

**FREE**

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



**Covering the Orange Unified School District**

**VOLUME 4, ISSUE 18**

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2008**

## **SUPERINTENDENT**



**Renae Dreier, Ed.D.**

I am very excited to be a part of the Orange Unified School District and look forward to a productive and successful school year. I have been

able to visit each school on the Single-Track Year-Round (S-Track) schedule and have begun my visits to schools on the Traditional Track (T-Track) Schedule

The 2008-2009 school year began July 21, 2008 for students who attend schools that are on the S-Track schedule. S-track schools just completed a three-week fall break and resumed school on October 13th. On August 28th, schools on the T-Track began the school year and are already nearing the end of the first quarter. By the end of spring break, all students are aligned and on the same schedule, with the exception of the last day of school.

On August 21, 2008, the Board of Education approved the student calendar for the 2009-10 school year. The calendar is posted on the District website at [www.orangeusd.org/downloads/2009-10\\_StudentCalendar.pdf](http://www.orangeusd.org/downloads/2009-10_StudentCalendar.pdf) and has been sent to those who subscribe to the OUSD listserv. You may sign up to receive District information via email at [www.orangeusd.org/listserv/](http://www.orangeusd.org/listserv/).

## **Test Scores in OUSD**

OUSD continues to improve student achievement as determined by federal and state accountability measures. In terms of the state

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 19

## **Congratulations SACBE**



**Paul Loeffler, Canyon High, Katherine Trinh, El Modena High, Mique Rosales, Orange High, Narinee Shahrikian, Richland High, Daniel Duel, Villa Park High.**

*By Renae Dreier, Ed.D.  
Superintendent*

### **Congratulations Student Advisory Council to the Board of Education (SACBE) Representatives for the 2008-2009 School Year**

The five SACBE representatives were introduced at the Board of Education meeting on September 11th and the following was included on the agenda:

Annually, each one of District's five high schools selects an outstanding student to represent the school at the meetings of the Board of Education. The Board believes it is important to seek out and consider student ideas, viewpoints and reactions to the educational programs of this District.

SEE CONGRATULATIONS • PAGE 19

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**



**Kathryn A. Moffat**  
Member

### **Orange Unified School District has been an active participant in the Beckman @ Science program over the past seven years.**

For each of the first four years (2002-2005), the District received a \$50,000 matching grant from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation in Irvine, to systematically improve hands-on, inquiry-centered science instruction. Beginning with the fifth year of the grant award, the amount began to vary, either over or under \$50,000, depending on the progress of the program. Because of the outstanding progress OUSD has made in this program, our fifth year funding increased to \$162,000! In the sixth year, 2007, our grant award grew to \$217,660; and in this, our seventh year, our award has reached \$225,000! But the best news is that OUSD students have had the benefits of the highly skilled and effective teaching that has been fostered by the program, and our science test scores reflect solid and sustained improvement over the seven years. The Board of Education congratulates our students, teachers, teacher leaders, and particularly Mrs. Peg Benzie, who have made this possible!

## **Your Reading Electives Inside:**

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- OUSD Schools .....5-18**
- Central County ROP .....18**
- Our next issue is December 10.**



**Happy Halloween!**

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## Orange Unified School District's Annual College Night

Thursday, October 23, 2008

This year, the event will be held at:

**Villa Park High School**

18042 Taft Ave.

Villa Park

7:00-9:00 pm

in the big gym

*There will be over 50 colleges and universities represented, as well as several branches of the military present to answer any questions you may have.*

**All high school and middle school students, their families and friends in the Orange Unified School District are invited to attend this event, so be sure to mark your calendars now!**



Orange Unified School District  
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**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



We are excited to celebrate our fourth anniversary publishing *School News* covering the Orange Unified School District. The academic challenges and choices become greater each year and you have validated our efforts to keep you informed directly from the classroom.

If there is a specific article in a School News issue you would like to share with someone, we do not have extra copies to send you; however, the latest issue is posted on our Web site until the next issue is printed. [www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com) click on Current Issues and enjoy.

Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving!

## Recruiting for Canyon Hills Girls Fastpitch Softball

### Registration Dates & Locations:

Thursday – October 30  
(6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Thursday – November 6  
(6:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Pepperoni's Pizza

6304 E. Santa Ana Canyon Rd.  
Anaheim

### Final Registration

Saturday – November 15

(9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Peralta Canyon Park

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### Editorial

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

### COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

### Production

Laura Brune

### SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
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Green!

## Waste Not, Want Not



Eric Wahlberg

A recent NPR story described a young Maine girl who has a popular website on which she argues that global warming is not caused by humans. No need here to be right on either side of this argument, but I do know that atmospheric carbon dioxide is increasing. Also, 60 years ago we thought burying hazardous wastes was a good idea. Boy, were we wrong! Be that as it may, I believe that prolonging this argument keeps us from preparing for the "category E" storm that is upon us: the collision of Energy, Economics, and the Environment.

With oil increasing beyond \$120/barrel, and the possibility of it ever decreasing melting faster than the Greenland ice shelf, living as we have for the last 100 years or so is about to change as abruptly as if Earth had been slammed by an asteroid. Key to minimizing how drastically this change will affect us is, first, admitting to, then turning around, our dreadfully wasteful ways and, second, ensuring that every calorie of energy is used as effectively and efficiently as absolutely possible. Taking these two steps will do more to cleanse the environment than a thousand regulations.

Organic chemistry was the first course seemingly designed to end a lot of students' collegiate aspirations. I studied, admittedly, just to get through, so missed the grand appreciation I have now for everything organic chemistry has given us. Plastics, made from oil, are more pervasive in our lives than the classic line from The Graduate could have predicted. As a teenager, I religiously changed the oil in my '63 Bug using one of those spouts that punctured the oil can and invariably leaked. So much more convenient when motor oil came in plastic bottles! Unfortunately, every one of those bottles I ever emptied lies intact, to this day, in the Grassy Hollow Landfill, a hollow no more. Americans discard a mind boggling amount of stuff. Thinking about it, I am confounded by the contradiction of my parents' generation who recycled everything, even bacon grease, during World War II only to succumb to the throw-away mentality that consumes so many of our resources today. A suggestion for any science teachers reading: have students keep a diary of everything they throw away, including water down a drain, with a narrative on how each might be recycled.

Embarrassingly, my generation, after waiting in horrendous lines during the 70s oil embargo, popularized energy-guzzling SUVs. Go figure. The success of any society hinges on the availability of affordable energy. Know this: the days of cheap, petroleum-based energy are over. It must be our personal and national mission that we are as energy efficient as can be and that we not only develop but use alternative forms of energy. One wonders: Why doesn't every patio cover here in sunny SoCal incorporate electricity-generating photovoltaic cells?

In the dark clouds of the perfect E-storm bearing down on us are incredibly bright opportunities. You, reading this column, give me confidence we will weather the storm.

Eric is a full-time process engineer for Brown and Caldwell, part-time enologist, and a farmer want-to-be. He lives in Fountain Valley with his wife, Patti, and two step-daughters, Kylie and Robyn Couch. Contact him at [ejfarmerdude@msn.com](mailto:ejfarmerdude@msn.com).

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## Gate

### About Our GATE Program

By *Christina Eslick, GATE Coordinator*

The purpose of the OUSD Gifted and Talented (GATE) program is to address and support the needs of intellectually gifted and talented students at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Each spring, new elementary GATE students are identified for the following school year. The identification process includes a review of student grades, a review of standardized test scores, teacher-rating scales and a GATE assessment. Referrals for the program come from teachers, parents and administrators. Once identified, GATE students and their parents are invited to a GATE orientation at their GATE magnet school in the spring.

As part of the referral process, informational meetings about the GATE program will be held for interested parents. Parents only need to attend one of the meetings. The meetings are set for January 21 February 10 and March 10 of next year in the Instructional Media Center (IMC) at the district offices at 1401 N. Handy Street. The meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and last until all the questions are answered. The meeting topics will include a description of the program in OUSD, the identification process, the placement process and related topics. Please RSVP by calling our office if you will be attending the informational community meetings.

### Program Standards

The California Department of Education has state standards for GATE. Each district supported with GATE funding from the state must have an advisory committee. The OUSD GATE Community Advisory Committee (GATE CAC) meets regularly and has representatives from the GATE Magnet Elementary Schools, the middle schools and the high schools. The representatives are teachers, secondary GATE department chairs and GATE parents from all levels. The GATE CAC works with the GATE Coordinator to maintain and improve the quality of the program. The next meeting of the GATE CAC is November 17 at 7 p.m. at the district office in the IMC.

Each high school does an incoming ninth-grade orientation for GATE/Honors parents and students. In addition, the OUSD GATE Program sponsors a Middle School Success Night for sixth-grade students and parents. The Middle School Success Night will take place April 21, 2009 at the district office in the IMC. The district Web page has more information about the OUSD GATE Program at [www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/gate/](http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/gate/). Information about the Elementary GATE Magnet Program, the middle school programs, and the high school programs are on the Web site. The GATE Office is now located at the OUSD District Office, Building D.

## School Readiness

By *Pat Evans, Former Principal, Silverado and Coordinator, School Readiness*

### Coordinator Appointment

The Orange Unified School District has appointed David Reynolds as the new school readiness coordinator to replace Pat Evans, who retired in June. Mrs. Evans had held the position since its inception in February 2001. Along with his school readiness duties, Dr. Reynolds also assumes the position of principal of Silverado Elementary School and McKinney-Vento homeless liaison.

Dr. Reynolds previously held the position of principal of Sycamore Elementary School, where he was instrumental in opening a preschool on his campus that accommodates the needs of 52 preschoolers who come from low-income families in the surrounding neighborhood. In addition to administrating to the needs of the district's preschools at Jordan, Fairhaven and Sycamore Elementary Schools, Dr. Reynolds will be coordinating with other preschool providers in OUSD to make sure that children enter kindergarten prepared to meet the demands of the kindergarten content standards. Extensive parent trainings on helping to assure the academic success of each incoming kindergarten child is included as part of

## Construction and Maintenance Departments

### Project Update

By *Michael Christensen,*

*Assistant Superintendent—Administrative Services*

The Construction and Maintenance Departments have been busy completing three school-wide modernization projects, are managing one currently under way, and have three more in the design process.

The Board of Education awarded contracts for energy conservation projects at eight schools. This includes new heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, new lighting, air duct cleaning, and automated energy control equipment, along with software to allow for remote control and diagnosis.

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

The three schools completing modernization are Esplanade Elementary School, Jordan Elementary School and Portola Middle School. They are all in the final phase of their respective modernizations.

Students and staff were excited to move back into newly renovated classrooms. Sycamore Elementary School students moved into interim housing portables to allow contractors access to all permanent buildings. Modernization of the permanent buildings will be completed in May of 2009.

### Upcoming Projects

Design contracts for the modernization of Fairhaven, Lampson and Yorba Middle School were awarded and are in the design phase. Submittal to the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for approval is anticipated by the first of next year. Construction at Yorba is scheduled to start in July of 2009, and at Fairhaven and Lampson by October, 2009.

The schools included in the most recent energy conservation contract 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. The projects at Crescent ES, Imperial ES, Santiago MS, Canyon HS and Orange HS are complete.

Plans have been submitted and are awaiting approval from DSA for Cerro Villa MS, El Modena HS and Villa Park HS. Construction on these schools will take place during the summer of 2009.

the school readiness program. Dr. Reynolds can be reached at Silverado Elementary School for inquiries about the program.

### New Taft Elementary Preschool

A new preschool to accommodate the needs of 60 low-income families opened on September 2 at Taft Elementary School, thanks to the efforts of Orange Children and Parents Together (OCPT) and the staff and principal of Taft Elementary. The new director of the preschool is Wendy Rodriguez, who was the previous director of the OCPT preschool at Handy. Parent education, health screenings and a curriculum centered on literacy and English language development are the main focus of the yearlong preschool program. OCPT also operates preschools at Handy, Lampson and California elementary schools as well as two additional off-campus sites in the El Modena area of Orange. Information about enrollment for all sites can be answered by contacting OCPT at (714) 639-4000.

# Anaheim Hills *Elementary School*

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



**Debra Larson**  
Principal

## Curriculum Enhancements

The students in Mrs. Williamson's classes got a hands-on lesson in the building blocks of the universe. They discovered that the tiniest particles of matter can make the strongest materials on earth.

They also learned that all of the known substances in the world boil down to 107 elements, and that each element has its own physical and chemical properties. They are currently learning how matter can be changed both physically and chemically.

We are thrilled with a new addition to our fifth-grade team, Mary Conley, a longtime veteran at Anaheim Hills Elementary.

Ms. Conley is heading up the writing component here.

The "Step Up To Writing" program continues to be a vehicle for expository and narrative writing, and helps to assess our instructional focus on reading comprehension.

Mrs. Cohen is also busy with our social studies curriculum, including U.S. geographic regions, and how Native Americans settled and utilized our unique climate and resources.

Although there is a great deal to learn in fifth-grade, we are keeping it fun and interesting with chants, songs and art projects to help bring the material to life.



# California *Elementary School*

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



**Cyndi Paik**  
Principal

## By Patty Ruiz—Fourth-Grade Teacher, and Paul Hines—First-Grade Teacher Parent Training

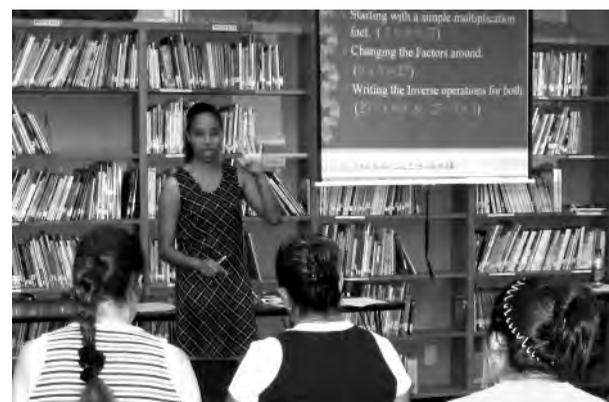
Parental involvement has increased over the years at California Elementary School. Lately, we have seen a larger number of parents on campus, as well as many who are volunteering in the classrooms. More parents have also been attending special trainings to help their children succeed.

For example, the workshop for first-grade parents has included reading materials and packets of vocabulary picture words.

Parents were given the opportunity to learn how these materials can be utilized at home. They also observed a teacher-demonstrated model that can be used for reading practice outside of school with their own children.

At the fourth-grade training, teachers demonstrated practice strategies with math facts, specifically multiplication and division. The parents were shown the importance of using fact families and how they can help make connections in math. They were then given the opportunity to practice with other parents to help internalize the process.

These parent trainings occur periodically throughout the year, in different grade levels, at California Elementary.



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# Cambridge *Elementary School*

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



**Karen Merkow**  
*Principal*

## Our Office Staff

It is a pleasure to introduce our office staff at Cambridge Elementary School. The ladies in our office are the first ones to meet and greet our parents and students when they enroll or have a need. We are indeed fortunate to have three wonderful supporters.

Mrs. Patty Morton, our office manager, is a native Californian. She was active in her children's elementary school, serving as PTA president and participating in sport boosters. She came to Cambridge in 1995 and wouldn't think of leaving. "Cambridge is a wonderful place to be and I am so fortunate to be a part of this wonderful learning, caring community," Morton shared.

Mrs. Terri Gadberry, our clerk, is a local gal, born and raised in Orange. She is a former Cambridge student, and both of her sons attended Cambridge. Gadberry began working here in 1994 as a computer assistant and then became our clerk. "What I like about working here is the great staff and students," Gadberry noted.

Mrs. Alma Villagomez, our community liaison, is able to ensure our Spanish-speaking parents are fully aware of what's happening at Cambridge. She serves as translator and support to all of our community members, providing resources and information. Villagomez has been a part of the Cambridge staff for one year.



**Patty Morton, Terri Gadberry and Alma Villagomez**

# Canyon *High School*

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



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

## New Programs

As part of our work to make high school more relevant to our students, Canyon High School is pleased to announce the addition of the following classes in the fall: choir; Chinese; building trades; professional dance; theater technology; child development; accounting; and international business. Through the adoption of a freshman Career Pathways program, we are working hard to connect each student to his or her future goals and help each student understand how high school can help to reach those goals.

## Inspirational Student

Brandon was recently recognized as the Most Inspirational Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Student by the Central Orange County ROP. His Internet teacher, Mrs. Susan Damon, was impressed by his work and his work ethic. Brandon was honored at the Orange County ROP Awards Breakfast on May 30. Congratulations, Brandon!

## OC Fair Winners

Congratulations to the Canyon High students who entered the Orange County Fair Animation Festival. Lee Chen and Alex Rajabi earned a third-place award for their short film and won \$50 each. Blaine Gallo received second place for character design, with a monetary award of \$75. Hailey Marshall earned second place for her storyboard, which was accompanied by a \$75 monetary award.

## A Green School

Canyon has entered an Increase Your Green competition, sponsored by the National Grid Foundation. This competition is open to middle and high schools from around the country. Participants must make concrete efforts toward reducing the environmental impact of their school during an eight-week competition. The main judging categories are: the energy saved; the garbage reduced, recycled and reused; the number of people involved and impacted; and the innovative quality of actions and ideas.

# Canyon Hills

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



**William Gee,**  
**Ed. D.**  
*Principal*

## For Good Causes

The year has begun with a great deal of optimism for this year and pride in our past. The Academic Performance Index (API) scores for 2007-08 were released, and they revealed an increase of 83 points over the previous year. This is the largest increase in the entire district. The parents and staff of Canyon Hills have great reasons to celebrate the success of our school as we continue to focus on the students with the greatest needs in the district.

Our Canyon Hills Parent Group held a silent auction in September. More than 35 companies donated to support the moderately and severely disabled students whom we serve at

Canyon Hills. The items included donations from a garden center, two restaurants, the beautiful events facility at an Anaheim Hills golf course, and many others. These donations brought more than \$1,500 to the students at Canyon Hills.

Our present fund-raising activities are designed to help us purchase several items for our students, including a shade structure designed to protect our students from the sun's rays and that will cover our blacktop. This is especially important for our students who are often reticent to exercise in even the best of conditions! Another item that we intend to purchase, with the assistance of our Canyon Hills Parent Foundation, is a large custom-frame hanging stand that the occupational therapists will use to hang specialized swings and other equipment. They use this equipment to assist the many students with physical challenges who are often unable to use the playground equipment because of limited physical access, safety or other concerns.

# Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



**Aileen Sterling**  
*Principal*

## Make New School-Year Resolutions

Beginning a school year is like starting a new calendar year. In the school setting that means remembering what worked academically and behaviorally for our students and what areas need improvement. Please spend some family time establishing some short-term and long-term goals for your students.

- Is there an established homework time?
- Is the Binder Reminder being used daily?
- Is homework a priority before the fun "stuff"?
- Is there an established homework location with adequate space, light and quiet?
- Is time set aside to share and discuss homework, activities and situations that happen at school?
- Is "reading for pleasure" modeled?

We sincerely hope that every family will set some new school-year resolutions. Building a strong foundation in the middle grades is a critical step for future success in school and life.

# Canyon Rim *Elementary School*

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



**Randi Leach**  
Principal

## Student Council Shows True Leadership

The Canyon Rim Elementary School Student Council maintains a busy schedule throughout the year. From service projects to spirit activities, these energetic fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students use their dynamic leadership skills to help others, raise funds, and encourage positive involvement at our school.

Congratulations to this year's student council officers: President Tyler Casalini; Vice-President Teodora Nedic; Treasurer Christopher Burica; Spirit Director Julia Van Marter; Secretary Cassie Arnold; and Sergeant-at-Arms Devin Pierce. We are proud of the excellent job being done by our current leaders.

Activity days are scheduled once per quarter. Student creativity is demonstrated as students dress up for Twin Day, Pajama Day, Future Professions' Day, and Crazy Hair Day. Student Council also helps prepare school ceremonies for special days, such as Patriot Day and Flag Day. They present the history of our American flag and lead the school in patriotic songs and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Service projects are another huge area of involvement for student council. In the past, students have collected funds for Hurricane Katrina victims, donated supplies for our troops overseas through Operation: A Bit of Home, and brought to school nearly 300 new, unwrapped toys and donated them to Toys for Tots.

Student Council also raises funds to buy a gift for the school. Earning over \$1,000 last year, student council purchased an Elmo projector, new flags to raise on the school's flagpole, and Accelerated Reader books, tests and chairs for the library.

# Chapman Hills *Elementary School*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

## Well-Rounded Experiences

Chapman Hills is off to a great start for the 2008-2009 year. On August 28th, the teachers, principal Julie Lucas, and the support staff welcomed 370 students. "We had a very smooth and successful opening," Mrs. Lucas said. "It was wonderful to meet all the students and parents on the first day!"

Have you heard that Chapman Hills earned a 925 API? That's a 16-point jump from the 2006-2007 year, placing Chapman Hills second in the district among all elementary schools. Chapman Hills does an excellent job supporting all of its learners with its many educational strategies and best practices.

## A Class-Act School

Chapman Hills students will continue to strive for excellence with the continuation of ExCEL, Track Math, Thinking Maps and the Reading Counts! programs. The students will also enjoy and participate in Art Masters.

We will continue to be a class-act school with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra. Students in the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grades will soon "walk through" California, the Revolution and ancient civilizations. Later in the year, thanks to the support of our outstanding PTA, Mr. John Yeiser will also entertain and teach students in some upcoming music assemblies. He is known as our "Music Man."

It is easy to see that our students will be emerged in a well-rounded academic experience this year because of their participation in these activities, as well as the many activities, trips and experiences that their classroom teachers have also planned.

## School News

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# Crescent *Elementary*

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



**Sheila Thompson**  
Principal

## Constitutional Fortitude

"We the People of the United States of America..." said Shylah Jones, Student Council president, as our festivities to celebrate Constitution Day began in September. Students assembled in the quad showing their patriotism by wearing our national colors of red, white and blue; signing a replica of the Declaration of Independence; and singing some of the favorite songs of our land.

"You're A Grand Old Flag" was sung with much elation by the kindergartners; "This Land is Your Land" raised the roof when sung by our first-graders; "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" resounded with pride when sung by our second-graders; "I'm A Yankee Doodle Dandy" brought a real sense of liveliness to the presentations as the third-graders sang and moved; "This is My Country" was done with harmonic note perfection by the fourth-graders; "America the Beautiful" remained a crowd favorite when done by the fifth-graders; and, last but not least, "50 Nifty United States" required some quick thinking and fast naming of all states as the sixth-graders brought forth the final grade-level performance.

After the singing was complete, we ended with some loud, boisterous and enthusiastic "U.S.A!" cheering that pushed the noise meter to its breaking point. We would all agree that a lot of fun and a very patriotic time were had by all on Constitution Day at Crescent Elementary.



Alex Stoller, Shylah Jones, Ahnna Chu  
and Principal Sheila Thompson.

# 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

## A Great Success

Our El Rancho magazine subscription fund-raiser began with an exciting kickoff assembly. Students were chosen at random to participate in the popular game show "Deal or No Deal," where some won up to \$50 in cash.

The preliminary magazine sales were strong on our first turn-in day, and they continued at a steady rate. The final day brought in over \$30,000, for a grand total of \$116,854 in total sales!

Students were given one coyote coin for each magazine subscription they sold. There was even a double and triple coin day to increase sales. The recipients were able to spend these winnings at the "prize store." Here they could buy candy, TV remote-control buttons, light-up pens, mini flashlights, fuzzy dice, iPod speakers, drink dispensers and more.

Other prizes were a trick wallet, money scramble, a basketball shootout, inflatable bouncers and a day at a local amusement park or at the beach. There were also classroom challenges with pizza, ice cream and donuts as prizes.

The school would like to give a big thanks to the students and parents for all of their hard work. And a special appreciation goes to the many volunteers who counted money and worked in the prize store. It couldn't have happened without them!



# El Modena *High School*

3920 Spring St., Orange, CA 92869  
714/997-6331 [www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/emhs](http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/emhs)



**John Briquet**  
*Principal*

## Changing for The Better

El Modena High School is off to a great start again this year, thanks to our outstanding teachers, support staff, and students. Since the end of last school year, we have recruited seven highly-qualified teachers. Jody Conners and Glenn Giokaris have joined us in social studies, Diane Buehler is now teaching mathematics, Jeannette Via is instructing our students in visual arts, and Ryan Wagner, Sean Turner, and Henry Gonzales are now part of our Special Education program. We have also welcomed Rebecca Martinez, our former CTP coordinator and English

teacher, to her new role as assistant principal. All of these Vanguarders are already contributing to what makes El Modena one of the “best kept secrets in Orange County!”

Our primary goals this year are the continued development of professional learning communities (PLCs), the ongoing use of relevant data to drive instructional efforts, and the enhancement of instruction through rigor, relevance, and relationships. We have rededicated ourselves to helping students master the standards, and our staff is both excited and confident; there is no question we will see tremendous results over the course of this year.

If you have an opportunity, take a look at our new school Web site at <http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/emhs> and our sports Web site at <http://www.elmodenasports.org>. I also encourage you to contact us by phone at (714) 997-6240, if we can answer questions about our programs, classes, or upcoming activities.

Go, Vanguarders!

# Esplanade *Elementary School*

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



**Amy Hitt**  
*Principal*

## Again, A Gain

Esplanade is proud to announce a 38-point gain in the school-wide Academic Performance Index (API). Last year's 703 exploded into a 741 because of the combined effort of Esplanade staff, students and parents. Here at Esplanade, we know that it takes the whole community to increase student achievement, and this philosophy truly paid off. We are excited about continuing students' academic growth in 2008–09 through unrelenting instructional excellence, intervention support, enrichment activities and parent involvement programs. Students are enthusiastic and ready to

learn first thing—they spend time reading to one another at the lunch tables as they go to class each morning.

This October, Esplanade School celebrated our huge API gains at the renovation celebration. After the ribbon cutting, students were rewarded for making scale score gains, increasing at least one level and having proficient or advanced levels in both the language arts and math California Standards Tests (CST). Way to go, Esplanade!



Esplanade's students reading before class each morning.

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# Fairhaven *Elementary School*

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



**Andrew Fisher**  
*Principal*

## A Busy Quarter

Welcome to the 2008–2009 school year. We had an excellent start, with 554 students now attending. This is higher than expected.

We are also welcoming five new teachers to our campus. Lisa Crum is in first-grade, and Dara Marzola, Kassy Thompson and America Vasques are in third. Kathleen Joneleit is our new resource specialist. Our reading coach, Jill Kuhar, is now with us full-time.

Back to School Night was a huge success. There was a separate evening for each grade level, which allowed parents a full hour to meet with their child's teacher.

Our awards assembly recognized students who had excellent academic success this first quarter, as well as those children whose citizenship is making Fairhaven a great place.

## Meeting State Standards

The CELDT testing was done to determine the English level of our second-language learners, so that we could be sure to provide the appropriate program for each student.

We also had our first barbecue, a PTA organizational meeting, and a "Williams" visit to make sure that we had the appropriate textbooks for our students.

A Reading First walk-through was conducted, with the teachers getting high marks for the quality of our primary reading program. School Portraits, the initial meetings of the ELAC committee and the organization of the school site council were also addressed in this first quarter.

Fairhaven students have met most of their initial targets on the California Standards Test, and we saw great growth in our English learners. Our staff has a laser-like focus on student achievement.

**Learn the Truth** Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to Jan 4<sup>th</sup>

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# Fletcher *Elementary School*

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



**Christina Varela**  
*Principal*

## By Debbie Sheldon, SDC Teacher Upper SDC Class

A new classroom is taking shape this year at Fletcher Elementary! Fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students with special needs now have their own class and are making new friends as well as getting to know their new teacher, Debbie Sheldon. Ms. Sheldon comes to Fletcher from Villa Park Elementary along with an experienced and capable instructional assistant, Marsha Rowland. Our additional instructional assistant is Maryellen Keating, who is beginning her second year working with Fletcher students.

The upper-grade students will be working hard this year in their respective content areas, as well as learning the basics of language arts and mathematics. The class is also learning about Fletcher P.R.I.D.E. and is excited about having become Fletcher Falcons!



# Handy *Elementary School*

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



**Sandra Schaffer**  
*Principal*

## Upward and Onward!

The August release of the results from the 2007–08 California Standards Test (CST) brought good news. For the third year in a row, we have seen an increase in our Academic Performance Index. This score reflects a schoolwide increase in test scores. We finally joined the "700 Club," coming in with a score of 712. Our score for the 2006–07 school year was 671, and 634 for the 2005–06 school year.

The second score that we watch closely each year is the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). This measures the number of students who score at the Proficient and Advanced levels of the CST. For the first time, Handy met all 17 criteria of the AYP. This is a huge accomplishment. If we can continue this positive trend for one more year, we can exit Program Improvement. We are now frozen in Year 3 of Program Improvement, and you can bet we will be working extra hard!

You might be asking, "What are we doing at Handy to achieve this success?" We are excited to say that our students and staff are all going the extra mile to meet grade-level standards. Our teachers are regularly collaborating to review student work and analyze data to drive instruction. We are instituting Thinking Maps as a foundation for our school focus, writing, and Test Chats are ongoing to review progress and raise accountability. We believe that teachers, parents and students working together is the way to continue up the ladder of success. Way to go, Handy Hornets!

# Imperial *Elementary School*

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



**Tim Biland**  
Principal

## Remarkable School

Imperial Elementary is off to a promising start, and many successes will surely follow. New to Imperial is our Friday Flag Pole Ceremony. The school assembles to recognize Pyramid of Success citizenship award recipients, say the pledge, and see grade-level performances.

The replacement of the school's air conditioning and lighting occurred during summer break. The school is now well lit and at a comfortable temperature. Our parking lot is scheduled to receive a needed facelift, and our School Learning Garden should be ready for construction soon.

School staff and students should be beaming with enthusiasm at their results of state academic testing. Our school Academic Performance Index (API) score is estimated to be 880, a 20-point increase from the previous year.

The entire staff at Imperial is committed to the safety and learning of all students. The families and community are our allies. As principal to Imperial, I am grateful for the work of everyone. It is truly a remarkable school.



# Jordan *Elementary School*

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



**Bertie Anderson**  
Principal

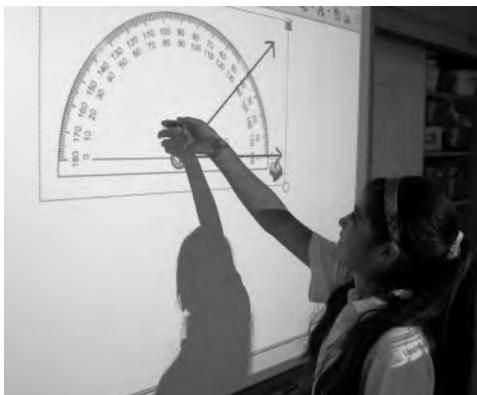
By Lisa Green—Resource Teacher

## Modernization

Students and teachers are excited to start the year in renovated rooms containing the latest technological teaching tools. LCD projectors and document cameras in classrooms offer hands-on experiences. SMART boards in upper-grade classrooms enhance instruction and make it interactive. Students have a new computer lab with 33 computers and a library with new books and shelving. Classrooms have teaching walls, surround sound and computer workstations.

Technology is another step that Jordan has taken to help our students, including English learners, to make continuous gains on Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR). We are proud of a yearly increase since 2000-01 and of ranking 10 in the state similar-school ranking. This year, we gained 19 points on the Academic Performance Index (API). We met the schoolwide Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) growth target. We applaud our teachers, students and parents for their hard work.

Jordan will have a Renovation Ceremony October 21 at 5:30-6 p.m. Community leaders will visit the new rooms. It's an exciting year at Jordan as teachers and students use the new facilities and technology to accomplish their goals.



A Protractor displayed on a Smart Board with Karina Fragoso, sixth-grade student.

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# Lampson *Elementary School*

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



**Laurie Dieppa**  
Principal

## Some Invaluable Help

The Lampson PTA is making a big difference in the lives of our students. Over the past year they have raised more than \$10,000 to assist the school.

These funds have helped to purchase a digital presentation device for every classroom. Now, teachers are able to present information on a larger screen, and students can present projects of their own making as well.

The funds have also brought new benches to the playground. They are being placed strategically beneath the trees for students who want to read or just sit and talk during recess. Pop-up canopies have been purchased to use during the many outdoor events that take place during the school year.

## New Leadership

This year's PTA executive board includes President Maggie Kyles, First Vice President in charge of Ways and Means Nancy Vasquez, Second Vice President in charge of Membership Blanca De La Cruz, and Treasurer Cheryl McBride.

Others chosen were Secretary Zackary Galvez, Parliamentarian Kim Ross, Historian Germaine Duncan, Volunteer Coordinator Rose Duncan and Teacher Representative Julia Shepherd.

Some items and programs the PTA is working on this year include more picnic tables for our lunch area, the "Science on the Go" program, Art Masters and field trip transportation costs.

On behalf of our staff and students, we want to give a big thanks to the PTA for everything they do!

# La Veta *Elementary School*

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



**Jaymi Abusham**  
Principal

## A Great Start

The school year has gotten off to a great start! We are pleased to report that La Veta gained 21 points on the Academic Performance Index, bringing our score to 826. We believe that this growth is due to both high-quality instruction and a strong tradition of parent involvement in our school.

In our classrooms, we continue to focus on instructional strategies that engage students. Throughout this school year, we will be using student achievement data to drive instruction in every classroom. On Wednesday afternoons, teachers meet to collaborate on best practices for all children. We are looking forward to learning about Thinking Maps on our November 4 staff development day. These cognitive organizers teach students how to structure their learning for greater understanding of academic concepts.

We are so pleased that many of you have joined us for family activities planned by PTA and school personnel. Recently, we held our first-ever family campout in October. We pitched our tents on the grassy area of the playground, watched a movie, and slept out overnight. Our annual family dinner event was in October. Along with an inexpensive dinner, families were treated to numerous exciting raffle prizes. We have already held one skate party and hope you can join us for our second skate night on October 16 at 6:30 p.m.

The fun family-friendly activities will continue throughout the school year. We look forward to seeing you on campus and at school events!

# Linda Vista *Elementary School*

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



**Sally Hughson**  
Principal

## Library Benefits

On May 30, 2008 the Linda Vista PTA hosted their annual Carnival. This year's theme once again was "Pirates of the Linda Vista." A special appearance was made by some local characters who portrayed Capt. Jack Sparrow and Will Turner. All in attendance really enjoyed the jousting match between Jack and Will and every child had a chance to take a photo with their favorite actor. While fun for the students was the name of the game that day the proceeds from the event went to a higher cause. The carnival committee decided to donate all proceeds from this year's event directly to the Linda Vista Library. A check in the amount of \$4,359.79 was formally presented to Linda McCausland our school Librarian on Back to School Night.



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# McPherson Magnet

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



## By Teresa Andrade Numbers for August

Many dedicated McPherson families and friends arrived early on a Saturday in August to help spruce-up the campus. A few of the projects included painting lunch poles and office areas, including the wall in front of the school, staining benches and the general repair of tables and backpack racks.

**Jeanne Bentley**  
Principal

Both computer labs received a fresh coat of paint, as well as new counter tops. Volunteers weeded and added organic soil to the planters

in our outdoor earth lab. A sincere thanks to all those helpers who made our campus sparkle!

Here's the numbers: August 23rd—The date of a Saturday in August when volunteers gathered at McPherson to beautify the campus; 125—the number of volunteers who showed up ready to help; 27—different beautification projects completed; 7—the number of cubic yards of organic soil donated towards the effort; 1—a strong pressure washer used to clean walls, walkways and drinking fountains; 31—The number of paint brushes used to paint the computer labs!



# Olive Elementary School

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



**Deborah Smith**  
Principal

## Roaring with Respect

September 5 was Olive School's kick-off for the new Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program. The entire school gathered in the gym for a teacher-produced skit introducing the behavioral traits expected of all Olive Ocelots. With ROAR as their mantra, students reviewed how to demonstrate Respect, On-task behavior, Acting safely, and being Respectful. When the assembly was over, all grades proceeded to pass through teaching stations throughout the school. Teachers in various locations, such as the lunch tables, the restrooms, and the hallways, demonstrated the proper and improper ways to behave in each locale.

Students enjoyed themselves throughout the day and were happy to hear about the ROAR Reward tickets they will be receiving when observed acting responsibly and respectfully on campus. Olive's reward system will include opportunities such as eating lunch with teachers or the principal, assisting teachers in the primary grades, and the enjoying the privilege of making announcements over the school's public address system.

The philosophy behind the PBIS Program is that behaviors must be explicitly taught and reinforced rather than simply expected of students. Olive's introduction of this school-wide behavioral system has already produced results and motivated students to focus on how they are treating the adults and the other children in their lives.



# Orange High School

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



**SK Johnson**  
Principal

## Naval Honors School

Orange High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) has accomplished many things. One such accomplishment is the prestigious Naval Honors School Award, which is earned by only 20 percent of the 230 Marine Corps JROTC programs each year. For this accolade, the unit completed over 3,200 hours of community service, received an outstanding rating for the Marine Corps inspection, and had overall exemplary performance during the school year. Along with this award, Lieutenant Colonel Ruthenberg may nominate one cadet to the United States Naval Academy.

For a week in August, 48 cadets and seven chaperones spent time at Camp San Luis Obispo, located on a California National Guard Base, for a rigorous week of hiking, land navigation, obstacle courses, and rock climbing. The new cadets were also introduced to marksmanship training and proper wear of uniform.

## Safety Training for Teens

Camp Fire USA, Orange County Council, is proud to announce that through partnership with Orange High School, Orange Unified School District and other key community stakeholders, Camp Fire has received funding to start Orange High School's first After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) program this school year! ASSETs is administered by the California Department of Education and is part of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

The ASSETs program at Orange High will serve about 140 students after school each day, on the weekends, and during breaks and will include services such as tutoring, homework assistance, educational workshops and test prep, enrichment clubs, service projects, and workforce development.

# Nohl Canyon Elementary School

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



**Dominique Polchow**  
Principal

## Dreamers of Tomorrow

At Nohl Canyon Elementary School, we have a dedicated teaching and support staff, hundreds of parent volunteers, enthusiastic students who are eager to learn, and a history of academic achievement. As the new principal of Nohl Canyon, I applaud the hard work and dedication of the school community in achieving a two-point gain on the Academic Performance Index (API). Our school is now at an API of 926! With the rich tradition of past and current success, however, we cannot become complacent and must continue to stretch ourselves and strive for excellence.

This year, we will move forward with a continuing focus on reading comprehension and writing strategies, as well as focusing on differentiated instruction with a personalized touch. By personalizing differentiated instruction, teachers will tap into the interest of each child at his or her instructional level across the content areas.

As educators, we want to ensure that all students are learning and have every possible opportunity to do so. It is our goal to develop the whole child, so that each learner reaches his or her highest potential. We want our students to be the dreamers of tomorrow who think beyond what is current or possible.

# Palmyra *Elementary School*

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



**Connie Smith**  
Principal

## By Kelly Acosta—Student Council Advisor Be Part of Student Council

Is everyone wondering who the next President of the United States will be? Well, Palmyra students had an even bigger question: who will be the next president of Palmyra?

This year, Palmyra had a very exciting election. After all of the campaigning, the results have been counted, and our new president has been elected! This was a great way for the students to see just how the election process takes place.

The student council is a program ran by Palmyra's fifth-grade teachers, Mrs. Acosta and Miss Donahue. It offers students the chance to help the community and spread school spirit. The council is also involved in planning the year's events, such as Pennies for Patients, distributing Valentine Grams, organizing our book-swap and increasing school spirit through special spirit days.

Our new president enjoys taking charge and being a class leader. This year's president and representatives are a group of energetic, responsible and hard-working students. They want to make a difference in the upcoming year.



**Ashley Donahue and Kelly Acosta, Student Council Advisors.**

# Portola *Middle School*

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



**Debra Thompson**  
Principal

## Academic Accomplishment

The Matador motto is "Today we write and read, tomorrow we succeed." The class of 2009 has raised the Portola writing score from 42 percent proficient or advanced, to 56 percent proficient or advanced. A special congratulations to those 27 seventh-graders who scored a perfect 8!

Portola is thrilled to be participating in the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) grant. Over the next seven years it will provide basic funding to reduce class sizes. This year, we have implemented a reduced class-size average of 24, with no more than 27 students maximum, in each English, reading, ELD, reading intervention and social studies class.

## Modernization on Track

The school modernization program is coming to a close. The classrooms are absolutely gorgeous, and many of the teachers and students are enjoying the new technology. We were able to purchase several LCD projectors, and have also opened a new computer lab that many students can visit with their teacher during class times.

So far, the students are participating in interactive math activities to support mathematics standards and basic skills acquisition. Other subject teachers will be taking their students to the lab as well.

Please mark your calendars, for Portola will be having a modernization ceremony on November 6th. After the ceremony there will be tours of the new campus.

# Panorama *Elementary School*

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



**Michelle Moore**  
Principal

## By Laura Oliver and Janet Surman, 1st-Grade Teachers Growing Stronger

We are so excited about our new physical fitness curriculum here at Panorama. Last year, we purchased the "Game Day" physical education program. Our Panthers are now taught stretching, new games every week, and special words of wisdom that encourage sportsmanship and good behavior.

The new program includes all of the necessary sports equipment, and covers the kindergarten through sixth-grade classes.

We are starting the year with yard games, and our first-grade students are learning hopscotch and various ball games. Every week we begin the program by watching the new games on a special DVD. The students get so excited that they are ready to go as soon as we get outside!

This fitness curriculum is designed to teach students a variety of different sports in a fun, enthusiastic way. Our students are growing stronger everyday, and are having a great time doing it. Go Panthers!



# Parkside *Pre-K*

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



**Allison Smith**  
Principal

## Apples Up on Top

Parkside School students started the school year off with a swing. We have been working on a new literacy program called Read Well to learn all of our letters of the alphabet and their sounds using fun songs and stories. Some of our favorite books have been *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault and *Ten Apples Up On Top* by Theo LeSieg. We are working towards reading the rainbow, starting with our red sight words. It is fun to watch the excitement on our faces as we learn to read on our own.

Currently we are learning about apples and how they grow. We are using graphs to help sort apples and making patterns using different colored apples. We tasted different apples to help choose our favorites and tried different foods made from apples, including making and eating apple pies.

This year is off to a great start, and we are looking forward to the fall.

# Prospect *Elementary School*

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



**Elena Stoces**  
Principal

## Positively Positive at Prospect

Eureka! Prospect Elementary School began the school year on a very optimistic note! We kicked off our year with our school-wide implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention School-wide (PBIS), which centered on the three main expectations established: be ready; be respectful; and be responsible each and every day.

On the second day of school, every student visited stations where all teaching staff played a crucial role in explaining, role-playing and quizzing the students about behavior expectations in various areas of our school. Students were rewarded for active participation in the presentations with Eureka tickets, which go into a weekly raffle. Our teaching staff, as well as some students, demonstrated appropriate as well as inappropriate behaviors at the lunch tables, in the hallways, in the classroom, in front of school, on the playground and in the restrooms to accentuate what positive behavior looks like in each area and what will be expected of our Prospect students. Two of our stations were actual videos produced by our staff, starring students and teachers, to accentuate the lunch area and classroom behavior expectations.

What a day we had! It was fun to see teachers acting as misbehaving students, which engaged the students through humor and clearly defined the difference between what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior. With such positive role models, such as our staff members at Prospect, we look forward to a positively outstanding year of good behavior from all!

# Riverdale *Elementary School*

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



**Pamela McFadden**  
Principal

## Ravens 'SOAR'!

This September, Riverdale students and staff participated in our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program Kickoff, using an Olympic theme. Safety, Ownership, Achievement, Respect (SOAR) represents the standards Riverdale students will pursue in order to create a more positive school environment.

Students were given gold medals as they moved to various stations around campus, such as a Canoeing Classroom, Basketball Layup Lunch Tables and Phelps Pool Playground to hear and see examples of how to properly achieve SOAR.

Throughout the year, students will be rewarded for their positive behavior by earning SOAR tickets. At the end of the week, students will deposit their tickets in a container in the office, and prizes will be earned.

Students are eager to earn tickets, and teachers enjoy the schoolwide behavior standards.

These lifelong qualities will become a part of each student and will promote school and career success. A fourth-grader exclaimed, "I loved getting my medal and kept mine with all the other awards I have won!" Riverdale students are ready to SOAR!



# Richland *High School*

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



**Deborah Backstrom**  
Continuation  
School Principal

## We're Launched and Soaring

We are off to a great first quarter at Richland High School. I officially want to welcome all new and returning students and staff.

This September, we had our annual barbecue sponsored by a local service organization, to which we are deeply grateful for all they do for us. Our schoolwide instructional focus is reading comprehension, and our primary measuring tool for this is the Gates-MacGinitie test, which was administered in September. As we say here at Richland, "If you want to succeed, READ!" We had our Back-To-School Night in October, and those who attended found it informative and helpful.

Finally, our school counselor, Tonya Baker, will be meeting with parents and students on December 9 and 10 to discuss academic plans and progress, as per AB1802.

Again, let me express my gratitude to all for a great beginning to what I believe is going to be a great school year. Keep up the great work! Please feel free to call, e-mail or visit me—my door is always open.

# Running Springs

*Elementary School*

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



**Lydia Roach**  
Principal

## Culmination of Learning

Students at Running Springs Elementary School experienced many exciting culminating activities this quarter! Fifth-graders shared their heritage with students from other classes by bringing in food samples that represented their countries of origin. Students tasted many different types of food and enjoyed sharing stories of their ancestors with each other. This International Food Festival is an annual event that all fifth-graders look forward to each year!

Fourth-graders learned all about Native Americans of California firsthand. Students were mesmerized by the ancient legends and dances that were presented by a guest speaker. Students also learned to weave straw baskets and play traditional Native American games. It was an action-packed day that allowed students to experience many of the things they had studied previously.

Second-graders went "camping" at Camp Running Springs after reading *Henry and Mudge and the Starry Night* by Cynthia Rylant. Students created a paper campfire on the grass field, where they sang campfire songs and ate s'mores just like the characters in the story. Although this campout did not last into the starry night, a fun time was had by all!

It is culminating activities like these that make previous learning both meaningful and memorable. Many thanks to the dedicated teachers and parents who worked so diligently to make these activities possible.



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# Santiago Charter *Middle School*

515 N. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange, CA 92869  
714/997-6366 [www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/santiago](http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/santiago)



**Mary Henry**  
Principal

## Helmet Drive

Santiago Charter Middle School is already off to a busy start! We have welcomed the students back with our annual "Discover Santiago" program and a "Hello Dance." We have also been busy getting students back into their school routines after a long, relaxing summer.

Santiago has begun its first fund-raiser. In the wake of a recent bicycle accident, we are reminded about the importance of wearing safety helmets. The school is anxious to prevent another accident from ever happening again.

So during the month of October, the staff and students will participate in a helmet drive. The goal is to obtain donations of new helmets for those families who may need assistance in getting this proper protection for their children.

The ASB and AVID organizations will also be working to educate students about the importance of wearing safety helmets. We hope this will encourage them to wear their own helmets at all times.

Information regarding helmet safety can be found at [www.helmets.org/helmet08.htm](http://www.helmets.org/helmet08.htm).

# Silverado *Elementary School*

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



**David Reynolds**  
Principal

## Success and Respect

I am excited to be the principal at Silverado Elementary School. This year, we have decided to instill three school-wide expectations in our students: to show respect, to learn how to make good decisions and to develop strategies to "solve the problem."

Throughout the year, our students will be learning what form these expectations will take around the school, such as in the library, the classroom, recess, lunchtime, and even the way they line-up outside.

As they show respect, make good decisions and solve problems in good ways, the students will be receive "Golden Tickets" to be entered into a lottery every Friday. I want to thank the PTA for donating all of the prizes.

Congratulations go to the Silverado staff and students for raising our API score from 803 to 814. I also want to thank all of the parents who helped their children with homework every night. Parental support is vital to the success of every student's education.

Our parents had a great opportunity to learn more about what standards we teach at the successful Back to School Night on September 16. We appreciate all of those concerned parents who came to hear about how to support their child at home.

# Serrano *Elementary School*

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



**Bobbie Lansman**  
EdD  
Principal

## Going Green

The Serrano Eagles are going green! This year's theme is "One School, One Earth, Working Together." Our goal is to find ways to improve the school and the planet as we reduce, re-use and recycle.

Students will have an opportunity to join the Serrano Recycling Rangers, as well as earn the "Ernie Eagle" award. Even the PFO joined the crusade as they provided an "earth" inspiring bulletin board, where every classroom selected a name to go along with the theme.

## Joining the Bandwagon

The kindergarten classes are now known as the Caretakers and Solar Savers. The primary classrooms are the Green Peacekeepers, the Carpoolers, the Recyclers, the Planet Pals, the Clean-Up Crew, the Green Monkeys, the Innovators, the Winners and the Soil Savers.

The upper-grade students are known as the Rockin' Recyclers, the Advocates for Earth, the Super Savers, the Recyclers and the Recycling Green Beans. The students are obviously protecting the environment and having fun as they learn!

The library and computer lab have joined the bandwagon, with a saving-the-earth and animal-inspired theme. The Serrano Green Team is in full force!

# Sycamore *Elementary School*

340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868  
714/997-6277 [www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/sycamore](http://www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/sycamore)



**Kathy Bruce**  
Principal

## Ready For Learning

Sycamore is open and happily meeting in our "village." Driving down Main Street, you will see the big, green construction fences, but do not give up hope. Come around the Palm Avenue corner, and you'll find our office near the portola parking lot. As we rise to the challenges of our temporary "digs," we find ways to prove that we are creative problem solvers!

As sad as we were to see our old friends leave, we welcome our new principal, Kathy Bruce. We are also pleased to introduce our new colleagues: Stephanie Newman, first grade; Theresa Olsen, third grade; Melinda Meadows, fourth grade; Kristeena Myers, fourth grade; Sonja Postle, Special Day Class; Leticia Rivera, community liaison; Ashley Nichols, librarian; and Edith Perez, noon duty aide. We are continuing our rigorous practices to improve student achievement and are implementing more fully the concepts of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD). Marzano's Nine Effective Strategies are evident throughout our classrooms in various ways. We hit the ground running and are looking forward to continuing a productive, successful year!

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# Taft *Elementary School*

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



**Vicki James**  
Principal

## Life's a Picnic!

The new school year at Taft Elementary is off to a terrific start! Several teachers are rising to the challenge of stepping into new grade levels. The entire staff is being energized by the addition of a new instructional coach, Raeanne Little. Ms. Little is working with each grade level to bring out the best in our teaching by using research-based strategies such as Thinking Maps.

Another welcomed addition this year at Taft was the inclusion of kindergarten students in the celebration of grandparents and special adults this September. First- through sixth-grade students enjoyed a barbecue to honor their special guests. Kindergarten students took a break from their focus on academic subjects to participate in this event, with their own picnic. Entire families came with blankets and a wonderful assortment of picnic meals that were enjoyed on the lawn in the shade. The event helped to highlight the enthusiastic support that families have for their Taft students. Is there a better way to start the new year?



**Grandparents and Special Adults at the Kindergarten Picnic**

# Villa Park *High School*

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



**Ed Howard**  
Principal

## Off To a Great Start

Starting what promises to be another tremendous year, the Spartans have hit the ground running. Our student leaders spent hundreds of hours to make sure we were ready for the opening bell. With banners and balloons flying, cheer and song leaders at the ready, and help from our wonderful Parent Faculty Student Organization, school opened in grand fashion, and the students have now nicely settled in to what is going to be an academically challenging and spirited year.

We raised our Academic Performance Index score by nine points to 801. We are focused and committed to improving again this year.

This year the administration and staff will be continuing its goal of personalization and creating a learning environment that meets the needs of our community. We are also committed to protect instructional minutes so our teachers can take full advantage of the time they have to deliver quality standards-based instruction to all of our students. As always, we look forward to serving you this year and hope to see you at Back-to-School Night on September 24, a football game, or any one of our many events.

# Villa Park *Elementary School*

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



**Larry Hausner**  
Principal

## VPE-TV Hits the Air

"VPE Goes Green" is the name of our recycling campaign this year, but the sixth-graders in Mr. Scott Williams' class are also going "green" in their own way. Green screen, that is!

That's because Mr. Williams has transformed part of his classroom into a television news set, complete with cameras, teleprompters, microphones, lighting and even an authentic green screen. Just like a real news set, it will provide background images for our own school news anchors.

The VPE-TV News debuted this past Monday. The students will begin every week with the latest edition of the news. They will also conduct student and staff interviews, provide the latest weather, announce birthdays for the week and introduce other items of interest.

Under the supervision of Mr. Williams, the students are in charge of all aspects of the broadcast. Once they complete a newscast, Mr. Williams then uploads it to VPE's Blackboard site. This way, parents may watch the news as well.



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# West Orange *Elementary School*

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



## Weekly Recognitions

The West Orange Warriors are off to a fantastic start this year, with an emphasis on high expectations in performance and behavior. That's because West Orange is kicking-off a new behavior management system called Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS.) The Discipline Committee spent long hours over the summer developing the plan.

**Michael Olander**  
*Principal*

The school's behavior-management theme is called SPORT, which is an acronym for safety first, pride, own your actions, respect, and be there and ready. Students and teachers participated in identifying how each of these characteristics can be demonstrated in a variety of common school situations and locations.

The school prides itself on managing behavior by using positive reinforcement techniques. A new part of the plan is the selection of a weekly "All-Star" for each class. They will be selected based upon the required traits and characteristics.

Every Friday morning, the West Orange Warriors will assemble for a quick flag salute ceremony, where the All-Stars will be recognized in front of applauding students, staff and parents.



# Yorba *Middle School*

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



## At the Street Fair

Over Labor Day weekend, Yorba students and parents worked to raise money for the Yorba PTA.

Alongside the Isaac Walton Club of Orange, they sold hundreds of sausage sandwiches during the day.

For their one day of work, the students raised over \$1,000 for the organization.

Yorba students K.C. and C.J. reported that, "I thought it was a very fun work experience. I got to work with my friends and help the school at the same time. We got to meet so many people from the community."

Manny and Zach shared the observation that, "I thought it was amazing that we sold so many sandwiches in just one day. After hours of hard work, it was fun, but my feet hurt!"

This was the first year that Yorba worked at the street fair. The school's dedicated parents and students are looking forward to returning there next summer.



**Matt and PTA parent serving sandwiches.**



**Yorba students ready to work.**

## Central County ROP

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

# New Construction Trades Classes Uses Hands-On Approach To Engage Students

*By Teryl Snyder, Administrator, Career Education Center*

It's a pretty typical scenario. On the first day back from summer break, students and teachers ask each other: "So what did you do this summer?" The answers undoubtedly vary from person to person each year. But, at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year, an Orange USD School Counselor noticed that a lot of the students she asked this question to had the same response. Many of them had worked on construction projects with a relative or friend to earn some summer money and most of them did so without formal training and/or insurance.

With these conversations in mind, the ROP Curriculum Team quickly began developing a new course that would provide students with a head-start in developing practical skills in the mechanical and residential construction areas. This new course, Construction Trades, was launched in September and is offered on-campus at Canyon and Richland High Schools. More than 150 Orange Unified students are enrolled in the course, taking advantage of the opportunity to learn

about construction and engineering while they're still in high school.

By rotating through a collection of hands-on modules, students enrolled in the Construction Trades class learn about electrical, plumbing, painting, framing, communications systems, cabinetmaking, tiling, plans and specifications, and estimating. This class, as with all ROP courses, is taught by a credentialed teacher who has at least five years experience in field of construction/engineering.

## Construction Trades

Orange Unified offers a large variety of on-campus career electives, such as all-new Construction Trades, that provide high school students with an opportunity to earn high school credit, explore future career opportunities, discover and foster talents they never knew they had, and even get a head start on earning college credit. Classes are conveniently offered during and/or after the school day on all Orange Unified High School campuses which offers students flexibility when planning their school schedule.

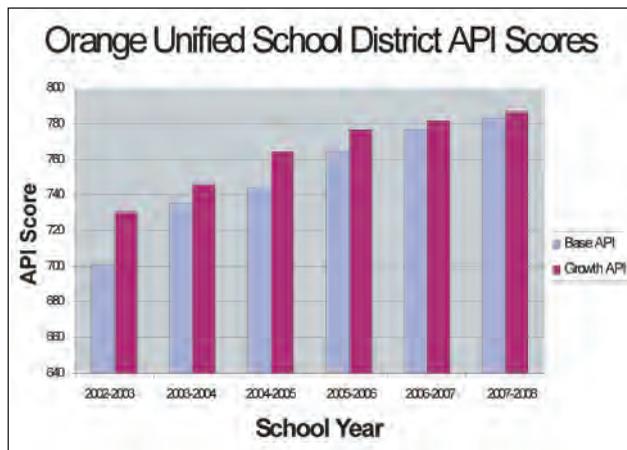
All career elective classes are tuition-free and some of the after school career electives include hands-on internship experience which make a great addition to college applications. Students should see their counselor or visit the Career Center on their high school campus to check for class availability and to enroll. Visit [www.ccrop.org](http://www.ccrop.org) to view a class schedule or to read more about the Regional Occupational Program (ROP).

accountability measure of Academic Performance Index (API), the state target for all schools and district offices is a score of 800. Nearly two-thirds of the schools improved their API scores.

Specifically, seventeen schools scored above 800, including Anaheim Hills Elementary, Canyon High, Canyon Rim Elementary, Cerro Villa Middle, Crescent Elementary, Crescent Intermediate, Imperial Elementary, La Veta Elementary, Linda Vista Elementary, McPherson, Olive Elementary, Running Springs Elementary, Serrano Elementary, Silverado Elementary, Villa Park Elementary, and Villa Park High. Three schools scored above 900: Chapman Hills Elementary, Nohl Canyon Elementary, and Panorama Elementary. Overall, the District gained 4 points and has an API score of 787.

According to the federal accountability measure of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the English-Language Arts target for the percent of students performing at the Proficient level or above is 34.0% while the Mathematics target is 34.6%. These percentages reflect an approximate 11% increase from the 2006-2007 AYP targets. As a whole, OUSD students performed well above these targets: The percent of students performing at Proficient or above in ELA is 57.4% and in Mathematics is 57.6%.

I am proud of our students' efforts. While there is always room for improvement, it is significant to note that overall, the District gained 4 points. Our teachers and staff are to be commended for their hard work and dedication and I look forward to continued growth and achievement during this school year.



The young men and women selected to serve as student advisors are exemplary students, active in their classrooms, engaged in campus activities, and leaders among their peers. They are appointed to serve a one-year term that extends from September through June.

Throughout the 2008-09 school year, Mrs. Chris Reider Executive Director for Secondary Education, will work with these five student representatives to facilitate communication between the Board and the students of this District. SACBE representatives are responsible for attending all regular school Board meetings, staying informed on District issues, and for contributing ideas and insights. At each Board meeting, on a rotating basis, one of these students will present a State of the School report.

When asked why they chose to pursue the roll of a SACBE representative, this is what they each had to say:

**Paul Loeffler—Canyon High School**

While attending Canyon High School, it has been one of my main goals to be involved with the continuing processes of improvements that impact the campus and students. In order to achieve this goal, I realized that in my senior year it would be very beneficial to become the S.A.C.B.E representative for Canyon. In this role I will work with the school board and the school administration together to help benefit our school in the most positive aspects possible.

**Katherine Trinh—El Modena High School**

As an active leadership student at El Modena High School, I have developed qualifications essential to serve as a liaison between the Orange Unified School District and El Mo's Associated Student Body. Participating in the OUSD board meetings will advance my awareness of education issues concerning my school. As the SACBE representative, I appreciate the opportunity to interact with board members, district officials and peers from all the district's high schools.

**Mique Rosales—Orange High School**

I wanted to be SACBE Representative because I wanted to be more involved with the school and try and make it a better place to be. I also wanted a more mature position on ASB. I wanted to be able to relate the information from the district board to the orange high student body. I was told there was an opening as a SACBE representative.

**Narinee Shahrikian—Richland Continuation HS**

Being a SACBE Representative will enable me to learn about the educational process in Orange Unified. Then with this newly acquired knowledge, I will be able to share it with the students at Richland High School. Also, I want to be the voice of the students at Richland, addressing their needs and concerns. I am very excited have a leadership role while attending Richland High School.

**Daniel Duel—Villa Park High School**

I was very fortunate to win the election for Student Advisory Council to the Board of Education. I had always been interested in new events and decisions taking place within our district. Unfortunately, not many students are aware of these decisions and actions taking place so I hope to communicate all new information to all the students. Also, I hope to make the students' voice heard within the district board, because after all, they are working for us.

Schools Above 750	2008 API Score	Schools Above 800	2008 API Score
Jordan Elementary	760	Villa Park High	802
El Modena High	764	West Orange Elementary	802
Palmyra Elementary	782	Silverado Elementary	808
California Elementary	789	Canyon High	812
		Olive Elementary	815
		Cerro Villa Middle	822
		La Veta Elementary	826
		Crescent Elementary	834
		Crescent Intermediate	870
		Canyon Rim Elementary	871
		Imperial Elementary	880
		McPherson	883
		Anaheim Hills Elementary	888
		Linda Vista Elementary	888
		Running Springs Elem.	888
		Villa Park Elementary	893
		Serrano Elementary	899

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						<b>Steve Rocco</b> <i>Member</i> (picture not available)

# City of Orange

[www.cityoforange.org](http://www.cityoforange.org)

## Community Services Department

### Special Events

Orange Special Event Hotline (714) 744-7278

#### Treats in the Streets Autumn Festival

Thursday, October 30, 2008  
Old Towne Orange Plaza Area,  
4-7 p.m.

Celebrate the fall season with an evening full of fun activities, including games, food booths, trick or treating, costume parade and entertainment for participants of all ages. Parents, please leave masks and pets at home.



#### Veterans Day Tribute

Tuesday, November 11, 2008  
Veterans Memorial at Depot Park,  
2 p.m.

Help us honor past veterans and current military with patriotic music and inspirational speeches. If you are a veteran or active military member interested in participating in the program, please contact Lisa Tamburelli at (714) 744-7294 or Ltamburelli@cityoforange.org.



#### Tree Lighting Ceremony & Candlelight Choir Procession

Sunday, December 7, 2008  
Old Towne Orange Plaza Area,  
3:30 p.m.

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



### Youth Programs

(714) 744-7293

Programs offer free activities, crafts, sports, games, special events, a nutritional program, and homework assistance! Sites are closed during inclement weather and Thursday, October 30, 2008. Children ages kindergarten through eighth grade are eligible to participate. Program times

are subject to change. A parent packet, including a liability form, drop-off and pick-up policy agreement, CDBG form, and discipline agreement must be completed in order to participate.

#### Grijalva Park/Prospect

368 N. Prospect Avenue, 92869, 2:30-6:00 p.m.

#### Killefer Park

615 North Lemon Street, 92868, 2:30-6:00 p.m.

NEW! In partnership with the Friendly Center, Killefer now offers free tutoring to participants. For additional information on the Friendly Center programs, please call (714) 771-5300 or visit [www.friendlycenter.org](http://www.friendlycenter.org).

#### El Camino Park

400 North Main Street, 92868

On track schedule: 2:30-6:00 p.m.

Next off-track schedule: September 22 - October 10  
Site Time: 12:30-6 p.m.

The El Camino Park After-School Program opens earlier when single-track students are out of school. Children will enjoy free activities, crafts, sports, games, and special events. This program promotes and builds self-confidence, friendship, a healthy lifestyle, and a friendly environment.



#### 16th Annual Thanksgiving Basket Program

The City of Orange in partnership with the Friendly Center is proud to provide this exceptional Thanksgiving Basket Program that helps make the Thanksgiving holiday extra special for disadvantaged families in Orange. Low-income families identified with the help of Orange Unified School District

are invited to participate in this program which provides each family with all the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving dinner. Gift baskets are given out to these families through the generous donations of local organizations, businesses and individuals. If your organization or own family is interested in contributing to this commendable program, please contact Emily Chacon at (714) 744-5599 or [echacon@cityoforange.org](mailto:echacon@cityoforange.org) or Cathy Seeling at (714) 771-5300 or [cathy@friendlycenter.org](mailto:cathy@friendlycenter.org).

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