

FREE

School News

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Covering the Hawthorne School District

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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

Middle School Academies

With the development of our three middle school academies, the Hawthorne School District is providing students with new opportunities. It has been inspirational to visit the classrooms at our three middle schools and see our students experiencing new curriculum and experiences.

Bud Carson Middle School

We are very fortunate to have been awarded a very generous donation from Chevron Products that has provided some excellent tools for our students in the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy. On a recent visit I encountered students using iPads, making towers out of straws, and toured two beautiful new computer labs. Our STEM students are being exposed to many experiences in these areas. When speaking with students on the campus they are very excited about the changes they have seen this school year!

Hawthorne Middle School

The students at Hawthorne Middle School are part of the new Business Academy. On a recent visit to this site I was excited to see the students discussing how to create an economy. They were learning about supply and demand, and what is necessary to create a need for a product. The students were completely engaged in the discussion and were excited to begin the task of creating their own economy. This is just one example of what the students will be experiencing this year in the Business Academy.

Prairie Vista Middle School

Prairie Vista Middle School is the home of the Fine Arts Academy. Students are given the opportunity to play instruments, sing in a choral group, perform in a theater arts class, create beautiful works of art, and learn keyboarding skills. The school has been adopted by the Getty Villa which provides the students with multiple opportunities to experience art. Look for some performances in the near future from our theater students.

Each of these academies is providing opportunities for our students to experience curriculum that is new to each school. While these classes are in addition to the core curriculum students participate in the extra activities depending on their level of proficiency in the core subjects. As we grow and evolve our programs will only get stronger and better. We look forward to the continued development of these programs. I know that these academies will be a tremendous benefit to our students and will allow them the opportunity to participate in new and exciting classes that will better prepare them for high school, college, and beyond!



Dr. Helen E. Morgan
Superintendent

Academias de las Escuelas Intermedias

Con la creación de nuestras tres academias en las escuelas intermedias, el Distrito de Hawthorne está proporcionando nuevas oportunidades a los estudiantes. Ha sido muy edificante visitar los salones de nuestras tres escuelas intermedias y ver a nuestros estudiantes capacitándose con un plan de estudios y experiencias nuevas.

Escuela Intermedia Bud Carson

Somos muy afortunados de haber recibido de Chevron Products una generosa donación que ha proveído herramientas excelentes para nuestros estudiantes de la Academia Técnica de Ciencias de Ingeniería y Matemáticas (STEM). En una visita reciente encontré a estudiantes usando iPads, fabricando torres con popotes, y visite dos laboratorios de computadoras estupendos. Nuestros estudiantes STEM están expuestos a muchas experiencias en estas áreas. ¡Cuando hablamos con estudiantes en este recinto escolar muestran mucho entusiasmo con los cambios ocurridos este año!

Escuela Intermedia Hawthorne

Los estudiantes de la escuela Intermedia Hawthorne forman parte de la nueva Academia de Negocios. En una visita reciente sentí mucho entusiasmo al ver como los estudiantes discutían formas de crear una economía. Aprendían acerca de la oferta y la demanda, y lo necesario para hacer un producto una necesidad. Los estudiantes estaban completamente involucrados en la discusión y entusiasmados para comenzar y crear su propia economía. Este es solo un ejemplo de lo que los estudiantes estarán aprendiendo este año en la Academia de Negocios.

Escuela Intermedia Prairie Vista

La escuela Intermedia Prairie Vista es el hogar de la Academia de Artes. Los estudiantes reciben la oportunidad de tocar instrumentos, cantar en coro, actuar en la clase de teatro, crear hermosas obras de arte, y aprender destrezas en el teclado. La escuela ha sido adoptada por el centro Getty Villa lo cual provee variadas oportunidades para que los estudiantes sean expuestos al arte. En un futuro cercano inquiera acerca de representaciones hechas por nuestros estudiantes en la clase de teatro.

Cada una de estas academias provee la oportunidad a nuestros estudiantes de tener nuevas experiencias de acuerdo al plan de estudios de cada escuela. Mientras que estas son clases adicionales al plan escolar básico, los estudiantes participan en estas actividades dependiendo del nivel de habilidad que tengan en las áreas básicas. Al ir creciendo y evolucionando nuestros programas serán cada vez mejores y más fuertes. Esperamos seguir adelante con el continuo desarrollo de estos programas. ¡Sé que estas academias serán una enorme ventaja para nuestros estudiantes y que les darán la oportunidad de participar en nuevas y emocionantes clases que los preparara mejor para la preparatoria, el colegio y el futuro!

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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Happy New Year!

This is our sixth issue covering the Hawthorne School District and the time is passing quickly. I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and Winter Break. Our office is located inside a nursery on Main Street in Seal Beach. As the holiday decorations are removed the new growth on the trees remind us Spring is just around the corner.

This issue focuses on college applications, eighth graders preparing for Middle School, signing up for preschool, parent involvement, health and recycling. Enjoy! Our next issue is March 7.

School News

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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny
COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia
CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST: Neta Madison

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Laura Brune

SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

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The Hawthorne School District Board of Trustees

would like to extend warmest wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to staff, students, families and the entire Hawthorne community.



Hawthorne School District



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Nonie Smith, Project Facilitator LAUP Preschools • nsmith@hawthorne.k12.ca.us

Bud Carson *Middle School*

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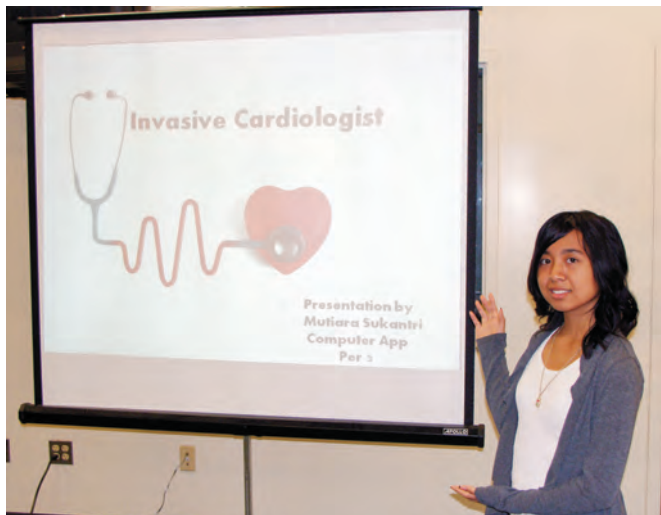


Patricia Jordan
Principal

Making Big Plans for the Future!

A brain surgeon, a NASA engineer, an FBI secret agent; these are just a few of the many careers that the students in Mr. Meza's Computer Applications class are preparing for. They have been very busy researching their future careers and learning about the job market.

"I want to save the world one heart at a time," says Mutiara Sukantri, an eighth-grader at the BCMS STEM Academy. Students like Mutiara have been putting together detailed PowerPoint presentations that outline their careers of choice. As an aspiring cardiologist, she is prepared to tackle the years of extra study that it will take beyond the four-year degree.



BCMS eighth grader, Mutiara Sukantri, plans to become a cardiologist.

But Mutiara also knows that her hard work will pay off. Not only will she be saving lives, but she will also be making a very nice living. According to Mutiara's research, cardiologists can earn an annual salary of more than \$300,000. With bright students like Mutiara, our future, and our cardiac health, are in very good hands!

Eucalyptus *Elementary*

12044 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-3369



Gretchen Janson
Principal

Students and Families Moving their Way to Health!

As we work toward achieving Silver level recognition from the Healthy Schools Program, we were thrilled to recently be informed that Eucalyptus School was selected for a \$25,000 grant in partnership with UCLA and Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital. The goal of the grant is to improve the physical fitness of our students and families. As part of this grant, students in Grades K-3 are participating in a new program called "Instant Recess".

A trained leader from the program travels throughout classrooms during the school day and engages students in quick physical activity breaks. Students and teachers are moving to music and getting much-needed opportunities to burn some energy before getting right back to academics. This grant also supports the Eucalyptus parents, and as a result we have recently started up an energy-packed Zumba class which is open to all parents every



The Eucalyptus parents are improving their health each week during exercise classes held in the cafeteria.

Friday morning at 8:45 am. Our cafeteria is packed with Eucalyptus parents moving and getting healthier with every step. We thank our families and our community for continuing to support our students on their track toward a healthy lifestyle.

Hawthorne *Math & Science Academy*

4467 W. Broadway, CA 90250 • 310/973-8620



Esau Berumen
Principal

Our College Culture

By Marianne Ramos, Guidance Counselor

HMSA has a rich college culture. At each grade level, college is not only discussed by each teacher but is also addressed through the school's College Prep (CP) program. During sophomore year, the CP emphasis is on proficiency on the California High School Exit Exam. During junior year, the emphasis is on college assessment tests—the ACT and SAT. During senior year, the emphasis is on college applications and financial aid paperwork.

In October, seniors begin applying to colleges. The California State University and University of California application window opens on Oct. 1 of each year. This year, as in previous years, each senior applies to two universities of his or her choice. For two to four weeks, Mrs. Ramos helps each individual student as he or she completes post-graduate applications.

In addition to the CP program, HMSA's college culture is enhanced by college visitations. These visits are informational meetings held by admissions counselors from various colleges. Local colleges such as UC Los Angeles, CSU Dominguez Hills and Loyola Marymount University regularly visit the Aviator campus. More distant schools such as UC Merced, University of San Francisco and Cal Lutheran University also visit annually. HMSA has also had the pleasure of hosting informational meetings for out-of-state schools such as Amherst College and Cornell University.

According to Mr. Berumen, "our CP program, along with HMSA's dedicated faculty and focus on state standards, national testing, parent involvement, and graduation, all lend to HMSA's continuing college culture."

Hawthorne *Middle School*

4366 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-0167



James Eder
Principal

High School Nights

High School Nights at Hawthorne Middle School (HMS) have been a great success. This is an exciting time for eighth-graders and their parents. Never before have eighth-graders been so empowered and had the freedom to choose where they would like to attend high school the way they do now. In the past, students were promoted from eighth grade to the local high school that was in their attendance area. Some would attend private schools for religious preference or philosophical reasons. Now, however, schools are actually competing for and courting middle school students with selling points, such as career academies, college preparation, improved test scores, and school atmosphere.

In December, representatives from Hawthorne Math and Science Academy (HMSA) and two of the three Centinela Valley comprehensive high schools came to HMS to inform eighth-grade students and their parents about life as high school students on their perspective campuses. HMSA outlined a rigorous curriculum and brought along past HMS alumni. Hawthorne High School discussed its Business Academy, which would be a great transition for HMS students enrolled in our own Business Academy. Leuzinger High School presenters enticed students with the promise of iPads for students accepted in their Advanced Academic Academy (AAA) and taking a minimum of five Advanced Placement courses.

Other schools coming to visit this month include Lawndale Environmental Charter School, Serra High School, Da Vinci Charter School, and Vista Mar High School. One thing is for sure: for this eighth-grade class, there is no shortage of choices when they decide where they want to go to high school.

Jefferson *Elementary*

4091 W. 139th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-9423



Wendy Ostensen
Principal

Parents to the Rescue

At Jefferson we are fortunate to have many supportive parents who volunteer to assist with activities, student aerobics, lunch supervision, projects, presentations, and fundraisers. Some of these parents are members of the “Parents to the Rescue” group. This group is dedicated to working with the school, city agencies, and community to positively raise awareness of the needs of the Hawthorne community. They also provide informational fairs at Jefferson which are open to all parents and students.

Our Parents to the Rescue meet in the Jefferson School Parent

Center each Tuesday morning from 9:00-11:00. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings. Our parent volunteers recently provided a cute literacy puppet show for all 3 kindergarten classes, and they sold refreshments for our family movie night under the stars. Great job!



Jefferson parents enthusiastically volunteer for Family Movie Night Under The Stars.

Prairie Vista *Middle School*

13600 Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, Ca 90250 • 310/679-1003



Christine Fagnano
Principal

Parents are Partners

Prairie Vista had an eventful first trimester. The MESA Program (Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement) partners with USC and the MESA Parent Grand Challenge was packed with parents competing with their children to build the tallest tower out of newspaper, launch Ping-Pong balls with the most accuracy, build boats to travel across the lake, build a microscope, and more.

Our new AVID class visited El Camino Junior College in November. They'll go to UCLA in January. AVID students' community outreach included cleaning beaches for Heal the Bay at Dockweiler Beach and learning about ecosystems while cleaning them at the Madrona Marsh in Torrance. Students also visited the Getty Villa in Malibu.

At the end of the first trimester, the chorus, band and orchestra performed for parents after school. The Theater Arts classes put on two night shows: *Wizard of Oz* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. The PE teachers organized our annual Turkey Trot 1 Mile Run, in which staff and students promoted exercise and fitness.

Parents are partners in our quest to make students learners today and leaders tomorrow.



The small group is AVID students at El Camino Jr. College.

Kornblum *Elementary*

3620 W.El Segundo Blvd., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/970-4294



Jennifer Beekman
Principal

Holding Court

Kornblum students are learning about the court and justice system, being good citizens, and personal responsibilities, all under the guidance of the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. Participating students are provided study trips to the Museum of Tolerance, a local juvenile detention center and a courthouse to obtain experiences of both legal systems.

Every Tuesday, district attorneys volunteer their time to visit our campus and teach a select group of our fifth-grade students who willingly give up their lunch recess to participate. This program was initiated last school year after one of the district attorneys contacted our guidance counselor, Wayne Salmon.

Kornblum is the only school in the South Bay Area that has Project LEAD (Legal Enrichment and Decision Making). Mr. Salmon stated that this is a unique partnership that benefits our community of learners and that the students are enthusiastic about being involved in this special program.



Kornblum Project Lead district attorneys

Prairie Vista *South Campus*

13928 Kornblum Ave., Hawthorne, Ca 90250 • 310/970-7550



David Mallchok
Site Administrator
Assistant Principal

A New Approach to Childhood Learning

A “preschool without walls” is similar to a regular preschool setting where children from one to five years of age, or infants, can come together in groups to learn through activities presented by an educator.

But a preschool without walls is also different in a major way. It invites both the children and their parents to participate in learning activities together. And not only are the children safely engaged and competently taught, the parents are also encouraged to learn a variety of new methods to interact with the youngsters at home so that they can continue the learning process for years to come.

Our free Preschool Without Walls program brings the classroom to the families and caregivers. The participants all come together on blankets or around tables to work on fun activities that teach social skills, communication, creativity and knowledge of the world. These activities can easily be replicated in a home setting, too, without any special materials or extra toys.

The program is bilingual to help encourage learning in English and Spanish. The Prairie Vista South Campus hosts the infant's 0-12 months class every Thursday from 10 a.m until 12 p.m. in classroom 16.

For additional information about these classes, and the program itself, please contact Paola Olivas, the school's early childhood education specialist, at (310) 714-7293. You can also contact the Prairie Vista School main office at (310) 970-7550.

Additional South Bay area locations include Carson on Fridays, Long Beach on Tuesdays and Wilmington on Wednesdays.

Ramona *Elementary*

4617 W. 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-7189



PTA Partnership

Many times, parents say to themselves, “I want to get involved at my child’s school, but I do not know how.” At Ramona School, we ask ourselves, “How do we involve more parents?” The answer is simple—the Parent Teacher Association, or PTA!

Our vital partnership with the Ramona PTA allows for meaningful programs to continue and needed materials to be purchased. Thanks to the PTA, Ramona has purchase four new basketball systems for the north side of the campus. The purchase was made to help with our Healthy Generation initiative by giving students the opportunity to exercise before school and during recess.

We all know that the budget is tight. Our PTA has stepped in and is committed to provide our teachers with needed supplies by generously setting aside money for teacher grants. Through these grants, teachers will be able to purchase materials for their students to use in the classrooms.

We are also thankful for PTA parent volunteers who serve in the classrooms. Parents listen to students read to help improve reading fluency, quiz students on math facts, and help teachers with clerical duties. We encourage parents to come and volunteer at the school to make a difference in being a part of their children’s educational experience.

Please check our website for information on how you can step up and support our school through the Ramona PTA. You may donate your time, or make a financial contribution. Whatever you choose to do, your support will benefit our Ramona Rams.

York *Elementary*

11838 S. York Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/675-1189



SuperStars Learn the Value of Recycling

Thanks to the efforts of Ms. Cardillo and her students, the York Recycling Project has put Student Study Trips back on the calendar. This year, our goal is to raise money for buses so that all fourth-grade classes can attend the Gene Autry Museum in February.

Ms. Cardillo organized a schoolwide recycling program that includes students, parents and staff bringing in plastic and aluminum bottles and cans. The recyclables are placed in barrels outside the office, and student volunteers from her class sort the cans and bottles. The cans are delivered to Room 12 twice a month, and

Ms. Cardillo takes them to the recycling facility. A team of students can be seen crushing and sorting cans before school daily.

When asked about the program, student Darnell Turner said, “It makes me proud to help the school and the environment.” Thanks to teachers like Ms. Cardillo, York students and staff have learned the value of recycling.



Washington *Elementary*

4339 W. 129th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/676-3422



Closing the Gap

In late October, the California Department of Education informed Washington School that the school met the criteria to apply to become a California Distinguished School. The teachers and support staff have worked extremely hard the past four years, resulting in tremendous student achievement. Washington’s API score has gone from 689 in 2007 to 832 in 2011, which is an outstanding 143 point gain.

John Rounds
Principal

Each of the subgroups at Washington showed similar growth: Hispanic, African-American, English learners and socioeconomically disadvantaged. The students at Washington are closing the achievement gap, thanks to the grade levels planning as a team each month and using results from data to determine intervention. The unit planning and data analysis processes at Washington are the key components here. The support staff works with the teachers to refine this practice, enabling the students to show continued academic growth.

Zela Davis *Elementary*

13435 S. Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250 • 310/679-1771



Walk to School Day

*By Renee Nixon, Teacher-Advisor
Network for a Healthy California*

On October 26th, over 300 of our students participated in the district-wide Walk to School Day event. Randy Zinn, a first-grade teacher here as well as the site’s lead nutrition teacher for the Network for a Healthy California, helped to organize this event for the school.

Kathy Carbajal
Principal

Posters, balloons and walking signs containing healthy messages made the event festive and fun. Our parents and teachers were also on hand to support the message of being healthy. They know that studies have shown that students who are more physically active will do better in school.

Dr. Helen Morgan, our superintendent, also came by to support the event, and the Hawthorne Police Department was there to make sure that the students were safe. Fifth-grade teacher John Patterson also provided entertainment during the event by rapping healthy messages to his music.

All of our students were given orange slices when they first arrived at school, with a reminder to eat more fruits and vegetables and stay physically active every day. Overall, it was a successful event!



Walk to School Day.

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Entries must be received by February 15, 2012

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Cheeseburger on a Whole Wheat Bun & Roasted Red Potatoes	Roasted Chicken with Mashed Potatoes and Dinner Roll	Whole Grain Cheese or **Pepperoni Flatbread Pizza & Cookie	Wet Bean & Cheese Burrito	Southwest Veggie Quesadilla	Week Beginning January 17, February 21, March 26, May 14, June 18
Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes with Dinner Roll	Teriyaki Beef Dunkers with Rice	Whole Grain Ardella's Cheese or **Pepperoni Pizza & Cookie	Pasta in Tomato Sauce with Meatballs Garlic Bread	Whole Wheat Cheese Stuffed Bread Stick & Marinara Dipping Sauce	Week Beginning January 23, February 27, April 16, May 21
Mini Cheeseburger Twins Roasted Red Potatoes	Hamburger on a Whole Wheat Bun & Rosetti Ice	Whole Grain Cheese or **Pepperoni Flatbread Pizza & Cookie	Freshly-made Chicken Enchilada Casserole in Queso and Verde Sauce	Southwest Veggie Quesadilla	Week Beginning January 30, March 5, April 23, May 29
Turkey Chili & Garlic Bread	Teriyaki Beef Dunkers with Rice	Whole Grain Ardella's Cheese or **Pepperoni Pizza & Cookie	Baked Chalupa with Beef Taco Filling Refried Beans	Whole Wheat Grilled Cheese Sandwich	Week Beginning February 6, March 12, April 30, June 4
Yaki Soba Noodles & Teriyaki Chicken	Mini Cheeseburger Twins & Roasted Red Potatoes	Whole Grain Cheese or **Pepperoni Flatbread Pizza & Cookie	Low Fat Cheesy Nachos with Beef Taco Filling and/or Refried Beans	Whole Wheat Cheese Stuffed Bread Stick & Marinara Dipping Sauce	

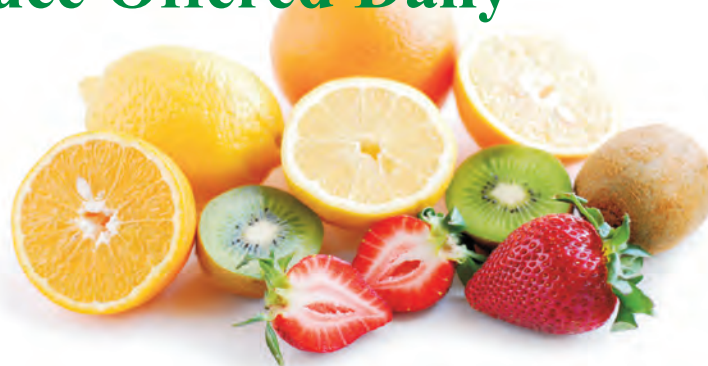
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Middle & High School Lunch Menu • January – April 2012

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Hamburger & Baked Chips	Spicy Chicken Sandwich & Baked Chips	Hamburger & Baked Chips	Hamburger & Baked Chips	Spicy Chicken Sandwich & Baked Chips
Strawberry Yogurt Parfait and Granola Bar	Pretzel and Low Fat Jalapeno Cheese Sauce	Strawberry Yogurt Parfait and Granola Bar	Pretzel and Low Fat Jalapeno Cheese Sauce	Strawberry Yogurt Parfait and Granola Bar
Chicken Teriyaki-filled Chinese Bao Bun	Bean or Beef Burrito with Spanish Rice	Cheese Stuffed Bread Sticks and Marinara Dipping Sauce	Beef Tacos with Spanish Rice	Chorizo or Bean Burrito with Spanish Rice

14120 South Hawthorne Blvd. • Hawthorne, CA 90250 • (310) 263-3990