



# CAÑADA CHRONICLE

Rancho Cañada Parent Teacher Association

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**Rancho Cañada  
Elementary School  
949-768-5252  
Absence Line  
859-4684**

George Schroer, Principal  
Suzanne Graham,  
PTA President  
Latha Kumar, Editor

Rancho Cañada Elementary  
School PTA  
Saddleback Council  
4th District, National PTA,  
21801 Winding Way  
Lake Forest, CA 92630

The Cañada Chronicle is a monthly publication of the Rancho Cañada Elementary School Parent Teacher Association. The mention of any business or service in this publication does not imply an endorsement by the Rancho Cañada PTA.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are off to a great start for 2009! Because our Jog-A-Thon was a great success, we will be able to continue our support of Hands on Science, Art Masters, Assemblies, and our Health Aide. We have another fabulous Art Masters project beginning with Art Lectures on January 8th. The kids will also enjoy Hands on Science the week of January 12th.

Every year, PTA sponsors an Author's Week. This is scheduled for February 24-25. We have an Author coming on the 24th, and an Illustrator coming on the

25th. There will be more information coming on this event.

Please plan to attend our next PTA meeting, scheduled for January 12, 2009. We will be in the MPR at 7:00. At this meeting, we will be selecting a nominating committee for next year's slate of officers, to meet immediately following the general meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

*Suzanne Graham*  
*PTA President*  
*rcptapresident@yahoo.com*

## THANK YOU!

Thank you **Kim Golbuff** for your work with Helping Hands.  
Thank you **Jenny Nonora** for organizing the holiday season COOL project, and for reminding us all of the importance of helping others in our community.  
Thank you **Marie Nielsen** for keeping the school marquee updated.  
Thank you **Latha Kumar** and **Chris Dunn** for your fantastic job with the PTA newsletter.  
Thank you **Margaret Chao** for designing and organizing our T-Shirt sales, and distribution.  
Thank you **Cynthia Sto. Thomas** for setting up our Red Dot copying list.  
Thank you **Adam Sandler** for your help with the PTA website.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO RANCHO CAÑADA'S  
Stephanie Sixsmith**

2008-09 "Wow" Theme Reflections "Award of Excellence"  
1st Place Winner of Saddleback Valley Unified School District  
Middle/Junior Level of Visual Arts  
Saddleback Valley PTA Council

# ALL SYSTEMS GO! JOG-A-THON DAY!!!

We surpassed our Jog-A-Thon "All Systems Go" goal of \$50,000 again this year!!!!

Congratulations to our kids, parents, staff and volunteers for all of their hard work. With these funds, we can continue to bring exciting programs, assemblies, and needed materials/equipment to our school. Below are the results of the top classes of their grade level and the "TOP 10" students overall.

We reached our goal so come and join the fun.....

A "All Systems Go" BMX Show for the WHOLE school will be scheduled for February or March 09...look out for the flyer with details!.

## "Top 10"

Nathan Kim	Davis	David Horwich	Wiemann
Emma Civita	Mitchell	Jefferson Wiemann	Manning
Jacob Kim	Mitchell	Dominic Vacca	Mitchell
Edward Wolbert	Jackson	Zach Vacca	Pelzer
Michael Downey	Davis	Sean Collins	Jackson

The top classes of the school are the following....

Kindergarten - Mrs. Manning

1st grade - Ms. Davis

3rd grade - Mrs. Meyer

5th grade - Mr. Williams

Kindergarten/1st grade combo - Mrs. Shields

2nd grade - Mrs. Mitchell

4th grade - Mrs. Wiemann

6th grade - Mrs. Valentine

Thank you very much to the following parent volunteers who helped "dish up" the 'mini' Breakfasts for the Jog-A-Thon's top classes...Carrie Schwan, Yvonne Shade, Suzanne Graham, Dana Dickstein, Sara Waters, Kristen McDonald, Joann Case, Arlene Mauro, and Erin Hoskinson.

Thanks to Carrie Schwan for organizing prize distribution and the following parent volunteers who helped out... Margaret Chao, Michelle Vacca, Suzanne Graham, Pat Cummings, Joann Case, Melody Downey, Andrea Gomez, Erin Hoskinson, Yvonne Shade, Sara Waters and Gina Whitelaw.

Special Thanks to Pam Erickson, our Jog-a-thon's head counter, for handling all the Jog-A-Thon accounting. Thanks also to all the parent volunteers who helped out with money counting. The following are many of the parents who lent a hand to this "big" job... **Deb Kayoda, Carrie Schwan, Karen Skenes, Stacy Callender, Joann Case, Suzanne Graham, Andrea Gomez, Deborah Podesta, Dana Dickstein, Sandy Zavrnick, Tonnette Taylor, Tina Dunn, Kim Golbuff, Anna Antoniou, Susan Stanford, Grace Brumley, Susan Bundy, Emilie McVay, Jenny Nonora, Michelle Vacca, Lori Quigley, Yvonne Shade, Melody Downey, Sherry Wright, Theresa Gray, Rhonda Rahn, Shawna Wiser, Roberta Raudenbush, Gina Whitelaw, and Cindy Caldwell.**

Later this month, the following students will be "All Systems Go" for a limo ride with Mr. Schroer because they are one of the "Top" 10 earners for Jog-a-thon and/or the "Top" of their grade level. Congratulations!

Nathan Kim	Emma Civita	Jacob Kim
Edward Wolbert	Michael Downey	David Horwich
Jefferson Wiemann	Dominic Vacca	Zach Vacca
Sean Collins	Jordon Novak	Annika Evensen

Special Thanks to...

Lake Forest Limousines, Inc.

for their annual donation of their Limo service in support of Rancho Canada and our fundraising efforts.

## AUTHOR'S WEEK

We have an exciting event planned in February for our annual Author's Week.

First, we will have a presentation on February 24th by Alexis O'Neill, author. Her work has been published in Cricket, Spider, Cobblestone, Calliope, Faces, Writer's Digest, Children's Book Review Magazine and the Los Angeles Times. We will also have a wonderful illustrator, Priscilla Burris, speaking to our students on February 25th. She holds degrees in early childhood education and creative design and is an illustrator of over 100 books for children.

Look for flyers coming home soon for preorder book sales. Books will also be available for purchase after school on the day of the author/illustrator visits. Students will also have their books signed by the author or illustrator.

Mr. Williams, our fifth grade teacher, is coordinating writing and art contests for our students prior to the February visits. Selected entries will have lunch with our principal, Mr. Schroer, and with Mrs. O'Neill or Mrs. Burris on the day of the presentation.

*Tina Dunn & Chris Dunn,  
Author's Week Co-Chairs*

## RANCHO CAÑADA LOST AND FOUND

'Lost and Found' Items will be donated to Charity by the end of February

UMBRELLAS • LUNCHBOXES • HATS

CLOTHING • WALLETS • WATCHES • TOYS

*Larger items are in the MPR, smaller are in the office*

MONDAY, FEB 9th – PTA Meeting IN MPR

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO CHECK FOR YOUR CHILD'S MISSING ITEMS

QUESTIONS....Cindy Caldwell @ 597-8183

## ART MASTERS IN JANUARY

### ART MASTER STUDENTS MEET ALEXANDER CALDER

Art Master students will be introduced to the mobiles and stabiles of the great 20th century American artist, Alexander Calder. Students will view slides of Calder's colorful abstract art that includes examples of small mobiles as well as monumental sculptures. Students will be able to use wire and construction paper to create their own stabiles and standing mobiles.



## ART MASTERS IN FEBRUARY

### ART MASTER STUDENTS MEET JACOB LAWRENCE



Art Master students will meet the 20th century African American master artist, Jacob Lawrence. Through his fascinating paintings, students will not only review techniques and styles, but also learn of the history of African Americans. In their classrooms student artists will combine art elements and techniques to create their own narrative masterpieces, or 'stories without words'.

## UPCOMING PTA SPONSORED ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 3, 2009

"Indigestion Joe and the Pyramid of Food"  
by Southland Opera.

Join Indigestion Joe in a quest to unlock the mysteries of good health and proper nutrition.

## THANK YOU RANCHO KIDS

The student council and the PTA C.O.O.L. rep extend a huge GAUCHO thank you to all classrooms for participating in an awesome project before the winter break. We had classes collecting clothes, rain gear and more for the homeless; books, toys and crafts for the CHOC hospital kids; food for the hungry, items for the animal shelter, and treats for the soldiers overseas! It was a wonderful success - we will never know how many lives Rancho families touched by their kindness and generosity.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

*Jenny Nonora*

## **HOW CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOLS ARE FUNDED**

*By Celia Jaffe, Fourth District PTA Vice President, Advocacy*

California school districts are bracing for the possibility that the state will enact midyear budget cuts due to the weaknesses of the 08-09 state budget and the overall decline in the economy. PTA members will be watching with concern and preparing to give input as their school districts consider ways to accommodate shrinking revenues. In these efforts, it is helpful to have a basic understanding of school district budgeting.

### **TYPES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS**

The general fund amounts to about 60% of a school district's budget and its use is completely at the discretion of the district. General funding is based on a per-student "revenue limit" that is calculated for each school district by formulas set in the 1970s. In Orange County, district revenue limits ranged between \$5,300 and \$6,300 in 2006-07 ( Saddleback Valley Unified School District is closer to the \$5300.00 amount). The revenue limit is multiplied by the district's Average Daily Attendance ( ADA ). This is the average number of students attending for the year, which is likely to be about 90-95% of the students enrolled.

Where does the money come from? The State of California returns the property taxes collected within a school district as part of that district's revenue limit. If the property tax amount is less than the revenue limit, the state makes up the difference. A few school districts with property tax receipts higher than their revenue limit are allowed to keep the additional amount.

Categorical funding is money that must be spent for a particular purpose or program. California has an unusually high proportion of categorical funding, amounting to more than 30% of school funding. A school district must prove that it is using the funds as specified. Often categorical programs require additional support from a school district's general fund. This phenomenon is called encroachment. Categorical funds come from both the federal and the state governments. Federal categorical funding supports special education (IDEA), programs for economically disadvantaged students (Title I), and teacher training (Title II), among others. State categorical programs are more wide-ranging, from class size reduction to transportation, from arts and PE grants to Gifted and Talented Education, from library grant funding to school safety programs.

Lottery proceeds are a categorical fund set aside for instructional materials and amount to less than 2% of a school district budget.

In California , when tax revenues are high, the legislature tends to start up new categorical programs. Money is designated for particular programs so that the legislature can "be sure it is spent for the right things." When state revenues go down, categoricals are reduced first and sometimes combined into block grants to give districts flexibility with the reduced funds. California school districts can never be certain that categorical money will continue from year to year.

Other restricted funding sources that a school district may receive are developer fees, Mello-Roos fees, a General Obligation Bond or parcel tax (both of which must be approved by voters), or additional revenue from property leases, oil and mineral rights, or military base funding. Each of these sources of funding carries its own set of restrictions, and amounts vary from district to district. Facilities funds from these sources are completely separate from operating funds.

### **HOW A SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPENDS MONEY**

The largest expense for every school district is employee salaries and benefits, which account for 80-85% of the district budget. Instructional materials, another large line-item, are purchased with a combination of restricted textbook funding and general funds. Operating costs like electricity, fuel, and other utilities are a growing part of many district budgets as prices for those needs go up.

### **WHAT ARE A DISTRICT'S CHOICES WHEN FUNDING IS CUT?**

School districts have little leeway as they look for ways to cut costs, due to the requirements of state law, the basic institutional costs of a school district, restrictions imposed by categorical funding, and the parameters of collective bargaining agreements with school employees. In addition, districts are required to keep a 3-5% funding reserve

### **AREAS THAT DISTRICTS MIGHT CONSIDER FOR BUDGET CUTS INCLUDE:**

- Reducing materials budgets by asking employees to reduce the use of stationery supplies and other materials in and out of the classroom.
- Eliminating categorical programs. If the district does not participate in a program, it loses the categorical dollars, but saves on general fund encroachment. This might mean fewer grades of Class Size Reduction, no home-to-school transportation, cutting back on programs in the arts, or similar cuts.
- Reducing personnel costs by eliminating staff positions.

# S.H.A.P.E

## SHARING HEALTHY ADOLESCENT AND PARENT EXPERIENCES

Shape is coming to Rancho Canada this later this month. Orientation Night for PARENTS ONLY is Wednesday, January 21st for the boys class, and February 25th for the girls class. Registration forms have already been sent home. Please sign up ASAP as classes fill quickly and only limited numbers are allowed. Additional flyers are available in the office and at the PTA website, [www.ranchopta.org](http://www.ranchopta.org). If you have any questions, contact Dolores Winchell at [Dolores1@cox.net](mailto:Dolores1@cox.net) or 458-2109.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

MARCH 16TH – 20TH @ RANCHO CANADA 'S MPR

Check out the terrific books for all ages!!  
Hope to see you there...

*Deborah Podesta, Cindy Carney, & Tricia Skaggs*  
*Book Fair Chairpersons*

### SAVE THE DATE

TEACHER APPRECIATION IS A SPECIAL DAY TO  
SHOW OUR RANCHO TEACHERS  
HOW MUCH WE LOVE THEM.

This year, that day will be March 24th. Look for more information to follow in your child's backpack.  
*Heather Alexander, Teacher Appreciation Chair*

## REFLECTIONS

The Reflections Program had another successful year at Rancho! Congratulations and thank you to all who participated. The submitted entries were judged in October and the top entries were passed on to the Council level.

Please look for the entries on the PTA bulletin board!

We will recognize all participants at the March 6th Rancho Cañada's Flag ceremony.

*Ginger Roberts, Reflections Chair*

### BOXTOPS

STUDENT COUNCIL IS STILL COLLECTING BOXTOPS.

To participate, just send your boxtops in with your child to school. The credits add up, and every little bit counts!

Thank you so much for your support!

### THANK YOU RALPHS SHOPPERS!

Rancho Canada PTA received \$2500.00 from the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. This was just for the first quarter of the year. If you have not yet linked your card, please visit [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com), click on Community Contribution, and follow the prompts to create an online account to link your card. The rest is easy, just shop at Ralphs! Thank you to those who are participating in the program.

*If you have any questions, please email*

*Susana Fazio ([faziofamily@cox.net](mailto:faziofamily@cox.net))*

*Ralphs Community Contribution Coordinator*

## 6TH GRADE RECOGNITION ADS

### ATTN: PARENTS OF 6TH GRADERS

Take out an ad in the Yearbook  
to wish your child  
'Good Luck at Junior High'  
along with a fond farewell to Rancho Cañada

Flyers will be sent home soon! The flyer will provide details about how the ads need to be submitted.  
Please keep a lookout for them.

Deadline: February 10, 2009

**ALL ADS ARE ACCEPTED ON A  
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS,  
UNTIL THE AD PAGES ARE FILLED!**



**DON'T FORGET TO PRE-ORDER THE YEARBOOK  
PRICE: \$18 • DEADLINE: JAN. 27TH**

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

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<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Art Docent Training	<b>8</b> Art Masters Lectures	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Student of the Month PTA Gen Meeting 7 pm Hands-On-Science	<b>13</b> Hands-On-Science	<b>14</b> Jog-A-Thon Winners Limo Ride Hands-On-Science	<b>15</b> Hands-On-Science	<b>16</b> Hands-On-Science	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School	<b>20</b> 6th Grade Science Camp	<b>21</b> 6th Grade Science Camp	<b>22</b> 6th Grade Science Camp	<b>23</b> 6th Grade Science Camp Chorus begins	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Staff Devp. Day No School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6th Grade Panoramic and PTA Picture	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

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<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Student of the Month	<b>3</b> Assembly	<b>4</b> Art Masters Training	<b>5</b> Art Masters Lecture	<b>6</b> Flag Ceremony	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> PTA Gen Meeting 7 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Kindergarten Buddy Party	<b>13</b> President's Day No School	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> No School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> School Site Council Meeting 3:00 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Author's Week Assemblies	<b>25</b> Author's Week Assemblies	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>