



PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

For immediate release

Information: Superintendent's Office (714) 628-4487

### **OUSD CARES Participates in “*Lights on Afterschool!*”**

ORANGE, CA (September 25, 2013) – The Orange Unified School District Centers for Afterschool Recreation, Enrichment and Safety (OUSD CARES) program will join the Afterschool Alliance's 14<sup>th</sup> annual *Lights on Afterschool!* event on October 17, 2013.

*Lights on Afterschool* is a nationwide celebration that calls attention to the importance of after-school programs like the one offered by OUSD CARES.

Entering its 29<sup>th</sup> year, OUSD CARES provides safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to elementary students throughout the District, helping develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills. The program also supports working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive before and after the regular school day.

OUSD CARES will commemorate *Lights on Afterschool* with *Bring Your “Child” to Work Day*. Over 1500 children throughout the District's CARES programs will make paper cut-outs of themselves for their parents to take to work for the day. The paper “child” cut-outs will include messages from the children thanking their parents for placing them in a safe and stimulating before and after-school program.

“Launched in October 2000, *Lights on Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating after-school programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities,” according to the Afterschool Alliance website. Last year, more than a million people participated in *Lights on Afterschool* events.

In America today, one in four youths, about 15 million children, are alone and unsupervised after their school day ends.

For more information on the OUSD CARES program, please visit:  
[http://www.orangeusd.org/child\\_care/](http://www.orangeusd.org/child_care/).

More information about Afterschool Alliance is available at <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org>.

*The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA*

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