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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

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NOVEMBER 2007 / JANUARY 2008

Game Day at the School



Game Day physical education instruction.

*By Vicki James, Principal
Taft Elementary School*

During the 2006–2007 school year, schools received grant money to enhance physical education instruction. Taft Elementary School staff members and School Site Council decided to purchase GameDay at the School.

This comprehensive program provides for 100 minutes of physical education instruction weekly. There are eight sports taught from kindergarten through sixth grade, which include: football; soccer; basketball; hockey; baseball; track; physical fitness; exercise; and Olympic Games. The same sports are taught each year, but the level of difficulty increases with age.

What is terrific about GameDay at the School? First, everyone participates. Teachers go through the warm-up and cool-down exercises, which are part of each physical education lesson. Also, the types of activities include all students at all times. At the end of the school year, students can compete in games. But during physical education time, no one sits out!

Second, the program includes training and support. The

SEE GAME DAY • PAGE 18

SUPERINTENDENT



Thomas A. Godley, Ed.D.

On August 23, 2007, the Board of Education approved the superintendent's Goals and Objectives for 2007-08. These goals and objectives are aligned with the District's

Strategic Plan. It is important to note that the direction from the participants in the Strategic Plan Workshop and the Board of Education's top four priority areas have been combined. The goals and objectives are as follows:

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 18

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Kimberlee Nichols
President

A Successful Beginning

It has been a successful beginning to what will be a great school year for Orange Unified School District (OUSD) students, staff, and families. With our single-track students beginning in July and our traditional track students beginning in August, we are officially off and running!

I can't think of a more exciting way to start the new school year

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 19



Brendan Adams
Student Advisory Representative
Canyon H. S.

Never Less Than the Best

As a newly recognized California Distinguished School, Canyon High School and its staff and students are anxious to carry on the tradition of never settling for less

than the best. Nobody is more dedicated to this ideal than our new principal, Dr. Bowden, who has earned the trust of both the staff and students.

SEE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER PAGE 19



David Smith, Eagle Scout troop #241.
See page 16 for story.

Schools alphabetically pages 4–16

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Kay Coop

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With the terrible fire storms Southern California has experienced, our thoughts are with the many people who have been displaced or lost loved ones. This time of year as we take time to celebrate Thanksgiving we have much to be thankful for and hope everyone will help those less fortunate.

It is our two year anniversary publishing the excellence from the Orange Unified School District. Thank you for your continued positive responses to *School News* and please continue to let our advertisers know you saw their ad in *School News*.

Our next issue will be distributed February 20, 2008.

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Supporting Educational Attainment for Every Child



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

A quality education is the most precious gift a child can receive. The higher the educational level an individual achieves, the greater opportunity he or she will have to succeed in life. From preschool to college, parent involvement and teacher excellence make a remarkable difference. The Latino Educational Attainment (LEA) Initiative encourages and supports parental involvement, improves parent knowledge of the educational system, and unites parents, communities, schools, and educators as one team.

The LEA Initiative works directly with parents in neighborhoods and schools across Orange County to help them navigate the school system, become more involved with their children's education, and support them as they reach the highest possible level of academic achievement. LEA provides hands-on tips for parental participation and encourages parents to form neighborhood coalitions. Each coalition has the goal to spark daily conversations in its community about the importance of education, and to share resources that help children succeed.

Parents, you are powerful advocates for your children. By learning how to navigate the school system, you are empowered to pave the way for your child's access to unlimited and rich opportunities. The 10 Education Commandments for Parents can help you do all of this.

The 10 Education Commandments for Parents

- Commit as a family to be involved in school
- Do my part in helping my child study
- Understand how grades work
- Learn how schools are ordered
- Learn what my child needs to graduate
- Help my child prepare for college early
- Realize college is affordable
- Support the study of mathematics, science, and English
- Encourage my child to take honors and advanced courses
- Teach my child to visualize his or her future

Thousands of parents have attended trainings about LEA Initiative goals with the hope of reducing educational gaps and improving academic success for all children. It's exciting to think about what the future holds for our students as parents and community partners become more involved in promoting world class education, where every student succeeds.

More Information

If you are interested in attending training or getting involved as a facilitator, please contact Juan Carlos Araque, Orange County United Way, at (949) 660-7600.

To find out what specific ways you can get involved in your child's education, visit www.ocbc.org/latino.html to download a copy of the Latino Educational Attainment Facilitator's Guide (available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean).

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Three for Me

Time is any parent's most precious commodity. Where do we find the time to get to our jobs, the chores, our children's homework, all of the after-school activities? Yet, more than 30 years of research has shown us that parent involvement is absolutely crucial to a student's success. Can you make a promise to commit three hours to your student's success?

With that in mind, in 2003, PTA members Dee Keywood and Kris Thompson co-founded Three for Me. Their goal was to create a simple program that would engage all parents in their child's educational experience. Three for Me began with 500 parents signing promise cards at one school in Indiana and has since spread to thousands of schools and communities nationwide, and even internationally. This PTA program works to strengthen the partnership and communication between parents, students and school.

Take the Challenge

What can you do in three hours? Help out in your child's classroom by reading a book, help the teacher with bulletin boards, help at a school assembly or school clean-up day, attend a PTA meeting, help in the school library. Volunteerism knows no bounds for moms, dads and grandparents who are willing to commit an hour at a time, at school or at home.

Will you take the challenge? Will you promise to volunteer three hours of your time for your child at his or her school during this school year? I promise you won't regret it if you do!

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Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

6450 E. Serrano Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807
714/997-6169



Debra Larson
Principal

We're Just Beginning!

This school year has gotten off to such a great start. The second-graders are accomplishing so much, and we are impressed with their eagerness to learn. They are becoming such fluent readers who read with great expression and enthusiasm.

In math, we have reviewed addition and subtraction facts and learned number patterns to 100, and are developing money skills and continuing to fine-tune problem-solving skills.

We continue to use Step Up to Writing to develop their mechanics, content and creativity. The second-graders have written friendly letters and silly stories to go along with our reading anthology stories. We are now focusing on narratives.

In social studies, we have discussed Families Now and Long Ago and The Land around Us. It was exciting to see the time and energy that the children put into creating and presenting their time lines that accompanied this unit. Next quarter, we will be diving into our first science unit, Living Things Grow and Change.

We are so proud of each and every student for their amazing accomplishments thus far. We wish them continued success throughout the school year. Thank you families, for your support and commitment to your children's education.

Cambridge *Elementary School*

425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866
714/997-6103



Anne Schrader
Principal

English-Language Learners

We're having a great year here at Cambridge Elementary School. The English Learners Advisory Council (ELAC) is off to a great start, too. The first meeting, conducted in September, was well-attended. Parents of English-language learners met to learn about important school information and the role and responsibilities of an ELAC. Parents learned about the importance of regular school attendance and how it impacts student achievement. They also learned about a school's annual R-30 Language Census, which is the source of our school's Economic Impact Aid-Limited English Proficient funding.

Parents are in the process of completing a parent questionnaire. The results of that questionnaire will be the basis for our new Single Plan for Student Achievement. Of particular importance, is that parents have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teachers who instruct their children. The federal No Child Left Behind Act grants parents the right to know about the teachers' education and the types of credentials they hold. In addition, if any instructional assistant provides instructional services, parents have the right to know about his or her qualifications as well.

Parents are encouraged to contact us at (707) 997-6103 whenever they have a question about our school and its programs.

California *Elementary School*

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867
714/997-6104



Cyndi Paik
Principal

Save One Student

Our school began to implement the Save One Student (SOS) program this quarter. This is a program used by a successful elementary school, Boones Mill, which calls on each adult on campus to assist students by taking a personal interest in those who are at-risk academically.

These students are identified by their classroom teachers as children who would benefit from regular contact with another friendly, caring adult at school to help support their academic, social and emotional needs.

All of the adults, which include office staff, teachers and the principal, have been paired up with a SOS student at our school. Every adult has been making contact with his or her assigned student on a weekly basis. We are looking forward to assisting every student on our campus.



Canyon Hills

260 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807
714/998-5000



William Gee, Ed.D.
Principal

Community-Based Instruction

Older students at Canyon Hills School receive instruction in the community. For most severely disabled students, there is a direct relationship between long-term success in adult life and the amount of time they spend in community activities. As the students get older, the focus is on a functional curriculum, development of life skills, and planning for their transition into adulthood activities.

To further the students' development, the secondary students attend a daily vocational workshop where they learn to sort, match, assemble items, work together and follow directions, just to name a few activities. Additionally, a few of our students will be out with our workability job coach, working at local businesses. They learn to set up tables in a restaurant and they learn stockroom skills.

Preparing for Adult Life

The district science center is another training site. Most of the activities done at the center resemble the activities in an adult workshop. Students may work in an assembly line, assembling science kits, where they count and package items, sort through materials, and also learn to follow simple to multiple-step directions. Finally, most of our teachers also bring their classes to local businesses for experience with appropriate behavior in stores, restaurants, buses and malls. Many of our older students participate in this type of field trip once per week. All the goals and activities are developed to help our students be as independent as possible and to have successful experiences as they prepare for their adult life.

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Canyon *High School*

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**Greg Bowden,
Ed. D.**
Principal

Dedicated to Excellence

A national news magazine annually ranks the 1,300 top public schools in the nation. Canyon High School has been ranked in the top 5 percent of U.S. high schools since 2003. This year, the school is ranked at number 767. Our outstanding students have distinguished themselves in other ways as well. In 2007, 138 seniors took 388 Advanced Placement (AP) tests, and a total of 465 students took 906 exams. This year, Canyon High School has three National Merit Scholarship semifinalists.

In addition, we have 33 students enrolled in the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The IB Diploma Program is a challenging two-year curriculum for students aged 16 to 19. This program leads to a qualification diploma that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. This year, 12 Canyon High seniors completed the program, and eight of these received the prestigious IB Diploma.

The graduating class of 2007 contained 90 students with an overall grade point average of 4.0 or better, and 97 students with a grade point average from 3.5 to 3.9. Canyon High School's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores have remained significantly higher than the national average in both the verbal and math sections. In addition, 70 percent of our seniors plan on attending college: 37 percent will attend four-year colleges and universities, and 33 percent will attend two-year institutions. We have Comanches on the campuses of many prestigious colleges and universities. We are proud of the achievement of our students! Go Comanches!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861
714/997-6251 www.oranged.k12.ca.us/cv



Aileen Sterling
Principal

A Walk Through the Constitution

For the third consecutive year, Cerro Villa Middle School Honors history students were guest presenters at the September 17 Walk Through the Constitution and Pledge Across America event at Kelly Stadium. Paula Burton, Villa Park founder of a patriotic children's vocal and performing group, Celebration USA, coordinated the event. Approximately 180 eighth-grade honors students, under the direction of history teachers Mrs. Lisa Buchness and Ms. Lisa Hedspeth, learned the essence of the U.S. Constitution in only two class periods. Then students were divided into groups to present information about the Preamble, the Seven Articles and the Bill of Rights using a variety of media. With only four class periods to make history come alive, students created unique four-minute original skits and songs and planned pictorial backgrounds and costumes. The teachers, students and parents dedicated several hours of weekend time at school to paint the colorful backdrops on recycled cardboard voting booths.

Approximately 1,000 elementary students visited Walk Through the Constitution to learn from CV students. All visitors and presenters joined in the nationally synchronized Pledge of Allegiance at 11 a.m., signed their support of our Constitution, and enjoyed musical selections from Celebration, USA.



Canyon Rim *Elementary School*

1090 S. The Highlands, Anaheim, Ca 92808
714/532-7027 www.oranged.k12.ca.us/cr



Randi Leach
Principal

By Jay Goldfischer, Administrative Intern Kindergarten Kicks Off With a Splash

Canyon Rim welcomed our incoming class of kindergarteners and their families with the annual Kindergarten Summer Splash early in August. Students and parents circulated between four activities, each supervised by teachers and parent volunteers. The squirt bottles, bubbles, sponge balls, water balloons, relay races, music, and snacks provided non-stop smiles and a constant roar of laughter from all on a beautiful, warm, sunny day.

This enjoyable day is dedicated to creating a fun environment for all students to get to know each other and to form a community between our three kindergarten classes. This event also provides parents with the opportunity to meet each other and to form new friendships with other families.

In addition to keeping cool and having a blast, students learn many things throughout the educational experience. They gain socialization skills, learn how to be good citizens, and learn about teamwork, diversity, respect and friendship.

We welcome our new Canyon Rim families to the Canyon Rim team, and we look forward to working together as our families grow for years to come.



Socialization skills and teamwork are emphasized at Kindergarten's Summer Splash.

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Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869
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Karen Merkow
Principal

Eager Students

Chapman Hills had an exciting school beginning, with our students eager to return and begin learning. We are proud of our success on the state Academic Performance Index (API). Our score was 906, which is well over the state expectation of 800. The work all begins in kindergarten, and we work as a team over the years to support the highest achievement for all our students.

By Jeanette Lawson
Teacher – Kindergarten

A Magical Year

Kindergarten is a magical year. Everything is fascinating to the enthusiastic, innocent children who come bounding through the door on the first day of school. As kindergarten teachers, it's our job to assess what the students know and challenge each child to go one step further. By June, the children have the skills to read and write simple words and sentences, retell stories, count and write numbers to 30, and express themselves through art, in addition to doing many other things.

Along with all of the academic skills

the students acquire during this formative year, we strive to give our kindergartners tools they will use in their interactions with others. We stress good manners, kindness, sharing, compassion, teamwork and tolerance. Learning to be part of a community, combined with a strong academic program, helps prepare our kindergartners not just for first grade, but also for a happy, healthy life.



Crescent *Intermediate*

5001 E. Gerda Drive, Anaheim, CA 92807
714/997-6371 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ci



Sheila Thompson
Principal

Cheers for Constitution Day

Crescent Elementary School gathered together for the first time as a K-6 school to celebrate the Constitution. The assembly began with a welcoming from Assistant Principal Chris Eslick and the presentation of the colors by Boy Scout Troop 259, with flag carriers Jay Johnson and Grant Weber.

After the flags were in place, Student Council President Kelli Bump led more than 700 students in a respectful acknowledgment and reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. Students followed by singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Sheila Thompson, the principal, briefly talked about the Constitution and highlighted the Bill of Rights by reading the Preamble to all. Having the purpose of the gathering well-established, the assembly moved into some fun and participation by all grades. In a cheer-type fashion—and with the assistance of our student council officers, Tyler Garant, Christian Chae, and Nima Ostowari—each grade level had a different response to give when prompted by the phrase, "We have a right to..." Kindergartners responded by yelling, "Speak freely!" First-grade students exuberantly sang out, "Be treated equally!" Second grade chimed in, "Have dignity!" Third-graders, not to be outdone, loudly responded, "Choose our religion!" Fourth grade, picking up the pace, screamed, "Protect our families!" Fifth-graders, taking it up a notch, hollered, "Gather in groups!" and sixth-grade

Elementary School

5125 E. Gerda Drive, Anaheim, CA 92807
714/997-6105 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ci

students topped them all with, "Have privacy!" Then everyone in a united voice resounded, "Be free!"

By this time, students were ready for the finale, a patriotic "wave." With arms flying up and signaling to the next grade level to do the same, each grade moved the wave around the circle of students cheering, "USA!" with each revolution. Leading the way, the sixth-graders began to stand each time the wave passed, and all others followed the example.

To end the assembly, Mrs. Hooper, the upper-grade librarian, reminded them to be proud Americans and cherish their rights and freedoms.



Student Council officers lead students in U.S.A. cheer.

El Rancho Charter

Middle School

181 S. Del Giorgio Road, Anaheim, CA 92808
714/997-6238 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/rancho



John Besta
Principal

We Sing America

Integrating and showcasing the talents of our arts students, "American Celebration" was presented to sell-out crowds in September. Posters by Michael Gorski's art students decorated the walls of the cafeteria. The Concert Band, directed by Sandy Streeter, performed a preshow as the audience scurried to their seats. Led by Academic Student Body (ASB) President Priscilla Rocha, the audi-

ence sang "The Star Spangled Banner," accompanied by the Concert Band.

Musical Theatre students, directed by Leah Pitzak, dressed in bright, sparkly costumes and performed selections from contemporary Broadway musicals. The Concert Band gave beautiful renditions of "America the Beautiful" and "The Armed Forces on Parade."



Teacher Josh Evans on guitar sang "American Pie," and teacher Donna Thompson gave a stirring speech about America. The second half of the show focused on patriotic selections honoring our freedoms, soldiers and country.

The many hours of preparation and hard work were acknowledged by generous applause and standing ovations from enthusiastic audiences. Supportive responses to this musical evening encourage our students to continue striving for excellence in arts education.

El Modena

High School

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869
714/997-6331 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/emhs



John Briquelet
Principal

Focus on Collaboration

El Modena High School is off to a great start, thanks to our outstanding teachers, support staff and students. Since the end of last school year, we have recruited eight highly qualified new teachers. Jonathan Pongco has joined us in social studies; David Lee, Kim Merlihan and Brigitte Othmer in mathematics; Roselle Duran and Holly Marley in science; Rick Thompson in automotive technology; and Granger Abuhoff in English and aquatics. We have also welcomed new assistant principal, Dr. Ken Miller, and school psychologist, Kristine Nelson. All these new Vanguarders are already contributing to what makes El Modena one of the best-kept secrets in Orange County!

PLCs

Our central foci this year are the development of professional learning communities (PLCs), the use of relevant data to drive instructional efforts and the further personalization of instruction. Our teachers and counselors have jumped at the chance to collaborate, and they are already hard at work setting goals, creating action plans and preparing formative assessments that will be administered during the first and third quarters. The El Modena faculty's ongoing commitment to students, dedication to excellence and willingness to push the educational envelope are now being coupled with opportunities to work together. I have no doubt that their efforts will produce tremendous benefits for all our Vanguarders.

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Esplanade *Elementary School*

381 N. Esplanade St., Orange, CA 92869
714/997-6157



Katie Anderson
Principal

Extron, Elmo and LCD

Along with the newly modernized classroom interiors, doors, windows and floors, each newly modernized classroom at Esplanade Elementary School has been equipped with the infrastructure for using the latest in educational technology.

Each classroom will have an LCD projection system along with an Elmo, a camera device that is connected to the teacher's computer and the LCD projector. The Elmo is like the old overhead system in that an image is projected on a screen, but, unlike an overhead, the Elmo captures an image with a camera and projects it on the screen. The video image is three-dimensional and in color and can be more interactive. For instance, a book page can be placed under the Elmo; the image can be made larger by zooming in, and it is projected onto the six-by-five-foot screen.

Eventually, the city cable television system will be accessible through the teacher's computer and then projected onto the huge screen. It will be an Esplanade version of the big screen. Sorry, no football games, just instructional topics. The built-in Extron controls integrate all the technology.

Boosting the capacity for the Esplanade sixth-grade students to use technology as they learn, Esplanade is participating in the Enhancing Education Through Technology Cool Grant. Twenty-four wireless laptop computers are being used by Kristen Aihara's and Keith Snider's classes. The technology is being used to enhance writing skills, and using the advanced applications will help them to become familiar with the technology they will use for the rest of their lives.

Fletcher *Elementary School*

515 W. Fletcher Ave., Orange, CA 92865
714/997-6181



Christina Varela
Principal

*By Ellen Lee, 1st-Grade Teacher and
Lori Sheppard, Kindergarten Teacher*

Pride Island

In September, Fletcher students "set sail" to PRIDE Island in an effort to learn our five schoolwide character-development traits: Positive attitude, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy. On this day, all students were given treasure maps. They traveled to a variety of locations on campus in search of positive behaviors. Our entire staff dressed up and guided students on their adventure to different stations where teachers demonstrated how to make good choices through the use of games, puppets, modeling and role-playing. After a fun morning of treasure hunting, our PTA provided snacks and water for all students to enjoy. Mrs. Barklow, a first-grade teacher, cheerfully reported, "Students are now more aware of the behavior expectations at school and are showing their efforts by making good choices!"

Thanks to the efforts of our parents, staff, and students, we know that our Fletcher Falcons will continue to sail through calm waters with Fletcher PRIDE!



Fairhaven *Elementary School*

1415 E. Fairhaven Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705
714/997-6178



Elena Loetz-Stoces
Principal

By Elena Stoces and Christina Bletterman Falcons "SOAR"

The school year began on a very positive note! We kicked off our school year with our implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention Schoolwide (PBIS) by bringing to life our new motto, Fairhaven Falcons, Success Oriented and Respectful (SOAR). On the second day of school, every student visited stations where all teaching staff played a crucial role in explaining, role-playing and quizzing the students about behavior expectations in various areas of our school.

Our expectations for behaviors centered around three main ideas: respect for ourselves, respect for others, and respect for our environment.

Our teachers demonstrated appropriate as well as inappropriate behaviors on the bus, at the lunch tables, in the classroom, playground and restrooms to accentuate what positive behavior looks like in each area. What a day we had! Teachers acting as misbehaving students engaged the audience and clearly communicated the difference between positive and negative behavior. The teachers really went above and beyond in every presentation. As a staff, behavior expectations were clearly communicated using humor to engage the students. We definitely have a school of actors and actresses that may have missed their calling!



First-grade teaching team, Mr. Mayfield, Mrs. Simon, Ms. Doyle and Ms. Sire showing what students should not be doing on the bus.

Handy *Elementary School*

860 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867
714/997-6183



Sandy Schaffer
Principal

Learning Today Makes a Brighter Tomorrow

The school year is off to a great start! We were thrilled to hear that our Academic Performance Index score increased from 637 to 671. That's a 34-point gain. One of the reasons for this growth is the increase in parent involvement at Handy Elementary School. This month, we would like to showcase our Books and Breakfast program, which began last year.

Once per quarter, all family members are invited to school to participate in a school-wide reading incentive. Created by fourth-grade teacher Scott Praska, this program is even more successful this year. For 30 minutes in the morning, parents fill the rooms and share books with the students. Some classes invite parents to sit with their children and read individually or in small groups. In other classes, a student or the teacher reads to the group. Either way, everyone has a great time. Books and Breakfast wouldn't be the same without all the goodies shared in each room. It's not uncommon to see a mom reading with a group of children sharing muffins and orange juice! The parents and teachers supply the treats, and everyone walks away with a smile.

Our goal is to encourage our community to participate in school on a regular basis. Events like Books and Breakfast welcome our parents and reiterate our commitment to learning and sharing. Our new motto, "Learning Today Makes a Brighter Tomorrow," is what it's all about.

Handy Hornets are the best!

Imperial *Elementary School*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807
714/997-6282 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/imperial



Linda Salata
Principal

Under the Stars

Star light, star bright, they saw many stars that night! On September 7, Imperial Elementary School families enjoyed an evening under the stars. Our campers enjoyed making family wind-socks for their tents, informal games of flashlight tag, playing on the playground at night, and much more. The families brought a variety of desserts to share and were also treated to some incredible live music.

The clear night was perfect for the guest speaker as he amazed the audience with his knowledge of astronomy. The conditions

were just perfect to view Jupiter and its many moons. A good night's sleep was had by all, breakfast was served, and then it was time to go home. Fortunately, each family left with a photo and an abundance of great memories about their campout at Imperial Elementary School!



La Veta *Elementary School*

2800 E. La Veta Ave., Orange, CA 92869
714/977-6155



Sue Dahlquist
Principal

Kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third, Upper-grade students all know the buzzword. It's Respecting Me, Respecting You, It's the best thing La Veta has heard. We will, we will respect you! We will, we will respect you!

By Nancy Bower, Rhiannon Buhr
Deborah Garrison and Amber Miller
R-E-S-P-E-C-T

La Veta is proud to be participating in Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). To kick off this schoolwide program, La Veta staff and over 750 students participated in a pep rally. To enforce positive behavior, the staff eagerly modeled incorrect behavior while the students proudly displayed appropriate behaviors. Dressed in school colors and full of school spirit with pom-poms waving, students and teachers sang and chanted to our schools newly adopted anthem: "We Will, We Will Respect You!" written by sixth-grade teacher Lanette Gutman.



Jordan *Elementary School*

4319 E. Jordan Ave., Orange, CA 92869
714/997-6187



Bertie Anderson
Principal

By Bertie Anderson, Principal
& Lisa Green, Resource Teacher
Scores Continue to Rise

Once again, hardworking students and teachers raised test scores at Jordan Elementary School. Our Academic Performance Index (API) increased 15 points and climbed to an amazing 738. We take pride in saying that, since 1999, Jordan's API has steadily grown every year to a total of 261 points, making Jordan the number one elementary school in API growth. Jordan School met all 17 of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria again on the 2007 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) schoolwide and in all subgroups.

Jordan's students and teachers are already looking ahead to the 2008 STAR testing. Everyone is determined to surpass last year's scores. Jordan is also implementing the district's new sixth-grade English Language Development (ELD) program. The Jordan staff, principal and students continue to work toward the district goal of highest achievement for all students.



Mr. Green's sixth-grade class.



Mrs. Jennings's third-grade class.

Lampson *Elementary School*

13321 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840
714/997-6153 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/lampson



Cheryl Cohen
Principal

Off and Running

Lampson Elementary School hit the ground running this new school year. We began with an enrollment of 739 students and are currently serving 836 students. Our instructional focus is reading comprehension, with vocabulary development as one of our paths for improving student achievement in this critical area.

Lampson Elementary School is known for having a dedicated and hardworking staff, and their reputation remains in tact as they continue to work in grade-level teams to analyze data, identify student needs and plan targeted instructional lessons to meet the needs of every learner. The school's culture revolves around celebrations of individual and group successes.

This year, a commitment has been made to increase our outreach to our parent community. Our goal is to expand the number of opportunities for parents to come onto our campus, participate in training opportunities, attend meetings and be part of our decision-making process and actively support their children's learning at home. Parents and staff working together will provide us with even more opportunities to honor student accomplishments and successes.

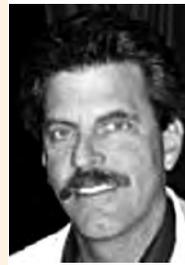


Todd Roth, second grade-teacher with his students.

Health and Fitness

On The Run

Plantar Warts



Dr. Doug Richie

One of the most challenging and perplexing conditions that affects the human foot is the plantar wart. Few conditions have generated as many myths and misconceptions about their cause, disability and treatment.

A wart is actually an infection caused by the papilloma virus, which can invade the skin in any part of the body. When this virus infects the skin on the bottom of the foot, or the plantar surface of the foot, the condition is known as a plantar wart. Many people hear stories about plantar warts that can invade the foot, and then wrap themselves around the bones, leaving the patient permanently disabled.

But these stories are far from the truth. Warts on the bottom of the foot are difficult to treat, but are not any more invasive or dangerous than warts elsewhere on the body. Warts on the bottom of the foot are generally painful, and more difficult to treat, simply because the skin in this area is thicker. The wart virus can penetrate deep into the skin, but it does not invade any other tissues. The virus is contagious and will spread within the foot, or even to other individuals who come into contact with the affected patient.

Modern medicine does not have a universal cure for most viral infections, and that includes plantar warts. When treating warts on the bottom of the foot, care must be taken to avoid pain and the potential for permanent scarring. Fortunately, newer treatments have surfaced which can provide good results without the risk of disability. Plantar warts are most commonly treated by podiatrists and dermatologists.

Dr. Doug Richie is a sports podiatrist who has practiced in Seal Beach for 23 years. He is president-elect of the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine and serves as a medical advisor to U.S.A. Track and Field. 562/493-2451

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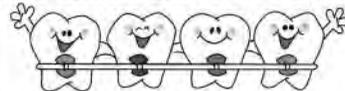
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Linda Vista *Elementary School*

1200 N. Cannon, Orange, CA 92869
714/977-6201



Diane Osborn
Principal

Another Banner Year

The school year started off with a wealth of activities. Our PTA invited new families in for pizza before school began. Kindergarten teachers read stories to our newest little ones while their parents were given a tour of our school. It was a wonderful evening for everyone in attendance. Linda Vista parents are always encouraged to become involved members of our school community.

Back-to-School Night was well attended. Many teachers reported that the majority of their families were in attendance.

A book fair was on the agenda that night, and many books were purchased for home and the classrooms. We certainly appreciate the support our parents continue to give to our school!

On September 28, our fifth-graders were invited to spend the night on school grounds for a Roar-N-Snore evening. This is a fund-raiser for this class of students to help defray the costs of Outdoor Education and other sixth-grade activities they will be enjoying next year.

Test scores have been returned, and we are very proud of the academic growth students have shown at our school. We will continue with the academic focus of increasing reading comprehension and building vocabulary this year. Providing a rich and challenging educational environment for all students is our goal.

We know this year will be a banner one for Linda Vista! Linda Vista will continue to be the "purr-fect" spot for our Linda Vista Leopards to learn!

Nohl Canyon *Elementary School*

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Road, Anaheim, CA 92807
714/997-6203



Chris Parker
Principal

A Successful Start

Nohl Canyon Elementary School's 2007-2008 school year is off to a great start. We have already held a successful book fair and Back-to-School Night.

Constitution Day was celebrated by our fifth-grade students attending an event held at Fred Kelley Stadium. Cerro Villa Middle School students presented skits based on the Constitution.

Our parent volunteers are actively working hard for Nohl Canyon students. Our After-School Enrichment program is organized by volunteers. This semester the programs offered are in the areas of technology, science, music and chess.

One of Nohl Canyon's active parent volunteers, Mrs. Pat Ibanez, was selected as Volunteer of the Year for the city of Anaheim. She was part of the July 4th celebration in Anaheim.



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McPherson Magnet

333 S. Prospect, Orange, CA 92869
714/977-6384 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/mcpherson



By Denise McGraw EarthLab Project Day

McPherson Magnet School families and staff participated in EarthLab Clean-Up on August 4. Volunteers performed tasks from general clean-up to weeding, raking, dismantling deteriorated bins, repairing planters, painting planters, and creating hand-painted signs. Students and younger siblings were helpful with digging and bug collecting.

Jeanne Bentley
Principal

Thanks to the generosity of PTSA, we now have a hand cart, watering cans, gardening tools, a planting table, a rain gauge, and bird baths. A local store in a national hardware chain donated a sundial to accommodate students using the EarthLab in hands-on science.

A planting bed will be set aside for a community garden, allowing families to plant, maintain, and grow their own fresh veggies.

Primary students and their Big Buddies in middle school have the opportunity to explore the garden. EarthLab fosters scientific education in resource conservation, recycling, the basics of garden care, and the study of habits and habitat for fauna and flora, including butterfly-garden flowers and vegetables.

Olive Elementary School

3038 N Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865
714/637-8218 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/olive



By Shannon Loyd, 1st-Grade Teacher

Special Days Ahead

The incoming first-grade students of Olive Elementary School eagerly awaited the arrival of the first day of school. As the day approached, they gathered their school supplies, lunch boxes and backpacks. Smiling faces came through the doors that first day, with anxious parents looking on. As the students bid their parents farewell, they unknowingly opened a new chapter in their lives. The building blocks are starting to be laid in Olive's three first-

grade classes, and students are learning new material each day.

Some things the Olive students have to look forward to include Apple Day, Pumpkin Day and 100s Day. Apple Day is a day that includes the graphing of apples, the tasting of apple products and the celebration of Johnny Appleseed's birthday. Pumpkin Day is even more involved, including counting pumpkin seeds, weighing, pumpkins in water and writing pumpkin stories. Finally, 100s day is a day in celebration of the 100th day of school. Students create posters grouping 100 items. The first-grade students at Olive are eager to continue learning, and will be busy!



Orange High School

525 N Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867
714/997-6211 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/ohs



SK Johnson
Principal

Much to Celebrate

Congratulations to Orange High School (OHS) and high-achieving OHS students and faculty for the incredible growth achieved in our May 2007 Academic Performance Index (API). OHS met 22 of 22 Annual Yearly Progress criteria. The school-wide plan guides the powerful academic success we have collaboratively achieved. The partnership between students, parents and staff working together on behalf of students' academic growth continues to be the recipe for success.

We will be offering a series of parent education workshops again this year, kicking off the series with a Principal's Roundtable workshop. Parents were encouraged to bring along their students' test scores and their questions. The next workshop will be on community resources, followed by an Internet safety workshop in November. Various other workshops will be offered throughout the year. School counselors and our university partners will provide additional evening workshops.

Orange High School is proud to continue as an award-winning, nationwide Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) demonstration school. Our school-wide AVID program is designed to support students as they prepare for a college education. The AVID philosophy is supported school-wide by our commitment to providing support, interventions and tutoring opportunities with the expectation that all students prepare for post-secondary educational experiences.

The Freshman Success Academy is now in the second year here at OHS. The year was kicked off early with Parent Orientation and Freshman Orientation in August. The orientations were well attended and received. This year the freshmen are divided into three houses, Yale, Harvard and Princeton. The teachers in the houses all have the same conference period to allow for collaboration.

Palmyra Elementary School

1325 E Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92868
714/997-6207



By Lea Campbell, Teacher – 6th Grade Gifted And Talented Education

And the Children Rejoice

With the goal of ensuring the highest achievement for all students and our continued commitment to honoring uninterrupted family time and reading, the educational team at Palmyra Elementary School has revised our homework policy school-wide. Rather than completing packets or traditional homework assignments, students will focus on independent reading, completing work not finished during class, or working on individualized assignments based on a specific area of need. Our grade-level teams have collaborated to create activities to assist families going through homework-withdrawal, although many parents have expressed feelings of relief at the thought of fewer battles over homework and trying to squeeze homework into full schedules.

Palmyra Elementary School is beginning parent education on the research-based philosophy behind this shift, which includes data from national and international assessments. For example, data from the 1994 and 1999 Trends in

International Mathematics and Science Survey showed that countries that scored the highest reported the least amount of homework and countries that scored the lowest reported the greatest amount of homework. (Baker and Letendre, 2005.) The foremost authority on homework, Dr. Harris Cooper, has stated, "There is no evidence that any amount of homework improves the academic performance of elementary students."

We believe children should have time to be children, to develop and pursue outside interests, and to spend quality time with family and friends. We believe our new policies are a positive step toward building stronger relationships with students and parents and toward our shared goal of greater student achievement.

Panorama *Elementary School*

10512 Crawford Canyon Road, Santa Ana, CA 92705
714/997-6265



Michelle Moore
Principal

By Mrs. Laura Emerson, Teacher – 4th/5th Grades & Mrs. Dana Romo, Teacher – 3rd Grade

Continued Academic Growth

Three cheers for our Panther community as Panorama increases to a 912 Academic Performance Index (API).

We are thrilled to share the success that our Panorama Panthers are demonstrating. Our students have always shown a great desire to learn and succeed. With the addition of new learning programs, embedded strategies, supportive PTA, numerous classroom volunteers, and teacher collaboration, they are truly soaring. On an ongoing basis, Panorama's teachers continue to reflect upon practices and share ideas, ensuring an environment conducive for all students.

We attribute our accomplishments, in part, to our schoolwide programs and strategies. Panther Excel, a method of instruction designed to differentiate reading instruction for all students, has improved comprehension. The district-wide implementation of Step Up to Writing has provided specific tools for narrative and expository text, creating an ever-widening group of confident writers. Thinking Maps give students a common visual language that transfers thinking processes and integrates learning as an integral tool that can be utilized across the curriculum.

Our celebration would not be complete without noting our family support. Their involvement is paramount to our students' achievement. Our parent support groups are tirelessly dedicated to enhancing our learning community and have provided us with new computers, updated technology, Art Masters, and their incredible fund-raising efforts. We appreciate the partnership we have cultivated, which greatly contributes to our school's success. Go, Panthers!

Parkside *Pre-K*

2345 E. Palmyra Ave., Orange, CA 92869
714/997-6202



Allison Smith
Principal

A Great Community!

Community is an important goal of the superintendent and of the Pupil Services Department. Here at Parkside, we are a community. Recently a Parkside staff member, who prefers not to be named, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Her aggressive treatment has resulted in the loss of her hair.

The Parkside staff, students and parents showed their support by all wearing scarves or bandannas. While cancer was not discussed with the students, the spirit was evident. Parents participated by not only having their children wear bandannas, but by wearing bandannas themselves. The school-parent partnership is what makes Parkside a great community!



Portola *Middle School*

270 N. Palm St., Orange, CA 92868
714/997-6361



Debra Thompson
Principal

Academic Excellence

With the return of our students, we have much to look forward to as we progress toward our school vision of providing academic excellence in a safe environment where staff, students and community work collaboratively toward mutual success.

Our school community is celebrating our 10-point gain on our Academic Performance Index (API), now at 684. Wow, a 115-point growth in five years! I am very proud of our writing program throughout the school, especially in our honors program. On the state seventh-grade writing test, we exceeded our prior record, with 38 perfect scores of 8 on an 8-point rubric. The majority of our seventh-graders improved their writing, as we increased from 9 percent proficient and advanced to 42 percent proficient or advanced (scores of 6 or 8) after one year of our schoolwide writing program. And our percentage of struggling writers decreased from 42 percent, with a score of 2 to 9 percent scoring a 2.

As phase one of our modernization is coming to a close and phase two is beginning, we have moved into our new offices. Our phase one teachers have moved back into their new classrooms in the 100 and 500 buildings. The classrooms and new office space are absolutely gorgeous.

I hope you will come by and visit soon.

Prospect *Elementary School*

379 N. Virage St., Orange, CA 92869
714/997-6271



Kathleen Bruce
Principal

Eureka!

Eureka! That's Prospect Elementary School's motto for the 2007–2008 school year. Prospect has many things to celebrate this year. The first is the Renovation Celebration, which was held on September 18. Orange Unified School District Board President Mrs. Kim Nichols and Board of Education Member Mrs. Kathy Moffat shared their well wishes with our staff, students and parents.

Superintendent Dr. Tom Godley addressed the guests, praising the staff for all their efforts throughout the year, which resulted in a rise in state test scores. The students from Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Paz's kindergarten classes, Mrs. Lipson's, Ms. Erickson's, and Mrs. Limburg's second-, third- and fourth-graders, Mrs. Matson's and Mr. Mc Guire's fifth-graders, and the sixth-grade chorus, led by Mrs. Gail Barr, performed during the event.

Prospect's Academic Performance Index (API) rose 37 points. The API went from 681 to 718. The overall English/language arts scores rose eight percent, and the overall math score rose one percent. Throughout the 2006–2007 school year, teacher's focused on building reading comprehension through vocabulary. For the current school year, instruction will continue to focus on building comprehension through building vocabulary but will broaden the focus to include math vocabulary.



Richland *High School*

615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867
714/997-6167



Mark Kammerlohr
Principal

Beautiful day for BBQ!

In September, Richland hosted the annual Orange North Rotary BBQ. Each year since 1999, the partnership between Orange North Rotary and Richland has kicked off the school year with a barbecue provided to the students and staff at Richland. This year's was one of the best in recent memory. The weather was perfect, and the club had numerous volunteers to cook and serve the food.

Richland has a record enrollment at this time, so there were over 330 students that benefited from the event. The Orange North Rotary provided hamburgers, roasted corn, chips, cookies and drinks during the lunch period. It is such a nice gesture to see an organization take so much effort in helping give back to the community. This event coincided with the official recognition of the club's donation of four new picnic tables for student use. We would like to thank all the Orange North Rotarians for their efforts in providing such a joyous event, and to the Orange City Firefighters for providing the grill for the event.



Riverdale *Elementary School*

4540 E. Riverdale Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807
714/997-6273



Pamela McFadden
Principal

Excitement for the New School Year

The 2007–2008 school year is off to a great start at Riverdale Elementary School as we welcome several new teachers: Mary Patane, pre-kindergarten; Heather Irwin, kindergarten; Carrie Griggs, first grade; Collette Rowley, second grade; Art Coony, fourth grade; Jessica Clark, fourth through sixth grades; and Dan Richardson, Resource Specialist Program teacher.

Our first big event of the year was the school book fair, held September 12–21. During recess, during lunch, and after school, the book fair was full of eager students. The excitement of students looking and shopping made the book fair special. There

was a large selection of titles and prices—from incredible feats, mysteries, and classics to books about amazing characters, animals, and vehicles. There was a little something for everyone.

Families had a chance to enjoy the book fair with their children during Back-to-School Night and Grandparents' Day.

The book fair was organized and operated by the Riverdale School Association with the support of parent volunteers and our school librarian. The students' enthusiasm, smiles, and pleasure in reading, made the book fair a great way to kick off the new school year.



Running Springs

Elementary School

8670 E. Running Springs Drive, Anaheim, CA 92808
714/281-45120



Lydia Roach
Principal

New Assistant Principal

Sally Hughson, our new assistant principal, has been a part of the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) since 1964 when she entered kindergarten at La Veta Elementary. She also attended McPherson Middle School and graduated from El Modena High School. Her two children also attended and graduated from OUSD. She is a third generation educator. Her mother and grandmother were teachers. Both of her brothers married teachers, and her youngest sister is working toward her teaching credential.

Education has always been an important part of her life.

She earned her bachelor's degree and master's from California State University, Fullerton. Sally completed her teaching credential at Chapman University. Her career in education includes experience in deaf education in the Covina Unified School District, and early childhood intervention through the Orange County Regional Center. She was also a classroom teacher, reading resource teacher, English Language Development (ELD) teacher, mentor, and instructional coach in OUSD.

As the end of the first quarter approaches, Mrs. Hughson has enjoyed working with the teachers, parents and getting to know the students at Running Springs. She looks forward to seeing the sixth-graders off to Outdoor Science School and continuing the commitment to the highest achievement for all students.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869
714/997-6366 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/santiago



Mary Henry
Principal

It Takes a Village

"It takes a village to raise a child." This year the Santiago staff is taking this adage to heart and has organized all students into smaller learning communities, called villages, in order to better focus on individual needs and support. Each village consists of approximately 100 students who share the same social studies, language arts and science teachers. Further support is given to each village through the math, foreign language and electives departments.

Within each village, a number of activities can occur, such as: time for all students to come together for village meetings or special activities; collaboration to allow curriculum to be integrated among classes; collaboration that allows for discussion of specific student needs and discipline issues; and collaboration that allows parents to easily connect with a team of teachers at one time.

Work is already underway to make sure that all students feel part of a village. The students have all chosen village names that correspond with college mascots. The seventh-graders are the Bruins, the Bears, the Titans and the Bulldogs. The eighth-graders are the Hawks, the Rockets, the Rebels, the Fighting Irish and the Wildcats. Designing a class poster and cheer are both in the works during the month of October.

Village identity will be encouraged in various activities, such as spirit events and Strive assemblies. The village concept is a great way to make all students, parents and teachers feel more connected with the larger Santiago community.

Serrano *Elementary School*

17741 E. Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861
714/997-6275



Barbara Rubin
Principal

Technology a Mover

Our focus this year will be building skills through various aspects of technology to increase student learning. All our staff members have been taught to use the SMART Board. All teachers will have access one in their classroom. With the use of the SMART Board, students visualize the concepts taught, manipulate objects and view projected images that they wouldn't be able to see in any other way as a group. New classroom features also include digital microscopes and the Elmo projector, which also enables students to see projected images as a group. The new technology makes learning interesting and fun.

The Serrano community of parents will work to provide additional SMART Boards, projectors and computers for more classrooms. It is a goal of the Serrano PFO to provide paperless communication, using technology options. Teachers are creating Blackboard pages for classroom assignments, and messages are sent through LISTSERV to the community. Good communication is a key ingredient in any school and Serrano depends of effective and efficient methods of connecting to one another.



Mrs. Schmuhl and Elizabeth Rose using the Smart Board.

Silverado *Elementary School*

7531 Santiago Canyon Road, Silverado, CA 92676
714/997-6000



Pat Evans
Principal

A Supportive School Community

Ninety-three new or returning students started the new school year at Silverado Elementary School on August 30. This is an addition of 12 students, a big increase for a small school! Silverado is growing at the kindergarten level again, with 20 new kindergarten students in our kindergarten/first-grade combination classroom.

This has allowed us to hire a new teacher, Michelle Mariano, to help during the morning session when the kindergarten students are on campus.

PTA Events

Our PTA started out the new school year with a kindergarten brunch for students and their parents. Kristi Colgan, PTA President, organized the brunch to welcome new parents to Silverado and invited everyone to join the PTA. Our PTA meets monthly to develop and plan activities that support teachers and students.

The school climate is enhanced through special assemblies and activities, most provided through PTA funding. PTA supports Imagination Machine, Science on the Go, student study trips, and a technology assistant for our computer lab. They also sponsor and coordinate Outdoor Science, Thanksgiving Feast, Holiday Boutique, Holiday Program, Jog-a-thon, Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Casino Night and Silent Auction, and Games Day and a barbeque on the last day of school.

Parents who are willing to get involved are a valuable resource for starting and maintaining programs, projects, and special events to benefit our students and the community. The PTA is truly appreciated at Silverado!

Sycamore *Elementary School*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868
714/997-6277 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/sycamore



David Reynolds
Principal

School-wide Rules

This year at Sycamore Elementary School, we've implemented three school-wide rules: Make good choices, show respect, and solve the problem. We teach our students how to make good choices, what respect means, and how to solve problems in the most effective way. One way we reinforce these rules is by teaching our students to make good choices and show respect by keeping our campus nice and clean, dressing in uniform every day, and completing all homework assignments. During the week, students are rewarded with Gotcha Slips if they have been exemplary in following these rules. At the end of the week, prizes, such as backpacks, are given away to students.

Professional Learning Communities

On Wednesdays, after students are released on the modified-day schedule, Sycamore teachers meet together by grade level to engage in meaningful analysis of ongoing assessments. Teachers spend time looking at data, planning interventions, and reflecting on best teaching practices. At Sycamore, we want every student to succeed, and, if a student is struggling, a teacher will plan an intervention or modification so that student will master content. All Sycamore students will be monitored throughout the year through ongoing reflective teacher dialogue, which will help all students work toward mastering state content standards.

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861
714/532-8020



Ed Howard
Principal

New Team Members

And we are off and running, the Spartans are out of the gates and headed toward greatness. This has been a summer of change for the Villa Park administrative team. I have had the opportunity to add three new members. Mr. Jim D'Agostino has joined the Spartan team and will oversee athletics, activities and facilities. Mr. Sheldon Glass will oversee attendance, records and discipline. Dr. Rebecca Roberts will oversee curriculum, instruction and assessment. As an administrative team, we are dedicated to creating a safe and clean campus where teachers can teach and students can learn. We are fortunate to have an outstanding and dedicated staff that often goes beyond the normal call of duty to service our students.

Parents, you may be hearing from your children that there are all of these new rules. Well, there are no new rules, we are just enforcing the existing rules this year and holding each student accountable for their actions. We have set extremely high expectations for our students and ourselves and will work to meet and exceed them. We are off to an extremely positive start, and have every intention of making this a great year for a great school.



Taft *Elementary School*

1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865
714/997-6254



Vicki James
Principal

Wonderful Community Partners

Taft Elementary School loves to work with our community partners! David Smith, a former student from Taft, is now an Eagle Scout with troop #241. David called the school back in January of 2007 hoping to be able to contribute a project to the school. The staff voted on having small bookshelves for a few classrooms in need. David then moved

forward to have his project approved and to direct the building of these bookshelves.

What a wonderful surprise the teachers received when David called in August to announce that four bookshelves were ready for delivery! We were overwhelmed with the quality of the beautifully constructed bookshelves, made of poplar, and varnished! David, his parents and brother, also a former Taft student, delivered the bookshelves to the classrooms. David and his family enjoyed being able to “give back” to Taft school and to continue to feel a part of the school community. And Taft teachers and students were delighted with the much needed storage space for classroom libraries.



David Smith, Eagle Scout troop #241.

West Orange *Elementary School*

243 S. Bush St., Orange, CA 92868
714/997-6283 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/wo



Bobbie Lansman
Principal

Parent Involvement

West Orange Elementary School has made personalization and parent involvement key components for the 2007–2008 school year with the introduction and pilot of the new Setting Together Achievement Goals for Every Student (STAGES) conferences.

Each student, along with his or her teacher and parents, has an opportunity to examine multiple measures of data from the previous year and set a first-quarter achievement goal. These goals are personalized for every student. If homework completion, attendance, or tardies have been an issue, improvement in those areas may also become personalized goals.

In addition to Back-to-School Night, STAGES conferences have given parents an opportunity to confer with the teachers in more personal settings, which also fits in with our goal of increased parent involvement.

Since we wanted parents to attend Back-to-School Night, we would like to thank the husbands of our staff for “manning” the book fair. Thank you to Mr. Robert Lansman and Mr. Rodolfo Basabilbaso for donating their time and book fair expertise.



Villa Park *Elementary School*

10551 Center Drive, Villa Park, CA 92861
714/997-6281



Larry Hausner
Principal

Test Scores on the Rise

What a great way to start the school year! Villa Park Elementary School raised its Academic Performance Index (API) 12 points to a remarkable 884. In the past nine years, Villa Park has raised its API a total of 52 points, for an average gain of over five points per year. Experts agree that, when a school has achieved an API greater than 800, any increase at all is impressive. In addition, the state of California recently released test results from last spring’s standards test, and Villa Park exceeded the federal target in all subgroups in English language arts and mathematics.

Working Together

To what do we attribute this success? First, our entire staff here at Villa Park puts the needs of each and every student above all else. Secondly, we have high expectations for our students. Also, we are fortunate to have dedicated parents who value education and are models of what hard work and dedication may lead to. Without our outstanding families none of this would be possible.

While we are quick to celebrate our students’ successes, we know the challenges of maintaining this level of academic excellence require constant focus and hard work. As the school year progresses, teachers will evaluate data and create grade-level targets based on student need. This is our goal—to raise the bar for our students and for ourselves.

Yorba *Middle School*

935 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92867
714/997-6161 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/yorba



Tara Saraye
Principal

Noontime Sports program

Lunchtime at Yorba has a new air of excitement. Yorba has begun a noontime sports program, providing students in grades 6–8 a variety of sports games throughout the year. The season is starting with students playing flag football. There are 12 teams made up of girls and boys, who will be playing each other in friendly competition.

Organized and run by physical education teacher Rob Sheveland, he wants to provide a positive community environment and build school spirit. Other sports that will be played during the year include basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball. The Yorba staff will also be able to compete and play with the students in sports and have fun as well. It all sounds like a winning touch-down program!



Yorba football teams are ready to go!

Orange Unified School District Services

1401 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us

By *Blake M. Chism, Community Development Coordinator* **Extra Support**

Over the past few months I have heard the same statement from a number of different people. "I always wanted to help out OUSD schools, but just didn't know how!" Our schools do a wonderful job of educating students with the resources they have, but they do an even better job when corporations, groups and individuals step in and provide that extra little bit of support. We have been working hard to match up schools with organizations in a way that is mutually beneficial.

Sports teams have donated free tickets to deserving students, companies have given money and supplies where they are needed, and individuals have donated their time and talents. There are so many ways to get involved. If you are interested in partnering with our schools in some way, please contact the Community Development Department at (714) 628-4143 to see what we can do. Together, we can create a stronger community and a better future for our children.

By *Pat Evans* **Principal/School Readiness Coordinator**

New Preschool

The Orange Unified School District School Readiness Program has been busy for the last year writing a grant for funding for a new preschool at Sycamore Elementary School. The grant was authorized on June 1, and the preschool officially opened on August 30 with 52 children, who will turn four by December 2.

The preschool curriculum includes a variety of activities to stimulate and promote curiosity, learning and language development. Our program emphasis on literacy focuses on phonemic awareness, letter recognition, and vocabulary development. In the area of math, children are given opportunities to develop beginning mathematical skills through activities in sorting and classifying, patterning, shapes, number concepts, and problem solving.

Along with the basic skills in language arts and math, children participate in music, drama, art and physical education activities that sup-

port and enhance the development of academic skills, help with the development of social skills, and encourage large and small muscle development. A highly individualized approach is used to meet the particular needs of each child as he or she moves towards a successful transition to kindergarten.

While their children are in preschool, parents are invited to attend: Community-Based English Training (CBET) classes for English language development; the Latino Family Literacy Project, which helps parents establish a regular family reading routine at home; and classes on child development and behavior management, healthy cooking, early math and science, dental health, and nutrition. Parents are also encouraged to participate in their children's education through volunteering in the preschool classroom on a monthly basis.

By *Lori Davis & Andrew Durrett* **Energy Manager**

Orange Goes Green

It seems that everywhere you look there are signs of new interest in the topics of energy conservation, renewable sources, and managing our resources in a way that keeps our environment and our world clean and safe.

Nationally, educational institutions spend more on energy costs than on textbooks and computers combined. The "green revolution" has been written about, talked about, and researched. Many have speculated that global warming and greenhouse gases are changing our environment and the ecosystem of our planet. Most will agree that solutions to these and many other problems rest with education, research and technology, mixed with a little common sense.

Today's students must be empowered with the tools—math, science and technology—and the skills—reading, writing and problem solving—to work together to solve common societal and international problems. The Orange Unified School District Board of Education has set a proactive direction for our school district, encouraging us to build an organization that demonstrates and provides examples of energy conservation for our students.

Energy-Saving Progress

Orange Unified schools have made great strides toward the goal of energy conservation. Below are but a few indicators of our progress.

Over the past year, Orange Unified School District, through the hard work and cooperation of our staff and students, has carefully followed a district-wide energy management program developed by Energy Education, Inc. Much of the savings were realized as a result of turning lights and equipment off when not in use.

Since January of this year, we have eliminated the equivalent of 3.4 million kilowatt-hours of energy waste. These savings are equal to 902 automobiles being removed from our highways annually or 1,870 acres of trees being planted. By the way, 1,870 acres is approximately the same size as 38 high school campuses.

No, we are not planning to change our name from Orange Unified to Green Unified, but we are committed to adding a few "green" highlights by continuing to find creative ways to make the Orange Unified School District a more energy-efficient and responsible organization. Remember, every dollar that pays an unnecessarily high energy bill could be spent for a much a better purpose—teaching children.

By *Jamie Brown,* **Executive Director** **Human Resources**

Flapjacks with Sinatra

Orange Unified School District employees enjoyed pancakes and a singing DJ at the annual Employee Pancake Breakfast on August 29. Superintendent Godley and board members were on hand to greet returning teachers and support personnel and

administrators. For several years, the event has been held at the Orange Unified School District Education Center on Handy Street. Employees are served pancakes and all the trimmings by management personnel. Board members can also be seen flipping flapjacks and serving coffee. All food is prepared by the district's nutrition services department under the guidance of director Judy Pollock. The district maintenance and operations department sets up chairs and tables and provides parking lot supervision for this well-attended event. Both employee organizations are also on hand at information tables and hand out dozens of door prizes provided by local businesses.

The annual breakfast provides an opportunity for employees to come together in a single location, share a meal together, and swap summer vacation stories. Those who may no longer work at the same site also have a chance to reconnect. The transportation department arrived en masse. Mechanics, dispatchers and drivers rode together to the event in buses from the Collins Yard. The nutrition services department estimated the attendance at over 450.

Again this year, employees were treated to the music and vocal artistry of retired OUSD school bus driver Verne Krueger. Mr. Krueger's smooth and melodic baritone covered dozens of favorites from Sinatra to Cole.

Administrators Tim Biland, Sheldon Glass, and Ed Howard serving eggs and pancakes at the Employee Breakfast.



1. Personalization/Student Achievement

- a. Expand educational options and programs for students to achieve educational success as evidenced by grade-level promotion and high school graduation.
- b. Focus the curriculum and master schedule at each school on the needs and aspirations of students and parents. Preliminary teaching assignments will be provided to staff by the last school day in June.
- c. Enhance the learning environment to promote inclusion of, and a positive relationship with, all students in the school community.
- d. Establish coordinated processes and systems that include appropriate departments and staff in the development and implementation of individual educational learning plans (ELPs) for all students.
- e. Assess the current Visual and Performing Arts program and recommend appropriate modifications based on the committee's Strategic Plan.
- f. Continue to increase student proficiency in the academic skills as evidenced by 100% pass rate for all high school students taking CAHSEE, and by all schools meeting or exceeding the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) targets.
- g. Maximize teacher time in the classroom with students to improve student learning and achievement as evidenced by reduced use of substitute teachers.

2. Technology

- a. Support legislation that will authorize the expansion of online course offerings to include all academic classes.
- b. Increase the use of the online Grade Book, Blackboard, and the Parent Portal by staff and parents.

3. Facilities/Student Safety/Fiscal Responsibility

- a. Complete an assets management plan for the District's surplus real property.
- b. Update each school's site emergency and disaster preparedness plan.
- c. Implement a plan to finance the liability for post employment retirement benefits that complies with the new federal requirements under the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB).
- d. Promote positive employee/employer relations through contract negotiations.

4. Partnerships/Community Involvement

- a. Develop and implement a positive community relations program to foster partnerships with community groups, local businesses, and civic organizations.
- b. Maintain a high level of visibility for the District through participation of key staff in various professional and community activities.

Test Scores – OUSD Schools Continue to Improve

Schools in OUSD continue to show increased growth in their Academic Performance Index (API). For the 2006-07 school year, the District API grew five points despite the increase in accountability targets that took effect for the first time. Even with this rebenchmarking, not only did the upward trend continue with API scores, but District schools also met all 44 of the criteria for the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP); the federal accountability program under the No Child Left Behind Act. The API growth over the past five years has been 51 points, for an average of 10.2 points per year.

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

On September 12, 2007, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. Eight students from three Orange Unified high schools have been chosen as semifinalists. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the scholarship competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship awards that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must advance to the Finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several requirements. The Orange Unified student semifinalists are:

Canyon High School

Armin Arshi
Michael Duong
Riki Patel

El Modena High School

Leigha Beckman
Corliss Livingston

Villa Park High School

Jonathan Li
Jeffrey C. Peterson
Jack Williamson

The dedication and devotion of the employee's of this District can be seen throughout the District. Teachers, support staff, and administrators take great pride in providing excellent support to students. I believe that the journey from Good to Great is gaining momentum, and as more and more employees embrace the reality that good just isn't good enough; and continue to work collaboratively, the strengths of our students will continue to emerge through increased attendance and rising test scores.

Orange Unified School District

1401 N. Handy St., Orange, CA 92867
www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us

School News 

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GAME DAY • FROM PAGE 1

creators of the program train teachers for one day, giving teachers the skills they need to provide appropriate instruction. The program includes a DVD for students and teachers to watch together so that the activities are clearly taught. Once on the field, students and teachers know what to do.

GameDay at the School also provides Words of Wisdom. These focus words, such as respect, trustworthiness, and responsibility, become the foundation for building character while participating in physical education.

Taft students and teachers are enjoying physical education more than ever before. We believe that a healthy body will also contribute to a healthy learning attitude in the classroom.

Orange Unified School District Board of Education



Kimberlee Nichols
President



Wes Poutsma
Vice President



John Ortega
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Rick Ledesma
Member



Kathy Moffat
Member



Melissa Smith
Member

Steve Rocco Member (picture not available)

BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1

than what our students and staff have experienced at the newly modernized Prospect Elementary School campus. At the grand re-opening ceremony, held on September 18, students, parents, families, community members, dignitaries, and other OUSD employees were able to see firsthand the value of having upgraded facilities and what such facilities can contribute to improved student learning and achievement. While undergoing complete renovation this past year, the student test scores at Prospect increased by 37 points.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to thank the students and staff at Prospect for doing such a remarkable job during the modernization project. Also, I would like to express our appreciation to the district staff and our professional contractors for the excellent work and for completing the project on time and within the allocated budget. The Orange Unified community is fortunate to have so many remarkable individuals working for the betterment of student learning and achievement.

We are looking forward to seeing the outcome at Esplanade Elementary School, Jordan Elementary School, and Portola Middle School, where modernization plans are currently being implemented.



Brendan Adams
Student Advisory
Representative
Canyon H. S.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER • FROM PAGE 1

Part of our success here is not measured by academic or athletic standards but by the sense of camaraderie exemplified by all members of "the tribe." This quality came to the forefront when John Boyd, a senior, was diagnosed with leukemia earlier this year. John, a varsity football player, has not been able to return to school and is undergoing chemotherapy. In this difficult time, Canyon, with help from Villa Park Elementary School and El Dorado High School, has raised money to provide support to John and the entire Boyd family. It is clear that Canyon is moving forward by leaving no one behind.

Central County ROP

250 S. Yorba, Orange, CA 92869
714/997-6066 www.ccrop.org

Business Partnerships Key to Success of ROP

By Teryl Snyder, Administrator, Career Education Center

For more than 30 years, the Regional Occupational Program has provided Career-Technical Education electives to Orange Unified high school students; and, for just as long, a key component to the program's success has been partnerships with over 100 local businesses and industry experts.

This unique collaboration brings real world knowledge and skills into the classroom and exposes students to experiences and insights they would not otherwise receive. In return, business partners help shape the future of their industry by contributing to the education and skill set of the students by participating on Employer Advisory Teams where they help ensure that ROP programs are up-to-date. Many also provide internship opportunities to students, many of whom will go on to become their future employees.

Success Story

For Anthony Nowak, Vice President of a credit union, being an ROP business partner not only provides an opportunity to mentor students, it's also a way for him to give back to the program that helped him get his first job. Anthony took the ROP Banking and Financial Careers class at Orange High School during his senior year which included an internship that led to his first job in finance. "I'm thankful to have the opportunity to give back to ROP in return for all they've done for me."

ROP provides high school students with an opportunity to earn high school credit, explore future career opportunities, discover and foster talents they never knew they had, and even get a head start on earning college credit. Some of the after school classes include a hands-on internship experience with ROP Business Partners. These include: Animal Care II, Automotive III, Banking Financial Services, Careers with Children, Floral Design, Hotel & Restaurant Occupations, Hospital Internship, Medical Clerical and Video Production I & II.

All classes are tuition-free and are taught by credentialed teachers who have at least five years of experience in their field. Classes are offered during and/or after the school day on all Orange Unified High School campuses which offers students flexibility when planning their school schedule. Students should see their counselor or visit the Career Center on their high school campus to check for class availability and to enroll.

Orange Education Foundation

P.O. Box 5913, Orange, CA 92853
714/685-8808 www.theorangeeducationfoundation.org

In Support of our Students

The Orange Education Foundation (OEF) is pleased to announce its dedication once again to the students of the Orange Unified School District (OUSD). The OEF recently donated \$12,000 to the district for the purchase of 2,000 books entitled Cool Stuff They Should Teach in School. These books are used in the freshman seminar class. All freshman-level students are required to take the class, which helps to prepare them for high school and life beyond high school. The donation was used to purchase one book for every freshman student. While the OUSD purchases textbooks for students, this book is considered a supplement to the curriculum taught.

In the next few months, OEF will be donating funds to the Orange Rotary Club in a partnership to provide \$700 mini-grants for elementary school classrooms.

City of Orange

www.cityoforange.org

SPECIAL EVENTS
Hotline (714) 744-7278



Holiday Programs

The City of Orange Community Services Department along with Orange Cares will be sponsoring an exceptional program that will make the holiday season extra special for disadvantaged children in the City of Orange. With the help of the Orange Unified School District, the Community Services Department has identified worthy families to participate in the 14th Annual Orange Cares for Children Holiday Breakfast. Monetary, food, and gift donations are needed for this charitable event, if you would like to make a contribution, please contact Marisol Rojas at **(714) 744-7271**.



Tree Lighting Ceremony & Candlelight Choir Procession

Sunday, December 2, 2007
 Old Towne Orange Plaza Area
 3:30 p.m.
 Festivities begin, booths open
 5:30 p.m.
 Candlelight Choir Procession
 and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Enjoy an evening of holiday cheer and sing along to traditional carols of the season with the 350-voice choir and the 40-piece orchestra led by Michael Short at the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Candlelight Choir Procession.

At The Heart of our Community
 City of Orange Community Services

YOUTH PROGRAMS (714) 744-7293

After-School Recreation Programs

Free activities, crafts, nutritional program, and homework assistance! Come and join a free recreational program. Children kindergarten through 8th grade are eligible to attend. Programs times are subject to change. A parent packet, including a liability form, drop-off and pick-up policy agreement, CDBG form, and discipline agreement must be completed in order to begin. Site closed during inclement weather and December 24, 2007-January 4, 2008.



Grijalva/Prospect
 Location: 368 N. Prospect
 Site Time: 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Killefer Park
 Location: 615 North Lemon Street
 Site Time: 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

El Camino Park
 Location: 400 North Main Street
 Site Time: 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.



Mobile Recreation

The City of Orange brings recreation to you! Mobile Recreation is designed to bring recreation activities to residents and youth who would otherwise not have access to recreation programs. Packets are available during program time at the designated streets during program hours.

Sites: **Tustin/Palmyra: Monday Tuesday, Friday**
Hamlin: Wednesday
Highland Grove: Thursday

Site Time: 2:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

YOUTH SPORTS



YOUTH BASKETBALL

When: Coaches Orientation 9 a.m., Saturday, January 5, 2008
 Parent & Player Orientation, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, January 5, 2008
 First Game: Saturday, January 12, 2008
 League ends: Saturday, March 1, 2008

*No make-up games will be held for games cancelled due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances

Where: Orientation, games, and practices will be held at McPherson Athletic Facility -333 S. Prospect Ave., 92869

Time: Games are approximately one hour long and are played on a rotating schedule with games taking place between 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per participant (fee includes team jersey, participation award, and an end of season celebration).

Age: For girls and boys ages 6-13 years old
 Clinic (Teaching the fundamentals of basketball)- 6 & 7 years old
 Division C – 8 & 9 years old
 Division B – 10 & 11 years old
 Division A – 12 & 13 years old

Registration Information: League registration will be accepted by the Community Services Department at 230 E. Chapman, Orange 92866, beginning Monday, November 26, 2007 during regular office hours.

Volunteer coaches needed! The number of teams is based on the number of volunteer coaches. Contact Mark Matsuda at mmatsuda@cityoforange.org or **(714) 744-7265** to request a coach's packet or if you have questions regarding the program.

A special thank you to all of the participants, parents, and coaches who supported the 2007 Co-ed Youth Flag Football League.

Thanks for another great year, it truly was "Just Plain Fun!" See you next year!

Become a tax-deductible partner with sponsorship levels that will maximize marketing opportunities for you or your business in the City of Orange community. Our new levels allow for logo opportunities, City park kiosk and banner appearances, PROGRESS advertisement and many other benefits. If you would like to become a partner and make a difference in the July 2007 – June 2008 special event season, please contact Danielle Valadez at (714) 744-7267 or dvaladez@cityoforange.org. You may also log onto http://www.cityoforange.org/depts/commserv/special_events/sponsorship_opportunities.asp to download a sponsorship brochure.