

School News



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Covering the Placentia - Yorba Linda Unified School District

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MAY–OCTOBER 2011

School District Launches Preparatory Kindergarten Program

By Candy Plahy, Assistant Superintendent of Executive Services

The Kindergarten Readiness Act, a historic reform to kindergarten education, gives the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District an opportunity to ensure that more children each year are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

The PYLUSD believes that school readiness is more than just reading, writing, and arithmetic. This legislation enables the PYLUSD to create a transitional kindergarten program (Preppy "K") to support the development and achievement of the youngest learners.

Research has shown that students who enter kindergarten at age four have a higher likelihood of retention and learning delays in comparison to



their older peers. While younger students may do well academically in kindergarten, they are often at a disadvantage in middle and high school in areas such as social maturity and athletics.

The PYLUSD is proud to address these concerns through the creation of a standards-based Preppy "K" program that is designed to meet both the academic and social-emotional needs of younger students.

- Students born in late summer or fall are given the opportunity to participate in a developmentally appropriate two-year kindergarten program.
- All Preppy "K" classes will be taught by fully credentialed kindergarten teachers.
- Enrollment will be based on space availability at Preppy "K" sites.

Families interested in participating in the PYLUSD Preppy "K" program beginning in September 2011, should visit the district website "Preppy K" page, www.pylusd.org/preppyK/, for an application and more information.

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Dennis Smith

The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District is working hard to open doors to help more students achieve their fullest potential and I am very proud that the district has received national distinction as an "Advanced Placement Achievement School District."

This honor was presented to only 388 school districts nationwide by the College Board, which is comprised of 5,900 of the world's leading educational institutions and annually prepares students for college by offering programs such as the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) and Advanced Placement (AP) testing. The award recognizes districts for increasing the number of high school students taking advanced placement courses while continuing to increase the number of students passing.

From 2008 to 2010, the number of PYLUSD students taking advanced placement course exams increased from 1273 to 1557. In addition to more students taking the exam, what is even more remarkable is that the passing rate gained more ground.

The PYLUSD's already-high passing rate increased from 85 percent to 87 percent. In comparison, the national pass rate is 57.5 percent. Students who pass the AP exam are eligible to receive college credit for that course, and results in a financial savings to parents.

Advanced placement courses in our high schools now range from chemistry to English literature to statistics to scores of foreign languages, including German, Japanese, French and Spanish.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 15

The 2011 Academic Decathlon

By Rosemary Gladden, Public Information Officer

Placentia-Yorba Linda USD Has the Most Schools in Top Places in the 2011 Academic Decathlon

The 2011 winning Orange County Academic Decathlon (OCAD) teams were announced in February at an awards ceremony.

Valencia High School's team was the third highest scoring in the county; El Dorado was the ninth-highest scoring; and Esperanza took the tenth spot as the highest scoring team.

Esperanza High School also took first place in Division 2. Due to the number of high schools competing, 37 in total, competition is divided into Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3.

Valencia High School, which competed in Division 1 and was the third highest-scoring team in Orange County, earned an invitation to compete in the California State Academic Decathlon competition which will take place in March in Sacramento.

The Orange County Academic Decathlon is a ten-event scholastic competition. Teams from Orange County public and private high schools are tested in math, economics, language and literature, science, music, art, social science, speech, interview, and essay. Each nine member team includes three "A" students, three "B" students, and three "C" students. The theme for the 2010-2011 competition season was The Great Depression, as outlined by the United States Academic Decathlon Association.

The Academic Decathlon program, now the premiere scholastic competition in the country, began in Orange County 43 years ago.



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Kay Coop
 Founder / Publisher

Home Room
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

As this school year is winding down, I'd like to congratulate the graduating class of 2011 and their families.

It has been a privilege to publish the excellence from the PYLUSD again this year. It would take volumes to print all that the district has accomplished in addition to dealing with the challenge of the economy.

We would like to thank the advertisers who make it possible for us to publish *School News*.

For summer ideas, our Camp/Activities section begins on page 8 and the contest is on page 11 where you will see who won the contests last issue.

Have a great summer!

School News 

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**Covering the
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 UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**



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Bernardo Yorba *Middle School*

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



Cameron Malotte
Principal

We Can't Do it Alone

With the end of the school year fast approaching, it seems appropriate now to thank the many volunteers who help make Bernardo Yorba Middle School such an amazing place.

I will not attempt to thank every individual by name for fear that I would inadvertently leave someone out. I do believe I'm safe, however, in thanking PTA President Jennifer Gathright, who helps to oversee much of this volunteer effort. The PTA board also does so much hard work to help keep their organization running smoothly, and so I want to thank each of them for their dedication.

Additionally, we have parents who work at the fall and spring book fairs, man the student store, volunteer in the health office and relieve the office staff. We also have parents who help at fall registration or sell uniforms throughout the year, as well as others who organize fund-raisers and sell Matador discount cards.

There are even parents who help out at dances, and others who work on the eighth-grade promotion party. Our *Bernardo Bulletin* newsletter is produced by a parent as well.

Then there are the parents who volunteer with our vocal and instrumental booster clubs. They too dedicate hundreds of hours of labor to help support our students.

If I missed any activities then I apologize. But just know that everyone's efforts are so very much appreciated. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

El Camino Real *High School*

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



Gordon Chamberlin
Principal

Helping Others

For the second year, El Camino Real has participated in a charity for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; Pasta for Pennies. Each classroom collected loose change and bills for three weeks and the class with the most money collected won a catered lunch from a local Italian restaurant. This year we raised over \$600, with the top class donating over \$180.

ECRHS also had their first ever rummage sale in the parking lot. Leadership students worked very hard sorting through and organizing the generous donations made by the community. The profits that were made will be used for student activities and rewards, including Prom, field trips, and Pride Cards.



Brookhaven *Elementary*

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



Shirley Fargo
Principal

Mentoring the Arts Continues

Creativity and the arts continue at Brookhaven in spite of cut-backs. Brookhaven students are fortunate to have teachers who are willing to integrate art into the curriculum.

Dixie Shaw, an involved community member, is a passionate supporter of creativity and the arts. She sponsored six Brookhaven teachers, which allowed them to participate in the Start with Art program at California State University, Fullerton. Start with Art is a collaboration between CSUF art department, teacher credentialing and Brookhaven teachers.

Teachers attended CSUF's Art Institute two days during their summer and learned art techniques and the importance of keeping creativity in the curriculum. They taught their students the technique of painted papers, grid drawing and still-life painting. Art became an integral part of the instructional day, as students worked on projects 10 to 15 minutes at a time. They were able to complete projects within two to three weeks.

Ginger Geftakys, a CSUF art instructor, supported Brookhaven teachers throughout the year by teaching demonstration lessons in the classroom and helping teachers when they shared their art skills with peers during staff development time. Brookhaven takes art seriously and enjoys it.



Bryant Ranch *Elementary*

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



Debra Silverman
Principal

Accentuate the Positive!

At Bryant Ranch School we love to accentuate the positive!

Our Cooperative Behavior Plan includes a long list of rewards for students who are "doing the right thing, at the right place, at the right time."

Throughout the year, students earn "Bryant Ranch Brag Cards" (which actually have been designed by the students) and collect them to redeem different amounts for rewards. Towards the end of the year students begin redeeming hundreds of "brag cards" for the larger prizes. Some of the prizes include; bookmarks, popcorn or freezer pop, special pencils, notepads, folders, student picture taken and posted on the website, storybook garden where the child receives a free book, game day with the principal, special lunch with the principal (ordered from a restaurant), and a full length movie with the principal in our very own Bryant Ranch theatre (with popcorn too!).

Students have a lot of fun earning and collecting their brag cards and can't wait for the end of the year special events. Some of our students are able to attend every event of the year since they have collected so many. We are always looking for our children to demonstrate their great academic, social, and citizenship skills.

At Bryant Ranch, every student takes on the responsibility for "doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right place." What a fabulous place to be!

El Dorado *High School*

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

Cary Johnson, Principal

No Article This Issue

Fairmont *Elementary*

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



Community Outreach Projects

The Student Council plays an important role at Fairmont Elementary. Student Council officers and representatives (grades 4-6) learn important leadership skills that assist them in becoming responsible and active members of the Fairmont community. Student Council members helped organize and run several outreach projects this year.

Shawn Knutson
Principal

With the tremendous and generous donations from our Fairmont families Student Council has helped raise \$1,351 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and \$3,343.80 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Not to mention the hundreds of dollars worth of canned food donated to the PYLUSD Food Pantry, which collects food to be distributed to needy families in our district. We would like to thank all our Fairmont families again for their help in making all of the outreach projects a huge success for the Fairmont Student Council as well as giving to those in need and helping to find cures.



Esperanza *High School*

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



Ken Fox
Principal

Academics, Athletics and Activities

Even though we are winding down the 2011 school year, there are still great things taking place at Esperanza High School. Academically in May, we will be administering Advanced Placement tests in 19 different subject areas to over 450 students. Esperanza has a pass rate of 87 percent on Advanced Placement tests. This year, we are expecting outstanding results from the 1,080 tests that will be administered.

In athletics, our spring sports have done a great job this season in the new Century League. The Esperanza women's softball team is ranked number one in CIF and the state. Also, the men's volleyball team is ranked fifth in the CIF Southern Section.

In activities, the "Every 15 Minutes" program took place at Esperanza High School in May to help raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving among high school students. This program runs the week before Prom to reinforce their safety at the last dance of the year. We are all still looking forward to the completion of our new gym and main office, which should be completed this summer. We hope everyone has a great rest of the school year and a safe and fun summer.

Glenknoll *Elementary*

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



Douglas Slonkosky
Principal

Spring Has Sprung!

Glenknoll's Garden Project continues to grow, both literally and academically. Thanks to the hard work of parents, staff and community, 16 classroom gardens were planted. We look forward to having our garden grow even more.

Many activities and projects stretch our students' imaginations. In May, five Girl Scout Troops conducted an Earth Day Project to help care for the gardens and beautify the school. In March, Open House featured a presentation on the school budget, and our Student Leadership Team collected over \$480 for relief for Japanese students affected by the recent catastrophe. Six families donated funds for six refurbished classroom computers.

In March, we held our annual Career Day, with over 20 community members discussing career choices and preparation. Our major Spring PTA Fund-raiser was a huge success, raising over \$3,500 to enhance the school through special activities and events, and to replace outdated computers.

Parents and community members are actively encouraged to join us in our many efforts—especially our garden!



Students watch a Fire Department presentation at Career Day.

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George Key School

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



Debbie Six
Principal

2nd Annual Jog-A-Thon and Carnival

Such an opportunity for all of our students to apply learned skills in a fun and memorable setting with their families...while at the same time fundraising!!

Thanks to the hard work of our parents soliciting community and business support, George Key School was able to raise \$1500 towards assistive technology and communication devices for our children. A colorful, festive carnival atmosphere infused the day as a result of the creativity and spirit of our teachers and instructional assistants along with the sustenance of refreshments, pizza and free coupons provided by local businesses.

Students took the opportunity to partake in many exciting activities including: target dunking the teacher, bowling for recycling, activating the bubble-blowing machine, dressing-up, hitting the bull's eye, and knocking'em down — Functionally fun for all!

We look forward to a three-peat next season!



Golden Elementary

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



Kathy Chakan
Principal

Where Every Student Shines!

The Golden Elementary School family is anxiously awaiting special spring activities. One of the first big events is the California Standards Tests (CSTs). Teachers have guided students as they have worked hard to master grade-level standards in preparation for these important tests. Students are striving to do their best and to demonstrate what they have learned this year. During the last months, students make one final push in preparation for the coming academic year.

The next big event the Golden family eagerly anticipated was the annual School Carnival, which was held on Friday, May 13. This hugely popular, PTA-sponsored activity was enjoyed by young and old and signals the final month of school. Following the carnival, sixth grade embarked on a wonderful adventure as they headed for the mountains and a week of science discovery at Outdoor Education.

Spring highlights also include the Pentathlon team making their final preparations for the county competition. The school-wide Variety Shows, scheduled for May 25 and 26, afford students an opportunity to showcase their talents for family and friends. Their performances are a delight to watch! All students look forward to what the next year will hold, but none more so than our sixth-graders, who excitedly await promotion in June and the adventures of middle school.

Golden students' skills have sparkled and shone throughout 2010-2011, and we are proud of each of them!

Glenview Elementary

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



Charles Hunter
Principal

A Community Spirit

*By Charles Hunter, Principal and
Moises Plascencia, Interim Principal*

Glenview Elementary is a true community place, and the majority of our kindergarten through sixth-grade students have the unique opportunity of being able to walk to school. It is a great pleasure to often see their families walking with them, too.

But in addition to creating a safe environment for the children, when parents walk to school they often stay on to help volunteer. On any given day there are a number of different parent volunteers who give of their time to help enhance student learning.

These parent volunteers bring their experience to help the teachers and students, and so we are always happy to see them assisting in the classrooms with tutoring, correcting papers, making copies or just being an asset to the faculty.

Besides noting their commitment to our school, I am amazed to see the large number of students whose parents also attended Glenview in the past. There is a definite family and generational connection to our school. Grandparents, parents, neighbors and teachers know that we are a special community here.

It is even common to see a family move down the street from their parent's old home, just so that they can stay close to the grandparents and enjoy the educational opportunities that our school has continued to offer generation after generation.

Our own teachers also know and value Glenview's quality of education so much that they enroll their own children here! For more information about Glenview, or information on upcoming events like our Family Science Night and the Community Carnival, you can visit our Web site at www.glenviewbulldogs.org.

We hope to see you soon!

Kraemer Middle School

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



Richard McAlindin
Principal

A Top School

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Open House event in March. The night was a tremendous success, with over 1,500 people in attendance!

Kraemer students continue to excel both inside and outside of the classroom. Our core philosophy has always fostered and supported student involvement in academics and school activities.

The academic clubs and co-curricular activities have performed extremely well over the past few months. Our Math Counts team placed tenth in Southern California at a recent state competition, and the Science Olympiad performed well in county competition. It brought home seven medals, including two first-place finishes.

Our student leadership program was again recognized by the state activities organization as an exemplary program. Our "Battle of the Books" team took second-place in local competition. The orchestra and band also received top marks at our recent SCSBOA festivals, with superior ratings.

Congratulations go to the 120 seventh-grade Kraemer students who earned a perfect score on their Nixon Library geography test! The Kraemer Colorguard also took the gold medal at the WGASC championships, which made them the top middle school team in Southern California. And Kraemer's dance team swept first-place in every dance competition this year.

A big congratulations to all of our students for their tremendous accomplishments. Connecting students to programs and activities that extend the curriculum beyond classroom doors is one of the factors that draws more students to choose Kraemer Middle School. It makes us a great place to go to school.

La Entrada *High School*

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



Libby Moore
Principal

A Successful Year

It's difficult to believe that the close of the 2010–2011 school year is quickly approaching! This year at La Entrada High School, students have experienced many new and exciting opportunities. At the beginning of the school year, we offered a select number of online classes for students, which proved to be a very successful instructional strategy for independent study students. Next school year, we will be enrolling all students who will be taking a math class in the online classes. This will provide independent study students with direct instruction on a daily basis, as well as synchronous interaction with a teacher.

On April 14, La Entrada held its first National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony. Our NHS advisor, Mrs. Rubinstein, and student leader Allison Smith were instrumental in creating National Honor Society at our school. In addition to the creation of NHS, Mrs. Rubinstein also taught our first yearbook class this year. Students in the class have been very active all year taking pictures of school events, classes, and after-school activities. Our first yearbook is scheduled to go to print this week! A local photography studio in Yorba Linda has created a senior special package for our seniors this year. The same photographer will also be used at La Entrada High School's graduation ceremony.

We are in our second year of receiving the California Department of Education Exemplary Independent Study Recognition Award. As a model school, we have been visited by over 10 school districts throughout California this year. This allows us an opportunity to share our wonderful practices with other school districts and to learn about new and exciting things that other independent schools are doing. La Entrada continues to strive for excellence in meeting the needs of all students, and we look forward to another exciting school year next year!

Mabel Paine *Elementary*

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



Tamie Beeuwsaert
Principal

Children Helping Children

Mabel Paine's service project this year is Coins for a Cure, sponsored by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Rob Montelone, the fund-raiser chairman, has five elementary-age children, three of them diagnosed with CF. As the event kickoff, the Montelones brought two llamas to school. Llamas are naturally hypoallergenic, and so children with CF can be around them. The students sat in awe as the animals made their grand entrance, led by the principal. The Montelone family gave a presentation about what CF is and what they go through each day to keep their lungs clean and healthy. Our students couldn't wait to start collecting and wear the CF T-shirts that the Montelone children wore.

Coins and dollars came in the very next day. We collected over \$2,600 as of this writing, far surpassing our goal of \$1,000 was surpassed by far! A pizza chain offered to match our donation dollar for dollar if the school collected \$1,000—they're now donating \$1,000 to our PTA to be used next year.



What a rewarding experience this has been! There is nothing more heartwarming than watching children do everything in their power to help other children. Here's to finding a cure for CF!

Lakeview *Elementary*

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



Katherine Dailey
Principal

Going the Extra Mile

Going the extra mile...the Lakeview staff, teachers, parent volunteers, and students continue to strive for excellence going the extra mile by dedicating time, support, and efforts in many capacities ~ recently, our fabulous PTA sponsored the Scholastic Book Fair and recognized our effort in reading goal of 1,000,000 pages as we are currently at over 800,000 pages read. Parent volunteers give their time on Fridays during lunch recess to provide fun extra activities for students. Leadership students have been busy reinforcing school spirit, modeling great citizenship, and providing humanitarian efforts to enhance the spirit of giving to others and promoting a strong school culture. Recently, our leadership students led Lakeview Earth Week Celebration activities—this included...cleaning the campus, planting seeds, and wearing green to encourage recycling and Going Green efforts! Our Lion Pride student leaders will provide helpful test taking tips the last week of April to help better prepare all of our Lion citizens for successful test taking during the STAR state testing week the first two weeks of May! GO LIONS!



Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Jackie Howland
Principal

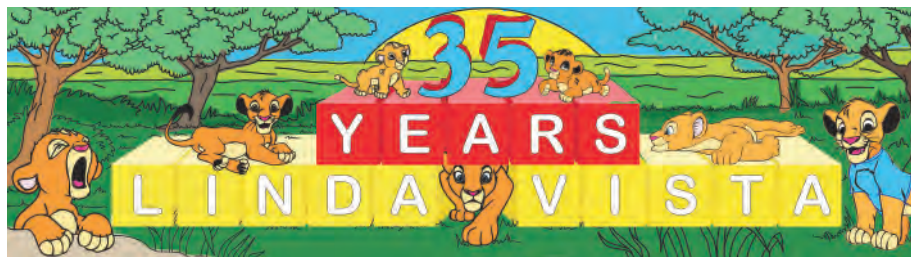
Linda Vista Celebrates 35th Birthday During Earth Week

Recently, during Earth Week, students, staff and families celebrated Linda Vista's 35th birthday with cake and a spectacular Prismatic Laser Light show at the Yorba Linda Community Center.

Students danced the night away while listening to lively tunes and viewing captivating laser animations. Mrs. Nelson, first grade teacher, said it was delightful to watch her first graders having so much fun.

The event was part of the weeklong activities organized by PTA to raise student awareness of the need to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Other activities included planting a tree, walking to school, wearing green and a Friday assembly about Healthy Bodies, Healthy Earth. Students were able to enter a mural design contest and several fifth grade students were selected to join FiboArt (a community partner) in painting a colorful mural on one of the school's sea containers.

Linda Vista is one of the oldest schools in Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District.



Melrose *Elementary*

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



Vivian Cuesta
Principal

Do You Know Your Fluency Score?

A fluency score is the amount of words read per minute. Students at Melrose Elementary School not only know their own fluency scores, but also their fluency goals.

This goal is individual, and is set according to the student's end-of-the-year grade-level target. As a school-wide incentive, all students were given fluency goal cards. They then recorded their scores and met during lunch with the principal, literacy coach and Title I reading specialist to share their scores and goals.

Students received star stickers, pencils and "High Fives" for their ongoing efforts. It is amazing to see how they are progressing, and how excited they get about learning to read with fluency and prosody.

Fluent reading is reading in which words are recognized automatically. With automatic word recognition reading becomes faster, smoother and more expressive. As students become more fluent oral readers, their silent reading skills also improve. Being able to read with fluency improves comprehension and sustains interest.

Our teachers are also providing classroom incentives by awarding students with ribbons and certificates when they meet individual reading-fluency goals. Practicing fluency at Melrose is a team effort performed through guided oral reading opportunities such as echo-reading, fluency folders, partner reading and whole-group reading.

Additionally, our ?Ticket to Read? computer program and fantastic book fairs also provide practice and support for motivated readers!

Way to go Marlins, on your relentless pursuit of fluency!

Rio Vista *Elementary*

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



Caryn Lewis
Principal

Leopard Leaders

Teachers and students lead the way by implementing Positive Behavior Systems to show their commitment to improved citizenship and responsible behavior.

Students from each classroom are selected as examples of the five characteristics of a Rio Vista Leopard. These special students receive a "High Five" award for outstanding citizenship and tickets to attend a special event.

Student Council president Rosaicela Rocha says that, "I think that learning to be a good citizen is the most important lesson of all. I feel proud when I see all of the students showing respect to each other."

This trimester's High Five event included a special performance by Yorba Linda High School's *Seussical, the Musical!* cast. The actors congratulated our winners and rewarded them with an exclusive performance.

A special thanks goes to Cathy Petz and her group for an amazing show, and for providing our students with an excellent model of teamwork and positive showmanship!



Rio Vista outstanding citizens share the stage with Seussical stars.

Morse *Elementary*

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



Kathie DiRocco
Principal

Student Service Organization

The Morse Elementary community knows how good it feels to serve. The Student Service Organization (SSO), new this year at Morse and coordinated by teacher Karen Ricotta, helps two days a week with supervision and teaching games to the primary and kindergarten students during their recess. Another group is responsible for taking out soccer goals and bringing them in each day. All the SSO students helped coordinate the recent Pennies for Patients drive.

The primary students are learning the rules for hopscotch, tetherball, jump rope and soccer. The Student Service Organization has made a big difference and is building positive relationships with the younger students, acting as mentors and guides. There has been a natural decrease in recess conflict because of more supervision and more games to play in an organized way.

The Pennies for Patients program was a great success, raising over \$2,000. This was a 100 percent increase over last year! More activities are also on the way. Morse PTA has purchased games, including a large chess set—25 inches for the tallest piece! These will be available at recess time and can be checked out and played at the lunch-table area. Stay tuned to find out who the Morse Chess Champions might be!

Parkview School *Independent Study*

K-12

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



Libby Moore
Principal

A Busy Year

Parkview School has enjoyed a fantastic school year. The year began with the news of our API reaching an all time high of 856 points. Campus and online classes were expanded and a Field Sports Day was added to our existing Academic and Elective Days.

High school seniors were busy this year applying to colleges and early acceptance letters from Purdue, Gettysburg, and Azusa Pacific began arriving in January. Senior Alan Conrad received a scholarship offer worth over thirty thousand dollars to attend Gettysburg, where he will study history, business, and play baseball.

Our Performing Arts program received its sixth Disney Enabling Grant. Students performed several tone chime selections for the community in December. In March, over sixty students performed The Music Man to a sold out house at the Forum Theater in Yorba Linda.

Parkview was represented by high school and middle school student teams in the Yorba Linda Public Library's Battle of the Books. Congratulations to Sarah Caballero and her team for placing second!

As the school year draws to a close, we appreciate this opportunity to share some of our highlights from a very productive and rewarding year.





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Buy your pass today at www.octa.net/buyapass, the OCTA Store in Orange or call 714-560-5932.

Note-ables

The Kid's Guide to Service Projects



Kate Karp

The title of this wonderfully helpful resource is directed at children, but Barbara A. Lewis's *Kid's Guide to Service Projects*, Free Spirit Publishing, 1995, is a volunteer guide for any age. The more than 500 suggested projects, ranging in difficulty from caring for a neighbor's pet to getting state laws and city ordinances passed, will appeal to anyone who want to make a difference and earn breathing space on the planet. The projects, all worthy, are described simply and clearly enough to encourage any aspiring humanitarian.

The projects focus on human and animal welfare, community development and safety, the environment, literacy and politics, further divided into 10 categories. In the introduction, Lewis gives short shrift to anyone's claims of not having enough time or that the goals are too involved for any one person to attempt. Instead, she maps out projects for every passion, and invites the reader to send her anything that she hasn't thought of. She then provides a template of 10 steps to make any effort a successful one; gives handy how-tos for pesky paperwork tasks such as creating fliers, writing petitions and press releases, and lobbying for a cause; and suggest seven ways to raise funds.

Anyone who wants to be proactive in solving problems for the community, either local or at large, will find frequent use for *The Kid's Guide to Service Projects*. It will be particularly helpful in the service requirement for graduation from high school; and families, youth and religious organizations, and classroom teachers will all find something to forward worthy efforts. Most of all, lone individuals who feel the need to take action on a problem but may be overwhelmed by the details will be happy to find that Lewis has done the initial organization for them. And that in itself is a great service.

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



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Tryouts U14 thru U18

Tryout Dates			
Sun	5/15	10:45a-12:15p	B15 & G15
Sun	5/15	12:30p-2:00p	GU16
Sun	5/15	2:15p-3:45p	GU18 & BU18
Sun	5/21	10:45a-12:15p	BU15 & GU15
Sun	5/21	12:30p-2:00p	GU16
Sun	5/21	2:15p-3:45p	GU18 & BU18

All tryouts are hosted at
Riverdale Elementary School, Anaheim
U9 thru U14 age levels, still open for players

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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String Instruments 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 "PYLUSD" in the subject line)

Entries must be received by June 30, 2011

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

Balalaika	Guitar	Sitar
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Clavichord	Lyre	Zither
Contrabass	Mandolin	
Dulcimer	Piano	

Congratulations to Mollie Safai!
Winner of the February Word Search Contest and

Congratulations to Michael White!
Winner of the February Seek 'n Find Contest

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

Positive Parenting

Gearing Up for Summer



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

For some parents, the arrival of summer means less stress because the school schedule is not a part of the daily routine. For other parents, having the children home all day every day is stressful. Whichever arena you are in, the reality of life is that summer vacation is almost here for the traditional schools.

Children may get more wound up, more disagreeable, more difficult to manage as the start of summer gets closer. Change is stressful, even if it is for the better. The break in routine is stressful for children and adults. It is advisable to keep your discipline strong so that you glide into summer with boundaries in place. Consistent boundaries will also help your child to contain

his or her behavior and to feel safe.

My discipline system is mentioned on parentingsos.com and my new book, *Don't Feed the Dragon*, is a discipline manual divided into three sections: (1) what parents need to understand about children in order to successfully guide them; (2) my discipline system, and (3) answers to 130 of the top concerns of parents, listed in alphabetical order. The book is age-appropriate from tots through the teens and is available on parentingsos.com.

Having your discipline system in place, it is wise to sit down as a family and make a list of things that can be done during free time. The list may be posted in a place where children can use it as a reference. To quell the endless, "I'm bored" message that children who are not used to having non-structured time often begin chanting when school ends, offer two choices: "You may refer to the chart that we created or I will choose a chore off the chores chart that will help you dispel boredom." This plan might allow you to have your whole house cleaned in the first week of summer!

Training for the Future

Summer is a wonderful time to train your darling children to do chores. Finally, they have time—the constant excuse during school months! Children will leave home some day—I promise!—and when they do, they need to know how to take care of a house and themselves. Chores teach a child that a house does not clean itself and how to do fundamental tasks, such as clean a toilet. If you have a housekeeper, create a space each week that the children are responsible for in terms of upkeep and give the tidiness angel one less area to clean.

It is important that children are not in so many activities that their lives become stressful. Children need time to be children! If you want your child to be successful in school, have at least a half hour a day that is devoted to school skills. If each child took a 30-minute "chill break" and read for that amount of time, their future teachers would be ecstatic! Every child needs quiet time each day that does not involve any media or mechanical gadgets, including during the summer.

Enjoy Your Children

Most important of all, enjoy your children! There will never be another summer like the one ahead of you. Your children will not be this age ever again. Create some sort of structure and have some time that is not structured. Don't send your children to other people to play all the time—what each child wants more than anything else is time with you. It is easy to forget that when you are trying to keep the energy-packed chicks busy.

P.S. Thanks to all the teachers who gave so much of themselves this school year to help our children be all that they can be!

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

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www.sce.edu/kids

Rose Drive *Elementary*

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



Liana Neuland
Principal

March-ing to An Active Beat!

In March, we had our first Parent Technology Night. District teachers on special assignment David Watts and Eddie Tabata did a terrific job of introducing digital photography using Picassa to Rose Drive parents. We also had a great turnout for Family Science Night. This fun evening was both well attended and informative. The evening included an amazing demonstration by Rob Casaba on the properties of electricity as well as five other fun-filled and educational science activities. We gratefully acknowledge the teachers who facilitated the classroom science activities, as well as Eddie Tabata, for making it such a successful night!

Our Open House was also held in March. Our students were proud to show their families their work, which was beautifully displayed in their classrooms. Finally, fifth-grade teacher Mike Fredstrom was named PYLUSD's Teacher of the Year in March in a surprise ceremony by Superintendent Dennis Smith. What a month for Rose Drive!

Our PTA continues to be busy sponsoring many activities, such as our Mother-Daughter Tea, which was held in February at the Educational Services Center. Our famous Gift Basket Auction was held before Open House in March, and our students will dazzle us with their many talents at our Talent Show in June.

We look forward to a great third trimester as our students continue to be "Wild about Learning."

Ruby Drive *Elementary*

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



Monica Barrera
Principal

April is the Busiest Month!

April has been an eventful month for Ruby Drive. It all started out with our Book Fair. For one whole week, students enjoyed looking at all the fun stuff during their lunch recess and after school. The time frame of the Book Fair was strategically planned by our PTA to coincide with our Open House. Families had the opportunity to shop to their hearts' content. The final results of how much Ruby Drive benefits from one of our biggest fund-raisers are not in yet. However, it appears to have been one of our most prosperous book fairs ever!

As mentioned in our previous story, our new mural was ready to showcase on Open House night. Thank you to Gabby Fernandez, the artist who made Ruby Drive come to life. Now, when one walks up the front walkway to the office, he or she is greeted with a colorful array of magic with a special message. Our Open House was well attended by most of our Ruby family members. One of the main attractions at Open House was students at different grade levels performing for their family and friends. The smiles and tears of parents proved to be priceless. Thank you to all who attended!

Our final big event for April was our Lunch on the Lawn day. Parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts and uncles all came out with their blankets and lawn chairs to eat lunch with their children. It was evident by the look on our student's faces that they felt special. Our yearbook will display many of the pictures taken on this special event.

Sierra Vista *Elementary*

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



Cindy Rex
Principal

Students Who Care

Sierra Vista students balance their academic studies with a community spirit of giving. Research by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society benefited from the energy and generosity of our children, who donated nearly \$3,000 during the recent Pennies for Patients drive. This month, students not only contributed coins but they also gave away their shoes! They cleaned the closets in their homes and those of their neighbors to find "Soles for Souls" in Japan. Through this combined relief effort with a sporting goods chain, Sierra Vista sent over 300 pairs of shoes to Sendai, Japan.

Students have also adopted the slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally" by forming a campus club, Ecolutions. These sixth-graders have planted a garden in the hope of making a giant fresh salad to take to a community homeless shelter this spring. Flowers were not forgotten in their garden, planted to bring cheer to patients at a nearby hospital. It was a privilege to support this well-focused group as they initiated a recycling program throughout the school as well. Parents, teachers and community members attended our Earth Day celebration as we cut the green ribbon to open the garden and initiate the efforts of going green at Sierra Vista.

Our annual Open House festivities will be held on May 19, with dinner at our local business partner, a burger restaurant. The PTA-sponsored Book Fair and silent auction add to the evening's enjoyment. Come and join the engaging community spirit at Sierra Vista and see what our children are doing! All are welcome.

Topaz *Elementary*

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



Rafael Plascencia
Principal

Where Everyone Does Their Part

Once again, Topaz was contacted by the California Department of Education and informed that we had just received their Title I Academic Achievement Award. It is exciting to have received this award for two years in a row!

Only thirteen K-12 schools in Orange County were recognized for this special achievement, and only six of them were second-time recipients. We were also informed that Topaz had received the California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll Award for the second consecutive year as well. This recognition is given to the highest performing public schools in California that have raised student performance and closed achievement gaps.

People in and out of our district are always asking me to identify the secret of our explosive success. It seems that they want to hear about a program that we recently purchased, or some new equipment, just so that they can go out and buy the same thing to get the same results. However, our success reflects the community of Topaz working together in partnership with strong school district support.

At the heart of Topaz's success are our teachers, who lead the district's programs with fidelity! The ELD program continues to be our jewel, along with RtI. And our parents are an important backbone support from home, too, because they help with vital homework duties, good nutrition and student accountability.

The support staff in the office, the aides in the classrooms, and the facilities managers in the field all add arteries of response and intervention that help keep Topaz a clean, safe place in which to learn. Everyone here has high expectations.

Congratulations, Topaz!

School News
Congratulations Class of 2011!



Travis Ranch School

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



Larry Mauzey
Principal

Keeping the Spirit Alive

Travis Ranch is the home of the Trailblazers. As we reflect upon it this spring, we have been true to our mascot's ideals by offering the kind of innovative programs and activities that are taking place across the grade levels.

With the help of a beloved and recently retired teacher, Linda Hendren, our kindergarten students have planted a "pizza" garden with oregano, tomatoes, bell peppers and more. The children enjoy watching the garden grow and learning about these science content standards.

Another new program on campus was prompted by the parents on our English Language Advisory Committee. They requested a special after-school program to help their children learn English. Our weekly after-school homework center is overseen by an instructional aide. It provides support for students in grades K-8 with their current classroom homework, or in using the Rosetta Stone computer program or participating in language games.

Another trailblazing moment occurred in April, when our middle school bands took an overnight trip for the first time in recent history! Our advanced band, wind ensemble and jazz band students traveled to the San Diego Heritage Festival to compete against groups from California and Nevada.

Under the direction of Jim Johnson, all of the bands received a superior rating, the highest possible, and Travis Ranch received the special Judges Award as well.

Looking ahead, our construction of a new elementary lunch facility will begin this summer and continue through the fall. In the meantime, we wish all of our families a successful end of year and an enjoyable summer.

Tynes Elementary

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



Cristina McCall
Principal

Constructing the Future

In the Tynes tradition of a Commitment to Excellence, teachers rose to the challenge by receiving extensive staff development throughout this school year. Explicit direct-instruction training focused on brain research strategies to maximize learning. Eighteen hours of in-depth Medallions curriculum training prepared teachers for targeted language arts instruction. On-site ELD training provided a laser focus on grammar studies and ELD methods for students.

And it doesn't stop there. Tynes's trailblazing teachers are venturing to learn and implement a teaching philosophy in mathematics, called cognitively guided instruction, to complement a new pre-GATE concept in K-3 grades. Launching GATE preparation in science, third-graders will delve into the world of simple machines.

The GATE Magnet is busy preparing for next year also. In addition to accelerated curriculum in the content areas, the program will provide math, science and technology signature practices, to include Lego Mindstorm Robotics in fourth grade, engineering-bridges/towers/catapults in fifth, and news broadcast/digital storytelling/website construction in sixth grade. To complement the program, students will participate in various school and county competitions.

We are excited to expand our Commitment to Excellence for Tynes students!

School News



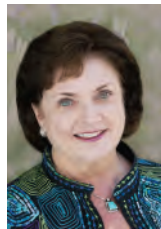
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Tuffree Middle School

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



Rosie Baldwin-Shirey
Principal

Spring Brings Awards

Tuffree's staff, students and community deserve congratulations for Tuffree's being named as one of only seven secondary schools in Orange County as 2011 California Distinguished School! This marks Tuffree's third Distinguished School award, the last one given in 2005. The award has become increasingly coveted in this time of high-stakes accountability. Becoming a Distinguished School demonstrates dramatically improved test scores and meeting all No Child Left Behind testing targets. It is a direct reflection of teachers' passion for student achievement, dedication and focused hard work. Our 2011 Distinguished School plaque and flag will be awarded on May 20 in a statewide reception.

Tuffree visual art students also received state level honor when their California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP) project, "Lights, Camera...Creativity," was selected as one of three middle school projects to be presented at the March Computer Using Educator's (CUE) conference in Palm Springs. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson complimented team members on their project creativity and its potential to advance achievement via technology.



"State Superintendent Torlakson discusses project with students Trevor Van Dissel, Kei Takahashi, Nicholas Bilinski, Daniel Bilinski and Seth Houston. Adults are Jane Ollard (Counselor), Rose Marie Baldwin-Shirey (Principal) and Janmaire Halliday (Art Teacher).



Tuffree student Natalie Larson (Orange County Middle School Poetry 1st Place winner) with Holocaust survivor Zelda Gordon.

Last, Tuffree student Natalie Larson was awarded first place for Orange County Middle School Poetry in the Holocaust Art and Writing Contest. Her poem, "Would I Have Done What You Did?" honored the life of survivor Zelda Gordon. Participation in this contest brought Natalie a deeper understanding of this very tragic moment in our history and created a special memory to honor Mrs. Gordon and other survivors in the 1939 Club.

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

March Madness

Over 300 students and parents from Valadez, Melrose and Rio Vista participated in workshops led by a community of professionals during our Third Annual University Pathways.

On Career Day, students heard from experts in the fields of education, engineering, forensics, etc.

Our 8th grade AVID class visited USC and the Museum of Tolerance. The 7th grade class attended workshops with college professors at Cal-State Fullerton. Three of our Holocaust Art and Writing Contest participants enjoyed hearing Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel, author of *Night*, speak at Chapman University. We are proud of our 35 7th grade students that scored a perfect score at the Nixon Geography Test.

Our Cross Country Team participated in the Knott's Berry Farm 5K Coaster Run with two of our runners finishing in the top three of their age group.

Upcoming events: Bridges, anti-bullying workshops; student vs. staff hockey game; and Our Mother's Day Festival.



Wagner *Elementary*

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



Patrick Brown
Principal

Positive Reflection

As part of our Wagner philosophy strong recognition is given to students who have demonstrated academic achievement or outstanding citizenship. The youngsters who walk onto our Wagner campus come in all shapes and sizes. Each possesses individual strengths as well as personal challenges that must be overcome. Our task is to build an all-star team that will satisfy everyone's individual needs, thus enabling our students to score a "homerun" of academic achievement. During trimester assemblies Wagner honors students who display positive character traits and academic excellence as determined by their classroom teacher.

To honor our students "Pride Cards" can be presented to students at anytime during the day for making good choices and displaying positive citizenship attributes. The cards are entered into drawings for the right to keep an "Outstanding wildcat" trophy on his/her classroom desk until the next drawing. Additionally, the principal walks through classrooms looking for clean desks and students who have turned in all of the assigned homework. Students often receive special certificates for a variety of entertainment and eating local restaurants. Most likely the most influential recognition comes from the simple verbal recognition by school personnel to our wonderful students for doing what is right.

Valencia *High School*

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



Jim Bell
Principal

A Pipeline to the Top Universities

It is primarily during the months of April and May that high school seniors throughout the nation discover whether or not they have been accepted to their "college(s) of choice." Once again, Valencia's seniors were not disappointed and the final results have yet to be tabulated. Valencia will be well represented at Ivy League schools with Tigers being accepted to Harvard, Yale, Penn, and Columbia. Even more impressive will be Valencia's representation at the top "tech" Universities in the nation. Valencia has two seniors accepted to MIT and another three to Cal Tech. Valencia will likely have a senior, a junior, a sophomore, and two freshmen attending MIT next year. Unprecedented at Valencia, are the three seniors accepted to Stanford. In addition, Valencia has three seniors accepted to Johns Hopkins, two to Duke, and three to Harvey Mudd. The University of Southern California will be the destination of up to sixteen Tigers next year. At this writing, many seniors are still waiting to hear from the University of California's nine campuses. However, Valencia class of 2011 will be well-represented at the University of California's two flagship campuses: Seventeen Tigers have been accepted to U.C. Berkley and 20 to U.C.L.A.

Valencia's highly successful, challenging academic programs including 25 Advanced Placement courses, 18 International Baccalaureate courses and 20 Val Tech courses have provided Valencia's students a pipeline to the top universities in the nation.

On another note, Valencia's International Chemistry Olympiad Team, coached by Brent Shenton, recently finished first among 31 Orange County high schools including Troy, University, and Oxford Academy.

Van Buren *Elementary*

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



Ken Valburg
Principal

S.T.A.R.S.

At Van Buren Elementary School our students shine like S.T.A.R.S. So what does S.T.A.R.S. stand for? Those initials stand for Van Buren's school-wide expectations: Safe, There & Ready, Act Responsibly, Respect, and Show Compassion. This year, our staff has participated in training about a behavioral framework called Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to develop a structure for our school to create a positive learning environment for all students. We will kick off the 2011-12 school year with lessons taught by each teacher to their class about these qualities in various locations on our campus including the classroom, hallways, playground, bathroom, lunch area and multipurpose room. We have also devel-



Van Buren students are There & Ready!

oped a system of rewards and consequences that are consistently used throughout the school. We want our students to know and understand that rewards, consequences and enforcement of our school-wide expectations are predictable, consistent and positive.

Woodsboro *Elementary*

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



Phil Hergenreder
Principal

Fun and Learning

Woodsboro Elementary School students have demonstrated their love of reading by nearing their goal of two million pages in the PTA-sponsored "We're Going Bananas for Books" literacy program. A special assembly that they are sure to enjoy is scheduled in recognition of this achievement. Contributing to this effort was a hugely successful Dads and Donuts event. This day had the multi-purpose room and library filled with dads enjoying donuts, reading with their children, and visiting with other dads.

The Imagination Machine returned to perform stories submitted to them by the students. The student authors were delighted to be recognized in front of their peers. These assemblies help to support writing as one of our school-wide focus areas. History came alive in fourth through sixth grades as students participated in the interactive Walk Through California, American Revolution, and Ancient Civilizations programs. Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students worked hard on their mock trials of a variety of fables and fairy tales, and the jury's findings were often surprising. The school musical, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," was performed to sold-out audiences at the Curtis Theater in Brea.

Coming soon is the next Family Picnic Day. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family friends are invited to bring a lunch and join their special students during their lunch time for a picnic out on the grass. Finally, students in kindergarten through fourth grade are eagerly rehearsing for their vocal music performance at the upcoming Concert in the Meadows.

As always, Woodsboro has been a beehive of activity, and everyone is looking forward to an equally busy end of the school year.

Yorba Linda *Middle School*

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



James Hardin
Principal

Enrichment and Support

At Yorba Linda Middle School (YLMS), we want to ensure that all students are provided with maximum opportunity to succeed. Educational research supports our efforts in providing time within the school day for students to receive this additional academic support. Choices of enrichment opportunities and schedules of mandatory tutorials are published on the YLMS Web site and posted throughout the school.

We are proud to announce that Academic Enrichment and Support (ACES) period continues to provide our students with extra time to supplement what they are doing in their daily classes. The academic enrichment activities offer a menu of choices of small-group learning experience that are not feasible in the larger classroom setting. These activities include special science labs, history simulations, language-arts writing conferences, math projects, and sports intramurals. These enrichment tutorials are offered to extend our students' learning beyond the levels in their current classes. Our students may also have the opportunity to take part in test review sessions, directed study halls, guided homework time, and test, lab, or home-work make-up.

The academic support activities support our students who need to increase proficiency levels on benchmark assessments, raise class grades, or improve assignment and project completion. These students are assigned a mandatory tutorial session by their regular classroom teachers, who also conduct the support sessions.

Meeting the individual needs of all our students is what we are all about.

Yorba Linda *High School*

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

Dave Flynn, Principal

No Article This Issue

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Dennis Smith

The district's success is largely due to clear and precise district-wide goals established by the Board of Education at the start of each academic year. Specifically, two of those goals for the 2010-2011 school year were to:

1. Increase the number of AP courses offered at high schools; and
2. Challenge students to meet their highest potential regardless of school or classroom.

To check progress in achieving these goals, the district annually produces an end-of-the-year Monitoring Report to inform the Board of Education. The reports are available on the school district's website at www.pylusd.org.

As always, success is only achieved when people work toward a unified goal. I applaud our teachers for stepping forward to teach these rigorous courses and students for dedicating themselves to achieving success. Together, we are unstoppable!

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Learn the Warning Signs, Rate Your Child's Learning Strengths & Weaknesses

Write a number (0-4) in each bubble area () to complete the statement: Compared to kids the same age and gender, this behavior occurs _____ in my son/daughter.

0) less often OR doesn't apply to the age of this person
1) at about the same frequency
2) slightly more
3) considerably more
4) significantly more

- | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Distracted by other activities. | | | | | | |
| 2. Reading is slow. | | | | | | |
| 3. Poor reading comprehension. | | | | | | |
| 4. Often asks to have things repeated. | | | | | | |
| 5. Misreads similar words. | | | | | | |
| 6. Difficulty understanding stories or jokes. | | | | | | |
| 7. Has difficulty maintaining attention. | | | | | | |
| 8. Slow, deliberate speech. | | | | | | |
| 9. Many spelling errors in written assignments. | | | | | | |
| 10. Needs to look multiple times when copying. | | | | | | |
| 11. Jigsaw puzzles are difficult or avoided. | | | | | | |
| 12. Takes a while to catch on to new things. | | | | | | |
| 13. Has difficulty organizing activities. | | | | | | |
| 14. Takes a long time to complete tasks. | | | | | | |
| 15. Oral reading is slow or choppy. | | | | | | |
| 16. Difficulty following verbal directions. | | | | | | |
| 17. Poor at or dislikes drawing. | | | | | | |
| 18. Doesn't like card games. | | | | | | |
| 19. Is impulsive. | | | | | | |
| 20. Writing assignments take a long time. | | | | | | |
| 21. Has difficulty sounding out unknown words. | | | | | | |
| 21. Has difficulty recalling stories and jokes. | | | | | | |
| 23. Has difficulty with math word problems. | | | | | | |
| 24. Has problems seeing the big picture. | | | | | | |

TOTAL EACH COLUMN

AT PS AP ME VP LR

Total each column at the bottom. These represent an indicator score for six essential mental skill areas:
Attention (AT), Processing Speed (PS), Auditory Processing (AP), Memory (ME), Visual Processing (VP), and Logic and Reasoning (LR)

A SCORE OF:

5 or below suggests normal range in that skill set
6 or 7 indicates a possible weakness in those skills
8 or 9 suggests a likely weakness
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