

Orange County School Boards Association

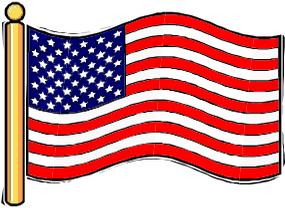


# SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS



Bob Fisler, Editor

January 2002 Edition



## **Important Lessons Born From a Tragedy** By Don Sedgwick, President

Early morning on September 11<sup>th</sup>, I awoke to the greatest calamity I have ever seen

(Continued on Page 2)

*(From the President, continued)*

us to turn the page and begin our lives again. I believe the time to mourn is important for us as a nation but for our children it is essential-- a lesson in humility and caring. I am proud of our nation, and how we have behaved during a time of great stress. Canceling or rescheduling many sporting and other events has helped to put our daily activities into the proper perspective. However, I share the sentiments uttered by Sportscaster Al Michaels, "I never want to read another column saying, 'This puts it all in perspective.' Sports should always be kept in perspective, 365 days a year." Maybe we can learn from this thought, and apply it to our character education and athletic programs.

Our work on this has only begun with the youngsters. As our nation retaliates, we must be sure to keep vengeance out of our schools and foster a sense of "protecting our freedoms" as the presiding tone. Good luck, Board Members, in this our charge. May God be with us and our nation, as we work to eliminate the effects of terrorism and build a caring generation of freedom-lovers.

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## **Crisis Response Resources to Support Students, Families and Staff**

National Association of School Psychologists  
<http://www.nasponline.org/>

Helping Children Cope with Violence  
<http://www.naeyc.org/resources/eyly/1998/01.htm>

American Academy of Pediatrics  
<http://www.aap.org/>

Helping Children After a Disaster: Facts for Families from the  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
<http://www.aacap.org/>

After a Disaster: Steps You Can Take to Cope with a Stressful Situation  
<http://www.wright.edu/sopp/cps/TraumaticStress.html>

"Helping Children Deal with Scary News"  
from Mr. Rogers/Family Communications, Inc.  
<http://www.misterogers.org/families>

# Playground Safety — Fullerton School District

## **Fannye Miller Steele Emergency Preparedness and Safety Liaison**

According to Ann Brown, Chairperson of the Product Safety Commission, more than 200,000 children are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms each year for injuries associated with playground equipment. Most injuries occur when children fall from the equipment onto the ground.

Fullerton School District had a playground audit completed in June of 2000 to comply with the requirements of the Playground Safety and Recycling Act of 2000. The results of that audit have been incorporated into a program that the District's Maintenance Department is carrying out to improve play equipment and fall zones at all schools. District staff has been working at schools to excavate under and around existing play equipment and replace sand filler with wood chips. Play equipment already in place, has been, and is continuing to be, repaired to comply as much as possible with established safety standards. Equipment replacement is being done as funding is made available from the state or as schools raise their own funds.

The District's Maintenance Department has developed a form that allows the site custodians to perform periodic inspections of school exterior areas, including the play equipment and surrounding ground cover as well as other field areas. These new forms, which will soon be provided to schools, will be filled out and returned to the Maintenance Department and placed in site files as a record of safety inspection.

Field repairs, such as gopher holes, etc., are done when schools generate work orders for needed repairs.

You will find a Playground Safety Checklist on Page 4 of this newsletter. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission can be accessed for additional information at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

Note: Gary Drabek, Director of Facilities Services, Fullerton School District, provided this information.



# Public Playground Safety Checklist

- 1** Make sure surfaces around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or have mats made of safety-tested rubber and/or rubber-like material.
- 2** Check that protective surfacing extends at least 6 feet in all directions from the play equipment. For swings, be sure surfacing extends, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- 3** Make sure play structure, that are more than 30 inches high, are spaced at least 9 feet apart.
- 4** Check for dangerous hardware, like open “S” hooks or protruding bolt ends.
- 5** Make sure spaces that could trap children, such as openings in guardrails and between ladder rungs, measure less than 3-1/2 inches or no more than 9 inches.
- 6** Check for sharp points or edges in equipment
- 7** Look out for tripping hazards, like exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.
- 8** Make sure elevated surfaces, like platforms and ramps, have guardrails to prevent falls.
- 9** Check playgrounds regularly to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.
- 10** Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they are safe.

**SCOTT P. PLOTKIN**  
**Introduction and Welcome**

California School Boards Association's (CSBA) new Executive Director, Scott P. Plotkin, will take over the reins October 1, 2001. Scott brings with him an extensive background in public education. Since 1997 he has served as chief consultant and staff director for the California Senate Committee on Education. Before that, Scott served as the Director of Governmental Affairs for the California State University System.

Scott has a distinguished record of service with 20 years experience as a Board Member in the Rio Linda Union School District. He also served as a member of CSBA's Delegate Assembly and executive Committee before being elected president of the Association in 1992. He served as president of the Sacramento County School Boards Association from 1985 to 1988 and as regional director of the National School Boards Association.

"We are all delighted with Scott's appointment," said Davis W. Campbell, CSBA's Executive Director, who retires in October. "He is well know and appreciated by CSBA staff, and he brings a superb understanding of school boards, as well as a tremendous record of advocacy on behalf of public education and children. Everyone is looking forward to a great future for CSBA."

*California School  
Boards Association*

**WELCOME!**

*New Board Member!*

CENTRALIA UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Irv Trickle**



**PAGE**

Political Action Group Efforts  
Mary Fuhrman, Chairperson

**Community  
Redevelopment Agencies...**  
**Are You Getting Your Fair Share?**

Dave Doomey  
Assistant Superintendent  
Facilities Planning  
Capistrano Unified School District

Dave will highlight the current status of Community Redevelopment Agencies and the impact to public school funding. Learn about how to ensure your district is maximizing its potential revenue.

# OCSBA CALENDAR

## General Dinner Meetings

Location: Irvine Marriott, 18000 Von Karman Ave., Irvine 92612  
Evening Schedule, 5:30 p.m. PAGE Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Social, 6:30 p.m. Dinner  
\*Joint ACSA Dinner Meeting



January 23, 2002\*  
March 20, 2002\*  
April 24, 2002

## Officers and Directors Meetings

Location: Orange County Department of Education, Board Room  
200 Kalmus Drive, Costa Mesa, 92628  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

January 9, 2002  
March 13, 2002  
April 10, 2002



### ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 9050, B-1011A  
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-9050

**2001 – 2002**

#### **Editor:**

Bob Fisler, FSD  
(714) 526-4208

#### **Editorial Staff:**

Catherine Graham, OCDE  
(714) 966-4313

catherine\_graham@ocde.k12.ca.us

### **2001-2002 OCSBA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

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