



## **PRESS RELEASE – ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

For immediate release

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

### **Olive Elementary School Student Honored by ASCA**

ORANGE, CA, March 4, 2014 –Carlos Martinez, fourth grade student at Olive Elementary, was selected to receive the 2014 **“Every Student Succeeding”** Award by ASCA (Association of California School Administrators) Region 17.

The purpose of “Every Student Succeeding” is to honor students who have succeeded, against the odds and beyond expectations, or who have simply won the hearts of the administrators and other educators who helped them achieve their goals.

An Olive student since kindergarten, Carlos was born with a deformity of his hands and feet, and Mobius Syndrome, which is a rare neurological disorder leaving those with the condition unable to move their faces and unable to move their eyes laterally. Despite these conditions, Carlos attends school each day with a positive attitude and wonderful “can-do” spirit. He is just as active and engaged in learning as every other student at Olive. In fact, Carlos participates in track and the 100-mile running club each year – he NEVER allows his disabilities stop him from participating and he always gives his best effort!

This year, Carlos was given the opportunity to undergo a unique surgery that would finally give him the ability to smile and blink. Carlos has undergone numerous surgeries over the years, but this surgery was much more intricate and involved the nerves in his brain and face.

Though Carlos was out of school for weeks, he returned to Olive and stepped right back into his studies, proudly showing the scars on his face and head. Enduring headaches and physical therapy with maturity beyond his years, Carlos always responds thoughtfully and kindly when other children question him about his physical challenges.

Carlos is brave child and a great role model for resilience! Through all the physical challenges and adversity that he has endured, Carlos now not only smiles with his heart, but with also his face!

Olive Elementary Principal Katherine W. Rizzo states, “We are proud to highlight students who have overcome great obstacles to succeed. They face life’s challenges head on. Their stories are remarkable and their futures are bright. Carlos Martinez is a brilliant example of ‘Every Student Succeeding’! “

ASCA honors students from all grade levels and selects one student from each region to receive the **“Every Student Succeeding”** Award.

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

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