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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 37

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

APRIL / MAY 2012

SUPERINTENDENT



Transitional Kindergarten Begins in 2012-2013

Registration has begun for both transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. Transitional kindergarten is the first year of a two-year kindergarten experience for our young five-year-olds whose birthday falls between July 1 and November 1. Pending the governor's proposed budget, students who have birthdays between November 2 and December 2 will also be included in transitional kindergarten. These students are missing the new kindergarten cutoff date of November 1 and are ineligible for kindergarten.

Transitional kindergarten will be taught by a credentialed K-6 teacher. The curriculum is the developmentally appropriate bridging between the preschool foundations and the kindergarten standards. Phonemic awareness, letter names and sounds, motor skills, handwriting, writing, oral language, listening skills, early number sense, and social/emotional development are emphasized through a variety of instructional strategies, such as small and large groups, kinesthetic activities, music, dramatic play, oral language and storytelling, exploration, and centers.

Transitional kindergarten is a regional program. Parents have the choice of selecting from the following sites: Cambridge, Canyon Rim, Crescent, Fairhaven, Handy, Imperial, Jordan, Lampson, Palmyra, Prospect, Taft, and West Orange

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 23

Sixth-Grade Award Winning Adventure



McPherson Academy award winning students.

By Jeanne Bentley, Principal
McPherson Magnet

A Saturday in February once again brought the creativity and energy of hundreds of local middle school students to Chapman University for their annual MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement) Competition Day.

Students from all over Orange County competed for prizes in bridge building, mousetrap-car racing, glider launching, mathematical problem solving and egg drops. McPherson's mighty team of 48 sixth-graders took home numerous awards in building straw towers and floating barges and creating air-powered cars at activity stations!

SEE MCPHERSON ACADEMY • PAGE 18

Canyon Science Olympiad and National Merit Scholars

By Dr. Greg Bowden, Principal

Canyon's Science Olympiad team placed 3rd in the Regional Competition held on March 2, 2012 at Golden West College in Huntington Beach. 23 teams from throughout Orange County participated, and the Canyon team made its best showing ever. Congratulations to staff coaches Barry Walsh and Chrissy Hanna, and to parent coaches Kenneth Shimizu, Rob Lewis, Eddie Huab, Gordon Itow, Serge Bagdikian, and Anna Isbell. Team members are: Akiko Shimizu, Saif Ali Azam, Megan Lee, Matthew Bowden, Tiana Baghdikian, Priyank Patel, Hans Singh, Kaity Stephens, Briley Lewis, Amar Bhatt, Audrey Nguyen, Allison Ong, Seth Itow, Aaron Fernando, Ellen Hong, Cindy Chen, Deanna Isbell. Canyon High will host the State Science Olympiad finals on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

More than 160,000 students enter the National Achievement® Program each year and over 4,700 are honored. About 3,100 Outstanding Participants are referred to colleges for their potential for academic success. About 1,600 are named semifinalists, the only students who have an opportunity to advance

in the competition for National Achievement Scholarships. In January, 1,300 semifinalists are notified that they qualify as finalists. The National Achievement Program has named 7 Canyon High School Seniors as National Merit Finalists this year – the most in the history of the school. Congratulations to the following students: Saif Azam, Steven Hong, Megan Lee, Akiko Shimizu, Michael Vennel, Robert Wiens, and Ivy Zheng.



Canyon Science Olympiad and National Merit Scholars

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Graduation Schedule
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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



With Spring Break over students are focused on the final weeks of this school year. It's a busy time from parents registering children for transitional kindergarten to seniors making college choices. If you are contemplating your summer plans, our popular Camp/Activities Section has many options.

In addition to the school articles, we want to know the types of articles you are interested in reading. Let us know by entering our Survey Drawing on our web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com and you'll be entered for a chance to win \$100.

Our next issue is June 6.

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Covering the
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL

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Using Technology to Support Student Success



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

Integrating technology into core curriculum enhances learning by helping students acquire the skills they need to thrive in a complex, highly technological world. Incorporating technology in classroom instruction deepens learning through problem solving, active engagement, and team participation. Technology integrated project-based learning allows students to be intellectually challenged while providing them with a realistic experience of modern working environments. An added bonus is that using technology makes teaching and learning both meaningful and fun.

For the past ten years, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has created an opportunity to highlight the innovative, replicable ways teachers integrate technology in the classroom, and to share the successes students achieve on a regular basis. The best student curriculum technology integration projects within Orange County schools are chosen to participate in the OCDE sponsored, Student Technology Showcase (STS), an anticipated component of the Orange County Computer Using Educators (OC CUE) Technology Festival and the statewide CUE Conference in Palm Springs, California. The Student Technology Showcase serves to inform parents, teachers, administrators, legislators, and higher education representatives about curriculum-based student technology projects being undertaken in public schools in Orange County.

To start the process, teachers complete an online application describing their student project, technology's role, and how teaching and student learning have changed as a result of the technology tools used in their classrooms. A volunteer

SEE OC DEPT OF ED PAGE 7

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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6169



Sandra Miller
Principal

Not Your Everyday Volunteers

We love our volunteers at Anaheim Hills Elementary School (AHES)! When we think of volunteers, we typically think of mothers. At AHES, however, we have a wonderful group of fathers!

Our Dad's Club is an amazing group that has taken the time to get involved in their children's education. You will see our dads working with small groups, assisting in the computer lab, working in the copy room, spending a Saturday at school fixing things, creating a haunted house at the fall festival, and helping with our school garden. In addition, our Dad's Club holds an annual golf tournament every year, which raises much-needed funds that allow us to continue to offer our students enrichment programs.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Cambridge *Elementary*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103



Karen Merkow
Principal

Celebrating Our Accomplishments

We have been busy focusing on all the academic expectations for our students at Cambridge Elementary School. Thanks to all the hard work of our students and teachers, we enjoy celebrating our accomplishments and enjoying special activities.

In March we participated in Read Across America Day. We enjoyed a fun-filled day and night of reading! Our students dressed up as their favorite book characters, pledged to be lifelong readers, and completed projects to highlight their love of reading. In the evening, we invited parents to participate with their children for Literacy Night. All students who attended received Read Rocks wrist bands, and parents received information on how to support their children with literacy at home. It was a great day!

Earlier in the year, we honored our students who became proficient in English language usage. We also recognized our students in third through sixth grades who had shown growth and progress on their state tests from last year! Hoorah, Cambridge students!



California *Elementary*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104



Cyndi Paik
Principal

Staying Safe

By *Patty Ruiz, Teacher – 4th Grade*

The California Elementary School Student Council has implemented a new program called School Safeties. School Safeties are fourth- and fifth-grade students who volunteer during recess and lunch to monitor the soccer field and bathrooms to ensure students are playing safely, following the rules, and not engaging in any type of bullying behavior.

As part of the qualifications for this job, students applied for the position with teacher approval, ensuring they maintain grades above a C in all subject areas, in addition to engaging in appropriate behavior inside and outside the classroom. School Safeties are identified by a school logo red windbreaker they don during their duty. If students violate a school rule, they are issued a warning, followed by a citation, with a consequence from the classroom teacher. The School Safeties also recognize positive behavior by giving Caught Being Good tickets to students who model safe and courteous behavior. Go, California Bears!



Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171



Karen Hanson
Principal

Talk About Learning!

We have had an excellent first semester this year at Canyon Hills School. Students continue to make educational progress in a safe, nurturing environment. Our caring, professional staff enjoys being part of your child's life each day.

Over the past few months, students have participated in a variety of school activities, including a bountiful Thanksgiving feast, an exciting holiday party, and a very special Valentine dance, where a school king and queen were crowned. We thank our parent group and community partners for their generous support.

School activities and field trips offer an opportunity for students to utilize many practical skills in the areas of communication, socialization, and community integration. A focus at Canyon Hills is encouraging students to initiate communication. Students use a variety of technologies, including picture-exchange communication systems, voice-activated communication devices, and computer programs to support expressive language development. We hope you will join us in encouraging students to express themselves by providing more and more choices at home.

Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/532-8000 • www.oranged.k12.ca.us/canyon



Canyon Science Olympiad and National Merit Scholars

Please see our story on the front page

Dr. Greg Bowden
Principal

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

1090 S. The Highlands Dr., Anaheim, Ca 92808 • 714/532-7027 • www.oranged.k12.ca.us/cr



Parents Put in Overtime

Parents of Canyon Rim Elementary School students know that volunteering and involving themselves in school activities and events shows children the importance of an education. I am so proud of the involvement parents have taken in their children's education.

Some parent opportunities and PTA-sponsored events that have been offered are: coordinating Art Masters lessons; coordinating and volunteering at the book fairs for all students; planning and participating in fun-filled family nights; planning and assisting with our biggest fund-raiser of the year, Fall Carnival; serving as room parents and organizing class assignments; assisting with the Reflections program and setting up the showcase; correcting and passing out incentives for I Know My Facts; assisting with health screenings; supervising the student store, where students bring their Roadrunner bucks and exchange them for rewards; processing book orders for the Birthday Book Club; processing Box Tops for Education; and working in their children's classrooms.

Canyon Rim has offered parent training in the ST Math program and Parent Walk Through, a program which provides engagement strategies. Both of these programs support parent understanding and collaboration with core instruction:

On behalf of the staff at Canyon Rim, I want to thank all of our parents for their involvement and dedication to the education of their Roadrunners.

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/532-8043 • www.oranged.k12.ca.us/chapman



Community Support

Chapman Hills Elementary School prides itself on the outstanding educational experience every student enjoys! This is due largely to our amazing parent and grandparent volunteers, as well as our very generous PTA and school community! We could not offer the valuable educational experiences and enrichment activities without this tremendous support.

We are currently in the midst of raising funds for our annual jog-a-thon. These funds are used solely for our Excellence: A Commitment to Every Learner (ExCEL) program. This year these funds were used to hire two part-time, fully credentialed teachers to help support the program. Our goal this year once again is \$25,000! Last year, the students and community stepped up to the challenge and exceeded our goal by a few hundred dollars!

I am so proud and thankful to be a part of a school community that demonstrates daily the commitment and dedication to our students' education, both financially and in time given on and off campus! Way to go, Bobcats!

Julie Lucas
Principal

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • www.oranged.k12.ca.us/cv



Parent and Community Involvement

Throughout my tenure as principal at Cerro Villa Middle School, I have highlighted our Theories of Action aligned with our Orange Unified School District Strategic Plan. One of our Theories of Action helps foster our parent and community involvement strategies: If we are diligent in our communications with all stakeholders to establish common student achievement expectations, our families will engage with Cerro Villa as successful partners and will assist us in reinforcing positive school habits and a sincere focus on high-level achievement.

We pride ourselves on frequent communications of school events that reinforce our common language of student achievement and positive school culture with our parent and overall school community. Cerro Villa continues to be among the district leaders in phone and Blackboard Connect messages sent home to our parent community.

Within these frequent communications are celebrations of parent and community involvement. I want to celebrate our tremendous PFSO organization, which diligently supports the teachers and the entire Cerro Villa student body. Our PFSO has raised more than \$9,000 this year through the PFSO Goals Initiative. The PFSO accepts applications from our teachers and awards goals based on teacher need. Through this initiative, countless volunteer hours are sacrificed by the PFSO Goals Board to award the products which will best address the needs of our students. We are most thankful for the efforts of PFSO, as the members continue to demonstrate that meaningful communication with our parents and community equals successful partners focused on student needs and high-level achievement.

Crescent *Elementary*

5001 E. Gerda Drive, Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6371 • www.oranged.k12.ca.us/ci



We Give Back!

By Robin Nelson, 6th-Grade Teacher

Crescent's Student Council sponsored several campuswide service projects this school year, providing students with the opportunity to give back to their community. In December, students donated toys to the Giving Children Hope Toy Drive that benefited local families in need. Classes fulfilled wish lists of items for children who might not have had holiday gifts otherwise. Likewise, Crescent also collected 839 books for a schoolwide book drive to support literacy at home. New and gently used children's books were given to families who lacked reading materials at home. As part of Red Ribbon Week, families donated food items to the Second Harvest Food Bank. And finally, during the month of March, the children collected donations to benefit Pennies for Patients with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Several classes participate in service projects within their own classrooms. Mr. O'Connor's class has taken on a yearlong endeavor to support the learning and social development of Ms. Peterson's first-grade class. Each week, the sixth-graders read to, perform puppet shows for or play a sport with their first-grade buddies.

My sixth-grade class has been writing to two children in Rwanda and Malawi through the World Vision organization. The pen pal project has resulted in the students developing a greater understanding of the world in which we live.

"Because of these two children and their homes, it made me realize how fortunate we are to have such large amounts of money compared to people who live on pennies," said sixth-grader Tim Cunningham.

Randi Leach
Principal

El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6331 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/emhs



John Briquet
Principal

Traits and Qualities of Successful Students

In my role as principal, I meet frequently with parents who ask the same question time and again: “What does my child need to do to be successful at school?” There are numerous quick and easy answers: study regularly, work hard, pay attention, behave, put the video games away and so on. The reality is that most parents of successful students have helped their children develop four essential traits or qualities. They are desire, meaning that successful students possess a sense of wonder and the desire to learn; courage, in which successful students have the courage to ask questions, seek answers and take chances; discipline, meaning that students delay gratification, manage time wisely and stick to a task; and resilience, with which students are mentally tough and believe in themselves enough to keep going. They do not surrender.

You may be surprised to see that intelligence is not on my list. While a powerful intellect is an obvious advantage and undoubtedly a requirement for many areas of advanced study, I’ve known many individuals of average intelligence who have been very successful students in both high school and college because they possessed the four traits identified above. While these folks undoubtedly had to work harder than their brainier colleagues, they were just as successful in the long run.

Engendering desire, courage, discipline and resilience in our children is a tall order, but it is absolutely essential if we are to give them the tools they need to succeed in school and the great, wide world beyond.

Esplanade *Elementary*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6157



Amy Hitt
Principal

Fulfilling Great Expectations

Staff, students, parents and the Esplanade community as a whole have been working together to increase student achievement and meet state-testing goals. Our school has been striving to increase our current API of 797 by 38 points to 835, and we know that by the start of the next school year, we will be celebrating increases in statewide and similar schools’ rankings as well as meeting our API goal.

In addition to outstanding everyday engagement and instructional strategies like Thinking Maps, teachers used “Strategic Schooling” in the classroom and worked all year with students to understand types of testing data through the use of “data-celebration walls” and test chats. We also celebrate our achievement annually and will be doing so this year on April 19; almost 600 awards will be given out to students for increasing proficiency and “jumping levels” on the CSTs. Our school community works and celebrates our great accomplishments!



El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

181 S. Del Giorgio Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/997-6238 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/rancho



John Besta
Principal



Michele Walker
Principal

Celebrating International Day

“Hey, what are you eating?” “A *lumpia*.” “What’s that?” “It is a Philippine egg roll.” “What is a *pierogi*?” “A Polish dumpling.”

These are conversations that took place among students during El Rancho Charter School’s International Day Celebration that was held in March in the cafeteria. The PTA and El Rancho were extremely excited about International Day this year; it was our biggest turnout for donations of food. This event gave almost 1,200 students and staff an opportunity to learn about different cultures and taste food from other regions in the world.

There were different types of international music playing, with fabric and posters that decorated the cafeteria walls. One student remarked that it felt as if he were in El Rancho’s version of It’s a Small World. We had over 100 different types of food and drink that students could sample.

This event is truly an amazing opportunity, and the PTA and local community love to share a part of their diverse cultures with El Rancho students. We look forward to continuing this event every year. Thanks again to the PTA and the local community of parents for helping us make this a great experience for our students.

Fairhaven *Elementary*

1415 Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6178



Kelli Keller
Principal

Nothing Less Than 100 Percent

We at Fairhaven firmly believe that every student will meet or exceed his or her highest potential. We maintain high expectations for the school community with a collaborative culture of data-driven instruction, research-based instructional practices and decision-making. Staff members attend weekly professional development and collaboration meetings to these ends. Our mission statement reads: “Students, Parents/Guardians and Educators work as partners to ensure that all students meet and/or exceed educational goals.”

An essential part of Fairhaven’s success is involving students, families and community members in targeting student achievement. “Nothing Less than 100% is Acceptable!” reads the banner at our entrance, and this applies to us all. Every student and parent meet at least once per quarter with the classroom teacher for “test chats” where results of the student’s previous assessments are explained. Then, a new goal is set to improve academic performance. A full-time community aide assists with home-to-school communications for non-English-speaking parents/guardians. Parents/guardians are provided assistance through guided activities for the home and added intervention programs as needed. This has increased parent involvement and the role that the school plays within the wider community.

The attitudes, behaviors, and commitment of the staff promote the school’s vision that all students will be successful in school and become lifelong learners. One of Fairhaven’s goals includes creating a college-going culture. Classrooms are organized by university rather than room number and uniforms include the phrase “I’m going to college, and Fairhaven is my first step!”

School News

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Fletcher *Elementary*

515 W. Fletcher St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6181



Helen Chung
Principal

R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

By Martha Landry, Office Manager

The success of any organization, family, school, community or place of work is rooted in a solid foundation of respect, discipline and self-control. Schools and communities create safe, welcoming environments for learning when all parties exhibit respect for all members.

As part of Fletcher Elementary School's continuing participation in PBIS character development program, the PBIS team put on a P.R.I.D.E. Day II assembly for the Fletcher student body. (P.R.I.D.E. is the Fletcher PBIS acronym for Positive Attitude, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy).

Students were treated to five rotation stations, each consisting of a 10-minute presentation on the specific character traits that were being showcased. At the lunch table station, Mrs. Lee reminded students to "keep hands, feet and objects to yourself." During the library rotation, our librarian, Mrs. Plumb, emphasized the library rule of "Raise your hand and wait for your turn to talk." To encourage better social interactions among students, Principal Lu discussed bullying issues with the students, and Mrs. Simon was on the blacktop reviewing the concepts of "Peaceful Playgrounds" to promote positive playground behavior. At the final station, Mrs. Hopkins encouraged better classroom behavior by discussing the rule of "Work quietly and listen to your teacher."

Working together, parents and Fletcher staff have a sacred mission to prepare the children under their care to become respectful, caring and compassionate citizens of the future!

Handy *Elementary*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183



Sandra Schaffer
Principal

Student Recognition

The students at Handy Elementary School work hard every day to achieve success in academics and citizenship.

To help honor those very special students who have made extraordinary accomplishments, we conduct special PRIDE assemblies each quarter. At these celebrations our classroom teachers all have an opportunity to acknowledge two students for the Teacher Choice Awards. These can be for outstanding performance in any subject area, or positive behavior/citizenship, or for overall improvement.

The teachers also get to choose one student for the Handy Hornet award. This individual will exemplify a positive attitude, bring homework back every day, complete their classwork, and is a role model for the entire room.

We also honor outstanding achievement and growth on our PSAs and the CELDTs. Reclassification is a huge accomplishment, and we look forward each year to this opportunity to recognize our achievers.

We are very proud of our Hornets, and look forward to giving them the recognition that they deserve!

Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6282 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/imperial



Tim Biland
Principal

Showcasing Our Success

As you enter Imperial Elementary School, you will see a wall showcasing our School-Wide Best Practices (SWBP), Thinking Maps, and Step Up to Writing. The wall of SWBPs showcases the progression of learning in all grades and subjects. More importantly, it exemplifies our school's professional practice of supporting student learning through collaboration. Thinking Maps are designs for thinking, which provide students with visual tools to organize complex ideas, such as cause and effect, analogies, and classification. They are used in all subjects and grade levels. Step Up to Writing assists students in organizing ideas in writing and uses color coding to remind students to: use a good topic sentence, represented by green; slow down and provide a reason, detail, or fact, represented by yellow; and stop and explain or provide an example, represented by red.

Next to our SWBPs is our Pyramid of Success, taken from the work of John Wooden. Our school character program is used to support positive behavior in the classroom, on the playground, and elsewhere. Students are awarded Eagle Pride Certificates and Super Bucks for positive behavior. Every Friday at our flag pole ceremony, a student from each class is recognized and receives a certificate, presented by the principal. Twice a month, students use Super Bucks for prizes at the PTA-sponsored store.

A distinguishing characteristic of Imperial is the parent partnership. Parents provide resources for enrichment, field trips and supplies. They also give their time to organize activities and celebrations and to support learning in the classroom.



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

OC DEPT OF ED. • FROM PAGE 3

review team made up of teachers, district technology coordinators, business/non-profit leaders, and OCDE staff read and rate each application and decide which projects merit a site visit. The site visits provide a hands-on opportunity for students to describe and demonstrate how they are using technology to learn specific content areas and how technology has been integrated into the learning process. The review team then selects the most innovative classrooms to present at the local and state level.

Another aspect of OCDE's STS process is the "dress rehearsal" held prior to the Showcase. This provides students the initial opportunity to present their projects in a science fair format to an audience of adults, and it gives the review team a final chance to select the projects that will represent Orange County at the statewide STS. In 2012, teams have an additional opportunity to be selected for the STS at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) conference being held in San Diego in June.

This year, projects include the use of iPods and iPads to increase reading fluency and comprehension and to improve math, science, and other skills; Story Kit, an application that incorporates pictures, text and sound; blogs; video broadcasts and much more.

For more information about the Student Technology Showcase, visit <http://www.k12hsn.org/resources/showcase/gallery/index.php/ocde/>.

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Jordan *Elementary*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6187



The Best Education

As the principal of Jordan Elementary School, I am honored to be working with staff members who are highly dedicated to preparing our students for academic success. Currently our teachers are implementing the Strategic Schooling Strategies that the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) brought back from their recent trainings.

Andrea Roman
Principal

The teachers have been meeting with their students for test chats and goal-setting tasks. They are also implementing a Nemesis Standard Campaign, creating classroom student data walls, and focusing on establishing and maintaining positive relationships for motivation.

This commitment to student success is proven by our California English Language Development Test results, which determines the progress made towards improved English Learner skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Our 2011-2012 annual growth target was 56 percent, and our school achieved 72.3! This is a 21.8 percent increase from last year.

We will continue to motivate our students as the next CST approaches. Our motto for the year is, "Train Your Brain to Reach the Gold!" The teachers will even be organizing a CST pep rally to help get ready for the CST.

We are also hosting a CST parent workshop on March 5. The goal is to educate our parents on developing strategies to help prepare their children for the CST at home. The workshop will provide them with test examples and shared resources to make sure that each student can meet the proficient level.

Our motto at Jordan is, "Together We Are Better." We will strive to work as a community to see that our students get the best education possible.

Lampson *Elementary*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840 • 714/997-6153 • www.oranged.k12.ca.us/lampson



Community Science Night

On February 22, Lampson School hosted its fourth-annual Community Science Night. This is the night that our Lampson students and staff members look forward to each year. It is an evening of science celebration and learning.

The volunteer astronomers were with us once again to show our students and their parents the night sky. There were also many other exhibits and experiences, too, including tropical birds, aquarium petting beds, the science of fingerprints, aeronautic design, exercise physiology, eyeball anatomy, butterflies, gas pillows and much more.

In the weeks leading up to the event, our fourth- and fifth-grade students had been spending their lunch hours creating science fair entries like who makes the best battery, the anatomy of a flower, and more.



The first-place winner of the science fair was fifth-grader Kevin Rodriguez. More than 600 Lampson students and their families enjoyed this exciting and successful event.

We can't wait for next year!

La Veta *Elementary*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6155



A Dedicated Leadership

La Veta Elementary School is so proud of their 2011-2012 Student Council! This year the Council is lead by Justin Patino, president; Lauren Padin, vice-president; and Seth Baker, press secretary.

Together they have developed a collective focus to help the community. To fulfill this goal, they recently organized a canned food drive during the holiday season. With the help of their advisor, Ms. Michelle Kauten, they were able to gather from their classmates approximately 460 pounds of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County. The Council has also supported the La Veta community by planning and promoting drug awareness during Red Ribbon Week.

There is still plenty of time left in the year, and our Council members are eager to plan and implement at least one more activity to help support the La Veta community.



Linda Vista *Elementary*

1200 N. Cannon St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6201



A Distinguished School

In October, Linda Vista Elementary School qualified to apply as a California Distinguished School due to our continued increase in the percentage of students and sub groups, scoring proficient and advanced on their California Standards Tests.

Our first step was to complete the written application. The process included choosing two significant practices which directly contributed to student academic success. Linda Vista teachers chose data collaboration and the use of thinking maps. Data collaboration provides teachers with the opportunity to use current student data to drive their instruction and inform students and parents of academic progress. Thinking Maps are a visual representation for organizing information. Our written application was completed on November 30 and sent to the California Department of Education for review. On January 4, we were notified that we had qualified for a Distinguished School visit. This was an affirmation of all the wonderful teaching and learning happening at Linda Vista.

With the support of our dedicated staff, teachers and parents, we hosted our Distinguished School visit on February 7. After spending the day at Linda Vista, the Distinguished School team recommended Linda Vista for the Distinguished School honor! Their report will be reviewed by the California State Superintendent of Education, and official notification will be sent in late April or early May.

I would like to thank Linda Vista's teachers and staff for their dedication to the success of all students!

KAMPS / ACTIVITIES FOR KIDZ

BY SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook:

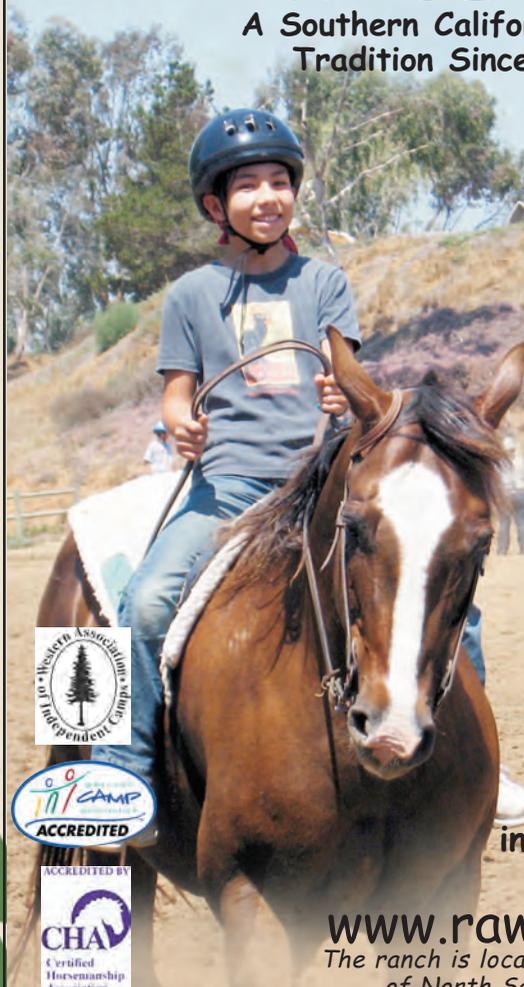
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THE WORD "SUMMER" brings to mind a myriad of images from my childhood — *going to the beach, reading a good book, eating popsicles, building a treehouse, and hanging out with my friends.*

Those are great memories. I also remember getting bored. And I remember sharing this information, persistently, with my mom — *I think she referred to it as WHINING.*

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- Club Director **Eddie Carrillo** (Men's Soccer Coach, Chapman University)
- Asst. Club Director **Sal Lopez** (Men's Asst. Soccer Coach, Chapman University)
- Technical Director **Luis Balboa** (Former International Professional Player)

We provide a very experienced and professional staff:

- Goal Keeper Coach, **Bob Amman** (Men's Soccer Coach, Cal State Fullerton)
- Girls Coach, **Lindsey Huie-Morinaga** (Former U of Portland player & National Player)
- Girls Coach, **Dale Ervine** (Former Professional Player)
- Boys Coach, **Ivan Polic** (Former Professional Player)

We are a strong competitive club that continues to grow and thrive and develop solid players on and off the soccer field. We measure success by the number of our players in collegiate level soccer and their success in all aspects of life.

SCAN THIS QR CODE with your Smart Phone

www.canyonpsa.com

Surf's Up Why Surfing?

By Chad Wells

I was just five years old when I was introduced to surfing. My older brother, Jeff, who had already been surfing for a number of years, brought me down to San Onofre to teach me.

Needless to say, I didn't fare so well. I spent a lot of time with my face in the sand and didn't set

foot on a board again until six years later. When I was 11, I found a Harbour Surfboards twin fin under the Christmas tree. A few difficult days falling off my new board led me to discover that I wasn't ready for such a short board. So my dad bought me a mini longboard, and my love of surfing began. I spent a few years learning on shorter and shorter boards until finally I was ready for the one I got for Christmas.

Though I had a rough start, I have been surfing for 32 years. All the other sports I played as a child have drifted away, but surfing has really stuck. Personally for me, surfing provides a break from the day-to-day grind. Once you get out on the water, you immediately forget about anything on land, as the ocean demands your full attention and respect. I plan to enjoy surfing well into my senior years, as the thrill never gets old.



Costa Rica 2010

Chad Wells is a resident of Seal Beach, class of 1987 Los Alamitos High School. A 2X Masters National Champion and Surf Program Coordinator for Quiksilver, Inc.

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Chapman University, Teacher with OUSD & Canyon PSA Club Director

2012 Summer Sessions

- Session 1-June 18 thru June 22
- Session 2-June 25 thru June 29
- Session 3-July 9 thru July 13
- Session 4-July 23 thru July 27
- Session 5-July 30 thru Aug 2 (Half Day only)
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School Smarts

Communicating With Your Child's Teacher



Rajeshri Gandhi

In my 15 years as a teacher and school administrator, I have learned that parent involvement is a critical component to a child's success. Children crave and need validation from the important adults in their lives and when teachers and parents have a strong relationship, the child benefits. Knowing how to communicate with your child's teacher is critical to the health of this relationship. We've all heard about the Mars/Venus phenomenon when it comes to men and women communicating with each other. I would argue that a similar dynamic can exist between parents and teachers. As a parent, if you should find yourself in a situation that warrants raising a concern to your child's teacher, I offer the following advice.

- **Remember that the person on the other side of the discussion is your professional partner, not your adversary.** Teachers choose their profession because they have a deep yearning to better the lives of young people. They spend a great deal of time with your child (and many others) and there is professional knowledge, supported by experience that drives decisions. There is great potential for a mutually beneficial resolution and that possibility is greater when you start from a place of collaboration and trust.
- **Resist the urge to communicate in any form—phone, email, in person meeting—when you are overly emotional.** Anyone who works at a school understands that their student is your baby and that as parents, your job is to protect and support your child. Once your initial reaction has subsided, take a moment to define for yourself your actual concern, the potential impact on your child and what outcome(s) will best serve your child. Be open to compromise and alternative solutions and bear in mind that the teacher has his/her own rationale. Keeping the conversation focused on the issue and moving towards a resolution will allow for more effective communication and the strengthening of your relationship.

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

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 June 25-29, 2012

Shipley Nature Center
 July 9-13, 2012
 July 16-20, 2012
 July 23-27, 2012
 July 30-Aug 3, 2012

Irvine Regional Park
 Aug 6-10, 2012

- **Go directly to the teacher rather than initially jumping levels and involving supervisors/principals, etc.** Many parents feel uncomfortable and are some times intimidated to approach their child's teacher, even though that is the best person to address concerns. A good administrator will always ask, "Have you spoken to the teacher yet?" and if your answer is no, expect to be directed back to him/her and for the teacher to know that you already went to his/her supervisor. 99% of issues can be constructively resolved by the parties directly involved. In the rare case that you feel you have to go beyond the teacher, let the teacher know that you appreciate his/her consideration and understand that s/he is doing what s/he feels is right and within his/her jurisdiction, but that it is not personal and you would like to speak to another party who may have more ideas.
- **Address concerns as they come up.** I cannot tell you how many times I spoke with parents who said, "And this is not the first time I have experienced this issue." My response was always the same, "Clearly this is important to you—why did you wait to bring it up?" Prolonged feelings of concern can build resentment, which can result in a small issue exploding into a big deal. Identify your concern, evaluate the impact on your child's overall education and if it's something you deem important, address it immediately. Teachers have no opportunity to address your concern or explain their rationale unless you communicate with them. Once you have laid out your concerns, be supportively persistent in getting a resolution and immediately address any future concerns.
- **Never put your child in the middle and never disparage or criticize your child's teacher in front of him/her.** I once heard Dr. Phil say that one parent criticizing the other parent shames the child because s/he is a part of both. I would say that the same is true of students and their teachers. Avoid putting your child in the position of choosing a side—it's unhealthy. Your word as a parent is extremely powerful (even though your child may not ever tell you that) and sticks longer than you might expect.
- **Act as an individual and do not rally the troops around an issue.** While it may feel as though there is strength in numbers, it is always better for you to address your concerns and to let other parents do the same. Going in as a group immediately puts the teacher on the defensive and can undermine your actual concern as it is highly unlikely that everyone has the same concern for the same reason. However, if multiple parents raise the same concern individually and in a reasonable manner, the teacher is better able to develop a resolution that benefits all parties.

Rajeshri holds a BS from the University of Michigan and a MA in School of Leadership with Principal Certification from Harvard University. She uses her background in public and private schools both teaching and administration to collaborate with students, parents and schools about the various educational options available. Rajeshri may be reached at rgandhi24@gmail.com or www.rajeshrigandhi.com

What are your kids doing this summer?

The City of Orange has plenty of activities planned to keep your tots, kids, tweens, and teens busy throughout the summer months! A variety of fun and exciting specialty camps and classes such as sports, art, music, dance, engineering, science, cooking and much more will be offered this summer. Visit cityoforange.org for more information.



Teens-4-Team Orange

This program provides teens fun and excitement, as well as the opportunity to make a difference in their community by participating in various service projects throughout the City of Orange. Teens will not only build friendships and create memories to last a lifetime, but they can also earn required school service hours!

Day Camp Location: Hart Park
Days/Times: Mon-Fri, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
Ages: 12-15 years old
Fees: \$95 per week, per child for Orange residents
 \$110 per week, per child for non-residents
 Optional weekly excursions vary in cost.
 Registration accepted NOW!

For more information or to register visit cityoforange.org or call (714) 744-7293.

Summer Day Camps

The City is also proud to offer its ever-popular Summer Day Camps at various City parks. Beginning June 18, 2012 kids are invited to join our themed, 9-week program with a structured schedule of games, activities, crafts, songs, special events, and optional excursions. Your child will experience a summer packed with adventure and excitement!

Day Camp Locations:
 Handy & Shaffer Parks
Days/Times: Mon-Fri, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
Ages: Children entering 1st grade-11 years old
Fees: \$95 per week, per child for Orange residents
 \$110 per week, per child for non-residents
 Optional weekly excursions vary in cost.
 Registration accepted NOW!

For more information or to register visit cityoforange.org or call (714) 744-7293. A complete list of excursion activities will be available in the summer issue of Our Orange magazine available the week of May 7, 2012.

Steve Ambriz Memorial Park is open and ready to serve you!

Saturday, April 28, 2012 11 a.m.-2 p.m. is the Grand Opening of our NEW community park which will offer a variety of classes and recreational activities for people of all ages to enjoy. Visit cityoforange.org for a complete list of family fun offerings and park amenities!





Summer Blast

at Covenant Christian School
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June 18 – August 24, 2012
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Children's Programs

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Math, Writing and Drawing Classes

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www.fullerton.edu/kidscamp

These programs are made available through the CSU Fullerton Auxiliary Service Corporation. #7980 03/12

Art To Grow On

Ready, Get Set,...Create!



As a parent, I really now understand what everyone was saying when my sons were born: “It goes by so fast! Before you know it they will be....” And it is true! Since they grow so fast, I often think, what are the “seeds” that we parents should plant in our children? Manners? Of course! Respect? Of course! Self-esteem and self-confidence? Yes and yes!

But as I my youngest child moves into elementary school, I truly believe that giving children the opportunity to think critically, problem solve, imagine, and create will elevate them even more as they continue to grow.

Math calls for it. Social studies calls for it. Playing in the yard and getting into arguments call for it—the ability to analyze a situation, concretely or theoretically come up with solutions, and communicate those solutions through thought, speech, written word, movement, or art.

I opened Art To Grow On Children’s Art Center, Inc. in 2000. There were not as many demands on our children as there are now. Kindergarten is truly the new first grade. Our children’s minds need to be agile, sharp, open to new ideas, curious, passionate, and creative, no matter if they will become chemists, professional athletes, teachers, artists, musicians, or business executives.

If you can give your child a gift in 2012, take the time to do something creative with him or her. Get out those cardboard boxes and turn them into a race car or doll house. Get out wire, tile, and glue and play. Read books, take walks and collect rocks, write letters, and talk! These life skills will be a gift to your child.

Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children’s Art Center, Inc.
www.art2growon.com (310) 625-6028

FUN

Santiago Canyon College

Community Services College for Kids Program

(June 18 through August 16, 2012)

If you’re looking for a way to help enrich your child’s summer, Santiago Canyon College has the solution.

Community Services College for Kids Program

offers a wide variety of classes and activities that can help your child improve academic skills, challenge his or her imagination, and make new friends.

You can personalize your child’s schedule to accommodate vacations and other summer activities.

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Registration begins April 16, 2012
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www.sccollege.edu/cs
or call (714) 628-4960

Santiago Canyon College Community Services Program
8045 E. Chapman Ave. • Orange 92869

Note-ables

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important



Kate Karp

Chicken Joe is an orange cat who loves rock and roll. Trout Fishing in America, aka folk-rockers Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet and creators of this endearing character and the “funny farm” he lives on, tell Joe’s story in original songs with country-flavored rock and plain ol’ country. This latest CD is a follow-up to *My Name is Chicken Joe* and is available either solo or with a whimsically drawn storybook illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch. In this story, narrated by Grimwood and Idlet and augmented by their band, Chicken Joe sleepily arises, as cats will, from his bed in the hen house and tries hard to remember an important thing he’d forgotten. After talking to the hens, the dog named Miss Kitty, and a very odd kazoo-playing mule, he lies down to take a much-needed nap, as cats also will. You and your children will undoubtedly have picked up on the clues and try to shout Joe into waking, which could be why he remembers what he’d forgotten when naptime’s over.

The songs are accompanied by guitars, banjos and synthesizers, and spoons, hand claps and a frottoir—that’s your washboard! They’re wonderfully clever and can be considered the show after the story. Roosters crow “Rock and roooollll!” in “Rock and Roll Roosters,” and all the farm animals display their eccentric and species-bewildered behavior (“Hello, My Chicken Thinks He’s a Dog”; “You’ve Got a Funny Name.”) One in particular, “The Fish Swim Backwards in the Sky,” is lovely in a mountain-ballad way; mournful strings eerily contrast with whimsical lyrics like “Don’t hold hands with a cactus tree.” And it’s not all silliness and games. “Where Did Everybody Go” tells about taking a wrong turn in life and making your way back, and “Dance with Me” is simple love and friendship, flavored with Cajun filé gumbo.

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important is simply a fine time—and what’s that pig doing in the bathroom?

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

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Boundaries Deflect Negativity



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Dear Dr. Shari,
A few weeks ago, on the morning show we heard you talk about boundaries in a way we had never heard before. You were talking about what you allow near you, in terms of attitudes. I would love to teach my kids about this, It is so important. I want them to grow up with this kind of attitude and strength. Could you share your chalk-line story again? —Jonathan Y.

Dear Jonathan,
Sure thing! The idea of having boundaries is about more than just protecting you from your surroundings. Your boundaries (what you allow around you) are actually defining of you. In large part, they determine who we are and what we become. Few of us realize that self perception and self esteem hinge on the boundaries that we have in place. What we tolerate, when we speak up, and what we stand for are indicators of our value system. They determine who we are. I admire your commitment to teaching your children this and I would be happy to run that story again!

My Chalk Line:

There a lot of kids in my neighborhood. I love kids, they know that. When we are home, there are kids in my garage, playing with toys, shooting hoops, painting and playing games. It is a high-energy good time, as it should be with kids around. On occasion, an altercation will break out. Someone might say something mean, a disrespectful comment might float, out or someone might even pull out a negative attitude. This is when I take out the chalk. I draw a half circle around the front of my garage. I let everyone know that within the circle are all of the good attitudes. I tell them that everyone is respectful and appropriate in the circle. Everyone has a great time in the circle and everyone is welcome here. However, if you are carrying negativity, inappropriateness, or the slightest

amount of doubt of whether you can be respectful to everyone within the circle, then you are asked to step on the other side of the chalk line until you decide that you are more interested in being a part of the atmosphere in here.

It's a decision that you get to make. You are welcome to take on whatever attitude suits you outside of the circle and no one (in here) will say a word about it, but you can only bring the best of you inside. We hope you choose to stay in here, because it is so fun. . . and we like having you in here.

I take this very seriously. I escort children to the other side of the line, when necessary. I let them know that the rules do not bend. It is the only way I can promise kindness and respect within the circle...All of the kids know this.

The truth is, Jonathan, I really enjoy watching the expression of a kid who has been escorted outside of the chalk line. It is always the same. They stand there, for a moment, looking in... and you can just see them thinking...

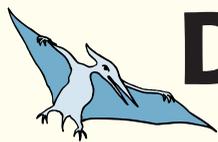
"It's so much fun in there... I would so much rather be in there...and they want me in there... and all I have to do is respect everyone? I can DO that."

Each one of us needs to draw this circle. We have to carry an attitude of "You are welcome near me, with your goodness, your respect, your positive energy, but otherwise I will have to ask you to stand outside of my chalk line." By tolerating less than this, you are diminishing who you are. By allowing negativity into your world, you are cheapening the experience of being near you. The party isn't as fun, there aren't as many smiles, you become eroded and have less to offer.

You know the people who have a chalk line because you wouldn't dare bring your negativity around them. You love being near them. The energy is high, the attitude is great. It's a wonderful place to be.. and its your call.

Thanks for bringing it up Jonathan, It is one of the greatest values you can teach your children.

Dr. Shari is the founder of the "Brainpower" program for schools, Author of "The Learning Toolbox - Memory Skills for Everyone" used in schools nationwide, "Inspiring the Love of Learning" and "The Algebra Toolbox - The UN MATH Solution" in schools Fall 2011. Dr. Shari is a syndicated columnist, radio host and author of over 200 articles on the topics of Learning and Memory. Contact Dr. Shari at info@doctorshari.com. For a schedule of radio and television appearances see www.doctorshari.com.



Dinosaurs Word Search Contest

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 OUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by May 15, 2012

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

- Allosaurus
- Anatosaurus
- Ankylosaurus
- Apatosaurus
- Brachiosaurus
- Coelophysis
- Diplodocus
- Iguanodon
- Parasaurolophus
- Segisaurus
- Spinosaurus
- Stegosaurus
- Torosaurus
- Triceratops
- Tyrannosaurus
- Ultrasaurus

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

Dream in Gold



Kent Kawaguchi

Have you ever won 20 games in a row? What about 50, 80, or even 112 consecutive games? It sounds physically impossible, but two time Olympic gold medalist, Misty May-Treanor did win 112 consecutive games.

Misty May-Treanor is one of the most recognized female athletes in the world, and is a huge icon in the sport of beach volleyball. Many people might ask: how did Misty win 112 consecutive games, two Olympic gold medals, three Most Valuable Player awards, three defensive player awards, and more? She became successful by dreaming big, setting goals, working hard, and practicing the sport she loves. As a volleyball player myself, it was a great privilege to meet and talk with Misty, one of the greatest beach volleyball players of all time.



Kent at Misty May's book signing.

Misty May-Treanor, a Southern California native, was born in Los Angeles and played volleyball as a child with her father in Santa Monica. She attended Newport Harbor High School and is alumni of California State University, Long Beach. In her autobiography, *MISTY Digging Deep in Volleyball and Life*, she explains the hardships of "growing up with two driven, competitive, accomplished athlete parents and living in a volatile household rocked for years by their alcoholism and the heartbreaking death of her mother from cancer"

(May-Treanor). Yet she overcame obstacles and said, "All my life, I've dreamed in gold." Known as one of the best beach volleyball duos in history, Misty May and Kerri Walsh won an Olympic gold medal in Greece and another in China.

Meeting Misty May-Treanor was a really awesome experience, especially as a high school athlete myself. When I talked to her, I asked her if she had any advice for students like me, on balancing sports and academics. Her response was a good reminder to all student athletes that, "School is very important especially being an athlete because you never know how long your athletic career will last and you always need something to fall back on. Also when you get scholarships for college they are paying for you to go to school, so you have to study. You have to work. Your job in college is to maintain your grades in school and to work in the classroom so that you can help them [your college team] on the court. School is very important because athletes need to have a "Plan B" after sports." Because of the struggles between the death of her mother and the alcoholism in her household, she said that "everyone will always have struggles, what is important is how you persevere and overcome it." She also said that "only you can determine your outcome, don't listen to someone else. Do what makes you happy."

After talking to Misty May-Treanor, she taught me to be myself and to not let others pressure me into any situations. In addition, she emphasized that in order to be the best you have to work harder than everyone else. She said "there is always someone ready to fill your spot, so when working out, you have to work harder. If it's raining outside probably that one person ready to take your spot is

working out in the rain." Her last key for greatness is to have goals, write them down, and commit to them. She said to "make right decisions towards your goal and to do little things along the way to reach your goal." Meeting and talking to Misty May-Treanor was a great learning experience in the aspects of balancing schoolwork, being an athlete, and striving towards goals. Her advice is to "strive for greatness, work hard, and dream in gold."



Misty May and Kerri Walsh and Olympic Gold!



2012 Fall Season Registration

Safe, affordable...and memories that last a lifetime. AYSO has been the first name in youth soccer since 1964

Every child plays at least 50% of EVERY game

Registration Date & Location

April 21, 2012

Taft Elementary School

1829 North Cambridge Street • Orange, CA 92865-4409
from 9:00am – 1:00pm

Registration Fees

\$95.00 for all players U5 – U19

Discount for multiple players is as follows:

- First two players in the same household are full fee \$95.00
 - Each additional player in the same household will be \$50.00
- Open to players from 4 to 18 years of age
(Born between 7/31/2008 – 08/01/1993)

Registrations will not be accepted without all of following items!

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER YOUR CHILD and COMPLETE A VOLUNTEER FORM at www.eayso.org

1. Print 3 copies of each
Player Registration form
Parent Volunteer form
2. Bring them with you to Registration
3. You must attend the sign-up event
4. **Registration Fee** (Cash, check, or money order)
New Players Only – Proof of age
(Birth Certificate, Passport, or Immunization Record)
Orange Resident – A copy of a bill mailed to your residence that we can keep for permit purposes

Practice and Games

Practice fields may include but are not limited to:

Taft Elementary School • Handy Park • Hart Park • Santiago Community College

Practice will begin the first week of August

Games begin September 8, 2012

Practice Days and Times are determined by the Coach

Games for U5 – U8

will be held at Taft Elementary School

Home games for U10 – U19

will be at Taft some may travel to other Regions for away games.

All regular season games will be played on Saturdays.



Contact Information

admin@orangeayso.org

www.orangeayso.org • 714-494-9087

P.O. Box 4421 • Orange, CA 92863

McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/977-6384 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/mcpherson



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

SIXTH GRADE AWARD WINNING ADVENTURE • FROM PAGE 1

Many McPherson students distinguished themselves and will move on to the Regional Competition to be held at UC Riverside on April 21. Judy Denenny, their sixth-grade teacher, exclaimed, "This is a fantastic program which allows students real-life opportunities to critically think and problem-solve and inspires them to start contemplating careers in engineering, mathematics and science."

Orange High School

525 N Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ohs



Ernest Gonzalez
Principal

The Annual Penny Drive

Orange High School joined students from across the country to help collect pennies, nickels and dimes in support of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's annual "Pennies for Patients" campaign.

The school kicked off the event with an assembly on March 2. Guest speaker Tyler Herrera is a current junior who is also battling bone cancer while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. Sammy Noija, a current sophomore and cancer survivor, also came on stage in support of Tyler. Teacher Ms. Wang helped the cause by

kissing a yak, and OHS cheerleaders also performed at the assembly.

Last year OHS raised over \$18,000, and this year we hope to pass the \$20,000 mark. In addition to class competitions, other fund-raising activities will include dodgeball tournaments, handball tournaments, Orange Idol, Mr. and Mrs. Panther, So You Think You Can Dance, Club Food Faire, March Madness, a Key Club charity basketball game, and Sadies' Dance events.

Please donate what you can to help support this worthy community service project, one that has spanned over a decade at Orange High. We can be found at <http://ocie.sy.llevent.org/OrangeHighSchool>.



Nohl Canyon Elementary

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Road, Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203



Dominique Polchow
Principal

A Positive Impact

As children develop through the elementary years, they are absorbing a large amount of information academically and learning how to become productive citizens in our world. This year at Nohl Canyon Elementary School, we implemented a social skills program that has been a huge success.

The social skills program was developed to allow students to reflect upon their behavior. We want to help children acknowledge their actions, discover and feel the effect of those actions on others, and find new ways to effectively handle the problems they encounter.

The social skills program is two-fold. It meets the needs of students who require additional practice with appropriate social interaction and learning to make smart choices. It also provides opportunities for students who make poor choices and need one-time visits. Under the supervision of the principal and Resource Specialist Program teacher, instructional assistants work with students in small groups or one-on-one to address the behavioral needs of students.

This program allows children to have a well rounded educational experience, making school a safe and positive place for everyone. Our goal is to help children make smart choices which will positively impact their future.

Olive Elementary

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/olive



Kathryn Martin
Principal

Serving Those Who Serve

Olive Elementary School students created hundreds of cards for Marines serving in Command Logistics Battalion CLB-5, who were recently deployed to Afghanistan from Camp Pendleton. Families donated three large boxes of goodies, such as crackers and candies, and hygiene products, which will be sent to the Marines. This is the second time Olive has done such a collection, and our servicemen and women have been incredibly grateful.

Olive will continue collecting goodies and provide items needed for our troop goody bags. We will be collecting: individual portions of beef jerky; individual drink mixes, travel-sized tubes of toothpaste; individual foil packages of antibacterial wipes; and cards and letters of support and appreciation. If you would like to participate, please feel free to drop these items off at the school.

The Olive staff, students and families are the most generous folks in the world. They make it a point to serve each other and our community every day.



Palmyra *Elementary*

1325 E Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6207



Larry Hausner
Principal

Test Scores Soar

Schools are held accountable to both the federal government and the state of California for their yearly standardized test scores. This past spring, Palmyra Elementary School had impressive achievement gains on both the state Academic Performance Index (API) and the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Both the API and AYP results are drawn from individual student results on the statewide Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR). We saw a huge gain in our API, moving from 771 to 809, which exceeded the state goal of 800. The AYP targets are based on the percentage of students reaching proficient and advanced levels in specific subgroups.

Recently, Palmyra Elementary School was listed by the California Department of Education as meeting all federal criteria for AYP, which will potentially allow the school to exit program improvement status. A school must meet all AYP targets for two consecutive years to exit program improvement standing. Our teachers and students worked extremely hard last year and are driven to do the same this year. Making those impressive gains in student achievement did not happen by accident. Palmyra teachers are a collaborative, dedicated group of professionals who truly put student needs first.

Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361



Deborah Backstrom
Principal

Grabbing Success By Its Horns

By Heriberto Angel, Assistant Principal

Seventh-grader Galilea Villegas was one of three students who represented the Orange Unified School District at the final event of the Orange County 2012 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Of the 56 students from Orange County who competed in the finals, Galilea came in 13th. We are so proud of her! Galilea enjoys reading novels and horror stories, going for walks in the park, and writing. Her future goals include attending Oxford, Yale or Harvard University to study biochemistry.

Wilder Carachure, another seventh-grader, currently ranks 5th nationally with 63,414 points in the VocabJourney Leaderboard. He is the only California student ranked in the top 10!

VocabJourney is a tech-savvy, activity-based program that is designed to boost student vocabulary and comprehension skills. It provides students with rigorous vocabulary practice in a 24/7 interactive online environment. VocabJourney is part of the Passport Reading Journeys program used in our sixth-grade reading class, and is also part of the LANGUAGE! curriculum that is used for intensive intervention at Portola Middle School.

We are so proud of Wilder! He enjoys playing soccer with his friends at the park. His favorite subject is English, and his future goal is to become a computer engineer.



Galilea Villegas



Wilder Carachure

Panorama *Elementary*

10512 Crawford Canyon Road, Santa Ana, CA 92705 • 714/997-6265



Michelle Moore
Principal

A Winning Solution

It is truly a great time to be a Panorama Elementary School Panther due to the hard work of our teachers and PTA. In addition to the award-winning academics Panorama provides, there is always room for some fun!

Our biggest fund-raiser, the Panther Challenge, was extended for the entire month of March. Friday lunches were filled with fun sports, games and activities. March Madness indeed!

Panorama also enjoyed the theatrical antics of fellow Panthers when the after-school acting program offered its version of "Peter Pan." Another part of our artistic community, the Great Clay Adventure, has just wrapped up its session, with the good news that a few of our Panthers will be showing their clay creations at the Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach.



Enjoyable activities such as these keep students engaged and create an appropriate outlet for fun. It's clear that Panorama has created a winning solution!

Prospect *Elementary*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6271



Elena Rodriguez
Principal

Parent Power

At the beginning of this year, our PTA was essentially nonexistent. The dedicated parents who led our PTA before had moved on, so we resigned ourselves to the distinct possibility that Prospect PTA would no longer exist.

One final plea to our school community was made about the potential impact of not having the important organization such as PTA any longer, and it resulted in a small group of passionate, adventurous and dedicated parents stepping up to the challenge. With the assistance of a dedicated teacher, Ms. Ceja, this group of women essentially took our PTA from the brink of disbandment into a growing PTA. Although we did have to cancel some programs, Art Masters and RIF, because of the lack of PTA for the beginning half of the year, now they are organizing fund-raisers



to get them up and running again. Since taking the helm, our small but mighty PTA has hosted a very successful Valentine's craft night for families and have events planned for every month through June to encourage more parent involvement with our school. We are elated about our reenergized PTA!

Running Springs *Elementary*

8670 E. Running Springs Drive, Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512



Lydia Roach
Principal

Operation Troop Support

The Running Springs Student Council recently received a certificate of appreciation for outstanding support to the American troops deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The certificate reads, "...Your tireless effort had a direct impact on the morale, spirit and pride of the Vanguard warriors. Your selfless service supporting the troops shows tremendous dedication to the soldiers of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon the students, the faculty and staff of Running Springs Elementary School."

The Student Council received this certificate for organizing a schoolwide collection of snacks, DVDs, books and magazines that were sent to the 720th Military Police Battalion. Students then worked together to package the items in boxes addressed by parent volunteer Suzy Simons and supervised by teacher advisors Ms. Meehan and Mr. Tarango. The certificate is proudly displayed in the Running Springs School library for all students to enjoy!



Student Council Officers: Malia Darby—Treasurer, Daphne Lindberg—President, Katie Steuernagel—Secretary, Delaney Maguire—Vice President

Serrano *Elementary*

17741 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6275



Dr. Bobbie Lansman
Principal

Super-School SOARs!

At Serrano Elementary School, our focus is on making each child a student. Teachers promote activities and incentives that encourage scholarly behavior and actions. Cosmic Cash, Scholar Dollars and Golden Coins are earned for exceptional academic achievements. As a second-year PBIS school, students focus on positive behavior and actions promoted with SOAR tickets earned for exemplary Serrano Eagle actions and choices. Students are highly involved in schoolwide activities with a strong and active student council and the fantastic weekly schoolwide broadcast of SETV facilitated by our exemplary staff—Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Maxfield and Mrs. Goldsmith—that encourages and promotes leadership skills and independent thinking in all students.

Finally, at Serrano, we promote school and community involvement for all of our students. Every Wednesday, we have "Walk to School Wednesday." With the mighty powers and guidance of Superman—community member Bill Holt—Serrano students and families focus on improving a healthy lifestyle, improving the environment and helping our impacted traffic by walking or riding a bicycle to school.

Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167



Ed Madrid
Principal

Building Success

Each semester approximately 70 students return to their home schools because they have successfully caught up with the rest of their classmates and are on the road to graduation.

Students returning to their home schools are interviewed and asked what seemed to make the difference in their success. One common theme that all students reported was that the small class sizes allowed them to get to know their teachers and receive the attention and assistance they needed. With the support of the district, Richland has maintained smaller classes that allow greater teacher contact with students.

The second common theme reported by many of the students was the individual care the teachers took with them in the classroom. We pride ourselves on our working relationships with the students. We are able to get to know them and can make Richland more of a friendly learning community.

Our students are able to build success by staying focused on their work in a personalized learning environment. An analysis of the students who returned to their home schools showed that 92 percent were able to graduate with their class.

When we couple those students who graduated at both their home schools and Richland, we find that over the last three years Richland has been able to double the number of graduates. This is a tribute to the work completed by the students and staff, and the support of the parents.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6366 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/santiago



James D'Agostino
Principal

Path of Success

At Santiago Middle School, we are proud to establish a path of success for our students through academic achievement and community involvement while preparing them for high school and beyond.

Some of the ways we promote learning in the classroom are through project-based learning, integrating technology into daily lessons, and challenging students to apply the knowledge they obtain through rigorous application. Santiago teachers are very active each year in presenting fun and challenging academic events for our students, such as the Japanese Tea Ceremony, the Foreign Language

Department Mardi Gras, the History Department Castle Destruction Day, the Renaissance Faire, and the upcoming Civil War Reunion and Science Department Science Fair.

We strive to balance academic excellence and citizenship through community involvement. Our students recently raised over \$16,000 through the jog-a-thon by getting friends, neighbors, parents, and community members to sponsor them for a one-mile run. This truly is a community-based school, which comes together in partnership with parents and local organizations to guide and develop our students into well rounded citizens. We could not be more proud of everyone involved.

Orange Unified School District
High School Diploma
GRADUATION
2011-2012

Please see page 23 for more information.

Sycamore *Elementary*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • www.oranged.usd.k12.ca.us/sycamore



Erika Krohn
Principal

Quality-First Instruction

Here at Sycamore, we focus intensely on providing quality-first instruction for all of our students, including our English Learner population.

One of our instructional strategies is to require each student to answer questions in complete sentences with the help of sentence frames. Sentence frames allow more practice in academic language.

In addition, we have been going deeper into our instructional practices by using Thinking Maps to help improve academic language. Recently our teachers have also been submitting student work samples to our Professional Learning Community, where they are then analyzed to help provide high-quality instruction for our students.

Lastly, we have been incorporating the California English Language Development Test preparation skills into all of our ELD instruction as well. These strategies have paid off, too, because we are proud to announce that 22 of our students have been reclassified to Fluent English Language Proficient. We exceeded our goal of 15 percent English Learner reclassified!

We will soon be honoring these students at a special awards assembly, and with dessert included!



Villa Park *Elementary*

10551 Center Drive, Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6281



Debra Larson
Principal

Our Tremendous Third-Graders

Our third-graders are working hard as they move through a challenging curriculum with lots of new learning.

They are all diligently mastering their multiplication and division facts, writing in cursive, and reading to remember. They also recently worked in their respective classrooms to create a collaborative Moon Journal that had them observing our only satellite, the moon, as it waxed and waned through all its phases. Each student was responsible for one night of journaling and artwork, which they then shared with their class the next day.

Each Moon Journal is a masterpiece of ideas and observations. Just when teachers think that it can't get any better, it does! Our journalists have been observing the moon from many different places, including Little League practice, family camping trips, and even other states.

Third-graders are amazing and creative observers, and we hope that they continue to enjoy the moon with each of its orbits around the Earth.

Most recently, the third-graders have also been preparing for the CST test in late April. It will be the first time that they are taking the test entirely on their own! So in order to be prepared and feel confident, they are working on Standards Plus to help reinforce curriculum standards and gain more confidence with test-taking strategies. They are reading their passages at least twice, underlining their answers in the text, and then eliminating the wrong ones.

Feeling confident is the major key to success. Our third-grade teachers are so proud of their students!

Taft *Elementary*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254



Antoniette Coe
Principal

Meeting Student Needs

It's "all hands on deck" at Taft Elementary as we embrace the Response to Intervention Model for student success. Team problem solving, additional support, and outside-the-box instructional models are all essential to this approach.

Our problem solving effort began before the school year even started, with a team meeting that planned for optimal organization of instruction in support of each student. Throughout the year, Collaborative Academic Support Team meetings (CAST) have also allowed teachers to work together to brainstorm new strategies for struggling students.

At Taft, we use all available resources to ensure student success. During the year a resource teacher, intervention teacher and instructional coach work with staff and students to plan and deliver strong academic interventions. Additionally, at mid-year we were also joined by three part-time intervention teachers to provide small group instruction and individual assistance.

Finally, instruction at Taft is not bound by just the school day. In the lab setting we now provide innovative computer-based math instruction with the ST Math Program. This can take place through 6 p.m. daily at after-school tutoring and academic support programs. Finally, those students who need an extra boost have the opportunity to attend Saturday School and Intersession.

The data shows that our approach is working: we have now gained 53 points on our API over the last two years! Best of all, with another year of steady gains we will soon be exiting Program Improvement.

With teamwork, commitment and innovation our Taft team is ready to meet any challenge.

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/532-8020



Ed Howard
Principal

Award-Winning Spartan

Two-time Century League Championship quarterback Blair Boyce will be presented with the first annual Fox Sports High School Achievement Award during the seventh annual Los Angeles Sports Awards on March 15 at Club Nokia at L.A Live. The awards are presented by the Los Angeles Sports Council to celebrate the greatest moments of the year in sports in the Los Angeles/Orange County area. This is the first year that the council has recognized a high school athlete.

Boyce is a very worthy selection to be the first representative. Besides leading the Spartans to back-to-back Century League titles, he led the team to the CIF Southern Section Southwest Division Semi Finals in 2010 and the quarter finals in 2011, with an undefeated regular season (10-0) in 2011. Setting 12 school records and being named the league's most valuable player are just a few of the on-field accolades Boyce has received.

Boyce excels in the classroom as well. He currently boasts a 4.45 overall grade-point average. He has been listed on the Principal's Honor Roll every year, as well as being named to the National Honor Society for four years running. Blair has been recognized as a scholar-athlete. Blair was asked to represent CIF on the Southern Section Leadership Council and was the recipient of their Champion of Character Award. Villa Park High School was one of three schools in the division to receive the school recognition by CIF. Although Blair will be off to Cornell University in the fall to play football and continue his education, he will be a Spartan for life.



West Orange *Elementary*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6283 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/wo



Embracing RTI2

West Orange Elementary School has implemented a new system to help identify and remediate gaps in student learning.

The first step in implementing our new model was to create a school-wide block schedule that could stagger a 30-minute intervention period for each grade level. By doing so, our support staff is now able to work with each grade level every day to help lower class sizes throughout the implementation period.

Michael Olander
Principal

At least three times a year every student participates in Universal Screening, which helps identify their learning needs. The teachers establish groups of students with common learning needs within each grade level. They are then assigned a group of students in order to set up short term goals and remediate their learning needs. Our teachers are only using research-proven curriculum during the intervention block.

In the first year of implementation our RTI2 teacher, Mrs. Lloyd, has done far more than just support the others. She has also researched, planned and prepared the lessons for each intervention so that the transition to this element of the model is as easy and smooth as possible.

After two weeks of intervention, our teachers give monitoring assessments in order to evaluate the progress that they have made toward the goals that were established for each group. They also collaborate with each other to determine if the specific student groupings are still appropriate.

West Orange has seen tremendous growth in student achievement ever since the implementation of RTI2.

Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6161 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/yorba



Realistic Expectations

Academic achievement has always been important to parents. But in today's changing society, the need for advanced skills and technical knowledge is of critical importance. It is important for parents to show students that they value learning and education. We need to help students discover that an education is important and will pay off in the long run as they transition to Orange High School and onto college. When parents are involved in their children's education, student achievement improves.

Kerrie Torres
Principal

This year, Yorba Middle School is offering a new series of parent workshops called Positive Discipline. The seven workshops are geared toward helping parents learn how to improve student achievement through improved parenting skills. Student academic achievement begins with schools helping students succeed by providing environments that encourage learning and support the students' physical, mental, and emotional well being. One key element of student success is setting high expectations and goals for our students.

At Yorba, our expectations fall into two categories, behavioral and academic. Behavior expectations are those that exhibit good character, such as responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness, caring, respect, and citizenship. Students who commit to high standards of behavior and exhibit good character experience higher levels of academic success in the classroom. Academic expectations are those that are linked to standardized testing, classroom performance, and grades. Completing homework on time, studying for tests, and working on extra credit assignments all contribute to improving academic achievement for your students. At Yorba, we are eager to partner with parents to set realistic and achievable expectations for our students.

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Changing Our Name, Not Our Game!

By Jim Stephens, Director

Starting in July 2012, the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) before- and after-school programs will be known as OUSD Centers for Afterschool Recreation, Enrichment, and Safety (CARES).

OUSD has been operating out-of-school time programs since 1984. OUSD recognized then what today's research shows: after-school programs have a powerful, positive influence on students in terms of better attitudes toward school, higher attendance, less disciplinary action, higher academic performance as measured both by grades and standardized test scores, and deeper engagement in learning.

OUSD before- and after-school School Age Care (SAC) provides a well-defined, high-quality program which is educational, recreational, enriching and supplemental to the family, school and community. During the school day, children are viewed by their academic abilities. In our programs, they are viewed by who they are, who they are going to be, and what they are going to do.

Ultimately, we're redefining and rebranding the SAC program. It is our goal to be eligible to take full advantage of the state's publicly supported after-school funding in support of student learning by creating a strong and cohesive alignment between students' in-school and out-of-school learning. We are building on our current infrastructure of providing literacy, academic enrichment, physical activities, and a safe environment. In doing so, we can further increase the contributions that the OUSD CARES program will make in students' learning and development. For information on the after-school and preschool programs in OUSD, please call (714) 628-5360.



SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

Elementary Schools. Fairhaven and Handy only accept students from their attendance areas. All other sites are open to any student, regardless of the home school attendance area. The school day will follow the kindergarten schedule at the selected site, and daycare is available for students who attend transitional kindergarten.

Michael Christensen

For questions about transitional kindergarten, please contact Shannon Brown, Early Learning Specialist at (714) 628-5655 at the Orange Unified School District office.

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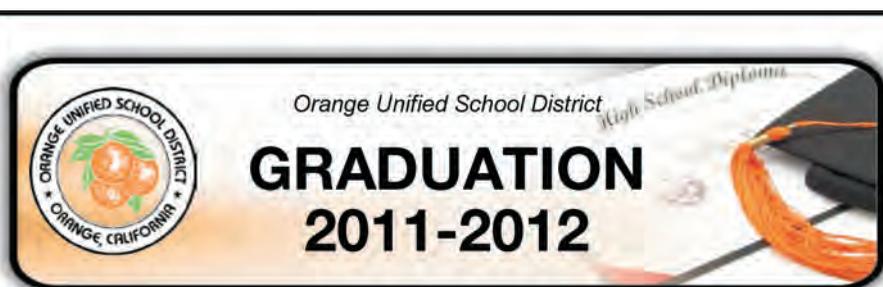
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Promotion & Graduation Schedule Thursday, June 14, 2012*

Middle School	Time	Location
McPherson Magnet	9:00 am	McPherson School Cafeteria
Portola	9:00 am	Portola School Field
Yorba	10:00 am	Yorba School Field
Cerro Villa	10:30 am	Cerro Villa Outdoor Amphitheater
Santiago Charter	11:00 am	Santiago Outdoor Amphitheater
*Friday, June 15, 2012 El Rancho Charter	6:00 pm	El Rancho Outdoor Amphitheater

High School	Time	Location
El Modena	1:30 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Canyon	4:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Orange	4:30 pm	OHS Outdoor Theater
Villa Park	7:00 pm	Fred Kelly Stadium
Richland Alternative Education	10:00 am	Fred Kelly Stadium

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