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School News

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Covering the Vista Unified School District

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FEBRUARY–APRIL 2016

Vista School District Celebrates 100 Years

By Devin Vodicka, Ed.D., Superintendent

In 1916 three separate schools united to form a new school district--Vista School District--with a total of 60 students and three teachers. 100 years later, we are now a much larger school district with over 22,000 students and more than 2,000 employees. While we have an eye to the future and we strive to achieve our vision to be the model of educational excellence and innovation, we should also recognize the wonderful history that has helped to position us for success.



Vista School (1914)

With that in mind, here are some facts that we have learned about the development of our district:

- The three original schools combined into one site in the early 1920s after building a new campus for \$8,000.
- Vista became a “Unified” school district when it added a high school in 1936. Previously students had attended high school at Oceanside-Carlsbad High.
- Our oldest remaining school, now called Vista Academy, was originally called Santa Fe Elementary and was built in 1950 with room for 1500 students. At that time it was believed that this large school would accommodate all future growth.



Santa Fe Elementary School (1950)

We will be organizing events to celebrate 100 years of the Vista School District. Please check our website (www.vistausd.org) for details.

Your Voice Counts

By Matt Doyle, Ed.D., Executive Director

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), which we call the Blueprint for Educational Excellence and Innovation, is moving into the annual revision cycle between January and April 2016. During this time, a host of LCAP community forums have been scheduled to review the current progress on goals, actions and services and gather feedback on how to continue to refine supports for all students, with a particular focus on supporting achievement for students who are economically disadvantaged, English learners and foster youth.

Your voice counts in this process. The LCAP Community Forums will be held at the Morris B. Vance Community Center on 200 Civic Center Drive from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on January 13, February 3, March 9, and May 11, 2016.

For more information, www.vistausd.org/blueprint.



Digital Innovation in Learning Award

By Lisa Kiess- 6-12 English/ELA, Content Support Resource Teacher

Rancho Minerva Middle School recently won the Digital Innovation in Learning Award for transforming a Staff Development Day into a community building event by visiting families in the local neighborhoods. The visits fostered a “parents as partners in education” relationship with the faculty and principal, Benjamin Gaines. During the neighborhood visits, the faculty and student storytellers used IPADS to document the community outreach event. The team at RMMS felt it was essential to spend time getting to know the families and challenging parents to have an active role in their child’s learning experience. Rancho Minerva is committed to overcoming the gaps that separate parents from their school, and the results of their commitment are apparent. More parents are volunteering on campus helping to bridge the parent divide. Principal Gaines would like to thank the school faculty for their unwavering dedication to the RMMS students.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year! By now your year is well underway and the students are focused on their goals... and on Spring Break!

This is our 4th Anniversary publishing the excellence from the VUSD. Congratulations to the District celebrating 100 years! There have been many changes during those years, but the one constant is a quality education for every student.

This issue includes many topics from community service, technology in the classroom, the importance of parent involvement and much more. Thank you for reading *School News* and enjoy!

Our next issue is May 11 just in time to congratulate the graduates.

City of Vista Office of the Mayor

200 Civic Center Drive, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-1340 • www.cityofvista.com

Happy New Year



Judy Ritter
Mayor

I wish our VUSD students and their families a happy, healthy and successful 2016. I hope this New Year brings renewed continued prosperity to our country, state and especially to our city and schools. As we begin 2016, I look forward to the exciting challenges the year ahead will bring to Vista and especially to our senior high students.

Because I've been involved in the fitness business for many years and have experienced the positive effects a healthy lifestyle creates, near to my heart is the health of our residents and our students. We've made great strides in investing in healthier and active lifestyles options for Vista residents this past year. Open for a year now, the new Linda Rhoades Neighborhood Center is providing recreational and cultural opportunities such as exercise, sports, and teen programs to those in the community who may not otherwise have had access to them. Construction on the two new skate parks will begin soon with the completion by the end of this year. I am also pleased we have major renovations taking place at the local neighborhood parks. \$8 million has been invested in renovating, retrofitting, and upgrading our 13 city parks. As the spring time approaches, I hope you are able to enjoy the outdoors and our City's upgraded facilities with your family and friends. As always, please feel free to contact me at info@cityofvista.com with any suggestions about our City.

Vista Chamber of Commerce

127 Main St., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-1122 • www.VistaChamber.org

Vista is Going Around,....and About!

By Bret Schanzenbach, Chief Executive Officer

Wikipedia describes a "roundabout" as a *type of circular intersection in which road traffic flows almost continuously in one direction around a central island*. While this traffic concept is not new, it is still something that is only sparingly utilized in our county. Vista, however, is about to join the ranks of those cities that will be employing this traffic flow strategy as the construction on *Paseo Santa Fe* (a stretch of *S. Santa Fe Ave.* right in front of Pepper Tree Frosty) comes to a conclusion.

The concept of a roundabout is to keep traffic flowing without utilizing stop signs and traffic signals. While this concept sounds good, the reality is that roundabouts are frequently met with enormous skepticism by local residents (picture the Griswolds in *European Vacations*).

I, however, disagree with the naysayers. The Chamber has advocated for many years that we need to "create" an expanded downtown area that is traffic calmed, caters to pedestrians and is a destination-driven area instead of thoroughfare. This is exactly the intent of these changes.

Downtown Vista has definitely come to life over the past ten years. And now, developments are stretching that momentum away from the confines of Main Street, to finally include *Paseo Santa Fe*.

I hope you give the new roundabout a try. Whether you like it or not, I do guarantee you one thing: It will not be the last one in Vista. I hope the Griswolds don't have any Vista Vacation plans.

Viva Vista.

Vista Education Foundation

236 E. Broadway, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-8268 • www.vistaedfoundation.org



PTA Rocks!

By Brad Peterson, President

The Monte Vista PTA is a dedicated group of individuals committed to improving the educational experience of every student. Without our dedicated PTA president Clay Colton, the executive board members, parents, staff members and community members, we could not offer our students many of the outstanding programs that we do.

Thanks to the PTA, students in transitional kindergarten through first grade enjoy weekly dance/movement classes. Students in second through fourth grades participate in weekly Show Choir sessions, and fifth-graders enjoy a weekly financial literacy class and field trip to BizTown. PTA also sponsors activities beyond the school day, including instrumental band lessons, Scrabble Club and Track Team. We are thrilled with our new running club, which serves over 100 students. Our PTA enhances daily instruction as well by funding field trips and assemblies. By funding the purchase of an incentive-charms system, the PTA also helps to build student morale and school engagement.

PTA-sponsored events keep our community connected and build school and family relationships. Each year, the PTA sponsors events such as the Fall Festival, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Night, Winter Concert and Spaghetti Dinner, Scholastic Book Fair, Penguin Patch and Staff Appreciation Week activities, just to name a few.

If all of this weren't already amazing, these dedicated parent and community volunteers work with students in the classrooms, chaperone field trips, and complete work at home for teachers. We are particularly excited that the PTA has agreed to help fund a MakerLab for the 2016-17 school year!



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Every Child, One Voice

By Joe Green, President

On Wednesday, January 13 we held a district-wide PTA training. This training was attended by over 30 PTA parents in our district. There was standing room only! Sessions were led by Beth Bacting, President of the 9th District PTA; Sue King, former California State PTA Parliamentarian; Joe Green, DNC President; Julie Kelly, DNC Secretary; and Lisa Deju, DNC Treasurer. Our community liaisons were instrumental in the success of this event. Wavecrest Cafe provided breakfast and cold water. This is a great example of the increase in parent collaboration and participation in our district. Our mission at PTA is "Every Child, One Voice." Thank you Vista for being amazing! I'm looking forward to a great 2016.



Alamosa Park *Elementary*

5130 Alamosa Park Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/940-0700 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Kyle Ruggles
Principal

Service to the Community

Alamosa Park Elementary School (APE) is proud of our community service projects. APE recently developed a partnership in support of children with special hearts—the Healthy Hawks for Healthy Hearts campaign. This project provided learning opportunities for students to explore the importance of heart health while raising lifesaving donations. During our morning assembly on October 16, APE students, parents, and staff participated in jumping rope to various songs, raising \$11,000 for cardiovascular research and \$500 for new APE fitness equipment.

On the morning of Thanksgiving, with the slogan "Move Your Feet Before You Eat," APE students, families, and alumni flocked to the Oceanside Turkey Trot and raised funds for our school. Mrs. Baylon, a third-grade teacher, coordinated and participated in the event, holding the APE Hawks sign throughout the race. As a result of community efforts, the APE Hawks comprised the second highest number of identified, sponsored participants.

Also in November, thanks to contributions of canned food from our families and the organizational efforts of our parent liaison, Mrs. Holguin, APE created a community pantry to support and serve our community. On November 14, the APE Educational Foundation hosted the Third Annual Community Rummage Sale benefitting APE. Parents brought in and sold various items to those who visited our beautiful campus. It was a wonderful event for the entire community.

In December, our Student Council Toy Drive netted a truckload of unwrapped gifts for children at Rady's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House. Each of these events corresponded well with our Pillars of Character, our whole-child approach to education, and our quest to become the premier school in health, character, and achievement.

We greatly appreciate the generous support of our community for interest and involvement in each of these community service projects. Nice job, Hawks!

Career Technical Education

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • www.ctevista.org



CTE Month

CTE Month® is an annual event held in February to celebrate Career Technical Education and the achievements and accomplishments of programs from across the country. CTE Month 2016, with its theme of "Opportunities for Career Success" gives our CTE programs the chance to tell the stories of leadership and excellence from our community and raise awareness of the crucial role that CTE has in readying our nation students for careers and our nation for economic success. Please join us in celebrating our dedicated teachers and our stellar CTE

programs across the district. Look for tweets @SusieCTE to see snippets of CTE teachers and students in action. Watch our local papers for articles on what is happening in our programs to help students be college and career ready.

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Alta Vista *High School*

1575 Bonair Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-3775 • www.vistausd.org



Mike Sterner
Principal

Students Care

At Alta Vista, the Peer Leadership class decided that they wanted to sponsor 7 families for the holidays. They asked the teachers and staff to submit names, and they collected the donated food items to be delivered. The class packed the boxes with food, and also gave gift certificates that were donated by staff. It was a team effort by all! The students gave back to their community, and the staff was able to help people in need. Just another example of how Alta Vista cares about their community!! Great job everyone!



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Beaumont *Elementary*

550 Beaumont Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-4040 • www.vistausd.org



David Moore
Principal

Bring Up Grades

Celebrating our students' success is a cornerstone at Beaumont Elementary. The fun is extra special when our Vista Kiwanis join us in our celebration. We were honored to have our Vista Kiwanis honor

our students with the B.U.G. Awards in our assembly on January 13th. The Bring Up Grades Awards celebrated the students who are working hard to bring up their grades in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Nearly 100 of our 3rd through 5th graders had the honor of receiving the B.U.G. Award. As we all know, it takes a community to educate our students. Having the Vista Kiwanis celebrate student success is representative of the dedication our Vista community has for our students.



Bobier *Elementary*

220 W. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8501 • www.vistausd.org



Jenifer Golden
Principal

GREAT Programs!

Parent support and education programs are ongoing at Bobier Elementary. Our community liaison, Nancy Ramirez, teaches parent technology classes every Friday morning, focusing on using everyday technology. Classes begin with the basics of turning on a computer, moving on to e-mailing, attaching documents, and applying for employment online. In addition, we offer Vista Community Clinic (VCC) Bright Future for Kids workshops, where parents learn about children's developmental milestones, creating routines, resources and healthy patterns.

Parent attendance is high at each of these events, and our parents have shared that they are excited to learn new ways to support their children's success in school.

Our Bobier fifth-grade students have proudly completed the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program. Through the support of the City of Vista and our local sheriff's department, our students participate in a series of 12 weekly lessons designed to support them as they "Choose to Be GREAT." Through small groups, brainstorming, large groups and role playing, our students are learning and practicing the skills and behaviors that make it easier to resist and avoid negative influences in their lives.

Our students shared the most important things they learned from the program, and their most frequent responses were "I learned how to make good decisions and good friends; how to be calm when you get angry; many ways to keep myself out of serious trouble or any kind of conflict; to *not* join a gang, as it will harm your future; refusal skills; how to avoid drugs and bad company; and not be afraid to say no. If you want your life to be better, just say no and mean it. If you need help, ask a trusted adult."

And, "to make smart choices that make me GREAT."

Thank you for reading *School News!*

Breeze Hill *Elementary*

1111 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92081 • 760/945-2373 • www.vistausd.org



Rachel Jaus
Principal

Math Academy of Excellence

Breeze Hill is hosting a Math Academy of Excellence for all students in grades 3-5 during the months of January, February, and March. Staff identified research-based instructional strategies and resources to utilize during a one hour after school math academy three days a week. Students will receive instruction in math computation, problem solving, and mathematical reasoning. The integration of collaborative activities and technology will provide the engagement and motivation students need to hone their mathematical skills.

Staff and students are diligently working toward meeting and exceeding all standards in preparation for our end of the year CAASPP SBAC Summative results in mathematics.



California Avenue

215 W. California Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-4870 • www.vistausd.org



Rachel Schmidt
Principal

Technology in the Classroom

Students at California Avenue School are excited to access the new technology and devices recently infused into their school program. Children in both our preschool and elementary classrooms are exposed to a variety of devices and tools to support their learning. The school team is careful to choose devices and programs that are developmentally appropriate, address the learning standards, and are both fun and motivating for our youngest learners.

The newly renovated student computer lab includes a variety of computers, electronic tablets, and programs to meet the varied needs of all our students. Tables that rotate up and down accommodate our students who require wheelchairs or other modified seating. A large screen monitor supports students with significant visual impairment. Modified keyboards are available for students with fine-motor challenges.

An interactive touch-screen table, designed specifically for preschool students, allows multiple students to collaborate and play games designed to improve their social-emotional skills. Embedded into the technology are tools for teachers to collect data on each student's progress and interactions.

In each classroom, electronic tablets are available for students to access a variety of applications to develop reading, math, and handwriting skills, as well as other domains. Students who share tablets learn important social skills, such as waiting their turn, encouraging one another, and sharing ideas.

Empresa *Elementary*

4850 Avenida Empresa, Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-8454 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Cheree McKean
Principal

Learning About Different Cultures

By Mrs. Holt's Fifth-Grade Class

The fifth-grade at Empresa held a shoe drive in January to raise money for The Emiliani Project. We donated 1,800 pairs of shoes to Shoes with Heart, which pays you for every pound. The shoes are sent to developing countries, and the money raised will be given to The Emiliani Project.

The Emiliani Project is a charity that helps orphaned children in Colombia. Chuck Navarette, the co-founder of the charity, says, "We are in the process of building a home for 170 kids." They hope to help at-risk children live happier lives.

Mrs. Holt's fifth-grade class has been pen pals with some Colombian children this year. The purpose of writing to each other is to learn about each other's cultures and way of life. Thanks to The Emiliani Project, we can help others across the globe.

Please visit www.emilianiproject.org and www.shoeswithheart.com for more information.



Fifth students reach out to help others.

Casita Center *Elementary*

260 Cedar Rd., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-8442 • www.vistausd.org



Laura Smith
Principal

Innovative Learning Spaces

Should students sit still all day, or should they be allowed to move while they learn?

We at Casita vote move! It's our belief that movement awakens many of our mental capacities. Brain research has shown that movement can integrate and anchor new information and experiences into our neural networks.

Teachers at Casita Center are currently experimenting with kinesthetic classroom furniture. We recently purchased ergonomic stools with a convex base that allow students to move in all directions and engage their core muscles while seated. The children can rock, twist, turn, wiggle, and not disrupt each other! Soon, each K-5 classroom will have four to six of these stools.

We have also discovered that many of our students prefer to stand while working, and so we are offering a standing-desk option. Research shows that students who stand can burn 32 percent more calories, and are more alert and attentive.

Many students like to sit on the floor, and so we have also purchased air-filled accordion seat cushions that mimic a stability ball. The students can sit at lowered desks, or use clipboards while working on the floor.

Our first-grade classes will soon be piloting pedal seats. Two classes will have half-moon desks with five pedal seats, while two classrooms will have two pedal stools. We are also providing stability balls in stationary bases in grades three to five.

Our risk-taking teachers are providing flexible classroom environments where students can experience a variety of options instead of being assigned to the same stationary seat all day.

Foothill Oak *Elementary*

1370 Oak Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-3458 • www.vistausd.org



Sandra Ceja
Principal

Some Great Students

In collaboration with the City of Vista and Foothill Oak staff members, our Foothill Oak fifth-graders recently celebrated their graduation from a 13-week "GREAT" course that was conducted by the Vista Sheriff's Department. The students participated in weekly life-skill lessons taught by GREAT-certified employees, and which were designed to enhance positive citizenship, prevent youth violence, and develop positive relationships with law enforcement.

The graduates were presented with medals, T-shirts, and certificates by Deputy Mayor Amanda Rigby, VGRIP Grant Coordinator Cheryl Mast, and the Vista Sheriff's team of course instructors.

As part of the course, our students designed community projects that were based upon their own passions and concerns. These showcased projects included fund-raising to support physical education programs, environmental awareness to remove litter from a neighboring street; and a social story designed to bring awareness about the harms of drug use.

Our fourth-grade students also participated in a six-week GREAT curriculum that was designed to advance towards the fifth-grade curriculum. As a result, our students now demonstrate a greater ability to analyze the impact of negative choices and develop positive solutions.

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Grapevine *Elementary*

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Rafael Olavide
Principal

Creativity in Action

Grapevine Elementary School recently opened the doors to innovation through a makers' lab, a magical place where learning and creativity abound. Students work on projects and have free reign to use any of the wide variety of materials in the room.

We collaborated with other schools for ideas and reached out to parents and local community partners for donations. A local market donated shopping carts full of supplies that students are using to design and innovate.



Teachers Kristi Gann, Rebecca Tartre, and Maria Florin volunteered their time after school and on the weekends to make this dream a reality. Teachers now bring their classes in and pose an experimental problem or relate a constructive project to content the students are learning in class.

Students have blossomed as young engineers in this lab, and we see real-world problem solving, authentic collaboration, and creativity in action.

Lake *Elementary*

4950 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/945-5300 • www.vistausd.org



Krista Berntsen
Principal

Apex Fun Run

For two weeks, an enthusiastic team from Apex was at Lake School teaching our students about leadership and character. Each day the students received a mini-lesson on the five ways to be on the "DREAM Team." They are: "Dive in, be Resourceful, Elevate others, do an Attitude check, and Make a difference."

During the two weeks that led up to the Fun Run, our students were recognized and honored for the different ways that they showed how they were ready for the Team. When the big day finally came in October, each grade level got to run on its own small track on the field. The students jogged and walked as many laps as they could complete in their run time. Lake's top runners ran almost four miles!

We are so proud of the students who chose to "Dive In." Every student gave their best effort. A big thank-you goes to our PTA for making this event happen!



Hannalei *Elementary*

120 Hannalei Dr., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6248 • www.vistausd.org



Tracy Zachry
Principal

Parent Involvement On the Increase

We are very proud of our parent involvement at Hannalei!

Our school recently had around 100 parents graduate from an eight-week course presented by Dr. Villarreal. The group learned about topics like gangs, consequences, self-esteem, how to help your child become successful in school, and more.

We also have parents volunteering in classrooms, interacting with our playground Friday Games, chaperoning field trips, participating in PTA events or special projects, and attending our Friday Flag Ceremonies. Our active parent nights have also increased our volunteer numbers, as well as our connection with the community.

With this increased parental support, we have also seen an increase in our students' daily attendance, and an increase in student reading scores.

As we become a school district of "Innovation and Educational Excellence," we are proud that our parents are working side-by-side to support their children and our district mission. Thank you, Hannalei families, for your support!



Madison *Middle School*

4930 Lake Blvd., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/940-0176 • www.vistausd.org



Susan Ford
Principal

Outside the Classroom

This year, our students are gaining real-world experience in the community and making connections to their learning at school. Marine biology classes are participating in a sea camp experience and will bring their learning back to the classroom with new understanding of how science relates to their lives.

Students in our new elective, Character Leaders, are learning about leadership, conflict resolution, and the value of community service. Recently, several students volunteered at Operation Hope Vista, helping children to make valentines while their parents participated in a class.

Our Natural High Club students led a lunchtime activity for to make mitten crafts with holiday messages. Students took the mittens to an assisted living

facility the following day and presented them to the residents. Students brought musical instruments and played Christmas carols and invited the residents to sing along.

Our students are benefiting from learning about their community outside of the classroom.



Mission Meadows *Elementary*

5657 Spur Ave., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/630-7884 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Bill Porter
Principal

Math Mania Club

During the fall, Mission Meadows fourth- and fifth-grade students had an amazing opportunity to experience hands-on math learning in an after-school Math Mania club designed by Tera Cafro, a Mission Vista High School senior who is working toward her Girl Scout Gold award. Each Thursday afternoon for approximately 10 sessions, Tera met with approximately 25 students and shared her excitement and enthusiasm for math by helping students approach it from multiple pathways in order to develop a broader appreciation to thinking about math as viewed through the lens of a high school student.

Tera felt compelled to offer her program because as a young child, she herself attended Mission Meadows, where her math passion began. The after-school Math Mania club would not have taken place without the collaboration of many people. We thank the Mission Meadows PTA, office staff, parent volunteers and teachers for their support.



Maryland *Elementary*

700 North Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/631-6675 • www.vistausd.org



Carol LaBreche
Principal

Traditions Around the World

This holiday season, families again converged on Maryland Elementary for a Traditions Around the World celebration. Families and students were treated to student performances and displays from a variety of cultures.

Songs from Mexico, Hawaii, Australia and Germany were featured. After the performances, students “visited” each country or state and learned about some of the cultural traditions. At the display for Mexico, traditional garments were displayed along with art created by the first-grade students.

The event was conceived to build school and family relationships. Gates were opened to make everyone feel welcome, and parents were encouraged to be a part of the school community. Everyone was pleased with the tremendous turnout as parents came by the hundreds to enjoy the event. There are plans to grow and improve the event every year and to continue to develop the partnership with parents.



Mission Vista *High School*

1306 Melrose Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/758-6800 • www.vistausd.org



Nicole Miller
Principal

Great Accomplishments

With the beginning of the spring term at Mission Vista High School, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all of the accomplishments in the fall.

The release of the first Smarter Balanced Assessment data indicated that our students were scoring at the top of the county for English, with math not far behind. We had athletes and teams participate in CIF post-season competitions in cross country, girls' golf, field hockey and girls' volleyball. We hope to continue the trend through the winter season.

Our fall play, *The Triangle Factory Fire Project*, was recognized by the California Educational Theatre Association, and our students were asked to perform it in its entirety at the CETA Annual Conference. Academically, we celebrated over 400 students earning a 4.0 or higher GPA in the previous term and were thrilled that over 50 percent of our students are enrolled in honors and Advanced Placement courses. We continue to add courses and programs for our students, including 3-D Design, AP Human Geography, Spanish 4 and Aerospace Engineering.

Students and faculty began planning two events for the spring term. MVHS will host one of the first high school Ted-X Talks, and we will be working with an Oscar-winning documentarian and *New York Times* best-selling author for a student discussion on *Lincoln's Greatest Speech*.

Monte Vista *Elementary*

1720 Monte Vista Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-0410 • www.vistausd.org



Charlene Smith
Principal

PTA Rocks!

The Monte Vista PTA is a dedicated group of individuals committed to improving the educational experience of every student. Without our dedicated PTA president Clay Colton, the executive board members, parents, staff members and community members, we could not offer our students many of the outstanding programs that we do.

Thanks to the PTA, students in transitional kindergarten through first grade enjoy weekly dance/movement classes.

Students in second through fourth grades participate in weekly Show Choir sessions, and fifth-graders enjoy a weekly financial literacy class and field trip to BizTown. PTA also sponsors activities beyond the school day, including instrumental band lessons, Scrabble Club and Track Team. We are thrilled with our new running club, which serves over 100 students. Our PTA enhances daily instruction as well by funding field trips and assemblies. By funding the purchase of an incentive-charms system, the PTA also helps to build student morale and school engagement.

PTA-sponsored events keep our community connected and build school and family relationships. Each year, the PTA sponsors events such as the Fall Festival, Father-Daughter Dance, Mother-Son Night, Winter Concert and Spaghetti Dinner, Scholastic Book Fair, Penguin Patch and Staff Appreciation Week activities, just to name a few.

If all of this weren't already amazing, these dedicated parent and community volunteers work with students in the classrooms, chaperone field trips, and complete work at home for teachers. We are particularly excited that the PTA has agreed to help fund a MakerLab for the 2016–17 school year!

Olive *Elementary*

836 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-7129 • www.vistausd.org



Stephanie Vasquez
Principal

Vacation on Mars

Cinch up your asteroid belt! In January, Olive Elementary School blasted off into outer space as our third-graders performed "Vacation on Mars," written by Ron Fink and John Heath. This performance was a celebration of third-grade learning, marking the culmination of research on the planets of the solar system.

This out-of-this-world adventure focused on a family (played by Apri Arcos, Reik Flores, Emily Mora, and Jacob Banfield) who wanted to take a vacation to Mars. The family ended up traveling with a tour group (played by Gabriela Maldonado, Gabriel Torres Gonzalez, and Eric Mercado). But the trip was filled with funny mishaps. As the family was headed to Mars, the transponder broke on their teleportation machine. This malfunction sent all of them—and our audience—on the adventure of a lifetime. The family traveled to each planet of the solar system, which came to life as the students acted, sang, danced, and shared facts about each planet. Normally our sun (played by Tan Nguyen) is used to being at center stage. But in this play, even the planets got to be stars!

While on stage, Jupiter (played by Carla Zepada) boasted about her 16 moons, Saturn (played by Charlie Hernandez) polished his Rings (played by Keira Salinas), and Venus (played by Ramon Garcia) shared through song about how hot this planet is—900 degrees!

The travelers never really made it to Mars, but the transponder finally was fixed by the mechanics (played by Dijon Hollis and Kimberly Aguilar), and the tour group and family returned safely from their travels back to Earth (played by Anahi Rebolgar). It was a stellar experience for all involved!

Murray *High School*

215 N. Melrose, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-2502 • www.vistausd.org



Chuck Hoover
Principal

A New Experience

Annually Murray students take a challenge at the Maritime Museum in downtown San Diego. Students experience new activities, experiences that are out of reach physically and emotionally for most of them. By making the 100+ ton ships available to the students, the Museum guides the students through activities such as climbing in the jibboom netting of the topsail schooner Californian, rolling in the dark along the bottom of the hold of the 200+ foot long barque Star of India, rowing a rowboat against the wind that requires 10 or 12 rowers working in tandem, and helping to actually set sails and sail the Californian.

The personal experience and teamwork required in accomplishing these feats builds confidence and strength of character in the Murray students in a way that few people have the chance to do. Most Murray students do not get to even see downtown San Diego from the water side, but these students get to see it while actually sailing a 100 ton topsail schooner. As the students say, "It's legit."



Rancho Buena Vista *High School*

1601 Longhorn Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/727-7284 • www.vistausd.org



Chuck Schindler
Principal

A Well-Rounded Education

The arts have been very active at Rancho Buena Vista High School (RBV) this fall, giving our students the opportunity to showcase their talents and extend their artistic expression. Our drama productions of "The Trojan Women by Euripides" and "Elf, Jr." were spectacular, with "Elf, Jr." completing four matinees for many district elementary students this year. The RBV Marching Band and Color Guard performed in the state marching band competition and earned seventh place this year.

In addition to our visual and performing arts offerings at RBV, our stellar Career Technical Education program includes courses in graphic design, television and film, and photographic imaging, all of which produce fantastic student work. Our students are thriving in our new computer science principles and robotics classes. These programs complement our strong academic offerings, which include International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses to prepare students for college and career.

Part of a student's education at RBV is building important character traits. RBV has adopted the Respect the Ranch: Code of Conduct, which emphasizes the traits of responsibility, integrity, and commitment. A different code trait is highlighted each month in the announcements, and staff members nominate students monthly for Respect the Ranch Recognition for exemplifying these character traits. Our Respect the Ranch Code of Conduct reminds students of the meaning and importance of these words, both at school and outside of the school as they interact with the community and prepare for success in college and career.

Through our focus on arts, academics, extracurricular choices, and the Respect the Ranch Code, all Longhorns will have the opportunity for a well-rounded education.

Rancho Minerva *Middle School*

2245 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/631-4500 • www.vistausd.org



Ben Gaines
Principal

Students are Thriving

Rancho Minerva is on the move and gaining national recognition for the innovative teaching and learning happening. Over the past few months, Rancho Minerva was selected out of over 400 applicants for the Digital Innovation in Learning Awards (DILA). This international distinction is evidence of the innovative learning environment student's experience. In early December, Rancho Minerva was selected and designated as one of 21 schools nationwide to receive the P21.org Exemplar school designation. The word is getting out that Rancho Minerva is a place where students experience 21st Century, technology rich education in a setting where students thrive.



Roosevelt *Middle School*

850 Sagewood Dr., Oceanside, CA 92057 • 760/726-8003 • www.vistausd.org

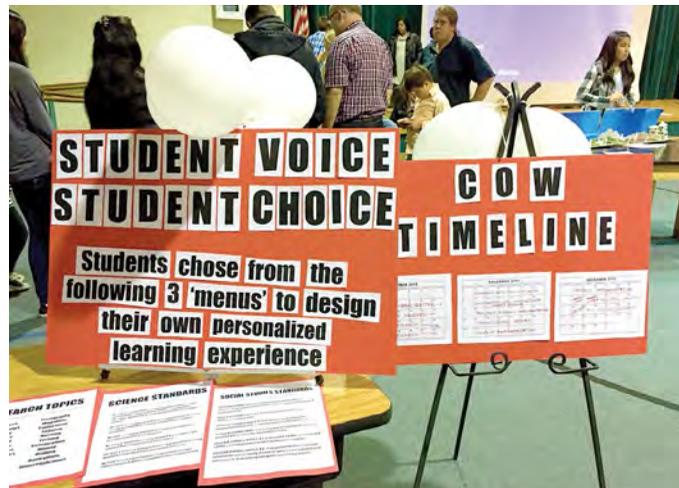


Elise Ochenduszko
Principal

COW-abunga!

RMS participated in the COW Project this fall. COW, a cross-curricular collaborative effort among three middle schools in California, Ohio and Wisconsin, involved seven teachers from these states who united to design and facilitate student learning using the Google platform to communicate and share.

Incorporating the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards, students explored science and social studies content to answer a single guiding question: How do people affect the land, and how does the land affect people? Students selected a topic from a list of 20 with both science and



social studies applications, a NGSS science standard, and a Common Core Literacy standard to incorporate into their projects and then had the freedom to demonstrate their learning in a creative project of their choosing. The results were remarkable.

Learn more by visiting the COW Blog: <https://thecowprojectblog.wordpress.com>. Follow us on Twitter @RooseveltMiddl2 for a snapshot of more of the exciting things happening on our campus.

Temple Heights *Elementary*

1550 Temple Heights Dr., Oceanside, CA 92056 • 760/631-6242 • www.vistausd.org



Kim Morton
Principal

Watchdog Dads Bike Club

Our Watchdog Dads have started an exciting bike club for Temple Heights students. Children have a safe place to work with our volunteer dads to improve their biking skills and learn about bicycle safety. Fifth-graders are preparing to be instructors for younger buddies. They will demonstrate target skills and then help the younger students learn these skills on balance bikes donated by a bicycle manufacturer. When students are ready, they will make the transition to pedal bikes, just like their big buddies.



The goal of the club is to make sure that every student at Temple Heights learns how to ride a bike. Future plans include bike trains to school for those who live close by, bike-club outings to Guajome Park, and annual bike rodeos. This is an awesome opportunity for us to change the lives of students in a unique and innovative way. Thanks, Watchdog Dads!

Vista Academy *of Visual & Performing Arts*

600 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/941-0880 • www.vistausd.org



Catina Hancock
Principal

Putting Education First

Vista Academy is bustling with engaging learning opportunities!

As an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme Candidate School, our students are creative, critical-thinking communicators who grow and prosper in a one-of-a-kind learning environment where children acquire the core academics, and can also engage in visual arts, theatrical productions, dance, and musical performances.

Our Fall Arts Conservatories recently produced and performed a successful and entertaining production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*, including an art show and violin performance. Spring Conservatory groups are also beginning in dance, violin, visual art, and theatre. In a growing partnership with the Escondido Performing Arts Center, Vista Academy was also chosen to participate in a Master's Class, and was gifted with 30 ukuleles!



We recently hosted piano phenomenon Michelle Cann, who performed and answered questions from our aspiring musicians. Vista Academy always puts education on the main stage front and center!

Future students can apply by February 26 for the 2016-2017 school year.

Vista *Adult Transition Center*

325 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/758-3400 • www.vistausd.org



Chris Altona
Principal

Gaining Real-World Experience

While WorkAbility is not unique to VATC, nor to the VUSD, it is nonetheless an integral part of the VATC program. Every student in VATC has at least one goal that involves vocational education and/or work experience. A majority are connected to local businesses and services, providing hands-on support while also learning to maintain employment in real-world settings.

Our WorkAbility grant takes these experiences to a different level. Students earn a subsidized minimum wage of \$10 an hour, and the money they earn helps them learn about budgeting, responsible consumerism, and basic banking skills.

The students at VATC utilize their portion of the VUSD grant to pay for college, get transportation passes, pay for school materials, and purchase personal items and meals. The amount that each student earns is very limited. It is no more than five hours of paid work per week, but the experience of having a financial incentive provides far more value than the actual earnings. This is employment that they can include in resumes – giving them a real-life chance to learn how to interact in the business world.

Currently, VUSD employs three transition specialists. These are classified personnel employees who maintain databases, provide workshops, and act as liaisons with case managers, businesses, administrators, and students; as well as too many other things to enumerate here.

Maria Perez (based at RBV) and Stephen Soderback (based at VHS) were just joined by Tandra Tholl, who is lending support in both offices. Since the grant is renewed annually, these talented staff members have their work cut out for them during the year. It is their job to make sure that all 900+ students with IEPs in the VUSD are made as employable as possible by the time they graduate or “age out” of public education.

VIDA *Vista Innovation & Design Academy*

740 Olive Ave., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-7115 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Eric Chagala
Principal

New Thinkabit Lab

In December, it was announced that a tech-giant corporation would sponsor three middle schools in all of San Diego County to have a Thinkabit Lab replicated on their school campuses. VIDA

was one of the three San Diego middle schools to be gifted \$30,000 to create a part-engineering and part-art-studio lab on campus to support STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math). The corporation selected VIDA for this honor based on the work they had done with students around creativity and engineering in many of their classes.

VIDA will now have three unique labs for student learning experiences on campus. The three labs at VIDA are the Thinkabit Lab, Fab Lab and iStudio. VIDA will open this new lab for the entire community to have engaging engineering and World of Work opportunities for families in the evenings and weekends as well.



Vista *High School*

1 Panther Way, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5611 • www.vistausd.org



Anthony Barela
Principal

Happy New Year!

We are in full swing with the start of the second semester. I wanted to relate some of the highlights from the year thus far. We have a group of over 70 students taking the IB Theory of Knowledge class this semester with the intent to be full International Baccalaureate candidates in 2017. This is the largest IB candidate class in the history of VHS. Continuing to showcase excellence, the VHS marching band finished first in their division for the entire state of California and earned a championship medal! Construction of the stadium is in full swing as we have started with phase II of the project with a completion date set for late May (prior to graduation). Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a wonderful 2016! We Are Vista Everyday!

Vista Magnet *Middle School*

151 Escondido Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/726-5766 • www.vistausd.org



Anne Green
Principal

Real-World Problems—Solved!

Vista Magnet students are tackling local and global issues using the International Baccalaureate Design Cycle of investigation, i.e., identifying a problem and developing a design brief; planning, i.e., designing a product or a solution; creating, i.e., manufacturing a product or a solution; and evaluating, i.e., critiquing the design as they engage in community projects designed to better their communities.

Whether prototyping filtration devices for reducing pollution in our local Batiquitos Lagoon, raising awareness of the dangers of feeding bread crumbs to ducks in Guajome Park, creating a schoolwide Celebration of the Arts, or campaigning for global education for girls, Vipers are putting their energies into service learning, and their energy is palpable. Authentically living the VUSD mission of “persevering as a critically thinking individual who collaborates to solve real-world problems,” Vipers are engaging, achieving, belonging and designing—not to mention having an absolute blast!



Vista Visions *Academy*

305 E. Bobier Dr., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/724-4785 • www.vistausd.org



Dr. Erin English
Principal

Nurturing Creativity and Confidence

Vista Visions Academy is the best-kept secret in Vista. We have small class sizes, a district-supported “charter-like” innovative program, personalized learning opportunities, and supportive parents. Our A–G high school program is accredited and approved by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Students who have graduated from our K–12 academy have been accepted into the best colleges in the country.

One aspect that makes our school so special is the nurturing, bully-free environment we maintain. Our family atmosphere

allows children to learn and thrive under the direction of a highly skilled teaching staff. Our small size allows hands-on learning activities to develop students’ creativity, confidence, and depth of knowledge. Check out our life-size checkers and chess set, which is available to students when they are not in class.

If you would like information about Vista Visions, please visit <https://vva-vistausd-ca.schoolloop.com>.



Vista Adult School

510 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92081 • 760/758-7122 • www.vistaadultschool.org



Liz O'Shea-West
Principal

Never Stop Learning!

Looking to keep those New Year’s resolutions this year? Vista Adult School offers yoga and soul line dancing for those wanting healthier lifestyles. If it’s a desire to improve yourself and your relationships, try a class in journaling or the art of the apology. If you’d like to strengthen the power of your mind or learn self-healing techniques, a class in reiki, self-hypnosis, or keeping your brain stronger for longer may be for you. Perhaps improving your cooking skills or entertaining abilities is on your list? Try one of our fun and delicious Saturday cooking classes, where Chef

Emily offers a trip for your taste buds with cuisine from Thailand, the Middle East, Italy, and Spain. We also offer culinary classes, if you’d like to put your cooking skills to work at a restaurant.

And who hasn’t resolved to be more successful, start a new career, or make more money in the new year? We offer business classes to improve current skills or train you for a new position as an office assistant, administrative assistant, or bookkeeping/accounting technician. You can also take classes to repair, network, and monitor the security of computers with our A+, N+, and S+ courses. If you have a calling to help others in the medical field, we offer courses in medical assisting, medical administration, medical billing/coding, phlebotomy, pharmacy technician, and personal care aide.

Perhaps you had some challenges in high school and didn’t quite complete your education? Come to Vista Adult School and get your General Education Development (GED) certificate or a high school diploma. For those whose resolutions include getting their creative juices flowing, we have art courses in oil painting, watercolor/drawing, concept sketching, and photography.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.vistaadultschool.org. Classes start March 14, because we “never stop learning!”

Under the Sea – Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by **March 15, 2016**.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| ABALONE | CRAB | KRILL |
| ANGELFISH | CUTTLEFISH | LOBSTER |
| BARNACLE | DOLPHIN | PUFFERFISH |
| CLAM | HALIBUT | SPONGE |
| CLOWNFISH | EEL | SQUID |
| CORAL | FUGU | ZOOPLANKTON |



Congratulations to **Erika Runnels**
Winner of the November Contest!

Not Accepted to Your Dream School?



Susan D. Marshall

After the shock and disappointment fades there is a hidden secret many discover.

Did you know with a little work you can go to any college you want to? Pick a college, then work backwards. Sure you may have been rejected once, maybe twice, but that shouldn't keep you from taking classes there.

Look online. Many times there are online courses even degree programs available from your dream school. There are countless stories of students starting their degree online and finishing on campus.

Consider a transfer program. Many community colleges have transfer agreements and alliances with Universities. Find a transfer program that gets you where you want to go.

Look into extension programs offered by your dream college or through your community college. They may not be well advertised, but may be perfect for your situation. Two of my children discovered these programs unexpectedly. Although completely different programs; each program offered benefits that couldn't have been a better fit.

My daughter graduated after discovering the Pepperdine Graziadio School of Business and Management. The program she selected allowed her to work full time, attend classes in the evenings and on the weekends and offered a MJB option. Many of the students in her courses were already CEO's and business executives.

My son who always dreamed of and is now a commercial pilot, began attending MT. SAC; a community college. He discovered that he could attend classes on the Mt. San Antonio College campus every other Saturday and graduate within four years with a Bachelors in Business Management/Aviation Management from University of Southern Illinois.

Hidden treasures that may be just perfect for you.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

A Bit of History

Music to the Ears

By D.H. Coop

I do not know exactly when music became important to me. It may have been on the ride in the car back from Valley Forge in 1949 with my mother, uncle, aunt and grandparents singing "Home on the Range." Or it may have been the radio shows of the day, such as *The Lone Ranger*, whose theme was from the *William Tell Overture*, or *The Green Hornet* and the theme "Flight of the Bumblebee." It could have been the two blocks of wood with sandpaper on them that I made music with in the first grade.

I do know that music made life enjoyable and that it became markers for events in my life. Elvis takes me back to the mid-fifties, Hank Williams to the lonely mornings in the fields, and Jack Benny to radio and television when families sat listening together to the same shows. Jack Benny would always get a laugh with his poor violin playing when in reality he was an accomplished violinist.

The truth is, music is good for our soul. For many of us, our music studio is in our bathtub or shower. What would humanity be without music and the teachers that pass the knowledge on to others? It is difficult to imagine a world without music.

Don't Bring Negativity to Homework



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

My son has a hard time in school and I don't feel equipped to deal with it. I get so frustrated and angry when he misses silly questions on a test or does not understand when I explain things for the third time. Homework ends in fights and tears. Can you please help?
—Trae R., Newport, Calif.

Trae, we miss the fact that the emotion or "energy" around homework time plays a vital role in learning capacity and emotional stability. Frustration around homework time is common, but make no mistake, it is damaging.

Bringing negativity to homework time makes a child "dislike" it. People usually do not succeed at things or activities that they dislike. A child who is beaten down (by being "scolded" for not understanding) or who has to end up in a "fight" with parents over homework is being seriously compromised. Not only does this form of interaction damage his academics, it diminishes his self confidence, motivation and willingness to endeavor in other aspects of life, as well.

Trae, the good news is that you can turn all of this around.

Instead of being emotionally reactive to frustration. Simply ask yourself, "What does my child need at this moment?"

Then...

1. Explain in different ways.
2. If your child does not understand something you have explained three times, then you need to find a new way of explaining it. Every child and every adult has a different formula for learning and you need to find your child's path. That is a parent's role when it comes to their child's academics.
3. Be very conscious of the emotional atmosphere
4. Always stay calm and supportive, during homework time, even when your child has tremendous difficulty understanding something...even when you are frustrated. When faced with roadblocks, ask for help from the teacher, a tutor, but never punish your child for not understanding.
5. Help your child to calm down.
6. Once you are reliable in your commitment to positive energy, you can be a model of self control and focus. When children get to a point of "I CAN'T DO THIS!" You need to walk them through, and remind them that their attitude toward their work will affect how they learn.
7. Know when your child needs a break.

Allow him to race around the block to clear his head, talk about his frustrations or fears or "reset" their brain in some way. As you become consistently calm, your awareness of when this is necessary will improve.

Hang in there Trae, you can do this. You can make very positive changes that will enhance your child's level of motivation and success!

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

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Hitting the Right Notes

Using Music to Teach



Saskia Garel

As a parent, if you're like me, you obsess about your child being ahead of the curve when it comes to learning everything from reading and writing to potty training and manners. You also want to ensure that any obstacle they face will be easily overcome with the skills you provide them with. In my experience, music has been my greatest collaborator. Not only in the "play classical music for my baby to make him a genius" kind of way, but actually using music to teach any type of information or skill. With my son, I would put on a one-woman show at mealtime, playtime, bedtime and basically every time in between. Yes, it was a bit or a lot excessive, but I just didn't want him to struggle or be bored and uninspired. I wanted to stimulate his little brain and expose him to everything.



What I began to notice was that he had an unbelievable ability to learn and retain information because of the songs I entertained him with. By utilizing the combination of lyrics, rhythm and melody, music can aid in the learning experience. Tristan could spell his name as early as he could talk because I taught him the letters in his name to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. At Tristan's daycare, I remember other parents marveling over his ability to recite, not only our home phone number but our cell numbers and his address—in case he ever got lost or separated from us in a

crowd. At 6, he was one of the few people in his Scouts Troop that knew the entire pledge by heart by the second meeting, all because I put a melody to it... and to this day he remembers it verbatim, without even having to sing it.

It has been the same with my daughter, Mixie. Since I witnessed the power of music and the fantastic effects it had on my son's learning, I added to our repertoire. At two years old she can read phonetically as I never sang the ABC song to her in the traditional way. I sang it to her phonetically so when she sees a letter, instead of saying its name, she says its sound. If I show her a three-letter word like CAT, she basically sounds it out right away instead of having to discern that the letter C makes the CUH sound. I went as far as to make up songs that highlight sight words, letter blending, prefixes and suffixes. Even as they grow older the songs that I created for them as babies remain ingrained in their little heads. They never suspected that they were learning.

So, try music the next time you want to teach your child anything at all. You can use traditional melodies with your own words or make up your own tunes altogether. I promise you, you don't have to have a beautiful singing voice or impeccable rhythm...you just have to be enthusiastic and fun. A little tip: record yourself so you don't forget the wonderful creations you dream up! I did just that and put together a CD of 24 songs that I sing to my kids all the time. It's called *All in a Day's Play* and is available on iTunes and CD Baby.

BTW, Tristan is now 8 and hasn't conquered eating over his plate. I'm convinced there is just no song for that unfortunately, unless you count "Eat the Crumbs Right off the Floor" sung to the tune of Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes!!

Saskia Garel is a Mom/Singer/Songwriter/Author/Artist
Please visit www.saskiagarel.net

Note-ables

Smiles Ahead



Kate Karp

You may have heard the term *indie music* and not thought about the meaning because what's played on indie stations sounds so good. Accomplished indie musicians are in fact artists who opt to transport their performances to eager ears through small labels and the Internet instead of recording with big, largely commercial corporations. This gives these artists more room for creativity, self-expression and their own "heart." If you've heard bands like Wilco and Radiohead, you'll agree that it all works really well.

And if you and the children around you also know the names Okee Dokee Brothers, Rissi Palmer, the Pop-Ups and the 10 other artists and bands on this new multigenre collection, you'll also agree that a flourishing, delightful bunch of indie artists exists for the very young. *Smiles Ahead* is a project of Mighty Mo Productions, a small label founded by award-winning children's entertainer Jim "Mr. Stinky Feet" Cosgrove, who appears in this collection as a producer only. This happy, tuneful CD includes songs that all children will enjoy and that could also be on your own hit parade. Secret Agent 23 Skidoo, aka King of Kid Hop, raps about self-confidence in the hippy-hoppy "You're It." Grandparents and sixties-music aficionados will recall the English Invasion in The Verve Pipes' "Get Happy." Spring and bluegrass go together, and the Okee Dokee Brothers pair them well on "Walking with Spring." And Brady Rhymer and the Little Band That Could have the best CD opener ever—the catchy "Jump Up."

There are definitely smiles ahead for everyone here!

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

Lucy's Book Review

Magical!



Lucy Davis

The Land of Stories – Beyond the Kingdoms
Author: Chris Colfer

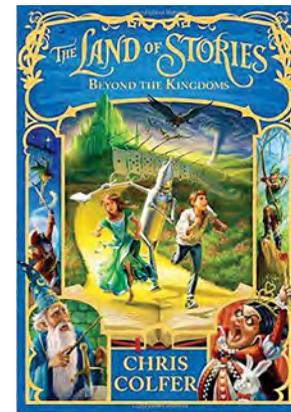
The Masked man uses a portal potion to jump from story to story to recruit a powerful army of the worst fairytale villains!

Alex has been un-godmothered, so she and Conner are in trouble. No one believes her except Mother Goose. Conner, Alex and Mother Goose along with a few other friends they make along the way, follow the Masked Man through some of literature's most loved fairytales. Meanwhile, Bree discovers a family secret that you just won't believe.

The author delivers another MAGICAL book, while using different fairytales than the first three books of the Land of Stories series. The book jumps back and forth from one setting to another so you must pay attention to what's happening. For those that haven't read the first three, I encourage you to do so before reading this book.

Another five bookworms out of five, it's a brilliant read!

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.





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