

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



## Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 25

DECEMBER 2009–JANUARY 2010

### SUPERINTENDENT



**Renae Dreier, Ed.D.**

**Strategic Plan  
2009-2012  
Year 1 Priorities-  
Action Progress  
Report Nov. 2009**

This is our first year of implementation of our Strategic Plan.

As we being the second quarter of our school year it is time to provide an Action Progress Report for our first year goals. Listed below are the goal areas along with targets and progress thus far.

### Student Achievement

**Target A: Essential Learnings—** Instructional staff will identify, understand, and use common K-12 curriculum in core content areas for all students.

#### Progress

- Staff has developed a plan to review K-12 Essential Learnings for all core content areas.
- The 8th grade US History teachers, through the 2nd year of the “Teaching American History Grant,” meet monthly to define the Essential Learnings for 8th grade US History.
- K-12 Curriculum Council development is in the planning stages.

#### Target B: Instruction—

Staff will identify, understand, and implement effective standards-based classroom instruction.

#### Progress

- Professional Development Identify elements of lesson design
- BTSA principal site training modules (new principals)

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 18

## Leaders and Readers



Nohl Canyon students participate in nationwide event Hats on Day for pediatric cancer.

*By Dominique Polchow, Principal  
Nohl Canyon Elementary*

By the time a Nohl Canyon (NC) School Roadrunner hits the upper grades, there are a variety of leadership opportunities for students.

Upper-grade students have the option of joining student council. Student council sponsors many exciting events through the school year.

Most recently, NC students participated in Hats On Day, in awareness of pediatric cancer. Future events will include the Care & Share Holiday Food Drive for Second Harvest, Pennies for Patients, Friends of Orange County’s Homeless Pets, and various spirit days throughout the school year.

SEE LEADERS • PAGE 9

### BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Rick Ledesma**  
President

#### Reflections on Excellence

As I reflect upon my time as president of the Orange Unified School District’s Board of Education this year, it is clear that this has been unlike any other year in recent times. Certainly, the budget crisis in Sacramento has contributed greatly to our current challenges and those of the past year. In spite of the unprecedented budget cuts due to erroneous tax revenue forecasting at the state level, our district continues to be

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 19



**Alex Adams**  
Student Advisory  
Representative  
Canyon H. S.

#### Academics, Athletics & Activities

Canyon High School has been very active this school year, focusing on the three A’s: academics, athletics & activities.

Teachers, students, and staff busily prepared for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation, which took place in November, and we are hopeful that the results will shed a positive light on the progress that Canyon has made over the past six years.

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### Your Reading Electives Inside:

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Our next issue is February 17.



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**Kay Coop**

Founder / Publisher



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the *School News* staff.

From individual families to small and large businesses, financially it has been a challenging year.

Superintendent Dreier's message on the front page gives an indepth look at the District's Strategic Plan for 2009-2012 and progress report.

We are always mindful of our service men and women who have volunteered to protect our county.

We join you looking ahead to the new year with optimism and hope for a bright future. Happy New Year!

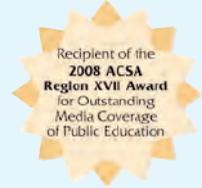
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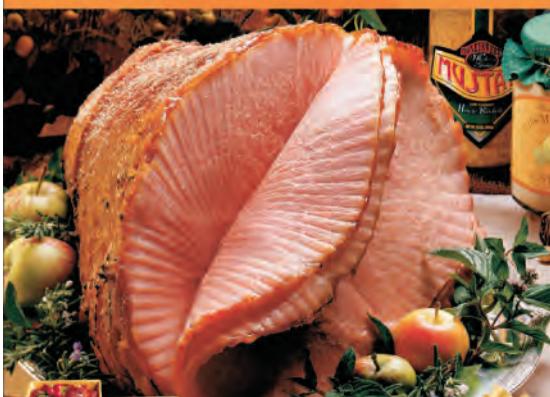


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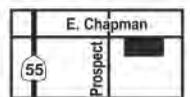
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200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92628  
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# H1N1 Flu-Stay Informed, Stay Healthy



**William M. Habermehl**  
Superintendent

With the start of the school year, many parents are concerned about the return of the H1N1 virus (also known as the Swine Flu) to our schools. The H1N1 flu began spreading in spring of 2009, and health officials are predicting that we will continue to see the spread of the virus this fall and winter.

You may have heard the word “pandemic” used when describing the H1N1 virus, and wondered what this meant. An epidemic is defined as an outbreak of a contagious disease that is rapid and widespread, affecting many people at the same time. A pandemic is an epidemic that becomes so widespread that it affects a region, continent, or the world. In June 2009, the

World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the H1N1 outbreak had reached pandemic level 6, meaning that person-to-person transmission of the virus had occurred in two separate world regions. This is the first flu pandemic in 41 years.

H1N1 is a new virus, one that most people have little or no immunity to. It is for this reason that this virus may cause more infections than are usually seen with seasonal flu. According to U.S. health officials, H1N1flu could strike up to 40 percent of Americans over the next two years, about twice the number of people who usually get sick in a normal flu season. The virus spreads very fast, particularly among young people (from ages 10-45). Fortunately, the majority of people who contact the virus experience mild symptoms and recover fully without antiviral treatment.

### What Can You Do?

How can you help your children, yourself, and your family stay healthy this flu season? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that we:

**Practice good hand hygiene:** Wash hands often with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

**Follow respiratory etiquette:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.

**Stay home if you are sick:** Keeping sick people at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves, and don't share them with others.

The Orange County Department of Education has created a website that contains links to state, national, and global resources and a variety of information sheets and toolkits that parents and schools may find useful. Visit [http://www.ocde.k12.ca.us/flu\\_update.asp](http://www.ocde.k12.ca.us/flu_update.asp) to find the latest information and recommendations around the H1N1 virus.

Let's be proactive in stopping the spread of flu viruses at school and at home. Our goal at the Orange County Department of Education is to keep our schools healthy while continuing to provide a world class education where every student succeeds!



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# Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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



*By the members of PALS*

## **PALS**

The student council (PALS) is off to a wonderful start here at Anaheim Hills Elementary School! There are over 60 students involved in helping to make Anaheim Hills a better place. The PALS club is made up of fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders who meet twice a month.

**Sandra Miller**  
*Principal*

PALS has organized a food drive to help bring some relief to those who are less fortunate. We are also planning a toy drive in December to make the holidays happy for other children. In the spring, we will be organizing a Pennies for Patients event to help children in need.

PALS also helps around the school. Students help in the parking lot, meeting and opening doors for students at drop-off time in the morning. PALS also volunteer at PTA events, such as Trunk or Treat Night, to be sure everyone has a good time. PALS are also planning spirit days for the student body.

PALS wants Anaheim Hills to be a safe, fun and exciting place to go to school.

# Cambridge *Elementary*

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



*By PAL Leaders Ms. Beth Brunner and Mrs. Nicole Wyckoff*

## **Developing Leaders**

Cambridge Elementary School's Peer Assistance Leadership group (PAL) consists of fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students who are dedicated to the betterment of our campus.

This year, PAL has developed themes for spirit assemblies, performed at our Literacy Carnival, and organized a successful Red Ribbon week that included daily themes, lunch activities, door-decorating contests and our annual "Walk Around the Block" activity.

Fourth-grade representative Maribel Tapia explains that, "We really got students involved this year, especially during the lunch contests. My favorite was Squash Out Drugs (an activity where the students had to sit on as many balloons as possible in a two-minute period). Everyone seemed really happy and excited to cheer for their grade level.

This year's PAL group is planning such activities as a holiday food drive, a Leukemia penny drive and a special Earth Day event, where our faculty, family and community members can join together to clean up the campus. They also recently began a Welcome Club to support new students.

The PAL program is designed to discover student leaders and then assist them with developing their talents. Cambridge recently began this great program on campus, and is looking forward to expanding it to more students and even larger projects in the future.



**Cambridge students walked in our community to share anti-drug/smoking message.**

# California *Elementary*

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



*By Patricia Ruiz, Teacher 4th Grade*

## **Fourth Grade Leaders**

Getting students to contribute to society has been a fun and engaging experience at California Elementary. Last year, our school started a recycling program which includes recycling of plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and paper products have continued this school year. Fourth grade students actively participate under the direction of our fourth

grade teacher, Allison Agresti. After training her students on the process of collecting items from each classroom, the students are eager and willing to help with the program. As an added bonus, one student even gets to wear a special green recycling cape known as the Super Recycler Cape. The recycling program will not only offer students opportunity to lead our school to become a "greener school" but also prepares them to become productive and contributing citizens of our society in the future. Go California Bears!



# Canyon Hills

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



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

## **A Season of Thanks**

Our computer lab has been operating well during these past few months, thanks to the efforts of both our teachers and the Information Services department. They make sure to keep the lab in good working order.

We now have an additional 15 computers that were recently donated to Canyon Hills. They are being cleaned and re-configured, and will soon be placed into the classrooms for direct student use.

A big thank-you goes to the Canyon Hills Parent Association, too, for sponsoring a pumpkin patch day at school. The students were treated to a field of pumpkins with real hay bales and scarecrows! Each child was able to select a pumpkin that they could decorate on their own. It was definitely a great day for all.

Another big thanks goes to the Canyon Hills Parent Association for their recent donation of \$4,000. This money helped to purchase a new sound system for our assemblies, along with a new carpet cleaner for our custodian, new balls for our students, board games for teaching, and some DVD/VCR players for our classrooms.

One of our corporate partners recently held an employee fund-raiser. It was a successful "hallway golf" event designed to raise funds for worthy charities. This year they included our Canyon Hills parent group as one of the organizations to which they are donating.

So far, we have already received more than \$450 from the Mitsubishi Digital Electronics Association, too, and some of their vendors are also sending us additional matching funds.



# Canyon *High School*

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



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

## Student Leadership Opportunities

Canyon High School provides many opportunities for students to gain experience in leadership and improve their skills. The student government program, Associated Student Body (ASB), takes an active role in the planning and execution of student-life activities on campus. Beyond planning dances and pep rallies, the ASB class focuses the students on learning and experiencing leadership through their roles representing their classmates in making decisions that affect all students.

In addition, there are over 50 clubs sponsored by teachers at the school, and students can become active in these clubs to explore leadership opportunities. Most of the clubs hold elections for their own officers, and students are encouraged to participate in the club program through the two club rush events, held in October and February.

Our students are also encouraged to join the Canyon High School PTSA, and there are over 300 student members in this organization. The competitive clubs, including the Mock Trial Team, the Science Olympiad Team, and the Solar Boat Team, provide interested students with the access to hands-on activities to practice their leadership. These clubs compete with teams from other schools throughout Southern California and allow Canyon Comanches to test their skills against leaders from other schools.

Finally, our athletics program provides leadership development opportunities for over 1,000 of our students. In the environment of competitive sports, students are challenged both physically and mentally to reach goals they set with their coaches. In this competitive environment, teams elect leaders, who provide the guidance and direction necessary for success.

# Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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



**Julie Lucas**  
*Principal*

## Reaching Out

The student council members at Chapman Hills are showing their leadership skills in many ways.

One of their most enjoyable activities is the weekly presentation of *Good Morning Bobcat*. Each Friday the students do a live television show which is broadcast throughout the entire school. They have sports and weather reporters, as well as two anchors, along with show hosts President Clint Hurdle and Vice President Alex Pugliese.

All Chapman Hills students are able to submit “shout outs” to friends and teachers that they can present live, as well as mention those students who are being honored and recognized for outstanding accomplishment.

Another way the council shows its leadership is through the fine organization and coordination provided to the holiday toy and food drives. This is one of the ways they reach out to our local community.

## Fun Activities

Council members also organize and host many lunchtime activities that the students love to participate in. One recent activity was the Turkey Run, where students chased council members equipped with turkey feathers (or football flags)! The class that pulled the most “feathers” was crowned Turkey Run champions.

The student council is also setting up a recycling center on campus so that the students may take better care of our planet. We are proud of all our student leaders, and are honored to have them represent Chapman Hills!

This year’s members are President Clint Hurdle, Vice President Alex Pugliese, Secretary Caitlin Lim, Treasurer Christine Catlett, Communication Specialist Celia Janes and Member-at-Large Julianna Janes.

# Canyon Rim *Elementary*

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



**David Appling**  
*Principal*

## Making Their Choices

Canyon Rim students have many opportunities to increase their leadership experience when they participate in our active student council group. Everyone is encouraged to become involved in school government and either run for elective office or become registered voters.

This year, over 65 upper-grade students placed their names on the primary ballot for the six executive positions of president, vice president, spirit director, secretary, treasurer and sergeant-at-arms.

Of these, 23 students advanced to the final level. Here they were asked to prepare clever and imaginative election campaigns and decorate the school with their posters and stickers. These finalists also prepared clever and humorous campaign speeches to present to the registered voters.

The election results are now in, and this year’s student council officers can be announced. They are Justin Liles, sergeant-at-arms; Bradley Bowman, treasurer; Autumn Schorr, spirit director; Alexa Graham, secretary; Devin Pierce, vice president; and Christopher Burica, president. These officers and 21 other student council representatives were installed on November 2nd.

This dedicated group of leaders is already hard at work. They have created a welcoming committee for new students, and have even been choosing this year’s Spirit Day activities. They are also busy with the “Sparks of Love” toy drive, and are getting ready to raise money for an end-of-year school gift.



**Devin Pierce, Christopher Burica,  
Bradley Bowman, Mr. David Appling,  
Justin Liles, Alexa Graham, Autumn Schorr.**

# Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



**Sue Baden**  
*Acting Principal*

## By Lisa Hedspeth, Activities Director Student Leadership Opportunities

Everybody can be a leader, because everybody can serve!

At Cerro Villa, we believe that service learning equals leadership opportunities for our students. That’s why we have ASB officers, a leadership class, homeroom representatives and a number of interesting clubs. But we want to open the door for even more leadership participation from our Vikings, because to be a leader at Cerro Villa, one must learn to put others first.

We have organizations that develop detailed plans to help meet the needs of our community. At this moment, our “Character Cabinet” and “Peace Providers” are joining together with our different homerooms to collect toys and gift cards for the holidays that they will give to other students in the district.

The Honor Society students also have a service proposal that will fulfill their own community service hours. And our Leadership Class has united with Yorba’s own program to create “Caring Boxes” for those families in need within the district.

We are trying to foster a sense of leadership in our students by infusing service learning opportunities wherever we can. We believe that students who participate in service learning can improve their studies in such different academic areas as critical thinking, communication, public speaking, problem solving, reasoning, and team building.

We know that our dedication to caring for others will generate future leaders in the community!

# Crescent *Elementary*

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



**Randi Leach**  
Principal

By Michelle Venckus and Barbara Buckett  
*Student Council Advisors*  
**Our Student Council Leaders Shine!**

Great leaders make things happen, and that's what's happening at Crescent Elementary. Our Student Council elections are over, our officers are in place and their leadership is working its magic. During first quarter, our school enjoyed a Student Council-led sports-themed Spirit Day with a parent luncheon and games. We participated in "LT-O's Operation Bit of Home" project and collected enough items to fill 20 boxes for our troops in Iraq. Our Halloween-gram sales raised \$120, which paid for the postage of the boxes. We are very proud of our Student Council.

When asked what leadership means to them, our officers had the following thoughts: Leadership means to be responsible and optimistic. Leadership means to work well with others while leading the way to be successful in your activities.

Leadership means to take charge of a group, which is an important personality trait.

Leadership is being able to stand up for others while being brave enough to stand up for what is right, even if you stand alone.

With these enthusiastic students, Crescent will lead our community.



**Student Council Officers Melinda Guo, Heather Ziemba, Jacqueline Venckus, Blake O'Donnell, Connor Ewing, Sloan Cinkle.**

# El Modena *High School*

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



**John Briquetelet**  
Principal

**Bobby Konoske: Earth Angel!**

Bobby Konoske is a senior at El Modena and an Advanced Placement (AP) student. In addition, he is an editor for the *Frontline*, our school newspaper, and president of Project Give and Grow. This year, Bobby led the club's efforts to provide funds to the Central Asia Institute, an organization started by Greg Mortensen, author of *Three Cups of Tea*. The institute is a nonprofit organization that builds schools for children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Bobby eventually settled upon a bold plan that would also bring a little culture to El Modena. He contacted the Alley Cats,

a world-famous doo-wop group, and asked if they would be interested in performing a benefit concert. When he explained the benefit's cause, the Alley Cats generously agreed.

Bobby then planned every aspect of the event in tremendous detail and worked out contingency plans for a variety of scenarios. Although he asked for my input, there was nothing I could add. Needless to say, I was impressed.

The Alley Cats performed at El Modena in late October and were in fine voice as they sang a variety of '50s and '60s doo-wop hits. Ultimately, the benefit raised over \$1,100 for the Central Asia Institute, and over half of this came from the enthusiastic audience's direct donations!

There is no question that Bobby Konoske exemplifies the compassion, vision and leadership we strive to foster in our Vanguarders, and it is no surprise that we are very proud of him. Well done, Bobby!

# El Rancho Charter

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

*Middle School*



**John Besta**  
Principal

**Student Leadership Opportunities**

El Rancho provides its students with the opportunity to increase their leadership skills by enrolling in a special class.

In previous years our students would meet periodically to plan their school activities. But last year, a specific leadership class was created that would give interested students a more comprehensive understanding of what "leadership" means.

In addition to providing the student body with weekly activities, the Leadership students are also good role models for their peers. There is a minimum grade and citizenship requirement for participation, and every student needs to complete 10 hours of community service each quarter.

We are starting our holiday Adopt-A-Family program through the Southwest Community Center. Our El Rancho classes will adopt 20 needy families and provide them with food, clothing and gifts for the holidays. Students from each classroom will then be able to meet their families prior to the holidays.

This is just one of many activities that the Leadership class will be participating in during the year.

# Esplanade *Elementary*

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



**Amy Hitt**  
Principal

**Leadership Pays Off**

The 2009 – 2010 school year marks Esplanade's second one with a real student council. Each fourth- through sixth-grade classroom elects two representatives. They sit in on monthly meetings and assist with activities like fund-raisers, leadership opportunities and various service projects.

Our student council is led by three amazing girls. They were nominated by their classmates after campaigning and delivering position speeches. They are Elizabeth Elizalde, president (sixth grade), Serena Zarate, vice president (fifth grade) and Melissa Navarro, treasurer (sixth grade).

Over the past year and a half, the student council has been responsible for important events such as gathering food for the Second Harvest Food Bank, collecting donations for the Ronald McDonald house, supporting the math pentathlon team, and, most notably, coordinating a school-wide recycling effort.

In less than six months, the students at Esplanade were able to fill a huge, 21-foot storage bin with recyclable plastic bottles and cans. This effort raised almost \$800 to assist with various student programs.



**Student Council earned almost \$800 for filling this 21x8x8 foot recycling bin.**

# Fletcher *Elementary*

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



**Helen Chung**  
Principal

## Lessons in Leadership

Lessons in reading, writing and arithmetic are well known at Fletcher Elementary. Not so familiar are the lessons offered to students to hone leadership skills. Our fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students do this by participating in Student Council.

The Fletcher Elementary Student Council includes Cambria Culton, Alynna Deja and Feda Ayoub, sixth grade; Zaven Moordian and Angela Garcia, fifth grade; and Nathan Arcos, Nathan Romo and Jared Nichols, fourth grade.

Student Council members feel that their biggest responsibility is to be role models to other students by exhibiting positive behavior, showing patience and compassion, and using creative and organizational skills constructively. Student Council members also help the school and community by raising money for special causes. A special project this year is the donation of personal whiteboards to all our students, purchased with funds raised by the Student Council. Student Council also raised money to support the Susan B. Komen Foundation.

Faculty advisors to Student Council—fourth-grade teacher Cindy Ottens and third/fourth grade teacher Jeanette Stephens—are pleased and proud to work with the outstanding group of students. “I think we have a talented, hard working and caring Student Council,” Mrs. Otten said.

Principal Helen Chung-Lu said it very well. “The students demonstrated sincere interest in serving Student Council, and they have done an exceptional job raising money for special projects and conducting morning news every day,” she said. “The support, praise, and encouragement given by Mrs. Ottens and Mrs. Stephens have created a positive learning environment for our students in Student Council.”

# 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

## Leadership Opportunities

Under the direction of sixth-grade teacher Mrs. Bobbi Linderman, the student council at Imperial gives children the opportunity to gain experience in developing and organizing school activities.

All students have a voice through the council. Representatives from grades four through six have been chosen for positions like grade-level representative and grade-level photographer, as well as the standard elective offices. These students meet regularly to plan events that enhance the school environment and assist in the local community.

Each Friday, the student leadership representatives make a quick morning tally of which classrooms have the highest participation in spirit wear, the school color, or the monthly theme, such as “Twin Day.” The classes with the highest participation receive the weekly “Spirit Award” given by the student leadership.

This year our students organized the school’s Red Ribbon Week activities. The daily themes were chosen and planned by the students themselves, and included “Put a Cap on Drugs” and “Turn Your Back on Drugs.”

As part of our combined daily Pledge of Allegiance, patriotic song and morning announcement activity, the council representatives let the students know what to wear each day of the week. Their important messages about positive choices and a drug-free lifestyle also echo throughout the school.

Currently, the students are working with our Game Week parent volunteer committee to select activities and organize the student sign-ups. They have also been collecting for the Thanksgiving and holiday food bank drives.

# Fairhaven *Elementary*

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



**Andrew Fisher**  
Principal

## Student Council

Fairhaven Student Council is comprised of eighteen students from the upper grades elected by their peers based on leadership qualities and being responsible students.

The student council allows the students to develop their skills in leadership, human relations, involvement, and citizenship as well as learning about democracy and student voice. Students also learn how to set goals, make plans, and participate in projects to achieve these goals.

Meetings are twice a month during lunch period to bring up concerns from students, plan projects, and perform community service. Some of the projects the council has participated in include community service for Red Ribbon Week, planning spirit days to encourage school spirit, fundraising, and recycling beverage containers to help keep our environment clean. In March, the student council will also host a drive for Pennies for Prevention to help raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

# Handy *Elementary*

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



**Sandra Schaffer**  
Principal

## Student Leadership

Student leaders are an important part of everyday life at Handy Elementary School. We have many ways that we promote leadership throughout our campus. Our day begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and announcements read by a pair of sixth-graders. Our younger students are excited to become sixth-graders so they can be responsible for this assignment. The office staff also relies on the students to broadcast the other announcements, which used to be done by the office manager or the health clerk. It’s great to see the students take charge every morning!

A second way that our upper-grade students demonstrate outstanding leadership skills is through student council. The student council takes on many projects to promote school spirit. Most recently, the council was responsible for promoting the sale of Spooky Grams school-wide and counting the money from the event. At the end of the year, they decide what they would like to do with all the money they raise that would benefit the whole school.

Finally, our Recycle Club promotes leadership and is open to any student who would like to help the environment. The students in this club raise money to improve the environment of our school. They have successfully hosted many recycle drives and used the money to purchase new books for the library and plant flowers around the campus. They are outstanding citizens who make our school a better place!



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# Jordan *Elementary*

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



Elizabeth Gosnell  
Principal

## Student Leaders

Each classroom of fourth-sixth graders elected two class representatives for our student council. They are Jacqueline Carballo, Angel DeRosas, Ahtiziri Callejas, Christopher Luong, Irving Cortez, Gisell Viveros, Anayeli Moreno, Raul Hernandez, Bradley Jones and Isabel Turijan. We have organized a great group of student leaders, under the direction of teacher, Nancy Hulbert, to create school spirit and community at Jordan Elementary.

## Student Council



President Jesus Bartolo, Vice President Chris Avelar, teacher Nancy Hulbert, Secretary Marisol Trujillo, Activity Advisor Arizbeth Celestino.

# Lampson *Elementary*

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



Laurie Dieppa  
Principal

## Dedicated to Service

The 2009 – 2010 student council, under the direction of teacher-advisors Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Hays, has been quite busy since school started!

President Nina Nguyen, Vice President Adrian Gutierrez, Secretary Aspen Kyles and Treasurer Jackie Islas will be keeping organized and focused their fellow student council members Rodrigo Arzate, Han Bui, Enrique Delgado, Ashley Mejia, Jessica Medina, Tyson Nguyen, Itzelt Rodriguez, Danielle Ross, Angel Salazar, Ana Sanchez, Angel Serrato, Andrew Torres and

Laiba Yousaf.

As a group, the council helped to publicize our “Walk to School Day,” and organized the dress-up days for Red Ribbon Week. In addition, they are now organizing events to raise money for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society, as well as the St. Jude’s Childrens Hospital.

For one dollar, the student council members are also selling ice cream in front of Lampson on Wednesdays and Fridays after school. They are raising money so that the entire Lampson family can have T-shirts for the school’s 2009 – 2010 campaign, “Lampson Leopards, Believe and Achieve.”

*Happy Holidays*  
from  
*School News Roll Call*



# La Veta *Elementary*

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



Jaymi Abusham  
Principal

By Garret Elms, Student Council President

## Student Leadership

At La Veta Elementary School, there are many leadership opportunities. One of these is student council. If you are in fourth, fifth, or sixth grade and you want to be involved in leadership, you can choose from an assortment of jobs that need to be filled. For jobs like school president or financial secretary, you will need to run for office and be elected by all students.

Even if you don’t win one of these elections, you can still be picked as a class representative. Officers and class representatives meet once a month with the teachers who are advisors at lunch time and talk about school issues. We also plan fun activities for the school.

Now you might think that being a leader is very stressful, but it is actually really fun. You get to make important decisions, lead meetings, and do other fun stuff like that. You will have power, so you have to be careful not to abuse it.



# Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Sally Hughson  
Principal

## Student Leadership

On September 17, Constitution Day, Mrs. Peal’s fifth-grade class presented the history of the Constitution to our Linda Vista Elementary School students. Mrs. Peal’s students dressed in colonial costumes, representing Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Betsy Ross, and many others.

Our Veteran’s Day salute was led by Mrs. Kilzer’s fifth-grade class. Her students brought in photographs and created posters of their family members who have served in the military. They shared the branch of service and the duties performed. Every branch of the military was represented, including a great grandfather who served in World War I. The students wore pieces of uniforms and Red Poppies of Remembrance.

On November 13, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students who were candidates for student council gave inspiring speeches. The fourth-graders ran for the office of communication specialist, and fifth-graders ran for the positions of public relations representative and secretary. Our sixth-graders ran for student council vice president and president. In February, the student council will sell Valentine Grams and donate the profits to the Ronald McDonald House. Student council will also organize Spirit Fridays.

# McPherson Magnet

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



**Jeanne Bentley**  
Principal

By Lynne Palucki, Leadership Teacher

## Student Leadership Rocks!

At McPherson, student leadership provides a rewarding experience for our future leaders. Leadership students serve as role models for the younger students and help promote school spirit through themed dress-up days, Fun Fridays, middle school dances, and the selling and distributing of Friendshipgrams.

But leadership is not all fun and games. In this class, all students must chair one of the many events the class organizes. Each student has the opportunity to plan what is needed for the event. He or she must organize committees, communicate the information to the entire school, and make sure the event runs smoothly. It is a tremendous amount of work and an incredible opportunity for each student to develop his or her leadership skills. Along with spirit activities, the class organizes various fund-raising events, runs the recycling program, and participates in community service projects, both individual and schoolwide. The class is run by elected student officers and, as the teacher, I truly just oversee everything.

Kelsey Glastetter, ASB president, and Joey Salas, ASB vice president, take care of the everyday running of the class with the help of Maggie Matthews, ASB secretary; Josiah Maietta, ASB treasurer; and Cheyenne Myers, ASB historian. With an amazing group of students leading the class and an amazing group of students participating in the class, we are able to provide an invaluable service to the school and the local community. It is so fulfilling for me to watch each member of the class grow to become a true leader.

# Olive Elementary

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



**Kathryn Martin**  
Principal

## Public Service Lessons

Learners are leaders at Olive Elementary School. Our student leaders are part of what makes Olive School a wonderful place for children to grow and learn.

The Olive Ocelot student council members are known as "Oceleaders." They organize community and campus service projects such as food drives, Pennies for Patients, Jump Rope for Heart and the Friends of Orange County Homeless Pets.

We have two fabulous mascots,

Ollie and Otto. They greet new students and encourage our other Ocelots to participate in spirit days. They also do "public service announcements" as part of our weekly Olive School news broadcasts.

## Broadcasting

The Olive School News (OSN) has a broadcast crew of 15 students. It provides leadership to our entire student body. Students spend their own time both before and after class in writing and videotaping the weekly newscast.

OSN viewers can hear their names drawn for positive behavior. Their classrooms are recognized for their cleanliness, and "ROAR tips" are often acted out by the students in order to teach classroom and playground standards.

At Olive School we have a heart for serving each other and our community. Our students lead the way!



**Ollie and Otto.**

# Nohl Canyon Elementary

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



**Dominique Polchow**  
Principal

## Leaders and Readers (continued from page 1)

New to Nohl Canyon this year, is The Roadrunner Times. The staff is comprised of students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Students meet every Tuesday after school and are responsible for researching, writing and photographing current school events. Articles are then published in the monthly school newsletter, which goes out to the school community via e-mail.

# Orange High School

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



**SK Johnson**  
Principal

## Student Leadership

Student leadership opportunities are numerous at Orange High School. One opportunity for leadership is at the tradition club level, including Key Club, National Honor Society, Red Cross, One Organization, CROSA, las Culturales, MEChA, Wildlife Conservation, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), Christian Club, ASSETs, and Environmental Club. Our students who are involved in Associated Student Body (ASB), Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) and in the agriculture program have many opportunities to take on leadership roles. Officer positions

require students to develop their public speaking skills, their ability to interact with other groups and individuals, develop knowledge regarding how to run meetings, establish budgets, and attend leadership conferences throughout the year.

JROTC Cadets Leadership Program is based on five tenets: Nuts and Bolts of Leadership; Physical Education and Health; Marksmanship; Marching; and Military Orientation. Future Farmers of America (FFA) students attend many leadership conferences throughout the year and participate in sectional, regional and state level contests, including creed speaking, public speaking, job interviews, extemporaneous public speaking, best-informed greenhand, and opening and closing ceremonies. In addition to developing leaders, all the clubs are involved in service projects.

The Junior Leadership Orange program will continue this year, thanks to the gallant efforts of Orange Chamber of Commerce member Chris Horton (OHS class of '85) and the volunteer efforts of Evelyn Jimenez, former OHS counselor. The goal of the chamber is to provide an educated workforce for the businesses within our community. As a group, they will choose a service project that will benefit our community.

Clubs and leadership programs are building confident, responsible students at OHS. Go, Panthers!

**See the High School Sports page  
on the back cover.**





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## Note-ables

### Merry Kidsmas



Kate Karp

*Merry Kidsmas* was produced by a group of Nashville songwriters and artists who wanted to put together a holiday collection that would, as they said, use a child's perspective of the season and "be sung by real everyday kids."

Indeed, this CD is not dripping with sugarplums. The opening cut, "Box of Rocks," is "I'm Gettin' Nuttin' for Christmas" stood on its ear. The singer, a girl of about 9 or 10, writes Santa about all the rotten things her brother has done—pulled her hair, stuck out his tongue at her, exploded her doll on his toy rocket—and asks him to bring her bratty sibling what he deserves—which

happens in the closing song, "What's in the Box?" Dad gets a lot of good-natured love in "Even My Daddy Sings"—Daddy's voice curdles the soap in the shower, but he's a standup act with Christmas carols. "A Picture of Santa Claus" is about two mercenary little paparazzi trying to cadge a photo of the Man in the Red Suit. The songs aren't all on Santa's Naughty List—anyone whose child has struggled with the question of "Is Santa Claus real?" will welcome "I Still Believe in You." There are one or two standards that are cute, but they pale next to the cleverness of the compositions written by various members of the Song Trust, including Nashville artist Rory Feek.

I've saved the centerpiece for last. "Bring Him Home, Santa" was first released in 2007 and reached #29 on the Billboard Country Chart. Sung clearly and beautifully by an anonymous 6-year old girl, it's a heartrending plea for her father's return from Iraq. It will catch you on its first minor note: "Dear Santa, I need to change my Christmas list....You see, my daddy's working far away from here"...if you use this song in a pageant or program, rehearse it a few weeks early to get all the tears out of the way. Of course, they'll be running copiously during the actual performance.

It is the hope of the CD's producers that a song will be the star that leads the way. May you and your families have your deepest wishes granted this holiday.

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



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Youth Running Group

# Palmyra *Elementary*

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



By Kelly Acosta and Ashley Zieber,  
Student Council Advisors

## Election Results

The student council at Palmyra School is off to a great start this year! All upper-grade children had the opportunity to run for an elective office. At a recent school assembly, those students who were running for a position gave campaign speeches to their peers.

**Connie Smith**  
Principal

The results are in! Anthony Castillo was chosen as Palmyra's student council president. He commented that, "I hope to be a really good and fun president this year. I am also hoping to raise a lot of money for our school."

Other students selected were Zachary Crabtree for vice president, Adelin Garcia for secretary, Baily Moore for treasurer and Jennah Felton for publicity commissioner. Congratulations to everyone who ran for a position. You did a great job!

The council's first school-wide event was PJ Day. In addition, a service event called "Pennies for Patients" is being planned to help support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



PJ Day Zach Crabtree, Adelin Garcia, Anthony Castillo, Jennah Felton, Baily Moore and Principal, Connie Smith.

# Panorama *Elementary*

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



By Payton Blue, 6th Grade Student

## Panthers Continue to CARE for Our Community

As Thanksgiving comes near, the students in Mr. Ireland's class reflected on the huge support they feel, and are thankful for the people surrounding and supporting them. But, it is sad to say some families this Thanksgiving can't afford to put a dinner on their tables. Room 13 and a local supermarket teamed up to help "Feed A Family." The students helped to feed numerous families within Orange County by collecting money to buy food. This is truly a stellar cause that the students embraced. Their wish for the future

**Michelle Moore**  
Principal

is for everybody to help their fellow neighbors in need and give the gift of giving this holiday season. Panthers will continue to care about their community and one another. Go Panthers!

Future Panther Community Service Projects Include: Project SMMILE—Military Support' Friendly Center Drive, Adopt-A-Family for Christmas, Project SMMILE—Military Support....to name a few.

# Parkside *Pre-K*

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



By Amy Ann McLendon

## Developing a Leader

As parents and educators we strive to instill leadership skills in our students. Here are a few simple ways we help develop leadership skills in our children here at Parkside:

1. Focus on developing communication skills. We encourage communication at Parkside by giving our students opportunities to interact with their peers and teachers throughout the entire day. We are constantly eliciting communication, accepting attempts and modeling expectations. We also stress that when developing communication skills, listening is just as important as speaking, remember...that everyone is given two ears and only one mouth so they might listen twice as much as they speak!
2. Encourage independence within safe limits. At Parkside we hold our students to a high standard; we assess what our students are capable of and hold them to it! Even the smallest task, done independently, is a reason for acknowledgment and foundation to build on.
3. Instill confidence in our children. When our Parkside students accomplish anything new, we celebrate! Developing self-esteem is essential to achieving leadership skills, as a good leader is a confident one. We need to provide children with a strong foundation built on pride in themselves and their accomplishments.
4. Encourage organization. Leaders need to learn how to manage their time and guide others toward a common goal. Many of the activities our students participate in require group participation and turn taking, requiring each student to be accountable for a part that will contribute to the whole.

**Kristi Franco**  
Principal

# Portola *Middle School*

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



By Kathy Noxsel, Advisor, Associated Student Body  
Leadership Program

Portola Middle School has an active Associated Student Body (ASB) program. ASB is comprised of an advisor, elected student officers and members. The club is responsible for many school activities, so ASB officers must possess strong leadership skills. This year's officers are: Maddy Wilkins, President; Mia Cuellar, Vice President; Rodrigo Ramirez, Secretary; Chance Leone, Treasurer; and Casey Reyna, Historian.

ASB officers meet with the advisor weekly to discuss and plan school activities, as well as approve other club and school requests for funding or activities. The ASB officers are also responsible for leading the school in our Pledge of Allegiance and reading the daily announcements. They assist in school functions, which include Back-to-School Night, Open House, and school tours given to our elementary feeder schools. ASB also organizes all school dances and PRIDE assemblies and is a vital part of the eighth-grade students' graduation activities.

Each year there are two fund-raisers that ASB coordinates. During the first of the school year, ASB organizes a fund-raiser for school assemblies and activities. The second fund-raiser, which takes place in February, is Pennies for Prevention. It raises money for children who have been diagnosed with leukemia or lymphoma.

All Portola students are welcome to participate in the ASB Club. For further information, please contact the club's advisor, Ms. Noxsel.

# Riverdale *Elementary*

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



**Sheila Thompson**  
Principal

## Opportunities

Riverdale recently held its student elections. They began with students obtaining signed permission from their classroom teachers, their parents and the principal. Seven candidates emerged for president and six for vice president.

Candidates were encouraged to actively campaign the week before voting. They developed campaign slogans, put up posters, and handed out button-style tags, stickers and other wearable advertisements. An active campaign week ended with candidate giving speeches in a student assembly just before voting. After

voting, the results were tallied and the new officers were announced: Co-presidents Gaby Rios and Mandy Jezowski and Vice President Rachel Roll were congratulated. They're eager to begin their important work of student leadership.

The Riverdale staff is proud of all the students who participated in the elections. We value their willingness to take an opportunity when it is available. Win or lose, they will all learn so much by their involvement.



Student Officers 2009-2010.

# Running Springs *Elementary*

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



**Lydia Roach**  
Principal

## Student Leadership Opportunities

There are several student leadership opportunities at Running Springs Elementary School. One is our student council, which organizes activities like Spirit Days, recess holiday activities, Redhawk grams and a food and clothing drive.

The council is composed of classroom representatives from grades four to six, and is under the direction of fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Okamura and sixth-grade teacher Ms. Meehan.

In addition to the student council, our children can also demonstrate their leadership skills through the Peer Assistance Leadership program (PAL). This is coordinated by fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Gjonaj and sixth-grade teacher Mr. Tarango.

These students organize the Running Springs recycling services by collecting recyclable materials from the classrooms. They are also on hand as needed, to assist with campus beautification and service activities.

The students in grades four to six are also participating in committees that are revising the playground game rules. For instance, the handball committee is currently working with Mrs. Roach to establish fair and safe rules for handball that the students will follow during recess.

Representatives from each upper-grade class, who play handball regularly, were selected to be on this committee. Their work will be shared with the student body and published in the *Running Springs Parent-Student Handbook*.

Through these various activities, the student leadership groups have taken an active role in promoting school spirit, community service, safety and fairness. We have benefited from their hard work already, and look forward to the wonderful things that they have planned for the rest of the school year!

# Prospect *Elementary*

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



**Elena Stoces**  
Principal

## Prospect Morning News

At Prospect Elementary every Monday morning our school gets their week started with the Prospect TV News program. Under the direction of Mr. McGuire, our talented team of 6th graders, host, report, film and help produce the morning news. This enthusiastic team was selected through an application process and teacher recommendation. In addition, the on-camera team had to audition for the various roles needed on a morning news broadcast.

Typically, our Prospect TV News team consists of about six 6th grade students, but we had such a large amount of talented students, we decided to have two teams to alternate throughout the school year. The members of the 2009-10 Prospect Morning News Team are: Azeem Ahmed, Bryan Cindea, Sarah Dandach, Elisa Hernandez, Emmanuel Gomez, Kiko Villasenor, Gloria Cardenas, Eileen Cruz, Jessica Curiel, Odaliz Gonzalez, Ashley Ruiz, Kevin Aguilar, Jennifer Lopez and Christi Holley. So stop by or tune in to Prospect's TV News, every Monday at 8:20 and catch up on all the current events at our school.



# Richland *High School*

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



**Ed Madrid**  
Continuation  
School Principal

## Richland Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Schools provide the perfect opportunity for students to stretch their wings and try out new leadership experiences. This year Richland has an active Student Council involved in a variety of school wide projects that requires students to step up and become leaders in school. Students are expected to plan, direct, and implement projects such as Red Ribbon Week activities, the Red Cross Blood drive, and campus beautification. Students have made presentations to the board of education and have spoken in front of the Orange North Rotary. In the classroom teachers are placing students in leadership roles as students are given more responsibilities within groups. Richland school is working with students to give them leadership experiences and develop their skills so that they can take active roles in our community in the future.

# 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

*By Matthew Rock, Student*

## Santiago Leadership

Here at Santiago, it is a priority to involve students in the leadership of our school. We are home to a variety of classes and clubs in which students can become important contributors to Santiago. Our first two leadership options are the ASB /leadership and Yearbook homerooms. In these, students strive to improve the lives of their peers through events such as spirit activities, dances, the preparation of a yearbook. In addition to these leadership options, Santiago offers membership to multiple academic clubs,

which range from Academic Pentathlon to a Science Olympiad team. In these, students lead their groups through study sessions, intellectual exercises, and, of course, the end competition. The last leadership opportunities Santiago provides are NJHS and New Generation. Students in these clubs lead special events in order to assist our community. From first-hand experience, I know Santiago is one of the best leadership schools around.



# Serrano *Elementary*

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



**Bobie Lansman**  
EdD  
Principal

## Leadership Begins with Learning

From the first days of kindergarten through the last days of sixth grade, there are multiple opportunities through which students at Serrano Elementary School are provided leadership opportunities. Leadership begins with learning to lead the class lineup and holding the spotlight as Student of the Week. These primary activities lead up to the three major opportunities at Serrano, which include Student Council, Peace Patrol and Serrano Elementary Internal Television broadcast (SETV).

Serrano students have the opportunity to run their own campaign for the Student Council elections held each September. A formal campaign with speeches is held prior to the "big vote." Officers include the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and historian. There are committee chairpersons as well. Additionally, each upper-grade classroom votes on a class representative. These student leaders attend weekly Student Council meetings facilitated by two teacher advisors. The Student Council plans and executes all Spirit Day activities at Serrano. The weekly highlight is when the Student Council officers announce the five Spirit Day winners every Friday. This includes a lucky staff member.

SETV provides a unique leadership opportunity for those students who want to guide in front of the camera and behind the scenes. Students write stories, develop costumes and props, and lead a team to provide a top-notch broadcast presented every Monday morning under the guidance of staff advisors. Throughout the school year, SETV leaders guide, teach and provide opportunities for students in all grade levels to share the spotlight.

Finally, student leaders in their special green jackets can be seen on the Serrano playground at lunch time as members of the Serrano Peace Patrol. Their training has taught them how to be positive leaders and conflict managers.

These young people in Student Council, Peace Patrol and SETV truly show the way and are outstanding student leaders who make a difference every day.

# Sycamore *Elementary*

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



**Kathy Bruce**  
Principal

## Student Leaders

Sycamore School has truly embraced the 2009–2010 school year with Positive Behavior Intervention Support. Our students receive Sycamore Sea Lion Splash Tickets for showing responsibility and readiness, for being problem solvers and for making good decisions. Weekly teachers pick one splash ticket from each of the four categories. This year, we have added several splash rewards, which offer the students many opportunities to show leadership and service to our school and community. Here are a few examples.

Visit our front office, and you may be greeted by a Sycamore student who has chosen to be an office assistant. These students work in the office before school, at recess and at lunch time, greeting parents and students, assisting with notes, and answering questions.

Another splash reward is keeping our community informed by changing our school's marquee in the front of the school. Several students have enjoyed this Sycamore Sea Lion reward, as it gives them an opportunity to be proud of their involvement in helping our school.

Are you new to our school? We have buddies for you. When new students enroll at Sycamore, the classroom sends two students to greet their new classmate. Our new student gets a tour of the school and has buddies to help them throughout the day.

Student council is another leadership opportunity students have at Sycamore. Our sixth-grade teachers, Mrs. Ray and Mr. Moore, are sponsors of this year's student council. During the month of November, our students organized a food drive for the holidays to support our children and families during these tough economic times.

# Taft *Elementary*

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



**Antonette Coe**  
Principal

*By Robert Rosselli, Student Council Advisor*

## Student Council Activities

At Taft Elementary the student council is off and running thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Coe, Mrs. Roman, and Mr. Rosselli. The student council, comprised of fourth through sixth grade student representatives, engages the entire student body in school-wide activities, social events, and community projects. During Red Ribbon Week, the representatives created posters during their lunch recesses and at home promoting daily Drug Awareness themes. They also showed

their support by coming into school on a Sunday afternoon to help the PTA decorate the school for Red Ribbon Week. Their future projects include organizing a November food drive, sponsoring a family during the holidays, and Valentine Candy Grams

to raise funds to donate books to the library. The Taft Tigers look forward to the exciting activities the student council has planned throughout the year!



# Villa Park *Elementary*

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



**Debra Larson**  
Principal

## Fifth-Grade Happenings

Do you know what the recipe for student success is in fifth grade at Villa Park Elementary School? It involves forming relationships and engaging students to care about their education. The fifth-graders will be focusing on successful work habits and study skills, participating in hands-on learning activities and physical education.

First, all the students have a better understanding that every day they come to school their teacher cares about them and they have an opportunity to better themselves. Students put an emphasis on test-taking strategies to increase their comprehension and performance. Being successful requires our students to be held accountable for their learning and to care about their achievements.

Second, the fifth-graders are introduced to a number of hands-on activities to supplement the social studies and science curriculum. Students are engaged in simulation experiences of the Revolutionary War twice a year and participate in unique science experiments. Our fifth-graders will benefit greatly by seeing the curriculum outside the textbook.

Third, fifth grade is the year students take the physical fitness test. In October, we begin discussing ways to stay healthy and the importance of what you put into your body. At school, students run laps daily to increase their endurance, as we promote that a healthy body is a healthy mind.

Clearly, student success and making lasting memories are a focus in fifth grade. Here at Villa Park, teachers and students enjoy learning and take pride in their journey of knowledge.

# Villa Park *High School*

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



**Ed Howard**  
Principal

## Creating Leaders

At Villa Park High School, the difference between “This was the best year ever!” and “This year was weak!” rests squarely upon the shoulders of our student leaders.

Our Associated Student Body, or ASB as we call them, is charged with creating a spirited and united campus. From the start of summer vacation these elected and appointed officials set out to create a great plan. Their goal is to make this the best year ever.

Charged with creating and overseeing all of the assemblies, pep rallies, dances, clubs and everything in between, this group operates under some great levels of stress. But if the early indicators are accurate, many Spartans may indeed be saying that this was the best year ever.

Led by President Brittany Siguenza’s strong commitment to inclusiveness, this year’s class of student leaders is off to a very productive start. Our ASB is the most visible of the leadership teams that we have, but there are many other leadership opportunities available on campus.



**ASB 2009**

We see leaders emerging in all shapes and sizes. From the captain of the water polo team, to the leadership of our Red Cross Club, our Spartans are accepting and flourishing in their leadership roles. It is safe to say that for 45 years we have been creating leaders.

# West Orange *Elementary*

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



**Michael Olander**  
Principal

## Strong Student Leadership

Led by teachers Dana Johnston and Laura Urquhart, West Orange Elementary School provides some great opportunities for our students to build their leadership skills by joining the student council.

During the council’s last meeting, I took the opportunity to ask these students what their purpose was. My question started a very lively discussion. They stated that they had many responsibilities, but the most important was to set a positive example to students by modeling behavior that was respectful, responsible, safe and courteous.

The students also elaborated on what they were doing this year. The council provides input to our Parent Teacher Organization regarding activities such as Red Ribbon Week. They assist the PTO by promoting events with morning announcements and presentations during the Friday Flag Salute assemblies, as well as with posters and flyers.

The group’s other responsibilities involve planning and organizing Spirit Days, the Talent Show, Family Skate Nights, the Warrior Store and Career Day.

The student council is led by an executive board, and is organized into different committees that are established for each of the responsibilities as described above. The active committee reports on their progress to the board.

There are also two classroom representatives for each of the fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms. These representatives make announcements and give presentations to all of the classes at West Orange.

West Orange Elementary School is fortunate to have such a well-organized and strong group of leaders that carry out our mission of “Success for All.”

# Yorba *Middle School*

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



**Tara Saraye**  
Principal

## ASB Student Leadership

Yorba ASB students have set high goals for this school year. One goal is for more student participation in school events. ASB held the first school dance in October, which had a DJ, a balloon artist, a caricature artist, games and lots of food. More dances are planned for the future. The students sponsored Red Ribbon Week, where students took pledges to stay healthy and make good choices.

ASB also acts as school ambassadors, welcoming new students, parents, and guests who enter the school. Currently, the ASB is collecting boxes filled with school supplies to give to needy children. ASB has also kicked off a recycling program and donated recycling containers to each class to make our school greener and more conscientious about the environment.

School spirit is another area the ASB students focus on. Students are planning the Top Toro rally, celebrating student success in achievement. Students plan skits and musical numbers and get teachers and students involved to celebrate good grades. Positive student behavior is celebrated each week, and the ASB class supports the Yorba staff, giving them special treats throughout the school year.

Our leadership ASB students do a tremendous job connecting students, teachers and parents to the school and create a positive environment at Yorba. All projects have been funded through ASB through fund-raisers, carwashes and bake sales. Go Toros!

## Positive Parenting

# The Gift of Love



**Sandy Spurgeon  
McDaniel**

I have just returned from a speaking engagement in Denver and Boise, gone two weeks, and during that whole time I never heard one horn honk, and everywhere I went people were kind.

At an evening program, I quietly mentioned I felt like a sardine in the small space we were sitting. The man and woman in front of me got up, moved their beach chairs a little aside, smiled and offered a space between them for my long legs and feet.

If you follow my work in this column, have visited parentingSOS.com, or have read my books, you know that my whole discipline system is based on the kindness rule: We are kind to each other. I believe completely that parents need to have a “not acceptable” boundary for any unkindness between children. Adults need to be kind as well –and that is possible when my system is implemented.

The holidays are here which means family gatherings. Children need to be taught to be with family members:

- (1) Grandpa Glen is going to tell the same stories he tells every year; those stories are his gifts to our family. It is not acceptable to tell him you’ve heard them. You will listen quietly to his stories.
- (2) Grandma Kay is forgetful. She forgets what she is saying in the middle of the sentence; it is your job to help her feel safe with us. If you criticize her she won’t feel safe, if you help her remember she will feel loved.

(3) Your cousins will be as excited to see you as you will be to see them. If I say, “Iceburg” to you that means you need to slow down –chill—a bit or I will take action to see that you do.

(4) The “you sit if you hit” and kindness rules will be enforced at all times.

(5) This is our family; our job is to love each one of them by being kind.

As for gift-giving, it is just plain ridiculous for people to go into debt buying gifts for each other.

Have a party; give the gift of time with each other. Make coupons for hugs, a favorite cake, lunch together, or time with each other. Don’t assume children don’t value those gifts –and if they don’t they need to learn to value them!

The holidays don’t need to be a nightmare. Do a pot luck dinner so everyone contributes. Do not serve alcohol so no one gets snookered and acts inappropriately. And remember, the focus always needs to be on meeting the needs of the children. Stay connected to your children during all the chaos of holiday gatherings.

May you realize every possible blessing during the holidays and may God bless your lives.

Sandy McDaniel is the author of numerous parenting books and has been a contributing columnist to *School News* for ten years. Sandy has written books, taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 20 years. You may benefit from her “Parenting Lessons with Sandy McDaniel” weekly online video series. For more information go to [www.ParentingSOS.com](http://www.ParentingSOS.com)



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Renae Dreier, Ed.D.

Direct instruction overview  
 Pyramid Response to Intervention (RtI)  
 Tier I Pyramid Response to Intervention (RtI)  
 Behavioral objectives, including:  
 i. Bloom's Taxonomy (Elementary and Secondary)  
 ii. Costa's Levels of Questioning (Secondary)

**Target C: Assessment**— Instructional staff will use data to improve student achievement.

**Progress**

- Data Director Software is in its initial stages of implementation. Software trainings were held for:  
 District Office Leadership  
 K-12 Principals  
 Assistant Principals  
 Instructional Coaches  
 Lead Teachers from each school (beginning and advanced trainings)
- Scanner trainings were held for:  
 District Office Support Staff  
 Site Support Staff (at the 12 elementary schools and 4 highs schools that are piloting the scanners)
- In August 2009, the K-12 Professional Development Writing Team developed the introductory "Pyramid Response to Intervention" training for K-12 teams (Principal and one volunteer teacher from each site).

**Student Engagement**

**Target B:** Strategies will be developed to increase the variety of program personalization and student educational options to maximize student engagement.

**Progress**

- Eight elementary schools and four secondary schools have developed appropriate student and/or parent surveys to assess student engagement.
- Twenty-four elementary and seven secondary schools are providing teachers with differentiated instructional coaching.

**Safe, Welcoming Schools**

**Target A:** All school sites will engage in activities designed to build school pride and morale.

**Progress**

- Fifteen elementary schools and two middle schools are implementing Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS).
- Student Awards:  
 Student of the Month/Citizen of the Month  
 Character Traits  
 Academic Achievement  
 Proficiency Achievement  
 Newsletters, phone calls, electronic communication  
 Good Behavior Cards  
 All schools are increasing positive messages to staff via staff awards at meetings, informal conversations, email, and phone calls.

**Target C:** School staff and students will receive training to facilitate the creation of safe, welcoming schools.

**Progress**

- Schools First Federal Credit Union has provided customer service trainings to District staff, which will enable the expansion of District-wide customer service trainings.

**Target D:** All school sites will collaborate with Child Welfare & Attendance (CWA) to improve OUSD safety procedures and policy enforcement.

**Progress**

- Portola and Yorba Middle Schools are in year one of implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). Canyon and El Modena High Schools are in the planning year.

**Parent & Community Partnerships**

**Target A:** Parent/School Partnerships

Examine current parent involvement practices.

**Progress**

- The Villa Park Schools (Serrano, Villa Park Elementary, Cerro Villa Middle School, and Villa Park High School) meet on a monthly basis as a Villa Park Professional Learning Community. VPHS has had the band and drama department perform at Serrano. Serrano is a Class Act school with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, and will be using the Cerro Villa multi-purpose room for the Prelude and Family Night concert. Music classes from Cerro Villa will be invited to attend both.
- Portola Middle School and Fairhaven Elementary are networking regarding assessment, use of data, and teacher accountability for student achievement.
- Richland High creates a quarterly newsletter informing all feeder high schools of the number of students who have graduated from Richland.
- Yorba and Portola Middle School Principals work together with the Orange High Principal to provide opportunities for parents to become involved in PTSA, Parent University, and Education Nights. Other evening meetings are planned to offer middle school students and parents opportunities to connect with Orange High before the students transition to the high school.
- Each District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC) meeting provides parent training.
- Two meetings have been held this quarter. Topics have been Program Improvement (school and district), Parent notification of English Language enrollment and program services, Training of ELAC committee members, Single Plan for Student Achievement English Language Goals.
- Parent meetings were held for all Program Improvement Schools (Years 2-5) to inform parents about Supplemental Education Services (SES) tutoring programs.
- Development of an OUSD central translation webpage is in the planning stages.

**Target B:** Business/Community Partnerships

Collaborate with external community to create opportunities for partnerships.

**Progress**

- A Community Resources page has been developed and placed on the District website, which offers links to local and state organizations. Further development is in process.

**Communication**

**Target A:** The District will re-evaluate its Communication Plan

**Progress**

- Staff has evaluated the effectiveness of the District's notification system. The system is used to inform parents and to keep them involved and prepared.
- A new notification program was tested throughout the District. Based on feedback from teachers and principals, the prior system will be reinstated.
- The District website is being re-designed to be more user-friendly.
- Staff is in the process of evaluating interactive Whiteboards.
- Staff is working with vendors to obtain more aggressive pricing on all computers.
- Technology staff continues to evaluate causes and solutions for network viruses.
- Several service and maintenance agreements have been discontinued that are no longer beneficial to the District.
- A minimum set of requirements for technology equipment has been established, and the Equipment Standards list has been updated. Each elementary school will have at least four T-1 lines  
 Each comprehensive high school will have at least 100Mbps fiber optic connection  
 All laptops will have Core 2 processors with 1GB of ram and 90Gb hard drive  
 Flat panel monitors, which are smaller and more energy efficient, are being purchased in lieu of traditional monitors  
 All new phone systems will be Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) systems



**Rick Ledesma**

fiscally responsible, increase student achievement and improve our facilities. Specifically, these historical spending cuts have been an estimated 18 to 20 percent in one year to our district.

Our district began the year with the FCMAT auditing of the district's operations and fiscal stability. This report showed that Orange Unified School District (OUSD) is in-depth in its fiscal oversight. This past spring we continued to see improvements in most areas of our state testing, but we know we can do better in other areas, where more focus will be placed in the future. Also, our district continues to take advantage of every state and federal facilities upgrade program possible.

As this school year began, our OUSD teachers had the foresight to accept a two-percent pay rollback. This was a true sacrifice for them, and they should be commended. They are the only teachers in Orange County to take such measures.

We have also seen the development of a new strategic plan under the leadership of our superintendent. The plan promises to be an overall success for the future of this school district.

In summary, we will continue to be faced with fiscal challenges, but I am confident that the children of OUSD are in good hands with our outstanding teachers, staff, and administrators in this district. Again, it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as Board of Education president this past year.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER • FROM PAGE 1



**Alex Adams**

In athletics, Canyon continues to challenge the Century League across all sports. Girls golf clinched the CIF championship this past season, and the girls volleyball team was able to host their first CIF game since 2001 after placing second in the league. Canyon's cross-country team won league for the fourth year in a row. With the winter season just getting under way, the boys basketball team is out to defend their CIF championship and claim yet another Century League title.

The campus of Canyon has been active with various Comanche groups diligently working to make their school better. The National Honor Society and Comanche Care have agreed to take on the task of planting 10 trees in order to beautify the campus. For Veteran's Day, students honored our nation's service men and women by writing names of veterans that they know on red, white, and blue hearts, which were then used to make a flag on the wall of the Canyon gym.

The 2009–2010 school year is shaping up to be very successful for the teachers, students, and staff of Canyon High School, and we are very excited to see what contributions this year will make to the overall progress of the school. Go, Comanches!

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 18

**Effective Use of Resources**

**Target A:** Establish priority budgeting that focuses financial resources on District goals.

**Progress**

- The budget development process now includes input from administrators, certificated staff, classified staff, and parents.

**Target B:** Maximize revenue and minimize expenditures.

**Progress**

- Staff presented a list of 7-11 committee recommendations of surplus property to the Board of Education on August 20, 2009. Staff is working with Davis Demographics and planning to identify student population densities at build-out per Board direction.
- Staff is drafting an attendance information flyer for parents, which will include a vehicle for parents to reimburse the District for lost Average Daily Attendance (ADA).
- Staff has studied enrollment projections for all school sites that have fewer than 400 students. Consolidation meetings have been held, which have included members of CSEA, OUEA, administrators, and school site staff.

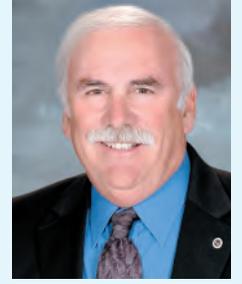
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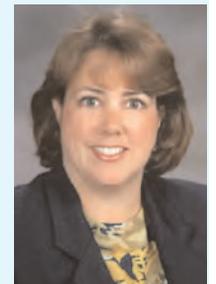
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# High School Sports

## Orange High School



### Water Polo Player Scores County Honor By Suzanne Swenson

Grant Kelly, a junior on the Water Polo team at Orange High School, was named Orange County's Male Athlete of the Week for the week of October 5. Coach Visconti nominated him for the title after she saw his excellent work in the Katella Tournament. In the tournament he scored 18 goals, assisted 17 goals, and had six steals.

A reporter from *The Orange County Register* came to the boys water polo game on October 1 to take pictures of Grant playing. It wasn't until the next day that he found out about his newly appointed title. Grant was interviewed over the phone on Saturday, October 3. Kelly stated, "I'm honored and surprised by being named athlete of the week."

Coach Jen Visconti hopes that the recognition for Grant will help gain notoriety for the entire program. The water polo team finished second in league with a 16-9 record and advanced to the second round of the CIF playoffs before losing to top-seeded Webb High School of Pomona. Kelly finished the season with 65 goals and 34 assists.

Kelly is looking to next season and a potentially stellar final high school campaign. "Until we win back the league championship and advance deeper into the playoffs, we have unfinished business to take care of next season," stated Kelly after the game on November 12. The future is bright for Grant Kelly and the Orange High School boys water polo team.



## El Modena High School



### New Coach Brings New Ambitions By Amanda Meyer, OUSD Staff Writer

In the past three years, seven Vanguard wrestlers have placed in state competitions, earning El Modena's wrestling program a triumphant reputation.

After the program's recent Varsity coach, Mr. Fortenbaugh stepped down, El Modena's Spanish teacher and freshman football coach, Mr. Schuld, returned to take over the program.

Previously, Schuld was involved in the wrestling program as the frosh-soph coach along with Mr. Moeller. In 2007 the coaches led the frosh-soph team to a record of twenty victories and no losses.

After that year Schuld decided to take a step back from the program because he felt that he needed to spend more time with his kids and wanted to go back to Cal State Fullerton to further his education.

However, this year Schuld decided to re-enter the program because he coached many of its current Varsity members when they were freshman, and wanted to see all of the seniors have a strong finish.

Approaching his comeback with confidence and the intentions of full success, Schuld has taken the position of Varsity head coach for the first time.

He plans on having six to eight wrestlers place in C.I.F and a few participate in state. Although this requires the team to work to its full capability, Schuld is certain that they can accomplish it as long as they stay determined.

In response to the team's great reputation, Schuld plans on making this year the 21st consecutive year the program has made it to C.I.F. because, as Schuld puts it, "It's a tradition."



Coach Schuld.

## Villa Park High School



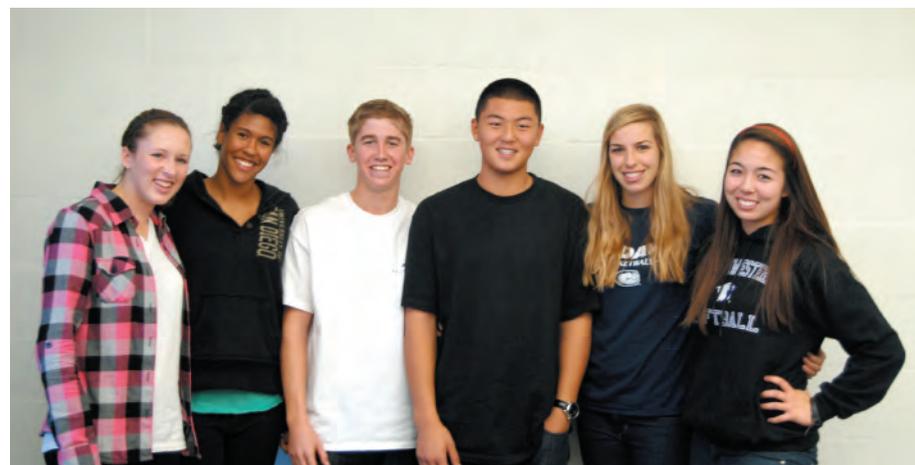
Villa Park would like to congratulate the following senior athletes for signing with the college of their choice:

Corey Gard - Cal State Fullerton  
Alex Bungert - St. Mary's for their outstanding play in Golf

Shomari McCorkle - Westmont University,  
Brianna Salvatore UC Davis,  
Nicole Ballestero - University of San Diego  
for their contributions on the basketball court

Marisa Bast - Northwestern University for softball

We wish the best to all of you both on and off the competitive field of play. You make us proud.



Nicole Ballestero, Shomari McCorkle, Corey Gard, Alex Bungert, Brianna Salvatore, Marisa Bast.

## Canyon High School



### Swinging into CIF By Nicole Kang, OUSD Editor

Canyon High School has always been known for its sports. However, this year, a particular sport stood out to capture rapt attention. The Canyon Girls' golf team of fall '09 swept their season, winning all their seasonal CIF matches and many tournaments.

But their success did not stop there. The team went on to post-season CIF competitions, going to Rancho San Joaquin and then to Ojai for CIF Individuals. After those two CIF Individuals matches, they took first place as CIF Team at El Prado with a score of 372, beating the defending champions, Torrence, by 3. From there, they continued to Talega, which was third in the series for CIF Individuals.

Because of their win at El Prado, these Canyon golfers strove to secure a spot in the CIF Southern Section at Mountain Meadows. Sadly, they did not get into the top four, but placed fifth, only three strokes behind fourth place.

Although their whole team did not make the cut to go to State, two freshmen, Jesscia Vasilic and Elisabeth Bernabe, continued in the fourth CIF individuals game. However, at SCGA, they missed the cut of 73, shooting 74 and 75 respectively. Although they did not win every single matchup, these Canyon players definitely have high hopes for next season.