

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Placentia–Yorba Linda Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

WWW.SCHOOLNEWSROLLCALL.COM

FEBRUARY–APRIL 2011

El Dorado High School Captures Sixth County Title

By Rosemary Gladden,
Public Information Officer

El Dorado High School prevailed in the doubleheader finals of the Orange County Mock Trial Championships to capture their sixth county title. The finals were held on Saturday, December 18.

El Dorado also won the championship in 1989, 1992, 1994, 2002, and 2008. As the 2010 champions, El Dorado will represent Orange County in the state finals at the end of March.

The Mock Trial program is sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation and features a hypothetical set of facts and witness statements that each high school team uses to prepare prosecution and defense cases for a hypothetical trial. Trials are judged by Superior Court judges and county attorneys who volunteer their time.

This year, 36 Orange County teams competed in



El Dorado's Mock Trial team celebrates their Orange County sixth championship.

SEE EL DORADO • PAGE 15

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Dennis Smith

In my 11 years as Superintendent, I have discovered that the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District's secret to success is the collaboration between teachers, staff and parents matched with the determination to continually find more ways to help students.

One of those ways is through Response to Intervention (RTI), which schools are reporting is making a substantial positive difference for students.

Implemented at all elementary and middle schools this year in the area of English Language Arts, the purpose of RTI is to provide early effective assistance to students. No more "wait to fail" to help students with reading.

School-wide assessments take place several times a year for two purposes: 1) To identify a student's reading level, and 2) determine whether a child is making progress. Monitoring student progress is important because it shows an

individual student's growth over time and helps teachers determine instructional strategies.

The assessments are not lengthy standardized tests. For example, a teacher might ask a student in a primary elementary level to sound out letters or words (decoding). In higher elementary grades, the teacher might ask a student to read a paragraph or story which helps a teacher determine fluency, understanding and check on whether the student is at grade level. Instruction is based on interventions needed, and at many schools students are grouped according to their reading level during English Language Arts instruction. Grouping students allows a teacher to target instruction rather than trying to address a multitude of reading levels.

Another positive outcome is increased collaboration among teachers and staff. Together, they share best practices and ensure that instructional materials are uniformly used as intended.

Helping every child achieve his or her highest academic potential is one of the Board of Education-established goals and initial feedback

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 15

Teachers to Receive \$18,500

By Rosemary Gladden,
Public Information Officer

Twenty-six Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District teachers and staff members will receive \$18,500 in Disneyland Resort Enabling Grants. These grants will impact 14,227 students in the PYLUSD.

The Disneyland Resort Enabling Grants Program was created in 1994 to support performing and visual art programs in six school districts surrounding the Disneyland Resort. Since its inception, the program has funded more than \$2 million of visual and performing arts projects in schools.

This year, \$74,750.00 in grants were awarded to six school districts with \$18,500—or nearly one quarter—awarded to the PYLUSD.

SEE TEACHERS TO RECEIVE • PAGE 15

Camps/Activities pages 8—10 • Contest page 10

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School News

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**Covering the
PLACENTIA - YORBA LINDA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Recipient of the
**2008 ACSA
Region XVII Award**
for Outstanding
Media Coverage
of Public Education

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562/493-3193

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL
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562/493-3193
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



As you will read in each of the school articles, the PYLUSD continues with their focused goal of helping every child achieve his or her highest academic potential. I am continually impressed, as I am sure you are, with the academic choices students have today. (I admit that I was one of those with my VCR blinking 12:00 for years.)

We had a record number of entries in our contests and the winners are announced on page 10 where you find the new Word Search Contest—open to all ages so enjoy!

Happy Spring Break! Our next issue is May 18.

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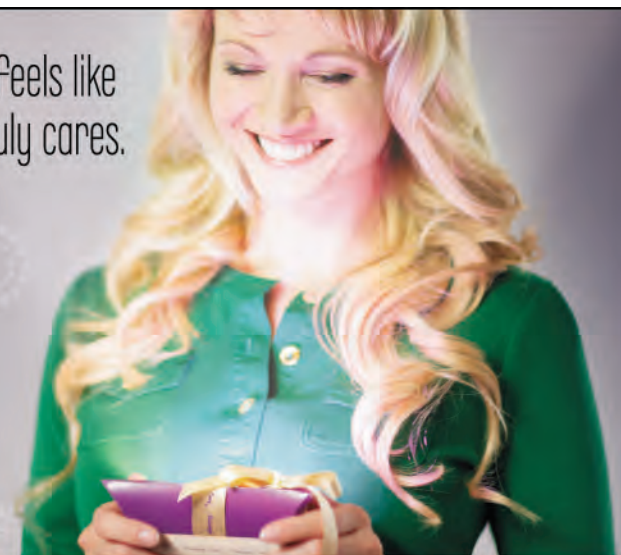
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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

5350 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7400 • www.byms.org



Cameron Malotte
Principal

Riding the Wave to Success

This month we would like to tell you about a new program we are beginning at Bernardo Yorba Middle School. Work, Action, Values and Excellence (WAVE) is designed to provide recognition for student achievement both academically and behaviorally.

There are three levels of recognition: bronze, silver and gold. In each level, the students must have no grades of D or F, and no Ns or Us in citizenship. The bronze level recognizes students who earn a grade-point average of 2.00 to 2.99. Most recognition programs start at 3.00, but I like the fact that we recognize these students who are working hard and behaving appropriately. The silver level recognizes students with a 3.00 to 3.49 grade-point average. Beginning at this level, the students earn a WAVE T-shirt. The gold level recognizes students who have a grade-point average of 3.5 to 4.00. In addition to the shirts, students at each level will receive various rewards throughout the quarter.

Our first WAVE rally was exciting and included entertainment, class competitions, a teacher versus student relay, and, of course, student recognition. It was truly inspiring to see so many students being recognized.

School spirit was rocking and the eighth-graders won the overall class competition. They will be reigning champs until the seventh-grade has a chance to overtake them at the next rally. I would like to thank Mr. Kish and our leadership students for all of their hard work in preparing for the rally and getting this program off the ground. Through this program, we hope to encourage all of our students to "Ride the WAVE to Success!"

Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

24695 Paseo de Toronto, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7120 • www.bryantranchschool.com



Debra Silverman
Principal

At Your Service

Bryant Ranch is proud to announce that it has reinstated the Student Valet Program to which our upper-grade students apply to demonstrate their leadership skills while improving safety at our school. We have over 30 students participating in the program, and each group is assigned one week to work in the upper and lower parking lots.

Students are trained in safety techniques, procedures and expectations. This program is designed to create a safer ingress and egress every day, improving traffic flow while building character and leadership skills in our students. Each student volunteers his or her time in the mornings and uses five components to make the program a success. Those five components are Smile—greet the driver; Safety—wait for the car to come to a stop; Make Eye Contact—make good eye contact before opening doors; Assist—help students with their backpacks; and Kindness—be positive, cheerful and a good role model. This aligns with the character education program that we offer in our district.

Students are having a wonderful time participating in the program and polishing their leadership skills. Parents have commented how much they love seeing the children out there every morning. The program has improved the flow of traffic and increased the safety of students arriving each day. We are so proud of the students at Bryant Ranch and their participation in the program.



Brookhaven *Elementary*

1851 N. Brookhaven Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7110 • www.brookhavenelementary.com



Shirley Fargo
Principal

Cyber Citizenship and Digital Literacy

Cyber Citizenship and Digital Literacy are areas of a child's education that are often neglected. With technology advancing at "light speed", our children know how to use the tools, but do they have the wisdom to use them wisely?

Glen Warren, an expert in Digital Literacy and Cyber Citizenship, has volunteered his time at Brookhaven Elementary to educate staff and parents on the importance of children using their social networking page or other media, to create a positive digital reputation that will follow them into adulthood and potentially enhance their career opportunities.



The market place our children enter ten or twenty years from now will have information they put on the Web as elementary students. Glen Warren teaches his audiences how to support children in the intelligent use of today's digital information. It is our task as educators and parents to teach children how to effectively, safely, and respectfully become good digital citizens.

El Camino Real *High School*

1351 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7060 • http://www.elcaino.pylusd.org/



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

Reflections: Museum of Tolerance

It was a cold, drizzly December day. The weather set the tone for the trip ahead. El Camino Real's sociology class and 20 other students were on their way to the Museum of Tolerance. During our visit, the students behaved with quiet respect. Even the most rambunctious student became somber. I realized that they were completely engaged and were affected by what they were seeing. As I heard the gasps and quiet mutterings of anger or disbelief and saw the tears that were shed, I knew that these students had been humbled. They were hurt and shocked to see the atrocities of the Holocaust, but they were also grateful for the lives they have. The students' responses say it best:

Most people don't get to hear a statement from an actual survivor of the Holocaust. Thankfully, I got the chance.—Krista

This country is filled with freedom, and I'm glad about that. —Jade

I'm glad I went—it was a real honor. —James

The experience of going to the Museum of Tolerance has changed me.—Hayron

I believe that everyone deserves a chance. —Cameron

Be your own person and stand-up for what is right —Taylor

Since I went, it's changed the way I look and feel about so much. —Destiny

I never really knew how lucky I was until visiting the museum. —Joelle

I have so many opportunities here. —Mix

I am going to be a man of integrity. —Walter

And, perhaps, the most profound statement, made by Daniel: "All of those beautiful, precious lives thrown away."

El Dorado *High School*

1651 N. Valencia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7580 • www.edhs.org



Cary Johnson
Principal

A Great Start to The Year

As this first semester comes to a close at El Dorado High School, I am impressed by how well our students and staff have been busy catching excellence. For instance, coached by Sunshine Cavalluzzi and Mark Switzer, our El Dorado High School Mock Trial won its sixth Orange County championship!

The Constitutional Rights Foundation individual awards included David Cotton for outstanding witness; Danica Kinne, outstanding clerk; Bailey Cooper, outstanding witness; Sara Arroyo, outstanding attorney; Gerard Gully, outstanding pretrial attorney; and Madeline Suchard, donation derby, second-place.

The Eldorado High School drum line and color guard opened the 122nd Rose Parade! The band and color guard staff and students were practicing during most of the winter break, and they had to be up at 2 a.m. on January 1st to help kick off the event.

Our athletic program has “scored” some big successes, too. Girls tennis won their fourth league; girls volleyball were league champions, and made it to the second round of the CIF Division 1AA playoffs; girls cross country qualified for CIF; and Corrine Cherne qualified for the CIF individuals. The El Dorado High School Varsity Cheer also won the UCA California State Cheerleading Championships that were held in conjunction with the CIF State Football Championships.

There were a number of EDHS award winners from the FilmED Academy of the Arts recognized at the Orange County Film Festival. This event was held at Northwood High School on January 8, 2011. Among the winners was our show *Hawk Talk*, which won for best broadcast, and was represented by Jasmine Rivera (news director). The best DVD yearbook trailer was by Paul DeBaun and Jasmine Rivera; the best short film was *Jalopy*, by Libby Blood; the best actor was Nick Birren in *Jalopy*; the best producer was Libby Blood for *Jalopy*; and the best story was by Libby Blood, also for *Jalopy*.

I look forward to seeing what El Dorado High School will accomplish during the second semester.

Esperanza *High School*

1830 N. Kellogg Dr., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7540 • www.esperanzahs.com



Ken Fox
Principal

Freshmen Focus Campus

The year is half way over and the freshmen focus campus has been a positive addition to Esperanza High School. The

freshmen focus campus is giving freshmen the opportunity to meet fellow classmates, join in lunch time activities and competitions to boost school spirit and have a connection to the school in a smaller atmosphere. So far this year we have had lunch time activities such as a limbo contest, pumpkin carving, turkey bowling, and gift wrapping. All of these activities have been a huge success in getting the freshmen connected. One of our largest activities was our Freshmen Cocoa Cram. This is where upper classmen came together in the library to help tutor the freshmen for their finals. This year we had about 150 freshmen attend to receive some help and also have some hot cocoa. This was a great way for freshmen to interact with upper classmen and get that little extra help they needed to pass their first set of finals. We are now getting geared up for second semester!



Freshmen Focus Campus

Glenknoll *Elementary*

6361 Glenknoll Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7140 • www.glenknoll.org



Douglas Slonkosky
Principal

Looking Forward to Spring

The Glenknoll students and staff have had a very active winter, and are looking forward to the spring!

Our courageous sixth-grade teachers and their students recently completed the four-day Outdoor Science School in January. This program is administered by the Orange County Department of Education and is held at their site near Running Springs.

This year nature provided an abundance of snow to add to the

excitement. The students explored mountain trails, observed wildlife and studied the geological features of the San Bernardino Mountains. They were able to meet and interact with students from other schools and even bunk together in cabins.

Meals in the mess hall completed the camp experience. Many Glenknoll parents remember their own sixth-grade outdoor educational experience as one of the high points of elementary school, and this year's sixth-graders will be adding their outdoor expedition to the list of favorites.

Thanks goes to the Glenknoll PTA and our sixth-grade parents for helping to make the event possible.

Spring activities at Glenknoll will include grade-level field trips and several special academic assemblies, including the “Walk Through California” and “Walk Through the United States” events. A big thanks to the PTA for their support.

Glenknoll also congratulates its students, parents, staff and the community upon earning a Silver Medal commendation from the *Orange County Register*.

The Glenknoll Garden is becoming active again this spring, and our students will have the opportunity to study the life, physical, and earth sciences in a hands-on environment. Parents and community members are actively encouraged to help with its preparation and planting.

Please contact Principal Douglas Slonkosky, at dslonkosky@pylusd.org, for more information.



Zachary Lutz and Kash Aghassibeik creating a snow animal for a camp assignment



Heaven Neilsen and Jacob Schmidt studying mammals in the camp Science Museum



Daniel Macavei, Jade Poling, and Aubree Matthews check their notes and Outdoor Science Camp

Fairmont *Elementary*

5241 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7130 • www.fairmontelementary.com



Shawn Knutson
Principal

Fairmont Elementary School

We are excited to announce that Fairmont has been selected as a Gold Medalist in the *Orange County Register's* 2011 Best Public Schools rankings. Fairmont was ranked 12th among the 27 gold medal schools. The criteria for being selected are based on academics and school environment. The *Register* uses a weighted system that gives 75 percent of the value to academic performance and 25 percent to environment and diversity. The rankings rely on the state's Academic Performance Index (API) which is based on state test scores from the spring 2010. Fairmont has an API score of 933. This is a credit to our excellent teaching staff and also a tribute to our parents who are so dedicated to their child/children's education.

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between our school and our parents who work together for the best interest of children. The close partnership between home and school is one of the exceptional strengths of Fairmont Elementary School.

We are so proud of the Fairmont staff and students. Congratulations! And keep up the GREAT work!!



Way to Go Fairmont!

Glenview *Elementary*

1775 Glenview Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7150 • www.glenviewbulldogs.org



Charles Hunter
Principal

Classrooms in Action

Glenview teachers are excited and continue to integrate technology into their daily lessons. Students are eager to participate and both teachers and students are able to receive instant feedback. All of our teachers have Interactive White Boards, handheld responders for each student, overhead projector cameras and teacher microphones that provide the same balanced sound at every part of the classroom. If you have not seen these classrooms in action, you have to visit one! Mrs. Bradley was recently reviewing science for an upcoming assessment. Students read the question displayed on the Interactive White Board and selected their answer with their handheld responder. Students enjoy answering with responders because they can answer multiple choice questions or to text their answers. Mrs. Bradley

was then able to display for everyone their choices in the form of graphs. As soon as she displayed the class choices you could hear the chorus of "yeah!" and the few "ahs!" This instant feedback provides additional opportunities to reinforce the correct information and re-teach what needs additional review! It is exciting to see students and teachers interacting with technology so naturally.



George Key School

710 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7170 • www.pylusd.org/schools/georgekey



Debbie Six
Principal

Community Supports Student Learning!

What a wonderful first semester at George Key School had as a result of community support of student learning!

The semester began with a gorgeous new garden donated by a special individual-Don Shepard. Don jumped to designing a plan when he heard we would like our wheelchair-bound students have easier access to our garden. The result is an attractively landscaped area which all students can now wheel and walk with ease allowing them to apply functional life skills and to enjoy moments of leisure!!

Highlighting the end of the season was our Yorba Linda Rotary Club Christmas Luncheon. For over 18 years (!) the Rotary members have sponsored this event bringing joy, delicious food, donations and thoughtful gifts to our students. We



are most appreciative of the Rotary members' generosity, of their donation to our

Art Masters' Program.

We look forward to our continued partnership with them and all our community members!

Golden *Elementary*

740 E. Golden Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7160 • www.golden.pylusd.org



Kathy Chakan
Principal

Where Every Student Shines!

Golden begins the second half of the school year with renewed focus on our academic program. A staff of talented and dedicated teachers is working together to ensure that all students maximize their learning opportunities. Teachers at various grade levels team for reading, math, social studies or science, enriching the instructional program for all. Additionally, part-time teachers offer small-group instruction during Walk to Read periods to help students accelerate their acquisition of reading skills. Furthermore, technology and interactive learning experiences continue to expand.

We are excited about a couple of new endeavors. Prior to winter break, all students in first through third grades participated in classroom spelling bees. Top spellers in each class were recognized with certificates of achievement. In fourth through sixth grades, our students engaged in grade-level spelling bees. As the competitors narrowed down to the top spellers in each grade, the audiences enthusiastically cheered on their classmates. In sixth grade, the top speller will move on to the Orange County Spelling Bee. All top spellers in grades four through six also received certificates of achievement. We are proud of everyone's excellent effort!

The other new endeavor undertaken this spring is preparation for the Orange County Pentathlon. Sixth-grade students who were selected for the Pentathlon team are working with teacher advisors after school to get ready for the county competition. This will be an exciting new learning experience for everyone involved, since this is the first time Golden has participated in the county competition.

We look forward to all the wonderful things this half of the year holds for the Golden Elementary family.

Kraemer *Middle School*

645 N. Angelina Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1551 • www.kraemerms.org



Richard McAlindin
Principal

Improving Inside and Out

Measure A funds continue to supplement the great programs at Kraemer Middle School, as the students remain active both inside and outside of the classroom. The newly remodeled locker rooms, band room, and office are now occupied and in use, awaiting the opening of the new library building in July of 2011 as the final piece of the building projects.

Various student groups and experiences enhance the classroom instruction in and around Kraemer. The Science Olympiad team will return to state competition, looking to improve on their top 10 finish in 2010. Math Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) will compete in March, defending their top in the county finish, and the Math Counts team continues to be strong, with many of the members from last year's successful team returning. Field experiences include trips to the Museum of Tolerance, Knott's Physics Day, the Constitution Bowl, the Orange County Courthouse, and the California Student Leaders State Conference.

The band, dance team and color guard completed another highly successful parade season and, along with the highly rated Kraemer orchestra, head into the concert, court and festival competitions representing Kraemer around the county.

This year's Open House Celebration on March 22 will include burying the time capsule, which was uncovered during the 50th anniversary festivities last year and will be unearthed again in 2036! You are invited to join us as we showcase many activities that make going to school at Kraemer an enriching experience in an educational setting.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

5600 S. Ohio, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-72001 • www.lindavista.pylusd.org



Jackie Howland
Principal

Science Fair Comes to Linda Vista

Every year, students at Linda Vista put on their thinking caps and design experiments to investigate anything from "Which is the strongest paper bag?" to "What affects the rate at which sugar dissolves?" This year our science fair was held during the week of January 17th. All fourth and fifth grade entries were judged and awards were given to those projects that exemplified scientific inquiry.

The science fair provides an opportunity for students to practice developing hypotheses, predicting, gathering evidence, observing, drawing conclusions and communicating results.

Students at Linda Vista begin learning science in kindergarten, by studying physics, earth science and life science. Every grade level focuses on each of these three science strands so that by the time the fifth graders move to the middle school, they have an excellent foundation in all three areas.

Linda Vista students are well prepared as they enter middle and high school science classes and later, the workforce.



2nd grade participants Brooke Wilhoff, Nicole Templar, and Luke Forsgren with Mrs. Howland



4th and 5th grade winners Noah Burnham, Heather Franson, Evaline Vu, Sophie Willie, Samantha Assad and Chloe Smock.

Lakeview *Elementary*

17510 Lakeview Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7190 • www.pylusd.org/schools/lakeview/index.asp



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Keeping It Positive and Ready to Learn...

Since the second trimester is on its way, the community at Lakeview takes time to reflect and make sure that important *ready to learn* routines are in place. We want our students to have certain routines in order to make children feel more relaxed, energized, connected, prepared, and rested. Daily routines can easily turn failure into success. The positive attitude of our teachers, staff, parents, and students is part of the team effort imperative for a well-rounded and productive learning experience.

During January through February students will once again be assessed for reading fluency. Reading assessments, both formal and informal are useful tools to provide teachers with information about student progress, placement in a group, monitoring of growth, and to drive instruction. In PYLUSD we follow a district assessment timeline at every grade level which clearly defines what assessments will be given each trimester. As part of the Response to Intervention program, we will assess students for reading process during Benchmark II to measure the five essential components of reading.

Finally, many factors influence why some people have successes in life and why others have a harder time. Economic circumstances, genetics, trauma, and many other factors play a role. The Lakeview Elementary School community work strongly together to help our young students make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up competent, caring, and responsible. Every day I am appreciative of all those individuals at our school that help keep the climate positive and ensure our students are ready to learn!

Mabel Paine *Elementary*

4444 Plumosa Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7210 • www.pylusd.org/schools/mabelpaine/index.asp



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Phenomenal PTA—Phenomenal Difference!

Mabel Paine is head over heels over our new science lab and its teacher, Carolyn Maffia. Mrs. Maffia, a former middle school science teacher trained extensively in the use of the Foss Science Kits, has teamed up with dedicated parents to create a working science lab complete with living creatures in multiple aquariums, with an insect zoo in the works. Mrs. Maffia has voluntarily organized all the grade-level kits and the supplies to replenish them. She prepares labs for our teachers to teach or to instruct herself, with teacher assistance. Our students have never been more excited about science and can't wait to go to the lab to see what Mrs. Maffia might have up the sleeve of her lab coat!

Because our fantastic PTA constantly strives to support our teachers and staff in improving student achievement in all areas, they have generously gifted money to pay Mrs. Maffia for her time and effort and to make her our official science teacher! With this gift, students in all grade levels will be given the opportunity to utilize the science lab and experience Mrs. Maffia's talent and expertise. We feel so fortunate to have a PTA that understands the importance of supporting their school and teachers in providing meaningful learning experiences. Our goal is to create a top-notch science lab and support our teachers in giving our students the in-depth, hands-on experience of discovery that only a real live science lab can provide.

Our PTA is also in the process of purchasing 18 new desktop computers for one of our 30s building computer pods and three new classroom printers. In these tough economic times, our PTA is making a difference in the educational process. We couldn't do it without them!

La Entrada *High School*

4175 Fairmont Blvd., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/779-4170 www.laentrada.pylusd.org

Libby Moore, Principal

No Article This Issue

Camps & Fun Activities

KAMPS FOR Kidz

BY SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook:

"Fun & Educational Places to go with Kids & Adults in Southern California."

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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Tryout Dates			
Sun	2/13	2:15-3:45p	BU10 & GU10
Sun	2/27	2:15-3:45p	BU10 & GU10
Sun	3/13	2:15-3:45p	BU10 & GU10
Sun	2/13	12:30-2:00p	BU11 & GU11
Sun	2/27	12:30-2:00p	BU11 & GU11
Sun	3/13	12:30-2:00p	BU11 & GU11
Sun	2/13	10:45-12:15p	BU12 & GU13
Sun	2/27	10:45-12:15p	BU12 & GU13
Sun	3/13	10:45-12:15p	BU12 & GU13
Sun	2/13	9:00-10:30a	BU13 & BU14
Sun	2/27	9:00-10:30a	BU13 & BU14
Sun	3/13	9:00-10:30a	BU13 & BU14

All tryouts are hosted at
Riverdale Elementary School, Anaheim

2011/12 CLUB TRYOUTS U9-U14

Canyon PSA is an organized youth soccer club for girls and boys ages U9 to U19 since 1998. Under the direction of Club Director **Eddie Carrillo** (Men's Soccer Coach Chapman University, teacher with OUSD), Asst. Club Director **Sal Lopez**, Technical Director **Luis Balboa**, and Goal Keeper Coach, **Bob Ammann**, (Men's Soccer Coach Cal State Fullerton), this leadership brings over 90 years of coaching experience and knowledge of the game. **Ultimately, our success will be measured by the number of Canyon PSA players that participate in soccer at the collegiate level and by the success our players achieve in all aspects of their lives.**

www.canyonpsa.com

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Homework



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

I was listening to a popular talk-radio show host and a person called in on Friday about a kid who has “no passion” for school. The child is ten. She hates reading and is completely unmotivated about homework. I think she described her as feeling “dead” and bored about it. They determined that the child wasn’t depressed and it was only a schoolwork thing.

Dear Dr. Shari,

The “radio show host” said that “some people develop later” and to just demand that she get at least C’s and let her figure it out. Is it true we should let kids who hate school “fend for themselves?” I am in a similar situation (but mine is only six) and really need to know this answer early. I am uncomfortable with saying a “C” is okay.

Gretchen , California

Dear Gretchen,

I strongly disagree with that advice. Though being unmotivated to do homework is not uncommon, parents can do a great deal to shift that mindset. Please do not give up on your child. Take the extra steps necessary to create powerful experiences for your child. Those experiences will be a part of them forever. Homework? Special memories? Can you possibly bridge the two? Absolutely. It doesn’t have to be a week long trip to DC that enhances the lesson... Your connection to your child through conversation, interest, exploration and support changes how they experience their homework... and even how they study. Lessons as simple as learning “spelling” can be done while curled up in blankets by the fireplace. Make up funny stories to study vocabulary. Help your child develop ways of studying, ask your child to read aloud to you or go find a story related to a lesson your child is studying, and read to them.

Make studying fun by using memory tricks . Develop acronyms, songs and rhymes to help your child memorize. Be a part of the action. At six years old, you are helping create study habits. Take this seriously and have fun with it. It will have an enormous effect on their future habits.

Assist your child by teaching them how to use study tricks, testing them and engaging them but also step back and allow space for accountability. At times you should be working together and the child should have “alone time” as well.

You can help your child a great deal by setting the parameters for that time. “After you have studied your spelling words alone, let’s go for a walk and I will test you” or “Once you finish writing your paragraph, you can read it to me.”

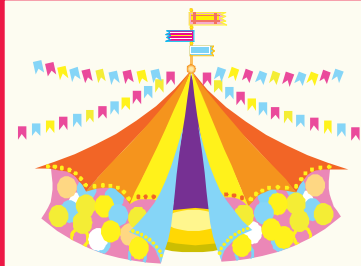
Most parents will acknowledge having experienced frustration with homework. However, always remember that you set the emotional tone for every experience. Don’t yell at your child if you are having difficulty getting them to follow through. Like anything else, give the clear directive and the clear consequence. Stay calm and cool and keep it simple.

Standards are necessary for children. Doing the bare minimum to get by should never be acceptable. If a child is capable of getting A’s (and if you are not sure...open up that conversation with their teacher) then you should set high grades as the expectation. If they struggle with academics, evaluate their effort. Expecting a child to “do their best” sets that habitual flow as they move into higher grades.

Children who are not held to standards early on have much greater frustration as time goes on and life gets more difficult.

Challenge yourself Gretchen. Motivate your child, inspire your child.. it is really what parenting is all about. Enjoy this special time in life and write back. I would love to hear about it.

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](mailto:info@doctorshari.com). For a schedule of radio and television appearances see www.doctorshari.com.



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 “Contest PYLUSD” in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2011

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

- Acrobats
- Bareback rider
- Barnum
- Brothers
- Clown
- Cotton candy
- Elephants
- Horses
- Lions
- Nets
- Popcorn
- Ringling
- Ringmaster
- Rings
- Tent
- Tigers
- Tightrope
- Trapeze
- Tungsten
- Zinc
- Zirconium

Congratulations to Victor Preciado and Pam Welling
Winners of the December Contests!

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

Morse *Elementary*

431 E. Morse Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/524-6300 • www.morse.pylusd.org



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Responsible, Respectful, Prepared, and Kind

There is much news available related to school bullies. Any adult knows this is not a new problem and can probably name the bullies from childhood days. Morse Elementary School is preparing to introduce new strategies to the students to encourage positive ways of dealing with problems, as well as increasing the focus on the majority of students doing the right thing all the time. We have a wonderful group of children and families at Morse but we can always grow in our skills of bully prevention.

Expect Respect includes simple strategies for both sides of a conflict. A student being confronted in a disrespectful way will “stop, walk, and talk.” The stop component is to let the aggressor or bully know his or her behavior is not acceptable and to stop. The walk step is to walk to an adult or group of people and away from the disrespectful person. The talk step is to report the incident to an adult. All the students and staff will learn these steps in more detail, as well as what they are to do if someone tells them to “Stop,” which means they are being perceived as disrespectful.

Is this a magic fix for any bullying problem? Of course not! But we see this as a positive way to deal with most social difficulties before they become bigger. It also will help empower each individual person to “Expect Respect.”

Rio Vista *Elementary*

310 N. Rio Vista St., Anaheim, CA 92806 • 714/986-7240 • http://www.riovistaschool.org



Caryn Lewis
Principal

High Five!

Students at Rio Vista Elementary School celebrated the end of the first trimester with special incentives for hard work and positive behavior. Members of the Rewards and Incentives Team, along with PTA volunteers created a plan to engage students and staff in a school-wide campaign to increase positive behavior.

This school-wide campaign includes a focus on the five characteristics of a Rio Vista Leopard. Students earned their High Five awards by being: Respectful – Responsible – Positive – Safe – and Ready! Each trimester, High Five award winners earn a ticket to a genuine “Reading with the Stars” event.

First trimester winners from each class enjoyed a book reading with FOX television’s Zach Callison, from the popular show, “Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?” Zach arrived on campus with a positive message about respect and responsibility. He encouraged the students at Rio Vista to work hard and always do their best. After reading a story to each group, he also shared some fun stories about working on popular shows and his first movie! Zach congratulated each student and provided them with a signed photo and an enthusiastic High Five for their efforts.



High Five award winners from each grade enjoy a story in the library with Zach Callison.

Melrose *Elementary*

974 Melrose St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7220 • www.melrose.pylusd.org



Vivian Cuesta
Principal

Melrose Unveils Their High Five Poster

We are building a behavior system that supports school wide positive behavior. Our goals are to build a positive school culture as we build both social and academic success for all our students. This has been made possible through our Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) grant. We began our journey by sending a team of teachers and support staff to receive training. Our first activity was to have the staff and students create our “High Five”

rules. They are: 1) Be Respectful, 2) Be Responsible, 3) Be Kind, 4) Be Helpful, and 5) Be Safe.

Students have been practicing our “High Five” rules in various ways. They have participated in assemblies, classroom lessons and weekly recognitions. Students made “High Five” chains connecting strips of colored paper representing each of the five rules. We unveiled our “High Five” poster and classes connected their “High Five” chains to make one long chain. We displayed the chain on campus for everyone to see how we keep the High Five alive!



Rose Drive *Elementary*

4700 Rose Dr., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7250 • www.rosedrive.pylusd.org



Liana Neuland
Principal

Busy in the New Year

Rose Drive has much to celebrate as we move into the new year! Congratulations to teachers Chris Parmenter and Paul La Porte for being the recipients of grants from Disneyland and the Yorba Linda Sunrise Rotary Club. Rose Drive students will benefit from these generous donations.

We have many ways to promote leadership roles at Rose Drive. Thanks to teachers Jenny Raya and Heidi Woodward, Team Roadrunners has been established. By being involved in Team Roadrunners, 4th and 5th grade students have opportunities to serve our school by making announcements, planning and organizing school wide activities, developing their communication skills and using technology to publicize events. Beginning in kindergarten we strive to instill confidence, organizational skills and independence in all of our students.

I want to publicly acknowledge all of the support provided to Rose Drive by the families of our school. The collaboration of parents and staff makes Rose Drive a special place to be and enriches the experiences of our students. Our generous PTA continues to support efforts to put resources into the hands of our children. Examples include the innovative MIND Institute’s ST Math program, ST Music program, Meet the Masters program and Accelerated Reader. Our students also have access to “Ticket to Read” that supports our core reading program and access to Math Facts in a Flash program to support our core math program.

Please check out the school website at www.rosedrive.pylusd.org to learn more about the great things happening at Rose Drive. As we move into this new year, the entire Rose Drive community continues to be “Wild About Learning!”

Sierra Vista *Elementary*

1811 N. Placentia Ave., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7270 • www.pylusd.org/sierravista/index.asp



Cindy Rex
Principal

Recognition And Learning

All children look for positive recognition in their lives. Over 160 of our Sierra Vista students are finding their own fulfillment by spending their after-school hours singing, acting and dancing.

Our performing arts activities provide more than a healthy balance to a rigorous academic program. Music is a way for students to connect with themselves, enrich their lives and bring people together.

By taking part in a delightful musical called *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, our K–6 students exhibited increased self-discipline, diligence and cooperation. As a result of this strongly supported and PTA-sponsored program, the student-confidence level is soaring!

Our sixth-grade Eagles recently found a home in the mountains for five days of Outdoor Science Camp. Observing a herd of deer chasing a bobcat down the hillside to protect their young provoked a lively student discussion about prey versus predator, one that can't be matched in any classroom!



Brooke Gonzales on the geology trail cracks open rocks with her classmates to discover the minerals inside.

Bundled up with beanies, jackets and neck scarves, the students hiked, found animal tracks, studied the night sky and discovered a variety of rocks and plants that are unique to the region. Surrounded by both snow and sunshine on this great learning adventure, our happy campers returned home energized and enlightened.

A well-balanced curriculum and real-life experiences such as Outdoor Science Camp provide our Sierra Vista students with the optimal opportunities for engagement, learning and growth.

Topaz *Elementary*

3232 Topaz Ln., Fullerton, CA 92831 • 714/993-9977 • www.topaz.pylusd.org



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

A Family Environment

The celebration of success continues at Topaz! Recently, the *Orange County Register* ranked our school as one of the best elementary schools in Orange County.

Topaz received a Gold Medal ranking, and was listed as a top No. 15 campus out of over 390 Orange County schools. Two-thirds of this ranking was determined by state testing measures, while the other third was based upon environment and diversity.

Congratulations goes to our teachers, staff, students and parents, as the Topaz community once again gets recognized for its successful efforts!

Our ELD program continues to be a golden nugget too, along with our Response to Intervention program, field trips, guest speakers, assemblies and parent meetings, all of which continue to support and enrich the students.

The after-school program provides extra time with the teacher for those students who can benefit from additional instruction. Our teachers have also been attending special district trainings on the new language arts materials as well as the new teaching techniques for English Learners. Our parents are volunteering in record numbers, and our ELAC meetings are being received with enthusiasm.

We are living a dream here at Topaz, all thanks to a great family environment created by our amazing staff, teachers, parents, students and community! Topaz is a place where students truly “believe, achieve, and succeed!”

Ruby Drive *Elementary*

601 Ruby Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-1921 • www.rubydrive.pylusd.org



Monica Barrera
Principal

A Ruby Drive Teacher Does It Again!

The staff at Ruby Drive Elementary is very excited to be getting busy on the second half of the school year. We are definitely ready to face all of the challenges that lie ahead of us.

Ruby Drive teachers continue to focus on student achievement. We are looking forward to a year of solid academic growth and student success, and are grateful for the strong parent and community involvement that is so necessary to reach this goal.

We also know that a friendly, welcoming physical environment adds to our success. That is why we are so appreciative of one of our kindergarten teachers, Miss Ybarra, who is once again making the school a prettier place to be! Miss Ybarra is one of 26 PYLUSD employees who were selected by a local business to receive enabling grants of \$1,000! Last year she was also chosen to be a grant recipient as well.

With last year's winnings, Miss Ybarra coordinated an effort with Mrs. Fernandez from Melrose Elementary to paint an inspiring literacy-themed mural on the kindergarten building. Many of the students assisted Mrs. Fernandez with this artistic work. It helped them develop a great sense of pride as well as a vested interest in our school's physical environment.

Now Miss Ybarra and Mrs. Fernandez have once again joined forces to create another masterpiece. This time the mural will consist of special sayings that are designed to promote good citizenship and inspirational thoughts. Our Ruby Drive family cannot wait to see the finished product!

Travis Ranch School

5200 Via de la Escuela, Yorba Linda, CA 92887 • 714/986-7460 • www.travisranchschool.org



Larry Mauzey
Principal

A Diversity of Opportunities

Academics are a top priority at Travis Ranch School, but we believe it is equally important for students to learn in a safe, positive, and supportive climate. Our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program strives to do this at all grade levels, kindergarten through eighth grade. Students are taught behavioral expectations through assemblies, classroom discussions, and school television broadcasts. Those who demonstrate respect, responsibility and safety on campus are recognized with spirit cards, positive phone calls home, monthly pizza parties, gift certificates, and more.

We also strive to teach students respect for individual differences. In the fall, elementary students attended an anti-bullying assembly, while our middle school students participated in “Connecting the Dots” and “Rachel's Challenge,” two nationally-known programs promoting understanding of others and, in turn, curbing school violence and bullying.

This year, we also inaugurated our Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) program. Eighth-graders met with incoming sixth-graders in the summer to ease their transition to middle school. These peer leaders continue to provide support to sixth-graders in monthly meetings. During this time, staff guides our seventh-graders in activities related to the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens.

Our extracurricular activities support a positive school culture, too. Whether students join our color guard, show choir, jazz band, orchestra, lunchtime intramurals, or our annual K–8 musical (this month we are looking forward to “Cinderella”), it is our goal that every Travis student promotes to high school with self-confidence and appreciation for our diverse world.

Parkview School *Independent Study*

2189 North Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/993-6647 www.parkviewpylusd.org

Libby Moore, Principal

No Article This Issue

Tuffree *Middle School*

2151 N. Kraemer Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7480 • www.tuffree.org



Rosie Baldwin-Shirley
Principal

Fostering Student Achievement

Tuffree just received the news that our California Technology Grant Project (CTAP) called "Lights, Camera...Creativity" has been selected for presentation as a model program at the California State Computer Using Educator Conference!

This event will be held in Palm Springs on March 19, 2011. Our project was also selected to be featured at the Orange County Student Technology Showcase in January.

Under the direction of visual arts teacher Janmarie Halliday, our students have been creating a number of instructional DVDs that will help build an invaluable resource for student-access to the curriculum. This DVD library can be used for individual concept reviews, instructional lessons for absent students, and as a reinforcement for the English language learners and special education students.

Guided by current adolescent behavior research, our Tuffree Middle School staff members actively embrace the philosophy of using positive student behavior to foster increased academic achievement.

Tuffree teachers recognize that optimal learning occurs when students are focused on their class lessons. This is directly connected to a major goal of PBIS, which is to increase student learning through positive campus behavior.

Our teachers are currently collaborating on a self-analysis of the best practices to promote good, positive behavior. Our PBIS team is able to analyze student achievement and behavioral data in order to monitor and support their continuing success.

We are confident that the implementation of a schoolwide PBIS system will provide articulation of expected positive student behavior traits. We can then teach those expected behaviors to help discourage negative outcomes and encourage appropriate consequences, and then provide intervention to promote positive change. The winning outcome will be more student academic and behavioral success!

Van Buren *Elementary*

1245 N. Van Buren St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7100 • www.vanburenelementary.org



Ken Valburg
Principal

One of our goals as educators is to teach our students that they have a voice, and when carefully crafted, the written "voice" is a powerful tool. This article was written by two sixth grade students for the student-written newsletter:

Dr. Smith Visits Van Buren By Ronnie Dymond and Rachael Wilkins

Recently, Dr. Smith, Superintendent of Placentia-Yorba Linda USD, visited Van Buren Elementary. The superintendent is the boss of Mr. Valburg and the 35 other principals in our district. He acts like a "super" principal handling all the district's issues with curriculum, budget, and parents.

Before he was superintendent, Dr. Smith taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grade in Arizona. Then he became a principal at an elementary school. He never thought he would become a District Superintendent when he grew up.

When asked what his favorite part of the job was, he said, "My favorite part of the job is visiting the schools like yours." Van Buren is one of many elementary schools Dr. Smith has to visit.

Dr. Smith taught us a lot about himself and his job. He is a respectable man. We are lucky to have him as our superintendent!



Mr. Valburg, Rachael Wilkins, Ronni Dymond, Dr. Smith

Valadez *Middle School Academy*

161 E. La Jolla St., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7440 • www.pylusd.org/schools/valadez/index.asp



Minerva Gandara-Boggs
Principal

A Special Visit

Valadez Academy was proud to host a visit from the John Force Racing Team and Holocaust survivor Mrs. Dazzo during our 2nd quarter. Many students had the opportunity to meet the John Force Team and Mrs. Dazzo up close and personal in a special pre-assembly ceremony for select students nominated by their peers for being inspirational leaders in their SOAR class. Students had a chance to take pictures, ask detailed questions, and interact with either racing apparatus or Mrs. Dazzo's tangible items from the Holocaust. All students had the privilege of hearing from both guests about the importance of staying in school, achieving academically, cherishing family, and believing in yourself, and most importantly, never give up on your dreams! SOAR on Eagles!

Upcoming third quarter events include: Student Career Day on March 10th; and Family Night: University Pathways for all local families on March 10, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.



Valencia *High School*

500 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-4970 • www.vhstigers.org



Jim Bell
Principal

Transforming!

With the assistance of Measure A funds, Valencia is experiencing a major transformation that began last summer. Over the summer, the 500 Building was modernized. This was the last of the five major classroom buildings on campus to be modernized. Also, since June, the boys' locker room, the men's locker room, the weight room and the wrestling room have been modernized. The administration building is currently undergoing a face lift, with the completion slated for June 1. The counseling building, the quad and the new restrooms, and the drama building are scheduled for renovation this upcoming summer. In addition, the new west bleachers of Bradford Stadium and baseball-batting cages will be completed in early March. Construction on the new concessions and restrooms for Bradford Stadium will commence within the next month and will be completed by mid-August. The focus of construction during the 2011–12 school year will be the food services building.

I am proud to announce that, based upon recent PSAT results, Valencia will have 10 National Merit semifinalists during next school year. This is unprecedented for any high school in the history of the PYLUSD. I am also proud to recognize Valencia's early college acceptances announced just prior to the Winter Break. Valencia has one student accepted to MIT, two to Stanford and three to Cal Tech. Next year, Valencia will have five former students attending MIT.

Wagner *Elementary*

717 E. Yorba Linda Blvd., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/986-7180 • www.pylusd.org/schools/wagner/index.asp



Patrick Brown
Principal

New School-Year Resolutions

The students and staff at Lakeview have made an excellent start in 2011. We once again have an opportunity to evaluate the past year and make resolutions. Building a strong foundation is a critical step for the future success for our students. Establishing some goals for our youngsters can be beneficial!

Is there a regular homework time and routine?

Is there an established homework location?

Is homework completion a priority?

Is time set aside to discuss homework?

Are assignments written down daily?

As we begin 2011, I wish all success in reaching whatever goals they may have set for the coming year. I hope our parents and students find happiness each day brought on by the strength of family and the comfort of good friends. This is the kind of happiness in which families and children truly prosper with each and everyday of the year.

Yorba Linda *Middle School*

4777 Casa Loma Ave., Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7080 • www.ylms.org



James Hardin
Principal

What is Collaboration?

Collaboration is a systematic process in which we work together, interdependently, in order to analyze and influence good professional practice and improve our individual and collective results. Modern educational research supports the idea that developing a teaching staff's capacity for talking with one another may be the most significant investment they can make towards improved learning (Garmston/Wellman). So, Yorba Linda Middle School uses its "Wednesday time" to do just that: develop professional learning communities!

Here, a systematic process gives every staff member the chance to engage in an ongoing exploration of the four critical questions which drive our work. The questions that we continually address throughout the school year are:

1. What do we want each student to learn (essential knowledge and skills)?
2. How will we know when each student has learned it (ongoing assessments)?
3. How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning (student interventions)?
4. How will we deepen the learning for those students who have already mastered essential knowledge and skills (differentiated learning)?

The Yorba Linda Middle School staff continues to analyze and discuss tools like state and national standards, district curriculum guides and student achievement data. Our community continues to support the school's strong commitment to improving student learning.

The big question now is, just how does Yorba Linda Middle School continue to maintain a high level of excellence with our staff, when going forward with these professional learning communities?



One of the ways it can do so is by providing good professional development opportunities. This can be done by encouraging a staff "buy-in" and recognizing the difference between "teaming" and true collaboration. In this way we can continue to foster a positive school culture, one that revolves around building trust between all of our stakeholders.

Woodsboro *Elementary*

7575 Woodsboro Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/986-7040 • www.woodsboro.pylusd.org



Phil Hergenreder
Principal

A Busy Season

Our '60s-themed "Born to Bee Wild" Buzz-a-Thon was held on November 5, and it was a huge success. Every student received a yellow and black T-shirt as they enthusiastically danced, hula-hooped and hopscotched their way to fitness and fun.

Taking part in our vocal music program, the kindergarten-through fourth-grade students sang traditional holiday songs during several well-received performances in the multi-purpose room. Dressed in their holiday finest, the students were beaming with pride as they delighted the audiences with their joyful tunes.

The parts have been cast and the rehearsals are underway for our latest school play. This is one of Woodsboro's most popular annual events. Each year approximately 150 students are given the opportunity to sing, dance and act in such musical productions as *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and this year's presentation, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Every student who wishes to participate is given an onstage role in the production.

The sixth-graders recently returned from four educational and exciting days at the Orange County Department of Education's Outdoor Science School in the San Bernardino Mountains. Here fresh snow enveloped the children in a true winter wonderland.

Soon our GATE students will also begin rehearsing for their upcoming Mock Trial event. As you can see, it has been a busy first half of the year, and we are looking forward to an equally productive second half.

Yorba Linda *High School*

19900 Bastanchury, Yorba Linda, CA 92886 • 714/986-7500 • www.ylhs.org



Dave Flynn
Principal

Focused on the Next Level of Education

Happy New Year to our Yorba Linda High School parents, students and staff. First semester 2010-2011 has been exciting and rewarding with many positive experiences and activities, along with outstanding academic performance in the classrooms. The staff is working together on curriculum and assessments during each late start Monday to prepare our students for the California High School Exit Exam, California Standards Test, Advance Placement Exams, along with the next grade level college prep, honors and AP classes.

During our second semester, we will be meeting with students to select next year's classes. Parent information nights, including new student and honors/AP class presentations have been calendared. Please check the ylhs.org website for dates and times. As the first Senior class for 2011-2012 select their classes, we will be adding additional staff this summer to meet these needs. As always, our academic courses, electives, fine/performing arts and athletics are all focused on preparing our students for the next level of their education.

I look forward to all of our spring activities and events. Continue to use our YLHS website as an ongoing source of information and calendared activities.

Have a great 2011 and GO MUSTANGS!

Tynes *Elementary*

735 Stanford Dr., Placentia, CA 92870 • 714/996-5550 • www.tynes.pylusd.org

Cristina McCall, Principal

No Article This Issue



Dr. Dennis Smith

from schools is that RTI is helping students reach this goal. I hope that this overview gives parents a glimpse into classroom strategies that are helping students. I invite you to read about the results which will be shared at the end of the year with the Board of Education and available on our district website in June.

For now, I hope that you and your child continue to have a successful school year!

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

1301 E. Orangethorpe Ave., Placentia, CA 92870
(714) 996-2550 • www.pylusd.org

EL DORADO • FROM PAGE 1

four guaranteed rounds and four single-elimination playoff rounds. El Dorado competed against Irvine's Woodbridge High School in the doubleheader finals—two separate trials where each team takes turns in presenting the defense and the prosecution. This year's trial was People vs. Woodson, a hypothetical case based on theoretical statue criminalizing bullying and cyber-bullying.

Senior captain and four-year team member Madeline Suchard stated that "Winning the Orange County championship was one of the greatest feelings ever. It was a testament to all of the hard work and lifelong friendships that the El Dorado Mock Trial team has formed. I am so proud to be a part of this stellar group of talented individuals."

El Dorado's team is coached by teachers Sunshine Cavalluzzi and Mark Switzer and local attorneys Karen Walter, Nhan Vu, and Anthony Cavalluzzi. Sunshine, Karen and Hnah are all El Dorado High School alumni who participated in Mock Trial during their time as Golden Hawks.

Prosecution Team

Pre-trial Attorney: Madeline Suchard

Trial Attorneys: Brianna Acuesta, Dana McIntosh, Kristen Darling

Witnesses: Bailey Castle, Eddie Lu, David Cotton, Nam Kang, Samantha Yu, Sohayla Farman

Clerk: Danica Kinne

Defense Team

Pre-trial Attorney: Gerard Gully

Trial Attorneys: Brittany Schnebly, Jessica Gopiao, Sara Arroyo

Witnesses: Brian Schill, Jacy Levine, Ali Arndt, Katie Bell

Bailiff: David Arndt

A county-wide awards luncheon will be held in February, where individual best student performances will also be recognized. In past years, several El Dorado students have received individual top honors.

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 3?



The PYLUSD teachers who received grants are:

Sally Lester, Lakeview Elementary, \$500
Ricky Castro, Valadez Middle School Academy, \$1,000
Ceci Ybarra, Ruby Drive Elementary, \$1,000
Candace Tingley, Valadez Middle School Academy, \$500
Christine Parmenter, Rose Drive Elementary, \$500
Ellen Gluckman, Linda Vista Elementary, \$500
Kathleen Switzer, El Dorado High, \$1,000
Loree Begin, Parkview School, \$1,000
Amy Blank, Kraemer Middle, \$250
Amy De Friesse, Esperanza High, \$1,000
Jennifer Jacobson, Fairmont Elementary, \$500
Kay Crask, Esperanza High, \$1,000
Ryan Reich, Valencia High, \$500
Doug Slonkosky, Glenknoll Elementary, \$1,000
Robert Peck, Esperanza High, \$250
Shirleen St. Clair, Wagner Elementary, \$500
Lauren Schultz, Valencia High, \$250
Janet Horton, Fairmont Elementary, \$500
Leanne Olson, Glenview Elementary, \$1,000
Mary Larson, Tynes Elementary, \$1,000
Linda Carl, Van Buren Elementary, \$1,000
Kim Peck, La Entrada High, \$1,000
Paola Hellwig, Travis Ranch, \$250
Barbara Howe, George Key, \$500
Lisa Hall, Linda Vista Elementary, \$1,000
Brian Johnson, Valencia High, \$1,000

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is pleased to support the visual and performing arts through music and visual arts programs at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Community events are also held, such as the annual district-wide Band Pageant held in November, music concerts throughout the year, and the annual district-wide Art Show held in the spring.

Thanks to the community's support of Measure A, the school district is also in the design phase for the construction of a District Performing Arts Center that will be located on the campus of El Dorado High School.

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IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Getting the adolescent whooping cough shot now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of whooping cough but will also meet the new school requirement.



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Whooping cough (pertussis) has been widespread in California. Many students have had to miss school because they were sick.



To help protect your children and others from whooping cough, a new California law now requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough.

- **For the 2011 – 12 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.
- **Thereafter, in future school years, only students entering 7th grade** will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) before starting school.

By law, students who do not have proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school. (The tetanus-diphtheria booster shot, Td, will not meet the requirement.)

We want to make sure your child starts school on time. Parents are urged to:

- **Get your child's Tdap shot now**

A large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your child's doctor or clinic for your child to get a Tdap booster shot now. Avoid the back-to-school rush.



- **Save your proof of immunization**

Be sure to keep the written proof of your child's Tdap booster shot in a safe place. Your child will need to provide proof of immunization in order to start school.



- **Submit your proof of immunization**

Be sure to give a copy of your Tdap booster shot to the school health office before the last day of school.

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District