

**FREE**

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



**Covering the Vista Unified School District**

**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

**MAY 2015**

## Technology for the Future

*By Dr. Devin Vodicka, Superintendent*

A national symposium in March on the use of digital technology in schools – Digital Learning Day – was an incredible experience for me and it was a tribute to the hard work of our students, families, and staff. Being recognized as one of the model districts is validation that we are on the path to achieving our vision of educational excellence and innovation.

We were one of four school districts in the nation highlighted for being leaders in the drive to incorporate digital technology in education.

It was humbling to share the stage with other innovative school leaders and it was a privilege to share our story.

One of the highlights of the experience was a special tour of the White House that was organized for those who were recognized at the event. They included representatives of Baltimore County Public Schools, Houston Independent School District and Huntsville School District in Arkansas.

During Digital Learning Day, teachers and school leaders from



**Dr. Devin Vodicka and Dr. Erin English from Vista Unified at the White House.**

throughout the country came together to talk about how they use technology and how it can be applied elsewhere.

As part of that, I took part in a panel discussion that gave me a chance to tell how we're making a transition from teacher-centered learning to student-centered learning. That change in focus is essential as we integrate digital technology into the classroom.

Instead of lecturing students, teachers in this new age of technology guide students as the students do their own research and problem solving using iPads and other digital devices, working from home and school.

As I said in the panel discussion, to help teachers make the transition we

have changed school schedules to give them more time for professional collaboration. We also use teaching coaches to help prepare lessons and adapt teaching methods to best use this exciting technology.

We've also made sure we have the wireless infrastructure in place to support the new technology and hired additional staff to keep it working. With so much reliance on digital devices, we cannot afford to have down time.

The push toward using digital technology is already paying off. Students are more engaged in school and excited about what they're learning.

We've seen discipline problems reduced dramatically. We've seen attendance increase. Our dropout rates have gone down and students are taking more rigorous courses.

More of our students than ever before are ready for college when they graduate. This is a trend we expect to continue.

For more information about this experience and the recognition for Vista Unified School District, please visit [www.digitalllearningday.org](http://www.digitalllearningday.org).

## Technology in the Classroom

*From the District*

This spring marks another exciting purchase of devices to increase student engagement and the use of technology at all Vista Unified School District (VUSD) school sites.

Students and teachers will benefit greatly from this latest addition of approximately 5,000 new Dell Chromebooks. In addition, 1,200 iPad Mini and Air devices were allocated to elementary sites to increase access for our youngest students in kindergarten, first, and second grades. All of these devices will help VUSD move toward our goal of increasing student achievement and collaboration along with providing a more personalized learning environment for the students.

Our Information Technology (IT) Department has been working tirelessly to efficiently deploy new devices to schools as they arrive. This latest round of devices allows us to continue our move toward a future-ready learning environment at every school in Vista Unified. Furthermore, this will ensure that students have access to many of the powerful technology programs we are using in VUSD, including ST Math, MyOn, Achieve 3000, Educational Software for Guiding Instruction (ESGI), Lexia, Read and Math 180, Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR)/Renaissance Place, Edgenuity, and many others.

We are also continuing to support teachers by offering personalized professional development with many of the technology-based programs and providing management tools such as Hapara and Google Classroom. Vista Unified's IT Department continues to improve our infrastructure with ambitious plans to increase Wi-Fi access and bandwidth to support current and future technology implementation.

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# Vista Chamber of Commerce

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

## Annual Vista Strawberry Festival

By Brett Schanzenbach, Chief Executive Officer

The Annual Vista Strawberry Festival, sponsored by Tri-City Medical Center is returning on May 24, 2015. Last year's event welcomed over 90,000 attendees and the event is expected to attract an even larger crowd this year. The kids' ride area will open on Thursday, May 21st and feature an exciting new 250 feet Zip-line attraction. In addition, the signature Chalk-Alive - Sidewalk Art display sponsored by Twin Oaks Gallery starts on Saturday, May 23rd. Everyone is invited to come out early, enjoy the rides, and watch these talented artists create their masterpieces live. The Festival officially kicks off in Historic

Downtown Vista on Sunday, May 24, 2015, at 6:45 a.m. with the Strawberry Festival Run (10K, 5K, 1-Mile, ¼-Mile) sponsored by Mossy BMW. The run, followed by a pie eating contest, strawberry costume contest, Strawberry Idol, and much more, is certain to be a day full of food, fun, memories and of course - strawberries! Visit [VistaStrawberryFest.com](http://VistaStrawberryFest.com) for full details.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



The end of this school year is in sight and students are focused on final testing and reaching their academic goals.

The Superintendent and Board of Education messages highlight how important technology is in the classroom. It is an exciting time for students as they prepare to compete in the 21st Century.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Congratulations Class of 2015.

Have a wonderful summer! Our next issue is September 16th.

## School News

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[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Covering the  
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## Vista Education Foundation

236 E. Broadway, Vista, CA 92084 • 760/630-8268 • [www.vistaedfoundation.org](http://www.vistaedfoundation.org)



## The Hero's Event

By Brad Peterson, President

I am happy to report that our Hero's Event in April was a great success. VEF and the Vista Chamber of Commerce jointly sponsored this annual activity. We had a great evening, with over 250 attendees present.

The event featured a very talented guitar soloist who performed during the cocktails and silent auction. Ann Fennell brought her steel drum band to perform during dinner, and she had the attendees dancing and performing alongside the band. VIDA also brought their dancers to perform several inspiring acts prior to the live auction, which also raised about \$20,000!

The event spotlighted the technical abilities of our students. They did a great job in creating videos of the winners and taking photos of the event. Mission Vista and Vista High represented themselves professionally to our community leaders. I think the interaction between students, teachers, and community helped the VEF raise money that can be used to help our art, technology, and scholarship needs.

The Hero's Event is all about recognition, and this year we had four very special people to honor. Our technology teacher of the year is Michelle Blaha. The scholarship educator of the year is Valerie Weethee. Our arts educator of the year is Mark Scott, and our administrator of the year is Jeanie Luckey, who also informed the group of her pending retirement.

We have an event coming up in July at the Moonlight Amphitheater. The goal is to raise additional funds for our students, and enjoy an evening at the theatre. Additionally, we have also purchased 100 lawn tickets for distribution to some lucky students. They will be seeing *Shrek, The Musical*, which is a great chance for them to be introduced to live theater for the very first time.

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COMING TO VISTA'S MOONLIGHT AMPHITHEATRE THIS SUMMER!

DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS

# SHREK

## THE MUSICAL

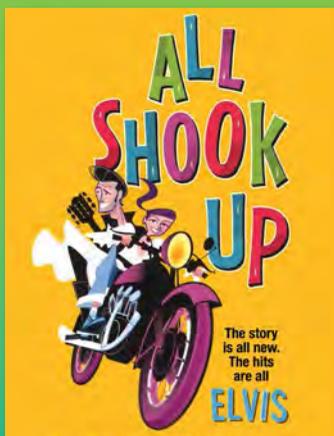
August 12-29 at 8 pm

ALSO COMING THIS SUMMER!

### Family Nights!

Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday night tickets for kids are just \$10, and only \$15 on Fridays with the purchase of two adult tickets. Good for lawn seating (we provide your lawn chair – free!). Available for purchase at the box office on the night of show.

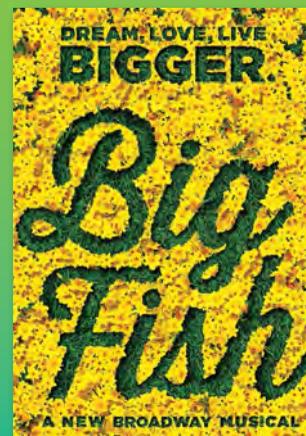
[moonlightstage.com](http://moonlightstage.com)  
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JUNE 10-27  
at 8 PM



JULY 15-AUGUST 1  
AT 8 PM



SEPTEMBER 9-26  
AT 7:30 PM

## City of Vista Office of the Mayor

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

### Summer Fun



**Judy Ritter**  
Mayor

The summer time is fast approaching and the City offers many fun activities to entertain the family and visitors all summer long. Check online at [CityofVista.com](http://CityofVista.com) for summer day camps, youth activities, community events, and the Movies in the Park series. The Wave Waterpark opens Memorial weekend.

In addition, 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 (5-7 pm) is planned before the August 8 movie - with jump houses, kids' games, educational booths, and more.

**June 20: The Boxtrolls** (PG): Buena Vista Ball Fields (1851. S. Melrose Drive).  
**July 18: Planes: Fire & Rescue** (PG): Vista Sports Park (1600 Sports Park Drive).  
**Aug 8: Big Hero 6** (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!

### Career Technical Education

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org)



**Susie Johnson**  
Coordinator CTE/ROP

### Career Ready

Career Technical Education (CTE) is thriving in Vista! In April we held the Vista College and Career Expo, where CTE students from our high schools heard firsthand from our esteemed district leaders and community champions. They went to workshops and learned about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), financial literacy and soft skills, and watched a live "College Shark Tank," where our local colleges and universities gave three-minute pitches about their colleges and why our students should choose their schools.

We also are celebrating two new courses in the CTE family, Information Technology (IT) Essentials at Alta Vista High School and Major General Murray High School and Advanced Robotics at Rancho Buena Vista High School, and the revision of our CTE Web Publishing and Media Design course, which will now include the integration of Geographic Information Systems!

Congratulations to Chef Plunkett, recently crowned California ProStart Educator of the year. Samuel Martinez, Vista High School, is this year's student of the year winner of the CTE California Association for Regional Occupational Centers and Programs for San Diego and Imperial County. Recent grant winners in CTE include Dadre Rudolph, Robotics, RBV; Martie Napier, Medical Pathways, Vista High; Donna Tlachac, Web Design, RBV; and Sara Benner, Agriculture Programs, Vista High.

### Del Norte Council PTA

1234 Arcadia Ave., Vista, CA 92084 • 760/815-4872

### Time's Worth Plenty!

As we round out this year, now is the time that we calculate what we have done for our schools and our children throughout the year. Whether it was Kinder Tea, Fall Carnivals, Jog-A-Thons, Spell-A-Thons, assemblies, dances, luncheons, classroom help or whatever capacity you served, I want to say thank you! Thanks to you and our army of parent volunteers in this district, we have made a huge difference!

As a council of 24 units, we have volunteered over 79,000 hours of our time. That translates into over \$1.7 million of work for our schools, our children and our district. Elections are being held across our district. If you want to be heard, be involved and make more of a difference at your school, now is the time. We are already planning for next year and would love to have your opinions, your ideas and your help.

Thank you for your time and work for our children!

### Setting the Stage for Growth

By Matt Doyle, Ed.D., Executive Director-VUSD

Thank you to our students, parents, teachers, and staff members for participating in the review and revision of our Blueprint for Educational Excellence and Innovation. Your ideas and feedback will ensure that the Blueprint is a true reflection of the needs and aspirations of our community.

Over the past five months more than 1,000 parents, students, teachers, and staff members have participated in 70 different community forums. This included a review of current progress on school board goals, a review of our academic actions and services, and feedback on revisions to the Blueprint.

As a result, the proposed revisions to the Blueprint added increased counseling support at the schools. We have also increased support for parents and families using community liaisons; expanded learning opportunities for struggling students during the summer and on breaks; placed greater emphasis on enrolling economically disadvantaged students and English learners in a-g and Advanced Placement courses; continued progress in building a robust technology infrastructure; expanded support for the visual and performing arts; and created a personalized learning path system for students in preschool through high school.

The Blueprint for Educational Excellence and Innovation also serves as our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). These forums fulfill the state requirement to actively engage our community in the development of the LCAP.

The draft version of the 2015–2016 Blueprint and LCAP will be posted on the district's website for public viewing and feedback during the month of May. The Vista Unified School Board will hold a state mandated public meeting for feedback on June 12, 2015. The Blueprint and LCAP will then be considered for adoption by the Board on June 26, 2015.

For more detailed information about both the Blueprint and the LCAP, please visit our website at [www.vistausd.org](http://www.vistausd.org) and click on the word "Blueprint."



### Vista Adult School

510 Sunset Dr., Vista, CA 92081 • 760/758-7122 • [www.vistaadultschool.org](http://www.vistaadultschool.org)



**Liz O'Shea-West**  
Principal

### Wrapping Up the Year

This has been a pivotal year for Vista Adult School. We have partnered with our local community college and the North County Adult School to create a collaborative consortium called the San Diego North Adult Education Partnership. It will operate within the guidelines of the AB 86 grant, and will focus on developing a common plan to assist our adult learners to transition to community college and work.

Vista Adult School is also in the process of renewing our accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). In addition to serving the educational needs of the over 4,000 adult learners in our community, we have also recently participated in many community service projects, including a San Diego Blood Bank blood drive and campus beautification projects held in conjunction with a local church.

We also held a very well-attended Career Technical Education Advisory Meeting which promoted continuous improvements to our CTE course offerings through community and business involvement.

The school year will be rounding out with our annual Community Resource Fair in May, to be held at our Sunset Campus. Our VAS graduation ceremony will be in June, to be held for the first time at our Olive Campus. Information on these topics (and more) can be found on our website, at [www.vistaadultschool.org](http://www.vistaadultschool.org).



**Ronald Theis, M.A.Ed. '12**  
School Psychologist  
Rialto Unified School District

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# Alamosa Park *Elementary*

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



**Kyle Ruggles**  
Principal

## The Great Reading Challenge

During two different weeks in March, Alamosa Park celebrated National Read Across America Day with the Great Reading Challenge (GRC) and Healthy Hawk Week (HHW). Similar to January's Great Kindness Challenge, our students worked to complete a teacher-created list of 40 different ways to celebrate reading.

GRC events included a visit of 10 Vista High football student-athletes (many from Alamosa) who read books to the students, while parents joined the children with "Reading on the Green" for an hour.

Our students also celebrated healthy lifestyles and fitness by participating in the school's annual Healthy Hawk Week. This event was a collaboration of faculty members, the PTA, the Education Foundation, local families, and the VUSD Child Nutrition Services and the a local cafe. Students dressed in clothing that matched the color of the day, and also shared a variety of fruits and vegetables.



**VHS student-athletes celebrate reading with AP students during the AP Great Reading Challenge.**

Our Spirit Days included Rethink the Drink Day, Fear Factor Food Challenge, Milk Mustache Photo Day, Farmer Jones Creepy Crawler Garden Tours, and Nutrition Olympics. The GRC and HHW were memorable and exciting events for our students.

# Beaumont *Elementary*

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



**David Moore**  
Principal

## Common Core Lesson Designing and Implementation

The teachers were treated to the incomparable training and expertise of Vicki Alterwitz of T4 Learning! The training was a comprehensive three days of Common Core lesson design and implementation to enhance teacher strategies and engage students enthusiastically in Common Core. Vicki worked with Beaumont's teachers to co-design, co-deliver and debrief after some exciting lesson-delivery. T4 Learning's four components, implemented cohesively, promote educational excellence:



Teachers, Training, Tools and Time. One of Beaumont's teachers exclaimed that the teaching was "phenomenal! Vicki's practical teaching applications and modeling approach gave me lesson ideas I used in my classroom the very next day!" T4 Learning's technique is success built into every student!

# Alta Vista *High School*

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



**JoAnn Jones**  
Principal

## Roller-Coaster Engineers

Alta Vista High School students recently traveled to a local amusement park to participate in Physics Day. Students completed math and physics activities prior to the park visit and while in attendance, with a focus on roller coasters. Students explored the physics and math involved in making them work, learned how they are constructed, and discovered why they make us feel the way we do when riding them.

Our science classes constructed working roller coaster models utilizing a construction toy system prior to Physics Day. At the amusement park, the students collected data and photos of the parabolic and linear portions of a roller coaster. Back in the classroom students loaded their photos and data onto graphing calculators to determine the behavior of parabolas. The culminating activity asked students to find best-fit equations, complete summaries of their findings, and discuss how and why roller coasters are so much fun!



## Bobier *Elementary*

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



**Shannon Garcia**  
*Principal*

### Genius Lab

Bobier recently received \$30,000 in grants to build the Genius Lab, an engineering hub for our school. Every teacher and student will have access to this wonderful learning space that will include 3-D Printers, robotics, a laser cutter, Arduino UNO kits, snap-circuit kits, scribbler 3-D pens and more!

By partnering with a global technology corporation, Society of Women Engineers and Project Lead the Way, we are working to enhance our students' engineering competencies and solve our nation's engineering crisis from our little corner of the world.

Every teacher will be given the opportunity to learn how to facilitate #GeniusHour in the lab through Project Lead the Way, a nonprofit organization that seeks to support hands-on Common Core learning through Next Generation Science Standards.



**Dr. Shannon learns how to drive a wheelchair robot at Qualcomm's Thinkabit Lab.**

Our Genius Lab will lay the groundwork to help us achieve our vision: to inspire and empower every learner to achieve excellence via innovation and a collaborative community!

## California Avenue

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



**Rachel Schmidt**  
*Principal*

### Get Moving at APE

Students throughout the Vista Unified School District regularly participate in a physical education program. And California Avenue School is no exception.

Preschool and elementary students who have difficulty accessing their physical education program due to motor challenges can often benefit from the expertise of specialists in the Adapted Physical Education Department (APE).

Four Vista Unified APE specialists work with students of all ages from across the district to undergo a gross motor assessment for eligibility in this specialized service. Those students then participate either individually or with their peers in developmentally appropriate sports, structured games, and exercises that provide a physical education experience and promote good health.

In addition to the Adapted Physical Education classroom, as part of their physical education program these students may also participate in the motor lab at California Avenue School, or the Mary Lou Clack therapy pool. For many students, APE is a fun and favorite time of the day!

## Breeze Hill *Elementary*

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



**Rachel Jauss**  
*Principal*

### New Principal

I am excited to start as the new Principal at Breeze Hill Elementary! I have worked at both Barstow Unified School District and Adelanto Elementary School District for the past 18 years. During this time, I have had the opportunity to serve as Teacher, BTSA Support Provider, Instructional Specialist, Dean and Principal in both elementary and middle schools.

I grew up in Barstow, California as part of a large family including my mother and six brothers and sisters. I attended California Baptist University in Riverside while working full time receiving my Bachelors in Liberal Studies and Masters in Education. I live in Oceanside after having moved from the High Desert and I am looking forward to getting married this next year. I have a twenty-two year old daughter who is married and lives in Nevada with my darling nine-month old granddaughter. Along with being a Principal, I enjoy traveling, running, reading and sitting on the beach.

I look forward to joining the Breeze Hill school community as a member of the best school in the universe!

## Casita Center *Elementary*

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



**Laura Smith**  
*Principal*

### Casita Teacher Honored

For the past 25 years Gail Cerelli has been looked upon as an educational leader in VUSD and San Diego County. Gail has mentored student teachers, led science committees, participated on standards councils, and collaborated with other instructors to create inquiry based science units.

Most recently, Gail has also paved the way for much change at Casita Center, where she now serves as an International Baccalaureate primary years program co-coordinator and STEM specialist.

Ms. Cerelli has been instrumental in creating an outdoor classroom on Casita's campus, our schoolyard habitat. In this environment our teachers and students can think like scientists as they engage in science and engineering practices to learn about the world, or solve environmental problems like restoring wetlands and improving water quality.

Gail is also responsible for helping to update Casita's broadcasting studio. She has persevered by developing many community partnerships to help create a TV studio that contains a balance of new and old equipment. This will help our students understand how to use tools like video and audio mixers, Teleprompters, cameras, green screens, and editing on iMacs to produce the news. Our Casita fourth- and fifth-grade students can broadcast a real school news show to stream on the Internet.

Gail Cerelli has created innovative programs that do an excellent job of preparing our students for college and career. Now our students can experience meaningful work while they learn.



**Gail Cerelli**



# Empresa *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Cheree McKean**  
Principal

## Celebrating 25 Years

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Empresa Elementary School. Started in trailers on the campus of Roosevelt Middle School, Empresa has grown to over 800 students and prides itself on being a place where children experience learning academically and musically.

At the annual Music Festival, current students and alumni came together to celebrate the school's musical gift to the community. Founding faculty members Ronda Bishop, Geri Cook, Debbie Phillips, and Kathy Schwartz were on hand, as well as many faculty members, administrators, and students



**After 25 years at Empresa, Founding Faculty, Ronda Bishop, Deb Phillips, Geri Cook and Kathy Schwartz, still bring the passion of teaching to their students.**

from the past. The crowd was treated to performances by the Round Table Chorale, the Knights of Rhythm Percussion Ensemble, the Castle Wind Ensemble, the Guitar Guard and the Keiki Ukulele Club, as well as ensembles from Roosevelt Middle School, Vista High School, and the School of Rock.

We look forward to another 25 years of great education, spirit, and fun at Empresa!

# Foothill Oak *Elementary*

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



**Sandra Ceja**  
Principal

## Valuable Partnerships

Foothill Oak benefits greatly from community partnerships that develop our minds, bodies and hearts! Student engineers build volcanoes and make ice cream! We learn about rocks and minerals and ocean science including squid dissection! Kinesiology students provide physical activities and retired, but oh-so-energetic, physical education teacher, La Dorna Bundt, increase physical activity and sportsmanship! Rita's Reading Challenge motivated students to increase reading while La Jolla Playhouse brought a performance of The Astronaut Farmworker.



The Weekend of Service will bring refreshed gardens, playground painting, soccer goals, and a new school logo mural! We are so grateful for partnerships that bring in specialists and provide new and exciting opportunities for our students!

# Grapevine *Elementary*

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



**Rafael Olavide**  
Principal

## Reading is FUNDamental

Our Read Across America event was a tremendous success! It takes a well-oiled machine to plan, organize, foresee and anticipate hiccups, problem solve, and keep the focus on students to make this one of the best Read Across America events around. Our Read Across America team, led by Mrs. Petsche, Mrs. Gresia, Miss Prentiss, and Mrs. Bolton, and with the priceless support of our amazing Grapevine PTA, put together an impressive week full of reading activities.

Our Accelerated Reader system documented that 1,701 books were read, 500 more than the week prior, with a high of 386 books read on Tuesday. We read 4,180,914 words, which was 200,000 more than the week prior. We read paperback, hardcover, and online books from myON and Raz-Kids. In addition, 148 books were read by the 91 guests, who came to the Drop In and



Read event on Friday. To date, our school has read 25,842 books and counting!

We cannot be more proud of all the students, professionals, families, and everyone who made this a very special time for Grapevine Elementary School. Read on!

# Hannalei *Elementary*

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



**Tracy Zachry**  
Principal

## The Right Track!

A new track has finally been completed at Hannalei Elementary School! In April, we had a wonderful Ribbon Cutting Ceremony honoring the collaboration of many people who worked together to solve a problem for the Hannalei community. We needed a safe place to run and walk during PE, at recess and for our annual Jog-a-thon. After many years of adding it to our wish list, we were able to make it happen! The money was allocated, the plans were made, the company was hired, and the construction began.

The students and families waited patiently as they saw the project unfold. Finally, the track was complete! We are so happy to have a safe place to run and walk as we continue to exercise and stay healthy!



## Lake *Elementary*

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



**Krista Berntsen**  
*Principal*

### K-LAK News live at Lake Elementary

Lake Elementary students are thrilled to announce the launch of our weekly school news broadcast! Each week, students collaborate with teachers, staff members and peers to write, film and create a news broadcast to share with the school. Using Google Apps, iPads, and movie apps, students gather news to share as well as highlight school clubs, celebrations, and special events. The news crew changes weekly with previous news anchors training the new crew. Students collaborate together on each step of the production process. This new communication

tool has been an amazing addition to our students. You can check out the news on our website, [lk.vistausd.org](http://lk.vistausd.org)!



## Madison *Middle School*

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



**Susan Ford**  
*Principal*

### Ready, Digital Natives!

Most of us have heard the term digital native applied to children who come into the world surrounded by technology. Digital natives are not intimidated by computers or new applications, and they quickly become proficient with new technologies.

At Madison, student interest has driven the development of new courses in both science and technology. Next year, in addition to STEM, video broadcasting and other current computer classes, we will offer courses geared to specific student interests. Students will be able to explore coding, robotics, computer science or digital art. Also, for the first time, students may choose to take marine biology, and over 100 students plan to take our new course.



**Ms. Morrow helps students explore topics in Marine Biology.**

Our students have multiple opportunities to pursue their interests, opening the door to explore future career options in science and technology. We are excited about our new school year and the expanding opportunities for all of our own digital natives!

## Maryland *Elementary*

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



**Carol LaBreche**  
*Principal*

### English Proficiency Celebration

Maryland students are meeting their English-language-development goals! We proudly celebrated 69 students who reclassified to English Proficiency.

To reclassify, the students must meet certain criteria on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) as well as demonstrate academic progress in the classroom.

Reclassification is an important step for our students. It means that they are capable of accessing curriculum that is necessary for success in their classes. We emphasize to our students that reclassifying in elementary school creates the steps necessary for the courses needed for college. We tell them that they are now in charge of their own educational path.

Maryland celebrated by inviting their parents to a special ceremony in front of the student body. Certificates and other congratulatory gifts were given to the students to commemorate this exciting event. Both parents and students were excited to be recognized for their success.



Tri-City Medical Center  
Presents the  
**Vista Strawberry**  
2015 FESTIVAL  
**May 24, 2015**  
**10k, 5k, Kids' Runs**  
**300+ Vendors**  
**Strawberry Alley**  
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**Chalk Alive**  
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**Idol**  
**7 Entertainment Stages**

I just ran Berry Fast for 6.2 miles!  
I'm Winded!  
ME TOO!

**MOSSY BMW of Vista**  
Drive Better For Less.

[www.VistaStrawberryFest.com](http://www.VistaStrawberryFest.com)

## Mission Meadows *Elementary*

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



**Dr. Bill Porter**  
Principal

### Proficiency in English

Mission Meadows students, staff and parents work together to provide a quality ELD program in which English learners may achieve their highest potential to read, write, and communicate with competence and confidence.

English-learner students meet academic challenges and show remarkable progress in literacy and language with access to Achieve 3000, practice in close reading, writing, and consistent opportunities to respond to complex text in collaborative

conversations with all peers. Teachers provide integrated and dedicated ELD time with high-quality instruction that highlights making meaning, effective expression, content knowledge and foundational skills. In PLCs, we examine the interrelationships between the California Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for ELA/literacy and the California ELD standards.

Parents help close achievement gaps by participating in school committees and providing encouragement. This month, ELAC will host a celebration for the 53 English learners who met redesignation criteria.

Mission Meadows is proud of the accomplishments and contributions of all our English learners!



## Mission Vista *High School*

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



**Nicole Miller**  
Principal

### Showcasing Our Talents

Mission Vista High School (MVHS) has had a busy few weeks since spring break. We started with a teacher-led professional development for Common Core State Standards on our March 30 Buy Back Day. Teachers learned powerful strategies from their colleagues regarding collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity, and technology and were able to immediately implement them into their lesson and unit plans to impact student learning. This was followed by an opportunity to experience the talent of our dual-magnet students and staff with our Poetry Slam, Karaoke Night, our first-ever Associated Student Body Student-Staff Talent Show, and our Student-Staff Basketball Game. The Heroes of Vista Gala provided another showcase for our MVHS family. Valerie Weethee was honored as the Vista Educator of the Year for Scholarships, our steel drums performed, and our Black Wolf Production students produced all of the videos for the award winners. What a great time to be a Timberwolf!

All of this leads us right into our testing window. Our 10th-graders completed the California High School Exit Exam in March, but we are now finishing our Smarter Balanced Assessments, Science California Standards Tests, and Advanced Placement tests. Our students are busy showing what they have learned and their mastery of the standards while experiencing unique and powerful learning opportunities on our campus.

## Olive *Elementary*

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



**Stephanie Vasquez**  
Principal

### Raising Readers

*By Joseph Vitulli, Teacher-ELD Resource*

This year, Olive Elementary School has been exploring innovative ways to expand learning, both inside and outside of the classroom. Our kindergarten students have begun the Raising a Reader program. Weekly, students take home zippered bags, each containing a multilingual instructional video and three different multicultural and bilingual books to be shared with parents and siblings.

Students in grades two through five enjoy a vast array of articles on Achieve3000, a program designed to help students gain a better understanding of real-world topics while increasing their Lexile levels and comprehension skills. Lexia is being used to enhance reading skills. Students are very happy when they receive level-completion certificates.



**Achieve3000 Winners Mr. Kurnik's 2nd grade.**

Each Tuesday morning, from 8:15–9:30 a.m., Olive's Parent Academy gives parents the opportunity to collaboratively use computers and learn about opportunities within Vista Unified School District. Olive families are feeling successful and self-motivated.

Go, Falcons!

## Monte Vista *Elementary*

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



**Charlene Smith**  
Principal

### Aquaponics Project

Monte Vista is excited to participate in a new form of learning called service learning, which integrates meaningful community service and classwork instruction in order to enrich students' overall learning experience. Fifth-grade students in Mrs. Salmon's class are learning about aquaponics farming in a partnership with a local aquaponics facility.

Aquaponics farming is a sustainable form of organic farming that uses 95 percent less water than traditional farming. The aquaponics facility is part of the larger Vista-based organization, Solutions for Change. The farm produces over 4,000 pounds of produce a month for the local community. In fact, Monte Vista students have been enjoying these organic vegetables for lunch every day for over a year, thanks to the VUSD Child Nutrition department. We even helped to create a video about the partnership that can be accessed at <http://wavecrestcafe.com/portfolio-items/organics-our-solutions-farms-partnership/>!

In addition to learning about the aquaponics farming cycle, fifth-graders will research possible solutions for repurposing the annual fish waste from the growing ponds. Students will engage in classroom activities led by their teacher and the facility staff and take a field trip to the farm in order to collect samples of the fish waste for analysis. At the conclusion of the unit of study, students will present their possible solutions for repurposing the water to the facility's staff.

To further enhance our students' learning experience, we applied for and received a grant from ECOLIFE for our own classroom aquaponics garden. Students will directly experience the aquaponics cycle in their classroom.

# Murray *High School*

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



**Chuck Hoover**  
*Principal*

## Murray's Rising Stars

During the 2014–2015 school year, the Vista Chamber of Commerce instituted a new recognition program known as the “Rising Star of the Month.” The Chamber’s mission behind this program was to “bring the community together to honor our local high school seniors for demonstrating character, integrity, love of learning, involvement in school and community activities, and/or the ability to overcome challenging life circumstances without compromising their education.”



**Jesus T., Natalie G., and Natalie S., with their families and teachers at the Rising Star of the Month breakfasts.**

The core purpose of Rising Star of the Month was to recognize the students who make a difference in their home, school, and community, and do it with sincerity and passion.

Murray’s “Stars” have each overcome tremendous life challenges on their road to graduation. From living with adverse health conditions to dealing with life and school challenges, these individuals have overcome the odds against them and are well on the way to highly productive lives.

We are so very proud of each of them. Congratulations to Natalie G., Jesus T., and Natalie S.



# Rancho Minerva *Middle School*

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



**Ben Gaines**  
*Principal*

## Digital Every Day!

It was wonderful to see Rancho Minerva featured as part of the Digital Learning Day in Washington, D.C. Along with Vista High, Rancho Minerva was highlighted for its use of transformational technology in the classrooms. It is not uncommon to see groups of students working on projects throughout campus on their iPads. Walking into a classroom, you would see students working on a variety of apps at different times.

Students are given the opportunity to create every day at Rancho Minerva, and iPads are a nice addition to help them in these efforts. Last month, two RMMS students were invited to participate in a Future Ready press conference in San Diego. Both students did a wonderful job discussing how technology has transformed their education. We are proud of them and proud of the wonderful things happening at Rancho Minerva.



# Rancho Buena Vista *High School*

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



**Chuck Schindler**  
*Principal*

## Wrapping Up

We are having an exciting end of the year at Rancho Buena Vista High School. Our academic and athletic programs are spotlighting the great work of our staff and students, and we also had a productive Professional Development Day at the beginning of April.

This event focused on Common Core content, Performance Task Assessments, and preparation for the WASC accreditation. Our teachers also continue to meet in their Monday morning Professional Learning Communities to plan lessons and assessments that will help our students become college and career ready.

The arts have been 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 *9 to 5: The Musical* was spectacular, with three of the performers having the opportunity to rehearse with Ben Vereen.

RBV also hosted its annual Chalk Festival in April, with many students and staff members participating to help decorate the main walkway at the school.

Our athletic programs continue to make us proud, as they allow our students to develop their skills and compete at high levels. The RBV weight room has also been refurbished with a generous grant from the Chargers Foundation, and support of the VUSD.

# Roosevelt *Middle School*

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



**Elise Ochenduszo**  
Principal

## Our Crowded Calendar

Fourth quarter is underway, and with it comes a very exciting time of year at RMS! Students in grades 6–8 began the California Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) exams this week. All of our approximately 1,050 students are testing simultaneously during a special testing block that has been built into the school day, using Chromebooks! It is quite a sight to see!

RMS has had a lot to celebrate this month! Our Band and Chorus programs recently earned Unanimous Superior at their recent festival competitions, and two RMS students, Matthew

Hernandez and Aunika Mayers, took first and third place respectively at the speech contest sponsored by a national service organization. They'll compete in Del Mar at the regional competition later this month.

We were glad to meet all our future Wildcats and their families at our Incoming Student Orientation Night in April, and we look forward to seeing our current Wildcats and their families at Open House on May 21. Visit the RMS website for more info.



# Vista *Adult Transition Center*

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



**Chris Altona**  
Principal

## A Place for Real-World Growth

A strange phenomenon has been seen each morning at the Vista Adult Transition Center. While we have full caseloads of young adult students, the silence can be deafening if you happen to walk onto our campus after 9:30 a.m.

What could be perceived as something gone wrong is in fact quite the opposite. Our adult transition students are now engaging in the community and learning in the most authentic ways. They utilize public transit, work at local businesses in both subsidized and direct-hire employment, take college courses, and experience real-world interactivity. This makes for a quiet campus on most mornings!

On the other hand, as our students return from their workplaces and college classes, and as the afternoons begin to take shape, our site then bustles with activity.

Many of our students return for lunch to take classes in specific social, vocational, recreational, and domestic skills as taught by our case managers. It is during this time that the smells from the newly remodeled kitchen classroom become inviting. Shouts of encouragement and fun are also heard from our play field, and student groups can often be seen honing their vocational skills through discussions and planning.

Our vision of creating an adult transition hub where students can apply their newly learned skills to the outside world is now being realized. The Center is a happy and productive environment, one that supports our young adults in helping to achieve a high degree of career readiness.

# Temple Heights *Elementary*

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



**Kim Morton**  
Principal

## Welcome, Mrs. Flores!

As Vista builds a blueprint for innovation and success, the social and emotional wellbeing of all students is a focus.

Temple Heights Elementary School is proud to welcome

Martha Flores, our school counselor, to fill this need. She joined our team at the beginning of the year and immediately had a tremendous impact on our school.

Mrs. Flores provides academic and social-emotional support, so students can succeed on their paths to college and career. She achieves this through many levels of intervention: anti-bullying assemblies, kindness campaigns, food backpacks, classroom lessons, and individual and small-group counseling. If you feel that your child is experiencing difficulty at home or at school regarding social skills, family changes, or academic achievement, it may be beneficial to contact Mrs. Flores. We are pleased to have another trusted grown-up on campus who students can talk to when they are experiencing a problem.



**Our Counselor Rocks! We are proud to welcome our counselor, Martha Flores.**

# Vista Academy *of Visual & Performing Arts*

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



**Catina Hancock**  
Principal

## Arts Integration

Vista Academy students are blooming with talent this spring! Our musical *The AristoCats Kids* was an amazing show. The Art Conservatory students and specialists outdid themselves once again, and a fantastic time was had by all! Recently our artists' photography was on exhibition at the Vista Civic Center. These budding photographers also received recognition at a Vista City Council meeting.

What better way to solidify learning than for every student to perform on the stage? Vista Academy students can receive this unique opportunity! Our second-grade students recently displayed their international-mindedness by performing cultural traditions from France, China, Japan, Ghana, and the United States.

The third-grade student performance was a culmination of their International Baccalaureate unit of study on the sun, moon, and stars. Students shared inquiry, traveled back to Galileo's time, and performed cultural folk tales on the solar system.

Throughout these processes the students learn to be risk takers, communicators, and creative and critical thinkers. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

We are very excited to welcome our new Vista Academy Bulldogs this fall. We had an overwhelming number of applications for the 2015–2016 school year, with many families still on our admissions waiting list. With the exciting changes to our inquiry based arts integrated IB program, students at Vista Academy are well on their way to becoming innovative, global citizens with a deep appreciation for the applied and performing arts.

## Vista *High School*

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



**Anthony Barela**  
Principal

### In Good Hands

As the end of the school year rapidly approaches, we have had a wonderful spring here at Vista High School. Here are some of the accomplishments we have been a part of this spring:

Vista High School will be a Gold Ribbon Designated school in mathematics based on criteria established by the California Department of Education. Sandra Bailey has been nominated for national recognition for her math leadership. Chef Kim Plunkett was named the ProStart teacher of the year for the state of California. Sara Benner was invited to be part of the national colloquium in Indiana to solve hunger. Mike Pink was selected as the High School Teacher of the Year, as well as the district Teacher of the Year for Vista Unified School District.

Colonel Vincent Lostetter was the first in San Diego County to get students airborne through the Civil Air Patrol. Dave Hanlon had a group of students selected to be part of the national We Day in Sacramento, and student Marissa Medici was selected from over 17,000 students to receive a scholarship.

As you can see, our students are in good hands, and we are continually striving to be the model of educational excellence! Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a great end of the school year!

We Are Vista Every Day!

## Vista Magnet *Middle School*

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



**Anne Green**  
Principal

### Contributing to a Global Society

As International Baccalaureate students, our Vipers recognize social and environmental issues around the world and in their local community. These middle school students often engage in community service projects, investigate real-world problems, and design service-learning experiences to help better their world.

This year, students utilized the IB design cycle to create bookmarks for the Global Literacy Challenge. They also donated to impoverished children in Africa, Asia, and South America. Each bookmark was matched by a monetary donation aimed at providing reading materials to these communities.



Our VMMS students also met at the Vista Public Library on a Saturday to communicate to the younger children about the importance of literacy. Locally, our Vipers also participated in Pasta for Pennies, collecting \$6,844 to support leukemia and lymphoma research. Vipers also served their community at the Alta Vista Gardens Earth Day celebration, and will finish the year with a beach clean-up.

Whatever the need, our students live the VUSD's mission to "Persevere as critical-thinking individuals who collaborate to solve real-world problems."

## Vista *Innovation & Design Academy*

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



**Dr. Eric Chagala**  
Principal

### Celebrations of Learning

As part of our school's effort to honor student voice and choice to create a more personalized learning opportunity, VIDA has established a balanced approach to instruction that includes Project Based Learning and Design Thinking. An important part of a more personalized learning experience is to provide students an opportunity to publicly reflect upon what they have learned and what they have been working on throughout the year.

Our seventh-grade students participated in VIDA's first-ever Celebrations of Learning during parent conferences in March. Our sixth-grade students are currently preparing for their Celebrations of Learning that will occur in conjunction with our Spring Design Expo in May. The public audience includes the students' family, VIDA faculty and three or four other families and students. The public-audience aspect elevates student expectations for themselves because learning is no longer a private function between student and teacher.

So far, our Celebrations of Learning have exceeded all expectations. We are overflowing with joy about this experience. It was not a rare occasion to have parents have tears of pride running down their cheeks during this experience.

Essential components of the Celebrations of Learning were students reflecting and providing evidence of their learning. Students also reflected upon our core values (GILLS) and provided evidence for which GILLS they were excelling at and also which GILLS they needed to focus their goal setting and growth toward.

Our students are designing their own legacies, and they are reflecting about that in positive ways! Go Sharks!

## Vista Visions *Academy*

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



**Dr. Erin English**  
Principal

### Individualized Learning

Vista Visions Academy (VVA) is a school for families seeking an alternative educational and school-of-choice program for their children. Students at VVA are provided with innovative learning opportunities delivered in both a blended and online environment, as well as a nurturing classroom.

Our educational program emphasizes independent learning and a chance for students to explore their strengths. At VVA we use innovative techniques to enhance lifelong learning through technology, varied instructional strategies, and innovative learning experiences.

Our teachers pride themselves on staying current and relevant. Students are encouraged to "show what they know" digitally by using Web 2.0 tools. All students have access to Chromebooks and iPads. We also have a new 3-D printer so that students can develop their design and engineering skills.

Our small class sizes allow for personalized and individualized learning experiences. Many of our students come from homes where parents want to take a more active role in their children's education. At Vista Visions, we also partner with our parents to create a nurturing environment where children are at the heart of the program.

Most of our content is available online so that the students can access learning at any time. Our school's flexible schedule also allows for enrichment in areas like music, drama, programming, and extended hands-on science projects.

Vista Visions would like to invite prospective families to our Open House on May 20. Please refer to our webpage for more information about this event, and our unique and wonderful school, at <http://vva.vistausd.org>.

## So You Think You Can Drive



**Sandy Spurgeon  
McDaniel**

My children are in their 40s, and a lot of water has gone under the bridge since I parented them. One of the most memorable areas of difficulty is when they learned to drive. It is bad enough that your precious baby is on the roller coaster of hormones and exhibiting moments of extreme independence; now he or she wants to get behind the wheel of a car and disappear into the teenage world. Yikes! Besides ensuring that your teen has lots of supervised practice with driving, which will allow him or her to react appropriately when faced with an unexpected situation, it's also important to impress upon your young person the magnitude of the responsibility the privilege of driving entails. Following are some thoughts to share with your children at this important stage of life.

It is critical that your teen understands that driving an automobile is wielding a deadly weapon. You are not only risking your life but someone else's life.

Today's teens also have to deal with the impact of the world of electronics on their driving. Texting and driving is the same as playing Russian roulette, only the stakes are higher, because more lives are at risk. According to [textinganddrivingsafety.com](http://textinganddrivingsafety.com), there are 1.3 million crashes involving cell phones each year. If you look down for five seconds while driving 55 miles per hour, it is the same as looking down while driving the length of a football field. Too many people have lost their lives or killed someone else while texting and driving. Whatever you have to share can wait.

Drinking and driving is not new, but it is still unacceptable. I warned my children that if they came in from an evening with friends and I could tell they had been drinking or doing drugs, they would lose their driving privileges. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) has plenty of graphic pictures on its Web site, which clearly illustrate that alcohol dulls the clarity of a person's thoughts. Alcohol inhibits your ability to make wise choices, so it should never be mixed with driving.

Distracted drivers are also a danger on the road. Driving a car requires your full attention. Reaching into the glove box, turning to talk to friends, or singing and bouncing around distracts a driver.

All of these behaviors need to be emphasized with young drivers. But they all boil down to one truth of life: you always need to be responsible and make good choices. From incurring parking tickets or allowing someone else to drive your car to driving while intoxicated, poor choices have serious consequences for your teen, and he or she should know that before you hand over the keys.

Finally, before you send your teen out on the road solo for the first time, remind your child how much you love him or her. Let your teen know that you are aware of the dangers driving may impose and you trust him or her to make good choices. When your child knows that your trust is at risk, hopefully he or she will think twice before making a life-threatening poor decision.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children's book: *Believe You Are Beautiful*. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle

## Bicycle Parts—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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put VUSD in the subject line)

**Entries must be received by July 15, 2015**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

BASKET	HANDLEBARS
BRAKES	HELMET
CHAIN	KICKSTAND
CHAIN GUARD	LIGHT
CRANK	PEDALS
FENDERS	REFLECTOR
FORK	SEAT
FRAME	SPOKES
GLOVES	TIRES
GOOSENECK	WHEELS
GRIPS	

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

**Congratulations to  
Stephanie Braun and Lindsey Pak  
Winners of the March Word Search Contest!**

## Confidence for Beginning Drivers



Jodie Lynn

**Question:** Our son is planning on getting his driving permit this summer. This means he will be able to drive on his own without supervision. What are some easy guidelines to make him feel more comfortable about driving that we could set up for him so we don't constantly nag him or make him feel uncomfortable?

**From Jodie:** When our teenagers got their license, we had already let them drive around our neighborhood high school parking lot when there were no other cars. We practiced parallel parking, backing up, going around soccer cones, and in and out of them, while they were still new drivers. However, when it came time for driving in real traffic, even though they knew most of the traffic signs and procedures, it was clear that they simply needed more experience with real-life driving situations. They needed to understand what was required of them while driving in rain, sleet, snow and ice. They also needed to become comfortable with busy streets, highways, overpasses, etc. Driving schools, pretty much meet the requirements needed to give them the confidence that they lacked in these specific areas. The one-on-one attention with an adult who wasn't going to be grading or nagging them was exactly what was missing. Of course, in today's society, making sure that teens do not text and drive, is also one of the missing elements. SnapSecure created an infographic to illustrate the dangers of texting and driving and offer a driver's safety app which disables texting, calling and internet functions of a phone when you are driving over 15mph. Helpful for parents who are worried about the safety of their teens, the motion activated technology also alerts parents if the block is removed.

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](http://www.ParentToParent.com) for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

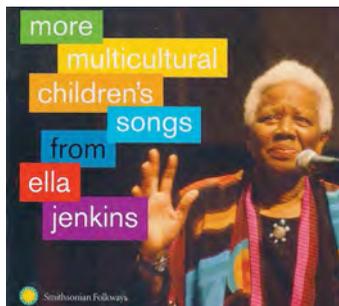
## Note-ables

### More Multicultural Children's Songs



Kate Karp

In celebration of the giving season, here's an offering from an award-winning children's music icon. Smithsonian Folkways has just released Ella Jenkins' 34th album, a sampler of music and spoken word that represents many diverse countries and cultures around the world.



Jenkins, called the First Lady of the Children's Folk Song, has recorded collections for children since back in the days of vinyl. My teacher played her records when I was a child in 1957, and yours may have, too, in the six-plus decades of her still-active career.

This collection sends children on a global tour that will educate them about vocabulary, special celebrations and cultures from here in the United States straight through the planet to the Great Wall of China—well, actually, that would be in the Indian Ocean, but you get the idea. There are stops at an Australian zoo for a visit with the continent's unusual animals, in Cuba for a dance lesson and in Israel for a dreidel spin. Children will learn how to count to ten in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese and Greek (and in English, of course) and will hear how *Cairo* in Egypt is pronounced differently from *Cairo* in Illinois. And their passports are good for a dozen other lands.

Jenkins turned 90 years old in August, and she's still singing. *More Multicultural Songs* comprises her continuing gift of learning and connection to cultures through song to children everywhere.

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



## Every Step – a Journey!



Tyler Robert Armstrong

I am 11 year old, Tyler Armstrong, mountaineer. At age 9, I set the World Record as the youngest person ever to climb Mt. Aconcagua (22,841 feet). I also set the record for the youngest person to climb Mt. Whitney (14,505 ft) in a single day (age 7), and was the second youngest to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341 ft) (age 8).

Everyone always wants to know why a kid would want to climb mountains? I wanted to start climbing because when I was 6 I watched a nature documentary on the Great Divide. What was interesting about that documentary was that you hiked all the way from Canada to Mexico! Also, my dad had just come back from a hiking trip and showed me some videos. After the video was over I was inspired by what he just had accomplished! The next night I told my parents I wanted to start hiking! Then, after my dad got home I told him, "Let's go jogging." At first I could only go about a quarter mile. The next time I went jogging my goal was a half mile and it kept building from there. About a month later after a lot of hard work, it was time for my first hike!

My first hike was for about 6 miles and I could climb only to about 5,000 feet elevation, but at that time it was very challenging to me. I slowly made it to the top of the mountain and back, but I still made it all the way! The next day I was very sore. About a week later I told my dad that I wanted to do something bigger. We went on the internet and found more mountains that I was ready for. After climbing other local mountains and longer distances, I was ready for my test - Mt. Baldy (10,064 ft)! My dad decided to take a difficult trail up Mt. Baldy for 6,000 feet of elevation gain and 12 miles round trip. That day was very tough and tiring, but I was ready because of my hard training. When we got to the top I could see every thing. I was so high I could see LA! It was amazing that everything was under me, even the clouds! And right there I knew what I wanted to do... Mountain Climb!

After months of hard work I was ready to try to set a record by... (to be continued).

If you can't wait for the next column, please enjoy Tyler's web site! [www.topwithtyler.com](http://www.topwithtyler.com) and [www.facebook.com/topwithtyler](http://www.facebook.com/topwithtyler) and [www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler](http://www.youtube.com/user/TopWithTyler)

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