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School News



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**Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District
and the communities of Los Alamitos, Rossmoor, Seal Beach and Sunset Beach**

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FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012

Setting Students Up for Success!



Sea Lion Leaders

*By Bill MacDonald, Principal
McGaugh Elementary*

One of the McGaugh priorities this year is to increase opportunities for our students. Nowhere is this effort more evident than with our Sea Lion Leadership program for fifth-graders.

This year the program has reached a new level of excellence under the very capable direction of Assistant Principal Ondrea Reed. This group of 45 students recently completed a rigorous application process and then willingly gave up their recess and lunch time in order to participate in the program.

In addition to having council meet-
SEE MCGAUGH ELEMENTARY • PAGE 7

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT



Patricia Meyer
*Deputy
Superintendent*

Measure K Modernization in Full Swing at Hopkinson and Rossmoor Elementary Schools and Summer 2012 Brings More Activity

The Hopkinson and Rossmoor Elementary School Modernization Projects began on June 16, 2011. These projects consist of modernizing all of the buildings on the existing school campuses. The projects were awarded to one general contractor, West Coast Air Conditioning Co., Inc. Rachlin Architects is the Project Architect of Record and Construction Manager and Knowland Construction Services is providing full time inspection services.

Both projects have just completed approximately 50% of the planned construction work, with the last group of modernized classrooms and the administrative offices in full use. Here is a brief summary of the work completed so far:

- All major underground work has been completed.
- All classrooms and administration areas in the first half of the project is 100 percent complete and occupied at both schools.
- Currently the following is under construction: At Hopkinson Elementary, one large building housing seven classrooms as well as two large banks of

SEE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT PAGE 9

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Karen Russell
Member

Unlimited Possibilities

Under extreme financial strain, Los Alamitos Unified School District has worked hard to maintain class sizes, which remain smaller than our neighboring school districts. Los Alamitos Unified School District is committed to the success of every child, and we are passionate about igniting unlimited possibilities for every student. We continue to provide an incredible education for students, where they thrive academically, athletically, and artistically. Our parents and community understand the impact a high-quality public educational system can have on the local community, as they continue to support our students with their time and resources. We appreciate the partnerships we have with parents and the community to help us provide a world-class education for students.

A powerful example of this partnership is how the community helped us raise over \$100,000 through the Los Alamitos Education Foundation's (LAEF) Class Size Reduction Campaign. Parents, staff and community members' generous donations to our Class Size Reduction Campaign makes a difference in the educational programs we offer our students by lowering class size at each school. With the Class Size Reduction funds raised, we have been able to

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 9

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Innovative, Enriching Instruction

By Evelyn Garcia, Program Director

With the winter session of the Los Alamitos Educational Foundation (LAEF) After-School Enrichment Institute in full force, we at LAEF are excited about offering quality programs to all Los Alamitos Unified School District (LAUSD) schools. We are continuing to bring quality programs to our students while financially contributing to the success of our district. In the fall, we were thrilled to announce that our After-School Enrichment classes would be offered at all elementary school sites, and our excitement continues because our programs have expanded to both of our middle schools. LAEF After-School Enrichment is now available at Oak and McAuliffe Middle Schools!

LAEF is preparing for the third year of the Summer Enrichment Institute (SEI). Last summer was phenomenal! It is amazing to hear all the positive feedback from parents. As we prepare for SEI 2012, LAEF is excited to bring a summer filled with innovative, enriching instruction to the students of the LAUSD. SEI will be held July 2 through July 27. Look for program registration and course scheduling information in March.

LAEF thanks all who supported the Class Size Reduction (CSR) campaign. We were thrilled to assist in the contribution of over \$100,000 for the students of Los Alamitos.

Log onto the foundation Web site at www.loaledfoundation.com to learn more about SEI and the After-School Enrichment Programs.

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Evelyn Garcia, LAEF Program Director at (562) 277-6876 or egarcia@loaledfoundation.com.

LAEF thanks all who supported the Class Size Reduction (CSR) campaign.

We were thrilled to assist in the contribution of over \$100,000

for the students of Los Alamitos.



Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



This is our ninth year publishing the excellence from LAUSD. I think Board of Education member Karen Russell says it all in her article heading on the front page...Unlimited Possibilities. Regardless of the budget restraints, the district and the community always put education first.

On page 5 is the first article in our new series "Do the Math!" Math is used in our daily lives and jobs. Email me how you use math (i.e. calculating the savings on a sale item, how many miles your car gets to the gallon or how much money to invest each month, etc.)

Our next issue is April 18.



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Gang Prevention Collaboration



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

It has been noted that one of the best ways to prevent youth from joining gangs is to strengthen families and schools. This includes improving community supervision and parent and teacher training on youth management and interpersonal skills development. This idea, endorsed by the office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is the foundation for the recently successful gang prevention conferences hosted by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), Safe Schools and Support Services Office (Safe Schools).

In 2010, OCDE was awarded funding from the Orange County Health Care Agency to provide school-based mental health services, including county-wide gang prevention, early intervention, mediation, crisis response, and training.

The Overarching Goals Included:

- Collaborate with school districts, community organizations, law enforcement, and faith-based organizations to provide a comprehensive understanding of why youth join gangs, how to support their exit from gang involvement, and what resources are available
- Train service providers and mental health professionals on best practice techniques for working with gang-involved youth
- Provide a multi-disciplinary forum to share evidence-based strategies proven effective with high-risk youth

One strategy used to meet these goals was hosting a series of Gang Prevention Conferences starting in November 2010. The first conference, attended by 300 participants, was an open invitation to service providers, including non-profits, government agencies, and educators working with high-risk youth throughout Orange County. Subsequent conferences included over 800 participants.

One reason for the success of the conference is the committee's willingness to tailor-fit the conference structure to address participants' interests and current service gaps. Each conference included nationally recognized speakers, a large scale forum for sharing best practices, up-to-date information, and opportunities for community resource networking. Each attendee was able to hear firsthand accounts and gain a new understanding of the underlying risk factors that push youth to join gangs. These unique conference features lead to an extensive wait list for all three events.

I am proud to recognize another successful year of gang prevention conferences held by Safe Schools. Hearing the real life experiences of youth and professionals who have been in the trenches for years is invaluable. The conferences, held in October and December, reiterated the importance of not only sharing strategies proven effective at preventing and reducing gang behavior, but also supporting professionals from all disciplines while they integrate new techniques into their work. These invaluable conferences continue to support a range of high quality care for Orange County youth while ensuring their success today and in the future.

For information, contact Jim Perez, Coordinator Gang Prevention/Safe School Coordinator, at 714-953-6513 or jperez@access.k12.ca.us.



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You Can Make a Difference

What is Transitional Kindergarten?



Kelly Rowe
Child Development
Coordinator /
Early Learning
Specialist

In September of 2010, former Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 1381. This bill dramatically changed current law. Now students who are entering kindergarten must have turned five years old by September 1 of the same school year. The bill also created an ongoing "Transitional Kindergarten" (TK) for those younger children who are impacted by the change.

This major reform to kindergarten entrance now gives 120,000 more children a year the opportunity to be better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The change will be phased in slowly. It will move the cutoff-date back one month a year for the next three years, beginning in 2012. For example, in the 2012—2013 school year a child must be age five by November 1 to attend kindergarten. Children with birthdays that fall between November 2 and December 2 will be able to attend the Transitional Kindergarten instead.

The following school year (2013—2014) the cutoff date for kindergarten admission will be October 1, with children who have birthdays between October 2 and December 2 going to TK. The final implementation in the 2014—2015 school year will have the kindergarten cutoff date on September 1, with a transitional class for those with birthdays between September 2 and December 2.

Parents who ask, "Is my child ready for kindergarten?" will now have the option of TK. This will help ensure that their child can enter regular kindergarten with the maturity and skills they need to excel. The Transitional Kindergarten program will use a modified curriculum that is both age and developmentally appropriate.

Many people have been arguing for years that moving up the entry date is good for children. This proposal, which has been rejected a number of times by earlier legislatures and governors, now puts the California entry date near the majority of other states.

If you have any questions about the new Transitional Kindergarten program, please feel free to contact School Readiness Coordinator Kelly Rowe at (562) 799-4585. Or you can visit the Los Alamitos USD website, at www.losal.org, for more kindergarten information.

RELIEF FROM HOMEWORK FRUSTRATION



Many children experience anxiety, frustration and feel overwhelmed when asked to complete basic classroom and homework tasks. Parents are often baffled as to the cause of their child's struggle in school. Parents may be told that their child is unmotivated, lazy or has a learning disability, but these labels don't help find a solution to their child's problems. The hours spent on homework are painful and frustrating and frequently accompanied by tears.

The cause of these struggles may be due to poor vision processing skills. Children lacking vision processing skills experience difficulty copying information from the chalkboard, are unable to complete assignments quickly, do poorly on timed tests, often have poor spelling skills and suffer from poor reading comprehension.

The Vision Improvement Program (VIP) is a program designed to attack these underlying vision processing skills. Students average 3.1 years growth in visual processing skills during a 10 week treatment program.

Symptoms of poor vision processing skills include:

- Losing one's place or skipping words or lines
- Forgetting what has just been read
- Reversing letters (b,d, p,q) or words (was and saw)
- Making "careless" errors
- Poorly spaced or "sloppy" writing
- Always "daydreaming" or not paying attention
- Moving entire head when reading
- Failing to complete assigned work
- Working slower than their peers

Does your child or someone you know have these symptoms? If so, Dr. Wilkins is providing a **free** screening to identify children with vision processing learning problems.

**Please call for screening time and appointment:
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Real Estate Matters

FICO Scores Provide More Data to Lenders



CathyLyn Brooks

Get ready to share...no, I am not talking about your Facebook account. Many loan consumers are going to start sharing more personal information with lenders next year, ready or not.

FICO scores, the standard for determining credit risk in government backed mortgages, have been primarily based on a person's credit history. But in an attempt to develop a more well-rounded picture of a person's finances beyond credit, tools are being developed to help the lending industry learn more.

Fair Isaac Corp., or FICO, recently announced that a separate score will soon be available to mortgage lenders that includes information on payday loans, evictions, and child support payments. In the future, information on the status of utility, rent, and cell phone payments may also be included.

Recently the credit reporting companies began providing estimates of consumer income as a credit report option. And Experian this year began including data on "on-time" rental payments in its reports.

The new information could become a double-edged sword for consumers. It may open the door to homeownership to some consumers who have little or no credit histories. Or, the extra information may make a borderline borrower look even worse on paper.

Still, there is thought among researchers that consumer transparency, if it demonstrates both good and bad behavior, has its place; though many object to too much weight being given to a formulated "number" when judging credit worthiness.

Since lenders have focused on risk-based pricing, there has been a rush by credit reporting firms to provide financial companies, including mortgage banks and credit card providers, with a wealth of information on individual customers.

FICO scores have been around since the 1950s, but they didn't become a major factor in mortgage lending until 1995, when Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac began recommending their use to help determine a mortgage borrower's credit-worthiness. The score, which ranges from 300 to 850, factors in how long borrowers have had credit, how they're using it and repaying it, and whether they have any judgments or delinquencies against them.

The change comes as mortgage lenders reward the most creditworthy borrowers with low rates and tack extra fees onto loans for those with lower credit scores. A sign of the times, no doubt as lenders strive to make loans that can be repaid, and the information age rises to meet the challenge. Maintaining your credit has never been more important.

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



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Are you looking for me for the contest on page 11?



<p>P.B. & Chim CHORES</p>	<p>P.B., DID YOU FINISH YOUR CHORES?</p>	<p>YES! I AM ALL DONE!</p>	<p>WE HAVE A'W'... ..AND AN 'A'... ..WE HAVE A 'L'... ..ANDA 'K'</p>	 <p>Robin Auwerda Keller Williams Realty Dre Lic.:01509977 562.233.3724 www.562HomeGuy.com</p>
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Nutrition Update

School Lunch: Changin' it Up!



Carol Berg Sloan, RD

I am a proponent of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and fully support what school food service directors and their staff do in local districts with limited funds. I am excited to see the changes that were proposed last year come into affect in the early part of 2012. I hope that families and students will take advantage of the new standards which include:

- Daily serving of both vegetables and fruits with a weekly vegetable requirement for dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy types
- Grains to be whole grains such as brown rice or buns and bread with the first ingredient whole grain.
- Milk to be either low-fat (1%) or fat-free. Flavored milk, such as chocolate or strawberry must be non fat.
- Foods that are served contain no trans fats.
- Sodium in foods and beverage must be lowered to specific amounts. For example there were no limits on how much sodium but now a middle school lunch can contain no more than 1360 mg per meal
- Total calories to be reduced via smaller portion sizes

According to the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, here is an example of "before" and "after" lunches. All new standards will be phased in over several years.

Before: Pizza sticks with Marinara Sauce, Banana, Raisins, Whole Milk

After: Chef Salad (romaine lettuce, low fat mozzarella, grilled chicken,), Whole wheat soft pretzel, Corn, Baby carrots, Banana, nonfat milk, low fat salad dressing

I have heard quite a bit of discussion both in person and on the Internet about how meals from home are so much better and no one should let their child eat at school. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Although not all parents send their children out the door with nutrition poor meals, I have seen first hand what some students bring in their lunch boxes (chips, cookies, processed lunch meats and cheese on white bread and worse). If you have not looked at the school lunch menu in your district, do so now. You will be pleasantly surprised!

Carol Berg Sloan, RD is a nutrition therapist in Long Beach. She can be reached at cbstrd@verizon.net.

Seal Beach Animal Care Center

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

Kitten vs. Cat

By Murlyn E. Burkes, Cat Committee Liaison

When most people think about adopting a cat, they seem to automatically think *kitten*. A kitten seems perfect! It's a little fur ball, has large eyes and is very playful. But for some, an adult cat would make more sense.

Kittens are a lot of work. You need to put more effort into training them, keeping them safe, and keeping them off tables and countertops. Often, you will have to kitten-proof your house by covering wires, moving household plants and keeping windows closed. Kittens may not be a good choice for people who are unsteady on their feet.

Adult cats do well on their own. When you're at work, they sleep and relax around the house. When you adopt an adult cat, you know exactly what you are getting. Many of these adult cats won't have a second chance after they enter a shelter or rescue. Adult cats will bond with you as a kitten does. Often, they may even be more likely to appreciate you for taking them.

Whatever choice you make, owning a kitten or a cat will certainly bring you times of laughter and joy. Now, it's time for you to think about it!

Do the Math!

This is a special series dedicated to emphasizing how important math is in every job and our everyday lives. If you would like to be included in this series, email me how you use math. The age limit is 5 to 105 so here's my email kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com — I can't wait to hear from you!



Eric Lenahan
Agent

Multi Line Discounts Add Up

My name is Eric Lenahan and I am the State Farm Agent in Seal Beach. In my agency, the use of math is seen in almost every conversation we have from the simplest forms of addition and subtraction up to multiple levels of equations.

For example, if the 6 month cost for car insurance is \$500 for one car, this could be greatly reduced by percentage discounts that are offered for having another car insured or by having a home or renters policy insured, called Multi Line Discounts. Along with premium reductions, there are also premium increases that can be added to the policy for how many years a driver has been licensed to drive as well as how many tickets or accidents they have. These are all calculations we use to discuss the cost of car insurance with our clients.

We also keep a detailed file on how many of each policy we have insured. We use a ratios to determine the percentages of car insurance, home insurance, life insurance etc. our agency has and if there is a segment that we need to focus on, we can do that based on what the math shows.

Also, in running a business, we use math in calculating the monthly expenses and making sure that how much revenue comes in is more than the total expenses the business has.

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Dr. Linda Stewart
Principal

The Show Must Go On!

The students at Hopkinson Elementary School had the opportunity to showcase their various musical, vocal and dance expertise at our annual talent show.

On February 3 at the McGaugh Middle School Auditorium, over 40 acts performed on stage to the delight of their peers and families. In order to be included in the show, children put together their performances and were asked to perform their acts during an after-school “try-out.” During this time, their costumes were approved, as well as their choice of music. (We are, after all, an elementary school.)

Our children have been afforded the opportunity to share their musical abilities through the dedication of Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Shelley, Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. Perry, who have been the talent show coordinators for many years. We’d like to extend a special thank you to the aforementioned teachers and our parents, who support the artistic education of our students.



Broadway here we come!

Lee *Elementary*

11481 Foster Road, Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • www.losalUSD.k12.ca.us



Robert Briggerman
Principal

Exceptional Kindergarten Experience, Exceptional Foundation

Lee Elementary provides kindergarteners with the opportunity to mature intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally at his or her own rate compatible with his or her abilities through focus on high standards-based academic expectations and class sizes of no more than 25. Reading and math instruction are differentiated, and groups are flexible to provide for each student’s needs. Students are introduced to technology in a state-of-the-art tech center, using educational software, keyboard letter recognition and drawing tools to learn in a fun format to draw pictures and shapes.

Our kindergarten team consists of seven highly skilled and experienced teachers who have a passion for this remarkable age group. Several are published authors on best teaching practices in kindergarten reading, writing and math, and the majority of them have presented at the national level. They collaborate daily to create a dynamic, creative and cohesive kindergarten program while keeping the “magic” in learning. This is evident when you walk into their vibrant child-centered classrooms, which are known as models of innovative educational and developmental environments. During our February Open House, teachers come from all over Orange County to take photos of this showcase of creativity and development.

If you are considering an exceptional kindergarten program for your child, we welcome you to join Lee Elementary School’s tradition of excellence as National Blue Ribbon School and a California Distinguished School. Kindergarten registration takes place March 5–9, and we have several tours scheduled for February. We are eager to show you our program and welcome you to the Lee family! Please call our office for a tour.

Laurel *High School*

10291 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4820 • www.losalUSD.k12.ca.us



Dr. Brent Forsee
Principal

Innovative Ways for Student Achievement

The students at Laurel High School have been busy the past few months engaging in academics on and off campus. Laurel breaks the school-year into six 8 week cycles. Cycle 2 concluded with multiple students completing over 20 credits and officially joining the “20 credit club” designed to celebrate student success. Many students joined faculty in the extra-curricular activity of attending the Chapman University Holocaust Lecture Series. This event exposed Laurel students to college level rigor while broadening their sense of historical events.

Finally, Laurel High School hosted their first poetry night December 15th celebrating original poems written and performed by students. The event was organized by Laurel staff, but produced and directed by students. This combination of academics, creativity, and technical skill defines how Laurel seeks innovative ways to guide student achievement.

Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • www.losalUSD.k12.ca.us



Dr. Sunghie Okino
Principal

LAE Live Goes Live

Los Alamitos Elementary School (LAE) Live is a student-run multimedia production organization where fourth- and fifth-grade students are in charge of creating video clips and features about upcoming events, unique stories, and informative classroom news. Students are trained in storyboarding, videotaping, editing, reporting, script-writing, and public speaking—all aspects of producing multi-media projects. They are working with state-of-the-art technology, including a green screen, editing software, and high-tech video equipment. Students were selected by application and have just completed their first project. The “teachers” include students from Laurel High School, as well as Mrs. Carinchi from LAE and Mr. Ostmann from Laurel.

LAE Live students include: Kaelani Artuz, Daniel Barker, Randy Chin, Rebekah Cogdill, Emily Curtin, Fernanda Flores, Hannah Kim, John Kim, Ethan Lui, Jaron Maculam, Jake Maffett, Owen Marubayashi, Derek Najera, Blake Ravelo, and Jacob Young. Laurel High student instructors are: Matt Ariola, Carlos Barrera, Gordon Martinez, and Dylan Smith.



Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • www.losalUSD.k12.ca.us



Dr. Grant Litfin
Principal

Classifying Excellence

As we begin our second semester, it is exciting to be officially recognizing those students and staff members who have made exceptional contributions to our school, in particular the individuals who have set a standard of excellence that makes Los Alamitos stand out from the rest.

It is normal that we recognize students who have raised the bar to a new level, such as during our Senior Awards nights, or at our district graduation ceremonies like the one on June 14th at 7 p.m. in the Home Depot Tennis Center. But it is rare that we have a separate celebration just to recognize the special employees who stand out.

This year LAHS is lucky enough to have two people distinguished enough to be considered our district employees of the year. Both Cindy Bizal and Ankou Kanou have received this honor, and they will now represent LAUSD at the county and possibly state levels in their specific employment classifications.

Cindy is the administrative assistant in our Student Services Office. She wears many hats during the day, all the way from school webmaster to facilities and set-up coordinator responsible for 1,200 events a year!

Ankou is our lead night custodian, and beyond his normal coordination and cleaning duties he is also the face of our school at many evening events. He makes sure they go off without a hitch!

These two individuals help make the people around them better every day. They are both fine examples of why it is great to be a Griffin!

McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • www.losalUSD.k12.ca.us



Bill MacDonald
Principal

SETTING STUDENTS UP FOR SUCCESS • FROM PAGE 1

ings that focus on collaboration, leadership and philanthropy, these students also serve on several committees that deal with positive school functions such as conflict management, play leaders for students with special needs, media relations, and classroom tutors.

In November, the Sea Lion Leadership Council hosted their first annual McGaugh Idol talent showcase. This event raised over \$4,000 to help support student scholarships for the fourth-grade Sacramento Experience. Most recently, these leadership students also visited Los Alamitos High School. Here they participated in a spirit assembly and learned about its ASB and theater arts program.

There can be no doubt that the McGaugh Sea Lion Leaders will be well-suited for success. Rah, McGaugh!

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 11?



McAuliffe *Middle School*

4112 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3320 • www.losalUSD.k12.ca.us



Dennis Sackett
Principal

McAuliffe Has a Cow...and Shares Their Shoes!

McAuliffe Middle School has shown their compassion both locally and internationally. During Open House, the students hosted a bake sale, raising enough money to purchase a cow through Heifer International. All of the goodies sold were personally baked and generously donated, knowing that the money raised provides a family, and sometimes a community, with an opportunity to harvest a better future. Last year enough money was raised to purchase two cows for a dairy farm in Tanzania.

McAuliffe complements this international contribution with a local donation of shoes. Inspired by an international charitable shoe manufacturer, McAuliffe has incorporated the idea of hosting a shoe drive, where students generously donated their "gently" worn shoes to be recycled or given to others in need.

McAuliffe's generosity touches the lives of many in Los Alamitos and throughout the world!



One for One/Tom's Club celebrating International One Day Without Shoes to bring awareness to those who are in need.

Oak *Middle School*

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • www.losalUSD.k12.ca.us



Sally Neiser
Principal

A Roaring Success

By Arleen Robinson, Teacher

At Oak Middle School, its people are its greatest asset. Through the combined efforts of the students, staff, parents, and community, Oak students continue to excel in academics. Valuable collaboration, along with hardworking students, has resulted in another increase in the school's Academic Performance Index (API). This past year alone, the school's API increased by 19 points, bringing the current score to an impressive 911. Oak's 38-point increase over two years provides strong impetus for continued high levels of learning.

Teachers attribute much of the success to collaboration time with colleagues, or Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)—so much so that parents supported a proposal to provide additional time built into the school day by releasing students early every Wednesday. This PLC time not only allows teachers to specifically target their instruction to increase all students' achievement, but it also provides teachers time to work with small groups of students who need more instruction in a particular area or to provide enrichment to those who have demonstrated mastery of the state standards. With the tremendous support of parents and the community, teachers are able to work collaboratively to combine their expertise to fully meet the diverse needs of all students. As we further collaborate here at the Home of the Lions, student achievement will continue to grow. Watch our pride roar with success!

Rossmoor *Elementary*

3272 Shakespeare Drive, Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4520 • www.losalusd.k12.ca.us



Kiva Spiratos
Principal

Learning and Fun

The wonderful Rossmoor School PTA dedicates a portion of its fund-raising efforts to provide fun, interactive and instructional assemblies to our students. Each assembly is chosen by a team of parents, and the themes support the California Content Standards for grade-level curriculums and personal growth.

Our assembly topics include anti-bullying strategies for children to use to stand up against negative behaviors. We have had professional story tellers who teach the art of character development and plot through historical storytelling. Another gathering has been music appreciation and the evolution of musical history from the 1920s to current genres. The children have also been exposed to multiple cultures through our assemblies, including the Native American and Polynesian traditions and heritage.



Rossmoor students in all grades actively play a role in creating skits to STAND UP against bullying behavior!

The Rossmoor community is gathered from cultures throughout the world. We are grateful to our PTA for sponsoring assemblies highlighting the diversity of our cultures, addressing the learning needs of our students, and creating an environment of interactive learning and fun.

Weaver *Elementary*

11872 Wembley Road, Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4580 • www.losalusd.k12.ca.us



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Real Teamwork

We are so fortunate at Weaver School to have such a talented and dedicated staff. Our teachers are highly skilled and focused on raising the rigor of instruction.

Each day, our goal at Weaver is to reach levels of success for every child. Once a month, our grade-level teams meet for an entire day to collaborate and conduct professional discussions on instruction. All teams kindergarten through fifth grade are focused on examining our benchmark data, building collaborative assessments, and targeting instruction to meet the needs of all students.

In first grade and third grade, our teams are analyzing data to help guide a response-to-intervention model in both language arts and math. Many teams work across grade levels to share instructional practices.



Sources & Forms of Water Word Search Contest

Entries must be received by March 15, 2012

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Artesian Well | Hydrate | River |
| Cloud | Ice | Sleet |
| Dew | Iceberg | Snow |
| Fog | Lake | Spring |
| Frost | Mineral Waters | Stream |
| Geyser | Ocean | Vapor |
| Glacier | Perspiration | Waterfall |
| Hail | Rain | Well |
| Humidity | Reservoir | |

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 LAUSD in the subject line)

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

**Congratulations to Fiona O'Farrell
Winner of the December Word Search Contest!**



Karen Russell
President

hire approximately 20 part-time credentialed intervention teachers across the district. The additional teachers allow us to provide extended learning opportunities for students in core academic subjects during the school day. By narrowing the student-to-teacher ratio, we are able to provide small-group instruction in language arts and math, which in turn provides more targeted instruction to all students. LAEF's Class Size Reduction Campaign has allowed us to significantly increase the number of differentiated reading and math groups, while tailoring our instruction to the unique needs and levels of our students. This initiative has allowed us to target specific needs of students and have their needs be met in an intensive, small group setting.

On behalf of the Board of Education, the Los Alamitos Educational Foundation (LAEF), and all school faculty and staff, we are thankful for the community and its ongoing support in helping us Ignite Unlimited Possibilities for Students!



Patricia Meyer
Deputy
Superintendent

student restrooms. At Rossmoor Elementary, two buildings housing 6 classrooms and two large banks of student restrooms.

- For these buildings, all hazardous material abatement is complete, and demolition is nearing completion at both schools.
- The heating, ventilation and air conditioning system installations have begun as well as provisions for the utilities.
- At Rossmoor, the new roof infill sections are underway to substantially increase the covered outdoor space near the classrooms.
- At both sites, the new electrical system installation has begun including the connection to the new main site power system which was installed this summer by Southern California Edison.


During 2011, the architectural plans for the modernization of both the Los Alamitos High School (LAHS) Gymnasium and Lee Elementary were submitted to the Division of the State Architects office for plan review and approval, and we will break ground on those projects in April and June of 2011, right around the corner.


During spring break, April 7-15, The District will begin work at the Los Alamitos High School (LAHS), to replace the main water line that feeds all the athletic fields, this work will cause a shutdown of the entire east student parking lot, as well as the closure of the normal street entrance to the front parking lot off of Cerritos Avenue. During this week, access to the front parking lot will be available through a change to the exit nearest Los Alamitos Blvd, making it a two way entrance and exit.

In addition, during the summer of 2012, the following projects will be happening:


- LAHS – The main water line replacement to the back of the campus will be completed and all the water and sprinkler lines on the athletic fields (excluding inside the track) will be replaced. The initial part of the water line at the front of the campus will be replaced during spring break in April 2012.
- LAHS Tennis Courts which are currently asphalt are going to be replaced with concert courts.
- At the Los Alamitos Elementary School, the District has received a grant from the EPA for a soil remediation project in the parking areas.

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.







Meg Cutuli
President




David Boyer
Clerk



Dr. Jeffrey Barke
Member



Diana Hill
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Karen Russell
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Have a wonderful Spring Break!



Our next issue is April 18.

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The Gift Of Reading

From the Library

Looking for the perfect gift for the book lover in your life? How about tickets to Literary Orange, Orange County's premier literary event, where authors, readers, and libraries join together to celebrate literature? The Orange County Public Libraries and the University of California, Irvine Libraries will co-host the sixth annual Literary Orange on Saturday, April 13 from 9 to 5 p.m. at the University of California, Irvine Student Center.

This year best-selling authors Paula McLain and Lisa See will serve as keynote speakers. Paula McLain is a poet and novelist whose most recent bestseller is *The Paris Wife*, a fictional account of Ernest Hemingway's first marriage and upstart years in 1920s Paris, as told from the point of view of his wife, Hadley. Lisa See is the author of *Dreams of Joy*, which debuted at No. 1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Previous books include *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, *Peony in Love*, and *Shanghai Girls*.



Literary Orange offers attendees the opportunity to engage with an exciting array of authors, purchase books and have them signed, ask questions, and learn about the writing process. Over 40 award-winning authors participate on 14 panels, covering a variety of genres including literary fiction, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, inspirational fiction, true crime, history, and memoirs. A continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon refreshments enrich the day-long experience. General admission for the event is \$60 per ticket. Students with identification and active duty military personnel are \$25. Online registration is available at www.literaryorange.org.

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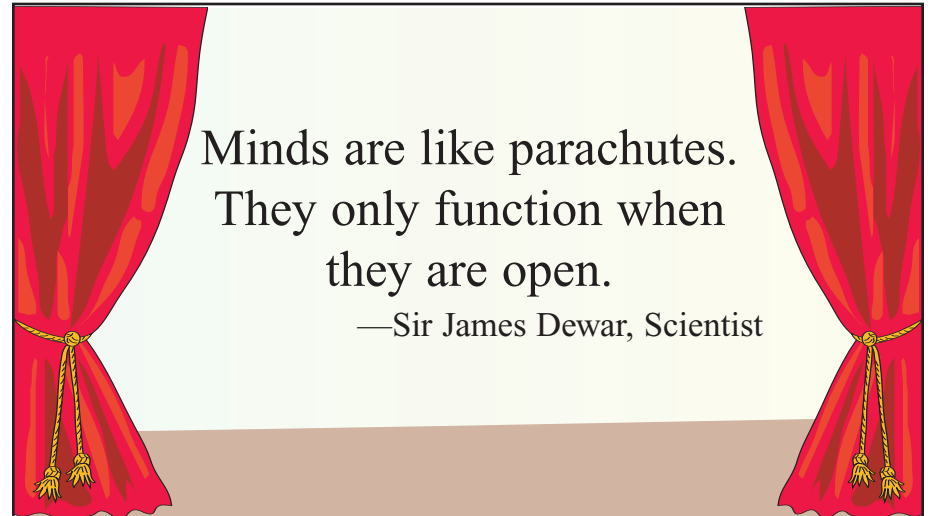
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Stress Fractures



Dr. Doug Richie

Sometimes, a dull aching pain on the top of the foot may represent the beginning of a serious injury. Stress fractures in the bones of the feet can occur in runners of all ages and sometimes lead to long term disability. These injuries seem to be on the rise with the popularity of barefoot running and “minimalist” shoes.

The bones of the feet are subjected to tremendous bending forces during running and somehow seem to adapt and perform miraculously despite the punishment they receive. Sometimes, however, the applied stress exceeds the capacity of the bones to strengthen and adapt. This will occur when a runner suddenly increases the length or intensity of their training sessions. The sudden increased stress will cause the bone to crack or fracture.

Stress fractures in the feet do not always begin with extreme pain. Many runners will unknowingly continue running with a fracture assuming that the dull ache they feel will soon go away. The metatarsal bones across the ball of the foot are the most common location of stress fractures in the feet. The pain is almost always felt across the top of the foot.

Usually a stress fracture begins with a microscopic fracture which will not show on x-ray. It may take two weeks until the healing process of the fracture will finally be visible on the x-ray. Therefore, whenever there is a suspicion of a fracture, rest is always the best advice. Once diagnosed, most stress fractures heal with immobilization in a special boot. However, the runner will usually miss at least 4 to 6 weeks of training. Prevention, through better training techniques is the best remedy for stress fractures of the feet.



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Contest!!

This drawing is hidden two places in this publication. When you find it, email the **page numbers** to:

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Please put LAUSD in the subject line

Your entry must be received by March 15, 2012.
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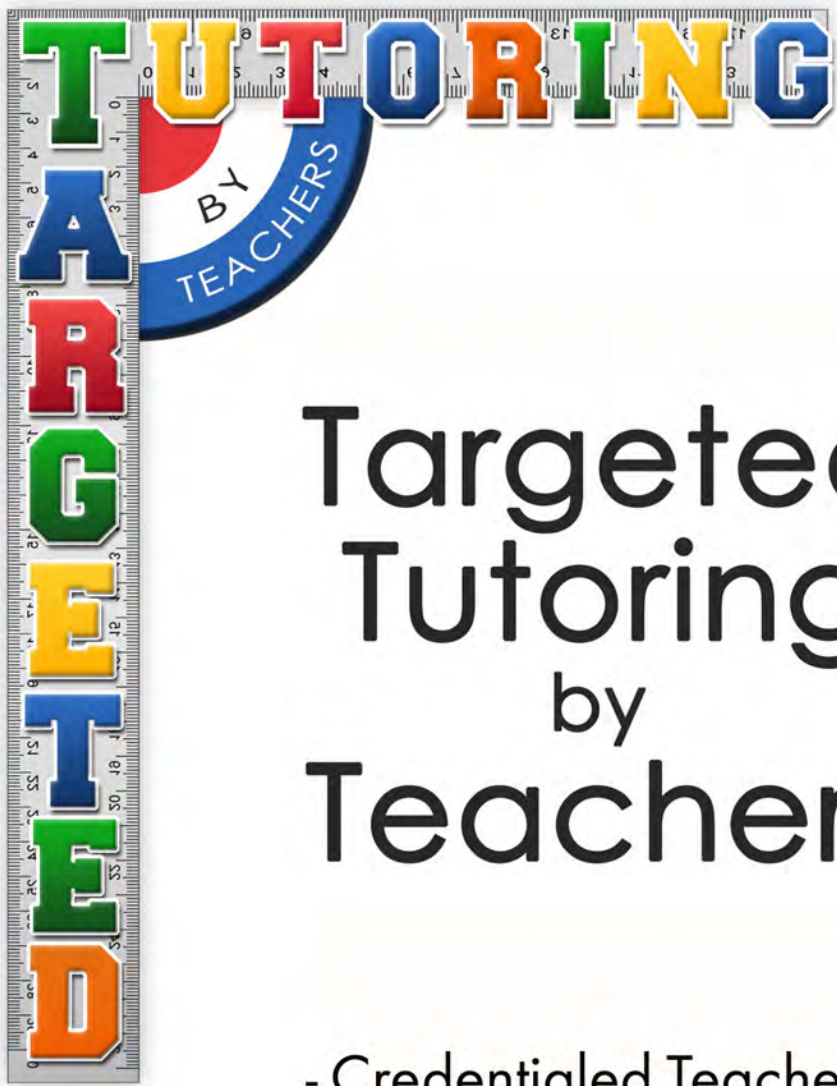
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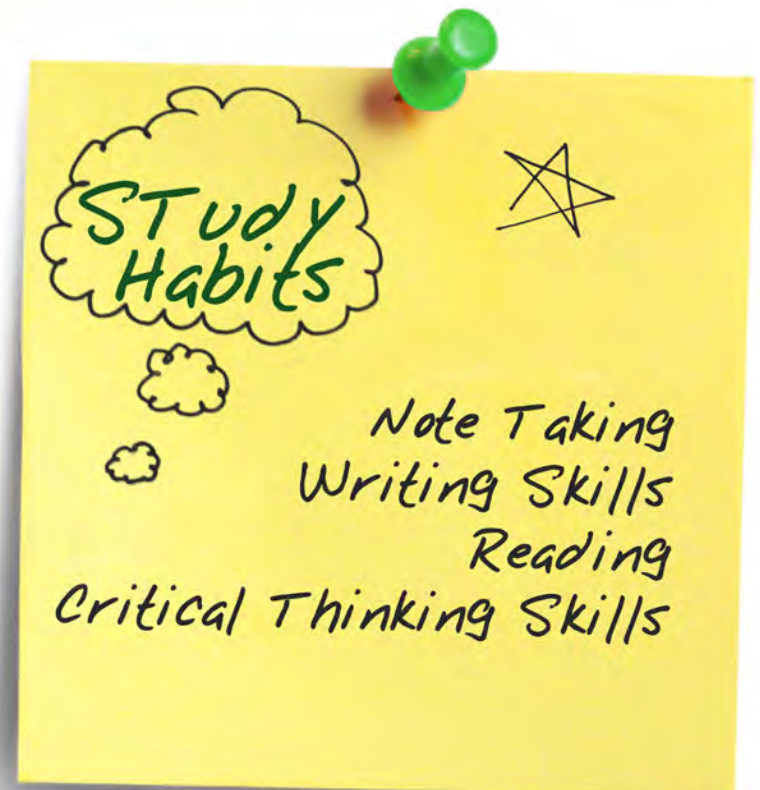
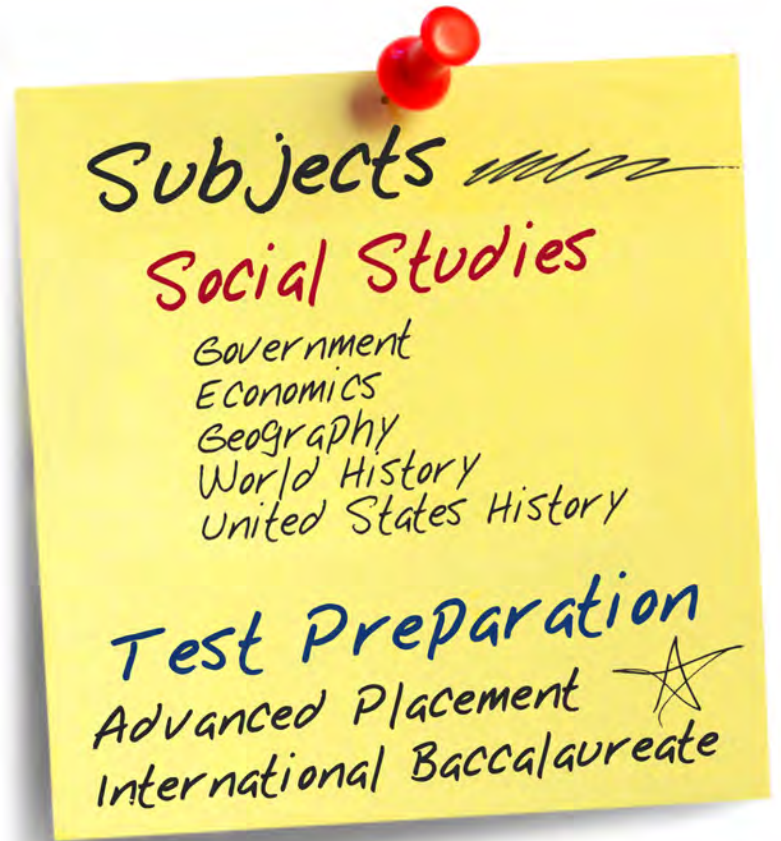




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