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School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Los Alamitos Unified School District

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 72

JUNE 2017

Wow! What a Year!



By Dr. Sherry Kropp, Superintendent

Los Alamitos Unified School District is a great place to live, work, and go to school!

The year is not even over, and already we have much to celebrate. All nine schools, preschool through high school, have made tremendous gains in our quest for Igniting Unlimited Possibilities for Students.

Los Alamitos Unified is one of four districts in the United States named to the College Board's AP Honor Roll for seven years in a row. This is a huge testament to our ongoing work preparing all students for success in college and careers. Los Alamitos High School (LAHS) brought back Academic Decathlon, and, after a 13-year hiatus, they won 22 medals, took third in the Super Quiz, and were Division 3 champions. Two choirs were named National Grand Champions for the fourth year in a row, and the Song Team was named National Champions for the second year in a row. More than 24 student athletes signed National Letters of Intent. Band was invited to the London New Year's Day

Parade, drama had a 100-percent passage rate on the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art exam. And this is just a sampling of the successes at our high school due to the excellent education provided at all levels in our schools.

Our middle schools have numerous highlights as well. For example, McAuliffe Middle School was honored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation for their work helping others. Principal Ann Allen was named the Middle School Principal of the Year for California, and teacher Shannon Wallace was recognized as the 2017 Orange County Music and Arts Middle School Vocal Music Educator of the Year. McAuliffe also had the largest team in Run Seal Beach. Oak Middle School took first place in the wind power event at Science Olympiad Regionals. Their jazz band earned two first-place awards and was invited to the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival. Oak's choirs swept their season with first-place wins at all festivals, and teacher Dave Beck was featured in *The New York Times* for his work in science.

See **WOW! WHAT A YEAR!** • Page 14

Thank you!

Thank You!

*By Meg Cutuli, President
Board of Education*

At this time of the year, everyone involved in education tends to reflect on the success of the school year for all students. Los Alamitos Unified School District has a lot to be proud of, and we have students who are doing amazing things in and outside of the classrooms every day. It seems that we have more than our share of students who shine in every activity that anyone can mention. When I am asked what the secret to Los Al is, I say it is our culture and community support. Our culture is that every student can succeed, all staff is all in all the time, and we—staff, students, parents, and community—are willing to work hard together to reach our goals. I really think it is our community support that makes Los Al so outstanding.

The Seal Beach Lions recently held their annual Teacher Appreciate Dinner. They honor one teacher from each school, and it is an evening for acknowledging and thanking the teachers for their dedication to our students.

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 14

Board of Education



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President



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Member

Countdown to Home

By Murlyn E. Burkes,
Cat Committee Liaison

Several weeks ago, it was brought to the attention of the Seal Beach Animal Care Center that there were approximately 15 dogs that were being severely neglected. The dogs were matted, dirty and very thin and were living in deplorable conditions. These dogs were mostly poodle mixes, but it was hard to tell from their physical appearances.

They needed grooming, vaccines, spay/neuters, microchips, ear treatments, eye treatments and orthopedic consults. These poor canines didn't ask for this neglect! Thankfully, the center was able to rescue them and helped to begin their road to recovery and adoption. They are happy and loving pups now.

Some of the dogs have been adopted to forever homes. Others are waiting patiently for that perfect, loving home. Is that your home?



I'm waiting for a forever home!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



We are at the end of another successful school year for LAUSD. Superintendent Dr. Kropp's article on the front page brings you up-to-date on the many accolades of the district.

Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices. Our next issue is October 11. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer and don't forget to include the library in your activity choices.



School News

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Covering the
LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
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Causes of Sore Throats



Ayal Willner, M.D.
pediatric
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Long Beach

At some point in your child's life, they will experience a sore throat. While allergies and irritations can contribute to a sore throat, viral or bacterial infections are the main causes of a sore throat.

It's important to learn the difference between viral and bacterial infections to ensure your child receives the correct treatment. Because viral illnesses, like a cold or flu, are the most common cause of a sore throat, it's best not to use antibiotics to treat them. Antibiotics are not effective in treating viral infections and the overuse of antibiotics may kill good bacteria and possibly lead to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in your child.

Viral causes of sore throat can include:

- Common cold or flu
- Infection of the voice box (laryngitis)
- Mononucleosis (mono, "the kissing disease")

Bacterial causes of sore throat can include:

- Strep throat
 - An inflammation or infection of the tonsils (tonsillitis) or the adenoids (adenoiditis)
 - An infection of the tissues around the tonsils (peritonsillar abscess)
- If your child's sore throat is severe, lasts more than five to seven days and is not associated with an allergy or irritation, seek medical attention for your child. There are several other symptoms that may indicate a more serious illness. If your child experiences any of the following symptoms, consult your child's doctor:
- Difficulty breathing or swallowing
 - Difficulty opening the mouth
 - Blood in saliva or phlegm
 - Earache
 - Rash
 - Fever (over 101°)
 - Joint pain
 - Frequently recurring sore throat
 - Lump in neck
 - Hoarseness lasting more than two weeks





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Hopkinson *Elementary*

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Evelyn Garcia
Principal

Spreading Kindness Like Confetti

April was Kindness Month at Hopkinson Elementary School. We started off the month with a Fifth-Grade Leadership Council event, Spreading Kindness like Confetti, and continued the month with a Kind-a-Thon hosted by our PTA.

Principal In an effort to spread kindness among our school community we encouraged everyone to participate in multiple ways. Activities were organized by our students, parents, and staff to promote kindness. Our hope is that these events will serve as lessons to demonstrate the ease of increasing kindness in our world.

This project has served to support students during state testing, thank teachers and staff for their amazing work, and bring smiles to many. What our Huskies have discovered is that it is not only rewarding to receive kindness, but spreading kindness is even more gratifying.



Hopkinson students and teachers welcoming all Huskies with Kindness on a Friday morning

Lee *Elementary*


11481 Foster Rd., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4540 • www.losal.org



Amy Laughlin
Principal

'A' Means Excellence!

As we approach the end of the 2016–17 school year, we reflect on how students at Lee follow Los Al's long history of excellence in what we call the Four A's: academics, athletics, activities and the arts.

 **Amy Laughlin**
Principal

Academics: Students are applying strategies learned throughout the year to collaborate and solve problems. Fifth-graders participated in a problem-based learning activity to design and produce innovative products to sell at Lee's Annual Business Day. This event added rigor and relevance as students discovered the concept of supply and demand, enhanced persuasive skills, and strengthened mathematical concepts.

Athletics: Each grade level continues to encourage healthy exercise through weekly physical-activity stations. Activity challenges focus on various physical skills to strengthen agility, speed, balance and coordination. These activities have sparked many students to join community races such as the Race on the Base and Run Seal Beach.

Activities: Many students take part in our after-school Maker Club, where they participate in engineering, robotics and stop-motion challenges. Innovative projects will be displayed at the district office and the Lee STEAM Fair. Students in upper grades also have the opportunity to partake in chorus and competitive math club.

Arts: Students in grades one through five received Blue Ribbon Awards for their artwork in the PTA Reflections Program. The items created by first-grader Alec Vogt and second-grader Ashley Matsumoto will be displayed at the district office. Recently, all students at Lee joined in creating a schoolwide art installation based on the work of Yayoi Kusama.

Students at Lee accept challenges, persevere, and make the most out of every learning opportunity. We are proud to “Ignite Unlimited Possibilities” for all students!

Los Alamitos *Elementary*

10862 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 714/816-3300 • www.losal.org



Dr. Sunghie Okino
Principal

Infusion of STEAM

LAE students are creating innovative prototypes and experiencing the engineering design process along with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students submitted over 65 scientific projects and engineering challenges during our annual STEAM Fair. One student examined the need for washing hands before meals, another created a breakfast machine, and yet another created a device to keep sleep-apnea-machine tubes untangled during sleep.

Principal Earlier this year, at the OC STEM Fair and a local performing-arts center, fifth-graders shared how to code robots to simulate the circulatory system or travel across the U.S. Denise Fielden was selected as a lead STEM provider, and Rasha Bsat and Ashley Nichols were selected to be part of the Kids at Science learning cohort. Mrs. Fielden, Ms. Nichols, Dr. Okino, Mr. Ordonez and Mrs. Perrizo presented at this year's CUE National Conference on Robotics/

As other schools and districts look to incorporate science and engineering, LAE's model is of high interest to educators.



Los Alamitos *High School*

3591 Cerritos Ave., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4780 • www.losal.org



Dr. Brandon Martinez
Principal

Exciting Season

Los Alamitos High School has had an exciting spring season around Academics, Athletics, Activities, and the Arts. Our students and teachers have been preparing all year long for the Advanced Placement tests. We are proud to share that we will administer over 2,000 exams this year.

Our SoundTRAX and Sound FX show choir ensembles placed first in their respective divisions, earning them the title of National Grand Champions at the FAME Show Choir competition for the fourth year in a row. ABC and CBS greeted them upon their return to Los Angeles at the airport to help capture this special moment for our Griffins.

With several teams awaiting league outcomes, we are excited to share the accomplishments of Diving and Track and Field. Our Boys and Girls Dive team won the Sunset League Championships, Boys and Girls Individual Champions, and Boys and Girls Divers of the year. The individual champions have qualified for CIF Finals.

The Orange County Champion Los Alamitos HS Varsity Boys and a young Varsity Girls Track & Field Team led the Junior Varsity and Frosh/Soph Teams



to a sweep of all six Sunset League titles. This included several athletes qualifying for the CIF Southern Section Prelims that will be held at Trabuco Hills High School.

We look forward to a successful close of the school year and celebrating the Class of 2017 as they prepare for graduation and life beyond Los Al as Life Long Griffins.



McGaugh *Elementary*

1698 Bolsa Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740 • 562/799-4560 • www.losal.org



Roni Ellis
Principal

Environmentally Friendly Students

McGaugh School was recently recognized by the Grades of Green organization for encouraging all staff and students to move toward a “trash-free lunch” by using recyclable containers that will reduce the waste in our landfills. McGaugh students have gone from 26 bags of trash a day down to four! The students were awarded the Most Conscientious School in Southern California honor and won \$1,000 for their efforts.

In addition, McGaugh began another program last month

called Food Finders. Food Finders allows students to “rescue” unopened food from the cafeteria that generally gets tossed in the trash and allows the children to have an extra helping if they want it, for example, packaged carrots, fresh fruit, milk or juice. Any food left at the end of the lunch period gets placed in a cooler and picked up by the nonprofit Food Finders and delivered to other local nonprofits for distribution.

McGaugh students learned that one in four children in California is struggling with hunger, and the food rescued from McGaugh will be going to other children in their own community: a local shelter and an after-school program.



The L.A. Kings Ice Crew was on hand to celebrate with the McGaugh Staff and Students.

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McAuliffe *Middle School*

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Ann Allen
Principal

Jazz Band and Combo Rock!

The award-winning McAuliffe Jazz Band and Combo returned from their annual trip to the Reno Jazz Festival. This is the most competitive and prestigious festival the band participates in each year, as the best jazz groups in the western United States (from middle school through college level) all come together to compete and learn from renowned jazz professionals by participating in clinics, performances, and feedback sessions.

First-year director Jesse Chang and assistant director Evan Shegina were so proud of our students and their accomplishments! The band placed eighth among nearly 20 middle schools, and the soloists were awarded medals for their outstanding musicianship. The Jazz Combo also placed third in the competition, eliciting thunderous applause from a thoroughly engaged audience.

None of this would be possible without the leadership of our directors, the hard work of our students, and the ongoing and generous support of our parents. Congratulations Jazz Band and Combo for “flying like eagles” in Reno!



Jazz Band Combo



Jazz Band in Reno

Oak *Middle School*

10821 Oak St., Los Alamitos, CA 90720 • 562/799-4740 • www.losal.org



Erin Kominsky
Principal

Congratulations, Jazz Band!

Festival season is coming to a close for this school year, and the Oak Jazz Band has had a tremendous performance year! Under the direction of Robert Harrell, the Oak Jazz Band swept their competitions at Esperanza High School and Irvine High School Jazz Festival. Both competitions brought home first-place trophies for this group.

After submitting an audition tape, our Jazz Band was invited to perform at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival. Oak was just one of six Middle Schools represented at this prestigious event. Our band took home Best Saxophone Section and two soloist awards. Congratulations to Brennan Murray, best drum soloist, and to Santiago Lopez, best saxophone soloist. While in Monterey, students performed at the festival as well as local venues.

Congratulations to our Jazz Band for an outstanding year of accomplishments!





Amy Belsha
Principal

Secret Code Day

Our Knights recently celebrated Secret Code Day in May. This event highlighted a culmination of coding lessons that they had been exploring in their STEM Lab.

The students began their lessons by using screwdrivers to disassemble computers and identify the various components. From there they were introduced to ASCII computer coding language, which they used to create secret messages. Everyone also created a necklace or bracelet that spelled their initials in ASCII code.

The students also loved working with our Ozobots as they learned Ozobot codes. They created various kinds of storyboards for the Ozobots to run on, which were designed around topics covered in class. This included the American Revolution, ecosystems, and favorite novels read in book clubs. The students videotaped themselves telling stories using the Ozobots as the main character.

For Secret Code Day, projects were displayed around school for everyone to explore. Our Knights paraded through campus with excitement as they used their ASCII coder cards to figure out all of the secret codes on display!



Rossmoor Knights (McClaine Cantrell, Sharon Park, and Benjamin Ellis) participating in Secret Code Day



Robert Briggerman
Principal

Keep Cognitively Fit!

It's that time of year again! Summer is a great time for relaxing, enjoying the beach, camping, cooking out, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

But summer is also a great time to keep the brain engaged. So take a book with you to the beach. Spend some time at local museum while visiting with family out of state. Practice a foreign language when traveling abroad. There are all types of fun activities to keep the mind active when relaxing during the summer months. Research shows that students transition to the next grade much more quickly and successfully when their minds have been actively engaged over the summer.

If you are looking for more formal learning activities this summer, you may want to consider the following:

The Los Alamitos Unified Summer School will be held at Los Alamitos Elementary. The Los Alamitos Educational Foundation is also offering their Summer Enrichment Institute at Rossmoor Elementary for all students. Endless learning opportunities are available for students through parks and rec classes, and individual student camps. In addition, many local colleges and universities provide summer learning programs for elementary students.

Summer is also an opportune time to complete the annual PTA Reflections Art Contest. Projects will be due in early September. Next year's theme is called "Within Reach." Information will be available soon on the national PTA website at www.pta.org.

No matter what your summer plans are, keeping students cognitively active as part of your routine will support a healthy transition to the next grade level.



STEAM Initiative Inspires Students

By Carrie Logue, Executive Director

LAEF's 3rd annual district-wide STEAM Showcase was held on Saturday, May 20th in the LAHS Gym and was the culminating event of the STEAM Initiative. In addition, LAEF provides free STEAM classes and STEAM Fairs at all district schools. The initiative is funded by generous donations to the 2016-17 King and Queen of Hearts campaign.

At the STEAM Showcase, students of all ages presented their projects and had their work on display for all to see. It featured a keynote presentation by Jenna Arkin, Director of Product Development at ECOS/Earth Friendly Products. STEAM professionals were on-hand in interactive booths introducing students to career opportunities.

LAEF is proud to be the non-profit partner of Los Alamitos Unified School District and enhance educational excellence in our community. For more information, visit LAEF4Kids.org today!



A student shares his Lizards Gym project at Los Alamitos Elementary's STEAM Fair.

Be True to Yourself

By Dave Barr, Police Sergeant, Seal Beach Police Department

As summer vacation approaches and you begin making commitments to friends and family, I'd like you to consider making another one... to yourself.

Commit to being true to yourself, from this moment forward.

By that I mean, act in a way that is consistent with who you are and what you believe in. Now this may require you to really think about yourself, but that is a good thing. As you learn about yourself you will find it much easier to be true to yourself going forward.

It is important to know what you believe in, such as how you act and the words you use. When you know what behaviors you find acceptable it is much easier to understand why it bothers you when you, or others, act against them.

Don't shy away from being the best person you can be... embrace it. Seek out others who can help you to be that person, the one you aspire to be, your best self.

Avoid pretending to be what you are not. Peer pressure may lead you to do things you know are wrong, or go against the advice you've been given by those who truly love and care about you, just because you want to be liked or popular. In the end, you are really neither, especially in the eyes of your family, your true friends... or yourself.

When you act in a way that is inconsistent with the real you, you will find yourself confused. This will soon cause you to be unhappy and conflicted because you are not being true to yourself.

When you get back to being true to yourself, following your goals and your dreams, you will find it is so much easier to make good choices and decisions. Being honest with yourself will help you to be your best self, and that person, is one of the most important people you could ever meet.

Have a wonderful summer, be safe, have fun and don't forget to take some time to learn about you, your best self... then be true to it!

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 LAUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

Awesome	Lessons	Sunscreen
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U	N	Z	O	O	O	B	C	Q	N	M	R	T	M	J
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D	B	C	V	G	Y	B	T	Z	A	H	D	Z	A	U

A Family Movie



“Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 2” follows the original movie, “Guardians of the Galaxy.” This movie is good for the whole family. It’s has a lot of the same space battles as the original movie and has new characters and a new writer. The main character, Peter Quill (Chris Pratt), calls himself Star Lord. Peter was raised by his Mother who passed away when he was young, and never knew his biological Father. All his Mother would tell him was that his Father was from the stars. Growing up, he longed for having a Father. This movie explains the history of his childhood. In the end, Peter realized that his friends cared and looked out for him more than his biological Father. The Guardians of the Galaxy really was his family now. The move introduced some new characters who will surprise you with their actions. I enjoyed watching this movie because it was funny and very action packed. I recommend watching this move and I would give this move a 4 out of 5 stars.



Marissa is a 7th grader who loves to watch movies, especially action films. She would love to be an actress or news anchor woman in the future. She rates movies on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

12700 Montecito Rd., Seal Beach CA 90740 • 562/430-1048 • www.ocpl.org

What are You Doing This Summer?



Sean Whittle
Branch Manager

When most young people embark on their summer vacations, and families plan activities, we at the Library prepare for you a feast of fun through our Summer Reading Program. The annual Summer Reading Program is totally centered on engaging the youth in the warm months with free events matched with incentive prizes for reading and other activities. We can think of nothing better to add to your plate this summer than what we have prepared for you. For ages 3 to 10 we have BubbleMania, Buster Balloon, Pacific Animal Productions, One World Rhythm Music, Mad Science, and Magic Wayne. For tweens and teens ages 10 to 19 we have a painting class, a Theremin music demonstration, a talk by the Mars Rover driver, and a 3-day Writers Bootcamp. We will also have a fascinating family presentation on the upcoming and rare total solar eclipse. Finally, for the parents and older we'll have a talk and book signing with authors Robinne Lee & Taylor Jenkins Reid.

The Summer Reading Program runs June 19 to August 1 with a STEAM/DIY theme. Share with your friends and family members our fun and easy reading program with prize opportunities and the many wonderful presentations and events we have available during the summer. Create great summer memories for your family this summer. Inspire a love of reading and learning at the Library.

Consult the Library’s calendar for more information. We’ll see you June 19th!

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Book Review by Abbas

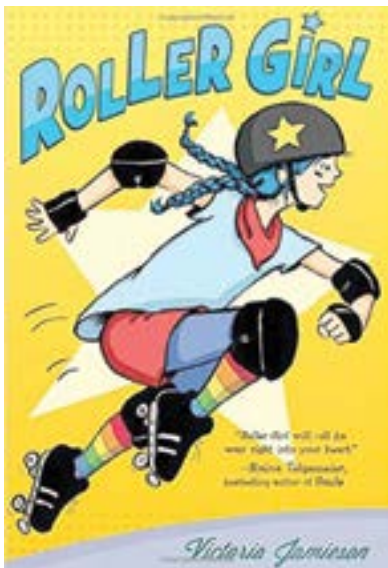
Amazing Graphic Novel



Abbas D.

Roller Girl is a graphic novel by Victoria Jamieson. This book is about a girl named Astrid and her best friend Nicole. One day the girls go to a roller derby. Astrid later on begs her mom to go to roller derby camp and her mother agrees

by signing her up. Astrid is elated and hopes her best friend will sign up too. Nicole signs up for dance class instead. This turns her summer upside down. Astrid’s nemesis Rachel is now friends with Astrid because they’re taking the same dance class. Rachel is a mean girl who keeps pressuring Nicole to stop being friends with Astrid. How will Astrid survive the summer without Nicole? This book is an amazing novel because it made me feel like branching out and trying new things can lead to new friendships. This book is great for people who love graphic novels and skating. Will Astrid continue her roller derby fame? I rate this book 5 out of 5 smiley faces.



Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

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Swim 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 LAUSD in the subject line)

Word Search by Gunnar Coop

Anchor	Flippers	Paddles
Backstroke	Freestyle	Pool
Boards	Goggles	Pulleys
Breathe	Headcap	Race
Butterfly	Kickboards	Relay
Chlorine	Kicking	Strokes
Diving	Lane Lines	Surfacing
Dolphin	Medley	Times
Earplugs	Meets	Underwater

Congratulations to **Fiona Munoz** Winner of the April Word Search Contest!

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- ✓ New STEAM Activities
- ✓ Fun Contests & Tournaments
- ✓ Sports and Obstacle Courses
- ✓ Award Winning Day & Teen Camps
- ✓ 27 Years in the Community



Dr. Sherry Kropp (Superintendent), Dave Boyer (Board Member), Meg Cutuli (Board President), Bill Cusato (The Boeing Group), Diana Hill (Board Member), Dr. Jeffrey Barke (Board Clerk), Karen Russell (Board Member).

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1

The Rotary Club selects students from the high school who are enrolled in Career Technical Education. Rotary highlights the students and gives them scholarships to help them continue their studies. Southland Credit Union wanted to help out the high school and made a significant donation so that the baseball fields could be upgraded and have new fencing and bleachers installed. Boeing has been an outstanding corporate sponsor for our district for many years. They have awarded Los Al grants to help with our engineering pathway and robotics club. Boeing also helped out at our mentor breakfast and sent employees to talk to our students. They have also donated backpacks and supported our makerspaces in the elementary schools, just to name some of their support. And off the top of my head, I can't think of any business in the Los Al-Seal Beach area that hasn't made a donation or shown support for a school, a club, or an athletic team. The restaurants in our town are most generous! Donating food and percentages of sales to help out our students—it's amazing!

The Los Alamitos Educational Foundation has a major fund-raiser each year called the King and Queen of Hearts. They ask community and business members to run a campaign to become the king or queen by having every dollar collected count as a vote for that person. And every year people in our community step up and do it! They organize events and bring greater awareness to all the good things in our schools.

I haven't forgotten the PTAs, Friends of groups, Project SEEK, and booster clubs that support every team and activity at our schools. And I need to thank the parents who send their children to our schools. First, thank you for trusting us with the most precious part of your life, and, second, thank you for keeping our attendance high. Besides being in class for the best first instruction from the teacher, the state of California pays us based on our attendance, not enrollment.

So, I want to thank everyone in our community—yes, everyone!—for supporting our students and their dreams. You are making their futures brighter and the future of our community better, too!

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Sherry Kropp

All of the successes at our middle and high schools start at our six amazing elementary schools! Some diverse examples include: Los Alamitos Elementary School teacher Denise Fielden was selected as an Orange County Lead Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Practitioner, four fifth-grade students presented at the Orange County STEM Showcase, and a team of teachers and Principal Sunghie Okino presented at the CUE National Conference. Lee Elementary School hosted the first Welcome Back Posting Party and Color Run event, the Drug Enforcement Agency landed a helicopter on campus, Para-Olympian Bret Poppin visited classrooms, and they participated in the Starbase STEM program. Rossmoor Elementary School opened a STEM Lab, started Knight Pride and Peer Assistance Leadership, brought back the fourth-grade trip to Sacramento, and worked with LAHS students to host Growing Up STEM and an Academic Trivia Tournament. McGaugh Elementary School participated in Grades of Green and went from 26 bags of trash to three and began a partnership with Food Finders to give uneaten food to those in need. Teacher Cheryl Smith was named Special Needs Educator of the Year

by *Parenting OC Magazine*, they were asked to display artwork throughout the county, and Pageant members performed for the county's Gold Ribbon Ceremony. Hopkinson Elementary School was honored as a National Exemplary Blue Ribbon School, their PTA won the Parent Engagement Award, and they held their first annual fifth-grade Leadership Retreat and Color Run. Weaver Elementary School received recognition for being in the top two percent of all elementary schools in the United States, and parents raised funds to upgrade their media center with technology to support all Project Lead the Way STEM units of study.

We also have preschool programs at all of our elementary sites. This exemplary program provides an early introduction to our signature practices, implements the Meet the Masters art program, collaborates with Special Education for full-inclusion opportunities, and holds the highest rating four years in a row on the county's Quality Rating and Improvement System.

It's great to be a student in Los Alamitos Unified, and for this, we are extremely grateful to our Board of Education, parents, families, community members, and staff, who prioritize what it takes to raise capable, confident, and caring children and young adults!



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