



# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

## Superintendent's Message



February 3, 2020

Dear Wiseburn Families and Friends,

This is the first newsletter since our students returned to school from Winter Break and I am hopeful the transition back has been seamless for our families. I wish each member of our Wiseburn community a very happy and prosperous New Year! The ringing in of 2020 and the end of January marks a milestone that we are officially at the halfway point of the school year. As a parent and a district administrator, I cannot believe how fast time flies and that preparations for the last half of the school year are well underway. I recently had conversations with my

own children encouraging them to "finish strong." As we close the first half of the year, each of our students has the chance to start anew with the necessary resolve and commitment to do the very best they can to reach their potential. With the support of Wiseburn's phenomenal teaching and support staff, our students have all the ingredients to be successful for the duration of the school year.

As we begin our second part of the 2019-2020 school year, I would like to share some of the major initiatives Wiseburn is currently engaged in and/or exploring. Several years ago, the district decided to operate our preschool and before and after school care programs in-house. Both are currently under the umbrella of the Child Development Center (CDC). The CDC was intended to be a break-even program with no impact to the district's general fund. However, our Business Office has noted that over the last three years we are trending in a different direction and early indications show an approximate encroachment of \$60,000 to our general fund in the outgoing years. At the same time, we have received feedback from families regarding the wait-list, cost, and days of operation of the program as areas of concern. Proactively, district leadership initiated a thorough study of all aspects of the CDC program to include the potential for a full-day preschool option. We have contracted with Barber and

Associates to complete an independent audit of the CDC program to provide recommendations to the Board regarding potential next steps. We are seeking as much input from our families as possible and ask that you complete a short survey and/or attend a stakeholder meeting to share your views. Please find additional information on the survey and parent meeting on our website under "News and Announcements."

In the interest of continually evaluating our programs and supporting our students and the community we serve, a second study related to full-day kindergarten through third grade is underway. We are seeking stakeholder input in this area as well. Based on stakeholder feedback, the Wiseburn Trustees tasked district staff with exploring the advantages and disadvantages of our current Early Bird/Later Gator schedule versus a full-day schedule. This exploratory study is meant to provide pertinent information based on teacher/staff feedback, community feedback and the greater body of educational research in this area to our Trustees. We will hold a study session/discussion at a future School Board-meeting once all information is gathered.

The dynamic landscape of education keeps us thinking forward and supports our need to always evaluate our programs. Our commitment to the community and our students remains unwavering and I am thankful to our district leadership and excellent teaching and support staff for providing the resources and guidance necessary for Wiseburn to continue to grow. There is still much work to do, but it brings me back to the advice I shared with my children – we must finish strong. Our commitment to every student that walks through the gates each day make it a necessity to do so.

I look forward to sharing updates soon on all our endeavors.

Wishing you a great month of February!

Sincerely,  
Blake Silvers, Ed.D.



## Cetacean Bots Competition

The Wiseburn Unified School District Cetacean Bots Team 4240A, led by Dana Middle School's Mr. Andy De Seriere, earned 5th place overall with a record of 5W-2L-1T. The team, made up of 22 Dana Middle School students, are grateful to WEF, Da Vinci High School Vitruvian Bots Team 4201 mentors, the Beard family and team



parents for their support throughout the build season. The team surpassed the 100 hour mark in preparing for this competition using weekends and after school time to bring it all together in time for the competition.

At the competition, there were 40 teams registered at the CSUN VEX Tower Takeover Competition and 36 who passed inspection to compete. Each team competed 8 times called Qualifiers. Cetacean Bots Team 4240A ranked as high as 3rd after epic wins in rounds 7 and 8 against some of the top teams with far more experience. As a top ranking team, the Wiseburn team was asked to form an alliance with another team to compete in the Finals—Tournament of Champions. Cetacean Bots Team 4240A won the first two rounds and advanced to the Semi-finals—a success for a rookie team. Cetacean Bots have four sub-systems and Wiseburn is proud of each and every member for persevering and supporting the mission of this competitive team every step of the way.

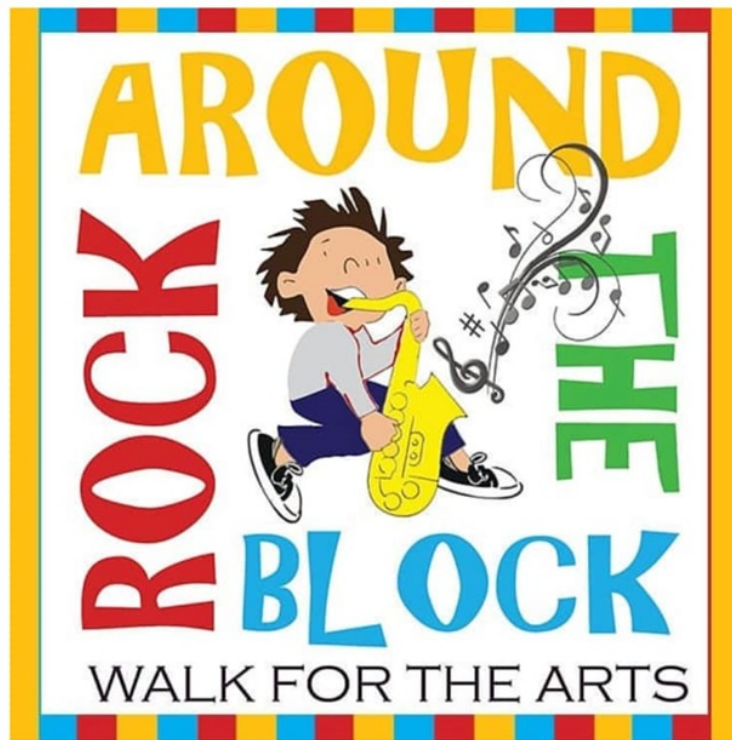
“We believe that it is important to fail fast. I lead the mechanical and CAD—Computer Assisted Design teams on this build and believe me we were all about test, analyze and improve.” ~Cassie Vizuite, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

“We exceeded my expectations. I knew that Mano and Crisanto and I, basically our programming team was good, but I had no idea that we would be so consistently great.” ~Mason Beard, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Save-The-Date: Rock Around the Block-Saturday, March 21st!**







Save the date for our annual day of fun, food, and music! We hope to see our Wiseburn families join in to celebrate our kids, schools and community at **WEF's Rock Around the Block** on Saturday, March 21 at Dana Middle School. More details coming soon!

Wiseburn Education Foundation (WEF) would like your support with a donation to our online/silent auction at our fundraising event, Rock Around the Block. If you have any additional questions or would like further information, please feel free to call Interim Executive Director Melanie Mack at (310) 725-2101, ext. 5401 or email her at [melanie@wiseburnedfoundation.org](mailto:melanie@wiseburnedfoundation.org). Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Your contributions will make a significant impact and difference for students in the Wiseburn Unified School District!

It is not too late to join us this year in our efforts to elevate the quality of education in our schools by providing exceptional performing arts programs, over \$90,000 in teacher grants, healthy lifestyles programs, and STEAM education. On behalf of the students whose futures are impacted by your support, we need you.

Did you know there are 180 days in a public-school year? Consider participating in our GIVE 180 campaign, which addresses the importance of sustaining programs by committing to a one-time gift of \$180 or a recurring gift of \$18.00 each month to create and sustain enrichment programs for all students. Please use [this link](#) to our campaign for your consideration.

## Give 180

Impact students each day this school year through a \$180 donation to the Wiseburn Education Foundation in support of thriving enrichment programs.

**\$1 for Each School Day**

- 1 Arts Education
- 2 WEF Innovation Grants
- 3 Healthy Lifestyle Programs
- 4 STEAM Education

### WHAT WE FUND

We celebrate visual, performance and applied arts by augmenting funding for vocal and instrumental music, art and dance instruction, and other creative programs that contribute to academic excellence. Your contributions to Wiseburn Education Foundation help foster an arts-rich STEAM environment through strategic partnerships and fundraising, which enhances student success and life-long achievements.

### Our Mission

The Wiseburn Education Foundation exists to enhance student education, provide supplemental funding and unify the schools and communities of the Wiseburn School District.

### Your Donation Matters

Students benefit from enrichment programs that are only made possible through generous donations by people like you.

# STAFF Spotlight



## Kathy Ory

Mrs. Kathy Ory has been the Library/General Clerk at R. H. Dana Middle School for twenty-nine years. Although her favorite spot is the library, she has worn many hats including facilitating student programs and activities, the Catalina and Washington DC study trips, and eighth grade promotion activities. Although retirement beckons, she will always treasure time spent with the students, staff, and community who have made Dana Middle School a very special place. The Board of Trustees sends a special thank you to Mrs. Ory for her exemplary service. She will be presented with a Board Resolution at the February 12 School Board Meeting.



## What's Happening at WUSD...



### Facilities Master Plan Committee Update

Our Facilities Master Plan Committee met on Tuesday, January 28th at Dana Middle School. Each school site was asked to bring their School Site Committee consisting of teachers, classified staff, and parent/PTA. During the meeting, our school site groups looked at proposed site masterplans. These were put together from feedback that LPA had gathered from the past six months working with our Master Plan Committee, walking our sites, meeting with principals, and analyzing survey data. Principals will take the draft plans back to their sites for more feedback from staff with the purpose of verifying accuracy of existing site plan diagram, confirming site needs in proposed draft master plan, filling out a questionnaire, and listing three highest priorities for their site. Principals will have one-on-one meetings in a few weeks to share collected input with LPA.

Our last Facilities Master Plan Committee meeting will be March 30th. We will be discussing implementation, total program cost, and doing a prioritization activity.

# SCHOOL TOUR DATES

+ RSVP INFO

All school tours begin at 9:00 a.m. and are approximately two hours in duration so please plan accordingly. Reservations are required.

- Anza's Tour (TK - 5): Friday, February 14, 2020(FULL) and Friday, March 13, 2020
- Burnett's Tour (3-5): Monday, February 10, 2020 and Monday, March 9, 2020
- Cabrillo's Tour (TK -2): Tuesday, February 11, 2020(FULL) and Tuesday, March 10, 2020
- Dana's Tour (6-8): Wednesday, February 12, 2020(FULL) and March 11, 2020

To RSVP for one of our tours, please contact Alicia Galindo in the Intra/Interdistrict Permit Department at [agalindo@wiseburn.org](mailto:agalindo@wiseburn.org). Please indicate in your email the following information:

- Tour date
- Your child(ren)'s grade for the 2020-21 school year
- Your resident school district

You will receive an email confirming your RSVP. Out of consideration of others in attendance, please make childcare arrangements if you have younger child and/or baby since we will be visiting classrooms.




## Open House Schedule

- Anza Elem. School: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Burnett Elem. School: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Cabrillo Elem. School: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- Dana Middle School: Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



# : update



## I Need to Taco 'Bout Something With the School Counselor




My name is \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date is \_\_\_\_\_

My teacher's name is \_\_\_\_\_ I am in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade

What do you need to Taco 'Bout? (Check below)

☐ Friend/another student  
☐ Family/Home  
☐ School  
☐ Something else: \_\_\_\_\_

When do you need to Taco 'Bout it? (Check below)

☐ Immediately (hot problem)   
☐ As soon as possible (medium problem)   
☐ When you get a chance (mild problem) 

*Please give this form to your teacher or the school counselor*

School Counseling is Mandatory

Hello Wiseburn family! Since the last time we checked-in the CARE Team has experienced a few exciting changes! We've continued to partner with local universities to bring school counseling interns to our elementary schools to work with our students. We are happy to introduce two new team members, Paloma Roman and Troi Boucher, who come to us from USC's school counseling program. With the addition of our new members, we've been busy reorganizing our services to make sure we are providing support for all students. Please click on flyer below to see what the CARE Team provides as support.

In efforts to reach all students, we introduced self-referral forms, which allow students to complete the form and request seeing a counselor as needed (e.g., conflict with peer, concern for a friend, worry, stress). We were also excited to offer our first positive parenting workshop on January 14th on Suicide Prevention and Awareness and look forward to seeing you at our next workshop coming up in February! Also come join us at the first cross-district Mental Health and Wellness Fair on May 2nd to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month. The event will be at Anza Elementary. There will be resources and activities for the whole family! Lastly, you may have noticed our weekly elementary newsletter contributions. We enjoy connecting with our families in this way and look forward to sharing more tips and tricks in newsletters to come!



*The Wiseburn Elementary School Counseling Department consists of a team of dedicated professionals committed to developing a school culture and climate that is respectful, positive, accepting, and safe for students of all backgrounds. We call ourselves the CARE Team because our number one goal is to provide Counseling and Access to Resources in Education (CARE).*

*With support from Wiseburn School Psychologists, teachers and team members, and community partnerships,*

*The CARE Team provides the following supports:*

School-wide	Individual Support
Programs to promote a positive, safe, and respectful school culture	Small group skill-building and counseling
Classroom guidance	Individual counseling
Parent workshops	Parent and family counseling
Teacher in-services, roundtables, and workshops	Attendance at parent-teacher conferences, IEP meetings, 504 Plan meetings, and SST meetings
Communication-keep parents, staff, students, and the community informed	Peer mediation
Data collection, dissemination, and application to address the needs of students	Crisis and threat assessments

#### CARE Team Members



**Dr. Mary Ring**  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Psychological and Student Services  
mring@wiseburn.org



**Dr. Monique Ingram**  
District Elementary School  
Counselor/Coordinator  
mingram@wiseburn.org



**Ms. Julie Walker**  
Elementary School Mental Health  
Counselor/Clinician  
jwalker@wiseburn.org

#### School Counselor Interns:



**Troi Boucher**  
tboucher@temp.wiseburn.org



**Paloma Roman**  
Proman@temp.wiseburn.org



**Michelle Shelton**  
mshelton@temp.wiseburn.org



**Lauren Takeshita**  
ltakeshita@temp.wiseburn.org





## Anza Elementary School



### Fifth Grade Hackathon

This January, Anza hosted a Hackathon for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our students, also known as Scholars and/or Engineers, had a great time exploring how to protect a brass screw and (dried) hot glue from the extreme temperatures of a propane torch, working with the laws of gravity, and keeping dense items afloat in a container of water- all in one morning! We also launched a trans-continental balloon and watched it move across California. It has already made it to Canada. If you would like to track it, simply go to [Google Maps APRS website](#) and in the "track callsign," type in KM6BWB-6. It will show its latest "packet" of information, including location, altitude, speed, and temperature. We would like to thank our district STEM teacher, Joanne Michael, for leading the event, and we would also like to thank Wiseburn Education Foundation for their support- without them, this day would not have been possible at all!

Next month, we will be celebrating our families with two events: Family Art Night and Diversity Day. Please visit [our website](#) for more details.



## Burnett Elementary School

### Family GATE Night

On Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> the Wiseburn Unified School District and the STAR Resource Station presented Family GATE Night for our GATE students and families. Students and parents alike were put through a "Fitness and the Brain" activity. Evening, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student in Mrs. Steen's class stated, "The best part of Family GATE Night was learning alongside my mom and putting on the intoxication goggles." She added, "When I had the goggles on, everything that was in front of me was now to the right, and my brain had to adjust and transmit signals to try and hit the target." Max, another 5<sup>th</sup> grade student in Ms. Maano's class stated, "Working alongside my parents was pretty fun -- they knew some things, and I knew some things. My mom said that I underestimated her during the neuron activity."



## Cabrillo Elementary School



### Exploring!

January at Cabrillo has been all about exploring! Students have been enjoying time in our school garden, digging for worms and watching the many Monarch caterpillars snack on the milkweed. They have also been watching the composting process, with help from a community volunteer and some garden rangers who visit us from Dana Middle School. Thanks to a creative teacher, some of our TK students were even able to explore some real snow brought back from Mammoth Mountain in a cooler. In classrooms, students have been exploring winter themes throughout the day from math problems about penguins to writing assignments on how to build a snowman. As the Dawn Dyson multicultural dance instruction has gotten underway, thanks to generous support from Cabillo's PTA, students are even exploring dance and movement traditions from around the world. And this spirit of adventure will continue into February! Next month will bring a Hands-On Art project for all classes, with support from our parent community, and the launch of the Kids Heart Challenge to benefit the American Heart Association. Winter is a busy time at Cabrillo!





## Our Talented Students

January was an exciting month for Dana students as they showcased their many talents. Our Drama program performed a hilarious and inspiring play called *The Audition*. The students spent months honing their acting skills, memorizing lines, and working under the guidance of Ms. Ableser.

Another exciting venture was our very first Cetacean Bots Team competing at the CSUN VEX Tower Takeover Competition. The team earned a 5th place ranking overall, which was extremely impressive for a first year rookie team. The team's many hours of trial and error work with Mr. DeSeriore exemplified determination and Dana PRIDE.

This month we invite families to join us at our Open House Winterim event on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Not only is it a wonderful night to visit classrooms, but it also marks the end of our annual Literacy Week. Come enjoy the literacy themed decorated doors!



## Wiseburn Child Development Center

### Anza WCDC



## Baby Shower Celebration!

This month Anza Wiseburn Child Development Center had the pleasure of having a whole center baby shower for Melissa Gomez and Cynthia Enriquez. The event was kicked off with popsicles for all the WCDC students and followed by a fun filled dance



party in the GMC auditorium. To finish the party off Melissa and Cynthia went head-to-head in a WCDC version of Family Feud. It was a wonderful way to send celebrate the ladies before they leave us for their maternity leave.

## Burnett WCDC

### 2020-21 School Age Program

Hello Wiseburn Families,

Happy New Year! If you are interested in our Child Development Program (School -Age) for next school year (Fall 2020-2021), updates to the program are posted on Wiseburn Unified School District's [Early Childhood Education web page](#). Wiseburn residents new to the program will be given a priority application window of March 2, 2020-March 20, 2020. You can log into [Wiseburn's Schoolmint web page](#) to create an interested application between March 2<sup>nd</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Also, at the end of March, our 2020 Summer brochure (School-Age) will be posted on our Early Childhood Education page as well. Check it out, it will be a fun summer for the children!



## Cabrillo Preschool Program

### Friendship

We hope that every Wiseburn family had a wonderful winter break! We are extremely proud of every preschool child. Their performance in the Holiday Sing Along was phenomenal! In February preschool students will be learning about friendship (great to teach social skills). Rooms will be pink, red, purple, with a lot of hearts! Happy Valentines Day from the Cabrillo Preschool!!



## Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

**February 6:**

- Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Meeting, 5:00 PM in the District Board Room
- Anza PS Arts' Family Art Night, 6:00 PM

**February 7:**

- Burnett Father/Daughter Dance, 6:00 PM in the Brann Center
- Anza Skate Night, 7:20 PM at the Toyota Sports Performance Center, 555 N. Nash St., El Segundo, CA

**February 10:**

- Burnett School Tour, 9:00 AM

**February 11:**

- Cabrillo School Tour, 9:00 AM

**February 12:**

- Dana School Tour, 9:00 AM
- Wiseburn USD Board Meeting, 7:00 PM in the District Board Room

**February 13:**

- Dana Winterim, 6:00 PM

**February 14:**

- Anza School Tour, 9:00 AM

**February 17:**

- No School-Presidents' Day
- Anza Skate Night, 7:20 PM at the Toyota Sports Performance Center, 555 N. Nash St., El Segundo, CA

**February 19:**

- Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting, 6:00 PM in the District Board Room

**February 21:**

- Cabrillo Restaurant Night, 3 PM to close at Chuck E. Cheese, 16920 Prairie Ave., Torrance, CA

**February 27:**

- Wiseburn USD Board Meeting, 7:00 PM in the District Board Room

**MARCH**

**March 5:**

- Cabrillo PS ARTS' Family Art Night, 5:30 PM

**March 6:**

- No School-Professional Development Day

**March 9:**

- Burnett School Tour, 9:00 AM

**March 10:**

- Cabrillo School Tour, 9:00 AM

**March 11:**

- Dana School Tour, 9:00 AM

**March 13:**

- Anza School Tour, 9:00 AM

**March 14:**

- Wiseburn-Da Vinci Joint Board Meeting, 8:00 AM in the District Board Room

**March 18:**

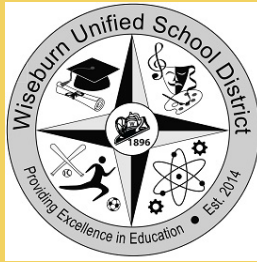
- Da Vinci Schools Board Meeting, 6:00 PM in the District Board Room

**March 21:**

- WEF Rock Around the Block, 10 AM-3 PM at Dana Middle School

**March 30:**

- Facilities Master Plan Committee Meeting, 6-8 PM in the Cabrillo MPR



Wiseburn Unified School District  
310-725-2101  
[www.wiseburn.org](http://www.wiseburn.org)

