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# School News

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## Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 23

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2009

### SUPERINTENDENT



**Renae Dreier, Ed.D.**

The Orange Unified School District serves approximately 30,000 students in grades kindergarten through 12th, and encompasses all or part of the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, Orange, Santa Ana, and Villa Park.

In 1953, the citizens of the area voted to form a "unified" school district, combining the original five elementary districts with the high school district into one unified district, now known as the Orange Unified School District. The District has a long history of excellence that continues to grow and be enriched by the accomplishments of its students, teachers, staff and community.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 19

### FFA Students Win Big at the Orange County Fair



(Front left) Orange High School Principal SK Johnson, (Middle) Master Showmanship winners: 1st place winners Kimberly Rieg in advanced steer and Jahasiel Torres in novice steer showmanship. (Middle far right) FFA advisor Patti Williams.

SK Johnson, Principal  
Orange High School

The OHS Future Farmers of America (FFA) show team had a tremendous eleven days at the OC Fair market livestock show.

Our FFA members all received blue ribbons for their animals in market classes (animal is judged on its physical merits). Three of our lambs went up for Grand Champion Lamb and four steers went up for Grand Champion Steer. This is quite an honor. We won fourth place for outstanding FFA Chapter group of pigs. Five students placed in the top ten for lamb showmanship (student and animal are judged on how well they work together) and five students

SEE FFA STUDENTS • PAGE 14

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Rick Ledesma, President

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year!

We are off and running towards another successful educational year for the students of Orange Unified, with all schools beginning on one common school calendar.

Our Board of Education consists of seven members elected to serve for a term of four years. With their diverse backgrounds, Board members bring a variety of life experiences to their positions. The Board's primary purpose is to provide the best education using the highest attainable

standards of excellence for all our students. To help guide the work of our district, the Board of Education recently approved a three year Strategic Plan. The plan will focus on six goal areas: Student Achievement; Student Engagement; Safe, Welcoming Schools; Parent and Community Partnerships; Communication; and Effective Use of Resources.

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 19



**Rick Ledesma**  
President



**John H. Ortega**  
Vice President



**Mark D. Wayland**  
Clerk



**Alexia L. Deligianni, Ed.D.**  
Member



**Kathryn A. Moffat**  
Member



**Kimberlee Nichols**  
Member



**Melissa J. Smith**  
Member

### Your Reading Electives Inside:

- Orange County Department of Education....Page 3
- OUSD Schools .....4-8, 13-18
- Magic Book Garden .....10
- Note-ables .....12
- Word Search.....18

Our next issue is October 7.

**Aha!**  
**FOR KIDS**  
Page 9-12

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



Summer vacation is almost over and classrooms will be buzzing with excitement as the new school year begins. No matter how old you are you can still remember going back to school after summer vacation. Although the time off was fun, there is still that excitement of getting back to a routine, seeing old friends, making new friends and learning.

A special thank you to the administration, teachers, staff and classified employees who have made sure the first day of school is perfect. We are excited to bring the excitement every other month to the printed page.

## School News

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## It's a Dry, Dry World!



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent

You may recall a late November, 2007 issue of *National Geographic* magazine with a provocative picture of three pairs of legs, each pair standing in its own plastic tub. The article accompanying the photo describes Australia's extreme drought and the equally extreme measures employed to minimize personal water use. Families shower together wearing bathing suits, while standing in washtubs to capture all the water that normally would disappear through the drain to save every drop of this precious, indispensable, and rare resource. This is just another reminder that we are in a global water crisis.

Although over 71 percent of the earth's surface is covered with water, only three percent is fresh water, and even less is available to Californians. The California Department of Water Resources informs us that California is in the third year of drought. In the February 2009 Governor's Proclamation, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency due to the "conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property...caused by the current and severe drought conditions and water delivery restrictions." The sobering facts include last winter's snow pack being 39 percent below normal, rainfall measurements that are 24 percent below normal, and a state population that has grown by nine million residents since our state's last drought in 1991.

Emergency conditions reflect the adverse impact on the environment, economy, wildlife, communities, and recreation as a result of California's ongoing water shortage. The state's agricultural center, the San Joaquin Valley, is receiving 10 percent of its requested water allocation request. This dramatically impacts the ability of farmers to grow food, further impacting food prices and the income of many people. Increases in customers' water rates, either to encourage

conservation or to react to increased costs associated with acquiring supplemental water sources, is another common drought outcome. The coming fall presents an elevated risk for catastrophic fires, reflecting the cumulative impacts of a third successive dry year.

In our commitment to world class education opportunities, the Orange County Department of Education has partnered with the University of California, Irvine along with business, education, and water agency partners to create a profound lifelong learning experience for Orange County students. Now in its second year, the Water Innovation Now (WIN) combines academics, creativity, and technology to develop an ethic of water conservation with our youth. We believe that our students will share their learning experiences with their families and will become the innovators who create effective mechanisms to conserve and effectively use this precious resource.

We invite you to attend the free Water Innovation Now (WIN) family festival at the Orange County Department of Education on Saturday, October 17, 2009, to kick off a year of learning about water and its connections to health, environment, industry, agriculture, and policy. We encourage you to join us and enjoy water-related learning activities and games. Families and educators will obtain further information about Orange County's unique academic contest dedicated to encouraging K-12 students to become young water innovators.

Please watch for a WIN Kickoff Celebration flyer and be sure that your school is represented at the October event! We look forward to seeing your students' entries in February!

For additional WIN contest information, please visit <http://win.ocde.us> or contact Denise Antrim at (714) 966- 4381 or [dantrim@ocde.us](mailto:dantrim@ocde.us).

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# Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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



**Sandra Miller**  
Principal

## AHES Welcomes Mrs. Miller as Principal

Mrs. Miller has been in education for 14 years serving as an elementary teacher and vice principal. She holds a Bachelors degree in English with an emphasis in Literature from California State University, Fresno and a Masters Degree in Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood Development from California State University, Long Beach.

Mrs. Miller and her family live in San Clemente. She and her husband, Douglas, have two school age daughters, Marisa 11 and Emma 8.

# Canyon Hills

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



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

## Productive Summer

Special Education Summer School (i.e., Extended School Year) was very successful throughout OUSD this summer. The Canyon Hills program for severely disabled students was four weeks long. Each week at Canyon Hills focused on a unifying theme which propelled students to further their IEP goals. The themes were Animal Week, Patriot Week, Water Week, and Hawaiian Week, respectively. It was a productive summer with students progressing on their goals.

This summer's special education high school program at El Modena, Orange High School, and Villa Park High School included two sessions of summer school. Each session lasted three weeks. These sessions were designed to assist high school students who may need credits for graduation and/or to master course content. We had 131 students enroll in one or both summer school sessions as required by the their IEPs.

The middle school, elementary school, and preschool summer school program was also required for some special education students. It was held for four weeks. This year, we had 155 preschool / kindergarten students, 160 elementary students, and 41 middle school students who participated in a four-week program. The middle school classes were held at El Modena and Villa Park High School. Elementary and Preschool classes were held at Villa Park Elementary School and McPherson Magnet School.

Finally, the Adult Transition Program was also held for four weeks over the summer and had 16 students attending the Parkside campus. The students continued to work on domestic and life skills and often participated in the community and rode the buses of the Orange County Transportation Authority.

# California *Elementary*

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



**Cyndi Paik**  
Principal

## Summer Learning

It was a busy summer at California Elementary. Students from several OUSD elementary schools attended a four-week summer school to better prepare them for the next grade

level. The teachers and students have worked diligently throughout the session. Their focus in Language Arts was the following: reading comprehension, vocabulary, and grammar. In Math, basic math skills (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), place values, multiplication/division of multiple digits, and word problems were targeted. Spirit days were incorporated on Fridays to add fun to the students' learning. Spirit days consisted of: Cool Shades Day, Hawaiian Shirt Day, Crazy Hat Day and Cool Splash Day.

It was a productive summer at California Elementary. We appreciate all the parents, students, and staff members that committed to helping our students learn over the summer!



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# Cambridge *Elementary*

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



**Karen Merkow**  
Principal

## Advancing Education

Mrs. Karen Merkow has spent her career as a life long learner, right along with the hundreds of students she has taught and teachers she has lead. She celebrates and values her career in education of over 33 years. Karen earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UCLA, holds elementary teaching and reading specialist credentials, and an administrative credential.

Beginning her teaching career in Los Angeles, Karen has taught grades K-6 and served as a teacher leader before becoming a principal in Orange Unified School District over eleven years ago. Mrs. Merkow served as Assistant Principal at California Elementary and Principal at Anaheim Hills Elementary and Chapman Hills Elementary School before coming to Cambridge as Principal last year.

Proud of her continuing participation advancing education for children, Karen has served as a member of the District's Focus on Results writing, planning and presentation team, curriculum planning teams, Leadership Team-Orange Board of Directors, and has been awarded the California Distinguished School recognition at Anaheim Hills Elementary and the California Businesses for Educational Excellence Award at Chapman Hills. She attends many trainings to refine and develop innovative educational programs at her school.

Her children are both graduates of OUSD. Daughter Deanna teaches in Nevada and son Phil is working in the entertainment industry. Husband of 33 years, Jeff, owns an advertising agency in Tustin and Glendale.

Mrs. Merkow is excited continue as principal of Cambridge Elementary School. "This year we will continue our focus on building skills in our students to prepare them for a success future. We look forward to seeing the effects of our effort in increased test scores and increased love of learning," states Mrs. Merkow.

# Canyon *High School*

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



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

## First Fund Raising Event

The Canyon Education Foundation is planning to hold its first major event on Friday evening, November 6th, 2009. The Dinner Dance and Silent Auction Gala will provide support for the outstanding Academic, Athletic, and Activity programs at Canyon High School. Please contact the school for more information.

## International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidates

Canyon High School is an International Baccalaureate World School, and provides its students with classes leading to the diploma program. This year, the following students will be waiting to hear their results on the challenging final exams: Andrew Cha, Jody Chang, Khaled Dostzada, Eric Dunn, Roshni Guha Thakurta, John Gunnison, Jessica Leung, Jeannie Nguyen-Cuu, Christian Ogren, Kristina Pinkerton, Eric Saindon, Nishad Sathe, Abraham Stone, and Timothy Wu.

## Solar Boat Team returns the Solar Cup to Anaheim

The amazing Canyon High School Solar Boat Team, advised by CHS parent Jim Donovan, has once again returned the Solar Cup winner trophy to Canyon High.

School! They finished the competition on Saturday, May 16th at Lake Skinner, and won the event by an amazing margin of 77 points out of 1000 scoring 984. Special thanks to the parents who support the year long effort, as the team meets every Saturday starting in the fall. You can find more info on the web: search for SolarCup. Congratulations to team members: Alex Blakemore, Katie Burks, Bryan Chin, Jennifer Cutlip, Nick Donovan, Jaclyn Doo, Josh Gleason, Jacob Jeffries, Lauren Kaplan, Aaron Majdali, Roshni Guha-Thakurta, and Harrison Voorhees.

# Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



**Sue Baden**  
*Acting Principal*

## New Principal and Assistant Principal

We would like to announce our administrative changes for this school year. Sue Baden will take the helm as acting principal and Joey Erven has been chosen to be CV's assistant principal.

Sue has a long history with Orange Unified, beginning with being part of the first graduating class of El Modena High School. Her teaching career began in 1973 at Peralta Junior High as a science teacher. From there, she taught at El Modena High School and Santiago Charter School, before signing on as assistant principal at Cerro Villa in 2003.

Joey has completed nine years as a science teacher at Cerro Villa and is looking forward to his first administrative year.

Ms. Baden and Mr. Erven are anxious to begin this school year and to carry on the great traditions of excellence of Cerro Villa. It will be an exciting year!

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# Canyon Rim *Elementary*

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



**David Appling**  
*Principal*

## New Principal

David A. Appling, Jr. will be joining us as the principal of Canyon Rim Elementary School. He is coming to the Orange Unified School District from the Anaheim City School District where he was actively involved at the district and school site levels for the past 13 years. During David's career in education, he taught grades second, fourth, fifth, and sixth at Palm Lane and Betsy Ross also serving as a master teacher and BTSA Support Provider. Leaving the classroom, Mr. Appling spent four years as a reading intervention resource teacher at James Madison and Patrick Henry, where he implemented the Scholastic Read180 technology reading intervention program. Moving to the district level as a curriculum specialist for 3 years, David supported the 24 schools in interventions, ELD, and CORE curriculum professional developments. David most recently was a vice principal for Clara Barton and Horace Mann.

Appling was raised in the city of Los Alamitos, California and a product of its K-12 educational system. After graduating from Los Alamitos High School, he continued his education earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the California State University of Long Beach. David received his teaching credential and Masters of Science in Educational Administration from National University in Costa Mesa.

Away from the principalship at Canyon Rim Elementary School, Mr. Appling enjoys taking his two dogs to the beach. Appling belongs to the Orange County/Long Beach Softball League where he spends much of his time at practice, weekend games, or traveling to various states competing in tournaments. Lastly, he enjoys spending time visiting with his family in both Colorado and California.

Appling looks forward to collaborating with the teachers, parents, students, and community of Canyon Rim Elementary School as they move forward achieving student success.

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# Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
Principal

## Chapman Hills Bobcats!

Chapman Hills students, staff, and community will welcome a new school mascot in the 2009-2010 school year. Last May, students voted to become the Chapman Hills Bobcats! The Bobcat was selected from a list of five, including the previous mascot, the Pathfinder. The



students spent a few weeks talking about and discussing the new mascot possibilities and were very excited to choose a mascot in which they will be able to show renewed school spirit and pride.

As always, the students and staff at Chapman Hills will strive for excellence in both academic achievement and social responsibility. The new mascot will be tied into our school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBiS), system in which students can earn “Paw”sitive Praise tickets and be recognized for demonstrating positive behavior and leadership in their daily experience at school. Our outstanding and ever-supportive PTA has purchased a Bobcat costume that an upper grade student will be able to wear at assemblies and other exciting events during the school year. Our school colors of blue and green will remain and our spirit wear will portray our new mascot. I would like to thank artist David Haupt and graphic artist Chris Liebich for our great new school logo!

Go Bobcats!

# Crescent *Elementary*

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



**Randi Leach**  
Principal

## New Principal

Randi Leach earned her undergraduate degree from UCLA, and then attended USC where she earned her Masters Degree in Special Education, elementary teaching credential and learning handicapped credential. She began her teaching career as a third – eighth grade Special Day Class teacher in the Castaic Union School District.

Randi Leach was actively involved in the Westminster School District for almost 20 years, first as a parent and 12 of those years as an educator. During those years in Westminster, she became an instructional leader with a strong background in curriculum and staff development. As the creator of their district “Math Mania” competition and a Math Mentor for many years, she was once viewed as “the math person” in the district. Over the years she also provided staff development for teachers in Orange County, presented annually at county and state math conferences, as well as presented workshops throughout the state on such topics as “Teaching Thematic Units” and “Reciprocal Teaching.” In 1996 she received the Orange County Department of Education Excellence Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education and was named Westminster School District’s “Teacher of the Year.”

After going back to school in 2001 to obtain her administrative credential, Randi Leach was hired as the Assistant Principal of Handy Elementary in the Orange Unified School District. The following year she was promoted to Canyon Rim Elementary, where she served as principal for seven years. Randi’s passion for curriculum and instruction continues as she is also a district writer for Forward. Additionally, she was recognized as an OUSD 2008 “Administrator of the Year.”

As Crescent Elementary School’s new principal this year, Randi looks forward to working with the Crescent staff and community as they unite as one school.

# El Modena *High School*

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



**John Briquelet**  
Principal

## No Better Place to Be

John Briquelet began his career in education as a district intern and Language Arts teacher at Foshay Junior High School in South Central Los Angeles. He then spent two years at Washington Middle School in La Habra City School District before joining the Sunny Hills High School staff as an English teacher and football/wrestling coach.

After five years as a Lancer, John and his wife anticipated buying a home in central Orange County, so he headed to Tustin High School where he served as a teacher and English department chair. Although John truly enjoyed being a Tiller, he found himself drawn toward a career in school administration; therefore, after four years at Tustin High, he accepted a position as assistant principal at Loara High School in Anaheim. During his four years at Loara, John served in virtually every administrative capacity, including summer school principal.

In 2006 John rejoined old friends in La Habra City School District and served as an assistant principal at Imperial Middle School, a change that permitted him to finally experience the “full spectrum” of secondary education as an administrator, before joining the staff of El Modena High School in May of 2007.

John has just completed his second full year as a Vanguard and remains thoroughly convinced there is no better place to be. John, his wife Jill, and their three children—Bruce, Grace, and Griffin—live in Huntington Beach.

# 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 Bridge as a Foundation

One week before school started this year, the El Rancho campus was a buzz of activity. Nearly 400 seventh graders showed up to school early! Who were these students? They were the participants of the 2009 El Rancho Bridge program which occurred August 10th-12th. Eager to get acquainted with new friends, new teachers, and a new campus, these students started the new school year off enthused and prepared to take on the challenges of being a middle school student at El Rancho Charter School.

Several exciting events took place throughout the Bridge program to introduce students to life in middle school. Bridge teachers became thoroughly acquainted with new students and focused a considerable amount of time on team-building activities. Meeting new friends and establishing positive relationships with peers early on is sure to ease students through the transitional process of middle school.

Perhaps most important of all to the Bridge attendees though, was that they were able to register early thereby receiving their class schedules which in turn allowed them to become familiar with the actual classrooms and campus locations that would soon become their home away from home for the new school year. Bridge participants were able to indulge in the experience of changing classrooms for each subject and walking across campus in less than four minutes.

While many challenges may lie ahead, the seventh grade Bridge participants of El Rancho Charter School started the school year off with a solid foundation and many new friends.



# Handy *Elementary*

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



**Sandra Schaffer**  
Principal

## Learning Today Makes a Brighter Tomorrow

Welcome back to the 2009-2010 school year!

Returning to traditional calendar has given all of us here at Handy some time to rest and relax over the summer break. Now, we're ready to move forward full steam ahead. Our focus this year is on student engagement and differentiated instruction using Strategic Schools as our model. All of the teachers at Handy will continue to participate in professional development based on the strategies developed by Dr. Dennis Parker. These include specifically designed data analysis with teacher and student generated graphs to track progress, attention to CST blue prints to insure adherence to grade level standards, and intensified instruction in the area of vocabulary (our newest strategy).

We're thrilled to be back at school and ready to begin on day one! Look forward to more great news from Handy Elementary.

# Jordan *Elementary*

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



**Elizabeth Gosnell**  
Principal

## New Principal

I am proud to join the leadership team at Orange Unified as principal of Jordan Elementary School. I have been an educator for 18 years, bringing a broad knowledge of second language acquisition and a passion for literacy. I am coming to the Orange Unified from the Vista Unified School District where I was actively involved at the district and school site levels for the past 12 years. I've been a teacher, bilingual resource specialist, literacy coach, assistant principal and principal using data to support student learning. I look forward building a strong collaboration with teachers, parents, and students of Jordan Elementary.

We continue to implement best practices to engage 21st century learners. Our school facility has been through district modernization, a renovated campus with state of the art classrooms and a complete technology upgrade. In our computer lab, students are provided access to computer assisted instruction. Every classroom is equipped with computers, a document camera, a LCD projector, and internet access. Our 4, 5, and 6th grade classrooms are also equipped with smart boards. Teachers are integrating technology into their instructional practice to increase student engagement.

We are interested in continuing to develop partnerships, with businesses and individuals that support academics and our school community. Please contact our school office at 714-997-6187 if you are interested in fostering student achievement and school success at Jordan Elementary School.

# Imperial *Elementary*

400 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807  
714/997-6282 [www.oranged.us/k12.ca.us/imperial](http://www.oranged.us/k12.ca.us/imperial)



**Tim Biland**  
Principal

## A Place of Community and Tradition

As I reflect upon my first year as principal of Imperial Elementary School, the images that come to mind are not unlike those of a Norman Rockwell painting. The year has been marked by moments which are so refreshingly sincere and uniquely American, it is especially meaningful during these trying times to cherish and share a few with our greater community.

To begin the year, the parking lot is woefully inadequate to accommodate the parents who walk their children to class on the first day of school. Some are there to provide reassurance to nervous little ones; waiting perhaps too long until the nervousness grows into clinging to Mom, or Dad. Others are lingering because they can't bring themselves to move, as if they are somewhat paralyzed in disbelief of their child's ease, able to walk away without thinking to give a look back.

By Halloween, the kids have all long since become classmates, the costume parade is their opportunity to further show off their uniqueness. Last year a first grader, with the help of his father, shaved his head like a balding friar, walking with a cane and a button up shirt that read, "I'm an old man." (I wonder if his grandfather who picks him up most days found it humorous.) That night, the school is packed with entire families in costume, doing arts and crafts, catching up with neighbors, and trick or treating around the school. All this before Thanksgiving.

# La Veta *Elementary*

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



**Jaymi Abusham**  
Principal

## Welcome

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. We are excited to return to school and looking forward to another great year. Whether you are on campus regularly or have yet to take part in school activities, we hope you will join us for one of the many exciting family functions that are planned for this school year. Our first event, which will be held October 12, is sure to please, with an inexpensive family dinner, lots of raffle prizes, and the opportunity to visit with other families. Also, we had such a great time at Family Science Night last year that we plan to hold the event a bit earlier in the year. Along with these and other events which have yet to be scheduled, we will continue to enjoy monthly skate parties for students of all ages and their families.

Our students work very hard in their classrooms each day, and really look forward to these opportunities to interact with their families, friends, teachers, and other school staff. We hope you will take the opportunity to join us for these events. If you would like to help make these and other exciting functions possible, we encourage you to join us at our monthly PTA meeting, which is most often held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you can't make it in the evening, please join us for Breakfast with PTA, which is held monthly on the date listed on the marquee outside the school. Your support makes our school a great place to learn and grow!



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### Preschool Reading Skills



**Rozanne Lanczak Williams**

Along with reading aloud to your preschooler every day, there are a few fun and easy activities that you do to greatly enhance the likelihood of your child's reading success in kindergarten and first grade. These activities are meant to teach a skill called *phonemic awareness*.

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate the individual sounds that make up spoken words. These are auditory activities and can be performed anywhere: in lines at the supermarket, in the car when you're stuck in traffic or when taking walks together. I used to play these games with my children in the swimming pool.

### Rhyme Time

I once worked with a veteran first-grade teacher who used to say, "If they can rhyme, they can read." Dr. Seuss books are great rhyming read-alouds. Or, make up short little rhymes and have your child guess the rhyme: "There once was a little mouse that lived in a little \_\_\_\_\_."

Chant and sing nursery rhymes. Say three words, such as *cat, mat, mug*. Your child will pick the word that doesn't rhyme. Or, say three words, such as *bug, cat, baby*, and have your child say the word that starts with a different sound.

### Focus on Sounds

Invite your child to guess the word when you divide it up into the sounds, such as /mmmmaaaaaannnnn/, *man*. Or, ask your child what sound—not letter—they hear at the beginning of *man, moon, monkey* and so on.

For more fun and easy activities that you can share with your child, just Google "Phonemic Awareness Activities." Have fun with your preschooler, and enjoy these precious days before you send them off to kindergarten!

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](http://www.rozannewilliams.com)

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—Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

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Please see the upcoming events & youth programs on the back page.

Minds are like parachutes.  
They only function when  
they are open.  
—Sir James Dewar, Scientist

## Note-ables

### Family Time, Ziggy Marley



Kate Karp

Ziggy says lift up your hands, Ziggy says lift up your feet, Ziggy says smile, Ziggy says make the sign of peace, Ziggy says turn on your radio and you may hear selections from his new children's CD on the adult-oriented stations' playlists.

When Ziggy Marley named his new CD *Family Time*, he wasn't kidding. Everything's there to delight and instruct children: catchy music, a couple of stories, a coloring page, a link to an online bonus page with video downloads and more things to color. For

the rest of us, there's Willy Nelson growling through a couple of verses of "This Train"; guest appearances by Jamie Lee Curtis, Paul Simon, reggae great Toots Hibbert and other musical artists; superbly produced reggae tunes—and lyrics that teach but don't preach. This isn't a watered-down-for children collection.



Marley is the son of late reggae icon Bob Marley.

Ziggy Marley is firmly established as a performer in his own right, with several best-selling albums and a number of Grammys. He is also a humanitarian and philanthropist regarding AIDS/HIV awareness and children's charities around the world—part of the proceeds from the sales of *Family Time* benefits a school in

Jamaica. The selections on the CD are an honest reflection of Marley's beliefs. His three-year-old son, Judah, joins him on the title track, the joyous "Family Time." There's an alphabet song, ubiquitous on many children's collections, but this one effectively ties in family, nature and the globe. "Ziggy Says" is an all-positive version of Simon Says that is a great waker-upper. "I Love You Too," sung with Marley's mother Rita and sister Cedella, expresses a great spirit and has a rolling call-response and tuba backup that will have reggae aficionados pressing the repeat button over and over. "Walk Tall," with Paul Simon, has ever-timely advice for anyone, any age. Read the included lyrics and take them to heart. Then blend it with the music.

The stories, one written by Marley and the other a narration of Jamie Lee Curtis's clever and profound children's book, are in the same humanitarian spirit as the rest of the collection, but you're going to pick up this CD for the music. Revel in your *Family Time!*

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

Angela Brown Tutoring

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# Lampson *Elementary*

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



**Laurie Dieppa**  
*Principal*

## Lampson Library Wins Grant

Fifth grade student, Vincent Nguyen is always willing to help out wherever there is a need. One of his favorite things is being an after school volunteer at the

Lampson School library. Several days each week you can find Vincent helping our librarian check in books, shelve books, and straighten up. So when Vincent saw the opportunity to help out his school library further, he jumped at the chance. Competing with thirteen other students from different schools, he wrote the grant winning essay from a local department store. Due to his efforts Lampson School's library will be receiving a "School Library Makeover" and \$500 in books. Vincent is a wonderful example of the school pride Lampson students have and their willingness to make their school a better place for themselves and others.



**Vincent Nguyen in Lampson's School Library.**

# Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



**Sally Hughson**  
*Principal*

## Looking Forward to Another Great Year

I am excited to start my second year as principal of Linda Vista. Our teachers, staff and parents have worked together to ensure success for all students.

We look forward to continuing our instructional rigor, expanding our use of technology and enriching our school day with PTA sponsored programs such as Art Masters, Science on the Go, P.E., primary music and Walk through the American Revolution and Ancient World.

This year we are officially launching our website. This tool will assist families with quick access to school information. Families can check the lunch menu, assembly schedules or the list of Accelerated Reader titles all in one convenient place.

September will be a busy month. Back to School Night is Thursday September 3rd. Our librarian, Mrs. McCausland, will be hosting our book fair in the library. We will be honoring Patriot's Day on the 11th with an assembly around the flag pole. All classes participate on September 17th for our Constitution Day assembly, filled with songs, chants and costumes. Art Masters lessons begin on the 23rd and our annual Bullying assembly finishes the month.

I look forward to the 2009-2010 school year.

# Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

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



**Dominique Polchow**  
*Principal*

## Former Roadrunner

As a former roadrunner, who attended Nohl Canyon, Mrs. Polchow is looking forward to her second year as principal. With homegrown roots in Anaheim Hills, she truly enjoys serving the community she lives in.

Polchow always knew she wanted to work with children and make a difference in their lives. With this in mind she obtained her bachelor's degree at California State University Fullerton in Child Development, with a minor in sociology. She continued her education at National University where she received her master's in cross cultural education, a multiple subject teaching credential with Cross Cultural Language and Academic Development (CLAD) certification, as well as her administrative credential.

On a personal note, Polchow is a wife and mother. She has been married for eight years to her husband, who is a paramedic. They enjoy their four year old son, who is a burst of energy and keeps them on their toes. Polchow's hobbies include reading, shopping, decorating, and traveling and hiking with her family.

As we return to the 2009-2010 School-Year, Polchow looks forward to again working with the school community. Polchow's passion as an educator is to offer the very best to each child so he or she can reach the highest potential as a learner.

# McPherson Magnet

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



**Jeanne Bentley**  
*Principal*

## Professional Learning Community

McPherson is passionate about our vision of Inspiration Discovery Knowledge. Nurturing an academic community by honoring individual strengths, talents, and learning styles is of utmost importance in mastering identified essential concepts and skills. Inquiry-based learning, through critical thinking, questioning, problem solving, risk-taking, and communication, is forefront in our minds as we integrate all curricular areas through the magnet focus of math, science, and technology.

Being at McPherson for four years has enabled me to build relationships with students, their families, and the community. With 17 years of experience in education, I feel confident that building a professional learning community at McPherson will empower all stakeholders. Through collaboration and clear direction, we have accomplished much and are proud to call ourselves McPherson Meteors. The walls of our classroom are broken down, as our students participate in engineering competitions, speak virtually with rangers at the Anza-Borrego State Park, or build rockets on campus. A technology plan has provided a baseline for every classroom which includes document cameras, laptops, wireless classrooms, animation festival, and much more.

We face big challenges with less funding and personnel this year, but we hold a positive attitude. McPherson families, teachers, and students nurture our community everyday, where we work and play together; through fun activities such as a yearly carnival, to growing together in our Earth Lab, to volunteering countless hours as a team.

With talented and knowledgeable staff members and family members dedicated to student learning, McPherson will be off to a great start.

# School News



To place *your* ad in our next issue  
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# Olive *Elementary*

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



**Kathryn Martin**  
Principal

## Looking Back and Anticipating a New Year

This past spring brought exciting times to Olive Elementary School! In May, Olive held its 10th Annual School Carnival. The carnival was put together completely by parent and classroom volunteers. Students enjoyed fun games and goofy prizes, along with plenty of fabulous carnival food! Every classroom created a basket to raffle, full of prizes donated by local merchants and families. The Angels Baseball Basket,

as well as the Sponge Bob Square Pants Basket were favorites. One of the highlights of the afternoon was when students joined forces to "Silly String" the principal and lead noon supervisor!

On the last Friday of school, Olive held its first ever Family Movie Night, with a good, old fashioned barbecue, freshly popped popcorn, and a movie under the stars! Olive students and teachers not only spent the spring working to achieve and surpass standards, they continued to honor our Olive families.

School begins again on August 20th and we are eager to begin a brand new year!



# Orange *High School*

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



**SK Johnson**  
Principal

## FFA STUDENTS • FROM PAGE 1

placed in the top ten for steer showmanship. Jahasiel Torres placed first in novice steer showmanship. Kimberly Rieg placed first in advanced steer showmanship. This means they are the best steer showmen in the county. They went on to compete in Master Showmanship, which means they compete with winners in the lamb, pig, calf, goat and steer showmanship winners. Jahasiel placed third overall in Novice Master Showmanship making him the third best novice showman in the county. Kimberly placed first in advanced showmanship making her the best overall advanced showman in the county!

All of these students have worked hard all year long and their efforts were evident during the eleven days at the fair! We are very proud of them!

**Lamb Show Team:** Shay Fuentes, Shannon Kea, Christina Piedra, Jessica Rafferty, Angeline Ramage, Breann Rogers, Elise von Wolzogen

**Pig Show Team:** Angel Gonzalez, Damien Johnson, Rachael McClellan, Jessica Rafferty

**Steer Show Team:** Brian Burckley, Angel Gonzalez, Damien Johnson, Kimberly Rieg, Matt Roque, Jahasiel Torres  
GO FFA Panthers!

# Panorama *Elementary*

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



**Michelle Moore**  
Principal

## By Dr. Rock D. Moore

Mrs. Michelle A. Moore, M.Ed is in her fourth year as principal of Panorama Elementary School in the Orange Unified School District. She comes from a diverse background that has suited her perfectly for her chosen profession. Her organizational skills were evident early in her work career. First, in a family-owned business, she was in charge of various tasks that were vital to the company's existence. Today the same company is a leader and one of the larger employers in the Inland Empire. Mrs. Moore owned and created a successful swim school, running all aspects of the business, before

spending several years in the classroom as both a private and public school teacher; in varying types of environments. She is a successful author, with several publications centered on high student expectations and data-driven instruction. Mrs. Moore has asked me to include that she has been happily married for nine years to a fellow educator, Dr. Rock Moore, and has a beautiful six (almost 7) year old daughter named Faith.

Today, she continues to embrace an educational philosophy which focuses in on student achievement, shared vision, school spirit, and building a professional learning community. She works diligently in her efforts to encourage educational partnerships with the community and will continue in her quest advocating for all students, regardless of their educational needs.

If you ask her what makes Panorama so special, Moore's response is always the same: "It is undoubtedly my Panther community. I could not imagine a better family of staff, students, and families; it is truly a unique environment." Committed to being a lifelong learner Moore not only expects her staff to attend professional development, she holds herself to the same expectation. In addition to working with her staff, Moore has enjoyed speaking on both the national and international levels on contemporary educational themes. Her commitment is that she and her staff will reach beyond expectations for each student. Through continual reflection, and using data as their guide, Moore and her staff have set the goal of truly personalizing each student's educational experience at Panorama Elementary School. Thanks to the efforts of the entire community, Panorama was named a 2008 California Distinguished School and has been a California Ranked 10-10 school for three consecutive years. Congratulations Panorama we are all very proud.

# Palmyra *Elementary*

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



**Connie Smith**  
Principal

## Looking Forward to Exciting Year

With 28 years in education, Palmyra Principal Connie Smith has a diverse range of skills as a classroom teacher, mentor teacher, IBM education consultant, site administrator and district curriculum coordinator. Through her many professional ventures, as a former Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 17 Elementary Administrator Representative, Adjunct Professor at Concordia University and membership on the Tustin Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors, Connie has supported Palmyra's efforts to expand partnerships with community members inside and outside the City of Orange.

Connie shares her administrative expertise by serving as an assessor for the Orange County Department of Education in their Developing the 21st Century Principal program. During the 2008-09 school year, she enjoyed adding a new experience to her diverse background in education as the Palmyra team brought on board the District's first through sixth grade SUCSESS (Systematic Utilization of Comprehensive Strategies for Ensuring Student Success) program, addressing the needs of students with Autism. Her collaborative and compassionate style of leadership led Palmyra to the honorable distinction of being a 2008 California Distinguished School.

Connie celebrates the beginning of her seventh year at Palmyra Elementary and looks forward to an exciting and academically rigorous school year.

# Parkside *Pre-K*

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



**Kristi Franco**  
*Principal*

## Feels Like a Homecoming

As the newly appointed special education Preschool Coordinator, I look forward to helping our students discover, learn and grow throughout the upcoming school year. My return to Parkside feels like a homecoming, as I began my career in Orange Unified as a special education preschool teacher where I gained firsthand knowledge of the benefits of early education intervention.

A focus this year at Parkside will be to continue to serve our students by providing programs designed to meet their specific educational needs. The school will continue to implement the peer model program which incorporates children from the community into our classes, creating positive relationships and a rich social and academic environment. For many of our families their student's placement here at Parkside is the first experience with public education and we take pride in introducing them to the Orange Unified School District (OUSD) where we believe all children can learn. Our goal is to establish positive relationships with our families that will last throughout their entire educational career in OUSD.

Most of our students begin attending Parkside at the early age of three. We have the great responsibility and privilege of assisting these little ones with the skills necessary to become successful students. The special education preschool program establishes a critical foundation for the educational future of our students, but it does so in a creative and caring manner. Early education is a careful dance between structure and routine and play and discovery, one at which our staff excels.

# Prospect *Elementary*

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



**Elena Stoces**  
*Principal*

## New Bell Schedule for Prospect!

For the 09-10 school year, Prospect Elementary is excited to be implementing a new bell schedule. Each day, except Wednesdays, our students will be dismissed later than in the past and use the extra minutes accumulated so that on our "modified" Wednesdays, we can dismiss earlier, every week.

Decided upon by our teaching staff, these modified Wednesdays after school will be busy ones! In addition to monthly staff meetings, the staff will further their professional development through collaboration and planning time in professional learning communities.

Research shows that effective schools build in time for teachers to collaborate frequently on instructional strategies that directly improve student achievement. Over the past few years, Prospect has been hiring substitutes to release teachers for this important time to work together. With budget cuts at hand, and a strong desire to preserve the integrity of our instructional time, teachers will no longer be pulled out of class for this type of purpose. This will definitely be a more effective and efficient use of their valuable teacher time. In addition, the students will not have as many substitute teachers as often as they had in the past, which will automatically make a direct and positive impact on our students' achievement.

Congratulations to the Prospect teaching staff for joining the ranks of many other Orange Unified elementary schools that also have adopted the modified Wednesday schedule. At Prospect, we are continuing to increase student achievement and we are looking forward to the positive impact we plan on reaping with this exciting change.

# Portola *Middle School*

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



**Deborah Backstrom**  
*Principal*

## New Principal

It is with pleasure that we introduce Deborah E. Backstrom newly appointed Principal at Portola Middle School.

Born and raised in Southern California, Mrs. Backstrom began her education in Downey, California, where she attended elementary, middle and high school. She continued her education, receiving an associate of arts degree in sociology from Cerritos College, and then attended California State University at Long Beach, where received her bachelor of arts in sociology and a designated subjects teaching credential. She received her administrative credential and Master of Science degree in education from California State University, Fullerton.

Mrs. Backstrom's career in education began in 1984 when she was employed as a teacher in Orange Unified School. Her passion has always been working with students and guiding them to be the best they can be. Mrs. Backstrom has worked with many programs within Orange Unified.

Since 2000, she has served in an administrative capacity. Before coming to Portola, Mrs. Backstrom was the Principal at Richland High School. "I am so excited to be part of such a wonderful school district and to be at Portola Middle School," Backstrom said. "My door is always open to all students, parents and staff. I am looking forward to a great school year."

Mrs. Backstrom has been married to her high school sweetheart for 37 years and he teaches at Orange High School. They have one daughter (Kelli) who is married to Steve Vermillion. They have two beautiful children, Andrew and Megan.

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# Richland *High School*

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



**Ed Madrid**  
*Continuation  
School Principal*

## Welcome Back!

I am pleased to be a part of a district that offers students the opportunity to achieve success if they need an alternative educational program to graduate. The staff at Richland High School is eager to start the year so that students can catch up with their credits. We have an accelerated program of instruction that is academically based that offers students the opportunity to graduation. Graduation depends upon daily attendance so let's start the year with a commitment to DAILY attendance.

All new and returning students to Richland have a Parent/Student Orientation meeting scheduled prior to the opening of school on August 20th. I look forward to having the opportunity to meet with you to go over our goals for the year.

Welcome back to school.

# Running Springs *Elementary*

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



**Lydia Roach**  
*Principal*

## Congratulations Quilters

Congratulations to Mrs. Okamura and her 2008-2009 class of fifth-graders for earning First Place and the special placing of Division Winner in this year's Orange County Fair Jr. Quilt competition! As a culminating activity, each student in Mrs. Okamura's class created a 10"x10" quilt square using muslin and permanent markers that depicted some aspect of the Revolutionary War. Some students depicted the Declaration of Independence while other students drew Minute Men. Each quilt square was then put together to form a quilt with the assistance of parent volunteer,

Mrs. Heistermann, and Mrs. Okamura's own mother, Nancy Fischer. The students proudly displayed the finished quilt at last year's Open House in May before entering it in this year's Home Arts and Crafts division at the fair. The quilt will be on display in the school office for all to enjoy!

# Serrano *Elementary*

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



**Bobie Lansman**  
*EdD  
Principal*

## Star-Studded Year

There is no business like Serrano School business, and we are rolling out the red carpet for a star-studded new school year. The Serrano theme for 2009-2010 is "Lights, Camera,

Learning!" Teachers are busily preparing award winning lessons for creative and brilliant young minds to soak up knowledge through exploration, discovery and attainment of proficiency in daily learning. Along with a "two-thumbs up" staff, kudos are to be given to the wonderful and supportive parents, grandparents and family members who involve themselves the myriad of activities which benefit all Serrano children. We are proud and grateful to involve the Serrano community in our efforts to promote our concentration of reading comprehension and vocabulary development as we focus on building better readers and writers. Tinsel town beware, this year the place to be is "Serrano-wood" for a year filled with lights, cameras and learning!



**Serrano School theme for 2009-2010.**

# Riverdale *Elementary*

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



**Sheila Thompson**  
*Principal*

## New to Riverdale

The Riverdale Ravens are looking forward to beginning the 2009-2010 school year and joining them will be their new principal, Shelia Thompson. Although new to Riverdale, she has been in the district for some 30 years. During her time with OUSD, she has served at a number of schools around the district including McPherson (when it was a junior high), Vista del Rio Junior High (currently the Crescent upper grade site), Orange High, Cerro Villa Middle School, Panorama Elementary, Linda Vista Elementary, Crescent Elementary, and now Riverdale Elementary.

Over the years, she has been an English teacher, a physical education teacher, coach, Girls' Athletic Director, an advisor for many clubs and organizations along the way, school counselor, vice-principal, and principal. With alot of experience in hand upon arrival at Riverdale, she is excited and ready to become an active part of the Riverdale community and their continuing quest to meet the needs of the children there.

# Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



**Mary Henry**  
*Principal*

## Continued Excellence

Mrs. Henry has been principal at Santiago for five years. She takes great pride in being a member of the Santiago team – working with the students, the staff, and the community. She has the unique distinction of having had many roles at Santiago, having been a parent, a teacher, the curriculum manager, and an assistant principal before becoming principal. Besides Santiago, high on her priority list are love of family and the appreciation of her roots.

Students and parents are usually surprised when they first hear Mrs. Henry speak Spanish. Mrs. Henry was raised in Calexico, California, a very small town that borders Mexicali, Baja California. She learned and spoke both languages as she was growing up. A close family friend and neighbor could only speak German and so Mrs. Henry learned German too.

Mrs. Henry attended UCLA where she met and married her husband Frank. The three Henry children, Sean, Rory, and Tara are all UCLA graduates. The family enjoys going to Bruin sporting events, especially the Softball College World Series where they were able to see Tara play.

It should be no surprise that her office is decorated in blue and gold. Also present in her office are several John Wooden books. One of her favorite John Wooden quotes is "Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

Mrs. Henry considers this valuable advice. Working at a charter school keeps everyone busy and thinking out of the box. There really is no time to think about why something cannot happen. Instead, the thought is how we can make it happen! This year we look forward to renewing the spirit of the Charter as we enter our fifteenth year.

Please Drive Safely  
Students Are  
Back in School

# Sycamore *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Bruce**  
*Principal*

## Welcome to the 2009–2010 school year!

Sycamore Elementary is excited to once again be in the main school buildings after a year of our modernization project. Classrooms have been updated with all the latest technology such as LCD projectors mounted in the ceilings, a new library and computer lab as well as several classrooms will have interactive SMARTBoards installed.

In addition to beginning the school year in our new school; we have a new mascot! Thanks to the efforts of Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Gillian Pons, our school voted on incorporating our location near the ocean for our theme. Our mascot is the Sea Lion and has been dubbed Splash. The Splash Sea Lion made it's debut at our end of the year awards assemblies. All of the students, parents and teachers welcomed it with excitement!!! We have retired our Falcon!

Our 2009 – 2010 school year will continue to focus on academic achievement for all students. Second and third grades have been selected to receive the Mind Institute Grant in Math. These two grade levels will spend 45 minutes two times a week in the computer lab developing Math skills through a computer based program. Our school will also focus on Response to Intervention (RtI), leveling students at each grade level during intervention time to meet their individual learning needs. Finally Positive Behavior intervention Support (PBIS) will be in full swing at Sycamore.

We are excited about our new school, new programs and new opportunities we will be involved in during the school year.

# Taft *Elementary*

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



**Antoniette Coe**  
*Principal*

## New Principal

Mrs. Antoinette Coe is beginning her first year as principal at Taft Elementary. She stated, "I am really excited to be working with the students, parents, staff, and community at Taft Elementary." She has been with Orange Unified School District for eight years serving as a Reading First Literacy Coach and elementary school teacher. She most recently served as the Assistant Principal for both La Veta and Lampson Elementary Schools.

Before coming to Orange Unified, Mrs. Coe lived in Temecula, California where she taught both kindergarten and third grade at a local elementary school. Mrs. Coe said, "Even though I enjoyed living in Temecula, it felt great to move to Orange County where I grew up".

Mrs. Coe is a California native, she grew up in Anaheim and graduated from Magnolia High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts with a minor in sociology in 1997 and multiple subject teaching credential in 1998 from California State University of San Marcos. Subsequently, Mrs. Coe earned an administrative credential from University California at Irvine.

Mrs. Coe has served on the Executive Council of the Orange County Reading Association and made a presentation at their fall conference last year.

Currently, Mrs. Coe resides in Yorba Linda with her husband Eric, a Director at a local staffing firm. She has three school aged children: her daughter Taylor (16), her son Zachary (15), and her youngest daughter Madeline (12). Mrs. Coe spends most of her free time watching her children play soccer. In addition, she enjoys running, reading, and waterskiing.

# Villa Park *Elementary*

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



**Debra Larson**  
*Principal*

## New Journey

It is my great pleasure to be assigned to Villa Park Elementary School as principal. I am excited to begin my new journey and I look forward to the 2009-10 school year with great enthusiasm. I am a native Californian and have lived in the Anaheim Hills area with my husband for over 30 years. We have three daughters who also attended schools in the Orange Unified School District. I have been an educator in Orange Unified for the past 24 years.

Throughout my career I have taught kindergarten through sixth grade and spent three years as an assistant principal and the last

six years as principal at Anaheim Hills Elementary. My professional experiences are richer because of what I have learned from the teachers of this district. I know I have chosen the perfect profession, and I gain energy from the students, teachers and parents I work with every day. Together we will make it another great year to learn and grow. PROUD TO BE A VILLA PARK BOBCAT!

# Villa Park *High School*

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



**Ed Howard**  
*Principal*

## This is the Year

This is the year...As a student every year around this time I would start to think about the upcoming year and begin to get excited. I remember telling myself this is the year

that I will focus and do my best. This is the year that I will live up to the expectations of my parents and teachers. This is the year that I will meet and exceed all of my goals. Well, some twenty odd years later I find myself in the same position with the same enthusiasm and excitement about the year we are about to start at VPHS. This is the year that we will do our best to service our students. This is the year that we will live up to the expectations of our community. This is the year we will exceed all of our goals. Let's make this the year.



# West Orange *Elementary*

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



**Michael Olander**  
Principal

## West Orange Talent Recognized

As principal, I am very fortunate to work with such a strong, bright, dedicated and talented staff. This is only the beginning of my second year as part of the West Orange Elementary team. Over the past several years West Orange has been the recipient of numerous awards, recognitions, and certificates of achievement, beginning long before I joined the school. These honors are due to the persistence, hard work and integrity of the teachers and staff.

At the end of last school year, the legacy of the quality of West Orange's staff was perpetuated once again. West Orange's Teacher of the Year, Brandi Black-Le Tourneau (BLT), and Classified Employee of the Year, John Montoya, both received honors as District Employee of the Year. Mrs. BLT's comment when asked about the award epitomizes the culture of collaboration at West Orange. She humbly stated that there are other West Orange teachers who deserve the recognition just as much because of the teamwork and sharing that exists.

Mrs. BLT and Mr. Montoya weren't simply representing themselves. They represented the quality and integrity of the West Orange staff as a whole.



# Yorba *Middle School*

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



**Tara Saraye**  
Principal

## Yorba Modernization

Have you noticed the big changes at Yorba? We've moved the entire school and are now in portable classrooms. These clean, new, temporary classrooms will be our school for the next 17 months, while the old facility gets a completely new face-lift with new modernized features.

At the old Yorba site built in 1957, crews are currently demolishing the insides of the buildings. After that, you will see new construction begin. The old site is off limits during this construction time.

Once finished, our new school will have a dedicated auditorium for concerts and performances, a brand new kitchen, a larger office area with conference rooms, and updated classrooms with new technology. This entire process will bring 21st century learning to Yorba students and prepare students for their future.

To enter the new portable site, you are able to park in a new lot off Cambridge Street and enter to the main offices. There you can talk to the staff and pick up a map of the new classroom and school lay out.

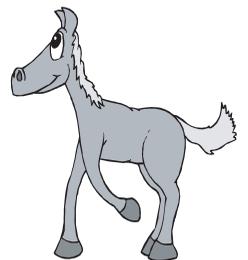
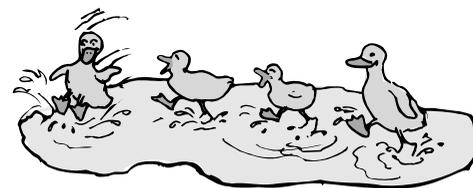
We are all very excited!



# NAMES OF ANIMAL BABIES

F	I	N	G	E	R	L	I	N	G	K	A	P	O	Y
R	L	U	O	N	A	X	G	N	I	L	D	O	C	W
M	V	A	C	W	I	K	I	T	O	A	R	D	H	Y
B	B	I	O	A	L	L	T	L	B	E	P	E	I	Z
F	Y	A	C	F	G	E	K	O	B	F	L	A	C	K
Q	L	T	K	D	N	N	T	C	B	P	R	M	K	B
Q	L	E	E	R	S	D	I	M	U	P	Q	Y	A	W
F	I	L	R	E	P	P	A	L	F	D	B	U	C	R
F	F	G	E	A	G	L	E	T	T	S	Q	U	E	G
G	N	I	L	S	O	G	R	E	Z	S	P	P	R	W
J	Y	P	V	V	U	J	R	N	G	Y	E	Y	Q	D
E	V	C	E	M	U	E	G	G	G	E	B	N	Q	V
S	B	D	R	G	V	C	S	Y	H	K	C	N	F	K
E	U	F	V	E	F	M	O	C	Z	C	J	U	F	L
S	V	F	L	J	W	Y	S	R	W	W	U	B	R	G

- |          |            |          |
|----------|------------|----------|
| Bunny    | Eaglet     | Kid      |
| Calf     | Elver      | Kit      |
| Cheeper  | Fawn       | Kitten   |
| Chick    | Filly      | Lamb     |
| Cockerel | Fingerling | Leveret  |
| Codling  | Flapper    | Nestling |
| Colt     | Fledgling  | Owlet    |
| Cub      | Foal       | Piglet   |
| Cygnets  | Fry        | Squab    |
| Duckling | Gosling    | Whelp    |



**SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1**



**Renae Dreier, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

Since 1987, twenty-three OUSD schools have been awarded the honor of California Distinguished School, with three of these schools receiving the award more than once. California Elementary received the Title I Academic Achievement Award for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years.

Each of the high schools in our District offer programs to provide students enrichment opportunities. For example Canyon High students may participate in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The OUSD Laptop program is offered at Canyon, El Modena and Villa Park, and students at Orange High School have the opportunity to take part in the Agriculture and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) programs.

As we move forward in these most challenging times, it is more important than ever to keep our focus on student achievement. Our 2009-2012 Strategic Plan will include the following six goal areas: 1) Student Achievement; 2) Student Engagement; 3) Safe, Welcoming Schools; 4) Parent and Community Partnerships; 5) Communication; and, 6) Effective Use of Resources. I encourage all of our student families, business, and community members to view our website regularly at [www.orangeusd.org](http://www.orangeusd.org) for news updates on our schools and District.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1**



**Rick Ledesma**  
President

The implementation of these goals will occur through the development of specific steps by those who are the providers of education in OUSD – the Board of Education, District Office administration, principals, teachers and non-instructional staff.

With this plan, along with continuous review of other programs, the Board seeks to have all students succeeding at the highest possible levels. As always, the Board of Education welcomes the support of parents and the community in our efforts to achieve excellence in education. The Board of Education is available to the community, should you have any questions or concerns. Please feel free to contact the Board through the Superintendent's office at 714-628-4533, or via e-mail at [board@orangeusd.org](mailto:board@orangeusd.org).

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D.D.S.

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# City of Orange

Community Services Department

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

## Special Events

Orange Special Event Hotline (714) 744-7278

### Treats in the Streets Autumn Festival



Thursday, October 29, 2009 at the Old Towne Orange Plaza Area 4 – 7 p.m. Celebrate the fall season with an evening full of fun activities, including games, food booths, trick or treating, costume parade and entertainment for participants of all ages. Parents, please leave pets at home.

### Veterans Day Tribute



Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at the Veterans Memorial at Depot Park, 100 N. Atchison St. Orange, 92866, 2:00 p.m.

Help us honor past veterans and current military with patriotic music and inspirational speeches. If you are a veteran or active member interested in participating in the program or you have a photo to share for the display at the event, please contact Lisa Tamburelli at (714) 744-7294 or [ltamburelli@cityoforange.org](mailto:ltamburelli@cityoforange.org).

## Youth Programs

(714) 744-7293

Free After-school Recreational Programs.

Programs offer fun activities, crafts, sports, games and a nutritional program. In partnership with the Friendly Center, programs now offer tutoring. For additional information on Friendly Center programs, contact

(714) 771-5300 or visit [www.friendlycenter.org](http://www.friendlycenter.org). A program packet must be completed in order to begin and are at the sites during program time.

### Program Sites

**El Camino Park**

400 N. Main St., 92868

2:30 – 6:00 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

**GrijalvaPark/  
Prospect School**

368 N. Prospect Ave., 92869

2:30 – 6:00 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

**Killefer Park**

615 N. Lemon St., 92868

2:30 – 6:00 p.m. Mon. – Fri.

### Co-ed Youth Flag Football

(714) 744-7265

This recreational league offers youth the opportunity to learn the skills and techniques used in the game of football in a fun and safe environment.

Volunteer coaches needed.

**Orientation:** Sat., September 12, 9:30 a.m.

**First Game:** Sat., September 19 and every Sat. on varying game schedule 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

\$25 per participant for ages 8 – 13. Please contact Mark Matsuda at (714) 744-7265 if you are interested in becoming a volunteer coach and/or have additional questions.



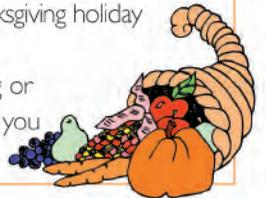
### 17th Annual Thanksgiving Basket Program

The City of Orange in partnership with the Friendly Center is proud to provide this exceptional Thanksgiving Basket Program that helps make the Thanksgiving holiday extra special for disadvantaged families in Orange. Please contact

Emily Chacon at (714) 744-5599 or [echacon@cityoforange.org](mailto:echacon@cityoforange.org) or

Cathy Seeling at (714) 771-5300 or [Cathy@friendlycenter.org](mailto:Cathy@friendlycenter.org) if you

are interested in contributing to this commendable program.



## Thank You 2009 Community Partners!

With your contribution, the City of Orange can continue to create community and celebrate family and friends through special events. To receive additional information on how you can become a partner, please contact Danielle Valadez at (714) 744-7267 or [dvaladez@cityoforange.org](mailto:dvaladez@cityoforange.org) for a brochure.



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