

FREE

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**Fountain Valley School District • Ocean View School District
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VOLUME 7, ISSUE 45

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011

Academy for the Performing Arts Celebrates 16 Years



2011 Surf City Student Film Festival winners and MMET teacher and festival producer, Michael Simmons.

*By Shelley Morris, Activities & Athletics
Huntington Beach High School-Assistant Principal*

The Academy for the Performing Arts (APA), a magnet program of Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD), is starting year 16 and showing no signs of slowing down!

The phenomenal growth and success of APA is in large part due to the tireless efforts of an unparalleled faculty and staff, as well as the program's inspirational visionary, Creative Director Diana Makas.

This year APA has 12 main stage shows planned for all of Huntington Beach and the surrounding communities to enjoy, two from each major: Dance; Orchestra; Music Media and Entertainment Technology (MMET—with sub-majors Pop Music and Media); Musical Theater; and Theater (with sub-majors Technical Theater, Acting and Costume Design). In the past two years, APA has also added two new main stage shows for which all HBUHSD

SEE ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING • PAGE 30

Thank You, Fountain Valley Rotary!

By Dr. Marc Ecker, Superintendent Fountain Valley School District

The Rotary Foundation has been the source of funding for projects that serve the underrepresented in our nation and the many people in the huts and villages around the world suffering from hunger, thirst and disease.

Although this organization is the largest and oldest service organization in the world, many people have never heard of the Rotary Foundation, and even fewer know what it does for the community, the nation and the world. Rotary was founded in the early part of the 20th century, nearly 100 years ago, by a Chicago businessman. Founder Paul Harris's caricature and facial imprint can be found in Washington D.C.'s Sidewalk of Service adjacent to the White House. Rotarians number in the tens of thousands in clubs that dot the cities of well over 150 nations. The Rotary Foundation has been the source of funding for projects that serve the underrepresented in our nation and the many people in the huts and villages around the world suffering from hunger, thirst and disease. Polio, once feared by everyone, has been nearly eradicated due in great part to the work of Rotarians, both in raising the money needed for the research and in delivering the vaccine to those in need.

SEE THANK YOU, FOUNTAIN VALLEY ROTARY! • PAGE 7



FV Rotary President Joe Kagel presents Most Improved Student awards to Viktor McIsaac, Audrey Deruiter, Shelle Zito and Christin Hobby as principals Cara Robinson, Kerry Clitheroe, Chris Herzfeld and Robin Patterson cheer them on.

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Orange County Department of Education

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

Redesigned Web Site!



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is pleased to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website: www.ocde.us. Designed to be user-friendly and easy to navigate, the new website allows visitors to quickly access department web pages and information regarding OCDE services, products, events, and programs. From the home page, visitors can learn about OCDE, visit department pages, browse news and hot topics, watch videos, and explore featured links. The new site also offers a calendar to connect visitors with events happening in and around Orange County.

The site provides our main audiences with specific landing pages that will help them find services and resources that may be of value to them. In addition, visitors can enter a search term in the upper right hand corner of the home page which will direct them to pages that match their interests. Through the new website, OCDE will continue its spotlight on customer service while focusing on the needs of Parents, Educators, Students, and Community/Partners.

Parents

The Parents page contains information regarding academics, child care, college and career readiness, health and safety, best practices, and a calendar of family friendly events.

SEE ORANGE COUNTY DEPT. OF EDUCATION • PAGE 31



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



The holidays are quickly approaching and as we reflect on how much we have to be thankful for you, our readers, are at the top of the list. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

The winner of our September Contest is announced on page 12 where you will find the Seek'n Find Contest. This issue you also have a Word Search Contest and a crossword puzzle.

As always our thoughts are with the service men and women, who volunteer so we can enjoy our freedom.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your families. Our next issue is January 11.

School News

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

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

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Marc Ecker

Special Fountain Valley School District Parents

On October 13 during the regular meeting of the Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees, Jennifer and Guy Salamon were recognized for their generous support of the school district and the over 6,000 students the district serves. Jennifer has been a PTA and PTO president of two schools, one of them twice. She has served as an officer of the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation and president of the Superintendent Parent Council. Guy has been an alternate representative on the current School Closure and Boundary Study Committee, as well as a former member of the Action Committee for Education. They have both been integrally involved in the schools their children have attended, not only as members of the PTA and PTO, but also as active participants on fund-raisers, school carnivals and social action activities. Jennifer was honored by the School Board with the prestigious Outstanding Service Award, and a silver apple with her name adorns one of the walls of the district’s board room. Their presence at district level functions is always a given, and their enthusiastic advocacy for public education sets an example for us all.

The Salamons have yet another symbol of support that marks the many walls of our school district office. Annually the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation sponsors a District Art Exhibit that is a part of our spring Festival of the Arts. A committee of parents selects representative samples of student art from various grades and district schools. These pieces are professionally framed and proudly displayed throughout the district office. Visitors who come to the office marvel at the beautiful and highly creative pieces of art from students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The professional framing is, of course, provided by the Salamons.

Jennifer and Guy also were honored by the Association of School Administrators a few years back for the framing of art pieces given to respective sponsors and advocates by the association for their support of public schools and their many exceptional educational leaders. Just this past January during the highly successful Educational Foundation fund-raiser, Fountain Valley Music Live, the gift given to the chair of the event, an original poster of the musical show was framed by the Salamons as well.

The ongoing support of the Fountain Valley School District by the Salamon family earns them our deep gratitude and appreciation. On behalf of our children, thank you Jennifer and Guy, for what you continue to do for all of us.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Christine Allcorn
Clerk

Our Littlest Learners

Each year the Board of Trustees adopts a list of interests to help set the direction and guide decision making and budgeting for the district. For several years one item on the interest list has been the development of an all-day kindergarten program. The desired outcome was that by lengthening the school day, teachers would be able to continue to provide the required instruction while allowing for some play time to meet the developmental needs of five-year-olds. Time spent playing in the kitchen making pretend pancakes or creating imaginary worlds under the play equipment teaches valuable life lessons that cannot be replicated anywhere else.

After five years of keeping all-day kindergarten on the Board’s “wish list,” the program has been implemented with great success at two of our school sites. In September the staffs at Tamura Elementary School and Newland Elementary School welcomed the first class of all-day kindergarten students and transitional kindergarten students. Tamura School has three all-day kindergarten classes and one transitional kindergarten class for a total of 120 students. Newland School has two all-day kindergarten classes and one transitional class for a total of 82 students. The outstanding teachers and principals are making the necessary adjustments to accommodate all of these little people for a full-day program. For many of these children, this is their first school experience. Our seasoned veterans in the second grade know the ins and outs of the lunch line, waiting their turn for the swings, and using the restroom at the appropriate times. These littlest ones have much to learn about life in the elementary school classroom, but they have many talented, caring adults to guide them along the way.

Congratulations to Tamura and Newland on a great start to this exciting new program.

Fountain Valley Educational Foundation

10055 Slater Ave, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Give Thanks!



Nicola Weiss
President

This year has gone by so fast, and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. This is the time to be thankful to those who help our children achieve their goals—those who challenge, nurture and help them reach their highest aim. Yes, I am talking about our outstanding teachers. They teach in innovative ways, simplify a difficult lesson, and spend extra effort helping our children learn and grow every day.

In this season of thanks, it’s time to say “Thank you for all you do for our children!” The FVEF Teacher Tribute Program is how the Fountain Valley Educational Foundation says thanks from the community. For over 30 years, the FVEF has awarded grants to teachers and librarians in our schools district, thanks to your generous support every year through the Tribute Program. The contributions we receive now in our Teacher Tribute program go directly to fund these grants in spring. This year, our Campaign is “Give Thanks to your Teachers,” and for every donation made on a teacher or staff’s behalf, a pumpkin will be delivered to make their classroom festive. Help us give thanks to our teachers, librarians, principals and staff. To donate to the Teacher Tribute program, please visit our website and process a Tribute form.



Judy Edwards
President



Christine Allcorn
Clerk

Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees



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Roch Courreges *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Chris Christensen
Principal

A Day of Remembrance...

On Monday, September 12, 2011, on the heels of the 10th anniversary of 9/11- Patriots Day, Courreges Elementary Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts took part in an annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. On hand were City Council members, school board members, district senior managers, as well as parents and students. FVSD music teacher, Rudy Arealos, highlighted the ceremony performing a moving rendition of Taps on his trumpet.



Scouts Samantha Diamond and Ezra Lynch readying the flag during the 9/11 ceremony.

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

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



Jennifer Perkins
Principal



Paul Andre White
Assistant Principal

Student Council Elections

Student Council Elections were held during the month of October at Fulton Middle School. Our students did an outstanding job preparing their speeches and campaigns during election week. We are so proud of all of them! We are excited to announce our Student Council executive board for the 2011-12 school year: Chase Alt, president; David Volkert, vice president; Kristen Law, secretary; Viet Vu, treasurer; Sam Asuega, member-at-large; and our three school site council

members: Hayden Allcorn, Madeline Domingo and Alyssa Weinberger.

Our executive board works with homeroom representatives under the guidance of Fulton's activities director, Jeanette Johnson, to plan activities

throughout the school year. Around campus, they promote school spirit through classroom competitions and spirit days. Additionally, our student council plans our school dances and philanthropic drives and helps out around campus during special events. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting school year with all they have planned!



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

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



Patrick Ham
Principal

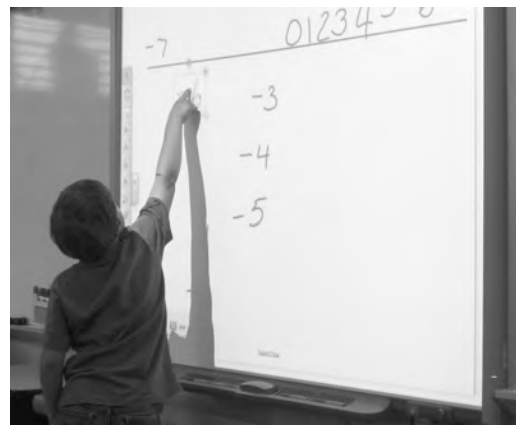
Preparing for the Future

Fundamental content areas—reading and math—continue to be our main focus. But we need to consider our students' futures in terms of the job market in the 2020s and 2030s. The reality is that we are training our students for jobs that don't even exist today, but with trends and projections, there is a great chance that jobs of tomorrow will be in the areas of technology and bioscience. For this reason, it is critical that schools move past the 20th century and into the instructional modes of the 21st century.

Students need opportunities to interact daily with technology and get saturated with informational and scientific text.

Students at Cox have these opportunities: SMARTboards in every classroom, ST Math and multiple computer labs. Students also learn the skills of collaboration and analytical/critical thinking skills.

Though we may not know exactly what the future holds, Cox Elementary offers great opportunities for our children to prepare for the unknown.



Mr. Kubota's fifth grade class use SMARTboard technology.

Robert Gisler *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Joyce Buehler
Principal

Gisler Elects a New Student Council

Forty-one students in grades 4 and 5 ran for student council this year. These amazing students created outstanding posters and addressed their peers in a public forum as part of their campaign. Olivia Bischofberger was elected as President, Anna Simurda is Vice President and Jacob Biddle is Secretary. Nathan Bishop and Joe Domingo are on the Executive Board. All 41 students did an incredible job of running their campaigns and I'm extremely proud of each and every one of them. This year's Student Council will participate in the following activities: Red Ribbon Week Theme Days; Canned Food Drive; Selling Valentine's Day Grams; Mother's Day Drive; Helping with Special Person's Day, Morning Announcements and other school wide activities. Thank you to all of our students who actively participated in running for student council and congratulations to our newly elected officers!!!



Kazuo Masuda *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Chris Mullin
Principal



Heather Harrison
Assistant Principal

Making Sure Every Student Succeeds

This year at Masuda, we have already seen a number of changes. We have a new assistant principal, Mrs. Harrison, and nine new teachers. Additionally we have implemented a number of new classes to help assure the success of our students.

One thing that has not changed is the entire staff's dedication to making sure every student can learn in a nurturing environment. This year, Masuda has added a co-taught class at all grade

levels in ELA. This is in addition to the co-taught classes that have been in place at Masuda for the past two years. Co-teaching provides a unique learning experience for students, as more than one teacher is present in the room to address learning needs. In co-teaching, the instructional fragmentation that often occurs in other service-delivery options is minimized. A number of students benefit by not having to leave the classroom to receive services and are further benefited by receiving more individualized attention. Through these classes, both teachers have a better understanding of the curriculum being addressed in the classroom and the expectations for both academics and behavior. We have also been fortunate to add specialized reading classes and math interventions classes to our schedules along with our spotlight classes. These are just a few of the many things Masuda is working on to make sure every student succeeds!

Isojiro Oka *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Erik Miller
Principal

The OKA Way

Oka students are now striving to demonstrate initiative through the school's new "without being reminded" program, or as we like to call it around campus, "WBR." This program gives our students an opportunity to be recognized for their good deeds both inside and outside of the classroom.

When students have done something positive without being reminded about it, they get recognized for this achievement by having their names printed on a special "Arrow of Initiative." The arrow is then displayed on a wall in the Oka office for everyone

else to see!

With programs like this, Oka students are made a part of a strong school environment that believes in the importance of educating children both academically and as a human beings. Integrating core values throughout our classrooms is part of the everyday atmosphere on our campus.

This year, Oka has also developed a significant focus to help its students take, demonstrate and exhibit the concept of initiative. The importance of helping each individual student become a problem solver, risk taker or engaged in responsible and unprompted actions is one of the reasons why students in the Oka Wolfpack are so successful.

The attached photo shows just a few of our students being recognized for their initiative efforts, and "without being reminded"!



Fred Moiola *Elementary (K–8)*

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



Erin Bains
Principal

Students On Track

Moiola held our annual Jog for Moiola fundraiser on October 13. Last year we had rain and this year we had the heat but our students put in 100% effort as always, jamming around the track listening to the DJ spin his tunes. Thank you to Mr. Mike and all the volunteers who arrived early to set-up the track, our Team Leaders who did a great job keeping their classes "on track," the lap counters and water helpers and of course, our organizers Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Grudt. Our students always look forward to this day to see how many laps they are able run. The top girl and boy in each class wins a medal and the competition each year in incredible. We are so proud of ALL of our students.



William T. Newland *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Kathy Davis
Principal

The Key to Success

As we begin the 2011–2012 school year, the Newland staff wants to remind our parents about the vital role they play in their children's education. Research shows that children whose parents are involved with their schooling in meaningful ways will perform better than those children who are not so fortunate.

However, please keep in mind that involvement does not necessarily mean volunteering in the classrooms, although we certainly do appreciate our parent volunteers! Nonetheless, parent involvement in the educational process begins before the child ever shows up for class.

We will be continuing with our routines at school, and so it is important for you to continue to stress routines at home, too. This includes developing a quiet place for homework; reading for enjoyment at least 20 minutes a night; getting ready for school the night before, so that the morning is not rushed; and, finally, getting a good night's sleep.

Setting a reasonable bedtime is important as well. Children ages 11 or younger require at least 10 hours of sleep. Also, work with your child to develop routines that can be performed independently. This helps foster self-sufficiency, and is effective in providing them with a sense of control over appropriate aspects of their lives.

This technique is also developmentally appropriate for the elementary-age children, too.

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

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



Julie Ballesteros
Principal

First -Annual Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Patch

In mid October the Plavan Panthers celebrated the fall season with their first annual Plavan Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Patch. Our Plavan families came together to play carnival games such as the Pumpkin Ring Toss, Bean Bag Tic Tac Toe and many more. Families also had the opportunity to purchase their Halloween pumpkin from the Plavan Pumpkin Patch while enjoying a yummy lunch and treats from the snack bar. The children and families had a fantastic time interacting with each other and their teachers too!



Student Charity Hill and Lauren Ballesteros enjoying the pumpkin patch.

The festival was a complete success and a day full with family ,friends and fun. We could have never accomplished this without our amazing parent volunteers. Their efforts provided an wonderful day and we look forward to celebrating again next year.

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

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



Cara Robinson
Principal



Jennifer Kadjasz
Assistant Principal

Honoring Jill Miller

Talbert honored one of their best this past month at a ceremony held in the honor of Jill Miller who showed a passion for teaching and service to children. Jill recently passed after a long battle with cancer, and she was fondly remembered at a dedication attended by her family, friends, fellow staff members, and former students to remember her for her strength and wisdom. She was a beloved teacher, mother, and



friend, which was evident based upon the numerous people who came to say their well wishes and speak on her behalf. The students at Talbert have enjoyed the beautiful garden area, complete with new benches, which would not have been possible without the support of Talbert ASB, Talbert PTO, and the FVSD grounds crew.

Hisamatsu Tamura *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jay Adams
Principal

A New Alternative

This year, Tamura School is piloting a Transitional Kindergarten program (TK) for the Fountain Valley School District. This program is designed to help young children transition into our increasingly academic kindergarten classrooms. Its aim is to meet the academic, social, physical and emotional needs of our youngest kindergarten-aged children, specifically those with birthdays in July through December.

Teacher Martha Anderson works with 27 of these little-bitties every day, easing them into the wonderful world of school! They are in their first year of what will be a two-year kindergarten program. This allows them enough time to grow and develop as they master the California State Content Standards.



Teacher Martha Anderson encourages student Michael Yee

Next fall, California law will change regarding the birth-date deadline for kindergarten entry. School districts statewide will then be mandated to offer a transitional kindergarten for specified students. We're so glad to have gotten a jump start on this wonderful option right now. It really meets the needs of our little learners by giving them the precious gift of time.

THANK YOU, FOUNTAIN VALLEY ROTARY! • FROM PAGE 1

Fountain Valley School District knows well the fine work of the Rotary. Over the past 15 years, the Fountain Valley Rotary has each month honored and recognized the most improved eighth-grade student in our district and the most improved 12th-grade student in Fountain Valley, Valley Vista and Los Amigos High Schools. The Rotary has sponsored the Teacher of the Year Breakfast and held annually an eighth-grade student speech exhibition and a high school speech contest. Each and every spring, sponsored by the Rotary and Rotarian Dave Osborn sponsor the Every Student Succeeding Award. A student from each of the elementary schools who has overcome incredible physical, emotional or social challenges is honored at a recognition breakfast, where each receives a \$500 scholarship. During the earthquake that devastated Haiti, the Rotary, along with the students at each of our schools, raised enough money to purchase 19 shelter boxes, which were sent to the beleaguered island nation.

Thank you, Fountain Valley Rotary, for your good work and your advocacy on behalf of the Fountain Valley School District. We can safely say that community service as a part of public education is modeled well in our district. We know the good work of the Rotary and remind you that the Rotary is always looking for a few good people.

Are you looking
for me for the
contest on page 12?



Ocean View School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. William V. Loose

Leadership and Excellence

Congratulations to all of our families, staff, and community for the successful completion of the first month of school! The opening of all our sites has been extremely smooth, and, at this point in time, many of our schools have already had their Back-To-School Nights.

Allow me to share with you a few other key events that have occurred during the summer leading up to the current school year:

World Champs!

All of us in Huntington Beach watched the nationally televised broadcast on August 28 as our very own Ocean View Little League All Star Team won the Little League World Series, beating Japan with a walk off base hit by Ocean View student Nick Pratto. We are proud of their commitment to excellence and hard work! Many of these team members attend Ocean View schools, primarily Mesa View and Marine View Middle Schools. At a recent Board of Trustees' meeting, we celebrated their success. The team members and coaches were presented with certificates and a plaque highlighting this tremendous accomplishment.

SmartBikes Inventors Win National Award

Mesa View Middle School seventh-grade students recently competed in the Army's National Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Competition. The eCYBERMISSION event, hosted in Washington, D.C., was composed of 16 team finalists of sixth-, seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-grade students from around the nation. Our Mesa View SmartBikes Team, consisting of students Zachary Goodale, Grant Gochman, Bijan Afghani and Huongly Do, took home honors as the seventh-grade champions. The team constructed a safety feature for bicycles called SmartBikes, in which a device produces visual and audible alerts until the rider buckles his or her helmet.

CalSTAT Leadership Site for PBIS

Mesa View has been named a California Services for Technical Assistance and Training (CalSTAT) Leadership Site in the area of Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). The award recognizes Mesa View's commitment to effective practices and systems change. The purpose of every CalSTAT Award is to support the development of collaborative systems and encourage implementation of proven effective programs and strategies in California's public middle and high schools. As a result, Mesa View will be part of a network, learning how to further their outstanding work and sharing their model and best practices with others.

Welcome Back to the 2011–2012 School Year!

A district-wide meeting was held on September 2 to welcome all employees back to the new year and prepare for the opening of school. The event was very special this year, as all schools were acknowledged for their individual accomplishments from 2010–2011. In addition, the dedicated work of our classified staff members was also celebrated, including the preparation of the sites for the opening of school.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Our Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC) has continued to meet throughout the summer. This citizen's group consists of a sampling of our entire community, including senior citizens, parents, and other local residents. FPAC will be making recommendations to our Board of Trustees as to what FPAC considers should be the direction of the modernization of our 40- to 50-year-old school facilities.

The district qualifies for \$39 million in state modernization funds. We also qualify for a 60 percent entitlement from the state for \$23 million if Ocean View School District can match the other 40 percent of \$13 million. Two town hall meetings were held to present the information to our community and receive their input on October 24, 2011, at Westmont School, and on November 3, 2011, at Spring View Middle School.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Debbie Cotton
President

Preparing our Students for the Future

What does the future look like for our children? With so many students finishing college but unable to find jobs, what is the future for our kids? The Board of Trustees, along with the superintendent and his staff, has been grappling with this question. How do we better prepare our students? How do we prepare them for the future?

The reality is education needs to change. We need to be more technologically integrated, and our students need to think “outside the box.” We are preparing our students for jobs that don't yet exist. So how are we going to do this?

The Board of Trustees, along with the superintendent, is preparing to pilot a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School. We are also recognizing the need for the arts. When you add the arts, the STEM school becomes a STEAM school. Currently, there are no K–8 STEAM schools in California. Ocean View sets out to be a leader.

In addition, the Board is moving toward making our facilities 21st-century buildings—updating technology along with making our facilities beautiful and safe. In that light, the Board has proffered a community committee entitled Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FPAC). This committee has been reviewing our facilities and our modernization plans and will be making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees very soon. Through recent town hall meetings, they received valuable input from parents and community members.

Remember, it is important to know what is going on in your school. Stay informed!



Debbie Cotton
President



Tracy Pellman
Clerk

Ocean View School District Board of Trustees



John Briscoe
Member



John Ortiz
Member



Norm Westwell
Member

Circle View *Elementary*

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



Karen Sanders
Principal

We are Proud to be Circle View Eagles!

Circle View is proud to continue to implement the PBIS program for the 3rd year. At Circle View, we have adopted the slogan "Circle View Eagles SOAR. We are ...Safe, On Time, Always Respectful, Ready to Learn"

PBIS stands for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. It is an application of evidence-based strategies and systems to assist schools to increase academic performance, increase safety, decrease problem behaviors, and establish positive school cultures.

In PBIS schools, behavioral expectations are taught. We started the school year by reviewing the classroom, playground, and lunch bench rules. Then all the classes went to the playground and lunch benches to practice the appropriate behavior. Our Student Council has written a Circle View Pride song that is sung during announcements on Monday mornings and at every assembly.

(To the Tune of, You're a Grand Old Flag)

We're a Blue Ribbon school, We are friendly and cool,

We work hard and we aim for the best!

The teachers are great, Our PTO's top rate,

We soar with our Team Eagle pride!

We are safe, on time, Always ready to learn,

Respect is the name of our game!

With all we do, We love our school,

Keep your eye on that Circle View pride!

S (clap, clap, clap)

O (clap, clap, clap)

A (clap, clap, clap)

R (clap, clap, clap)

S, O, A, R, GO CIRCLE VIEW!

We take pride in being a Circle View Eagle!

College View *Elementary*

6582 Lennox Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714/847-3503 • www.ovsd.org



Kathy Smith
Principal

How About a Blue Dog?

That's right! On Friday, October 7, the students from Mrs. Richard's fourth-grade class, and Mrs. Young's fifth-grade class, all received a surprise visitor. It was our "Blue Dog" mascot!

This event was intended to promote our school's fall fund-raising activities. All of these lucky students were escorted into the principal's office for recognition of a job well done.

Each student was presented with a well-earned "You are Special" ticket, which is part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Program. The students also received congratulations for a writing assignment that they had completed in an exemplary manner. They received a "Principal's Award" pencil and then had their picture taken with the furry little Blue Dog, who was actually PTA President Mrs. Sherrie Yslas!

Many thanks goes to our fabulous teachers, who always recognize the children for their efforts in the classroom. And a very big and special thank you goes to Mrs. Yslas herself for donning the costume and being such a good sport. She made our students feel very special.

Once again, our College View Wildcats are on "the prowl." Every day they demonstrate how we can do our very best.

Hope View *Elementary*

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



Carrie Haskin
Principal

Student Council Elections

Kudos go out to the 51 upper grade students who ran for student council. They showed their Hope View pride and strong character by running for office. Their desire to make a positive difference in our school and in our community is commended. Their positive attitudes and willingness to be a strong catalyst are winning attributes that make Hope View students great!

Our 14 elected student council officers have already served our school as Back-to-School Night student ambassadors who directed parents to classrooms.

Golden View *Elementary*

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



Elaine Burney
Principal

School, Family, and Community

The goals for the Golden View Elementary School PTO are simple, but the impact the PTO makes is strong. School, Family, and Community is embraced by all, and we are off to a wonderful start. Headed by Co-Presidents Patricia Hahn and Christie Headley, with the support of a phenomenal PTO Board, they help develop school connectedness with our families and community. In these economic times, we are fortunate to have such giving families and close community ties.

Two annual events that Golden View students, family, and community look forward to are our Literacy Picnic and Cultural Night. At the Literacy Picnic, parents eagerly wait for that special time they have with their children, reading their favorite books on the lawn. A field of families sharing quality reading time makes for great childhood memories. We are also excited for our Second Annual Cultural Night! The festivities begin with grade-level performances. Then, family members and students continue to celebrate the diversity by visiting booths, which represent different countries from around the world. The booths have a variety of items that represent each family's heritage, ethnicity, and culture. Not only do students and families enjoy visiting the different countries' booths, they end up learning a great deal, too!

In addition, PTO provides students with a variety of academic experiences. Whether outside the classroom on field trips, visiting educational programs, or supporting the school with upgraded technology, our school is a better place thanks to our amazing PTO!



Harbour View *Elementary*

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

Student Learning Soars!

Each spring, our second- through fifth-grade students take the California Standardized Testing and Reporting assessments (STAR) in English language arts, math, and science (the fifth grade only).

These assessments examine our students' adherence to the state standards, and the results are compiled to produce an overall Academic Performance Index score, or API. This year Harbour View's API score is 922, which is an increase of 21 points! This puts us in the top 10 percent of schools throughout the state.

We are very proud of our rigorous and enriching educational program at Harbour View, as well as our fantastic community, students, staff members and everyone else who works hard to help our students stay successful!

The Harbour View staff is always striving to increase student learning as it evaluates the current data to create SMART goals for the year. Additionally, our teachers collaborate weekly in professional learning communities to continually support, assess and improve student learning.

Our focus at Harbour View is always on student learning. We want to make sure that the program choices we make now will bring out the best in our students!



Cindy Osterhout
Principal

Mesa View *Middle School*

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

Helping Out With Our Green Thumbs

The Mesa View garden has been growing for several years, and gardening has now become a favorite class choice among our students.

This year our seventh-graders will have the opportunity to be responsible for its care. Under the direction of teacher Cathy Hubbling, they are currently planting, weeding, pruning and maintaining the eight plots that make up the site.

The students can take this class as part of an elective wheel. So the garden is not only a wonderful source of organic food, or a hands-on experience for the students, it is also an outlet for their physical activity and creativity.

Rainbow Disposal recently donated over 30 bags of vegetable garden mix to help us amend our nutrient-deprived soil. Rochelle Grow, Sue Gordon and Nancy Gibbs of Rainbow Disposal were instrumental in making this donation possible. In addition, Nancy Gibbs volunteers her time to visit and demonstrate to the students how to properly work with the garden mix to amend the soil.

In a true community effort, Lucia Rosenberg and Linda Morris also donate countless hours of time to make sure that our students have a successful experience in developing their green thumbs. Our students are very grateful to Rainbow Disposal and all of our volunteers, and they are looking forward to building a healthy garden with the tastiest fruits and vegetables yet!



Lake View *Elementary*

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

On Land and Sea

The fifth-grade students at Lake View have attended their first field trip of the 2011–2012 school year! Recently, they traveled to Dana Point to participate in the Ocean Institute's environmental and ocean education program.

At the Institute, they had an opportunity to sail on the Sea Explorer and use its state-of-the-art technology to explore the sea bottom, measure water pollutants and classify sea creatures. On land, the students were also able to dissect a fish, discover how humans can impact a watershed, and even conduct their own scientific investigations.

As a class, they will soon design and perform an experiment of their own that has to do with a watershed. They will then return to the Ocean Institute later in the year to present the findings of this classroom experiment to other schools in the Orange County area.



Anna Dreifus
Principal



This program is a wonderful way for our students to gain some hands-on science experience that is directly tied to the California State Standards for science!

Marine View *Middle School*

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

September 11 Heroes Celebrated

Marine View Middle School is proud of the patriotism that is evident in the students and the community. Michael Keating, father of Lauren, used his connections with HBPD to get a piece of the World Trade



Roni Ellis
Principal

Center brought to Marine View for our September 11 Remembrance Day. The steel girder, weighing over 100 lbs., was carried through the gymnasium by two HB police officers who then stood next to Marine View's color guard who also displayed an American Flag which flew over Ground Zero. It was a powerful yet emotional scene as the Marine View band played the Star Spangled Banner. The audience included American Legion of Veterans, City Council members, HB Fire Marshall, Superintendent Dr. Loose, and Asst. Superintendent Dr. Frazier.



Oak View *Elementary*

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



Laura Dale-Pash
Principal

Latino Family Literacy Project

This summer, Oak View Elementary School parents participated in the Latino Family Literacy Project. Parents, primarily of incoming Kindergarten students, participated for 8 weeks. The sessions were taught in English and Spanish by current Preppie Kindergarten teacher Cindy Reichenthaler, and OVSD consultant and former Oak View teacher Linda Caldecott. "The Latino Family Literacy Project empowers parents and gives them the confidence to see themselves as their child's teacher," stated Mrs. Reichenthaler.

Each lesson centered around a piece of literature written in Spanish and English. Parents explored the book's theme and completed family-related activities. Parents borrowed the books for the week to read to their families. The project culminated with a great celebration fiesta for parents and children during which participants shared their scrapbooks. Families and teachers felt the project was such a success; subsequent sessions have been planned for later in the school year.



Oak View

Preschool & Education Resource Center

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



Joyce Horowitz
Principal

The Learning Link

The Learning Link is a parent-child program that is being offered to children ages 2-3 years who are not currently enrolled in a preschool program.

The Children and Families Commission of Orange County provides the funds that allow our Learning Link teacher Viviana Jelinek to be able to offer this class to 75 lucky families. The session lasts for eight weeks and will be repeated four times throughout the year.

The children learn to listen to a story and participate in a music and movement activity. Miss Viviana also demonstrates how to complete a follow-up project with the child. The last part of the class is for "play time." This is really the children's work time, where they are allowed to discover the different learning centers that are placed throughout the classroom.

This program helps prepare our children for the preschool experience. They get to learn about circle time, how to follow directions, and the general structure of a normal day at school. This program opportunity is truly a Link to Learning!



Staff members: Parent Educator—Liliana Montes and Learning Link Teacher—Viviana Jelinek

Pleasant View Ocean View Preparatory Preschool

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



Back to School Night

On Wednesday, October 5, 2011, Pleasant View School/OVPP held our annual Back to School Night for our parents. Our staff of talented teachers led our parents in presentations about each of their classrooms. Topics included the California Preschool Foundations, curriculum/instruction, classroom environment, center time, classroom management and discipline, daily schedules, ABA topics, and much more. It was great to see so many of our parents attend and show their support of our programs at Pleasant View/OVPP. All of our teachers worked extremely hard and

Paul James
Principal

dedicated many extra hours of time to make our Back to School Night a huge success. Pleasant View feels very lucky and fortunate to have such a great staff. Many thanks to our teachers Cynthia Atkinson, Michelle Wall, Elke Day, Kathie Favazza, Marie Schools, Katy Nachbaur, Christina Llata, Vanessa Leong, Jackie Meza, Genie Peterson and our support staff of Melanie Fenger, Anh Mai, Narissa Cardoza, Vicki Kincaid, Becky Lenhausen, Anne Lang, Patty Mulcahy, Rebecca Kim, Linda Still, and Lynn Trittipo who help make each day a special journey for our students to learn.

Spring View *Middle School*

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



Jason Blade
Principal

PTSA Brings Out the 'BEST'

The Spring View staff and students are grateful to have such a dedicated PTSA that is committed to providing an educational environment focused on supporting every Spring View student. Throughout the 2010–11 school year and continuing into the 2011–12 school year, the Spring View PTSA has dedicated their efforts to enhance the Spring View school-spirit connectedness, home/school communication, technology and the school library.

The PTSA Board is a dynamic group of parents who help to make Spring View an incredible place for children to learn and grow. The PTSA is a visible force, and the success students have at Spring View is in part attributable to the dedicated teachers and parents who work together to provide rich experiences for every student.

Spring View would like to thank the PTSA Executive Board for their dedication and countless hours they give in support of the Spring View students and staff. The 2011–12 Spring View PTSA Board includes Doreen Nogueira, president; Jennifer Ausdemore, vice president, membership; Allison Palmer, vice president, ways and means; Dianne Duke, treasurer; Rebecca Carr, secretary; Fred Abiad, auditor; Michele Spainour, historian; Marcy Smith, communications chair; Monica Dekaney, community liaison; and Lisa Hennessey, volunteer coordinator. Through the enthusiasm and support of the Spring View PTSA and an incredible group of committed educators, the Spring View vision of students being their B.E.S.T is becoming a reality!



Dr. Pauline Tressler
Principal

Attendance Furthers Achievement

Earlier this year, everyone in the Star View community was proud to learn that we have had the highest percentage of attendance of all the schools in the Ocean View School District for the past two years. At our opening flag ceremony, our new “#1 Attendance Banner” was displayed with lots of excitement and cheers. Then, at the meeting of our Board of Trustees, Star View happily received another award: a check for our efforts.

Research shows that school attendance is directly correlated to higher student achievement. That certainly holds true at Star View.

Our average daily attendance in 2010–11 was 97.7 percent, and our API rose another 10 points to 886. We are looking forward to another year of high attendance and high achievement. Working together, our parents, teachers and staff assure that everyone understands the importance of school attendance. Star View can proudly say for the second year in a row, “We’re number 1!”



Jacqueline Pash (5th grade Star View student) and Principal Dr. Pauline M. Tressler.



Kristi Hickman
Principal

Zoomobile Comes to Sun View

The Santa Ana Zoo Zoomobile is an animal education/conservation program brought directly into the classroom. The program involves discussion, biofacts and hands-on contact with a variety of small animals. It is designed around the “Systems and Interactions” theme suggested by the California State Science Framework

During the months of September, October, and November, Zoo program educator, Teri Hernandez, sparked student enthusiasm and interest by providing twelve 45 minute assemblies to students in grades K-5. Students were able to study first hand new vocabulary related to the varying characteristics of mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians.

We are so thankful for our many volunteers who continue to dedicate their time, energy, and resources to enrich the lives of our children!

Village View *Elementary*

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



Jodi Novy
Principal

Village View is Kind, Safe and Responsible

The Positive Behavior Intervention program (PBIS) is a school-wide action plan for our Village View students, teachers and staff members. Its purpose is to define, teach and set our school’s formal procedures for behavior expectations. We at Village View have the primary expectation that our students will be kind, safe and responsible.

At the beginning of the year our students, staff and volunteers implemented the school’s PBIS “Kick-Off Day.” To maximize our academic achievement, we took this opportunity to link our effective curriculum, effective delivery and effective classroom and playground-management ideas. To further support positive behavior, we also meet regularly on Friday mornings as a community to celebrate our students and the learning process.

In addition to this, our focus continues to be on the valuable “Being a Buddy, not a Bully” program. Our anti-bully week occurs directly after Red Ribbon Week.

Village View is dedicated to educating children in all areas: those academically, socially and emotionally. Our Dolphins have definitely started this year off “swimmingly,” and we know that they will continue to be kind, safe and responsible students.



Contest!!

We had a record number of entries last issue. You are very good at games! This time Mr. Reading Rules is black and white so will be harder to find...he is hidden 3 times in this publication

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

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



Your entry must be received by December 15, 2011. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations to the September winner!
Vy Nguyen



Robert Miller
Principal

Generosity Al Dente

A responsibility of student membership in the El Viento program at Vista View Middle School is to perform service projects throughout the school year. These service projects help students understand what it means to give back to the community.

For their first service project this year, El Viento's Flight 10 is hosting a pasta drive to benefit Caterina's Club, an organization that feeds hungry children in Anaheim. Bruno Serato, owner of an Anaheim restaurant, founded Caterina's Club, named after his mother, after he discovered that many children in the neighboring

motels were not getting regular meals outside their school day. He decided to make a pot of pasta every night and deliver it to these children.

El Viento and Vista View Middle School are showing their support for Caterina's Club through this pasta drive. In just the first few days of the project, El Viento has collected 86 bags of pasta! Our goal is to collect 300 bags of pasta before the end of the service project.



Carol Furman
Principal

Bingo Night

On Friday, October 7th, Westmont students and their families had a "frighteningly" good time at our first Bingo Night of the year!! Bingo Night is a long-standing tradition at Westmont, and a fun way to get together with other Westmont families for fun, food, and prizes!! Three times each school year, the Parent Teacher Organization plans such a night, where even our youngest students take part in two hours worth of Bingo games, trying to win themed prizes! This time, the prizes were all Halloween-themed, including piñatas filled with candy! What a wonderful night we had, celebrating the season and each other, as the Westmont community came together for a night of fun and Bingo!! A big thank you to our wonderful PTO Board for their many hours of preparation for this night, and to our many volunteers who helped make this night possible!!



Birds

Word Search Contest

Entries must be received by December 15, 2011
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Bittern | Cormorant | Hummingbird | Pelican |
| Blackbird | Cowbird | Junco | Pheasant |
| Bluebird | Crow | Killdeer | Robin |
| Bluejay | Eagle | Loon | Sparrow |
| Bobolink | Flamingo | Meadowlark | Swallow |
| Bobwhite | Goldfinch | Mockingbird | Tanager |
| Cardinal | Gull | Nuthatch | Woodpecker |
| Chickadee | Hawk | Oriole | Wren |
| Condor | Heron | Owl | |

NEW Rules!!!

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





The City of Huntington Beach Office of the Mayor
2000 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648 • **714/536-5553** • www.surfcity-hb.org

Holiday Season Events



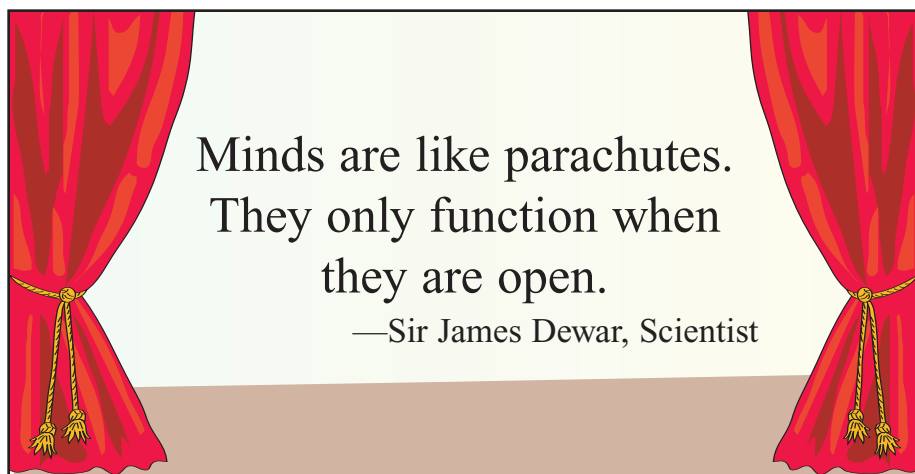
Joe Carchio
Mayor

This winter and holiday season will be a busy time for Surf City. While this time of the year is very busy at school and during the holiday season, take some time to enjoy some of these events with your children and your family.

The holiday season will get kicked off with our traditional Main Street Holiday Celebration and Pier Lighting Ceremony on December 4th from 4 pm to 7 pm. Join the festivities at "Light a Light of Love," a holiday Pier lighting and Main Street snowflake lighting and parade in Downtown Huntington Beach. This children's holiday parade will feature a number of entries, including Surf City Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. For more information, call (714) 842-6600.

One of our favorite holiday events, the Cruise of Lights Boat Tour, presented by the Huntington Harbour Philharmonic Committee, will be having its 49th annual narrated tour along the sparkling waterways of Huntington Harbour. Visitors will see thousands of lights on boats, decks, docks and homes. Proceeds benefit the Philharmonic Society's nationally recognized music outreach programs for more than 25,000 Orange County students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The Cruise of Lights will be held December 16th through the 27th. Cruise times are 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. For more information, call (714) 840-7542 or visit www.cruiseoflights.org.

For more information about these events or any other events happening in Surf City, please visit www.surfcityusa.com. Have a great holiday season and a happy new year!



The City of Fountain Valley Office of the Mayor
10200 Slater Ave., Fountain Valley, 92708 • **714/593-4400** • www.fountainvalley.org

Special Olympics Fall 2011 Games



Steve A. Nagel
Mayor

The City of Fountain Valley will host the Special Olympics Fall 2011 Games on November 12-13, 2011. Two main events will take place at the Fountain Valley Recreation Center and Sports Park, 16400 Brookhurst (Brookhurst/Heil) and Fountain Bowl, 17110 Brookhurst. Please join us as our Olympians compete.

About the Games

- Free and open to the public
- Six Competitions: Bowling, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball
- Athletes and volunteers travel from all over Southern California
- Fall Games is the second of two Southern California championships held every year
- 2,500 athletes, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, and spectators

Events

Bowling: Fountain Bowl, Fountain Valley

Soccer, Softball, Tennis, and Volleyball: Fountain Valley Recreation Center

Floor Hockey: 949 Roller Hockey Center, 3150 Barranca Parkway, Irvine

Opening Ceremony: November 12, 10 a.m. at Fountain Valley Recreation Center

Competitions: November 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; November 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Award Ceremonies: November 12, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; November 13, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Closing Ceremony: November 13, 3 p.m. at Fountain Valley Recreation Center

Featured Exhibits at Fountain Valley Sports Park

Rafer's Boutique—shop for souvenirs and Special Olympics merchandise

Expo Park—games, music, community and law enforcement exhibits

Healthy Athlete Village—free health screenings for athletes

Special Olympics Southern California

Special Olympics Southern California offers year-round sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Nearly 10,000 athletes in 11 Southern California counties train and compete in 12 Olympic-type summer and fall sports. There is no cost for athletes to participate in Special Olympics. To become involved, visit www.sosc.org.

The City of Westminster Office of the Mayor

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

Building on Family Strengths



Margie Rice
Mayor

As the annual holiday season begins, I've been thinking about the children in our community and their families. Since the holidays may be difficult for some, I want to be sure that you are all aware of a wonderful resource available to local families. Dedicated to "Building on Family Strengths," the Westminster Family Resource Center (FRC) is located at Sigler Park, 7200 Plaza Street in Westminster. The center operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at (714) 903-1331.

Westminster's Family Resource Center was formed in 2000 with a mission to facilitate the strengthening of the family unit through coordinated and culturally appropriate resources that promote self-sufficiency and healthy families. It provides a centralized information and referral point for the community. The Family Resource Center partners with many agencies in a collaborative effort to provide a comprehensive array of programs to the community members they serve.

Families can access after-school recreation and enrichment programs, information and referral services, counseling, health education, parenting classes and many other services with the assistance of FRC staff. All services are offered in three languages (English, Spanish and Vietnamese), provided at no cost, and have no eligibility requirements.

Please share this information with anyone you believe may benefit from these services.

Avoid Holiday Stress



Jodie Lynn

Make plans now if you'll be traveling for the holidays.

If flying, mail your gifts early; shop online and have them shipped directly to the recipients or perhaps complete small gift buying once you reach your destination. If online shopping is preferred, be sure to read the fine print before making final decisions as many include handling fees and other important terms like their return policy. Try to come up with a reasonable budget and stick to it. Look for in-house specials at various stores and check to see if online coupons and specific deals can also be used during sale dates at the physical storefront.

Save time by organizing a gift list by colors, sizes, manufacturer names, etc. Avoid last minute shopping as it can lead to poorly thought out purchases that neither you nor the recipient will appreciate. Keep and file every receipt.

Mail your holiday cards early to ensure they arrive before the holiday and get the kids to help address envelopes and put on stamps. It might be best to do this in steps so the kids will view it as a kind of holiday game instead of a chore.

Always plan your dinner ahead of time by going to the store with either the recipe or a list of the exact items needed for each dish. If it's one that uses heavy cream or other fat-laden ingredients, scan a conversion chart for healthier substitutes or check the internet to find more information.

Doing a little each day will help alleviate stress for yourself and your family.

Jodie Lynn is an award-winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best-selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having, Doing, and Surviving It All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

Note-ables

Merry Kidsmas



Kate Karp

Merry Kidsmas was produced by a group of Nashville songwriters and artists who wanted to put together a holiday collection that would, as they said, use a child's perspective of the season and "be sung by real everyday kids."

Indeed, this CD is not dripping with sugarplums. The opening cut, "Box of Rocks," is "I'm Gettin' Nuttin' for Christmas" stood on its ear. The singer, a girl of about 9 or 10, writes Santa about all the rotten things her brother has done—pulled her hair, stuck out his tongue at her, exploded her doll on his toy rocket—and asks him to bring her bratty sibling what he deserves—which

happens in the closing song, "What's in the Box?" Dad gets a lot of good-natured love in "Even My Daddy Sings"—Daddy's voice curdles the soap in the shower, but he's a standup act with Christmas carols. "A Picture of Santa Claus" is about two mercenary little paparazzi trying to cadge a photo of the Man in the Red Suit. The songs aren't all on Santa's Naughty List—anyone whose child has struggled with the question of "Is Santa Claus real?" will welcome "I Still Believe in You." There are one or two standards that are cute, but they pale next to the cleverness of the compositions written by various members of the Song Trust, including Nashville artist Rory Feek.

I've saved the centerpiece for last. "Bring Him Home, Santa" was first released in 2007 and reached #29 on the Billboard Country Chart. Sung clearly and beautifully by an anonymous 6-year old girl, it's a heartrending plea for her father's return from Iraq. It will catch you on its first minor note: "Dear Santa, I need to change my Christmas list....You see, my daddy's working far away from here"...if you use this song in a pageant or program, rehearse it a few weeks early to get all the tears out of the way. Of course, they'll be running copiously during the actual performance.

It is the hope of the CD's producers that a song will be the star that leads the way. May you and your families have your deepest wishes granted this holiday.

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

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Positive Parenting

Holiday Gift Giving



Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel

Since this is the Christmas of my 70th year, I have a lot of memories around this season: When I was at the University of Redlands, I spent one Christmas in Salzburg, Austria. I loved that religious traditions overpowered any source of commercialism. There was the Christmas that our black cat, was teasing our golden retriever and the two of them ended up bringing down our holiday tree! I remember handmade gifts over store-bought ones, going caroling, the boat parade, going skiing, and what I miss the least is the hassle of buying the right gift for the right person, spending more money then is sensible and the exhaustion of trying to please.

Our family adopted a plan of giving gifts to the children, only, and donating money that would otherwise be spent to help a needy family or cause. We limited our gifts within our immediate family to three. We took a dinner to a family who could use some help. There are literally thousands of deployed families who would gratefully embrace your love and help during the holidays—Call a local military base and ask three officers to spend Christmas eve with your family. Regardless of how you feel about war, these families have given and are giving more than we have a right to ask. Adopt a military family this season!

One of the most difficult things for each of us to do is to receive. Whether it is not worthy feelings or overwhelming joy, we can smash someone’s feelings with our comments: I don’t look good in this color; It’s a nice gift; I don’t need one of these; or How much did you spend on this? A gift comes to you with a great deal of thought wrapped around it, a lot of love within it and a desire for that love to be appreciated. Think of the love in a gift that is handmade. Think of the time in a gift that is a created or purchased gift. “Wow, I can feel your love in this gift!” is a response so much more personal and returns love to the giver.

A wonderful gift is one of time. At 70 I realize that time can be spent but not re-spent. Give the gift of time with you. A phone call where you make time to listen or a walk in the park. You would need to use a lot of wrapping paper to wrap up yourself and whether you know it or not, time with you is the gift your children, your spouse, your loved ones most want with you.

Happy Holidays and love to every single one of you.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written three books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 20 years. Sandy lives in Meridian, Idaho. www.ParentingSOS.com

Food & Nutrition Services

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

Students “Pick” Good Nutrition

By Emily Bastia, Nutrition Assistant

Is there more to education than math, English, and science? The students at Westminster High School (WHS) think so! For the past year, members of the Nutrition Advocate Club at WHS have dedicated their afternoons to helping students at Finley Elementary School plant a vegetable garden. Club members meet with the younger students to teach them how to grow their own food and educate them on the importance of eating healthy.

The students recently grew a harvest of tomatoes, chilies, and chives and made fresh salsa from it. They learned what a tasty and easy snack it was to make. The students have also learned to prepare bruschetta, strawberry parfaits, and mixed vegetable salads. Working together has been a rewarding experience for both groups. It’s made healthy eating enjoyable, easy, and fun.



Magic Book Garden

Are We there Yet?



Rozanne Lanczak
Williams

Tips for Traveling with Tots

While I acknowledge that all the fun electronic stuff can be life-savers at times, please remember that there are many great ways to engage young children during those special times you share en route that will also boost their learning and thinking skills as well as nurture closer bonds.

Planes, Trains, . . .

Air travel can be challenging for anyone these days and more so with the little ones along. Cramped spaces, long delays, and lack of access to food and drink can present all kinds of problems.

Be prepared! Pack a bag for your child with lots of goodies. Include snacks—healthy treats as well as a few of your child’s very favorite ones to pull out when needed as a diversion. Bring sippy cups instead of drinks and continually fill them with water or juice. Bring books—and lots of them. Bring books that your child can read on his/her own as well as some new surefire read-alouds. Bring a few activity books with crosswords and other puzzles geared to your child’s age, as well as self-contained craft kits, cards games, and paper and crayons. Bringing a travel journal is also a lovely idea. Along with a few toys your child can’t live

without, including a favorite “huggable,” bring several small new toys. My friend Beth, who has traveled numerous times to England with her three boys, at times all under 5, says to wrap every item you bring like a little present. What child doesn’t like opening gifts? And the act of opening will take time and keep your child engaged. Beth also says to bring along a box of band-aids. 3 and 4 year olds love them, and will enjoy opening them (this takes forever!) and placing them on real and perceived boo-boos. Also, what better way to enhance your child’s fine motor skills? Once again, my best advice: please do not get on an airplane with your young child with only an electronic game to amuse him/her.

. . . and Automobiles

Car trips can be a little easier on little ones, since you can stop frequently and let them run around a bit. Along with the items listed above, books on tape are a wonderful activity for kids in the car. Plug them into the car system so that you can comment or discuss the story or encourage your child to make predictions on what will happen next. When a child listens to the story, they have to create a picture in their mind of what is going on and this is a powerful way to build comprehension skills. That’s why you should intersperse movie watching with books on tape when you’re on the road. I also highly recommend music videos and CD’s. Music accesses and stimulates different parts of the brain.

For lots and lots of more great ideas, car tips, and travel games, go to www.MomsMinivan.com.

At the Library



Barbara Richardson
*Acting Senior Librarian
Programming
and Youth Services*

Sponsored by the Friends of the Children's Library and the Sand Scribes, this year's "Imagine You Live in the Library" event is our current writing and illustrating contest for preschool to eighth-grade students. Entry forms are available online at www.fotcl.org, or they can be picked up at the Central Library's Children Desk.

All submissions are due at the Children's Desk by 4 p.m. on December 10. The winners will receive a bookstore gift card at an awards ceremony during our Authors Festival on January 31, 2012.

Come and meet a variety of local children's authors at the Central Library's annual Authors Festival. This event will be held from 2:30–4:30 p.m. The authors will also be visiting our local schools, too, and will then return to the library to meet the public. Their books will be available for purchase and autographing.

Help support the library and do your holiday shopping at the same time! You can buy gift certificates to paint library tiles for later installation in the Children's Department. Certificates for the 2012 Taste of Huntington Beach on April 29 will also make nice gifts. These taste certificates will be available starting on November 28.

Taste certificates can also be purchased online at www.tastehb.com. All of the money raised will go towards our Books for Kids program. You can also support the library aquarium by buying a ceramic "fish" that will be installed on our ocean mural wall.

For more information about these and other gift ideas, please visit www.hbpl.org, or call 714-375-5107.



Young People—Join Up!



Mary Ann Hutton
Branch Manager

Children's Book Club meets Wednesday Nov. 9 and Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m. for discussion and book-related activities. Children of all ages are invited to join us for our Craft Afternoons on Thursday, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 3:30 p.m. Don't forget about our weekly story times, accompanied by singing and crafts! Preschool and toddler story times are every Wednesday, 10:30 and 11, a.m., respectively; family story times take place Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Children can wear their PJs at our special Pajama Story Time on the first Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to our Family Movie Afternoons 2 p.m. Saturdays in November and December (no movie on Dec. 17).

Join the new Teen Book Club on the third Thursday of every month at 4 p.m. for a discussion and activities based on teen books. Contact us for the monthly selection. You will love our Teen Henna Creations Program on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 3 p.m. Participants can get a parent/guardian permission form at the information desk and bring it with them to the program. On Saturday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m., teens can compete in the Teen Gingerbread House Competition. All materials will be provided to build houses from graham crackers, frosting, candies and chocolate. The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets the first Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m.—teens interested in contributing their ideas for library programs and materials should come! VolunTEEN orientations take place Wednesday, Nov. 16 and Tuesday, Dec. 13, 3:30 p.m. New volunteers age 12–18 should pick up an application at the information desk before the orientation.

For all activities, contact us by telephone or view our online calendar.



Do the words "math homework" strike fear in your child...or you?

What if we told you that we can change that fear into better grades and higher self-confidence, and eliminate the frustration, tears, and fights over math homework?

Imagine how much better homework time would be.

Discover how a better understanding of math can change your child's attitude. Before you know it, your child could be crazy about math.

Your neighborhood center is at
18585 Brookhurst Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(Brookhurst & Ellis, near Albertsons and Islands). Call or visit to learn how convenient and affordable your child's soaring self-confidence can be!

FountainValley@Mathnasium.com
www.Mathnasium.com/FountainValley
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Westminster School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Richard Tauer

Warner Teacher Wins \$1,000 in School Supplies

In October, I had the pleasure of visiting Warner Middle School, where one of our teachers was surprised with a very special award. Ms. Tami Fields, a reading and physical education teacher, was awarded \$1,000 worth of school supplies from Office Max as part of their A Day Made Better event that celebrates teachers for demonstrating passion, dedication and innovation in the classroom.

Matthew Skoll, the principal at Warner Middle School, nominated Ms. Fields for the Office Max award and had this to say about her: “Ms. Fields is highly respected by her colleagues and students, and she works extremely hard for both groups. She teaches a combination reading/PE class for students who are struggling readers and actually mixes reading into the PE program. She also teaches yoga after school for interested staff members. Ms. Fields is a big asset to Warner Middle School!”

Because teachers spend a significant amount of their own money annually on classroom supplies, OfficeMax founded A Day Made Better. Representatives from Office Max presented Ms. Fields with a giant box that contained everything from a Sony digital camera, a Brother P-Touch labeler, and a leather chair to a magnetic bulletin board, antibacterial wipes, sticky notes and much, much more. I’m not sure who was more excited, the students or Ms. Fields. I’d like to extend our sincere thanks to Office Max for recognizing Tami Fields, a very deserving teacher!



Ms. Tami Fields (seated) with her students and Principal Matthew Skoll.

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Parent Nutrition Classes Offered

Healthy students have a better chance of succeeding in the classroom. When students are well-nourished, they have higher test scores, fewer behavioral and emotional problems, are more attentive, less absent and tardy, and visit the school nurse less often. When children eat fruits and vegetables and are active for at least 60 minutes each day, they are on the road to good health with a lower risk of developing chronic diseases like obesity, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers. We want to do everything we can to promote healthy living to our students and we know that parents want to do the same thing. So, in conjunction with the Network for a Healthy California, we are offering nutrition classes for our parents. We believe that knowledge is power!

Tracey Zoleta, RD and Joey Van Camp, RN, PNP, will teach WSD parents how to make good food and beverage choices and how to be physically active with the whole family. Parents can also expect to learn about the USDA’s new MyPlate, how to read the Nutrition Facts Label and how to save money while eating healthy.

Schedule of Parent Nutrition Classes Offered

Anderson Elementary School (all classes start at 8:30AM)

Thursdays: January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9

DeMille Elementary School (class starts at 10:30AM)

Thursday: November 17

Finley Elementary School (class starts at 8:15AM)

Tuesday: November 15

Fryberger Elementary School (all classes start at 8:15AM)

Thursdays: November 17, January 19, March 1, April 19, May 19

Schmitt Elementary School (all classes start at 8:15AM)

Fridays: January 27, February 3, 10, 24, March 2, 9

Webber Elementary School (all classes start at 8:15AM)

Fridays: November 18, December 9, January 20, February 17, March 23

Willmore Elementary School (class starts at 8:15AM)

Friday: December 2

Here are some tips on how to make healthy eating a family affair:

- Be a good role model. Your kids are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables if they see you eating them, too!
- Turn regular visits to the grocery store into family adventures! Let your kids be the “produce pickers.” Children like being involved!
- Visit a local farmers’ market to buy seasonal produce and find inspiration for your next meal.
- Fill your cupboards with fun – and healthy – snack items that kids of all ages will enjoy.
- Every time you go grocery shopping, pick up an interesting fruit that is new to you, such as pummelos or plantains. Then go find a recipe for it!
- Make meals together as a family! Younger kids can stir ingredients or set the table. Older kids can read recipes, measure ingredients and plan healthy meals.
- Make ordinary recipes extra-ordinary! If you are making tuna or chicken salad, try adding some chopped fruits and vegetables – like apples, celery and green onions – for good health and good taste.
- Remember, kids don’t always take to new foods right away. Offer new fruits and veggies many times. Give kids a taste at first, and be patient! Kids are more likely to enjoy a new food when eating it is their own choice.
- Let your children serve themselves at dinner, and teach them to take small amounts at first. Tell them they can have more if they’re still hungry.

Anderson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Dr. Lori Rogers
Principal

"A" is for Attendance

Anderson School is focused on positive attendance. And so our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), in conjunction with the Westminster PTA Council, is helping us get this important message out to our students, parents and community.

Our parents and teachers are working collaboratively to get every one of our students to school on time every day. Research on school attendance shows that low absenteeism can be correlated to positive student behavior in school, along with more participation in extracurricular activities, higher grades, and better long-term educational outcomes.

Recently, our PTA Council sponsored special coloring books and bookmarks for the students. Books and bookmarks will now remind them to be like "Ready Rabbit," who is always on time for school, and not like "Tardy Turtle," who is always running late.

Those Anderson students who have attended school on time every day will be recognized with an end-of-the-year certificate for perfect attendance. One way that our parents can support their children and the local school at the same time is to make sure that their student is in class and punctual.

DeMille *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Shannon Villanueva
Principal

Ready Rabbit Comes to DeMille!

Someone new will be seen around campuses in Westminster School District this year. His name is Ready Rabbit! He was created by the Westminster Council PTA, and he is featured in a coloring book that was handed out to each preschool through first-grade student. The coloring book details how Ready Rabbit gets prepared for the school day and gives the students an opportunity to write about what he would miss if he did not go to school on time—or at all. His friend, Tardy Tortoise, is also featured in the coloring book. Students learn details about what Tardy Tortoise does each day to make him late for school.

Bookmarks featuring both characters will be made available to students in grades 2 through 8. This is part of a campaign by Westminster Council PTA to aid the WSD in improving attendance in the school district.



Ready Rabbit tells Ms. Petersen's Preppy Kindergarten class to be on time for school.

Clegg *School*

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



John Staggs
Principal

Reading to Achieve

We are off to a great start of the 2011-12 school year at Clegg Elementary School. One of our major focuses this year will be the Accelerated Reader program. Students are encouraged to read Accelerated Reader chapter books and then take computerized tests that will show their comprehension of the books they have chosen to read. Students will accumulate points with each test passed. The schoolwide goal this year is 6,500 points. The top two earners of each grade level will have the opportunity to participate in throwing water balloons at me and some of our amazing teachers.

Our librarian, Regina Varga, works closely with our students and has a monthly reward system in place for students who achieve their monthly goals. Last year's top earners threw pies in our faces to celebrate achieving our school goal. There was a lot of fun that was had by all. Our students are doing a fantastic job, and we are sure they will meet the goal for this school year.



Eastwood *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Donna Brush
Principal

An 'In-Tents' Experience!

Research shows that schools with well-structured, consistent parent involvement programs are more likely to experience profound benefits for students, parents, teachers, administrators and overall school quality. The most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status but the extent to which a student's family is able to create a home environment that encourages learning; communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for the child's achievement and future career; and become involved in the child's education at school and in the community. Eastwood parents are committed not only to academic achievement but also to the social and emotional achievement and well-being of children as well.

This commitment is repeatedly demonstrated by the extraordinary events planned by parents for students and families. One recent example was the Dolphin Dads' Annual Campout. Dads spent weeks planning and organizing the event, which began on a Friday afternoon at 5 p.m. with approximately 400 campers. It's a "site" to behold: the school grounds covered with tents and campers along with an outdoor theater, reminiscent of the drive-in days. The weather was perfect, the burger takeout dinners were great, and of course, the s'mores and popcorn provided the perfect snack for movie watching. As always, the Saturday morning pancakes and sausages were the best! Our Flapjack Flippers, including a fifth-grade teacher, began in the wee hours to accommodate the sleepy campers. It was an awesome experience! This is what makes Eastwood the outstanding school that it is.

Finley *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Maria Gutierrez-Garcia
Principal

Parent Power Lunch

Finley School celebrated the full launch of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports System at Finley School with our parents and families on September 30, 2011 during the annual Parent Power Lunch. Approximately two hundred parents attended a series of workshops that included a PBIS Training session on the 3A Eagle Way: Act Respectfully, Act Responsibly, and Act Safely, which included a powerpoint with video coverage of some of our teachers demonstrating non-examples and students demonstrating the desired positive behavioral expectations for locations throughout the campus.

A second workshop was provided by the Nutrition Network: "Cooking With Your Family" which provided Finley parents with a "Hands On," multisensory learning experience. The final workshop: Internet Safety and Cyberbullying by District Prevention Specialist, Sheree Newman, provided parents with helpful safety tips. Then parents and their children enjoyed lunch together in a picnic like atmosphere celebrating the 3A Eagle Way!



Fryberger *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Hiacynth Martinez
Principal

Exciting Planned Events

At Fryberger, we welcome parent involvement at school, in the classroom and in PTA! Positive parent involvement in school-related activities leads to consistently high levels of student achievement and school connectedness, which is what we want for all Fryberger Falcons! This year, we have many exciting events planned for our students and parents, and hope you can join us! Please check our web site www.wsd.k12.ca.us/fryberger.aspx and mark your calendars for the upcoming dates you won't want to miss.

Here's to having a great school year!

Hayden *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Linda Reed
Principal

A Special Partnership

Last month the first-grade students at Hayden School had some very special guests visit their campus. The Orange County Fire Authority's Station No. 25 from Midway City came by one day to help teach our children about fire safety.

Earlier in the week, the first-graders had also taken part in an assembly that talked about things like fire safety, an overview of 911, and the importance of having a safe exit plan for school and home. Later in the week, the fire engine from Station No. 25 was brought by so that the firemen could give our students an up-close-and-personal view of its operation.

The firemen explained to the children what their responsibilities were and also what they carried on the fire engine. They then took questions from the students.

Hayden has been a proud partner with our local fire station for over 10 years, and we look forward to continuing this partnership for many more. A special thanks goes to Mr. Archer, our first-grade teacher, for organizing this great event.

Johnson *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Shane Vinagupta
Principal

Our "BIG 6"

The "Big 6" represents those special initiatives that we have embraced as the way to do business. These six strategies were adopted to help raise student achievement, build school-connectedness and make sure that we meet the diverse needs of our student body.

To address the issue of school-connectedness and student behavior, we have adopted the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, or PBIS. Its goal is to promote and reward students for their positive behaviors in regards to our three key expectations of respect, effort and pride. We call this "REP."

Our PBIS team has developed positive behavioral expectations for every area of the campus. This way each student can be made aware of how REP is demonstrated no matter where they are. Recently, our students attended a special assembly to visit these different areas, and one of the PBIS team members was there to help share, demonstrate and model the expectations.

This has already proven to be an effective strategy, as staff members have been commenting on the positive climate and drop in office referrals. Preliminary data shows that office discipline has dropped 8 percent, and that we've had zero suspensions so far. Last year at this time we had six.

The year is still young, and so keeping this momentum will be a challenge for our PBIS team, but they are up to the task. As staff continues with their professional development in this area our PBIS coaches will be there to help them with resources and activities that reinforce our schoolwide expectations.



Land School

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



Beverlee Mathenia
Director, Child Development Programs



Leisa Winston
Administrator, Student Services

Aligning and Refining

Land School is working toward aligning and refining its focus on student achievement this school year. Using the District's core strategies centering around cultural proficiency, differentiated instruction, and systematic English Language development, the Land staff continues to develop its practices and take instruction to a deeper level. These concepts were highlighted at the recent Back to School night held at Land on October 4, 2011.



Land teacher Hilary Gathmann demonstrated the SMART Board and the use of visuals to differentiate instruction for parents at Land's Back to School night.

Parents were welcomed into the multipurpose room, where they received the most recent information about transitional kindergarten, the Preschool Nutrition Network, and the Land school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Parents visited their children's classrooms to meet their teachers and were able to observe evidence of the District's core strategies through Project GLAD, Thinking Maps, PBIS and technology.

Schmitt

Elementary (K-5)

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



Jerry Gargus
Principal

Climbing to Great Heights

The staff, students and parents of Schmitt Elementary School recently had the opportunity to celebrate the tremendous success we achieved during the 2010-11 school year. We were thrilled by the release of our Academic Performance Index data, which reflected the hard work by all of our stakeholders last year.

I am proud to be able to share with the community that our API grew 43 points last year from 766 to 809, surpassing the state's target of 800 for the first time. This is reflective of the tremendous gains in student achievement that have taken place since the 2005-06 testing year. Since that time, we have seen our overall API increase by 119 points from 690 to 809, our Hispanic student group improve by 128 points, our English-learner student group improve by 114 points, our Title I student group improve by 125 points, and our Asian student group improve by 89 points. This cannot happen without the hard work of an entire school community uniting for the purpose of changing outcomes for students.

Our teachers, students and parents are working hard—and working together—to continue to improve our school. We are entering into the county's PBIS program (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports), master-scheduling our fifth-grade students, and continuing to focus passionately on fluency instruction in our primary grades. As principal, I am incredibly proud of the great things that our team has accomplished and equally excited about the great things yet to come!

Meairs

Elementary (K-5)

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



Kathy Kane
Principal

Positive Action!

Be your best at Meairs! The year is off to a great start with the implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). The year began with all students participating in a rotation in which they visited stations throughout the school. Each station taught them the expected behaviors in the classrooms, the library, the playground, the office, the cafeteria and the bathrooms—all the important areas where they may be spending their time while on campus. This set a positive tone for the year. Everyone knows just what to do.

At that time, a new reward system was also introduced. Our new mantra at Meairs is "Be Your Best!" Be respectful, be safe, be responsible. Students who choose the correct behavior will be rewarded with "Best" slips that can be used to purchase lots of great stuff! Students are collecting as many slips as they can so that they can be part of the fun.

Another new addition to the school that has also helped create a positive culture is the implementation of our Student Valet Service. Over the summer, our parking lots were redone and new drop-off lanes were added. Some of our fabulous fifth-graders have been trained to provide curbside valet service for our families. They help guide the traffic to designated spots where they open car doors and assist students with their belongings so they can get out of their cars safely and Mom or Dad can be on their way. The students and the parents love it!

Schroeder

Elementary (K-6)

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



Kim Breckenridge
Principal

Thinking On Paper

At Schroeder Elementary School, we've made writing a focus for all students. We know that research shows that writing is one of the most powerful vehicles for student learning across all curricular areas. With our adoption of Thinking Maps, we've taught our students to organize their ideas using one of eight different maps. These maps help to visually represent different thought processes, such as defining, describing, comparing, classifying, and sequencing. Thinking Maps are used from kindergarten through sixth grade. The students can then take their maps and transform their ideas into fabulous pieces of writing. We have students writing for everything – language arts, math, science, social studies, and even art and PE. At Schroeder, we believe just as William Zinsser said, "Writing is thinking on paper."

Willmore

Elementary (K-6)

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



Rob McKane
Principal

Access for All

Like many California schools, Willmore Elementary School has a large population of English learners. We also realize we must provide access for families of English learners.

At Back-to-School Night, a new onramp for access was unveiled. Through collaboration with our technology department, teachers, and community members, we have solved a problem that has made communication difficult: presentations that were up to three times lengthier than necessary or even tolerable. This was due to presentations being given on one screen. While liaisons have always been provided for verbal translation, translated slides would always be subsequent to the English versions. This was problematic. To help support our families who need translated information, we have invested in a system that will give our community exactly that. Our new system uses one computer and three projectors, which along with a software program allows for all three versions of the same presentation to be displayed simultaneously. By the time this article is published a permanent system will be in place at Willmore.

As always, we are very proud of our efforts to inform and involve all of our community, and this is one more onramp for our families that need support in English.

Sequoia *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Tammy Steel
Principal

The Eagles are Soaring High!

The last few months have been active ones here at Sequoia. We have participated in family soup, Chuck E. Cheese and skate nights. These have all been wonderful opportunities for our families to come out together and enjoy a night of relaxation and fun.

There was a food and toy drive held in November and December where we were able to help many families in need of assistance. Thank you to everyone who participated in these events; we look forward to seeing you in the future. Please watch your calendar for more information.

Our Book Fair was a huge success! And the countless hours spent by Mrs. Henley is a major reason why. Thank you for the awesome job, as well as your continued support of all our Sequoia students.

In conjunction with the Book Fair, our PTA sponsored a family "Soup Night." It was my pleasure to be a judge for this event and where I was able to taste the delicious efforts of our wonderful cooks. I want to thank the PTA for organizing this spectacular evening.

The Orange County Philharmonic Society provided our fourth- through sixth-grade students with a fabulous assembly that increased their knowledge of music and instruments. The students were model citizens as they learned about the brass, string, woodwind and percussion instruments. Thank you to the Philharmonic Society for this incredible opportunity.

Soar high with Eagle pride!

Stacey *Middle School*

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

Thank You, PTSA!



Heidi DeBritton
Principal

By Shay Reardon, Assistant Principal

Stacey Middle School has an amazing Parent Teacher Student Association! Our PTSA is in charge of many activities during the school year that encourage learning and promote an energetic campus that makes middle school a great place to be. Our PTSA is in charge of many fund-raisers, such as a Friday juice event, candy sales, Skate Nights, Box Tops and Popcornopolis.

In October, the PTSA sponsored the Welcome Back Aloha Dance for the students after school. The students had a fantastic time dancing to music, eating snacks and socializing with their friends. The PTSA has been busy spoiling the teachers as well. Also in October, the teachers were treated to an amazing gourmet breakfast provided by the PTSA. Teachers from both Stacey Middle School and Clegg Elementary were invited to the breakfast because both sites share one multipurpose room. The room was filled with delicious food and wonderful conversations.

The PTSA also worked on promoting the PTA Reflections program. This year's theme for the contest was "Diversity is...." Students entered the contest by reflecting on diversity in the following areas: dance, film production, literature, musical composition, photography and visual arts.

These are a few of the many wonderful things Stacey Middle School PTSA provides during the school year. Thank you, PTSA, for all your hard work and dedication to the school. The teachers, students and staff appreciate everything you do to make Stacey Middle School a fantastic place to be!

Warner *Middle (6-8)*

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



Matthew Skoll
Principal

Warner ROCKS!

By Jasmine Nguyen, Student

Warner Middle School ROCKS! Why? We have a lot of school spirit! Almost every Friday, we have a lunchtime activity for students to enjoy. On the Fridays that we don't, we're busy planning for other fun activities. Once a month, we have spirit assemblies. During the assemblies, there are competitions that both students and teachers participate in. Warner teachers are also spirited.

They are always willing to join in!

Warner students are also smart. That's probably because we have really good teachers at Warner who are also pretty funny. They make school fun!

At Warner, we're also athletic and well rounded. There are lots of sports teams here, including soccer, baseball, softball, football, basketball, and volleyball. We are competitive and win a lot of games! We also have cool clubs on campus, such as Dance Club, Chorus, Surf Club, National Junior Honor Society, DC Club, Knitting Club, Poetry Club, Recycle Club and lots more. We also have cool survey classes, including leadership, Peer Assistance Leadership, yearbook, drama, technology lab, art, band and journalism.

I personally am in leadership, and I love it! It is a fun class full of students who are role models for the whole school and have a lot of school spirit. We get to plan school dances, assemblies, and other activities and basically help everyone to be spirited.

At Warner, everyone can find something they like to do, and everyone has a reason to enjoy coming to school. That's why Warner ROCKS!

Webber *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Orchid Rocha
Principal

Wolverines Use Their 'PAWS'

At Webber School, students and staff know that if they remember PAWS, they will have a positive experience at school and at home. It represents Practice Self-Control, Act Responsibly, Work and Play Safely and Show Respect.

It seems simple enough, but putting these ideas into practice is challenging! We therefore must teach and reinforce our expectations. Much of the training from PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems) gives us the tools and ideas to teach what we expect and to reinforce behaviors. We can reinforce with verbal feedback, time with a desired activity or a tangible reward. One of the things we give is a positive office referral. Students with positive referrals can visit the principal, receive a small award and hear his or her name over the intercom system.

In addition to positive referrals, students receive Red PAWS tickets from their teachers when they are caught following expectations. These tickets are then entered into a classroom raffle or a monthly raffle at our awards assemblies. Our Golden PAWS tickets are awarded to the students by the principal or our noon duty supervisors when students are caught having good control, practicing safety, being responsible and being respectful.

We hope that our families will join us in reminding our children to "PAWS" while they are at home. We want to recognize our students for practicing the character values that we all need to possess in order to be successful not only in school but also in life. Thank you, parents and guardians, for all that you do to support our expectations!

School News

Happy Holidays! Our next issue is January 11, 2012. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Huntington Beach Union High School District

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

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Gregory S. Plutko

Family First

Frequently in conversations with others, we find ourselves discussing our families and we are all too proud to do so. Most of us share that our families are more important to us than work and in fact report that families are our first priority. I actually have never had anyone tell me that work was his or her first priority in life. And yet, I think that for many—including me—we would have to admit that we spend an inordinate amount of time at work or thinking about work or work-related things.

When we look a little deeper at our families, we sometimes find that we have less time with them and that life at home can be reactive, frantic and unfocused. The digital pace of today's world excites us on one hand and can exhaust us on the other...all the while challenging our value of "family-first."

Successful organizations, such as schools, are both smart and healthy. They are smart because they are focused, organized, financially prudent, and have a defined mission and core values. They are healthy because they have a minimal amount of confusion and politics, are productive, and have high morale.

Successful families are also smart and healthy. They are smart because they focus on education and engage in well-rounded activities. They are healthy because they spend time together, and there is laughter and positive interaction that builds memories that last a lifetime. Home is a welcoming and safe place.

Most of our pain centers on the healthy side in both organizations and families. In the movie "Parenthood," Steve Martin reminds us, "Life is messy." And in fact this is true.

I recently read a book by Patrick Lencioni titled *The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family*. In his book, Patrick outlines three questions every family should ask themselves as they go through life together.

#1 What makes our family unique? He reminds us that when we try to compare ourselves to others, we usually fall short in our own mind's eye. He reminds us that every family is unique, and we will gain both perspective and peace when we know who we are as a family and what our core values are. As a strategy, he suggests that we identify what is true about our lives, the decisions we make, and the way we live. As we do this, when decisions come up, families will begin to make the decisions based on their values and uniqueness instead of other criteria.

#2 What is our top priority – rallying cry – right now? Patrick reminds us that we worry about too many things. We are easily distracted and sidetracked. When we identify our top priority, the area that is the most important, we are less likely to commit to activities that may be overwhelming or result in a crisis. Instead, we can be crystal clear about the decisions we make and remain committed to our goals. Again, the family fabric grows stronger.

#3 How will we talk about and use the answers to these questions? In question three, it is critical that a family keep the first two questions alive by using them in daily decision making. When do we discuss and decide things? Where and how often will we put our choices into action?

Sadly, it's often not until people actually face the possibility of challenges, or even loss, in their families that they finally come to realize the importance of being purposeful, strategic and proactive. This is obviously not a cure-all, but if we can achieve a little more sanity in the midst of our adventure in life it's worth our efforts.

Thank you for your continued family and community efforts on behalf of our students. Our year has been overwhelmingly positive and productive so far. You do make a difference, and our students appreciate your investment in their future!

Adopted with permission from The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family by Patrick Lencioni

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Susan Henry
President

Connecting with Our Community

The Huntington Beach Union High School District (HBUHSD) has taken the next step towards 21st century communication with the addition of Twitter. The Twitter messaging system allows for real-time correspondence with our target audience. Twitter was identified as the next logical step in a technology plan that has recently standardized e-mail accounts for staff members, created Gmail accounts for students, and begun professional development in the instructional potential of Google Docs. Future technology plans include a redesigned Web site and a critical analysis of the communication and instructional uses of applicable technology.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a way to instantly communicate with people who volunteer to receive updates from an individual or organization. These people are called subscribers or followers and can receive updates sent directly to their mobile devices. HBUHSD Twitter messages, called tweets, also post directly to our Web site (www.hbuhd.edu) for public viewing. Tweets are limited to 140 characters, allowing followers to get concise information in bite sizes. Posters may attach links to articles or videos for followers to review at their leisure.



How does HBUHSD utilize Twitter?

We recently created a Twitter account for anyone interested in following our district. We currently have a growing group of followers who chose to receive messages directly to their personal electronic devices. It is more difficult to measure the number of people checking our Web site for tweets. The tweets are posted through the Educational Services Division at least three times per week. Topics have covered issues ranging from the recent flash mob with the Fountain Valley High School community to the National Common Core standards.

What is the ultimate goal?

We hope to grow our Twitter followers in time by posting interesting and relevant information for all stakeholders. The automatic posting of all tweets on our Web site should also increase the professionalism of our communication and may eventually allow for a two-way dialogue with our community. For current Twitter subscribers, our address is @HBUHSD.



Susan Henry
President



Dr. Michael Simons
Vice President



Bonnie P. Castrey
Clerk



Brian Garland
Alt. Clerk



Kathleen Iverson
Member

Huntington Beach Union High School District Board of Trustees



Tuyen Dinh
Student
Representative
Board of
Education

You Can't Spell Love Without OV

September has come and gone, but we can't forget some of the incredible events that happened at Ocean View High School last month.

Firstly, Associated Student Body (ASB) hosted our annual Aloha Dance to welcome all the Seahawks back to school. With creative ASB members, a new advisor, a brand-new DJ, and fellow Orange County leadership members, we were able to put on an amazing dance. We more than doubled attendance and profit that night, which hadn't happened in years!

Next, Ocean View hosted its first ever community festival. Vendors from around the area came and sold goods. Many clubs and sports at OV had the opportunity to sell food and fund-raise for their organizations. There were also many performers, such as the lion dancers from University of California, Irvine. Overall, it was a great turnout, and hopefully we'll be having more in the future. Thank again to PTSA and Mrs. Tram Banks for organizing a wonderful event!



More recently, ASB hosted the first rally of the year to showcase the fall sports. We also enjoyed performances by the cheer squads, the band, and the color guard. The most memorable part of the rally was when we had a mini Battle of the Bands performance by the teachers. Three returning teachers were grouped against three brand-new teachers in an air-guitar battle. The crowd was cheering loudly, and the atmosphere was great. Needless to say, the first rally of the school year went off without a hitch.

The next day, Ocean View had its first Pride Day of the year. Students came to clean up the school and clear their detention hours. By picking up trash for two hours, they were able to clear four hours of detention. It's a great incentive for students to come and make our campus beautiful.

October brings another great month at Ocean View. We're very excited for all the great events to come, such as Club Rush, the Homecoming Rally, and the Homecoming Dance. It's great to be a Seahawk!

Coast *High School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

We Welcome Two New Teachers!

New teachers bring renewed vigor and new ideas. We at Coast high School have been blessed by the addition of two very passionate and professional new teachers.

Our "new" art teacher has actually been with us since last year, but it is safe to say that Heather Soodak-Gagon has made quite an impact on Coast students. Mrs. Soodak-Gagnon is from the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Northern California and came to Southern California to complete her bachelor's degree in fine art and illustration at the very well-respected Laguna College of Art and



Heather Soodak-Gagnon

Design in Laguna Beach. She then attended California State University, Long Beach to receive her teaching credential. Mrs. Soodak-Gagon now spends her spare time working as freelance illustrator, graphic designer and public artist, although much of her time outside Coast High School is spent volunteering as a youth art teacher and promoting youth art in any way she is able. She was recently married to Chris Paul Gagon from Huntington Beach, so now she is here to stay!

Another positive addition to the wonderful teaching staff at Coast High School is Southern California native and Huntington Beach resident Karen Pizzica. Ms. Pizzica earned her Bachelor of Arts at UC Berkeley, majoring in history. She has always had a passion for teaching and volunteering for various youth programs in Huntington Beach. This passion led her to pursue her teaching credential and seek an opportunity to help the students of the HBUHSD on a more broad level. Ms. Pizzica has worked in the HBUHSD since 2002 and has served in one way, shape or form on every campus in the district. She is dedicated to the students of the HBUHSD and in her own words "loves coming to work every day!" Ms. Pizzica is also the proud mother of two sons who have been the recipients of a successful HBUHSD education, and she is proud to be a part of the local education system.



Karen Pizzica

Are you looking
for me for the
contest on page 12?



Community Day School Fountain Valley *High School*

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

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

'Small-Town School'

Wow! It's already the middle of October, and by the time you read this, it will be November! We'll soon be at Thanksgiving break and then winter break!

Time has been moving very quickly, and Community Day School has, as always, made the most of it. Just last week, our new superintendent, Dr. Gregory Plutko, toured our campus and met the staff and students. I'm not sure what he expected when

I told him we were going to a nearby mall for our CDS visit, but I know what he did see was a unique school composed of passionate teachers along with staff and students from all over the district trying to complete their high school education. Staff and students were excited and honored at his visit.

Up to this point, CDS has welcomed 12 new students and is expecting a few more in the near future. A transition to CDS can be quite different than a transition to one of the comprehensive high schools. Because of its unique setup and small school size, students quickly learn that they have become part of a family. All staff knows all students, and all students know all staff as well as all other students. Everybody knows everybody. How many people can say that about their graduating class, let alone the high school they graduated from?

CDS held its first student council meeting of the year in October, where they discussed the coming Halloween party, Back to School Night and other school programs. Even as a small school, they are able to have a lot of activities for students, which demonstrates the dedication and hard work that the staff puts in to give our CDS students as much of a full high school experience as possible. At the first student council meeting, Maya Simon was chosen as the student representative for CDS to this year's school board of trustees. This is a very honorable position, as she will be the face of CDS to the governing body of the entire school district.



Chris Herzfeld
Principal

Solidarity

How do you bring a great collection of individuals closer together? You make them "Barons for Life," of course!

The term Baron for Life, or B4L, could have many meanings, but our intention has been to create an identity that highlights the positive attributes of Fountain Valley High School. The brainchild of Assistant Principal Joshua Arnold, our B4L program was rolled out in a staff meeting last August.

"Whether you've been here since 1966, or this is your first day, you will be a Baron for Life!" said Mr. Arnold.

As staff went through a variety of team-building exercises in their brand-new B4L T-shirts, the vision started to grow. "It's cool to see the staff with a common identity, but the program is ultimately about recognizing our students for their positive contributions to the FVHS community," he added.

Here's how it works. Once a month every teacher nominates one student from his or her third-period class. The nominees are students who have demonstrated one or more of the school's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results. We call these Critical Thinker, Effective Communicator, Responsible Member of Society and Self-Directed Learner.

All of the 100 or so nominees attend a lunchtime drawing at which 10 names get pulled. Those selected receive a \$50 gift card.

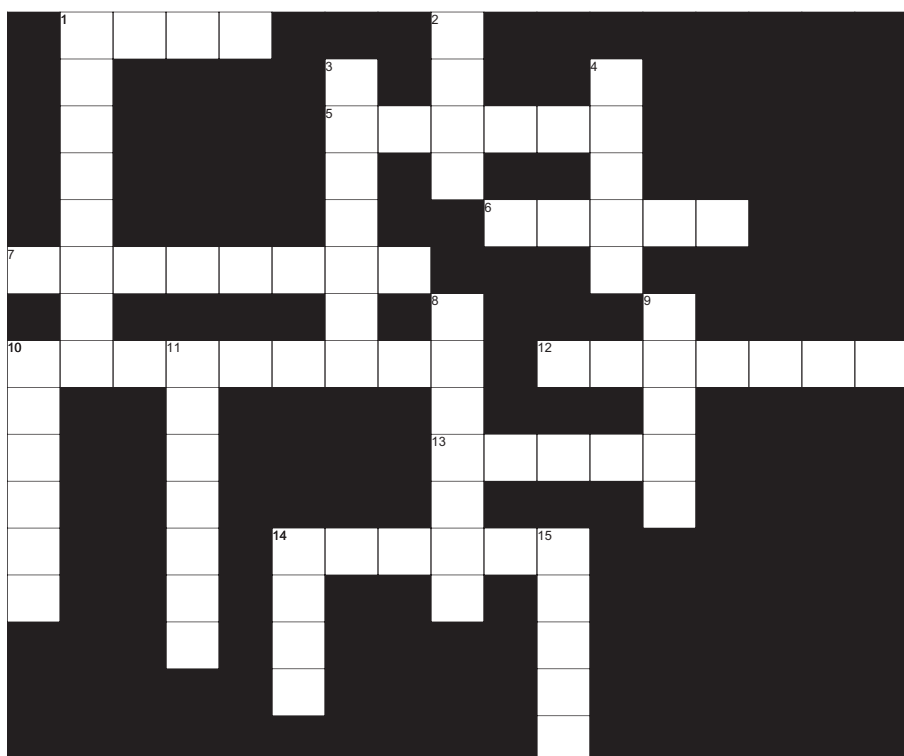
All of the nominated students are now Barons 4 Life, and will also receive the T-shirt. On Fridays our staff and students are encouraged to wear these bright "Baron Blue" shirts in a show of solidarity and pride. Meanwhile, the B4L logo is being plastered all over the school and the website to help create a visual identity. It has become a form of branding or marketing, much like the Baron Head image.

Our B4L is quickly coming to represent the positive values of the school community. What it means is that once you have become a part of the FVHS culture, you are now a Baron For Life!

Please see www.fvhs.com for more information and pictures.



Musical Terms



ACROSS

1. the musical range of the lowest male voice
5. eight musical notes
6. a combination of three or more tones played together in harmony
7. the first and strongest beat of each measure
10. a device that beats time at a specified tempo
12. small note, means the note is optional
13. series of tones arranged in a sequence of rising or falling pitches
14. the refrain of a song or hymn after each verse

DOWN

- 1 the musical range of a male voice between tenor and bass
- 2 the musical range of the lowest female voice
- 3 the highest singing voice of women
- 4 the adult male voice higher than baritone
- 8 the smallest musical unit bordered by vertical lines
- 9 rhythm in music
- 10 a sequence of single tones, the tune
- 11 phrase or verse repeated at regular intervals throughout a song or poem
- 14 a symbol used to indicate the pitch of notes on the staff
- 15 the five lines and spaces between on which music is written

Answers on page 29



Dr. D'liese
Melendrez
Principal

Best in the West

The Charger community has declared Edison High to be a “Three-A’s” school. But just what does that mean? It means that our staff, students and parents are committed to achieving excellence in “academics, arts and athletics.” The Three-A’s!

Excellence in academics is demonstrated by the strong growth in our Academic Performance Index (API) again this year. Our score jumped from 849 to 864 points! The Class of 2011 sent 94 percent of its graduates to college, and 28 percent of the class earned a California Golden Seal Diploma.

Edison is also among the best high schools in the nation, having been named last summer by Newsweek as No. 317 out of the top 500 high schools in the country.

Excellence in the arts is recognized by our visual and performing arts, digital arts, fashion and career/technical arts programs. The EHS Wind Ensemble achieved a “gold” rating (the top 10 percent nationally) at the Ohlone College Music Festival. Last year they also completed 27 instrumental performances.

The visual art and ceramics students exhibited at both the district art show and the Huntington Beach Art Gallery. Students and staff also received awards for their entries at the Orange County Fair. We are even expanding our MuTech Lab to help support student computer music composition and productions. And last spring, over 1,000 audience members applauded the all-school musical *Guys and Dolls*.



Guys & Dolls Finale



Ellis Island



Wheel

TV, Too

Additionally, last year we piloted a successful, all-school “Lip Dub” which was entered in national competitions and viewed on YouTube. We also completed our second season of Bolt TV.

Finally, excellence in athletics is demonstrated by recognition of our Charger athletic programs at the local, state and national levels. This year the *Orange County Register* ranked EHS the No. 9 school in the county, and our baseball and soccer teams ranked No. 1 in the nation last year.

Last year also saw most of our sports teams going on to the CIF playoffs, where we had eight league championships. We are most proud of our CIF champs girls basketball team and the wrestling team which had CIF finalists. Our graduates were offered 21 athletic scholarships, and three baseball players were recruited into professional baseball in the spring.

As the year progresses, our Charger community will continue to strive for excellence as a Three-A’s school. That means academics, arts and athletics!



Field Hockey



Surfer

Huntington Beach *High School*

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



Janie Hoy
Principal

The Greatest Show on Earth!

The second annual Senior Sunrise was held in September and proved to be an incredible success. At sunrise, seniors celebrated the start of their final year at HBHS in due fashion.

They were welcomed with leis, enjoyed a delicious breakfast and set in motion a year of what will be full of wonderful memories. At the end

of the school year, they will gather once again for Senior Sunset. Seniors will sign yearbooks, rejoice in their experiences and bid one another farewell as they watch the sun set on their senior year at HBHS.

This year, our theme for the Homecoming was "A Night under the Big Top," and the activities leading up to the game and presentation of the Homecoming Court gave our Oilers as well as HBHS Faculty and Staff the chance to show their school spirit. All throughout the week, Oilers could be seen dressed as animals and tamers and circus entertainers. They also participated in a hallway-decorating contest for freshman-through-senior classes. The halls of HBHS were transformed into a circus with such themes as "Ringmasters" and "Clowns" along with posters, balloons and streamers galore!



Poster created by students,
Andrew Exton and Keet Veylupek

At the Homecoming Assembly, we recognized our phenomenal fall athletes and had a blast promoting "A Night Under the Big Top" as our Ringmaster guided the audience through the greatest show on Earth. We introduced the Homecoming Court candidates and announced our King, Cameron Trentini, but preserved tradition by saving the announcement of the 2011 Homecoming Queen for halftime of the football game that evening.

Our Homecoming Court candidates enjoyed a wonderful dinner before being escorted to the stadium where they were met by a



Mr. and Mrs. Davis, overjoyed as their daughter, Mollie, is crowned HBHS 2011 Homecoming Queen

packed crowd of spirited Oiler fans. Our Oiler Football team took the lead early and never looked back, Mollie Davis was announced the 2011 Homecoming Queen in circus fashion as we released an enormous red, white and black balloon arch that spelled out her name.

The next evening, over a thousand students attended the Homecoming Dance under the Big Top in our gym. We continued with another new tradition of inviting ASB members from our sister schools to join in the fun. A superb time was had by all as dancegoers decorated their arms and shoulders with henna tattoos and enjoyed cotton candy, popcorn and other circus treats. Everyone marked memories as they danced the night away and took circus-themed pictures at our dress-up photo booth.

During the last week of October, National Honors Society at Huntington Beach High School hosted our annual cultural festival, International Week. Each day, a different region of the world was celebrated with traditional entertainment as well as delicious food of the area. International Week has been highly successful in the past, and our students were extremely excited to sample the culinary customs of regions such as Latin America and the Middle East. FNL joined in the fun as we recognized Red Ribbon Week and raised our students' awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

The spirit at Huntington Beach High School this year has been nothing short of dazzling. As we continue through a successful fall sports season and look ahead to APA performances and winter sports, we just can't seem to hide our Oiler Pride!

Huntington Beach *Adult School*

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



Steve Curiel
Principal

New Home, Sweet Home!

Not many people are aware that the HBUHSD Adult Education program offers pre-K, preschool and toddler classes for parents and their children. The Parent Smart programs have earned a 26-year reputation for excellence, with families who once attended now returning to bring their own children and grandchildren.

The Parent Smart Preschool and Toddler programs have just relocated to their new permanent site in the front of the Marina HS Campus off Springdale, just north of Edinger. The classes provide children with early-learning skills while the parents gain effective parenting strategies. Fees are remarkably affordable due to the state adult education supplemental funding for parent education.

Parents enroll along with their children, and in many cases, the grandparents attend while the parents work. Classes are designed to ensure kindergarten readiness for the children through nurturing and enriching instruction. Parents are learning parenting skills and recent research in child development while they observe child behavior and practice using strategies presented. Unlike most preschools, our teachers are fully multiple-subject credentialed. They align their teaching with the California Preschool Standards in an adult-to-child ratio of 1-8 or less.

If you know someone who would like to attend classes with his or her toddler or preschooler, please share this news!

The Programs

Parent Smart Toddler Classes: Parents attend one morning a week with toddlers aged 12 months to 3 years old. Parents and toddlers work together in a variety of structured learning stations, indoor and outdoor physical exercise, and reading and learning activities. "Miss Lisa"—Lisa Marcinko—organizes the classroom schedule to teach cognitive and social skills to the children and appropriate parenting strategies to the parents. Fees range from \$90 to \$110 per semester.

Parent Smart Pre-K and Preschool: Parents and grandparents enjoy rotating attendance in the preschool one morning a week alongside their children, who attend two- or three-day programs for 3-year-olds and 4-5 year-olds. Teachers Suzanne Chen, Cassi Perruccio and Cathy McLean are all multiple-subject credentialed and experienced parent educators. Parents act as assistant teachers and practice the presented parenting skills. Fees for the programs are \$400-\$500 per semester.

Evening Seminars for Parents: Preschool and toddler parents attend Evening Seminars for Parents each semester as a part of our Parent Smart programs. Topics include age-appropriate discipline, child health and safety, nutrition, brain development and kindergarten readiness. These seminars are open to the general public as well.

New Location: Marina High School Campus!

The HB Adult School and Coast HS have just opened their newly constructed main campus on Gothard Street, just south of Warner Avenue. The Parent Smart Preschool and Toddler Programs moved into the previous location at the front of Marina HS, and the complex has been remodeled for children and parents.

For more information and ongoing registration, call us or visit our website and click on "Parent Education."

Are you looking
for me for the
contest on page 12?



Marina *High School*

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



Dr. Paul Morrow
Principal

The Halls are Alive with the Sound of Music

Music doesn't lie. If there is something to be changed in this world, it can only happen through music. —Jimi Hendrix

In a time when schools are cutting the visual and performing arts programs in an effort to meet budgetary constraints, Marina High School has done the opposite. Over the past two years, the band program has grown to include an orchestra class, and the choral program has added a men's group called the Norsemen Ensemble and an introductory women's group called the Sirens.

Just like any other course in the Viking Band program, students can enter at any level of experience. Our orchestra class has 30 students, several of whom are at the novice level. Band Director John McGilligan shared, "Because students know they can come into the program without experience, they have taken advantage of trying new instruments." Tenth-grader Shellin Duke said, "Orchestra has always been my passion. I am so excited I decided to attend Marina and have this connection to school." Our Viking Band program includes the marching band, the jazz band, the orchestra and tall flags.

Just down the hall from the band room, another type of music fills the air. The newly added Norsemen Ensemble is practicing for an upcoming performance. Choral Director Eric Graham noted, "Another opportunity has been created for more students to get involved and connected to school." Senior Stephanie Storm shared, "I consider the people in the (music) program to be part of my family. As a member of this program, I have been exposed to music and cultures that I might not have otherwise experienced." The Viking Choral program consists of the Viking Choir, the Norsemen Ensemble, the concert choir, the Valkyrie Ensemble, and the Sirens.

Both groups have performances throughout the year. If you get the opportunity to attend, you will not be disappointed! For performance dates see the activities calendar on the Marina High School Web site at www.marinavikings.org.



Ocean View *High School*

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



Dan Bryan
Principal

What is International Baccalaureate?

Ocean View High School is honored to be an International Baccalaureate World School with a reputation for innovative courses and outstanding co-curricular programs. As a magnet program of the Huntington Beach Union High School District, the IB Program serves not only students within the district but also students from neighboring areas. The staff and administration at Ocean View High School value the IB Program as a natural extension of a comprehensive high school, dedicated to preparing students for the 21st century.

IB offers high-quality educational programs to a worldwide community of schools. The IB Diploma Program is a two-year comprehensive and rigorous pre-university curriculum, providing one of the most respected secondary educations available. Successful candidates typically receive advanced placement credit at the finest universities and colleges in the nation. Since Ocean View's authorization as an IB World School in 1996, IB Diploma candidates have been accepted to attend numerous Ivy League, Military Academy, University of California, and private universities and colleges. Some of these schools are Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Cornell, West Point, US Naval Academy, Berkley, UCLA, Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, Notre Dame, MIT, Stanford and USC.



Students in IB Theory of Knowledge class consider if making a "knowledge claim" carries any particular obligation or responsibility for the knower?

The IB Diploma

The IB Diploma Program provides a greater depth of study than other enrichment programs, including college preparatory courses. The program is comprehensive in nature, focusing on inquiry-based learning, which teaches students how to think and to apply what they have learned through in-depth research papers and projects. IB students actively engage in a liberal arts curriculum covering six academic areas. Students also complete an extended essay, allowing them to investigate a topic of interest and to acquaint them with the independent research and writing skills expected at the university level. The Theory of Knowledge class is taken during the senior year, focusing on critical thinking and exploring the nature of knowledge across the academic disciplines. The service-learning program (CAS) affords students the opportunity to develop their creative pursuits, engage in physical activity and participate in community service opportunities, cultivating an awareness and appreciation of life beyond the academic arena. The goals of the IB Program goes beyond academic preparation, aiming to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect, encouraging them to become active and compassionate lifelong learners.

For further information about the IB Program at Ocean View High School, please call our office or visit our website.





Kerry Clitheroe
Principal

We Are the World

Art Teacher Beth Chilcott's "Personal Flag" project is a wonderful example of the kind of creative, integrative and multi-faceted educational experience that successfully engages our at-risk student population to produce true, expressive works of art.

This project requires our students to develop important personal skills such as interviewing relatives about the geographic origins of their ancestors. They must also research the identifying flags, emblems and artifacts that represent their ancestral homelands; and learn how to follow concrete and abstract instructions that are related to the individual elements of their own flag.

The program also requires students to consider all of the elements of art, such as composition, color, balance, harmony and emotional impact. It also allows them to make a great contribution to our campus community when their flags are finally displayed.



Mrs. Chilcott with art students and their personal flags

Staying Creative

It is Beth Chilcott's trademark cheerfulness and enthusiasm that makes this project work. One of her students said that, "Mrs. Chilcott is just so positive and encouraging. You're having so much fun doing the project that you don't even realize how much you're learning, and how hard you're working on it. And then you're so proud of the final product."

Each flag is a wonderful amalgam of the student's personal family history. They include colors or graphic elements that represent the national banners of their ancestors' homelands. Artifacts typical of a student's Native-American heritage are also included. These student flags are standardized to use color pencils or crayons on 12 x 18 art paper. This emphasizes the creative rather than format considerations.

The students are also required to use colors and graphic elements based on their research. And they must learn to "get creative" by altering sizes, shapes, directions, placements, juxtapositions, etc.

Stars from the U.S. flag can be used, but not in a rectangular field. One student's flag displayed aspects of the American flag in the middle of a large red circle that represented Japan.

The students are encouraged to keep working at their artwork until their flag clearly says, "This is me!" A vibrant, colorful and interesting collage of student "flags" now fills a wall in the VVHS administrative offices. It says to everyone that, "This is us!"



Shirley Vaughn
Principal

College Night

In early October, Westminster High School hosted the Huntington Beach Union High School District's College Night. Approximately 1,300 parents and students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 67 different colleges and universities.

Representatives from the University of California, California State University, community colleges, Regional Occupational Programs, independent colleges, out-of-state colleges and the U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC were all in attendance.

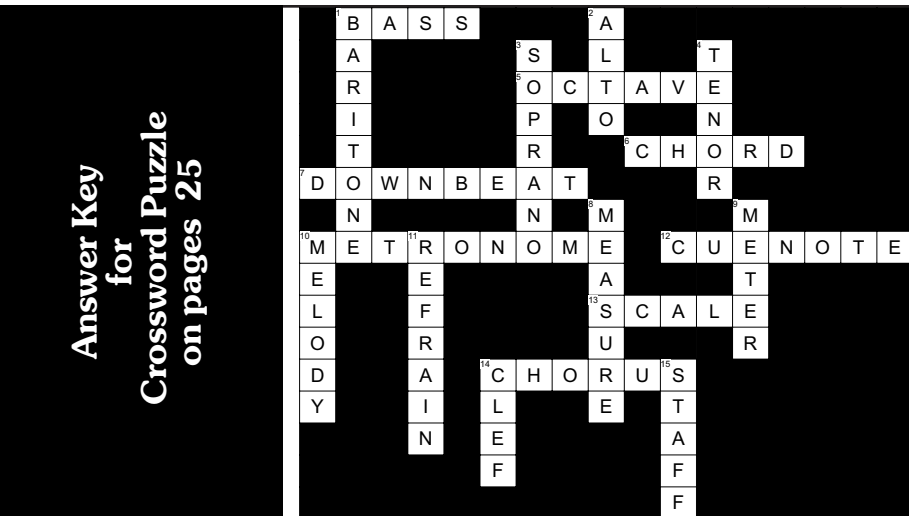
We are proud to announce that members of the Westminster High School Class of 2011 have been enrolled in the following colleges and universities, and received approximately \$1,475,288 in scholarship money!

The state institutions include the California State Universities at Dominguez Hills, Eastbay, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona, San Diego and San Francisco. We also have graduates at the University of California at Berkeley, as well as at Irvine, UCLA, Riverside, San Diego and Santa Barbara.

Independent colleges are well-represented, too. We have graduates at the Academy of the Arts in San Francisco, the Art Institute of Orange County, Everest College, Hope International University, the Fashion Institute of Fashion Design and Merchandising, Soka University, the University of Southern California and Vanguard University.

Out-of-state institutions include Amarillo College in Texas, Brigham Young University, the University of Idaho, the University of Nevada and Valor Christian College in Ohio.

Our local community colleges are beneficiaries as well. We have students at Cypress College, Fullerton College, Golden West College, Irvine Valley College, Long Beach City College, Mt. San Antonio College, Orange Coast College, Santa Ana College, Saddleback College and Riverside Community College!



students may audition—the District Wide Talent Show and the Surf City Student Film Festival. All of APA's shows continue to experience great success and provide countless opportunities for students throughout HBUHSD to not only show off their talents, but catapult them into lifelong careers in the arts.

Prior to making a splash on stage, APA students are highly accountable for their academic performance inside and outside of the performing arts arena. Academy classes allow students to realize their fullest potential while interacting with peers that share their passion. Involvement in the academy not only increases the self-esteem of its young performers, but it often raises their level of academic achievement.

Those wishing to continue a post-secondary career in the arts are provided ample opportunity to do so, as APA partners with industry professionals in dance, technical theater, and acting and musical theater, as well as creative companies in the entertainment industry. Coastline Regional Occupational Program (ROP) acknowledges this pre-professional training by offering sections in music technology, video, broadcast journalism, technical theater, and professional dance. In addition, APA partners with prestigious colleges and universities, nationally and internationally, to give students a strong awareness and knowledge of creative pathways and scholarship opportunities.

In light of APA's incredible success on stage, the program earns never-ending accolades and has been the recipient of many coveted awards. MMET was this



2011 APA Graduate from Edison High School, Ryan Nelson performing at the Retrofest Session Musician Concert last May.

year's recipient of the Golden Bell Award for innovation. Musical Theater students Elizabeth Romero and Jake Gonzales were the 2011 California finalists at the National High School Musical Theater Awards on Broadway. APA Orchestra received nominations as Best Student Orchestra of the Year by J-Rays and Music and Arts Commendation for Youth (MACY) in 2011. Marie Hoffman and selected dance students received the 2011 Grand Prix Award, the 2011 Contemporary Dance Award, the 2010 Grisko Award, and the 2010 Pedagogy Award at The New Prague Dance Festival. APA's Theater Department, acting and technical theater, took honors from the California Educational Theater Association (CETA), the Critics and Awards Program (Cappies) and National Youth Arts, including Artist of the Year, Best Scenic Design and Outstanding Original Music. Joe Batte and the Technical Theater Department received the ROP Above and

Beyond Award. Most recently, one of APA's Class of 2011 graduates, Caden Michael Gray, appeared on the critically acclaimed television show "GLEE," a true testament to the strength of the academy and a real-world example for our students looking to forge a career in performing arts.

For more information about advanced educational opportunities in the arts and a complete schedule of main and second stage shows, please visit the Academy for the Performing Arts online at www.hbapa.org. See you at the show!

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Real Estate Matters

Beware of New Scam to Steal Your Identity



CathyLyn Brooks

I continue to be amazed by how much effort and creativity “crooks” use to scam or otherwise steal or hurt innocent people. If they were employees, and performed this imaginatively and thoroughly, they’d surely be employees of the month.

The new scam involves the use of Craigslist and homes that are for sale. The scammers identify a property that is for sale, collect images from the Internet, and then list it for rent on Craigslist. The advertised rent is very appealing, usually low or offering to pay utilities, or cable service. When a person makes an inquiry about the property, the scammer invites them to complete an application. This application is what they are after, of course.

The Craigslist ads are vague. When a party calls about the rental, they are given a story about how the homeowner is forced to move out of state to care for an ailing relative. And that the move is going to be for a substantial period of time, so they are looking for an honest, sincere family to move into their residence during this absence.

Scammers may make viewing the property hard to view. A reliable landlord or rental agent will want you to see the property. Scammers may say the keys will be delivered after the application is completed. This is not standard protocol. Run quickly from a person who tells you this.

To avoid scams, work with reputable firms. And do your research. If average rents are \$2000 and you see a home advertised for \$1000, ask yourself why. Remember that things that seem too good to be true, really can be.

CathyLyn Brooks has been a local real estate broker since 1980, earning the advanced credentials of Certified Residential Specialist and Graduate Realtor through advanced education and sales volume. She has completed the American Bar Association's approved Paralegal certification and is an instructor at UCI in the Paralegal program. She also teaches real estate related courses in the extension program. The NASD, the NYSE, and the National Futures Organization have appointed her as a public arbitrator. Her degree is in finance and marketing from the University of Southern California. CathyLyn is affiliated with Main Street Realtors and can be reached at: 562/719-2530 or cathylyn@earthlink.net Consumers should seek legal and tax advice from professionals in each field.

ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS • FROM PAGE 2



William M.
Habermehl
Superintendent

Educators

The Educators page includes information on curriculum and instruction, leadership and professional development, learning and health support, school and district improvement, special student populations, and student and family services.

Students

The Students page provides information and links on academic events, college and career readiness, health and safety, learning resources, and youth development and leadership.

Community/Partners

The Community/Partners page provides links to our business and community partners, data sources, community reports, and education resources.

In many ways the newly designed website is an extension of the OCDE mission of providing excellent customer service. The website is dynamic, user friendly, and provides our different audiences with the information they want quickly and easily. I invite parents, students, educators, community, and business partners to explore the new website, and since the site will continue to evolve and expand, visitors are encouraged to check back often for updates.

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