



# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

January 2006 Edition

**Orange  
County  
School  
Boards  
Association**

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**2005-2006**

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## *A Message from the OCSBA President – Sue Kuwabara*



The Annual CSBA Conference in December was a wonderful event that afforded me many great experiences. There were great workshops and wonderful, enlightening speakers featured at the general session and meals. The OCSBA reception was what I enjoyed most. This gathering of my fellow board members from all of Orange County provided a time of camaraderie and exchanging ideas. It is always helpful to hear creative ways that other boards use to handle concerns. This networking is one of the things that make OCSBA so important and valuable to me.

While attending the dinner meetings organized by OCSBA and the joint dinners hosted by ACSA and OCSBA, I have made many new friends and have had the benefit of a large network of colleagues who share the same concerns and issues that I have. The information gleaned at these meetings has helped me to be a more effective board member.

Please take the time to attend our dinner meetings and receptions; it's a great way to make new friends and share ideas. OCSBA is the best opportunity for networking with fellow board members. The business of doing what's right for kids is not always an easy job. Thank you for all that you are doing!

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2006!

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### ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2005-2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**February 8, 2006**

**Joint OCSBA/ACSA Region XVII Dinner Meeting**

PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Speaker – Dr. Marvin Marshall

***SAVE THE DATE!! NEW DATE!!***

**April 26, 2006**

**OCSBA Annual Meeting/2005-2006 Board Elections Dinner**

PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

## 2005 CSBA Conference Notes



Several board members from Orange County who attended the recent CSBA conference in San Diego, have submitted their impressions and some information that they have consented to share.

### **Delegate Assembly:**

\* Rick Pratt informed us that “Preschool for All” proposition will be discussed at the May Delegation Assembly. Delegates will then determine if CSBA will take a position. This initiative will be on the June ballot and is endorsed by Jack O’Connell. (Sharon Wallin, Irvine Unified School District)

\* CSBA is the perfect lead agency to attack the issue of Adequate School Funding, something that our state leaders seem unwilling or afraid to address. Partnered with the League of Woman Voters, CSBA has received a \$500,000 grant to spread the word of adequacy around the state and find major supporters for the ultimate study that is being done. CSBA hoped to address the issue several years ago with the establishment of in-house Finance Institute and the hiring of an expert in the field. Issues of school facilities sidetracked the effort. The timing is now perfect to move ahead. (Marilyn Buchi, Fullerton Joint Union High School District)

\* In his report to Delegate Assembly, Scott Plotkin related a conversation he had with a lobbyist (or reporter) who asked who had given the Governor’s Office input in designing the disastrous education initiatives on the November 2005 ballot. Scott replied that no one from the Education Coalition had been consulted at all, which amazed the lobbyist (or reporter). (Sheila Benecke, Capistrano Unified School District)

### **General Assembly Speakers:**

\* I was most impressed with the keynote speakers at the General Assemblies. I was both inspired and informed! I now want to study cultural anthropology and go on to fix the State--just give me the chance. Hearing that computers were intuitive for the children, while they are learned procedures for us oldsters, was mind-boggling. Our lives are changing at such a fast pace that we can’t keep up and we start to feel disenfranchised. I knew this on the subconscious level, but it was good to hear it spoken. (Meg Cutuli, Los Alamitos Unified School District)

\* The idea with the greatest impression on me came from the first two general sessions. The concept and its development of the new digital language of high tech communications and information storage and processing will revolutionize the way people think, interact, learn, and will totally change the relationship and communication between nations. This will dramatically change the education requirements and approaches across the globe. These ideas were very powerful and convincing and I believe we owe it to ourselves and our constituents to better understand these ideas so we can intelligently address how to evolve our educational delivery system to keep American youngsters at the highest competitive levels. (Robert Singer, Fullerton Joint Union High School District)

\* At the State of the State session, the audience rose in long applause to thank Ken Hall for his years of service to education and to CSBA. This was the last CSBA conference he will attend as a partner in School Services of California as he will be retiring soon. He spoke of nine points boards should remember as they negotiate, but the one he stressed is that “No” is a legal and often appropriate response to a negotiation demand. Boards should not be afraid to use the word. All three speakers, including Scott Plotkin, Rick Pratt, and Ken Hall, indicated that the attitude we must communicate in dealings with the Governor’s Office after his serious trouncing at the polls, is one of graciousness and cooperative effort. (Sheila Benecke, Capistrano Unified School District)

### **Workshops and Critical Issues:**

\* In “Putting Money Where It Matters” workshop with Bob Blattner, Bob stressed that to maximize categorical dollars we need to become more innovative and think further outside the box. (Suzie Swartz, Saddleback Valley Unified School District)

\* In “Program Improvement: From Watch List to Restructuring,” Rialto USD Superintendent Edna Herring related their experience as a Program Improvement District. Interestingly, she reported that the experience essentially has been a great benefit to the district, motivating everyone to analyze testing and student scores, to rethink what and how they teach, and to encourage renewal, staff development, and revision. (Sheila Benecke, Capistrano Unified School District)

\* In “How to Survive Declining Enrollment,” Santee District described what they went through, the cuts made, and suggestions to keep up morale when they lost 1,900 students in a five to six-year period. They went from approximately 8,800 to 6,900.

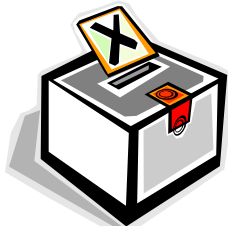
\* The session “Improving Achievement for Low-Income Students: What Makes a Difference?” described a research project that studied policies and practices in comparing districts that serve low-income students. They found that parent involvement only made a difference if it was connected to the curriculum and teaching. Most important was having the principal clearly state the vision and expectations that enable the teachers to take responsibility to develop well-defined plans correlated with API/AYP goals. Curriculum has to be aligned grade-wise with the district providing ELA standards. The principal should be evaluated upon how well the students achieve on multiple sources of assessment. (Mary Fuhrman, Buena Park School District)

## Mark your calendars for the next Joint OCSBA/ ACSA Region XVII Dinner

Wednesday, February 8, 2006  
Irvine Marriott Hotel – Look for Room Posting  
5:30 pm to 8:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DRAFT OF BYLAWS  
HAVE BEEN SENT VIA EMAIL

**REMEMBER TO VOTE ON THE BYLAWS  
AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE**



## "First Annual Orange County ACSA XVII Children's Book Campaign"

In keeping with ACSA's region goals and their commitment to all our children, ACSA is asking that you bring a children's book to the dinner meeting. All books collected will be donated in the name of ACSA to the UCI Medical Center "Book Friends' Library." UCI's Pediatric Department treats very ill youngsters, many of them from families of poverty. Donated rolling carts bring the books to the children in their hospital rooms. The Book Friends' Library also provides each child with a book to keep for their own personal library.



## ORANGE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS RECEIVE RECOGNITION WITH GOLDEN BELL AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

The California School Boards Association has announced the winners of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Golden Bell Awards. The Golden Bell program promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding programs in school districts and county offices of education throughout California. The awards reflect the depth and breadth of education programs necessary to address students' changing needs.

Orange County received eleven awards out of the nearly fifty receiving recognition. Following are the categories and Orange County programs/schools selected to receive the 2005 Golden Bell Award:

Category: Accountability/Assessment

*STAR Report Card*

Dale Junior High School

Anaheim Union High School District

Dr. Joseph Farley, Superintendent

Mr. Thomas Holguin, Board President

Category: Curriculum: English/Language

Arts/Reading

*Reading Roundtable*

Rossmoor Elementary School

Los Alamitos Unified School District

Carol Hart, Superintendent

Meg Cutuli, Board President

Category: Curriculum: Visual and Performing Arts

*Contemporary Media in the Arts*

Los Alamitos High School

Los Alamitos Unified School District

Carol Hart, Superintendent

Meg Cutuli, Board President

Category: Curriculum: Science

*Science Works*

Fountain Valley School District

Dr. Marc Ecker, Superintendent

Tony McCombs, Board President

Category: Early Childhood Education – two awards:

*Jump Start School Readiness Program*

Cypress School District

Dr. William D. Eller, Superintendent

Ellen Friedmann, Board President

*School Readiness and Resource Center Project*

Saddleback Valley Unified School District

Dr. Steven Fish, Superintendent

Don Sedgwick, Board President

Category: Instruction

*SELF – Student Environment Learning Facility*

Golden View School

Ocean View School District

Karen Colby, Superintendent

Sharon Holland, Board President

Category: Parental/Community Involvement

*Family Literacy Parties*

Anaheim City School District

Sandra Barry, Superintendent

Sandy Blumberg, Board President

Category: Special Education - two awards:

*Teaming for the Learning of All Children*

Capistrano Unified School District

Dr. James Fleming, Superintendent

Marlene Draper, Board President

*Harper Preschool Inclusion Program*

Harper Preschool

Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Dr. Robert Barbot, Superintendent

Serene Stokes, Board President

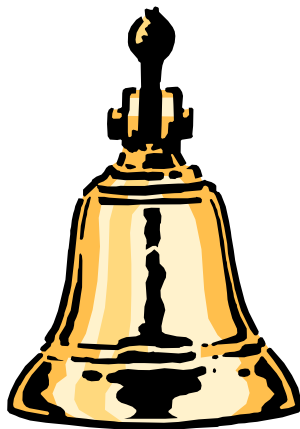
Category: Technology

*Project COMPEL*

Capistrano Unified School District

Dr. James A. Fleming, Superintendent

Marlene M. Draper, Board President





Political Action Group Efforts  
February 8, 2006  
5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act**

Presented by

**Ronald D. Wenkart, General Counsel  
Orange County Department of Education**

Since 1978, Mr. Wenkart has been an attorney representing school districts in California and is currently the General Counsel, Schools Legal Services, for the Orange County Department of Education. He represents school, community college, and regional occupational program districts, the Orange County Superintendent of Schools, and the Orange County Board of Education in matters pertaining to education law.

Mr. Wenkart will present an overview of district responsibilities for homeless students under the requirements of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

**JOINT OCSBA/ACSA REGION XVII DINNER MEETING**

February 8, 2006  
6:00 PM Social – 6:30 PM Dinner  
**Marvin Marshall, Ed.D.**

Speaking on

**“Three Practices of Superior Leaders”**

Dr. Marvin Marshall is an international speaker who has presented to governments, universities, associations, and school districts in Australia, Canada, China, Ireland, South Korea, and the United States. He is a recognized expert in the areas of motivation, increasing effectiveness, and improving relationships. His writings on discipline, social development, human behavior, motivation, and learning have been published internationally.

Please join us as Dr. Marshall presents “Three Practices of Superior Leaders.”



We Continue with OCSBA On-line...



Thank you for your cooperation to the Board’s efforts to cut costs and save trees. We continue with the recent start of our new on-line delivery of the OCSBA newsletter. Many thanks to all of you who have returned your postcard with your email address. **Remember, the notices for the dinner meetings will be coming on-line also.**

We encourage you to use email as a more effective way to communicate. If you prefer, newsletters and OCSBA information may be sent to your district via interoffice mail. Please email your preference, if you have not done so, to: [echariton@ocde.us](mailto:echariton@ocde.us) or call Blanca Zimmerman at (714) 966-4313.

**Congratulations!!**

**Blue Ribbon Award Schools**

- Laguna Road Elementary School, Fullerton SD
- Melinda Heights Elementary School, Saddleback Valley USD
- Peter Canyon Elementary School, Tustin USD
- Jesse Hayden Elementary School, Westminster SD



**Orange County School Boards Association  
Board of Directors  
2005-2006**



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