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School News

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Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 54

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DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Measure K Modernization Update

Los Alamitos Unified School District is extremely appreciative of our residents who passed Measure K. We implemented

an ambitious plan to modernize all of our facilities within seven years, which allowed the District to take advantage of State matching funds. In addition to the 123 million generated from Measure K, we have received 27 million in matching funds. These funds are allowing us to improve our facilities to align with Los Al's Legacy: exemplary student outcomes in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts.

The Lee Elementary School Modernization Project, which began in June of 2012, was completed over the summer. The Oak Middle School

See BOARD OF EDUCATION • Page 6

Clubs and Activities Round Out Success



McAuliffe Middle School students, (back) Kyle Hall, Brandon Bandley (frong) Kayla Moore, Jia Jing Zhang, Colby Tai, Eleanor Williams, Kennedy Schilz and Luca Costa, created an entry for Orange County's Red Ribbon Banner contest, and it won first prize! Their banner will be used in schools across Orange County to publicize the 2014-15 Red Ribbon Week themes.

By Ann Allen, Principal
McAuliffe Middle School

What do terms like *Best Buddies*, *Japanese Culture* and *One for One* have to do with middle school? Each identifies clubs and activities that contribute significantly to the lives of middle-schoolers. Learning the curriculum and developing social and emotional skills necessary for success in high school and beyond are vital, and outside activities and clubs play a critical role.

McAuliffe presented its annual club and activity day in September during both lunches. Students visited the various booths that had been set up for them by the school staff. The students learned about ASB, Science Olympiad, Ecology, Run/Walk, Improvisation through Acting and the 15 other clubs offered here.

Our students have also embraced the recent community service and safety activities. Over 30 students participated in McAuliffe's annual

See MCAULIFFE M.S. Page 6

Demonstration Classrooms



Although public education is going through a number of current reform initiatives, such as the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (the new assessment for the Common Core), Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD), as always, is poised to continue doing exemplary work in education.

Whether it is working more collaboratively to plan common units of study, attending various professional development opportunities on our Signature Practices (including Cognitively Guided Instruction, Thinking Maps, Reader's and Writer's Workshop, Instructional Networking,

Depth and Complexity, Gradual Release of Responsibility) or integrating technology into our classrooms, LAUSD teachers, more than ever, are working hard to make sure our students get the world-class education they deserve.

In addition to this work, LAUSD is working with one of the most respected educators and researchers in the country, Dr. Sandra Kaplan, a University of Southern California professor who is most commonly associated with the Gifted And Talented Education Depth and Complexity prompts. LAUSD has been using these prompts for years to help guide discussions, plan and deliver instruction, ask higher-level questions and increase the academic rigor in our

classrooms. This year, we are extremely excited to announce that we have begun working to create 34 Model Depth and Complexity Classrooms across the district. Every school in the district is represented in this initiative, and teachers are creating classrooms that can serve as demonstration classrooms for lessons that are framed through and include increased depth, complexity, novelty, ambiguity, and rigor in the four core-content areas. While the initiative is still in its infancy, this work will be paramount to providing us with exemplary lessons and classrooms that prepare students to meet the demands of not only the Common Core, but the 21st century.

Los Alamitos Unified School District Board of Education



David Boyer
President



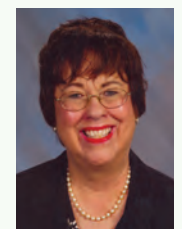
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Throughout the year the school articles consistently reference the importance a commitment to community service. It is commendable that students learn the importance of leadership and volunteerism, which will become a life long commitment.

Happy Holidays! We are always mindful of the service men and women who are not home with their families and we thank them for their service.

Our next issue is February 12, 2014...
Happy New Year!

School News

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Happy
Holidays
and
A Wonderful
New Year
to All!

**CAR + HOME =
BIG SAVINGS**
Let's Talk.



Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/933-KIDS • MCHLB.org

Keep the Holiday Season Jolly



Divya Joshi, MD
Chief Medical
Officer

For many families the holiday season truly is “the most wonderful time of the year.” School is out, parents take time off of work and families gather to celebrate special traditions. But with all the shopping, dining and Christmas parties – everyone is exceptionally busy during this time of year. Unfortunately, this includes the emergency department. Miller Children's wants you to be able to protect your family and avoid unnecessary trips to the ER.

Be Diligent With Decorating

- When setting up a fresh or artificial tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters; and don't block doorways.
- Be sure to keep your tree watered – dry trees are fire hazards. Also, check your smoke detectors to make sure they are working.
- Check all tree lights, before hanging them on your tree. Make sure there are no frayed wires or broken sockets.
- Don't overload electrical outlets – it's a fire hazard. Also, turn off all lights before bed, have inclement weather or leave the house.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other greenery.
- Tree ornaments, light bulbs, icicles, tinsel and small toys are choking hazards for children.
- Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Jerusalem cherry plants and other plants are used as holiday decorations. Like many plants, these could be poisonous if ingested. If you suspect ingestion, call the National Poison Center Help Line:(800) 222-1222.

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Holiday Festivities & Parties

- Clean up immediately after a holiday party. A toddler could wake up early and choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco.
- Lots of cooking happens during the holidays! Practice food safety by washing hands, utensils, dishes, and anything that comes in contact with raw meat, including poultry and fish, and raw eggs before and after use.
- Common holiday foods such as peanuts or popcorn are potential choking hazards; don't give to children under 4.
- Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers a baby-sitter is likely to need in case of an emergency.
- Be aware when traveling during holiday evenings, since there is a higher incidence of drunk-driving accidents on these days.



Our specialists are the leaders
in children's health care.

At 9-years-old, Christian was constantly tired, thirsty and hungry—and dropping weight fast. A trip to the doctor finds that his blood glucose is dangerously high. If left untreated, it can cause life-threatening dehydration and coma. Christian is sent to Miller Children's, where experts diagnosed him with Type 1 diabetes. Quickly learning that diabetes didn't have to control his life, Christian taught himself how to play the guitar. Today, Christian, 17, jams with his band, even playing at diabetes events to help other kids understand that they have diabetes, diabetes doesn't have them. *From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.*

Follow the leader to Miller Children's.

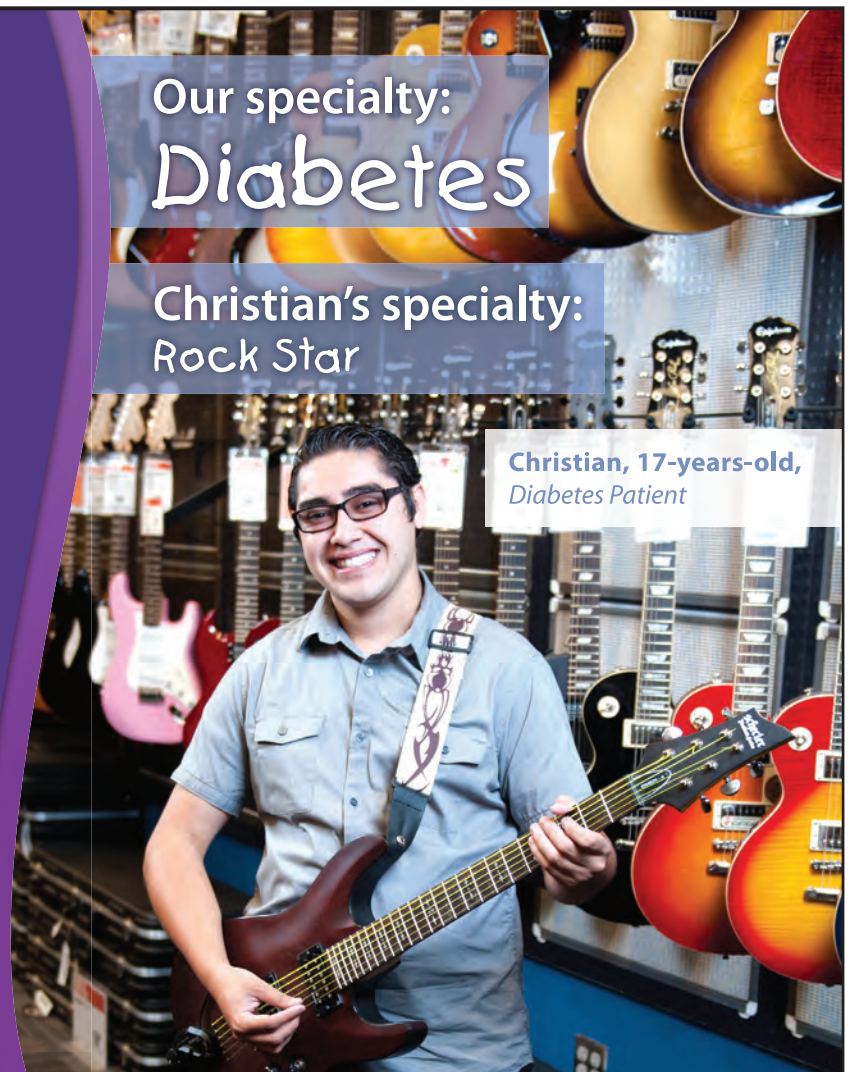
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Our specialty:
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Christian's specialty:
Rock Star

Christian, 17-years-old,
Diabetes Patient



A Familiar Face from a Foreign Place

Rain—A Moment to Learn Down the Drain



Lauren Barrette

When the rainy season hits, you can feel the sticky heat hanging in the air. You can taste the wet earth and smell the steaming pavement. You can see the streets convert to rushing rivers. Most of all, you can hear the rain as it bangs onto the roof. Nicaragua's tropical storms bring a downpour of rain that crashes onto zinc roofing like the sound of angry clapping echoing all around you. The change in season brings the long-awaited water that will grow the crops and feed the country. It also brings unexpected changes to all aspects of life, including education.

Slowly but surely, the students return from recess to their classrooms, hands sticky with Coca Cola and fried plantains with chili sauce. I circle the room reminding students to settle down, get out their notebooks and pencils, and please, please, please quiet down!

Just as I seem to have control of the 50 rowdy students, the slow patter begins to hit the roof. We smell it, we see it, and we begin to hear it. Rain! Pounding, attacking, and splashing all around us, the rain has come.

I try to out-scream the rain. "SIT DOWN!" I tell the students. "LISTEN!" But the rain's attack has won.

Soon a soaking wet child running from classroom to classroom informs us that school will end early. Excitement fills the wet air, and my students pour out of the classroom. My mind drifts back to the indoor lunches and rainy-day activities that my teachers organized to keep us busy from elementary school to high school. But here I am, left confused by what the rain has stolen from me and my students: another moment to learn down the drain.

Graduate Los Alamitos High School Class of 2006. Studied Business Administration with a concentration in marketing at the University of Oregon Class of 2010. I decided to join the peace corps after college because I wanted to challenge myself to use my business degree in a creative way. I also felt that I was at a unique time in my life where I had no real responsibility and could dedicate two years of my life to serving others and seeking personal growth.

Seal Beach Animal Care Center

1700 Aldofo Lopez Dr., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/430-4993 • www.sbacc.org

Don't Feed the Animals

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

There is a huge concern at this time about coyotes. Reports are everywhere regarding missing dogs, cats and other animals from homes. People have watched as their tiny dog or cat is carried off by these wild animals. But is it really the coyotes' fault?

The problem may not be the coyote but the people who live in our area. Coyotes play an important role in the ecosystem, helping to keep the rodent population under control. They are fearful of humans most of the time. There may be a rare occasion that a coyote may try to harm humans and usually that is when the animal is sick. These animals are most active in the spring, when they are eating or protecting their families.

If coyotes are given access to human food and garbage, their behavior changes. They may lose their fear of humans. They may cause property damage, and they might threaten human safety. Moving coyotes is not the solution because it only gives the problem to another neighborhood.

Here are a few precautions that can help to keep these creatures of nature at bay in our neighborhood.

Never feed or attempt to tame a coyote. Do not leave small pets or children unattended outside. Bring pets in at night and do not leave food or water outside. Trim your shrubbery to reduce hiding places. Use garbage cans that have locking lids and do not place them out on the curb until the day of pick-up. If you are followed by a coyote, make loud noises and make yourself look big. If the coyote continues to follow you, throw something at it, like rocks. Report sightings or attacks by coyotes in your neighborhood to animal control or law enforcement.

Do your part in helping to prevent conflicts with these animals. They are beautiful, wild creatures that need respect and need to be kept wild.

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Heidi Olshan
Principal

A Successful Start

The Laurel High School Knights have been very busy these past few months. Students have completed a poetry unit in English which culminated in “publishing” an anthology of their original work. Utilizing our new technology, students are working collaboratively with one another with electronic tablets. They are learning how to creatively present their work via Haiku decks and how to peer edit their work via Google docs, and they are researching college and career choices with several online assessment tools. In our beautiful technology lab, students are recording and editing original music; they are working diligently to showcase their talents with an upcoming concert!

Traditionally, Laurel celebrates academic success each six-week cycle. Our first six week cycle ended on October 11, and students were surprised when our community partners showed up with a celebratory lunch honoring our hardworking Laurel Knights. We honored two students. The first student honored was our top credit earner for the cycle, and our second student honored is taking two Los Alamitos High School classes and four classes at Laurel. This student is doing a wonderful job of transitioning from continuation school to the comprehensive high school.

Our blended program is off to a successful start, and we are so proud of the efforts of all of our students!

Lee *Elementary*

11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • www.losal.org



Robert Briggerman
Principal

Thank you Ruth!

How does a school run like a well oiled machine for 20 years? You have to have a Ruth! Ruth Acton has been the School Office Coordinator for Lee since its reopening in 1992. Hired by former Principal Dr. Patricia Simmons, Ruth has supported the Lee community tirelessly. From the official greeter, to supporting staff with materials, calendars and schedules, to supporting the Principal with many administrative duties, Ruth does it all. But in her words her most important role of all, “making sure that children know that the office is a place to come for help and support,” has been her driving focus. Ruth truly believes in the philosophy of “needing a village” to raise a child and has worked tirelessly over the span of 20 years to support this student-centered approach.



Ruth Acton, left, with attendance clerk Stephanie Wyatt in the Lee office.

Thank you Ruth for your enduring service and support. You will be truly missed. We wish you the best as you embark into retirement on your next adventure in life's journey!

Ruth's last day in the office is Friday, December 20.

Hopkinson *Elementary*

12582 Kensington Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4500 • www.losal.org



Andrea Reed
Principal

Huskies Pay Tribute

In the words of a famous American, “the American flag is the symbol of our freedom, national pride and history.” It is under this guideline that the Husky students at Hopkinson Elementary gathered together on in November to pay tribute to the men and women who have served our country in a tribute to Veteran's Day.

The flag ceremony was led by students from the Hopkinson Husky Leadership council. Five student leaders educated the school on the history of Veteran's Day and led a schoolwide flag salute and a moment of silence. A highlight of the morning was the ensemble performance of the “Star Spangled Banner” by the Hopkinson chorus and the sharing of student poems.



Student Veteran's Day Leaders and Principal Reed
Students (L-R) Colby Barnett, Sean McIlrath, Audrey Corbin, Justine Switzer, Stephanie Norberg

The morning proved to be a wonderful opportunity for both students and the community to come together and recognize our servicemen and servicewomen.

Los Alamitos *High School*

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Dr. Joshua Arnold
Principal

The Definition of Community Support

On Saturday, October 19, the weather was perfect, the food was delicious, and the crowd was full of familiar faces from Los Al's past and present. But the one thing that stood out in everyone's mind was how special the occasion was for our school.

For more than a decade, the “Taste for Los Al” event has clearly demonstrated that we live in a community which is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure that our students, athletes and performers can have one-of-a-kind experiences in preparation for life in college and careers beyond high school.

The event itself is a testament to all of the parents, boosters, local businesses and community volunteers who donate their time, food and products to help raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for our Los Alamitos' student groups. It is truly a win-win all the way around!



Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • www.losal.org



Dr. Sunghie Okino
Principal

Community Service

This Halloween, the Los Alamitos Elementary Ambassadors partnered with the 1st Calvary Rangers in “Operation Candy Share.” LAE students donated over 425 pounds of candy gathered from their trick-or-treating. The candy was then sent to our troops in Afghanistan, who shared it with the Afghani children.

During the week after Halloween, members of both student groups volunteered to be at the LAE’s parent pickup area to receive the candy. Non-chocolate treats were collected for travel to Afghanistan. Chocolate candy was given to the local VA hospital to share with veterans and HealthCare Partners for distribution to children in neighboring areas.

The Ambassador Program is for fourth- and fifth-grade students who desire to be student leaders. This year we had 51 students involved in the after-school program. The students have been learning leadership and public speaking skills, participating in community service projects (with a plan for three projects this year), and serving the school community through various school jobs.



LAE Amdassadors counting and packaging candy for Troops.

McAuliffe *Middle School*

4112 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • www.losal.org



Ann Allen
Principal

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES ROUND OUT SUCCESS • From Page 1

pumpkin-decorating contest. School counselor Jean Foley organized the activity and delivered the festive pumpkins to a local children’s hospital for the patients to enjoy. Red Ribbon Week activities were held during October. Our entire campus was decorated with red ribbons, students and staff participated in dress-up days, and everyone embraced our message, “Say No to Drugs.” Nine students created an entry for Orange County’s Red Ribbon Banner contest, and it won first prize! Their banner will be used in schools across Orange County to publicize the 2014–15 Red Ribbon Week themes.



McAuliffe is a special place for our young people to grow and prosper in academics, the arts and athletics. School clubs and activities play a large role in that growth. Thanks to all staff and parents who participate in these important events.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1



Dr. Jeffrey Barke
Clerk

Modernization Project began in April 2013, and Phase 1, which includes the Gymnasium and Locker Rooms, has been completed. Phase 2, which includes all underground utilities work and the Main Administrative Building, will be completed in December. The Weaver Elementary School Modernization Project has completed Phase 2 and will be continuing phased construction through the fall of 2014. These projects consist of modernizing all of the buildings on the existing school campuses.

The Los Alamitos High Track and Field Complex is now complete, and the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on November 12. Our athletes appreciate the advantages of practicing and playing on a home field. This project included an all-weather track and field, bleachers to seat approximately 1,200, and sports lighting. The track project was designed to include the current and anticipated future needs of the students, coaches, District, and community.

In addition to the above, we are working on future projects, which include modernization of the District Office and Auxiliary. All of the modernization projects are “On Time and On Budget” and are helping our students and teachers enjoy a 21st Century learning environment as we continue Igniting Unlimited Possibilities for Students. We are grateful for the support of our generous community through the passage of Measure K!



Are you looking for this logo for the contest on page 8?

McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • www.losal.org



Dr. Jerry Gargus
Principal

Veteran's Day Is Special!

McGaugh Elementary School's unique location across the street from the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station is a great source of pride for our students and staff. As such, our school community gathered on Friday, November 8 for a very special Flag Deck Ceremony honoring our parents who currently serve in the United States Armed Forces and our veterans. We were thrilled to be joined by the 14th Battalion Marine Color Guard and are greatly appreciative of their polished presentation of the Stars and Stripes for the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Our superintendent, Dr. Sherry Kropp, participated in the ceremony as well, speaking inspirationally about the importance of recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of our soldiers and veterans.



Lt. Colonel Brian Sharp receiving his Certificate of Appreciation from a team of McGaugh Leadership students.

I had the privilege of introducing members of the five branches of the Armed Forces and our veterans as several of our student leaders presented them with certificates of appreciation. Our school choir's rendition of a patriotic medley consisting of "Grand Old Flag," "This Land Is Your Land," and "America the Beautiful" inspired the crowd of over 1,000 students, staff, and parents to break into a spontaneous "U...S...A!" chant that rang throughout the neighborhood.

It was truly a special day, and we're already looking forward to expanding the ceremony for Veteran's Day 2014.

Oak *Middle School*

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • www.losal.org



Sally Neiser
Principal

WEB Leaders: An Important Part of the Pride

What does "WEB" mean to "Oak Lion Pride"? Everything! *WEB* is an acronym for "where everyone belongs." At Oak Middle School, it is a student leader, a student mentor, and the student-orientation program that help connect and support new students at Oak.

WEB leaders are selected in the spring of their seventh-grade year in order to attend a summer training program to facilitate the new student orientation. The orientation takes place the week before school starts and helps new students transition from their former elementary or middle school. Pairs of WEB leaders host groups of eight to 10 new students with team-building activities, dress-up events, and campus tours.



WEB leaders are also called upon throughout the year to lead student spirit activities and help provide community service at school events. From helping to provide directions around campus to guiding a new student through his daily class schedule, WEB leaders are there to make sure every Oak student is "one of the pride."

<p>P.B. & CHIM</p> <p>NICE IS NICE</p>	<p>Hi THERE! WE ARE P.B. AND CHIM. WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE YOU, AND WE HOPE YOU HAVE A NICE DAY.</p>	<p>WELL THANK YOU! THAT REALLY MADE MY DAY!</p>	<p>BEING NICE TO OTHERS MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD, DOESN'T IT?</p> <p>YES!... LET'S DO IT AGAIN!</p>	 <p>Robin Auwerda Keller Williams Realty Dre Lic.: 01509977 562.233.3724 www.562HomeGuy.com</p>
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Rossmoor *Elementary*

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Kiva Spiratos
Principal

Healthy Choices and Helping Hands

Rossmoor celebrated Red Ribbon Week during the month of October. The theme of the occasion was “A Healthy Me.” At Rossmoor, our students use Red Ribbon Week to support the choices they make each day to eat right, get rest, be active, and be kind to others.

The week was filled with Spirit Days. We also had a Fall Book Fair, including a pumpkin decorating contest where you could dress your pumpkin like your favorite literature book character. We even had a family night, where a professional storyteller came to tell stories to our guests while they shopped at the Book Fair.



Ian Jenkins and Eagle Scout Troop 671 work to earn Ian's Eagle Scout Award.

A Healthy Me also inspired one Rossmoor alumnus, Ian Jenkins of Eagle Scout Troop 671 at St. Hedwig, to contribute to the beautification of our school. Ian gathered his troop companions and built a garden and walkway for the school. Ian also designed, organized, fund-raised and recruited his troop friends from 658 and 670 to assist in the labor.

Together these Scouts built a stepping path and garden to enhance the curb appeal of our school, which now gives a sense of tranquility to our neighbors. It also invites the butterflies to enjoy the beauty of our new garden!

Contest!!

This Common Core logo is in 2 places in this publication. When you find it, email the page numbers to:

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



Your entry must be received by December 31, 2013
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Weaver *Elementary*

11872 Wembley Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4580 • www.losal.org



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Teaching and Learning in the 21st-Century

Teachers and students have been focusing on learning with the Common Core Standards. These new state requirements focus on college- and career-readiness for all students, and highlight the necessary skills that promote critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication.

Our new units of study go deeper, not wider. They encourage students to become knowledgeable about content that can extend across literature, science, history and math.



At Weaver, students in the second grade are combining their knowledge of earth science and creating teachable slide shows with their iPads. Third-grade students are exploring traditions and making connections from literature to real life. Fifth-graders are using their knowledge of how systems work to create parachutes that can land an object falling no faster than 5-feet per second!



Our students are excited to be using this new technology to create projects that can also be used to teach others. Learning is everywhere at Weaver School. We are very excited to be embarking on this new journey with the Common Core.

Limit Holiday Stress



Jodie Lynn

Always File Your Receipts in a Safe Place: You never know if the gift is going to do or measure up to what you think it supposed to; so keep those receipts filed in a special place just in case. Eight-five percent of gifts are returned or exchanged. That's a high number, but isn't too terribly complicated if you have the receipt. Make up a folder and clearly write 2013 Holiday Receipts on the outside. For online stores, make sure you know about their return policies, especially if you are sending any type of plant, food or toy.

Keep a Running List of Names for Greeting Card Recipients: Make a list of each person you'd like to send out a card to. Get the kids to help address envelopes and even to put on stamps. Depending on how many cards you are sending out, it might be best to do this in steps so the kids will view it as Holiday joy and fun instead of work and dumb. That's right; delegate the card sending to the kids by separating the process into steps so no one will get overwhelmed.

Meal Planner: Always plan your dinner way ahead of time. Go to the store with ingredients written on a list for each dish. If it's a dish that uses heavy creams or other fat-laden ingredients, don't forget to scan either a conversion chart for healthy substitutes or look them up on the Internet to see just how good or bad they might actually be. Since this is the time to gain weight, remember that kids cannot always say no to certain foods rich in fat largely in part because they taste so good. Consider what you need to have around the house for the kids to snack on and only allow a nibble here and there of special food. Compare notes and make a plan that you are comfortable with for your family keeping in mind my personal motto: "easy to add weight on...but very hard to get off."

Utilize an Organizer: It's never too early! If you would take a few minutes to organize every couple of days now YOU WILL FEEL SO MUCH BETTER especially if you do a little delegation to other family members and don't put so many stressful things on any one day. Write every detail up and mark it off as it



is done. It doesn't matter how small it is, it still counts and feels great when you get to mark it off. The kids love to help with this task as well as will stay busy for hours making and marking off lists.

Take a little time for yourself: It should and must be done even if it's only a 30-minute lunch with a long lost friend; sitting down with a brief short book; watching a loved but often missed TV show, taking a walk, or even making a visit to a local nursing home. Or, take a family trip. There's nothing better than to take several loaves of homemade cranberry bread, pumpkin cookies or fruit pies to a nursing home that the kids have helped you bake. Let them help to pass out the food and enjoy those smiles from senior citizens. Giving to others fills your heart with incredible warmth and makes a huge impact on your kids by allowing them to see firsthand how their special made gifts bring pleasure to other people—as well as see you smile.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. 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*.




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Note-ables

A Gift for Sophie



Kate Karp

Quebecois poet and songwriter Gilles Vigneault has created a multilayered literary experience in *A Gift for Sophie*. The storybook with primitive watercolor illustrations by Stéphane Jorisch and a music CD set comprise a tale of friendship across the ages. Seven-year-old Sophie loves to draw and share her art with her best friend and soul mate, Emilio, and her ancient great-uncle, Tom. The gifts Sophie receives from these dear people tie in to the wisdom that “Old Man Tom,” as he is known, passes on to his little niece when he passes on himself. Sophie comes to understand and use this wisdom in a delightful way when she and Emilio encounter a mystery.

The story, translated from the original French, is told in a lilting, evocative manner. The narrative on the CD carries the engagement further—the songs are grouped at the end and so don’t interrupt the storyline; instead, they peel back the layers of each character or incident to reveal its essence. The musicians and artists, including Canadian folk-rock singer Martha Wainwright, expose the story’s undercurrent with voice, woodwind, accordion, and all sorts of string and percussion. Melody lines transport the listeners to a café in southern France, the center of a folk dance, the psyche of a cat.



A Gift for Sophie evoked in me all of this and also a nostalgic memory from across my own years: me on the floor next to my little suitcase 78 rpm player listening to records about Tubby the Tuba, Peter and the Wolf, and the Churkendoose, reading the storybooks that accompanied them. See what this lovely set does for you.

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



A Gift for Sophie Word Search Contest

Rules!!!

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

Entries must be received by
January 15, 2014

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a copy of the book *A Gift for Sophie* with CD.

- | | | |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| LITERARY | SOPHIE | PRISM |
| STORYBOOK | BEARD | RAINBOW |
| TALE | CAT | TREASURES |
| FRIENDSHIP | SIR | HEART |
| WISDOM | EMILIO | ILLUSTRATIONS |
| MYSTERY | FISHING | WATERCOLOR |
| CHARACTER | BEACH | |
| GIFT | GLASS | |

**Congratulations to Katalin Havasi
Winner of the October Word Search Contest!**

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

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—Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

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