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School News

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Covering the Wiseburn School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12 NOVEMBER 2012–FEBRUARY 2013

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Tom Johnstone

Governor Signs Historic Legislation That Paves the Way for Wiseburn Unification

On September 28, 2012 Governor Jerry Brown signed SB477 which was authored by Senator Roderick Wright after lengthy negotiations with Board Members, school officials and legal counsel representing all 5 school districts in the Centinela Valley. After an 11-year campaign for unification led by the Wiseburn Chief Petitioners, including John Peterson, Lydia Rodriguez, Danny Juarez, Linda Cuesta and Shavonda Christmas, the idea to pursue a solution through legislation began to crystallize last November. Draft legislation was introduced to Senator Wright in January 2012 but it took several months to work out the details and reach consensus with the Hawthorne, Lawndale, Lennox and Centinela Valley School Districts. The SB477 bill was finally introduced in the Senate in mid-June. After successfully passing through the Assembly Education Committee, the legislation was passed by the full Assembly in July on a 64-0 vote. SB477 spent the month of August in the Senate where it passed during the final week of the legislative session on a vote of 33-0.

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Sheila LaCour L.A. County Teacher of the Year

Dr. Johnstone, Superintendent, Mrs. LaCour, and Mrs. Harbeck, principal, stand together at the Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year awards luncheon.

By Aileen Harbeck, Principal Richard Henry Dana MS

Congratulations to Dana Middle School social studies teacher Mrs. Sheila LaCour, who has been named one of the 16 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year. In honor of this special award, Mrs. LaCour was recognized at a luncheon with all 71 teachers nominated as outstanding educators in their school districts. The Teachers of the Year Program, which began in 1972, is the nation's oldest and most prestigious recognition program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching.

Also named the Wiseburn Teacher of the Year in 2011, Mrs. LaCour has taught in the Wiseburn School District for more than 25 years and is well known for her professionalism, her exemplary teaching practices, and her strong belief in the ability of

See **Sheila LeCour** • *Page 10*

Statement of Conscience

Resolution Passed by the Wiseburn Board of Trustees on September 13, 2012

We, the members of the Wiseburn School District Board of Trustees, feel it is our duty to speak out on behalf of the students and school district within our jurisdiction. A county superintendent recently wrote an article alluding to the Homeland Security motto, "If you see something, say something." We see severe danger. We feel it is our responsibility to make the statements that follow.

When Californians passed Proposition 98 in the year 1988 they did so in a climate where funding for public education was being severely decreased. In recognition of the intrinsic, essential value of public schooling, the proposition required that funding for public education be preserved as a set percentage of the state's expenditures. The intent was that school funding would never fall below the floor of funding that Proposition 98 guaranteed. Instead, Proposition 98 calculations became a funding ceiling above which support would never rise.

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Path Set to Open New High School

By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent

On September 13, the Wiseburn School District took a significant step forward in its decades-long journey to develop and open a high school, by signing a purchase agreement to acquire an existing building on nearly 14 acres, located at 201 North Douglas Street in El Segundo. Located just west of Aviation Boulevard and north of El Segundo Boulevard, the 335,000 square foot facility plus an additional 12 acres of land, being vacated by an aerospace and defense company, represents both a cost effective and speedy route to achieving the District's goals of opening a high school for the 2015-16 school year.

Following on the District's successful 2011 $87 million Measure AA bond measure to secure funding for the development of a high school, the District has explored the feasibility of a variety of sites throughout the District's boundaries. Programming and plans are still in the early stage of development for the Douglas Street site. In working with local developers Continental Development Corporation and Mar Ventures in a public/private partnership, the District is going to be able to rapidly convert an existing facility into a premier high school (including not only classrooms, laboratories, a library, food service and administrative spaces, but also

See **Path Set** • *Page 12*

Shannon Tupper Classified Employee of the Year

Mrs. Shannon Tupper is Wiseburn School District's Classified Employee of the Year pictured with Dr. Tom Johnstone.

By Dr. Tom Johnstone
Superintendent

The Wiseburn School District is blessed to have very talented and dedicated individuals to embrace the challenge of educating the children of Wiseburn and the greater South Bay. In one sense it is a very easy task to select employees of the year because we draw from a very rich pool. In another sense it is extremely difficult because the pool is almost limitless.

Our classified employees do a million things – both visible and behind the scenes to make Wiseburn the wonderful place it is to work and educate our students. Excellence is a habit.

Shannon Tupper, Burnett Library and Computer Clerk and our 2012 Classified Employee of the Year truly makes a difference, every minute of every day. Like our last two Classified Employees of the Year, she has deep roots in the South Bay. Mrs. Tupper attended Washington Elementary School in Hawthorne, Hawthorne Intermediate, Leuzinger High School, El Camino College and is a graduate of Cal State Dominguez Hills. She has lived in the Wiseburn School District for more than 2 decades and her children attended Wiseburn schools at a time when our district was literally half the size that it is now.

Like many of our outstanding employees, Mrs. Tupper started serving our schools as a parent volunteer. In her particular case, you might call it Volunteerism on steroids! She was a mainstay at Anza School. She served as Anza PTA President, Treasurer and Fundraising Chair. She was also on the Anza School Site Council and was active in Hands on Art. Not content with just serving at school, Mrs. Tupper also served on the Aviation Little League Board and coached girls' softball. She was a Girl Scout Leader for 6 years and taught Sunday school for 3 years.

Mrs. Tupper's first day on the job in Wiseburn was January 7, 1999 — in the previous century. Wiseburn was her second career. Some of you may have purchased your Levis from her in the 1980s as she launched her career as a Department Head and Head Cashier at Millers Outpost in the Hawthorne Plaza. She moved up in the clothing industry to become an Assistant Manager at the May Company at the South Bay Galleria. She later returned to Millers Outpost as an Assistant Manager at the Palos Verdes Mall.

In between careers, Mrs. Tupper and her husband raised three children in Wiseburn and she was a super involved parent and volunteer.

Our Classified Employee of the Year's first position in Wiseburn was a hodge-podge. She was Library Clerk, Computer Clerk and Noon Duty Supervisor. She immediately went to work in building on a skill set that started as a Teacher Assistant in the Computer Lab at Leuzinger High School. She was part of a Dynamic Duo in the Anza Library that helped to launch the technology age in Wiseburn. Her evaluators rated her as superior on every evaluation and praised her with adjectives like dependable, creative, innovative, reliable, progressive, wonderful, resourceful, thoughtful, careful, exceptional, enthusiastic, cheerful, congenial and energetic.

In September 2005, Mrs. Tupper left Anza to become the full-time Library Clerk and Computer Clerk at Peter Burnett. She has been a district leader in the automation of our libraries using Follett Software and Destiny. She was also a district pioneer in the use of Datawise, PowerSchool and Accelerated Reader. She has served for years as a Technology Mentor and member of the Technology Committee – the only classified employee to serve in this category. As you might guess, our 2012 Classified Employee of the Year is an avid reader. You might say she has the perfect job — one that blends her two greatest hobbies and loves — children and books.

Congratulations to a Burnett and Wiseburn treasure—Shannon Tupper!

Michael Spiwak Wiseburn Teacher of the Year

Wiseburn School District's 2012 Teacher of the Year is Michael Spiwak pictured with Dr. Tom Johnstone.

By Dr. Tom Johnstone
Superintendent

Like the past three Wiseburn Teachers of the Year, this year's honoree, Cabrillo kindergarten teacher Michael Spiwak, began his career in education in another district, rose to excellence, and then came to Wiseburn to work his daily magic with our very blessed and fortunate kids.

Our 2012 Teacher of the Year came to Wiseburn on September 7, 1995 and is beginning 24 years in education and his 18th year in Wiseburn. Wiseburn was much different in 1995. At that time we only had Anza, Cabrillo and Dana Middle School. The student enrollment in 1995 was 1,552 students. As we start the 2012-13 school year, the district has grown to 2,566 students at the K-8 level and when we add the Da Vincis we sit at 3,896 students.

Our Teacher of the Year comes from a family of teachers. Mr. Spiwak's mom was a teacher, his brother was a teacher and he has a sister who is a teacher. Mr. Spiwak never wanted to be a teacher. He earned a degree in Psychology and English and launched a career with City Corp as a commercial banking auditor working a shift from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m. in Rochester, New York. This schedule left him with some time to consider other career choices…like becoming a teacher. One day Mr. Spiwak was a substitute teacher in a Kindergarten classroom and came home and said, "I had the best day ever!" He knew right then and there that teaching was in his future so he went back to school to earn a Master's degree and teaching credential. The rest is history! For Mr. Spiwak, teaching is not a profession but rather a way of life.

Mr. Spiwak has a deep love for learning and for kids. On the path to becoming an excellent teacher, he attended no fewer than 6 colleges and universities including Cayuga Community College in New York, State University of New York at Albany, Elmira College in New York, UCLA, University of San Diego and Cal State Long Beach.

He came to California in May 1995 and interviewed with Superintendent Dr. Don Brann, and principals Jane Comitz and Helen Bell. He was hired on the spot to start in September. But prior to this, he developed outstanding skills as an educator in Waterloo Central School District in Waterloo, Seneca County, New York. He was the only male teacher out of 22 teachers at Skoi-Yase Primary School where he taught grade 2 for one year before moving on to 6 years at grade 1. Letters of reference from teachers, the principal and the superintendent offer a wonderful perspective of the teacher who arrived in Wiseburn in September 1995. A teacher colleague wrote, "Mr. Spiwak is usually assigned the most difficult students and he always handles them with fair and even-handed discipline. He always looks for a solution that is best for the child. The children who leave his classroom are very well-prepared in reading, writing, math and social behavior. He is consistent and children respond well to the respect and caring that he shows them." His principal sang his praises too, "His classroom is a combination of structure and support that allows children to build positive esteem and become risk takers. He plans for success and as a result, his student's rate and degree of learning increases dramatically." His superintendent concluded, "He is a dedicated professional who is an outstanding role model for students. He willingly takes on tasks and assignments and consistently goes beyond all expectations. When he puts his mind to a task, there is virtually nothing he can't do."

Our 2012 Teacher of the Year started his Wiseburn career at Cabrillo School as a first grade teacher, where he remained for 9 years before switching to Kindergarten in 2004. His Cabrillo principals have described him as enthusiastic, dramatic, motivating, positive, intense, talented, dedicated, conscientious, compassionate, respected, admired and the consummate team player.

See **Michael Spiwak** • *Page 10*

Wiseburn Continues Upward API Trend

Dr. Chris Jones
Director of Cirriculum, Instruction and Technology

Over the past decade, Wiseburn School District has continued to stride forward on the Academic Performance Index (API). Wiseburn students in grades 2-8 were tested on the California Standards Test and showed improved academic achievement throughout the entire district. The outstanding achievement levels of performance by Wiseburn students have kept the district in good standing for both state and federal accountability measures including the Academic Performance Index and Adequate Yearly Progress/Program Improvement.

In October the California Department of Education released the 2012 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 in Wiseburn earned an API score of 882, the highest score in district history. This continues the trend of increases on the API over five consecutive years in Wiseburn. The individual schools posted API sores of 882 for Anza, 872 for Burnett, 906 for Cabrillo, and 883 for Dana.

The California Department of Education has been calculating a District Level Academic Performance Index since the 2001-02 school year when Wiseburn had a base score of 739. Each year a base score and a growth score are similarly calculated for a year-to-year comparison. Over the past five years, Wiseburn students have shown steady growth from a base of 792 in 2007 to a growth score of 882 in 2012. This growth has been accomplished while assuring that all sub-group populations of students continue to grow at an equal or greater pace (see chart below). The Wiseburn School District now stands beside the Hermosa Beach City School District and Manhattan Beach Unified School District as the only South Bay districts that have kept all schools out of federal Program Improvement designation. The Wiseburn staff of teachers, aides and administrators is extremely proud of the success of our students!!

Academic Performance Index Sub-Group Comparison 2007-12

Year	All District Students	English Learners	Hispanic/Latino Students	White Students	African American Students	Socio-economic Disadvantaged	Students with Disabilities
2007	792	729	774	819	787	762	638
2008	808	726	789	836	814	778	630
2009	828	752	807	860	838	789	648
2010	843	772	829	874	844	808	699
2011	866	795	849	908	870	828	748
2012	882	828	866	920	892	851	776

Source: California Department of Education Website API Growth Reports

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Cabrillo PTA

Anne Tittle, President • **310/725-5400**

Connecting With Your Children

Juan Cabrillo Elementary School PTA is so excited to welcome our new and returning Cabrillo Cubs to the 2012–2013 school year! We kicked off our school year with our third annual School Year's Eve celebration in front of the school the day before school began. Our Executive Board Members helped our students settle into the school year by selling earthquake kits, cubwear, PTA memberships, and Wednesday morning breakfast. Our first family movie night was a box-office smash! We enjoyed "The Lorax," along with some delicious refreshments and great company. To add to the fun, some of the students earned free tickets to the event by bringing in the most box tops and PTA memberships.

We are grateful for the support of our Cabrillo families, who purchased magazines and holiday goodies as part of our fall fund-raiser. We will be distributing some great prizes to the students who participated.

Family Literacy Night, a favorite among our kindergarten families, and our book fair made reading a big part of October at Cabrillo. Thank you to the parents who assisted with our book fair. And thank you to all the families who purchased books, benefitting both their students and the school.

Cabrillo PTA also proudly sponsored a science assembly in October. Did you know that PTA pays for assemblies throughout the year that enhance Cabrillo's academic curriculum and promote appreciation for fine and performing arts? It's true! Your PTA support pays off through assemblies throughout the year, as well as through many classroom enhancements, field trips, high-tech equipment, and programs such as fine arts and physical fitness. Cabrillo PTA also sponsors Red Ribbon Week at the end of October.

Looking ahead to November, please mark your calendars for our first restaurant fundraiser, scheduled for Thursday, November 8 at California Pizza Kitchen in Manhattan Village. PTA will also sponsor our first Hands on Art project, which begins with parent workshops on November 1 and 2. Volunteers are needed from November 5–16 to teach our art project to each class. This is a great way to volunteer in your child's classroom.

If you'd like to find out how to volunteer or learn more about Cabrillo PTA, our association meetings are the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Cabrillo PAC room. You can also "like" us on Facebook; we are Juan Cabrillo Elementary PTA. Some of you may have hours to spare during the week, and, if so, we'd love to help you stay connected to everything going on at Cabrillo and be involved in your child's education.

If you're not able to volunteer during the week, there are other ways you can stay connected and support PTA. Talk to your room parent about how to get involved, and follow us on Facebook. Be on the lookout for a scrip order form, coming home in the backpacks shortly. Shopping with scrip is the easiest way to support Cabrillo PTA; all you have to do is purchase gift cards to your favorite stores through PTA and go shopping! There is no extra cost to you.

I encourage all parents to join PTA. Memberships are $10, and all members will have access to information that helps families stay connected to Cabrillo. We understand that many parents are not able to attend our meetings or volunteer at events, but joining PTA doesn't mean you have to come to meetings or volunteer. It means you have the opportunity to be involved with your child's experience at Cabrillo in whatever way suits you—whether you are able to volunteer or whether your schedule will only allow you to follow us on Facebook and shop with scrip.

As a fellow parent and a former middle school teacher, I encourage you to savor this wonderful time in your child's life by getting involved. I remember the looks on my former students' faces when their parents dared to set foot on our middle school campus to volunteer! I saw eye rolls, groans, and looks of sheer embarrassment. But, when I come to Cabrillo to volunteer, my children's faces light up! I get hugs from them (and their friends), and they seem truly happy to have me at their school. Our children are young for only a short time, and it is such a special time. Please join PTA and let us help you be involved in whatever way suits you. And please join us for our fun events as we celebrate the children, staff, and families that make Cabrillo such a wonderful place to grow and learn!

Please e-mail any questions about PTA to our PTA President, Anne Tittle, at annewtittle@gmail.com.

Anza PTA

Linda Cessor, President • **310/725-2150**

Off to a Great Start

As the school year begins at Juan de Anza, the PTA has already been very busy laying the foundation to ensure another successful year. There are a number of activities that are required to start off the school year which keep everyone very busy. Some of these include our membership drive which is in full swing, the assembly and sale of Emergency Kits, Anza Wear, and our first major fundraiser. We are also collecting Box Tops for Education and Fresh and Easy receipts. These last two items are a fantastic way for neighbors and friends to support Juan de Anza. It is super easy and you do not have to be a PTA member or even currently have children at our school. What a wonderful and easy way to give back. Just drop off your Box tops and/or receipts (over $20.00) to the Main Office at Anza and we will do the rest. Last year we raised over $2,300.00 in Box Tops and over $1,600 in Fresh and Easy receipts.

We have had a number of changes this year as well, starting with the advancement of Ms. Sarah Nitsos into the role of Principal and the addition of Ms. Cathy Crnkovich as our newest 5th grade teacher. Both Principal Nitsos and Ms. Crnkovich were previously faculty with the Wiseburn School District. Principal Nitsos, who was previously a teacher at Anza for over 10 years is highly qualified to meet the demands of this position and we are excited to work with both of you to ensure the best education for our students.

Burnett PTA

Liz Martin, President • **310/725-2151**

Volunteers are Appreciated

We are super excited to be Back to School and in the swing of things here at Peter Burnett. This year is especially exciting as we look forward to the opening of our very own Multi-Purpose Room. We have a lot of great Family Events planned for our new space, such as Family Movie Nights, Art Events, Family Dances and many other great community building activities. We can't wait for it to open! We are gearing up to start a lot of great programs and we are always looking for volunteers. The students will get excited about healthy eating by participating in interactive classroom nutrition lessons with the Growing Great program. Our parent led Hands-On Art Program will also begin this fall. 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 Liz Martin 310-408-2607.

We have had a very successful start to our Membership drive. Thank you to all the parents and teachers for supporting the PTA. PTA is a powerful advocate for family involvement. Over three decades of research show that the single most effective element in a student's success is the involvement of family members in the student's education. Remember, it is not too late to join! Membership envelopes are available in the Peter Burnett School office. We would love to have 100% participation this year.

We are looking forward to an awesome year at Burnett! Go Bulldogs!

School News Roll Call

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Covering the WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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After 56 Years—a Multipurpose Room!

By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent

When Peter Burnett School was modernized and reopened in 1998, it was the nicest and most modern school in Wiseburn. During the past decade with unparalleled community support, Wiseburn has virtually rebuilt the entire district with a new Juan de Anza School opening in 2002, a new Dana Middle School in 2007 and a new Juan Cabrillo School in 2009. With the complete renaissance of Wiseburn facilities in the first decade of Century 21, Peter Burnett went from first to last as a Wiseburn school site.

Since 2010, the Peter Burnett campus has received very significant attention and new amenities for students and the community including 4 new classrooms, new restrooms, a new computer lab and a new library. In addition, a new student drop-off area was added to improve student safety. These improvements were completed in 2010.

Conspicuously missing at Peter Burnett was an adequate kitchen to replace the existing "food closet" and a sufficiently large multipurpose room to meet student needs on days with inclement weather and to provide a facility for student performances and indoor public gatherings.

The new multipurpose room construction commenced in March 2012 and is wrapping up as this edition of School News is reaching you. In addition to a new kitchen and multipurpose common area, the 8,700 square foot construction includes a childcare facility that will house Rainbow River, a conference room for the Peter Burnett staff, three storage rooms to replace the storage bins on the playground and student restrooms. The common area will be second only to Dana Middle School in size and will accommodate gatherings of up to 503 people. The facility brings the Peter Burnett campus up to the same standards as the other Wiseburn schools and will be enjoyed by the Peter Burnett community for decades to come!

Vistamar School

737 Hawaii St., El Segundo, CA • **310/643-7377** • www.vistamarschool.org

By Ryan Tillson, Director of Admissions and External Relations
ryantillson@vistamarschool.org

Vistamar School is an independent co-educational day school for grades 9-12 combining the best of American independent schools with educational practices from around the world. Vistamar entered its eighth year on Monday, August 27th with a record 270 students in grades 9-12. Please feel free to join us at one of our upcoming events to learn more about all we have to offer.

Admissions Open Houses

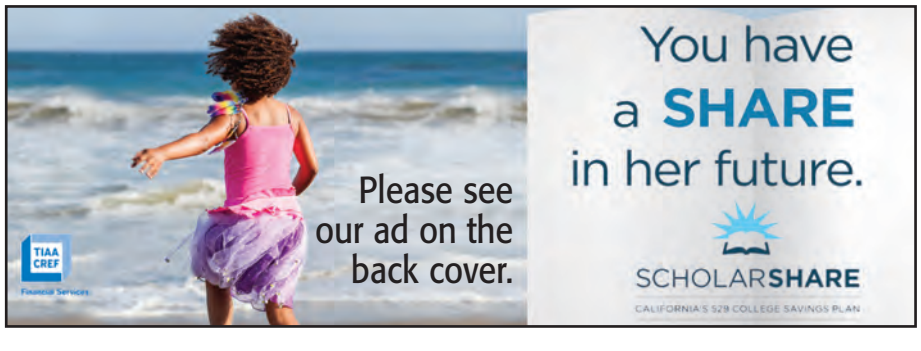
Saturday, October 27, 2012	9:45-12:00
Wednesday, November 14, 2012	6:15-8:00 pm
Saturday, December 15, 2012	9:45-12:00

Fall Play: Julius Caesar

Friday, November 2-4 in the Vistamar Performing Arts Space

Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm



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Dr. Matthew Wunder
Executive Director

The new school year is off to a busy start with many notable achievements and exciting opportunities, both for current and future Da Vinci students and families.

New Wiseburn Campus One Step Closer to Reality

Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science are one step closer to moving into a new facility. On September 13, the Wiseburn School Board approved a purchase and sale agreement, with an option period, to purchase 13.7 acres of land at 201 N. Douglas in El Segundo to house Da Vinci high schools. The property, located near the intersection of El Segundo Blvd. and Douglas Street, will be used to permanently reunite Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science on one campus. It is the district's goal to have the new facility in operation during the 2015-2016 school year. The new campus will support athletic fields and visual and performing arts.

The new campus is being funded by Measure AA, the $87 million school bond that was passed in November 2010 by Wiseburn voters, to open a state-of-the-art, 21st century high school facility to serve the families of the Wiseburn community and surrounding areas. Homeowners are paying $22.70 per $100,000 of the assessed value of homes to cover the bond. The El Segundo business corridor is bankrolling about 80% of the new campus. Da Vinci Schools are part of the Wiseburn Family of Schools. Together, both organizations serve more than 3,800 students in grades K-12.

"Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science are Wiseburn's high schools," said Dr. Thomas Johnstone, Superintendent of the Wiseburn School District. "We are enormously proud of the exceptional teaching and learning taking place at all of the Da Vinci schools. A 21st century education needs a 21st century forward-thinking campus. I am confident we will build an innovative 21st century complex that serves the needs of the Wiseburn community."

Da Vinci's excellence has not gone unnoticed. Former CA State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said, "Da Vinci Schools should be a model for other public schools in the state." Dr. David Brown, the Executive Director of the WASC accrediting agency that assesses school quality, said "Da Vinci Schools are among the very finest I've seen."

Delivering College Prep Results

We are extremely proud of all of our students, staff and alumni and want to give a shout out to them for their extraordinary achievements. Da Vinci Schools' first graduating class, the Class of 2012, had a superior 98% graduation rate. Today, every single Da Vinci graduate is attending college, 86% of whom were accepted into 4-year universities, and 98% of whom completed the necessary coursework to qualify for admission into California's UC and CSU systems. This last statistic is especially striking when compared with other South Bay high schools, according to the latest results published in the *Daily Breeze*.

Da Vinci Schools are earning impressive test results to date but there is still more work to be done. In 2011-2012, 96% of Da Vinci Science and 91% of Da Vinci Design's 10th grade students passed the English Language Arts portion of the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam), and 96% of Da Vinci Science and 90% of Da Vinci Design passed the Math section compared to a 27% pass rate in both sections for all students in the State of California. Da Vinci students did especially well on the 2012 STAR CSTs (California Standards Test) in the areas of English Language Arts, Biology, U.S. History, and World History with 78%, 88%, 63% and 55%, respectively, of Da Vinci Science students scoring proficient or advanced. At Da Vinci Design, 81% of students scored proficient or advanced in World History, 71% in U.S. History and 66% in English Language Arts. Last semester, 22 Da Vinci Design students took the AP Spanish Language exam and scored an average of 4.25; 11 students scored a perfect 5 — this is extremely impressive given that Da Vinci does not even offer AP classes, only AP prep classes. (Da Vinci Schools offer "early college" classes in lieu of AP courses.)

Da Vinci Schools to Open Fourth Charter School in 2013

Awarded Coveted Next Generation Learning Challenges Grant to Open a Bold New High School-University "Hybrid" Culminating in a Bachelor's Degree

Da Vinci Schools are proud to announce that our innovative work in real-world and project-based learning has been recognized nationally with a Next Generation Learning Challenges grant, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Da Vinci is one of only 8 projects selected nationwide under NGLC's Wave IIIa: Breakthrough School Models for College Readiness.

The NGLC grant will help the fund the start-up of a fourth Da Vinci charter school – a bold new high school-university "hybrid" culminating in a Bachelor's degree. Under the proposal, Da Vinci Schools is creating a one-stop campus – merging high school, community college and university into one where students can obtain their bachelor's more quickly for a total cost of $10,000-$20,000 depending on the income level of the family.

The new school will offer "competency based" learning – a combination of hands-on project-based classes, college classes, online courses, labs and internships.

Slated to open in Fall 2013 in partnership with Antioch University Los Angeles and Foothill-De Anza Community College District, the new high school-university will serve up to 128 9th grade students in its first year of operation. Many details of the new school, including location and staffing, are still in the planning stages.

The idea behind the new school is to address a festering problem in education that has gone largely unnoticed: While more and more under-represented students are getting into college, their rate of college completion remains dismal. About 55 percent of all college students never graduate. For low-income students, close to 90 percent do not complete college.

It's not enough to prepare kids to get into college. We must remove the road-blocks to college completion so all students can earn their degree in less time and for less money.

To learn more about the new Da Vinci high school-university, please join us for an upcoming information meeting. The information meeting calendar can be found on our website at www.davincischools.org/apply.shtml. The application deadline for admission to all Da Vinci Schools for the 2013-2014 school year is March 1, 2013.

Enrollment Update

Da Vinci Schools continue to generate tremendous community interest and support. More than 1,300 K-12 students applied for admission for the 2012-2013 school year.

The enrollment process for the 2013-2014 school year will begin in November. For more information, including a list of our upcoming information meeting dates, please visit our website at www.davincischools.org/apply.shtml. The application deadline for admission to all Da Vinci Schools for the 2013-2014 school year is March 1, 2013.

Pursuant to Da Vinci Schools' charter, students residing within the territorial jurisdiction of Wiseburn will receive admission preference to Da Vinci Design, Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Innovation Academy provided their completed lottery application is received prior to the lottery application deadline.

There is no Wiseburn preference for admission to the new high school-university at this time.

Corporate and Foundation Gifts to Da Vinci Schools Exceed $1 Million

Not only are we delivering college prep results and attracting local, regional and national recognition for excellence, Da Vinci is also attracting the attention of corporations and foundations that believe in our priorities and programs. Through long term relationship building that began before we opened our doors, Da Vinci has been fortunate to raise more than $1 million in direct funding from corporations and foundations. Our corporate neighbors and community partners also support us by providing in-kind support, academic mentoring, internships, job shadows, industry-specific curriculum, professional development for teachers, career guidance, volunteer support, and much more. We are truly grateful for our corporate and foundation support, as well as the support of our Da Vinci families and friends who support us through Annual Giving. We thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving

Sports & Arts Update: Taking It Up a Notch

We're building on last year's success and taking it up a notch.

This semester, students at Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science are competing in flag football and cross country. The Da Vinci Wolves football team competes in the Coastal League with many private schools, including Vistamar School and Crossroads. The Wolves played a valiant game against Crossroads in the team's home opener on Sept. 19 behind Da Vinci Design in the Del Aire neighborhood. The Cross Country team will have their first meet on Oct. 6 at Central Park in Huntington Park.

The Da Vinci Wolves made a superb showing against Crossroads during the season home opener in September.

Later this year, students will have the opportunity to play intramural basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball and tennis. All teams are open to both boys and girls.

Both Da Vinci high schools also offer students many fitness opportunities. This semester, we are offering seminars (electives) in Basketball, Softball, Yoga, Cross Country, Advanced Cross Fit, Physical Fitness, Ultimate Frisbee, and Archery. Students interested in golf may take discounted lessons at The Lakes in El Segundo.

Volunteer coaching positions are available in the late afternoons. To find out more, please contact Da Vinci Schools Athletic Director Thomas Curry at twcurry31@yahoo.com.

We are continuing to expand opportunities for students to participate in the visual and performing arts. This semester, we are offering seminars in Drama, Dance, Intro to Guitar, Improvisation, Percussion, and many Art and Design classes mentioned below.

As our schools grow, we will continue to offer more opportunities for sports and arts.

What is Design? How is Da Vinci Design Different from Da Vinci Science?

We are frequently asked by prospective families and others, "What is design?" and "How is Da Vinci Design different from Da Vinci Science?"

We'll answer the second question first because there are many more similarities than differences between Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science.

Both Da Vinci high schools offer a rigorous, college preparatory curriculum with graduation requirements that exceed the UC and CSU "a-g" course requirements. Both schools combine project-based learning with a real-world "learn by doing" philosophy, college classes (at no cost to families), industry-based seminars, a work experience program, comprehensive college counseling, partnerships with industry and educational leaders, a small and personalized school culture, and much more.

Where the two schools differ are in their industry-based seminars (elective) and college class offerings. Da Vinci Design's classes are more art and design-focused. This semester, professors from Art Center College of Design are teaching 3 college-level seminars: Design 360, Sketching and Illustration, and Comic Book Illustration. Next semester, we will add Object Space and Brand Experience, Entertainment Design, and Industrial Design Production. Other Design seminar classes include: Civil Engineering & Architecture, Introduction to Engineering Design, 3-D Design, Spanish Language and Culture through Latino Film, Los Angeles xDesign, Work Experience Program, Newspaper Club, eJournalism & Digital Yearbook, Art & History of Rock-n-Roll, Improvisation, Sewing and more.

Da Vinci Science offers more science and engineering-focused seminars such as Robotics, Flight School, Digital Electronics, and Aerospace Engineering.

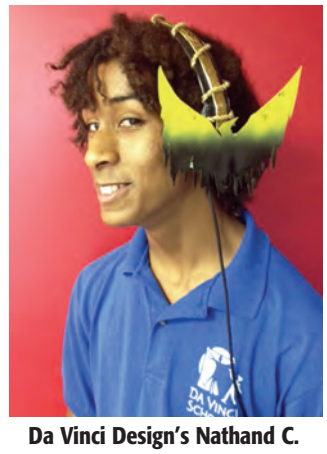
Both Da Vinci high schools offer outstanding opportunities for real world learning and college readiness and success.

To answer the first question, we ask you to think about the smart phone that is most likely within arm's reach. This device was created by several individuals: an engineer, a product designer, a marketer, an anthropologist – the list could go on and on. We like to think about design as the intersection of creativity and innovation deployed to solve a real problem and deliver a real solution – a new product, service, building or experience.

When designing curriculum, we think about all of these real-world connections and the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in creative and technical fields such as advertising, architecture, digital media, engineering, game design, industrial design, product design, and others.

To prepare students to succeed in our technology-driven, innovation-based economy, Da Vinci Design has formed powerful partnerships with many top industry and educational leaders including Belkin, Mattel, Deutsch, Gensler, Karten Design, Art Center College of Design, Otis College of Art and Design, Antioch University Los Angeles, Industrial Designers Society of America, and many others.

Last semester, Da Vinci Design launched an innovative new program called Ed-U-Creationship to bring rigorous real-world projects and professional practice into the classroom. Karten Design, a Los Angeles product innovation consultancy, co-created the program's first project culminating in an exhibition of student learning at the A+D Museum located across from L.A. County Museum of Art. Karten designers spent 8 weeks working alongside our 9th grade Humanities and Physics students, teaching them about design thinking, ideation and prototyping. This collaboration was showcased in the prestigious Fast Company's online design blog. See "Four Things That Ninth-Graders Can Teach You About Risk-Taking Design"— http://www.fastcodesign.com/ 1670080/4-things-that-ninth-graders-can-teach-you-about-risk-taking-design.



Da Vinci Design's Nathand C. shows off his Phoenix headphones that he designed as part of an Ed-U-Creationship project with Karten Design.

Da Vinci Schools Guiding Precepts

Finally, we have adopted Guiding Precepts that define who we are and guide us toward who we will become. They codify our Mission, Vision, Core Principles, Signature Practices and Programs, and Outcomes.

- We exist as an organization to serve students to the very best of our individual and collective abilities.
- We believe schools can make a profound difference in the lives of children.
- People, People, People, a phrase you will hear from our Board President Chet Pipkin. People are our strength.
- We recognize the unique gifts and potential of every single student.
- Difference, diversity and inclusion are a source of strength, knowledge, learning, and pride.
- We take responsibility for our actions and our outcomes.
- We all take responsibility for a culture of decency, respect and trust.
- If we are not improving, we are falling behind.
- Communication and collaboration are at the heart of our organization.
- We are careful truth tellers.
- Integrity—both collectively and individually, are at the core of how we conduct ourselves.
- We are humble stewards of our organization's resources.
- We are committed to learning by doing in real-world contexts.
- We are committed to getting students to and through college, and into careers at a good wage. As such we distinguish our college and industry partners as critical supporters, as we both mutually benefit from preparing our students for the world they will soon inherit.
- We minimize our failures and their impact by being contemplative, reflective, and collaborative. We fail forward fast.
- We use technology to help solve problems and transcend barriers, and to assist students in engaging and preparing them for the future.

Juan de Anza *Elementary School (K–5)*

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

Sarah Nitsos
Interim Principal

Building Success

My name is Sarah Nitsos, the new principal of Juan de Anza Elementary School. This is my 11th year in Wiseburn. Previously, I worked as a teacher in Inglewood. I am thrilled to continue my career in Wiseburn and be a part of the Anza family.

We are continuing to find ways to build on success, despite the economic woes that continue to plague our educational system. We are fortunate to have an amazing cadre of people, including teachers, support staff, district personnel, PTA, parent volunteers, and community partners, who are committed to achieving excellence in education.

Each May our students take the statewide standards examination. This test is just a single measure of student success, but it is what the state uses to determine if a school is successful. When reviewing the test scores we are looking to see what percentage of the students scored in the proficient and advanced range. Once again Anza has risen to the top and posted amazing scores.

Anza- CA Standards Test (CST) Percent Proficient/Advanced

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Language Arts	71	74	72	78
Mathematics	73	71	68	70

Zoophonics Night at Juan de Anza School.

Another way we are building success is by making connections between home and school. To this end, some grade levels have established parent nights. In September the kindergarten teachers hosted an evening of Zoo Phonics, dedicated to teaching parents the same program the students work with every day. One parent reported, "This will really help me talk to my daughter about the sounds the letters make. The fact that I can use the same motions and words as her teacher makes it so much easier." Still to come this year are a Writing Night for our second-grade families and a series of fifth-grade parent nights. Education is a partnership, and we will find success when we work together.

Space Shuttle Endeavor lands!

We were fostering success in history, math and science on September 21, when the Endeavor Space Shuttle was brought to Los Angeles International Airport. It's flyovers were heralded by the almost 700 Anza students, who called cheers of joy at each glimpse. One student said, "That was amazing. How could they put it on the back of an airplane like that and still fly?" Another said, "I want to go to space one day and discover new things." We are so thrilled to be a part of this historical moment and plan to use this as a catalyst to motivate students in math and science.

There are many ways we are building success here at Anza, and we are grateful for the continued support from our community. We look forward to another year of excellence and encourage you to take part in the many activities we have planned for the 2012–2013 school year, including the jog-a-thon, Winter Wonderland, the spring fund-raiser, and so much more.

Parents participating in Zoophonics Night.

SKI SHOW

HUGE SALE

LIFT TICKET DEALS!

Los Angeles Convention Center
Nov 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2012

SkiDazzle.com

Peter Burnett *Elementary School (3–5)*

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

Laura Sullivan
Principal

Building on Success

It is the common vision of Peter Burnett Elementary School parents and staff that our students become independent thinkers and lifelong learners through communication, collaboration, and self- awareness. The students proved that they believed in establishing a strong foundation of academic excellence. Students, with the support of outstanding teachers and staff members, worked diligently throughout the 2011–2012 school year. The results of the students' hard work provided opportunities for them to build on the success established in the classroom, at the library, and at home.

Peter Burnett CA Standards Test (CST) Percent Proficient/Advanced

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Language Arts	70	74	67	79
Mathematics	65	72	76	83

In the classroom, teachers guide their students by providing lessons in all curricular areas. Students were challenged academically and supported through various programs, in addition to their core curriculum. Computers contribute to an invaluable reference for all students, and, with support from our PTA, we have added computers to all third- and fourth-grade classrooms.

We would like to share our gratitude for your support and love.

Our library, under the leadership of our gifted librarian Mrs. Tupper, is the center of our Accelerated Reading Program (AR). Mrs. Tupper provides a clear and comprehensive understanding of AR and is our top supporter.

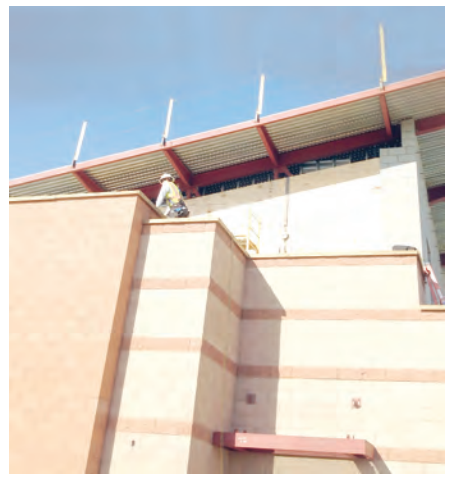
Mrs. Tupper will provide a Technology Night for parents to provide strategies to assist their children at home.

At home, students and parents receive encouragement and assistance from supplementary programs, homework hotlines, and school agendas to guide them through homework assignments and projects. The cooperative efforts of parents and teachers yield incredible results for our students.

As budget constraints continue to plague our schools, students in Wiseburn continue to shine academically. We are proud of our children and grateful for our parents and community members. Thank you for your continued support of Wiseburn children and schools.

New Multi-Purpose Room

Last spring, Burnett witnessed history with the ground breaking of our new multi-purpose room. This facility will house our entire school and provide lunchtime shelter on rainy days. Students and staff are proud of their community members for providing an opportunity for students to have access to a cafeteria, classroom, and structure that provides space for assemblies and community events. We are grateful and would like to welcome our community to share this special building with us. Please stay tuned for the opening date.



Building For Success.

A Visit from Endeavour

On September 21, Burnett students experienced history as the Endeavor flew past our campus. The shuttle circled the school three times, which was the highlight of our lunch hour. Students were so excited they started chanting, "USA!" to show their appreciation for the incredible job our pilots and astronauts have done with our space program.

Juan Cabrillo *Elementary School (K–2)*

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

Margaret Lynch
Principal

Building on Success

Even in the midst of challenging economic times for education, the Cabrillo Elementary School staff, parents, families, and community partners are committed to providing academic excellence and a balanced curriculum, which help us grow and learn together with our children. With excitement and anticipation of a great school year, we highlight some of the ways that Cabrillo is building on student success:

The PTA tradition of hosting a School Year's Eve gathering in the courtyard is an example of our parents building for success even before school starts! As families come to see class lists posted the evening before school begins, they also have the chance to purchase PTA membership, scrip, baked goods, cub wear, and emergency kits so they are ready for the first day of school. Children delight in seeing friends and meeting new students who will be in their classes.

Cabrillo School has a tradition of academic excellence and strong preparation of students for the upper grades! Our California Standard Tests (CSTs) show marked improvement, with 50 percent scoring proficient four years ago to 70 to 80 percent earning scores in the proficient range this past year. Teachers working collaboratively and consistently with each other and with parents truly makes a difference in our students' academic performance.

Cabrillo- CA Standards Test (CST) Percent Proficient/Advanced

	2009	2010	2011	2012
Language Arts	56	72	82	79
Mathematics	57	77	88	80

This year, the state is adjusting the required birthday age for admission to kindergarten. In order to enter kindergarten this year, a student needed to be five years old by November 1. A child is eligible for transitional kindergarten if he or she has a fifth birthday between:

- November 2 and December 2 for the 2012–2013 school year;
- October 2 and December 2 for the 2013–2014 school year;
- and between September 2 and December 2 for the 2014–2015 school year and afterwards.

Isabella Estrada and Giada Ramirez, kindergarteners, proudly show off their new Cabrillo cub wear.

We are fortunate to already have a transitional kindergarten program option in place to serve late summer/early fall birthdays or children who would benefit from an extra developmental year. With the new legislation, we now have two Transitional Extended Developmentally Directed Education (TEDDE) classes to help our entering students build for success.

P.S. Arts has secured a grant from the Keck Foundation for the Wiseburn School District to provide 20 hours of visual art to all first- through fifth-grade classes over the next two years. Starting in October, and continuing for eight weeks, every first- and second-grade class will have a visiting professional artist working with the students teaching a weekly visual art lesson. This is also personal professional development for Cabrillo teachers, as the artist will be working in one classroom at a time and providing the lesson plans and materials. There will be a culminating activity when the classes conclude in December. We are grateful for the relationship P.S. Arts maintains with the Wiseburn School District to bring in these amazing resources and experiences to enrich our children's curriculum.

Sheila LaCour • *From Page 1*

her students. Upon receiving this prestigious award, Mrs. LaCour stated that she finds a "joy and energy in teaching that you can't get anywhere else."

Beyond the school site, Mrs. LaCour works tirelessly to seek out and implement educational opportunities to further enhance instruction throughout the district. Mrs. LaCour previously took on the role of district liaison for the California Math Science Partnership Grant, which joins numerous schools in workshops dedicated to improving math and science instruction in middle and high school classrooms. Her unwavering interest in continuously improving classroom instruction is reflected in her key role as district liaison for the Teaching American History grant. As a participant in this grant, Mrs. LaCour attended evening and weekend workshops for two years, used strategies she learned, and presented student work and methodologies to both faculty and School Board members. In addition, based on her belief in engaging community partners in developing additional learning opportunities for students, Mrs. LaCour volunteered to dedicate part of her day to involve her students in tutorials with volunteers from a local aeronautics firm. Mrs. LaCour has extended her caring nature as a Peer Assistance and Review mentor, working to assist new teachers as they grow as professional educators.

Mrs. LaCour's many roles as treasurer, scholarship committee member, and building representative for the Wiseburn Faculty Association speak to her reputation as a leader among her peers. Her pivotal role in building relations between the union and district officials has added to the positive and collaborative climate that makes the district an exceptional place for children.

Mrs. LaCour will now be considered by the California Department of Education (CDE) selection committee for California Teacher of the Year recognition. The CDE selects five of the state's finest teachers to be California Teachers of the Year. If selected, Mrs. LaCour would then be considered as a candidate for the National program.

We congratulate Mrs. LaCour for this important honor. The Wiseburn community and Dana Middle School are truly richer because of Mrs. LaCour's contributions.

Michael Spiwak • *From Page 2*

At Cabrillo, Mr. Spiwak is a team player. He cares deeply and respects his Kindergarten team and his Cabrillo family. He has a "we'll figure it out" mentality to problem solving and facing challenges together. Students love him. At noon supervisor meetings the supervisors have asked the principal to talk to Mr. Spiwak and ask him to walk around the lunch area instead of through it because the kids yell out his name and cause a commotion.

Mr. Spiwak has a laser-like focus on student growth. He loves to have his kids show off their growth and accomplishments. He charts and shares how many key words his students have learned, their writing samples, their oral reading and not just the high kids, but all kids. His room is always open and he seldom even realizes that there are visitors because he is so focused on the kids. As his current principal puts it, "He is all business and all heart!"

Our 2012 Teacher of the Year celebrates learning and his students every day. Congratulations Mr. Spiwak! Wiseburn is proud of you!

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

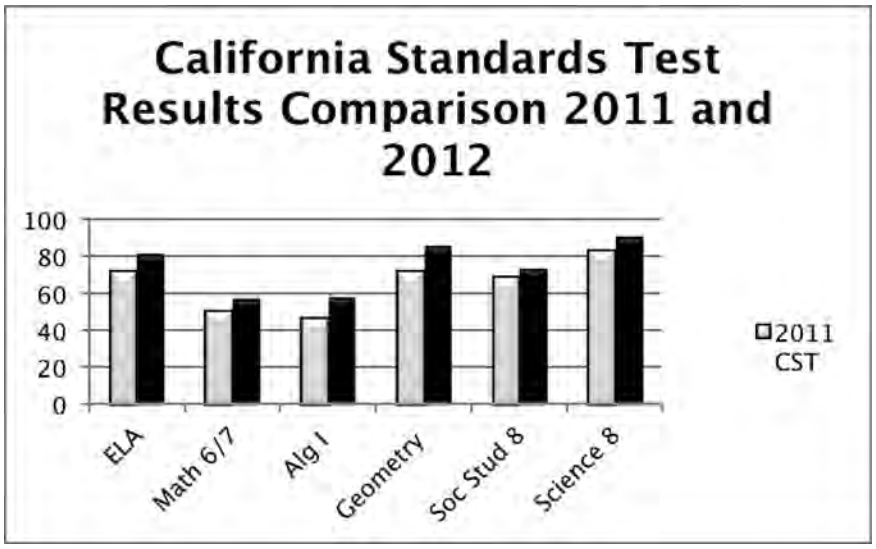
5504 W. 135th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • **310/725-4700** • www.wiseburn.k12.ca.us

Aileen Harbeck
Principal

Building on Success

Dana's students revealed their outstanding academic aptitude last May during the 2012 California Standards Tests (CSTs). As a result of both outstanding student and teacher efforts, gains were made in all curricular areas and at all grade levels. Most notably, both algebra and language arts results increased by nine percent, and geometry scores increased by 12 percent.

Dana continues to build on this success by offering a comprehensive program dedicated to the personalization of learning for all students with a Portfolio of Student Growth (PSG) program, grade-level teacher teams, and activities and athletics programs. Parental support and regular communication between teachers and parents combine to support students through their middle school years.



Mission Specialist Graves Brings Space Study to Math Classes

Ms. Graves and fellow space camp teacher work to repair high-temperature reusable surface insulation (HRSI) tiles, found on the under surface of the shuttle.

In July Ms. Summer Graves, a Dana Middle School mathematics teacher, had the opportunity to attend Space Camp for Educators in Huntsville, Alabama. There she participated in shuttle missions, experiments, seminars, and astronaut simulations.

Ms. Graves took the roles of mission specialist on Space Shuttle Atlantis and station scientist in the International Space Station, where she completed numerous simulations and experiments.

In addition, Ms. Graves was part of a team that budgeted and designed lunar base modules, similar to the International Space Station. She also had the opportunity to build and launch both bottle rockets and small engine rockets. One of the highlights of Space Camp was listening to Story Musgrave, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut, share over 30 years of experience in the space program. Afterwards, Ms. Graves participated in astronaut simulations and experienced what it would be like to walk on the moon in the one-sixth gravity chair.

According to Ms. Graves, "Information taken from this unique experience has allowed me to share creative and innovative cross-curricular projects in geometry and algebra."

Ms. Graves prepares to construct a 3D structure by connecting rods and nodes to the existing framework.

Dana Middle School PLTW students use an electric usage monitoring device to check voltage (Volt), line frequency (Hz) and power factor (VA) while learning the electricity cost of common household appliances.
L to R: Kendal Dragotto, Dajah Pickering, Hector Hernandez, Mr. de Seriere, Giovanni Castro, Justin Bonilla, Kaitlin Mathieu and Dene Judkins.

Dana Introduces "Green" Lessons to Students

Mr. Andy de Seriere, a math and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher at Dana Middle School, spent a week at the fourth annual Green Boot Camp in San Diego this past summer. Mr. de Seriere engaged in interactive workshops focused on best practices for teaching energy, sustainability, and environmental concepts to middle school students. As part of the five-day event, 70 teachers from around the world explored the roots of green technology, sustainable living, and environmental awareness, using local facilities as living laboratories.

The Green Boot Camp program was created as part of an environmental initiative of Honeywell Hometown Solutions, the company's corporate citizenship initiative, and is focused on educating the next generation of green workers to build a foundation for environmental stewardship.

Boot camp topics ranged from green energy solutions and greenhouse gas emissions to sustainability and the smart electrical grid. All workshops offered classroom lessons to inspire students to take these principles into the world and effect change. According to Mr. de Seriere, "Dana Middle School students will be at the forefront of a world-wide movement to prepare students as problem-solvers of global issues, such as energy and the environment."

Based on what he learned, Mr. de Seriere's PLTW students will study "energy hogs" and "vampires" in the coming weeks as part of their green technologies unit. Students will survey energy use in their own homes and learn best practices. These goal-driven lessons help students understand how to reduce the overall home energy use by implementing easy steps such as using smart strips, switching to compact fluorescent bulbs, and using energy efficient appliances.

Superintendent • *From Page 1*

Dr. Tom Johnstone

SB477 will do the following to pave the way for a Wiseburn unification vote in November 2013:

- Protects taxpayers from double taxation after Wiseburn School District unification.
- Protects the tax rates of all five school districts for approved but unissued bonds by Centinela Valley Union High School District (CVUHSD).
- Ensures future bond authorizations by CVUHSD do not have tax rates substantially higher after Wiseburn School District unification than prior to unification.
- Ensures that Wiseburn residents will not have to pay taxes on any future bonds that are approved by voters in CVUHSD.
- Ensures that the vote to determine Wiseburn unification will be a "narrow area," Wiseburn-only vote for unification.

With much hard work, creativity and perseverance, Wiseburn unification is one giant step closer to becoming a reality! Pending some minor clean-up legislation which will be presented in December by Senator Wight and the Wiseburn-only vote for unification in November 2013, unification would become official on July 1, 2014!

Wiseburn School District
13530 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 643-3025

Path Set • *From Page 1*

gymnasiums and visual performing arts spaces). The abundance of land on the site will also allow for athletic fields, basketball and tennis courts, general open space and parking., District officials feel that the 201 North Douglas Street site represented the ideal solution for the District's anticipated 1,200 student high school. The facility will provide a permanent home for the two, 500+ student Da Vinci charter schools, which have been housed in very limited and temporary facilities for the past three years. Over the next several months, the District will begin the required approvals process under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), the Division of the State Architect ("DSA") and other regulatory bodies to secure final approval for the new high school.

Superintendent Tom Johnstone stated that "this is a huge and exciting step forward in Wiseburn's decade's long quest to become a fully unified school district, with its own high school campus. To be able to locate and acquire this type of facility, to embark upon the development of a prototype for sustainable and cost effective education facility by reusing existing, but soon-to-be-surplus commercial space, and to do all of this rapidly – it's simply exceeds all expectations and we could not be more excited. Locating our new high school on Douglas Street will be much faster than if we went through the effort to acquire a piece of land, entitle it and build a high school from the ground-up."

Commenting on the site's location, Johnstone said: "There's something special about having a high school on a street named after one of our nation's true aviation legends, Donald Wills Douglas, Sr. who founded Douglas Aircraft Company and later merged with McDonnell Aircraft to form McDonnell Douglas. The high school we're building will help our students reach for the stars too. Being located in the same neighborhood as the biggest names in aviation and aerospace will create special synergies for our students. This is a great location on a number of levels."

Other potential alternatives that the District explored, including a City of El Segundo opposed Corporate Campus site just north of the 201 North Douglas Street site and a complicated land swap with the County of Los Angeles and private property acquisition in the northeastern part of El Segundo, were deemed to be significantly more costly and complicated to execute than the 201 North Douglas Street site. Although the environmental impacts of these alternatives will be studied, as required by CEQA, none of the alternatives are anticipated to facilitate a 2015-16 school year opening due in large part to the need for costly ground-up development, relocations of existing businesses and complicated inter-government approvals that would be needed.

Statement of Conscience • *From Page 1*

In public schools, children of every background, ethnicity, religious tradition, physical or mental ability, or socioeconomic status sit side by side and succeed based on individual effort. It is a true meritocracy. In classrooms throughout our state and nation, children learn the skills essential to their contributions to the democratic society they will enter as adults. Young people today will fly the planes, repair the cars, staff the emergency rooms, and make the policies that affect the generation that follows. Their preparation and education are what will make the difference between our success and failure as a society. This is simple fact.

In most states, public education is a local responsibility, covered by local property taxes. California's Proposition 13 severely curtailed the ability of local governments to continue to support local schools, and; the responsibility for funding public schooling was therefore absorbed by the state, adding to all its other vital responsibilities.

We are well aware that our state faces a true fiscal crisis that was years in the making and is staggering in its magnitude. There are no easy solutions. Programs will need to be cut. Revenues will need to be added. As elected officials in our own sphere, we are mindful that representatives at every level need to make extremely difficult choices at every turn, and that the choices available in terms of the state budget will be wrenching. Every program currently receiving state funds has fervent supporters who can argue persuasively that those programs are vital and deserve continued support. We respectfully submit that not all institutions are equal. Public education is of a different magnitude and impact.

We submit that it is unacceptable and self-defeating for the state to abdicate its responsibility to fund public schools at an adequate level. All that is important to our state's health and vitality depends upon the satisfactory educational preparation of every child who lives or works here. Studies are unambiguous on how strongly a lack of education correlates with crime, poverty, the need for social services, incarcerations, law enforcement and a whole host of costly interventions. That is the practical need. There is also the moral need for societies to take care of their children.

We do not presume to tell our legislators how they will work the state's budget to secure the funding necessary to ensure our children receive the education they need and deserve; the logistics of how to go about that task is theirs to decide.

The current situation is unsustainable. Education is not a frill; pared down levels of educational services are not an option. The very fabric of our society is at stake. We cannot lose a generation of young people simply because the adults refused to act.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND ADOPTED at the regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees held at Hawthorne, California, on September 13, 2012.

Superintendent's Note

With Measure CL, Wiseburn and other local South Bay school districts are reaching out to their local neighborhoods to address the funding crisis, now in its fifth year, head on, at a level where the local communities have 100% control over where and how funds are spent. Measure CL eliminates over dependence on Sacramento and would effectively erase the deficit that Wiseburn has been subjected to over the past 5 years.

For 116 years Wiseburn schools have been synonymous with excellence. Over the past five years, while state funding to Wiseburn schools has been cut by more than 20.5% and more than $14 million, Wiseburn teachers, staff, families and community have fought valiantly to protect and maintain the culture of excellence. By every measure, we have been successful. Every Wiseburn school has grown by at least 55 points on the Academic Performance Index (API) and Wiseburn schools as a whole have averaged growth of 77 API points over this five year period. The District API has surged from 792 in 2007 to 882 in 2012. Wiseburn children and Wiseburn schools are an excellent investment in our future. Measure CL funds would restore the number of school days for students to 180, return class sizes in the primary grades much closer to pre-crisis levels, restore funding for instructional materials and technology, restore funding for teacher professional development, and provide ongoing support for a balanced curriculum, including visual and performing arts at all grade levels and string musical instruments at Dana Middle School.

Thank you, the Wiseburn Community for your continued trust and support. Please take a few minutes on November 6 and join your neighbors in voting your conscience.

WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Da Vinci Science - Da Vinci Design

October 2, 2012

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Greetings All

By Bill Magoon, Co-Founder/Vice President

Once again summer has come and gone and we find ourselves back into school mode, rushing around each morning into the hustle and bustle of the fall months along with the anticipation of the upcoming holidays, which are just around the corner. The closing of year 2012 is unique in that this year is an election year and all of us have some very tough but important decisions to make both nationally and locally that will undoubtedly shape and mold our futures. America will once again elect a President who will set the course for our country over the next four years. In addition, we are faced with a host of local issues to decide that will have a direct impact on all of us. Wiseburn Watch would like encourage everyone to exercise your constitutional right to vote and come election day get out there and let your voices be heard.

Wiseburn Watch 2012 National Night Out Event

Wiseburn Watch hosted our 3rd annual NNO event this past August 7th. By all accounts from the feedback we have received it was without a doubt our best NNO event so far. We had more vendors, more static displays and more fun than ever before. Although, there was no official head count we estimated attendance at our event had to be in the hundreds. We were once again blessed with great representation from our Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol who came out with one of their high tech motorcycles and of course "Chipper!" Chipper was the hit of the event as all the kids just loved hanging out with him. If you would like to view photos of our event you can log onto our website.

Wiseburn Community Walking Path Project

Our greenbelt/walking path project (East side of the 405 freeway along La Cienega between 129th St. and 139th St.) is moving forward. We just got the word the other day from LA County Parks and Recreation personnel that Caltrans has signed off on the project and that they are ready to come back to the community for what will hopefully be a finalization of the overall project design and concept. We will do our best to get County Parks and Recreation Staff to our Watch meeting next month and get this project back onto the fast track.

Wiseburn Community Crime:

Unfortunately this past summer the Wiseburn community has experienced an increase in vehicle crimes (stolen cars, vehicle break ins etc). However, this information coincides with the same reported increases in all of our neighboring cities and communities. The good news is, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department 2012 Uniform Crime reporting statistics the Wiseburn communities overall reported crime incidents continues to be one of the lowest of all the Sheriff's Patrol areas. Let's keep up the good work folks and always remember that crime fighters slogan "IF YOU SEE SOMETHING – SAY SOMETHING."

Wiseburn Watch 2012 Santa Stops Event:

Get ready – its coming!... We have begun to plan for this, our signature event. We are proud to announce that the recipient of our toy drive donations this year will be the California Highway Patrol's "CHIPS FOR KIDS" Program. The Chips for Kids program through generous donations and toy drive participation provides Christmas gifts to needy families all over the state of California. It is definitely a worthy cause. Please, everyone be sure to mark your calendars as our Santa Stop event have been tentatively set for Saturday December 22nd.

In closing, Wiseburn Watch cordially invites any homeowner, property owner and/or renter residing within the LA County unincorporated community of Wiseburn (properties located East of the 405 Freeway, West of Inglewood Ave., South of El Segundo Blvd. & North of Rosecrans Ave.) to join us by attending a Watch meeting. To join or for more information you can contact us through our website.

See You On the Pitch (Soccer Field)!

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 & Training Center is located in Torrance, California.

AYSO's Mission and Vision overall 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. They include Everyone Plays®, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching, Good Sportsmanship and Player Development.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne was charted as an official region back on December 15, 1972. In September we kicked off our 40th season serving the youth of our community. 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 4-1/2 to Under 19 years of age. In addition, we have registered a number of players who participate in the AYSO Very Important Players (VIP) Program. This program provides a quality soccer experience for children and adults whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult to successfully participate on mainstream teams. Disabilities may include blind or visually impaired, amputees or with conditions that impair mobility, mentally or emotionally challenged, autistic, Down syndrome and Cerebral Palsy. On Saturday, January 26, 2013, we will be hosting the 13th Annual VIP Friendship Festival at the Dana Sports Complex. Come out for the day and support your VIP Hawthorne teams.

This past summer we had four teams who participated in the Rainbow Classic on the O'ahu Island in Hawaii. Our players from Girls Under-12 (Coach Hiney), Boys Under-12 (Coach Chavez), Girls Under-14 (Coach Camacaro) and Boys Under-19 (Coach Rayas) took their skills to the Waipio Peninsula Soccer Park to compete against strong teams from across the State of Hawaii. Congratulations to all teams completing the tournament as follows: Boys Under-19 finished in first place and Girls Under-12, Boys Under-12 and Girls Under-14 finished in second place. The visit to the Hawaiian Islands was not just an enjoyable soccer experience for both players and their families but also an opportunity to experience and enjoy the rich Hawaiian culture, the Aloha friendship spirit, endless recreation activities, and the magnificent scenery.

We are very appreciative to the Wiseburn School District for the use of the all soccer fields (Aviation & Juan de Anza in Del Aire and Peter Burnett, Juan Cabrillo and Richard Henry Dana in Holly Glen) within the district boundaries. To respond to the many inquiries received while at the soccer fields, the school district has identified as a future project the soccer field to be located 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. It was part of the bond language.

As the Wiseburn School District has partnered with AYSO, AYSO needs to be partners with other entities in the community. 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 reduction of 50% in attendance. Be a good soccer family partner and please do not park in the Angeles County Library — Wiseburn Branch parking lot on Saturdays.

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 a coach, an assistant coach, referee, team mom, team dad 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, then make sure that you thank those who have stepped up to volunteer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at ayso.bigdog@att.net.

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
Vinny's 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

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