

School News

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Covering the Wiseburn Unified School District

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Making Connections!

By Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent

The theme for this issue of *School News* is “making connections.” We have all heard the ancient African proverb “It takes a village to educate a child.” In Wiseburn we take this proverb very seriously and literally. We have established very strong partnerships with the broader South Bay and Los Angeles County Communities to provide our students with the highest quality of education possible.

Through the outstanding generosity of Chevron and El Camino College the District’s engineering program Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is thriving. We have been blessed with generous Chevron grants of \$130,000 (\$65,000 for Wiseburn Unified School District and \$65,000 for the Da Vinci Schools) for the current school year and the 2016-17 school year to further develop our K-8 PLTW program. We have expanded our offerings at Dana Middle School to cover all 3 grade levels and this year all 5th graders at Anza and Burnett are receiving PLTW. The goal for 2016-17 is to further expand PLTW at K-5. Of very special note, Dana PLTW teacher, Andy DeSeriere received the well-deserved honor of Project Lead the Way California Middle School Teacher of the Year at a ceremony in Riverside on January 26, 2016 (see story). Congratulations, Andy!



Andy DeSeriere Project Lead the Way Middle School Teacher of the Year with Dr. Vince M. Bertram, President and CEO of Project Lead the Way.

Our community connections also remain strong with our local universities! Our outstanding Common Core mathematics and English Language Arts professional development has continued over the past 5 years with the Talking Teaching Network, through UCLA. Wiseburn has two highly effective programs that support teacher professional development through Loyola Marymount University. Math Leadership Corps featuring Math Leadership by Design is training all mathematics teachers at Dana Middle School, Da Vinci Design and Da Vinci Communications. The MLD Program builds on the Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) training that our K-5 teachers are receiving through the Cotsen Foundation at Cabrillo Elementary School and the Orange County Office of Education (all K-5 teachers). Also through Loyola Marymount University, Anza, Burnett and Dana teachers participate in the Project STELLAR Program for professional development to support long-term English Learners.

Through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Arts for All, Wiseburn Unified is updating its Arts Strategic Plan this year. With representation from all 8 schools, our Wiseburn Education Foundation and seven community

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Future Home of the Da Vinci High Schools Beginning to Take Shape!



Dr. Tom Johnstone
Superintendent

The Wiseburn High School facility that will house the three Da Vinci high schools is transforming right before our eyes! Since the Groundbreaking Ceremony last summer on August 24, 2015, demolition has gone into high gear. The main building has now been scaled back to its eventual size. Originally a building of 336,000 square feet, the final size of the main building will be 215,000 square feet. In scaling the building back, 80 feet were removed from the eastern face and 40 feet were taken from the northern face. An 80-foot by 40-foot Atrium that spans all four stories has also been carved out of the interior.

Currently, construction is focused on the seismic retrofitting of the main building, below grade. In order to upgrade the structure of the building from commercial to school standards, 16 of the columns are being reinforced to a depth of over 20 feet below the first floor. This retrofitting will be complete by early April. Bracing and retrofitting will continue on floors one through four throughout the spring along with interior framing and rough plumbing and electrical. We hope to make sufficient progress on the interior construction to enable us to host another open house tour of the building sometime before Winter Break of the 2016-17 school year.

Phase II of the construction project includes the 48,000 square foot gymnasium, the aquatic center, the sports field and the

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 14



Mr. "D" Earns PLTW California Teacher of the Year Award



Dr. Chris Jones
Deputy
Superintendent
Instructional
Services

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher at Dana Middle School, Andy DeSeriore, was recognized as the middle school PLTW Teacher of the Year for California. The presentation was made at the Project Lead the Way State Conference in Riverside on January 26, 2016. Mr. "D" was recognized for his outstanding work in the innovative project-based program that uses the design process to help students problem solve in engineering. This statewide honor is a first for Dana Middle School and the Wiseburn Unified School District.

At the PLTW State Conference, three Wiseburn teachers conducted a workshop for teachers about organizing student hands-on group projects. Along with Andy DeSeriore, elementary teachers Summer Graves and Candyse Crow shared their expertise in the workshop, asking teachers to work in groups to design a balloon car using simple materials. After the activity, the teachers debriefed the group process and applied this knowledge to their own classroom experiences. In addition, a group of 50 Wiseburn students from Burnett and Dana made the trip to Riverside to display their knowledge about the design process in building balloon cars and mousetrap cars. Technology Teacher on Assignment, Mary Nies, helped coordinate the student engineers along with several dedicated parents who volunteered for the day. The Wiseburn students also participated in an impromptu 30 minute question and answer session with Dr. Vince Bertram, CEO of the national Project Lead the Way organization. It was a very busy and exciting day for all!

Project Lead the Way curriculum was first introduced to Wiseburn through the Da Vinci Schools. Da Vinci Science High School has an Engineering

Pathway and a new Bio-Medical Pathway as part of the course of study at each grade level (9-12). More recently, Da Vinci Communications High School has added a PLTW Computer Science Pathway. Hands-on projects are an essential part of all PLTW courses and provide an engaging learning process for students. At Dana Middle School an introductory PLTW course in Design and Modeling is a part of the sixth grade elective pairing. In seventh and eighth grades, students have a variety of PLTW elective course offerings to choose from. For the past two years, the PLTW Elementary Launch program has been a part of the Science program for all 5th grade students at Juan de

Anza Elementary and Peter Burnett Elementary. Project Lead the Way is becoming a signature practice across elementary, middle and high school programs in Wiseburn Unified School District and Da Vinci Schools. In building out the program at the elementary level, Candyse Crow has been named as a Master Teacher for the PLTW Elementary Launch Program and will attend the PLTW Summit and Master Teacher Forum. The success of the program

Exciting and busy times are ahead for Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics for the Wiseburn Family of Schools.

is due to the support of our local business partners, with Chevron recently providing \$130,000 in financial backing of the implementation of Project Lead the Way at both Wiseburn and Da Vinci.

In related STEM news, Andy DeSeriore was also accepted as a Teacher Fellow for the Northrop Grumman Foundation Teachers Academy. As part of this fellowship, he will participate in the National Science Teachers Association Conference in April. Mr. DeSeriore will also attend the Northrop Grumman Summer Workshop in Maryland and participate in a local externship with Northrop Grumman in the South Bay in July and August. Exciting and busy times are ahead for Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics for the Wiseburn Family of Schools.

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Wisburn Education Foundation

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Together We Can Make a Difference

The Wisburn Education Foundation (“WEF”) has been working hard to raise awareness of who we are and what WE can do, to truly uphold our slogan “Together We Can Make a Difference.” We believe in our educators, our leaders, our community, and especially our kids! We appreciate the support from all of our families who have already donated to our first Annual Giving Campaign. To date, we have raised almost \$23,000 and are anxiously awaiting to paint our first benchmark (\$25,000) on our beautifully painted “Together We Can Make a Difference” tree hanging up at the Wisburn Unified District Office (on Aviation Blvd.)! Have you seen? Please help us reach our first \$25,000 by donating on our website www.wisburnedfoundation.org and help make a difference!

You might be asking yourself how does my donation make a difference? It is our mission to help support district programs that give our children invaluable opportunities in music, arts, nutrition, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and many other programs that help them grow. This year we offered all Wisburn teachers the opportunity to apply for a grant (up to \$1,200) that would enhance the education of students in their school or classroom. The response from teachers was outstanding. With your financial help, the Wisburn Education Foundation was able to purchase a couple interactive document cameras, iMovie to film and produce Binder Chats, microphone headsets for all the science classes in 7th grade, scientific calculators, Stride Track (which helps track laps during PE), additional online standards-aligned content for math and language arts,



Shot of the moon from the Celestron Event.

BOOSTing Early language skills, Sea Perch ROVs, and that is just a few of them. Over 80% of the children in our district were affected and their educational experience enhanced because of our grants! We are so proud of our teachers and what they have accomplished this year. With your financial support, we can continue to grow this program!

Another amazing Celestron event was held on February 19th. Thank you for coming out to support our wonderful evening. We also want to thank Celestron for sponsoring the event and donating the Celestron items to raffle.

We can't believe our 13th annual *Rock Around the Block Family Fun Day* is just a few short weeks away. If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19th, at R.H. Dana Middle School at 5504 W. 135th Street. Several hundred students, parents, local residents and community leaders will be in attendance to support our mission and enjoy a fun filled day! Our festivities begin with our annual walk (Around the Block), games, rides, crafts, food booths, silent auction and performances by our own Wisburn school bands and choirs and many other fun filled activities. This annual event is our largest fundraiser for the Wisburn Education Foundation. We raised over \$50,000 last year and we look forward to surpassing that number this year!!! If you have items/services to donate for the silent auction, please contact Willis Chang at wchang34@hotmail.com.

As the Wisburn Education Foundation continues to grow, we are always in need of volunteers. There are many opportunities to lend a hand – from maintaining our website, volunteering at Rock Around the Block Family Fun Day, or donating auction items or services to our foundation. You can contact us or visit our website for more information.

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Homeowners

- We are in a Strong Seller's Market with higher prices and multiple offers on homes priced correctly. I have a proven track record in getting top \$\$ for homes in the Wisburn School District.
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Dr. Matthew Wunder
Chief Executive Officer

Connecting the Education to Employment Pipeline

We wish to share a number of updates and new initiatives focused on ensuring Da Vinci students graduate college-ready, career-prepared, and community-minded.

On a national level, getting our children to and through college and into a high-wage career is a daunting challenge:

- 23% of U.S. children are living in poverty (Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation)
- There are 5 million unfilled jobs across the country because applicants don't have the skills employers need (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- 30 million Americans are looking for work (Source: Gallup)
- Only 11% of low-income students graduate college (Source: The Brookings Institution)
- 41% of recent U.S. college graduates are underemployed or unemployed (Source: Accenture)
- \$35,200 per graduate in college-related debt (Source: CNN Money)
- \$1.2 trillion in total national student loan debt (Source: Experian)
- 65% of children entering primary school today will ultimately end up working in completely new job types that don't yet exist (The Future of Jobs--World Economic Forum)

Our nation is at a critical juncture. How is it possible that all across the country there is a shortage of jobs and a shortage of job seekers with the right set of skills employers need for entry-level positions? How can we successfully move our young people from education to employment?

Da Vinci Schools are dedicated to preparing students for college completion and 21st century jobs through real-world, project-based learning that is aligned to workforce needs. As such, we are constantly seeking to understand and convey to our students the skills, knowledge and dispositions deemed critical for 21st century success. Our industry and higher education partners play a vital role by helping us to define the knowledge and skill sets needed to prepare students to be successful in college and careers they're passionate about. Whether our students are interacting with industry professionals in the classroom, gaining on-the-job work experience at employer workplaces, learning in the real world through community service, or obtaining career advice through mentoring relationships, Da Vinci students are developing the academic, workplace, and personal skills needed for success.

Career Pathways

Traditionally, U.S. schools have funneled students into one of two tracks: an academic track for college-bound students or a vocational track for working-class kids. At Da Vinci, every student follows a dual-track approach that combines a "learn by doing" curriculum with college preparatory academics and real-world readiness. Not every student will enroll in and complete college – that is a student and family decision. Yet it is our responsibility at Da Vinci to ensure students have this option. At Da Vinci, we have a student to counselor ratio of approximately 175:1 at our high schools, dramatically lower than the 1,016:1 student to counselor ratio average in California. Da Vinci students can't take the wrong classes or fail to meet the minimum entrance requirements for the University of California or Cal State systems, practices that are not uncommon at schools across California.

Da Vinci high school students take all of the college prep core classes that can be found at neighboring high schools, including math, English, science, history, foreign language, and more. In addition, Da Vinci students take career-oriented "pathway" classes as part of the core curriculum to expose students to real-world professional skills and industry-related knowledge that are not taught in the Common Core State Standards.

Career pathway classes provide students with opportunities to gain technical training in high-need, high-skill occupations. At Da Vinci Communications, students may choose between computer programming and media communications pathways. At Da Vinci Design, students may pursue architecture or graphic design pathways. At Da Vinci Science, students may choose from an engineering or a biomedical pathway featuring Project Lead The Way curriculum. Many of Da Vinci's career pathway classes are dual

enrollment classes that provide both college and high school credit through El Camino College, UCLA Extension, or Antioch University Los Angeles.

In addition, each high school offers an array of seminar (elective) courses that provide more career-based learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom. For example, Da Vinci Design currently offers WoodShop Design, Sustainable Design, Life Drawing, and Ceramics. At Da Vinci Communications, students can take Cyber Patriot, Film & Documentary, and computer programming. Da Vinci Science offers seminars in Robotics, Flight School, Game Theory, and more.

Additionally, Da Vinci offers many other seminar options, including work experience, yearbook, drama, dance, youth and government, yoga, photography, rock band, music production, SAT prep, basketball, volleyball, CrossFit, and much more.

Da Vinci also has a performing group, the Da Vinci Jazz Ensemble, that meets twice weekly in the mornings before school. Students from all three high schools come together for weekly rehearsals. The Jazz Ensemble is led by Toby Harwell, who splits his time between Wiseburn and Da Vinci.

Da Vinci Innovation Academy Update

We are extremely proud to share that Da Vinci Innovation Academy (DVIA) has been recognized as among the best in the nation for the third consecutive year by Tom Vander Ark, one of the nation's leading educational voices. DVIA was recognized along with 64 other elementary and middle schools for creating powerful learning experiences for children.



Darlene Wonggaew's class at Da Vinci Innovation Academy received a delivery of fun and engaging supplies from Chevron's Fuel Your School program.

On February 10, DVIA held its third Parent Educator Conference of the school year to support parents who serve as co-educators in the home school-hybrid model. The full-day conference focused exclusively on math. Carolee Koehn Hurtado, Ph.D., Director of Mathematics Programs, Director of UCLA Parent Project, delivered the morning keynote address. Workshop topics included Common Core and Cognitively Guided Instruction, Mathematical Fluency, Making Mistakes is Good for Your Brain, Strategies for Developing Mental Math Fluency, Memorizing Math Facts Gets in the Way, and more.

The final Parent Educator Conference of the school year will be held in April and will be dedicated to social emotional support.

Chevron's Fuel Your School Program

Lily Craig, Chevron's External Affairs Manager, recently presented Darlene Wonggaew's classroom (Core 3) with a delivery of fun and engaging materials from Chevron's Fuel Your School program in partnership with DonorsChoose.org. The supplies were focused on physics, including textbooks and other reading materials, magnetic kits, snap circuits, and roller coaster and ferris wheel building sets. Ms. Craig was joined by a number of invited guests, including Dr. Don Brann, founder and Vice President of the Da Vinci Schools Board of Trustees and Jennifer Morgan, Board Trustee.

Cal Poly-Da Vinci-Northrop Grumman Partnership

With the establishment of a multi-faceted scholarship and support program this year, Northrop Grumman has boosted the connections between Da Vinci Schools and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to create an integrated pathway for the development of future engineering leaders.

Juan de Anza *Elementary (K-5)*

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Sarah Nitsos
Principal

Working Together

We at Anza see the value of making connections far and wide to ensure that our school is a fixture in the community. Together we can provide an environment of collaboration. From partnerships with local businesses, to joining with local agencies like the AYSO and Girl Scouts, we are always seeking new ways to form symbiotic relationships with those around us and create a strong community for our children to grow up in.

October 24th marked a special day for Anza and the Wiseburn Unified School District. That warm and sunny Saturday saw a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the brand new Anza turf field. Through the foresight of our Wiseburn Unified School Board of Trustees, the existing field was replaced with new artificial turf. The previous field was riddled with potholes, and due to the primarily clay soil, it was prone to large areas of swamp-like conditions. Each new storm necessitated a field closure, sometimes for a month or more. For these reasons, and with the current California drought in mind, a decision was made to replace it all.



Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for Anza's new turf field.

With the opening of our new field, we have sought to build bridges and make connections with each of our community partners. We have also continued to work with the AYSO to ensure that our community based soccer has a safe and operational place to practice. We have also made connections with Da Vinci High School, and now serve as their home field for both boys and girls soccer. Our community has been welcomed to their practices and games. The YMCA also works hand-in-hand with the teachers to provide a high-quality physical education program that meets California standards and allows our children to see how physical activity can be fun.

The Anza gardens also continue to be an area of instruction and beauty. Their fabulous condition is in no small part due to the love and dedication of our own resource specialist, Mrs. Joy Yamane.

In December of 2014, I was approached by three amazing Girl Scout cadets from Troop 4345 about using the Anza garden as their Silver Award Project. Their goal was to create a beautiful working garden that would both be nice to look at and a quiet place of learning for our students.

Elizabeth Okamura, Elizabeth Ozawa, and Erin Yamane are from North Torrance Girl Scout Troop 4345, and they are led by Troop Advisor Linda Hori. However, all of the orchestrating for this project was thanks to Mrs. Yamane. The Anza garden was in need of a major overhaul, and to that end the girls needed to both engage in hard labor and build their own connections with various community partners. The girls helped Anza forge new connections with the South Coast Botanic Garden, Elwood Nursery, and local stores.



Elizabeth mixing the soil



Erin sifting rocks from the existing soil

Each girl put in well over 50 hours during weekends, holidays, and throughout the summer. Various tasks included weeding six garden beds, removing large rocks, sifting rocks from the soil, mixing in new soil with existing soil, making classroom markers out of bricks, making garden activity sheets, creating a binder of activity sheets that teachers could use with their K-2 students, designing a plan for planting the succulents and drought-resistant plants, planting the succulents and drought-resistant plants, and preparing the soil for the beds that would be set aside for classroom use.

Their hard work and dedication has resulted in a garden that was ready for planting at the start of the school year. With parent docents, our students have also been receiving garden instruction, and are now doing home planting of their own through the "Growing Great" program. Growing Great, a Manhattan Beach organization, has continued to partner with Anza to bring us health, nutrition, and more gardening-based education.



Girl Scouts with the garden

All kindergarten through second-grade students are learning about gardening and how they can grow nutritious food. The third- through fifth-grade students are learning about nutrition, and they are also expanding their horizons by sampling nutritious snacks prepared by parent docents. Our garden is truly a functional learning tool and a visually appealing centerpiece to our school.

By reaching out and making connections, we are showing our children how a community can work together for the benefit of everyone.



Anza garden

Just a few of the many
restaurants & businesses to discover in
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O-Shun
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Laura Sullivan
Principal

Making Connections

As spring rapidly approaches, it's time to reflect on the 2015-2016 school year. Burnett students have experienced new programs and activities. A Positive Behavior Intervention System was added to each elementary school in the Wiseburn Unified School District. Our overall success includes adding an elementary school counselor, Ms. Elisa Lopez, who has been instrumental in setting up a friendship square for students to meet and greet new friends. Burnett students have also experienced new curriculum, which along with school-wide activities, and the connections our students have made, are all making a huge difference.



Burnett students enjoying Family GATE Night

Our school board and the Wiseburn Education Foundation provided Chromebooks for each student in grades three through eight. A one-to-one device allows students to make connections in classrooms with extra-curricular activities, and to support classroom teachers with instruction and SBAC testing. Mrs. Tupper, Burnett's technology mentor, has created projects for teachers and students to use to expand their knowledge with Chromebooks. Students are also creating innovative projects with the support of Mrs. Tupper.



Victoria Hernandez prepares for animation during Family GATE Night



Celeste Rivas and her parents creating rockets during Family GATE Night

Twenty fifth-grade students and their Project Lead the Way (PLTW) teacher (Ms. Graves) recently traveled to Riverside, California to present a segment from their robotics unit. Ms. Graves actively engages her students in PLTW strategies. She encouraged them to meet with Mr. DeSeriore, a Dana Middle School PLTW teacher. Working in Mr. DeSeriore's class enabled her students to better appreciate and understand PLTW.



Preparing for the Project Lead the Way Conference

The purpose of the PLTW program is to incorporate classroom materials and lessons that actively engage students in tasks and experiences to deepen and connect with their content knowledge. Project Lead the Way has allowed

Ms. Graves to promote and strengthen leadership skills in her students.

The value of our Burnett community provides many activities for Burnett students. With the support of our PTA and classroom teachers, along with STAR education, our students are exposed to the GATE Program, Read to a Child, Growing Great, Hands-on-Art, Father/Daughter Sock Hop, and our annual Talent Show. Students are making connections and realizing that every program that they participate in not only provides knowledge, it also increases their self-esteem, and promotes oral language skills and writing strategies. We continue to make connections within our school and school community.



Mr. Eric Breneman and daughter, Summer, sporting nifty attire at Burnett's Sock Hop

Juan Cabrillo *Elementary (K-2)*

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



Margaret Lynch
Principal

Making Connections

Cabrillo School is fortunate to have family connections and professional connections that enrich the learning experience of our students. In this issue, we share our connection with the national program of WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), the connection to teaching artist Tiffany Graham in creating a kindergarten mural, and our relationship with Enrich L.A. to bring weekly gardening lessons to our campus. In addition, our Cabrillo families were able to connect with St. Margaret's Center to support the good work they do in serving families in our community and surrounding communities.

WATCH D.O.G.S.



WATCH D.O.G.S. Mr. Kempainen and his first grade daughter Kahlo have lunch together.

day, they assist with student arrival, are a presence in their own children's classrooms, supervise at recess, eat lunch with students, and are actively engaged with not only their own children but other children as well. On the day of their participation, WATCH D.O.G.S. are given a review of their schedule and involvement and wear an official WATCH D.O.G.S. T-shirt and dog-tag name badge to identify themselves. Our food-service provider, Chartwells, is generously supporting WATCH D.O.G.S. volunteers by donating a lunch ticket that the father figure redeems when he gets his lunch in the cafeteria with his child. To sign up to be a WATCH D.O.G., go to our Volunteer Spot link: <http://vols.pt/XRivtW>.

Garden Program

Our connection with Enrich L.A. that began two years ago with their construction of our garden boxes continues with their Garden Ranger Program that provides weekly lessons in the garden. This winter, Enrich L.A. connected us to the County of Los Angeles Smart Gardening Program, which provided a worm-bin demonstration, to the delight of children. The environmental engineers also offered training in composting so that we can introduce and add that element to our garden.



Our Enrich L.A. garden ranger, Hope, with students for the worm demonstration.



PTA president, Laura Heredia and PTA vice president, George Gonzalez deliver boxes of food donated by Cabrillo families to St. Margaret's Center.

living in Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lennox. The center receives strong donations during the holidays but was in need of support during the other 10 months of the year. A Girl Scout working toward her gold award to fill in the need for the remaining 10 months coordinated with Cabrillo PTA to provide food-pantry items for the month of January. Thanks to donations from our Cabrillo families, our Cabrillo PTA was able to deliver 15 boxes of food to St. Margaret's Center. Their services include a food pantry, utility assistance, immigration processing, adult English classes, citizenship and computer literacy classes, food-stamp and health-insurance application counseling, and periodic medical services.

St. Margaret's Center

Cabrillo is on the receiving end of so many of our connections that when we had the opportunity to support St. Margaret's Center, we embraced it. St. Margaret's Center provides emergency assistance for over 1,200 individuals



Students Ezekiel Cuello, Matthew Yang, Leah Toji, Arianna Toji, and Lamar Goshpa pause after painting the mural with Ms. Tiffany Graham.

kindergarten classes to create images of a "kinder garden." She compiled those images on a poster board and then took a photo of it and projected the image onto a four-by-eight-foot piece of plywood. Students and their families came on Saturdays to paint the mural and gathered for the unveiling before our Kindergarten Family Art Night in January. We are grateful for the connections we have with Tiffany Graham that create lasting celebrations of our children as artists!

Kindergarten Mural

Our teaching artist, Tiffany Graham, who guided students in the creation of our first-and-second-grade mural, extended her connection to our kindergarteners with a mural titled *Our Kinder Garden*. Ms. Graham worked with all the TEDDE and



"Our Kinder Garden" mural unveiled in the Kindergarten yard.

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

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



Aileen Harbeck
Co-Principal



Dr. Blake Silvers
Co-Principal

Fostering Positive Relationships

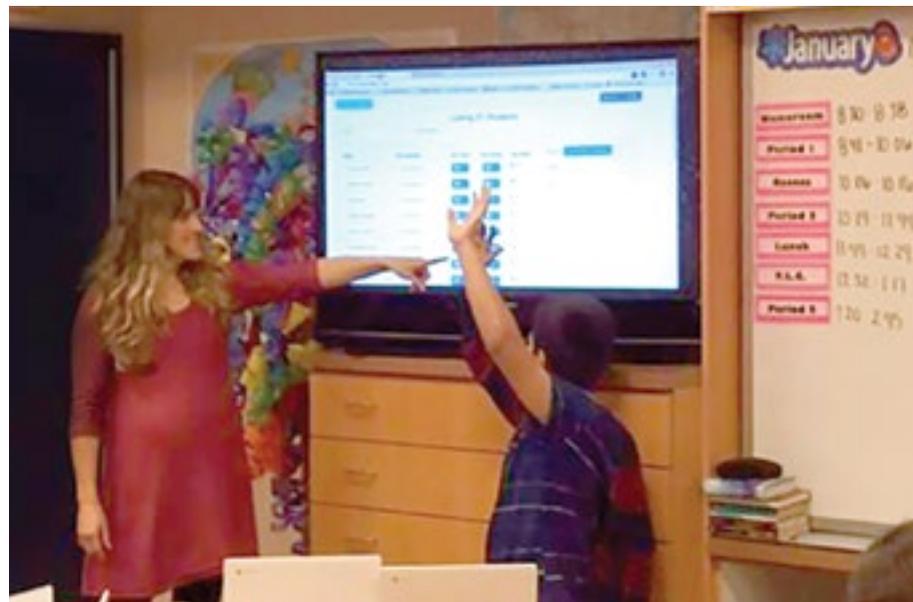
At the heart of the Dana Middle School, community is a firm belief in fostering positive relationships. The ringing in of the new year marks the near halfway point of our school year and a chance for us to look back at our progress as we strive to make Dana Middle School a place for caring hearts and minds.



WEB Leaders Rayna Irving and Cindy Chavez lead activities with their 6th grade team.

A feeling of connectedness resonates loudly in our buildings, with students in large numbers participating in outreach programs, including the toy collection drive for St. Margaret's Center during the holiday season and Pennies for Patients in the months following winter break. In this respect, students find ways to connect with staff members, with each other, and with the whole community. These programs provide students with an opportunity to see the greater good and to understand the value of service.

The new year also brings continued implementation of our Community Of Respect and Empathy program (CORE). Students seek ways to positively impact the school community through solid decision-making and by exhibiting the traits of Preparedness, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy (PRIDE). These CORE expectations are taught, utilized, and facilitated by all of our students and staff members through a Web-based, student-merit program that tracks students' positive behavior. The application helps drive monthly recognition assemblies, weekly student raffles, and student reflection and goal setting. Student leaders have emerged from our Associated Student Body (ASB) and our new sixth-grade transition program, Where Everybody Belongs© (WEB). These students have served as ambassadors for the school, both in welcoming and mentoring the sixth-grade class and in serving as role models for our behavior support program, student spirit days, and other forms of service to the community.



Mrs. Ruvalcaba points out students' positive behavior in the classroom via the student merit system.



Ms. Brede and Mrs. Huff celebrate students who have made positive connections and modeled good behavior at a monthly ceremony.

The connections at Dana are constantly evolving. Students consistently demonstrate a willingness to reach out and beyond their groups of friends and to impact the greater Dana community and the larger society as a whole. The wonderful Dana staff has fostered this commitment by modeling what it takes to be valuable members of a community of caring and connected individuals. Responding to students' positive behaviors, staff members are challenging students to get caught being good, to get caught being of service, and to get caught exemplifying the mission of Dana's CORE program.

With all this support, Dana students are making connections with each other and, more importantly, are increasing their connectedness to their learning environment at school.

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Anza PTA Time Flies

By Kelly Takeshita, President

Wow! Where has the time gone? One minute it's September, and everything is new and exciting. Then the next moment we're in the middle of the second trimester! The Juan de Anza School PTA has been very busy this year. Thanks to a wonderfully successful membership drive, our fund-raising efforts have seen a tremendous amount of success.

Our recent restaurant night was full of families, fun, and, of course, yummy food! Our annual craft night was another great night of family fun, smiles, community and love. These are just some of many traditions that are alive and well here at Juan de Anza. All of these events are so important to the overall sense of community at our school. The PTA works hard to connect families and teachers in fun and positive ways.

With the support of our growing membership, we are able to provide some online programs that our students enjoy on a regular basis: Raz Kids, Moby Max, and many more. These programs add to the overall educational experience for each of our students. Our parent volunteers work tirelessly to ensure our students have access to as many educational opportunities as possible. From field trips to the California Science Center to new library books on the shelves, we strive to ensure that our students have the very best.

The Anza PTA is looking forward to a busy and exciting spring, with guest speakers and new spring fund-raisers. The halls of Anza are buzzing with excitement and enthusiasm! We wish all of you, a very happy and healthy spring!

Dana PTA Highlights

By Cynthia Jussen, President

Family and friends of the Wiseburn Unified School District, a few highlights from Dana Middle School PTA that we are proud to have been part of!

In October, we had a great time at the annual Spooktacular fall festival and fund-raiser. It was a night of fun and games for all ages, delicious food, music, and of course, the incredible Haunted Maze. Thank you once again to all Dana parents, relatives, friends and teachers who made this possible, and for your generous donations.

Dana school has also enjoyed two family restaurant nights at two local eateries. These times spent connecting are even better knowing that they're supporting the great programs and activities for students. PTA has funded field trips and assemblies, some of which have already taken place and some currently scheduled.

In the fall, PTA was presented with an idea from Eagle Scout and Dana alumnus Andrew Clark to install a new, efficient water-drip system for Dana's Science Patio. The installation is complete, and planting is soon to begin. PTA was happy to support this project with funds to purchase the supplies. Results and photos of the finished planters will be shared.

In December, PTA provided a well-deserved holiday lunch for teachers and staff, and supported M.A.T.H.H. Saturday, which provides workshops for parents to become "masters" in math help by providing breakfast snacks and beverages for attendees. It was a great turnout! Also in December, the three classrooms achieving the highest number of memberships in their grade received a special treat as part of our fall membership drive. The contest may be over, but it is not too late to join!

PTA is always looking for more volunteers. If interested, please e-mail Cynthiajussen@gmail.com. With more parent involvement, PTA can do so much more!

Burnett PTA Connecting Families With School

By Liza Somilleda, President

It's hard to believe that we're already looking to the end-of-the-year activities. The year has passed by in the blink of an eye, and there have been many noteworthy PTA successes along the way. It's appropriate that the theme of this edition of *School News Roll Call* has to do with connections. The National PTA mission is "to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children." With nearly 85 percent of Burnett Elementary School families and nearly every Burnett teacher belonging to PTA, we can truly say that we have a connected network of families, educators, and community members engaged in advocacy for our students.

Everyone knows that PTA raises funds throughout the year in order to pay for enhancements to school programming, including field trips, technology, and classroom necessities. The guideline of PTA is that, for every fund-raising event, PTA sponsors four "giveback" events that have the sole intent of generating fun and connections between students and community. Each of our giveback events at Burnett focuses on bringing families together so lifelong connections can be formed.

In December, Burnett hosted a family craft night, where 150 students and their families created holiday crafts, led by 20 parent volunteers. Our music teacher volunteered her time to lead students in singing, and high school volunteers from Da Vinci Schools, Hawthorne High School, and other neighboring schools ran a bake sale. The night was wonderful for the students—and also for the parents, who got to make new connections with the community and the parents of their children's friends.

December also allowed us to connect with community members in need. Our school nurse helped PTA to identify families in need within our Burnett community, and PTA organized holiday gift baskets for six families. The baskets were filled with donations of food, toys, and personal-care items donated by Burnett students and gift cards provided by PTA to help ensure happy holidays for the children of those families.

This winter, PTA also sponsored Hands on Art and Growing Great programs in every classroom, which gave parents the chance to connect with their children by teaching art and nutrition lessons. Parent volunteers Jenny Childs and Jen Ludwig have dedicated a tremendous number of hours to developing lessons throughout the year that are meaningful, fun to teach, and memorable for both students and parent volunteers.

In January, we held our annual talent show. Over 340 people joined together in the Brann Center to celebrate the brave and entertaining performance of 60 students. The joy and support was infectious, and watching the children cheer for each other and support one another was amazing.

February brought another opportunity for joy and connections: the Father-Daughter Sock Hop! The Brann Center was filled with dads, uncles, and grandpas doing the twist and hand jive with a room full of amazing young ladies. It was a treat to see those proud dads escort these beautiful girls for a special night out and to make memories that will last a lifetime.

Spring will bring many more memory-making PTA events, and we hope that all of our families and interested community members will attend at least one!

Please support our PTA by becoming a member and by giving your time this year. Whether you can give 15 minutes or 50 hours, we are grateful for your help. Our PTA is made up entirely of volunteers...and we always need more!

Cabrillo PTA Staying Busy

By Laura Heredia, President

The past few months have been extremely busy for our Cabrillo Cub families. In November, we had a pancake breakfast at a local restaurant. In December, we hosted our annual Bear Bizarre. There were new vendors there with fun items for the whole family to enjoy, and the children were also able to do their holiday shopping at the Kids Corner.

We also celebrated a successful fall fundraiser with a BMX bike assembly that all of our Cubs were able to enjoy. The children were able to watch professional bikers and learn about bike and scooter safety. The PTA also

collected recipes from Cabrillo families and friends to put together in a cookbook.

In January, we had our Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) breakfast. It was nice to see so many dads, grandpas, and uncles there with their students. We have our candy fundraiser starting soon, and also our Spring Break Read-a-thon. Teacher Appreciation Week is right around the corner too, followed by our Open House and one last Hands-on-Art project.



Ayso Region 21 Hawthorne News

The theme of this edition of School News is “Making Connections”. This theme bodes well in what makes AYSO a premier youth soccer program. If you’re looking for friends, joining a soccer team is a great way to make connections with people. There are several reasons for this. First, you and your team are all working together and playing by the same set of rules. You need to trust each other (will he make the play, will she have my back when I miss) and as you get to know one another you play off each other’s strengths.

AYSO soccer brings out a variety of people, so you’ll instantly share a common point of interest. You don’t need to worry about making [small talk](#) in order to bond, because the play you’re involved in will help you do that. As a result, you’ll have more to talk about after games and practices.

But make no mistake; soccer also helps you get along socially. If you’re someone that struggles with [social grace](#), soccer can help teach you about interacting with other people. You’ll learn to take the spotlight without arrogance when you win like a champ, and handle losses with humility. As you and your teammates play, you’ll understand the benefits of giving other people the chance to shine. All of this is invaluable when it comes to [making lifelong connections](#).

A very high percentage of players registered to participate in AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne also attend schools in the Wiseburn Unified School District. While on the pitch at schools throughout the district to watch matches on weekends throughout the season, it is very encouraging and exciting to engage in conversation with soccer parents about the new high school. Providing a dedicated webpage to provide the latest construction updates keeps parents engaged and looking forward to the next piece of news. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank Dr. Tom Johnstone for foresight in offering this social media communication tool to the community.

The Los Angeles Galaxy failed to advance in the playoffs in their quest for a sixth championship. Nevertheless our home grown Hawthorne player Gyasi Zardes who played in AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne is a starter for the Galaxy and the United States national team. He had a breakout year in 2015 for the national team while contributing three goals and three assists in 19 appearances, tying Claudio Reyna’s record for most appearances by an American in their debut year. After MLS Club Deportivo Chivas USA ceased operations, another professional soccer team has emerged. The Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) is the newest MLS club, serving the greater Los Angeles area. The 2015 FIFA Woman’s World Cup Champions U.S. Woman’s National Team completed their Victory Tour with excellent results. Both men and women national teams are preparing for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games that will take place in Rio de Janeiro. Go USA!!!

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne completed the 2015 fall core program and postseason play. Boys and girls teams from the Under-10 through Under-19 divisions who won their respective titles went on to compete in the next stage of competition. Although all Hawthorne teams played with heart and enthusiasm we had a few teams participating in the Area Upper Division Cup medal rounds. Congratulations to Boys U-16 Coach Perez for capturing 1st Place in the South Bay Area Cup and 4th Place in the Southern California Section One Playoffs, U-16 Coach Nunez for capturing 1st Place in the South Bay Area Cup and 2nd Place in the Southern California Section One Playoffs.

In the Area League Cup, two Hawthorne teams captured 1st Place and will move on to compete Southern California Section One Playoffs in March. Congratulations to Boys U-12 Coach Oliva and Girls U-10 Coach Borth. A footnote on Coach Oliva – he played on many of the teams that I coached and he came back to give back to Region 21. There are several members of our coaching staff that played in the region during their youth.

The Area All-Star Cup was organized under a new format to allow more players to participate in this higher level of play. Regions form All-Star Premier and All-Star Select Teams. All-Star Premier will consist of the All-Star teams from regions that want to compete at the highest All Star level, and the winning team(s) are eligible for Section One berths. All-Star Select will consist of teams formed by a region and are ineligible to move to the Section One Playoffs. As of this writing, all All-Star Premier Teams from Hawthorne are in contention for the Area Cup medal round. CONGRATULATIONS to all the teams.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne hosted the 16th Annual VIP Friendship Festival for mentally and physically challenged players. Over 125 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. We want to thank all the sponsors who provided goods and services to make the event a success.

AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne completed the fall season under the leadership of Regional Commissioner Darryl Letchworth. He did an outstanding job since taking the reins introducing new programs and enhancing existing programs for the benefit of the youth of the community. His third year term came to an end in 2015; however, the Board of Directors overwhelmingly re-elected him for another term. The role of Regional Commissioner is a large responsibility and thankless volunteer job. The next time you see Darryl on the pitch, give a high five and thank him for all he does for the players in the region.

We once again, want to thank the Wiseburn Unified School District for the use of all soccer fields. We are especially excited about the new artificial turf field at Juan de Anza School. Studies have shown that the benefits (safety, water consumption, lower maintenance costs, and increased playability) of an artificial turf fields outweigh the disadvantages. Region 21 Hawthorne has entered into an agreement with the district for exclusive use of this facility. The agreement calls for an annual maintenance fee (\$15K) and an annual replacement costs (\$30K) over the span of 10 years to be held in an escrow account. It is important for the parents of the region to understand that the candy fundraiser plays a pivotal part in meeting these obligations. As other artificial turf fields (Richard Henry Dana Middle School and Wiseburn High School) come online, the region is exploring the opportunities of conducting soccer tournaments to help defray with the cost of the fields.

And speaking of fields, Chevrolet and the Los Angeles Galaxy Foundation worked together to revitalize and transform the neglected tennis courts at Memorial Park into three state-of-art futsal courts. Local children joined Hawthorne native and LA Galaxy superstar Gyasi Zardes and his teammates were on hand for the dedication. Da Vinci students produced an amazing mural next to the futsal courts depicting Zardes as part of the community ceremony.

Please watch out for registration flyers to be sent home to all eligible players who played during the 2015 Fall season and banners advertising our 2016-17 fall sign-up in the months of April, May and June (waiting for district approval of dates). Also check the AYSO Region 21 Hawthorne web site at <http://www.aysoregion21.org> for registration dates and locations.

The success of Region 21 Hawthorne 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. Thank you all for your support. If interested in volunteering or if you have any questions about our program please contact Darryl Letchworth at dletch38@yahoo.com or call (310) 739-3933.

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



Owl Singalong



Kate Karp

Adult Beluga Grads whose younger lives were enriched by Raffi's music will be very happy, particularly if they're parents, teachers or involved in any way with children. The beloved artist and children's advocate emerged from a 12-year hiatus in 2014 with his collection *Love Bug*, and he's following up with another planet- and child-centered theme in *Owl Singalong*.



The album was inspired by Raffi's little grandniece, Lucie, and her owl stuffed toy and also by the chorus of live hooting critters in his backyard. Those birds open the title song, a jaunty little melody inviting us to sing along. Choruses of human children and one or two adults join in on standards such as "The More We Sing Together" and other beloved songs that he's monkeyed—or verb-formed other animal species—with: "The Lion Pokey" and "The Dog on the Bus" are rendered with Raffi's brand of gentle silliness that has always endeared him to children.

Raffi presents his versatile voice in so many different ways, whether it's imitating a gruff lion, crooning like Rudy Vallee on "See the Moon," or entertaining with Pete Seeger's celebrated retelling of the South African folktale "Abiyoyo."

And as always, Raffi will leave gentle lessons for little Belugas and Grads of any age: "Green Dream" is his wish for the future for all his young listeners. And from "I'm Not Small": "I carry the world on my back. When it turns, I'll turn, too."

So simple, so wise, and so very Raffi.

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

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Positive Words – Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Wiseburn in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2016
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| ANGELIC | HEAVENLY | PHENOMENAL |
| DAZZLING | HONORABLE | REASSURING |
| FABULOUS | KIND | SMILE |
| GENUINE | LUCKY | SPARKLING |
| GRACEFUL | MEANINGFUL | TRUTHFUL |
| HAPPY | OPTIMISTIC | UPBEAT |



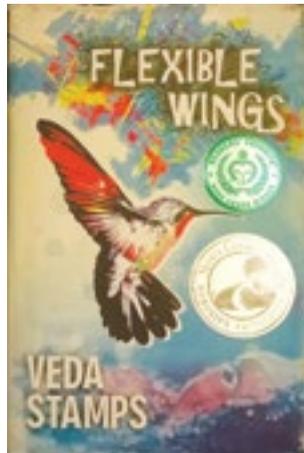
Congratulations to Louvaine Rabas
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

A Page-Turner



Isabella A.

Flexible Wings is Veda Stamps' first full-length novel. The main character, Summer, wants to be on a swim team, but her parents are in the military and move around often. When she's finally on a team, she doubts if she wants to participate. To make matters worse, her mom is deployed! Dad says that Grandma would come while Summer's mom is gone. Soon, Summer makes new friends, but fights with her younger sister, Emiko. To make up she throws a surprise party! But the party becomes a disaster when Emiko is unable to breathe because of a bee sting. Emiko does get better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!



I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!

Isabella is a fourth grader who loves to write based on her experiences fictionalizing them into stories that relate to young readers. Isabella wants to be an author of realistic fiction when she grows up. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Magical!

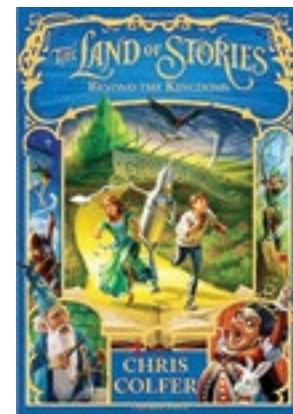


Lucy Davis

The Land of Stories – Beyond the Kingdoms
Author: Chris Colfer

The Masked Man uses a portal potion to jump from story to story to recruit a powerful army of the worst fairytale villains!

Alex has been un-godmothered, so she and Conner are in trouble. No one believes her except Mother Goose. Conner, Alex and Mother Goose along with a few other friends they make along the way, follow the Masked Man through some of literature's most loved fairytales. Meanwhile, Bree discovers a family secret that you just won't believe.



The author delivers another MAGICAL book, while using different fairytales than the first three books of the Land of Stories series. The book jumps back and forth from one setting to another so you must pay attention to what's happening. For those that haven't read the first three, I encourage you to do so before reading this book.

Another five bookworms out of five, it's a brilliant read!

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

MAKING CONNECTIONS! • From Page 1

partners representing all of the arts – drama, visual, instrumental music, choral music and dance. With tremendous community support, Wiseburn schools continued to thrive in the arts during the fiscal crisis and we are building for an even brighter future for the arts in Wiseburn! A culminating activity for this year will be an “Evening on the Green” outdoor concert at Dana Middle School on the evening of Wednesday, June 8th! Mark your calendars.

Wiseburn maintains an excellent relationship with our Los Angeles Air Force Base. Our state legislature recently passed Assembly Bill 306. This legislation makes it much easier for the children of actively deployed military parents to receive permits to attend schools of their choice. The Wiseburn and Da Vinci Boards and Administration feel very strongly that it is our duty to support our military families in every way that we can. The children of an actively deployed military parent are welcome to apply in our schools!

In closing, through our partnership and collaboration with state agencies and the City of El Segundo, our Wiseburn High School Project is moving at a crisp pace and we are on schedule to open our new state of the art 21st Century high school – the Home of the Da Vinci High Schools, in the summer of 2017 (see Superintendent's story)!

Through our very conscious efforts to reach out and make connections, wonderful things are happening at all of our schools! It takes a village!

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SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Tom Johnstone

parking lot and outdoor landscaping. The plans for Phase II were submitted to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) on January 21, 2016. DSA will spend the month of March reviewing the plans and will return them to the District with comments in April. We hope to have stamped plans from DSA in July. We are also on schedule to receive the second installment of the Charter School funds — \$31,500,000 — during the summer. The goal will be to have construction bid documents for Phase II out to bid in August with an ambitious goal to start construction in late fall.

The main building will be ready for the start of the 2017-18 school year in August 2017 and the remainder of construction should be completed during the fall or early winter. We have a live webcam that updates every few minutes if you want to watch the construction from your home computer. Just log on to the Wiseburn web page and scroll down to “Live Stream.” Our beautiful new high school will be ready before you know it!

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