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School News

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Covering the Orange Unified School District

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 30

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2010

SUPERINTENDENT



Renae Dreier, Ed.D.

Strategic Plan 2009-2012 Year 2 Priorities

This is our second year of implementation of our District Strategic Plan. Our Strategic Plan goal leaders presented Year 2 Priorities to

the Board of Education last month. Listed below are the goal areas along with those priorities for the 2010-2011 school year.

Student Achievement

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

Strategy 1: Develop and implement K-12 common curriculum in the core content areas.

Actions

- Complete the development of the Essential Learnings in the content areas and make revisions where necessary.
- Implement and monitor pacing guides through the use of common formative assessments and supervision protocols.
- Provide ongoing staff development for principals and teachers through the Cycle of Effective Instruction.

Strategy 2: Develop and implement a K-12 collaborative district culture.

Actions

- Provide time for team collaboration through an accountable professional learning plan for each school.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 18

Walk Through the Constitution



Cerro Villa Middle School students perform at Walk Through the Constitution.

From the District

In celebration of Constitution Day, students throughout the Orange Unified School District took part in "Walk Through the Constitution" held at Peralta Park in Anaheim September 17. Over 600 students from Nohl Canyon Elementary School, Canyon Rim Elementary School, Crescent Elementary School, Imperial Elementary School and Anaheim Hills Elementary School were on hand with an additional 200 students from Cerro Villa Middle School.

Cerro Villa Leadership and honors students wrote scripts and performed dramatizations of the Preamble, Seven Articles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights in fourteen different venues. Each venue consisted of a four-minute presentation using a variety of media such as music,

SEE WALK THROUGH • PAGE 5

BOARD OF EDUCATION



John H. Ortega
President

The Orange Unified School District has been awarded a Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grant by the United States Department of Education in the amount of \$600,824. OUSD was one of 98 school districts in 28 states to receive this competitive grant. Over \$28.8 million was distributed in total. The REMS grant program will enable the District to improve plans that address all four phases of emergency management: Prevention-Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. The REMS grant will support OUSD's 42 school sites and seven district facilities.

The Orange Unified School District prides itself on keeping abreast of up-to-date research and

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 17

OUSD Student Advisory Council to the Board of Education (SACBE)

BY AILEEN STERLING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SECONDARY EDUCATION

Every year the Orange Unified School District Board of Education invites each high school to select an outstanding student to represent them at school board meetings. Our students are a source of valuable insight about the effect of school board decisions on Orange Unified School District's high school population.

The members of the 2010-11 Student Advisory Council to the Board of Education (SACBE) are:

- Andrew Grant, Canyon High School
- Eden Loi, El Modena High School
- Bryanna Hernandez, Orange High School
- Jorge Munoz, Villa Park High School
- Daniel Saldivar, Richland High School

Throughout the school year, Secondary Educational Services will work with the student representatives to facilitate communication between the Board of Education and the students of our district. SACBE representatives will attend Board meetings, inform the Board about programs and activities taking place at their school and then return the communication about decisions made at Board meetings.

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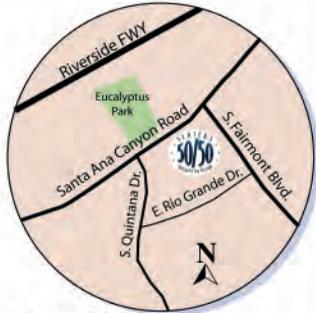
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We published our first issue covering OUSD in October 2005. There have been many changes during these five years and we are excited to continue publishing the excellence. SmartBoards have become the norm in classrooms and many of you may remember it was not long ago when white boards had taken the place of chalk boards. (Many of you may be right there with me remembering typewriters, but that is a column for another day!)

Since our next issue is December 8, I'll wish you Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving. Please take time to remember our service men and women on November 11.

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Covering the
ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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

ADVERTISING SALES:
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063
Leslie Rawlings • Leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

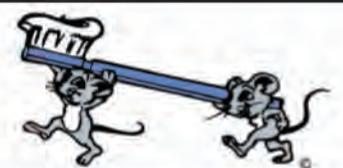
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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Supporting English Learners—Project GLAD



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

A top priority of Orange County education leaders is to offer teachers research-based training opportunities while supporting their professional development. The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD) program offers staff development in the areas of academic language and literacy for teachers of English Learners. An Academic Excellence Project for the United States Department of Education and an Exemplary Project for the California Department of Education, GLAD has over 10 years of standardized test scores that demonstrate its success.

The GLAD model provides a language-rich constructive environment that incorporates fun and instills a love of learning.

GLAD was developed and field tested for nine years in the Fountain Valley School District and is based on years of experience with integrated approaches for teaching language. Tied to standards, the model trains teachers to provide access to core curriculum using local district guidelines. GLAD enables teachers to set and reach high expectations for all levels of learners.

What does a GLAD classroom look like? Students work in groups and are eager to learn. Lessons are interactive and engaging using pictures, chanting, puzzles, and movement. Student vocabulary is improved, energy is positively channeled, and high-achieving students are challenged.

The OCDE GLAD Coordinator, trainers, and support staff organize trainings and demonstrations for districts throughout Orange County. The training of teachers begins with a two-day workshop that incorporates theory and research with practical classroom implications and applications. The workshop covers the works

SEE SUPPORTING ENGLISH LEARNERS • PAGE 19

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Anaheim Hills *Elementary*

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



Sandra Miller
Principal

PAWSitive Panthers Are On the Prowl *By Mrs. Julie Young, Teacher – 4th and 5th Grade*

Anaheim Hills Elementary School is off to another positive start this year with our new school-wide Perseverance, Accountable, Work Together, and Scholarly (PAWS) expectations.

For three years, Anaheim Hills, along with many other schools in the Orange Unified School District, has been participating in a process called Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS).

This program has been completely customized for our school by collecting and analyzing behavior data in order to find out what

areas of need we feel should be our main focus to make school safe for everyone. PBIS is based on the idea that students need to be directly taught the expectations, what they mean, and what it looks like so student understand how to behave and why. Throughout this process, we have recognized students and staff for their great choices and have seen a decrease in behavior problems each year.

At the beginning of this school year, students participated in a kick-off rotation which allowed them to move throughout our campus in order to learn and practice safe and respectful ways to use all of our amazing resources and equipment.

Each student learns expectations for the library, computer lab, restrooms, playground, hallways, courtyard, parking lot, and classrooms. PAWS are the expectations set for everybody on campus, including teachers, staff, parents, and all guests. It is very motivating and rewarding to see our whole school and community come together to work towards a safe and welcoming school for all who come to visit!

California *Elementary*

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



Cyndi Paik
Principal

Welcome Back *By Patty Ruiz, 4th Grade Teacher*

It's hard to believe another school year is well under way with students and teachers in full swing of rigor and diligence in their daily activities. This year is no different in that student achievement is our primary focus. In fact, to further promote learning at California Elementary, parent volunteers have stepped up to be part of our morning greeting committee. These parents are present on our campus on a daily basis to serve as greeters to parents dropping off their children. This greeting not only



California parent greeters welcome students to school.

encourages a welcoming environment, but also assists in getting children safely out of their cars and onto campus. We also have parent volunteers to assist during breakfast time. These parents ensure students are eating their breakfast and maintaining order among their classmates. The California Bears would not be able to excel without the assistance of our parents and volunteers.

Cambridge *Elementary*

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



Karen Merkow
Principal

Making Great Progress

Cambridge Elementary School is off to a wonderful new year. Students arrived at school ready to learn in their uniforms with school supplies and smiling faces! The excitement of a new year was apparent all around. As our parents waved goodbye to their children, they began their path to learning in a positive and exciting manner.

This year we welcome several new staff members, including Mrs. Chris Rotsios, Mrs. Patricia Roman and Mrs. Kristeena Ellson. We bid farewell to Ms. Sherry Smith, who retired after over 30 years of dedication to our children, but who joined us on the first day, welcoming back the children.

Our first day included an entire school review of our Positive Behavior Award System, new this year. By collecting Crusader Bucks, children can earn awards, including front of the lunch line passes, making school announcements, Star Path of Fame and being principal for a day, to name a few. We have three expectations at Cambridge: make good decisions; show respect; and solve problems. Students will earn their Crusader Bucks by demonstrating these behaviors.

Our students shared their summer experiences with their classmates, a favorite time for all. Each child is meeting with his or her teacher to set personal goals for the year and review state test scores. Our children enjoy making goals and tracking them as the year progresses.

We're all involved in and excited about our school year and look forward to an amazing year of good effort, growth and accomplishments. That's what Cambridge is all about!

Canyon Hills

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



Dr. William Gee
Principal

All Present and Accounted For!

The transition to the new school year has been the most efficient opening that Canyon Hills has ever experienced. The summer break between our Extended School Year (ESY) and the new 2010–11 school year was only four weeks long, so our students and families were only away from Canyon Hills for four weeks.

The year began with very few changes in our staff. All of the teachers have returned. All of the special education instructional assistants have also returned. Our bus drivers have returned as well. Within two days of the beginning of school, the students appeared to be fully engaged in the routines of the day.

Our parent group has already held its organizing and business meetings. The parent group decided to focus its funds on items that will physically comfort the students. Although the Canyon Hills categorical funds and special education funds go toward educational and functional goals, these funds cannot necessarily be spent on items that are predominantly designed for student comfort. The parent group, therefore, has discussed how to fill that need. Providing funds for softer chair coverings, more comfortable foam chairs, more appropriate mattresses and better changing tables are examples of items that may be purchased by the parent group this year.

Back to School Night was held in September. The highlights of the evening included a silent auction, a raffle, dinner with our families and a dance that was sponsored by one of the local youth groups. It was a tremendous success.



Happy Halloween!

Canyon *High School*

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



Dr. Greg Bowden
Principal

Connecting from the Inside Out

Research shows that students who get connected with their school during the freshman year have a higher graduation rate than those who do not. At Canyon High School, we use several strategies to ensure that our freshmen are connected with the school. One strategy is the presentation by inspirational speaker Keith Hawkins, who provides a two-day orientation for our freshman. Mr. Hawkins spends one day working with 100 upper-class “ambassadors” selected to help him deliver his message to the new freshmen.

Mr. Hawkins is one of America’s top professional youth speakers. He has dedicated his life to the human race with his work. His mission is to help make this world a place where we understand and value all people by building meaningful relationships. His presentation challenges students to address the following issues: If you don’t stand for something, will you fall for anything? We are all unique on the outside, but sometimes we still don’t accept people’s differences. Why is your character so important? We create our habits and our habits create us. What is more important: other people’s opinions of you or your own opinion of yourself?

He has made presentations to our Canyon Freshmen for the past three years. He assists us in connecting our students with the school, helping set the standards for behavior and treating one another, and encouraging students to actively participate in school activities. In October, we will present “Rachel’s Challenge” to further strengthen the respect and connections among our students.

Canyon Rim *Elementary*

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



David Appling
Principal

A Safe School

Canyon Rim provides a safe and nurturing environment that supports all students’ unique learning styles, empowers them to achieve academic success, and encourages them to become lifelong learners and productive members of society.

Our Safe School Vision states the following commitments. We will provide a safe, orderly and secure environment conducive to learning. We will create a school environment in which pupils will attend regularly and be safe from both physical and social-psychological harm. We will work collaboratively with the district

office and School Board of Education to use strategies and programs to comply with school safety laws. We will develop a plan to work cooperatively and collaboratively with parents, pupils, teachers, administrators, counselors and community agencies, including law enforcement, to provide a safe and orderly school and neighborhood. We will develop an academic program that will focus on high expectations of pupil performance and behavior in the school experience. We will work collaboratively with our feeder schools to assist in a smooth transition from one school level to another. We will solicit the participation and advice of teachers, parents, school administrators and community members, and use this information to promote the safety of our pupils, staff and community.

Canyon Rim, home of the Roadrunners, houses over 690 students. Each set of four classrooms has a central pod area, used for individual remedial teaching, assessment testing, and other small group activities. Canyon Rim is committed to maintaining a safe school—an environment where staff and students are both physically and emotionally safe.

Cerro Villa *Middle School*

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



Dr. Ken Miller
Principal

Safe and Welcoming

At Cerro Villa Middle School, we pride ourselves on being a safe and welcoming school.

Our hospitality begins before the school year even begins. During the first week in August, Activities Director Mrs. Lisa Hedspeth organized the inaugural Orange Unified Middle School Leadership Camp. Our school welcomed two other participating middle schools to our campus to map out the upcoming year’s events, participate in team-building and character-education activities, and become more acclimated with middle school and being a leader.

During registration on August 12 and 13, our leadership students welcomed all of our students back to school for 2010–2011. The leadership students conducted tours of campus for all of our seventh-grade students to help them lower their anxiety about taking that big step from elementary school to middle school.

On the second day of school, our students were officially welcomed during our Welcome Back Assembly. The Cerro Villa leadership team promoted acting in accordance with the Green and Golden Rules. We tell the truth, act responsibly, make good choices, and accept all students.

On September 3, Assistant Principal Mr. Erven conducted seven anti-bullying assemblies during science classes for our students in the auditorium. Cerro Villa students are educated about the harm caused by bullying and conduct themselves, both on campus and in the community, according to the Golden Rule.

Lastly, please also follow Cerro Villa Middle School on Twitter at CVVIKINGS. Please check out the latest messages about all of the great happenings at our great school!

Chapman Hills *Elementary*

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



Julie Lucas
Principal

Safe, Welcoming, and Nurturing

On August 25, Chapman Hills Elementary School students and parents were greeted with signs and balloons from our PTA welcoming them to the 2010–2011 school year. Parents were greeted and welcomed with a coffee and pastries reception after the bell to reconnect and meet new families. Our mascot, the Bobcat, also accompanied me to each classroom on the first day of school to say hello, welcome the students back, and share our special Power of the Paw wave. We are fortunate to have such a welcoming, safe, and nurturing school community. I often hear parents say that our school culture reminds them of a private school feel. The students come in with smiles on their faces and understand the expectations that go along with being Bobcats.

Students attend a rules and discipline assembly in the first week of school so they understand the expectations and rules that will help guide them. We also teach the students about our school-wide rules and incentives program, Pawsitive Praise tickets. Our students show their Bobcat pride each day by following our school and classroom rules, modeling good citizenship, and respecting themselves and others. Students earn Pawsitive Praise tickets and are able to shop monthly from a menu of prizes they can purchase with their earned tickets.

Chapman Hills is a community of learners reaching their fullest potential through high expectations, appropriate support, and celebrated accomplishments. Chapman Hills...safe, welcoming, and nurturing!

Go, Bobcats!

WALK THROUGH THE CONSTITUTION • FROM PAGE 1

drama, interactive techniques and visuals. This was a unique opportunity for students to learn from their peers. Each venue had a painted backdrop that was created by Cerro Villa students, teachers and parents.

“This is one of the most impressive events I have ever seen performed by students. I am grateful to CV teachers Lisa Hedspeth and Liisa Buchness for their

time and dedication to support these terrific student presentations,” said Dr. Ken Miller, Cerro Villa Principal.

After the students concluded the “Walk” they gathered for a presentation of the Colors, the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Coordinator Paula Burton stated, “We ended with a celebration commemorating the 223rd birthday of the Constitution. We literally had a fun birthday party.”

Crescent *Elementary*

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



Randi Leach
Principal

Cougar Pride Observed

Aligned with our district's Strategic Plan for Safe and Welcoming Schools, Crescent Elementary continues to encourage student pride and morale with a strong recognition awards program.

Revised last year as we became one school with two campuses, our staff members unified the awards program to honor both academic achievement and positive character traits as displayed throughout the year. For example, special "Gotcha" awards are given out daily to those students who are "caught" exhibiting positive behaviors and attitudes.

Each Cougar of the Month Award recognizes those students who demonstrate a positive character trait. Our school will also present a monthly "Principal's Pride Award" to those students who demonstrate a chosen character trait from Coach John Wooden's "Pyramid of Success" blocks. These students will be invited to the principal's office for an award pencil and a special recognition.

Quarterly awards will also honor students for achieving a specific level of certification in our Reading Counts program, as well as academic excellence in reading, math, writing, science and social studies subjects. These academic awards will be presented to the students at a special grade-level assembly each quarter.

Our students are also recognized for the Bronze Honor Roll when they earn a grade point average of 3.0 to 3.4; or the Silver Honor roll by earning a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74; and the Gold Honor Roll for earning a GPA of 3.75 and above.

We are proud of our students' academic and behavioral efforts.

Way to go, Cougars!

El Rancho Charter *Middle School*

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



John Besta
Principal



Michele Walker
Principal

Bridge for Success

One week before school started this year, the El Rancho Charter School campus was bustling with activity. In an effort to prepare the maximum number of students possible for the start of seventh grade, teachers and faculty hosted the 2010 El Rancho Bridge Program, with a record-breaking 448 students enrolled! Eager to get acquainted with new friends, new teachers, and a new campus, new students started the new school year off enthused and prepared to take on the challenges of being middle school students at El Rancho.

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

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

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

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John Briquetelet
Principal

In the Style of Safety

Creating a safe, welcoming school is our top priority at El Modena High. The bottom line is that students and teachers who feel secure and connected are able to learn and teach far more effectively.

One approach we are taking to achieve this end is our new ID card policy. Beginning this school year, all students and staff members are required to wear their ID cards in a visible fashion while on campus. I am proud to say that over these first few weeks of school, it has been very difficult to find students or staff members without their IDs. Some Vanguarders are using the lanyards we provided during registration, some have purchased fancy lanyards of their own, and others are using clips or pins to display their IDs. I have even seen student-designed and decorated lanyards—apparently this new policy has created some excitement amongst our BeDazzler owners out there!

Regardless of how these ID cards are worn, the overall result is the same: our students and staff are making it much easier for all of us to identify unwanted visitors and thereby eliminate potential risks on campus. In closing, I want to express my sincere thanks to our parents, students and staff who have made this policy a great success and who continue to make El Mo a fantastic place to be. Go Vanguarders!

Esplanade *Elementary*

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



Amy Hitt
Principal

Safe & Welcoming Schools

On Wednesday, October 6, hundreds of Esplanade families celebrated International Walk to School Day by hitting the streets on-foot to get to school. The three reasons Walk to School Day was first created was to 1) enhance health by encouraging exercise; 2) improve air quality and the environment by not using cars; and 3) to work together to create safe routes for walking and bicycling. Esplanade students, staff, and parents met at the starting point, the Wells Fargo on Rancho Santiago and Chapman, at 7:00 a.m. to start the festivities. This is an annual collaboration between

Esplanade School and the Orange Police Department. Each year, a motorcycle officer serves as the route escort, and there are several other police officers waiting at the school for the procession to arrive.

Students were given coloring sheets/books about pedestrian safety and being safe when biking. Esplanade has participated in the past several Walk to School Day events each year, and we plan to continue involving the community in this opportunity to learn more about safety for as long as it is offered.



Students carry signs cautioning drivers on International Walk to School Day.

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Fairhaven *Elementary*

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



Andrew Fisher
Principal

Fairhaven Teachers Reach Out to the Community

Normally, school begins and teachers wait for the students to arrive. However, Fairhaven teachers travel out into our community to meet Fairhaven students and parents on their own turf, and welcomed them back to the new school year.

Many of our students live several miles from Fairhaven and their parents often don't have transportation to the school. To help our students and parents feel welcome in the Fairhaven Community, teachers organized a visit to the large apartment complexes where many of our students live. Flyers were posted at

each complex the previous week to notify the families about our intended visit. With brightly colored pencils, important school contact names and numbers, and reading at home information pages in hand, teachers were greeted by smiling children and their parents in the community rooms common areas. Parents were able to ask questions about kindergarten and the beginning of school, and teachers were able to make wonderful contacts with new and returning students. The visit helped our parents, students, and teachers feel more comfortable in the Fairhaven Community. It was a great way to begin our 2010-2011 school year.



Fairhaven teachers reach out to the community.

Handy *Elementary*

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



Sandra Schaffer
Principal

Safe and Welcoming Schools

This year, we are looking forward to continuing our partnership with the Orange Police Department and Orange County District Attorney's Office. We will once again be involved in the Gang Reduction and Intervention Partnership (GRIP) program, which provides resources to our students to help encourage positive choices, both at school and in the neighborhood. We will host informational meetings for our parents on a monthly basis so they can be aware of what is happening at school and in the community.

The police department will discuss student safety and the importance of parent involvement. Our fifth- and sixth-graders will also have the opportunity to participate in a special curriculum taught by the Orange Police Department. This curriculum will be offered once a week for three weeks to teach our students about the importance of making smart choices and how everyday actions and decisions will impact their future.

On October 6, we will be participating in the National Walk to School Day. This is another opportunity to teach our students about making safe choices as they walk to and from school. It promotes healthy living and the importance of exercise.

We are fortunate to be involved with positive agencies, such as the Orange Police Department and the Orange County District Attorney's Office. This school year is off to a great start!

Fletcher *Elementary*

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



Helen Chung
Principal

Fletcher takes P.R.I.D.E in a Safe, Welcoming School

By Marta Landry, Office Manager

To promote Fletcher as a Safe and Welcoming School, Fletcher students will "Orbit Around Planet Pride" for the 2010-10 School year, focusing on P-perseverance, R- Respect, I-integrity, D-Determination and E-Empathy.

"Orbit Around Planet Pride", is the theme of the current year PBIS program for Fletcher, the school character development program. This theme was developed and implemented by the PBIS Team consisting of Ellen Lee, Lisa Miles, Jeff Segal and Principal Helen Lu.

"Orbit around Planet Pride" was kicked off August 30 with an all school rotation to six separate stations. Students learned the rules and standards of behavior for the library, Busses, lunch area, play ground, bathrooms and hallways.

After the all school rotation, students were treated to an assembly led by retired teacher Susan Bracken, who showcased heroes of space science that exemplified the P.R.I.D.E positive characteristics, which we believe are the traits of students of a Safe and Welcoming School.

Imperial *Elementary*

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



Tim Biland
Principal

Surpassing Expectations

While families always want their children to be challenged to learn, they also want to know that they are part of a safe environment and are made to feel special. The Imperial Elementary School staff is sensitive to these special needs.

In recent years, many families who were not previously familiar with the public school experience have arrived with a host of questions and concerns. The parents of kindergartners have also had many different questions. So it has been my pleasure to speak to these timid families about public education as a whole, a tradition that is infused with strong parental support and community collaboration.

Good enrichment programs, traditional values, and parent involvement are always being displayed throughout our school. Around every corner you can find PTA-funded computers and assemblies, or parent classroom volunteers, or warm and caring staff members who know how to interact positively with the children.

All of this proves that public education clearly has the potential to surpass their expectations.

Our parents are amazed to discover that their children are greeted at the parking lot, escorted through the crosswalk, and even welcomed-in with a handshake, as they report to their classrooms each day. Teachers who desire a partnership with families, and expect regular communication and personal involvement, also demonstrate the true power of public education.

Parents appreciate the high standard of communication and service that they have come to expect from Imperial. We are fortunate that they return this feeling by providing positive school support, dedicated volunteer efforts, and above all, good attention to their children's own learning.



Are you looking for us?
Find the other two pieces
hidden in this publication.
Then enter the
Contest on page 10.

Good luck!!



Jordan *Elementary*

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



Bertie Anderson
Interim Principal

Welcoming Back Our Students By Raeanne Little and Bertie Anderson

Jordan School has several measures in place to ensure that all students and families feel safe, welcome and prepared to learn on our campus. There is a schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) with the theme "Be a Good Sport." Students are taught specific positive behaviors for interacting with others and showing responsibility throughout their school day. Staff members distribute sport tickets to students showing positive behaviors in class, on the playground and throughout all school areas. These tickets earn students special prizes and awards.

A consistent focus on positive behavior makes our school safer and more welcoming for all students. Student involvement is promoted at Jordan. Students assist in organizing spirit days and create school posters for school activities. Upper-grade students are invited to participate in student council and take leadership roles on campus.

Parents are invited to participate regularly through classroom visits, volunteering, parent-education sessions and our very active PTA and English Language Advisory Council. There were 59 parents who attended the first PTA meeting and 90 parents who attended a morning meeting. Jordan school ensures that every student is ready to learn by offering several support services to students in need, including daily breakfast, morning snack and lunch, assistance with obtaining school uniforms and after-school tutoring.

Jordan Elementary's emphasis on positive behavior, involvement and support services ensures that every family is welcome on our campus and every child is welcome and ready to learn.

La Veta *Elementary*

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



Gwendolyn Green
Principal

Safe and Clean Environment

La Veta Elementary School is committed to providing its students with a safe and welcoming environment. Our goal is not only to ensure academic excellence, but to provide a safe and clean campus for everyone to enjoy. When visiting our campus, you will observe colorful hand painted murals, lush trees, and plentiful gardens. On any given day you can find numerous teachers, students and parent volunteers diligently tending to our campus planters.

Volunteers have graciously cleaned up the remains of last year's gardens and prepared soil for this year's flowers and plants to grow.

In addition to volunteers, the La Veta PTA joined forces in kicking off the 2010-2011 school year with a big "green thumbs up" by conducting a Campus Beautification Day on September 10th. The goal of the event was to give the school a face lift and ensure a safe and pleasant campus for our students. Weeds were pulled, litter was picked up and plants were planted.

We believe by providing a safe and inviting environment, it will allow our students to focus on one of the most important things we can offer them....a quality education.



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Note-ables

The Wheels on the Bus Sing-Along Travel Kit

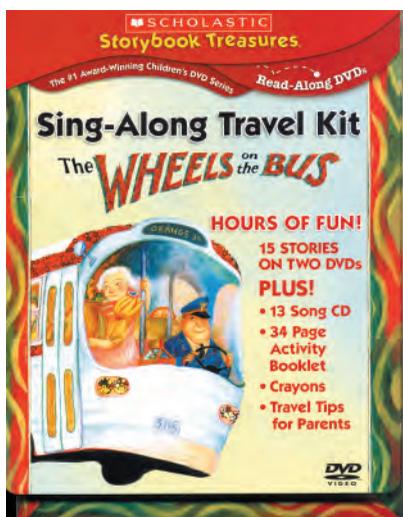


Kate Karp

Remember the long road trips with our parents and siblings? The only ways we could avoid boredom or a slugfest were games like "I See Something That Begins with A," "Count the State License Plates" or "Poke Your Brother or Sister Every Time You See a Green VW." That one became a slugfest anyway, and boredom ultimately reared its weary head with whines of "Are we there yet?"

Today, children travel longer distances on planes and vans and amuse themselves with a plethora of videogames and tech toys, used in conjunction with laptops and other electronic devices. This generation's "family cars" increasingly come equipped with DVD players in the back seats. They all seem to have reduced the fidgeting, but do they provide, say, a fun geography lesson the way those license plates did?

Scholastic's Sing-Along Travel Kit will do that and more. Appropriate for children 3-8 and all ready for seasonal travel, the kit includes well over two hours of literature, music, animation and activities in a handy package smaller than a giant box of crayons—there's a little box of those as well so the children won't stain the seats with markers. The discs include magically illustrated songs and animated versions of familiar and not-so-familiar children's classic books with illuminated text that young people can read along with. They're all performed by artists like Cyndi Lauper, Billy Dee Williams, Arlo Guthrie and the Bacon Brothers—actor Kevin Bacon and his composer brother Michael. A booklet with an activity and learning skill for each selection also includes interactive travel tips, including one for "Are we there yet?"



The collection is a haversack of highlights. The graphics illustrating "The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly" are hilarious up to and including the poor woman's demise. Arlo Guthrie sings his daddy's "This Land is Your Land," illustrated with visions of America as we dream it. Robert Krause's Musical Max, a fanciful tale of a hippo who annoys his neighbors until inspiration deserts him, is told in English and again in Spanish.

Older siblings won't need much arm twisting to supervise their younger brothers and sisters with this kit. And when the trip's done, you may hear "Are we here already?"

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

“ _____ ”

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Contest!!

To find out what is written on this banner you'll have to find the pieces hidden throughout this publication. When you have the words, fill in the spaces above and mail this entry form to:

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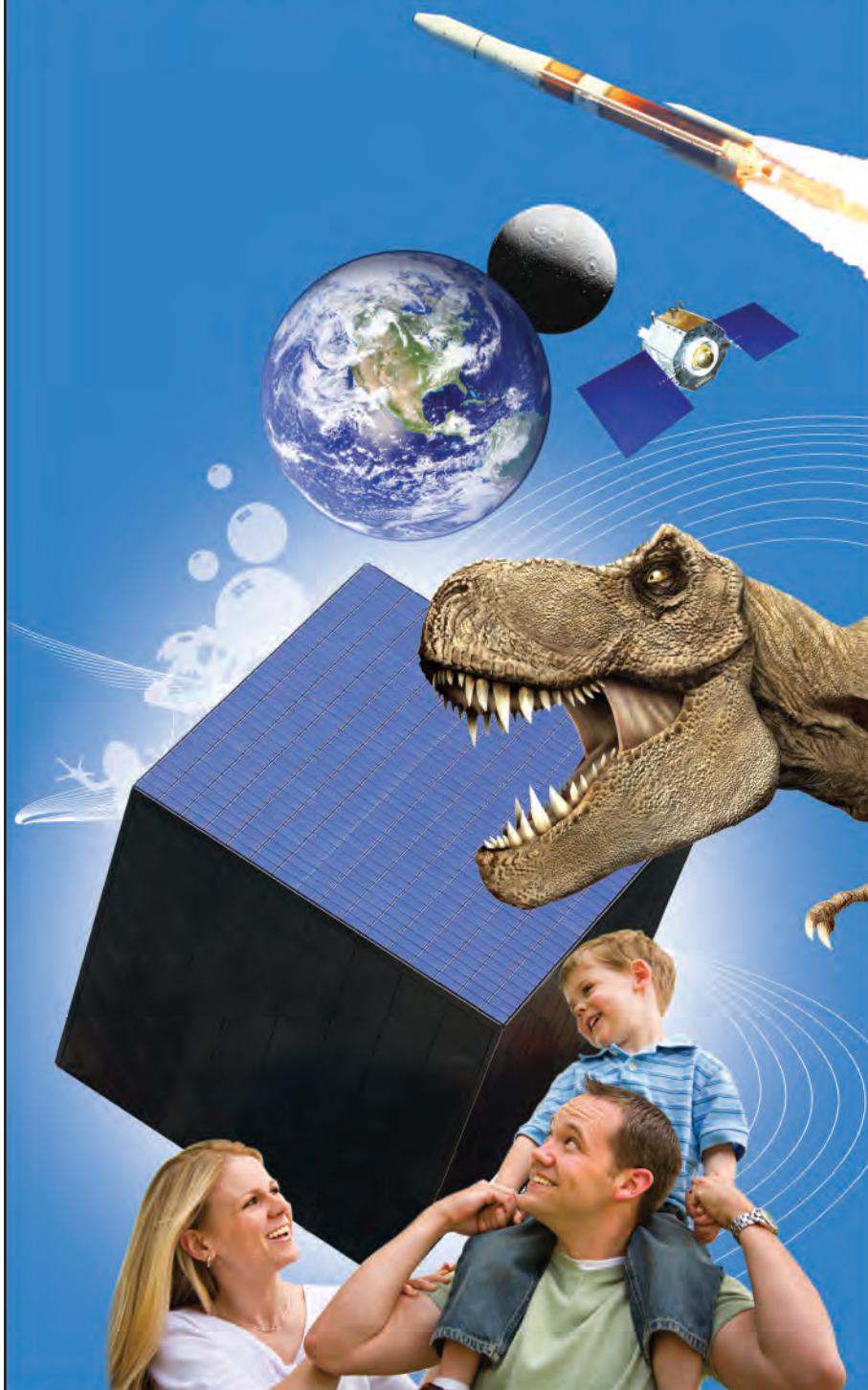
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Lampson *Elementary*

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



Laurie Dieppa
Principal

Welcoming and Safe

At Lampson, we are starting the year off right away with some fun, exciting and student-centered strategies that will help to improve everyone's achievement.

For instance, we are now beginning the school day with a morning exercise period to music. This will motivate our students to get to school on time. It also gets their hearts pumping, which burns calories and gets the blood flowing to the brain. This will help them think clearly and make good decisions throughout the day. Our parents are welcome to join the fun, too.

Next, our students, teachers, parents and principal are all setting goals together. These will include academic activities as well as positive behavior modeling and better overall attendance. Each student in the second- through fifth-grades has already received a success folder or notebook that contains everything they need to keep track of their new goals, and all the items they need to stay successful.

Third, our students are now holding each other accountable. Each class has been assigned two or more lunch monitors to help out on the playground and give regular reminders to students about the rules of play and proper lunch table behavior.

Finally, all of our parents are welcome to volunteer on campus. It makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our students when they see their parents helping out in the classroom, library or parking lot. The pride they feel and the notion that school is important to their own family is priceless.

We look forward to another great year!

Linda Vista *Elementary*

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



Sally Hughson
Principal

Safe and Welcoming Schools

On the evening of Monday, August 23rd, Linda Vista Elementary School held its annual Kindergarten and New Family Orientation event.

The festivities began with a pizza dinner at a lunch table provided by the PTA. After sharing a cookie for dessert, the kindergarten students were then introduced to their new teachers and were able to visit the classrooms for story time.

While the kindergarteners were enjoying this fun activity, the older students and their families were introduced to the school principal, the PTA president and our many wonderful volunteers. They were given an overview of the fantastic programs we have available at Linda Vista.

Following the presentation, the parents were placed into small groups with their children and given tours of the entire campus. Over 80 families attended this important event.

On Wednesday, August 25th, after the Orientation, the PTA hosted a "Boo Hoo or Yahoo" parent reception event at the Learning Center. This was a wonderful opportunity for our new parents to be greeted and returning families to get reconnected with one another.

Representatives from our many volunteer committees were there to sign-up parents and families to help support Linda Vista in a variety of ways. These volunteers are always welcome in the classroom for special events or wherever their talents may lead them.

I look forward to a successful year of working closely with our teachers, staff, students, parents and the community.

McPherson Magnet

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



Jeanne Bentley
Principal

Community Spirit Thrives

McPherson School encourages the urge to learn by creating an environment that is safe and inviting. When visitors approach our campus they see bright student-made tiles, thriving gardens, and a parent-designed sign that welcomes everyone. We all feel a sense of ownership because of the community spirit that is being cultivated here.

As part of our Positive Actions program, we began the year off with clear rules and procedures for responsible and positive choices. Our parents play an important role in this, and are recognized weekly along with their children. Students wear the six traits of character around their wrists, and names are splashed on the quad bulletin board about who is parking in the principal's spot for the week.

McPherson has even added a seventh pillar, that of "Awesomeness." Students can earn golden ticket awards from community and business members whenever they exhibit awesome citizenship outside of school.

Communication and safety is addressed on a regular basis, too, through our new and improved Web site. Daily calendars, a McPherson Twitter account, Friday newsletters and Sunday phone calls are some of the many ways we stay connected.

The school's philosophy, goals, the campus safety plan, and a multitude of other information is only a fingertip away. Our Safety Response Team is also ready in time of crisis, where we are able to assemble with calmness, control, confidence and unity.

Keeping students motivated, positive, and enthusiastic about education is the most powerful way to keep our school safe and welcoming. We model these behaviors every day.

Nohl Canyon *Elementary*

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



Dominique Polchow
Principal

Welcoming Environment

The Nohl Canyon staff lined the front gates of school, as students and parents were welcomed to a new school year. Thanks to the Lowe's grant Nohl Canyon received last spring, a new seating wall, walkway, and planter enhanced the front entrance to school. This provided a much needed space for students and parents to safely wait after school.

In addition to this new improvement, local parent and artist extraordinaire, Larissa Marantz, created and painted a mural, "The Tree of Knowledge," that truly captures the Nohl Canyon school community. Staff, student, and parent handprints, which border the mural, helped fund this amazing work of art. Nohl Canyon not only continues providing academic excellence but a welcoming environment where students learn and thrive each and every day.



Nohl Canyon's Tree of Knowledge Mural—Artist Larissa Marantz.

Olive *Elementary*

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



Kathryn Martin
Principal

Olive School September

Olive School is tucked in behind Eisenhower Park, situated on a historical site which has consistently housed various elementary schools since 1876. Olive Elementary has long been one of the best-kept secrets in the Orange Unified School District. This August, Olive added over 150 brand-new students to its roll sheets! Students and their families were welcomed on the first day of school by Ollie and Otto, the ocelot mascots. The Olive Parent Teacher Club sponsored a special "Welcome Tea" and parents had the opportunity to meet and greet one another while their children met their teachers. The transition to a new school is always challenging for families and the wonderful staff and parents at Olive have welcomed our newcomers with open arms. Our community may follow oliveschool on Twitter and check the website at www.oliveelementary.org. Welcome to Olive!



Orange *High School*

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



Ernest Gonzalez
Principal

In Full Swing

Orange High School's fall semester is in full swing. Students, staff and parents have participated in activities that build a welcoming and positive climate at school. In mid-August, we conducted a freshman parent night designed to provide students information on how to get involved and how parents can support their child's success.

Students also attended the Welcome Back assembly and the Welcome Back dance. Everyone had a great time and felt good about the start of school.



Additionally, parents were invited to attend the annual Coffee with the Principal event on Saturday, September 11. The event was sponsored by PTSA and allowed parents to meet the principal and get information about the focus and goals for the year.

Back to School Night on September 15th started with a general meeting followed by visits to the classrooms. The back to school activities set the stage for a fantastic school year ahead.

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Palmyra *Elementary*

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



Connie Smith
Principal

A Beautiful Welcome Back for Our Palmyra Families

On Saturday, August 21st our PTA sponsored a Beautification Day at Palmyra Elementary. Several families joined the Principal in cleaning and sprucing up the campus in preparation for the first day of school. At eight o'clock in the morning parents and students showed up with gardening tools, flowers, plants, soil and brooms ready to roll up their sleeves and work. In a little over two hours they had the campus looking clean and well-manicured. The morning was also a great time of sharing about summer adventures and the excitement of the upcoming school year.



Fourth grader Jacob Jacoby

As the students arrived on the first day of school, many commented on the beautiful flowers and plants. The students and parents that had helped with the beautification had a real sense of pride for our school and their hard work. The start of school at Palmyra has been, let's say, "Beautiful."

Panorama *Elementary*

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



Michelle Moore
Principal

Welcome Back, Panthers!!

Panorama kicked off the new school year with a series of great community events. One of the most important was the New Parent/Kindergarten Orientation, which welcomed back our newest students with a schoolwide tour and group presentation.

We are pleased to announce that our first annual "Welcome Back Kick-off" was also a big success. Parents were given an opportunity to receive their school and PTA packets well ahead of time so that they could return them to the event and learn who their assigned teachers were. All of our staff members were present to help welcome families and even serve them a frozen smoothie treat!

In addition to the kick-off, Panorama also celebrated its launch with a big pancake breakfast. The morning began at 6 a.m., with a Panther team of families and staff members working together to make everything possible. We must not forget to mention that our amazing dads did all of the cooking!

It was nice to see so many families participate in these gatherings, and we look forward to our next opportunity to bring the Panther Community back together again. So we'll be counting the days until our Harvest Carnival on October 29th.

A special thanks goes to the PTA, too, as well as our generous volunteers and staff members. They have made these special events possible. Always remember that your hours and donations are priceless!

Thank you again, to the entire community. We truly are a Panorama family. So go, Panthers!

Parkside *Pre-K*

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



Kristi Franco
Coordinator

Transition Back to School

Parkside had a smooth opening of the 2010/2011 school year. In order to endure the safety of our students here at Parkside, the school will continue to implement a "closed gate" policy. This policy states that at the beginning of the school day parents/caregivers drop their child off at the gate where they are met by an instructional assistant. The assistant is easily identifiable by a orange vest. The child is then accompanied by the assistant to the playground where they meet their teacher. The same procedure happens at the end of the day where the children are escorted to

the gate to be met by parents/caregivers. For the first few days of school parents were welcomed and encouraged to come on campus, meet their child's teacher and help with the transition back to school. We are pleased to say that most of our students made the transition very nicely and we are now adhering to our gate policy. We look forward to a great year here at Parkside where the safety of our students is always a priority.

Portola *Middle School*

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



Deborah Backstrom
Principal

Welcome back to all new and continuing students. What a great year we have planned. I would like to welcome our new assistant Principal, Mr. Heriberto Angel, who comes to us with several years of experience at the middle school, as Dean of Students.

We look forward to working together to achieve the best for your children. We have a fabulous staff of teachers and staff, who are dedicated to the success of your children. We are very proud of students and teachers, who have worked so hard. It reflects in our API scores which have gone up steadily the past two years.

We welcome our parents to participate in their child's education. Parents can be involved by joining the PTSA, English Language Advisory Committee, School Site Council or volunteering. If you are interested, please call (714) 997-6361 or stop by our office for further information.

My goal is to make sure each child has the best education possible. Thank you all for your support and my door is always open to all students, parents, teachers and staff.



Are you looking for us? Find the other two pieces hidden in this publication. Then enter the Contest on page 10.

Good luck!!



Prospect *Elementary*

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



The Prospect Way

A safe and welcoming school environment is an extremely critical component to the success of any school. At Prospect Elementary School, it begins in the office, where our entire office staff is expected to provide excellent customer service to all who enter in order to establish a warm and caring environment for our entire school community.

Elena Stoces
Principal

Across the campus our staff has built our expectations to achieve the "Prospect Way" of doing business. Through a nationwide initiative called Positive Behavior Intervention School Wide

(PBIS), our school has established expectations based on three main traits: Be ready; Be responsible; and Be respectful. In every area of the school, students are expected to exhibit these three traits so that we maintain a safe learning environment.

This year at the beginning of school, our students participated in a school-wide presentation of the Prospect Way in six areas: classrooms; hallways; bathrooms; playground; front of school; and lunch tables. The staff presented the right way of behaving at school with a few incorrect examples to really show students what is expected of them. At the time of writing this article, no discipline issues have been sent to the principal's office this school year. This is a marvelous testament that our Prospect Way of doing things is making a huge impact on student achievement and the safeguarding of a safe and welcoming school environment.

Running Springs *Elementary*

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



Welcome Back

Running Springs Elementary School families were welcomed back to school in a variety of ways. Each family was mailed a "Welcome Back" letter which also included an initial "Welcome" to all families that are new to Running Springs. The letter outlined first day procedures, bell schedules, and an invitation to all parents to attend the Running Springs PTA Welcome Tea. On the first day of school, the Running Springs PTA hosted a tea in the school multi-purpose room. The Principal and the PTA Executive Board were on hand to share information about the many programs and

family events that are planned for the year. It was a great way to start the school year, especially for families that are new to Running Springs and for parents that were dropping off a Kindergartener for the first time. Many thanks to the PTA for hosting such a wonderful and welcoming event!



A PTA banner and a school spirit sign were posted to welcome students back to school.

Richland *High School*

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



Ed Madrid
Principal

Welcome to Richland

Richland is a special school unlike other high schools in the district. We are a credit recovery school. Our small size allows us to provide a personalized and friendly learning environment for our students. Our Open Door policy of meeting with the principal allows parents the opportunity to resolve or discuss their concerns in a timely manner. Our Orientations allow parents and students to hear what is going on for the new school year. These small meetings carried on over the summer allow parents the opportunity to meet other parents and to hear the principal speak about expectations for the students and school.

Richland continues building a reputation as a caring nurturing school that finds ways for their students to become successful. With a small student to teacher ratio along with a dedicated caring staff great things can and do happen.

Richland's ID card system and the monitoring of students by security and staff during the day help to make the day a pleasant experience for everyone. Classrooms are filled with students on task and earning credits towards their graduation. Remarks made by those parents attending our Back to School evening were positive and supportive of our efforts in assisting their sons and daughters move towards graduation.

Santiago Charter *Middle School*

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



Mary Henry
Principal

Nurturing of Community

Welcome to Santiago Charter Middle School! In June 2010, the school marked its 15th anniversary as Orange County's first charter school, and we now enter our sixth year of being an independent charter school. Santiago is not just a place—it is a home "wherein students are welcome to learn and enhance the quality of their lives without fear of intimidation or harm, guided by hospitable and caring people in a clean and orderly environment." The school's mascot, the Santiago Santana, says it all! What is in place is a whirlwind of activity, with educators, parents and community

members working together for the betterment of its students, the school and the community.

On the first day of school, only seventh-graders come to Santiago; at that time, they are welcomed with a tour of the school, orientation in each class and an assembly during which our "Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible" positive behavior model is introduced. After the eighth-graders join us, our two assistant principals meet with each physical education class to review the importance of safety on the way to, during and after school.

On October 21, Santiago students and families will participate in Rachel's Challenge, a program celebrating the memory of the first victim at Columbine High School. Topics addressed in this program include social-skills training, anti-dotes for bullying and harassment, violence prevention and leadership development.

The Santiago Santanas welcome everyone to come visit our school or to join us for any of our special events. Come experience our excitement!

School News



To place your ad in our next issue
Call Leslie (714) 856-9884
leslie@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Serrano *Elementary*

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



Dr. Bobbie Lansman
Principal

Ahoy!

Ahoy! Serrano Elementary School is hoisting the main mast, plotting its course and setting sail to discover the 2010-2011 treasure of knowledge. As a 2010 California Distinguished Award school, a safe and welcoming school is integral to the success of our achievement.

This school year began with a welcome dinner for families new to Serrano on Monday, August 23rd sponsored by the Serrano PFO (Parent and Faculty Organization). The first day of school found our campus sprinkled with a three-dimensional grand star lawn display to welcome everyone to Serrano Elementary School and to represent the achievement we expect this year as we follow our quest to the treasure of knowledge. To set sail, we had an outstanding turn-out at our September 7th Back to School Night. In the spirit of welcoming everyone, the Serrano PFO just completed their largest membership drive ever!



Sycamore *Elementary*

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



Erika Krohn
Principal

A Great Foundation for Learning

The new school year is off to a marvelous start at Sycamore! On the very first day of class our families were greeted by many smiling Sycamore teachers. The PTA volunteers were also out in full force to act as campus ambassadors and to recruit new members.

The students were dropped off at the new drive-through lane, which is located in the Portola parking lot. This Palm Street drop-off has proven to be a safe and efficient way for everyone to arrive and depart under the watchful eyes of staff members.

During the first week, our students learned proper scholarly behavior by watching special skits from their talented teachers. This was part of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support program. They thoroughly enjoyed watching their teachers model some good and bad examples of appropriate behavior.

From the very beginning, our students are taught the mantra of, "Be Ready! Be Responsible! Be Problem Solvers! Be Good Decision Makers!" Those who successfully demonstrate this slogan can earn regular Splash Ticket awards.

To give an extra-special welcome to our kindergarten and preschool students, we also had a recent "Chester the Raccoon" hunt. The children were able to follow footprints all over the campus as they hunted for Chester. At their many stops along the way, our staff members would recite a poem and show them their "kissing hands," and then give out another clue to help find the next stop.

What a terrific way for the youngest students to get acquainted with our staff and school! These safe and welcoming kick-off activities have laid the foundation for a tremendous year of teaching and learning here at Sycamore.

Taft *Elementary*

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



Antionette Coe
Principal

Many opportunities for learning

*By Danny Lentini,
Special Education Teacher and PBIS Team Member*

Beginning with a kick-off assembly that was designed to introduce our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) System, this year Taft Elementary came roaring back to school!

At the assembly, our PBIS team introduced the school's "4 Bs" character goals, which are to be ready, be responsible, be respectful, and be kind. Students visited such areas as the lunch tables, the playground and the classrooms to see how they can earn "PAWSitive" tickets whenever they display one of these special traits.

By recognizing these positive behaviors, and then setting good expectations, we hope to promote a safe learning environment where every student can flourish.

Our staff continues to promote an open door policy by inviting parents to volunteer in the classroom, office or lunch areas. Each month they are also given the opportunity to ask questions or share ideas at a monthly coffee with the principal.

We also encourage parents to support their children's education by attending the Taft Family Nights, starting with the upcoming Fall Literacy Night. Here we offer classes that provide information on how to support the children at home. This year's topics will include literacy, math, homework, goal-setting and bully prevention.

Those parents who want to take part in not only their own children's education, but in the direction of the school as a whole, are actively encouraged to join committees such as the ELAC, the SSC and the PTA. We are proud of our community partnerships, and as a team, we will continue to make Taft a safe and welcoming environment that focuses on student achievement.

Villa Park *Elementary*

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



Debra Larson
Principal

Focusing On Positive Attitudes and Safe Behavior

VPE is beginning the school year feeling the Bobcat Pride. We were fortunate enough to receive a grant that focuses on blending academic and social skills to increase student success during their academic journey. At VPE, you will hear staff, student and parent teams talking about PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support).

PBIS is a proactive systems approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students to achieve social, emotional and academic success. Frequently, the question is asked, "Why should I have to teach students to be good? They already know what they are supposed to do. Why can I not just expect good behavior?" In the infamous words of a certain TV personality, "How is that working out for you?"

In the past, schoolwide discipline has focused mainly on reacting to specific student misbehavior by implementing punishment-based strategies: reprimands, loss of privileges, office referrals, suspensions and expulsions. Research has shown that the implementation of punishment, especially when it is used inconsistently and in the absence of positive strategies, is ineffective. Introducing, modeling and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important step of a student's educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for achieving them is a much more positive approach than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding. PBIS establishes a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

Our staff and community are committed to providing a safe place where our students can learn, grow and achieve to their highest potential.

Villa Park *High School*

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



Ed Howard
Principal

The Spartan Way

After all the data has been examined, the experts have spoken, and the plans have been made. I still believe in my heart that what makes a school great is a safe, clean campus and teachers that care. The Orange Unified School District has recognized this in its Strategic Plan and at Villa Park High School we work hard every day

to create a culture on campus we call the SPARTAN Way. Spartans will be:

Spirited—pride in self, school and community; **Prepared**—On time and ready to go; **Achieve**—Your best effort; **Respectful**—Of self, staff, and peers; **Trustworthy**—Reliable, honest; **Adaptive**—To handle change and diversity; **Noble**—High intellect or moral level

The 2010 -2011 school year is off to a very nice start and we have every reason to believe that this is a great time to be a Spartan.

Welcome back and let's have a tremendous year.



VPHS promoting a culture of The SPARTAN Way.

West Orange *Elementary*

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



Michael Olander
Principal

West Orange Warrior Patrol

Like all other schools in Orange Unified School District, student safety and happiness is the top priority at West Orange Elementary School. Feelings of belonging, being valued, and being treated fair with kindness and respect contributes greatly to students' esteem and success in school and in life. This year West Orange Elementary School is starting a program that will help to ensure students feel welcome and safe at school.

The Warrior Patrol is a team of students whose purpose is to help keep the playground peaceful and safe by monitoring play-

ground behavior and to intervene before problems begin. Their charge is to help clarify the rules of the games, help to solve problems that students may have, and assist the staff member on supervision duty.

The Warrior Patrol is provided with training on how to appropriately mediate conflicts and when to get assistance from the supervisor on duty. The Warrior Patrol also provides valuable leadership skills to our students.



Reporting for duty!

Yorba *Middle School*

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



Kerrie Torres
Principal

Building a Great School

Here at Yorba Middle School, we are working hard to build a culture that will provide our students with a solid educational framework to help them meet their classroom expectations and responsibilities.

Providing each student with a safe and welcome learning environment is a top priority. It increases the likelihood that our students will succeed emotionally, socially and academically. Along with building a greater sense of self-esteem, a positive school climate also helps them to make better choices and avoid high-risk behaviors. It encourages students to get involved and develop healthy relationships with each other.

By providing individual help and care, our teachers and staff members can play a major role. Yorba's physical environment also reflects a caring attitude, one that is reflected in fewer student tardies, cleaner grounds, more positive peer-to-peer interactions and a healthy sense of personal respect among the student body.

Recently, the school adopted the Positive Behavior Intervention Support system (PBIS). This program helps those students who want to make the right choices. It provides them with the tools they need to best direct their own personal decisions about how to create a positive and welcoming educational climate. Ultimately, they can be recognized with positive referrals as well as individual and group awards for behavior.

Yorba recognizes the fact that building a great school also means involving the entire community in a collaborative effort. So please join us in making our school a safe and welcoming place for students and families.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1

effective practices, and will utilize the most current information available as the foundation for the REMS project. The project will reflect up-to-date research using best practices in the four areas of emergency management.

The following key activities of our project design will include improving and strengthening our emergency plans within the framework of the four phases of emergency management; training all school personnel and students in emergency response procedures; conducting exercises and drills; collaborating with police and fire departments, emergency medical responders, and public and mental health agencies; distributing emergency supplies to each school site; and developing the written sustainability plan to ensure OUSD has the capacity to sustain the emergency management process through ongoing training of personnel and continual review of policies and procedures.

Safety is a priority here in OUSD and this grant supports our efforts to make our schools as safe as possible.

Orange Unified School District Board of Education



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SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1

- Utilize in-house expertise by creating instructional leadership at the district and at each school.
- Implement a system-wide continuous improvement model through the use of data and evidence to strengthen teaching and learning in all schools.

Target B: Instruction—Staff will identify, understand and implement effective standards-based classroom instruction.

Strategy 1: Develop a K-12 professional toolbox: “Essential Elements of Instruction.”

Actions

- Develop and/or renew K-12 professional toolbox by developing expertise and monitoring the use of research-based lesson design.
- Monitor use of teaching strategies and instructional strategies through the use of agreed upon protocols and lesson design/delivery.
- Refine curriculum and instruction through common expectations for implementation of learning strategies in classrooms.

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

Strategy 1: Develop and implement systematic processes that make data easily accessible.

Actions

- Provide continual staff development to help staff understand and use the Data Director system to review student assessment data for improved student outcomes.
- Certificated staff will be able to use Data Director by the end of the 2011 school year to identify specific, measureable goals for improved student achievement
- SMART Goals for each grading period will be developed to ensure the continuous improvement of teaching practices.

Strategy 2: Develop and implement systematic processes to use data to inform instructional practices and identify student interventions.

Actions

- Implement and monitor data analysis protocols in the cycle of effective instruction.
- Reflect, monitor, and readjust SMART Goals to identify student interventions for struggling students.
- Provide staff development for data dialog protocols through the partnership between district and school level instructional leaders.

Target D: Narrowing the Achievement Gap — Strategies will be refined to narrow the achievement gap of identified student subgroups (English Language Learners, Special Education and Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Students).

Strategy 2: Reiterate and ensure the use of data to inform instructional practices and prescribe student interventions.

Actions

- Utilize the systematic collection of formative and summative data to inform instruction and provide appropriate interventions.
- Provide the K-12 systemic pyramid of intervention for students not learning including: teacher/classroom interventions, site based intervention, and district based interventions.
- Audit and Review the English Language Learner Master Plan and current instructional supports for English Language Learners.
- Review the current Resource and Special Day class programs to ensure instructional practices are standards based.
- Review the current student success team structure and align to district wide system focused on early prevention strategies and achievement.

Student Engagement

Target A: Each school will identify and publicize the curricular programs, co-curricular programs, and other enrichment opportunities that increase student engagement and strengthen student connection to school.

Strategy 1: Each site will assess its current and planned programs that impact student engagement.

Actions

- Conduct and publish an audit to assess currently offered curricular programs, co-curricular programs, and other enrichment opportunities at each site.
- Monitor and refine the effectiveness of curricular programs, co-curricular programs, and other enrichment opportunities through the study of the effective classroom practices.

Target B: Strategies will be developed to increase the variety of program

personalization and student educational options to maximize student engagement.

Strategy 3: Define and establish rigorous, relevant instructional programs that include technology.

Actions

- Develop common expectations for implementation of classroom practices to maximize student engagement through the use of a lesson design strategy using research based strategies.
- Set measureable goals correlated to staff development and student engagement to increase the percentage of time students are engaged in the classroom.
- Monitor, evaluate, and refine the effectiveness of classroom practices relating to student engagement through the use of the continuous improvement cycle and effective monitoring tools.

Safe, Welcoming Schools

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

Strategy 1: Build student pride and morale by increasing opportunities for recognition of their efforts.

Actions

- Assess and publish positive behavior recognition programs offered at each school site.

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

Strategy 1: Provide information to students, staff and parents on current safety issues, such as cyber-crime, bullying and drug/alcohol abuse.

Actions

- Assess current anti-bullying practices and develop district-wide expectations and strategies to prevent bullying.
- Focus trainings on proactive strategies for identifying and eliminating potential problems.

Strategy 2: Provide all staff training on effective customer service.

Actions

- Develop and implement customer service trainings for principals, certificated, and classified staff.

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

Strategy 1: Review, revise and implement safety policies and procedures.

Actions

- Review and revise school placement committee procedures and interventions for students.
- Implement the restructuring of CWA, including the utilization of high school assistant principals on the district safety team.
- Finalize development of Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Continue the ongoing development and revision of site safety plans as a foundation for disaster preparedness.

Parent & Community Partnerships

Target A: Parent/School Partnerships

Examine current parent involvement practices.

Strategy 1: Increase, encourage, and recognize opportunities for parent involvement to support student success.

Actions

Develop District Advisory Council, providing parents and community opportunities to study student achievement results and provide input for improved academic achievement.

Continue to share successes among feeder schools.

Strategy 2: Enhance the awareness and improve the effectiveness of existing communications

Actions

- Provide district-wide parent trainings.

Target B: Business/Community Partnerships

Collaborate with external community to create opportunities for partnerships.

Strategy 2: Utilize expertise of community volunteers in our schools.

Actions

- Continue to enhance the Community Resources page on the OUSD website.



William M. Habermehl
Superintendent

of educators across the disciplines: reading, writing, brain compatible teaching, language acquisition, cross-cultural respect, primary language, and coaching. Research is directly tied to specific classroom implications, strategies and organization. The trainings take place in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Texas.

The two-day training is followed by a five-day demonstration session which is created and conducted by a team of trainers. During the session, instructional strategies and classroom management techniques are presented to observing teachers. One of the trainers works with the students while the other trainer coaches the teachers who are observing in the back of the room. This coach explains what is being done and the reasons behind it and answers questions concerning the lessons. Then there is an opportunity for feedback, collaboration, and planning.

When the week finishes, teachers have concrete materials to follow, including a one year standards-based plan. At a later date, a follow-up session for trained teachers is provided. The district or school site is also encouraged to nominate and begin training a set of key trainers. This involves an extremely rigorous key trainer program. Key trainers can only be certified by the National Training Center at OCDE.

Through powerful teaching strategies, such as GLAD, classrooms are being transformed and a world class education is made stronger to ensure that every student succeeds. To learn more about Project Glad, visit www.projectglad.com.

Did you enter our Contest on Page 10?



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Community Services Department



Synoptek



Thank You to Our 2010 Community Partners!

With your contribution, the City of Orange can continue to create community and celebrate family and friends through our special events. To receive information on how you can become a community partner, please contact Lisa Tamburelli at (714) 744-7294 or ltamburelli@cityoforange.org for a sponsor brochure.

Special Events

(714) 744-7278

Treats in the Streets Autumn Festival

Thursday, October 28, 2010 at the Old Towne Orange Plaza Area • 4-7 p.m.
Celebrate the fall season with an evening full of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy. Activities include games, *trick or treating, a costume parade and entertainment for participants of all ages. Parents, please leave masks and pets at home.

*Trick or Treating from 4-5:30 p.m. only.



Veterans Day Tribute

Thursday, November 11, 2010
at the Veterans Memorial at Depot Park,
100 N. Atchison St. Orange, 92866 • 2 p.m.

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



Tree Lighting Ceremony & Candlelight Choir Procession

Sunday, December 5, 2010 • 3:30 p.m. Old Towne Orange Plaza Area

Join us for an evening of holiday cheer and family fun as we sing traditional carols of the season with the Orange Community Master Chorale led by Musical Director, Michael Short.

Youth Programs

(714) 744-7293

FREE After-School Recreation Program

Our After-School Recreation Program offers fun activities, crafts, sports, games, homework assistance and site events to children in kindergarten through eighth grade. A parent packet, including a liability form, drop-off and pick-up policy agreement, CDBG form, and discipline agreement must be completed in order to participate. Parent packets are available during program hours at each site.

Program Sites:

El Camino Real Park, 400 N. Main St., 92868 • 2:15-6 p.m., Monday-Friday
Grijalva Park/Prospect School, 368 N. Prospect Ave., 92869 • 2-6 p.m., Monday-Friday
Killefer Park, 615 N. Lemon St., 92868 • 2:30-6 p.m., Monday-Friday

In partnership with the Friendly Center, our After-School Recreation Program now offers free tutoring to all participants! For additional information on the various Friendly Center programs, contact (714) 771-5300 or visit www.friendlycenter.org.



OVERWATERING?

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