



Spotlight On News

September 2006 Edition

Orange County School Boards Association

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Introducing the new OCSBA President Suzie Swartz

Since 1992, Suzie Swartz has worked to build on the strengths of administrators, teachers, parents, staff and students to provide the best possible education for students in her community and Orange County. She has served several terms as a PTA President and as PTA Council Executive Board Member, as well as a member of School Site and Education Councils. Suzie is currently Clerk of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) Board of Education, serves as a member of the Coastline ROP Board, and works on the Orange County Education Coalition Steering Committee. Suzie was awarded the Phi Delta Kappa Golden Triangle Award in recognition of her service to public education.

A graduate of UCLA, Suzie is herself a pre-kindergarten teacher. She and her husband Jeff have two sons. The younger attends school in SVUSD and the older, a Mission Viejo High graduate, recently earned his degree at Boston University and works in the broadcast industry.



A Message from Suzie Swartz President

The result of last spring's standardized tests are in and test scores are up!

Rising test scores don't happen by accident. Improvement is the direct result of the governing board's focus coupled with the dedication and hard work of administrators, teachers, parents, and students alike.

We can't take time off, however, to sit on our laurels. We must remain focused and vigilant - we must continue to evaluate our strategies to understand what worked so well and what needs to be improved, and then translate that into the classroom. We must continue to build upon our strengths and strengthen our weaknesses.

We are definitely heading in the right direction and others are taking notice too. I leave you with the following headline from the Orange County Register, dated August 16, 2006.

**"Test Scores Rise for Fifth Year
O.C. Pupils outperform peers
statewide on California Math and
English tests"**

Cheers! I look forward to seeing you on September 27.

CSBA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

OCSBA will once again host a reception for Orange County board members and district administrators on Thursday, November 30, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Marriott in San Francisco. Please check your mail in November for more information.

To register for the CSBA Annual Education Conference, please go to
www.csba.org



Welcome the New District Superintendents

Cypress School District—SHERI LOEWENSTEIN

Cypress School District proudly announces the appointment of Sheri Loewenstein as their new superintendent. Ms. Loewenstein spent 16 years with the Westminster Elementary School District where she most recently was superintendent. Prior work experience includes coordinator for the West Orange County Consortium for Special Education. In 2002, the Association of California School Administrators named Ms. Loewenstein Personnel Administrator of the Year in Orange County, and in 2004 she received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for "Women Who Make a Difference" in their community.

Irvine Unified School District—GWEN GROSS, Ed.D.

Irvine Unified School District (IUSD) welcomes Dr. Gwen Gross as their new superintendent. Dr. Gross comes to IUSD as a former superintendent of Manhattan Beach Unified, Beverly Hills Unified, Ojai Unified, and Hermosa Beach City School Districts. She has also held various positions at universities in the Midwest and West Coast. Her honors include being named one of the "Top 100 Educators in North America," "Tri-County Superintendent of the Year," and Pepperdine University's "2005 Superintendent of the Year." Her professional leadership includes the ACSA Vice Chair of the State Superintendents Committee. She has co-authored *"Eight at the Top"* and *"Effective Superintendent-School Board Practices."* Dr. Gross is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, the University of Akron, and Kent State University and has received a Post-Doctoral Certificate from Harvard University.

Lowell Joint School District—PATRICIA HOWELL, Ed.D.

Lowell Joint School District (LJSD) announces the appointment of Dr. Patricia Howell as their new superintendent replacing Dr. Ron Randolph. Dr. Howell comes to LJSD from the leadership of Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHSD) where most recently Dr. Howell served as the Deputy Superintendent. Dr. Howell also served as the Assistant Superintendent of Education and Assessment Services at FJUHSD and was principal of La Habra High School when it garnered the California Distinguished School and the National Blue Ribbon Awards. Earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from Chadron State College in Nebraska and her doctorate from Portland State University, Dr. Howell began her career as a teacher in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

Tustin Unified School District— RICHARD BRAY

In August, Tustin Unified School District appointed Richard Bray as their new superintendent. Bray has been a district superintendent for 14 years--the last 12 in Hisperia Unified School District in San Bernardino County. Prior to Hisperia, Bray was superintendent of the Soledad Union School District. He also worked as Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Child Welfare/Attendance for the Banning Unified School District. Among his accomplishments, Bray was named 2006 Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators, Region 12. He is also a recipient of the Rotary International Governor's Commendation Award and the Phi Delta Kappa Educator of the Year.



New superintendents Dr. Jeff Hubbard, Newport Mesa Unified School District and Dr. Sue Johnson, Savanna School District will be highlighted in our next issue.



PANDEMIC PLANNING



Almost daily, we hear about the outbreak of avian/bird flu and how it is spreading around the world. At this time, bird flu is circulating in many countries. The virus (H5N1) is found mostly in birds; however, some human cases have been reported. These cases are the result of human contact with sick birds, not human to human transmission. Migratory birds can carry the virus around the world but show no symptoms. The bird flu is not in the United States now. When cases of flu in birds are identified in the US, there may be confusion and concern, even though there is no conclusive evidence that the virus is spread from birds to humans. At some point, whether it is the H5N1 virus or another virus, health experts believe that there will eventually be a virus that spreads from human to human for which most people have no immunity and for which we have no vaccine. Officials cannot determine if, when, or where a pandemic will strike. If a pandemic flu spreads, officials may recommend "social distancing" or "social isolation," the consequence of which could be the closing of schools for an extended period of time.

Why should schools plan now? According to the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 20% of the US population attends or works in schools. Because viruses can live on surfaces for two hours or more, schools happen to be very good places for germs to spread. Historically, much of the spread of past flu pandemics occurred in schools. Everyone should know ways to keep from getting sick:

- Cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- Throw tissues away after use.
- Wash hands often using soap and water. If water is not near, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes, and mouth.

Illness spreads quickly in a school setting. Include these actions in your training materials:

- Instruct school staff about how and when to report illnesses to the local health agency.
- Encourage employees who are sick to stay home.
- Remind parents and caregivers to keep sick children home and provide more specificity when reporting their child's illness.

Valuable information and resources for pandemic planning can be found on the Orange County Department of Education Emergency Preparedness Website at <http://energebct.ocde.us/> or by contacting Sara Kaminske, Coordinator, Benefits and Emergency Planning at (714) 966-4031. Find out more at:

Orange County Health Care Agency <http://ohealthinfo.com/epi/af>

Centers for Disease Control <http://cdc.gov/flu/avian>

Pandemic Flu Website <http://panemicflu/giv/avianbirdflu/>

World Health Organization http://who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/af

Submitted by Sara Kaminske. Adapted from OCDE "Why Schools Should Prepare for a Pandemic."

Orange County School Boards Association 2006 – 2007 Board of Directors

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PAGE

Political Action Group Efforts
September 27, 2006
5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

**“Cyber-Bullying and
Internet Predators”
Policy, Prevention and Police**

Presented by
Detective David McCain
Huntington Beach Police Department, and

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

An emerging challenge for educational leaders involves the internet, particularly cyber-bullying and internet predators.

Detective David McCain, CFCE, Director of the High Tech Crimes Unit of the Huntington Beach Police Department, will demonstrate how quickly and easily predators can contact the youth of your community. In addition, he will highlight issues of prevention as well as discuss evidence that needs to be preserved if a crime has been committed.

Ron Wenkart, General Counsel for the Orange County Department of Education, will follow this demonstration with a discussion of the policy issues related to internet safety. He will share current CSBA policies that relate to internet safety and discuss local concerns. Take advantage of these experts to get your questions answered at the end of the presentation.

OCSBA/ACSA Dinner Meeting
Wednesday, September 27, 2006
Irvine Marriott Hotel

Dinner Speaker

Kent Healy

America’s Coolest Young Success Coach

**“Cool Stuff They Should
Teach In School”**

At age 22 Kent is an author, columnist, entrepreneur, and speaker. Listen to his unique and inspirational story of starting a business at the age of 15, living internationally for eight years, attending five different public high schools, and writing a top-selling book under his own publishing company. Kent shares the message of learning life skills that prepare young people for the real world. Start the school year with an entertaining evening from a fresh, young perspective.

**New Board Members
Orientation and
Reception**

January 10, 2007
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

OCDE-Board Room
200 Kalmus, Dr.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
2006-2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Speakers to be announced.

- September 27, 2006** **OCSBA Dinner Meeting**
PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- November 15, 2006** **ACSA XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting**
PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- November 30, 2006** **OCSBA Reception at CSBA Annual Conference**
Marriott Hotel, San Francisco 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- February 21, 2007** **ACSA XVII/OCSBA Joint Dinner Meeting**
PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.
- May 9, 2007** **OCSBA Annual Meeting/2005-2006 Board Elections**
PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 p.m.

