

School News

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Covering the Vista Unified School District

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MAY–AUGUST 2014

SUPERINTENDENT



Blueprint for Educational Excellence and Innovation

In August of 2012, I shared with the School Board a plan for us to develop a comprehensive

“Framework for the

Future” that would include our vision, mission, values, goals, roles and responsibilities, and a strategic plan. Our community came together through a series of town hall forums and online engagement opportunities to determine that our vision is to be the model of educational excellence and innovation. Our mission is to inspire every student as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real-world problems. We identified three core values—respect, trust, and collaboration—to guide our efforts. Measurable goals were identified that included a focus on literacy, mathematics, and English Language Development. We reviewed roles and responsibilities and made adjustments that aligned with our values such as shifting from Human Resources to Human Relations. All of these endeavors set the stage for the current year and enabled us to begin shifting our orientation to comprehensive and concise planning, which we call our “Blueprint” process.

To design plans for the future, we felt that it would be important to consult with our community to ensure that we would truly understand the challenges and opportunities in Vista Unified. To date, we have held more than 50 forums with students, parents, staff, and community groups to solicit input and share iterations of the Blueprint as it has been developed. Online feedback has been used to

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Student Projects Shine at STEM Fest

By Ray Huard, District Journalist

Seven-year-old Tyler Schoffstall proudly showed off the painting he made of a lightening bolt striking a house.

“I like weather,” Tyler said, explaining the motivation for his work. “I want to learn more about it.”

This was no ordinary painting, as Tyler demonstrated by moving a switch to make a light flash at the tip of the lightening bolt and a buzzer sound off.

Not only was this a work of art, but Tyler had to learn how to make an electric circuit using wires and batteries and how to hook them up to the light bulb and buzzer to make them work, said Janet Newman, Tyler’s teacher at Vista Academy of Visual & Performing Arts.

“So many people think art and science are separate,” said Newman, who wrote her master’s degree thesis on science education and a doctorate dissertation on art integrated curriculum. “You can’t be in engineering without having the creativity of art.”

Tyler’s lightening exhibit was among dozens of projects on display at Vista Unified School District’s STEM Fest at Washington Middle School recently.



Raffi the giant robotic giraffe interacts with and inspires our most youngest of visitors!

His sister, nine-year-old Leah Schoffstall showed off color photos she took of animals at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. The photos were mounted on poster board along with explanations of where each animal lived in the wild and what they ate.

“I’m explaining their habitat, their diet and if they’re omnivores, herbivores or carnivores,” said Leah, a fourth-grader and Vista Academy of Visual & Performing Arts. “I just really love photography and I just really love these animals.”

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and STEM Fest was meant to show how Vista students put STEM to work in their classrooms and how STEM studies can lead to exciting careers.

“There’s some pretty amazing kids here,” said Oceanside Mayor Jim Wood as he reviewed some of the student projects. “Some of this stuff is amazing.”

See **STUDENT PROJECTS** • Page 13

Excitement and Growth

By Brad Peterson, President Education Foundation

For the Vista Education Foundation, our closing school year was one of growth and excitement!

Let’s start with the excitement. In April, we completed our annual fund-raiser with the Vista Chamber of Commerce. I’m writing this the morning after the event and don’t have the totals, but I know we made a profit! We had 240 attendees, which required us to rent the Escondido Performing Arts Center—we’ve grown so!

The event included our students’ artworks, a performance from Washington Middle School dancers and wonderful music from Rancho, with Eric Weirather conducting. There were video presentations of all the VEF winners. I want to thank all the winners for all they do for our children. The VEF was also recognized by Madison



Middle school with a video presentation thanking us for the donation of equipment that allows them to produce quality videos.

Now, the growth! We increased our contributions by more than 100 percent. The increase was primarily directed toward arts and technology, and we were able to keep our contribution to scholarships at the level we increased the prior year. The board enjoyed delivering the checks to so many smiling faces! Our growth is limited only by the amount we collect. As a pass-through organization, what we take in goes out, and since we have no paid staff, we’re effective in our goal of providing resources to our children.

Thank you, Vista Chamber of Commerce, for helping co-host the Heroes of Vista event. We look forward to another great year!

City of Vista Office of the Mayor

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

Lots To Do in Vista



Judy Ritter
Mayor

No need for summer slumps in our community! The City offers many fun activities and events to entertain everyone all summer long. Come out and enjoy one of the many opportunities designed to make your summer enjoyable. Check online at CityofVista.com for summer day camps, youth activities, community events, and the Movies in the Park series.

Summer Movies in the Park Series: The City is hosting the Movies in the Park again this year. Pack up the kids, blankets, a picnic and head to one or all of the movie series. The best part is that the movies are free. What's better than sitting out on a

blanket on a warm summer night and enjoying a movie in the park with the family? A Summer Fun Fest (3-7 pm) is planned before the August 9 movie - with jump houses, the Lindley Lopez circus, booths, and more.

- June 21: Frozen (G): Buena Vista Ball Fields (Corner of S. Melrose & Shadowridge drives).
- July 19: Despicable Me2 (PG): Vista Sports Park (1600 Sports Park Drive).
- Aug 9: The LEGO Movie (PG) & Summer Fun Fest: Brengle Terrace Park (1200 Vale Terrace Drive).

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and congratulations to all of the graduating seniors of Vista!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As this school year comes to a close I want to thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. If you have friends or relatives who would like to receive a digital copies of *School News*, they can sign up on our web site. From their SmartPhone they can launch our APP. We are only a click away.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014!

Have a wonderful summer and we'll look forward to connecting with you in the new school year. Our next issue is September 14.

School News

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Covering the
VISTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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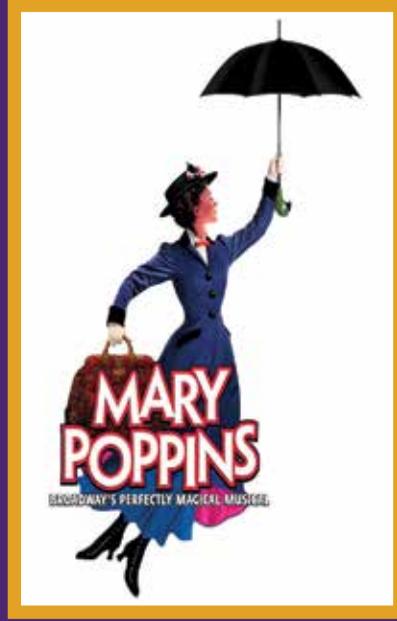
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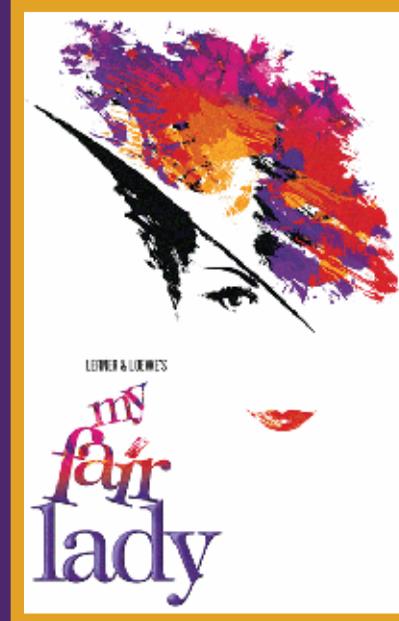
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Alamosa Park *Elementary*

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



Nicole Hendricks
Interim Principal

On the Run

Alamosa Park Elementary School families embrace healthy choices and physical activity, including top levels of participation in Vista's Strawberry Festival Run and Oceanside's Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. March brought one of the most anticipated weeks of our school year: the annual Healthy Hawk Week and the Hawk Run, a jog-a-thon fund-raiser planned by the Alamosa Park Educational Foundation (APEF) every two years.

Students ran all year in grade-level running clubs to gain strength and endurance for this year's Trek for Tech, in which pledges and community donations totaled \$35,000. APEF plans to



Ms. Strawberry (Mrs. Engstrom), Mr. Pea (Mr. Servetter), and Ms. Grape (Mrs. Scholz) ready for the Healthy Hawk kick-off assembly.

allocate the money to technology purchases, increasing student accessibility on campus and paving the way for 21st-century skills. We are tremendously grateful to all our volunteers and sponsors, not only for generous donations of time and money, but also for creating the spirit of excitement that put smiles on over 550 students' exhausted, flushed, delighted faces.

Beaumont *Elementary*

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



Brian Martes
Principal

Family Reading

Beaumont Elementary School held its 18th annual International Festival on May 3. The festival is an opportunity for our students and families to share food, entertainment and celebrate the diversity of our community. Proceeds from the Festival are the sole source of funding for our Family Reading Program.

The Family Reading Program provides parents with the opportunity to learn how to effectively read with their children.

Our students are also able to check out books every week to read at home with their families. The goal is for every child to discover the joy of reading, while also allowing their parents to model good literacy techniques.

The program addresses a growing awareness that the literacy proficiencies of children are closely tied to the adults in the family. The beauty of "Family Reading" is that it promotes literacy and parental involvement both in the home and at school.

A raffle and silent auction were held during the Festival to raise funds for the Program. Local businesses showed their support for our families with their many donations. The Festival featured something for everyone to enjoy, including delicious food, entertainment, and fun activities for all.

Proceeds from our International Festival will not only support the Family Reading Program all year long, it will also allow us to invite parents to special "Family Friday" reading events six times a year. This is when the whole school reads the same books, and all of the parents who attend our presentation beforehand can receive the books for free.

Alta Vista *High School*

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



JoAnn Jones
Principal

Many Facets of a Well-Rounded Education

Alta Vista High School's primary goal is ensure that every student graduates and is prepared to enter the world outside our doors. We have found that in most cases, our students need more than just academic support to be successful. There must be a holistic approach that addresses academic, social/emotional and behavioral needs.

Through our 21st Century Grant, AVHS offers a variety of after-school support and enrichment programs as well as academic tutorials to ensure that students reach their highest level of potential. Students can participate in cooking classes and learn how to prepare meals at home. There are jewelry-making classes, ceramics courses and a full recycling program. We have a wide variety of sports programs, the newest addition being rugby. We offer tutoring in every subject to enhance student proficiency. We have incorporated numerous recreational and cultural field trips into our after-school program to introduce our at-risk students to a world that few of them have ever seen, such as museums, surfing and camping.

We provide emotional support through free counseling and personal intervention programs. We recognize students for positive behavior, attendance and leadership. We assist seniors in registering for college courses while they are still in high school. We have developed solid partnerships with the Red Cross, Vista's Teen Outreach and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

The 21st Century Grant has given the students of Alta Vista a chance to experience a well-rounded education and has provided them the best opportunity to be successful in life!

Bobier *Elementary*

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



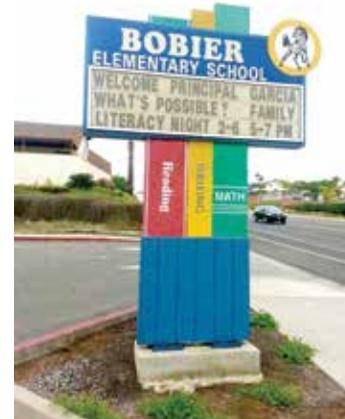
Shannon Garcia
Principal

Rising to the New Challenges

Great things are happening at Bobier Elementary School! Since I came on board in February, I have been inundated with great ideas, enthusiasm, and support from the staff, students, and parents in my new role.

Our leadership team, supported by our wonderful staff, has decided that we need a brand, and, so far, our team has identified three models: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM); Technology; Dual-Immersion; and International Baccalaureate. In pursuit of these ideas, we will be taking our teams to a Dual-Immersion Conference at the San Diego County Office of Education and visiting a Dual-Immersion/International Baccalaureate School and Dual-Immersion Program in San Diego, as well as hosting visits from other schools to discover more about technology integration and International Baccalaureate. On top of this, we have 15 teachers attending training for Project-Based Learning!

We are all incredibly excited to start this chapter of innovation and excellence together. Bobier's rising!



Breeze Hill *Elementary*

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



Steve Green
Principal

Breeze Hill Elementary School has spent the last three months working with a School Climate and Culture Taskforce made up of teachers, staff and parents. The purpose of the taskforce is to redefine the school culture and climate and align the school mission and vision with college and career readiness. The taskforce has been engaged in reading literature focused on student leadership, achievement and valuing all members of our school community. Two books in particular have informed

the taskforce's work, *The Leader in Me*, by Stephen Covey and *How to Create a Culture of Achievement*, by Doug Fisher, Nancy Frey and Ian Pumpian.

The taskforce has nearly completed their work, identifying the pillars and characteristics that we want all members of Breeze Hill to exhibit. These pillars will be introduced as we begin the 2014-15 school year.



Members of the Breeze Hill Taskforce participate in an activity to identify the characteristics of an ideal school culture and climate.

California Avenue

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



Rachel Schmidt
Principal

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

Spring is an exciting time across the district as students complete final projects, participate in state testing, dream of summer vacation, and look forward to new classes, teachers and classmates in August. California Avenue School, the district's preschool, is no exception.

Students here have spent one to three years working on social skills, motor skills, academics, and other readiness skills in preparation for kindergarten or first grade. Students arrive prepared for elementary school, having focused on the Preschool Learning Foundation standards. These cover the nine domains of social-emotional development, language and literacy, English-language development, mathematics, visual and performing arts, physical development, health, history/social science and science. As with older students, preschoolers are tested each year using the state-mandated Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP).

In addition to the DRDP, teachers complete kindergarten-transition assessments for all preschoolers with special needs who are eligible, based upon their age, to attend kindergarten the following school year. This assessment assists the transition team in determining whether the student will require ongoing special-education services. Transition teams convene in late April and early May to review the test results, determine each student's progress toward goals, and discuss each student's transition to elementary school. The team members include parents, teachers, related service providers such as speech-language therapists and occupational therapists, an administrator and representatives from the elementary school. It's an exciting time to review and celebrate student achievement.

The California Avenue Staff wishes our transitioning students and families all the best in the 2014-15 school year!

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Casita Center *Elementary*

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Laura Smith
Principal

Our Mission Statement

In March, Casita Center applied to be an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Candidate School (IBPYP). As part of the application process, we updated our mission statement that was first created in the early 1990s.

To do so, we held three World Café discussions: first with staff, then with our parents, and a third with the fourth- and fifth-grade student leaders. A committee synthesized the discussion comments and brought three ideas to the stakeholders.

After input from a variety of groups, we have a new statement that describes who we are, our purpose, and our major characteristics:

“The mission of Casita Center, the school of choice for internationally minded stewards of the future, is for each child to maximize his or her unique potential through a wide variety of inquiry based learning opportunities, characterized by a collaborative community, dedicated staff, and a focus on educating the whole child in a 21st-century learning environment.”

As we venture into the IBPYP candidacy phase, our teaching staff is enrolled in a CSUSM Extended Studies course of 5 units: IBPYP Teacher Studies and Preparation from Theory to Practice. Next year we will enroll in a second course to complete IBPYP certification.

This unique and intensive professional development is changing teaching and learning at Casita Center. It is an exciting time.

Grapevine *Elementary*

630 Grapevine Rd., Vista, CA 92083 • 760/724-8329 • www.vistausd.org



Rafael Olavide
Principal

Planting Seeds

Grapevine fifth graders had a memorable opportunity to visit Cal State University San Marcos. The impact of this visit was enriching and priceless for our students. We know how important it is for our families to have a goal to reach higher education and exposing our students to these opportunities made this trip meaningful and powerful. During their visit our students were able to see and experience firsthand what the future could hold for them and the opportunities that come as a result of clear goals, hard work, and determination. We are pleased to announce

that we will have a partnership with CSUSM starting in the 2014-15 school year. The “I Am Going To College” Program will be an investment in the educational pathway for all Grapevine fifth graders. Teachers and students agree that this was a very special day.



Empresa *Elementary*

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



Dr. Cheree McKean
Principal

School Ambassador Program a Success!

In conjunction with the district's new safety policies, Empresa Elementary School recently implemented Kiss Your Student at the Gate. Starting April 1, parents and students bid farewell at the front gates each morning as students head into school for a day of learning and inquiry.

That's where our new School Ambassador program comes in. Trained by art teacher, Ms. Gina Angelotti, School Ambassadors create a welcoming and safe environment by walking the younger students to class, greeting parents and students, and answering any question our parents and students may have.

Any fifth grade students could apply, and acceptance into the School Ambassador program was based on work ethic, outgoing personality, sense of responsibility, and teacher recommendation. The program has been successful at providing an opportunity for our older students to take a leadership role at school while connecting with younger students.

Fifth-grade ambassador, Victoria Arsenault said, “You get to interact with the first-graders and kindergarteners as an ambassador. I used to be very shy, but now I have to walk up to people, and I love it.”



School Ambassadors are eager and ready to assist students as Empresa implements “Kiss Your Student at the Gate.”

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Foothill Oak *Elementary*

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Dr. Erin English
Principal

What Comes after High School?

The Foothill Roadrunners are on the road to success. All of our third- through fifth-grade students have had an opportunity to visit a local university this year.

The students were either treated to a concert at CSU San Marcos, or, in the case of the fourth grade, they participated in a day-long

environmental engineering program developed for them by the University of California's Environmental Engineering Department. We have created a close partnership with both universities in an effort to make our students aware of the options they have after high school.

During our Friday morning assemblies, a student from each class proudly parades around the center of the school with the college flag of their class. After the assembly, and throughout the week, these flags are displayed outside the classrooms.

Every Friday morning our students are asked a question: "What comes after high school?" The answer of course? "College!"



Foothill Oak fourth graders visit the University of California, San Diego.



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Hannalei *Elementary*

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Tracy Zachry
Principal

Technology Use is On the Rise!

At Hannalei Elementary School, we have continued our mission to promote the love of learning. One of the many ways we have chosen to support this part of our school mission is to increase student engagement and motivation for learning through the use of technology in the classroom.

During the 2013–14 school year, we have increased the number of devices on campus for student use and have trained teachers, students and parents about the value of technology in our schools. At Hannalei, we have purchased 71 Chromebooks, 60 iPads, tools for the projectors and apps for the iPads. Additionally, the district office has sent us 132 Chromebooks for student use in the classroom.

With the added technology, students are using Google Docs for writing, My Big Campus and the Internet for research, and apps for the foundational skills in grades kindergarten through second. Furthermore, we have increased the use of our school website, our Twitter page and PeachJar for school flyers. The 2014–15 school year proves to add more technology in the classrooms for student use to support each grade-level program.

Madison *Middle School*

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



Susan Ford
Principal

Devising Success with Devices

Anyone visiting classes at Madison this spring will see students enthusiastically engaged in learning. In math classes, students are learning to solve complex problems by applying prior learning and working collaboratively. In many classes, students are using new tablet technology to research, write, edit and problem-solve.

As we implement the new Common Core standards, we see that our teachers have made enormous strides in understanding and using technology to improve learning. With the addition of nearly 350 new Chromebooks, students have many more opportunities to practice digital skills while working with challenging content. Teachers are embracing technology as a way to foster engagement, collaboration, communication with students and parents, and providing additional learning resources. Madison is also piloting a Bring Your Own Device program that allows students to use their smartphones or tablets. The program has been very successful in helping students access technology throughout their school day.



Madison 7th graders explore learning with Chromebooks.

Lake *Elementary*

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



Diane Lambert
Principal

Dolphins Diving Into Technology

It is an exciting time here at Lake Elementary! Thanks to the support of our PTA, district office and kind donors, we have increased access to technology for all students. With the addition of chromebooks and iPads, all students are using technology to learn, collaborate and create.

Lake students use Google Apps for Education to communicate and collaborate with teachers and classmates. Using Google email students can communicate with teachers, submit assignments and collaborate with other students on school projects. Students create and collaborate on Google documents, presentations and spreadsheets in Google Drive. By signing into their Google accounts, students are also bookmarking sites recommended by teachers. These sites can be accessed anytime a student signs into their account, providing students access both at school or at home.



Maryland *Elementary*

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



Carol LaBreche
Principal

Accelerated Reading

Maryland Makos are navigating the Accelerated Reading 'waters' at breakneck speed. We started the Millionaire Club kids reading a million words over the course of their career at Maryland. Students, who have achieved the million points mark, are highlighted on our Millionaire wall in the office.

Third grade has raised the bar significantly for all their students. Their goal this year is 60 points higher than last year and the students are succeeding and exceeding the goal. Teachers report that the students are reading more; in fact, one student has grown two grade levels! Second grade teachers open their classrooms in the morning to allow their students to read and then take a quiz. They love having the students work prior to the start of their day.

Reading at Maryland is essential to student success!



Mission Meadows *Elementary*

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



Bill Porter
Principal

New Technology Opportunities

At Mission Meadows Elementary School, all students are provided with hands-on learning opportunities using technology across the content areas. This technology exposure is especially important as students are now asked to “show what they know” on the new, online Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing system. Most of the technology exposure thus far has been on electronic tablets because of the extensive list of available educational resources. However, Mission Meadows has recently redesigned the computer lab with new netbooks specifically to meet the technology criteria for the SBAC testing. In addition to the new lab, students in third through fifth grades also have additional exposure to netbooks via an assigned grade-level netbook cart.

By providing technology-based learning opportunities beginning in kindergarten, we are enabling our students to be better prepared to take the SBAC online tests.

For more information on the Smarter Balanced testing, please visit <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>.



Mission Vista *High School*

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



Craig Wiblemo
Principal

Graduates and Incoming Freshman

Mission Vista High School is getting ready to honor the 265 members of the Class of 2014 at our second annual commencement ceremony, which is scheduled to take place on campus on Thursday, June 5 at 4:30 p.m. The first day of high school for most of our graduates was the very day our current campus celebrated a grand opening in August of 2010.

Members of the graduating class have very impressive academic records, with 18 students having cumulative grade-point averages that are high enough to qualify them for the prestigious title of class salutatorian. Our graduates have very bright futures ahead, and nearly all of them are planning to enter college in the fall, with many gaining acceptance into our nation's most prestigious colleges and universities.

As the members of the Class of 2014 move on to post-secondary pursuits, a new class of freshmen will take their place in our student body. Mission Vista is proud of the fact that we continue to attract large numbers of applicants. This year, we had a record number of freshmen applicants during the open application period, which began in January. We currently have a waiting list of admission. The 500 entering freshmen come from diverse backgrounds and represent over 50 different middle schools from throughout North San Diego County and beyond. We are excited to welcome these new students to campus, and we're thrilled that we continue to grow both our reputation and student body every year.

Monte Vista *Elementary*

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



Charlene Manuto
Principal

Great Things are Happening!

The 2013–2014 school year has been an exciting time! We began the year with a 50th anniversary celebration on September 17. Former students, parents, teachers, and administrators joined us as we celebrated 50 years of achievement.

All Monte Vista Elementary School educators continue to focus on improved teaching and learning. Our teachers participate in monthly professional development to support our instructional transition to the Common Core State Standards.

In addition, several teachers will participate in two different professional development opportunities this summer: Project-Based Learning and No Excuses University. Project-Based Learning is a dynamic approach to teaching and learning, which allows students the opportunity to solve real-world problems and challenges. This type of rigorous and engaged learning encourages students to deepen their understanding of the subjects they are studying. No Excuses University promotes a shift in school culture based on six Exceptional Systems that improve learning for every student.

Refinement of instructional practices has allowed opportunities for student to participate in lessons characterized by the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills they will need to be successful in entry-level careers and freshman-level college courses. Monte Vista students are also participating in technology-rich learning opportunities. We are pleased to announce that students in fourth and fifth grades enjoy one-to-one netbook usage and that students in all grades have daily opportunities to extend their learning through the use of technology.

Everyone at Monte Vista is proud of the hard work that has taken place this year, and we look forward to an even more exciting 2014–2015 school year!



Karley Cable

Karley Cable, (16) has formed a new non-profit organization: The M.A.D. Movement=Making/A/Difference. “It’s a group of socially-conscious artists using their talents to make the world a better place.” She created a website: <http://themadmovement.weebly.com> and is working on her first big project: A ‘Don’t Text and Drive/It Can Wait’ awareness campaign being sponsored by Verizon, AT&T and several local businesses.

Murray *High School*

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



Chuck Hoover
Principal

Team "Doomsdayus" Hopes to Repeat

On Friday, May 23rd student and teachers at Murray High School will be participating in the Murray Olympics for the 8th consecutive year. With its roots in Alta Vista's FELD day, the Murray Olympics have become a highly anticipated school-wide competition. Teams are determined by 2nd period class rosters and competitions include a relay race, water balloon/Frisbee toss, limbo, musical chairs and other competitions. Adding to the fun of the day are the creative team names which students and teachers create to motivate their teams to victory.



2013 Murray Olympics Champion Team Doomsdayus.

Past champions for the Murray Olympics have been:

2008 – Team Seneritopia (Mr. Seneris)

2009 – Team Collinsyouout (Mrs. Collins)

2010 – TeamCollins (Mrs. Collins)

2011 – Team Morr Rowscals (Ms. Morrison & Mr. Rowe)/Team Hayes and Confused (Mr. Hayes)

2012 – Team Despicable Gs (Mrs. Gordon)

2013 – Team Doomsdayus (Mr. Dayus)

The day ends with a delicious barbeque put on by Murray's phenomenal CNS lead, Maria Sierra.

Rancho Buena Vista *High School*

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



Chuck Schindler
Principal

Ending Our Season in a Major Way!

At Rancho Buena Vista High School, we are having an exciting end of the year, with our academic and athletic programs highlighting the great work of our staff and students. We had a productive professional-development day at the beginning of April that focused on the Common Core content and the new SBAC state assessment system. Teachers were able to experience the SBAC student practice assessments online and engage in productive dialogue about the implications for our classrooms and our students. Teachers have been meeting in their Monday-morning professional learning communities planning lessons that will prepare students to be college and career ready.

The arts have been very active at RBV as well, giving our students the opportunity to showcase their talents and extend their artistic expression. Our drama program's production of *The Addams Family* was spectacular, and we are proud to be the first high school in the world to produce the play. The RBV Wind Ensemble was the only high school band chosen to perform at the California All-State Music Education Conference in Fresno recently. RBV will host our annual Chalk Festival in April, with many students and staff participating as they decorate the main walkway at RBV.

Our athletic programs continue to make us proud as they allow our students to develop their skills and to compete at high levels. A highlight this spring is that the RBV baseball team was selected by a major-league park in San Diego to play their season opening game in April.

Olive *Elementary*

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



Adalia Lavado
Principal

History Is Alive

The Olive fourth grade team teaches students about California history by immersing them in reenactments of history and problem-solving as a member of society during that time. In January, Olive fourth-graders received a letter from the "bishop of Spain" circa the 17th century in which they were charged with designing and building the 22nd mission for California. The letter was hand-delivered and read by "Friar Carlos Francisco." Students worked in teams to write their proposals to the king of Spain, designed a blueprint for their mission and built a model of their mission that was displayed at Open House in May.

Fourth-graders and their teachers also participated in a Gold Rush era reenactment titled "Boom Town Day." Members of a service club generously donated \$1,400, which was presented to Olive teachers at a special meeting of the club. The grant provided students with hands-on experience in reenacting Gold Rush-era activities at the Green Oak Ranch and Olive Elementary School. While visiting the ranch in May, students panned for gold in the "Sacramento River," looked at a variety of animals, went on a hay ride, and enjoyed a delicious lunch.

During their Gold Rush Day, the fourth-grade teachers planned an interactive history experience in which students learned to square dance, paid a visit to "Praiseworthy the Barber" of By the Great Horn Spoon! fame, and visited the general store to have some Whatcha Got? Stew.

Rancho Minerva *Middle School*

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



Ben Gaines
Principal

College Bound

This past March, our entire seventh-grade class of students was sent off to a college visit at CSUSM. This was the first time that most of them had ever been on a college campus. Many of the students had never before even considered college an option!

In the weeks leading up to the trip, the students were given an interactive lesson on college and career readiness through the use of iPads. During their visit they were given tours by CSUSM students, attended presentations, and ate lunch outside of the new student union.



The students returned from the field trip excited about college as an option. They now understand what it takes to get into college, how to pay for it, and what exciting options it can provide. Our students had a wonderful experience and they are now focused on preparing for the future.

Thank you, Mr. Desmond Morente, for organizing this learning experience of benefit to the students at Rancho Minerva Middle School.

Roosevelt *Middle School*

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



An Exceptional Year

I hope you all have great plans for the summer. Every day I hear stories about who plans to go where and for how long with their families.

I cannot believe that the school year is almost finished! Time surely does fly when you are having fun. It has been an exceptional year, and we have witnessed a number of changes at our school.

Anthony Barela
Principal

For the first time in the state, students were given an assessment online. This shows how quickly technology has been fused into our schools, as well as the necessity for us to work with our students to help attain digital competencies. This year was also a first for the class of 2017, with a guaranteed admission to CSUSM if they could meet the A-G compliance and a 3.0 GPA.

Lastly, this is the first year under local control funding, and you all have been a part of helping craft the plan for the district.

This spring, RMS has continued its rich tradition of performing arts excellence by earning a number of superior festival ratings for vocal and band. This is a testament to the dedication of Ken Gammie and Beverly Taylor, our illustrious band and vocal leaders.

As the year comes to a close, we continue to forge into the 21st century together. We are committed to excellence for our students! Thank you for an amazing year and have a restful summer.

Temple Heights *Elementary*

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



Beatlemania at Music On the Green

Students at Temple Heights are gearing up for their performances at Music on the Green. This annual event brings our entire community together for an evening of food, games, music and fun. It is the major fund-raiser for our music program, which is fully funded by our PTA. This year's theme will bring students back to the 1960s as they learn about the Beatles and perform some of their most popular tunes.

Kim Morton
Principal

This year's event will be held on Friday, May 16, from 5-8 p.m.

It will feature food booths, carnival-style games, a silent auction and musical performances by every grade level. In addition, our percussion and drumming groups perform to showcase what they've learned all year. We are very proud to offer music to the students at Temple Heights, and it is a joy to listen to the music in this year-end celebration.



5th graders are practicing "Let it Be" for their performance at Music on the Green.

Sierra Vista *High School*

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



Program Building

As the year winds down, plans for the Vista Adult Transition Center are winding up!

Our teachers and classified staff have been meeting often to help build the largest program of its type in the area. Based entirely on the needs of our 18- to 22-year-old students, the VATC will soon expand its Friday pilot program to the entire school week.

Chris Altona
Principal

Our "Special Day Class" structure is being improved upon. We are now turning it into a resource center where young adults can develop skills and connections designed for their individual personalities and dreams of the future.

The point behind Common Core – keeping education's "eye" on post-secondary outcomes of career and/or college readiness – is not what we are all about at VATC. All of our students develop individual transition plans with staff. These drive what work they seek, what educational systems they may need to access, what living skills they need to hone, and, simply put, how they can physically get around in the community.

As our program builds, we cannot entirely be certain how the end result will look. This is because we intend to support the variety of students who come our way. Each of our students is a unique and fully developed young adult who, like any of us, needs to be heard and supported to help fulfill their life path. Providing a flexible and individualized approach to these supports is our intent. The way in which this can be achieved is by truly knowing and listening to our clientele.

Vista Academy *of Visual & Performing Arts*

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



We are pleased to share the program focus for the 2014-2015 school year. Vista Academy (VA) will continue with visual and performing arts focus as we prepare for candidacy in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB-PYP) to emphasize an inquiry-based approach to learning centered on the whole child.

Catina Hancock
Principal

Students receive weekly instruction in dance, drama, art and music. This integrated experience sparks creativity and allows children to explore the content through multiple learning styles/modalities. Our goal is to ensure students excel at learning and build skills and talents that will serve them in the ever changing world.

Our mission is to inspire every student to be a confident, global citizen and critical thinker through a rigorous, arts-integrated and innovative academic community.

All of our certified teachers are currently being trained through Cal State San Marcos to receive a certificate in the IB-PYP program. The program we are designing, will be a blend of Common Core and Visual and Performing Arts that is framed by these 7 inquiry themes (borrowed from <http://www.ibo.org/pyp/curriculum/index.cfm>):

- Who we are?
- How we express ourselves...
- How we organize ourselves...
- Where we are in place and time?
- How the world works...
- Sharing the planet.



Vista *High School*

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



Steve James
Principal

Showcasing Multiple Talents

In March, VHS hosted our annual Showcase Night and had over 1,300 incoming ninth-graders and their families in attendance. As families walked toward the gym, they were greeted by the VHS ShowCats, Band, JROTC, Cheer, ASB and PTSA. As they approached the red carpet, our ROP “paparazzi” captured the moment.

The Showcase was kicked off with the National Anthem performed by our choir and ASL students. The evening began by highlighting our Honors and International Baccalaureate programs that comprise 44 courses. Student declarations informed parents of the plethora of opportunities for student involvement. The counselors emphasized the VUSD and CSUSM Memorandum of Understanding that guarantees admission to all students who graduate with at least a 3.0 GPA and meet the A-G requirements. Families participated in the table tours to gather information from all departments and programs.

The evening concluded with interactive demonstrations of a science project, a mock trial, a drama improvisation, a historical reenactment, a ceramics display, German conversation and a tour of the VHS Art Gallery. We welcome the class of 2018 and congratulate the class of 2014!

Vista Magnet *Middle School*

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



Margaret Jacobson
Principal

The San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering

On a gloomy Saturday in March, Vista Magnet Middle School science teacher Mrs. Tolentino took a group of excited students to Petco Park to enjoy a day at the San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering.

The event was described as “Expo Day at Petco Park.” It was the Festival’s culminating event, with more than 130 organizations providing interactive, hands-on activities showcasing STEM from around the San Diego Region. Exhibitors and sponsors included local university partners San Diego State and CSU San Marcos, as well as a variety of corporations.

Sixth-grade student participant Alec stated, “I enjoyed learning about and playing with the robot powered by air pressure, and the fire piston ignited by air pressure. It was a fun time, and I’d love to go again. I got so much cool stuff.”



San Diego Festival of Science and Engineering at PETCO Park.

Vista Visions *Academy*

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



Jacqueline Bispo
Admin. Designee

Onstage and Offstage

Vista Visions Academy students have been busy preparing for our spring play, *Aladdin and His Magic Lamp*, which will be showcased to the community at the end of May. Balancing test preparation and rehearsal has been quite fun! Under the theatrical expertise of teacher Sandy Ashcraft, our students have been excitedly immersing themselves in the Arabian Desert!

On the academic side, we have moved forward at full throttle with incorporating schoolwide academic discussions. Utilizing

academic language stems, students are active both in class and online, engaging with their peers to enhance their learning experiences. Teachers also constantly reply to students’ postings, encouraging further thought and contributions. We will continue to utilize this process for developing students’ language and communication skills.

In March, VVA had a strong presence at STEM Fest, with students from all grades K–12 represented and over 30 projects completed. We are so proud of our Huskies!



Washington *Middle School*

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



Dr. Eric Chagala
Principal

Goodbye and Hello

After 50 years of serving Vista, Washington Middle School will be closing its doors on June 5. In its place will open

a new magnet middle school named the Vista Innovation and Design Academy (VIDA). There has already been a positive response to the opening of VIDA as applications for enrollment exceeded availability. You can learn more about VIDA by visiting www.VIDASHARKS.com.

WMS leaves behind a long history in our community. There are several current teachers within VUSD who attended Washington. A local alumnus from Washington is Cipriano Vargas Jr, who as a student at CSUSM was elected as a trustee to the California State University system. In addition, this year’s valedictorian from RBVHS is also a Washington alumnus!

There will be a closing ceremony for Washington at its annual Historical Times Faire and Open House on Monday May 19.



STUDENT PROJECTS • From Page 1

About a third of the students in Vista Unified School District come from Oceanside and Wood was particularly impressed by a Buena Vista High School aquaponics project.

Due for completion on the high school campus later this year, the student project is meant to demonstrate how aquaponics works. The system will grow edible plants in water. The plants are nourished by the waste from koi fish that live in the ponds, said Buena Vista senior Bella Corpora, 18.

Bella had photographs of an aquaponics system on display at STEM Fest and eagerly explained how it will work at the high school.

"It will be an outdoor system," Bella said. "All the plants that are grown will be donated to the cafeteria."

They will include chard, kale, lettuce and spinach, she said.

School Superintendent Devin Vodicka was impressed.

"Here you have students learning about science in things in which the real world applications are enormous," Vodicka said.

Among those joining the students with displays at STEM Fest were the University of California San Diego, Palomar College, Mira Costa College, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Solutions Farm, SPAWAR, Center for Integrated Access Network (CIAN), California State University San Marcos, 3R Robotics and Open Source Labs.



STEM Fest brings out the best and shows what fantastic scholars we have in VUSD!

"The whole event was to raise awareness for STEM education," said Trish Marapoti, a K-12 science content resource teacher who joined fellow science content resource teacher Kellie Fleming in organizing STEM Fest.

"Excitement, inspiration and innovation," was what Marapoti said she hoped people would take away from STEM Fest.

Czarina Piniol was excited by what she saw. Her twin sons, Nathan and Matthew, 12, are in 6th grade at Vista Visions Academy.

"This is our first year here. We were in another district. This district is doing an amazing thing," said Piniol, who helped boil and puree beets for Nathan's project.

Nathan added the beet juice to coconut water to produce a sports drink which he said could replace commercial sports drinks which have artificial



Kody Hendricks, 11, rides a hovercraft made by students.

Ivanna and her partner, Cynthia Bletran, made a display based on the Operation Game which included a drawing of the respiratory system. Each part of the respiratory was labeled on the drawing and there were lights attached that lit up when a button was pushed.

The exhibit also had a chart which explained the project and listed such fun facts as people breathe 13 pints of air every minute and the right lung is slightly larger than the left.

Several schools had robotic projects on display and the school athletic field was transformed into a test zone where students launched rockets they made themselves and determined how the flight was affected by a several factors, including the number of fins on a rocket and the air pressure used to send it skyward.

This STEM Fest was the first of what organizers hope will become an annual event.



The community of VUSD came together to celebrate learning and innovation, including our very own Superintendent Dr. Devin Vodicka.

School Subjects

Across

1. writing skills
7. compute numbers by addition, subtraction, multiplication or division
8. predominant language of South America other than Brazil
10. study of the composition and properties of substances
12. predominant language of the United States and Great Britain
13. a method of calculation using a system of notation in symbols
14. system to generalize arithmetical operations by using symbols instead of numbers
17. the gathering, writing, editing and dissemination of news
18. language of ancient Rome
19. to learn or gain meaning from written material
20. learning to use a keyboard proficiently

Down

2. study of political institutions
3. physical and mental well-being
4. mathematics dealing with points, lines, surfaces and space
5. science dealing with properties of matter and energy
6. study of production, distribution and consumption of wealth
7. study of the stars, planets and other heavenly bodies
9. study of language dealing with word and sentence structure
11. to place letters of a word in the correct order
15. study of plants and animals
16. recorded events of the past

Answer key on page 15



Buy One Get One Flea, Dog on Fleas



Kate Karp

For some time, creators and performers of young people's music have been dispensing with the cheap, synthetic sound of electronic tracks and replacing them with real live instruments. I'm surely not the only one who's delighted beyond words. Dog on Fleas is one of the groups that plays in its own band, called the Backyard Orchestra; the combo includes but is not limited to a sousaphone, duck calls, a bass drum, a bassoon, a clarinet and several kazoos. The wacky instrumentation and the wordplayful monikers of group and band indicate one slaphappily good CD.

The content is composed of songs original, familiar and obscure. Imagine, if you will, "Over the Waves" and the "Grand March" from the opera *Aida* played solely by kazoos, albeit skillfully. The original songs, written by Grammy Award-winning producer and band member Dean Jones, are based on themes that both child and parent will appreciate. "Hundredaires" is about the joys and disadvantages of a simpler life and a lighter wallet. "It's a Ruse" warns about things that seem too good to be true and likely are. "Pardon My Pajamas"—well, who hasn't longed to spend an entire day in jammies?

And "Hinterlands" is plain wonderful—brilliantly arranged and tuneful, with an energy that you can jump on and ride. You're certain to get an itch for Fleadom.

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



Selfies



Jodie Lynn

Question: My 12-year-old daughter and her friends are constantly taking "selfies" on their cell phones. The other moms and I think this is a bad thing. All we hear is negative comments about their faces, noses, teeth, eyes, hair, etc. What's the best way to try to help these girls understand that these self-pictures should not be used as a testament of their true appearances, inside and out, and to try to teach them to make light of the selfies if they insist on continuing to take them?

From Jodie: Self-critiquing alone can be rough on one's self-esteem and emotional state of mind. But if the picture is shown to friends or posted on social media the comments, which can be quite mean, can devastate the individual and really do damage. As kids get older they begin to be generally hard on themselves as well as others when it comes to just about everything they do and say and especially how they look. Recognizing this, Dove® came up with ways to help build and rethink self-esteem in growing girls. In 2004, they created The Dove Self-Esteem Project which focuses on helping girls, ages 8 to 17, become more confident and well-adjusted, even enjoying themselves for who they really are. Be sure to visit their site where you both can engage in great lessons on self-esteem and loads of other resources. Check out <http://www.dove.us/Our-Mission/Girls-Self-Esteem/default.aspx> for more details. You might also want to watch a video that they put together (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_3agBWqGfRo&feature=youtu.be). It aims to reaffirm a happy, healthy insight into the next generation of women growing up. Since our own personal opinion about ourselves is important, we have a tendency to verbally express negative comments, which in turn is heard by family members.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, *Inside Parenting Success*.

Summer Fun 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 July 15, 2014

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome | Lessons | Sunscreen |
| Barbeque | Lifeguard | Surfing |
| Beach | Picnics | Swimming |
| Fireworks | Pool | Vacation |
| Fun | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot | Sand | Water |
| Ice Cream | Summer | Wave |
| Lemonade | Sunny | |



**Congratulations to Adan Ambrosio
Winner of February Contest!**



Devin Vodicka, Ed.D.

provide additional opportunities for engagement in the process. These conversations have enabled us to design plans that address the unique needs of our students in our community. Please check our website (www.vistausd.org) and then click on “Blueprint” for updates, information, and continued opportunities to share your thoughts.

Parallel to this internal planning process, California is implementing a profound shift in the way that schools are funded and held accountable. We have been learning throughout the year about the new requirements related to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). In brief, the new funding model includes resources that are intended to address the needs of English Learners, socio-economically disadvantaged students, and foster youth. There are also new requirements for us to document the use of these funds through the LCAP.



Blueprint for Educational Excellence and Innovation “Town Hall Forum” at Washington Middle School

participation from so many during this important component of our endeavor to help our students and our community achieve their full potential. By devoting our collective interests to developing a plan to better meet the needs of our students, we are actualizing our core values and demonstrating our commitment to making decisions that are in the best interests of our students.

The intersection of our Blueprint process and the Local Control Accountability Plan represents an opportunity for us to develop a roadmap to achieve our vision of educational excellence and innovation. The process itself is an interesting journey that has truly been a learning experience for all that have been involved. We are now approaching the culmination of the plan development and we will be bringing the plan to the School Board for consideration and approval in June. I am grateful for the high levels of

Vista Unified School District Board of Education



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2014 Board of Education Meeting Dates

May 15
June 12
June 26
July 24

August 21
September 11
September 25
October 9

October 16
November 20
December 11

Remember When?

Helping Out



Charlene Ashendorf

I remember as a child my parents would “help out” at school. I really don’t recall them using the word volunteering, in those days they were just helping out. I believe that in the beginning, my “parent volunteers” started out as a way to quell my separation anxiety. Holding onto dad’s hand that first week of kindergarten gave me the security I needed to take the first steps toward independence. In actuality, dad was a yard duty volunteer in the morning, but to me, it meant that I would be able to spend ten more minutes with him before taking the walk into the classroom on my own.

The transition to first grade meant long days away from home. To help me cope, dad would come into my classroom each week, and sitting on a child’s size chair as we crowded around his feet, he would read to my friends and me. It was comforting and familiar, just like those nightly bedtime stories.

Because my mother worked during the day and dad worked a night shift, it seemed natural to me when dad became the room parent! Mother would bake cookies after dinner and package them for dad and me to take to school the next morning, but having a dad as the room helper a special treat!

Fourth and fifth graders seemed to want their parents around less often, but having dad help with the SRA reading program meant he’d have a watchful eye on my progress in school. I recall him being so kind to the some of the children who weren’t fast readers. I believe my friends didn’t feel the pressure from him as from their own parents.

In middle school my parents wanted to help out more in school; I wanted them around less. So the subtleties of parental involvement came into play. Because I was a “joiner,” there were school plays, talent shows, poetry memorization contests and pre-teen jeopardy. With each of the extracurricular activities, parent volunteers were needed. What I learned in the process was that my mother and dad were great to have around behind the scenes; helping with set designs, costume fixes and even as judges!

The distance grew between my parents and me. I was a teenager and the last thing I wanted was to see my mother or dad on my high school campus. And yet, having my mother involved in the parent teacher association or seeing my dad selling cookies and drinks at the snack bar to raise funds for school sports meant more to me than I ever let on.

My parents had this simple philosophy: “There are so many wonderful things that will never get done if we don’t take the time to do them.” I am grateful that they were just helping out!

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. She is the executive director of Laurel House, a shelter for at-risk teen girls. She is active in her church and community. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>

Answers to Crossword on page 13



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