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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 24

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2009

SUPERINTENDENT



Renae Dreier, Ed.D.

Budget cuts have certainly impacted our programs here in the Orange Unified School District. The real impacts of these budget reductions are serious. What does this mean for the Orange Unified School District? Now that school has started we are feeling the effects of the current budget crisis.

To get a sense of how this crisis has impacted our district, consider the following budget reductions:

Program Modifications:

- One small elementary school has been closed.
- Elementary vocal instruction was eliminated.
- K-3 class size reduction in grades 1 and 2 has been reconfigured from an average ratio of 20:1 to 25:1
- The District's participation in the Community Based English Tutoring (CBET) program has ceased.
- The Adult Education program is currently serving only those students pursuing a diploma or general education diploma (GED) and a parent education class.
- The adult portion of the Regional Occupational Program now offers fee-based classes only.
- Eliminated year-round calendar. All students are on a modified traditional schedule.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 21

OUSD High School Sports



See pages 22-23 for high school sports.



Reading Electives:

Board of Education	Page 20	OC Water Sheds.....	12
OUSD Schools	3-9, 16-21	On The Run.....	13
Note-ables	10	Kellie Kawaguchi	14
Positive Parenting.....	11	Crossword Game Time	14



Nov. 14 — See page 5 for information.

Aha!
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Page 10-14



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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Fall is officially here. November 1st remember to set your clocks back and put batteries in your smoke detectors. As we are going to print it is raining and cool with predicted temperature in the 80's tomorrow. Gotta' love Southern California.

This issue focuses on volunteering and the importance of parent and community involvement in the schools. Jordan Elementary says it best with their motto: TEAM—Together, Everyone Achieves More.

Thank you for including *School News* in your reading choices.

Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving! Our next issue is Dec. 16.

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School News 

Education + Communication = A Better Nation
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ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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



Sandra Miller
Principal

From the Kindergarten Team

Wow! We can't believe we are already well into the new school year! Our fabulous volunteers are in full swing and helping out in so many ways. They work with small groups, read with individual students, help in the computer lab and so much more!

We are excited to plunge into our curriculum. In social studies we are learning about the jobs and duties of people in our school and the community. We are planning on having many visitors come into our classrooms so that we can interview them and learn more about how they help us become better citizens.

Learning Concepts

In science, we will begin our first unit with trees and plants. We'll learn the different parts of each, and where the different kinds of trees are found. To enhance our learning experience we will also be going on a field trip to the Tanaka Farm's pumpkin patch!

Our biggest achievement will be the challenge of reading. We are beginning this by learning to recognize letters and the sounds they make. Soon those individual sounds will begin to blend together to make words!

Math will be a blast! We are learning how to count, read and write numbers. We are also working on math concepts such as before, after, between, top, middle and bottom!

We hope you have enjoyed this little snippet about what is going on in our world called kindergarten.

Cambridge *Elementary*

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



Karen Merkow
Principal

Lending a Hand

Our school is pleased to provide parents and community members with many opportunities to support students and get involved in their learning.

It is all about collaboration. Parents are viewed as a welcome support group both on and off the campus. They can sign up to volunteer in our classrooms to work with the students, or help prepare materials at home.

We have several family events planned for this year. They include a literacy carnival, a family night based upon math and literacy, and several community movie and science nights that are sponsored by the PTA and led by Mrs. Carrie Lundell.

Our Booster Club, led by Ray Soto, will also host an annual family camp-out that is always a favorite with the students.

We also have a number of outside community groups that are ready to support our students. The Chapman University English Honor Society, known as Sigma Tau Delta, will be coordinating an exciting "Read Across America Day," and the Delta Tau Delta fraternity volunteers will help work with students in their classrooms.

We also welcome back the Reading Partners program, which is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Orange County. In October we are expecting a special visit from Commander Chuck Street and his School Patrol. He will be sharing a special surprise, as well as a message that supports reading!



Volunteer Mrs. Julia Segundo with students.

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California *Elementary*

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



Cyndi Paik
Principal

By Patty Ruiz, Teacher, 4th Grade

Parents Involvement Effective

The school year is well underway and more and more parents are volunteering to help teachers at California Elementary. As educators, we know how much work it takes to run a classroom, especially at the beginning of the school year. However, with the help of classroom volunteers, it makes our days run so much more smoothly. It is greatly appreciated that we have parents consistently on campus either helping in the classroom or helping teachers cut paper, make copies, etc. We even have a parent, Mrs. Miranda, who volunteers by helping two teachers even though she no longer has children at the school. Mrs.

Martinez also continues to lend her support by helping in her daughters' third and fifth grade classrooms. California Elementary appreciates any help parents can provide; no matter how big or small the job. After all, the presence of parent involvement has shown to be an effective tool to boost academic achievement.



Canyon *High School*

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



Greg Bowden,
Ed. D.
Principal

Supporting Our Students

The PTSA at Canyon High School has continued to receive support from the parent community. New president Camille Kittridge announced at the first Executive Board meeting that there were almost 1,100 members in the PTSA for 2009–2010. Students continue to be a significant part of the membership numbers.

The Canyon PTSA has been instrumental in supporting the school and the students. One recent project was the purchase of hand-sanitizer dispensers, which were purchased by the PTSA and installed in all the classrooms to help prevent student illness. The dispensers were installed on the Canyon Pride campus clean up day by parents and students.

PTSA also provided a monetary donation to bring our librarian back one week early, to ensure all the students had the opportunity to receive their books before school began and to prevent the need to distribute textbooks during instructional time.

The Canyon Education Foundation has planned events for this year to raise funds and in-kind support to enhance educational and development opportunities for all Canyon High School students. To reach this end, the foundation recently sponsored a booth at the Orange International Street Fair, where student volunteers from the National Honor Society, parent booster organizations, and PTSA, as well as school staff members, cooked and sold Philly cheese steaks. The next big event will be the foundation Gala, Dinner Dance and Silent Auction, to be held on Friday night, November 6 at the Celebrations Center by Turnip Rose in Costa Mesa. For tickets to this event, please call the school at (714) 532-8000.

The Canyon Education Foundation Executive Board is: President Anmi Sharma; Vice Presidents David Poole and Deanna Drum; Secretary Margaret Sandoval; Treasurer Lynette Yuen; and Fund-raising Chair Steve Reed.

Canyon Hills

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



William Gee,
Ed.D.
Principal

Outside Support

The students at Canyon Hills are direct beneficiaries of some wonderful community partnerships. One example is our annual Back-to-School night. The student youth group at Ward 3 of the Church of Latter Day Saints sponsors a free dinner and dance for our Canyon Hills families. The volunteers purchase food and prepare and serve the meals, and afterwards the children stay for a student dance. Our Canyon Hills students love to dance with these teenage volunteers, and it is a true highlight of the evening. At our 2009 festivities, a local restaurant also provided some fun. They sent a volunteer with chocolate fondu pots full of delicious treats.

The parents and students loved this support.

One of our most important community partners is the Rehabilitation Institute of Orange County (RIO). Each month this organization allows us to use their swimming pool for the disabled students' adaptive water activities.

RIO provides this facility to the school at a discounted rate, and they are very flexible, as we provide close supervision of our students. The students love the opportunity to be in a secure, clean and specially-designed pool, as they improve their ability to be safe and have fun in the water.

Some of the most intensive secondary student learning occurs during our on-the-job training opportunities, performed under the OUSD workability program and job coach Irene Schwarz. This program helps students learn to work at local businesses in a supportive environment. They help to organize, sort and perform general cleaning tasks. Without this opportunity they would have fewer work experiences.

We are grateful for these partnerships, and know that they help further the growth of our students.

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

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



David Appling
Principal

We Value Our Parents

Canyon Rim Elementary School is so proud of the involvement parents have taken in their child's education. Some parent opportunities and PTA sponsored events offered are:

- Art Masters—coordinating and scheduling Art Masters lessons to begin in October
- Fall Carnival—planning our biggest fundraiser of the year
- Chess Masters
- Room Moms—organizing class assignments & meetings
- Reflections—parent volunteer attending training sessions
- Health and Safety—parents volunteered on Sept. 14th to assist with screenings
- Student Store—parents work the Student Store on Oct. 21st - kids bring in their Roadrunner bucks and exchange them for rewards
- Birthday Book Club—processing book orders
- Box Tops—holding first contest in September
- Classroom volunteers—parents began working in their child's classrooms in September
- Fall Carnival—families attend carnival together in October

The families at Canyon Rim will be collaborating with Tanaka Farms in bringing healthy fruits and vegetables to their homes. This is a way that students and families can support the school, local farming, and their family's health.

City of Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle invited Grade 3 students to participate in the "Gift of History" event held at the Anaheim Convention Center on Tuesday, October 6, 2009. Students received a commemorative book entitled "Anna's Home by the River," detailing the history of Anaheim.

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



Sue Baden
Acting Principal

Our Helpful Parents

Cerro Villa is blessed with committed and involved parents. Our school runs more smoothly and efficiently because of the great work of our PFSO, who spend many hours working with the staff and students to create a positive school climate.

We began the year with summer registration. It would have been a huge task except for the parents who were here to help. They checked in families, sold our Binder Reminders and gym clothes, and served as monitors to help people move along from station to station.

This valuable assistance continues all year. Parents help with dances, they serve as chaperones, they donate food to the students and run various games. Our big dances of the year are the Mardi Gras and the Promotion Party, which are run by the parents and are traditionally big successes.

Helping Every Day

Cerro Villa also has parent helpers on campus almost every day. They work with the library at our annual book fair and sponsor staff luncheons. They manage the school marquee, organize parent education nights, and serve refreshments to students and families at our monthly award celebrations.

We at Cerro Villa love to have our parents on campus, and appreciate the time they spend with the staff and students. This year's PFSO president is Chris Siguenza, and she and the board have been hard at work for months. We continue to look forward to this school year, and to our valuable parent partnerships.

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Parent and Community Involvement

There are many reasons why Chapman Hills School is a great place for students! One of the top reasons is parent and community involvement. Here at Chapman Hills, we are very lucky to have such great parent volunteers on campus, as well as parent involvement and support at home.

Each year, our PTA and parent volunteers log more than 6,000 hours supporting our students and staff. They volunteer time in and out of the classroom, helping with such programs as ExCEL, and Art Masters, providing math support, serving as room moms, making copies for teachers, stuffing Wednesday communication folders, supporting school-wide assemblies, raising funds to pay for our part-time ExCEL teacher, supporting technology, and volunteering in many other areas. We are so grateful for all you do!

For those parents who are not able to volunteer during the school day or at school events, we see parent support through consistent communication with their children's teachers, setting and maintaining evening homework and bedtime routines, providing homework support and assistance, and purchasing school supplies. We are grateful for your support as well! Thank you!

As always, we continue to build relationships with our parent and volunteer community and with businesses and corporations, which often are able to provide financial support. If you are interested in building a relationship with our school to better support our students, please call the school office at (714) 532-8043.

Thank you to all who support our school! Go, Bobcats!

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www.walknowforautism.org

Crescent *Elementary*

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



Randi Leach
Principal

Support for the Arts

The staff and parents at Crescent Elementary School prepare students for lifelong learning experiences through coordinated efforts towards student achievement in all areas of the curriculum. Through PTA fund-raising efforts, our community has donated funding for supplemental classroom materials and curricular enrichment programs, such as Imagination Machine, Art Masters and Literacy Onstage, all of which integrate history, reading or writing with art, music and theatre.

Imagination Machine unlocks the wonderful world of creative writing by bringing our own Crescent students' stories to life on stage, while Art Masters brings to life the lives and works of famous artists throughout the year. The art history and technique of each art master is presented at grade-level assemblies, and then the students receive classroom lessons, where they create their own masterpieces using the techniques and styles of the master artists.

Literacy Onstage is an interactive journey through literature and the performing arts, which strives to cross the curriculum with the rich and meaningful sounds of music. Presented by Mrs. Regina Roun, our first quarter began with musical tributes to our country in remembrance of Patriot Day and Constitution Day and will be followed by "Celebrations 'Round the World."

In addition to community support of programs which integrate music, art and theatre into our curriculum, we are thankful to all of our active parents who spend numerous hours supporting our school through School Site Council and other PTA-sponsored activities, as well as volunteering in the classrooms and throughout the campus. We are proud of our active parents and community!

El Modena *High School*

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



John Briquelet
Principal

A Fall Celebration

The school year is well under way, and El Modena High School is a very exciting place to be! We are walking on air, after receiving word that our overall pass rate on Advanced Placement exams was an outstanding 75 percent. Moreover, we have just learned that our continued focus on professional collaboration and data-driven decision making has resulted in a projected 27-point increase in our Academic Performance Index (API) score, moving us to 791, only nine points from the highly desirable score of 800.

As a result, the El Modena staff is collaborating with numerous parents, community members and organizations to hold a fall carnival on October 23. This school-wide event is our way of thanking our students and staff for their hard work, dedication and academic excellence.

I cannot adequately express my appreciation for those who are donating their time, equipment, and labor to make this event a terrific experience. I would especially like to thank Sunrise Rotary, El Modena PTSA President Hoda Hamood and the many wonderful parents who participate in our PTSA, Mr. Don Galbraith, Todd Eves and his barbeque caterers, MADD, Dale Carlson, Mrs. Rebecca Martinez, Mr. Ken Widdall, the El Modena ASB, and, of course, ASB Director Mike Finn. Without the selfless dedication of people and organizations such as these, we simply would not be the outstanding high school we truly are.

Go, Vanguard!

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

A Notable Time

The 2009–2010 school year has already been a record-breaking one here at El Rancho Charter School. With over 1,160 enrollments already, there are now more students attending the school than at any previous time, and nearly 40 more students than last year.

One of El Rancho's goals has been to increase community involvement, and the new year presents many opportunities for achieving this goal. The campus hosted the annual Back-to-School night in September, and with well over 920 parents in attendance, it was once again a record event. It was also an exciting way to

kick-off the new school year and head towards our goal of increased parent participation.

Meeting the Challenge

The El Rancho Charter School Partnership Plan formally states that parents and guardians will be "positive role models for children by supporting the mission of El Rancho...and prepare middle school students to meet the challenges of the new millennium..."

By promoting active parent participation at school events, and always striving for increased levels of participation, El Rancho seeks to prepare students for future challenges. The school's aim is to create a student-centered environment fully supported by parents, guardians and the community.

Last year our parents and guardians fulfilled their required amount of service, and we saw a total commitment of nearly 10,000 hours. While this was certainly substantial, we eagerly hope to break this mark during the upcoming year.

El Rancho Charter School is looking forward to its next participatory event, called "Parent Visitation Day," to be held in October.

Esplanade *Elementary*

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



Amy Hitt
Principal

Esplanade Parent Involvement

Esplanade's parents have been participating in several school events already, and have many more to come throughout the year. We celebrated Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, September 1st, with a parent orientation/homework help session (with Mr. Snider), student council fundraisers, a book fair, and classroom visitations.

On Thursday, September 24th, Esplanade parents traveled to Santiago Canyon College's Orange Education Center (OEC) for a comprehensive tour of the facility. Parents learned about the classes (English as a second language, citizenship, and computer skills,

among others) and services (career counseling, salary negotiation training, etc.) at the facility.

Additionally, Esplanade families came to a huge "Test Score Celebration" on October 8th to honor hundreds of students who scored at proficient/advanced in both math and language arts CSTs and to recognize students who increased their performance in either scale scores or levels.

Future activities for parents, families, and the Esplanade community include the following (details will be advertised before each date listed):

- October 30, 2009 – Fall Festival (sponsored by PTA)
- November 19, 2009 – Home/Neighborhood Security Parent Meeting
- December 18, 2009 – Books & Hot Cocoa, Morning Family Reading
- January 29, 2010 – Family Night (Literacy/Thinking Maps focus)
- February 5, 2010 – We LOVE Books (book swap)
- March 5, 2010 – Reading on the Green (family reading celebration)
- April 23, 2010 – Pancakes with Padres
- April 30, 2010 – Family Night (Math/Thinking Maps focus)
- May 7, 2010 – Mommy & Muffins
- May 18, 2010 – Open House (volunteers needed in the Book Fair!)
- June 11, 2010 – Daddy & Donuts

Fletcher *Elementary*

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



Helen Chung
Principal

By *Marta Landry, School Office Manager*

Showcasing Their Pride

On September 1st, Fletcher Elementary School inaugurated their 2009–2010 PRIDE character development program.

PRIDE is a plan that was created by the Fletcher Staff. It is based upon the “Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Model” that helps to shape student behavior and contribute to academic excellence.

The program is spearheaded by Mrs. Bracken, a fifth-grade teacher, along with Mrs. Lee, a first-grade teacher, and Mrs. Miles, a sixth-grade teacher.

The PRIDE theme for the 2009–2010 year is a western one, and the slogan is “Wanted, 400 Fletcher girls and boys to show their PRIDE every day this year.”

Showcased at an assembly attended by students, staff and parents were the PRIDE principles of positive attitude, respect, integrity, determination and empathy. These were enthusiastically introduced to the school community by Mrs. Bracken, Mrs. Lee, and Mrs. Miles, all with a little help and some “horsing around” from a real hobby horse, Sugar Babe.

Also in “attendance” were some historical figures from America’s past, who were invited because of how they have demonstrated these principles. Student performers portrayed the characteristics of Christopher Columbus (positive attitude), Johnny Appleseed (respect), George Washington (integrity), Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. (determination), and Walter Knott and Walt Disney (empathy).

With the help of our teachers and parents, the Fletcher students will now work to develop and improve “pride” in themselves, their schools and their communities.

Imperial *Elementary*

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



Tim Biland
Principal

A Sense of Community

At Imperial Elementary School, we have found that the local community has a great commitment to our children and their families. Already the school has become an adored community center, where families congregate for such activities as night games, Karaoke and dinners provided by the PTA.

During September, the crowds gathered for a special tile-decorating night and spaghetti dinner. Outside high school groups such as Young Red Cross, cheer, band and drum line, drama, choir, and junior ROTC have performed or are presented to our students.

These individuals are heroic in stature in the eyes of our children, and they provide real-life role models. Firefighters, law enforcement and other community members are also invited to share their achievements at career day events or during weekly flagpole ceremonies.

Outside Involvement

The PTA and the local parent community help to support Imperial with their many volunteer efforts. Our teachers work with selected classroom volunteers and train them to become effective guest teachers. From preparing materials to working with the centers, our parents provide valuable support.

Other events, such as game week, field day and the Academic Pentathlon, are a few examples of even more occasions when our parents devote time to the student body. The children truly enjoy their involvement in the classrooms and at other activities.

The Imperial community is also involved with local business and organizations who use their influence to help support school activities. Because of these relationships, Imperial is rich with expertise, commitment and creativity.

Our school community has grown because of these outside partnerships, and they too have grown through their shared commitment to our school.

Fairhaven *Elementary*

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



Andrew Fisher
Principal

By *Jeff Mayfield, SDC Teacher*

Welcome to KinderCamp

This August, parent involvement continued to evolve with Fairhaven’s first KinderCamp. Parents, along with their kindergarten children, reported to Fairhaven for two hour-long sessions.

The first hour consisted of parents and students meeting in separate rooms. While the students met with the kindergarten teachers and worked on academic skills and classroom procedures, the parents were learning teaching techniques that could be applied at home. Parents learned phonology, reading, writing and math strategies, which consisted of homemade games they could play with their children. In the second hour, the parents joined the students in their classrooms, where teachers modeled reading strategies that included asking comprehension questions and having the students make predictions. By the end of the second hour, the parents were using the modeled strategies with their own children.

The overall atmosphere was encouraging and reassuring and allowed the new students of Fairhaven to begin this year with confidence.



Handy *Elementary*

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



Sandra Schaffer
Principal

Learning Today Makes a Brighter Tomorrow

This year, we are looking forward to an exciting partnership with the Orange Police Department. We will be involved in the GRIP program which provides resources to our students to help encourage positive choices both at school and in the neighborhood. At our Back to School Night in the beginning of September, our upper grade parents were treated to an informative presentation by the Orange County District Attorneys office and the police department. They discussed student safety and the importance of parent involvement. We will have more of these throughout the year with both parents and students.

On October 7th, we participated in the National Walk to School Day. Officers walked and rode alongside our students to show their support.

Jordan *Elementary*

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



Elizabeth Gosnell
Principal

It Begins at Home

Newspapers, parenting magazines and even television talk show hosts always emphasize the impact parents can have when it comes to their children's education. But as the demand on our time increases, how can we find ways to become more involved?

Research has shown that the most valuable method is to provide a rich home-learning environment for academic achievement. Other valuable ways include communicating with the teacher and the school, discussing school activities with your child, or regular monitoring of their out-of-school activities.

Building a Great Environment

Providing a rich learning environment will develop a child's gifts and talents. If your child has a special interest then try to make frequent trips to the library so that they can discover books and materials that will add to their knowledge.

And always listen to your child. Ask them questions about their school day and its activities. If time and resources allow, you can enroll them in after-school activities of their choice to add to their sense of competence and self esteem.

Our teachers have scheduled parent-teacher conferences in October. This is an excellent opportunity to meet and talk about your child's progress, or ask the teachers any questions you might have. As your child's first teacher at home, you can also share with them their strengths or possible areas of concern.

We invite parents to participate in activities that will help support student learning. So please join us in building this home and school partnership. We value the teamwork approach. In fact, our motto is "TEAM," which stands for Together Everyone Achieves More!

La Veta *Elementary*

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



Jaymi Abusham
Principal

By Rhiannon Buhr, Resource Teacher

Parent Involvement Matters

"An apple for the teacher is really nothing new. Except when you remember parents are teachers too!"

Studies show that when parents are involved in their child's school and education, they have higher grades and standardized test scores, improved behavior at home and school, long-term academic achievement, and a more positive attitude toward learning in general.

School provides an environment to facilitate our students' education, but that does not mean that learning is restricted to within the classroom walls. Parent involvement functions as a guide for your child's development and also serves to enhance and strengthen the entire learning experience. Your children respect you, and the enthusiasm and interest you demonstrate for their education will provide significant and long-lasting benefits.

At La Veta Elementary School, we realize the value parent involvement can bring to a child's education. We are looking forward to a wonderful year, full of growth and parent involvement. Our doors are always open, and we strongly encourage you to be involved. You can volunteer during the day in your child's classroom or during special events, such as Art Masters, Picture Day, or the Holiday Store. If you are not available during the school day, you can still volunteer at evening events, or contact your child's teacher and inquire about projects you can do from home to support your class.

All of your assistance is greatly appreciated. Together we will make a difference. Together we will learn and grow.

Lampson *Elementary*

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



Laurie Dieppa
Principal

Four Doors to Our Community

Becoming involved with your child's school is a great way to show them that their education is important to you. At Lampson Elementary School, there are many ways to get involved. You can start by volunteering in your child's classroom. Teachers are happy to have another pair of hands and eyes to help keep students on track.

Joining the Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) is also a good way to get even more involved. PTA is a parent group that organizes volunteers for school events, hosts fund-raising events, and makes contributions to Lampson that benefit all of our students.

School Site Council is another way to be involved. The school site council is an elected group of teachers, parents and staff that works with the principal to develop, review and evaluate school-improvement programs and school budgets. The members of the site council are elected at Back to School Night. School site councilmembers represent the interests of the whole school community with the goal of improved student achievement.

Finally, the English Language Advisory Committee is made up of parents whose children are learning English as their second language. This committee works with the principal and staff on the development of a school plan for English learners. These meetings take place several times throughout the year and inform parents and community members about what is happening at Lampson and how funds are being used.

Look for dates and times for all these meetings in the Lampson's Leopard Spots newsletter or on our beautiful marquee.

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Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Sally Hughson
Principal

Always Something Good Happening!

Linda Vista is fortunate to have the support of the community. Parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents have volunteered to help as room parents in the classrooms, Red Ribbon Week, carnival, talent show and much more. To promote the neighborhood feel, Linda Vista's PTA hosts monthly coffee chats. These coffee chats are a great opportunity for parents to meet new people while enjoying a cup of coffee and a doughnut or muffin.

Cub Scout Pack #543 led the Flag Salute at our Patriot's Day Ceremony in September. Our fifth-grade parents hosted Rootin'-Tootin' Hoedown Chili Cook-Off in September to raise funds for Outdoor Science Camp.

The Discovery Science Center is an important part of our community. Grades two and four take field trips to the center for hands-on science lessons. This year, the Discovery Science Center is hosting many free hands-on standard-based assemblies here at Linda Vista. Our fifth-graders participated in three one-hour hands-on demonstrations during which they learned about forms of matter, aqueducts, conservations, preservation and the importance of insects in our water supply.

At our free sixth-grade assembly, also in September, the students used hand-held responders as they investigated green waste, hazardous materials, trash and recyclables. In November, kindergarten through fourth grade will also participate in the free assembly programs.

We would like to thank PTA and all the local businesses that support education with their donations of supplies and programs.

McPherson Magnet

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

Community Partnerships at Work

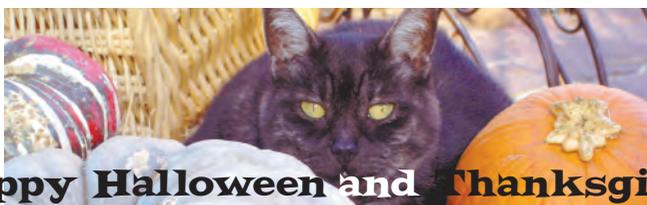
McPherson Magnet School thrives in its partnerships, both within and outside our immediate school community. Reaching outside the walls of the physical classroom empowers students in becoming change agents in their world.

Daily, parents are working with groups of children in literature circles, running classes to the cafeteria for picture day, or collaborating with teachers on a jog-a-thon. PTSA and the Orange Education Foundation work tirelessly to raise money for the elementary keyboarding classes and supplement math, science, and technology programs.

Partnering with other schools is a vital resource. Our daycare facility offers homework clubs and enrichment activities. Chapman University shares science resources and student teachers. El Modena High School provides students for tutoring. Santiago Canyon College helps in goal setting and achieving big dreams.

Establishing links with local business is fundamental to McPherson's success. Local arts and recreation organizations come on campus and enhance our students' lives after school. Guest speakers from the Orange Police Department or local hospitals speak at Career Day. Video conferencing allows our children to speak directly with authors all over the world. Classmates walk to the local grocery store to see how it is run and learn how to purchase on a budget. Students visit local senior citizens, collect food for the needy, recycle to help the environment, and gather care packages for our soldiers overseas.

The exchange of information, resources, and ideas with others ensures that community partnership is alive and well at McPherson.



Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving!

Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Six Point Gain

We are extremely pleased at Nohl Canyon with a six point gain on the state test scores. Our projected API is 930. Reading comprehension will be one of our main focuses at Nohl Canyon this year. In order to enhance what students are learning in the classroom, we will begin a new volunteer reading program. Eligible volunteers will be screened and trained. If you are interested in being a reading volunteer, please contact the office.

At Home Reading Comprehension Tips:

- Read every night with your child!!! Take turns reading out loud to one another.
- Point out difficult words and discuss what they mean. Ask your child to look for clues in the story to help determine what the unknown word(s) means.
- Discuss the main idea. Come up with new titles for the book.
- Ask your child to sequence the book and identify the basic elements of the story.
- Fact and fiction – discuss what parts of the story are real and what parts is fantasy.
- Inference – discuss certain parts of the book where ideas may be read but not directly stated. Is there any bias or propaganda? Have your child be a detective and ask where they found clues to these inferences.
- Tone and mood – Ask your child why the author wrote this book. How did the author want his/her readers to feel?
- Characters – discuss how certain characters are similar and different. Discuss the difference between the main character and other characters in the book.

Olive *Elementary*

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



Kathryn Martin
Principal

ROARing to Go!

The school year is upon us and the Olive Ocelots are ROARing to go! We are incredibly grateful for our amazing Olive Parent Teacher Club. This wonderful group of volunteers is the heart of much of what happens at Olive Elementary. From parents to grandparents to aunts, uncles and cousins, there is a place for every family member at Olive. As OPTC gets off the ground, connections have already been made with local businesses, retailers and eateries that have graciously offered to lend Olive School a hand in any way they can. Along with members of our community, Olive School's Dad's Club is planning fabulous maintenance and construction projects to help beautify our school. Ten amazing volunteers from the Assistance League of Orange come at least twice a month to work directly with our students. They are our HALOS, each regularly Helping A Little One Succeed. Thank you to all who are committed to helping Olive!



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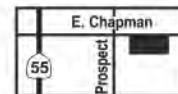
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Note-ables

Smithsonian Folkways



Kate Karp

“You know, there’s a lot of good music in our country you never hear on the radio...just ordinary old-fashioned songs that one person teaches to another.”

That’s what folk music icon Pete Seeger says in the introduction to “Skip to My Lou” on the Smithsonian Folkways Children’s Music Collection. Seeger, who just turned 90, recorded the song in the late 1950s; with this collection, you’ll find his statement to be timeless and perhaps timely.

Seeger has four songs on the collection, and he’s joined by a number of his contemporaries in period, spirit and unplugged glory. The CD opens with Woody Guthrie’s classic “Riding in My Car,” with Guthrie’s inimitable “Brr-brrrrrrrrrrrr” to illustrate the engine’s sound. Guthrie has a couple of contributions, notably the silly wisdom of “Why, Oh Why.” Ella Jenkins, another living legend, teaches as she always has: gently using children as teaching aids. Here, they learn about Mozart’s standard tune that scores “The ABC Song” and “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”; and wild animals exotic and familiar along with a couple of Swahili words in “Pole Pole.” Other world languages heard and sung by other artists are Apache, French, Spanish, Yiddish and other African languages. There are song stories from the South, songs to dance to, songs to learn from, songs about brotherhood, poetry by the celebrated Langston Hughes.

Recently, there has been a reemergence of respect for the struggles that some of these artists have been through, seen and recorded through the artistry of simple songs. Seeger himself is now showing up in school history collections, he’s recorded several other children’s collections, and this year’s Monterey Jazz Festival is featuring an appearance by him, along with a free concert for children and their parents in underserved schools around the city.

“This goes with his spirit of engagement and activism for the community,” said Timothy Orr, media relations associate for the festival.

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

Skeletons

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Television vs Board Games



Sandy Spurgeon
McDaniel

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

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

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

"We are going to play a game. I will explain the rules. Anyone who compromises on the rules or otherwise cheats will be sitting and watching us play the rest of the game. That would be very boring so I suggest you play by the rules. The other rules are: (1) It is fun to get excited. It is not acceptable to make fun of someone else or put someone else down. (2) It is ok to be disappointed. It is not ok to have a temper tantrum (3) Winning is fun, but not what is important; what is essential is that we have fun.

Why Board Games

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sandy McDaniel is the author of numerous parenting books and has been a contributing columnist to *School News* for ten years. Sandy has written three 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

—————
The advantage of
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is that you invite all members
of the family to use
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Valuable life skills
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—————



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Green Thumb, Blue Ocean

The same fertilizers and chemicals that enhance our yards can get carried into creeks and bays through excessive watering.

As our lawns go dormant for the winter we can be tempted to spruce up our yards with chemicals, fertilizers and lots of water to keep them green.

The same fertilizers and chemicals that enhance our yards, however, can get carried into creeks and bays through excessive watering. Once in these bodies of water, fertilizer can cause algae and other plants to grow. When these decompose, oxygen available for native plants and animals is depleted. Oxygen is a requirement for native marine life; decreasing oxygen can have a destructive effect on some animal populations. To prevent this, fertilizers and plant food should be applied to lawns and plants sparingly, and only when there is no chance of rain. The area should not be watered after application.

Even in times when fertilizers are not in use, excessive watering can hurt more than just your wallet. Water runoff can carry dirt, grass clippings and other pollutants into our waterways causing more pollution and hurting marine life. Watering should be only done once the soil is checked for moisture below the surface and seems almost dry; this will be different for every yard. For more information on watering and preventing pollution in Orange County go to www.ocwatersheds.com.



Minds are like parachutes.
 They only function when they are open.

—Sir James Dewar, Scientist

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Chronic Ankle Sprain



Dr. Doug Richie

An ankle sprain is the most common injury in sports. Despite efforts to improve immediate treatment methods, many people will still suffer a long-term disability from this injury. The result can be a chronic condition of pain, weakness, and a feeling that the ankle is “giving way.”

This condition is known as chronic ankle instability. It can cause a long-term loss of balance and an instability in the walking and running gait. When the ankle ligaments are torn or injured in this way, a breakdown will occur in nerve feedback to the spinal cord. This can lead to a breakdown in the ankle’s normal muscular protection.

After such a sprain, many patients will experience symptoms of weakness, or even recurrent sprains, due to the loss of ankle control.

Rehabilitation

The good news for patients with chronic ankle instability is the opportunity to reverse the disability by engaging in a specialized rehabilitation program. Under the supervision of a skilled physical therapist or trainer, the balance and stability of the ankle can be fully restored, even years after the original injury.

Current research has shown the benefit of using foot orthotic devices to improve balance and stability. Initial screening of patients with ankle sprains can be performed by a sports podiatrist or orthopedic surgeon. The rehabilitation program is usually carried out by a qualified physical therapist or athletic trainer. When in doubt, always seek a referral from your primary care physician.

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

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Fight Through Adversity



Kellie Kawaguchi
Guest Columnist

The Los Angeles Lakers were down 73-72. With only .4 seconds on the clock in game five of the 2004 Western Conference Finals, NBA star Derek Fisher caught the



Derek Fisher signing *Character Driven—Life, Lessons, and Basketball* for Kellie.

ball, and made the game winning point. The Lakers won the series against the San Antonio Spurs and they moved on to the NBA Finals. Derek Fisher, the starting point guard for the Los Angeles Lakers knows what real pressure is like. Time after time, the NBA veteran of 11 years is the star of many clutch, winning moments. Derek Fisher, is a champion on and off the court and lives his professional and personal life with character and integrity.

I had the opportunity to interview Derek Fisher. He is a NBA Champion, father, a husband, and a professional athlete. When asked how did he win four championships? He said, "With hard work, by believing and having the faith." Recently his book, *Character Driven – Life, Lessons, and Basketball* was published. In his book, he defines character as having integrity, compassion, and love. Fisher emphasized holding faith in high regards. Growing up in Little Rock, Arkansas, Derek Fisher learned the importance of hard work and determination. He learned that there is no substitute for hard work. Fisher advises students to "live in a way that [a person] will be able to live with the consequences."

Also known as "D. Fish", he advises one to "fight through adversity." A few years ago his daughter was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, a rare form of eye cancer, while he was playing for the Utah Jazz. During the Western Conference Semifinals in 2007, Fisher asked his Utah Head Coach to keep him on the active roster, though he had to take his daughter to an emergency three-hour surgery in

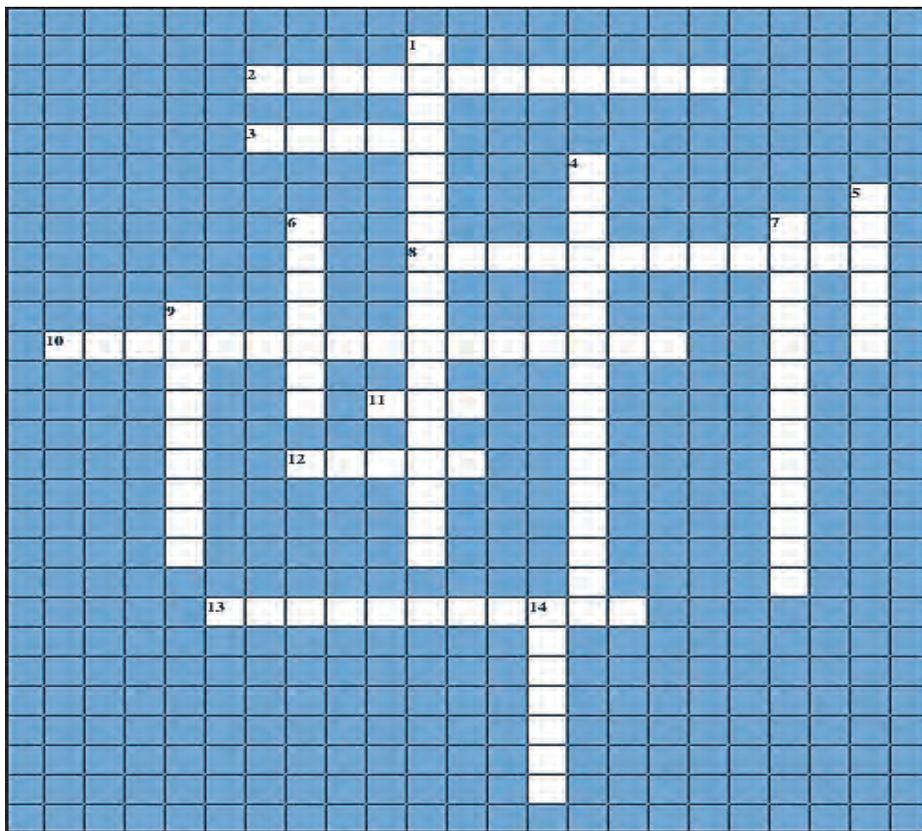
New York. In the middle of the game Fisher ran onto the court after returning from New York. He arrived at the arena and entered the stadium to a standing ovation. The game went into overtime, and Fisher shot the winning three pointer to win a very emotional victory.

After realizing that his daughter needed additional medical care in Los Angeles, he requested that the Jazz release him from his contract so that his daughter can see an eye specialist. Today, his daughter is three years old and is doing well. He and his family fought through adversity just as he advises others.

Derek Fisher lives a life of character. In a recent Orange County speech he summed everything up by saying:

"It's who you are inside that is important. Live with passion, not with complacency. Live with confidence knowing that you worked hard. Fight through adversity. Even though there will be setbacks, have confidence that with faith, everything will work out. Live with belief and faith. Be proud of your day."

When I asked "what is important in life? He stated, "In your personal and professional life, on or off the court, live life with character...shine with character."



Game Time

By Kent Kawaguchi

Down

1. What team won the NFL Super Bowl XLIII? (2 words)
4. What teen won the Women's Surfing U.S. Open in 2009? (2 words)
5. In bowling, earning three strikes in a row is called?
6. The USA Men's Volleyball team practices in what city?
7. Who won the 2009 MLB Home Run Derby? (2 words)
9. Where will the 2010 Winter Olympics be located?
14. Who was the youngest women soccer player to play on the National Team at age 15? (2 words)

Across

2. What is PGA golfer, Tiger Woods' real name? (2 words)
3. How many gold medals did Michael Phelps win in the 2008 Summer Olympics?
8. Who won the 2009 Men's Wimbledon Championship? (2 words)
10. Which team won the 2008-2009 NBA Finals? (3 words)
11. How many players play on a Men's lacrosse team?
12. Two strokes under par on an individual hole is called?
13. Who won the Most Valuable Player in the 2008-2009 NBA season? (2 words)

Answers page 22.

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SK Johnson
Principal

Parent/Community Involvement

OUSD and Orange High School are proud to continue their partnership with Camp Fire USA, Orange County Council. Camp Fire has received funding to continue Orange High School's After-School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) program for the 2009–10 school year! ASSETs is administered by the California Department of Education and is part of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. The purpose is to keep students engaged in schools by providing unique, interesting learning experiences while supporting academic success with tutoring and mentoring.

Camp Fire USA provides tutoring, homework assistance, educational workshops for CAHSEE and SAT test prep, enrichment clubs, service projects—Building Bridges between OHS and Yorba and Portola—and workforce development for students after school each day, on the weekends and during breaks.

OHS's PTSA kicked off the summer by working with the Academic Student Body (ASB) and staff to assemble registration packets. In August, PTSA members worked daily during registration, provided the staff a welcome-back breakfast in August, and provided coffee and light refreshments for the Coffee with the Principal event in September.

The five-year-old Facilities Committee parents, administrators and community members is another active parent group that evolved to continue the efforts of parent Kimberly Bottomly to improve the conditions of our facilities. It is quite a challenge to maintain our site in the same condition as our sister high schools in the district. The committee wants to ensure that all high school students in the district have comparable facilities.

Panorama *Elementary*

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



Michelle Moore
Principal

A Community of Panthers

The Panorama Panthers kick off the new school year with a terrific Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast. It was nice to see so many families



participate in this community gathering. We had a team of amazing dads doing all the cooking! A special thank you to the PTA, numerous volunteers, and staff that made this special event possible: your time and donations were priceless!

We look forward to the next opportunity to bring our Panther Community together again. We're counting the days until our Harvest Carnival celebration. Thank you to our entire community; we truly are a Panorama family. Go Panthers!!

Palmyra *Elementary*

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



Connie Smith
Principal

Kicking Off a New Year

Palmyra Elementary School welcomed back 610 students and their families for an exciting year of academic rigor and community-building opportunities. Our student success at Palmyra comes from a joint effort from our hardworking students, supportive parents and dedicated staff.

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) kicked off their big fund-raising event with a student assembly. Palmyra's PTA provides marvelous support to our school by funding our Art Masters program, Mr. Yeiser's music, classroom enrichment supplies, buses for field trips and sixth-grade Outdoor Science School, and other educational assemblies, to name just a few.

PTA started the 2009–10 school year selling Palmyra spiritwear, assisting new families in finding their classrooms, and helping the office plan for picture days and the vision- and hearing-screening day. Even one of Palmyra's crossing guards gets in on the fun by helping the PTA.

We encourage all parents and community members to get involved, and together we will ensure the continued success for all our students at Palmyra.



Jessica Barajas, PTA President; Maria Moreno, PTA Vice Pres.; Meri Ruhlig, Orange Police Dept. Crossing Guard.

Parkside *Pre-K*

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



Kristi Franco
Principal

Sharing Our Talents

At Parkside we strive to teach our children to become active members of the community; recognizing that when we each participate sharing our talents and gifts we make our community a better place. This year we look forward to learning from as well as giving back to our community.

Student's at Parkside will participate in various walking field-trips to locations in the community to learn skills such as selecting and paying for items at the grocery store to properly addressing and mailing a letter. Parkside staff and families also participate in community activities that raise awareness and funds for nonprofit organizations committed to children with special needs. This year we are looking forward to a book drive to collect and donate books to agencies in the community that work with children.



Portola *Middle School*

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



Deborah Backstrom
Principal

Creating Ties

What an exciting year we have in store for every student! Portola Middle School provides academic excellence in a safe environment, where the staff, students and community can all work together for success. Parental involvement is both welcome and encouraged. This is particularly the case with our English Language Learner (ELL) students.

Portola is pleased to have a new staff member who also has many years of experience in working with ELL students and their parents. Phil Schultz was previously involved with the Community Based English Tutoring program (CBET) of the Orange Unified School District. In his new role as English language development chairperson and teacher, he will use this past experience to help create ties between Portola parents and the school.

The English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) is one good way for our parents to become involved. The PTA is also a very important part of the school, and we encourage every parent to join. For further information or questions, please contact us at (714) 997-6361.

Thank you for your continued support. My door is always open, and I look forward to meeting and working with all of our parents and students this year.

Prospect *Elementary*

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



Elena Stoces
Principal

Empowering Parents

In addition to the many events that are sponsored by the school and PTA throughout the year, we at Prospect are excited about plans to increase our parent and community involvement.

Our part-time community liaisons, Josefina Javadi and Sonia Posthuma, are working with the principal and staff to create several parent education opportunities that will help meet the needs of our community.

We are also planning on featuring special presentations about how to prepare your child for college, and will have a technology series on accessing the parent portal and other educational sites, and how to set up e-mail accounts.

We will be presenting these topics at our English Learner Advisory Committee meetings and during several evening events throughout the year. We also have plans to host, once a month, a "Family Friday." Here parents will be invited into the classroom to work on a reading, writing or math activity during the first half-hour of the day.

Our hope is that by opening our classroom doors to parents, as well as providing access to the global community about the use of technology and the possibility of attending college, we will be able to provide an opportunity for parents to support their children's education, and be a true partner with the educational community.

Richland *High School*

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



Ed Madrid
Continuation
School Principal

Be a Part of a Great School

Like all great schools Richland needs parents to volunteer their time and energy to build a better school. When you volunteer to help we will put you to work to support our educational program on a schedule that suits your needs. We need parents who can volunteer a minimum of one hour. If you're available for one hour a week then please contact the school secretary and she will fill you in on the details of what you'll need to do to work at Richland high school. Call anytime between 7:30 and 4:30. 714-997-6167.

The benefit of volunteering at school is that you are closer to your son or daughter during their day. Your son or daughter will have the experience of seeing you on campus on a regular basis. We welcome you to become a part of your child's school.

Riverdale *Elementary*

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



Sheila Thompson
Principal

2-Hour Power

At Riverdale, we are working hard to increase parent involvement. One of the new ways that we are doing this is through a program we call 2 Hour Power.

The idea behind this effort is twofold. First, we want to encourage all parents to commit to giving time to the school and its children. However, even more importantly, it is to emphasize how even a little bit of time—two hours—can accomplish really good things for our children. Without a doubt, we gain the power to make a positive and meaningful impact when we pull together as a community and give what we can to support one another. We have already signed up many parents, and our Riverdale School Association parent organization is in the process of contacting those who have responded. We are excited about getting this program in full swing and reaping the rewards for our school and, most definitely, our children.

"Your child can succeed in math!"

Maureen McConaghy, Ph.D.
MATH TUTOR
Elementary Math, Pre-Algebra,
Algebra, Statistics

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Running Springs *Elementary*

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



Lydia Roach
Principal

Outside Involvement

Running Springs Elementary School was very fortunate this summer to receive community assistance from the Jaguar Patrol of local Boy Scout Troop 824.

Jackson Peters, Alex Pinkerton, Grant Podue and Grant Gunnison spent a Sunday afternoon in the school parking lot gluing pylons to help improve our lot safety. Many thanks to these young men for contributing hours of community service.

During the summer break the school also created a valuable partnership with the East Anaheim Branch Library. Carolyn Thomas, the library services manager, spoke to the students last May about their summer reading program. Many of them participated in an educational game called "Home-Run Readers."

Ms. Thomas was a visitor at our recent Back-to-School night, where she shared the successes of those students who participated in the summer reading program. A big congratulations goes to everyone who took advantage of this opportunity to help develop their reading skills.

Thank you also to the East Anaheim Branch for being such a wonderful resource, one that is available in our own Anaheim Hills community.

Another valuable resource is the school PTA. In order to continue the strong sense of community that exists at Running Springs, our PTA has planned several Family Fun Nights throughout the school year. We encourage everyone to attend the Round-up Carnival and bingo and movie nights that will soon be offered.

Incidentally, these volunteer efforts not only help our students feel connected to their campus, but they are also a fun way for families to meet each other and share common experiences.

We are definitely looking forward to the exciting activities being planned for this school year!

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



Mary Henry
Principal

A Welcoming Environment for Parents

Santiago strives to be a family friendly school that values parent involvement. The school distributes a form to parents at Registration each year. We recognize that we need to offer a variety of ways that a family can complete the twelve hours of service that is required by our school. Seeking to draw on the resources of our families, the school asks for volunteers to assist at the school by volunteering in the classroom, in the cafeteria, on field trips, and at dances. Parents are actively involved in decision making. Parents serve on the school's Charter Board, School Site Committee, ELAC Committee, and PTSA.

The Santiago Staff works to create a welcoming environment for our parents. We have a Parent Center in our library that is set aside for parent use. It contains parenting information and serves as the hub for fundraising activities. All are welcome!



Serrano *Elementary*

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



Bobie Lansman EdD
Principal

Parent and Community Involvement

Serrano Elementary is truly a "happening place" when it comes to parent and community involvement.

Our Parent Faculty Organization (PFO) and School Site Council (SSC) support our great activities and events. Currently, parents are planning the fall carnival, organizing the schoolwide fund-raiser, and preparing for Art Masters and the Class Act partnership with a symphony orchestra. Parents volunteer in classrooms, the library and the office, and sell ice cream after a hot school day.

Many working parents volunteer in the evenings. Serrano's unique Foundation raises funds for items such as technology, playground equipment and the outdoor amphitheater. With tool belts and positive attitudes, the Dads' Club is willing and able to assist. They recently put felt caps on the chair feet in classrooms with linoleum flooring. It was quite a job!

Always on the move to improve through teamwork, the SSC sponsored a schoolwide survey at Back to School night to validate strengths and grow even stronger as a vibrant learning community.



Villa Park Superman welcomes the children and parents.



Parent volunteers share brownies.

Sycamore *Elementary*

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



Kathy Bruce
Principal

Learning Lanes

Sycamore had a great opening this school year. The students, staff and parents were welcomed to a newly modernized school. All of the primary classrooms have had their Smartboards installed and are ready for use, and the upper grades will be installing theirs shortly.

The staff has graced each hallway with a special name to help support our focus on academic success. As you walk through the school you will now see Learning Lane, Reading Road, Educational Parkway, Success

Street, University Way and Achievement Street. Mr. Tom Fessett, a fifth-grade teacher, created the signs for our school.

Positive behavior intervention support began with a school-wide rally. The students rotated through six different areas of the campus and were reminded of the expectations for each area. Teachers put on skits and acted out what to do and not to do in different situations. The students received Splash Tickets for answering questions correctly.

Every Friday the students will be recognized for their outstanding effort in four areas, including being respectful, being ready, making good decisions and being problem solvers.



Taft *Elementary*

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



Antoniette Coe
Principal

Community Support

We would like to thank the parents for their participation in our Back-to-School Night presentation. It is exciting to have such incredible parental involvement as we kick off the 2009-2010 school year.

There are many opportunities for parents to be involved at Taft Elementary School. We encourage parents to be involved in School Site Council, English Learners Advisory Council (ELAC), and the PTA. We also encourage parents to volunteer in the classroom or office, chaperone field trips, and participate in family education nights. Community events bring the Taft Tigers together at events such as our Fun Fair and fund-raisers at local businesses.

Taft is fortunate to have several community and business supporters. Throughout the year, members of the local business community donate materials, volunteer in classrooms, and contribute to foundations currently providing grants to our school to support student achievement.

With continued parental and community involvement, Taft will be able to support our school vision and achieve our goals, as written in our school plan.

The Taft staff would like to thank all of the volunteers who have supported a successful start of the school year. We encourage parents to participate in their children's education. Please stop by or call the office to inquire about opportunities to volunteer at Taft.

Villa Park *Elementary*

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



Debra Larson
Principal

Second Grade Students in Action

What do forces, hygiene, life-cycles, and agriculture have in common?

Second grade rotations of course!

This year started off without any drag as students learn about the forces of push, pull and motion in action.

Students also got a "hands on" lesson demonstrating how germs are spread from one place to another. With flu season coming up there could not be a better time.

Other topics covered include, the life cycle of plants and inherited characteristics and traits, and "From Farm to Table;" how we use plants in our everyday life.

All Second Grade students are included in Science and Social Studies rotations Monday through Thursday and a "Whole Group" rotation for Physical fitness every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Considering the students and staff involved, you never know... maybe someone will win a marathon or the Nobel Peace Prize someday. We'll keep you informed.



Villa Park *High School*

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



Ed Howard
Principal

Passion Grows with Community

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."

—George Bernard Shaw

At Villa Park High School, we are extremely fortunate to have many community members who share this belief. Whether it is the 75 volunteers who helped at orientation or the 20 who assisted with our vision and hearing screening, we always have willing and able community members to assist us. From full houses at our PFSO meeting to booster clubs that continually go the extra mile for our programs, our community support is second to none. When I speak to these selfless individuals, I am inspired by not only their passion for community but also how much fun they are having along the way. There is a certain level of satisfaction that one can achieve by giving to a community; we certainly appreciate all of the assistance we receive and would like to encourage as many as possible to get involved.

This year, our PFSO held our major fund-raiser on a Saturday in October: The VPHS King Pin Classic! What a wonderful turnout they had! Everyone in attendance had a great time. As usual, the PFSO went above and beyond to make this event a successful one. As always, I look forward to seeing you soon.

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Prospect, Riverdale, Sycamore, Taft, Villa Park, & West Orange.

Registration forms are available in the school offices,
or use the **VISITOR'S PASS** to start.

VISITOR'S PASS (Turn-in to the school office)



Please print student's first & last name

School _____ grade _____ room _____

I request that my child be released from the school to attend one Bible class in the Released Time Christian Education trailer parked off campus at the curb. I release the public school from responsibility during this time.

signature of parent or guardian

date

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Rick Ledesma
President

Simple Truths

A recent edition of *Scholastic Administrator* focused on learning to manage change in the 21st century. Specifically, the article highlighted noted author Michael Fullan's book, *The Six Secrets of Change*, and his own six secrets on managing change. These "secrets" are more simple truths than mysteries. Fullan states that the challenge is to learn them and share them within your organization. Certainly, here in the Orange Unified School District we are faced with an ever increasing budget crisis which has led to change as we are learning to live within the constraints which Sacramento has put us under.

Fullan says in part:

1. Secret One: Invest in Your Employees

A new report from McKinsey & Company focusing on the top-performing school systems in the world provides the central reason why we must value employees (in this case, teachers) as much as customers (children and parents). One of the ways you invest in your employees is by creating the conditions for them to succeed. Investing in your employees means helping them all find meaning, develop their skills, and derive personal satisfaction from making contributions fulfill their own goals and the goals of the organization.

2. Secret Two: Connect Peers with Purpose

What is the optimal role of leadership in an organization? The key to achieving a simultaneously tight-loose organization lies in purposeful peer interaction. Successful education strategies endorse intraschool collaboration, in which teachers work with and learn from each other. But there are now initiatives in which schools learn from each other. This is called lateral capacity building.

3. Secret Three: Capacity Building Prevails

Problems get solved when people believe that they will not get punished for taking risks. When it comes to complex tasks, capacity building always trumps judgmentalism. Individuals and groups are high in capacity if they are developing knowledge and skills; if they attract and use resources wisely; and if they are committed to getting important things done collectively and continuously.

4. Secret Four: Learning Is the Work

Organizations must consistently address their core tasks, while at the same time learning to improve what they do. Learning on the job, day after day, is the work. Workshops and courses won't do the trick. In fact there is no trick: You can achieve consistency and innovation only through deep and consistent learning in context.

5. Secret Five: Transparency Rules

The first reason that transparency rules is that it's going to, whether we like it or not. Easy access to information means that the public's appetite for accountability cannot be thwarted. The second reason it rules is that transparency is a good thing; in fact, it is essential to success. Effective organizations embrace transparency. So one thing we must do is develop cultures in which it is normal to experience problems and solve them as they occur. Knowing that transparency is both inevitable and desirable for successful organizations makes it far less threatening.

6. Secret Six: Systems Learn

So how do systems learn? First, they focus on developing many leaders working in concert. A key reason why organizations fail to sustain learning is that they focus on individual leaders. Second, systems learn when they are led by people who approach complexity with both humility and faith.

By putting these secrets into action, you will inspire effective action from others.

Note: Fullan's text was edited for space considerations. Some text has been changed for clarification.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

By *Aileen Sterling*
Executive Director of Secondary Education

The 2009-2010 Student Advisory Council to the Board of Education (SACBE) representatives were introduced at the September Board of Education meeting:

Alexandra Adams, Canyon High School
Mary Ellen Havana, El Modena High School
Lorraine Ngin, Orange High School
Collier Beardsley, Villa Park High School
Richland High School, to be determined

These students were selected by their peers as campus leaders who will serve as student liaisons. The Board of Education believes it is important to seek out and consider student ideas, viewpoints, and reactions to the educational programs of the District. The council members will regularly attend Board meetings to keep informed of District issues, contribute ideas and insights as appropriate, and present "State of the School" reports about their high school.

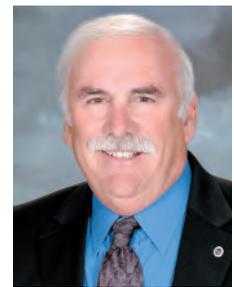
Orange Unified School District Board of Education



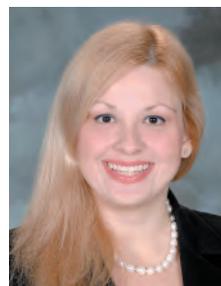
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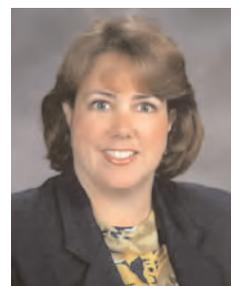
Alexia L. Deligianni,
Ed.D.
Member



Kathryn A. Moffat
Member



Kimberlee Nichols
Member



Melissa J. Smith
Member

West Orange *Elementary*

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



Michael Olander
Principal

Increasing Parent Involvement is a Priority

West Orange Elementary School is very appreciative of the support that parents provide in its classrooms. Parent participation is extremely influential in improving student achievement and can be done in a variety of ways. Parents aren't always able to come to the school to help in the classroom. Parents can be involved by asking their children what they learned, monitoring and helping with homework, and communicating regularly with the teacher. By showing concern and interest in their children's school and education, parents convey the message that school is important and increase feelings of accountability and motivation.

West Orange Elementary School encourages parents to become involved in whatever way possible. Parent education nights are scheduled throughout the school year where parents are taught how to work with their children at home. Parents are also invited to work with students in the classroom and to attend the Family BBQ nights. The message about the importance of parent involvement is consistent delivered.



Parents are always welcome in West Orange classrooms!

Yorba *Middle School*

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



Tara Saraye
Principal

Yorba ASB Works Orange Street Fair

Yorba ASB/leadership students with their teacher/advisor Mrs. Dull worked at the Orange Street Fair selling sausage sandwiches. Their goal is to raise money to support school spirit events and projects at Yorba. One of their ideas is to help Yorba go "green" by adding recycling bins around campus for bottles and cans. Another goal is to increase student involvement and participation by creating prizes that students would want for raffles and giveaways. Money earned from the Orange Street Fair will help give a start to these projects, and demonstrate the ASB students' involvement in the school and community. One student commented, "It was a lot of fun selling the sandwiches and seeing all the people at the fair. I liked working with my friends and learning to work as a team." Go Toros!



Renae Dreier, Ed.D.

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

Services:

- School-based Technology Instructional Assistants were eliminated.
- The Instructional Media Center (IMC) hours have been reduced as well as a number of services.
- High School counselor caseloads have increased to 525:1.

Staffing:

- Reductions in educational and support staff equates to approximately 214 jobs cut. We have fewer classified staff (the people who support the classroom teachers).
- While we have rehired most probationary and permanent teaching staff who were laid off, we did not fill all teaching positions created through retirements and other staffing changes: there are about 67 fewer teachers this year than last.
- \$1.8 Million in District administrative cuts for the 2009-10 school year which includes the elimination of positions as well as a reduction in work calendar for some.
- Total compensation for all teachers, certificated staff and administration has been reduced by 2% through a combination of monetary adjustments and furlough days.
- Over a two-year period a 20 percent reduction has been made to school supply budgets for secondary schools and 10 percent to elementary.
- Revenue enhancements: The district has some new sources of income.
- The Saturday School attendance recovery program will be fully implemented at all secondary schools this year. Staff is working on a possible plan to address elementary absences as well.

Misc:

- Increase in healthcare contributions.
- In 2007-2008 we received \$5,786 per student (our revenue limit).
- In 2008-2009 if we would have received the statutory cola (additional money calculated by law to address increased costs of doing business as a school district) we would have received \$6,115 per student.
- We actually received \$5,635 per student and were told this in the middle of the year.
- In 2009-2010 if no reductions had been made and if again, we had received our statutory cola we should have been funded at \$6,376 per student.
- After all of the budget revisions (approved in August) we will receive \$4,956 per student.
- These reductions equal about a 22 percent cut to the level of revenue we should have received this year.

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Orange Unified School District

Canyon High School



Comanches Ready to Bring the Heat!

By Takeya Soltero, Staff Writer Smoke Signals

Ending last year's season with a record of 8-5, the Canyon Varsity Football Team is ready to take us to CIF again. This time around, they hope to bring home the trophy. When asked how he felt about the team, Offensive Corner Julian Echevery responded, "I think we are very good. We had a rough start at first. It was hard to bond, and we had a young and new team. But now we work together as a unit very well."

According to many players, practice has been hard. Linebacker Danny Echevery says, "Our expectations are higher, we want it more, and we work harder. Our focus gets stronger and stronger every practice. We still haven't



Travon Cox running the ball.

reached our peak yet, but we expect to be the champions of CIF this year."

This season, Beau Perry, our young quarterback, is expected to lead our team to the CIF Championships again.

J. Echevery comments, "I've played with Beau since Jr. High, he has improved so much. I think he is definitely ready to lead."

Running Back Mario Todd agrees, "Beau knows how to bring us together. He is a hard worker."

When asked how he felt about the upcoming season, J. Echevery responded, "I'm feeling confident. I mean our defense is coming together, we are more intense, and we are ready to bring the heat!"

There you have it! They are ready to bring the heat, so come support your Comanches!

El Modena High School



By Arthur Trotter, 12th Grade Student

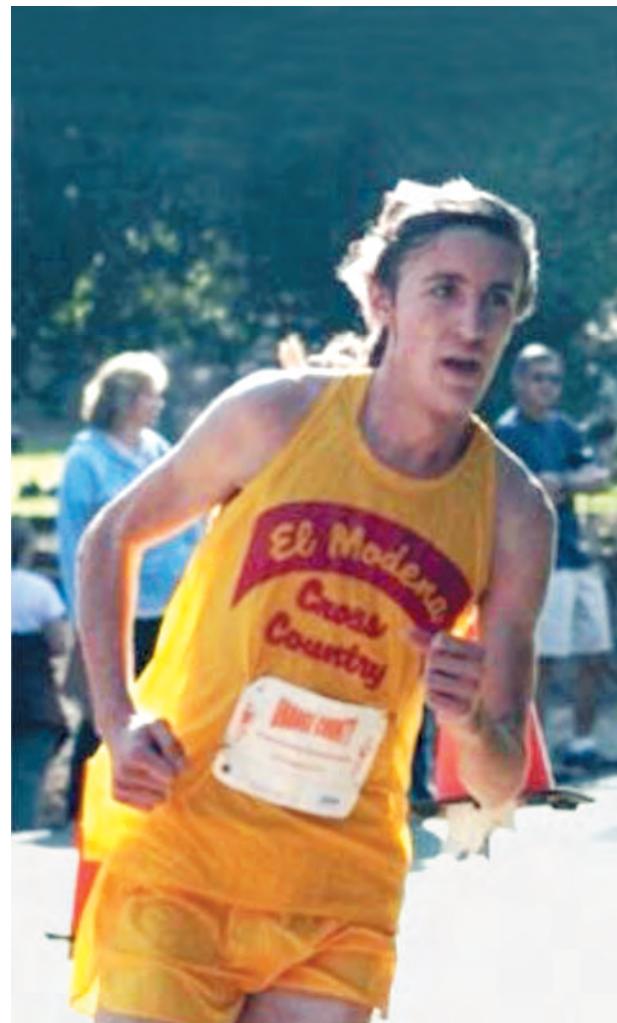
Senior Kyle Aukshunas represents El Modena at its finest. Aukshunas is a master at overcoming the mental and physical battle that is cross country. Last year Aukshunas was named Boys Century League Runner of the Year and led the Vanguard to a third place finish

in the Century League. He has been preparing hard for the upcoming season. During the summer he went on runs of six-eight miles, six times a week—two of those days he would run twice.

Aukshunas knows he needs to work very hard this year to accomplish his goal of going to the state championships and to improve on his already impressive 15:24 personal record in a sub-3 mile race.

When asked about his favorite part of cross country Aukshunas said, "The best part of running is the feeling of accomplishment after a successful race."

To add to his already remarkable athletic record, Aukshunas is also an AP student with a 4.2 GPA.



Kyle Aukshunas represents El Modena HS both on the field and in the classroom.



Spring 2010 Sign Ups

Central Orange Girls Fastpitch Softball

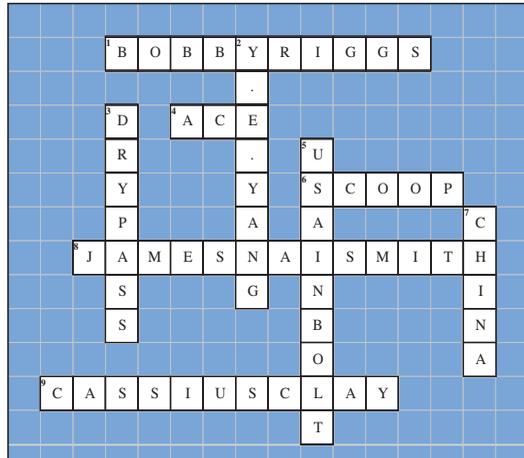
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Game Time



Answers to crossword puzzle on page 14.

High School Sports

Orange High School



Back to the Future

By Alyce Espitia, Senior

Orange High School has a new football coach, sort of. Tom Meiss came to OHS in 1989, took the team to the CIF Finals and is back again in 2009. Twenty years after Coach Meiss took over the Panthers the first time, he is back to lead OHS back to the playoffs.

Q: How is coaching now different from the first time you coached at Orange?

A: The facility is obviously 20 years older, hence it's much more run-down, but most notable is the shabby team rooms, bathrooms, field conditions, and of course we did not have an infestation of rabbits.

Q: What's the team theme this year?

A: "Bring All You Got," meaning to practice and play to the full potential of your God given ability.

Q: What are some of your pet peeves?

A: Getting misquoted in print, having people say they are going to do something and don't follow through, road blocks created by policies and paperwork, and grade requirements that now exist which do not accomplish their intentions and don't meet the needs of the student athlete.

Q: What would you say is your biggest accomplishment as a coach so far?

A: Never having a losing season. Most rewarding: Orange High CIF (1989)

Q: Did you ever play football in high school/college?

A: Both. In high school I played fullback and defensive line and in college I was an offensive guard.

Q: What kind of offense and defense do you plan on running?

A: Multiple offenses; running and passing both 50/50, and lots of spreads on offense.

Q: What former schools did you coach at?

A: I've coached for the Arena League, Chapman College, Foothill, Santa Ana, Santa Ana Valley, and Savanna of Anaheim.

Q: Have you only ever played football?

A: No I also did track, basketball, and baseball in high school.

Q: What is the hardest thing about coaching a football team?

A: With high school kids today, it's competing against too many things and distractions. (TV, iPods, girlfriends, etc.)

Q: What is your coaching motto?

A: "Building Men for Others." When people ask me how the team is going to do, I tell them, "Check back in twenty years". If the boys all turn out to be good sons, fathers, husbands, and citizens, then we know we were successful.



Coach Meiss.

Villa Park High School



We Are Villa Park

Matt Simon, Student

For the first time in over twenty years, Villa Park Football has a new head coach, and a promising year ahead of them. Head Coach Dusan Ancich has taken over the position of former Head Coach Pat Mahoney, and is looking to prove that Villa Park Football is ready to win and make a run at CIF.

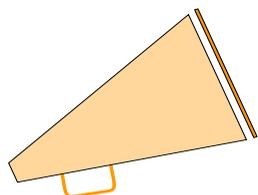
Things are looking up this year for the Villa Park Spartans. Principal Ed Howard said, "There is a buzz and an energy unlike anything I have ever witnessed since I have arrived on the campus surrounding VPHS Football. We are so proud and supportive of our boys, coaches, and boosters in how they prepared for this season. I am confident to say that Villa Park is going to be the best show in town this year."



The guys are ready to go, and are pumped up for the season ahead. With stand out Seniors Tenee Tafuna, Michael Stankan, and Andrew Selway, combined with a wealth of talent from the underclassmen, this year looks promising. Athletic Director Tom Fox has high hopes for this Spartan football team as well, "I feel that they have been working real hard out there. There's a lot of returning players this season. They are looking good this year and I think that our success is going to surprise a lot of people. *The Orange County Register* has picked us to place fourth in the league and I think that our work on the field is going to prove that we are better than that. In other words, we are going to let the scoreboard do the talking this year."

Even though this year's Spartans are ranked fairly low, there are high expectations from the community and the student body. With only one win in the 07-08 season and four in the 08-09 season, these guys have never been as pumped up to start a season and get down to the business of winning as they are right now. Scrimmaging teams such as Pacifica, and beating Valencia High School 22 to 7 our Spartans are more than primed to kick this season off with a bang.

Suggestion: keep an eye out for Villa Park Football this year because, they're coming to win.



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