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Covering the Orange Unified School District

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MARCH 2008

SUPERINTENDENT



Thomas A. Godley, Ed.D.

Board of Education

The Board of Education held its annual organizational meeting at the December 13, 2007 regular Board meeting. Board members and their respective roles on

the Board for 2008 are:

- Wes Poutsma, *President*
- Melissa J. Smith, *Vice President*
- Kimberlee Nichols, *Clerk*
- Rick Ledesma, *Member*
- Kathryn A. Moffat, *Member*
- John H. Ortega, *Member*
- Steve Rocco, *Member*

Mini-Grants

I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Orange for their continued support of our District. This year

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 19

Creative Expressions



By Debby Smith, Principal Olive Elementary

Olive Elementary School has just begun a new, exciting six-week Arts Residency Program through the Orange County Performing Arts Center. The artist, Jamie Kough, and her Arts Fusion Team are providing hands-on visual arts sessions for Olive's students. Olive's staff is also reaping the benefits of staff development in the area of visual arts and the California arts teaching standards.

Jamie Kough, the school's artist in residence, is a professional artist and professor of art education at Chapman University. She combines art history, music and writing in a unique approach to the arts, which has Olive's staff and students exploring their own personal creative talents. The children and staff are

SEE CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS • PAGE 19

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Wes Poutsma
President

Continued Commitment

I always feel reinvigorated with the start of a new year. Of course, there are all the traditional New Year's resolutions that one promises to him or herself, and naturally the desire that all will be well with our families for the ensuing year.

Educationally, we need to take this time to rededicate ourselves to some New Year resolutions as well: Students need to resolve to try their very best; parents to be involved on a daily basis with their children's education; teaching staffs to challenge students and encourage them on a daily basis; and the Board of Education to work with the community and staff to continue to make our schools safe and provide a strong educational base in our communities.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I wish everyone a happy New Year – tone that is filled with unprecedented educational success.



Edward Acevedo
Student Advisory Representative
Richland H. S.

A New Quarter

First quarter has ended, and the second is well underway. This past quarter has been great, and much has been accomplished. The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) for juniors and seniors is done, and now students can get back on track with their regular school schedules.

Credits and Activities

Students have earned credits in all classes, with a passing grade, of course. At Richland High School, homework and class work comprise the majority of credits. However, projects are assigned at the beginning of each quarter and are due when classes have ended. These projects are worth one credit. Typically students coast

SEE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER PAGE 19

Dr. Godley Announces His Retirement

At the Board of Education meeting, February 7, 2008, Superintendent Dr. Godley announced his retirement effective June 30, 2008.

Dr. Godley has been with Orange Unified for the past six year, three as superintendent and stated "It has been a pleasure and an honor to have served as Superintendent of the Orange Unified School District and to have worked with the talented, dedicated, and wonderful people who are the District. The Board of Education is visionary, the staff is of the highest quality, and the parents and the community are very supportive. A superintendent could not ask for more."

PTA—Every Child. One Voice.

As we celebrated the winter holidays, many of us wrapped our presents with paper purchased to support our local PTAs, and our PTAs appreciate your support! Though fund-raising is one of the functions of most PTA units, PTA is an organization dedicated to its primary purpose: to advocate for children and their parents. Our motto is “every child. one voice.” We do our part to ensure that every child receives the education he or she is entitled to. This is the main difference between PTA and the other education foundations and parent groups.

Why worry about “every child” and not just “my child?” The answer is easy: we want to help ensure that, in this fast-changing world, that the future car mechanic has good computer skills and that the future bank teller has good math skills. In other words, passionate PTA volunteers from the local, state and national levels work to make sure that every child receives what he or she needs to grow into an adult who will serve our community well.

How is the PTA at your school serving this purpose? Orange Community Council works in partnership with Orange Unified School District, and we advocate for state legislation to benefit our school communities. Many of our PTA schools have budgeted funds for student enrichment programs, and many are planning parent education opportunities.

To find out what is happening at your school, contact your PTA president. Give a voice to every child, and let this voice be heard.



Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



Congratulations to Dr. Godley as he looks forward to his retirement in June. Although we wish him well, selfishly we will miss him.

With the weather warming and Spring right around the corner, thoughts turn to spring break and summer activities. Be sure and check out our things to do on pages 10-12.

Although we do not have the space to print readers comments, we do appreciate hearing from you. Remember to tell your out of area friends and relatives the latest issues of *School News* are posted on our Web site www.schoolnewsrollcall.com.

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2008 – 09 Kindergarten Registration & Open Enrollment Information

Kindergarten registration for the Orange Unified School District will begin on
Wednesday, March 5, 2008, except for McPherson Magnet School.

The process for kindergarten registration at all elementary school sites is as follows:

- To receive a packet a parent **MUST** have all the required documentation: birth certificate, current immunization records, and two address verifications (even if a sibling already attends the school, the family may have moved).
- Parents may choose to complete the packet at the school site but are not required to do so. Each school site determines the date that packets must be returned to their site.
- Each school site will conduct a lottery to determine placement in the morning and afternoon kindergarten classes. The school site determines the date of their lottery.

Open Enrollment Information:

K-12 Open Enrollment will be held during the two week period of **March 3 — March 14, 2008**.

Open Enrollment lotteries will be conducted by each school site.



For more information regarding kindergarten registration, parents are asked to contact the school site directly or go to the OUSD website at <http://www.orangeusd.org/cwa>. For specific questions regarding open enrollment, parents are asked to contact the site they are interested in their student attending directly. For general questions, or information on inter-district transfers, please contact the Child Welfare & Attendance Office at (714) 628-4060.

Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street, Orange, CA.

Orange County Department of Education

200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92628
714/966-4012 www.ocde.us

What OCDE Does For You!



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

At the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), we take great pride in the customer service and support we provide to Orange County districts, students, parents, and the general public. OCDE offers a variety of programs and services, including special education, alternative and correctional education, Outdoor Science School, teacher credentialing, accounting, business, information technology, and professional development.

OCDE serves as a school district providing special education and alternative and correctional educational programs to approximately 19,000 students. We partner with Orange, Santa Ana, and Garden Grove School Districts to provide Career Technical Education programs for more than 18,000 students each year through the Central County Regional Occupational Program.

We also provide support services to an additional 130,000 students through Inside the Outdoors, environmental education programs, child care, and other student programs.

Instructional and student services are provided by the Divisions of Instructional Services and School and Community Services. The Instructional Services Division serves as an official School Assistance Intervention Team (SAIT) and provides professional development in academic content standards, best practices, technology, and learning support. The School and Community Services Division supports student success and well-being through programs and services that promote school readiness, family self-sufficiency, youth development and leadership, and academic enrichment.

Our Business Services Division delivers technical, advisory, and consultant services to our OCDE programs and to 27 K-12 school districts, four community college districts, four regional occupational programs, and other county agencies in matters relating to accounting, budgeting, attendance reporting, district boundary changes, elections, finance, payroll, review of district audit reports, vendor payment audits, facilities, and purchasing support.

The Human Resources and Support Services Division provides technical and advisory support in the areas of personnel, credentials, fingerprinting, safety/emergency preparedness, unemployment insurance, retirement, and liability management.

Information Technology (IT) supports districts with Integrated Financial and Human Resources Systems and offers internet access and web filtering for all students. IT processes payroll for all districts, generating 90,000 checks per month and more than 100,000 W-2 forms each year.

Legal Services works closely with each district's administration to deliver legal advice in all areas of school law.

As you can see, OCDE is committed to partnering with schools and the community to support student learning and ensure that Orange County continues to deliver a world class education, where every student succeeds.

Please visit our website at www.ocde.us for additional information on OCDE programs

Central County ROP

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

Helping Meet Strategic Plan

By Teryl Snyder, Administrator, Career Education Center

The Orange Unified ROP Career Elective program is working hard not only to help students discover their interests and strengths but also to meet the district's benchmarks for improvement as stated in its 2006-09 Strategic Plan. The four focus areas in this plan are Personalization, Technology Expansion, Facilities and Partnerships/Community Involvement. ROP is dedicated to contributing to each of these areas to help ensure academic and career success for all students.

Personalization Helping students bring relevance to their studies by introducing them to various careers and college majors is what ROP does best. To this end, the number of career electives offered by ROP has expanded over the past three years with many of these new courses offering students UC A-G credit as well as college articulation upon completion. In addition, numerous on-campus classes have been added during the school day to ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in ROP. Aligned with the district's desire to evaluate and modify its current visual and performing arts (VPA) program, ROP recently expanded its VPA Career Pathway to include new hands-on courses in the art of graphic design; (UC), career focus; arts, media and entertainment; Professional Dance I and II; and theater technology. A new course in wardrobe and costume design is also in the works.

Technology Expansion Bridges is an online career and college exploration, assessment and portfolio tool that ROP provides to all Orange Unified high school students. Parents can get involved in their children's careers and college planning by logging on to the Bridges Parent Portal at bridges.com to view their children's options, calculate college costs, obtain financial aid information, sign-up for newsletters and more. Parents, to obtain your parental password, please contact the career center on your child's campus.

Facilities As the ROP program continues to grow, students and teachers are benefiting from the many new technology purchases made by ROP on the high school campuses. New items include computer hardware and software, projection equipment, textbooks and more.

Partnerships/Community Involvement The involvement of the Orange business community in educating our students about careers is the most unique component of ROP. Currently, more than 300 local business partners collaborate with the program to infuse real-world knowledge and skills into the classroom in two ways: by serving as an internship site, and 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 and relevant. In addition, ROP works with various Orange County community organizations to provide guest speakers, exciting career exploration field trips and other career activities to students.

To find out more about ROP or to view the spring class schedule, visit our Web site or call our office. High school students may add an ROP class to their spring schedule by visiting the career technician on their campus today. ROP classes are held during the school day, after school or on Saturdays.



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Anaheim Hills, CA 92808
714-685-9197

Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

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



Debra Larson
Principal

Challenges and Achievements

We can't believe that the school year is nearly half over! We have all been busy learning and discovering things here in kindergarten. The growth and change that is going on in our classrooms is indescribable!

Our biggest achievement has been the way we have successfully faced the challenge of reading. We are well on our way to becoming master readers. Recently, we have begun blending words together. Individual sounds are beginning to blend together to make words for us.

We have also been doing a lot of experimenting in science. This quarter's topics have been all about wood and paper. We have learned about different types of each. Sometimes it gets a little messy during science time, but then again, maybe that's what it takes to learn!

More Learning

Math has been a blast. We are learning how to count, read and write numbers. We are working on adding one-digit numbers together, and we will be on our way to subtracting, too. We talk about the calendar every day, and each month we work on extending a different pattern.

Social studies has been fascinating. We've learned about the jobs and duties of the people in the community. We interviewed many visitors to help us learn about how they make us better citizens. Some of our guests have included police officers, fire fighters, eye doctors, our school custodian and the librarian. We even got to interview Mrs. Larson, our school principal. It is amazing how hard all of these people work just to make our lives better.

Cambridge *Elementary School*

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



Anne Schrader
Principal

Reading List

Here are some parent tips for reading. Read to your child 20 minutes every day. Tell your child that reading time is special. Read books that you loved as a child. Read a book over and over. Read with expression. Use props when you read. Ask your child to supply sound effects while you read. Pause periodically to see if your child understands. Ask your child to picture what is happening while you read. When you finish reading a book together, encourage your child to retell the story.

Become Involved

Have your child make predictions about the book before you read. Make connections, to real life; reading a story about an adventure trip can lead to a discussion about traveling. Don't leave reading completely up to the school. Make your home a reading environment by having books, magazines and newspapers available in many rooms of the house. Let your children see you reading something every day. Have your children help you shop for groceries. Make regular trips to the library. Create a special shelf, one your child can reach, for books. Take books wherever you go: in the car, on the bus, to the doctor, anywhere. Play the alphabet game while riding in the car.

Encourage Your Children

Encourage your children to find words within words. For example, it, in, with, and thin are in within. Put a few magnetic letters on the refrigerator. Start with the letters in your child's name and help your child make other words using these letters. Don't let your children watch TV unless he or she has read something that day. Make reading fun!

California *Elementary School*

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



Cyndi Paik
Principal

Follow the Leader

California Elementary School students are benefiting from an integrated nutrition and physical education program funded through a regional Nutrition Network mini-grant. This program is developing our fifth-grade students' leadership skills, compassion, responsibility, and a sense of pride as they teach the primary students about nutrition and physical activity.

The Follow the Leader program offers a variety of skills through the use of 13 stations for students to develop fundamental skills.

Furthermore, this program is aligned to the California State Standards for Physical Education and is a fun way for primary and upper-grade students to get some of their physical education minutes. The 13 skills-based stations are: toss and catch; dribble and bounce; jump-rope; hula-hoop; scoop and toss; heel-toe walk; jump for joy; beanbag toss; handball; curl-ups; people shapes; take a rest; and kick and run.



Canyon Hills

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



William Gee, Ed.D.
Principal

Special Program Reaches Special Students

Canyon Hills School serves special education students who are moderately to severely disabled and live in Orange Unified School District. Students at Canyon Hills range between three and 22 years old. Each student in the school has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) with specialized goals in each of the following areas: preacademic or functional academic skills, to include counting, sorting, matching, purchasing and reading of simple signs; domestic skills, including personal hygiene, kitchen skills, home care and laundry; community skills, including maintaining personal safety and transportation education; vocational skills, including time management, impulse control, following rules and attention span; personal skills, including dressing, eating, drinking and toileting; recreation and leisure goals; and communication skills, including oral expression, sign language and understanding of language.

Canyon Hills staff has been using the Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication Handicapped Children (TEACCH) structure for educating our students. This program was designed in North Carolina, but is used throughout Southern California for students who are moderately or severely impaired or who have moderate to severe autism. It is a structured teaching approach that is appropriate for our students and has abundant research supporting its effectiveness. It relies heavily on a structured program while organizing the environment and communication with visual stimuli instead of the spoken word. The staff was trained on this approach, and will continue to receive updated training and ongoing coaching.

Canyon *High School*

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807
714/532-8000 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/canyon



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

Christian Daniel Award Recipient

Christian Daniel, senior at Canyon High School, received the John R. Wooden Scholar Athlete Award presented during half time at the John Wooden Classic, during a university basketball game. Three male and three female students were honored for their achievements in both academics and athletics. In addition, Christian received \$500 as his part of the award, and Canyon High School Athletics received \$500 in his name. Canyon High School is extremely proud of Christian's accomplishments.

Second Harvest Food Bank Success

Our students are amazing! Two years ago, they collected over 20,000 pounds of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Last year, it was 23,000 pounds, and this year, the 43,000 pounds of food collected by our students completely filled rooms 122 and 123! Second Harvest has shared that this is the largest donation ever provided by a school. This effort was led and managed by one of our students, Olivia Keen, who is the Tribal Council President for the Academic Student Body (ASB). It would not have been possible without the help of all the ASB students, who collected and moved literally hundreds of cases of food! Thanks to all the students who got in the spirit of giving!



Canyon Rim *Elementary School*

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



Randi Leach
Principal

Anniversary Celebration

This year marked the tenth anniversary of Canyon Rim. Our official celebration, held on November 16, 2007 and coordinated by fifth-grade teacher Tammy Pinkerton, was a huge success.

The evening began with some guest speakers. These included Wes Poutsma, our current school board president, as well as Maggie Van Eck, founding principal of Canyon Rim, and Alice Bell, founding PTA member and former PTA president. Also speaking were Tammy Pinkerton, a founding teacher, Cathi Budd, who honored Diana Larsen, a founding teacher who has since passed away, and Alicia Merrell, our current PTA president.

Past and present staff members were honored. The following employees received longevity awards for service to Canyon Rim over the past 10 years. These staff members hired in 1997 to open the school, and still on duty today, are Cindy Augustine, Jean Baker, Colleen Botts, Suzanne Brooks, Cathi Budd, Dawn Buie, Heather Coulter, Chris Greenway, Wendy Johnson, Marianne Mann, Dee Mar, Tammy Pinkerton, Aleshia Sacks and Nancy Van Nerynen.

Time Capsule

A wonderful video that was created by Heather Coulter highlighted Canyon Rim over the years. The contents of a time capsule that was sealed 10 years ago were revealed by our student council officers. They also buried another capsule, to be opened in 10 years as well.

The winners of our writing contest shared their memories of Canyon Rim, and their works were placed in the new time capsule. The program ended with the choir singing the official Canyon Rim school song.

Happy anniversary, Canyon Rim!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



Aileen Sterling
Principal

By Marilyn McCollum, Physical Education Teacher

New Fitness Room

Call it the sweat center, the cardio club, or just Room 801, but physical education students at Cerro Villa now have the use of an indoor facility to help improve their fitness level.

With grant funds from Assembly Bill 1131, and a portable classroom space, Cerro Villa was able to purchase spin bikes, the GeoMotion workout system, stability and medicine balls and individual workout mats as part of the program.

Students rotate through stations that give them the opportunity to work on four of the five standard physical fitness components. After an initial week-long training, students are rotated into the room once a week. This indoor workout opportunity compliments our regular outdoor fitness activities, and should provide more student success with our mandated fitness tests.

When asked for their comments on the new equipment, the students responded with overwhelming enthusiasm. "It's a fun place to work out, and there is a variety of equipment to use. The bikes give you a great workout!" The added facility has also inspired several staff members to exercise after-school as well. So look out for Cerro Villa to be setting some fitness records!



Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

170 N. Aspen St., Orange, CA 92869
714/532-8043 www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/chapman



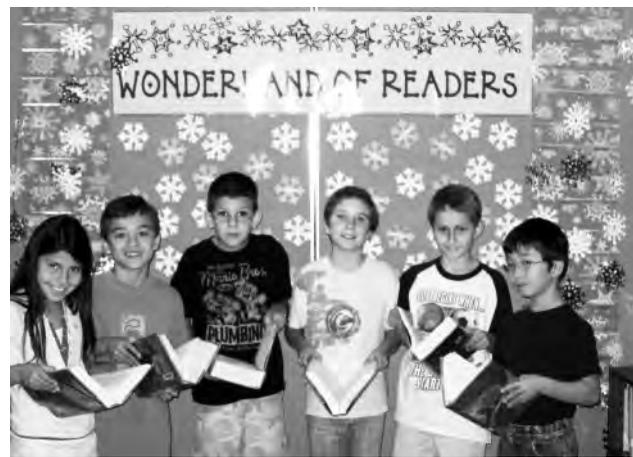
Karen Merkow
Principal

Reading Everywhere!

Reading is the key to unlocking a world of knowledge! Whether it's reading a book, reading on the Internet or listening to a great story, our school supports reading for comprehension and enjoyment. Over the past several months, we have had some wonderful reading incentive programs.

What a wonderful way to spend your winter break, reading an exciting book! Many of our students participated in our Winter Wonderland reading program. They received a special certificate of recognition, and their names are proudly displayed on a bulletin board in our Information Center our library.

Another exciting incentive program is our annual book exchange. It is now in full swing. Students may bring in gently used books to school to exchange for other gently used books. Librarian Pam Carrie organizes this event in which students receive a ticket for each book they bring in, and then choose a new book. We've added a fun way to recycle and renew personal libraries!



Crescent *Intermediate*

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

No Articles This Issue

Crescent *Elementary School*

5125 Gerda Drive, Anaheim, CA 92807
714/997-6105

El Modena *High School*

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



John Briquet
Principal

Winter Update

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of the first semester, and that four months have passed since our last update. Much has happened on campus and in the community, and the Vanguardians have continued to demonstrate their dedication to community service, scholarship and athletic excellence.

The 2007 wildfires greatly impacted the lives of our students and many others in the community. Naturally, El Modena pitched in to help. In a single day, the ASB collected over \$2000 for those affected. For two weeks, our gym became a Red Cross evacuation site for the 60 victims who needed food and shelter during the crisis.

Fall Triumphs

The 2007 Advanced Placement scores have been reviewed and the data disaggregated. In total, El Modena students took 680 exams and maintained an overall pass rate of 82 percent. This score is the highest in the district and one of the highest in Orange County! This is especially impressive considering that approximately 90 percent of our AP students take these exams.

Our fall athletic programs continued to thrive, with many teams advancing to CIF competition. The girls' volleyball and tennis teams both went on to post-season play, as did the boys' and girls' cross country teams. In fact, the boys' cross country team tied for first-place in the league, and the girls' team finished a very respectable eighth-place in state.

Of special interest is the boys' water polo team, led by our new head coach, Granger Abuhoff. It advanced to the CIF competition for the first time in 18 years!

Esplanade *Elementary School*

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



Katie Anderson
Principal

Interventions

As a Title I School, Esplanade makes every effort to ensure that students who are struggling in school get extra academic support. Over 69 students are seen daily in what we call the "Push-In Model," where two certificated teachers rotate into classrooms to support those struggling students.

This year, we have provided a variety of academic assistance programs that are offered outside of the regular school day. Of the 560 students at Esplanade, 276 are getting extra help with reading or mathematics. Two groups of five students each meet at 7:30 a.m.

on most mornings. Over 80 students are enrolled in the YMCA program that offers one hour of academic support daily, along with their regular sports and enrichment activities.

There are also 117 children who stay after school for focused intervention in reading and mathematics. This activity is provided for by several different supplemental educational support agencies, including the help of seven of our own teachers. You might say that Esplanade has two schools running during the day!

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

By Rhonda El-Hinn, Assistant Principal Visit from Down Under

To our excitement, El Rancho Charter School was lucky enough to host 54 Australian students and their chaperones at our school in November. Through Internet research, our Australian friends chose El Rancho because of all the accolades and awards we have received! Our visitors traveled from Brisbane, Australia and arrived at El Rancho on a yellow school bus. They were most excited to try cafeteria food! While here, they performed a special dance production at lunch, and gave presentations about Australia and

their school to all our physical education classes.

At the end of their stay on Friday, our Australian friends bid us farewell, with the promise to continue to keep touch. They left us phone numbers, e-mail addresses and, most importantly, fond memories to last a lifetime.



Fletcher *Elementary School*

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



Christina Varela
Principal

By Kristanna Plumb, Library Media Technician

Reading Counts

Reading Counts has been going strong this year at Fletcher School. Reading Counts is a program in which students read books and take quizzes on computers to improve their

reading comprehension skills and earn points. We will have an awards assembly in February to honor the students who have met their point goals in the Reading Counts program.

Fletcher students have completed 2,852 quizzes so far this year, with almost 35 million words read! Third grade leads the school with 657 quizzes passed, and sixth grade has earned the most points with 4,709 total!

Our library at Fletcher has grown to a capacity of 39,000 Reading Counts quizzes, which gives our students lots of opportunities to read and succeed.

How can you find out if the book your child is reading has a quiz? Go to <http://src.scholastic.com/ecatalog>.



Reading Counts!

Fairhaven *Elementary School*

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



Elena Loetz-Stoces
Principal

Junior National Young Leaders Conference

Jordi Almdarez, a sixth-grade student, has been chosen to represent Fairhaven Elementary School at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. The goal of the conference is to introduce students to the importance of having leadership qualities such as good character, communication skills, goal setting, respect, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork.

Jordi will have the opportunity to meet other sixth-grade students from across America. He will be visiting historic Philadelphia, Harper's Ferry, Lincoln Memorial, Capital Hill and the White House. Guest speakers for this week-long event include: Mitt Romney, Governor of Massachusetts; Janet Reno, former US Attorney General; and Louis Freeh, Director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. Numerous other advisors, CEOs, and directors of major government organizations and businesses will also be appearing. Jordi will be attending daily conferences with these key note speakers and then be able to see historic sights related to the founding and development of America.

Imperial *Elementary School*

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



Linda Salata
Principal

By Kelly Roberts Jog 4 John

Imperial Elementary hosted a special event, Jog 4 John, during recess in December. The jog-a-thon benefited John Boyd, senior and cocaptain of the football team at Canyon High School, who was diagnosed with leukemia last summer.

Imperial students were asked to collect at least \$3 in donations to reach the goal of \$1,000. They also had a goal of running or walking 1,000 laps. To help keep track of the laps, football coach Brent McKee brought nine of his football players up to Imperial.

They made tick marks on the bibs of the runners each time they ran a lap. Needless to say, their pens almost ran out of ink.

Imperial students and families ran over 4,000 laps and donated \$1,546 to the John Boyd Fund. Many teachers incorporated the jog-a-thon into their lesson plans. Fifth-grade teacher Mr. Mueller and his class determined that they ran an average of 12 laps. Mrs. Jones, a lower-grade special day class teacher, helped her class determine the range of laps run by her students—1–16—and the mode, 6. Imperial's visually impaired students also all participated.



Handy *Elementary School*

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



Sandy Schaffer
Principal

History in the Making

As part of a grant that focuses on art, music, and physical education, the students at Handy Elementary School had the opportunity to be part of a mural that will adorn the front of our school for years to come. In November and December, each student designed a sketch, which would ultimately be painted on a four-inch ceramic tile. They were encouraged to illustrate around the theme of what they like about school.

For about an hour, each class worked with mentors to paint their pictures onto the tiles. They received ideas and suggestions to help with the process and make their tiles stand out. Parent volunteers were also present to lend helping hands, if needed.

The goal of this activity was to provide each child with time to reflect on their school experiences, choose a favorite idea, and use ceramic paints to create a decorative original piece of artwork that will remain in Handy history.

We are excited about our new mural. It is going to a colorful, cheerful reminder of all of the great things Handy students experience every day. Way to go, Handy Hornets!



Mary Paz Obando, and her parents, who volunteered and helped with the project.

Jordan *Elementary School*

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



Bertie Anderson
Principal

By Katie Diaz, ASES Site Director and Lisa Green, Resource Teacher After-School Education

This year, Jordan Elementary is continuing their After-School Education and Safety program (ASES.) It provides approximately 80 Jordan students with an after-school education and enrichment program. There is one leader assigned for every 20 students in the program, and it runs from Monday to Friday until 6:00 p.m.

ASES is curriculum-based, and focuses on the California state content standards. This YMCA program includes one hour of physical education, one hour of homework tutoring, one hour of educational support and one hour of creative enrichment activities in the arts. Character education is a strong focus of the program, with the teaching of four core values: honesty, responsibility, respect, and caring. A snack is also provided daily.

The program provides special opportunities for students and their families. Recently, they participated in a musical performance for family and friends. Everyone sang songs, and some students played musical instruments, too.

This after-school program has been very beneficial to Jordan students. It is giving them the extra boost that they need to be successful.



La Veta *Elementary School*

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



Sue Dahlquist
Principal

By Amber Miller, Anne Mogan, Kathy Racine, Meghan Finney, Rhiannon Buhr, and Sarah Norris **Math at Our Fingertips**

The first-graders at La Veta Elementary School have their hands busy. School-wide we have adopted the new Riverdeep Destination Math series. This program is a carefully sequenced, comprehensive curriculum. Our first-graders, of all reading levels, have embraced this new solid foundation. Included in this series are important math concepts and skills they will need to understand the world around them. In just 30 math sessions, all our first-grade students will experience individualized instruction, collaborative learning, and whole-class participation through each course.

We are thrilled with the progress of our first-grade students. They continue to be inspired as they successfully progress through this math series. Eager for advancement, many of our students are accessing the series on their home computers, as well as at school. We are proud of the growth our first-graders have made with their fingertips.



Linda Vista *Elementary School*

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



Diane Osborn
Principal

Rules and Respect

During the month of February, we at Linda Vista reviewed how we treat others by observing and recognizing our “Make Kindness Contagious” month.

We held assemblies about playground rules and what it means to be a good sport. We showcased how to exhibit respect for others, and the importance of treating others as we ourselves would want to be treated. We also talked with our students about bullying and just how hurtful it can be.

Eighth-graders from Cerro Villa School came to Linda Vista and talked with other students about the importance of following school rules and how important it is to treat others with respect. Sixth-grade students also talked to primary students, and then role played with them to show what respectful treatment looked like. Students made announcements on the *Linda Vista's Kids News Show* that broadcasts to the whole school.

Two of our staff members attended a two-day workshop, “Operation Respect: Don’t Laugh at Me,” and brought back many ideas that can be incorporated into our classroom and playground activities.

Linda Vista kids are the greatest! The month of February was a perfect time for us to review just what it means for our children to continue to be the caring and respectful students that they are.

Lampson *Elementary School*

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



Cheryl Cohen
Principal

Visual and Performing Arts

The Lampson Elementary School staff is committed to keeping the arts an integral part of our instructional program.

Mr. Steve Herman, second-grade teacher, partnered with retired Lampson teacher Anne Rosa to deepen arts concepts. A recent project included learning sculpting techniques to make clay ornaments.

Third-grade teacher Mrs. Julia Shepherd’s students express their understanding of concepts through a wide variety of art media, including clay, papier-mâché, yarn, and fabric. Her students have won grants for their painting of school murals and enjoy showing their writing skills by creating pop-up books.

Fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Radha Hablani enriches her fine arts program with an annual field trip to the Getty Museum and an after-school art club. Fifth-grade students showcased their music skills during an annual winter program coordinated by our district music teachers, Mr. Mike Kiddoo, Mrs. Regina Roum, and Mr. Jeffery Stupin.

Dedicating time for the arts provides the teachers with one more vehicle to personalize instruction and tap into the wide range of talents and skills of their students.



McPherson Magnet

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

By Tim Biland, Assistant Principal **Add ‘Heart’ to Motto**

It is with great satisfaction that I relate what the McPherson Magnet School Community has given and continues to give in expanding their support to the extended community. As the Firestorm of 2008 swept through Southern California, many lost their homes or were not permitted to return after evacuating. The community put out the call for a collection of items, and the boxes and bags quickly filled the front lobby of the office. Piles turned into small mountains that hid the desks.

Everyone bought and donated necessities, including food, clothes, toiletries, gift certificates, and games and toys. They came on the weekend with office manager Adrian Ober, an integral cog in bringing McPherson’s resources together, and packaged and distributed everything.

McPherson was able to contribute greatly to many efforts, and to adopt two families that lacked insurance and lost everything. The student Leadership class, led by teacher Lynne Palucki, coordinated the collection of the comforts of home to send to the men and women serving overseas in the military. There were 47 boxes shipped to Americans serving overseas during the holidays.

Although the slogan “Math, Science, Technology: Our Magnet Focus” adorns the side of the cafeteria and our letterhead, the terms somehow fail to capture our essence. The smiles on the faces of the parents, the warm hellos and how-are-yous from the students, and the sense of community that one feels in just moments of being on the campus are just as important to the success of the school and the community.

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BY SUSAN PETERSON

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Nohl Canyon *Elementary School*

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



Chris Parker
Principal

Learning for Life

Nohl Canyon is once again participating in the Learning for Life Character Education program. As stated in its mission statement, Learning for Life, "enables you people to become responsible individuals by teaching positive character traits, career development, leadership and life skills so they can make ethical choices and achieve their full potential."

Weekly for 12 weeks, participating classrooms receive lessons from the Learning for Life facilitator, Rebecca Ornelas. Lessons are interactive and require students to be aware of their own decision-making processes. All third- and fourth-grade classes completed their program before winter break, and now fifth and sixth grades are beginning their weekly lessons. First and second grades will participate after spring break.

Rotary Grant Winners

Whitney Amsbary and Jamie Rose were awarded a monetary Rotary grant for their class. All of our fifth-grade classes will be participating in a reenactment of Colonial Days. Students will participate in depicting Colonial Days in America through skits, songs, crafts, costumes and food preparation.



Orange *High School*

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



SK Johnson
Principal

Youth Empowerment Pilot Project

The OUSD Network for a Healthy California has been chosen as one of five school district programs statewide to pilot a special Youth Empowerment project.

Orange High was selected to run the first pilot program during the 2006–2007 school year. Because of their success, the OUSD was awarded another pilot year. Principal Johnson selected Patty Maize, who is an OHS parent, to be the adult leader. Students were chosen based upon teacher recommendation.

The group started working in April of 2007, and they have met weekly to identify nutritional and physical activity issues. They narrowed their focus down to one topic: we should have more healthy food options offered on campus and in the vending machines.

Research and Analysis

The students had interactive discussions, simulations and role-plays, group work sessions and guest speakers. Through these activities, they defined a research topic, developed and implemented a rigorous design, analyzed data, drew findings and recommendations, documented and presented their analysis, and then developed action plans to implement their proposals.

The students named themselves the "Lunch Bunch." It has been fascinating to watch them jump into this project with excitement, enthusiasm and tenacity. It has been tremendous to see them grow academically and emotionally.

The Lunch Bunch has compiled their report, and they presented their findings to the statewide Network for a Healthy California Conference, on January 23 in Sacramento. It was attended by over 1,000 people.

To learn more about our Network for a Healthy California, please contact Kat Soltanmorad, RD, at 714-628-4459.

Olive *Elementary School*

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



Deborah Smith
Principal

School Newspaper

The sixth-grade Developing English Now (DEN) group has set out to make a school-wide newspaper. The goal was to create a paper that would appeal to all students at Olive School.

Students came up with ideas that would be of interest to other students and then began gathering information and writing the stories. With short notice, students started typing and laying out the paper. Students were working rapidly to gather spelling words from third through sixth grades. These words were then used in the stories, crossword puzzles and word searches.

Other students went online to search for information about sporting events and the fires that have affected students all over Southern California. Students surveyed students to come up with book reviews and movie reviews, applying some of the statistical data that we learned in math.

It seemed everyone had ideas they wanted to write about. We have tried to report on the main subjects you would find in a local paper, such as sports and general news, as well as subjects you would only find in a school paper. We have subjects such as poetry, an advice column, student art, jokes, random facts, and student interviews.

The majority of the work takes place during our DEN time. Students work in small groups of eight to 10 while the rest of the class works on specific skill-improvement areas using the recent testing data.

Stories are written in Microsoft Word and then pasted into Microsoft Publisher, where pictures and graphs are inserted.

Palmyra *Elementary School*

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



Connie Smith
Principal

By Mendy Mac Donald, Teacher–5th Grade Our Mission Project

It's that time of the year when the fourth-graders at Palmyra Elementary are studying California Missions. In preparation for this, the students researched the subject on the internet in our computer lab. This was followed by an online scavenger hunt for detailed information on Mission history.

Small groups presented a Reader's Theatre about Father Serra and the soldiers who first met the California Indians. The students then wrote reports about daily life at the Mission. They talked about the Native Americans and priests who worked together there, and drew diagrams and pictures that depicted daily activities.

The final part of the project was for individual students to create an actual model of their mission. The students used everything from cardboard, construction paper, lasagna noodles for the red tile roof, and even real clay to create the models.

Our Mission replicas are on proud display at the school. The students will soon participate in a traditional field trip to the San Juan Capistrano Mission, where they will explore the grounds upon which Father Junipero Serra once stood.



Panorama *Elementary School*

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

No Articles This Issue

Parkside *Pre-K*

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



Allison Smith
Principal

Buddy Walk

Parkside Preschool and Kindergarten participated in the Down Syndrome Association of Orange County Buddy Walk. This fund-raiser took place at a professional baseball stadium in November. Staff, parents and former students arrived at the stadium to participate in various activities, including a parade, bounce houses, and dancing. The children were even able to bat from home plate and run the bases of the field, just like their favorite ballplayers! Team Parkside made a great showing, with cocaptains Lea Foglesong and Nina Dawson raising a significant amount of money for the National Down Syndrome Association.

This was such a wonderful opportunity for the Orange Unified School District families of children with Down syndrome to spend time together and have fun.



Richland *High School*

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

A New Start

At the time of print, we will have begun our third quarter here at Richland High School. Wow, where has all the time gone?

Beginning the third quarter is an exciting time for us, as it is almost like the first day of school all over again. This is because we will have sent about 80 students back to their home schools on track for graduation. In their place will be an equal number of students ready for the opportunity to earn all their credits to return to their home schools.

We are proud of the fact that we have allowed for the students to earn their credits and wish them the best of luck in their continued efforts toward graduation.

Richland will be going through an accreditation visit in February. As part of the visit, the committee would like to have input from parents and community members related to their experiences with Richland. If you are interested in participating, please contact Richland High School at (714) 997-6167.



Mark Kammerlohr
Principal

Portola *Middle School*

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



By Mrs. Bloom, Head Counselor

New Parenting Classes

For the fourth year in a row, Portola Middle School will be offering parenting classes that include proven techniques that will work successfully with teens. Classes begin in February and will continue until March 11.

Our new class attendees can look forward to learning some life-changing parenting skills in this program. Topics covered in the class include instilling self esteem and courage, teen behavior and problem solving, responsibility and discipline, cooperation and communication and more.

The program also focuses on how to keep your teen safe from the risks of drugs and violence. Even if your son or daughter is not directly involved with these issues, the odds are that they know someone who is, or who has been affected by these problems in some way.

The parenting classes are offered in both English and Spanish, and will be presented on six consecutive Tuesday evenings, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The classes include a combination of discussion, videotape presentation and lecture.

We invite all Portola parents to attend this program, and learn to become better, more positive role models for their children. If you are interested in more information, please contact Mrs. Bloom in the counseling office.

Debra Thompson
Principal

Prospect *Elementary School*

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



Kathleen Bruce
Principal

Family Involvement

Prospect Elementary School recently had its first Family Involvement Friday for the 2007-2008 school year. About 50 families joined us for a morning of reading with their children in classrooms and then attending a mini-workshop in the library.

Mrs. Laura Miller, our literacy coach, provided parents with many different reading strategies, including reading games that parents can play with their children to build reading comprehension skills. Following the workshop, parents had the opportunity to choose books to add to their home libraries.

A new logo has arrived at Prospect. As part of the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) program being implemented this spring, a new logo was painted on the entrance wall of the office. Jake Ledesma did an awesome job painting a new prospector on the wall. Names of students drawn during weekly drawings for PBIS will be displayed on the wall. PBIS will kick off at the end of March.



Riverdale *Elementary School*

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



Pamela McFadden
Principal

Flat Stanley, Hero!

In the book *Flat Stanley*, written by Jeff Brown, Stanley shares his adventures as he visits California via mail after being squashed flat.

After reading the story, Riverdale's third-graders made their own Flat Stanleys. They sent their creations to friends and family around the world, in hopes that their Flat Stanleys would be returned with letters chronicling their journeys. He traveled to various places in California, Michigan, Florida, Colorado and Mexico.

Perhaps the most interesting place he visited was with a soldier in Iraq. The soldier is a brother of third-grader Heather Bellegia. He sent pictures and a letter describing a day in the life of a soldier. Flat Stanley became an honorary soldier and decided to stay. The soldiers plan to correspond with the classes in the future.

Besides an instant geography lesson, the students learned about different cultures and traditions through pictures and letters that were returned with Flat Stanley.



Austin and Heather amid the returned Flat Stanleys, pictures, and letters.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



Mary Henry
Principal

By Cathie Hunsberger, Curriculum Manager Correct Equation!

School + Students + Parents makes for a very powerful education program! The after-school tutoring program run by Santiago's counselor, Mr. Rodriguez, is evidence of this fact.

Last November, Mr. Rodriguez worked with English learner (EL) coordinator Mrs. Arellanes and identified 65 students within the EL program who are currently in danger of not succeeding in school: students who had one or more F's on their report cards, and whose learning logs were not being signed consistently by

their parents. Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Arellanes and our principal, Mrs. Henry, then held a meeting with the parents of these selected students, and shared with them important information and advice to help them aid their children with their schoolwork. Perhaps most beneficial was a "field trip" to the library, at which time Mr. Rodriguez showed the parents how to access the Parent Portal so that they could keep up with their children's assignments.

Following this meeting, Mr. Rodriguez arranged for these students to receive after-school tutoring three days a week in the library. Mr. Rodriguez, college tutors and various teachers work one hour a day helping the students complete their assignments. The turnout for this program has been high, especially since the parents have an understanding of what Mr. Rodriguez is trying to accomplish.

Working one-on-one with students is the best kind of education available, and having parents support this effort is the icing on the cake. Extra tutors are always welcome; just stop by the library at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays and check in with Mr. Rodriguez!

Running Springs *Elementary School*

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



Lydia Roach
Principal

We've Got Pals for You!

Our Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) members in grades four through six have worked hard providing assistance and leadership to our school community and the community at large during the first half of this school year. In November, we raised over \$5000 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart program. Through our Coins Count campaign, we were able to raise over \$1000 for needy families during the holidays.

Students were encouraged to empty their piggy banks and pick up loose change to contribute to this campaign. Because of this, three needy families received gift certificates to grocery and department stores. We have also instituted a schoolwide recycling system. PAL has equipped each classroom and our office with plastic, aluminum and paper recycling containers. The recycled materials are collected daily, and all recycled materials are delivered to local recycle centers.

At the beginning of second quarter, PAL began its after-school tutoring program. PAL members tutor students in grades K-3 each week. The program has been successful in assisting lower-grade students with academics and instilling leadership in our PAL members.



2007-2008 PAL Officers:

Chelsea Hefti, Marissa Borrego, Rylee Hemerson,
Lyndsey Borrego, Verdi Ruelos, Nolan Hernandez.

Silverado *Elementary School*

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



Pat Evans
Principal

Imagination Machine

Writing is our literacy focus at Silverado. Students in all grade levels wrote stories to submit to the Imagination Machine, the Orange County touring children's theater company that inspires children to explore their creative writing abilities. This year the troupe of actors performed a show based on the writings of seven talented Silverado authors. It was wonderful to hear the overwhelming applause for all our students from the audience of students, parents, grandparents, and preschoolers from the Silverado Children's Center.

The stories chosen for the production were: "The Beach" by Emily Sifuentes and Sydney Carr; "The Pebble" by Rachel Bennett; "A Vacation in Hawaii" by Elizabeth Wood, Kennedy Hazlett, and Kyle Shrieves; "Mrs. Willey" by Austin Esquerra; "Mystery of the Stolen Crystal" by Liliana Hernandez; "Gummy Bear vs. Gummy Worm" by Griffin Stellhorn; and "The King of the Jungle is Loose" by Mrs. Mariano's kindergarten class. Seeing the stories come to life in mime, dance, song and action will be a lifelong memory for our talented authors.

Community Togetherness

Silverado families and community members have been through a difficult year because of the October wildfires. A positive result was a renewal of community spirit and involvement, as evidenced by the enthusiastic participation of students, parents and community members.

There was a festive atmosphere as the students, dressed in their holiday finest, sang songs of joy and celebration. The program, "Songs of the Season" showcased family photos of our students and staff, seasonal music from each classroom, and a special performance by our upper-grade choir.

Serrano *Elementary School*

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



Barbara Rubin
Principal

A Walk Through Time

Serrano Elementary School students experience history through an exciting, interactive, social studies program. Currently as the fourth-graders read *Two Years before the Mast*, based on California history, they are preparing to board the *Pilgrim*, an educational ship in Dana Point Harbor. Every student becomes a sailor of old, spending the night aboard ship with their teacher and classmates.

Our fifth-grade students experience life as colonial Americans. Through an Orange Rotary grant, Mrs. Schuml and her teaching teammates, take the students, dressed as colonists, to Riley's Farm, where they enact life during the American Revolution. Following the field trip, everyone recreates a day in the life of colonial Americans by making candles, quilting and learning as they would have over 200 years ago.

Sixth-grade students participate in the burial process of "Queen Cluck," a mummified chicken, in order to learn the social and burial practices of ancient Egyptians. Working in teams, all students created a sarcophagus of a fictional Egyptian character.

Come see the results of their hard work. Understanding the life of our ancestors through actual experiences is an inspiration to Serrano students and makes learning fun.



Colonial Day in Mrs. Schuml's fifth-grade class.

Taft *Elementary School*

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



Vicki James
Principal

A Mini-California Community

Visitors to Taft School instantly come in contact with a special blend of students, staff and unique programs. The school services a diverse group of English and non-English-speaking students from a range of high- to low-income families. Special education, prekindergarten and magnet GATE classes add to the mix of students who participate in a schoolwide push for healthy bodies and academic excellence.

Dedicated, caring staff members interact with the students by name and keep tabs of successes and challenges. Being one of the most diverse schools in the district gives each child a chance to learn and grow from other students' experiences.

Taft staff and students are involved in activities each year to help others. Whether they help victims of a catastrophic situation such as Katrina, or help children at a local hospital cancer center, our students learn the value of helping others. Taft is truly a microcosm of California. What a great place to learn!

Sycamore *Elementary School*

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



David Reynolds
Principal

Parent Education Days

At Sycamore Elementary, we have a special committee that meets on a regular basis to discuss and plan opportunities for parents to visit our school in order to learn about English language, arts and math classes.

On January 18, the Parent Education Committee met to plan the second quarter's tasks and responsibilities. The committee consists of Ms. Babayan, Ms. Doesburg, Mr. Flores, Ms. Gellatly, Ms. Petersen, Ms. Ray and Mr. Reynolds.

On February 20th, Sycamore hosted a Parent Literacy Day, which focused on reading fluency. Parents had the opportunity to visit classrooms to see various types of reading fluency being modeled, ranging from choral reading to the ear-to-ear method. They even saw fluency strategies that increase the reading skills for our second-language learners, which includes cooperative strip paragraphs and sentence patterning charts.

Before visiting the classrooms, parents were given some background information on reading fluency. We also introduced strategies on how to practice at home with your children, as well as provided materials that may be used, such as tape cassettes.

In case you are wondering about math instruction, there will be a Family Math Night on March 13th. Activities will be planned in which the entire family can participate.

So mark your calendars for March 13th. More information will be forthcoming.

Villa Park *Elementary School*

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



Larry Hausner
Principal

Spring Survey Results

Last spring our Villa Park Elementary School (VPE) parent community was asked to provide valuable feedback about our school through a parent survey. A tremendous number of surveys were returned, and the results have been compiled. Our School Site Council debriefed the feedback prior to end of the year, and teachers viewed the information at the beginning of the school year. The overall opinion shared by parents is that VPE is a safe school with a rich history of providing an excellent academic program for students. Finally, we appreciate all who participated in the survey.

Student Safety

Since student safety is our top priority at VPE, parent response was positive, and they feel our school is a safe place to send their children.

An area of concern was about our school's emergency/disaster plan. Parents, teachers and administration spent time last year and at the beginning of this year updating our plan in the case of an emergency. This also includes the updating of all supplies, such as student emergency kits and classroom backpacks. The plan has been updated and has been implemented.

Communication

Throughout the survey, parents made numerous positive comments about our communication. Specifically, parents believe that our teachers do a fine job of communicating. Based on this feedback, we are encouraging parents to sign up for the Parent Portal by coming into our office to complete the process. In addition, our teachers have been trained in Grade Book, an online grading component of the portal. Also, a number of teachers use Blackboard, and the administration uses ListServ as well.

Villa Park *High School*

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



Ed Howard
Principal

Silver Medalists

This year, a national news weekly magazine in collaboration with School Evaluation Services analyzed academic and enrollment data from more than 18,000 public high schools to find the very best across the country. Villa Park is a silver medal winner. A key component to the analysis is the college readiness of the students. This is a wonderful affirmation of the efforts that go into getting our students ready for what is next.

We have made some facilities improvements, adding two desperately needed student restrooms; new asphalt was poured in areas that would traditionally flood to alleviate that problem; several temporary walls have been replaced with permanent ones; our tennis courts are being resurfaced; and, thanks to the efforts of the PFSO, we added eight banners on the light standards in the front of the school. We would like to recognize the district maintenance and operations as well as facilities and planning for a great job.



Yorba *Middle School*

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



Tara Saraye
Principal

By Liliana Uribe, 7th grade student

Yorba Turkey Trot

November 20 was a warm Tuesday, and a great day to host our annual Yorba Turkey Trot. The physical education department, along with the leadership class, hosted the event this year, and it was a great success.

The Turkey Trot is a running event in which the top five boy and girl runners from each grade level, sixth through eighth, are awarded with turkeys to take home to their families for Thanksgiving. There is also a raffle given for other students to win turkeys. This year, over 40 turkeys were handed out. All participants received water and popsicles for their hard work after the race was over. The entire school was out cheering for the winners.

Lastly, the Turkey Trot wouldn't have been possible without additional help from the PTSA and Academic Student Body (ASB), who donated turkeys and helped organize and run the event.



West Orange *Elementary School*

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



Bobbie Lansman
Principal

A Team Effort

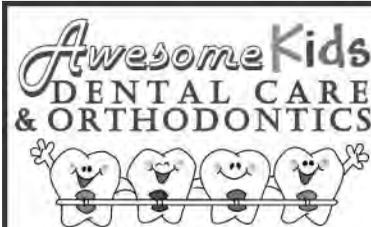
West Orange Elementary is only one single school among the almost 1,000 "Reading First" grant-receiving schools in California. But we at West Orange are proud to announce that in the statewide ranking of Reading First schools, we were placed at the very top!

Everyone is thrilled and excited to acknowledge this honor for all of our hard work and growth. We received our award at the annual Reading First Principal and Coach Conference. It was held at the Long Beach Convention Center on January 31, 2008.

Achieving this honor is the result of a team effort of hard work, great discipline and school-wide cohesiveness. West Orange has made "personalization and parent involvement" the key components for the entire year, with the introduction and pilot of our new STAGES conferences.

STAGES is an acronym for "Setting Together Achievement Goals for Every Student." The teacher, student and parents have an opportunity to examine multiple measures of data from the previous year, and together, will set a first-quarter achievement goal that is personalized for every student.

STAGES is only one example of the kind of professional practice that can be found every day at West Orange Elementary School.



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Orange Unified School District Services

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

By Michael Christensen
Senior Executive Director Administrative Services

Modernization Projects

The Facilities, Planning and Construction Department has been busy with three school-wide modernization projects currently underway, one just completed, and one in the state approval process. Additionally, the Board of Education awarded contracts to Chevron Energy Solutions to implement energy conservation projects at eight schools. The projects include new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning equipment, new lighting, ductwork cleaning, and automated energy control equipment and software to allow for remote control and diagnosis of the heating and cooling systems. The district is paying for these improvements with money from the sale of property, redevelopment income, energy savings and state modernization funds.

The three schools currently undergoing modernization are Esplanade Elementary School, Jordan Elementary School and Portola Middle School. The schools are all in the second phase of their respective modernizations. Students and staff were excited to move back into newly renovated classrooms with the start of the school year. The Prospect Elementary School modernization was completed over the summer, and a rededication ceremony was held at the school on September 18.

The modernization plans for Sycamore Elementary School have been submitted to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for approval. Construction is scheduled to start in the summer of 2008. Architectural contracts should be awarded by spring 2008 for the next three schools scheduled for modernization: Fairhaven Elementary School; Lampson Elementary School; and Yorba Middle School.

The schools included in the energy conservation contracts are Crescent Primary School, Imperial Elementary School, Cerro Villa Middle School, Santiago Middle School, Canyon High School, El Modena High School, Orange High School and Villa Park High School. Plans have been submitted and are awaiting approval from DSA for Santiago Middle School and Building 800 at Orange High School. Construction on these first two schools will start during the winter of 2008, while the rest of the projects are in the process of being designed and submitted for approval. The energy conservation projects currently under contract with Chevron Energy Solutions will take approximately 26 months to complete.

The district is paying for these improvements with money from the sale of property, redevelopment income, energy savings and state modernization funds.

By Karen Hanson
Administrator Pupil Services/SELPA

Health Services

Outbreaks of skin infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria have been increasingly reported in schools, particularly in sports teams. One of these bacteria is methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA.) Although this type of bacteria is not new, it has received much attention in the media recently, and has been the subject of general interest and public concern.

Orange Unified has a plan to monitor all communicable diseases. The school health clerks, nurses and athletic trainers serve as the first line of detection. They closely monitor our students for reports of infections or disease. If reported, district Health Services works closely with our Orange County Health Care Agency, the school, our parents and the district maintenance staff to ensure proper follow-up.

For more information about antibiotic resistant infections, including MRSA, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/ar_mrsa.html or contact the Orange Unified School District's Department of Health Services, at (714) 628-4223.

By Judy Pollock, M.A., S.N.S.
Director Center for Nutrition and Physical Activity

Student-Design Menus: Nutrition Education and Financial Planning

What's new in elementary student education? Last month students in Mr. Tarango's sixth-grade class at Running Springs Elementary School were the first to have a condensed, one-hour class on basic nutrition concepts, food production, delivery and availability of produce, finance, and customer service. The outcome from the students' hard work was reflected on the December elementary school lunch menu.

Students sampled foods to be provided on the menu, rated how they liked the items, and were taught about the USDA Food Pyramid. They were given a short course in customer service goals, such as the glory when you receive compliments on a great menu and the disappointment of not-so-good comments when you have an unhappy customer. During the second half of the session, students figured out what was available based on food production records and inventory, how to align items with the USDA Food Pyramid and the specific nutritional guidelines school lunches must adhere to, and decide if all the foods would be able to withstand food safety and sanitation at each elementary school site.

The student menu project has been a huge success and will continue throughout the remainder of the school year. The goals of the project will continue to include providing excellent customer service for our schools and engaging our students with youth-led learning activities, such as student-design menus.



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School News 

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Thomas A. Godley, Ed.D.

the group was able to provide \$13,419 to 22 OUSD teachers at 15 different schools. These grants will have an impact on over 3,800 students! Teachers who participated were required to submit a grant application to the Orange Rotary. A panel of judges reviewed each application and finalists were chosen based on defined criteria. Congratulations to each mini-grant recipient!

Budget Update

Governor Schwarzenegger proposed massive cuts for K-12 education, declaring a “fiscal emergency” in January. The past decade has been extremely volatile for public education finance, which has been likened to a rollercoaster ride since 2000. The economic slowdown that began in early 2007 includes three major factors: 1.) rising energy prices, 2.) the housing market correction, and 3.) the housing credit market meltdown. Economic impacts related to the housing market decline have been exponential for California. How does this affect public education? Proposition 98 is the funding guarantee the voters put into place in 1988. When voters approved Proposition 98 as an amendment to the California Constitution, they sought to guarantee public schools and community colleges a level of funding that would at least keep pace with growth in student population and the personal income of Californians and, at best, increase the amount schools receive. The calculation of the Proposition 98 minimum guarantee is a complicated set of formulas, but essentially, it is directly linked to state revenues and the overall health of California’s economy. The important thing to remember, however, is that it is merely a “minimum” funding floor. Its calculation has nothing to do with need and/or adequacy. Decreased General Fund revenues have resulted in a lowering of the current-year (2007-08) Proposition 98 guarantee by an estimated \$1.4 billion. In other words, for the current year K-14 is funded above the minimum guarantee. When this happens, K-14 is at risk of mid-year reductions. The governor’s budget proposes to reduce the 2007-08 guarantee by \$400 billion resulting in a new guarantee level of \$56.7 billion. However, other alternative solutions to these problems are being considered that will not disrupt current year services.

What Does This Mean For Orange Unified?

At this time, it’s difficult to state what the total affect will be on the OUSD budget for next year. However, the process for reducing costs has already begun at the District level, and as more information is received, it will be processed and shared with staff and community members. Staff always watches the state budget very closely, and will continue to monitor the progress of the governor’s proposed budget through state updates, alerts and workshops.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER • FROM PAGE 1



Edward Acevedo
Student Advisory
Representative
Richland H. S.

through their courses and turn in their projects on the deadline dates, earning all five credits.

Another way of earning credits outside of class is through a program in our library called Teen Read Aloud. Students can earn credits by reading children’s books to their younger siblings. This program promotes reading by our students and models good habits to future generations of students.

Throughout the year, we have plans for several activities. In March we will participate in the Pennies for Patients program. With this program elementary, middle, and high schools raise money and donate it to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Everyone who takes part is a winner. Our counselor,

Ms. Baker, runs workshops in the library during lunch every week. She helps students become organized individuals. For those who smoke, there is also a workshop that encourages students to quit and stay away from smoking and other drugs. At Richland both students and staff encourage a drug-free campus and always doing your best in school.

Orange Unified School District Board of Education



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CREATIVE EXPRESSION • FROM PAGE 1

exposed to art-related vocabulary such as complimentary, value, texture, contour, and scale. Even kindergarten and first-grade students are able to recognize and describe simple patterns found in their environments, which is one of the state’s art standards for first grade.

Olive students are also learning about the French artist Rousseau, who was known throughout the world for his vividly colored, life-like paintings of animals and plants. Students who may not excel in the more academic areas of their school experience are finding themselves thoroughly engaged in the creative art process as they create their own Rousseau-like jungle plants and birds.

Upon returning to their classrooms, students are incorporating what they have learned into follow-up writing lessons.

Making a Mark on Behavior

As an added benefit of this innovative arts program, Jamie Kough and her team have made Olive’s behavioral motto an integral part of their work with students at the school. The motto, R-O-A-R, reinforces the behaviors of Respect, staying On task, Acting safely, and being Responsible through engagement with the visual and performing arts.

Olive’s plan is to culminate this series of workshops by creating a student-designed mural for the gym’s stage area. This master work will highlight the school’s R-O-A-R slogan and feature key concepts of the school’s comprehensive behavior plan.





City of Orange

www.cityoforange.org

Community Services Department

JOIN THE CITY OF ORANGE COMMUNITY SERVICES RECREATION DIVISION TEAM!

Applications are available on the City of Orange Website
<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/orange>
and are due by April 2, 2008 — 5 p.m.

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADER



The City of Orange is looking for outgoing and enthusiastic personalities to work at our various facilities and programs. Seasonal positions begin in late May and end late August. We are looking for individuals to provide opportunities for children to be *creative, achieve self-expression, gain self-confidence, build team skills through recreation activities and group games.*

If this fits your personality and you are a leader, then this is the job for you.

If you prefer to work with all ages in the community and enjoy the responsibilities of supervising recreation buildings and park facilities, then we have also have a position for you!

Community Service Leaders work in summer day camps, drop-in and after-school programs, youth sports, and recreation building and park facility supervision. CSL's will be required to work a flexible schedule, which includes various City special events, 3rd of July, weekends, and holidays if needed.

For detailed information on the Community Services Leader, please call (714) 744-7293.



After-school Recreation Programs

(714) 744-7293

Join us for free activities, crafts, nutritional program and homework assistance.

Children age kindergarten through 8th grade are eligible to participate.

A parent packet, including a liability form, drop-off/pick-up

and discipline agreements and CDBG form must be completed in order to begin and are available at the sites during program time.

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

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

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

*Mobile Recreation, various sites in Orange,
Call the youth programs office for information
2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.*



Lifeguard/Swim Instructor or Swim Attendant

If you enjoy aquatics and the outdoors, working with people of all ages, then a swim attendant or swim instructor/lifeguard position could be the job for you! Make a difference in the Orange community first hand by teaching swim lessons and Lifeguard/Swim Instructors work at Hart Park Pool teaching swimming private, semi-private and group lessons and lifeguard, recreational swim, aqua aerobics and pool events.

Age requirements apply and lifeguard certification is required. WSI certification is preferred. Seasonal positions begin in late May and end late August. Aquatics staff will be required to work weekends, holidays, 3rd of July and general community services special events if needed.

For detailed information on the Lifeguard/Swim Instructor or Swim Attendant please call (714) 744-7266.