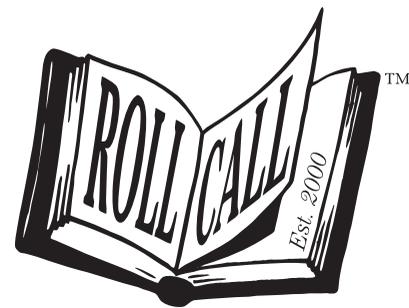


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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 15

APRIL / MAY 2008

SUPERINTENDENT



Thomas A. Godley, Ed.D.

Each year at this time, the education community focuses a large portion of its attention on the state budget and the affects it will have on each district's budget for the coming school year. The Orange

Unified School District is no exception, and while staff works diligently to understand the governor's proposed budget, I would like to present a brief overview of budget reductions and reorganizations that have taken place in Orange Unified since 2002.

Since 2002, the Orange Unified School District has cut more than \$37 Million from its budget, which has included the elimination of more than 110 staffing positions (more than half of which were non-school site management level positions).

According to the Orange County Department of Education, the Orange Unified School District has the lowest percentage of funds designated for central office administration at 2.60%. The projected percentage for 2008-09 drops to 2.17%. Since 2003, the District has saved more than \$13 million in costs for the Unrestricted General Fund Budget for central office administrative services.

In March 2007, the District entered into an agreement to fully implement a comprehensive Energy Management Program with Energy Education, Inc. Since implementation in March 2007, and with data through January 2008, the District has seen savings of 26.74% across the District, equating to an 11-month net savings of approximately \$600,000.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 22

Get Up and Keep Going

By Kellie Kawaguchi, Guest Columnist

"...remember that there are consequences to every decision you make"

Shawn Green, two time Major League Baseball All-Star, spoke to students in Southern California about life as a professional athlete. Green, as a high school student, had the third highest GPA in his senior class, which was one qualification that helped him get into Stanford University. He was then drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays and later became a member of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Arizona Diamondbacks, and the New York Mets.

Green spoke about values that are important to students and their communities. He said to, "live honorably and with dignity." Shawn Green strives to live his life honorably by respecting his beliefs, playing sports without drugs, making good choices and appreciating his family. As a Jewish-American baseball player, Green had to make a decision to miss a game, ending his 415 game playing streak, to observe the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur. He said to "do what is consistent with your beliefs, respect your faith, and make good decisions."

Shawn Green spoke about drugs stating to, "Remember that if you party too much, there are consequences. Decisions are not always black and white, but always remember that there are con-

SEE GET UP AND KEEP GOING • PAGE 22



BOARD OF EDUCATION



Wes Poutsma
President

Plans for the Future

What a difference a couple of months can make! As we approach the end of another academic year, everyone is full of high hopes, aspirations and dreams

for the future.

Our high school seniors are contemplating either continuing their education at a school of higher learning, taking an entry position in the workforce or, perhaps, embarking on a career in the military. Parents, too, are

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 22



Matt Vorwerk
Student Advisory Representative
El Modena H.S.

Something for Everyone

El Modena High School is a positive learning environment, where students can walk the halls and feel truly safe. Although there is tremendous diversity on campus, everyone

has a place, and there are activities to fit every student's interests.

We have after-school sports for those who are so inclined, and we offer over 50 other student-operated clubs and organizations, such as Interact Club, Girls League, Key

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Our next issue: June 2008
Thanks for reading School News

KAMPS FOR KIDZ
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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



Summer is quickly approaching and you may be wondering what to do for fun. Please be sure and review our Camp Section beginning on page 10 with ideas for all ages.

Sometimes a person questions how one person can make a difference in our big world. Arbor Day is a perfect example. Founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872, National Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April to encourage tree planting and care. Continuing his vision, we can all do our part to make a difference.

School News

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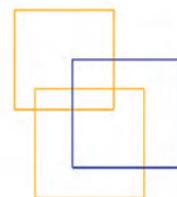
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GET A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER TODAY. LiNKS can provide you with a professional sign language interpreter when you really need one - *in a hurry*. Our interpreters are skilled in American Sign Language & Signed English. Trilingual Spanish Services are also available. At a recent Career Expo we partnered with Jobing.com to host a disabilities resource booth, where jobseekers with disabilities could go for

assistance while they network with employers. We provided job seekers who were deaf or hard of hearing a "bridge" to employers for interviews and employment opportunities. It was a reminder that many in the Hearing Community take it for granted that we have immediate access to communication. LiNKS is a partner to assist you in this process.

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Orange County Department of Education

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

2008–The Year for Getting In Shape



**William M.
Habermehl**
Superintendent

As a former coach, I know the importance of physical activity to remain healthy. In Orange County, quality physical education programs are setting the foundation for our students to develop habits that will keep them healthy throughout their lives. Never before have so many local and state resources and legislative mandates been directed at improving school nutrition and physical activity programs. Every Orange County school district now has a Wellness Policy focused on improving student nutrition and physical activity. New laws take effect this year that will improve access to and quality of school nutrition, refine what it means to pass the Physical Fitness Test (meeting five of the six fitness test criteria), modify the state fitness testing requirements, and require the State Board to adopt new K-12 Health Education Content Standards.

The importance of good nutrition and fitness is clear. The Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that regular physical activity substantially reduces the risk of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure, as well as helps to control weight, develop healthy bones, muscles and joints, and reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression. Orange County school leaders, parents, and teachers are working in collaboration to make sustainable changes in the school environment to encourage and reward healthy eating and physical activity behaviors.

Countywide Initiatives

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is supporting county-wide health, nutrition, and fitness initiatives including: The Healthy Orange County (THOC), Governor's Fitness Challenge, Orange County Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition (NuPAC), Steps to Healthy Living, Titan Kid Healthy Day at California State University Fullerton (CSUF), and Network for Healthy California's Nutrition Education projects. In addition, OCDE provides more than 1,000 Orange County administrators, teachers, and coaches with Health, Physical Education, and Fitness Testing program planning, support, and training services every year. State Physical Fitness Test (PFT) results for Orange County's 5th, 7th, and 9th graders tell us we are improving and consistently perform 5-10% better than other counties in the state.

Get Involved

Together we can play an important part in getting our public school students in shape in 2008. Parents, teachers, and community members can help support and sustain school health and fitness programs by getting involved in School Wellness Council work, PTA health projects, or volunteering as a recess or lunch noon aide. Ask your local school what resources they need to develop and implement quality middle and high school Health and Physical Education courses. Let your local school administrators and board members know that you support efforts to improve School Health, Health Education, and Physical Education programs. At home, make physical activity a part of your day by taking a walk with your children. Walking is simple to do, requires no fancy equipment, provides health and fitness benefits for all ages, and encourages communication between parents and kids. Walking for 15 minutes has been shown to lower blood pressure, increase endorphins and may relieve mild depression and reduce anxiety. A world class education begins with healthy, fit teachers and students working together to improve academic achievement and increase student readiness for learning in order to ensure that every student succeeds.

To learn more, visit: <http://healthyschools.ocde.us>, www.kidshealth.org, or contact Chris Corliss, M.A., Program Coordinator for Health, Sports & Physical Education Services for OCDE at ccorliss@ocde.us or (714) 966-4355.



Congratulations!

OUSD 2008-2009 Employees of the Year

The Employee of the Year Celebration will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2008
at the District Offices, Building H, Board Rooms from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Administrators of the Year

Randi Leach – Principal
Canyon Rim Elementary

Rachelle Morga – Executive Director
Educational Services

Diane Tippetts – Executive Secretary II
Educational Services

Classified Employees of the Year

Crisanto Monroy
Head Custodian
Villa Park Elementary School

Kristanna Plumb
Library Media Technician II
Fletcher Elementary School

Laura Smith
Secondary Health Clerk
Canyon High School

Let's also congratulate all the nominees for their outstanding work and dedication to our students

Michael Aarvig
Transportation
Patricia Abba
Olive ES
Angelica Altamirano
Special Programs
Dianne Baker
Orange HS
Danny Batiz
McPherson Magnet
Rachel Ememaker
El Modena HS

Anna Fischer
Taft ES
Marcia Gold
Purchasing
Teresa Graham
Chapman Hills ES
Gloria Hain
West Orange ES
Debra Hewitt
Crescent Intermediate
Carol Hippie
Portola MS

Caryn Hivner
Prospect ES
Jamie Lee
Cerro Villa MS
Elizabeth Lopez
Lampson ES
Yolanda Mitchell
Villa Park HS
Leroy Montoya
Payroll
Keri Pintches
Nohl Canyon ES

Martha Rivas
Running Springs ES
Cecilia Sepulveda
Canyon Rim ES
Roberta Sham
Crescent Intermediate
Elizabeth Sluyters
Crescent Primary

Teachers of the Year

Amber Miller
La Veta Elementary

Lynn Palucki
McPherson Magnet

Pamela Quiros
Villa Park High School

Congratulations to all site nominees

Mary Ann Ballestero-Upton
Taft Elementary
Elizabeth Catron
Olive Elementary
Sharon Cecchi
Crescent Intermediate
Heather Coulter
Canyon Rim Elementary
LuAnn Fisher
Serrano Elementary
Alice Hahn
Canyon High School

Lisa L. Hedspeth
Cerro Villa Middle School
Michael Higgins
Chapman Hills Elementary
Dana Johnston-Farthing
West Orange Elementary
Kathy Kralick
Running Springs Elementary
Kathleen Lundberg
California Elementary
Sharon McAleer
Jordan Elementary

Steve Mueller
Imperial Elementary
Brandy Nylander
Fairhaven Elementary
Stacey Reiko Strong Ortega
Nohl Canyon Elementary
Julie Roney
Cambridge Elementary
Todd S. Roth
Lampson Elementary
Alan Saldivar
Crescent Primary

Gino Self
Riverdale Elementary
Linda Simon
Fletcher Elementary
Jim Smallman
El Modena High School
Travis Thomsen
Portola Middle School
Melissa Valeriotte
Villa Park Elementary
Ilene Zedek
Prospect Elementary

In addition, three OUSD employees have been named as Administrator of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators, (ACSA) Region XVII. They will be honored by ACSA on May 12, 2008 at the Irvine Marriott.

ASCA Region XVII
Administrator of the Year
Aileen Sterling
Middle Schools

ASCA Region XVII
Administrator of the Year
Jamie Brown
Human Resources

ASCA Region XVII
Administrator of the Year
Victoria Webber
Confidential Employee

Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

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



Debra Larson
Principal

Technology Night

Parents, teachers, and students came to Anaheim Hills Elementary School in March to watch students showcase how they use technology to enhance their learning. Future kindergarten families also came to join in the fun, which allowed them the opportunity to tour the campus and mingle.

The newest additions to our upper-grade classrooms are the incredible SmartBoards, which instantly connect students to Internet, video, and United Streaming. These tools help teachers reach multiple learning styles.

Students in upper grades presented projects, learning games, and lessons to show how technology can be implemented in all subjects. Students in primary grades focused on presenting various computer programs.

Another fun highlight of the evening was two special guest authors, who presented a story-time session for the families to enjoy.

Our fabulous PTA families helped run the book fair in our library, while others served a pizza dinner in the courtyard.

Overall, the night was a huge success! Students were able to show off their knowledge, and parents were amazed with the high level of student involvement. Parents were motivated to continue fund-raising to help provide state-of-the-art equipment that helps educators give students the knowledge base needed to thrive in today's technological world.



Cambridge *Elementary School*

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



Anne Schrader
Principal

The mascot of Cambridge Elementary School is the crusader and it has never been more appropriate. In an effort to give back to the community and to those in need, Cambridge students recently raised \$617.33 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The organization has been well-supported by many schools in the Orange Unified School District, including Orange High School which, was the top fund-raising school one year, and earned a visit from the teen celebrity Mandy Moore. Money raised for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society funds cancer research and programs which improve the quality of life for these cancer patients. Cambridge students learned that charitable acts cultivate care, respect and sharing with others. They have earned a sense of pride and the knowledge that the effort of many, no matter how small (even the donation of one penny) can make a difference.

Canyon Hills

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

No information this issue.

California *Elementary School*

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



Cyndi Paik
Principal

By Patty Ruiz

Spirit Day at California

California Elementary students celebrate another success... the success of spirit day. Spirit day at

California is a day designated for students and teachers to show their pride of being a California Bear. Our recent theme was pajama day, a day where students and teachers wore their pajamas to school. Pajama day was such a huge success; it was followed two weeks later with sports day. Students, teachers, and principal, alike, wore their favorite sports team's paraphernalia.



Spirit day at California not only encourages students to become excited to wear something other than a uniform, it also motivates kids to come to school. Previous spirit days have included crazy hat day, crazy hair day, and crazy sock day. Spirit days are not only a treat for students; teachers get to take advantage of these special days and dress up as well. We look forward to many more spirit days.

Canyon *High School*

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



Greg Bowden, Ed. D.
Principal

National Merit Finals

Canyon High School seniors Armin Arshi, Michael Duong and Riki Patel have qualified as finalists in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship competition. Advancing to the finalist stage is a tremendous honor. All 1.4 million students who take the PSAT/NMSQT are entered into the competition, and only 16,000 become semifinalists. Arshi, Duong and Patel are now in the running for National Merit scholarships, which are awarded this spring starting in April. About 8,200 of the finalists will be awarded scholarships based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments.



Coaching Staff Selected

Brent McKee, head football coach at Canyon HS, and his staff have been selected to coach the North team of the Brea Lions annual North-South Prep All Star Football Game to be held July 11. Coach McKee has been at Canyon for nine years, and his teams have made it to playoffs for the last three seasons.



Crescent

Intermediate

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

No information this issue.

Elementary School

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

Canyon Rim *Elementary School*

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



By Angie Simkin, Librarian

Our Little Librarians at Work

The “Little Librarian” program at Canyon Rim consists of fifth- and sixth-grade students who volunteer in the school library during lunch recess.

The students attend meetings and learn about daily library duties, such as shelving, title searching and the Accelerated Reader. Many of them spend their work time helping younger students select the right book.

In March, the “Little Librarians” took part in Read Across America. Each participant was assigned a class in which to read a special Dr. Seuss book. This was a huge success. Not only did the students enjoy it, but our teachers

remarked about what an excellent job the readers did.

This program offers students the chance to learn new skills and responsibilities. All sixth-grade students in the program received a letter of recommendation to take to their middle school. We are proud of our Canyon Rim “Little Librarians.”



Canyon Rim's Little Librarians celebrate Read Across America.

Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

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



Family Involvement

Our families are always encouraged to be involved in both regular school and after-school activities. Our great parents give back to us by volunteering their time to support our students. Whether helping with the learners in small groups, or preparing materials to use in the classroom, we enjoy and benefit from their assistance.

Our families were invited to attend some special evening activities offered by the staff and the PTA. Recently, Chapman Hills provided a wonderful “Step Up to Writing Family Night,” led by teachers Rebecca Adamiak and Mike Higgins. Students and parents came to school and participated in writing activities that followed this educational model. Everyone was excited to experience the use of our new Smartboards as a tool for teaching!

Another exciting family night was our “Class Act Family Concert.” A string quintet composed of Pacific Symphony Orchestra members performed for our families. This was followed by an opportunity to meet and talk with the musicians.



Parents reading with kids!

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



Aileen Sterling

Principal

English Language Celebration

In February, we recognized English-language students who have shown growth on their California English Language Development Tests (CELDT). This important test measures students' English-language proficiency in four areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. To be reclassified as fluent, students need to reach the Advanced or Early Advanced levels in every subtest, and earn a report card grade of C or better in English language arts class and in one other core subject. They must also score a 326—midpoint of the Basic range—on the California Standards Test (CST) in language arts.

Staff and family members applauded 107 students who grew one CELDT level. Another 28 were recognized for reaching Early Advanced or Advanced, and another 17 were reclassified as fluent English speakers—a schoolwide 13 percent reclassification rate! Dr. Gotts, retired principal and education professor at CSU, Fullerton, and father of our EL coordinator, Ms. Gotts, spoke to the students about believing in themselves, working hard, and always reaching for life's dreams.

We are proud of our students' achievements, and thank our EL teachers for their unending dedication.



El Modena *High School*

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



John Briquetelet

Principal

A Busy Month

As you read this, we will be preparing to administer the California Standards Tests to our freshmen, sophomores and juniors. This year we have modified our schedule to permit students to take these exams with their own instructors. In an effort to reduce fatigue, we have also limited the testing to three hours per day, for a total of six days during the two-week window.

We will be meeting with our ninth-, tenth-, and eleventh-grade students to review their prior performance and set performance goals for this year's exams. Remember, senior students are not excused from school during the testing period, nor will they have “late start” days.

If you hadn't already heard, senior wrestler Vinnie Pisani won the California State Wrestling Championship in the 135-pound weight class. Vinnie finished with a phenomenal overall record of 50-2. By the time you read this, he will have competed in the National Championships in Florida. A great job, Vinnie!

Earlier this year, the juniors and seniors in Mrs. Greenlee's laptop English classes participated in a character wiki activity. Impressed with their work, Mrs. Greenlee entered her students' wikis in the Student Technology Showcase. They earned a coveted presentation booth at the 2008 CUE Conference in Palm Springs on March 8th.

Once again, our Vanguarders have made us proud!

El Rancho Charter

Middle School

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



By David Mosley, Assistant Principal
Career and International Food Day

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is a question that our students got some answers to in February when they attended the El Rancho and PTSA Career Day.

The event featured over 25 different careers, ranging from aerospace engineer, comic book artist, funeral director, all the way to United States Secret Service Agent. Students were able to move from booth to booth and ask questions about the different careers.

They had an opportunity to learn about educational requirements and salaries, and gained some hands-on experiences. The PTSA provided our guests with refreshments generously donated by local businesses.

So what is a pierogi? How about a kibbeh? These were words heard by El Rancho students as they celebrated another International Food Day. Our parents and the local community brought in food from all over the world. There were over 100 different types of dishes to eat, from 40 different countries. The students were given an opportunity to see how culture and geography can have an impact on cuisine.

Many students could be seen loading up their plates, then eating and sharing food with their friends. They were amazed at how many different types of dishes there are in the world and how closely related they can be, even to what they eat at home.

Our students are looking forward to next year's event to see what new types of food they will be able to eat!

Fletcher Elementary School

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



We Value Our Volunteers!

Barbara Iwasaki started working at Fletcher as a parent volunteer and then became an instructional aide in the first and third grades. Later, she was a health clerk and an attendance/health clerk.

After she retired, teachers convinced her to come back to implement the Art Masters Program, which she has done for the past seven years. She also tutors kindergarten students and assists teachers with different projects and activities. When asked why she has stayed at Fletcher School for so many years, Ms. Iwasaki replies, "I think it's mostly the children and the staff. They make me feel special!"

Nonie Morilla is affectionately known as "Grandma Nonie." When her grandson started kindergarten at Fletcher 18 years ago, Ms. Morilla volunteered in his classroom and has been here ever since.

Ms. Morilla volunteers in many ways: tutoring small groups, correcting homework, copying assignments for teachers, and assisting with classroom projects. Students who are now in their twenties still remember her and give her a big hug when they see her. "That means everything to me," Ms. Morilla says. "I work for hugs!"



Nonie Morilla and Barbara Iwasaki.

Esplanade Elementary School

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



Katie Anderson
Principal

Science Club

The students at Esplanade are going scientific! Fifth grade students are participating in Science Club Thursday and Friday after school from 2:15 to 3:45. They are engaged in hands-on science experiments. Students working in small groups use the scientific process as they learn to separate mixtures and solutions and prepare for future investigations. Teachers: Mrs. Aihara, Mrs. Avalos, Mrs. Griffith, Mrs. Iadevaia, and Ms. McCullough with the

help of Peg Benzie from the Science Center at Crescent Intermediate are preparing students for the Science portion of the California Standards Test.

Students and teachers alike are enjoying the inquiry and results of the Science Club at Esplanade.



Fifth-graders Monica Millan and Kimberly Rodriguez.

Fairhaven Elementary School

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



Elena Loetz-Stoces
Principal

Pajama Night at Fairhaven

When is it okay for teachers and students to wear pajamas to school? Pajama night of course! March 6th was the night when our Resource Teacher, Bonnie Robinson organized an evening for our students to "cozy up" to a good story in their pajamas. This is a unique evening because our upper grade students are the readers to our lower grade students for the first half of the evening. The older students are trained by Mrs. Robinson on how to ask comprehension questions about the stories they are reading to be sure the younger ones are following along and understanding the story. After the small group reading time, Mrs. Robinson entertains and delights all the students, staff and parents with a favorite story using her amazing storytelling skills and props. The evening ends with hot chocolate and donut holes for all the students to enjoy with their families. This is definitely an annual event that Fairhaven families enjoy coming back to year after year!



Fairhaven staff, students and parents getting ready to listen to Mrs. Robinson share a new story!

Handy *Elementary School*

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



Sandy Schaffer
Principal

By Kathy Wilhelm, Speech Language Pathologist **Handy Helpers**

The Handy Helpers Environment Club is a group of over forty fourth-sixth grade students who are committed to helping the environment and our school. Our first club activity, a recycle drive, was a great success. Students from all grade levels participated in the event. Due to the success of this initial recycle drive, we plan on holding recycling drives each month throughout the remainder of the school year.

In honor of Earth Day, which falls on April 22, the Handy

Helpers Environment Club is planning a bake sale featuring "Earth Cookies" and other baked goods. All proceeds brought in by our club will be used to improve our Handy environment.

Finally, we plan on beautifying our school by planting a garden. We look forward to having a good time while planting and tending to a tree, vegetables, and flowers.



Imperial *Elementary School*

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



Linda Salata
Principal

Peaceful Playgrounds

Consider the scene recently: a recess where nobody cried, got hurt or was left out of a game. The major re-asphalting and painting of our entire playground has been completed, and through the generosity of the PTA and other school funding, the Peaceful Playground program has begun.

The program's aim is to topple the centuries-old pecking order of the schoolyard. It increases physical activity, but what the children care about most is best expressed by comments like, "It's fun!" and, "Now we have lots of choices of games to play."

The Peaceful Playgrounds program consists of five main components. There is a blueprint for game markings, with the first objective to disperse children evenly across the play area. A consistent set of rules is taught, posted and regularly reviewed.

A conflict resolution strategy, with various options, is present to help children learn to resolve their own conflicts.

Consistent expectations and training are paramount to the success of the program. Being able to play and work cooperatively empowers our students and extends into the classroom. Peaceful Playgrounds can now be found in over 7,000 schools across the country. Imperial School is proud to be among them!



Jordan *Elementary School*

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



Bertie Anderson
Principal

By Lisa Green, Teacher – Resource **Read Across America**

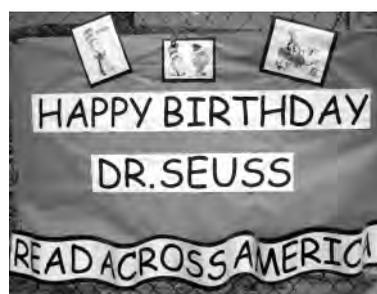
Jordan Elementary School's annual Read Across America celebration was held on March 7. Schools across the nation participate in the National Education Association's Read Across America to honor Dr. Seuss's birthday and promote literacy.

On this special day, students and teachers participated in a variety of activities. The school was decorated, and teachers wore Seuss-inspired hats. Community members were invited to be guest readers

and share with the students their love of reading. Many members from the Orange Rotary Club took time to celebrate the special day with us and read stories in classrooms. Because of the community participation, every classroom had a visit from a special guest reader.

This was the most exciting part of the celebration. The students had a wonderful time listening to stories and talking with their guest readers about why reading is important in their lives.

It was a great day for everyone involved. We thank the Orange Rotary members and other community members, as well as the district personnel who took the time to celebrate the day with us and promote the joy of reading.



La Veta *Elementary School*

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



Sue Dahlquist
Principal

By the Second Grade Teachers

Fine Arts and the Second Grade

It has been said that exposing children to the arts can help them learn faster. If this is true, the second-graders at La Veta are going to be geniuses!

In January, we went to see *The Emperor's New Clothes* at Rancho Santiago College. This was a very positive and inspiring trip! In February, our students took a field trip to see a theme park band. They learned about many styles of music and became familiar

with a wide variety of instruments. The children especially enjoyed jazz and the marches, inspiring many to want to become part of a band and learn to play an instrument.

In March, we heard a vocal concert, *Vibrations*, through a PTA-funded assembly here at La Veta. There were no instruments used—just voices expressing music. The students were taken on a trip through time, beginning in 1950 and carrying them through to the present.

After seeing these wonderful performances, our second-graders were motivated to be the best they could be in all academic areas in hopes of someday becoming as inspiring as the actors and musicians who inspired them.



School News Roll Call

KAMPS FOR KIDZ

BY SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook:

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THE WORD "SUMMER" brings to mind a myriad of images from my childhood — *going to the beach, reading a good book, eating popsicles, building a treehouse, and hanging out with my friends.*

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- July 14-18
- July 28-August 1

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- July 7-11
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Mike Nelson

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Santiago Canyon College

Community Services College for Kids Program

(June 16 through August 15)

If you're looking for fun-filled ways to keep your children busy all summer long, Santiago Canyon College in Orange has the solution.

Community Services College for Kids Program

offers a wide variety of classes and activities that can help your child improve academic skills, challenge his or her imagination, and make new friends.

You can personalize your child's schedule to accommodate vacations and other summer activities.

Subjects range from art to zoology and everything in between, including:

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- Dance
- Manners
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Registration begins April 18, 2008.

For more information, visit the website at

www.sccollege.edu/cs

or call (714) 628-4960.





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~Martial Arts~

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- Judo: 5 Years Old-Adult.



~Resident Camp~

- Camp Oakes: 8-16 Years Old: Aug. 9-16

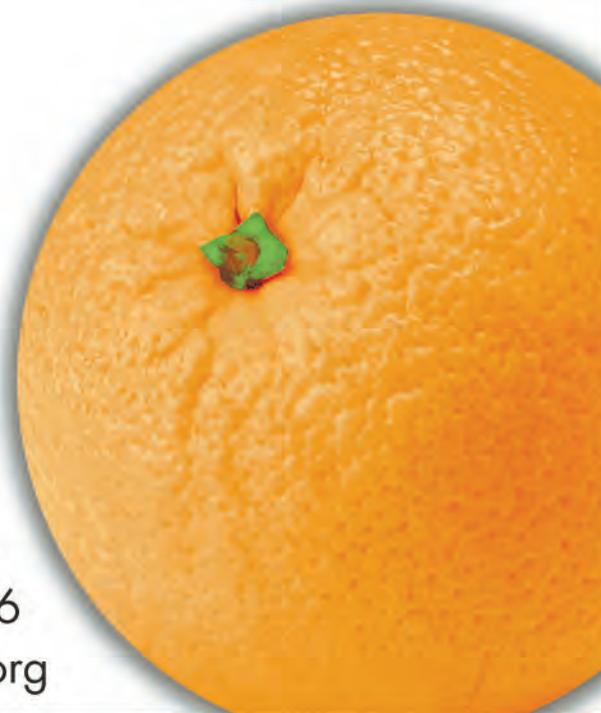
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When you have winnowed down the choices of the camps by checking them out, seeing if they are affordable, figuring out why going would be beneficial to your children, and taking into consideration each child's personality, then it's time to sit down with your kids and talk over the possibilities together.

CHECK IT OUT

Do some research on the camp. Is it reputable? How long have they been in business? Do you know anyone who has attended there? What is the staff to child ratio? Are staff personnel trained in a particular skill or hired simply as bodies to watch kids? These are important "first questions" to answer. If you're looking for a launching point for finding a camp, peruse the ones listed in this issue, check your local parks and recreation departments, museums, zoos, and parenting publications. Check out the American Camping Association at www.acacamps.org and the National Camping Association at www.summertimecamp.org for accreditation and more information on camps.

AFFORDABLE

What's in your budget for a camp? They range from fairly inexpensive to the thousands of dollars. Day camps are usually less expensive, while sleep-overs can add a whole different level of financial commitment. Find out if there are "extras," such as an amusement park excursion that could easily add on an extra \$40. As parents we want to invest in our children, but not go into debt. Choose a camp you can afford.

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MOTIVE

Are you sending your kids to camp so they can have fun, to get them out of the house, or so they can learn something new, such as horseback riding, archaeology, or sailing? Do your kids want to go to camp because all their friends are going, or to make new friends? Those are all good reasons! Discerning motivation for wanting your children to attend camp and finding out their reasons for wanting to go will aid you in selecting the most appropriate one.

PERSONALITY

Know your kids and what type of camp would appeal to them. Think twice about sending your kids to a camp that offers activities so vastly different from their own interests, even if you're hoping to expand their horizons. Our kids should be gently encouraged to try new experiences, but not at the expense of them feeling uncomfortable, or completely out of their element.

NOTE: *If you ask your kids first about their choice, they may be disappointed if it's too expensive, if it isn't somewhere you approve of, or if the timing just wouldn't work out. May you be richly rewarded for all your efforts when your children exclaim that camp was the highlight of their summer!*

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Lampson *Elementary School*

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

No information this issue.

Linda Vista *Elementary School*

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



Diane Osborn
Principal

A Busy Time of Year

Linda Vista Elementary School is always a busy place, with many enrichment activities offered to our students and their families.

Open House will take place on April 29. Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing is right around the corner, from May 5 through the 16. PTA is providing a night of star gazing on May 9. The Honor Concert will be May 19 at Orange High School. Our carnival, with a pirate's theme, will take place on May 30. Sixth-graders will travel to Disneyland on June 2, and their "growing on" assembly will be on June 10. The last day of school is June 11.

In addition, PTA has provided many special programs for the students at Linda Vista. Art Masters, Imagination Machine, primary music classes, and Science on the Go classes will finish up their schedules as we begin the final quarter of the year. A special game day will take place on May 18, and parents are invited to join us at school for physical education activities on the field.

We thank the PTA for their on-going support and the many parents who contribute to our school through volunteer work and participation in the programs offered to our school community.

Olive *Elementary School*

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



Deborah Smith
Principal

Literary opinions

After reading *Big Bushy Mustache* by Gary Soto, Olive's second-graders evaluated the pros and cons of having their own mustaches. Using the writing process they have been taught, and the *Step Up to Writing* model, the students then wrote paragraphs that supported their opinions. Here are a few sample writings from Olive's second graders:

Makenna wrote, "I would like to wear a mustache for three reasons. First, I could look like my Dad. Second, I can have a disguise. So if my brothers go to a party, I could go too. Third, I can wave to people with it. All in all, I love mustaches."

Simon wrote that, "I would like to wear a mustache for three reasons. First, I could cuddle with it. That's fun! Second, it's fuzzy and soft. It would make me feel good. Third, I would look like a sheriff, a cowboy, Albert Einstein and a spy. All in all, I love that furry caterpillar on my face."

Oliver had much to say. "I would definitely not like a mustache. To begin, I could not find a wife. I would have to live with my parents. Also, it would look ugly on me. I am cute now. Finally, it would be too much to take care of. I already have too much hair. Obviously, I do not want a mustache."

Joey said, "I would definitely not like to have a mustache for three reasons. First, I will look ugly. Next, food would get stuck. I don't want food with hair in it. Last, it would itch. I don't want to itch my mustache all day. Clearly, I do not want a mustache."

April wrote, "I would not like to wear a mustache for three reasons. First, I am a girl. Girls don't wear mustaches. Next, it would feel itchy. Last I would look as funny as a clown. All in all, I don't want to wear a mustache."

And as Valentin concluded, "I would like to wear a mustache for three reasons. First, I would wear a mustache because it would be fun to touch. Next, I would wear a mustache so it would keep my lip warm. Last, I would want to have a mustache so I can look like my dad. Clearly, I would like to wear a mustache."

Nohl Canyon *Elementary School*

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

No information this issue.

McPherson Magnet

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

By Glen Warren, McPherson, Library Media Specialist

Videoconferencing: Bringing Worlds Together

McPherson is bringing worlds together in the classroom with distance learning through the Web 2.0 technology of videoconferencing. Students build real live interactive learning experiences with the California Young Reader Medal winning authors, explore California State Parks with an onsite park ranger, or share learning experiences with classrooms across the country and across the world. Videoconferencing uses technology in a warm and personal way that adds to student engagement and inspiration.

McPherson teachers are discovering the excitement of advancing their professional learning communities with partner teachers across the state and the country. These digital communities of professional practice are providing insight, ideas and inspiration to grade levels in the elementary school and the various departments in the middle school. The McPherson Library Media Center has become a hub of this type of collaboration.

If you would like more information on videoconferencing or if you would like to explore future collaboration opportunities, please contact us.

Orange *High School*

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

No information this issue.

Palmyra *Elementary School*

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



Connie Smith
Principal

By Jennifer DeGrave, Fourth-Grade GATE Teacher

Slicing the Pi

On March 14 (that's 3/14), GATE students at Palmyra Elementary celebrated Pi Day (that's 3.14). Students rotated to different classrooms to participate in various math activities.

Logic Problems and Mental Math required students to perform challenging calculations quickly. In Construction, students competed in teams to build the tallest tower using only uncooked spaghetti and minimarshmallows. Estimating Stations tested the ability to approximate quantities, such as the circumference of a ball using plastic cubes and the number of jelly beans in a jar.

Students proudly wore the necklaces they made on which each color of bead represents a different digit in the number pi. The festivities ended at 1:59 p.m., with everyone gathering to enjoy a slice of pie. After all, the first six digits are 3.14159!

The winners of this year's Annual Pi Memorization Contest are Karen Pham, fourth grade, 161 digits; Gracie Ngo, fifth grade, 201 digits; and Carlos Lopez, sixth grade, 45 digits.



Panorama *Elementary School*

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



Michelle Moore
Principal

By Mrs. Ginger Silverman, Second-Grade Teacher

Read Across America

In early March, our second-graders participated in Read Across America. This is a yearly event when classrooms throughout the nation invite members of the community to read to our students and discuss their careers. It is held on the late Dr. Seuss' birthday.

This year we had wonderful turnout. One of our mothers, Mrs. Fahie, came and read to the class, and talked about being a veterinarian. Another person who visited was Mr. Erik Kay from the Angels baseball club. He brought gifts for all of the students.

Mr. George, a Marine, came in and read to the students as well. Mrs. Hendel, who runs a hospital in Orange County, also took the time to read to the class.

Read Across America is a wonderful event for the community. We appreciate all of our community members, and I would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who made this day such a great success.



Portola *Middle School*

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



Debra Thompson
Principal

Enrichment Opportunities

The After-School Connection (ASC) program, implemented by Camp Fire USA and the Orange County Council, provides an amazing program for students here at Portola Middle School. The Camp Fire Staff is composed of a wonderful blend of personalities that makes us a diverse and unique group.

We are dedicated to delivering a high quality after-school program full of hands-on learning experiences. Our program offers homework assistance, enrichment clubs, service learning projects and college preparedness workshops, as well as many other planned activities.

We provide a safe, educational, fun, yet structured environment for our students. They receive over an hour of daily homework assistance. If a student has completed their homework or does not have assigned homework during this time, we provide them with age-appropriate reading materials and a reading journal.

Our enrichment-component clubs are designed to appeal to students. Student voice is very important to our youth development approach, and it factors into our program design. These activities help students learn about their strengths, weaknesses and interests.

Our enrichment clubs give students the opportunity to become leaders. ASC students enlarge their world and discover their hidden potential! At Camp Fire, we believe that our program will benefit every child's future by helping them become tomorrow's leaders. We welcome the Portola community to stop by and see the amazing things we are doing.

Parkside *Pre-K*

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



Allison Smith
Principal

VSA

The Very Special Arts Festival (VSA) is an annual art event held in Orange County at the Main Place Mall. Every

year students in special education throughout the county, from birth through adults have the opportunity to showcase their art, dance, poetry, etc. VSA begins on April 19th.

This has been a fun and celebratory event for our students to participate in. For the past 7+ years, Parkside and other special education classes in OUSD have participated in VSA. We will once again be submitting our art work this year.

We will be visiting the mall and viewing our artwork. In the past, this has been a favorite fieldtrip and such an exciting time for our students to see their creations out in the world!



Two students displaying art work.

Prospect *Elementary School*

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



Kathleen Bruce
Principal

Our Favorite Author

Dr. Seuss Day was celebrated on March 5th. Prospect has recognized both this event and Read Across America Day for several years now. So our morning began with guest readers who joined us by reading to the students in each classroom.

These included members of the Orange Rotary Club, our district office, and a guest author, Marlys Rold, who happens to be the best friend of the mother of one our second-grade teachers, Mrs. Bies.

This year, each classroom decorated their doors to promote their favorite Dr. Seuss book. The winners in our contest were Mrs. Zedek, Mrs. Olsen and Mrs. Lipson in the primary-grades; and Mrs. Matson, Mrs. Hardage and Mrs. Lopez in the upper-grades. Both Mrs. Paz' and Mrs. Burns' kindergarten classrooms also won!

As part of our exciting day, students roved around to different classrooms to enjoy a Dr. Seuss book and a special activity. Some of these included making drawings of the book and creating Dr. Seuss hats.

As a final event in our "Love to Read" theme this year, author Katherine Hewitt will be here on April 23rd to share her experiences as a writer.



Richland *High School*

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



Deborah Backstrom
Site Administrator

Progress Report

It is a great pleasure to be the new site administrator at Richland High School. The staff and students are a wonderful group to work with, and I am excited to start our fourth quarter.

We recently completed our Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation and would like to thank all who participated in the review. We will let you know the results when they become available to us.

Richland High School just completed its third quarter with three students receiving their high school diploma. We are very proud of these students. Our congratulations to these fine students and their families; we wish them much success in the future.

We are looking forward to the many students who will receive their high school diplomas at our June graduation and those who will have earned enough credits to return to their home school.

We encourage parent participation and invite all to visit our beautiful campus. Please call us at our office for any further information.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



Mary Henry
Principal

Compassion in the Classroom

Jason Askenaze, an industrial technology instructor at Santiago Middle School, embeds academics with life skills that students can take with them into the real world. Each year his stu-



dents make two toy cars, one they keep and one they give away to a needy child. The cars take over 20 hours to make, and they are about the size of an outstretched hand.

This year Hope 4 Kids International partnered with Santiago students to help facilitate and deliver the cars to children in Mexico and Uganda. A representative shared, "The smiles on the children's faces were priceless."

Students are taught a lot of things yet often cannot see why they need to know them. Learning needs to be more than what is found in a text book. Mr. Askenaze's goal is to teach students something they can take to heart and remember for a lifetime.



Riverdale *Elementary School*

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



Pamela McFadden
Principal

Read Across Riverdale

On March 3, students and teachers alike celebrated Read Across America Day by donning pajamas and taking to the grass for an afternoon of reading! Students also celebrated with a school-wide book exchange. Students brought new or gently used books to school and on Monday, they were given the opportunity to select a "new" book to take home.

Students also participated in a variety of classroom activities. Preschoolers listened to Dr. Seuss books and then cut and pasted large versions of the Cat in the Hat. The kindergarten class read four different Dr. Seuss books and graphed their favorites. Then, they enjoyed eating green eggs and ham and making a *Cat in the Hat* hat. The

third-graders answered trivia questions about Dr. Seuss and his books while celebrating his birthday, and they concluded their celebration by writing a paragraph about his beloved author. Upper-grade students relaxed under trees, while reading individually or in small groups.

Riverdale Elementary School students were actively engaged in reading for pleasure as they celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday.



Upper grade students reading for pleasure on Read Across America Day!

Running Springs

Elementary School

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



Lydia Roach
Principal

Hey, Ho, Come to the Fair!

Hear ye! Hear ye! Parents of fifth-grade students at Running Springs Elementary School were invited to attend the annual Colonial Fair in the month of February in the year 2008. The parent invitation, which read, "Be sure ye enter the school through ye olde office," invited parents to come and meet people from various 13 colonies, and learn about their ways of life. The event showcased student group work that related to each colony. Students were dressed as colonists and historical figures, and role-played colonial life.

Displays included artwork, research papers, photos, illustrations and artifacts. Students presented factual information about clothing, food, trade and industry in colonial times. The highlights of the fair were the food samples that students brought to share with every visitor.

What a treat it was to snack on colonial food while learning about such interesting information!



Serrano *Elementary School*

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



Barbara Rubin
Principal

Science Fair

Serrano Elementary School held its first annual science fair on March 20. All fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students completed science projects developed from the state science standards.

The goal was for all students to use the scientific process. First, students generated a question that can be answered by doing an experiment. Next they predicted the results by creating a hypothesis and doing research and data collection to form a conclusion. Experimentation changes the dynamics of learning, and failure becomes valuable information during the experimentation process.

Thanks to Renee Canuso, a parent volunteer, and Victoria Schmuhl, fifth-grade teacher and Serrano science coordinator, this huge undertaking was a fabulous success.

Kathy Moffat, a district Board member, joined the team to judge the projects. There were three winners at each grade level with Outstanding Engineering awards for fifth and sixth grades.

We expect to see these students inventing products that will change our future.



Mrs. Schmuhl and Science Fair winners: Haley Lu, Hava Walstreicher, Cole Weins, Ian Pogue, Natalie Milstead, Sara Sae, Preston Huber, Elizabeth Rose, Dylan Osborne, and Mathew Karchefski.

Sycamore *Elementary School*

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



David Reynolds
Principal

Parent Literacy Day

Sycamore Elementary School's Parent Literacy Day was Friday, March 7. We were very happy to have 33 families come to observe classroom teachers and learn more about reading fluency.

The day started out with refreshments, of course. Then Mrs. Petersen, our instructional coach, led the parent workshop on the definition of reading fluency, how it affects reading comprehension, and how parents can work with their children at home to develop reading fluency skills.

Parents had the opportunity to observe classroom teachers.

Then they took a tour of our library, where our librarian, Mrs. Martinez, explained how our Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) tests a student's reading level. When a student receives a score, which corresponds to his or her reading level, the student receives a list of books at the appropriate reading level. Students can then take their lists to the librarian to help them check out the books.

After the library, our parents had the chance to visit our computer lab and observe one of our sixth-grade students, Victoria Chavez, take the SRI.

At Sycamore, we have several staff members who are very active in planning our parent workshops. Ms. Babayan, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Doesburg, Mr. Flores, Ms. Gellatly, Mrs. Martinez, and Mrs. Petersen contributed to making Parent Literacy Day a success.

Our next parent day, Family Math Night, is scheduled for this spring.

Silverado *Elementary School*

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



Pat Evans
Principal

Fitness Week

The PTA's "Silverado Fitness Week" emphasized eating fruits and vegetables daily and demonstrating a number of activities. First, students participated in 45 minutes of physical education activities, including the Shamrock Hunt. This involved searching the entire schoolyard for paper shamrocks, with lots of heartbeat-raising running and bending.

On Monday, students were introduced to gymnastics. "I like to do a lot of exercise and learn cool moves," said third-grader Sydney.

Chloe learned about "fun movements that I can do at home."

Students participated in a yoga class on Tuesday and a nutrition lesson on Wednesday. Lilianna enjoyed "hearing about what fruits and vegetables can do for our health. The kiwi salsa and pita chips tasted very good too!" Thursday involved dance participation. "It got my energy up after lunch," said Griffin.

The week culminated in a Jog-a-Thon. It was exciting to see all the parents running with their children. Physical fitness is becoming a way of life for Silverado students and their parents.



Jog-A-Thon.

Taft *Elementary School*

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



Vicki James
Principal

All in the Game

Taft Elementary has implemented a new physical education program called Game Day at the School. This program includes basic skills to play soccer, football, basketball and field hockey. The program also encompasses basic rhythm and dance. Game Day at the School involves every child without promoting competition. The children love it.

Every day, the children ask if it is PE day. Not only do the children love the program, but the teachers do as well. Game Day at the School has made a positive impact on the children. The children enter the classroom ready to learn. They listen more attentively during the lessons. They are more focused. They are more cooperative with one another in the classroom and at the playground during recess. As a bonus, the children are receiving character education with the Words of Wisdom portion of the program.

Game Day at the School incorporates a portion of the program that defines the character trait of the week. As a staff, we are so excited to have a program that is easy to teach and shows immediate results.



Villa Park *Elementary School*

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



Larry Hausner
Principal

Spring Survey Results, Facilities

Last spring, our VPE parent community was asked to provide valuable feedback about our school through a parent survey. Therefore, throughout the year this article will be utilized to address these results. 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.

Throughout the survey, parents had an opportunity to voice their opinions about our facility here at VPE. Certainly, we can all agree that VPE is one of the older campuses in the Orange Unified School District. However, while that is true, our school has been the recipient of recent improvements. First, we have a new fire alarm system that is state of the art. Second, our school was completely wired for the Internet last year. Third, last summer we saw our district repaint our school, which greatly improved our curb appeal and feeling tone. Fourth, our district recoated and repainted our blacktop this past August. Fifth, a speaker system has recently been installed and will allow us to make all call announcements throughout the campus.

Sixth, thanks to the support of our Home and School League during spring break, we are hoping to see a new shade structure over our lunch area.

Seventh, our HSL is also in the process of raising funds to purchase a shade structure for our quad area. This structure will provide much-needed shade for assemblies and our sixth-grade promotion. Our jog-a-thon on April 18 will hope to accomplish this.

Many of these improvements help the aesthetics of VPE, but more importantly, they have increased the safety for our students as well.

Villa Park *High School*

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



Ed Howard
Principal

Good to be a Spartan

Spring is upon us, and the Spartans are going strong. It just feels good to be a Spartan. Our teams are doing well, and our performing arts performers are dazzling us with their many talents. Our science fair was a great success, and so many of our students are achieving their goals. This is the time of year when many of our seniors are receiving their letters of acceptance from some of the finest universities.

Spring sports are underway and promise to do well. Tennis and volleyball are off to their best starts in a long time, and golf is on fire and regarded as one of the better teams in the county. As I write this, our track program is undefeated. And, as we have said all year, you have to love the pool; we have a great group of swimmers.

Growing Green

I would like to take a moment to recognize our wonderful Parent-Faculty-Student Organization (PFSO), especially those involved in the beautification group. They did an awesome job with the garden in the front of the school. It looks so nice and has had such a positive impact on campus.

While I am speaking of being green, students from one of our biology classes have received grant money and materials to install solar panels on one of our portables. The district, school and community are supporting this effort. It would be nice if we could be successful here and move toward more and more renewable energy sources on campus.

It is nice to see a swing in pride on campus and in the community in regards to Villa Park High School.

Have a wonderful month.

West Orange *Elementary School*

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



Bobbie Lansman
Principal

Stars Shine Brightly!

"...5, 6, 7, 8!" Talent show performers at West Orange heard this cry over and over again in preparation for our sixth annual Talent Show.

Every year in March, all Warriors eagerly anticipate this big event. All K-5 students are invited to audition. This year, there were two days of tryouts in January, and 30 students came to show off their singing, dancing and other talents. Ultimately, 17 acts were chosen to participate in the final show.

Students and staff worked hard to get ready for the talent extravaganza. Talent Show coordinators/directors Dana Johnston and Pamela Cook stayed after school two days per week to facilitate all rehearsals. During rehearsals, dance moves were fine-tuned, song and singing recommendations were made, costume suggestions were given, and there was help with props for various acts.

On the night of the big show, West Orange families packed the multipurpose room at Portola Middle School. More than 300 people came to enjoy a fun Friday evening. The performers were so excited to be able to show off their talents in front of a packed house. Acts included solo singers, solo dancers, group dances and a student wildlife expert complete with snakes, frogs and assistants. We even had our very own sound engineer!

Thanks go to the many parent volunteers who helped make our evening run smoothly. The school community of West Orange is thrilled to be able to make such great memories with our students and families every year!

Yorba *Middle School*

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



Tara Saraye
Principal

Yorba Top Toros

Yorba students celebrated their Top Toros during a recent assembly. The theme "Bee-lieve in Yourself" had the staff singing, "I'm a Believer" and the Toro mascot dancing in the isles with students cheering. We were all celebrating the sixteen students receiving a 4.0, seventy-one students receiving 3.5-3.9 one hundred sixty-nine receiving a 3.0-3.4, and thirty-three students increasing their GPA 1.0 grade points. All these students also displayed excellent citizenship.

At the assembly, top students received a special t-shirt, with all students getting certificates, Toro pens, and Toro cards for special privileges. Students felt honored during the assembly with special speeches and entertainment.

One student shared, "It was so fun and awesome. I want to be sure that my grades are good so I can go to the next Top Toro Assembly!"



Teacher Gary Snyder is MC for Top Toro Assembly.

Orange Unified School District Services

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

Taste-Testing Good Nutrition

By Kat Soltanmorad, RD

Coordinator, Network for Healthy California OUSD Center for Nutrition and Physical Activity

CA Dietetic Assoc., Community Interest Rep.

As the summer months came to an end, the program staff of the OUSD's Network for a Healthy California geared up to implement some exciting nutrition and physical activities at our school sites.

In August, teacher liaisons were identified, principals received our Welcome Wagon bags with nutrition-education schedules, and our strategic plan was set in place. All of the nutrition-education programs we offer are aligned to the California Teaching Standards (CTS.) We also try to incorporate nutrition into other subjects, such as reading, math and science.

We continue to provide our successful three-tier "Harvest of the Season" program. Each student receives a fresh fruit or vegetable during California's peak harvest season so that they can taste-test it in the classroom. After they learn about their produce, the classrooms receive a visit from a Network-trained guest chef. Students learn how to make a simple recipe using the same produce they just tasted, and they also read a book that highlights the item.

Then, a special recipe card and parent newsletter is passed out that students can share with their families. Approximately 32,438 taste-tests of green beans, squash and kiwi occurred at our OUSD schools!

Our OUSD Network program successes have instilled the confidence in grant-funders to further collaborate with us. To date, within the last two years, we have received seven various grants for our nutrition education and physical activity programs. The Dairy Council of California will be providing us with a special grant to pilot both teacher trainings and the implementation of lessons that meet state standards.

School Readiness

By Pat Evans, Coordinator

On Saturday, May 10, 2008, from 9:00a.m.–12:00 p.m., a free health and literacy fair will take place at Esplanade Elementary School, 381 N. Esplanade, Orange.

The Health and Literacy Fair will focus on families with children ages 0-5, but all family and community members are invited to attend. Representatives from more than 30 health, social service, and school district organizations will be represented. There will be free books, blood pressure and diabetes checks, height

and weight measurements, cholesterol screening, face-painting and art activities. Free dental screenings and immunizations for entering kindergarten children will be available. Raffle prizes will be offered.

The event is sponsored by the Orange Unified School Readiness Program, Orange Children & Parents Together, the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, and Esplanade Elementary School.

Special Programs

By Anne Truex, Director

The Community Based English Tutoring (CBET) program has served over 3,000 OUSD parents since classes began in September of 2000. In addition to learning English, participants in the CBET program also learn parenting and tutoring skills. Guest speakers visit CBET classes to educate parents about available resources in the community and to answer health related questions.

To participate in the CBET program, all parents must sign a pledge card stating that they promise to tutor a school-age child who is an English Learner.

Parents report to their CBET teacher each week as to how many minutes they spent tutoring their child. Children's books and other materials are available for the parents to take home to use with them.

Parents and their children have gone on field trips to the Orange Public Library, the Orange Police Station, the Orange County Zoo and museums in Orange and Los Angeles Counties.

Currently classes are being held at California, Esplanade, Fairhaven, Jordan, Lampson, La Veta and Taft elementary schools, and St. Josephs Hospital and the Highland Learning Center.

For more information regarding the OUSD CBET program, please call either (714) 532-7071 or (714) 532-7072.



Central County ROP

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

Internships and High School Credit

By Teryl Snyder, Administrator, Career Education Center

Career electives offered during the summer give high school students the chance to enhance college applications with on-the-job experience, and explore college majors or future careers. They can also earn five to ten credits towards high school graduation, and even satisfy the UC/CSU fine arts requirement.

Students should plan now to make the most of their summer by enrolling in one of the tuition-free electives offered by Orange Unified. Many of them include an on-the-job internships. Classes are offered at varying times to accommodate traditional summer school as well as work and vacation schedules. The summer semester begins on June 23rd and ends on August 15th.

The hospital occupations core will be offered this summer for students who want to explore a career in the medical field, and/or earn life science credit. Students who have previously completed the core class can continue their studies in the hospital occupations internship class, with experience at a local hospital. The medical clerical course includes an internship at St. Joseph, Kaiser Permanente, UCI Medical Center or Chapman Medical Center.

The animal care occupations include hands-on summer internship experiences at local zoos, animal hospitals, stables and pet retailers, all for those interested in learning to care for our four-legged friends. Also, a sports medicine internship will be offered for the first time this summer.

Additional Courses

The banking/financial services class includes on-the-job training at local financial institutions, while business internships offer students who have already taken a business course the opportunity to practice their skills.

Additional internship courses include careers with children, floral design, and hotel and restaurant occupations. For those interested in the arts, animation will be offered at Orange High School, and the art of graphic design will be offered at El Modena High School.

A professional dance course will also be held on both campuses. Dance students may earn physical education credit, while animation and graphic design students can satisfy the UC/CSU fine arts requirement. Other summer classroom-only electives include Internet technology, MS Office, and auto technology.

High school students may enroll in a career-technical elective class today by visiting their on-campus Career Center. Adult registration begins June 17th at the Career Education Center, located at 250 South Yorba. Registration is in-person only and will continue until the classes are full. To view the summer class schedule, please visit www.ccrop.org, or call (714) 997-6066 for more information.



Thomas A. Godley, Ed.D.

During the 2006-07 school year as additional cuts were needed, the District once again reorganized district and site level administrative duties as well as other operational adjustments. This reorganization included the expansion of the Alternative Education Programs to retain ADA for students who had previously left the District to pursue other alternatives, adding Saturday School, combining the principal duties at the Crescent Primary and Crescent Intermediate sites and re-assigning responsibilities of other site administrators to allow for greater fiscal responsibility. In addition, many vacant administrative and classified positions have remained unfilled and duties have been adjusted accordingly to meet the needs of departments effected.

Why do I present this information to you? As you have read in past articles this year, the 2008-09 state budget has once again presented fiscal challenges to school districts all over the State of California. While Orange Unified's policy has been to make cuts that least affect the classroom, the scope and depth of cuts suggested by the governor's proposed budget will not allow us to move forward without taking additional steps, including some that will directly affect students. For 2008-09 through the governor's budget proposal and call to suspend Proposition 98, OUSD stands to lose \$16.5 million (\$13 million directly impacts the general fund and \$3.5 million impacts categorical programs). This reduction would force us to again reduce staffing, and eliminate or reduce programs and services.

At the March 20, 2008 Board meeting, the Board of Education approved a resolution opposing the governor's proposed 2008-09 budget and urging the governor and Legislature to discuss all possibilities to solve the budget crisis including new revenue sources.

We will continue to update you with the progress of the budget through articles in School News and OUSD Insights.

GET UP AND KEEP GOING • FROM PAGE 1

sequences to every decision you make which can affect your future. You want to be able to sleep at night knowing you made the right choices."

During my interview with Mr. Green, I asked him to describe his definition of success. He said success is "making good decisions and being a good and happy person." His advice was, "when you face mistakes, just learn as you go, move forward and work extra hard to get past those mistakes."

Here are his three pearls of wisdom:

1. Enjoy the process of learning...make the most out of your days in school, take advantage of opportunities.
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
3. Find your passion.

Shawn Green summed up his speech by saying, "Baseball is like life, when you make an error it is the worst feeling, but just get up and keep going."



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Wes Poutsma
President

contemplating the immediate future—choosing summer programs to enroll their young children, enjoying family vacations, taking outings or going on special excursions. There is no doubt about it, time moves on and decisions need to be made at all levels.

As a district, we also must make some very big decisions, especially with regard to the upcoming school year, knowing that we are facing massive funding cuts from the state. As you are probably aware, all school districts in the state of California have been asked to produce a list of possible cuts in the budget for the upcoming school year. Orange Unified School District has produced a list of worst-case budget cuts for next year, none of which are imminent, all of which we are hoping to avoid.

However, we, as the Board of Education, would not be abiding by our fiduciary responsibilities if we did not prepare for budget cuts that could seriously hinder many of our superior educational programs. To that end, the district will be carefully reviewing all aspects of the budget to ensure that our students will be provided with the best possible education and our staff will be provided with full support to enable them to do their jobs.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER • FROM PAGE 1



Matt Vorwerk
Student Advisory
Representative
El Modena H.S.

Club, Men's League, Women's League, Mock Trial, Speech and Debate, and many others. All of our clubs are involved in improving campus life, and each has a very strong presence, whether they are putting up posters for their next big event or selling food at lunch for a fund-raiser.

In my four years at El Modena, I've come to recognize the tremendous sense of unity we have on our campus. We are definitely unusual in that our students never judge each other on the basis of race, financial status, or looks. When asked about her senior year experience, Mariana Perez confirmed, "The senior class is kind of like one big clique; everyone seems to know each other."

So whether one is involved in clubs or sports or just working hard to make good grades, there is something for everyone at El Modena High School.

Orange Unified School District Board of Education



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Steve Rocco Member (picture not available)

Mark Your Calendars 2008 - 09 School Year



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - STUDENT CALENDAR 2008/2009

Serving the Communities of the Orange Unified School District for more than fifty years

JULY 2008		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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T-Track (10 Month)		V	V	V	H			V	V	V	V	V			V	V	V	V	V			V	V	V	V	V			V	V	V	V

AUGUST 2008		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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T-Track (10 Month)		V			V	V	V	V	V			V	V	V	V	V			V	V	V	V	V			SD	SD	T	FD			

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*M2 ♦ No Min/PC Day - California, Cambridge, Fairhaven, Handy, Lampson, Taft

OCTOBER 2008		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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*No Min/PC Day - Esplanade, Jordan, Prospect, West Orange

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*Minimum Day - California, Cambridge, Fairhaven, Handy, Lampson, Taft

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T-Track (10 Month)				PC*											H		H														

*Minimum Day for Esplanade, Jordan, Prospect, West Orange

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T-Track (10 Month)														M4																		

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T-Track (10 Month)				M3			V	V	V	V	V																				

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S-Track (45/15)																											H					
T-Track (10 Month)																											H					

JUNE 2009		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	S	M	T
S-Track (45/15)											M1	LD				T	V	V	V	V			V	V	V	V	V			V	V
T-Track (10 Month)											M3	LD	T			V	V	V	V	V			V	V	V	V	V			V	V

LEGEND

- V Vacation - School not in session
- H Holiday
- T Teacher Prep Day/Non-Student Day
- FD First Day of School
- SD Staff Development/Non-Student Day
- PC Parent Conference - Elementary Minimum Day
- LD Last Day - Minimum Day
- M1 Min Day - Elementary S-Track
- M2 Min Day - El Rancho
- M3 Min Day - High School/Elementary T-Track
- M4 Min Day - End of Trimester Cerro Villa, Portola, Santiago & Yorba MS
- M5 Min Day - High School

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Labor Day..... (Mon.) Sept. 1, 2008
- Veterans Day (Tue.) Nov. 11, 2008
- Thanksgiving Break..... Nov. 26 - 28, 2008
- Winter Break (S).....Dec. 22, 2008 - Jan. 9, 2009
- Winter Break (T).....Dec. 22, 2008 - Jan. 5, 2009
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Mon.) Jan. 19, 2009
- Lincoln Day Observed..... (Fri.) Feb. 13, 2009
- Washington Day..... (Mon.) Feb. 16, 2009
- Spring Break April 6 - 10, 2009
- Memorial Day..... (Mon.) May 25, 2009

GRADING CALENDAR

- S Track**
- End of Quarter 1 Sept. 19, 2008
- End of Quarter 2 Dec. 19, 2008
- End of Quarter 3 Mar. 20, 2009
- T Track**
- End of Quarter 1 Oct. 31, 2008
- End of Semester 1.. Jan. 23, 2009
- End of Quarter 3 Apr. 3, 2009
- End of Trimester 1.. Nov. 21, 2008
- End of Trimester 2.. Mar. 13, 2009

Approved as of 09/13/2007



OVERWATERING?

Overwatering your lawn leads to runoff, which can carry litter, pet waste, oil and other pollutants into storm drains. The pollutants then flow untreated into our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.



Remember the ocean begins
at your front door.

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