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School News

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Covering the Wiseburn School District

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Breaking New Ground: A Wiseburn World-Class "Unified" High School

Happy 2014! This issue of *School News* is dedicated to "Breaking New Ground!"

On July 1, 2014 Wiseburn will officially become Wiseburn Unified School District and for the first time ever, Wiseburn will serve students K-12 as a unified school district. The road to unification has been arduous and long and has required extreme patience and perseverance by our Chief Petitioners starting with John Peterson, Tony Nakamura and Lydia Rodriguez, with "bull pen" support from Chief Petitioners Danny Juarez, Linda Cuesta and Shavonda Christmas. The Wiseburn Community owes a huge debt of gratitude to these individuals.

When I was interviewing for the Wiseburn Superintendent position back in 2008, I told the Wiseburn Board that I had two major goals: 1) To complete the Wiseburn Unification effort; and 2) Establish the finest high school in the South Bay (to create a seamless K-12 program and stop the flow of Wiseburn students leaving the district so they could attend high schools in neighboring beach cities). My efforts over the past six years have been keenly focused on bringing these two major goals to reality.

Lessons learned over the past six years and the steady, positive evolution of the Da Vinci Schools have profoundly affected our thinking about what constitutes a

successful, world-class high school program. With Wiseburn unification only a distant glimmer of hope in 2008, the Wiseburn Board of Trustees took a bold step in the fall of 2008 and established Wiseburn 21st Century Charter Schools which launched Da Vinci Science and Da Vinci Design in August 2009. The original charter applications stated that, "In the event that the Unification effort is successful, Wiseburn School District reserves the right to "adopt" the Da Vinci Design Charter as the "seed" for a comprehensive Wiseburn High School. The specific timeline and conditions of this addition will be developed collaboratively between Wiseburn School District and Wiseburn 21st Century Charters (Now Da Vinci Schools)." The past six years have spotlighted the benefits of partnership and taking advantage of the best of both worlds—school district and charter—in developing the most outstanding program possible for all of our students. Rather than dismantle what has been so thoughtfully created, we intend to continue forward in the successful partnership between Wiseburn and Da Vinci Schools.

The Da Vinci Schools spent the entire 2008-09 school year thoughtfully researching secondary education models from throughout the country and internationally. A vast body of research pointed to the limitations and short comings of the traditional, comprehensive high school. Using this information, the Da Vinci schools started from scratch to develop the highly successful model that has emerged over the past 5 years. What the research told us was the following:

- According to the College Board (Scholastic Aptitude Test, SAT) results for 1.6 million members of the United States high school class of 2013 who took the test, the board estimated that just 43% met its benchmark for college and career readiness, which points to a 65% chance of having a B-minus or better GPA during the freshman year of college.
- The basic institutional structures for high school that Harvard president James B. Conant described and recommended in 1959 remain pretty much unchanged more than a half century later. The rest of the world has not been idle, however. Our competitors, rivals and allies have all upped their games, drastically boosting their scores on various international measures.
- According to the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD's) PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) 22 countries surpassed the U.S. in 2009 in the percentage of fifteen-year-olds reaching the proficiency level in math. In 2012, the results were even more challenging. U.S. scores remained relatively stable while other countries improved so 35 countries outperformed the U.S. The U.S. faired only slightly better in science.

A

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

This is our 6th Anniversary covering the Wiseburn School District. The changes over the years have been many including advances in technology, budget cuts, the implementation of Common Core and July 1st unification of the district. It is a pleasure publishing the excellence from this district and we appreciate you always including *School News* among your reading choices.

This hat is what you are looking for to enter the contest on page 7.

Our next issue is June 4.

School News Roll Call

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Covering the WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Common Core Field Test in Spring

Dr. Chris Jones
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology

Students in the Wiseburn School District, along with thousands of students across California and in 26 states, will be participating in the Smarter Balanced Field Test in April and May. This computer-based field test of a modern assessment system is designed to help shape teaching and learning in the classroom. Known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASPP), these computer-based tests replace the Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) program. The field test will be administered to all Wiseburn students in third through eighth grades and 11th grade during the testing window of April 7 through May 16, 2014.

Previously, students took the STAR tests each spring, which included the California Standards Test and the California Modified Assessment. These two older tests were based on the 1999 California State Standards for English language arts and mathematics. With full implementation of the Common Core State Standards set for 2014–2015, the Smarter Balanced Field Test is an important step in developing the assessment of students under the new system. These tests are aligned to the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics, which California adopted in 2010 to describe the specific knowledge and skills students need to be well-prepared for college and careers.

Part of the goal of the field test this year is to determine how well individual questions allow students to demonstrate what they know and still need to learn. This will also be an opportunity to see how well our local technical capabilities meet the demands of computer-based assessments and to see what resources our teachers and schools may yet need. The field test also gives students an opportunity to try out the new system without consequences. All of this combined means that student scores will not be captured this year. The Field Test is a "test of the test," which allows the Smarter Balanced Assessment

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AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne

310/335-0242 • ayso.bigdog@att.net

Update

By Danny Juarez, Community Relations Director

On behalf of the AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne family, we want to wish all the readers of the *School News* publication a Happy New Year.

August 15, 2014 marks the 50th Anniversary of AYSO. On August 15, 1964, five men, Bill Hughes, Hans Stierle, Steve Erdos, Ralph Acosta, Ted McLain gathered together in the City of Torrance, California and based on their previous attempts to initiate a youth soccer program in the United States, at different locations, found it necessary to change the entire youth soccer approach to an American Way that followed the successful format for other youth sports in the United States. The intention of these pioneers of AYSO was to reach out to every elementary school student in America and encourage boys and girls to enjoy the world's number one sport, soccer.

From 125 players in the first year, 1964-65, AYSO has graduated approximately 7,000,000 soccer players. Hundreds of thousands have played at the high school level, tens of thousands played at the college level, and hundreds have played at the Olympic and Professional level. As we pause at the 50th Anniversary, look back and forward, these are some staggering metrics to ponder.

In a joint effort with the city of Torrance, AYSO had a float in the 2014 Rose Parade. The parade was a blast! The AYSO float featured float rider Cobi Jones, a former AYSO player from Westlake, long-time member of the Major League Soccer's (MLS) Los Angeles Galaxy and U.S. Men's National Team's all-time leading cap winner. Surrounding the float were The Futboleros, a talented group of soccer "tricksters" who were happy to show off their skills on the 5-mile parade route.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne completed the fall season in December 2013 under the leadership of first year Regional Commissioner Darryl Letchworth. He did an outstanding job since taking the reins introducing new programs and enhancing existing programs for the benefit the youth of the community. He has stated on several occasions that his success is due in part to all the volunteers who give unselfishly of their time. This group of individuals includes but not limited to board members, coaches, assistant coaches, team moms, team dads, and referees. Thanks to all for your support.

Coaches at the competitive levels started the new season in August with enthusiasm and aspirations to go all the way to the finals. They start with a new group of players striving to position each player to contribute the maximum of their potential to achieve the goal of a winning season. To this end, boys and girls teams from the Under-10 through Under-14 program who won their respective division titles went on to compete in the Area 1-D Beach Cites League and All Star Championship Cup. Although all Hawthorne teams played with heart and passion we had several teams successfully finish in the medal round. The results of the League Cup were as follows: GU-10 Coach Ingram - 2nd Place. The results of the All Star Cup were as follows: BU-14 Coach Chavez – 1st Place, GU-14 Coach Hiney – 2nd Place, BU-12 Coach Lopez – 3rd Place, and GU-10 Coach Rodas – 2nd Place. The region wishes the best of luck to the teams moving on to the 2014 Southern California Section One Playoffs in Riverside. If the teams participating in the Section Playoffs are successful, then the next competitive level is the 2014 California State Games to be held in Bakersfield (AYSO mini version of the Little League Williamsport championship series). Congratulations to all the teams.

This year we saw the use for the full year of the new snack stand and restrooms. AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne and the Wiseburn National Little League will continue to work together to get the most of this wonderful addition to the Dana Sports Complex. We look forward to the start of the construction of a new state-of-the-art soccer field as approved in the bond measure. There is no discussion about lights for the existing fields (although the infrastructure is in place) but it is felt that the fields that will be built at the new Wiseburn High School site is likely a better fit for field lights.

During January 2013, AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne hosted the 14th Annual VIP Friendship Festival for mentally and physically challenged players. Over 75 players from all over Southern California converged on the Dana playfields to participate in this all day event. The feedback from the parents is they can't wait until next year to come back to Dana and expose their kids to this experience. The added attractions of the trackless train and volunteers/dogs from HOPE AACR (Animal-Assisted Crisis Response) were big hits and added value to the long running event. We want to thank all the sponsors who provided goods and services to make the event a success.

We once again, want to thank the Wiseburn School District for the use of all soccer fields (Anza, Aviation, Cabrillo and Dana). As stated earlier, we are looking forward to the next and final field to be constructed on the current Da Vinci School site. An artificial turf field will complement the state-of-the-art schools.

Please watch out for flyers and banners advertizing our 2014-15 fall sign-up in the months of May and June. Check the Region 21 Hawthorne web site http://www.aysoregion21.org for registration dates and locations.

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 interested in volunteering or if you have any questions about our program please contact Danny Juarez at ayso.bigdog@att.net or call (310) 335-0242.

See you all on the pitch (soccer field)!!!

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Anza PTA

Linda Cessor, President • 310/725-2150

Where Does the Year Go?

Wow! One minute it's the beginning of the school year and the next thing you know we are looking toward summer. The Juan de Anza PTA has been very busy this year. Thanks to our supportive membership, our fundraising efforts have been quite fruitful. Our restaurant night at the Manhattan Beach Johnny Rockets proved to be the most successful fundraiser for Johnny Rockets in more than 20 years. We also enjoyed over 300 attendees at our annual Skate Night, and our recent annual craft night event proved to be one of the best yet.

...research shows that parent involvement in their children's school is associated with a range of positive outcomes for students...

Without the support of our membership we would not be able to provide some of the many programs that our students enjoy on a regular basis. Additionally, a new EdSource report produced in collaboration with New America Media, reviews compelling research showing that parent involvement in their children's school is associated with a range of positive outcomes for students, such as greater academic success, improved attitudes toward school, and a reduction in at-risk behavior. The research also shows that parent involvement is correlated with more teacher satisfaction. It is with this in mind that we look forward to our upcoming elections and fresh, new parent involvement.

Da Vinci *Charter Schools*

13500 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/725-5800 • www.davincischools.org

Dr. Matthew Wunder
Executive Director

Outreach to the Wiseburn Community

Our outreach efforts continue to better articulate Da Vinci's schools and programs to the Wiseburn community. Da Vinci leadership joined Superintendent Dr. Tom Johnstone and Dr. Chris Jones, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, at recent Wiseburn Watch, Del Aire and Holly Glen homeowners association meetings, and at Anza Elementary to provide more detailed information about the concurrent evolution of unification and Da Vinci Schools, as well as to provide more information about school governance, oversight and funding. Da Vinci also has conducted several tours for Wiseburn residents. To schedule a tour or to find out more about Da Vinci, please contact Carla Levenson at clevenson@davincischools.org.

The main focus of Da Vinci high schools is college and career readiness for all students. The academic program at Da Vinci Science, Da Vinci Design, and Da Vinci Communications is a great fit for all students – including special education and gifted and talented students – regardless if one does not have a specific interest in engineering, design or communications. These are focus areas, but approximately 80% of the curricula are general studies that exceed high school graduation, UC/CSU, and college admission requirements.

Da Vinci students also are able to find and explore their passions in numerous seminar (elective) course offerings ranging from Robotics and Flight School, to Illustration, Photography, Youth and Government, Leadership, Work Experience, Mock Trial, Basketball, Cross Fit and Yoga, to name a few. For a complete list of our seminars, please visit our school webpages at www.davincischools.org.

Extensive research indicates that there are many benefits to small learning communities vs. the large comprehensive high school model, including increased student achievement, increased attendance, close student and teacher relationships, greater job satisfaction, and more. The new facility at 201 N. Douglas will offer the best of all worlds: small learning communities combined with the social and extracurricular activities of a large school.

Enrollment Update

Wiseburn residents always have top priority and a guaranteed spot at Da Vinci high schools. Beginning this year, Wiseburn residents applying to the high schools will not be placed in the lottery. Offer packages for the 2014-15 school year will be mailed out to residents on or about March 10th provided an application was completed by the priority application deadline.

Registration Day for all new K-12 families is Saturday, April 26 from 9am-2pm. Please mark your calendars and be sure to register your student on that day. Registration will be held at Da Vinci Science, 13500 Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA. Registration is in a "drop in" basis at any time during 9am-2pm. K-8 families may register between the hours of 9am to Noon.

If you did not apply by our priority application deadline, please contact our enrollment team at (310) 331-8097 or enrollment@davincischools.org.

Wiseburn residents applying to the Da Vinci Innovation Academy (K-8) receive an enrollment preference but are not guaranteed enrollment because of the small number of openings. For more information about Da Vinci Innovation Academy, please call (310) 725-5800, x1503 or email ia@davincischools.org.

We encourage you to visit our website at www.davincischools.org for the latest news and information.

Ninth grade entrepreneurs at Da Vinci Communications pitch their business ideas Shark Tank-style to a panel of industry experts, including Wiseburn resident Lourdes Del Rio Valdes of DRV Public Relations.

The Power of Partnerships

Da Vinci Schools have developed mutually beneficial partnerships with more than 125 businesses, corporations, colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations. Our partners help us to define the knowledge and workplace skills students need most to succeed in the 21st century global economy. Partners also provide mentoring, internships, career guidance, volunteer support, direct funding, in-kind support, and much more.

Two examples of recent collaborations are: At Da Vinci Communications, six industry experts served on a Shark Tank-style panel to evaluate 9th grade students' business ideas. Students gained real world knowledge and expertise developing marketable products using sustainable energy and/or eco-friendly materials. A special thank you to Wiseburn community member Lourdes Del Rio Valdes of DRV Public Relations who served on the panel.

Chevron recently raised $31K for Da Vinci Schools through the Northern Trust Open golf tournament as part of their Eagles for Education program. Chevron made a $1,000 donation for every eagle by Champions Tour professionals during the tournament. Da Vinci Science students went on a field trip to the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades on two days in February. To learn more about our collaborative partnerships, visit: http://www.davincischools.org/collaborative-projects.shtml.

Parents at Da Vinci Innovation Academy participate in a new parent educator workshop focusing on literacy and math skills, and using online curricula.

Da Vinci Innovation Academy Update

Da Vinci Innovation Academy is really excited about the staff-parent and parent-parent collaboration that is happening! To date, we have held over 150 workshops for parents in the 2013-2014 school year covering topics from "Math Talks" to "Fine Motor Skills and Handwriting Strategies." The collaborative nature of our students, families and staff give such a dynamic and engaged energy to the DVIA campus.

Looking Ahead

Da Vinci Schools are well positioned for the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. The new standards and tests place more emphasis on real learning and understanding of material, not just basic memorization and test-taking skills. Since our inception, Da Vinci has had a clear focus on getting students through college and into good paying jobs, delivering a real world, project based curriculum that emphasizes the 4 C's – critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity – the hallmarks of the Common Core standards.

Juan de Anza *Elementary (K–5)*

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

Sarah Nitsos
Principal

Breaking New Ground: Growing Together & Giving Back

This year has soared by here at Anza Elementary School, and we have been very busy. Our staff is dedicated to a rigorous academic program. We understand the importance of working with our families to create an experience which promotes the development of healthy and productive members of our society. We are always breaking new ground and finding new ways to educate the whole child, allowing opportunities for children to build citizenship skills and learn the strategies they will need to be successful in life. We have the most amazing people here at Anza!

As part of our development of students, we incorporate several activities to encourage our students to give back and make a difference in the lives of others. In the winter, this takes the form of our Holiday Giving Drive. We call upon our school population to donate food and toys to local families in need of assistance. This year our Anza students stepped up in a big way, and our office overflowed with food and toys. Two special students who really went above and beyond are Dylan Molina and Isaiah Fierro-Bemi. With their parents, they collected over four wagonloads of food and toys! Through the support of the whole community, we were able to assist numerous families and make their holiday season very special.

Dylan Molina and Isaiah Fierro-Bemi and their four wagonloads of food and toys.

Each spring we hold a charitable drive encouraging our students to once again help others in need. In the past we have collected money for tsunami and earthquake relief, as well as charities that support children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. We have included philanthropic events in our student council calendar of events for over 10 years, and this year we are collecting for a cause that hits close to home.

This year our penny collection event broke new ground as we dedicated our efforts to a former student, Erik Torres, who last attended Anza in 2009. Last year, Erik began having symptoms of Steven Johnson Syndrome, a rare and serious disorder in which the skin and mucous membranes react severely to medication or infection. Erik had a very long road of health issues this past year, and his family has accumulated a mountain of medical bills. Currently, the most pressing issue is that Erik is need of a liver transplant.

Erik came to visit our school to kickoff our February Pennies for Erik event. He personally shared his story with all students. He is abundantly grateful for Anza's giving spirit. Throughout the month of February, students made their donations to collection boxes located in classrooms. Our students were very motivated, knowing they would be helping a fellow Eagle.

Every day we see acts of kindness like this in the classrooms and at recess, but the dedication our students have shown in these philanthropic efforts shows an enormous capacity for caring and a willingness to fill all of our buckets. We are filled with pride to be part of such a caring school community.

Our Gardening Club is yet another opportunity for our students to grow while giving back. Growing Great is a wonderful school-wide nutrition program, sponsored by the Wiseburn Education Foundation and our PTA. Our lower-grade students learn about how food is grown and get the opportunity to plant and harvest in their own school garden plot. The upper-grade students receive several nutrition lessons presented by parent volunteers. They learn how to stay healthy and have the opportunity to sample new foods. In addition, the upper-grade students also participate in a lunchtime garden club. Under the direction of the talented Mrs. Nina Forbess, a PTA member and parent of two Eagles, the students are taught to identify the difference between crops and weeds and are also trained in the proper way to pull a weed to get the roots as well. This club is so popular that our courtyard is overflowing with students. If you would like to volunteer your time or if you are able to contribute to this wonderful program by providing an item from our wish list, it would be a tremendous help. We are also looking for a local business or gardening resource that can make a donation to Growing Great. We are still in need of soil, plastic fencing, plant food, flowers or seedling plants, and seeds. If you are interested in becoming a classroom docent or if you would like to help out in the gardens, please contact Nina Forbess at ninaforbess@gmail.com.

The Anza garden guardian.

Our Garden Club hard at work.

Finally we would like to thank our entire Anza community. We are so grateful to those who are able to volunteer their time and would like to encourage all of you to commit at least one hour a month to volunteer in some way. It is the dedication of our families that makes Anza wonderful! We have numerous opportunities for you break new ground and assist with many opportunities taking place in the evenings. Our volunteers are the reason we have such amazing programs, including Growing Great, yearbook, fund-raisers and more.

Speaking of fund-raisers, did you know that the PTA fund-raisers are the reason we have field trips, musical assemblies, playground balls, and online programs such as Moby Max and Raz Kids? Please contact Helen Martinez our volunteer coordinator to find out more about how you can help at helen.nivarmartinez@viacom.com.

Peter Burnett *Elementary School (3–5)*

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Laura Sullivan
Principal

Breaking New Ground

After performing onstage at Dana Middle School, our Burnett students have always visualized performing on their own stage. For years Dana has allowed Burnett to use their multipurpose room for its performances, assemblies and auditions.

The dream of a Burnett stage finally became a reality during the recent election of our student council officers. At our new Brann Center, the entire student body witnessed thought-provoking speeches from the approximately 22 students who were running for a position on the student council.

These candidates were proud to be breaking ground when they stood on our new stage and spoke directly to each student in the school. What a great way to introduce a wonderful new facility, and our five new teacher sponsors: Mrs. Carne, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Steen, Mrs. Laszacs and Ms. Mendoza. We appreciate them for supporting our students, and for organizing many wonderful activities.

The following students were elected to serve as student council officers. They are Alyssa Hubler, president; Justin Rodriguez, vice president; Maria Acuna, secretary; and Benny Banuelos, treasurer. A special thank-you also goes out to Dana students and staff for being willing to host us for so many years. We couldn't have done it without your unwavering support. Thank you.

Student Council Officers at Peter Burnett:
Benjamin Banuelos, Justin Rodriguez, Alyssa Hubler & Maira Acuna.

When it comes to turning dreams into reality, no one embodies this more than our Burnett Bulldogs. A new stage permits many new activities to take place on a school campus. And at Peter Burnett, the Brann Center is stretched to the limit!

Contest!!

March is Read Across America month.
This hat is hidden in this issue.
When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put Wiseburn in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by April 15, 2014.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive
a $20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Winter Wonderland

Hello and Happy New Year! Peter Burnett students and staff are off to new beginnings in 2014. Due to our wonderful PTA, we were able to celebrate our first Winter Wonderland at the beautiful Brann Center.

Parent Denise Sanchez organized a lovely Winter Wonderland Talent Show. It consisted of approximately 25 different acts of third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. Burnett's very own talented school secretary Pam Conde, a flutist, joined in by playing a lovely rendition of *Greensleeves*.

Winter Wonderland 2013-14

For this event the Burnett stage was transformed into a Winter Wonderland by parent Darla Kinzie. The audience was amazed at the beautifully decorated room. The participants were all dressed for the occasion and performed to the best of their ability. It was an exciting night for everyone who attended. Congratulations to the students and families who participated, and especially to the Burnett PTA for organizing such a lovely event. Continue to shine, Bulldogs!

On February 6, the PTA broke new ground by hosting a father/ daughter dance, including a photography booth to help create lasting memories. The Burnett PTA never ceases to amaze us with the wealth of activities they've helped to make possible this year.

Peter Burnett's Father-Daughter Dance

Whether it's Growing Great, Hands-On-Art, volunteering for field trips, or selling ice cream, the Burnett parents make our school the best. We sincerely appreciate the support from our families and community members. Thank you for supporting Peter Burnett, the home of the Bulldogs.

Juan Cabrillo *Elementary (K–2)*

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Margaret Lynch
Principal

'Breaking New Ground'

As the district breaks new ground for our Wiseburn High School, Cabrillo School is breaking new ground in relationships and school projects. Featured in this article are Cabrillo students looking forward to being part of the future graduating classes at Wiseburn High, the relationship between our Cabrillo kindergarten team and the Wiseburn Child Development Center, our school mural project that's possible because of the combined commitment of PTA and P.S. Arts, and our garden box project supported by Vista Mar High School, Enrich L.A. organization and a grant from Kaiser South Bay. We are grateful for the many relationships we have and the opportunities we are creating together to do good things for students!

Current Cabrillo 2nd graders proudly wear their "Wiseburn High Class of 2024" shirts.

Current Cabrillo 1st graders proudly wear their "Wiseburn High Class of 2025" shirts.

The Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF) created shirts for parents to purchase with the year of their child's high school graduating class. Students at Cabrillo now walk by the Wiseburn High School design drawings that are on display in our Performing Arts Center and say, "That's where I'm going to high school" or "That's where I'll graduate from in 2024—or 2025 or 2026." As our community rallies around the building of our new high school, it increases the excitement our students have for their academic future!

The Cabrillo Preschool (BOOST) and kindergarten teachers and the Wiseburn Child Development Center (CDC) preschool teachers are strengthening collaboration efforts to ensure a smooth transition for our children from preschool to kindergarten. Most recently, Cabrillo teachers visited the CDC classrooms and CDC teachers visited Cabrillo classrooms to observe each other's programs. All teachers expressed appreciation for what they saw and look forward to continuing ongoing conversations in support of our children.

Cabrillo BOOST (preschool) and Kindergarten teachers, Wiseburn Child Development Center teachers, and district administrators meet together.

Tomas O'Grady (director of Enrich L.A.), Margaret Lynch (principal), Liz McAlistar (Enrich L.A.), and Tom Sourbeer (volunteer coordinator of Vista Mar) celebrate Kaiser South Bay garden grant to Cabrillo.

School Mural and Garden Box

Tiffany Graham, our teaching artist who has worked with all our first- and second-graders for two years through a grant with P.S. Arts, is helping Cabrillo Students create an 8-by-16-foot school mural that will hang outside the school library. Children received lessons from Ms. Graham on drawing to show movement, and then students took those drawings to suggest scenes for the theme of "growing together." A model of the mural, which is entirely student-generated work, is on display in the office. We are grateful to the combined financial support of Cabrillo PTA, P.S. Arts and our donation account for supporting this project. Painting will begin early spring, and the mural will be unveiled before the end of the school year.

Enrich L.A., an agency whose goal is "to put a garden in every school," recently announced that they were awarded a grant from Kaiser South Bay to support the Cabrillo outdoor garden boxes. The project will take our existing garden and improve it with redwood garden boxes, a drip watering system, and the addition of a teaching table and picnic benches. Currently, Cabrillo student representatives from each class meet weekly on Tuesdays at lunch with high school students from Vista Mar to work on the garden. Tom Sourbeer, a retired educator, volunteers his time to coordinate Vista Mar and Cabrillo students. Enrich L.A. will lead us in a work day on Saturday, May 19, with two shifts: 9 a.m. to noon and noon to 3 p.m. for the rebuilding and updating of our garden boxes. Please join us!

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

Blake Silvers
Principal

Breaking New Ground

The definition of breaking ground consists of words like pioneering and innovative, all very appropriate when looking at the cutting-edge practices of the schools in Wiseburn. The spring semester of 2014 serves as another platform for schools to display their spirit of productive change and an opportunity to prepare students for the 21st century. At Dana Middle School, we are breaking a new kind of ground: specifically e-ground, or technology.

Mr. Okasinski, Julian Camarena

The technology infrastructure at allows students to develop the skills required of savvy and well-prepared middle-schoolers. Each student at Dana will continue to use electronic document, presentations, forms, and sites. Our Internet platform provides the ability for students to use technology as a tool to research, display their knowledge, and collaborate with classmates in real time. The use of a cloud-based drive prepares students for a wireless future and falls in line with the school's mission to prepare dynamic, diverse 21st-century learners.

Lizandro Franco, Alexa Rodriguez, Talia Akiba, Michael Vasquez

The use of Web-based tools, and the new Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) state testing program, requires a solid technology infrastructure and provides the impetus for continued development in this area. Netbooks highlight the technology initiative at Dana Middle School, becoming the devices of choice as the school moves forward. Four brand-new carts are currently being used both as labs, available for teacher and student use, and as part of selected teachers' classrooms to begin the important process of successfully bringing electronic devices to all students. Students and teachers are embracing the changing landscape of education as they utilize the devices to inform, plan, create, and implement various types of learning. Dana is lucky to have Ms. Mary Nies as a technology mentor to help oversee the rollout of technology on campus and to stay current on the various ways technology can be used by students and teachers.

Breaking new e-ground is a challenge that school and district personnel find both timely and important to student achievement. Dana has always taken pride in pioneering new ideas and innovating its approach to student learning. Technology implementation is no exception, as it provides yet another example of the school community dedicated to maintaining excellence in education.

SBAC • *From Page 3*

Consortium (SBAC) to finalize test questions for the fully operational test that will occur next year. What is learned from the field test will help ensure a successful full launch of the system in the 2014–2015 school year.

In Wiseburn, our teachers have been working over the past three years in preparation for the full launch of Common Core. In cooperation with the Talking Teaching Network, our K–8 teachers have been examining the Common Core and developing instructional strategies to best deliver this content. At the Da Vinci Schools, teachers have been aligning the Common Core with their Essential Knowledge and Skills for each high school course in math and English. These activities have built a knowledge base for teachers to prepare students for the coming next generation of testing that is being developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).

On the technology side, Wiseburn has made some recent improvements in preparation for the upcoming computer-based SBAC Field Test. New computers have been purchased at Peter Burnett and Juan de Anza Schools to upgrade the existing computer labs and to expand into an additional lab at each school. These upgrades were necessary to allow for a schedule that can test all students within the testing window. Similarly, at Dana Middle School, an upgrade has been made to create four mobile netbook labs that will be used for testing, along with the two existing computer labs. The mobile labs will also be utilized as Dana moves towards improving the student to computer ratio towards 1:1. All of the computer upgrades in Wiseburn have been possible through Measure CL and state Common Core funding, which was made available to schools during this budget year.

The development of the new Common Core assessment system by the SBAC is a complex and lengthy process that has been ongoing for several years. Last April, students at Peter Burnett Elementary School participated in a pilot test that was a precursor to this year's field test. The field test is a precursor to the final operational test next year. The SBAC is made up of 26 member states, including California. All third- through eighth-grade and 11th-grade California students will be participating in the field test this spring. Because of the computer-based nature of the tests, the improvement of the system is a dynamic, ongoing, and continuous process.

The tests themselves are a significant departure from the previous multiple-choice tests of the past. The new assessment system requires a higher level of thinking from students to successfully show their proficiency. Students are expected to be able to reason through challenging, multi-step questions and to be able to explain their answers. It is expected that students will initially struggle with showing proficiency now that the bar is being raised in measuring student progress. When the SBAC test becomes fully operational in 2014–2015, a new baseline of student achievement results will be set to measure growth in the coming years.

Samples of the SBAC practice test are available online at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp. If you would like more information, please visit the California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Web page at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterfieldtest.asp. You can access additional information at the following Web sites: http://www.corestandards.org; http://www.smarterbalanced.org; and http://talkingteaching.org.UCLA

Dr. Tom Johnstone

Brief History of Education in the United States

In the beginning, was the one-room school house and the tutorial or apprenticeship model of education. With the coming of the Industrial Age in the mid-1800's, educational needs changed dramatically, forcing a change to the factory model of schools, where all students were given the same amount of time to learn the material and where norm-referenced tests were used to "sort" students. More than 150 years ago, Massachusetts became the first state to provide all children access to a free and public education. The result was a publicly-funded system where, in every American classroom, groups of about 28 students of roughly the same age, are taught by one teacher, usually in an 800 square foot room. The factory model classroom was inspired in part by Horace Mann. It has remained the dominant model in the U.S. ever since.

However, in 1983, the federal government declared in "A Nation at Risk," that our system was starting to slide. As society has evolved into the Information Age, education needs have changed dramatically again. Knowledge work is replacing manual labor as the predominant form of work. The need now is to refocus education from sorting students, to helping all students reach their potential. Since students learn at different rates, the factory model made time a constant, which in effect made achievement vary. The alternative is to make achievement the constant, and allow each student the time she or he needs to learn. 21st Century Learning requires massive changes throughout all aspects of the education system to include:

1) An Attainment Based System – where student progress is based on learning rather than time;
2) Learner-centered Instruction – where learning is personalized with respect to both what is learned and how it is learned. Students work collaboratively on motivational, authentic projects (Project-Based Learning);
3) Expanded Curriculum – where basic skills are not ignored, but the accelerated learning offered by the attainment based, learner centered system allows for additional focus on thinking skills, creativity, personal qualities and other 21st Century Skills;
4) A Nurturing School Culture – where small learning communities help develop student responsibility, caring leadership and deep personal ties to students, teachers, parents and the larger community.

As the Wiseburn School District authorized and co-developed the Da Vinci Schools, this research became the foundation and the underpinnings for our highly successful high school programs. All three Da Vinci Schools offer the same common core curriculum that meets the rigorous University of California A-G requirements. In 2013, with lots of hard work, over 98% of the graduates at Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Science met this lofty standard (by far the highest rate in the South Bay). Remarkably, 78% of the 271 Da Vinci graduates in 2013, were accepted to four-year universities. With this solid evidence in hand, the Wiseburn Unified School District is very comfortable with the decision to make our Da Vinci Schools our Wiseburn High School Program.

Across the nation a common set of principles and strategies are at the heart of improving high schools. Many high schools, including our local, traditional South Bay high schools use reform efforts that focus on the three "Rs" – Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. At our Da Vinci Schools, the three "Rs" were founding principles, not part of a reform effort.

Rigor is essential for a world-class high school program that makes our graduates competitive in the global economy. Rigor provides the basic skills, but goes far beyond the basics to expose all students to the kind of challenging curriculum previously reserved for "college bound" students.

Relevance is equally critical. Students are more willing to tackle complex subjects like trigonometry, if the teacher explains how the equations they are learning can be used outside of school. Relevance is at the heart of project based learning and the internships with local government and commercial enterprises. Engagement is a hallmark of the programs at the Da Vinci Schools.

The third R – **Relationships** – is rooted in the small learning community philosophy that is historically a core belief of the Wiseburn School District at all of our schools – Anza, Burnett, Cabrillo, Dana and all the Da Vinci Schools. Wiseburn/Da Vinci students feel a greater sense of belonging and responsibility for being at school. Relationships are a dominant feature in the Wiseburn success formula. Reducing school size to help students develop stronger connections with teachers and other students has been one of the most important focuses of high school reform during the past decade.

Throughout the country, in California and here in the South Bay, many high schools have addressed all or some combination of rigor, relevance and relationships by departing from the traditional, comprehensive high school model. At Wiseburn/Da Vinci, the three "Rs" have been foundational, guiding principles.

As your Superintendent, my promise in 2008, my promise now in 2014, and my promise always will be to give you the very best schools anywhere, both K-8 and in high school! The Wiseburn Community deserves nothing less! Thanks for your continued support!

How to Break Free of Our 19th Century Factory-Model Education System

http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2012/05/how-to-break-free-of-our-19th-century-factory-model-education-system/256881/

Education 3.0: Helping All Children Reach Their Potential

http://gettingsmart.com/2013/11/education-3-0-helping-children-reach-potential/

High Schools: Alternative Approaches

http://www.edsource.org/iss_secondary_hs_alternatives.html

Rethinking High School

http://educationnext.org/rethinking-high-school/

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Steve's Burgers
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Stuft 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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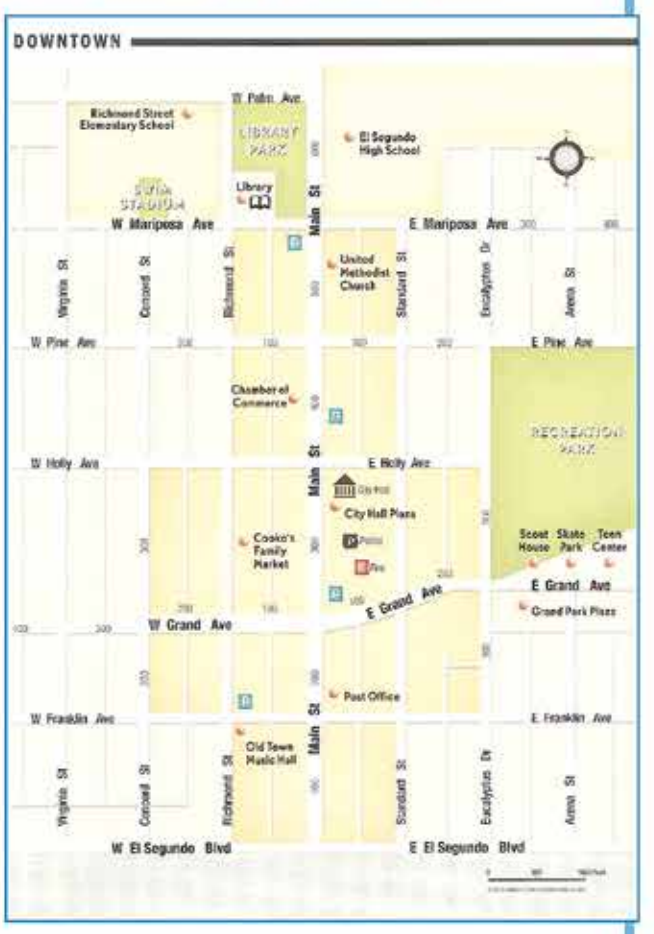

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