Lessons About Life

By Ernest Gonzalez,
Principal Orange High School

On April 9, Orange High School (OHS) freshmen participated in a conversation with Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, the author of *Night*, and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Thirty-four students in Mrs. Petersen’s English class met with Professor Wiesel at Chapman University’s Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library, while the rest of the freshmen watched a live feed from Memorial Hall.

Students shared their stories and connections to *Night* and asked questions. Mr. Wiesel emphasized the power of knowledge and education and told the students to embrace the “joy of studying.” He also offered a message of compassion and respect. “Everyone is unique, so don’t let color or religion keep you from seeing in another a companion who can help you be who you want to be.”

Elizabeth Grubbs said, “I am extremely grateful to Elie Wiesel, for he taught me valuable lessons about racism, life, and my education.”

By Michael L. Christensen

Bond Measure Update

It’s an exciting time in Orange Unified School District (OUSD) as we continue to march forward in our quest to provide first-rate facilities to our students and teachers.

On March 8, the Board of Education received the results of a statistically reliable survey of voters in the district to assess the feasibility of placing a bond measure on the November 2014 ballot. True North Research Inc. reported to the Board that approximately 64 percent of the electorate stated that they definitely or probably would vote yes to modernize the district’s comprehensive high schools. While there is more work to be done to educate the public about the needs of our schools, the positive polling results show we are heading in the right direction, earning the support of our community.

At the same meeting, the Board also received a report on possible language to provide assurances and protections to the taxpayers so that any funds raised would go to modernizing the campuses for which the voters intended them. In order to accomplish this, the Board placed language in the resolution that mandates bond funds be divided equally, so 25 percent of the funds received must be spent at each of the four comprehensive high schools: Canyon High School, El Modena High School, Orange High School, and Villa Park High School. Additionally, language assuring that bond proceeds will not be used for maintenance of school facilities, school operating expenses, or teacher and administration salaries was added to the ballot proposition draft.

Interdisciplinary Learning

McPherson Magnet students participate in the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair. (please see page 12)
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ORCA has been providing the opportunity for children in the communities of Orange, Villa Park and their surroundings to learn to swim and to be involved in aquatics programs since 1989. Whether you are looking for swim lessons, non-competitive swim and water polo teams, or one of the most notable year-round, competitive USA Swimming teams in Southern California, we are your local destination!

Through our longstanding partnership with the City of Orange, we offer affordable swim lessons to get kids water safe and swim team ready, as well as summer-only recreational swim and water polo teams for children just wanting to give these sports a try.

If you are an advanced swimmer and would like to join the ranks of our year-round USA Swimming competitive swim team, we have try-outs every Friday and would love for you to stop by and give us a try.

We hope you take the opportunity to learn more about our programs and what we have to offer, and we look forward to serving you in the near future.

Mark Tierney
President and CEO

Serving the community since 1989

Swim Programs at El Modena H.S.

Swim Lessons
April 1st - 24th; T & TH classes at 6:00, 6:30 or 7:00 PM
May 6th - 29th; T & TH classes at 6:00, 6:30 or 7:00 PM
June 16-27, July 7-18, July 21-Aug 1, Aug 4-15; M-F classes at 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00 and 4:30 PM
Cost of Entire Session of Lessons:
$40 (8:1) *Offered during summer classes only
$80 (4:1), or $200 for private (1:1) lessons

Recreational Swim & Water Polo Teams
Dates: June 16 - August 15 (no practice July 3rd or 4th)
Time: 2:30-3:30 PM Water Polo; 4:00-5:00 PM Swim Team
Cost: $160 or $250 for Polo & Swim Team Combo

Year-round Competitive Swim Team (Ages 5 and up)
Dates: Year-Round; Join at any time!
Practice Times: 5:00, 6:00 or 6:30 PM depending on the group
Cost: $85-105 per month depending on the group
Making Connections that Count

It has been a productive but busy year at Alternative Education. We held three Parent Nights in January, February and March. The presenters discussed the new Local Control Funding Formula, and our parents toured the campus.

Thank you for the generous donations from our local businesses, and the Schools First Credit Union. They assisted with the purchasing of food and raffle prizes for these Parent Nights.

Community Day School students have created murals representing the four “Cs” of the Common Core: creativity, collaboration, communication and critical problem solving. Our students were also recently engaged in dissecting sharks, frogs and pigs. Adult transition students also received free Knott’s Berry Farm tickets, and practiced their mobility skills by taking the bus from the school site to Knott’s Berry Farm.

There are many wonderful 21st-century learning activities on campus. What makes Alternative Education successful is a staff that knows how to make meaningful connections with their students. We wish everyone a safe and fun summer!

Congratulations Class of 2014!

As this school year comes to a close, I want to thank you again for including School News among your reading choices.

This year has been an eventful year with the introduction of Common Core Standards, iPads in the classrooms, students participating in educational and athletic competitions and much more...

Our next issue is August when we’ll begin publishing for the new school year. Have a wonderful summer!

NR Computer Learning Center

2014 Teen Summer Camp for ages 10-18
Courses include:
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Embracing Change

Many changes have taken place at Anaheim Hills since the implementation of the Common Core Standards. Our teachers and students have embraced the change, and there is excitement in the air.

In the kindergarten through fifth grades you will find students working on their DAILY 5, which includes skills like reading to self, reading with a partner, listening to reading, word work, and writing. While the students are doing their Daily 5, the teachers are able to meet with them in small groups, or individually, for differentiated instruction.

Technology is another component being woven through the Common Core. We have also spent the past year learning more about Discovery Education, and the vast resources they have to help meet the needs of our students through technology. We are fortunate to have three teachers participating in the Discovery Education Ambassador Program to become teacher experts. We are very excited to implement what we’ve learned!

Sandra Miller
Principal

Farewell, Not Goodbye!

The Orange Unified School District will be losing the most senior member of its teaching staff this June. After 48 years of teaching, 45 with OUSD, Jacque Houston has given her notice of retirement. She worked at Killefer Elementary School and Cambridge Elementary.

Mrs. Houston remembers when she arrived at Cambridge 40 years ago with her first-grade class from Killefer. Room 13 at Cambridge was where she was placed that day, and it has been her classroom ever since.

Mrs. Houston is a mentor and a leader on campus. She is one who will tell you how she feels and will do so with a soft, caring tone, with only the best intentions for our children and school in mind. Mrs. Houston has been invited to former students’ high school and college graduations, weddings and baby showers. She has even had the pleasure of teaching a second generation of students, those who are former students’ children! We will be losing a fabulous teacher, but we will be gaining an amazing volunteer!

Jeremy Mortensen
Principal

Jacque Houston

Cambridge Elementary
425 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92866 • 714/997-6103 • http://www.orangecs.org
**Canyon Hills Elementary**

1080 N. California St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6104 • http://www.orangecusd.org

**The Bears Go to the Movies**

We are the California Elementary School Bears. In an effort to support our transition to the Common Core State Standards—which now engage students in fact-gathering and the reading of many different genres to help support writing skills—all of our California students are going to the movies!

The entire student body will see Disney’s *Bears*, and each grade-level teacher has planned relevant subject lessons that are appropriate for their students. These include close readings of nonfiction texts and group tasks on the subject of “bears.” Our main question will be, “Should animals live in the wild or in captivity?”

Students in each grade level will have this guiding question to consider for themselves when they view the movie. Afterwards, they will perform a writing task that requires them to cite the information they have learned from the various articles, books and movie itself. Writing samples will be on display at our Open House.

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**Canyon High School**

220 S. Imperial Hwy., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6171 • http://www.orangecusd.org

**Science Olympiad**

Canyon High School has had the honor of hosting the annual California Science Olympiad State Competition for the past five years. This organization is committed to the development of the next generation of top scientists, innovators, and entrepreneurs. The Science Olympiad competitions embody the very essence of the Common Core State Standards, with the integration of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

Canyon High School students received many individual awards, including first-place medals for Kari Hathaitham and Alejandra Salazar and third-place honors for Briley Lewis, Josh Blum, Christian Totoiu, Allison Ong, Audrey Nguyen, Cassandra Chen, and Alice Chi. Canyon High School ranked 15th overall in the state, and the first-place winners will continue on to the national competition.

We would like to thank the volunteers who mentored, coached, and sponsored these young people throughout the year. Your assistance and generosity are a vital component to the success of this outstanding program.

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**Cerro Villa Middle School**

17852 Serrano Ave., Villa Park, CA 92861 • 714/997-6251 • http://www.orangecusd.org

**The Year in Review**

This year we hosted the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for its initial campus visitation on May 14. WASC is the accreditation commission that validates sound school practices. We are attempting to be the first Orange County grade 7/8 middle school to earn WASC accreditation.

The visitation team inspected all of our signature practices, including student achievement, technology use and academic and behavioral interventions. We will receive our status report by early August.

We also continued to employ the lessons we learned through last year’s Anti-Violence/Anti-Bullying grant by engaging Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies (PBIS). We utilized this opportunity to continue our school-wide focus on anti-bullying and proactive approaches for resolving academic and behavioral issues.

Cerro Villa celebrated student success and positive campus conduct with assemblies, honored students with zero tardies with “Tardy Parties,” and handed out spirit cards and positive referrals. Our mantra is that “C” equals Choose Respect, “V” equals Value Yourself and Others, “M” equals Make it Safe, and “S” equals Strive for Success. In other words, CVMS!

On May 29 we demonstrated and celebrated these strategies during Family Night. Here our students acted out skits and illustrated how whole families can take positive, proactive strategies against bullying.

Lastly, under the direction of Mr. Steve Babnick, our students and community enjoyed four stellar performances of *You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown* in March. The play earned rave reviews! We also honored Ms. Hedspeth for her incredible guidance as assistant director.
Smart Competition!

The end of the school year is always a time of recognizing students for their excellence in a variety of competitions. This year, Canyon Rim’s fourth- through sixth-grade students participated in the district’s Math Pentathlon. They were recognized for demonstrating excellence in the following 21st-century skills: communicating clearly, looking for and expressing regularity in repeated reasoning and collaborating with others.

Our fourth-grade winning team included Bree Anderson, Zachary Faryniarz, Daniel Esteban-Lahti and Mina Son. The fifth-grade team included Brett Eskelson, Kenneth Gampol, Ethan Lee, and Emma Levy. The sixth-grade team included Kevin Jung, Allie Meghrouni, Clarissa Mejia and Kevin Park. Staff members Cynthia De La Cruz, Kathy Kim and Steve Sokoloff served as team coaches.

We’re also proud of fifth-grader Elise Pallemans for winning first place in the Anaheim Community Pride Poster Contest.

Our fourth- through sixth-grade annual Geography Bee was held in May. Students qualified for participation by taking a written exam, and the top 10 from each grade level competed in the bee. The questions covered California, United States and world geography. Medals were awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners. At this writing, we don’t as yet have the winners’ names.

Keeping with the competitive spirit, Canyon Rim has signed up to participate in Scholastic’s Summer Reading Challenge program, Reading under the Stars, a free online reading program that invites children to log their reading minutes to help set a new world record for summer reading. They’ll also be eligible to earn digital rewards and learn about great new books to read.

A Year in Review

The 2013/14 school year has been a busy one for the Chapman Hills Bobcats. Our students have worked diligently on lessons that incorporated the “4 C’s”, communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking. These skills are necessary to prepare them for college and careers in the not so distant future.

Technology got a boost this year with the purchase of 40 iPads and 16 Chromebooks. Our third through sixth graders took the CAASPP using the iPads for the first time. It was definitely a challenge, but our Bobcats rose to the occasion and did a great job! We plan to integrate them in all grade levels starting in the Fall, so that all students will have the technology skills necessary for 21st century learning.
El Rancho Charter Middle School

Academic Competitions Motivate Students

By Robin Nelson, 6th-Grade GATE Teacher

Throughout the year, Crescent Elementary has provided its students with many opportunities to shine through participation in various academic competitions. One such opportunity was the annual Crescent Spelling Bees for grades three through six. This year’s bee winners include third-grade student Deven Lathia, fourth-grader Zack Poland, fifth-grade student Sophie Ringer and sixth-grader Mariel Arambulo. A Geography Bee for fourth-through sixth-graders was also held mid-May, with those results not available in time for this publication. Both competitions began with all students taking a classroom test to qualify as finalists in the bees.

Coached by teachers Barbara Buckett, Suzanne Fowler and DeAnna Moore, the sixth-graders geared up during lunchtime from January to May to prepare for the Academic Pentathlon. Students Jonah Messinger, Ariya Mohanty, Ayush Oza, Sergio Barretto, Shreya Deshmukh, Claire Livermore, Delong Nguyenthanh, Narmin Serrano, Jasmine Cahue and Josh Maguire studied ancient Greece while reading and analyzing Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief. The science portion of the competition focused on ecology.

Math Pentathlon for grades four through six was held in late April. To prepare for this competition, teachers Jami Shields and Jennie Bond donated their lunchtimes preparing the children with cooperative interactive math games and problem-solving quests. The fourth-grade team, comprising Sarah Abdullah, Ben Hsieh, Trina Nguyen and Jordan Park, earned third-place overall trophies. The fifth-grade team—Ryan Nguyen, Sarah Paino, Ryan Robinson and Kevin Vu—won second-place trophies, and sixth-graders Sergio Barretto, Jonah Messinger, Kaitlyn Nishitani and Kayla Woodson took home the first place trophies.

Congratulations to all of our participating students and teachers!

Music Rules!

Our El Rancho instrumental music students have had a busy and spectacular year. For the OUSD’s Honor Band/String program, 62 students were selected from our school by an audition process that incorporated all five OUSD middle schools, with El Rancho taking the majority of the top honors.

Thirteen young musicians, eight of them from El Rancho, received a free instrument of their choice from the International House of Blues Foundation. The students competed against over 1,200 entries from across the country by writing an essay about “What Music Means to Me.” The following students received instruments: Abbey Choi, Ximina Hua, Kimia Keshvardoust, David Kwak, Miranda Parent, Jeremiah Rangel, Rasneek Singh and Hannah Taylor. Way to go!

This year two of our string students, Brian Chen and Brandon Hj, were selected through a highly competitive audition that covered all of North America and Canada. Both musicians will be performing in New York City this summer at Carnegie Hall. In addition, many small concerts were played at our local elementary schools, and also at the Palacio Senior Apartments.

Wow, what a great year! We are so proud of each of our musicians.

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 23?

El Modena High School

Competing Students

April was an exciting month for the El Modena Speech and Debate Team. While most students were focused on preparing for the end of the school year, the team was focused on the upcoming State Speech and Debate Tournament. On April 24th, the team members who qualified went to Modesto, California for four days to compete with schools from all over the state. In May, four students will travel to Kansas City to compete in the National Finals. These students have worked very hard alongside their coach, Mrs. Molly Cherlock. The faculty and staff at El Modena could not be prouder.

Student Council

As the year comes to an end, Esplanade Eagles want to acknowledge our Student Council. They have been recognized for academic achievement and have helped throughout the year. They led the pledge of allegiance at our assemblies, provided ideas on how to better our school, organized our first dance, and contributed to our school plan. Some participated in academic events, GRIP activities and after-school YMCA.

As we close the year, the student council body shared some reflections. “The staff at Esplanade gives a helping hand to everyone,” said President Marelyn Lopez, a sixth-grader. The vice president, sixth-grader David Gonzalez said, “Esplanade has worked very hard, and it is only the beginning.” Dulce Sanchez, a sixth-grader, smiled and said, “Students’ hard work is appreciated at Esplanade,” and Areli Abundio said that “Esplanade students show pride.”

Our fifth-grade students in Student Council have shown great leadership. Monserrat Garcia firmly believes that “your talents are appreciated at Esplanade,” and Vanessa Montes reflected on the student-body accomplishments, saying that “Esplanade students show pride and responsibility in the quality of their work.”

At Esplanade, we believe in pride, respect and responsibility. Briana Navarro agreed, saying, “Students at Esplanade respect their peers.” Finally, Blendy Casimiro pointed out the important programs designed to support and enrich students, saying, “We appreciate the programs Esplanade elementary provides for students.”

Our Student Council advisors, fifth-grade teachers Mr. Praska and Mrs. Aihara, made this a great year! Thank you all for a wonderful year of service and dedication to Esplanade Elementary!
Join the Movement!

This year Fairhaven Elementary has made an astounding push to create measurable collaboration between parents and staff. In just three short years our PTA membership has increased from roughly 20 paying members to nearly 200! Our parents continue to work to collectively provide co- and extra-curricular materials and experiences to our students. This includes the Fall Festival, the Jog-a-thon, field trips, recreational and physical education equipment, and student libraries.

In preparation for the Common Core standards, our PTA has even committed to over $3,000 in updated texts. We also hope that with their continued support, our library can be transformed into a real media center, complete with student and adult teaching stations, research centers, and collaborative inquiry areas.

Our parents also regularly attend the PTA, ELAC, SSC and other parent leadership groups on campus, and participate in a number of educational offerings such as parenting, fitness, nutrition, college entrance, the Common Core State Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessments, CalFresh registration, etc.

We are proud of the advocacy that our parents are demonstrating. We want to encourage all family and staff members to join our movement as Fairhaven Falcons!

Handy Elementary

860 N. Handy St, Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6183 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Reading Counts

Handy Elementary School students are working hard to meet the “Single Plan for Student Achievement” goals (SPSA), in conjunction with our Smarty Pants and Reading Counts goals.

Our teachers work in Professional Learning Communities, and meet at the beginning of the year to set very high goals for each grade level. All of our teachers have committed to having over 80 percent of their students reading at grade level by the end of the year. Throughout this year Handy has grown by over 40 percent in order to meet the reading goals.

Our teachers are committed to providing more opportunities for their students to read challenging texts, as well as teach the kind of close-reading strategies that can help them grow as lifelong readers. Additionally, the school has been working with various organizations to place over 3,000 new or gently used books in our classroom libraries. This will allow our students to find high-interest literature and help build their literacy and reading goals.

We recently included our SPSA as “Smarty Pants” goals. Based upon the assessments, the students who achieve grade-level reading will have their names placed on a “Smarty Pants Wall of Fame.” They will also earn a party at the end of the year.

Currently, Handy Elementary students have earned almost 29,000 Reading Counts points, and have read over 61 million words. Additionally, from October to March, the average lexile growth for students in grades three to six increased by 93 points.

Our students and staff are making great progress. We believe readers are leaders!
During April, our Fletcher third- through sixth-grade students were piloting the new Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC). This is part of the new state testing, and they were having fun while learning! Earlier this year Governor Brown eliminated the old California state test, and along with it the API accountability system. This means that there will be no API scores for the schools this year. Our students will not be receiving any scores, as the state is currently in the process of calibrating the new assessment.

Our students have thus been “testing out” the new assessment, which is computer-based and requires much more critical thinking. Students are no longer being asked to find the one “right” answer, but multiple solutions to the problems instead. We are working hard to prepare our students for higher levels of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity so that they can be equipped to face these new challenges.

Our Fletcher students also had the opportunity to celebrate Earth Day in April, and learn about energy conservation with a fabulous assembly by Radio Disney. The students danced, sang, and learned about the various forms of energy and how to conserve it, all while having fun!

At Imperial Elementary school, we have always believed that we are a distinguished school. We were very proud when we received the California Distinguished School Nomination this year. This nomination gave us the opportunity to show the state of California exactly how special we are. Students, parents and staff worked together to help Imperial shine for our site-validation visit.

Students worked as guides for our validators, sharing their own thoughts and ideas regarding the special programs and unique qualities of Imperial. Parents trimmed roses and spruced up and decoratively painted the entry. They also prepared themselves to share their perspective on the school. Our Daisy Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts planted flowers in our newly painted planter boxes. Site staff and the OUSD Maintenance Department made sure that all was working and safe. We all worked as a community to show just how distinguished we are.

And now, we wait for the final word from the state of California. Our Validation Team agreed that our signature practices of Thinking Maps and data-driven collaboration were practices that helped make us shine. We thank our wonderful Imperial community for helping to make Imperial Elementary School the distinguished place that it is.
An Evening of Science
By Ekko DePriest, Assistant Principal

In April, La Veta Elementary students and parents were able to participate in our annual PTA-sponsored Family Science Night. Parents, Teachers, El Modena High School students and community members all volunteered to run various hands-on science activities in nine different classrooms throughout the campus.

Our students participated in experiments in electromagnetism, optical illusions, building simple machines and forensic science and explored health and science activities.

This wonderful night of science gave parents and students a great chance to partner in learning while supplementing the science lessons taught during the school day. Each science experiment used common household items, making it easy to reproduce them at home. A theme restaurant made an appearance and brought its famous macaw, named Baby, in efforts to educate the public on these beautiful birds. PTA rounded out our successful night of science by selling fresh tamales, snacks and drinks.

Linda Vista Elementary

Technology at Our Fingertips

Mr. McNeil’s sixth-graders are using the Edmodo application to complete assignments and post projects for peer review. They have also begun to use the Educreation application to create presentations in math and language arts. The sixth-graders have also been using the electronic tablets to create short videos for group projects in social studies and language arts.

Mrs. Burd’s fourth-graders used electronic tablets to do research related to the historical fiction novel The Invention of Hugo Cabret, which they recently studied. Students were focused and respectful of the privilege. They were grateful to have an opportunity to use this type of technology in class, and commented that they are much faster and easier to use than the computers in the lab. They are eager for their next opportunity to use them.

Miss Shuff’s kindergarten students have learned how to appropriately use electronic tablets in the classroom and have each earned an electronic tablet driver’s license. The students also played a game-show-style learning game, where they worked in teams to answer social studies and science questions; they used their electronic tablets as responders. In centers, the students have used Quick Response (QR) codes to check their word work. They have also learned to use QR codes for researching online. Their most recent research investigated goldfish and guppies. They will be using this information to collaboratively create an e-book on the similarities and differences between goldfish and guppies.

Clinical Research Opportunity for Kids 7-17 with Depression

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Are you looking for me for the contest on page 23?
**Nohl Canyon Elementary**

4100 E. Nohl Ranch Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807 • 714/997-6203 • http://www.orangeusd.org

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**One Great School Community!**

What a busy year! We started off running with student programs and stellar instruction. Hundreds of students participated in after-school programs and specialized activities like Vex Robotics and Destination Imagination. Student groups traveled to Outdoor Ed, participated in the 100 Mile Club, gardened during lunch, and took field trips to educational locations near and far.

NCSA, our parent group, sponsored great activities throughout the school year—Fall Carnival, Art Masters, Donuts with Dads, Muffins with Moms, Red Ribbon Week, and Traveling Scientist—and our new music teacher through Jog-A-Thon and auction fund-raisers. Our Dads' Club activities included painting the computer lab, made a brick walkway, and revamped our Lost and Found.

Finally, we had two huge celebrations: for 2014 State Teacher of the Year Linda Horist and for our entire school when we received our first 2014 California Distinguished School distinction. These things combine to create Nohl Canyon's special community. See you next year!

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**Orange High School**

525 N. Shaffer St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6211 • http://www.orangeusd.org

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**Lessons About Life**

*(Please see our story on the front page.)*

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**McPherson Magnet**

335 S. Prospect St., Orange, CA 92869 • 714/997-6384 • http://www.orangeusd.org

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**Interdisciplinary Learning**

We want students who are problem solvers and critical thinkers; individuals who can communicate and work together. Through interdisciplinary learning and creating a purpose for learning, together we can all achieve to prepare our students for college and career.

Last month, our students represented McPherson at the Orange County Science and Engineering Fair and took home 20 awards with five students moving on to state. This month, students partook in the VEX Robotics competition and in our 4th annual Angry Birds Engineering Trebuchet rivalry, pulling their knowledge of history, math, and science to create contraptions from the Middle Ages. McPherson's track team took part in the Foundation Games and brought home 20 medals. We are presently looking forward to a visit from Battery B of the 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery group to showcase a Civil War encampment and cannon. It’s living history at its best! Our goal of improving the quality of learning through experience and purpose is accomplished through engaging classroom activities, research, reaching out to the community, and the encouragement of a child's passion.

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**Olive Elementary**

3038 Magnolia Ave., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/637-8218 • http://www.orangeusd.org

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**Beautiful Beginning, Excellent Events!**

Each morning begins when Olive students and staff meet together as a community, pledging the ideas of respect, staying on task, acting safely, being responsible and honoring our country. As soon as the morning bell rings, all students move to their class lines, ready for a full day of learning. The American flag is presented, everyone puts their hands over their hearts, and each student and staff recites the Pledge of Allegiance. This is followed by our students reciting the Ocelot R.O.A.R. pledge. What a wonderful way to begin the day!

Spring has sprung at Olive with some very wonderful events! Our track team of 85 students participated in the Foundation Games, with many students placing in their designated events. Our Pentathlon Team practiced endlessly to compete in the Math Pentathlon. Open House was well attended, and the Art Class held its first Art Show!

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A New Learning Experience
By Kelly Pham, Student Author

At Palmyra Elementary School, we learn and take in knowledge. My fifth/sixth-grade GATE class tried a new way of learning that has been successful. This learning technique helps us think deeply. It is known as a Socratic Seminar, or a Socratic Circle.

For it to work, we split into two groups, the inner and outer circles. The inner circle discusses a certain subject while the outer circle keeps track of things such as the number of times their partners spoke or referred to the text. The next day, we switch roles.

Our teacher, Ms. Campbell, uses this method to let us express our feelings and thoughts about stories. I really enjoy this style of learning. It is fun, but makes us think. It helps me understand the story as well as identify the importance of it. It’s really wonderful!

Lights, Camera, Action
By Jennifer Edmiston, Teacher

Lights, camera, action!!! This will be the focus and words for Prospect Elementary’s first talent show held at the end of the year. It has been an absolute pleasure and delight to see our Prospectors shine and prepare for this wonderful opportunity, and at the same time developing a passion and appreciation for the performing arts. Students from kindergarten through sixth grade will perform various acts ranging from dancing, singing, tambourine routines, karate and turbo truck demonstrations. Students will showcase these unique talents and abilities to the public at El Modena High School on June 5th at 6:00pm. So please come out and show your support of our talented performers and future stars. It will be a night to remember!

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Connected to the Outside World
Learning is alive at Panorama! Our teachers connect their classrooms to the outside world through hands-on activities, lively discussions, student collaboration and critical-thinking experiences. Field trips add to these wonderful learning experiences. Because of our focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, our sixth-graders were fascinated by the Space Shuttle Endeavor as well as the LA County Science Museum. First- and second-graders learned about their environment through the Trabuco Field Study program. A third-grade adventure to the planetarium at Santa Ana College made a super start to the school year. Fifth-graders spent three days snorkeling at Catalina.

From a kindergarten trip to a real working farm to Mission San Juan Capistrano and Heritage House, our Panthers have been enlightened by California and Orange County history. These purposeful outside-inquiry experiences would not be possible without the generosity of our families and community. Thank you!

Running Springs Elementary
8670 E. Running Springs Dr., Anaheim, CA 92808 • 714/281-4512 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Soaring for Excellence
Many Redhawks soared for excellence this month. Neda Afsharian, a sixth-grader at Running Springs Elementary School, is the city-wide winner for her grade level in the City of Anaheim Community Pride Poster Contest. Poster winners were recognized at the Anaheim City Council meeting by Mayor Tom Tait. Neda was accompanied by her parents and grandfather, as well as her teacher, Mrs. Lana Merha, and the principal, Lydia Roach. Orange Unified School Board Member Diane Singer was also present to congratulate Neda on her recognition.

Several students participated in the Foundation Games track meet sponsored by the Community Foundation of Orange on Saturday, April 12. Congratulations to the following students who earned medals at the meet: Gold-Medal Winners Nalysse S., Gabriel G., Kylee M., and Jordyn R. and Silver-Medal Winners Bella G., Nalysse S., Cameron C., Brooklyn J., Connor B., and Kylee M. These students qualified to compete in an additional meet on May 4. Congratulations to our Redhawk athletes!

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 23?

Richland High School
615 N. Lemon St., Orange, CA 92867 • 714/997-6167 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Celebrating Student Success
The 2013–14 school year has proven to be a successful one for several Richland Condors. Students continue to work hard to reach their academic and personal goals. Several students have overcome great adversity to finish high school.

This year, Leobardo Jimenez was voted Condor of the Year by the Richland staff. Leobardo has worked hard to overcome a language barrier. Through elementary and middle school, he struggled with reading and writing the English language. With the help and support of his English-language and English teachers at Orange High and Richland, Leobardo was redesignated this past February. Leobardo has raised his grade-point average to 3.8 and plans to attend Santiago Community College to continue his studies of the English language. Leobardo was also chosen as the Leadership Team Orange “Every Student Succeeding” recipient.

Additional Richland Scholarship winners are Sara Mendez and Melissa Rosendo, Woman's Club of Orange; Salvador Eugenio, Orange North Rotary Merv Young Award; Estephanie Cuevas and Layne Coghill, Schools First Worthy Student Award; and Salvador Eugenio and Berlin Monge, Orange Grove Masonic Lodge Student Award.

Portola Middle School
270 N. Palm Dr., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6361 • http://www.orangeusd.org

Dream Big, Set Goals, Be the Best
As the 2013-2014 school year draws to a close, we want to thank and recognize everyone for all they have contributed this year at Portola. We wish our promoting eighth grade students much success in high school and future years, and look forward to our returning and incoming new students in the fall. Portola will continue participation in the Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) grant, which provides funding to reduce class size in all core classes: English, Math, Science and History (25:1).

Daily, our students are asked to dream big, set goals, and be the “Best.” Our students during the past year have lived up to this challenge as we have celebrated many accomplishments which include: over 350 students earning academic honor roll per trimester, more students with perfect attendance and fewer tardies, increased Lexile reading levels, 32 English learner students reclassifying, choir presentation at the School Board meeting, a new mural painted by students, and more critical thinking in our classrooms. We are so proud of our Portola Matadors!
### Sycamore Elementary
340 N. Main St., Orange, CA 92868 • 714/997-6277 • http://www.orangeusd.org

#### LCFF Funds Being Put to Work at Sycamore
At a series of stakeholder meetings held in the fall including staff, School Site Council, English Language Advisory Committee, and Parent Teacher Association, our school community came to agreement that LCFF funds would best be used to purchase new technology for our classrooms. Last month, 5 Lenovo 20 inch screen desktops were installed in every kindergarten-2nd grade classroom. The computers will be used to access the following programs: ST Math, iRead, Reading Counts quizzes, and TypingWeb. These programs engage students meaningfully while the teacher is working with a small group providing leveled instruction. The primary students are thrilled to be using the computer to learn. Access to technology is an important part of implementing the Common Core and 21st Century Learning!

### Taft Elementary
1829 N. Cambridge St., Orange, CA 92865 • 714/997-6254 • http://www.orangeusd.org

#### Experiencing 21st-Century Learning
At Taft Elementary, strong community partnerships continue to develop and stretch beyond parent English classes. Taft Elementary continues to work in collaboration with Santiago Canyon College (SCC) to create dynamic, interactive classes to support adult learners. Parents at Taft receive English classes five days a week from an SCC instructor; they illustrate high-quality real-world lessons that are positive, meaningful and empowering to the Taft parent community. Taft’s 21st-century parent-education lessons encompass relevant topics that consistently yield a high turnout rate of approximately 40 parent learners at each lesson.

The parent-education program provides several benefits for parents who want to engage with their children’s 21st-century education at Taft. Parents are taught relevant lessons that encompass topics such as learning academic English, providing students in a 21st-century classroom environment and building positive socioemotional skills. Parents leave lessons feeling motivated to help their children succeed in school and in life.

After several informal conversations with the SCC instructor and various parent participants, many attendees are excited about the new topics and enjoy the personalized attention provided during each lesson. The SCC instructor, principal, and staff actively encourage all parents to attend these classes so that our Taft parent community will continue to grow and actively remain an integral part of the 21st-century teaching and learning for all of our students. We are excited to continue and enhance our partnership with the community and SCC.
Ingredients for Success
By Greg Johnson, Tammy Williams and Cecilia Pak

Do you know the recipe for success in fifth grade at Villa Park? It involves forming relationships, engaging students in caring about education, successful work habits and study skills, and participating in hands-on learning activities and PE.

First, students understand that every day they come to school, their teachers care about them and they have an opportunity to better themselves. Villa Park staff engages students to care about learning, and students are held accountable for their learning in order to be successful.

Second, fifth-graders participate in several hands-on activities to supplement social studies and science. They’re engaged in simulation experiences, which include dissecting a pig heart, taking a field trip to Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education, and portraying a person from history they’ve researched. The dissection simulation allows students to compare pig and human hearts while mapping the heart’s chambers and tracing the blood’s pathway through the circulatory system. At our State Fair, students apply their research from their state report through an interactive oral presentation to their families. They benefit greatly by experiencing curriculum outside the textbook.

Third, fifth grade is the year students take the physical-fitness test. We begin discussing ways to stay healthy in October and the importance of what you put into your body. At school, students run laps daily to increase their endurance in the spirit of a healthy body fosters a healthy mind. In March, they’re assessed in six areas for the California State Mandated Physical Fitness Test.

Clearly, student success and making lasting memories are a focus in fifth grade!
At Yorba, we strive to build a culture of reading that transcends the classroom and school gates. One way we bring books and reading alive is through our Million Word Club and bookstore night.

The Million Word Club has one mission: for our students to read one million words! The more a student reads, the better their writing and vocabulary can become. We believe that reading is not as simple as one might think. To be a reader is to connect and engage with what you are reading.

We teach our students that it is okay to put down a book that isn’t interesting. We encourage students to seek out books that relate to their own lives and personal interests. High-interest and engaging literature is different for each unique reader, and we always work to empower our young readers.

Our bookstore night is a fundraiser for the Million Word Club. It is a night where we celebrate the arts while surrounded by books, novels and magazines. It’s also an opportunity for children to perform and showcase their musical talents, written work, dramatic readings and even comedy routines. The students and families gravitate to an environment where they can read aloud, share quotes from their books, and enjoy a variety of genres right at their fingertips.

At Yorba, we are proud to say that we are building a culture of reading. We are building a sustaining culture that is embedded with literature that celebrates who we all are as individuals.

To provide assurances that funds are available to provide for ongoing maintenance of the renovated facilities, the Board is also considering placing language in the ballot resolution that will require an additional one percent of all general-fund revenue be allocated to facilities maintenance for the life of the bonds. This is all in addition to the protections already in law, such as forming a Citizen’s Oversight Committee to provide annual reports to the Board and public on the bond program’s fiscal and performance audits.

Community Advancement through Renovation for Education (CARE), the grass-roots citizens committee advocating the modernization of our high schools, continues to advance the cause through fund-raising and community outreach. Anyone interested in learning more about CARE can find them on Facebook at CAREforOUSD or on the Web at www.CAREforOUSD.org.

The next step is for the Board to decide on the final ballot resolution language and the amount of the bonds. They may take action in June to place an item on the ballot in the November general election to see if the voters want the district to sell bonds and use the proceeds to modernize our comprehensive high schools.

I encourage you to stay up to date on the events surrounding this issue and other important district communications by visiting the district’s Web site (www.orangeusd.org) and following us on Facebook at OrangeUnifiedSchoolDistrictCA.

Congratulations Class of 2014!

Orange Unified School District
Board of Education

Summer Opportunities for Kids

By Jim Stephens, Director

Please join us in celebrating Orange Unified School District's CARES (Centers for Afterschool, Recreation, Enrichment & Safety) 30th Summer Camp program. We have a wealth of exciting events planned for your child this summer.

This year our Summer Camp theme is “THE BEST OF CAMP SERIES” where we will travel back in time and bring you the best of all our 30 years of Summer Camp experience. Our Summer Camp program focuses on enriching out of school time learning, with an emphasis on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Mathematics). We also offer fun, exciting field trip excursions two to three times per week. For your convenience, our camp programs are being offered at three elementary schools: Cambridge, Canyon Rim & Linda Vista.

We realize you have a choice for child care, and we hope you select the OUSD CARES Summer Camp Program. For more information and registration paperwork, please visit www.orangeusd.k12.ca.us/child_care/ or contact us directly at 714-628-5412.

Additionally, OUSD Child Development Center (CDC) provides part day and full day preschool for 3 and 4 year olds. For over 40 years, the CDC has provided a comprehensive preschool experience for many children. Our students receive a wide variety of learning experiences that enhance language, vocabulary, mathematics reasoning, and social-emotional development as well as developmental, sensory, health, and nutrition screenings. The CDC is located on the Parkside School campus and is currently enrolling 3 and 4 year olds for summer or the fall. For more information, please call 714-628-5570, or www.orangeusd.org under “Child Care.”
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Children's Programs

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Session 2: July 21 - August 1

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Classes start as early as July 7.

www.fullerton.edu/kidscamp

These programs are made available through the CSU Fullerton Auxiliary Service Corporation.

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Note-ables

Buy One Get One Flea, Dog on Fleas

For some time, creators and performers of young people's music have been dispensing with the cheap, synthetic sound of electronic tracks and replacing them with real live instruments. I'm surely not the only one who's delighted beyond words. Dog on Fleas is one of the groups that plays in its own band, called the Backyard Orchestra; the combo includes but is not limited to a sousaphone, duck calls, a bass drum, a bassoon, a clarinet and several kazoos. The wacky instrumentation and the wordplayful monikers of group and band indicate one slap-tapily good CD.

The content is composed of songs original, familiar and obscure. Imagine, if you will, “Over the Waves” and the “Grand March” from the opera Aida played solely by kazoos, albeit skilfully. The original songs, written by Grammy Award-winning producer and band member Dean Jones, are based on themes that both child and parent will appreciate. “Hundredaires” is about the joys and disadvantages of a simpler life and a lighter wallet. “It’s a Ruse” warns about things that seem too good to be true and likely are. “Pardon My Pajamas”—well, who hasn’t longed to spend an entire day in jammies?

And “Hinterlands” is plain wonderful—brilliantly arranged and tuneful, with an energy that you can jump on and ride. You’re certain to get an itch for Fleadom.

Mr. Palindrome, as he puts it, wants to teach very small children very big words with very silly songs. Even better, your child's experience with figurative language will be enhanced by some even sillier videos and doodlings available free, along with lyrics to all the songs, on Mr. P.'s website, www.mrpalindrome.com.

Kate Karp

Smiley Face Sticker, Mr. Palindrome

Ding, dong! Madame, I'm Adam. Said the flea, let us fly; said the fly, let us flee! Those are examples of onomatopoeia, palindromes and alliteration. Big words, but not so big that Mr. Palindrome, aka Australian musician Natan Kuchar, thinks that your young child can't have fun learning them. His new CD features a song for each of the aforementioned types of figurative language. “Alove Alliteration” actually rolls off the tongue. “Onomatopoeia” asks, “Do you have any i-de-ah what's an onomatopoeia?” and sings out examples. The palindrome has two songs, “The Palindrome Song” and “Backwards Alphabet,” which practices singing the ABC's backward, stopping and starting with the British English zed, and shows how a word like kayak is spelled the same backward and forward.

“The Real Adventures of Incy Wincy Spider” will encourage parents, teachers and children to compose further adventures of favorite storybook characters. And to let you know that the collection isn't just about the lyrics, “Smiley Face Sticker” has a great melody line and thumping beat, enough to leave you with an incy wincy earworm.

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

Bullying is such a horrid thing. I often wonder how we got from using “bully for you” as an expression of doing a good thing to a bully beating or berating a weaker person.

There seems to be a “pecking order” in nature that somehow tries to establish itself in mankind too. There is always one cow who eats first and gets her choice of food before any other is allowed near, one hen that bosses the others and actually pulls feathers from her “inferiors,” one strong hummingbird chasing all others away from the food bottle. With food plentiful in these instances, one can hardly help but wonder why?

When one watches interaction of children in kindergarten there seems to be one or two children you know you can follow through their school experience and find them always in the corner, on detention, sent to the principal’s office, being expelled, winding up in jail. Why? Is it a defect in this child which leads to this behavior? Is it Mother Nature beginning early training in survival? I am among those who refuse to believe children are born evil or mean. I truly believe children model themselves after those around them, those they look up to, or in some cases those who act against the child. I have often heard it said that a man who was beaten as a child will beat his own children and that behavior continues.

With innovation moving along so quickly in our world today there is a race to always be first, to always be striving, and perhaps we are leaving some of our inherent niceness behind in that race. There is hardly enough time to teach the fundamentals to our students today.

In my four terms as a member of a high school governing board I was often chastised because some students were unable to read or to do math. My standard answer was: what high school teacher taught you to read and compute? Frankly by the time our students reach high school there is absolutely no time to teach them to read and do arithmetic. As a society we have required the elementary teachers to assume many parental roles, to teach children to share and be kind to one another, to become good citizens, to always be rewarded for the smallest achievement and never be held to account for any bad behavior. I stand in awe of an elementary teacher who can actually teach instead of parent.

If I teach my child to be a kind, generous, good person and citizen and if you teach your child the same and our neighbor follows suit, if our churches reinforce those teachings and if the schools will be allowed to instruct and teach our children and as an aside say “good job” for our children exemplifying our teachings, perhaps our children could move forward as kind, generous, good persons and citizens without having time or inclination to feel better than someone else. The act of succeeding is not standing on the head and shoulder of another person, but being able to raise yourself up and lend a hand to the person next to you.

I’d love the opportunity to say “bully for you” to a person and have them know I am appreciating a decent act or success they have made.

Publisher’s note: Nancy is a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, retired school board member, and community volunteer. Nancy is a rancher in Northern CA. I don’t think I have ever known anyone quite as appreciative of nature as Nancy. She can stand in the middle of a field of weeds and find beauty in the gentle swaying of the baskets. At the end of her busy day, rather than settle down for a much needed rest, Nancy is preparing sugar water to not disappoint the hummingbirds the following morning. After much arm twisting, I convinced Nancy to share with our readers a few tidbits of her days on the farm. Enjoy!

Remember to read this summer!

Ask Dr. Shari

Video Games

Dear Dr. Shari,

What is your opinion about video games? It seems there was the huge wave of “anti video games” and then people started talking about the value of video games in increasing, reaction time, imagination, mental agility, etc.

I am not the kind of parent who can’t figure out how to set limits...We definitely limit the video games. But, I just wanted your overall thoughts on the value/detriment of them. I know you are big on insisting that schools promote creative “brain” experiences (You spoke at our PTA!), but at home does technology destroy this? My boys spend a lot of time on the ipods, which doesn’t require a babysitter.

—John, San Diego

Here is what I think John...

I love technology. The amount of information, knowledge, resources and answers that are at our fingertips makes me giddy. You can find a job, recipe, cure for an ailment and a video on “how to” do almost anything in a second! I LOVE IT.

I find it phenomenal and fascinating that I can stand in front of my computer and train 300 middle school students on the other side of the country. I frequently text, on my phone, check emails on the ipad while working on a project on the laptop, all from the front seat of my car (my parked car).

So, don’t call me a hypocrite when I share the following...

There is a certain form of development that only evolves through the personal creativity, imagination and vision. The stimulation of video games takes away some of our creative development. That is a fact.

• Texting vernacular kills our ability to spell and impedes the “human connection”
• Looking things up often replaces “figuring it out” on your own.
• Overuse of computers and videos is detrimental to eye health and is negative for our physicality.

Kids who use up all of their play time in front of video games that do most of the visual creation for them, lose the practice of “pretending, imagining and creating” and, yes, it is detrimental...the brain needs and craves the creative experience. This has implications for learning and memory ability.

Building a house from blankets, creating a story form sock puppets making stuff from play dough and telling ghost stories in the night, are special memories to almost everyone who is over 30. Building from blocks, making up a game, or drawing a picture requires a special brainpower, yet the result is this sense of accomplishment and joy. Why do the images that I suggested leave you with a pleasant nostalgic feeling?

Your brain craves these experiences and we have to make sure our children have the opportunity to satisfy that craving.

To truly support growing, improving and expanding our minds, we have to use the best of the past and the exciting new developments of today.

You remember the excitement of fixing your own bike, running from whomever was “it” and creating the perfect secret “fort.” You remember the accomplishment of sand castles, snow fortresses, and wonder and warmth of campfires. Don’t forget the feeling and connection to others that these experiences brought.

Does technology destroy this? Sure it does, if you let it. If your boys spend more time, side by side on the ipod than “real” play, that is detrimental to their brains, eyes, bodies and moods and memory capacity.

So, John, you are right about the fact that ipods function as babysitters. Further, encouraging real life experiences will take more effort on your part! Providing building materials, fielding questions, responding to “Watch this!” and “Look what I made!” all take time.

You have to decide the most valuable expenditure of it.

Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Motivational Speaker, Founder of The Brainpower Programs for Schools,
Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS,
LinkedIn: Dr. Shari Sweetnam
Summer is the Time for Edu-tivities

Typically I write to address the parents, but this is for you and your children. Soon we will all be thinking, “Hooray! School is out!” This is the time to swim, play sports, and enjoy some R&R.

One question though: Have your children ever wanted to study sea animals or to learn to play an instrument but there just isn’t enough time during school to do it? Maybe they wanted to learn about rockets, how to cook or sew, the choices are endless!

Kids: Now is your chance to learn about what you are interested in, to discover and to explore things that YOU have always wanted to find out about. Now is the time to satisfy YOUR curiosity.

Simply stagnating for 3 months will eliminate some of the knowledge your children gained throughout the year. As a parent, I always wanted to cultivate my children’s desire to learn and explore. If they were interested in something we would research that subject, learn all we could and then do an activity related to their research. Sometimes time is not on our side but I found that having a membership to museums, the zoo, or an amusement park would allow us to explore for a shorter amount of time on days throughout the year would allow us to gain more access and a better experience than trying to fit all of the attractions into one day.

The benefits of membership at different venues stretch far beyond simply the ability to visit the various attractions. They typically have special member only classes for the children, discounts for behind the scenes tours, and much more. If money for a family membership sounds out of reach there are FREE activities to be found.

Of all the venues for learning opportunities, the best place is still your local library. Before you say “sounds boring…” ask yourself when was the last time you went? Library cards are FREE! You can get videos, music, even find books that can rock your world. There is story time and other shows at many libraries, but you won’t know about them until you look. Plus, the knowledgeable librarians will help you on your quest, showing you the right sections to find the information you need.

Who will you be at the end of summer? It’s up to YOU...

Note to the college bound: Your summers are as important as the school year. Stay competitive, be productive.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

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Positive Parenting

Family Literacy: Building on Success

There is a ticket to success in business and in life, and that is knowing how to read. As a former fourth-grade teacher, I can tell you that my students’ key to success in every area was to be able to read well. Reading takes practice. My six- and eight-year-old grandchicks need to read 20 minutes before bedtime, and one of the parents reads to two-year-old Evan every night. They have read to Evan for over a year now, and it is a routine part of his bedtime. Books need to be age-appropriate. Your local library can help with the selection of books that both entertain and challenge a child. Most teachers will give out a reading list and have books available in their classroom.

Before a child can read, you can help to develop a love of reading by sharing the story with animation in your voice. Keep the child involved by allowing opportunities for your child to interact with the book: “Where is the butterfly?” or “Is this apple red or green?”

As your child learns to read on his or her own, he or she may struggle with maintaining interest or become frustrated with the process. The trick is to build on a success, not continually introduce failure. If the parent reads slowly, stopping now and then so a child can read a word, that helps the child to relax. A child can read a paragraph then follow along while a parent reads a paragraph. At the end of a paragraph, the parent can review any difficult words or recap the storyline to ensure understanding. It is important to constantly encourage the child as he or she reads. Little comments such as “Great!” or “That was awesome!” are cheerleaders to children who are struggling to master something people around them take for granted.

One of the elements that is missing in today’s family life is connection. We are ping-pong balls, bouncing from one activity to another, on cell phones and other gadgets, and eating dinner in front of the television. Children who don’t feel connected to their parents and siblings often begin a process of seeking attention through negative behavior. That 20 minutes of reading before bed can be a special time of connection. And with the television’s images changing every four seconds, reading before bed also allows your child to unwind and go to sleep with ease. Reading together has many benefits for parents as well. I can confirm that I definitely missed those bedtime reading moments when my children grew too old for us to read together. Now at least I have grandchicks!

Once your child is able to read on his or her own, reading together doesn’t have to end. Invite your child to read to you while you fix dinner, or curl up together on the couch and read individually. That shared time promotes a love of reading and encourages even the most disinterested readers to invest their time in reading practice. Helping a child learn to read well has tremendous benefit for both child and parent. Children who read well are able to do their schoolwork and homework more independently and don’t experience the discouragement that comes from a lack of understanding. Invest in the learning process to save yourself and your child.

In today’s electronic society, book reading is competing with all of the media gadgets children enjoy using. Too much of the latter is affecting children’s brains, eye sight, temperament, ability to concentrate, need for speed to be attentive, and moral development. A parent’s investment in helping a child discover the incredible world of reading is more than helping to develop a skill; it is helping to develop a person.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written four adult books, and a new children’s book: Believe You Are Beautiful. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has worked with children and families for 52 years. Sandy now lives in Meridian, Idaho. ParentingSOS.com, Amazon and Kindle

Summer Fun Word Search Contest

Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put OUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2014
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a $20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Awesome Lessons Sunscreen
Barbeque Lifeguard Surfing
Beach Picnics Swimming
Fireworks Pool Vacation
Fun Popsicles Volleyball
Hot Sand Water
Ice Cream Summer Wave
Lemonade Sunny

Congratulations to Leah McBratney
Winner of the April Word Search Contest!
21st Century Learning Environments

Tony Wagner, Expert in Residence at Harvard University’s Innovation Lab, stated, “Knowledge is a commodity and having it is not enough. It is what you can do with it that matters to corporate America and the labor force.” In other words, it is the application of knowledge that is most essential to the strength of our country in order to solve problems. Technology is a powerful driver to in the acquisition of information and its use. Furthermore, it spurs on innovation and today affects virtually every aspect of our lives. The current social, economic, and technological environment presents challenges for educators but also wonderful opportunities. Just as technology has revolutionized the world, it is also transforming the classroom.

Educational technology is now providing teachers with a framework known as TPACK (Technology, Pedagogy, and Content Knowledge) to identify the skills required to integrate technology in learning. These practices help classrooms to incorporate learning activities that engage students. For example, many schools have implemented blended learning, a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part, through online delivery of content and instruction while still receiving face-to-face classroom instruction. Another instance is a school that solicited student feedback to redesign an instructional learning environment, resulting in a classroom with no rows, tables, or straight back chairs.

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is committed to supporting educators in preparing today’s students for tomorrow. The OCDE Educational Technology Department, OC Innovate, maintains ongoing research and provides professional development to support the educational community in creating classrooms that continue to engage our learners. Schools need to foster global innovation while meeting the diverse needs of students. We recognize that teaching methods and environments must shift in order to keep students engaged in their education.

Our children are walking into classrooms with more significant technology experience than ever. Our duty is to provide them with the learning environments that will foster creativity and prepare them to apply knowledge to the workforce. I look forward to the challenges in education today, and have experience than ever. Our duty is to provide them with the learning environments that will foster creativity and prepare them to apply knowledge to the workforce. I look forward to the challenges in education today, and have confidence that Orange County students will lead the nation in college and career readiness and success.

For more information, visit www.ocde.us/EdTech.

Contest!!

This Mr. Ruler is hidden in 3 places in this publication. When you find him, email the page numbers to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put OUSD in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by July 15, 2014. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a $20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

3rd of July Celebration

Thursday, July 3, 2014, 4 – 9 p.m.
El Modena High School – Fred Kelly Stadium, 3920 Spring St., Orange, 92869

Send a fun-filled day with the City of Orange in celebrating America. Activities include interactive games, live entertainment, delicious food from our local non-profit groups, a patriotic musical performance by the Orange Community Master Chorale, and a spectacular fireworks display. Ticket prices are $7 per person, children 2 and under are free.

Tickets are available now and may be purchased from the City Services Department located at 230 E. Chapman Ave. Orange, 92866 until 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 3rd or at the event gate at El Modena High School after 1:30 p.m.

Fred Kelly Stadium has synthetic turf and your help is needed in preserving the field. Therefore, only blanket seating is permitted and wheeled items such as strollers, wheelchairs, wagons, motorized scooters, etc. are only permitted in the designated areas. The following items are not allowed on the field: lawn chairs, food, drinks, seeds of any kind, gum, popcorn, hard-soled and high-heeled shoes, and any other items staff deem harmful to the field.

Concerts in the Park

Wednesdays, June 25 – August 13, 2014
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Hart Park Bandshell, located off the 22 Fwy. & Glassell St., Orange, 92866

Pack your picnic basket, relax, and enjoy free entertainment for all ages under the starry sky! Bring your blankets or low lawn chairs and get ready for a great time.

Reminder: alcohol is not permitted in the park; food will be available for purchase courtesy the Kiwanis Club of Orange.

For the safety of your pets, we kindly ask that you please leave them at home.

The Community Services Department organizes city-wide special events throughout the year that attract thousands of residents and visitors to our great City. Our 2014 special event season is underway and it is with the generous contributions of our Community Partners that we are able to continue to offer quality community events that unite families and friends.

As a Community Partner you will be granted with marketing opportunities which will establish your business as a community supporter, as well as help create and maintain relationships within the Orange Community.

Our Community Partner program offers a variety of support levels and accompanying benefits that is sure to fit your budget. Invest in your community and gain recognition by becoming a partner today! To find out more information on how you can become a Community Partner, please visit cityoforange.org or contact Megan Hanley at Mhanley@cityoforange.org or call (714) 744-7293.

Become a City of Orange Community Partner!
eGIFTING MAKES IT EASY TO SHARE.

Share a brighter future with the child in your life. Do it easily—by e-gifting with ScholarShare, California's 529 college savings plan. You can open a new account or contribute to an existing one; the reasons are as simple as 1, 2, 3:

- Tax-advantaged contributions
- Account owner retains control of the assets
- Age-based portfolios

Go to scholarshare.com to share your eGift today.