow database. Brainfuse offers LiveHelp, where students can interact with tutors from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. daily. It also offers skills building, a writing lab, a test center that includes practice SAT exams, plus a flashcard/game site to reinforce children's learning. LiveHelp can be very beneficial for children who are having difficulty with math.

For adults, Brainfuse also offers help with resume writing, the GED test, the U.S. citizenship test, Microsoft Office and career resources.

Want to learn a foreign language this summer? The Library's Mango database for adults or Little Pim for children offers you the tools to do so. Adults can choose from 49 different languages. There's even "Pirate." Children can learn languages from 10 different countries.

Mango, Little Pim and our Brainfuse HelpNow databases can all be accessed at home with your library card at www.hbpl.org, or at any Huntington Beach Library branch.

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2) Civil War

11:15am – 12:15pm

3) W.W. II

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Location: 225 Main Street, Seal Beach

Tuesdays 4 Week Course

June 25, July 2, July 9, July 16
Course \$60

Socialization through History

11:00am – 12:30pm

(combining dance with history)

Location: Long Beach



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Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Richard Tauer

STEAM Magnet Programs Launching

Beginning in September 2013, Clegg Elementary School and Warner Middle School will be launching Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) magnet programs, which will feature enriched instruction that emphasize these cutting-edge subject areas. As school districts transition from the California Learning Standards to the Common Core State Standards, we are seeing a renewed commitment in public education to STEAM. Although Westminster School District has a well-established reputation for providing students with a comprehensive instructional program that supports these aspects of the curriculum, we are taking it to the next level.

The curriculum at Clegg Elementary School will feature unique programs to support students in all aspects of STEAM. Teachers will enhance the district's existing hands-on, inquiry based Science Kit program by incorporating new technology, which includes on-line programs that will introduce students to careers in STEAM fields. Each trimester, the school will be inviting parents and community partners to visit campus for "lunch on the lawn," where students will be sharing their work.

Clegg students will also have greater access to technology as a result of newly-acquired iPad carts and computer-based instruction through the ST Math program. Students at all grade levels will participate in a Visual and Performing Arts program, which will be supported by the school's Arts Advantage Site Coordinator. Finally, plans are in the works to implement the Engineering is Elementary program, developed by the Boston Museum of Science, to introduce students to the fundamentals of engineering.

Not to be outdone, Warner Middle School's STEAM program is going to increase students' connectedness to the school and prepare them for 21st-century career opportunities. The timing for this transition couldn't be better, as each of Westminster School District's three middle school campuses will be opening state-of-the-art exploratory buildings, each with five state-of-the-art science classrooms and three exploratory labs.

Warner Magnet School's program will feature STEAM-related elective courses, which will prepare students for success in high school, college, and their future careers. In addition, through a theme-driven curriculum that integrates learning across language arts, math, science, social studies, and the electives program, students will be continuously engaged in project-based learning that will leverage Defined Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) technology. Finally, the school's leadership team is working diligently to establish partnerships with local universities and the business community to provide students with opportunities to connect their classroom work to their career goals.

As you can imagine, I am very proud of the work that the Magnet Development Teams at Clegg Elementary School and Warner Middle School have done to create authentic learning experiences that will better prepare students for the 21st-century workforce. I am looking forward to these two schools realizing the goal established by the School Board in October 2012 of implementing a magnet program within Westminster School District by the start of the 2013–2014 school year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Mary Mangold
President

Coming Soon!

The exciting transformations of our three middle schools, Johnson, Stacey and Warner Middle Schools, are scheduled to be completed this fall! Thanks to the funding provided by Measure O, a bond measure that voters passed, we are significantly enhancing the quality of education our students receive. The middle school renovations will include:

New Science and Exploratory Buildings

The new Science and Exploratory Buildings will be two-story, state-of-the-art, energy-efficient buildings designed for flexible use. The top floor will have four large science classrooms which include adjoining research areas, where various experiments can be conducted. The bottom floor will include three large classrooms. Each classroom will include large, medium, and small spaces, where teachers will work with students on collaborative, exploration-based learning. The three large classrooms will also include the ability to open between each room so students can move easily between classrooms.

Outdoor Learning Spaces

The concept of "everywhere a student goes on campus should be an opportunity to learn" is exemplified in the new Outdoor Learning Spaces. In addition to new outdoor spaces where classrooms, small groups of students, or individual students can go to work on projects, the spaces themselves will provide learning opportunities. For example, the pathways between buildings and the hardscape around buildings will include words and phrases stamped into the concrete relating to the primary focus of the particular learning space. There will be music scales and concepts relating to music and composition outside the music classroom. There will be science terms outside the new science classroom building. Long pathways will show the relationship between feet and meters. All the outdoor spaces will also have wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) access available to staff, students, and guests on the school's local, secure network. Teachers and students will have a wide variety of spaces for collaboration and learning.

New Gymnasiums and Multi-Use Facilities

In addition to a full sized gymnasium, these new facilities at Warner and Johnson will include fitness classrooms, dedicated music classrooms, drama classrooms, and stages for performances and presentations. The new facilities will have enough space to accommodate up to 1,500 people.

Going Green

One of our most exciting site enhancements is our commitment to "going green." A green school is a building or facility that creates a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while conserving energy, resources, and money. An environmental site assessment was conducted at each school. Water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality were analyzed. The new buildings at our middle schools promise to be environmentally friendly while conserving resources.

Guiding Principles

Six guiding principles were used in the development of all plans for Measure O projects. These guiding principles were established by a Priority Planning Committee, and they are a shared reflection of our vision, values, and dreams for the children in our district.

1. Provide 21st-century learning environments.
2. Develop schools as centers of the community.
3. Promote safe and healthy schools and lifestyles.
4. Facilitate exploration as the key component of learning.
5. Value stewardship and accountability in all activities.
6. Promote staff development and collaboration.

The Westminster School District Board of Trustees, along with the staff, students, and parents, are eagerly anticipating the grand openings of our "new and improved" middle schools this fall. In the meantime, you may view the construction progress at each middle school via a time-lapse camera on our Web site at www.wsd.k12.ca.us.

Westminster School District Board of Trustees



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Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lori Rogers
Principal

Anderson's Tree Planting on Earth Day

On Monday, April 22, 2013, in honor of Earth Day, Anderson Teacher on Special Assignment, Kevin Whitney, along with Associated Student Body (ASB) Teacher Leader, Dana Pople, ASB Student President, Britney Truong, ASB officers, Jennifer Vu and Tony Soi, planted a beautiful new Chinese Elm tree purchased by the Westminster School District. Dr. Lori Rogers stated, "Anderson has a history of tree planting. Over the past five years, more than 20 trees have been planted to beautify the campus and save the earth!" Our students chanted, "Happy

Earth Day" and answered questions as to whether the new tree was evergreen or deciduous (decidedly deciduous!). Students noted how trees help our earth produce oxygen and remove carbon dioxide. A single tree produces approximately 260 pounds of oxygen per year. That means two mature trees can supply enough oxygen annually to support a family of four! Special thanks to our custodian, Edgar Valladares, and Carlos Lopez in the maintenance department, for coordinating this Earth Day event. Happy Earth Day!



**Jennifer Vu, Dana Pople, Lori Rogers,
Kevin Whitney and Britney Truong**

Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

Students Keep the Arts Alive!

The Westminster School District Foundation for Educational Excellence presented the Westminster School District Choir on April 16 at the Rose Center Theatre. Under the direction of sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Brandi Robinson, 60 Eastwood Elementary School students participated in the extravaganza. This year's songs were "feel good" songs, with a message about individual feelings. The collection included "Dynamite," "Man in the Mirror," "Who Says," and "True Colors." The performance is unique in that students have only one practice session with all participating schools prior to the evening performance. The result was incredible! It was evident by the smiles on students' faces that they loved every minute of it.

Eastwood's Annual Variety Show, organized, produced, and choreographed by parent volunteers, proved to be an evening filled with dance, music, and theater. Student talent was extraordinary, highly diverse, and wonderfully enjoyable! Participants in the after-school dance and musical theater programs performed "It's Possible" and "I'll Always Be There," along with the Eastwood Choir's presentation of "Who Says" and "Dynamite." The standing-room-only audience listened to beautiful music from the piano, drums, ukulele, and clarinet and enjoyed vocal performances and dance routines from students of all ages.

Family Art Night, sponsored by Eastwood PTA, produced many masters. Students worked with pastels, crayons, charcoal, watercolors, colored pencils, collage, and tempera paints. Two local artists were present to instruct and support students. The Kids' Art Fair also highlighted additional masters and their masterpieces.

Clegg School

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



John Staggs
Principal

Full Steam Ahead

Clegg Elementary School has been named a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Magnet School by the Westminster School District, effective the start of the 2013–2014 school year. The program was designed by the National Science Foundation to revolutionize the teaching of math and science by integrating technology, the arts, and engineering into the curriculum. Students will experience learning activities appropriate to their skill and age levels, incorporating teaching methods such as project-based, problem-based, inquiry-based, and blended learning, as well as machines and mechanisms. We will provide opportunities for our students to become creative, independent thinkers and responsible, collaborative learners, with an emphasis upon acquiring skills in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and civility.



We are currently designing the model we envision at each grade level. Our wide variety of technology on our campus, such as iPad and netbook carts, digital document cameras, SMART Boards, and airliners, will help facilitate this change.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

DeMille Dolphins Make Beautiful Music

On Wednesday, April 17, the DeMille Elementary School Choir joined with choirs from around the district for the annual choir concert sponsored by the Westminster Foundation for Educational Excellence. The concert took place in the beautiful Rose Center Theater.

Under the direction of Rob Murdock, a teacher in the district, the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students sang *Dynamite*, *Pretty*, *Fireflies*, *True Colors* and more. The children sang out with great joy and enthusiasm, and the audience, a full house, responded with great appreciation.

The DeMille Choir shared their talents the following day at school. Mrs. Murray, the school's choir director, led the students in singing *Pretty* at the upper-grade Student of the Month assembly.

DeMille is very proud of its wonderful and talented group of singers. It is a treat to have them perform.



DeMille Choir performs for the Dolphin of the Month Assembly.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutierrez-Garcia
Principal

An Audience in Awe

Our Finley families shared a wonderful demonstration of talent when they witnessed the musical, artistic and dramatic productions of the Finley School ASES-PRIDE program on May 1.

Under the direction of the Finley ASES-PRIDE Director Ms. Jennifer Gallo, the students in grades three to five performed a musical adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* in front of a crowded multipurpose room filled with an audience that was simply mesmerized.

This production was the culmination of three months of hard work and dedication. There were many opportunities for students

in grades three to five to get involved. These included assistance with set design (visual arts), editing the script (English language arts), and long hours of rehearsal (performing arts).

Students in the ASES-PRIDE program had to try out for the parts in order to be selected for the key roles. What polished performances they were, that left everyone in awe! Once again, our Finley Eagles soared!



Members of the cast minutes before the musical began. (R-L)Yajaira Ramirez, Jennifer Guevara, Mariah Escatel.

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mark Murphy
Principal

Celebrating Our Heritage

Hayden is very proud of the diversity of its surrounding population. To celebrate and appreciate the great cultures in our community, and with the support of our staff, PTA and ESP program, the school last month produced an “International Night.”

This event was a great opportunity to learn about the many cultures that make up our school population, and to enjoy some wonderful entertainment and fabulous food! We had many students and community members perform traditional dances, play instruments, and sing in their native languages along with the fabulous Hayden Choir.



Many thanks go to Peter Barajas, Ms. Hahn, Jenny Mariscal, Lucille Schmitt and Cathy Renaker. These individuals worked tirelessly to help decorate the site, prepare food and choreograph dance routines. Thanks to their support and leadership, the International Night was a great success with our many students and their families. We hope to see you there next year!

Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Hiacynth Martinez
Principal

Reflecting on the School Year

This school year has been an enjoyable ride for Fryberger students and staff! We have learned so much, studied hard to achieve our goals, played along the way. No matter what the weather conditions were, the school activities taking place, or what was going on in the world, we never loss sight of what is important to us; student safety

& well-being and student achievement. And we accomplished all of this while having a good time! On behalf of the Fryberger Staff, we wish all of our students a safe and healthy summer vacation as we wind down the school year.



Mrs. Cordova promoting healthy eating & physical fitness while dressed as a piece of broccoli.



We play hard and work hard!

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Shane Vinagupta
Principal

Much to Celebrate!

It is always important to take the time to acknowledge the efforts of people who help make the year successful. They include parents, students and teachers.

First, our parents deserve acknowledgement. We have successfully implemented a series of parent workshops that were well attended. Workshop topics included high school readiness, health and fitness, and dealing with stress. It is this level of parent involvement that will help support our children’s growth academically and their overall well-being.

Next come our students. Our eighth-grade staff nominated one boy and one girl for the Masonic Awards given by the Mason’s Lodge in Huntington Beach for demonstrating great citizenship, great academics and great deeds. This year’s honorees were Eddie Velazquez and Ana Karina Barreto, both well deserving of this honor as representatives of Johnson.

Finally, our teacher Colleen Dudas was not only named Johnson Teacher of the year by her peers but also went on to win the district level teacher of the year and was recently named a semifinalist in the county search. She was one of 15 to get this prestigious designation to represent all of Orange County.

As you can see, Johnson has much to celebrate, and I would like to thank everyone in the Johnson community who works tirelessly without accolades because you want our school to be the best it can be.

Land School

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



Beverlee Mathenia
Director Child Development Programs



Reagan Lopez
Administrator Student Services

Going Digital

Land School has gone wireless, and plans are underway to add small carts of iPad minis to every classroom in the fall. Preschool teachers at Land have been using SMART Board technology and LeapPads in their classrooms for the past couple of years and have noticed that children are captivated by the digital tools. In addition to children engaging in instruction for longer periods of time, teachers feel children are learning at a much deeper level. Researchers have found that preschoolers

who use computers with supporting activities for key learning goals gain more than children without computer experiences. These gains include increased knowledge, long-term memory, verbal skills, problem solving, and manual dexterity.

The staff is also working on a school Web page, where parents can watch videos of actual instructional lessons, view pictures of their child's work, leave messages for teachers, and post messages to the school's blog.



Mrs. Nguyen's preschool student using a Tablet.

Schmitt *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Paul Andre White
Principal

Open House and Community Fair

In April, we held our Open House and in conjunction hosted a community fair. Both events went exceptionally well and drew an excess of 500 visitors to our campus.

The fair, which kicked off the hour prior to Open House, shared with our community programs and information from organizations like Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; Abrazar, Inc.; Think Together; and Nutrition Network. The Westminster Police Department was also there and provided quite a thrill for students when the officer allowed them to sit in the driver's seat of his squad car. Thanks to the Westminster High School Steel

Drum Band, the atmosphere had a relaxed island vibe to it that set the tone for the evening.



Family and community members enjoying the fair.

In addition to all of that, our PTA also played a critical role in helping make the evening a success by running the book fair and selling hot dogs, chips and drinks.

Meairs *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Working Hard and Playing Hard

At Meairs School, we work hard and play hard. Recently the Meairs PTA rewarded the students for all their hard work with a BMX assembly.

The entire student body gathered on the blacktop to watch this talented group of riders. They did jumps and flips, used ramps, and even jumped over several of the teachers and the principal.

The group, called Wheels of Freestyle, brought their "Go Big BMX Thrill Show" to Meairs to amaze the students with fabulous

tricks, but they also came with a message to share. Work hard, make good choices, and never quit. The students not only had a great time but also walked away thinking about what they might want to do in their lives and how important it is to stay healthy, stay focused, and go for what you want. And, if you're lucky, you might get to see your favorite teacher lie on the ground and have a BMX rider jump over her!



BMX rider jumps over principal and teachers.

Schroeder *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Beautify Our School

On Saturday, April 20, 2013 Schroeder Elementary School held its first ever Beautify Our School Day. In honor of Earth Day, over 70 volunteers spent three hours of their weekend at school making it look great. Staff, school families, and Girl Scout troops participated in a variety of projects. Some teams weeded, while others planted new flowers and shrubs, and still others cleaned in classrooms and around campus. It was a successful day, with our school grounds being beautified and students learning the value of volunteering.



Leandra Gimenez, Ashley Reyes, Leah Kurihara, Stephanie Bradford, Shelbi Williams, Talia Zubkoff

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tammy Hubbard
Principal

A Job Well Done

It has been another fabulous year here at Sequoia, one with numerous activities. The staff has worked diligently to help our students succeed and move ahead with their academics. We look forward to another wonderful year after a much-deserved rest. Our PTA has been a wonderful support to our students by providing field trips, class parties, assemblies, family night celebrations and a myriad of other services to our classrooms every day. 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 fabulous families, I have to express my deepest respect and admiration for a job well done. You have taken some of the most challenging situations this year and continued to work diligently for our students. Your “can do” attitude is refreshing, and appreciated more than words could ever express. 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 support and assist in our great work. Our successes could not have been made a reality without you!

I wish everyone a safe and restful summer. Remember to read, read, read! Soar high with Eagle Pride.

Stacey *Middle School*

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



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

Our Very Special Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Lisa Granger for being selected as the Stacey Teacher of the Year for 2013! Ms. Granger is a special-education resource teacher at Stacey and has also taught a specialized academic program in the past. In addition, she has previously worked at a specialized school for students with more intensive needs.

Mrs. Granger goes over and beyond to support her special-needs students in many ways. She teaches a study-skills class to help them learn organizational and study habits. She also co-teaches a pre-algebra class with a general-education teacher and instructs students in a reading-supported class, too. She always has a smile on her face, and she builds strong relationships with her students and their families.

Stacey is proud to have Ms. Granger represent our school as teacher of the year. Congratulations, Ms. Granger!



Ms. Lisa Granger

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Our Talented Students

By Mrs. Chamberlain, Teacher – 4th Grade

On April 12–14, the Orange County Fairgrounds hosted the annual Orange County Youth Expo. This was a great opportunity for students of all ages in Orange County to share visual art, writing, and various projects for display.

Mrs. Chamberlain, a third- and fourth-grade teacher, entered the work of students from all grade levels into the competition.

This year Webber Elementary School was honored with many winners. The third- and fourth-graders in Mrs. Chamberlain’s class entered projects in media technology with haiku poetry and won first- and second-place ribbons. Donna Pham-Tran, a fifth-grade student, and Andy Thach, a sixth-grade student, won first- and second-place ribbons for designing book jackets. Jason Do, a fifth-grader, won third place for his drawing and haiku poem. Anastacia Vasquez, a sixth-grader, was the overall division winner for photography and nature and received a beautiful ribbon and medal from the Youth Expo.

We are so proud of these students and very excited to share the news with community!



Warner *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Matthew Skoll
Principal

Proud to Be a Wildcat

By May Nguyen, Leadership Student

Mr. Skoll and our staff have dedicated their time and care for this school since they've been here. As a result, Warner has earned the title of California Business Education Excellence Honor Roll School for 2012. Our test scores have been improving over the years, numerous students have been reclassified as English learners, students have been participating in many different activities and clubs, and everyone shows relentless focus.

Many clubs have also helped to improve school spirit and academics, including NJHS, PAL and Leadership. Our teachers and students work hard to improve our CST scores as well as to create unity in our community. Everywhere you go in Westminster, you'll see Warner bumper stickers on cars as students are recognized for their excellence and hard work.

Even with these outstanding Wildcat achievements, there's always room for improvement. Look out for WMS, because we'll be soaring high off the CST score charts!



May and Mr. Skoll.

Willmore *Elementary (K–6)*

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Congratulations, Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Michelle Magpile (mag-peel-AY) as 2013–14 Teacher of the Year! Ms. Magpile has taught in the district for 14 years, all at Willmore, and has five years of previous experience. Here, she's taught first, second and fourth grades. She's currently on Willmore's Site Leadership Team as the fourth grade representative and previously served as second-grade representative.

Ms. Magpile's knowledge and leadership skills have been tapped by the district as well. She has served on several districtwide writing programs including Writing Alive and Writing with the Standards. Her colleagues think very highly of her and have written accolades like "Ms. Magpile is a positive team player who cares about all students," "She is always looking to improve herself and Willmore," and "She attends in-services, actively listens and participates, then implements what she has learned."

Ms. Magpile is an asset to the district, to Willmore, and most importantly to our students and their families. Congratulations, Ms. Magpile!



Michelle Magpile

Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

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

Entries must be received by July 30, 2013
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Achievers	Focused	Principal
Character	Homework	Recess
Classrooms	Instructors	Reunion
Curiosity	Integrity	Student
Discipline	Learning	Success
Educators	Mentors	Technology
Encourage	Nutrition	Thinkers
Excellence	Parents	Workers

Congratulations to Audriana Noonan
Winner of the May Contest!



Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



A Matter of Mind, Heart, and Will

One of the visible characteristics of our district is the culture of caring for students. As I visit classrooms and talk with students, teachers, support staff, and our families, I am continuously reminded of our “Students First” attitude. That attitude of support and service for our kids is part of a strong and proud tradition of excellence for Huntington Beach Union High School District. The tradition and history cannot be overlooked when we talk about the success and stellar reputation both for our county and our state.

Just recently I was reminded of how that history takes shape—in other words, what the catalyst is for our success. Leadership author Otto Scharmer, in a recent work, *Theory U*, discusses organizational culture. Part of Scharmer’s *Theory U* examines what is needed to sustain and grow a dynamic culture. He uses three distinct phrases to describe what ingredients are most valuable to a thriving organization: Open Mind; Open Heart; and Open Will.

While the complexity of his theory goes on, the three ingredients are both simple and recognizable. It is with the recognition of “Mind, Heart, and Will” that I want to focus. The end of each school year brings with it the age-old tradition of graduation...a rite of passage, if you will. Commencement is an opportunity that so many are able to share, both in celebration and commonality of the experience. It is a time of great pride, reflection, and even a bit of trepidation as we think about the “what’s next” aspect of graduation day.

At that same time of year, a select and proud group of both teachers and support staff enter a new phase of their lives: retirement! Each spring I am proud to attend recognition ceremonies for both our teachers and support staff who have given amazing service to both their students and the community they love. I was able to share in these moments of great pride and service, which are more of a calling than a job at times. My reflection came in hearing the stories that, woven together, make what we call a career. To think that a physics teacher had touched over 7,000 lives in his career as he opened his classroom yearly and shared his “Mind, Heart, and Will” daily. The story of a school office secretary who, in over 40 years at that very same school, not only helped today’s student when he forgot his lunch, but had also helped both his mom and dad in the past for the same reason. The good news was she never revealed that little secret to the student, but she too was there with “Mind, Heart, and Will.”

How do we trace the nexus of our district’s history and reputation for excellence? The line of research to find that answer is pretty direct: it begins with the people who make a choice to dedicate their days and evenings to support and serve the next generation of adults. Congratulations to the class of 2013! You have set the bar even a notch higher for those behind you to reach. And thank you to the teachers and support staff, who offer their shoulders as a place to raise students to reach just a little higher each time.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bonnie P. Castrey
President

Growing Together

As you read this column, our staff and students will be preparing for the end of this school year and the summer break. I am reminded of the story of the two woodcutters, who were in the forest working industriously for many weeks cutting trees.

Each day they came to work on time and cut the trees; however their habits differed as one woodsman took a break in the morning and lunch and a break in the afternoon, while the other woodsman only broke for lunch.

At the end of each day, the second woodsman would measure his pile of logs, and it was always shorter than the pile of the first woodsman. This puzzled him, as he was working more minutes each day.

After several weeks, the second woodsman said to the first, “I don’t understand this, as each day I work longer than you do, and yet my pile of logs is always smaller than yours.” The first woodsman looked at his colleague and said, “You see, while I take the break in the morning and afternoon, I also sit and sharpen my ax, so that I can chop better and with more precision and hone my craft.”

Following a VERY busy and productive year, our employees in the Huntington Beach Union High School District will be having a bit of time to relax and to sharpen the tools in their tool chests. Administrators will continue to read and hone their leadership skills; teachers will prepare lessons for their new classes; nurses and psychologists will be busy with continuing education courses to maintain their licenses; and staff throughout the district will ready the campuses for the return of all our employees, students, and families. At the district office, we shall continue to update all of our systems to better serve our schools, students, employees and you, our community.

The lesson of the first woodsman does not end with the importance of sharpening the tools in our tool chests, for another important lesson was his willingness to share, mentor, and build a relationship with the second woodsman. And, the additional lesson of the second woodsman is the quest for knowledge and the willingness to inquire about how to improve his own skill and performance for the good of the whole.

Building on our past knowledge, leadership, and relationships and fostering stronger relationships built on the principles of education, leadership, and lifelong learning is crucial for our education community, of which we are all apart.

Have a wonderful summer and renewal of your lives as we continue to grow together, build relationships, and hone our skills with sharpened tools.

Straight A’s in Community Service!



Claire Gruber
Student Representative

Wow! This spring has really flown by as we come to the end of the 2012–13 school year! This spring, all of our schools finished their AP testing, finished up their sports seasons, welcomed back our foreign-language students from their trips to the countries where those languages are primarily spoken, and honored our dedicated staffs during Staff Appreciation Week.

This past spring, Fountain Valley and Huntington held their highly anticipated dodge-ball tournaments, in which both students and staff got some exercise while enjoying the sun and some healthy competition. Huntington’s APA also put on a great production of *Hello Dolly*. Valley Vista hosted an American Red Cross blood drive supporting two charities: Pennies for Patients for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and Pop Tab Collection for the Ronald McDonald Charity House. Community Day School created a short video about the school and all the exciting things it has to offer. Ocean View had a special opportunity to remember Coach Harris by contributing to Quarters for a Cause to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The Robotics Team from Marina won the Las Vegas regional competition and went onto nationals! All our schools did some amazing things as the school year came to an end.

Spring was an exciting time as our district’s seniors attended their final proms, signed their acceptances to college, and marched across stage to graduate. Good luck, seniors—you’ll make HBUSD proud in the choices you make for your futures!

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Steve Curiel
Principal

The Surprise in Science

By Francene Kaplan, Science Instructor

Why we do not fall down when we walk; why tomatoes, cucumbers, and chili peppers are fruits; and why building the breakwater near New Orleans, regarding Katrina, might not have been the best approach are typical avenues of inquiry for students taking science classes while attending Coast High School (CHS). The objective for science at CHS is to make the subject matter come alive and applicable to students. The scream of surprise from students who look at pond water under the microscope for the first time or how iodine reacts with bread, or the comments of insight as they view incense smoke simulating LA's temperature inversion offer more meaningful experiences to students than just "read the book and answer the questions."

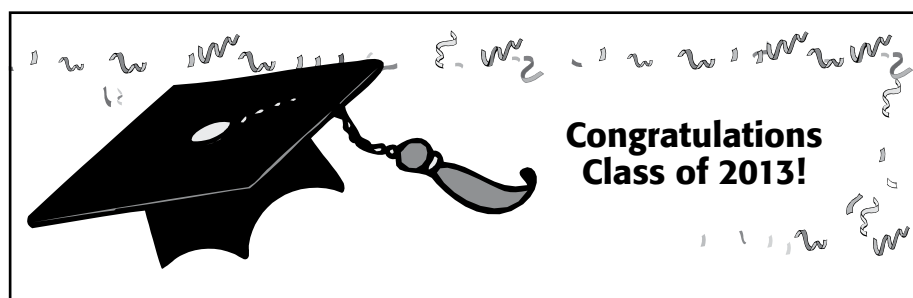
Independent study lends itself to being an experiential learning modality. CHS science electives assist students in understanding how what they are already doing relates to science. Skateboarding, surfing, drag-car races, ice skating and skiing involve momentum, gravity, inertia and resistance. *Everything* outside the classroom door is science. Many of CHS students come to our school because they are involved with nonacademic activities in the real world. Dialogues, discussions and conversations about students and their interests connect doing with learning.

Looking at "the world" differently, whether through a visual or mental perspective, can commence with coursework found in the electives psychology and photography. Organic gardening, astronomy, forest education and local wetlands are other topics CHS students can learn about through Science: Directed Study. Application and synthesis of such learning meet and exceed academic expectations. "I saved my brother's life because of what I learned in your health class," "I went into the field of psychology all because of the class I took at CHS" and "I didn't know I like science" would certainly be classified as student successes. We want students who attend CHS to succeed after they leave our school to pursue their life goals.

True College-Bound Community

Being an alternative high school, CHS students do not always have the same scholarship opportunities that students at the comprehensive high schools have. Every graduating CHS student who applies for a scholarship is awarded a scholarship. Because of this, the Scholarship Committee has historically participated in a number of activities to provide some financial support for our graduates. A Scholarship Committee member had a birthday party, and in lieu of bringing gifts, she requested her friends and family to contribute to CHS's Scholarship Fund. Currently, the CHS staff monitors recycle bins to collect cans and bottles on campus to turn in for funds for the scholarships and to also set an example as to the importance of recycling and looking toward the future well-being of our environment. A partnership with a credit union was established over time. CHS students can now apply and be selected for a scholarship through the credit union. The HBUHSD's administrators contribute to CHS for a scholarship. Our guidance techs and counselor also provide students with information about outside scholarship opportunities.

Outside *is* the real world. Questioning if a mole is cancerous, if Grandma had a stroke and if a Cobb salad is really a healthy choice are all presented to students in the CHS Health Science class to draw upon later. Offering tools to use for understanding life outside the classroom is the aim that goes far beyond the letter grade earned in the science classes at Coast High School.



Community Day School

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

Graduation Day

By Dennis Herzog, School Psychologist /Administrative Designee

Every year at this time, the Community Day School (CDS) gets ready to celebrate the graduation of students from our school. Some years we have several students graduating, and other years we may only have one. Some of the students who would have graduated from CDS are graduating from a comprehensive high school instead. That's because they have chosen to return to their home school to be with the friends they had known since freshman year.

Typically, our former students do very well, and accomplish many good things when they return to the traditional high school setting – such as graduating on time.

This year, Michelle Lafuente will be the sole graduate from Community Day School. Michelle has attended CDS since January of 2011. There are many special things about Michelle and the two-plus years that she has spent at CDS. Michelle is a wonderful role model for the other students. She talks with students who are struggling in school or at home, and she participates on the student council and works hard in the classroom.

Michelle always has a friendly smile on her face, and welcomes new students like they are a part of her family. Michelle is also one of the most well-liked students at Community Day School.



Invited Guests

Graduation is on June 13, and the students and staff are looking forward to celebrating Michelle's accomplishments. The preparation for graduation is an all-school event, literally. The entire staff, which includes our teachers, students, secretaries and administrators, all take part in the planning and work necessary to create a full graduation experience. Not many other schools can say the same.

The event draws a large and broadly represented crowd not expected for such a small school. President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Michael Durnil, of the Simon Youth Foundation in Indianapolis, will be attending the graduation, as will Senior Director of Educational Services Julie Carriere. There will also be many district administrators and school board members from the Huntington Beach Union High School District.

As in past years, the graduation ceremony at CDS will be extremely personal and special for the graduate and her family.



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Dr. D'Liese Melendrez
Principal

Distinguishing Ourselves!

These are very exciting times of reflection, school pride and celebration at Edison High School. The Tradition of Excellence continues!

In April, Edison received the California Distinguished School Award for the third time! This is a great honor and difficult to earn nowadays.



In order to qualify, a school must demonstrate continuing academic growth. Our school's Academic Performance Indicator (API) is now at 872! In the application, we had to choose two signature programs out of all of the amazing programs at Edison that demonstrate increasing student achievement. We highlighted the Special Abilities Cluster (SAC), S.U.C.S.E.S.S Autism and the CIBACS (Center for International Business and Communication Studies) programs. The visiting committee members were impressed with how these two programs work together and demonstrate how students are challenged at Edison High School in a supportive environment.

It is now time to congratulate the Class of 2013 and wish them much success and happiness on their next adventure. These graduates have garnered many scholarships, recognitions and awards. Many will be recognized at the Golden Key Awards, Character Awards and Senior Awards Night. Approximately 95 percent of this amazing class reporting that they plan to continue their education at many prestigious universities, colleges and institutions across the state and nation.

Special Recognition

As the school year winds to a close, it is fitting to recognize the expert staff at Edison High School and thank them for their dedication to our youth. We are pleased to announce the EHS Classified Employee of the Year—Jamie Kruis, special education clerk—and our EHS Teacher of the Year as well as the district HBUHSD Teacher of the Year—Brian Hawkes, math teacher.



Jamie Kruis,
EHS Classified Employee of the Year



Brian Hawkes,
HBUHSD District Teacher of the Year

Finally, Edison would not be the great school it is without the incredible support from our community. Thank you to the 30 booster groups, 1,023 PTSA members, the Academic Booster Club, the EHS Foundation and the countless volunteer hours.

Congratulations to our students, graduates, parents and guardians, staff and community members for making this past year a year to remember!

Fountain Valley *High School*

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Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Technology for Learning

Let me start off by saying that I am not a techie. I do not have a Facebook account. I do have a Twitter account, but I have never used it. I do text, but I am slow, and I spell and punctuate everything correctly. I do post comments, pictures and the occasional YouTube clip on professional and recreational forums. I have used Siri a couple of times, but she frustrates me to no end. I have also never purchased an app.

That said, I am astounded by the power of technology to transform learning. In fact, what I once considered darn near evil is now becoming a powerful learning ally.

Cellphones. Facebook. Twitter. YouTube. Instagram. The Internet. Schools such as FVHS took often painful measures to severely limit the use of cellphones and block access to the Internet. We still do to this day, but the landscape is changing very quickly. Those same devices that constantly distract students from their work – and invite bullying, cheating and other naughty behaviors – are also powerful engagement tools. We just have to use them properly.

Twitter chats. Some teachers are now using Twitter to allow students to engage in meaningful classroom dialogue, and all at the same time. They can respond to each other in real time, and their questions and conversations are guided by the teacher. As one student commented, “Twitter is limited to 140 characters, so we have to be concise and not ramble on and on trying to sound intelligent like I am doing now.”

Forums and blogs. Similar to the Twitter chat, students can respond to prompts and to each other in real time or on a delayed basis. A forum allows students to sit and think and speak up in ways that they would be reluctant to do in a classroom. A blog provides a real audience; sometimes limited to a class, but often just an open source. Such openness provides a level of accountability and scrutiny that students wouldn't otherwise experience in their writing.

The 21st Century is Here



FVHS student in a science class using a tablet for projecting a response.

Response tools. Cell phones and other small devices can be used to respond to questions in real time in the classroom, and to provide information to the teacher to help make instructional decisions. Poll Everywhere and similar apps allow for the whole class to provide feedback at once, and have the results instantly tabulated.

Subject-specific tools. All modern textbooks now come with online support materials, including tutorials, recordings, animations, interactive practice and a host of other features to extend learning beyond the classroom. SmartMusic is a program that our music teachers use for home practice. Students attach a microphone, pull up the lesson online, follow along and record themselves playing, then click “submit.” It comes to the teacher graded for accuracy. The teacher listens to the recording and can send feedback directly to the student.

Flipped Learning. Many teachers are now recording their own tutorials, or steering students towards the work of others who have done so. Students can learn the material at home, and then come to school to apply what they have learned under the helpful tutelage of their teacher. This flips basic instruction to the home, and allows more complex work to be done at school.

These are just a few of the ways that technology can help engage more students more often, and in deeper and more realistic ways. All of the information and tools they need are literally in their hands. It's up to us to make use of this power, and to help students navigate those rocky waters. It's 21st-century learning – and it's pretty exciting!

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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Steve Curiel
Principal

Success Stories

*By Li Ngo, Instructor and Department Coordinator
English as a Second Language*

All too quickly, the end of the semester and the school year will be upon us. You might find the end of the year as hectic as the beginning, as we're all gearing up for promotion testing, a final round of English Literacy (EL) Civics and Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS), and last but not least a graduation party! But the end of the school year also provides many opportunities for reflection and connection.

With 32 classes participating in EL Civics and CASAS, it has been a busy and exciting year, and data comparisons are encouraging. Our year-to-date performance report indicates that we have made a 4.5-percent gain in performance compared to the 2011–2012 school year. We expect these numbers to increase after our last round of assessments, which were completed in May. Students are given incentives for improved performance, and the results are more students learning English quicker.

Without a doubt, the EL Civics curriculum is making a difference in our students' lives and English as a Second Language (ESL) student success stories come in on a regular basis. Instructors teach a number of important civics-related concepts students need to know in order to adapt to the "American way of doing things." Topics include how to communicate with your child's teacher, how to open a bank account, how to read road signs, how to access emergency services, and how to fill out a job application.

Students in the ESL Level 4 morning class at Westminster have great things to say about the program. "In our class, we're not only learning English, but also the culture and life skills," shared O. Hanna. "A unit on employment has successfully prepared me for job interviews. The eye contact, the warm smile, and firm handshake that I learned from my teacher helped me land a job!"

Linh Pham added, "My teacher teaches me about the American culture and how to reach my goals and be successful at work and at school. My goal is to go to college, and I believe I will be successful in life."

We agree—Huntington Beach Adult School is the best place to learn and teach English. We've expanded our resources available to explore and experiment with new technologies! Kudos to our ESL teachers for their hard work in administering over 6,000 assessments this year! Last, but not least a big thank you to a team of support staff strongly committed to fast and effective customer service for both students and teachers.

As we're winding down the school year, I'd like to thank all of you for an amazing school year and wish you all a safe, fun-filled, and relaxing summer.



Linh Pham



O. Hanna

Huntington Beach *High School*

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Rocky Murray
Principal

Oiler Pride

What a year! That certainly is a great way to describe the 2012–2013 school year at Huntington Beach High School (HBHS). The Oilers had success in a number of areas, from the classified staff and teaching staff to our students. Taking the time to reflect on the past school year certainly makes me proud as the principal and also helps in framing the year to come.

This year the Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) began to prepare for the new Common Core State Standards. These standards have been written about extensively and will remain a focus for years to come. Further preparation has included polling of teachers to determine type and delivery of future professional development opportunities to put our best foot forward. This is a significant piece to our collective approach to embracing the common core through collaboration and dialogue. These are intentional means of aligning targeted professional development to the needs and wants of teachers—collaboration at its finest!

An additional area we have embraced is technology. Our staff has essentially led technology training on our campus. In many cases, schools bring in outside agencies to run their professional development. We are using our teachers as experts to train our teachers, focusing on intentionally utilizing the experts we have on our staff. It is exciting to see all of the talent we have at HBHS, and we need to continue placing people in leadership roles. Illustrating their mastery of technology, many teachers and departments have created their own Web sites. Teachers are finding effective ways to improve communication via technology, and it will only grow. Our challenge in this area is to keep up with the pace of technology and the opportunities and changes it presents.

Community and culture are synonymous with HBHS. The city of Huntington Beach has great character and pride, and the school follows that model. Many of our students have parents and grandparents who roamed these same halls. That Oiler pride is in all of us, therefore the school represents more than just us. It is part of something much bigger. We partner with the community in many ways. This year we collaborated with the PTSA, Huntington Beach Police Department, Huntington Beach Fire Department, and city officials to host "Every 15 Minutes." For those who attended, it was an unbelievable program. It would have been nearly impossible to walk away from the show unaffected. There was great power in the message, and the synergy that developed through the partnership of the aforementioned entities. The message was clear, and the commitment from all groups was palpable. Huntington Beach cares.

The remainder of the 2012–2013 school year is filled with important work and tremendous fun as well. Prom, CIF playoffs, Advanced Placement testing, Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing, Tower Awards, Distinguished Oiler Awards, and finally graduation all give our staff and students an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments! Yes, we have accomplished a lot, and we are already planning for next year. There is never a dull moment at HBHS!

Go, Oilers!

School News



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Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

Parents - Making a Difference at Marina High School

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 helps our school grow and find the resources and support that makes Marina High School an outstanding place for students and families. At Marina, you can get involved in many ways. Here are a few parent organizations that make a significant difference at our school. Just drop in and ask how you can get involved, you won't be turned away!

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

Marina Educational Foundation

This group of dedicated volunteers is made up of current and graduated Marina parents of students who attend Marina. The Educational Foundation meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm. This volunteer run organization has contributed tens of thousands of dollars to the school in the form of computers, books, art equipment, scientific tools, field trips and the list goes on. Currently, the Educational Foundation has expanded their focus to include Athletics and Performing Arts, as well as the classroom. This group has some big goals, such as working toward providing the school with a new pool, a performing arts center and artificial turf fields. Are you interested in making a difference? Come to their next meeting and join this outstanding and growing group of parents and community members.

Parent Student Teacher Association (PTSA)

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 at Marina such as our district anti-bullying assemblies, parent education forums, staff appreciation activities, and their annual Reflections contest. 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 6:30pm.

School Site Council

The School Site Council is a group of parents, teachers, students and administrators that meet the first Tuesday of the month at 3:15pm. This group of volunteers help 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 generally brainstorm ideas and thoughts to assist Marina continue its positive growth. You are always invited to attend these meetings, listen in and participate in great discussions about kids, learning, and the art of teaching! This group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 3:15pm

Booster Clubs

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. A Booster Club has focuses on finding ways to support their organization. Be it Football, Soccer, Badminton, Grad Night, Choir or Band, booster club parents give their organizations their time to help their group achieve some 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 its outstanding baseball and softball fields, football equipment, track building, swim program, Choir and Band trips, Marina Marching Band new uniforms, an outstanding yearly musical, and the list goes on. There is something at Marina, through a focused booster club, that will connect you to Marina High School.

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! Be a Viking Volunteer at MARINA HIGH SCHOOL, Home of the Vikings!

Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

Our Ocean View Arctic Explorers!

I am reading this fantastic new book by Jim Collins called *Great by Choice*. In the first part of the book, the author gives a comparison between two Arctic explorers who were both venturing in the same era, and under the same conditions, in a race to be the first team to the South Pole.

The two explorers were Roald Amundsen and Robert Falcon Scott. Both men were about the same age, and possessed similar exploration experience. Amundsen's team made the 1,400-mile round-trip voyage and returned all his men safely. Scott's team does not make it back.

Why was Amundsen so successful? Collins goes on to point out that Amundsen spent years preparing for his work in the Arctic. He also prepared at an extremely high level. He did it differently than most people would have.

He ate raw dolphin meat, thinking that if he were ever shipwrecked and surrounded by dolphins he would need to know if he could eat one to survive. He went to live and learn the Eskimo way of life. He adopted their clothing style, which was loose fitting so that the sweat would evaporate and not freeze him.

He learned to move slowly and steadily, avoiding excessive sweating which would form into ice in sub-zero temperatures. He intentionally and systematically practiced the Eskimo methods, and trained himself for every conceivable situation he might encounter en route to the Pole.

Finding the Way

Amundsen over-marked his path during some parts of the trip to assist him and his team on the way home. He also carried enough supplies to miss every one of his supply depots and still go another hundred miles. Did Robert Falcon Scott do any of those things to the degree that Amundsen did? No, he did not.

Ocean View is on its own "Arctic" journey. We are venturing far out into areas that are unpredictable. We can't control California's budget. We can't control the reform initiatives that periodically come our way. We can't choose what state tests we get to take. We can't control who our students are, or what gaps we need to help them fill.

But we can control our response to the unpredictability of the world, and the uncertainty of what lies ahead. We can prepare like Amundsen, by making sure that we focus on using only high-quality teaching strategies, ensuring that our students can learn what they are taught, and teaching what is essential to know in order to be college- and career-ready. This means teaching deeply and not broadly, and using our resources wisely.

These are good ideas which have a timeless value, and I want our school to train students on how to do them in uncommonly better ways than anyone else. When we do these things we will be ready for anything the "Arctic" dishes out; and we will find ourselves in a great spot, with outstanding results to show for our work!

Contest!!

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Please put **FHOW** in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by July 30, 2013.
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Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

‘My Teacher’

It’s time to congratulate our graduates and wish them success in their lives after high school. As our seniors present their senior portfolios to me, one question I ask them is “What do you like best about Valley Vista?” Almost every senior immediately says, “My teachers.” Some go on to say, “They really care and take time to help me.” Others say, “They never gave up on me even when I doubted my ability to complete assignments or to graduate.” When I hear students say “my teacher,” I’m reminded of how important one-to-one teacher-student relationships are to the success of our at-risk students. I’m reminded that one caring, professional teacher can change the life of a student.

Most Valley Vista students are able to pinpoint the exact moment that they realized graduation could be a reality for them. One student remembers clearly: “My teacher asked me whether I saw myself as a dropout or a graduate. Then he said, ‘I see you as a graduate.’ I felt the confidence he had in me, and right then I set the goal of graduating and started to work on it. Now, it’s happening.” Another student remembers it this way: “My teacher recognized that I was completely overwhelmed with school and assignments and everything. She sat down with me and helped me organize my work and my time, and then checked with me every week to make sure I was making progress. I felt like I couldn’t let her down. And it all got done, and now I’m graduating.”



Beth Chilcott

One Special Teacher

It’s also time to recognize a very special teacher who is retiring. Beth Chilcott came to Valley Vista to teach art in 1995 and immediately set about transforming her classroom into a work of art and inspiration for students. The walls and ceiling are covered with student paintings and drawings from the last 17

years. Ms. Chilcott’s classroom is a therapeutic experience for students, many of whom come to Valley Vista feeling like academic failures, with low confidence and self-esteem and unable to connect with teachers, staff and their peers. Ms. Chilcott recognizes the artistic impulse in all students and gives them the tools and techniques to express it. There are no failures in Ms. Chilcott’s classes—every artwork is a personal success.

Perhaps Ms. Chilcott’s most important contribution to Valley Vista’s students, though, has occurred outside her classroom. As students feel the peer approval and support that is pervasive in Ms. Chilcott’s classes and their confidence and self-esteem grow, students begin to do better in their other classes. Ms. Chilcott is there to support them, working collaboratively with other teachers to develop art projects in the core and elective courses that build on and extend each student’s confidence and ability to effectively express himself or herself. The faculty and staff consider her “our teacher,” and we will miss her.



Carol Carser

We will also miss a mainstay of the office staff: our school secretary, Carol Carser, who after 30 years as a part of HBUHSD is sailing off to a retirement full of family, travel and adventure. She has been indispensable to our success.



Owen Crosby
Principal

Preparing for the 21st Century

Early this school year, I had an opportunity to meet with a student and her mother. This was not your typical parent meeting with concerns being brought to the principal; as a matter of fact, it was completely the opposite. At the meeting the student wanted to share her thoughts on how she could make a difference on our campus. Her mother was there to support her.

This student, a senior at Westminster High School and a lifelong Girl Scout, was preparing for her Gold Award (the highest honor a Girl Scout can receive). She was there to propose an idea that could potentially have a positive impact on the lives of over 1,200 of her peers. She came to the meeting prepared with her proposal, which included a sound rationale for the project, events that would occur, a possible timeline, and a summary of the tasks she had already completed.

She was poised, confident, prepared and professional. Her Gold Award project would highlight the dangers of drinking and driving by bringing the “Every 15 Minutes” program back to Westminster High School. After listening to her proposal and asking several questions, it was evident that she was prepared to take on a project of the magnitude of Every 15 Minutes. So permission was granted, and the meaningful work began.

Getting to Work

The project required the student to demonstrate her organizational, leadership and problem-solving skills. She had to establish goals and checkpoints, and assess her progress along the way. It was imperative that she build a high-functioning team of supporters around her, and work collaboratively with various community organizations to ensure success. She was required to receive information, synthesize it, and then apply it to her situation. These skills were utilized masterfully, and led to an outstanding result.

Not only did the Every 15 Minutes program achieve the goal of educating our students in the dangers of drinking and driving, it also served as a great example of the skills our students will need in order to compete in a 21st-century environment. Our students will need to be prepared to combine information from multiple sources, work in collaborative environments, apply information to a variety of new situations, and problem-solve in real-world situations. We are positioned nicely to provide the experience to build these skills, and are fortunate to have community and service organizations to help support us.

Food & Nutrition Services

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

Smart Ways to Stretch Your Dollar

By Grace Kim, Nutrition Assistant

Your mission: feed a family of four for under \$20 a day. Could you do it? You could either choose to purchase one extra-large pizza, or you could buy a whole-roasted chicken, salad greens, carrots, a box of fresh strawberries, and a loaf of bread. Throw in a gallon of milk and you have a complete meal! It is possible to eat healthy foods at low costs with the right kind of planning. Know how much money is available ahead of time to plan for your food purchases. Before going to the grocery store, check what foods you already have at home, and then go on to make a shopping list. While you are at the store, compare prices, check sell by dates, and select the freshest food possible.

Here are more tips for saving money on food:

- Purchase seasonal fruits and vegetables.
- Try store brands, they usually cost less.
- Sign up for the store discount card.
- Get a rain check to purchase out-of-stock sale items at a later date.
- Don’t give in to foods not on your shopping list!

At home, store the food immediately to preserve freshness and use foods with the earliest expiration date first. Be creative and use leftovers to make another meal. Don’t fall into thinking that eating healthy costs more!

If you would like to learn more about upcoming nutrition activities, contact Food and Nutrition Services at (714) 894-1698.

City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor

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

June 14th is Flag Day



Mark McCurdy
Mayor

This June 14th, we celebrate Flag Day. Flag Day offers us a special opportunity to reflect, honor, and celebrate our freedom by properly displaying our nation's flag. The American dream is truly one of freedom. It is our freedom and liberty that make us truly unique. James Madison once referred to America as "...the last hope of true liberty on the face of the Earth."

To me, the flag is about that liberty. Though Betsy Ross purportedly sewed the first American Flag, records show that on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act resolving "that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

President Truman signed an Act of Congress proclaiming June 14 as Flag Birthday or Flag Day. It took 64 years for the day to become official. The United States flag has traveled to the moon and been worn on uniforms of submarine personnel deep in the ocean. It has been present in war and in peace. Our flag has been proudly carried in countless parades, flown over public and commercial buildings and in a place of honor in front of many American homes. It is my hope that all of us will remember the importance of Flag Day on June 14th and ensure that a whole new generation of students learn the important lessons of our flag's history.

City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor

2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • 714/536-5553 • www.huntingtonbeachca.gov

A Tradition in Jeopardy



Connie Boardman
Mayor

The South Coast AQMD (Air Quality Management District) has proposed amendments to Rule 444 that would result in the banning of wood in open fire rings including the 120 on the City's beach area and the rings on the State Beaches. The Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Marketing and Visitor's Bureau, the Board of Supervisors and our state and federal legislators are all working with the City to keep open wood burning a tradition on our beaches.

The fire rings have been an important part of our beach experience for over 60 years. They provide an affordable means of gathering family and friends to celebrate our outdoor beach lifestyle with s'mores and hotdog roasting under the stars, all while enjoying the glow of a warm fire.

The fire rings are a low cost activity for Huntington Beach residents and visitors, the State of California and city also earn income from those who enjoy them. The loss of the fire rings would result in a loss of \$1 million annually in direct parking income for the City of Huntington Beach.

I urge you to learn about this issue and attend the Public Hearing at AQMD Headquarters on Friday, June 7, 2013 at 9 am. AQMD Headquarters is located at 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

To stay current on information regarding the effort to save our beach fire rings, please "like" the Marketing and Visitor's Bureau Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/SaveTheBonfireRings>.

Orange County Department of Education

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

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

The mission of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) is to provide a consistent, clear understanding of the knowledge and skills that young people need to master by the end of high school. Many stakeholders in 46 states worked on the standards in English language arts and mathematics to be certain that time spent in the classroom results in students who are ready for college and career.

In addition to academic content, the Common Core State Standards provide a description of 21st Century cognitive, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills that work in tandem with the rigorous content standards. These skills focus on the "Habits of Mind" – mental competencies that students develop to be successful in a rapidly changing world. Attributes such as independence, valuing evidence, understanding other perspectives, perseverance, precision, and constructing viable arguments are developed as students learn the academic content.

Schools Begin by Fostering "Habits of Mind"

Educators throughout Orange County are designing learning environments that focus on building knowledge through content-rich text, writing, and text-based discussions grounded in research. As they acquire content knowledge, students will use critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation. In your child's classroom, you will see students who can demonstrate independence, value evidence, and are able to understand as well as critique complex material. Students will come to understand different perspectives and cultures. They will use technology and digital media strategically and capably.

In mathematical practices, students will be able to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. They will reason abstractly and quantitatively, construct viable arguments, and analyze the reasoning of others.

Parents' Role in Implementing the Common Core "Habits of Mind"

Parents play a key role in supporting their child's development of 21st Century competencies, or "Habits of Mind." Parents can begin by setting high expectations and supporting their child in meeting them. If a child needs extra help, or wants to learn more about a subject, parents and teachers can work together to identify opportunities to extend learning and find additional resources.

Other things parents can do to help their child develop the Common Core "Habits of Mind" include the following:

- Provide a wide range of reading materials, both fiction and information text, and discuss what they read.
- Ask them to share daily work and discuss what they are learning.
- Explore what ignites their curiosity.
- Talk with the teacher and help assess progress.

As we move forward together on this exciting path to transforming education across America, I am confident that with Common Core State Standards implementation, Orange County students will graduate from high school prepared with the knowledge, skills, and personal attributes needed to become successful in college and careers.

For additional resources to support implementation of the Common Core State Standards, visit www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA.



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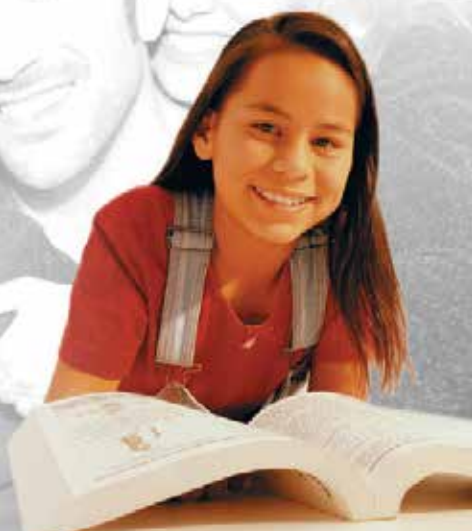
The Importance of Summer!

What Students Should Know Upon Entering Each Grade

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any other program.

"Tutoring Club has been invaluable.
The tutors are highly qualified and both of
my sons relate to their enthusiastic help."
-Lucinda, Parent of Edison High School &
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!

Fountain Valley/Huntington Beach (Brookhurst and Ellis)
(714) 965-8886

HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE • MATH • READING • WRITING • STUDY SKILLS • ACT/SAT PREP