

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Wiseburn School District

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www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

JUNE–OCTOBER 2013

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Capitalizing on Small Learning Communities

A key ingredient to the success of Wiseburn schools over the years has been the core belief in small learning communities. In

Wiseburn, every single student is known and valued. As we have worked over the past four years to develop our high school program, we have repeatedly gone back and reflected on what has made us successful with our K–8 program. The common denominator is always our people—outstanding teachers, dedicated administrators and staff, and a tremendously supportive community. We have all worked together to achieve some outstanding results. As we enter the final few weeks of the 2012–2013 school year, we can look back with satisfaction on many significant accomplishments.

In April, Dana Middle School was notified by the California Department of Education that they had earned California Distinguished School status for the second time. Dana is one of only 38 middle and high schools in Los Angeles County to earn this honor in 2013. Adding to the recognition of the fine work at Dana, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) named Dana's principal, Aileen Harbeck, Middle School Principal of the Year for the entire state of California. Also at Dana, 37 students and three teachers completed the 26.2-mile Los Angeles Marathon on March 17, 2013. This was the largest Wiseburn group ever to run the marathon.

This year we had an outstanding fifth-grade Burnett student, Andrew Harrison, win the District Spelling

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 10

## Project Lead the Way



Justin Bonilla presenting to US Air Force Captains!

By Andy Deseriere, Teacher

Justin Bonilla, of Project Lead the Way at Dana Middle School presents his team's findings to an audience of Air Force officers and other dignitaries at the 36th Annual Robert H. Herndon Science Competition held at Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo. The Dana Project Lead the Way (PLTW) team placed 2nd and took home prize money totaling \$1,800.

The Dana PLTW team focused their science project on how to develop a better prosthetic hand. The team researched grip and studied with a doctor from Veteran's Hospital in Los Angeles and a prosthetics doctor from Beverly Hills Prosthetics. The students used knowledge from several different fields of science to build a prototype of a prosthetic hand that was recognized by the judges for its research and development excellence.

## Common Core Implementation

By Dr. Chris Jones

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology

There has been a lot of discussion lately in the media about "Common Core" State Standards. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort that establishes a single set of clear educational standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English Language Arts and Mathematics that states can voluntarily adopt. Previously, under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, each state created their own standards and set their own levels of proficiency expectations for the students in that particular state. While California set the NCLB bar for student proficiency at a very high level and has seen consistent growth on accountability measures over the last decade, many other states chose to set their expectations much lower. This resulted in severe discrepancies among the states on federal accountability measures such as Adequate Yearly Progress. The Common Core approach was developed to provide states with a coherent and consistent common language for student expectations. So far, 46 of the 50 states (including California) have adopted the Common Core as their guide for instructional content for students.

See COMMON CORE • Page 10

## Da Vinci Innovation Academy



Students from Core 2 (1st and 2nd grade) take tickets for the Motion Carnival at Exhibition Night. Students built their own carnival games for visitors to play. (please see page 5)

## Anza PTA

Linda Cessor, President • 310/725-2150

# Thank You!

WOW! Where has the year gone? As the end of another school year at Juan de Anza School approaches, I would like to acknowledge all of the volunteers who made this a successful year.

We began the year with eager minds and endless energy, which all of our volunteers selflessly applied to supporting our students, teachers, and staff. Our volunteers hit the ground running in late August and continued this pace throughout the year. They are the foundation that supports our PTA membership drive, our fund-raising efforts, Anza Wear sales, the Growing Great Program, our craft fair, and the many other events and programs that our PTA is able to provide due to their generosity and labor of love. I am confident that I speak for both teachers, staff members, and parents when I say, “Thank you very much. Your volunteerism and donations do great things.”

We would also like to thank the Wiseburn Education Foundation, which held this year’s Rock-Around-the-Block event at Juan de Anza on April 20. This event is one of the few opportunities to bring all of our schools together as we contribute to a common goal, supporting the Wiseburn Education Foundation. It was a beautiful day filled with excitement, laughter, and fun.

Have a safe and beautiful summer! We will see you in the fall.

## Burnett PTA

Liz Martin, President • 310/725-2151

# A Space for Everything!

This has been a very exciting 2013 at Peter Burnett. We are extremely thankful to finally have our very own multipurpose room! The Don and Sari Brann Center has been an amazing addition to our already great school. Our students are so excited to have this beautiful new space—they can now enjoy performances and assemblies and eat inside on rainy days. In the short time that it has been open, PTA has been able to host many great events including Family Craft Night, Family Movie Night and a Father-Daughter Dance. We have had a great turnout for all of our events. Thank you to all our Burnett Families for your support!

I would also like to give a huge thank-you to all of our amazing volunteers. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our students! I hope that you see you are truly making a difference every day! We are very enthusiastic about and eagerly looking forward to future events, beginning with our upcoming Taco/Game Night, After-School Movie and Talent Show. We are thrilled to be able to use and share such a great space with our families and our community.

### Thank You, Mrs. Sullivan!

We would also like to express how indebted we are to our amazing principal, Laura Sullivan. In addition to doing incredible work at her day job, she has always supported our PTA by attending all our meetings, giving us constructive feedback and finding a way to make our ideas a reality. The Peter Burnett PTA knows we can always count on Mrs. Sullivan. She attends every meeting, every function and every activity we throw her way. Her dedication to Peter Burnett and WSD is inspirational. We are so thankful to be at a school with such an outstanding leader!

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to more great things at Peter Burnett. We continue to support our school-based programs, such as field trips, Hands-On Arts and Growing Great, which require lots of help from great parents and community members like you!

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”—Margaret Mead. If you are interested in making a difference, please do not hesitate to contact us at [lizlikesu@yahoo.com](mailto:lizlikesu@yahoo.com).

## Cabrillo PTA

Anne Tittle, President • 310/725-5400

# A Busy Spring

It has been a busy spring for Cabrillo PTA! On March 4th, we held elections and welcomed three new parents to our executive board: Jenny Childs, Treasurer; Corinne Rosenstein, VP Communications; and Desiree Lumpkin, VP Membership. Our members were also treated to two guest speakers, as Steve Wallis and Matt Wunder from Da Vinci schools came to talk to our parents about current (and exciting) plans for the new Wiseburn High School! March was also marked by two very successful fundraisers—coin drive and candy sale.

April brought successful fundraisers and more informational opportunities for our parents. We held the annual Read A Thon over Spring Break, and on April 17th, we tried a “new” restaurant for a restaurant fundraiser night, which was Sammy’s Woodfired Pizza in Plaza El Segundo. Cabrillo parents were also invited to two educational sessions in April, and the topics covered were Speech and Language Development and Behavior Management. Thank you to our PTA President Anne Tittle (a Speech Language Pathologist) and our PTA Executive Vice President Liza Somilleda (a Behavior Management Administrator and former Principal) who used their professional expertise and served as the speakers for our parent education events this spring. Our guest speakers in March and parent education events in April show how our Cabrillo PTA is so much more than a fundraising entity.

In May, Cabrillo and Burnett PTAs joined together to help students and families make the transition from Cabrillo to Burnett. Mrs. Laura Sullivan, Burnett Principal, came to the last Cabrillo PTA meeting of the year on May 6th to talk to Cabrillo parents about how to make a smooth transition to Burnett. We thank Mrs. Sullivan so much for her time, effort, and care. In addition to our May meeting, Cabrillo PTA also celebrated our Cabrillo teachers with Teacher Appreciation Week. Our teachers were treated to daily luncheons and breakfasts, a chance to have their cars washed and detailed in the parking lot, and raffles. Room parents also coordinated class gifts.

As we approach the end of the year, we look forward to our Second Grade Picnic in June, Kindergarten “graduation,” and end-of-the year milestones and celebrations. As we head into summer, please think about how you can give back to our wonderful Cabrillo community next year. Many of our more active PTA families are headed off to Burnett Elementary, and we need more Cabrillo parents to take on committee chair positions and sign up to volunteer at our events next year. We have a variety of opportunities for parents and family members to get involved, whether it’s signing up to help out at a one-time event, or joining a committee to help with an ongoing program. Think about how GOOD it will feel to be involved with Cabrillo PTA next year...and have a wonderful summer with your Cabrillo Cubs!

## Dana PTA

Annamarie Atain, President • 310/725-4700

# PTA News

*By Ellen O’Loughlin-Villa, Vice President – Dana Middle School PTA.*

On April 23, Dana Middle School PTA’s Family Dinner Nights rose to a whole new level with McTeacher’s Night at our local fast-food restaurant on Rosecrans Avenue. For several hours, administrators and teachers were crowded behind the counter taking orders and fetching french fries. Students were jammed in, eager to see their favorite teachers in a new role. Another batch of teacher volunteers was out in the drive-through lane, selling donated cookies to all the car customers. Everyone—administrators, teachers, staff members, students, and families—had a great time!

Dana PTA would also like to congratulate our principal, Mrs. Aileen Harbeck, for her selection as the Middle School Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). We have worked with her closely for several years, and we know she deserves the honor.

Finally, many on the PTA Board are eighth-grade parents. We would like to thank Dana, Burnett, Cabrillo, and Anza, as well as the whole Wiseburn School District, for years of dedication and happy memories!

## Rock Around the Block!

By Bill Magoon, Co-Founder/Vice President

Greetings, all! Well, here we are, a few weeks into the spring season, and summer is rapidly approaching. Where does all the time go? Spring is always a pleasant time of year, as it seems to spark a smile or a friendly hello in many of us, and it is a pleasure to see so many people in our neighborhoods attending to their yards and planting their favorite flowers.

In April, Wiseburn Watch once again had the distinct pleasure of participating in the Wiseburn School District's Ed Foundation annual Rock around the Block event. This occasion seems to get bigger and better every year. There were many booths to visit and a whole bunch of fun things set up for the children to do, along with some great-tasting food. I think the hit of the day were those pulled pork sandwiches—yummy, indeed!

Joining us this year were the neighborhood community groups of Del-Aire and Hollyglen. It was sure nice to see the community groups come out to support our schools, and Wiseburn Watch was fortunate enough to sign up four new members, making our total membership now at 439! Also joining us for the event were our Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies, who led the children on their walk, and representatives from the California Highway Patrol, L.A. County Fire Department and LA County Lifeguards. All in all, a good fun day!

As mentioned previously, our SLA Sheriff's Station is now under the command of Captain Vera. Captain Vera personally came out to our March Watch meeting to introduce himself and provided all in attendance with a summary of his experience and background, including the many different positions he has held within the department. He stated that he is both excited and proud to serve our communities and is working toward getting to know all the community groups within his jurisdictional area just as we are all getting to know him. Captain Vera is an engaging, confident, open and friendly commander whose law enforcement background is quite impressive. He is definitely a hard charger and has picked up right where Captain Dendo left off. Therefore, this changing of the guard, if you will, has been a smooth transition for us.

Since our last school newsletter, the Wiseburn community held its first of probably many meetings with the L.A. County Department of Public Works officials regarding our upcoming road-improvement project. Since that meeting, county crews have begun marking all the areas within our community that will get repaired or upgraded. Most of us are looking forward to this project, as it promises to be a real boost to the overall functionality as well as to the appearance of our neighborhood.

The Wiseburn Community Walking Path Project comprises unimproved land area along La Cienega, the east side of the 405 freeway. Since our last writing, Wiseburn Watch has received no new information to share on this other than it continues to progress and is moving forward.

Wiseburn Watch will soon begin preparations to host our annual National Night Out event (NNO). As most of you know, NNO is a community/law-enforcement crime-awareness-raising event that is held on the first Tuesday of August. The event is meant to increase awareness about law-enforcement programs such as crime reduction, drug prevention and other anti-crime efforts. NNO has been held annually since 1984 and is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. The Wiseburn Watch NNO has always been blessed with such great representation from our law enforcement partners, and we openly welcome everyone to come out and join us. We will be getting the word out to everyone as we get a little closer. Additionally, Wiseburn Watch is always on the lookout for event sponsors to help out, so if anyone has a company they work for or a small business looking for a little recognition, please let us know. We can be reached through our website.

Our overall crime incidents continue to decline. The Wiseburn community had earlier reported a spike in vehicle-related crimes, but this particular issue has shown a steady decline as well. As of this writing, April is showing to be a month to remember. Our SLA Sheriff's Station April crime stats indicate that the Wiseburn community has had only four reported incidents of crime. There are probably a thousand reasons for this, but we like to think it's at least in part because of our Wiseburn Watch Members doing a fantastic job.

Lastly, Wiseburn Watch cordially invites any homeowner, property owner or renter residing within the L.A. County unincorporated community of Wiseburn—properties located east of the 405 Freeway, west of Inglewood Avenue, south of El Segundo Boulevard and north of Rosecrans Avenue—to join us by attending a Watch meeting. To join or for more information, you can contact us through our website.

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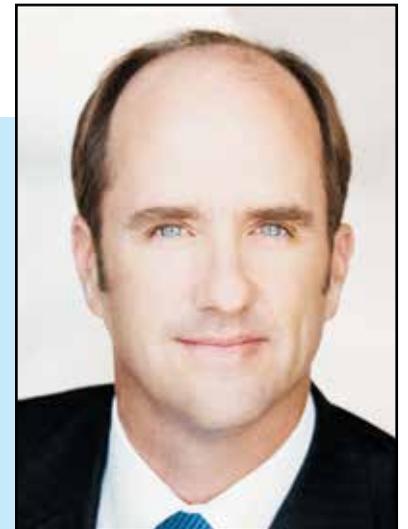
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**Dr. Matthew Wunder**  
Executive Director

## Delivering College Prep Results – Class of 2013

We are thrilled to celebrate the Class of 2013, our first full graduating class of seniors from Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design. We celebrate the individual accomplishments of our 271 seniors and the outstanding dedication of our teachers and staff who four years ago took a chance on our new school.

Today, we have a track record of success with 98% of our students on track for graduation, 98% of whom are eligible for University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) admission, and 78% of whom were accepted to 4-year universities (as of May 20). Students from the Class of 2013 have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Baylor University	Marquette University
Boston University	New York University
Brown University	Northwestern University
Cal Poly Pomona	Occidental College
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo	Purdue University
Cal State – Dominguez Hills	Reed College
Cal State – Los Angeles	Rice University
Cal State – Long Beach	Stanford University
Cal State – San Diego	Syracuse University
Cal State – San Francisco	UC Berkeley
Carnegie Mellon University	UC Davis
Columbia University	UC Irvine
Dartmouth College	UCLA
Fashion Institute of Technology	UC Merced
Georgia Tech	UC Riverside
Harvard University	UC San Diego
Hofstra University	UC Santa Barbara
Howard University	UC Santa Cruz
Johns Hopkins University	USC
Loyola Marymount University	Wellesley College
Marymount College	Yale University
MIT	... and many more!!

On June 6, the Class of 2013 will walk across the stage to claim their diplomas and mark the moment of a new stage of life. For now, we want to simply say thank you to all of the friends and supporters who have made this dream a reality. We especially want to thank the Wiseburn School District, our charter authorizer and partner. Together, we leverage the very best opportunities for all of our students.

## Da Vinci Academy Opening August 2013

Da Vinci Schools proudly announces the opening of a new Academy located on the Da Vinci Design campus at 12501 S. Isis Avenue, Hawthorne, CA. The new Academy, its name and focus still to be determined, is being funded in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundations. It will serve 64 9th grade students in its first year. The first day of classes will be on August 13, 2013. The new Academy will offer:

- A project-based curriculum with an increased focus on computer-based instruction
- Early College/Dual Enrollment classes that count for both high school and college credit
- An optional fifth year of high school in order to complete an Associate's Degree and reduce the time and cost of earning a Bachelor's Degree
- Communications pathways
- Exhibition Nights
- Work Experience Program
- Student-Led Conferences
- Industry & Education Partnerships
- Small School Culture

The main focus of Da Vinci high schools is college and career readiness for all students. The academic program at Da Vinci Science, Da Vinci Design, and the new Academy is a great fit for all students regardless if one does not have a specific interest in engineering, design or communications. These are focus areas, but approximately 85% of the curricula are general studies that exceed high school graduation, UC/CSU, and college admission requirements.

For more information about Da Vinci Schools, please contact the Enrollment Office at (310) 331-8097 or [enrollment@davincischools.org](mailto:enrollment@davincischools.org).

Wiseburn residents always have top priority and a reserved space at Da Vinci high schools. Please contact us today to reserve your spot.



**Da Vinci Design 12th graders display their "Urban Landscape" paintings as part of the Which Way, L.A. project focusing on the identifies of neighborhoods.**

## Now Enrolling! 2013 Da Vinci Summer Camp for Kids Entering Grades 2–5

We are excited to offer summer camp for kids entering grades 2-5. This July, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design Summer Camp will offer fun, hands-on, interactive experiences led by Da Vinci students and staff.

Science Camp (at Da Vinci Science) will include Lego robotics, "Snap" Electric Circuitry, and math and game design activities.

Design Camp (at Da Vinci Design) will include graphic design, painting and product design activities.

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Session 2</b>
July 8-11, 2013	July 15-18
M-Thur	M-Thur
8:30-11:30 am	8:30-11:30 am

Only 60 spots are available per session at each camp. Cost is \$50 per session for Wiseburn Residents and \$100 for Non-Wiseburn Residents. Before camp and after camp childcare is available through Rainbow River. Download the Da Vinci Summer Camp 2013 Flyer and Registration Form at: [http://www.davincischools.org/pdfs/summer\\_camp.pdf](http://www.davincischools.org/pdfs/summer_camp.pdf).

Join us for Da Vinci Summer Kids Camp 2013 and get a first-hand look at Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design!



**Nicole Tempel-Assisi**  
Principal

## Our Program and Who We Are

In August 2011, the Da Vinci Innovation Academy (DVIA) opened with a dynamic new school for K–8 students that combine in-school instruction and home-based learning. Most Innovation Academy students have two days of project-based learning at school and three days of family-facilitated learning off-site each week, but some Independent Study students work at home every day with guidance from a Da Vinci teacher.

Da Vinci believes in engaging students with a learn-by-doing model that integrates core subjects with real-life problem solving. Our project-based learning (PBL) curriculum includes public Presentations of Learning and Exhibitions—more about those below.

Social-emotional learning is central to DVIA as it's integrated into the daily academic curriculum and involves all students, families, teachers and community members. We use compassionate-communication strategies and training to teach and reinforce core concepts such as tolerance, compassion, workability, self-responsibility, empathy, positive conflict resolution, and collaboration. We do this in order to raise the level of social and emotional competence in all children as part of their regular education; improving academic performance by creating caring, confident learners who are self-aware; creating a compassionate, socially responsible, collaborative learning community; and building 21st-century skills and positive habits of heart and mind.

## Visits, Exhibitions and PBL

Our friends from Mrs. Zirbel's kindergarten class at Juan Cabrillo Elementary were recently studying oviparous animals and came to DVIA to look at our chickens, snakes, spiders and frogs—all oviparous animals—and learn from their kindergarten peers about their pets.

Twice a year, DVIA students dress up and present some of the projects that they have been working on to visitors during our Exhibitions. In March, our Spring Exhibition showcased their recent projects. Each classroom had a different theme for the evening, and students acted as guides. It is a great evening during which the students get to teach us what they have learned.

The Core 1 kindergarten class had been thinking about how to create happiness for ourselves and others. The class sold lemonade and jewelry, with the proceeds going to charity. They also presented a Reader's Theater and taught a dance to visitors.

The Core 2 first- and second-grade classes presented what they had learned about how things move and Newton's Three Laws of Motion. Students put motion to use in a Motion Carnival in which students built their own carnival games for visitors to play. Students also created toys while examining the forces that affect the toys' motion. To gather information about toys of today and yesterday, they conducted interviews and experiments and did research.

The Core 3 third- and fourth-grade classes learned about life during the California Gold Rush. The classroom had storytellers, digging for gold, maps of the area and information about how the Gold Rush influenced business.

The Core 4 fifth- and sixth-grade science classes have been investigating plate tectonics and earthquakes while the humanities classes were learning about the Far East. Student-led walkthroughs that highlighted how earthquakes shape the land and let visitors take a virtual field trip to India and China.

The Core 5 seventh- and eighth-grade classes were learning about America's manifest destiny, statehood and how to build a sturdy Gaga ball pit with power tools. Students led walking tours around campus to discuss several projects.

The Independent Study students displayed the projects that interested them. The results included building a roller coaster, creating movie trailers about books, studying the human body, and exploring Joshua Tree National Park.

At the end of each semester, students in all Da Vinci schools K–12 present their learning and share insights about their growth to a panel of adults and students. These presentations range from 15–30 minutes, depending on grade level and content covered.

For more information about DVIA, please visit us at our websites.



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**2) Civil War**  
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**3) W.W. II**  
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# Juan de Anza *Elementary (K-5)*

12110 Hindry Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2100 • www.anzaeagles.org



**Sarah Nitsos**  
Principal

## Bridging the Divide

Here at Anza, we are so fortunate to be a part of the broader Wiseburn Community. We are always seeking new ways to bridge together with the other schools to allow our students to see how they fit into the bigger Wiseburn family.

One way that we connected this year as a district was through an innovative art program. Each student in grades one to five received 10 art lessons conducted by an artist-in-residence. The program was funded in all of the Wiseburn elementary schools by a grant from the Keck Foundation, in partnership with the Take

PART Regional Art Initiative.

The students learned about and completed projects based upon several different artistic styles and artists, including Jean Michel Basquiat, Frida Kahlo, Marc Chagall, Paul Cezanne and Romare Bearden. This provided our Anza students with a shared experience, one where they were able to dialogue with grade-level peers from across the district.

Another connection was the Anza vs. Burnett Chess Challenge, held at the Don and Sari Brann Multipurpose Room at Peter Burnett. This was an open tournament for all of the third- through fifth-grade students who knew how to play chess. Over 35 Anza and Burnett students participated, and with their friends and families quietly cheering them on.

This event gave our students a chance to make some new friends that they might not have otherwise met until the sixth grade. We all had a great evening, and for the third time in a row Anza was victorious!



Student proudly displays the final product.



Students cover their artwork with ink in preparation for a print making project.



The Anza team thinks carefully about the next move.



The Anza Chess Challenge Team

## Making the Transition

The Anza players were Victoria Pinkett, Daniel Valdivia, Daniel Mesa, Mia Lopez, Rita Hemphill, Tyler Cappasola, Daniel Duarte, Reichen Brown, Jaxon Brown, Blake Bryant and Malik Castro-DeVarona. They certainly are to be congratulated for their excellent sportsmanship and collegiality, as well as some excellent play during each matchup.

While we celebrate our Anza team's victory, as well as the hard work and dedication of our team members, we would also like to thank and congratulate the Peter Burnett team for their formidable effort and wonderful job in hosting the event.

Leaving elementary school and moving on to middle school can be a daunting proposition, but it is not so bad here at Wiseburn. Our fifth-grade team works hand-in-hand with Dana Middle School to help bridge the divide, and create a sense of comfort for both the students and parents. For example, Anza students receive special visits from the Dana counselors where they can talk about the middle school program and have their questions answered.

In May, the Anza fifth-graders also visited the Dana campus. They were greeted by excited students eager to tell them what middle school was like and give them a tour of the campus. Our students were able to meet some of the staff members as well. Their parents were also greeted, and were provided with information sessions to help answer their own questions.

The value of a small learning community cannot be underestimated. Together, with the other schools, we are working to connect Anza to the broader community.

# Peter Burnett *Elementary School (3-5)*

5403 W. 138th St, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-2151 • www.peterburnett.org



**Laura Sullivan**  
Principal

## Small Learning Community Yield Results

The Wiseburn community is instrumental in providing quality time to students in the Wiseburn School District. Supporters realize teachers and students benefit from a community which creates a culture to enhance student learning. In Wiseburn, schools have developed small learning communities to embrace the idea of learning from each other. Effective learning communities go beyond cooperation and realize home, school, and community must come together to achieve a shared vision of learning for all.

Parents play a vital role in the Wiseburn schools. Growing Great, a nutrition program, and Hands on Art are taught by members of our learning community.

To celebrate Earth Day, Mr. Prieto, a parent, member of our learning community, and accomplished scuba diver, shared his knowledge about saving our environment through recycling programs. Burnett students helped Mr. Prieto by saving Styrofoam to recycle to make surf boards. Students enjoyed the opportunity to converse with Mr. Prieto, but the highlight of the day was viewing Mr. Prieto's scuba gear. Students left with many ideas to support recycling in the fall.



**Mr. Prieto, Earth Day presenter sharing Environmental tips.**



**Burnett crossing guard 2: Our Crossing Guard in Action.**

The Burnett community welcomes the addition of crossing guards to protect our children and community members. We are constantly striving to give our best to our wonderful learning community, and we encourage you to keep working with us as we support and learn from each other.



**Burnett BETTER chess: Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Nitsos and Chess Tournament participants from Peter Burnett and Juan de Anza.**

Burnett students and staff members invited two chess tutors to join our learning community, Mr. Bobby and Mr. Rah Rah. This team formed lessons for our students and taught them how to play chess, using strategies to support them during chess matches and competitions. Chess became very popular at Burnett, with the addition of Chess Club, which was formed by Mr. Pittluck. Chess Club had more members than any club on campus. Students learned the fundamentals of chess and had a chance to use their skills during our annual chess tournament with Juan de Anza Elementary School. The anticipation of a chess tournament grew from the moment it was announced. Parents and staff members from both schools assembled in the Don and Seri Brann Center and watched a very close match, with Anza students squeaking by to win the match. Burnett will be ready to defend next year.

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# Juan Cabrillo *Elementary (K-2)*

5309 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-5400 • www.juancabrillo.org



**Margaret Lynch**  
Principal

## Part of a Larger Family

At Cabrillo, we treasure the family atmosphere we nurture for our students. It is so important for children to feel that they are part of their class, part of their grade level, part of Cabrillo, part of the Wiseburn School District, and part of the community.

We would like to highlight several of the programs and relationships that connect Cabrillo students to their larger school family. These are the kindergarten and second-grade “Reading Buddies” program, bridging the Cabrillo second grade to the Burnett third grade, and the Dana tutors at Cabrillo.

Our children’s relationships at Cabrillo, and within our larger district family, help make this school a special place, “where we grow and learn together.” One of the many ways in which we help Cabrillo students connect to other students beyond their grade level is through Reading Buddies. All of our kindergarten classes have a second-grade Reading Buddy partner class.

Once a week, these second-graders walk over to the kindergarten classroom with books to share. Each student is assigned their own buddy, and they both find a spot in the room to read together. At the beginning of the year the second-graders read to their kindergarten buddy. Now, the kindergarteners are reading to the second-graders!



**Benjamin Kuhn (K) reads to his buddy Albert Okorogu (2<sup>nd</sup>)**



**Kendra Kehl (K) reads with her buddy Torrey Stafford (2<sup>nd</sup>)**



**1st graders Matthew Pinto and Jasmine Schall with Dana tutor Desirae Montoya**



**2nd graders Ashley Walker, Lucas Douglas and Julian Marquez with Dana tutor Kayleigh Cooper**

## Bridging to Burnett

Thanks to the Cabrillo and Burnett PTAs, we are actively bridging the transition from Cabrillo to Burnett for both our students and parents.

In May, the Burnett PTA invited our second-grade families to a taco dinner event so that they could be introduced to the Burnett campus and families. Burnett Principal Laura Sullivan presented an evening of information for our Cabrillo second-grade parents before a Cabrillo PTA meeting in May, and also invited the second-grade parents to an informational meeting at the Burnett campus prior to the Burnett PTA meeting.

In addition, all of our second-grade students tour the Burnett campus the day after Open House so that they can see where they will be going next year. These extra efforts help with the transition from Cabrillo to Burnett.

Cabrillo is fortunate to be part of the family of Wiseburn schools, and to have Burnett and Dana so close in proximity that the students can work together constructively. Two mornings a week, we have 20 Dana seventh- and eighth-grade students spend their hour elective in Cabrillo’s kindergarten, first- and second-grade classrooms working with the students. Dana students say that they love coming here, and many of them even “want to work with this age in the future.”

Our Cabrillo students greet them with great excitement, and are always eager to get to work. One first-grader said that, “She (the Dana tutor) helps me get everything right.” A second-grader added, “Our tutor helps us read and goes out to recess with us.”

Many of our Dana tutors were former Cabrillo students, and many of our Cabrillo students say that they can’t wait to come back and tutor at Cabrillo when they get to Dana!

# Richard Henry Dana *Middle School (6-8)*

5504 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-4700 • www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us



**Aileen Harbeck**  
Principal

## Small Learning Communities Keep Things Personal

Dana Middle School provides students and parents with a sense of belonging, not just in our school but in our district. Parents enroll their children at Dana because of our safe environment, outstanding teaching, rigorous curriculum, private-sector partnerships, staff involvement in student extracurricular enrichment activities, and above all our distinguished academic track record. Key to keeping the Dana community connected and successful are our small learning communities, which involve teams of teachers working together to support 60 to 160 students,

in order to personalize the experience of the students and to help them take and maintain ownership of their learning.

In Dana's small learning communities, teachers: discuss student progress and support plans and interventions; hold parent/student/teacher team conferences; analyze data; plan enrichment activities; plan team activities; create rewards for students; and generate activities that continually foster student connectedness to their team. Most importantly, parents have direct contact to their child's entire team of teachers.

In small learning communities, teachers guide students through the process of developing and maintaining student binders, which fosters organization and ownership of learning. Students then develop portfolios for student growth, which are shared in April at Dana's student-led conferences. At their conferences, students own their learning and demonstrate their achievements.

As a result, student issues with discipline have substantially decreased, while student achievement has increased. Teachers, parents, and students work in a collaborative fashion to promote a sense of community and connectedness. A part of the Wiseburn family of schools, Dana offers all families a personalized educational experience.



**Student-Led Conferences offer Dana 8th grader Quinton Simmonds a chance to share his long- and short-term goals with his father, Paul Simmonds.**



**Dana 8th grade student Matthew Vazquez presents his Portfolio for Student Growth at Student-Led Conference night.**



**Dana's 8th Grade Wave of Confidence Teacher Team works together to promote McTeacher Night raising \$1,000.00 for students.**



**Dana's 8th Grade Wave of Confidence Teacher Team work in a small learning community to plan curriculum and support students.**

## School News



Education+Communication=A Better Nation

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our schedule for the next three issues is:  
October 30, March 19, June 4

The Common Core State Standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to succeed in two or four year college programs or enter the workforce. The standards are both clear and concise to ensure that parents, teachers, and students have a complete understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics in school. California adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010-11 with an expectation for a full implementation in public schools by 2014-15. Wiseburn Teachers have been working in special committees and in grade level teams to fully understand the details of these new expectations, and to develop classroom level lessons geared towards the Common Core State Standards.

The Common Core State Standards provide a unique opportunity for our country to take a progressive step forward in terms of expectations for student learning. The new standards are designed to develop critical thinking skills for all students. High standards that are consistent across states provide teachers, parents, and students with a set of clear expectations that are aligned to the expectations that await them in college and careers. The standards promote equity by ensuring that all students, no matter where they live, are well prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to both collaborate and compete with their peers in the United States and abroad. Unlike previous state standards, which were unique to every state in the country, the Common Core State Standards, along with advances in technology and social/professional networking, enable collaboration between states on a range of tools and policies, including:

- the development of textbooks, digital media, and other teaching materials that are aligned to the standards;
- the development and implementation of common comprehensive assessment systems to measure student performance annually that can replace existing state testing systems;
- the supports that are needed to help educators and schools in teaching to the new standards.

In 2011-12, Wiseburn formed the Common Core Transition Committee for English Language Arts made up of a teacher representative from each grade level/department at each school. In a cooperative venture with the Talking Teaching Network, teacher leaders carefully analyzed the new standards to understand their structure and organization. The teacher leaders devised activities to extend this process to all Wiseburn teachers at grade level team meetings throughout the year. The work of this committee has continued into the 2012-13 school year with a focus on student writing expectations in the Common Core Standards. This work will continue into 2013-14 as lessons and assessments will be developed and field-tested in preparation for full implementation during 2014-15.

In 2012-13, Wiseburn added the Common Core Transition Committee for Mathematics, which was the counterpart for the English Language Arts Committee. This committee followed a similar process for examining and understanding the math standards. Again, all Wiseburn teachers have been involved in the process through the leadership of the Common Core Transition Committee.

Looking towards the future, the Wiseburn School District has begun the process of exploring the assessment changes that will accompany the Common Core State Standards. California is participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia (SBAC) that is developing a next generation of assessments that will replace much of the current Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) system in 2014-15. The SBAC assessments will include formative, interim and summative tests that go far beyond the all-too-familiar bubble-in, multiple choice tests that have been part of the current California Standards Tests. Test questions will include selected response, constructed response and performance tasks that will be less focused on memorization of facts, in favor of higher order thinking skills. The new generation of tests that are being developed will be administered to students on a computer in an adaptive format that will require students to display significant critical thinking skills for success. In Wiseburn, a SBAC computer-based pilot test has already been conducted with 3rd and 4th graders at Peter Burnett Elementary School to help with the scientific calibration of future test questions. All Wiseburn

students will work and practice with the new testing formats during 2013-14 in preparation for the rollout of the new SBAC summative test in Spring of 2015.

The move towards the Common Core State Standards is an exciting step in the right direction for student engagement and learning. The focus on deeper student understanding and critical thinking is right in line with long-held educational values of the Wiseburn School District. We are very appreciative of our partnership with Bill Saunders and Dave Marceletti of the Talking Teaching Network for their support and guidance through this process. The Wiseburn School District will continue its efforts in support the Common Core State Standards as we work towards full implementation.

For More Information:

<http://www.corestandards.org>

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org>

<http://talkingteaching.org>

**SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1**



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**

Bee, which includes fifth-, sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders. Andrew represented Wiseburn in the Los Angeles County Spelling Bee and placed in the top 10. We are very proud of him!

Juan Cabrillo Elementary School dominated the 17th Annual Wiseburn Library Story Writing Contest! Out of 131 participants in the contest, 84 were from Cabrillo, and of the 19 winners, 14 were Cabrillo Cubs! Thanks to Cabrillo teachers Ms. Kae and Ms. Olguin for joining the festivities on Saturday, March 23, 2013 to read the winning stories!

An Anza School, fifth-grade student Christopher Consolazio won a \$500 scholarship for college by placing third in the Annual Taste of Chess Challenge, which included students from Los Angeles Unified School District, Pasadena, Culver City, Redondo Beach and Wiseburn. Anza also won the Annual Anza vs. Burnett Chess Tournament for the fourth consecutive year!

The long push for K-12 unification is getting shorter! On Monday, April 22, 2013, Governor Brown signed the last piece of legislation that paves the way for Wiseburn unification. On May 9, the State Board of Education in Sacramento approved the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Unification and at the same time authorized the Unification Election for November 2013. Chief Petitioners Lydia Rodriguez and Linda Cuesta, Board President Nelson Martinez, and Wiseburn Superintendent Dr. Tom Johnstone were present at the State Board of Education Meeting on May 9 in Sacramento. The vote for Wiseburn unification will take place on November 5, 2013, with unification to become effective on July 1, 2014! The road to unification has lasted more than 12 years, with many twists and turns. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our chief petitioners for their determination and perseverance. They are the essence of what makes Wiseburn great!

In closing, a few words on Wiseburn High School. The district closed escrow on the 13.71-acre Wiseburn High School site in El Segundo on April 4, 2013. The architectural design and plan phase is moving forward, with hopes of submitting plans to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) in early 2014. The Da Vinci Schools have their first full-size graduating class this year, and 78% of the students at each school have been accepted at four-year universities in the country: Harvard University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Carnegie Mellon University; Brown University; Johns Hopkins University; Georgia Institute of Technology; Stanford University; University of Southern California; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Berkley; New York University; Yale University; Dartmouth College; Howard University; Tuskegee University; Wellesley College; Loyola Marymount University; Syracuse University; and many more (see a complete list on the Da Vinci Web site).

On a final note, on May 21, the City of El Segundo approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Wiseburn where Wiseburn will build an aquatic center at Wiseburn High School and the City of El Segundo will operate and maintain the pool. The Wiseburn Board approved the same Memorandum of Understanding on May 22. This Memorandum of Understanding will prevent possible future litigation and is a win/win for both.

We have much to be proud of in Wiseburn! The 2012-2013 school year has been a historic year and an excellent year for our district. Thanks for your always incredible support, and have a wonderful summer!

## Gearing Up for Summer



**Sandy Spurgeon  
McDaniel**

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

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

My discipline system is mentioned on [parentingsos.com](http://parentingsos.com) and my new book, *Don't Feed the Dragon*, is a discipline manual divided into three sections:

(1) what parents need to understand about children in order to successfully guide them; (2) my discipline system, and (3) answers to 130 of the top concerns of parents, listed in alphabetical order. The book is age-appropriate from tots through the teens and is available on [parentingsos.com](http://parentingsos.com).

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

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

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

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

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

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 35 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho [www.ParentingSOS.com](http://www.ParentingSOS.com) and Kindle



## Things to Consider



**Susan D.  
Marshall**

Saving for college can be an overwhelming thought for young families that are just starting out and are trying to buy a first home. If you are also saving for retirement, the cost of college can be paralyzing.

The changes in governmental rules also provide challenges. For example, 529 Plans originally were not considered in the financial aid calculation but now are. Here are four suggestions that can smooth your way.

1) Make sure you contribute to your retirement plan before you contribute to a college savings plan. Most advisors recommend contributing the largest affordable percentage that your employer will match. If you are a stay at home spouse, set up an IRA or a Roth IRA. Just be aware that these plans typically are invested in stocks, bonds and mutual funds that carry greater risk. The good news is that currently, retirement accounts are generally not considered in the financial aid calculation at most schools.

2) Buying your own home should be a top priority as soon as it makes financial and practical sense. It will serve as a future investment. You will build equity over time and it may provide you with collateral that may be used in the future to help pay for college.

3) Make sure your income is protected. What does that mean? Should you lose your job, become disabled or not make it home; will your family be able to have the resources to go on? Make sure you have the life and disability insurance to protect your family's future.

4) Have an accessible and safe emergency fund. The accounts that provide savings and liquidity are Long Term CD's, Fixed Annuities, Indexed Annuities and Cash Value Life Insurance. Many times working with a trusted advisor will help you find money you don't realize you have. By repositioning assets you may increase your cash flow and add to your savings. When you do begin saving for college, plan and save to maximize your funds and minimize any penalties.

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

## Art To Grow On

### Friendship

I have great memories of friends coming over after school. We'd play in my room or outside and just have fun. As I got older, I remember how important it became to have those friends around when we had to study together, attend school events, or even wish one another a great summer.

Preschool is the opportune time for our children to learn how to be good friends, to make friends, and most of all, to play. In elementary school, things get busier. Homework, sports, dance classes, piano—I remember when a friend of mine let her children play outside and they couldn't find anyone to play with. She finally realized they were all at after-school activities! She immediately decided to make sure she didn't overschedule her own children. Her experience has stayed with me for years.

Our son, who's in first grade, just started basketball, and he loves it. But the highlight of his week occurs on Wednesdays, when one, two or three friends from school are invited to play. Word has spread, and the number of children waiting to play is quite something! The laughs, joy and spontaneity remind me of when I was their age.

Open-ended play is extremely important as our children get older. They play ball, run—and the laughs! Truly the best part!

Spring is here—the perfect time to invite friends over to play. Whether outside or inside, you'll help create great opportunities for your children to develop lasting and meaningful friendships.



Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Center, Inc.  
[www.art2growon.com](http://www.art2growon.com) 310/625-6028

## Fill'er Up With the Good Stuff



**Carol Berg Sloan, RD**

According to recent United States Department of Agriculture data, Americans are consuming more calories per day than they did nearly 40 years ago. In 1970, we consumed about 2,169 calories a day. In 2010, calories went up to 2,614 calories. Of this 445-calorie increase, grains (mainly refined grains) accounted for 188 calories; added fats and oils, 188 calories; caloric sweeteners, 42 calories; dairy fats, 16 calories; fruits and vegetables, 15 calories; and meats, 8 calories. Only dairy products declined (12 calories).

As a dietitian this tells me we are eating more cookies, cakes, chips and other foods that provide calories but not nutrients. With kids home this summer, load up on healthier versions of foods and beverages they love. You are responsible for filling up the refrigerator, freezer and pantry; your kids are responsible for making good choices

Stock up on:

Whole grain foods contain all the naturally occurring nutrients of the entire grain seed, according to the Whole Grains Council. If the grain has been processed in any way it should still contain the nutrition in the original grain seed.

Good examples to include in your pantry:

- Kashi Heart to Heart® Whole Grain Crackers- Original
- ak-mak® sesame crackers
- Whole wheat pastas (slightly more fiber, protein)
- Wheat bread, bagels or English muffin Thins (100% whole grain or 100% whole wheat must be on the label!)
- Canned foods

Being a baby boomer I was raised on canned food and hence my kids were brought up on a number of canned fruits, veggies and meat. Obviously fresh can be best, but canned foods can fill in healthfully in a pinch. Items you must have on hand:

Tomato sauce or variations: great for a quick pasta meal or pizza topping. Favorites are our house are fire roasted diced tomatoes or any with added ingredients such as green chilies, onion, basil, garlic.....yum!

Canned beans: you pick your favorite, I just know that if I need a quick dish such as chili, 3 bean salad or hearty salsa with added beans, I reach up into the cupboard and it's done! If you need more ideas go to the Canned Food Alliance (mealtime.org) for traditional and crazy recipe ideas ( i.e. cakes, smoothies crostini).

Fruits: Hey we live in SoCal.....go to the produce section...enough said!  
Vegetables: see Fruits above!

Dairy: Milk consumption is decreasing and so is Vitamin D and calcium in our children's diet. Continue to drink milk for a satisfying and delicious beverage, but don't forget the creamy Greek yogurts that are flooding the shelves. What's easier than these ready to go containers for the kids!

If you have children old enough to cook in the kitchen without your supervision or if you get home late and need a quick dinner...try this delish pasta dish.....great for lunch the next day too!

Enjoy summertime!

### Homemade Healthy Beefaroni

Recipe courtesy of: mealmakeovermoms.com

Makes 6 Servings

Using whole wheat pasta ups the fiber, and the lean ground beef adds high-quality protein as well as important nutrients like iron and zinc. If you have a vegetarian in your family, leave out the meat and double up on the mushrooms; they give a "meaty" texture to the dish and add umami, a taste sensation described as robust and savory.

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1/4-inch dice (about 1½ cups)
- 8 ounces mushrooms, roughly chopped
- 1 pound lean ground beef (90% or higher)
- One 26-ounce jar marinara sauce
- 2 cups water
- 8 ounces dried whole wheat rotini pasta
- 1 cup shredded light Italian cheese blend or Cheddar cheese (4 ounces)
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, optional
- Chopped fresh basil, optional

1. Heat the oil in a large Dutch oven or saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the bell pepper and mushrooms and cook, stirring frequently, until tender, about 10 minutes

2. Add the meat and cook, breaking up the large pieces, until no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Drain excess fat.

3. Stir in the pasta sauce and water, raise the heat to high, and bring to a boil. Stir in the pasta and return to a boil. Reduce the heat and cook at a low boil, covered, stirring occasionally, until the pasta is tender, about 15 minutes.

4. Remove from the heat and stir in the cheese. Cover and let stand until the cheese melts. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and basil as desired.

Nutrition Information per Serving: 400 calories, 13g fat (5g saturated), 580mg sodium, 43g carbohydrate, 6g fiber, 31g protein, 30% vitamin A, 50% vitamin C, 20% calcium, 25% iron

Carol Berg Sloan, RD is a nutrition therapist in Long Beach. She can be reached at: cbsrd@verizon.net

## Ask Dr. Shari

### Should Kids Be Realistic?



**Dear Dr. Shari,**

What is the deal with telling kids the truth about their possibilities of being a professional football, basketball, hockey player? When asked what they want to be when they grow up, my 7 yr old twin boys say "Kobe Bryant." We all know the likelihood of them playing for the NBA is slim. Some parents are now saying that we should be realistic, expand their horizons, and begin them on a path of exploring real careers and that this will be an advantage to them. I know parents who tell their kids the actual percentage of second grade basketball players who eventually play for the NBA so they will look to realistic endeavors early. Do

I want to do that? It that sounds weird. Then again, my friends say that they will be eventually "let down" if I don't! Should I ground them in reality? What do you think?

—Dana, Newport, RI

**Dana,**

I'm all for exposing kids to a variety of ideas and opportunities but I vehemently against "grounding in reality" as a general way of contemplating the possibilities that life has to offer.

No entrepreneur, visionary, inventor nor game changer was "grounded in reality." If they were, new ideas would never be contemplated, limits would never get pushed, experiments would not be conducted and most of the advancements of the modern day would not exist. Whether your child will ever play for the NBA is irrelevant at this point, but if the vision makes them run harder, jump higher and have a lot more fun, then let them BE Kobe!

Kids don't really go through that terrible moment that your friends fear. It isn't as though they will turn 18 yrs old, expecting to be drafted to the Lakers and are tossed into a deep depression when they find out otherwise. Life teaches! As kids mature, they develop their priorities, talents, and opportunities and understanding. Your job is to support them through the process...not to stomp on childhood dreams. Relax Dana. Let your kids play and dream...it is one of the most precious gifts of childhood.

Dr. Shari Sweetnam is the Founder of BRAINPOWER *The Ultimate Program for Schools*. Author, Motivational Speaker. Follow on Youtube and twitter: DrShariS, contact: info@doctorshari.com

## Can You Canoe?



Kate Karp

The Okee Dokee Brothers—actually lifelong friends Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander—invite us on a canoe trip down the Mississippi by grace of their 2013 Grammy-award-winning CD/DVD combination. The DVD's video chronicle of their monthlong trip is a study in geography and sociology, utterly American in the topographic and literary senses. Trains rumble by on the riverbank, turtles lay their eggs in the mud, two children dressed as Becky Thatcher and Tom Sawyer are captivated by the Brothers' challenge to spell *Mississippi*.

It's hard to select a standout selection on the music-only CD. Like the Mississippi, the songs flow into the motif of the river journey. American traditional bluegrass and melody lines from familiar public domain sea chanteys and folk songs combine to re-form as the paddles that move the craft. Lansing and Mailander play banjo and guitar, respectively, and the canoe's crew, if canoes have crews, consists of technicians, photographers, guest artists, and musicians who play everything from accordions and fiddles to bass harmonicas and tomato boxes. The CD is easy to listen to and provides a great background to the outstanding, remarkable DVD video.

Evident to viewers and listeners will be the strong undercurrent of respect for and appreciation of the beauty of everything nature manifests, from the soaring water birds to the terrible storm that uprooted their tent to 22 pesky mosquito bites. Completing the theme is the wisdom of the river people. In the most memorable part of the video, Kenny Selway, the "last river rat," spoke of the generations before him and the trouble on his mind: the eroding respect for the river's ecology. The Okee Dokee Brothers brought this home with them, and it's their souvenir gift to you.

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

## How To Be a Super Hero

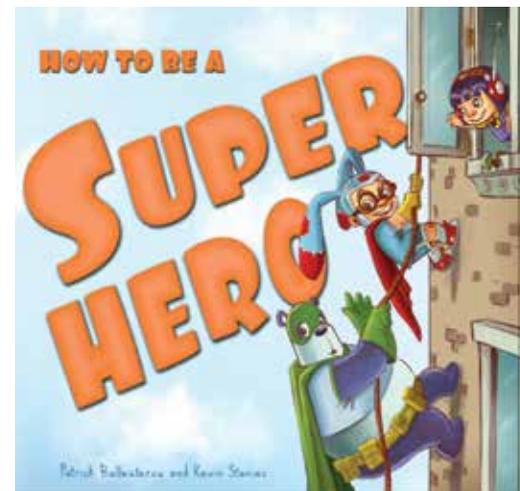
Look up in the sky. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Why no, it's a SUPER BUNNY! We all love being our favorite super hero—the good guy who has superhuman feats of strength, speed, and flight, and of course saves the day.

This is a story that reveals the secrets of what it takes to be a super hero and pushes the imagination. Join us as we take a unique look into characters as they learn about confidence, creativity, and most of all teamwork.

Creators Patrick Ballesteros and Kevin Staniec will embark on a book tour in 2013 to share with kids how they made their characters come to life and how they wanted and still want to be super heroes.

*How to be a Super Hero* is their third book, following *How to Catch a Cloud* and the *Adventures of Super Bunny and Giant Cat Bear and Charlie*, available on Amazon.com.

If you'd like Kevin and Patrick to visit your school and share their inspiration please send an e-mail to [annie@paperfarms.com](mailto:annie@paperfarms.com). You can read more about this book and its creators at [www.treeshousebandits.com](http://www.treeshousebandits.com).



Books are available online and in your local bookstore, library, and children's retail shops. [www.treeshousebandits.com](http://www.treeshousebandits.com)

## Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

**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 WSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2013  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- |            |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers  | Focused     | Principal  |
| Character  | Homework    | Recess     |
| Classrooms | Instructors | Reunion    |
| Curiosity  | Integrity   | Student    |
| Discipline | Learning    | Success    |
| Educators  | Mentors     | Technology |
| Encourage  | Nutrition   | Thinkers   |
| Excellence | Parents     | Workers    |

**Congratulations to Winner!**  
**Hadley Porter**





## Half a Century of Soccer!

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

We're sure you've heard that AYSO is turning 50 next year! The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) will kick off its 50th anniversary Jan. 1, 2014, with a Rose Bowl Parade float in conjunction with the city of Torrance, where AYSO was founded on 1964. AYSO met its \$100,000 fund-raising goal to secure entry in the parade, which attracts more than 43 million TV viewers.

AYSO started in Torrance 50 years ago with nine teams. It now has more than 50,000 teams and more than 600,000 players, and is supported by 250,000 volunteers. Alumni include U.S. national team stars Landon Donovan and Alex Morgan, and Seattle Sounders coach Sigi Schmid, who played in AYSO during its inaugural season. Rick Davis, the USA's first bona fide soccer star and who played alongside Pele and Franz Beckenbauer with the New York Cosmos, also got his start in AYSO.

AYSO will also mark its 50th anniversary by holding the 2014 National Games in Torrance. Torrance will co-host the 500-plus team tournament with Riverside on July 1-8, 2014. Harbor Gateway-based AYSO estimates that the annual event has an economic impact of as much as \$15 million. Since the birthplace of AYSO and the National Games is Southern California, it seems only fitting that the games be held in these locations during the much-anticipated celebratory 50th year anniversary. It's the first time Torrance has hosted the National Games since 1992. The event will return to Southern California for the first time since 2004, when Lancaster hosted the tournament.

To date, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne has held a total of three registrations for the 2013-14 fall season. Soccer age is determined by the player's age on July 31, 2013 or if he or she will be 4 years old by Sept. 1. There will be two additional registration dates: Wednesday, June 26, from 6 pm to 9 pm, and Saturday, June 29, from 9 am to 3 pm. All registrations will be held at the Juan Cabrillo Elementary School in the Performing Arts Center.

### Register Your Child and Volunteer Yourself!

The regular soccer season is from September through December. You'll need a Player Form to register your child. Download the form from <http://www.eayso.org>, fill it out completely and bring a printout with two copies along with payment and birth certificate for new players to registration. We have a program for participants with physical or mental disabilities known as VIP (Very Important Player). The board voted not to charge these participants.

From now until the start of the season in September, we will be selecting coaches for the 100-plus teams that will need to be formed and conducting coach/referee training. Training classes and the resource material are free. The cost to you is your valuable time. The success of AYSO is based on the hard work of volunteers. Every aspect of running the region depends on individuals who step up to be coach, assistant coaches, referees, team moms, team dads and board members. If you want to be part of a world-class and unique experience, carve some time out of your busy schedule and volunteer.

And speaking of volunteers, the city of Hawthorne recognized over 250 volunteers to assist the number of nonprofits in our city. AYSO Region 21 had the opportunity to honor three exceptional volunteers who played a major role in the success of last year's youth soccer program. The volunteers were Katalina Chavez, Norma Diaz and Liz Kalinowski. Congratulations!

We once again want to thank the Wiseburn School District for the use of all soccer fields: Dana, Burnett, Cabrillo, Anza and Aviation. This allows all age divisions to have home games. We are looking forward to the next and final field to be constructed on the current Da Vinci School site. We are all hoping this will be an artificial-turf field to complement the state-of-the-art schools. At the start of the fall season, the Dana Sports Facility will debut a new snack stand. This new addition to AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne will provide much-needed refreshments to the players at the sports field.

See you all on the pitch (soccer field)!

## From the Dugout

By Andrew Goslin, President

The 2013 season has been a tremendous success for our Wiseburn community! The league has grown, both in numbers and in spirit. I am very proud of all of our Little Leaguers this year-- they demonstrated good character, teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship, and competitiveness. Wiseburn Little League is a great program, and this is entirely thanks to the hard work of our community-- the Wiseburn School District, volunteers, parents, coaches, and board members. I want to personally thank each of you for the countless and tireless hours of volunteering. You are what makes our community a great place to live for our families-- thank you!

This year, our program has participated in local games and regional tournaments, where hundreds of our players played against each other and against Little League programs across Southern California. Our players battled hard against competitive and larger leagues, with great success. Most importantly, our players grew personally, both as athletes and as great people.

As this season comes to a close, we strive to continue our player development with our Sandlot Offseason Programs, including Summer Sandlot games (late June-Aug) and Fall ball (late Sept-Nov). If your child has an interest in learning baseball or softball, wants to continue developing their skills, or just wants to come out to the park and have some fun, we welcome any child to sign up! The costs are very low (minimal costs to cover game balls, jerseys/hats, and misc equipment as needed) and all ages 4-16 are guaranteed to play. We have great volunteer coaches who offer their time to help teach America's great pastime to any child, regardless of ability. Come out to the ballpark and have some fun!

If you have any interest in signing up your child for either baseball or softball, please head to our website [www.wiseburnlittleleague.org](http://www.wiseburnlittleleague.org) or email us at [info@wiseburnlittleleague.org](mailto:info@wiseburnlittleleague.org) and we will be more than happy to have you join our great league!

Wiseburn Little League is a Non-Profit 501(c)3, all-volunteer organization. We welcome donations of any kind (equipment, monetary, field equipment, etc). All donations are considered tax-deductible, as they directly help the children in our community. We cater to all children ages 4-16, of any ability, to be a part of their community through volunteering and playing baseball or softball.

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The Soup Bar  
The Tavern on Main  
Vinny's Pizza  
Wendy's Place Café

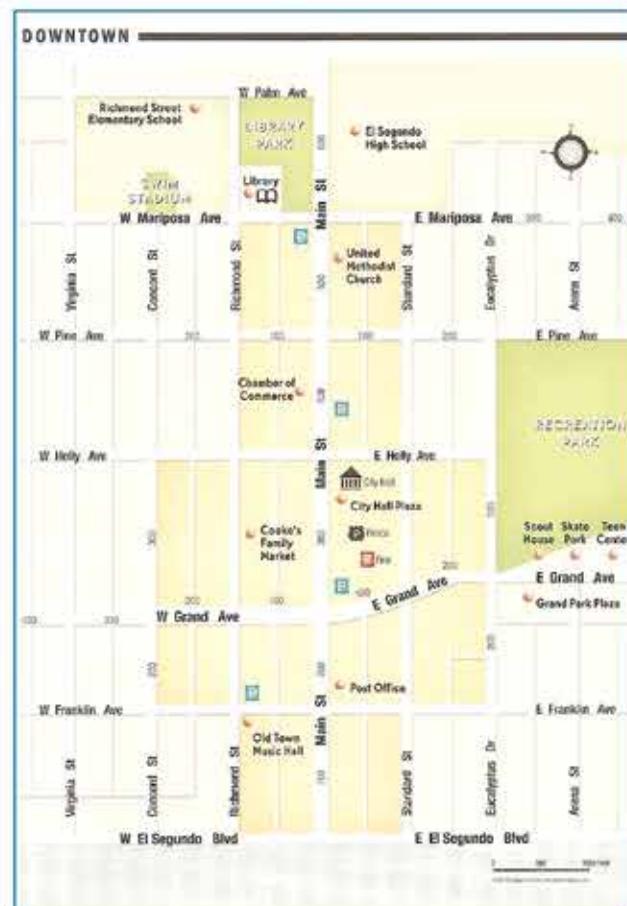
For a complete listing of Downtown  
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Downtown El Segundo Guides are  
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