

# UNIFIED news

December 2009

## Ask Dr. Roach . . .

**Q.** Do Board members change every year?

**A.** Each of the District's five publicly elected Board of Trustees serves a staggered four-year term. The terms of Mark Tanner, Lisa Rodman and Nicole Pappas end in 2010. Mr. Tanner and Mrs. Rodman plan to seek re-election. Mrs. Pappas does not. The terms of Elisa Williamson and Kelli Moors end in 2012. The Board internally elects new officers annually. This year's election was held on December 9. New officers are: Mark Tanner, President; Lisa Rodman, Vice President; and Kelli Moors, Clerk.



John A. Roach, Ed.D.  
District Superintendent



Mira Costa School Relations/Outreach Coordinator Jan Moberly and CUSD Assistant Superintendent Suzanne O'Connell agree that a rigorous curriculum gives students options to succeed.

## THAT'S WORLD CLASS!

### Prop P Dollars Benefit Special Hope Hawks

Some of last summer's \$4.5 million worth of Prop P renovations at Hope Elementary are benefiting the school's Special Education students. "We've installed new features in classrooms and on campus to help this valued segment of our student population," states Principal Richard Tubbs.

Elizabeth Olson's five K-3, moderate-to-severe Special Day children are blossoming in their renovated classroom. She says, "The new facets support our efforts in helping students develop skills that will make them as independent as possible when adults. Features such as an easily cleanable tile floor and expanded storage meet the children's needs as they learn to prepare food, sort laundry, set the table and practice polite eating manners. Our new computer area offers room to expand."

One of the greatest boons is a multi-media system with a projector and huge screen on an oversized teacher wall. Mrs. Olson explains, "Our children deal in the concrete. Life-size images are easier for them to absorb." She believes, "Prop P has changed the way we're able to teach. Everything is arranged to empower our students."

One thing that hasn't changed is Hope's dedication to its students. Mrs. Olson says, "We have great staff, great kids, great families. This is a wonderful place to be."



Elizabeth Olson's students respond to learning on the big screen.

**"Prop P has changed the way we're able to teach. Everything is arranged to empower our Special Ed students."**

## A Community Conversation

The December 8 night was cold, but the District's first Community Conversation regarding college entrance requirements was warm and stimulating. The importance of preparing all students for college and career readiness was approached from many angles. Participants agreed that we must strive to reach this goal, which is not only lofty but crucial if our students are to succeed in tomorrow's global economy. They offered a variety of reasons to achieve it and an array of ways to get there.

The Conversation was led by Education Trust-West's Sheilagh Polk, who ardently believes, "The skill sets needed to be successful in college, career and life are the same." It was attended by a wide cross-section of stakeholders, including District Trustees and staff, parents and representatives from educational and local organizations.

The process is just beginning. We invite your input and involvement. Please contact your principal to add your voice to this important effort.

If you have a story to contribute or a question to ask Dr. Roach for publication in Unified News, please contact communications consultant Marilyn Campbell at [wrte4fn@cox.net](mailto:wrte4fn@cox.net) or 760.439.3716.

## Classified Excellence

Unified News is proud to introduce the current Classified Employee of the Month to you in each issue. Employees are nominated by site administrators for consistently performing above and beyond in the scope of their jobs.

### Congratulations to November 2009 Classified Employee of the Month:

#### Vangie Ohlin

Almost six years to the day she joined the District as a computer aide at Hope, Vangie Ohlin, now Carlsbad Village Academy Administrative Assistant, accepted her recognition at the November 10 Board meeting.

CVA Principal Keith Holley states, "The easiest decision I have made all year was to recommend Vangie. She epitomizes the skills, gifts and personal qualities that make class-

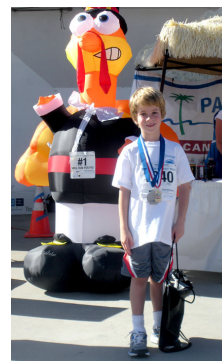


fied employees the heart and backbone of the District's services. As secretary for five Alternative Education programs, Vangie is one of only two office personnel responsible for providing all administrative support functions for teachers, administrators, counselors and certificated staff assigned to these programs."

Noting that Vangie deals effectively with an array of challenging situations, including student expulsions and homelessness, Principal Holley praises "her professional demeanor, inexhaustible helpfulness and unstinting dedication to the welfare of students, staff and parents. Vangie's working relationships are characterized by exceptional and laudable courtesy, patience, personal warmth, good judgment and resourcefulness."

Vangie says, "I call my desk 'The Land of Special Circumstances' because everyone who goes through alternative ed needs something special. Our school has a family feel. We make it safe for students to express themselves and get help when they need it."

## Jeff Jag Jogs to Jubilation



Aaron at the Turkey Trot.

Jaguars are speedy, but who knew they could trot like turkeys? Jefferson Elementary first-grader Aaron Harris did the fast trot on Thanksgiving morning at Oceanside's Turkey Trot. Aaron captured first place in the mile with a speedy time of 6:52. Afterward, the jubilant six-year-old confided he was surprised to realize he'd overtaken the leader. "I just knew I had to keep going as fast as I could to win," he said. And he did!

Visit our website to discover how our students excel at fitness District-wide.



NRG is funding a pilot Renewable Energy class at CHS taught by John Alexander. The program is profiled in the December issue of the Carlsbad Chamber Business Journal, available at [www.carlsbad.org](http://www.carlsbad.org).

### A Whole Lotta GREEN: \$178,000 in Six Months!

WOW! And congratulations, staff! Together, we saved \$178,000 in energy costs in just six months! The savings equates to taking 38 cars off the highway annually.

Kudos to "Energy Dude" Darin Vey, who has worked energetically to implement Energy Education's innovative Transformational Energy Management™ program throughout the District. Another big thank-you goes to our staff at all sites, who have conscientiously followed recommendations to save energy and money.

#### Each of Us is a Change Agent

District Superintendent John A. Roach, Ed.D., states, "The Board and I are gratified by the program's success, which is directly attributable to every member of our staff working as change agents, ensuring we use resources responsibly. The money we save is money we won't have to cut from our budget." Program costs are covered through the District's existing utility budget, with savings guaranteed to more than pay for the program.

For more information, visit our website or email [dvey@carlsbadusd.net](mailto:dvey@carlsbadusd.net).

### How Green is Your World?

What are YOU doing to save energy? Let us know at [wrt4fn@cox.net](mailto:wrt4fn@cox.net) and include a photo, if you wish. We'll print responses in an upcoming newsletter.

### CELEBRATE DECEMBER'S DISTRICT-WIDE CHARACTER TRAIT: CARING!

Carlsbad Unified School District incorporates District-Wide Character Traits into the K-8 academic curriculum. Each month's trait is taught in a grade level-appropriate way by trained teachers at all elementary and middle schools.



Carlsbad Unified School District  
... a world-class district  
... a world-class district

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