

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 20

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2009

The Safest Ride on the Road



As a specialized group of district employees, these commercial drivers are trained professionals who receive hours of specific classroom and behind-the-wheel practice. See page 4.

SUPERINTENDENT



Making Great Strides

Congratulations to California Elementary School for receiving the 2008–2009 Title I Academic Achievement Award. The Title I

Academic Achievement Award may be given only to schools receiving federal Title I funds, as authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. To be eligible for the Title I School-wide Program, a school must enroll 40 percent or more of socioeconomically disadvantaged

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 22

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Rick Ledesma
President

Think Outside the Box

I am honored that my colleagues have chosen me to serve the Board of Education and this district as president for the coming year. I am looking forward to serving as president of the Board, as it puts me in a position to exercise more in-depth fiscal oversight.

I closely followed the recent elections and found a consistent theme shared by all the candidates: fiscal responsibility. Given the

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 22



Katherine Trinh
Student Advisory Representative
El Modena H.S.

Take Rachel's Challenge

While attending Associated Student Body (ASB) summer camp at University of California, Santa Barbara, El Modena High School's leadership students felt

inspired by a presentation called Rachel's Challenge. Students left the presentation feeling educated and motivated to promote simple acts of kindness and start a chain reaction of compassion. The

SEE STUDENT BOARD MEMBER PAGE 22

Your Reading Electives Inside:

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School News Roll Call

KAMPS FOR KIDZ

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Word Search
Page 17

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Happy New Year!

By now you are well on your way with your resolutions or, like me, have abandoned them for a morning muffin. Thanks for keeping *School News* among your reading choices. OUSD has much to share with you.

This issue includes our camp/activities section. It is hard to believe Spring Break is right around the corner.

You won't want to miss Real Estate Matters on page 23, which is Part 1 in a three part series about keeping an eye on your credit report.

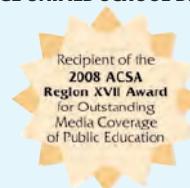
Be sure and enter our Word Search Contest on page 17. Enjoy!

School News

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COVERING THE
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Orange Unified School District Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the
2009 – 10 school year will begin on
Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Please bring:

Birth Certificate • Immunization Records • Proof of Residence

- For more information regarding Kindergarten Registration please contact the school site or go to the OUSD website at www.orangeusd.org.
- For specific questions regarding open enrollment, please contact the school site that you are interested in your student attending.
- For general questions regarding open enrollment or inter-district transfers, contact the Child Welfare & Attendance Office at (714) 628-5424.

Open Enrollment Information:
K – 12 Open Enrollment will be held during the
two week period of **March 2 – March 13, 2009**.
Open Enrollment lotteries will be conducted
by each school site.



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

What You Need to Know About Homelessness



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

With the current economic crisis, record breaking foreclosures, and job losses, the number of families that will become homeless is likely to rise. This unstable economy can directly impact children and youth as their parents struggle to keep their homes. Families may find themselves moving in with relatives or friends or living in a motel, shelter, camp ground, car, or on the streets. The toll of an unstable economy and a devastating housing crisis is high and Orange County's children and youth are not immune to the effects.

The numbers of homeless children and youth living in Orange County is staggering. In 2007-08, Orange County school districts identified more than 16,422 homeless children and youth—a twenty percent increase from the previous school year. Of these homeless children and youth, the majority lived in doubled or tripled households (15,175), followed by motels (787), shelters (386), and unsheltered areas such as cars, parks, or camp grounds (60). This increase in numbers brings new challenges for our schools to ensure that homeless children and youth are safe and attending school.

Under the United States Department of Education's No Child Left Behind Act, the McKinney Vento Act of 2002 provides educational rights to homeless children and youth. The McKinney Vento Act is responsible for providing funding and policy to meet the educational needs of children and youth who are homeless. Every school district must identify homeless children and youth, maintain students in their school of origin, provide transportation (if requested) to ensure access

to the school, enroll homeless students immediately, even if regularly required documentation is missing, and designate a local homeless liaison to ensure that the specific provisions listed above are met.

In 2003, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) received funding to help expand services and support for all Orange County public school districts and community agencies by implementing the Homeless Outreach Promoting Educational Success (HOPES) Collaborative. For the past five years, the HOPES Collaborative has served as a partnership between OCDE, the Orange County Homeless Prevention office, 28 Orange County school districts, community and faith-based organizations, and homeless shelter and service providers. The collaborative works to remove educational barriers, increase school attendance, and ultimately improve the academic success of homeless children and youth.

The HOPES Collaborative fosters partnerships and provides technical support and professional development opportunities for Orange County school districts through their homeless liaisons. In addition, the collaborative facilitates homeless liaison network meetings to provide district homeless liaisons with opportunities to receive updates from the state and federal government, share best practices and resources, problem solve issues, educate school staff and community service providers regarding McKinney Vento Act requirements, and collaborate with the Orange County Homeless Prevention Manager, to coordinate services and develop effective ways for homeless children, youth, and families to access government and community services.

For More Information

For additional information, contact Jeanne Awrey, Orange County Department of Education, HOPES Coordinator at jawrey@ocde.us or 714 966-4093.

Additional Resources:

Orange County Department of Education <http://mv.ocde.us>
California Department of Education <http://cde.ca.gov/sp/hs>
National Center for Homeless Education www.serve.org/nche
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth www.naehcy.org

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Word Search Contest on page 17.

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Transportation

By Pam McDonald, Director of Transportation

The Safest Ride on the Road

Every day, the face of the school bus driver is the first connection many students have with our district. It is often the last face they see. OUSD bus drivers recognize this opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of their student passengers.

As a specialized group of district employees, these commercial drivers are trained professionals who receive hours of specific classroom and behind-the-wheel practice.

The duties of the OUSD school bus driver differ depending upon the needs of the students. The district fleet includes specialized buses that can accommodate children who require wheelchairs or oxygen tanks and canine companions. Their training includes operating wheelchair lifts and properly securing the students.

All school bus drivers are under the jurisdiction of and tested by the CHP, who also perform one of the two background clearances required to obtain the special certificate to transport students. This certificate is among the most difficult driving credentials to earn and keep in our state.

Different Routes

Throughout the day, OUSD drivers provide not only the home-to-school route services, but physical, occupational or speech therapy routes, to name a few. All drivers are required to be proficient in first aid, and must participate in the federal drug and alcohol program, including pre-employment and random testing.

The OUSD fleet is also equipped with larger school buses for home-to-school routes, and sports, field and activity trips, including weekend assignments. Drivers also transport students to outdoor science schools in the local mountains.

These drivers are experts in snow, ice, tire-chaining and other skills required for the assignment. Constant, documented training in current laws and regulations, student management, defensive driving, road rage, disaster, hostage and terrorist procedures, confidentiality, idling, bullying, harassment, blood-borne pathogens, just to name a few situations, are also required of these professional drivers.

Statistically, school buses are the safest ride on the road. It is no wonder, with these caring professionals behind the wheel.

Nutrition

By Kat Soltanmorad, R.D., Nutrition

A National Recognition

The nation's acting Surgeon General, Rear Adm. Steven K. Galson, presented the "Healthy Youth for a Healthy Future Champion Award" to the Network, a campaign administered by the California Department of Public Health. This statewide group empowers low-income residents and their families to live better by eating healthy foods and being physically active.

The award recognizes programs such as the Network that address childhood overweight prevention. The Network is made up of more than 160 locally funded California projects, including those in the OUSD. You may have heard of the district's Harvest of the Season nutritional program, or the "Follow the Leader" physical activity and "Champion Mom" parent-empowerment programs.

It is such an honor to be part of the Network, and to receive this prestigious recognition from the Surgeon General. We are especially proud of their work when it comes to facing the growing obesity epidemic among our youth. We have made tremendous progress in the district, and together with our partners from around the state, we are reaching families where they live, work, go to school, shop, pray and play.

Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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



Debra Larson
Principal

Need A PAL?

Anaheim Hills PALS have been lending their “paws” all over the community. We just finished collecting over 1,800 books that will be sent to schools in the Philippines. We have also collected DVDs for the troops in Iraq and sent letters to soldiers who were wounded.

Our PALS also help around campus. We are separated into three committees: Welcoming, Spirit and Community Service. Each committee does its part to help the school. The Welcoming Committee shows new students around the school, while the Spirit Committee plans fun events such as the Holiday Pajama Day we

had in December. The Community Service Committee does things that help people and the environment. After the Freeway Complex fire, Pals sold lollipops and donated the money to the Anaheim Hills fire victims. We also help in the parking lot and at various PTA events like Reindeer Lane, our holiday boutique.

As busy as we are, one of our members, Samantha Shallcross, still had time to design our T-shirt. Thanks, Sammy! We look forward to a busy, fun filled year!

Cambridge *Elementary*

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



Karen Merkow
Principal

Cambridge Spells Success

It's an exciting time each year at Cambridge Elementary School as our school is “abuzz” with grade-level spelling bees! First through sixth grades participated in grade-level contests to find the top speller at each grade level. The top speller in sixth grade then goes on to compete in the bee at the school district.

Congratulations to Cambridge first-place winner, Hannah Osborne, and first runner up, Savannah Schwager. The spelling bee was moderated and judged by teachers Darcie Elmes and Mary Vitullo.

Congratulations also to sixth-grade teacher Rick Torres, who received a \$600 grant from the Rotary Club of Orange for use with his students. Mr. Torres will be creating a student-led news program at Cambridge, to be broadcast weekly. With his grant money, he will purchase a camcorder and software to edit the broadcast. Watch for future newscasters coming from Cambridge Elementary School!



Mr. Todd Osborn and daughter Hannah Osborn,
Cambridge Spelling Bee winner.

California *Elementary*

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



Cyndi Paik
Principal

By Carol Dubbs, Paul Hines, Kathy Lundberg and Patty Ruiz Improving Academic Performance

California Elementary has the honor of being a Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) demonstration site. Over the past two years, our school has hosted several five-day training sessions in this academic area. During each time, approximately 20 teachers from around the country have visited the school to become specially trained as certified GLAD teachers.

Our students are actually used in the training process, too. This statewide program was designed by Marcia Brechtel in order to engage them as a group, and then provide selected teachers with new strategies to improve academic achievement, especially in the English learner population.

As a school, California Elementary has truly committed itself to using these GLAD teaching strategies and implementing them every day, all across the curriculum, in subjects like language arts, social studies, science and math.

Having our key trainer Carol Dubbs on the teaching staff has been especially valuable. We believe that the GLAD model has contributed much to our school's success when it comes to student achievement.

Canyon Hills

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



William Gee,
Ed.D.
Principal

Attainable Goals

We have two general goals for most our students at Canyon Hills School. The primary goal for our students is to improve the students' ability to communicate with others. Second, our students will either increase their ability to use simple computer programs and simple technology or effectively use electronic switches to help them learn simple “cause and effect.”

Although the budget crisis is affecting all of us, we are fortunate to receive help to meet the needs of our severely disabled population. This assistance is coming from many sources. A local business sponsored a gift tree for the holidays, where the employees were encouraged to purchase gifts of simple games that were needed for the students at Canyon Hills. A local youth group is sponsoring a Valentine's Day dance at Canyon Hills. Dinner is provided, and the students from the local youth group will dance with our students. A local assistance league has volunteered to help replace bicycles and tricycles that have been at Canyon Hills for more than 20 years.

The Canyon High School choir performed at Canyon Hills twice this year, and we've never seen our students more attentive and focused.

Finally, the Canyon Hills parent group raises funds for special presentations so that our students can participate in events that they are unlikely to see otherwise. Their most recent event was the Bob Baker Marionettes, a group of large puppets, who performed with the assistance of their human helpers.

School News

To advertise in our April issue:

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Canyon *High School*

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



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

Mock Trial Award

Congratulations to the Canyon High School award winners from the 2008–2009 Constitutional Rights Foundation Mock Trial Program. Eric Dunn, a senior who has been accepted to Stanford University for the fall, was selected as an Outstanding Attorney. Gabrielle Phan and Asal Alipanah were both selected as Outstanding Witnesses. Canyon's Mock Trial teacher and coach, Margaret Dubel, was selected as Teacher Coach of the Year.

Attorney volunteer coaches for the Canyon High School Mock Trial Team are Michael A. Penn and Rolf Rolnicki. The 28th Annual Mock Trial Awards Luncheon was held on February 6 at 11:30 am at the Doubletree Hotel, 100 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868.

Dance Educator Award

The California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD), founded in 1930, is a nonprofit, voluntary membership corporation formed exclusively to promote the organization and progress of school, community and statewide programs of health, physical education, recreation and dance in California. Each year, the 3,200-member organization selects several outstanding educators from throughout the state for recognition of excellence in their teaching areas.

This year, Canyon High School is proud to announce that our dance teacher, Joyce Jackson, has been selected as the recipient of the CAHPERD 2009 K–12 Dance Educator of the Year Award.

Joyce has been a member of the Canyon High School staff since 1975. She has taught physical education, biology, life science, health, aerobics, and dance and has coached track and gymnastics. She has taught dance choreography for over 20 years. She also was the director of the California Dance and Movement State Conference at Chapman University in 2007.

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

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



Randi Leach
Principal

Building an All-Star Team

As part of Canyon Rim's basic philosophy, strong recognition is given to students who have demonstrated academic achievement or outstanding citizenship.

To honor our "All Star" students, the school's incentive program revolves around the motivational theme of baseball. Winning students are awarded special Canyon Rim trading cards as a positive reinforcement for good sportsmanship and strong academics. These may be redeemed at the Roadrunner Store twice-a-quarter.

The Commissioner's Pride award is also presented at the same interval. This is where students are invited to the Commissioner's office (the principal) to celebrate positive behaviors such as extra effort, respect and responsibility. These students receive a Canyon Rim identification tag, a celebratory card is mailed home to their parents, and they enjoy ice cream with the principal.

Academics and Character

At a special assembly, the Coach's Award honors students whenever they show positive character traits as determined by their classroom teacher. Additionally, other awards are presented to students for demonstrating academic excellence:

Stepped Up to the Plate Award for excellence in reading

RBI Award for excellence in math

Double-Play Award for excellence in writing

All-Star Award for excellence in science

Hall of Fame Award for excellence in history

The young players who walk onto the Canyon Rim field come in all shapes and sizes. Each possesses individual strengths as well as personal challenges that must be overcome. Our task is to build an all-star team that will satisfy everyone's individual needs, thus enabling our students to hit the "grand slam" of academic achievement.

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



By Elizabeth Fisher, Media Specialist

Viking Central Doubles Circulation

Bursting with students, the Cerro Villa High School Library has become Viking Central. It provides students and staff with a wide range of information resources to complement the school's curriculum.

The library computers yield student access to the Internet, as well as to BlackBoard and the Student Portal. There are almost 12,000 volumes of fiction and non-fiction titles for reading and research. The library's book collection is continually updated with popular new books to entice students into the library to read! With only half of the school year over, the number of books checked out has already surpassed the number of books checked out during the entire 2007–2008 school year!

The volume of students in the library has also increased dramatically this year. Whether working in teams, studying for tests, completing projects, or selecting new books to read, the Cerro Villa students are truly investing in themselves as they flock to Viking Central, also known as the library!

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Enrichment Abounds

Chapman Hills Elementary School students are diverse in their interests and opportunities. Thanks to the great support of our PTA, Chapman Hills students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of supplementary and enrichment programs, both during and after the school day.

During school, students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade participate in Art Masters and the Music Man. Fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students participate in Walk Through California, Walk Through the Revolution, and Walk Through Ancient Civilizations, respectively.

If students choose, they have the opportunity to participate in after-school enrichment as well. In the fall, many students signed up for a weekly Mad Science lesson. Currently, many students are learning arts through drama by participating in Literacy on Stage and music enrichment through keyboarding classes by Musical Minds.

Along with these many opportunities, we also have students who are gaining valuable life experiences through Daisies, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

The students of Chapman Hills also take part in community service in a number of ways. One example is our annual December Holiday Toy and Food Drive. The students and families this year donated food and toys, which were given to the Friendly Center in Orange to help local families in need. It is through various service projects that the students of Chapman Hills gain a broader understanding of the world around them and how to make a positive impact in another person's life.



Crescent *Elementary*

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



Sheila Thompson
Principal

Mistletoad Madness

Crescent Elementary School conducted a donation drive called Mistletoad Madness for the holiday season. All proceeds went to the American Red Cross to benefit the fire victims in Anaheim Hills. Each dollar that was donated represented one vote for the staff member of their choice. Vote for what, you ask?

Well—vote to have someone on the staff kiss a toad the last day of the quarter. That's right, they had to kiss a toad! Each classroom was given a donation box that was brought out daily. Totals were announced to keep everyone informed about who was in the "lead." On that last Friday, both schools assembled in the upper-campus quad. A toad was brought in by the Canyon Hills Nature Center for the staff members to kiss. The staff member that had the most "votes" on the upper campus was Mrs. Cecchi, and on the lower campus, it was Mrs. Raney. We unexpectedly received a "late" donation of an extra \$500 for Mr. O'Connor to kiss the toad also.

Altogether, we raised \$1,300. Once again, it proves that we are blessed with a wonderful, supportive community that comes together in times of need. We want to thank all of our students and families for making it worthwhile, and a thank-you to our teachers who were such good sports!

El Modena *High School*

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



John Briquet
Principal

A Fitting End

Our new assistant principal, Rebecca Martinez, always goes the extra mile to bring out the best in El Modena High School students. A perfect example of this took place several weeks ago, when seniors Brian Rafael and Jose Rodriguez arrived at the office to see her.

Needless to say, they were more than a little apprehensive. After all, who sees an assistant principal for anything positive?

But by the end of their conversation, both the young men and Mrs. Martinez were very excited about an idea that she had shared with them. What was it? Brian and Jose would have the opportunity to create the new Vanguard logo in our recently repainted gymnasium!

With Mrs. Martinez' encouragement and unwavering confidence in their abilities, these Vanguards created an impressive work of art. We could not be more proud of Mrs. Martinez or these young men, and it is fitting that their painting will represent El Mo for many years to come.

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 New Place To Eat.

Some people might be thinking that we have added a new fast food place or restaurant to the campus. Sorry students, we are still getting the same wonderful cafeteria food, but the El Rancho Charter School has installed a new sunshade where everyone can sit and enjoy their lunches!

The structure is a 50 x 64 foot-wide steel sunshade, where diners will be protected from the elements and flying seagulls. There are over 300 El Rancho students now enjoying this facility each day.

The new shade has replaced the old wood and nylon structure that was installed sometime during the late 1970's. In addition, we also added extra seating, some lights and sound system speakers to the structure.

This sunshade will not only provide students with a safe and great place to eat with their friends, but it also gives them an opportunity to enjoy lunchtime music and other school activities.

Esplanade *Elementary*

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



Amy Hitt
Principal

By Molly McMillen

Teacher – Resource Specialist Program Student Council

Under the direction of its newly-formed student council, Esplanade Elementary School has been involved in a series of projects that have benefited both the community at large and the school itself. Throughout the month of November, students, parents, and Esplanade staff worked together to collect more than 950 pounds of food for the Second Harvest Food Bank. It took two truck runs to complete the delivery! Elizabeth Elizalde, a fifth-grader, summed up the experience best when she said, "I think we've been helping the community out a lot, and we are having fun doing it."

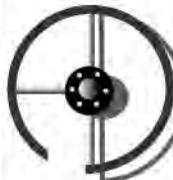
During the month of December, the student council spearheaded two more service projects. The first project was the recycling of aluminum cans and plastic water bottles. In just 10 school days, students amassed almost 50 pounds of recycled goods. Trash bag after trash bag was filled to the brim and delivered to a neighborhood recycling plant. Students and staff also collected soda-can pop tops for donation to the Ronald McDonald House, a facility that provides short-term housing for needy families as they visit their children who are undergoing treatment at the children's hospital.

Principal Amy Hitt stated, "I am so proud of the student council coordinators, Mrs. Aihara, Mrs. Avalos, Mr. Cazeau, Mrs. Iadevaia, Miss McCullough, Ms. McMillen, and Mr. Praska. They have worked as a cohesive team to provide leadership opportunities to our upper-grade students and have started an amazing program with a service focus here at Esplanade. These projects are an example of how a team of generous teachers can cultivate a community of amazing students."

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Fairhaven *Elementary*

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



Andrew Fisher
Principal

By Jeff Mayfield, Teacher – Special Day Class **The Sixth Grade Takes Over**

Early on this year, the teachers of Fairhaven Elementary School became aware that Dennis Parker, a noted authority on innovative testing strategies, would be visiting our school for the sole purpose of showcasing his Strategic Schooling methods with one of our very own third-grade classes. This particular workshop would take about an hour and a half and require that each and every teacher attend.

There was but one obstacle: if all the teachers were in one classroom learning, what could we possibly do with all the other students? The idea of finding subs for every class for an hour and a half seemed financially painful, and the prospect of declaring an hour and a half session of free-play for every student at Fairhaven was far from enticing. However, little did we know that this particular obstacle would be solved by none other than our very own sixth-grade students.

The same children who walk the tallest through the Fairhaven hallways, who color and spike their hair the highest on Crazy Hair Day, and who sprint the fastest during soccer games would lead the school in a round-robin of activities. Under the supervision of Ms. Moniz and Mrs. Rizzo, the activities were brainstormed by the students themselves. The students carefully considered which games would be chosen. They also had to be aware of how those games would need to be modified if, in fact, they were leading a group of first-graders instead of a group of fifth-graders.

When the day arrived, the sixth-grade students led our students in relay races, soccer, handball, kickball, and dodge ball. After the event was over, the sixth-grade students wrote a reflection paper on their leadership experience.

Handy *Elementary*

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



Sandra Schaffer
Principal

The Home and School Connection

Parent involvement is a top priority at Handy Elementary. Our English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) is a focus group that consists of the parents of our English learners. Among other duties, they help develop the “Single Plan for Student Achievement.” They also give input on the EIA/LEP budget and confer on strategies to increase the success rate of our learners.

Our Community Liaison, Mrs. Ana Resendiz, devotes her time to providing parents with workshops and training sessions on how to access services that can help their children make progress in school.

This week, she accompanied the entire ELAC group to the Orange Library. There they received a special tour, as well as learned how to acquire a library card and access the Internet. They also discussed how the library can be beneficial to the children.

The students were even treated to a story by the childrens librarian. Our fourth-grade classroom teacher, Mr. John Rodriguez, and our CBET teacher, Mr. Futoshi, also attended the field trip to extend the home/school connection.



Fletcher *Elementary*

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



Christina Varela
Principal

By Katherine Shaw, 5th Grade Teacher **Scientists at Work**

Fletcher Elementary held its third annual Family Science Night on December 5, 2008. Parents and teachers came together to teach the children of Fletcher about science concepts such as air pressure, buoyancy and genetics. Ms. Sheppard, 6th grade teacher, coordinated the annual event with help from Peg Benzie of the OUSD Science Center. Everyone in attendance enjoyed using hands-on activities to explore the fascinating world of science!



Imperial *Elementary*

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



Tim Biland
Principal

By Laurie Parke and Michele Stephens, Teachers **The Sounds of Culture**

This year, our PTA has graciously sponsored several diverse performing arts groups on campus. The Orange County Performing Arts Center has many groups available through its “Arts Teach” program, so with the PTA’s help, we selected three different ones to visit Imperial Elementary this year.

In August, “Music Born in America” was featured at grade-level assemblies. The performers entertained students with American folk music as they taught United States history. They set the mood with authentic Colonial American clothing, songs and language, and sang with the students while playing a banjo, fiddle and guitar.

Traditional Costumes

In November, Danza Azteca Xochipilli visited our campus to thrill students with their music. This family of performers combined stories, dance and music to teach the children about their Mexican heritage.

Dressed in ceremonial costumes and head dresses, they provided children with an opportunity to dance to their drum beats. The students also learned to count in an ancient Aztec dialect.

In late January, the “Japanese Festival Sounds” visited Imperial to perform on taiko drums and other instruments both ancient and contemporary. The performers spoke about the sights and sounds of traditional Japanese culture, and wore traditional attire to enrich the students’ experience.

Imperial Elementary is fortunate to have the support of our PTA. Thank you, PTA members, for giving our students some new and amazing programs. To learn more, please visit www.ocpac.org.

Jordan *Elementary*

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



Bertie Anderson
Principal

By Andrea Reid, Second-Grade Teacher and Raeanne Little, Instructional Coach
Making Learning Come Alive

Technology is making learning come alive for students at Jordan Elementary. Classrooms in the newly modernized campus now feature the most up-to-date technological teaching tools, including LCD projectors, document cameras and interactive SmartBoards. These new learning tools are helping every student succeed.

The document cameras and LCD projectors have revolutionized our teachers' ability to make classroom instruction accessible to all students. The projectors allow them to enhance their lessons with animated presentations, real images and even video clips.

By using document cameras, teachers can demonstrate reading strategies on an actual textbook page, or model steps in a science experiment, and even lead students in working with math problems. Crisp, colorful images capture the attention of today's visually oriented students.

Interactive touch screens, known as SmartBoards, make visual learning fun. Students can actually manipulate the objects and words on the screen with a simple touch. They might sort them into categories, build words or play fun-filled learning games.

Thanks to the hard work of our staff, as well as the support of our principal and the district, Jordan school has become a place where technology makes learning come alive.

Lampson *Elementary*

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



Laurie Dieppa
Principal

A New Addition

Lampson School has a new assistant principal, Mrs. Antoinette Coe. She is currently the assistant principal at La Veta Elementary and will continue to serve both La Veta and Lampson Schools.

Mrs. Coe comes to us with a great deal of experience. Prior to working in the Orange Unified School District, she taught kindergarten and third-grade in Temecula. She has been with Orange Unified for eight years.

In that time, she has worked as a third-grade teacher and a Reading First grant coach. As a coach, she received extensive training in our district-adopted curriculum. The Step Up to Writing program is one of Lampson's best practices, and Mrs. Coe is also a trainer in this area, as well as a Thinking Maps trainer, too.

All of these skills are certain to be a tremendous asset to Lampson's teaching staff and students. We look forward to working with and learning from Mrs. Coe. Please join us in making her feel welcome at Lampson.



La Veta *Elementary*

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



Jaymi Abusham
Principal

By Antoinette Coe, Assistant Principal
Thinking Maps Have Arrived!

At La Veta Elementary School, we are committed to providing an environment that supports all students' unique learning styles. Last November, all teaching and support faculty participated in a full-day training session on Thinking Maps.

The eight maps are based on strong brain research and years of best educational practices. They teach students to organize information graphically for better understanding of concepts in all subject areas. Each of the maps is designed for a specific purpose: defining, describing, comparing/contrasting, classifying, part-to-whole relationships, sequencing, cause/effect and analogies. Children have been taught how to use each of these maps and are now learning how to select among them in their own work.

When your child brings a Thinking Map home, ask him or her to explain its meaning. Better yet, stop by the classroom to see maps on display! As one sixth-grade student reported, "I don't know whose idea it was, but Thinking Maps are the best thing ever!"



Mrs. Woodyis morning kindergartners share their circle map for weather action words.

Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Sally Hughson
Principal

By Mrs. Murray
A Week in the Snow

What has 116 feet, multiple layers of thermals, socks, scarves, jackets, hats and mittens? Fifty-six bundled-up students and two teachers at Outdoor Science School! Our sixth-graders headed up to Alpine Meadows in January in 80-degree weather in their "Wave of the Future" T-shirts. Two hours later, they stepped off the bus into 40-degree temperatures. They were excited to see the snow—two cold feet of it.

Mornings were busy with hands-on science, including ecology, wildlife and geology trails. Afternoons included hikes on snow-covered trails, survival skills lessons, animal tracking, healthy skin lessons and more. By evening, students were still going strong. They went on night hikes where they were fortunate to have clear, bright skies to view stars.

Students commented that the weekend was like a five-day sleepover with your best friends, learning science in the outdoors was awesome and the food was really good. Others raved about feeding birds, petting a chinchilla, holding a tarantula and skit night.

By Friday, the sixth-graders were tired and ready to see their families, but they left with lasting memories of Outdoor Science School.

McPherson Magnet

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

By Kelsey Duran, Itzel Guerrero and Lynne Palucki

McPherson Goes Green

The students at McPherson Magnet School know about the importance of recycling. Our leadership class runs the dedicated recycling program for our school, and every week they make sure that recyclable materials are collected all around the campus.

Last year, the school created a recycling contest that was designed to encourage everyone to recycle. With it we earned \$700, and eventually recycled more than 14,000 bottles and cans!

This year, our goal is to raise over \$800 so that we can purchase tables made from recycled materials for our lunch area. When we asked some students what their classmates thought of recycling, Jean Donabedian told us, "Recycling is hard to do, but it's worth it in the end."

Recycling has definitely empowered the students at McPherson. Mikaela Camacho says, "One person can make a difference!" McPherson students know this is true. They are doing their share to make sure that this world is a better place. "Going Green!" has become a part of our school culture.



Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Student Success

Ensuring that all students succeed is a continuous process at Nohl Canyon. As the New Year gets underway, the staff at Nohl Canyon is revisiting goals and student data through internal walk-throughs. Prior to the holiday break, the Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), which consists of one teacher per grade level, did a walkthrough of all 21 classrooms. During this process, the team recorded what the teacher was doing and what students were doing and looked at student work products. To complete the process, the ILT then shared their findings at a staff meeting. With the given information, the staff was able to validate what happens in their classrooms as well as reflect upon their instructional practices.

In the near future, the entire staff will go on a walkthrough after school to look at student work products. The staff will analyze whether or not the student work is standards-based and grade-level appropriate. By constantly evaluating, reflecting, and discussing our practice as educators, we can help improve student success and at the same time empower one another through this lifelong learning practice.

Olive *Elementary*

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



Kathryn Martin
Principal

A Dedicated Community

At Olive Elementary School, we celebrate families. Not long ago, our teachers and staff donned

special attire and enjoyed serving Ocelot families at a local fast-food restaurant. With smiling faces, the Olive staff busily sold cookies, put together orders, and even wiped up spills! Dozens of Olive families came to dine with their phenomenal teachers and amazing support staff. It is always a special treat for students to see their teachers outside of the classroom, and what better way to connect with them than to serve their families dinner!

In addition to their attendance at our wonderful bi-monthly Family Nights, Olive parents volunteer at our school in a wide variety of ways. Moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, aunts and uncles may be found working with small groups in our classrooms, playing with students on the playground, and even helping in the parking lot.

The involvement and dedication of our Olive Families is appreciated. Olive families roar!



Olive McTeachers Night.



Orange *High School*

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



SK Johnson
Principal

Wishes, Authors, Generosity

Through our Associated Student Body (ASB) and donations by our staff, 25 holiday wishes were granted. The student wishes included tickets to Winter Formal, 2009 yearbooks, warm coats, dance dresses, art supplies, DVDs, gift cards, shoes, books, track shoes and a laptop. Recipients were overwhelmed by the generosity and hard work.

This year's Literary Partnership involves sending OHS students from different program areas to four Orange County Literary Society luncheons, where they will travel by limousine. Each group of students has attended or will attend one luncheon to meet a well-known speaker and have a private question-and-answer session about one of the author's books.

In November, students met author Diane Ackerman and discussed her book *The Zookeeper's Wife*. In January, the students met author Richard Russo to discuss his book *Bridge of Sighs*. In February, students met Vince Flynn at the luncheon and discussed his book *Extreme Measures*. The last luncheon for this school year will be April 16; the students will meet Elizabeth Strout and discuss her book *Olive Ketteridge*.

Orange High Panthers are proud to be working with the Chapman Panthers on academic success and cultural enrichment.

Orange High School's award-winning Future Farmers of America (FFA) showed their hearts by adopting a family in need for Christmas. Gifts were selected for each family member, and a nutritious holiday dinner was provided. The family was most appreciative and touched by the generosity of the FFA students, and the students were equally excited to be part of this act of goodwill.

Palmyra *Elementary*

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



Connie Smith
Principal

By Michelle Bretza and Kim Rowe, 2nd-grade teachers **A Musical Experience**

Palmyra's second-grade students attended a philharmonic band concert in January. The band, which is the town band for a major California attraction, introduced the students to musical instruments and traced American band music through musical selections from the 19th century to the present. Students were enthralled with the music and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of listening to and participating in making music.

The bus ride home was one continuous singing and small discussions about what they had just seen and heard. The concert also provided students with an excellent introduction to the various band instruments and spurred enthusiasm for the time when they will be able to choose an instrument to play in the upper grades.



Second-graders at the concert.

Prospect *Elementary*

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



Elena Stoces
Principal

Making Choices About The Future

Prospect Elementary School recently played host to the Wyland Mobile Learning Center. This water exhibit on wheels is a biodiesel-powered, 1,000 square-foot classroom full of interactive exhibits. Sponsored by the Wyland Foundation, it has been traveling all over the country for the last year.

Wyland is a famous artist who is known for his beautiful representations of sea life, as seen in various murals, paintings and sculptures. He is also known for his concern about conservation, so the Learning Center addresses issues like our fragile water resources and the impact of pollution.

Interactive Lessons

Visitors to the exhibit learn about their personal impact on local watersheds and habitats. Students also watch a short film that challenges them to solve some mysterious problems with the health of our water supply.

Mrs. Jeanne Matson, a teacher at Prospect who also volunteers for the Wyland Foundation during her spare time, was able to lobby for the opportunity to have the Center visit its first elementary school ever.

Our classes, along with students from Esplanade and McPherson, had an insightful and inspiring experience that will help them make better choices in the future about water usage and conservation.

Panorama *Elementary*

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



Michelle Moore
Principal

By Miss Hailey Newsom Second-Grade Teacher **Spreading Holiday Cheer**

In December, the second-grade classes helped spread some holiday joy. After weeks of practicing, they visited a convalescent home in our community and sang holiday songs. They even sang one in Spanish!

The students wore their holiday colors and matching Santa hats. After singing to the residents, they handed out special holiday cards that they had made in class, and then talked with the senior citizens. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this festive day!

Our Panthers love every opportunity they get to show just how much they care about their community. Go Panthers!



Portola *Middle School*

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



Debra Thompson
Principal

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

The staff at Portola Middle school has begun the process of implementing the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. This program provides a schoolwide approach for improving the social behavioral climate of the school and will influence the academic instruction through positive and preventive management.

The faculty and staff, along with parents and students, will look at behavioral issues on campus data and create an effective system for addressing and supporting the social and educationally important needs of the Portola students and their families. If you are a parent of a Portola student and would like to be a part of the development of our PBIS program, please call or e-mail Pam Gravender, assistant principal, at our office.

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By SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook: "Fun & Educational Places to go with Kids & Adults in Southern California."

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On The Run

Sport Sandals



Dr. Doug Richie

A growing trend in footwear has been the popularity of sport sandals for casual and athletic use. What is the difference between a "sport sandal" and other sandals offered in the marketplace?

A sport sandal is actually a hybrid between an athletic shoe and a sandal. It was developed as a "river sandal" by boating guides on the Colorado River who wanted a shoe which could be worn both in the water and on land while hiking over rough terrain. They simply cut off the upper portion of a running shoe and attached straps across the foot and ankle to create an open-toed athletic shoe.

Today's sport sandals incorporate durable cushioned soles, which are commonly waterproof and have contoured foot beds for arch support and heel support. The strap systems to secure the sandal on the foot are quite elaborate and utilize quick-release snap closures for easy fitting. The design of the straps is quite functional and provides exceptional support of the foot, which can match the support of a fully enclosed athletic shoe. Some newer versions of sport sandals have removable foot beds to allow replacement with a custom orthotic device.

Sport sandals are now very popular in golf, hiking and boating. While some people have even experimented with wearing these sandals in running sports, this may be an extreme application. Certainly, the well-cushioned sport sandal with a contoured arch support is a vast improvement over conventional sandals and flip flops in terms of foot health and comfort.

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



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Ask Dr. Shari

Volunteerism: Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about trades, people and being selfless. In a busy world of "pursuit of personal happiness," too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Dr. Shari is a Nationally Syndicated columnist, Professor of Psychology and Author of "Inspiring the Love of Learning" and "Memory Techniques for Everyone" She is the host of "The Dr. Shari Show" a Public Education program out of Hollywood, CA. for speaking engagements or to send a letter write: drshari@loveoflearning.us Listen to Dr. Shari Monday mornings at 9:00am on WMFG/ 5:00pm on WNMT.

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Television vs Board Games



**Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel**

I am always amused when someone calls professing to want time with me and suggests we go to a movie. Going to a movie or watching TV is not being together! You may sit in close proximity to each other and the only interaction is passing the popcorn!

Whatever happened to family night where everyone participates in board games, charades, or other activities that require communicating and being together?

A grandmother told me she doesn't play board games with her grandchildren because they fight and cheat all through the game. Playing games is a skill that is taught by having rules, boundaries and consequences. If you cheat you miss your next turn or you are out of the game but must sit and watch everyone else play. For the adult who thinks, "I couldn't make him/her do that," I recommend my new discipline book, Don't Feed the Dragon on sandymcdaniel.com.

"We are going to play a game. I will explain the rules. Anyone who compromises on the rules or otherwise cheats will be sitting and watching us play the rest of the game. That

would be very boring so I suggest you play by the rules. The other rules are: (1) It is fun to get excited. It is not acceptable to make fun of someone else or put someone else down.

(2) It is ok to be disappointed. It is not ok to have a temper tantrum (3) Winning is fun, but not what is important; what is essential is that we have fun.

This is a very tumultuous time for us as a country.

We need to be connected
to each other to survive.

Teach your children connection
skills by turning off the television and computer
and doing things together.

Valuable life skills can be taught
while playing with children.

Why Board Games

The advantage of playing board games is that you invite all members of the family to use their thinking and reasoning skills. The television is not interactive—board games are. The television is two-dimensional learning which inhibits proper brain development and playing games requires three dimensional learning for optimum brain growth.

This generation of children are not being taught to communicate and work together. Mostly because adults don't model it, they are not taught that who wins or loses a game is not cause for a major melt-down. They are not being taught that doing your best is good enough. And most children are not having any sort of working relationship with their family members.

The television has replaced family togetherness and interaction. It is numbing a whole society of children out to harming people or property. It is robbing our children of their childhood.

It is causing children to live in the reptilian part of their brains rather than the frontal lobe.

It is creating a degenerate generation of children who are not physically fit, morally straight or who have any people skills.

If that doesn't make a good pitch for board games, I don't know what does. Why don't you try non-competitive games like THE UNGAME or OUT OF YOUR MIND found on rheazakich.com. (see books and games.)

This is a very tumultuous time for us as a country. We need to be connected to each other to survive. Teach your children connection skills by turning off the television and computer and doing things together. Valuable life skills can be taught while playing with children.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written three books, and writes a parenting column for the Orange County Register in the Health and Family section on Sundays. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 20 years. www.ParentingSOS.com

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Raising a Reader



Rozanne Lanczak Williams

Hi, parents! Now that school is in full swing, here are some suggestions that will help you create an environment that encourages reading and writing at home.

Talk it up! Involve your child in conversations and encourage questions.

Tell stories, discuss happenings big and small, talk about the books you're reading, ask question like, "Why do you think...?" or "What would happen if...?"

Surround your child with books and read aloud every day. It's important to own books as well as borrow them from the library or classroom.

Children love hearing favorite books over and over again.

And, rereading gives them the chance to experience the book in different ways.

FVRead road sign, cereal boxes, recipes, menus or mail together. Have your child help you write grocery lists, cards and letters. Leave notes for each other around the house. Use magnetic letters on the fridge for messages.

Put together a personalized writing box for your child. Fill it with a fun assortment of writing and art supplies. Now that you're at it, make a book box as well, and fill it with books your child can read. Take both boxes on trips and outing.

Turn off the TV, computer, gizmos and widgets. Nothing takes the place of one-on-one interaction with your child. Your child will learn better, and you will be fostering a warm and loving relationship as your child gains confidence as a reader and writer.

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: www.rozannewilliams.com

† *Separate Programs For 1st-4th, and 5th-8th ...*

† *Two Field Trips Per Week...*

† *Swimming, a Game Room...*

† *Summer Classes & Study Incentives*

"Let the Little Children Come to Me..."

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Hephatha Lutheran School

Summer Day Camp 2009

June 15th – August 21st

First Day of School: Wed., Aug. 26

"Summer With the Sun"
Matthew 19:14

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

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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

Note-ables

Classical Kids Teaching Edition, The Children's Group



Kate Karp

A verified e-mail has been circulating that describes a social experiment in which violin virtuoso Joshua Bell played Bach selections in a D.C. metro station. According to the text, few people stopped to listen, the striking exception being a three-year-old who tugged on his mother's sleeve, begging her to let him stay.

Sue Hammond, creator of Classical Kids, recognizes the power of music in children's lives and refers to education in classical music as "musical literacy." Her *Classical Kids Teaching Edition* educates children as well as adults about the

music and lives of several major historical composers and also teaches such skills as reading musical notation, understanding orchestra and instruments, composition, form and, best of all, imagination and creativity.

Hammond was a piano teacher when she got the idea for the series. "Classical music was then being taken out of school curriculum, a sad loss not only of music but of music-reading skills," she said. "I was meeting many people in my piano studio who had missed this critical stage in music literacy. I decided to combine story and music from the point of view of a watching child who enters another culture with wariness and fascination."

The program has 15 components: nine audio CDs; two DVD films that include the immensely popular *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* and *Mr. Bach Comes to Call*; a music-only CD that includes selections without dialogue and a track of neat sound effects; a DVD of historical art and architecture slides; a teacher resource CD-ROM that includes discussion points and copies of the script; and an introductory booklet that identifies the selections. The program was developed in coordination with the U.S. National Standards for Arts Education.

Listeners will learn from the fictionalized biographies, storytelling and fantasies. The two DVD films are quality historical fiction, and the fantasy forged from Mozart's *Magic Flute* would have made a swell third DVD.

"Daydreams and Lullabies" includes choir singing, poetry and an interesting tidbit of knowledge that reveals that Tchaikovsky had composed "Rock-a-Bye Baby" as a piano concerto. The music-only CD transitions the exploration of other works by the featured composers.

The cost of the set is offset by the possibilities for sharing as homeschool curriculum or neighborhood groups or for joint use in school as a music program; additionally, the music CDs and DVDs are available individually.

Classical music enriches life, especially if introduced early. Without it, Scott Joplin would never have developed ragtime music to an art form, Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein wouldn't have given us "Some Enchanted Evening" and everything else they wrote, and Randy Newman wouldn't have written the theme for *Monk*, his hit "I Love L.A." or his movie scores and other sardonic songs. And we very possibly wouldn't have had—sigh—three semesters of *High School Musical*. That, you can safely tell the children!

Kate Karp is an editor for School News Roll Call and a freelance writer and editor



"Far and away, the best recordings for introducing children to classical music!"
Boston Herald



Enter to Win the *Classical Kids Teaching Edition!*

To enter our contest:

Complete the Word Search and send this entry form to:

School News Roll Call, P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740

Entries must be received by March 15, 2009

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift Certificate redeemable at Borders Books.

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Richland *High School*

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



Miss Turk's Hands-On Life Science

Is it possible for a raw egg to shrink and then swell up again? Can bacteria grow on a potato slice in our own self-made Petri dish? Well, if you'd like to know, ask one of my students. Here at Richland Continuation High School, our science department includes many hands-on, standards-based labs as one way to supplement our rigorous curriculum.

Deborah Backstrom
Continuation School Principal

Just recently, we finished a unit on bacteria that incorporated technology, hands-on labs, and group work, just to list a few of the teaching strategies. The students learned how important, and even crucial, it is for bacteria to be present—including in vaccines and some foods—as well as its dangers, such as diseases. Often, classroom assignments and projects are done in a variety of ways, including individually, in pairs, and in groups, to promote social development. Lessons and projects are modified to help our students continue to improve their strengths, as well as work on their weaknesses.

Richland students are always rising to our high expectations and perform their best. Go, Condors!

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



'STRIVE' To Make History!

Santiago students made school history this past trimester by setting the record for the highest number of students who qualified for STRIVE. A total of 70 students achieved the Bronze level of 2.0–2.9 GPA, 144 students reached the Silver level of 3.0–3.4 GPA, and a whopping 276 students reached the Gold level of 3.5–3.5 GPA!

Mary Henry
Principal

These accomplishments were acknowledged at the STRIVE assembly, whose

theme was “STRIVE to Make History.” In celebration of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, students were treated to patriotic music, student skits and a faculty performance culminating with the unfurling of a flag as large as the entire amphitheatre stage. It was a memorable, motivating and inspirational moment for all at Santiago!



Riverdale *Elementary*

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



Our Diamond

When it is time to retire, what activities do you have planned? Helping children was Mrs. Maietta's first response.

Mrs. Maietta, a retired OUSD teacher, has been a part of the Riverdale community for over 40 years. Even after retiring from teaching primary grades, Mrs. Maietta comes to Riverdale every day. She volunteers her time. Most of the time, she is in the classrooms reading and writing with children in small groups. She provides direct instruction to students needing extra support in the area of language arts and math. But she does not stop there—Mrs. Maietta also helps organize picture orders in the fall and spring.

Pamela McFadden
Principal

Mrs. Maietta truly is a diamond, and we are so lucky to have her here at Riverdale.



Running Springs *Elementary*

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



Internal Walkthrough

Through the districtwide program of “Forward with Rigor, Relevance and Relationships,” the staff at Running Springs Elementary School conducted an internal walkthrough. The purpose of an internal walkthrough is to gather evidence of a school's instructional focus and best practices in order to continually improve the academic achievement of all students.

Lydia Roach
Principal

The instructional focus at Running Springs is on reading comprehension and writing. The best practices that are used to achieve this instructional focus include the use of graphic organizers, Marzano's Nine Effective Strategies, differentiated instruction and the Step Up to Writing process. The walkthrough team, which included the principal and three teachers, gathered evidence by visiting each classroom, observing instruction, talking to students, and reviewing student work. The results of the walkthrough were presented to the staff, and it was noted that there were questions regarding the consistency of rigor in the area of writing across all grade levels. As a result of this internal walkthrough, the staff plans to review state writing standards in mixed grade-level teams. By reviewing standards from grade to grade, teachers are better able to prepare students for the next grade level by accurately identifying prerequisite skills necessary for students to be successful. Collaboration within and across grade levels and periodic self-review are just a few of the components of the “Forward with Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships” program.

The staff at Running Springs Elementary School strives to implement this program effectively so that all Redhawks will continue to “Soar for Excellence!”

Serrano *Elementary*

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



Bobbie Lansman
EdD
Principal

Great Outdoor Experience

Splendid is the word that comes to mind when describing the atmosphere at Outdoor Science School. The sixth-grade students at Serrano Elementary School recently spent five days in the mountains learning and living with their peers and teachers in an absolutely glorious setting. As the principal, I was fortunate to attend Outdoor Science School for the day and share some of the experiences with the children.

We could not have asked for better weather. During the day-time, the temperature was warm and sunny—T-shirt weather—although there were beautiful patches and areas of snow still on the ground. The evening was crisp and cool. I was happy to have my very warm sweatshirt for the chilly night air. One full day at camp allowed me to enjoy some of the lessons, special activities and delicious meals with the sixth-graders and their teachers. I sat in for a fabulous lesson on adaptations. Later, my group made a Native American craft. We hiked to a special campsite and explored Native American artifacts. We heard stories and learned how tools and instruments were made and used. The highlight following the lesson was that we also got to play in the snow!

All of the learning and outdoor activity certainly made us hungry. Both lunch and dinner were great, and the students had the most impeccable manners with “Please,” “May I?” and “Thank you” coming from every camper at every table. Singing and games ended the meals.

All in all, it was a fabulous and enriching experience for all of us.

Sycamore *Elementary*

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



Kathy Bruce
Principal

A Hairy Tale!

Helen Ramsay’s second-grade students recently read “*Big Bushy Mustache*” in their Houghton Mifflin textbooks. Students received mustaches from Mrs. Ramsay and had a wonderful time sharing their enthusiasm for the story with others. In cooperative groups, the students wrote summaries of the story and then created a class summary from each group’s summary. Here is their class summary of the story:

“The story is about a boy named Ricky who gets to wear a big bushy mustache for the school play. Ricky really likes wearing the mustache because his dad has a mustache, too. Ricky was upset. He lost the mustache! He tried to solve his problem by making a mustache. At the end of the story, Ricky’s dad shaved off his mustache and gave it to Ricky.”

Congratulations to Angela Quijada, Sycamore’s sixth-grade spelling bee winner. She represented Sycamore at our district’s spelling bee in December. She did a fantastic job and made us proud!

As we begin to prepare for the 2009–10 school year, kindergarten registration will begin on March 4. Children born by December 2, 2004 will be able to register. Please have a copy of the child’s birth certificate, two proofs of residence such as a water bill or electric bill, and inoculation records from your physician. Because of the continued modernization project at Sycamore, registration will take place in the school office portable located on Palm.

Silverado *Elementary*

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



Linda Stoterou
Principal

A New Art Program

After six years of using lessons on artists and techniques from the Art Masters program, the Silverado PTA decided to try a new standards-based program from Abrakadoodle. They have found that it not only exceeds the state standards in visual arts, but it also includes standards in math, literacy, science and social studies.

After seven sessions of presentations in each classroom, the program has been shown to provide students with experiences in a wide variety of materials, techniques and artistic styles. The students are also able to learn about contemporary and master artists, as well as explore art from around the world and work in two and three dimensions.

Emily Bryer, a fourth-grade student, says that she “really likes being able to do the art project as I am hearing about the artist and the art technique.”

Jennifer Delio, PTA President, says that the students are “enthusiastic about the program, and are more focused on their projects. The crafts seem more hands-on and creative than in past years.”

Taft *Elementary*

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



David Reynolds
Principal

Getting To Know Taft

As the new principal at Taft Elementary School, I’ve had to get caught up as quickly as possible on all of the happenings here. I’ve been impressed. I’ve enjoyed getting to know the entire staff and student body.

Besides the great staff and students, when you come through the office doors, you’ll meet some of the nicest office staff workers, who are more than willing to answer any question you may have. They’ve been answering many of mine in order to get me caught up.

In my “getting to know everyone” phase, here are some great things that are going on with Taft staff and teachers: ongoing grade-level collaboration; analyzing assessment data to check student achievement; planning interventions for student academic growth; setting goals for student success; choosing the best instructional practices for student mastery of content; participation in leadership teams; and seeking out workshop opportunities for professional growth.

Since I’ve been here, I’ve also had the chance to meet with dedicated, committed parents who volunteer multiple hours to the school. Our parent volunteers keep one thing in mind—taking care of Taft students and staff. I think some of our parent volunteers have redefined the meaning of volunteer. Taft parents: organize fund-raisers for student programs, including music, art, and field trips; volunteer in classrooms; attend parent advisory committees; create and design yearbooks; and organize the Family Fun Fair, Literacy Night and other family events.

Please join us for our next PTA meeting on February 9 at 7 p.m.

The Bully Has a New Playground

Please see our ad on the back page.

You need to know!

West Orange *Elementary*

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



Michael Olander
Principal

Building Relationships with Families

West Orange Elementary School's goal is to increase parent involvement and family inclusion. Research shows that family involvement is a crucial component in student achievement. The key to encouraging this participation is to provide opportunities for building relationships and to regularly invite parents to school.

West Orange began this plan with two activities designed to build parent relationships. The first one was the kick-off Family Barbecue Night in December. Parents and families were invited to enjoy a barbecue at our school and also get information about the importance of being involved. Over 300 people attended the three-hour event. West Orange has three more Family Barbeque Nights scheduled for this year.

A Place to Read

The second activity is our weekly Library Night. West Orange hosted its first one in January. Every Tuesday, the school will be opening the computer lab and library from five to six in the evening. This will provide a place for students to read with their parents, check-out additional reading materials for home and have access to computers and the Internet.

When parents spend time with their children at school, it reinforces the message that education is important. Library Night has been a huge success, and the school community has responded with appreciation.

Because of our stress on parental involvement, West Orange has seen an increase in attendance at PTA and English Language Advisory Committee meetings!



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Larry Hausner
Principal

Strategic Plan Update

Beginning last spring, the VPE community collaboratively created a strategic plan for our school. This year, parents, staff and students put goals on a three-year time line in the areas of technology, personalization and facilities/safety.

The timeline is divided into school year quarters. Listed below is the update:

Fall 2008

Technology: Technology Information Parent Night was held in October with a focus on current technology on our campus, along with a vision of the future. Mr. Williams hosted the event. Other benchmarks achieved included updating our ListServ database and establishing a grant-writing team, with parents Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Walsh volunteering.

Personalization: A Reading Counts reward system was created by Mrs. Adle. It will encourage students to check out books from our library and take corresponding quizzes to support a schoolwide focus on reading comprehension. This program will launch in February.

Facilities/safety: The library is being relocated from its current location to rooms 42 and 43, with the vision of utilizing the auditorium for its intended purpose. The Home and School League financially supported the painting and carpeting of the new library.

Winter 2008-09

Technology: Currently, teachers are reviewing and analyzing the OUSD Technology Standards. In addition, VPE teachers will be visiting our technology magnet school to see how they have implemented technology within their instructional program.

Personalization: Adopt-a-Planter campaign for beautification is underway.

Facilities/safety: Continue library relocation.

Questions about the VPE Strategic Plan can be answered by calling our office.

Villa Park *High School*

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



Ed Howard
Principal

Academic and Musical Highlights

With 2008 securely behind us, we look to 2009 with excitement and promise. We are looking at these uncertain and difficult economic times ahead as a challenge to get back to basics and do more with less. It is our intention, looking forward at the difficult decisions we are going to have to make, not to impact the quality of instruction you have become accustomed to or lose focus on the continued growth of our programs. In 2009 we will continue to strive for quality bell-to-bell instruction.

Another area that will not suffer will be customer service. We are committed to providing the high level of customer service this community deserves. As I think about the community we serve, I can't think of a better and less expensive way to come together and support one another than coming out and enjoying a school production.

Here are a few upcoming events that you and your family are sure to enjoy On February 21, the Villa Park High School Marching Band will perform for Opening Day at 6:30 a.m. On February 25, the jazz combo from California Polytechnic University, Pomona will perform. And from February 23 through 28, Villa Park will showcase "The Boyfriend," a musical performance. We hope to see to you at one, if not several, of these events.

Yorba *Middle School*

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

By Elena Dull, History Teacher



Tara Saraye
Principal

Helping Spirit

Operation Christmas Child is run through an organization called Samaritan's Purse. The organization gets volunteers to collect supplies and pack them in shoeboxes for needy children. Students get shoeboxes and fill them with school supplies, toiletries and toys. All Yorba students brought in supplies while the Academic Student Body (ASB)/Leadership class worked hard wrapping the boxes. They also carefully checked the contents to be sure boxes of supplies were age- and gender-appropriate. These boxes are then shipped to needy children all over the world.

Last year in the Yorba ASB/Leadership class, a group of students got involved in Operation Christmas Child as a service project. They set a goal of 200 boxes, and our current ASB decided to continue to honor that goal. We started in April of last year and finished in November. We raised exactly 200 boxes, which was awesome. Students loved watching the pile grow in our trophy case.

This winter, the boxes were sent to Operation Christmas Child to be distributed. Yorba students felt great pride in helping others.



Yorba ASB students.

Parkside *Pre-K*

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



Allison Smith
Principal

Fun With Snow

At Parkside School, the children have been working on winter activities. One of the stories the children have been focusing on this quarter is called *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats.

The story is about a little boy named Peter, who enjoys playing in the snow. The children completed different projects related to the story. They made a special activities folder with flip-the-flap books, sequencing cards, and a weather wheel attached. The children were able to take their folders home and retell the story with their families. The students also had an opportunity to do science experiments relating to winter, such as ice melting.

Looking ahead, we will be having our annual Valentine's Day party. In February, we will be focusing on the theme of friendship and learning about what it means to be a good friend. The children will be learning to write valentines to families and friends. They will be walking to the post office to mail their own valentines. This corresponds with their learning of community helpers, such as the mailman. The children are enjoying all of their winter learning opportunities at Parkside Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten.

Central County ROP

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

Got Congrats?

By Teryl Snyder, Administrator Career Education Center

OCHS graphic design students recently participated in a unique sponsored advertising competition celebrating the 15th year of one of the country's most recognizable taglines: GOT MILK? This six-week project culminated with a November trip to San Francisco, where five students representing their class presented their campaign idea to the judges.

Chaperoned by Principal Christine Hale and ROP instructor Edward Hansbury, Brianna Flores, Gabriel Peterson, Brennan Tucker, Edgar Campos and Sofia Raygoza presented an impressive, creative concept with a mythical storybook-theme. Dr. Lactase travels from town to town recruiting people to introduce people to milk—a superdrink that will help cure people of ailments like PMS, weak bones and unhealthy hair. The students presented additional ways other than TV to market the concept, including going online and merchandising. They received second place for their efforts, and the class was awarded \$1,000.

For more information about the competition, visit designorange.org. Congratulations, OCHS and ROP Instructor Ed Hansbury, for a job well done!



Gabe Peterson presents the character "Slice and Dice" to the judges.



The Design Orange Team at Goodby, Silverstein and Partners
Brianna Flores, Gabriel Peterson, Brennan Tucker,
Edgar Campos, and Sofia Raygoza.

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Renae Dreier, Ed.D.

students. To meet the criteria for the award, the school must demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards. Additionally, the school's socioeconomically disadvantaged students must have doubled the achievement targets set for them for two consecutive years.

I'm happy to announce that a new e-newsletter has been launched to enhance the distribution of information throughout our district. The newsletter will be sent out to all Orange Unified School District (OUSD) employees and Listserv subscribers. I encourage all of our student families and community members to subscribe to the OUSD Listserv so that they too may receive the new newsletter, as well as other information sent out regularly, such as this newspaper, press releases and more. The Listserv link is under Quick Find on the district Web site at www.orangeusd.org.

As most of you are probably aware, the state of California is facing a major budget shortfall, which is directly impacting our school district, as well as school districts across California. For the last several months, staff has been analyzing data and reviewing programs and procedures. I have held several brainstorming meetings to solicit input regarding potential budget reductions from various employee groups, including certificated, classified and leadership.

While the consensus is strong from all groups that much must be done to maintain the excellence of our instructional programs while keeping our district fiscally sound, as of this writing, no decisions have been finalized. The Board of Education received a budget update from staff at the January 15 Board meeting and will continue to receive updates and discuss the impending reductions at future meetings. In order to provide the Board with the opportunity for in-depth study, two additional work/study sessions have been scheduled. The Board will have to approve the necessary reductions by March 15.

Communication regarding the budget will continue to be very important with our internal community, parents, and the entire OUSD community. In that spirit, the district Web site has been re-vamped and now includes a Budget Update section, www.orangeusd.org/budget/, where you can go to get information. Included on this page are "Brainstorming, Budget Reductions/Suggestions," "Orange Unified School District Presentation to the Board of Education, January 15, 2009 on the Governor's Proposed Budget," and "Talking Points, Mid-Year Budget Reductions," as well as other informative documents.



Rick Ledesma
President

current budget crisis in Sacramento, this theme is even more fitting. Now more than ever, we are faced with budget challenges that require increased scrutiny of our budget allocations.

I would like to see this Board continue to work towards improving the infrastructure with regard to facilities and staff, which leads to our ultimate responsibility—the children. This demands a shift of our primary focus back to the classroom. Our test scores have shown improvement, and I would like to see this trend not only continue, but exceed expectations.

In order to accomplish some of these goals, we, as a Board, will have to review and restructure some of the current policies, which will result in giving the Board the controls and oversight previously in place.

I'd also like to see us step up our efforts to develop the synergy between our district and the communities we serve—Orange, Villa Park, Anaheim Hills and portions of Garden Grove and Santa Ana. I'd like to explore more joint use of facilities and services to improve the quality of life for the citizens we serve in these communities.

And, last but not least, my ideal operating philosophy for the district in the coming year is to "think outside the box." Together, we will find new and innovative solutions for the challenges we face, utilizing our vast and talented pool of employees to do what's best for our students.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER • FROM PAGE 1



Katherine Trinh
Student Advisory Representative
El Modena H.S.

Rachel's Challenge organization was formed in response to the death of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the infamous Columbine High School shootings. After her death, family members discovered diaries outlining Rachel's plans to create a more kindhearted society.

On January 15, El Modena's ASB sponsored a Rachel's Challenge assembly, with hopes of impacting all students. To prepare for the assembly, leadership students placed posters displaying encouraging quotes across campus. The assembly speaker, Adam Northam, challenged El Modena's Vanguards to look for the best in others. Students learned to choose positive influences because "input determines output," and "kind words and actions have helpful results." After hearing Rachel's

Challenge, El Modena students aspire to make a positive impact on society.

Orange Unified School District Board of Education



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2009 Regular Board Meetings

February 26	May 14	July 23	October 15
March 12	May 28	August 20	October 29
March 26	June 18	September 10	November 12
April 16	June 23	September 24	December 10

Regular Board meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in the Board Room (Building H). The public is invited to attend.

Orange Unified School District

1401 North Handy St., Orange, CA 92867 • (714) 628-4000 • www.orangeusd.org

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CathyLyn Brooks

With all the recent turmoil in the mortgage and credit markets, the cost and availability of credit is even more important and is based on your credit report.

An amendment to the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. The change was mandated in consumer legislation signed into law by President Bush in 2004 but few people seem to be aware of this. The FCRA promotes the accuracy and privacy of information in the files of the nation's consumer reporting companies. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, enforces the FCRA with respect to consumer reporting companies.

A credit report contains information on where you live, how you pay your bills, and whether you've been sued, arrested, or filed for bankruptcy. Nationwide consumer reporting companies sell the information in your report to creditors, insurers, employers, and other businesses that use it to evaluate your applications for credit, insurance, employment, or renting a home. There are three nationwide consumer-reporting companies — Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union.

Here is a helpful Q & A on the subject:

Q: How can I order my credit reports?

A: The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have set up one central website, toll-free telephone number, and a printed form with which you can order your free annual report. To order, click on www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free 877-322-8228, or complete a form called the Annual Credit Report Request Form that you can request from the FTC or print out from www.ftc.gov/credit. You should NOT contact the three nationwide consumer reporting companies individually.

You may order your reports from each of the three nationwide consumer reporting companies at the same time, or you can order from only one or two. The law allows you to order one free copy from each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies every 12 months.

Q: What information will I be asked to give to them?

A: You need to provide your name, address, Social Security number, and your date of birth. If you have moved in the last two years, you may have to provide your previous address. To maintain the security of your file, each nationwide consumer reporting company may ask you for some information that only you would know, like the amount of your monthly mortgage payment. Each company may ask you for different information because the information each has in your file may come from different sources. www.annualcreditreport.com is the only authorized source for your free annual credit report. Neither they nor the nationwide consumer reporting companies will send you an email asking for your personal information. If you get an email or see a pop-up ad claiming it's from any

Go Green!

Water, Water Everywhere



Eric Wahlberg

Sadly, we've nearly become immune to it, but the fact remains: Life cannot exist without water. "Precious" does not even begin to describe how we should think about water.

My neighbor automatically irrigates every morning around 5 AM. The grass strip between the sidewalk and the road on the lot's west side gets so much water, it floods a 25-foot section of sidewalk about an inch-and-a-half deep. It takes the sun until noon to evaporate those 20-plus gallons. Does flooding a concrete surface every day with water clean enough to drink make any sense to anybody?

A reader emailed me last month asking what she can do to lesson the waste she generates daily. Taking Superintendent Habermehl's message last issue to heart, let's talk about saving a little water.

From our most recent water bill, the four of us use 300 gallons per day. A lot of that goes down the kitchen drain. At our Go Green! house, we have a bowl by the kitchen sink that we use to catch water when we're rinsing things, vegetables for example. When the bowl is full, it's emptied into a five-gallon bucket just outside the slider, and when that's full, we water whatever tree can use it.

If every house in Orange County diverted five gallons a day from the kitchen sink to a thirsty plant, nearly four million gallons of water a day—a staggering 1.5 billion gallons a year—wouldn't need treatment at our water and sewage treatment plants!

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.

of these institutions, do not reply or click on any link in the message — it's probably a scam. Forward any suspicious contact via email or telephone to the FTC.

There is expected to be a great deal of interest in this program and since the West will be the first, there may be a bit of a "learning curve" as the system begins. But the system will benefit everyone and may diminish the need for credit monitoring services that people pay for. Staying informed about your credit is important, and now it is easy and free.

CathyLyn Brooks has been a local real estate broker since 1980, earning the advanced credentials of Certified Residential Specialist and Graduate Realtor through advanced education and sales volume. She has completed the American Bar Association's approved Paralegal certification and is an instructor at UCI in the Paralegal program. She also teaches real estate related courses in the extension program. The NASD, the NYSE, and the National Futures Organization have appointed her as a public arbitrator. Her degree is in finance and marketing from the University of Southern California. CathyLyn is affiliated with Main Street Realtors and can be reached at: 562/719-2530 or cathylyn@earthlink.net Consumers should seek legal and tax advice from professionals in each field.

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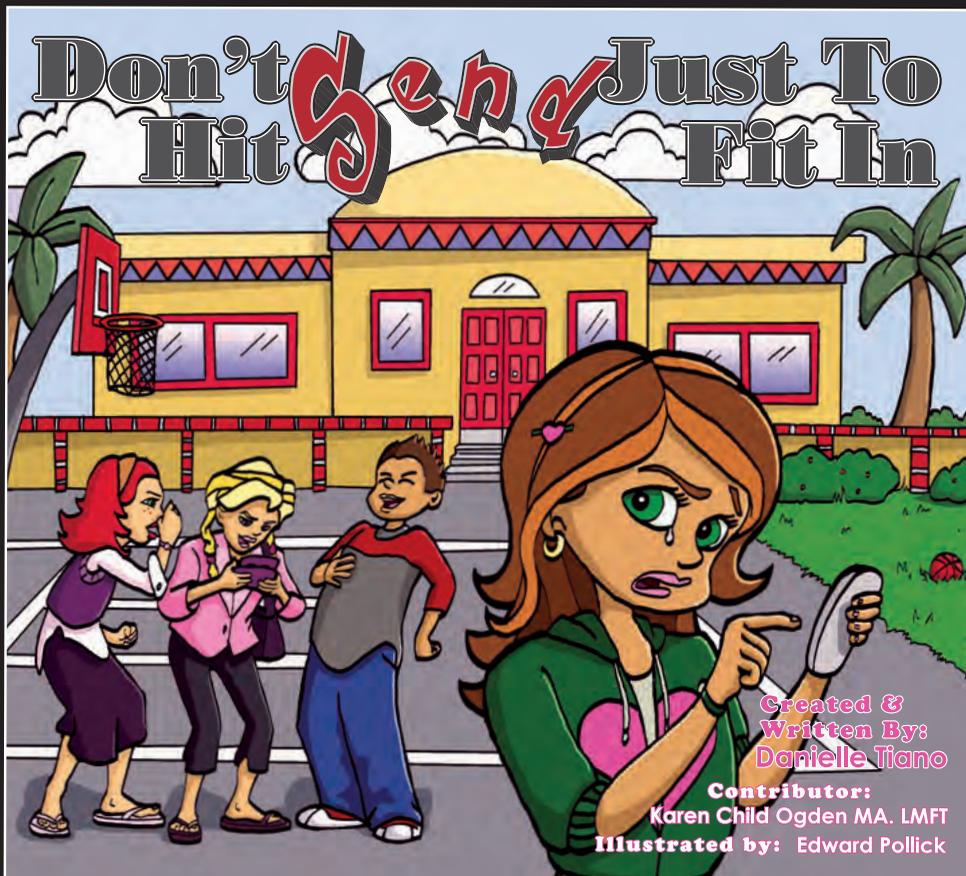
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