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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 21

APRIL / MAY 2009

SUPERINTENDENT



Renae Dreier, Ed.D.

Revised Student Calendar Approved

On February 26, 2009, the Board of Education approved a revised student calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. All students

will be on one calendar and will attend school on the same days. This change from two tracks to one will save the district at least \$500,000 for the next school year.

The following schedule was approved:

- All students will begin the school year on Thursday, August 20, 2009.
- All students will have a 3-day break at Thanksgiving, which is consistent with past years.
- The winter break will begin on Monday, December 21, 2009 and will end on Friday, January 8, 2010. Students will return to school on Monday, January 11, 2010.
- Spring break will begin Monday, March 29, 2010 and will end Friday, April 9, 2010. Students will return to school on Monday, April 12, 2010.
- The final day for all students will be Thursday, June 17, 2010.

OUSD Listserv

Please consider signing up for the OUSD Listserv. Up-to-date and timely information is sent out on a regular basis, and you could be receiving this information directly through your email. Communication is essential and the OUSD Listserv has proven to be a very valuable tool.

To sign up, visit the OUSD website www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/listserv/.

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MESA Comes To School



By Judy Denenny, Teacher
McPherson Magnet

Our very first Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Engineering Day competition, held in February at Cal State Fullerton, was a great success!

Students had the opportunity to compete for awards as well as participate in many hands-on activities such as building straw towers and racing airfoil cars. They watched their bridges being crushed, their mouse-trap cars speeding down the raceway and their egg packages being dropped six stories from the Humanities building. Students now will research the design features of windmills for next year's competition. They are

SEE MACPHERSON • PAGE 16

Messa Engineers Build the Future

Students with Jack Herold, retired engineer, and Judy Denenny, Engineering teacher.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Rick Ledesma
President

At a Crossroads

With the state of the economy in such fiscal crisis, Orange Unified School District is at a crossroads in trying to remain fiscally solvent. The changing economy of our nation and our state has now affected our entire school district. The state has cut and continues to cut funding for education. This has created a budgeting nightmare for school districts across California.

I have been a Board member for over 10 years, and the budget challenges this Board of Education has

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 20



Daniel Duel
Student Advisory
Representative
Villa Park H. S.

New and Old Traditions

As a senior at Villa Park High School, I've witnessed the unyielding drive amongst the students to keep one another active and motivated. We have had many

successful events put on by the numerous organizations on campus, which were mostly directed towards benefiting charitable organizations. Past events include a canned food drive, the giving tree, a breast cancer awareness day, a dodgeball tournament, and many more.

SEE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER PAGE 20

Your Reading Electives Inside:

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Our next issue is June 3.





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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Even though we've been publishing ten years, I am continually amazed at the breadth of choices our students have and the information they must learn. Technology is moving at such a rapid rate it is difficult to imagine how we managed only a few years ago without email, cell phones, and text messaging. Parents still struggle with the same decisions of when their child is ready for kindergarten and students are still learning that reading is key to their success.

It is time to relax and enjoy *School News* to see what the students are learning this month.

School News

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COVERING THE
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Advertising Sales

714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/598-3137
Leslie Rawlings • Leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com

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
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/598-3137
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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On the Path to College with AVID



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

The success of every student in Orange County is a commitment that educators, parents, and community partners take very seriously. In Orange County, and around the world, programs are put in place to support students as they reach for success and strive to achieve their dreams. One such program is Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). For 27 years, this nationally and internationally renowned program has been successfully preparing students for college.

AVID is a sixth through twelfth-grade program designed to prepare students in the "academic middle" for four-year college eligibility. The Region 9 AVID program, which serves San Diego, Orange, and Imperial Counties, began in 1986 at the San Diego County Office of Education. Through the AVID curriculum, students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking, receive academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. In addition, students are provided with support for meeting the "A-G" college entrance requirements and they are exposed to the reading and writing skills necessary to be successful in more rigorous courses such as honors, Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB).

The AVID national mission is to ensure that ALL students, and most especially the least served students who are in the middle:

Will succeed in rigorous curriculum, will complete a college preparatory path, will enter mainstream activities of the school, will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and will become educated, responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

SEE ON THE PATH • PAGE 23

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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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Debra Larson
Principal

Gold Dust or Bust!

Anaheim Hills Elementary School fourth-graders have been hitting the mines in San Francisco and hoping to strike it rich! They have all been working hard to understand this fascinating part of California history known as the "gold rush."

The students have learned all about how the gold rush began, just who came to California with gold fever, what routes they took to get here, and what challenges and obstacles they faced during their journey.

They have also learned about the effects the gold rush had on our state. By following the adventures of Jack and Praiseworthy in the novel *By the Great Horn Spoon!*, they have experienced what the life of a miner was like.

Luzena Wilson, John Sutter, James Marshal, Sam Brannan and President James K. Polk are just a few of the people that played important roles during this historic period.

These fourth-graders can tell you all about any of them. They have also been practicing hard for the big finale performance of *Gold Dust or Bust!* in the spring. This is a play they are performing to teach their parents and fellow Anaheim Hills Panthers all about the gold rush. They have all truly become stellar performers, singers and gold miners.



California *Elementary*

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



Cyndi Paik
Principal

By Patty Ruiz-Teacher—4th Grade

Use of Technology

This year, California Elementary has increased its use of technology in the classroom schoolwide. Not only are more teachers becoming familiar with our district's online gradebook and Blackboard, students are also becoming familiar with the student portal and its various uses. Teachers across grade levels have been using various modes of technology throughout the year. For example, teaching styles have changed for the better due to the addition of Elmos in the classroom. Third grade teachers have been implementing Power Point as a means to teach vocabulary, which has significantly increased student performance. Fourth and fifth grade students have been blogging...a very powerful and motivating tool as a means to get students to write. Fifth grade teachers have been using Respondus and Studymate as a way to teach word analysis and be used on a regular basis. We are proud that this year has been an experimental year for many teachers at California Elementary, and hope to continue with many other technological mediums in the years to come.



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Cambridge *Elementary*

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Karen Merkow
Principal

Read Across Cambridge Day

College came to Cambridge Elementary School to celebrate Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday in a very special way! With the help of the Chapman University English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, professors came to our school to read to our students and celebrate the importance of reading in their future! We were also honored to have the mayor of Orange, Carolyn Cavecche, the chief of police, Robert Gustafson, and an Orange librarian, John Ferry, as readers, too.

Our students and families began the day by reciting a reader's oath and enjoying a parade of students dressed up as favorite book characters. Each class had a special guest reader, a cupcake treat provided by Sigma Tau Delta, and Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) time.

"Everyone had a fabulous time!" said Principal Merkow. "Our guests didn't know their neighboring school had such a great time learning!"



Chief of Police Robert Gustafson reads to second and third grade students.



Students dress up as their favorite book characters to motivate reading.

Canyon Hills

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



William Gee,
Ed.D.
Principal

Adapting PE for Disabled Students

We all recognize the role of physical education for students and adults. At Canyon Hills School, however, the role of physical education is even more pronounced than for the rest of us.

Many of our students face physical limitations that few of us face. Many of our students may face challenges with walking, running, climbing stairs, getting off the ground from a sitting position,

or riding bicycles or tricycles. Our adaptive physical education teacher, Mark Cody, develops specific goals for each student based on their present skills and future needs. Even our most physically able students receive specialized physical education as they enjoy modified versions of baseball, basketball, volleyball, field hockey and soccer.

In many ways, the development of these physical skills is the foundation for our students to participate in the community, and they are also the foundation to develop many other social, verbal and daily living skills.



Hugo T. practices safely climbing stairs.

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Canyon *High School*

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Greg Bowden,
Ed. D.
Principal

Winning Teams

The Science Olympiad Team from Canyon High School has placed fourth in a recent competition at Orange Coast College. This qualified the team to move on to the state finals in April at CSU Long Beach.

This is the second time our school has advanced to the finals in as many years. This year the team has been coached by Canyon biology teachers Chrissy Parkinson and Charles Bushman, along with several key parents.

The winning students and their specific research topics are Brandon Vu in cell biology, astronomy and health science; Shiksha Patel in astronomy and forensics; Akiko Shimizu in egg-o-naut, health science and elevated bridge; Sabran Masoud in cell biology and dynamic planet; and AK in electric vehicle, dynamic planet and trajectory.

Other winners were Megan Lee in egg-o-naut and forensics; Dustin Liou in herpetology; Jordana Monterro in chemistry lab and fossils; Ben Kim in write-it/do-it; Jolene Ngyuen-Cuu in write-it/do-it and fossils; and Jason Treul in physics lab and electric vehicles.

Alaric D'Sousa was honored in disease detectives and physics lab; Jasmine Mirza in chemistry lab; Chris Huab in elevated bridge and trajectory; and Ryan Rezvani was recognized in disease detectives and herpetology.

The alternates were Christine Han, Alfred Meng, Andy Song, Garreth Monterro, Michelle Kwan and Eric Hsieh. Congratulations to everyone!

The Canyon boys basketball team clinched the CIF Division III-AA title by beating Santa Margarita High School at the Honda Center in Anaheim. This is the first CIF boys basketball title for Canyon in the school's entire history!

Congratulations to Head Coach Nate Harrison and Assistant Coach Gary Gaspard for their hard work and success! Team members are Chris Anderson, Danny Baeza, Bryan Barker, Phil Ferragamo, Kyle Forman, Dan Galluccio, Dylan Green, Trevor Lampe, Andrew Maxey, Mark McNeff, Taylor Mossman, Chris Nelson, Gadeer Nokari, Braden Priest and Torenno Winn.

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

At the end of every February, the Cerro Villa Middle School staff recognizes our English language students who have shown growth on their California English Language Development Test (CELDT). This important test measures students' English language proficiency in four areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In order 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 one other core subject, such as math, social science, or science. They must also score a 326, the midpoint of the basic range, on the California Standards Test in language arts.

Staff and family members applauded 127 students who grew one level on their CELDT. We also honored 81 students for reaching early advanced or advanced.

Lastly, we recognized 34 students who were reclassified as fluent English speakers—a school-wide 28-percent reclassification rate!

Mrs. Higley, a science teacher, donated the celebration cakes.

We are proud of our students' achievement and thank our English language coordinator, Ms. Gotts, and the Cerro Villa teachers for their dedication.



Canyon Rim *Elementary*

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



Randi Leach
Principal

By Tammy Pinkerton, Geographic Bee Coordinator Studying the World

Canyon Rim students were challenged to learn more about their world by preparing for our school's first National Geographic Bee. All fourth- and sixth-graders took a written preliminary test to qualify for the competition. The finalists were encouraged to study by using the National Geographic Web site, which has a daily quiz game to make the practice fun.

The 28 finalists competed by grade level in March, with an audience of their classmates and parents. These students were challenged, as the questions were quite difficult. The top three students in each grade were awarded medals, and the other finalists received ribbons. The first-place champions were sixth-grader Ryan Sivoraphonh, fifth-grader Sean Terry and fourth-grader Tanner Scherwinski. The audience was amazed and applauded their interest in geography.

Now that Canyon Rim students are familiar with the Geographic Bee, they will know what to expect next year.



Twenty eight upper grade finalists competed in Canyon Rim's first Geographic Bee.

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Stuck for a Buck

The students at Chapman Hills had a great time on March 20th when they participated in "Stuck for a Buck" and taped sixth grade teacher, Mr. Higgins to the ball wall. The students were raising money for Pennies for Patients for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and were able to purchase an 18" piece of tape for \$1.00 to use to stick Mr. Higgins to the wall. The students gathered at lunch time and the Student Council members did a wonderful job organizing and managing the event. With the help of this activity and with the other donations coming in throughout the month, the students of Chapman Hills were able to raise \$288.40. Way to go Pathfinders!



Sixth-grade teacher, Mike Higgins.

Crescent *Elementary*

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



Sheila Thompson
Principal

A Family Affair

Crescent Elementary School recently hosted a number of events that involved parents and families in the learning process.

First, we hosted several evenings of Family Math Nights this past month. Thanks to the good work of teachers Kitty Feeney and Alan Saldivar, who organized the events, and others who provided support, we were able to showcase the practical applications of skills found in our classrooms in creative ways to make them hands-on, engaging, and fun!

In addition, we were privileged to host musicians from the Orange County Performing Arts Center in our cafetorium. We were treated to renditions of Leonard Bernstein's music performed by a quartet of Class Act musicians, including our own trumpet player, David Wailes.

We also held the Crescent Elementary Science Fair, directed by teacher Michele Venckus. We added a new facet this year by inviting our kindergarten through third-grade students to participate. It culminated with an evening exhibition of all the entries and awards for the outstanding work of our students.

Although the events varied, they all shared one key element: involvement! We are always thrilled to offer opportunities for our students and their families to get involved. As a staff, we are proud to partner with them, and we appreciate their willingness to participate.

We look forward to more events like these, such as the upcoming Family Science Night on April 28. The bottom line: these events help our students feel that we all care, and they solidify the educational partnership we are building among students, parents, school, and our community.

El Modena *High School*

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



John Briquetelet
Principal

Signs of Success

The administrators, counselors, and teachers of El Modena High School have been working hard to get the word out that El Mo is a great place to be. One such effort was the well-attended Eighth-Grade Parent Information Night, held in our cafeteria on February 26. Another was our Fast Track Academic Advisement for current eighth-graders interested in taking Honors or laptop courses next year. Advisement conferences were set up throughout the week of March 2, providing students and their parents an opportunity to ask critical questions and earn priority in their course selections.

We will undoubtedly do this again next year, as yet another means of sharing the many reasons El Modena High School is "one of the best kept secrets in Orange County!"

We had another terrific Spirit Week throughout the week of March 9. Each class performed creative and entertaining skits, and the decorations our students put up were truly impressive. Although the underclassmen made a strong showing, this year's competition was won by our seniors, who chose the theme "Seniors in Wonderland," an homage to Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. Great job, Vanguard!

Finally, we hope to see all of our parents at Open House this April 15. The evening will begin with a general assembly at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria and will end at 8:30 p.m., after classroom visitations. This will be a golden opportunity to visit your student's classrooms and learn about all the fantastic things that have been happening at El Modena High School over the course of this year. We'll hope to see you here!

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

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



John Besta
Principal

By *Chris Rumar, Assistant Principal*

STAR Test Information

California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) will be held at El Rancho from April 28-May 1. Seventh-graders are assessed in math and language arts; eighth-graders are assessed in math, language arts, history, and science.

If you would like more information on the STAR Test, the California Dept. of Education has the following Web site of released STAR Test questions that are free to download in PDF form. These

released test questions can be used by students to practice and prepare for the STAR test: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/css05rtq.asp>.

Here are a few test-taking strategies that students can use to help them be more successful on the STAR test:

Make sure you are well rested and have a good breakfast each morning before the day of a specific test.

Read and listen to all directions carefully before starting the test.

Work through multiple-choice tests quickly and carefully. If you can't answer a question or are unsure about one, make a small mark beside the question and return to it later.

Fill in answers on standardized tests carefully. Make sure that the number you are answering corresponds to the number of the question. If you skip a question, be sure to leave the space for that question blank.

Note significant words such as except, never, always, most and least. Circle or highlight these words, as they can significantly change the meaning of a question.

Esplanade *Elementary*

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



Amy Hitt
Principal

A Million Thanks

Esplanade students and staff celebrated "Read Across America" for an entire week in March! From March 9th through the 13th, the students entered a drawing where the winners received books as prizes.

They also wrote their names and favorite book titles on red and white strips to create a huge hat in the library. There was a "Crazy Hat Day" on Wednesday, and a *Cat in the Hat*

character who judged a door-decorating competition that encouraged reading. A million thanks to our library media technician, Martha Martinez, for coordinating the festivities!

The students are now practicing basic multiplication facts on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the library. Instructional coach Dee Petersen conceived of the before-school tutoring idea in an attempt to help all upper-grade students become more fluent in math. Several of them have successfully mastered the times-tables in a few practice sessions alone.



Martha Martinez,
Esplanade's Library Media Technician.



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Andrew Fisher
Principal

By Jeff Mayfield, Teacher – Special Day Class

I Love Reading Club

Every day at 11:40 a.m., children are released from lunch and use every fiber of self control they have to keep themselves from running down the hallway toward the playground area. At this exact time every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, a group of first-grade students makes its way to Room 1. The students arrive on their own merit, without candy or tiny metallic stars to goad them on. They arrive because they simply love to read.

The I Love Reading Club has been operating since late January. It is here that Fairhaven Elementary School's future educators congregate. The I Love Reading Club consists of first-grade students who are either tutors or readers.

The students huddle into groups of two or three and use their Phonics Library books for a variety of different reading exercises designed to increase fluency. The students are often seen echo reading, where the tutor reads a sentence and the reader follows. The students also take part in partner reading and choral reading.

These students truly enjoy reading and helping others. Xitlaly, a first-grade reading tutor, said "I like to read and sound words out." Another tutor, Diane, added, "I love reading. It's easy!" Fortunately for us all, both of these girls plan to become teachers one day.



Fletcher *Elementary*

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



Christina Varela
Principal

By Ellen Lee—1st-Grade Teacher

Falcons Have PRIDE!

In February, Fletcher students gathered together to celebrate Fletcher PRIDE, which stands for Positive attitude, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Empathy. A midyear assembly was held to remind students how to make good choices in the following areas: classrooms, lunch benches and playground.

Student Council members performed skits, which demonstrated positive behaviors and good manners. The audience enjoyed the animated skits and were reminded how to get along with one another at school. One of the highlights of the event was when the entire student body enthusiastically sang our PRIDE song and shouted our PRIDE chant! All of our Fletcher Falcons were united in supporting good citizenship and showing our Fletcher PRIDE!



Handy *Elementary*

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



Sandra Schaffer
Principal

Hooked on Books

In February, we had our quarterly Hooked on Books. This is an opportunity for parents to come to their children's classrooms and share in the joy of reading. Some parents read with small groups of children, others read along with the audio version of the most recent Houghton Mifflin story. Each teacher plans a little differently for the 45-minute block of time.

This quarter, we decided to combine our event with a parent-education opportunity. Our Reading First coach, Amber Tatch, and our instructional coach, Shelley Frauenberger, planned the hour-long training. The focus was fluency and the impact it has on comprehension. Parents learned different strategies that they can use to help their children at home. They practiced using flashcards in several different ways to show parents how powerful this activity can be. Each parent received a grade-appropriate set of cards at the end of the training.

Overall, this was our most successful training to date. We had approximately 100 parents attend, and before they left the training, they had the opportunity to give suggestions on topics they would like to see addressed in the future. Our goal is to provide this type of parent-education class at least once per quarter. We believe that by increasing parent participation, we will see an increase in test scores on both the California Standards Test (CST) and the California English Language Development Test (CELDT).

Imperial *Elementary*

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



Tim Biland
Principal

By Debby Robbins, Teacher 4/5 Combo

Proficiencies in Writing

Once a year, the fourth-grade students prepare for the annual California Writing Standards Test. They pride themselves on becoming proficient in the narrative, summary and response elements in literary formats.

Since the beginning of the year the students have been given an opportunity to work through each stage of composing literature, from pre-writing to the creation of the final product. They learn methods for selecting a topic, capturing a reader's attention, creating effective characters, developing a setting and writing and revising drafts.

In early March our fourth-graders showed schools across the state what effective writers they have become. From kindergarten through the sixth grade, our staff prides themselves in their "Step-up-to-Writing" instruction methods.

By Susan Mullins, 4/5/6 SDC Teacher

Even Greater Success

Did you know that Imperial Elementary has a very successful program that promotes academic and social achievement in all of our students? It is called "The Blended Services Model." This program consists of a collaborative effort between general classroom teachers, along with RSP, SDC, speech, vision, occupational therapy and adaptive P.E. instructors.

Through assessments and specific directive-teaching methods, the Imperial teachers are able to channel students into an appropriate direction to help aid their academic and social success. Those students identified as needing additional support in a specific instructional area can easily move into our blended program.

Jordan *Elementary*

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



Bertie Anderson
Principal

By Lisa Green, Resource Teacher Sharing a Favorite Book

This year, Jordan Elementary School held a week-long celebration as part of the National Education Association's Read Across America program that honored Dr. Seuss' birthday.

To start off this week of promoting literacy, the Orange Rotary Club and other community members visited the school as guest readers. The students had a wonderful time listening to stories and talking with the guests about why reading is important in their lives.

There were a number of activities during this week-long festivity. On Tuesday, staff and students wore crazy hats in honor of the Dr. Seuss book *The Cat in the Hat*. On Wednesday, the upper-grade classes partnered with the primary grades for buddy reading.

On Thursday, the students brought their favorite book to share with the class. Finally, on Friday, the whole school went outside and sat on blankets in the grass for 15 to 20 minutes of silent reading.

Our students participated in this celebration with enthusiasm. We want to thank all of our volunteers who came to read with us, and made this event an exciting one for our students.



**Rotary Club member,
Denise Bittel, reads to
Ms. Reid's second grade class.**



**"Rotary Club member,
Ann Saltikov, reads to
Mrs. O'Brien's first grade class.**

La Veta *Elementary*

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



Jaymi Abusham
Principal

Fitness For A Cause

La Veta students had a wonderful time in late February when they took part in the PTA's annual Fitness-A-Thon.

Students from all grade levels enjoyed perfect weather for a day of physical fitness. They had a blast as they traveled from station to station and took part in healthy physical activities.

Our PTA president taught everyone some safe stretching techniques. Students, teachers and family members jumped rope, hoola- hooped and ran or walked on the field. This event is always one of the PTA's most popular fund-raisers, and this year was no exception.

The students obtained sponsorships for their participation, and by doing so raised more than \$8,000. The proceeds are used to fund Art Masters, assemblies, donations to the library and many other projects of benefit to our students.

We are very thankful to the PTA for all of the hard work they do to make this a spectacular event for our school.



Lampson *Elementary*

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



Laurie Dieppa
Principal

Community Science Night

In February, the Lampson community of students, parents, teachers and volunteers came out in great numbers to participate in our first annual science night.

Members of the Orange County Astronomers shared their knowledge of the stars. Everyone was able to see Jupiter and Orion's belt before the clouds rolled in. Parrots and their trainers from a local cafe were also entertaining and informative.

PTA members were on hand to provide refreshments, and the Nutrition Network put on a highly educational and delicious display.

Many teachers donated their time to help parents and students with hands-on activities, including aerodynamic paper airplanes, fingerprinting, butterflies, color fusion, owl pellets, gas pillows, electromagnets and more.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students put their own projects on display. The overall winners of the science fair projects were Frank Guillen and Jasmine Gonzalez. One parent commented that "it was the best, most educational night" he ever had with his daughters. "Even I learned a lot," he said!



First graders get a closer look at butterfly larvae.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Sally Hughson
Principal

By Orlene Burd—4th Grade Teacher The Math Club

The Linda Vista Math Club invites fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders to participate in a variety of math related activities on Wednesdays from 2:10 to 3:00 p.m. We have about 35 students who attend regularly.

Our activities are varied, and are intended to show students that math can be found in everything we do. Best of all, we have fun doing math every week.

Some of these activities are designed to investigate holiday celebrations. For Thanksgiving, we surveyed each other for our menu preferences, and then created poster-sized graphs to share the data that we compiled. We also practice basic skills on the Web sites posted on Blackboard, and participate in estimation activities that include all types of measurement. The students have fun with spirited rounds of mental math and they always enjoy building projects.

Last week we began building tables out of newspaper. The challenge is to see which group's table could hold the most weight. We also celebrated Pi Day with some fun, math related activities. We learn as we play in an atmosphere free of the pressures of homework, tests and grades.

School News Roll Call

KAMPS FOR KIDZ

Children's Programs

Summer Camps and Classes for Kids and Teens at Cal State Fullerton

Art Camp

A two-week program designed for 7-14 year olds where students will explore the exciting world of art, drama and creativity.

www.fullerton.edu/kidscamp

Weekly Classes

Two hour a week courses on topics such as algebra, geometry, drawing and painting are designed to prepare kids ages 10-16 for the school year ahead.

#6360 03/08

Tim O'Donoghue's OC BASEBALL CAMP

Veteran or Rookie, this camp fits both

Ages 8-13 Boys and Girls

Skills and Drills in the morning with games and game situations in the afternoon. For the last hour of camp it's swimming in the Olympic size pool or additional hitting...player's choice.

Players will receive instruction in the various skills of baseball. The camp will include individual and group instruction, plus game situations. Proper throwing mechanics, infield/outfield skills, catching technique, pitching instruction, hitting and base running will be taught.

Session 1	June 29-July 3	8:30-3:00
Session 2	July 13-17	8:30-3:00
Session 3	July 27-31	8:30-3:00

\$30 per week for extra supervision from 7:30-8:30 and/or from 3:00-4:30

Tim O'Donoghue's
Orange County Baseball Camp

www.ocbaseballcamp.com

714-832-5961

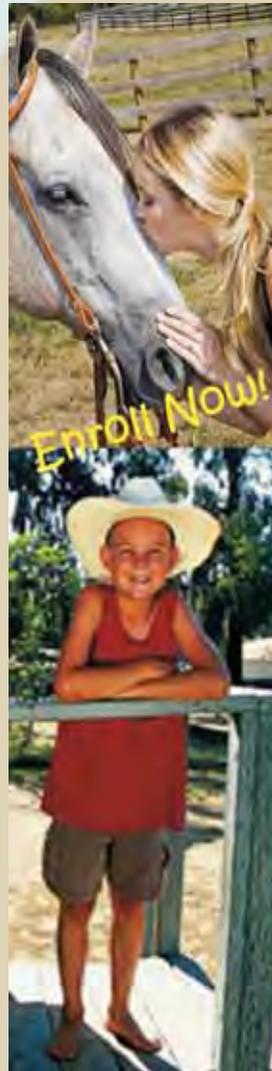
one week only \$159... second week only \$149
and third week only \$139! (if paid on or before June 15)

Attach this coupon to your sign up form and receive

\$10 OFF of the First Week

One coupon per child

Mini Camp
for T-ball (5 & 6) and
Coach Pitch (6 & 7)
Same as the big kid camp,
just scaled down.
July 7-9
T-Ball
8:30-10:30
Coach Pitch
11:00-1:00



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USA Today





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TWO CASTS:
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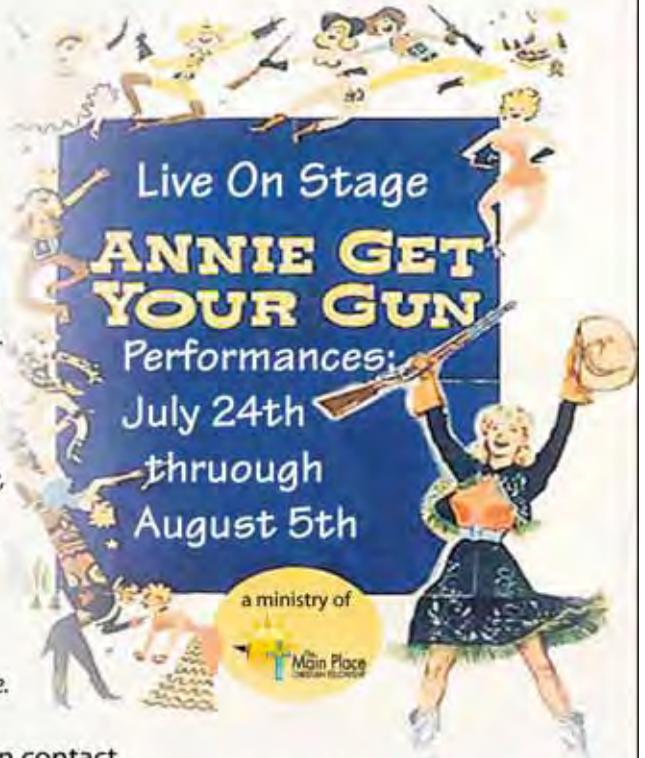
Sign Ups:

May 19th in Tustin &
May 21st in Orange
Weekly Rehearsals:
Tues. 4–7pm Tustin,
Thur. 4–7pm Orange

Open to all K-12th graders.
All who register are cast
in the show, you audition
for particular roles.

Fees: \$225 registration fee,
\$50 costume fee and
a ticket sale requirement
per family.

Performances at the
Village Theatre and
Curtain Call Dinner Theatre.



Live On Stage
ANNIE GET YOUR GUN
Performances:
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through
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Dana Morris at 714-744-4263

WIZARD OF OZ" April 17–29

or e-mail: dana_vta@yahoo.com



Running Panther Summer Basketball Day Camp at Chapman University

TYPICAL DAY AT THE CAMP!

7:30	Gym Open & Supervised for Free Extended Day	1:00	Clinic—Ballhandling
8:30	Roll Call—Warm Up	1:40	3 on 3 League Games
8:50	Clinic—Overall Guard Play	2:30	Team Competition
9:45	Station Work—Fundamentals	3:15	*5 on 5 League Games
10:20	3 on 3 League Games	4:30	Camp Dismissed—Free Extended Day Begins
10:50	*5 on 5 League Play	5:30	Extended Day Ends
noon	**Lunch—Included		

*Indoor and Outdoor Courts are part of the camp experience.
**Lunch provided cafeteria style

Open to Boys & Girls Ages 7-14

For Further Information Call:
Mike Bokosky
(714) 532-6083

Make Check Payable To:

Running Panthers Sports Camp and mail to:

Mike Bokosky Basketball Office

960 N. Tustin St.
#147
Orange, CA 92867

APPLICATION

- _____ \$250 Early Enrollment (Before 6/1/09)**
- _____ \$260 Regular Tuition**
- _____ \$280 Walk-up Registration (if space is available)**
- _____ \$10 8x10 Camp Photo
- _____ Total Tuition Enclosed

_____ Session I: June 15–19	\$260	_____ Session IV: July 13–17	\$260
_____ Session II: June 22–26	\$260	_____ Session V: July 20–24	\$260
_____ Session III: June 29–July 2	\$210**	_____ Session VI: August 3–7	\$260
** 4 days only**		_____ Session VII: August 10–14	\$260

** (Prices for Session III are \$200 for Early, \$210 for regular and \$230 for late)

Name _____ Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____ E-Mail _____
Parents/Guardian Name _____

IMPORTANT

I hereby authorize the Director of the Panthers Sports Camps to act for me according to their best judgement in any emergency requiring medical attention and hereby waive and release Chapman University, Running Panthers Sports Camp, Mike Bokosky, OUSD and its directors from any and all liability from any injuries or illness incurred while at RPSC Basketball Camps. I will be responsible for any medical or other charges in connection with my child's attendance. I know of no mental or physical problems which may affect my child's ability to safely participate in this program. This is not a Chapman University sponsored camp, it is owned and operated by Mike Bokosky.

Parents or Guardian Signature _____ Policy # _____
Parent Insurance Company _____

Please note any medical conditions that we should be aware of: _____

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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.summercamp.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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Sing Like A Star • Play Ball • Scrapbooking
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Registration: 161 S. Orange Street, Orange, CA 92866
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Call For An Appointment

We hope you will join us for a fun filled summer
of learning and adventure!

 **CHAPMAN**
UNIVERSITY

MOTIVE

PERSONALITY

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.

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!*

SUMMER ACTING WORKSHOP

JUL 27-AUG 8
-OR-
AUG 10-22

9 AM - 12NOON
OR
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**We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.**

Summer Day Camp

Dates: June 15 - August 14, 2009
Locations: El Rancho Middle School in Anaheim Hills
Serrano Elementary in Villa Park
Grand Street Center in Orange (Near Old Town Orange)
YMCA Youth Center in Orange (Near Chapman and 55 Fwy)
Days: Monday - Friday
Time: 7:00am - 6:00pm
Grades: Entering Kindergarten - 8th
Highlights:

- Know your child is in a safe environment: Trained, experienced and caring role models.
- Give your child a fun experience: 3 fieldtrips each week to places such as beautiful parks, skating rink, local beaches, and amusement parks.
- Develop strong values in your child: The YMCA's values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility are incorporated into every activity.



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The ultimate summer camp experience. Camp Oakes brings out the adventurer in every child: come explore the trails on a mountain bike, ride a horse, climb a rock wall, stargaze at the observatory or row your boat in Camp Oakes Lake.
Dates: Saturday, June 27 - July 4
Ages: 8 - 16 years old

Summer Basketball League

Dates: June 1 - August 7, 2009
Ages: Boys and Girls 6 - 14 years
Practice one night per week and games on the weekend



Additional Summer Programs Available

- Swim Lessons
- Karate
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Santiago Canyon College Community Services College for Kids Program

(June 15 through August 13, 2009)

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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.

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- digital photography
- magic
- manners
- musical theater
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- reading/composition
- science
- singing
- Spanish
- study skills
- web design
- video game making and more

Registration begins April 20, 2009

For more information, visit our website at

www.sccollege.edu/cs
or call (714) 628-4960

Santiago Canyon College Community Services Program
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† *Separate Programs
For 1st-4th, and 5th-8th ...*

† *Two Field Trips
Per Week...*

† *Swimming, a
Game Room...*

† *Summer Classes
& Study Incentives*

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Hephatha Lutheran School

Summer Day Camp 2009

June 15th – August 21st

First Day of School: Wed., Aug. 26

*"Ohana Means Family..."
Lilo of "Lilo and Stitch"*

*"Summer With the Sun"
Matthew 19:14*

*Come join us for a fun, safe,
Christ-filled summer for children of ALL ages...*

Registration: \$100 (6% off, or \$94, for each additional child)

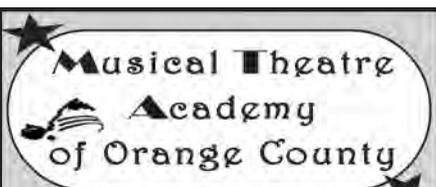
Tuition: \$414-\$468 for a full-time session; \$292-\$414 for a part-time session

Session 1: June 15th through June 26th (2 weeks)

Session 2: June 29th through July 24th (4 weeks)

Session 3: July 27th through Aug. 21st (4 weeks)

All Registration Forms Can Be Downloaded at www.hephatha.net



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June 19-21

Charles Dickens' tale of an orphan boy and his adventures. Great musical numbers!

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Summer on Broadway!

is a fast paced intensive workshop where students learn choreography and vocals for a Broadway style revue that culminates in two performances at the end of each session.

Session #1: (ages 7-12) Tue. & Thurs.,
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Session #1: (ages 9-18) Mon., Wed., & Fri.,
July 6-25, 2009

Session #2: (ages 12-18) Mon. thru Fri.,
August 3-15, 2009

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Dominique Polchow
Principal

Chatting Up the CST

Principal Polchow knows the rich tradition of academic success at Nohl Canyon. With the addition of Test Chats this year, students will be able to have a deeper understanding of what the results mean on the “big state test,” also known as the California Standards Test (CST).

Beginning in May, students in grades 2–6 will take the CST. The CST has five performance bands: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic and Far Below Basic. It is our goal for every child to reach proficiency at his or her grade level. A student is considered at-risk if he or she falls below the Basic level.

Test Chats will begin in April, and Mrs. Polchow will individually meet with students in grades 3–6 to examine CST scores from last year. With this information, students will then be asked to make a goal for both English language arts and mathematics for the upcoming CST. Often, students are surprised at how close they are to jumping to the next performance band. When students become cognizant of their scores, it gives them a purpose and a drive to want to succeed and do better than last year.

As Thomas Edison said, “Many of life’s failures are (people) who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”

McPherson Magnet

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

MESA • FROM PAGE 1

exploring materials and specifications for construction of these simple machines to lift loads using the power of air currents.

With the competition phase of MESA complete, many more exciting challenges lie ahead. Currently, students are creating replicas of their own bedrooms at home and then redesigning them into ultimate “dream suites,” using the Google Sketch Up. As a final project, our students will generate a three-dimensional model amusement park to showcase their problem-solving skills in engineering, using computer technology.

Olive *Elementary*

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



Kathryn Martin
Principal

Meeting Together

It is a crisp morning at Olive School as students and their teachers gather together on the playgrounds.

On the south side of campus, the primary students line up for a full day of learning. On the north playground, a cool shadow covers the blacktop, while the sun slowly peeks over Santiago Peak. As students look towards the north from the upper-grade playground, the San Gabriel Mountains, covered in snow, glisten in the background.

As the morning bell rings they all stop what they’re doing and silently line up by class. Within moments a flag is raised, and everyone puts their hands over their hearts and recites the Pledge of Allegiance. This is followed by our students, in unison, saying the Ocelot “ROAR.”

Every day begins with Olive meeting together as a community, speaking in one voice, pledging the ideas of respect, and to stay on task, to act safely, to be responsible and to honor our country.



Panorama *Elementary*

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



Michelle Moore
Principal

By Erin Rosselli, Teacher – Kindergarten Professional Learning Community

Panorama Elementary School continues to travel down the road to student success by implementing Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

We began our last staff meeting by brainstorming the challenges we face in student learning. We identified behavior as our chosen focus. This could be anything from home stress, disengagement, and attention difficulties to bullying, name-calling, and harassment. While our implementation of Positive Behavior Support using

Courtesy, Achievement, and Responsibility for Everyone (CARE) has been successful for most students, some students need a targeted behavior intervention.

We also have two groups of teachers diligently working to develop teams on campus. The CAREing team is working to increase the adult interaction children encounter each day at school. Their goal is to help students feel connected to the entire staff, with a focus on those students who have declined in learning. The other group is creating a behavior intervention team to establish coaches for students who need behavioral support on the playground or in the classroom. These coaches will meet with students at the beginning of the day to check them in and help them have a good start. They will meet again at the end of the day to check students out by discussing how the day went, reviewing their daily progress report, and setting goals for the next day.

We are committed to providing a positive learning environment for all students to feel safe, while maintaining our high expectations.

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Orange *High School*

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



SK Johnson
Principal

Saving Lives

The thirteenth annual Orange High School penny drive, to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, kicked off on March 3rd with the theme, "Not Another Cancer Victim."

Last year, we were second-place in the nation as the top fundraising high school. This created a great sense of pride in our students. It showed that our school truly cares, and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Orange High School students run this fundraiser and are the ones who always make it a huge success.

The penny drive assembly was a great hit. As always, principal S.K. Johnson walked up and down the aisles of the outdoor theater collecting money for the drive. A competition was held to see which class could collect the most money at the assembly. This year the freshman class won by donating \$323!



Principal SK Johnson collecting money for the annual penny drive at the kick off assembly.

The final total for that day was over \$1,000. There were a number of guest speakers, all of whom have been battling leukemia or lymphoma. They ranged in age from a young girl to a college football player.

Parkside *Pre-K*

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



Allison Smith
Principal

Seuss and Society

Parkside preschool and kindergarten had an exciting week full of fun activities and school spirit. We celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by reading our favorite Dr. Seuss books all week. Each day was paired with a different Dr. Seuss book and fun activity. Our fun activities included wearing our pajamas, silly socks, funny hats and mixed-up clothing, and bringing our favorite stuffed animal to school.

We are also continuing our "Community Helpers" unit and had the Canine Unit visit our campus. The children enjoyed seeing the

dog in action and taking a picture with him. We also had other community helpers come and share information about their professions, such as firefighters—including Smokey the Bear, a veterinarian, a nurse and a physical therapist.



Palmyra *Elementary*

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



Connie Smith
Principal

By Arts Advantage Pilot Teachers

Focus On The Arts

As an Arts Advantage School, Palmyra Elementary has been reminded of how important the visual arts standards are in our curriculum. Last fall, one teacher from each grade level was invited to participate in a visual arts pilot program through the Orange County Department of Education. Over the past six months, these teachers have completed three full days of professional development training as they learn how to teach the elements of art to their students.

Through an integrated curriculum, students are given time to create beautiful artwork that demonstrates elements such as line, shape, form, color, value, texture and space. For example, second grade discovered secondary colors by mixing the primary colors and then used those colors to create a mood painting; fourth grade made portraits of significant people in California; fifth grade designed their own logos after comparing and contrasting symbols and logos created by Native Americans; and sixth grade brought to life a two-point-perspective city.

The Arts Advantage Visual Arts Pilot has stretched the creativity of both the students and the teachers.



Second-grader Rachel Hopkins.



Mrs. Bretza's second-graders.

Portola *Middle School*

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



Debra Thompson
Principal

Success today!

Our Matadors are living up to our Portola Motto: "Today we write and read; tomorrow, we succeed." We are proud of the following students: Eduardo Zamora, third place in the Science Olympiad in the Road Scholar Category; Agnes Nguyen, second place in the Chapman Holocaust Writing Contest; Allysa Nguyen, Jenny Ky, Kevin Nguyen, Sara Aguilera, Jose Talingo and Eduardo Zamora for an outstanding performance with the District Honor Orchestra; Paolina Ortiz, David Nelson and Nolan Talavou for a grand performance with their classmates in the District Honor Band Concert; and Melissa Sanchez, Diego Montiel and Vivien Nguyen, selected for the Color It Orange Juried Student Art Exhibit! Their work from lessons on realism and color-mixing on canvas was displayed during a March reception at Laguna College of Art and Design.

Eduardo Zamora-Martinez represented Portola during the Orange County Spelling Bee finals in March, competing with 46 other outstanding spellers for several hours.

Tinh Duong won third place in a national writing contest hosted by Kids' Writing Contest, and Agnes Nguyen won the contest! Tinh will receive a book certificate, and Agnes will receive a 30-GB iPod. It is the third time that two Portola students have placed in the contest.

Portola is continuing participation in the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) grant, which provides funding over the next seven years to reduce class size. This year, we have implemented a reduced class-size average of 24, with no more than 27, students in each English, reading, ELD, reading intervention and social studies class. Next year, we will reduce math class sizes.

Prospect *Elementary*

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



Elena Stoces
Principal

Hooray for Dr. Seuss!

On March 6th, our whole campus was caught up in a special celebration of "I Love to Read" week when we recognized the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

The celebration began with guest readers from our community, mostly from the Orange Rotary Club, who visited every classroom and selected their favorite Dr. Seuss book or other story to read aloud to the class.

The guest readers were then treated to a lavish breakfast that was catered (*Cat in the Hat* theme, of course) by the Prospect teaching staff as a big "thank you" for their time. Following the visit, each student, teacher and parent spent some time cuddled up with a good book, slippers, pillows and all! Everyone read until recess time.

Later, the teachers assigned the children to different rooms so that each class had a range of students to help share a well-loved Dr. Seuss story. This was followed by an activity that related to the story.

The students had a wonderful experience when they celebrated literacy, and they look forward to our next "I Love to Read" week in 2010!



Community member sharing a good book with Mrs. Zedekis 2/3 combination class.

Running Springs *Elementary*

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



Lydia Roach
Principal

Family Fun

All families at Running Springs Elementary School have the opportunity to participate in many community events throughout the school year, thanks to the hardworking Running Springs PTA. The PTA organizes an annual Family Fun Night in the fall, where families get together to meet each other and socialize while students participate in carnival games.

This year's PTA expanded the community spirit at Running Springs by organizing additional Family Fun Nights, which included a Valentine-themed Family Bingo Night in February. The event was so successful and sold out so quickly that, in order to keep the community spirit growing, an additional Family Bingo Night was held in March with a St. Patrick's Day theme. This second bingo event was as successful as the first! Many families had the opportunity to socialize as they ate pizza and played bingo in a fun, family atmosphere.

These events are important in building a sense of community and helping students to feel connected to their school, which relates directly to increased student achievement.

Thank you to the numerous parent volunteers who make these events possible. Their continual dedication to the students of Running Springs is very much appreciated, and we look forward to the next Running Springs Family Night!

Richland *High School*

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



Deborah Backstrom
Continuation School Principal

Reaching the Finish Line

The third quarter is almost finished, and we are heading for the finish line. We are anticipating many graduates this spring and look forward to a wonderful ceremony at Fred Kelly Stadium. Many of our juniors will be returning to their home schools this fall. We will miss them all and hope for many successes in their future.

Students at Richland High School have been very busy with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Pennies for Patients drive, and we hope to reach our goal. Also, in May we will be having our first-ever Open House. Our students are busy getting ready for the event, and we hope to see all students, parents and their families there. We will have a barbecue for all students and their families, with a special fashion show presentation from the Regional Occupational Program merchandising class.

We will be sending information home to all students and their families. Looking forward to seeing you all at Richland High School!

Riverdale *Elementary*

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



Pamela McFadden
Principal

Family Literacy Fun

On March 9, students and parents came together for a fun night of learning as Riverdale Elementary School hosted Family Literacy Night.

Kindergarten and first-grade teachers Mrs. Irwin and Mrs. Sorensen demonstrated ways to engage students in reading. The highlight was acting out the beginning, middle, and end of a story. The teachers also demonstrated reading fluency.

Second- and third-grade families read one of their favorite stories and played a comprehension game, facilitated by Ms. Griggs and Mrs. Turner. Students and parents discussed characters,

setting, problems, and resolutions. The session ended with a discussion of test preparation strategies.

Students in fourth through sixth grades, facilitated by Mrs. Harestad and Mrs. Burkhart, also read books with their parents and played a comprehension game. They selected higher level thinking questions to make their game boards.

The excitement of learning was evident as students and parents engaged in a fun night of literacy.



Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



Mary Henry
Principal

*Hold Fast to Dreams, For If Dreams Die,
Life is a broken-winged bird, That Cannot Fly*
—Langston Hughes

In eighth grade, students at Santiago are encouraged to begin thinking about their dreams and aspirations for their futures. This may include everything from reading the poetry of Langston Hughes and Robert Frost to doing their own research into possible career choices. As a part of this instruction, students are also given the opportunity to take the PSAT in March as a way to start their journeys towards college. Following the three-hour test, a representative from the Princeton Review visits with students and their parents. During the meeting, he explains the significance of the test scores and offers advice for high school planning. It is a highly informative and encouraging evening, as many students realize that they are already well on their way towards achieving their dreams!

Silverado *Elementary*

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



Linda Stoterau
Principal

Field Trips are Hard Work!

In March, Silverado students in grades three to six participated in a great learning experience outside of the classroom that was provided by our PTA. Through the Ocean Institute's "California Time Capsule for the Day," the students explored California history in the Native American, Spanish, and Gold Rush time periods.

A visit to the San Juan Capistrano Mission helped put words from the textbooks into real life pictures, as students learned about the Juaneño Indians and life in and around the California missions.

At the Lazy 'W' Ranch, students imitated the work of the Native American women when they crushed their own corn meal to make tortillas, and the work of the men when they made adobe bricks by hand.

Finally, the students reviewed the economic and social impacts of the California Gold Rush in the gold panning experience. One student comment, "I'm really tired. Field trips are hard work!"



Serrano *Elementary*

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



Bobbie Lansman
EdD
Principal

Roll Out the Red Carpet!

Lights! Cameras! Action! It was a true Hollywood set as Serrano Elementary School rolled out the red carpet for an award-winning Week of the Reader. The week was filled with glitz, stars and surprises highlighting the Serrano focus of Everyone's a Reader.

On Monday, the reading red carpet displayed the Reading Walk of Fame stars. Each student highlighted a favorite book on his or her own golden star. A special edition of Serrano Eagles Television (SETV) was broadcast to announce the Walk of Fame winners and to highlight award-winning books.

Tuesday's excitement culminated in an exciting paparazzi media opportunity—the Star Reader Photo Shoot. For only one dollar—proceeds donated to the library—fans could have their pictures taken with a book and a celebrity.

All award shows have the special star-studded invited guest parties, and Serrano held its own Lunch with Someone You Love gala. In addition, there were the Principal's Choice Awards, the Hollywood Star Spirit Day dress and Reading on the Green. Fans of all ages listened with revelry as guest readers enthralled audiences in all Serrano classrooms. All in all, it was an award-winning reading week to remember!

Sycamore *Elementary*

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



Kathy Bruce
Principal

By Theresa Olsen and Candi Hutchinson

Celebrations and Fund-Raising

Approximately 25 teachers and dozens of our families attended our Mc Teacher's Night in January. Nearly \$300 in tips was collected, and a further \$560 in percent of sales was earned that night. Teachers operated most stations, from the soft-serve ice cream to the drive-through order window and the cash registers. Our principal, Dr. Bruce, made the rounds selling cookies, and balloons were handed out. Overall, everyone enjoyed himself or herself; it was a great fund-raiser and we hope to do it again next year.

Students at Sycamore Elementary School were encouraged to read in March for the annual Read Across America Day. The event, now in its 12th year, celebrates the birthday of famed children's book author Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. "Special Readers," including Dr. Bruce, Lydia Herrera and Barbara Sentell, visited classes and read their favorite Dr. Seuss book. Throughout the week, classes paired up for Buddy Reading. Mrs. Olsen's third-graders each chose his or her favorite book to read to their little buddies, Mrs. Newman's first-graders. They curled up with their books, a pillow and some cookies and celebrated literacy. On Friday, teachers and student sported their funny hats for Crazy Hat Day. The week concluded with a door-decorating contest. Mrs. Dan's SDC first-through-third-grade class won for the primary grades with "One Fish, Two Fish," and Mr. Nussbaum's fifth-grade class won for the upper grades. The Seuss celebration at Sycamore is never a bore!

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Taft *Elementary*

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



David Reynolds
Principal

Feasting the Eyes on Books

Taft Elementary celebrated Read Across America Day by inviting educational and community leaders to read to students in the classroom. Our students and staff were greatly entertained by Vicki James, Linda Stoterou, Misty Campos, Wes Poutsma, Judy Poutsma, Paula Handler, Bo Wooden the pilot, Rob Dunwoody the firefighter, Robbie Swenson, Ambar Matzuy, Dr. Reynolds, Paul Arata, Ben Dieppa, Jaime Bauer and Monica Helzer. Also, our school librarian, Maureen Zoeter, organized a book exchange for the students. Students could donate a book they had already enjoyed and then choose a new book to take home. Finally, Maureen made a themed banner featuring students' recommendations of their favorite books.



Taft honored their 17 reclassified English language learners by inviting the students and their families for a morning celebration filled with pan dulce, coffee and hot chocolate. The students and parents were recognized with awards and praise. We are so proud of our students and families for their dedication to education. Congratulations!

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

Budget Update

On March 12, 2009, the Board of Education approved multi-year budget reductions totaling \$33.4 million. Included in those reductions were:

- Eliminate Middle School Athletics
- Charge Athletic Fee to High School Students in Sports (\$30/student)
- Close Silverado Elementary School
- Reduce District Administration Staffing
- Reduce School Site Staffing
- Restructure Class Size Reduction Program to 25:1
- Utilize Tier III Flexibility

In addition, several funding adjustments requiring negotiations were approved, pending the results of negotiations.

As the extreme circumstances of the current fiscal crisis continue, District staff will continue to watch and evaluate the information as it is received. Please stay tuned.

Villa Park *Elementary*

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



Larry Hausner
Principal

Writing Focus

This school year has brought a change to the instructional at Villa Park Elementary School (VPE). For the past six years, VPE has focused on reading comprehension, and now the focus has shifted to writing. This change was based on data received from the California Standards Tests, which included the fourth-grade writing proficiency portion of the test. Specially, the data proved that writing strategies were an area of need.

To support this focus, our Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) set the criteria for the writing focus. First, a mid-year goal was established, indicating that "60 percent of the students will move up one step on the writing rubric this year. The remaining 40 percent will show measureable growth." Next, a school-wide prompt was given to all students during the last week of January. The prompt was to plan a favorite birthday party. Teachers collected the writings, created grade-level specific rubrics, and assessed student work. Then teachers submitted a graphic organizer with assessment data, along with specifics on areas students performed well in and those that need additional attention. VPE will administer another prompt in late May and compare the results.

For additional support, VPE teachers have continued to implement Step Up to Writing. Also, all VPE teachers were trained in Thinking Maps earlier this year. Thinking Maps are enhanced graphic organizers designed to support students as they organize their thoughts.

Without question implementing a school-wide focus of writing is challenging. However, with the outstanding teachers and eager students of VPE, the long-term benefits will certainly support students in middle school, high school and college.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1



Rick Ledesma
President

had to face are historically unheard of. These challenges have forced the Board to make unprecedented budget cuts and very tough decisions. Unfortunately, there may be more cuts in the future. The depth and magnitude of these difficult decisions affect the entire Orange Unified School District organization, parents, employees, vendors and students.

As difficult as these times are, the Board of Education remains committed to student achievement and educational success by delivering quality educational services in an environment where students can thrive. We will continue to strive to make every effort to provide our students with the best possible education to achieve academic success, in our endeavor to build brighter futures for America's next generation.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER • FROM PAGE 1



Daniel Duel
Student Advisory
Representative
Villa Park H. S.

Upcoming events include Pennies for Patients, Red Cross blood drives, and Mr. Villa Park.

Students have also worked hard to create new and lasting traditions at our school. An awards ceremony is held every month to recognize students who excel in the arts and now perform in our newly remodeled Performing Arts Center. The Drama, Dance and Music Department recently finished the production of "The Boyfriend." This year, we also added an event called "Dancing with the Teachers," where students and teachers are paired to compete against one another.

Students are also participating in a new program together with the Orange Police Department called Students and Teachers Against Narcotics and Drinking (STAND) to help students stay above the influence and be safe.

I would like to thank the students for all their hard work and for striving to make Villa Park an outstanding high school.

West Orange *Elementary*

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



Michael Olander
Principal

A Fever Hits the School

West Orange Elementary School held its seventh annual talent show in March. Thanks to the generosity of Portola Middle School, West Orange students were able to perform their acts on the Portola multipurpose room stage, in front of a crowd of parents, friends and fans.

The level of talent, courage and eagerness runs high at West Orange. The talent show committee implemented a two-round tryout system to determine which of the 33 auditioning acts would earn the "Going to Hollywood" tickets needed to perform in the show. For several weeks the students rehearsed during recess and after school in order to hone their performances.

After all the dust cleared, ten acts made the final cut. These included choreographed dance routines, singing performances and an original wildlife trivia show, which included a variety of animals. Students from kindergarten through fifth-grade participated. The show was a smashing success, and the crowd cheered vigorously throughout!



Yorba *Middle School*

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



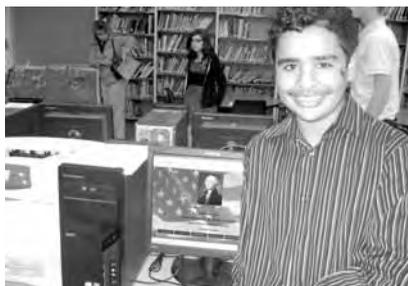
Tara Saraye
Principal

By Elena Dull and Tara Saraye History Night Dessert

National History Day involves several hundred thousand students nationwide. In California, over 40,000 students participate annually. California's program is sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation and organized in Orange County by the OCDE.

The competition involves turning history into an involved activity. Students conduct historical investigations researching a topic of their choice. They create projects such as exhibits, Web sites, documentaries and performances to showcase what they learned. The student historians spend countless hours gathering information, working on detailed annotated bibliographies, and working on the most creative way to tell their story.

The theme this year was "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." Students presented their research on their individuals using both technology and displays. Parents visited History Night and asked the students questions. Desserts were made for the guests by the PTA, students and teachers. All who attended were impressed with the high level of student learning.



Kusay with web based project.



Blanca and Brenda by Ben Franklin poster.

Villa Park *High School*

18042 Taft Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861
714/628-4300



Ed Howard
Principal

Up for Testing!

Can you believe that it is April? We must be having fun at VPHS, because time is flying! Testing season is upon us, and we are ready. With a great administration of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) a couple of weeks ago, we are ready for the Standardized Test and Reporting (STAR) testing and the Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

A fun fact about how our students do on these tests: Our students score well above the district and state averages on both the CAHSEE and STAR tests. On the AP tests, we test many students and have many of them pass each year. For the last three years running, our pass rate has increased, and this is amazing considering that we are testing more and more students every year.



Academically, the Spartans are standing tall. It feels good to brag about the great things our students do. While I am at it, our drama department won first place at the Cal State Fullerton Performing Arts Contest. They produced and performed an original musical. Our spring sports have hit the ground running—boys' golf and tennis are off to especially strong starts.

On April 29, we will be having our Open House. This is a great time to come on out and see firsthand the wonderful things our students are doing. It is our pleasure and honor to serve this wonderful community, and I hope to see you at an event or on campus. Also, remember that you can also visit us on our Web site.

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By *Bobbie Ochoa, ELD Coordinator*

English Learners Make Good News!

This year, the reclassification rate in Orange Unified increased to 12.86 percent, up from 7.23 percent last year. The elementary schools led the way with a rate of 16.79 percent. Middle schools followed closely at 16.1 percent. The high school rate was 5.37 percent. In numbers, 605 students met the criteria: 361 elementary, 161 middle and 83 high school students. Last year, only 337 students met the same criteria, making this year's results all the more noteworthy.

Each year, schools update their school plans with goals for student achievement in a number of areas. This year, every school wrote a 10 percent reclassification goal, something that had not been done in previous years. Schools received a Reclassification Watch List of student names and test data to increase staff awareness of those students who were close to meeting state and district criteria. How each school used the information varied, but the two actions seemed to have put these students on everyone's radar. Systematic English-language development instruction undoubtedly contributed to these positive results as well.

There are three hurdles English learners must pass in order to reclassify to Fluent English Proficient status:

Students must pass a state English language proficiency test, the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). This test measures a student's skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Students must score Basic (326) or higher on the California Standards Test (CST) in English language arts.

The report card grades must be at least a C in English or reading comprehension and in one other academic subject.

Students who meet the criteria are no longer considered English learners once they are reclassified to Fluent English Proficient status. They have the necessary language skills to perform in regular classes alongside their English-speaking peers in the same grade.

By *Christina Eslick Coordinator*

Native American Program

The Orange Unified School District Title VII Native American Program has 350 identified students, K-12, participating this school year. The Native American Program is funded based on the number of participating students from kindergarten through 12th grade with completed 506 forms on file at the district office. Funding for the program is from a grant from the Federal Government expressly for improving the academic achievement of Native American students.

The OUSD Native American program sponsors a variety of activities for Native American students and their families in OUSD. At many school sites, after-school tutoring is provided for Native American students who need academic assistance in their core subjects as measured by their performance on state assessments. Each year, we hold two family celebrations. Family night is held each fall to

honor Native American Heritage Month with native arts, music, dancing, speakers and refreshments. Each spring, we hold a senior recognition for program seniors with a speaker, entertainment, recognition and refreshments.

One focus of the OUSD Native American Program is college preparation. The Native American Program offers opportunities for Native American high school students to participate in Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Preparation workshops and provides information for Native American high school students at the OUSD College Fair each fall. The Native American Program office also provides information to parents about colleges, scholarships and financial aid.

An important aspect of the Native American Program is the Parent Advisory Committee. The committee meets monthly and assists in setting the Native American Program priorities, works with district staff on programs, assists in reviewing grant activities, and provides input for the grant application each year. Each fall, the committee elects officers to head the group. The officers for the 2008-09 school year are Kirk Ellis, Cherokee, president; Kris Erickson, Sac and Fox, vice president; Chip Gulley, Dine, treasurer; Olga Flournoy, Raramuri, Mescalero Apache, Karen Millet, teacher rep, Cerro Villa; and Marisa Soltz, Cherokee, and Stephanie Goss, Leni Lenape, Delaware, student representatives.

The Parent Advisory Committee meeting took place in April. The Senior Recognition will be May 27 at 7 p.m. at the Portola Middle School cafeteria. Check out the district Web site for more information.

By *Mary Ellen Oves, Director of Alternative Education/ROP*
Home Schooling Guidance

Orange parents and students who choose a home schooling option receive the support and guidance they need through the OUSD Home School Program.

This is now in its second year. It provides services to over 90 students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade. There is curriculum guidance, instructional materials and the support of credentialed teachers available to parents who choose to teach their own children at home.

Home schooling is not for everyone, but for those who choose this option, the opportunity to work with highly qualified teachers is a plus. Parents and students meet with their teacher throughout the school year to review progress and plan an instructional program that will meet their educational needs.

The teacher guides the parent and child through a standards-based curriculum, and provides the materials necessary to make sure that the student stays on track towards mastery of the state standards.

The Home School Program allows students to maintain a connection with their school of residence. Home school students are welcome to participate in extracurricular activities. High school students are eligible to participate in sports, dances and other social activities. They are also welcome to enroll in any of the district "Orange Live!" online classes.

Home schooling is a challenging educational option that provides motivated students and their parents with a flexible and personalized school experience.

For more information about the OUSD Home School Program, please call Mary Ellen Oves, the administrative director of alternative education/ROP, at (714) 628.5480.



Central County ROP

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

Paving the Path to Student Success

By Dena Davis, Coordinator, Alternative Education & ROP

The Orange Unified ROP Career Elective program is working hard to help students discover their interests and strengths. The program is dedicated to contributing to each the four main areas of the district's Strategic to help ensure academic and career success for all students.

Personalization: ROP classes promote rigor and relevance through a personal connection to the learner. Helping students bring meaning to their studies is what ROP does best. To this end, the number of on-campus career electives offered by ROP has expanded over the past three years, with many of these new courses offering students UC/CSU A-G credit as well as possible college credit upon completion.

Technology Expansion: Bridges is an online career and college exploration, assessment and portfolio tool that ROP provides to all Orange Unified high school students. Parents, to obtain your parental password, please contact the Career Center on your children's campus.

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

Partnerships/Community Involvement: The involvement of the Orange business community in educating our students about careers is the most unique component of ROP. Currently, more than 200 local business partners collaborate with the program to infuse real-world knowledge and skills into the classroom by serving as an internship site, participating on Employer Curriculum Advisory Teams, and sponsoring exciting career exploration field trips and other career activities to students.

To find out more about ROP, visit our Web site or call our office. High school students may enroll in ROP by visiting the career technician on their campus today.

ON THE PATH • FROM PAGE 3



William M.
Habermehl
Superintendent

The systemic approach of AVID is designed to support students and educators as they increase school wide and district wide learning and performance. The AVID program works because it places students in a rigorous curriculum and gives them the support they need to succeed and achieve their goals.

AVID is currently available in 19 districts and 113 schools in Orange County. The Orange County AVID Team provides professional development for AVID teachers, tutors, counselors, and administrators through coordinator workshops, tutorial training, student leadership conferences, and school site team meetings.

In 2008, 852 Orange County AVID seniors graduated from high school. The Region 9 AVID team worked with community organizations to secure over \$200,000 in post secondary scholarships for AVID students. Some of the 2008 seniors are currently enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Berkley, University of Southern California, Syracuse University, and New York University.

In 2006, an exciting partnership between the Angels Baseball Foundation and the Orange County AVID program began. The Angels Baseball Foundation provides five 8th grade students from the AVID program the opportunity to be an Angels Scholar. As an Angels Scholar, the students are awarded \$4,000 to be received when they graduate from high school, are accepted into a four-year college, and have been in AVID for four years. Currently, there are fifteen students who have received this honor. In 2010, the first class of Angels Scholars will graduate from high schools across the county.

There are 292 AVID teachers and coordinators throughout Orange County who play an integral role in supporting students on the path to college. I commend these dedicated educators who strive to provide a world class education where every student succeeds.

For additional information about the Orange County AVID program, visit <http://avid.ocde.us>. For information about AVID worldwide, visit www.avidonline.org.

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