

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Wiseburn School District**



**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 9**

**NOVEMBER 2011–FEBRUARY 2012**

## SUPERINTENDENT

### Wiseburn Celebrates Its Outstanding Employees



**Dr. Tom Johnstone**

The 2011 Classified and Certificated Employees of the Year represent the very best qualities of

the Wiseburn community: honoring traditions while excellently preparing our students for a bright future. Wiseburn educators are a team, and it is through this team effort that we are able to tackle challenges and accomplish so much on a daily basis.

Our classified employees do a million and one things behind the scenes, often unrecognized and even unnoticed, because they do them so well and the community has come to expect that level of commitment, mostly because we have never known anything different. Excellence is a way of doing things for these individuals.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 14

## Honoring Traditions While Preparing for New Beginnings



**Northrop Grumman Space Camp Participants: Dana Middle School Student, Sam Jussen; Dana Middle School 7th Grade Math Teacher, Maria Garcia; and Dana Middle School Student, Malissa Crise**

*By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent*

### Wiseburn schools have much to celebrate!

Welcome to our first 2011–2012 issue of *School News Roll Call*! We are off to another grand start, and all Wiseburn schools are bustling with fall activities. This edition is dedicated to honoring our rich past in the Wiseburn community while always aiming for an even brighter future.

Wiseburn schools have much to celebrate! In the past four years the district Academic Performance Index (API) has risen 74 points from 792 to 866. The Academic Performance Index is a scale that ranks every school and district in the state. The scores range from 200 to 1,000, with 800 as the target. In May 2011, all Wiseburn schools exceeded the 850 mark, and Cabrillo Elementary School was our first school to reach 900 API with a score of 928. Of very significant importance is the fact that

SEE HONORING TRADITIONS • PAGE 15



**Dennis Curtis**  
*President*

### Wiseburn School District Board of Education



**Susan Andriacchi**  
*Member*



**Israel A. Mora**  
*Member*



**Nelson Martinez**  
*Clerk*



**Roger Bañuelos**  
*Member*

## Early Days in Del Aire

**Shirley Lester,  
Richard Henry Dana Class of 1948**

*An interview conducted by Michael Johnson  
Wiseburn Historian*

I grew up in Lennox. We later moved into the Wiseburn District, and eventually into a new house near 119th Street and Isis Avenue. I first came to school in the Wiseburn District as a sixth-grader in 1945.

The house we moved into was brand new—in fact, we moved in before it was finished. They had finished the bathroom but hadn't cleaned out the tub. There were no sidewalks, no sewers and no streetlights. They connected the sewers as we moved in. This was right after the war, so there

SEE EARLY DAYS IN DEL AIRE • PAGE 13

## Electives Inside:

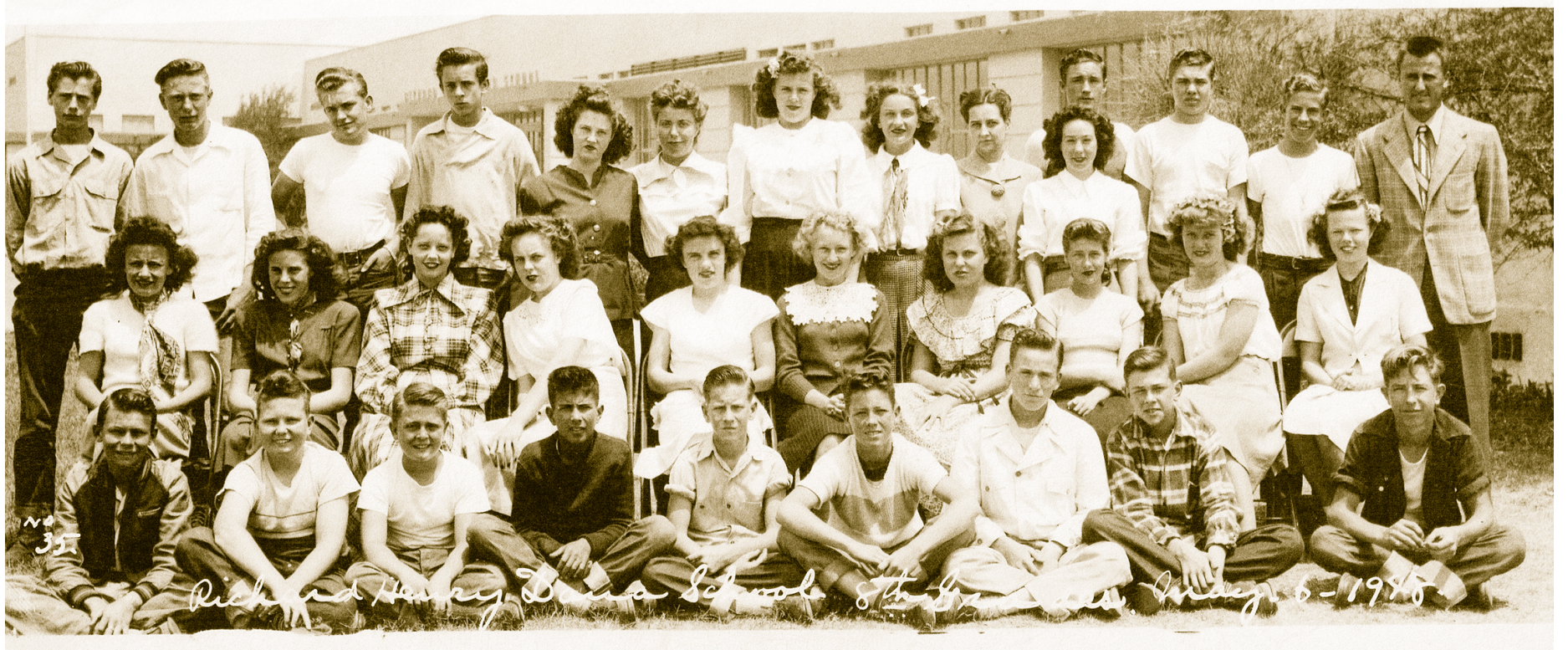
|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Bringing the Rich Past to Life ..page 2</b> |           |
| <b>PTA's .....</b>                             | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Wiseburn Watch .....</b>                    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne .....</b>          | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Wiseburn Little League .....</b>            | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Aviation Little League .....</b>            | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Da Vinci Charter Schools.....</b>           | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Juan de Anza .....</b>                      | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Peter Burnett .....</b>                     | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Juan Cabrillo .....</b>                     | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Richard Henry Dana .....</b>                | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Contest.....</b>                            | <b>6</b>  |



**Happy Thanksgiving!**

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





## Bringing the Rich Past to Life

*By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent*

For the past several months, Wiseburn and Da Vinci teachers, administrators and community members have been working on the Wiseburn History Project. Wiseburn has a rich and colorful past. Did you know there were anti-aircraft batteries just west of the Aviation and 120th Street intersection during World War II? Did you know that Sonny Bono attended Dana Middle School in 1947?

Former Wiseburn principal Jack Goode wrote the first history of the Wiseburn School District, covering the years between 1896 and 1960. The focus of the second volume will be the years between 1960 and 2010. **We need your help!** We would like to involve the community in an oral history project to capture the history of Wiseburn between the 1950s and the present. On every block in our community, there are people who remember important stories and facts about the community and our schools.

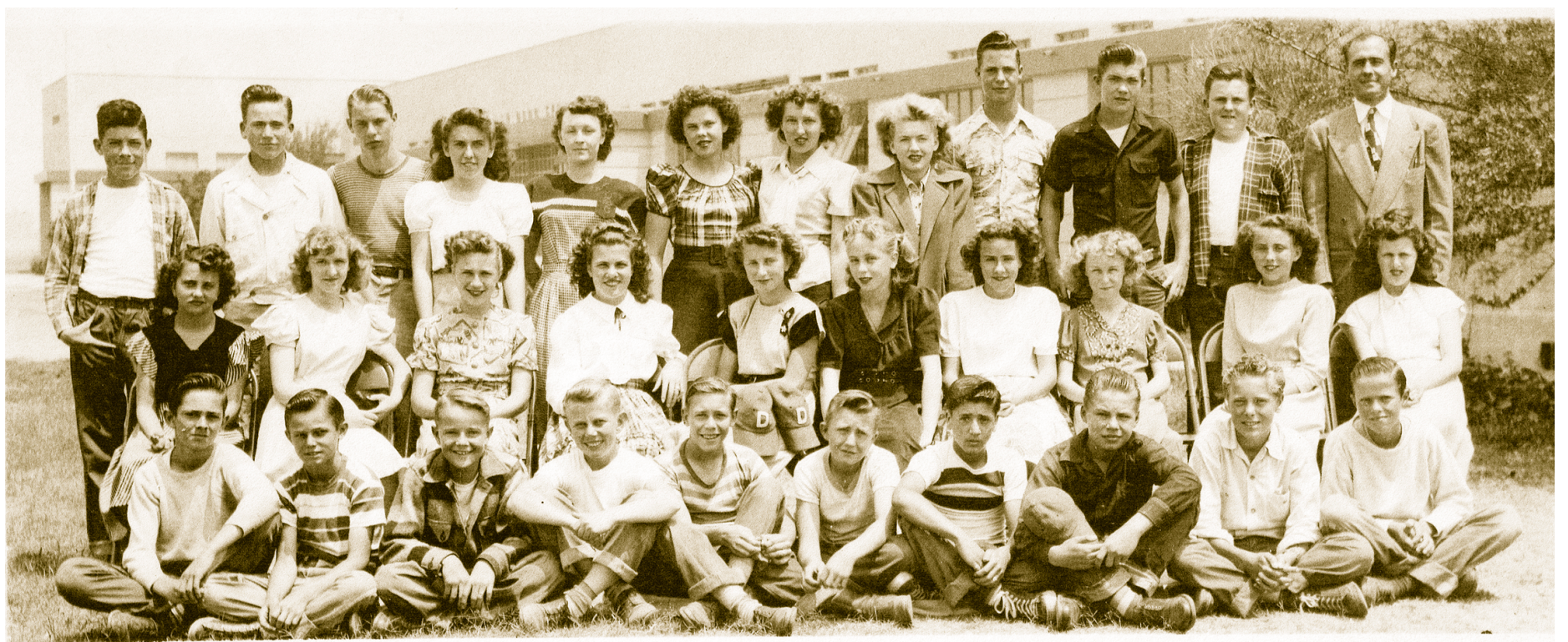
Students at Da Vinci Design School are setting up the process to interview members of the community. The interviews will be conducted one afternoon in mid-November at Da Vinci Design, located on the campus of the old Sepulveda Elementary School, adjacent to Del Aire Park. If you have stories to share, please contact Dr. Tom Johnstone at (310) 643-3009 or by e-mail at [TomJohnstone@wiseburn.k12.ca.us](mailto:TomJohnstone@wiseburn.k12.ca.us).

Two "pilot" interviews were conducted over the summer with graduates of the Dana Class of 1948. Shirley Lester's interview is included in this issue of School News Roll Call, and Mary Anne (Collins) Hansen's will follow in the next issue.

Please help us to keep Wiseburn's rich history alive for future generations!

---

If you have stories to share, please contact Dr. Tom Johnstone at (310) 643-3009 or by e-mail at [TomJohnstone@wiseburn.k12.ca.us](mailto:TomJohnstone@wiseburn.k12.ca.us).





## Anza PTA

Sue Crain, President • 310/725-2150

### Fun and Fund-Raising

Things are off to a great start at Anza! With the addition of one more fourth-grade class and many new families, it is very exciting around campus. The PTA is looking forward to a great year. We are committed to maintaining the high level of support to our teachers, staff, and most importantly, the children. With many field trips, assemblies and technology upgrades, we have lots of work ahead of us in fund-raising.

This year, we are trying something new with our arts program, too, with the introduction of a family art event that we are hoping will inspire docent participation with the visual arts in all classrooms. As always, we are asking our families, our friends, our coworkers, our neighbors—in short every one we know to participate along with us in as many of our planned events as possible.

We will be selling desserts, hosting special events like the Parent Night Out and the Holiday Boutique, encouraging everyone to participate in shopping-credit programs like those at major stores, and collecting box tops. The more people we have participating, the lighter the load and the more we can accomplish. Information for all these programs can be found on our website, and we encourage you to check it out.

## Burnett PTA

Liz Martin, President • 310/725-9570

### One Hundred Percent Involvement!

We are thrilled to be back to school and in the swing of things here at Peter Burnett. We have started a lot of great programs, and we are always looking for volunteers.

The students are excited about healthy eating with their participation in their first interactive classroom-nutrition lessons with the Growing Great program. The first lesson ran through October. Our parent-led Hands-On Art program began at the end of October. Our amazing parent volunteers work with our teachers to help maintain art in school by encouraging creative expression and allowing the students to experiment with various art materials and techniques. If you are interested in volunteering for any of our programs, please call us.

We have had a very successful start to our membership drive. Thank you to all the parents and teachers for supporting the PTA. Remember, it is not too late to join! Membership envelopes are available in the Peter Burnett School Office. We would love to have 100 percent participation this year.

We are having an awesome year at Burnett! Go Bulldogs!

## Cabrillo PTA

Gloria Gutierrez, President • 310/725-5451

### Our Call to Action

The California State PTA has nearly 1 million members throughout the state working on behalf of public schools, children and families, with the motto "Every child, one voice." Our Juan Cabrillo PTA strongly believes in the need to work for every child with one voice!

The strength of our Juan Cabrillo PTA lies in its membership—the parents, teachers, school administrators, business leaders and community members who devote themselves to making a positive difference in the lives of children. Members are the lifeblood of PTA and provide the passion, leadership and hard work needed to fulfill PTA's Mission. Every individual who joins PTA is giving something not only to his or her child but also to every child.

Imagine how much stronger our community could be if every parent, every community member and every business leader who could be involved in PTA did get involved. The PTA is the nation's oldest, largest and highest-profile volunteer association working to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth. At Juan Cabrillo, we invite all community members to join us as we advocate for every child with one voice! We want to know what our community is thinking and what programs will be enthusiastically received. We want to empower our community to become instrumental in the educational environment of their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and all children in our community!

Surveys show that, in general, children of involved parents have better school experiences, higher grades and test scores, fewer disciplinary problems and more supportive teachers. One of the best ways parents can be involved and show their support for their children is by joining PTA.

UCLA Extension

explore. experience. expand.

### Green Your Curriculum

With Courses in Environmental Education

Our online and hybrid courses offer a multidisciplinary approach, with an emphasis on the Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) curriculum, on service learning, and green schools, courses are open to the public.

For more information visit us online at [uclaextension.edu/teachers](http://uclaextension.edu/teachers) or call (310) 206-5107.

## School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the  
WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

### Editorial

CONTENT COORDINATOR:  
Barbra Longiny

### COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

### Production

Laura Brune

### SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call LLC

Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The school district does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



## ADOPT A NEIGHBOR

Every year we try to help as many local families as possible enjoy the holiday that every family deserves. However, this isn't possible without the support of our kind and giving neighbors.

**Nominations and donations needed!** Please email me if you would like to be involved or have a family to nominate.



**Kathy JENKINS**

REALTOR® - Licensed Broker  
Property Management

Direct: (310) 643-5267

[Kathy@KathyJENKINS.com](mailto:Kathy@KathyJENKINS.com)

"Find my business page on Facebook!"





Just a few of the many  
restaurants & businesses to discover in  
Downtown El Segundo...

Andiamo! Pizzeria  
Beach Mex  
Big Mike's Philly Steaks & Subs  
Blue Butterfly Coffee Co  
Britt's BBQ  
Burgers Etc.  
Canton Low Restaurant  
Chef Hannes  
Chicken Dijon  
Cold Stone Creamery  
Deluca Trattoria  
Domino's Pizza  
The Donut  
El Segundo Brewing Company  
El Segundo Fish Company  
Fantastic Café  
Farm Stand  
Good Stuff Restaurant  
Hana Naru  
Hanabi Japanese Grill  
Harry O's  
Havana Sandwich Co  
The Hummus Factory  
I Love Teriyaki  
Indian Summer  
Little Gourmet  
Main St. Café  
Mandy's Family Restaurant  
The Office Downtown  
Old Town Patio  
O-Shun  
Our Daily Grind  
Playa Blanca  
Purple Orchid  
Richmond Bar & Grill  
Rinaldi's  
Rock & Brews  
Second City Bistro  
Siam Bay Thai Cuisine  
Starbucks Coffee  
Steve's Burgers  
Stix & Straws  
Stuff Pizza  
Taco Mex  
The Soup Bar  
The Tavern on Main  
Vinnys Pizza  
Wendy's Place Café

For a complete listing of Downtown  
Restaurants, Shopping & Services,  
Downtown El Segundo Guides are  
available at the Wiseburn School  
District Offices!



# Downtown EL SEGUNDO

## Discover Downtown El Segundo

Enjoy a walk along beautiful tree lined streets as the  
incredible aromas from over 50 restaurants entice your taste  
buds. Discover unique stores tempting you with fabulous  
selections from the hottest designer fashions to popular surfwear.  
A sampling of fabulous Downtown El Segundo Retailers...

Banner Stationers  
Beadtopia  
Colors Custom Furniture  
Cooke's Family Market  
D'Arte Connection  
El Segundo Tailors  
Electric Bikes LA  
Frocks & Rocks  
Gasoline  
Holly Main Liquor  
Industrial Lock & Security  
The Jewelry Source  
Kahanamokus Swimboat  
Natural Simplicity  
R. Chameleon  
The Slipt Stitch  
Studio Antiques  
Studio Joseph Watts  
Tawnie's Pet Depot  
Tyler Surfboards  
Vintage Canvas  
Wrapsody



el segundo chamber of commerce  
427 main street • el segundo • california 90245  
310-322-1220 • fax 310-322-6868

 [www.elsegundochamber.org](http://www.elsegundochamber.org)

 Find us on  
**Facebook**



## Wiseburn Watch

Harley Hoff, Co-Founder & President • [www.wiseburnwatch.com](http://www.wiseburnwatch.com)

# Greetings to All

By Bill Magoon, Co-Founder

Well, with the long, hot days of summer behind us we are looking forward to the coming of fall, as it will be bringing cooler days and crisp ocean breezes along with the ever-festive holiday season.

Wiseburn Watch had a productive summer. Although we did not gain as many new members as we had hoped, we are still progressing on this front, and hold high expectations that we will soon hit that magical "500 member" mark by January. So the Wiseburn Watch cordially invites any homeowner, property owner and/or renter to join us by attending one of our Watch meetings.

Our group is open to all residents within the LA County unincorporated Wiseburn community, which includes those properties east of the 405 freeway, west of Inglewood Ave., south of El Segundo Blvd. and north of Rosecrans Ave. To join our group, or for more information, you can contact us through our Web site at [www.wiseburnwatch.com](http://www.wiseburnwatch.com).

We had two significant events this past summer. The first of course was our annual National Night Out on August 2. We had approximately 250 people join us for the afternoon, along with representatives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the California Highway Patrol.

We were also blessed with a bloodmobile from the American Red Cross, which accepted some much-needed blood donations from many, many folks all afternoon long. We had booths from a wide cross-section of businesses and groups within the South Bay area. We had hot dogs, food, drinks and even bouncers and games for the children.

## Big Improvements in Store

The Boy Scouts of America provided us with a color guard for the opening ceremonies, and our very own Sierra Wilson sang a beautiful rendition of the

National Anthem. The event ended with the raffling of not just one but two brand new bicycles. One was donated by our wonderful sponsor, Kathy Jenkins, and the other was given to us by Rebecca George, a longtime watch member.

To see pictures of this and past NNO events, please log on to our Web site at [www.wiseburnwatch.com](http://www.wiseburnwatch.com) and select the images icon on the left.

Our second highlight was when we learned that the County of Los Angeles has begun the process of building us our very own greenbelt/walking path on a strip of property. It will be located on the east side of the 405 freeway along La Cienega, between 139th St. on the south to about 132nd St. on the north.

We of course are very excited to get some much needed green space in our community, as many of our Watch members have been working long and hard to see this project come to fruition.

We are equally excited to be entering into its design phase, and to see the artist renditions. The County has been very open to our community's ideas and suggestions, too, and so we are looking forward to the upcoming public meetings. All local residents will have an opportunity to weigh-in with community input. It is our hope that this project will break ground sometime in early 2012.

I am also very happy to report that overall crime continues to fall within the Wiseburn community. I attribute this to the great dedication of our Watch members, along with the uncompromising help and support we receive from the Sheriff's Deputies and Highway Patrol Officers. It is truly a joy to work with these dedicated individuals.

Get ready, folks! Coming up is the ever-popular Wiseburn Watch Santa Stops event. This is our signature event, and it gets bigger every year. The LA County Fire Department provides the fire truck for Santa and his elves, and the Sheriff's Department and Highway Patrol provide escorts which include flashing lights and sirens.

This year we are also collecting gifts for the Sheriff's Department's annual Christmas toy drive. You don't want to miss this exciting event. It will be held on Saturday, December 17.

To see pictures of past Santa Stop events, please log on to our Web site and select the images icon on the left. That's about it for now!



We put the  
'FUN' back into  
'FUNDAMENTALS'!

# Rainbow River

## Child Development Centers

Preschool & School Age Care



**5 STAR PROGRAM!!**

**Now Enrolling for  
Preschool & After School  
Sign Up Now!  
[rainbowrivercdc.com](http://rainbowrivercdc.com)**

|  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Anza</b><br>K – 5th grade<br>(310) 643-8511 | <b>Anza</b><br><b>Preschool</b><br>3 – 5 years old<br>(310) 643-8511 | <b>Burnett</b><br>3rd – 7th Grade<br>(310) 536-9353 | <b>Cabrillo</b><br>K – 2nd grade<br>(310) 536-9353 | <b>Cabrillo</b><br><b>Preschool</b><br>3 – 5 years old<br>(310) 725-9955 |
|--|--|---|--|--|

# Nationally Recognized Program

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) was established in the Los Angeles area in 1964 with nine teams. It was the dream of a group of devoted soccer enthusiasts who started the organization in a garage. Today, AYSO is the largest single-entity youth soccer association in the United States with more than 50,000 teams, more than 650,000 players, and more than 225,000 registered volunteers. The National Support and Training Center is located in Torrance, California.

AYSO's goal is to be nationally recognized as the youth soccer program of choice. AYSO's vision is to provide world-class youth soccer programs that enrich children's lives. AYSO's mission is to develop and deliver quality youth soccer programs which promote a fun, family environment based on AYSO's Six Philosophies: Everyone Plays®; Balanced Teams; Open Registration; Positive Coaching; Good Sportsmanship; and, the latest one, which was adopted at last year's national annual general meeting, Player Development.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne was charted as an official region on December 15, 1972. In September we kicked off our 39th season serving the youth of our community with an opening day ceremony. The fun-filled day started with the parade and introduction of over 100 teams. Each team walked in front of the grandstand, showing off their homemade team banner. Regional Commissioner Ramon Pulido gave a welcoming talk thanking parents for their continued support for the youth soccer program, introducing the members of the Board, and presenting Hawthorne Councilman and longtime Board member Danny Juarez with an award celebrating 35 years of service to the players of the program. Wiseburn School Board President Dennis Curtis, a former assistant regional commissioner, was heard saying that after seeing the number of participants he wanted to come back to the Board. Wiseburn School District Superintendent Dr. Tom Johnstone, an AYSO coach, commented on the good this program has meant to the community over the years. Opening Day Director Norma Diaz did an excellent job of organizing the event, which also included many kinds of booths, a live band, and a raffle. Thank you, Norma, for all your hard work!

We are in full swing with over 1,400 players participating in this world-class premier youth program, which includes boys and girls with ages ranging from four and one-half years to under 19 years. In addition, we have registered a number of players who participate in the AYSO Very Important Players (VIP) program, which provides a quality soccer experience for children and adults

whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult to successfully participate on mainstream teams. Disabled participants include those who are blind or visually impaired, amputees or others with conditions that impair mobility, mentally or emotionally challenged individuals, or players diagnosed with autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. On Saturday, January 21, 2012, we will be hosting the 11th Annual VIP Friendship Festival at the Dana Sports Complex. Come out for the day and support your VIP Hawthorne teams.

We are very appreciative to the Wiseburn School District for the use of the all soccer fields within the district boundaries: Aviation and Juan de Anza in Del Aire and Peter Burnett, Juan Cabrillo and Richard Henry Dana in Holly Glen. The school district is also considering constructing a soccer field on the old Richard Henry Dana school site. The construction of a new soccer field was one of several reasons why the citizens in the community supported Measure A.

AYSO needs to continue to practice successful partnerships with other entities in the community as well. The Region 21 Board of Directors wants to remind all parents and friends visiting the Juan Cabrillo soccer field not to park in the Los Angeles County Library-Wiseburn Branch parking lot on Saturdays. As a direct result of the parking lot being used by soccer families, the library story-time program has experienced a drastic 50-percent reduction in attendance. Be a good soccer family partner and please do not park in the library parking lot on Saturdays.

Many have mentioned that they viewed the 2011 Women's World Cup. The USA Women's team fell short but you have to admit that they showed signs of brilliance as they beat highly favored Brazil. This had an impact on this year's registration numbers, with more young girls signing up. You can also see by visiting the play fields that the USA team has created many soccer fans. Next time you are at a match, count the number of USA jerseys. You may see other jerseys worn by diehard fans but the majority is still USA. There will be lots of AYSO fans cheering for the United States in the 2014 Brazil World Cup. Let's hope the USA team goes further in the tournament.

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 coaches, assistant coaches, referees, team moms, team dads or Board member. If you want to be part of a world-class and unique experience, carve some time out of your busy schedule and volunteer. If you are too busy to volunteer, please be sure to thank those who have stepped up make a difference for your children.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at ayso.bigdog@att.net. See you all on the pitch (soccer field)!



## NEW Rules!!!

**Football Word Search Contest: One word in the list is NOT in the word search.**  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that is the word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put Wiseburn in the subject line.

Entries must be received by December 20, 2011

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

|            |               |               |
|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Clipping   | Interference  | Safety        |
| Coach      | Kicker        | Scrimmage     |
| Conversion | Linebacker    | Special Teams |
| Cornerback | Loss of Down  | Super Bowl    |
| Defense    | Offsides      | Tackle        |
| Downs      | Personal Foul | Tailback      |
| Field Goal | Possession    | Touchdown     |
| Flanker    | Quarterback   | Yardage       |
| Goal Post  | Roughing      |               |

**Congratulations to Ardis Dahl!**  
**Winner of the June Word Search Contest**

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



## From the Dugout

By Andrew Goslin, President

The Wiseburn Little League season completed its 56th season, and it was a great one! The players at every level, from T-ball for 4-year-olds through the Juniors, 13 years and up, completed the regular and tournament seasons in both the regional and district levels against Little Leagues from throughout Southern California. We have seen tremendous development from the players over the season, both in baseball/softball skills and in character.

Our fall program is now underway, and we have doubled our enrollment this season. This year, we have combined our efforts with Aviation Little League and with District 37 for fall ball and have made several improvements to the quality of the fall program. Baseball and softball players have the opportunity to keep their skills fresh in advance of the upcoming 2012 season while building character and making new and lasting friendships while on the diamonds.

### Remembering a Generous Fan

Recently, we lost a great friend and board member, Scott Henderson, to illness. Mr. Henderson was a great example for the community, spending countless hours at the field and helping in just about every way possible. He will be deeply missed. The Little League will be honoring Mr. Henderson by wearing his initials on every Little League hat for the 2012 season.

Little League is much more than a softball and baseball program. We are a volunteer-based organization whose primary goal is to teach children the importance of community while building character and pride in themselves and in their neighborhood. The examples set by parents, coaches and community volunteers are proudly demonstrated to the children in the league each time they step on the field.

Wiseburn Little League has served the children of our community for 56 years. We are a volunteer, nonprofit organization, and we welcome volunteers. Our league offers many levels of play for both softball and baseball programs, ranging from 4 through 16 years old. All players who reside within league boundaries are welcome, no matter the skill level of physical capability. Please visit our website or email us for more information.

Go Wiseburn!

## Aviation Little League

310/643-4243 www.eteamz.com/aviation

## Play Ball!

By Carlos Diaz, President

Aviation Little League will be celebrating its 53rd regular season of softball and baseball in March 2012. Early registration will begin in November. For more information please visit our Web site at www.eteamz.com/aviation or e-mail us at diazemail@netzero.net.

Last year we had over 350 players and 29 teams for a season that started in March and continued through July. This year, we will be working on bringing up the quality of our play while teaching fundamentals and keeping the game fun for all our players. Our league offers many levels of play in both the softball and baseball programs for children ranging from in age from four to 16 years.

Our growth is possible due to the hard work of our volunteer members, including Manny Garcia, Carie Bonillo, Doug Cowgill, Sue Stensvaag, Vicente Preciado, Keenan Smith, Pablo Guereca, Shameeda Abdul, Heather Smith, Mia Abdul, Sean Langley, Joe Bonillo, Ivette Morales, Manny Avendano, Tanya Griffin, Martin Jones and many others.

I would also like to thank the administrators and staff of the Wiseburn School District for allowing us the use of the fields on which we play and practice.

We are excited to welcome back our returning players and look forward to meeting the many new players joining us this year!



THE LAKES  
AT EL SEGUNDO

Est. 1994

**Supports the Wiseburn  
School District**

**Bring in  
this ad  
and receive  
a small bucket  
of range  
balls**

400 South Sepulveda Blvd • El Segundo, CA 90245  
**310-322-0202 • www.golfthelakes.com**

## Get the financial advantage you deserve.

### PRODUCTS DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

- Paycheck Assistance Loan
- 3.00% APY<sup>1</sup> Summer Saver Account
- School Employee Mortgage Program
- Auto Loan Program
- Free Checking with a day early Direct Deposit<sup>2</sup>

"I joined because I  
knew the credit union  
was the place to build  
my financial future."

Sarah H.

School Resource Specialist  
MEMBER SINCE 2002

### ACCESS/CONVENIENCE

- 35 branch locations in Southern California
- 28,000 fee-free ATMs across the U.S.
- Online, Mobile and Text Banking

### PERSONALIZED SERVICE

- Each Member is unique - and so is our approach to them
- 77 years of focusing on school employees provides you with expertise you can trust

### Let us help you today!

**VISIT**  
your nearby SchoolsFirst FCU branch

**LOG IN**  
schoolsfirstfcu.org

**CALL**  
800.462.8328

**SCHOOLSFIRST**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

1. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Variable rate, subject to change after account opening. Deposits by payroll direct deposit only, minimum \$50/maximum \$2,000 per month. Participation in School Employee Membership Package required which includes Access Checking; \$300 Overdraft Protection Line of Credit with no credit qualifying; Debit MasterCard<sup>SM</sup>; Online Banking; Online Bill Payment; first box of logo checks free (optional). Direct deposit of at least \$250/month, electronic statements and electronic account notices required. Access Checking monthly fee of \$3 waived with \$250/month direct deposit, or \$500 daily minimum combined share balance, or age 62+; unlimited transactions at SchoolsFirst FCU and CO-OP Network ATMs; six free out-of-network transactions per month, \$1 each after six. 2. Limited to participating districts.

Employees of eligible schools and immediate family members of current Members may join. Eligibility subject to verification. \$5 deposit required to open and maintain Membership. \$15 Membership fee may apply. Some products subject to ChexSystem review.



Federally Insured by NCUA



By Dr. Matthew Wunder, Executive Director

## A Community of Learners

These are exciting times at Da Vinci Schools! With the start of the new school year, we celebrate another milestone. For the first time, Da Vinci Schools have kindergartners and seniors on campus. We are many voices, but one Da Vinci community united in our vision of project-based learning, innovation supported by solid research, and a deep commitment to students and community in a small and personalized learning environment.

We are so grateful for the tremendous support of our students, families, staff, Board members, authorizing school district, community partners and supporters, donors and volunteers.

## Da Vinci Innovation Academy Opens

The excitement has been building for months but there was nothing like seeing so many smiling and enthusiastic faces as we welcomed our first students to campus on August 25 for the grand opening of the Da Vinci Innovation Academy. What is even nicer is those same smiles are still there!

The Da Vinci Innovation Academy offers families a new approach to K–8 education, which combines classroom instruction with home-based learning.

In this family collaborative instructional model, students spend two full days per week at school doing project-based learning in the classroom and three days per week off site doing family-facilitated learning to reinforce newly acquired skills. Every student has a personalized learning plan and meets monthly with teachers. Students have 90 to 110 minutes per week of elective workshops. The Da Vinci Innovation Academy also offers families a full-time independent study option, in which the student works five days per week off site and meets at least every 20 days with a credentialed teacher to review their personalized learning plans.

Central to the Da Vinci Innovation Academy are partnerships with families; a school-wide social emotional curriculum; strategies for deeper learning; hands-on, minds-on, learning by doing; personalized attention in a small school setting; and mentoring, coaching and other interventions to support all students.

The mission of the Da Vinci Innovation Academy is to run a family collaborative instructional model where how you learn is as important as what you learn.

To learn more about the Da Vinci Innovation Academy, please visit [www.davincischools.org](http://www.davincischools.org).

## Da Vinci Design Opens at New Location

On August 16, Da Vinci Design opened its doors and kicked off a third year at its new Del Aire campus, located at 12501 South Isis Avenue in Hawthorne. Colleen O'Boyle, formerly Da Vinci Schools' academic dean, was named interim principal for the 2011–2012 school year. This year has brought some change to the students, as they are enrolled in college preparatory and design seminars in addition to their core academic classes. We are grateful to welcome several local professors and designers to our team.

This semester we have an American studies course taught by El Camino College professor Kirsten Resnick, a toy and product design seminar led by designer David Chodosh, a mural painting seminar led by artist Steve O'Laughlin, a film seminar led by Nathan Cooke, and a music making course taught by a professional musician. In addition, we are offering Project Lead the Way classes, as well as introductory engineering, civil engineering, and aerospace seminars.

All 11th-grade students have begun to work with college counselors Karen Grace-Baker and Candice Mackey to help them prepare for the college applications process. Several 10th-grade students are preparing for the Spanish Language Advanced Placement (AP) exam led by Claudia Najarro and the World History AP exam led by Ricardo Jara.

We are excited to welcome many college representatives to both our high school campuses to meet with students and introduce them to their institutions. Some of the colleges scheduled to visit in the coming months are: University of Southern California; Loyola Marymount University; University of San Francisco; University of California, Riverside; Oregon State University; Biola University; Boston University; Carnegie Mellon University; Occidental College; Syracuse University; University of New Mexico; University of South Carolina; and many more.



**Up, Up & Away - Da Vinci Science students participate in an exciting airplane challenge.**

## Da Vinci Science Update

It's a really exciting time to be at Da Vinci Science School as we prepare for our first graduating class in June 2012. Students and staff are working hard to ensure that every senior is prepared to gain admission to and succeed in college. High school seniors must enroll in Senior Seminar, which is taught by Tristen Gire, our lead college counselor. Students are drafting resumes, researching colleges, taking the SAT and ACT, completing the common application, and writing their personal statements. This mandatory class helps students stay organized and on task to meet college deadlines.

Da Vinci Science also offers many real-world learning opportunities for students beyond their core college-preparatory classes. Some of the exciting seminar program opportunities this semester are: Flight School; Youth and Government; Mock Trial; Academic Decathlon; Interactive Multimedia Design, and Junior Achievement.

## Enrollment Information 2012–2013

There are three necessary steps to the application process for Da Vinci Schools:

First, attend an information meeting held in the Da Vinci Forum, located at 13500 Aviation Boulevard, Hawthorne, CA 90250. Parents or legal guardians must attend an information meeting as a required part of the application process for the Da Vinci Innovation Academy for kindergarten through eighth grade. High school information meetings are not mandatory, but we strongly urge you to attend to learn about our programs, curriculum and enrollment process. You will also have an opportunity to meet some of our faculty and staff, current students, and families.

Second, fill out the K–12 Enrollment Application.

Third, submit the application on or before the deadline of Friday, March 2, 2012 at 4 p.m. Earlier submissions are appreciated.

For more information about the application and enrollment process, please visit <http://www.davincischools.org/apply.shtml>.

**Pursuant to Da Vinci Schools' charter, students residing within the territorial jurisdiction of Wiseburn receive admission preference, provided their completed enrollment applications are received prior to the application deadline.**

## Annual Giving Update

Thanks to your generous support, Da Vinci schools raised \$125,000 during the 2010–2011 Annual Giving Campaign and Chevron Matching Challenge! We are enormously grateful to our donors and volunteers, as well as to Chevron and all of our community partners for their continued support of Da Vinci schools and our local educational community. Your donations are helping to provide three full-time counselors at each high school site, ensuring that every student is on track to get into a four-year university and on track for success. Your contributions also funded college field trips, the Web-based college search system Naviance Family Connection, and project-based learning materials for each teaching team. Whether you gave your time, talent or money, we are enormously grateful for your support!

To learn how you can make a difference at Da Vinci schools, please visit <http://www.davincischools.org/annualgiving.shtml>.

Thank you for supporting Da Vinci schools!





Dr. Chris Jones  
Principal

Math Scores Continue on Upward Trend

Over the past decade, Juan de Anza Elementary has continued to stride forward on the Academic Performance Index (API). In September, the California Department of Education released the 2011 API results for all public and charter schools in California. The statewide target for every school to reach is a score of at least 800. The students at Juan de Anza Elementary School earned an API score of 886, the highest score in the school's history. This continues the trend of double-digit increases on the API over four consecutive years at Anza. Of particular note this year were the improved scores in the area of mathematics, where a newly adopted textbook had been implemented by teachers last year. These results substantiate that students across our entire student body are finding success.

The California Department of Education has been calculating the Academic Performance Index since the 1999-2000 school year, when Anza scored a 739. Each year, a base score and a growth score are similarly calculated for a within-year comparison. Over the past six years, Anza students have shown a steady growth from a base of 838 in 2006 to a growth score of 886 in 2011. The staff members at Juan de Anza Elementary School are very proud of our academic program and the excellent performance of our students!

Bucket Program Encourages Positive Behavior

Anza school is initiating a new program reinforcing positive behavior that will serve our students in a meaningful way. Creating a safer, kinder, more respectful school by helping our students realize the power of intrinsic happiness is the essence of the newly adopted program. Being aware of how our actions affect others and ourselves is the goal.

Here is how it works: *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* is a children's book that provides all of its readers with the tangible analogy of choosing to be a bucket filler rather than a bucket dipper. Teachers will be reading this book to all students in their classroom to introduce the program.

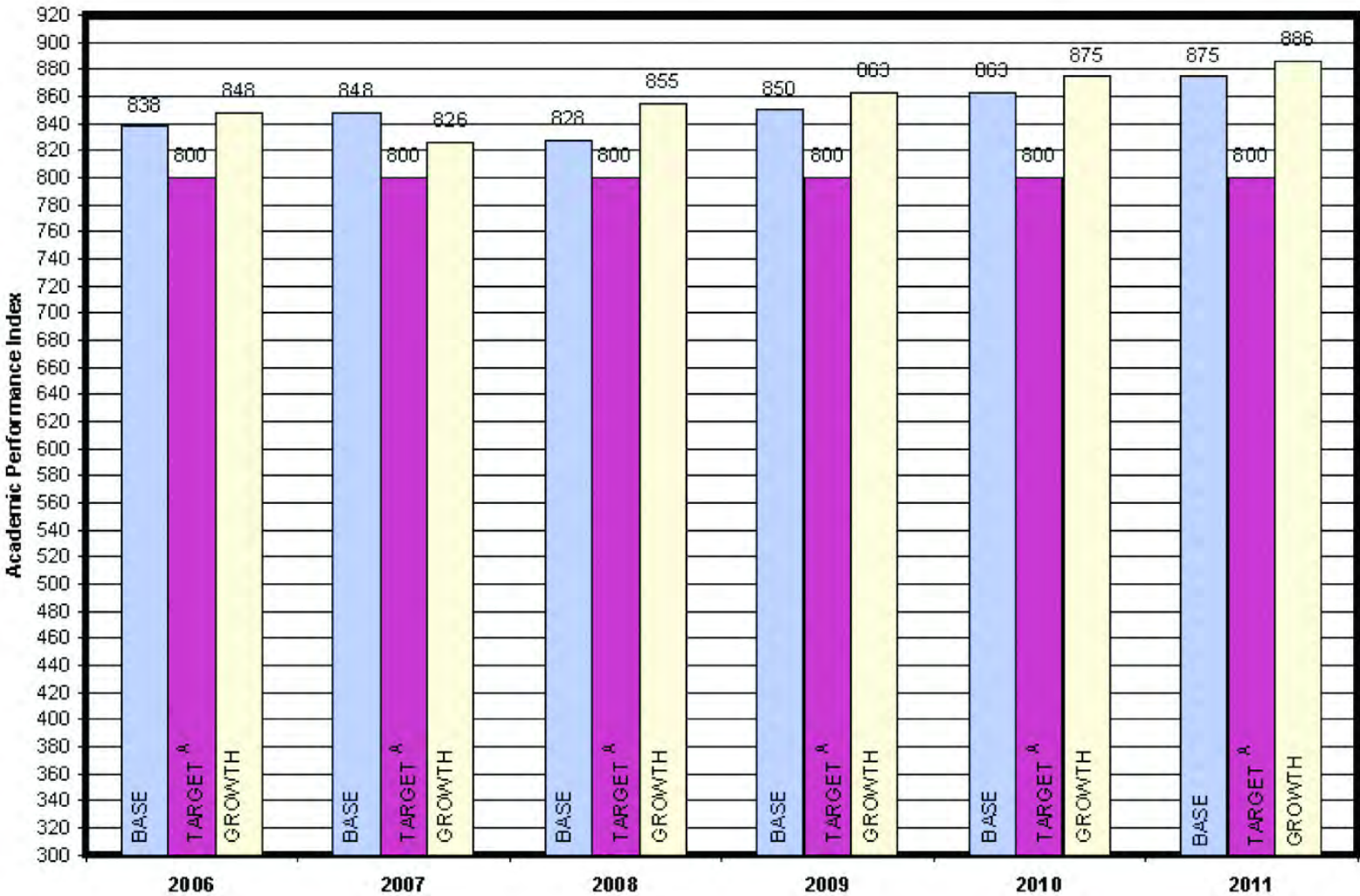
The concept is simple: We all walk around with an imaginary bucket to place our feelings in. If a person says something nice or performs an act of kindness, they are "filling" another person's bucket. This act will also fill your own personal bucket. When a person does something that may hurt someone else's feelings, that is referred to as "bucket dipping."

The teachers, staff and PTA volunteers have all begun to use the language of bucket filling with students. All members of the Anza community are encouraged to write out short "drops" to others that are meant to show how that person's actions helped them to feel good. In classrooms, students share these sentiments with one another at weekly classroom meetings. Our hope is that this will add to the already positive atmosphere for students, staff and parents at Anza.

Anza (Juan de)

API GROWTH-SCHOOLWIDE  
API Base/Target<sup>A</sup>/Growth Comparisons  
2006-2011<sup>\*\*</sup>

Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Division for School Improvement  
Online Assessment Community - oac.lacoe.edu  
9/19/2011



<sup>\*</sup>API Target = Base Plus Growth Target  
<sup>\*\*</sup>API calculations have changed with each cycle  
<sup>A</sup> Base at or above 800 yields target of 800



# Peter Burnett *Elementary School*

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

(3-5)



**Laura Sullivan**  
*Principal*

## **Bulldogs Welcome Harmony Project**

The Burnett Bulldogs are honoring traditions through the use of our challenging curriculum and extracurricular activities. We are excited to welcome Harmony Project, an instrumental music program that is in its second year in the Wiseburn School District but in its first year at Peter Burnett Elementary School. Harmony Project includes second-year students who are current third-grade students from Peter Burnett and Juan de Anza Elementary Schools.

Harmony Project is a program that grew out of the Hip-Hop Orchestra and is funded through the Herb Albert Foundation.

Harmony Project provides opportunities for third-grade students to play musical instruments through sequential reasoning and ear training.

All teachers working through Harmony Project are professional musicians. The professionals find ways to fully engage children and parents. Children receive two music lessons a week to go along with a musicianship class, which is held once a week. Also, there is a Big Bang drumming session every Saturday morning for family participation. During Saturday workshops, children receive music instructions, play drums, sing and dance. The goal of the program is to create a musical culture in our community and a new orchestra for our children. We are thrilled to welcome Harmony Project to Peter Burnett Elementary School.



# Happy Holidays!

from the *School News* staff

**Our next issue is March 21**





# Juan Cabrillo *Elementary School (K-2)*

5309 West 135th St, Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-5400



**Margaret Lynch**  
Principal

## Honoring Traditions and Beginnings

With excitement and anticipation for a great 2011–2012 school year, we want to highlight Cabrillo’s great tradition of combining academic excellence with a balanced curriculum that seeks to embrace the arts.

At Cabrillo, we honor our traditions and embrace new beginnings as we grow and learn together. In that spirit, we are continuing a new Cabrillo tradition this year that we like to call “School Year’s Eve.”

## Academic Excellence

Cabrillo School has had a long tradition of academic excellence, and this year is no exception. Our Academic Performance Index (API) increased from 887 to 928! The API is a measure of student achievement based on the California Standards Test (CST) scale of 1,000. Teachers work collaboratively and consistently with each other and with the parents to make a difference in our students’ academic performance.

### Cabrillo’s Growth in Proficiency

|                       | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|
| English Language Arts | 56%  | 72%  | 82%  |
| Mathematics           | 57%  | 77%  | 88%  |
| API                   | 828  | 887  | 928  |



## Hands-on Art

Our Cabrillo PTA, as well as the national PTA organization, has a strong tradition of nurturing the arts by teaching parents how to volunteer in their children’s classroom for art lessons. The PTA provides all of the materials, preparation and presentation for these lessons. This month, Cabrillo students will be creating art-glass windows in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright. We have more than 50 parents who are helping make this possible!

We are grateful for this help. It gives our children an opportunity to imitate the great masters with their own hands.



**Mrs. Carmen Bird, coordinator of Hands on Art, works with Silver Perez on his art glass window before hanging it in Room 1’s classroom window.**



**Joey Lagrana and his mom purchase a new Cabrillo sweatshirt during “School Year’s Eve.”**

## A New Beginning: School Year’s Eve

For the second year our PTA has hosted a “School Year’s Eve” gathering in the courtyard, and it has become a big tradition! Cabrillo now posts its class lists the evening before school begins, and turning this into a special event has allowed families to gather together and learn about their specific class assignments.

Providing families with a chance to also purchase Cub wear, emergency kits, PTA membership, scrip and even baked goods at the gathering only adds to the festivity and excitement of a new school year.



**Families celebrate “School Year’s Eve” in the Cabrillo Courtyard.**

Open 7:00 am to 10:00 pm

**New Management!**

**10% of your purchase goes to the school of your choice in the Wiseburn School District with this coupon**

**\$5 Any Regular Footlong**

- Turkey
- Spicy Italian
- Meatball
- B.M.T.
- Veggie Delight
- Cold Cut Combo

Now Serving Personal Pizza  
Cheese • Veggie • Meatball • Pepperoni • Sausage

**11916 Aviation Blvd • Inglewood, CA 90304 • (310) 725-9215**



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

5504 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-4780



**Aileen Harbeck**  
*Principal*

## Honoring Traditions

Dana Middle School has received a three-year re-designation as a National Schools to Watch model school. Credit for this impressive distinction goes to the students, teachers, administrators, and parents who all work together in making Dana Middle School an example of educational excellence. As noted by the Schools to Watch team, which visited classes and interviewed students and teachers in September, Dana meets the distinctive needs of students by helping build a strong record of student achievement. In June, members of the Dana staff and Wiseburn Superintendent Dr. Tom Johnstone will travel to Washington, D.C. to accept the school's honor.

For more information about the Schools to Watch model school program, visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/g/mg/stw.asp>. For more information about Dana Middle School, visit [www.danamiddleschool.net](http://www.danamiddleschool.net).



**Dr. Irvin Howard, Director, California Schools to Watch, and Marsha Robinson from the California Department of Education with Dana students Kaitlin Hunter and Selah Wright.**



## Zero-G Experience

Soaring 34,000 feet above the earth in a modified 747 jet only to drop altitude at an alarming rate while floating around a padded cabin may not sound like fun, but to the Dana math and science teachers, this was a one-of-a-kind experience. Sponsored by a grant from a corporate aeronautics partner, two Dana teachers experienced weightlessness during 15 separate anti-gravity drops. The zero-gravity experience supports teachers in developing engaging lessons and experiments focused on understanding scientific laws founded more than three centuries ago.



**Northrop Grumman Zero-G flight pilot, Dana teachers Mrs. Maria Garcia (math) and Mrs. Kris Torrey (science)**

## New Beginnings

In late September, more than 200 of Dana's newest students ventured forth to Camp Arbolado in the San Bernardino Mountains for three days and two nights of discovery, learning, and just plain fun at sixth-grade outdoor science school. Campers shared cabins with classmates and enjoyed hands-on activities connected to nature and science. Evening campfires combined with outdoor fun provided experiences the students and their teachers will never forget. Upper-grade students at Dana have opportunities for extended learning through the seventh-grade Catalina Island Marine Institute trip and the eighth-grade Washington D.C. trip.



**Enjoying 6th grade camp  
Jessica Ruiz, Jerni McFadden, Mikayla Brandford, Adonn Turney**



were a lot of rapid changes, and there was a rush to get everything finished as quickly as possible because a lot of new families needed places to live.

I remember coming home from school and my mom would be outside talking with the neighbors. She would give us big hugs and say, “Go get your homework done.” That was it. We would go to start our homework, and they would still stand out there and talk.

We didn’t have trash pickup like now. Instead, everybody had an incinerator in the back yard to burn the trash. Eventually they started picking up garbage, and incinerators were banned. Most people didn’t have dryers, so they hung all the clothes outside. A lot of houses had gardens. It felt completely different than now. We never locked our doors. Any neighbor could come in at any time to get something to eat or borrow something and leave a note saying they borrowed it. But most of the moms were home all the time anyway.

At that time, there were houses north of 120th Street, between Aviation Boulevard and Inglewood Avenue, but around the Wiseburn School area was an open field which continued south until you got to the railroad overpass at Rosecrans. Most of the land had been owned by Adolph Leuzinger and his family, who farmed land in the area. Towards Gardena was all open fields.

West of Aviation, across from the current DaVinci Science School where the factories are today, was nothing but more fields. We used to watch the tumbleweeds blow across that open land. We’d get the horrible smell of a sulfur plant at El Segundo, since there was nothing there to stop the smell from blowing across in the wind.

Near the corner of Aviation and El Segundo was a section that had been a Japanese camp. I don’t know for sure, but I think it was a place where the Japanese stayed before moving to Manzanar. A couple of the girls from that camp went to our school.

## Coming to the Wiseburn School

Changing school districts was strange for me because I was not outgoing. Two friends of mine, Opal and Carl, also transferred from Jefferson School in Lennox, so I knew them, and that was helpful.

Dana School was called Wiseburn School until 1948, when I was in eighth grade. The original building was on Aviation. That building is now the DaVinci School. Then a new building was added behind it. At any rate, the buildings look very different today from the way they did then.

We took the bus to school. Our bus driver, Margie Jensen, picked us up on 120th Street and took us to school. But there was no bus in the afternoon. We had to walk home, but we couldn’t take the most direct route, because we couldn’t cross the fields. Depending on the season, the fields sometimes had crops growing and sometimes didn’t, but we knew it wasn’t right to cut across them. Instead, we had to walk around the fields. This meant going east on 135th Street to Ocean Gate Avenue, walking north to El Segundo, and then heading up Isis Avenue to my house.

Mr. Leuzinger owned the land all around, so he would sit up there in his old house on the hill near the corner of Aviation and El Segundo and look at everything. Once in a while, we would get very brave and instead of walking all the way to Ocean Gate, a bunch of us would start walking across the field. Next thing you knew, Mr. Leuzinger would come out in his model T with a shotgun and chase us out of there, telling us to get out of the fields, so we had to run like crazy. Everybody would try to get him to come out and try to outrun him. I don’t know that he ever had anything in the gun, but he scared the heck out of us.

## Memorable Days at School

Dana was really a good school, and the teachers were great. Things were less structured then than they are now. For example, when I was in eighth grade everyone had to have at tuberculosis (TB) test. As the nurse’s assistant, I actually helped the nurse stick the students with the needle, and then I checked people when they came back. Today, it wouldn’t be possible for students to do that kind of thing.

Mr. Fitzgerald was my favorite teacher. Halfway through the year, he became vice principal, so we had him in the mornings and then a different teacher in the afternoons. If we needed help, we could just go into his office to talk to him. He was very understanding; he didn’t treat us like little kids. He was good friends with Glen Anderson, the assemblyman, so that year we studied American history and Mr. Anderson came to class and talked to us. That was great!

At Christmas we made our own cards, and we had a tree in our classroom, but it wasn’t a typical tree. We collected three tumbleweeds and put them up in the room. We decorated them with ornaments and strings and things on it. It was fun to do.

In sixth grade we studied aviation, so we made tissue paper balloons that were probably six feet in size. We each had a partner. We glued them together and took them to the furnace, and the janitor had the furnace going so we could fill them with air and they flew across town. Some only went a few feet. Mine was yellow and purple. It was really something different. We were on the floor in the classroom gluing the tissue paper together. We figured out how to do it as we studied aviation.

My most memorable experiences were just being with my friends. We walked home from school together, ate dinner, and then went out and played baseball in the street. We also had skates and would skate around the neighborhood. We knew everybody in the neighborhood. On television there wasn’t much... wrestling, a couple of game shows, and a few cartoons. Nothing came on till 6 or 7 at night, and the programs ended at 10.

The girls wore dresses or skirts and blouses and bobby socks and saddle shoes, and the boys wore jeans and shirts, but you didn’t wear tennis shoes or sandals. Even if they were out playing, girls didn’t wear pants. Girls didn’t question why they couldn’t wear pants. That was what you wore. If you were going to be on the playing field on the bars, you wore shorts under your dress. Most of the clothes had to be ironed, not like now where you wash and dry it and put it back on. Back then, moms had to take a whole day of the week to get clothes laundered and ready.

After Dana, I went to Inglewood High School. I was on the border between Inglewood and Leuzinger. Then I reconnected with all my friends from Lennox who I had gone to school with before.

Since most families only had one car at that time, a lot of items were delivered. You didn’t have to go to the cleaners; they picked up your laundry and brought it to your house clean. We also had milk delivered. We had the Helms man who brought bread, cakes and doughnuts. You could catch him on the street or put a sign in the window. There was also a truck selling vegetables and a fish truck. A lot of people still had ice boxes that used actual blocks of ice, so an ice truck delivered ice. We used to get ice chips from the back of the truck. And, of course, there was the Caswell man, who had coffee and stuff—and the Fuller brush man. You never had to leave your house, if you didn’t want to!

People didn’t go out to eat much. You ate at home all the time. We didn’t have fast food places.

We rarely traveled far, only to visit relatives in Santa Monica or Culver City. There were no freeways, so the only way you could get anyplace was surface streets. My dad had his own business, and I sometimes went with him to make deliveries to the nurseries in Gardena. That was our thing. Other than that we didn’t go anywhere.

Streetcars used to go all the way to the beach, but in the early 1950s, they stopped and didn’t continue past Hawthorne and Broadway. But they went all the way into Los Angeles for 10 cents. And if you had to transfer, you could and didn’t have to pay more. A lot of people took the streetcar to work. Most of the women didn’t drive, so they would get on the streetcar to go to their doctors’ appointments and to the movies in Inglewood. We had the Plaza Theater here in Hawthorne, and there were four theatres in Inglewood and one in Lennox.

Inglewood was the next biggest town. When I lived in Lennox, we went to the movies every weekend. We went to the Saturday matinees. We would walk over there with our friends, just the kids. It cost a dime to get in, and if we held on to our tickets, we got an ice-cream bar when we came out. Each time we went, we would see two feature films, news and cartoons. Every Saturday we would go, and if there was something special going on, like “The Mummy’s Tomb,” my mom and dad would take us on Friday night; we couldn’t go see those by ourselves. They didn’t show scary movies on Saturdays.

When the 405 was being built, I was working at Hughes Aircraft, and they were taking over houses to build the freeway. They took the house of Margie, the school bus driver. They bought it from her.

But people knew it was coming for years and years. There was lots of fighting about the off-ramps and where they would be. Nobody wanted the freeway. At the time, everyone thought, “What do we need that for?” Now it would be different.

One of the wonderful things about growing up in Wiseburn at that time was that the community wasn’t broken up like it is now; it was all one big community.





**Dr. Tom Johnstone**

Our 2011 Classified Employee of the Year, the Juan de Anza Elementary School secretary, Anita Collins, is the human definition of the Rock of Gibraltar, unwavering and rock solid every single day for the past 18 years.

Mrs. Collins has deep roots in the South Bay. As a young person, she attended Hawthorne Schools. She attended Eucalyptus School for first through eighth grades and graduated from Hawthorne High School before moving on to California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) to earn a bachelor's degree.

Mrs. Collins came to Wiseburn in 1993 with an excellent background in education and hit the ground running on day one. She served as a secretary to the dean of students at CSUDH and later as a customer relations/reservation agent and supervisor for an airline. Also prior to landing in Wiseburn, she served as a file clerk and receptionist for a local law firm and was a full-time mom for more than three years.



**2011-12 Classified Employee of the Year, Anita Collins, School Secretary at Juan de Anza, with her daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Chuck.**

Mrs. Collins' magnificent skill set was put to work as a playground supervisor and instructional aide in the Resource Specialist Program at Juan de Anza. Her infinite patience and wisdom led to her being assigned as a one-on-one aide for a student with special needs in 1994. At her four-month evaluation, her principal, the legendary Helen Bell, wrote, "She is very conscientious in keeping the teacher

informed of her student's progress. She is always willing to complete any assigned task. Her enthusiasm and cooperative spirit are contagious." Along the ascending path of her 18-year Wiseburn career, an abundance of complimentary adjectives have been used to describe her performance: positive; caring; thorough; cooperative; enthusiastic; eager; willing; congenial; thoughtful; friendly; high quality; resourceful; dependable; self-starting; strong; helpful; cheerful; effective; generous; accurate; and organized.

Our 2011 Classified Employee of the Year loves reading, the outdoors, movies, going out to dinner, camping, sailing, and travel. She loves Yellowstone National Park, but Yosemite is her favorite place on Earth. Her other favorite place on Earth—this one a little closer than Yosemite—is Disneyland. Three years ago when she attended PowerSchool University at the Disneyland Hotel, she called it "a slice of Heaven—computers by day and Mickey Mouse in the evening."

Our Wiseburn Classified Employee of the Year originally applied for a library clerk position at Anza, a position she never served in. After more than two years as an instructional aide, she was promoted to school secretary, a position she has held for the last 15 years. Her list of accomplishments includes organizing the move from the old Anza campus to the new one in 2003. She is the district's "go-to" person for anything related to PowerSchool or the CALPADS database/technology systems.

Our 2011 Classified Employee is an Anza and Wiseburn treasure! Congratulations, Mrs. Collins!

## Teacher of the Year

Wiseburn has the uncanny ability to attract teacher leaders and tap into their leadership skills from the very beginning. All of last year's new teachers at Dana Middle School know exactly what I am talking about. It was no different back in the 1980s. Our 2011 Wiseburn Teacher of the Year, Sheila LaCour, fits this same mold perfectly. She began her Wiseburn career in 1988 and is beginning her 23rd year in Wiseburn.

Mrs. LaCour came to Wiseburn as a seasoned veteran, with eight years in the Los Angeles Unified School District. When she started in Wiseburn in 1988, the district enrollment was still hovering at less than 1,200 students.

Like all great teachers, Mrs. LaCour is a lifelong learner and would probably rather be a professional student. She has attended El Camino College, earned two degrees at Marymount and Loyola Marymount Universities in liberal studies, and earned a master's degree in reading and completed additional graduate work at the University of San Diego, Fresno-Pacific Lutheran University, and National University.

Mrs. LaCour wrote in her introductory letter to Wiseburn, "My professional background reflects mastery in instructional leadership, implementation of curriculum, and management skills through the following experiences: Instructional Leadership Team, Grade-Level Chairperson, Instructional Pacing Team, Physical Education Committee Chairperson, Staff Development Facilitator, Textbook Selection Committee, Career Awareness Committee, School Improvement Committee, Budget Committee and School Christmas Program Co-Chairperson." To borrow a phrase from "Basketball Jones," "Mrs. LaCour did everything but sell popcorn at half time!"

It didn't take long for Mrs. LaCour to step up to the plate as a first-year teacher at Dana Middle School. Almost immediately she began serving as eighth-grade chair, as well as a member of the Middle School Review Team, Discipline Committee, and District Advisory Council—and this was only the first month!

At a middle school with fewer than 15 teachers, it was essential to hire a "doer," and Mrs. LaCour lived up to her role. In her second year, she became the school's cooperative learning expert and became a member of the Beachfront Consortium for Program Quality Review of other middle schools in the South Bay. Her principal, Dr. Kay Plush, wrote, "I would suggest that Mrs. LaCour look into taking some administrative courses to see if this direction in her educational career would be of interest to her." All I can say is thank goodness this teacher did not listen to her principal 21 years ago! Generations of students and parents are thankful, too!

In reviewing more than 20 years of performance evaluations, countless words have been used to describe this outstanding teacher; most of these were modified by the word "extremely." They include: organized; meticulous; strict; respected; realistic; constructive; positive; thorough; punctual; experienced; challenging; engaging innovative; curious; technological; dedicated; caring; professional; rigorous; enthusiastic; hard-working; collaborative; diligent; dynamic; creative; captivating; effective; excellent; and leader.

Leader is the descriptor that always shines the brightest. Mrs. LaCour has been a school and district leader for the Advancement Via Individual Determination program, the Leadership Team, the Program Quality Review Committee, technology, mentoring new teachers, the Accelerated Reader program, and — the California League of Middle Schools, the National Forum of Schools to Watch, the Teaching American History Grant, and the district committees for language arts, staff development, peer assistance and review. She has also served as the Wiseburn Faculty Association (WFA) president. In the most trying times for a school and a district, a leader's star shines the brightest. During the early 2000s, when teachers were wearing black and the relationships that bound teachers and administration together were severely tested, Mrs. LaCour and our current WFA president, Liza Downer, were credited by the Board and the former superintendent with saving the district. She is most certainly a leader!

We all stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and still work among us. The Wiseburn community and Dana Middle School are truly richer because of Mrs. LaCour's many contributions over the years.



**2011-12 Teacher of the Year, Sheila LaCour, with her husband, Bob, and son, Stephen.**



all student subgroups are also scoring well above the 800 API level and the achievement gap between subgroups is almost non-existent.

Our teachers at Dana Middle School had very busy summers in preparation for the school year. Seventh-grade science teacher Doug Foster spent a week above the Arctic Circle with Earth Watch to study climatic change. Seventh-grade math teacher Maria Garcia spent a week in Huntsville, Alabama at Northrop Grumman Space Camp, along with eighth-graders Sam Jussen and Malissa Crise. On September 26, eighth-grade science teacher Kris Torrey and seventh-grade math teacher Maria Garcia participated in Northrop Grumman's "Weightless Flight Over the Pacific Ocean." Eighth-grade teachers Mary Nies and Andy DeSeriere spent two weeks in Colorado Springs at Project Lead the Way Training. All of these activities keep Dana Middle School teachers at the cutting edge of new and exciting information that directly benefits our students.

Dana Middle School was notified on September 27 that they have been renewed for a second time as a National Forum School to Watch. This means Dana Middle School will have maintained this designation for nine years. Dana is one of only three middle schools to watch in Los Angeles County, and there are fewer than 100 across the entire country. Dana Middle School teachers and administrators will receive this prestigious award in June 2012 in Washington, D.C.

There is much activity and excitement at the Da Vinci charters as well. As the community is well aware, the combined enrollment of Da Vinci Design School and Da Vinci Science School now exceeds 900 students, so there was no longer capacity for both schools at the old Dana campus at 13500 Aviation Boulevard.

Over the summer, crews worked hard to restore the former Juan Sepulveda Elementary School site in Del Aire, which was last used for students in 1974, to a beautiful school site. Beginning on August 16, this campus opened for 410 Da Vinci Design students. Da Vinci Science remains on the old Dana campus and now shares space with the K-8 Da Vinci Innovation Academy. Under current Education Code, when the Da Vinci charters were established, they were by necessity chartered as K-12 schools. This is because state law does not allow a

K-8 district to charter high schools. The only way for the Da Vinci charters to establish a high school program was to also establish a K-8 program. The K-8 Innovation Academy is a two-day per week program that focuses on home-school families. Currently the Innovation Academy is operating at capacity, with 220 students or an average of 24 students per grade level.

Meanwhile the process of building Wiseburn High School continues to march methodically on. The district is currently studying three separate sites: Campus El Segundo; the northwest corner of the Aviation/Utah intersection; and a site just east of Plaza El Segundo. The very thorough Environmental Review Process (EIR) is expected to be completed by January or February, and then things will begin to move at a faster pace.

The process of selecting an architect for the new high school will be launched in November, with selection completed by the end of the calendar year.

The Future Wiseburn High School Advisory Committee, comprised of 20 members representing a broad cross-section of the community, completed a community survey in June, which received 462 responses. The detailed results of the survey may be found on the Wiseburn home page under Future Wiseburn High School.

Finally, the district has been working with Centinela Valley Union High School District and the other three of its feeder districts for the past several months to explore possible mutually beneficial pathways to Wiseburn unification. At times the possibilities looks very bright and optimistic, and at other times the districts find it very challenging to work collaboratively on this emotionally charged and sensitive subject. The district and chief petitioners remain united in their resolve to push for unification and explore every avenue until a fair and equitable unification solution is crafted.

As always, the Wiseburn School District would like to thank the Wiseburn community for all of its outstanding support this year and always. It is truly an honor for all of us to serve the families of the Wiseburn community. We wish for all of you a beautiful holiday season! Thank you!

# Your Neighborhood Real Estate Partners

Thinking of buying or selling?  
Please contact us to answer your questions.



**Julie DeCoste**

Realtor®  
Hollyglen Homeowner since 1989  
Listingbook Pro Designation  
SBAOR Member and CAR Member  
DRE#01866764

- Inventory is low in your area...buyers are looking to take advantage of interest rates
- To search for homes on the MLS like I do... visit [www.juliedecoste.listingbook.com](http://www.juliedecoste.listingbook.com) for an account
- Debating which home improvements will return top \$\$\$ and make your home sell faster? I can help!
- Buying, selling, investing, short sales... call me for advice
- Experienced Negotiator

**Direct: (310)308-2831**

[julie.decoste@shorewood.com](mailto:julie.decoste@shorewood.com)  
[www.juliedecoste.listingbook.com](http://www.juliedecoste.listingbook.com)

- 1, 3, 5, 7, 10 yr. Arms, 15 & 30 yr. Fixed, up to 40 year amortizations
- Interest Only available
- Owner Occupied & Investor
- Conventional, FHA, VA and other programs
- Custom Programs for High Net Worth Borrowers, Self employed and Retired
- Residential, Commercial, Construction financing available

**Direct: (310)291-1421**

[SReilly@PlatinumCapitalPartners.com](mailto:SReilly@PlatinumCapitalPartners.com)  
[www.platinumcapitalpartners.com](http://www.platinumcapitalpartners.com)



**Steven Reilly**

President  
Platinum Capital Partners  
Residential, Commercial & Business Finance Solutions  
DRE License #01388938, NMLS # 311450  
Corporate NMLS #333488



**SHOREWOOD  
REALTORS**

**Rates are Now at Historic All Time Lows for Purchases and Refinances!**  
**With the best service and programs to meet your needs,**  
**we look forward to helping you.**



**PLATINUM  
CAPITAL  
PARTNERS**





# Attention shoppers:

Wholesome food at everyday low prices for everyone.

## a good neighbor

As a Neighborhood Market, we're always looking for ways to help our neighbors. From supporting local charities with \$1,000 donations at our Grand Openings, to creating our Shop for Schools program to help local schools with fundraising, we're here to help support all our neighbors like you.



Rosecrans & Aviation

**\$hop for schools**

is in session now through Dec. 31.

Give your receipts to a participating school and we'll give them a \$1 donation for every \$20 receipt they collect.  
To find out more, visit [freshandeasy.com/shopforschools](http://freshandeasy.com/shopforschools).