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VOLUNTEER CENTER ORANGE COUNTY

March 2009

January/February/March/Newsletter 2009

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Volunteer Center of Orange County



Please visit our website at www.volunteercenter.org. This website lists all the current service opportunities available through Orange County and allows you to sign up for them within a few minutes!

[State Superintendent Announces Winners of Service-Learning Leader School Awards](#)

Greetings!

Welcome to our online newsletter!

Volunteer Center Orange County is pleased to offer its spring online newsletter. We look forward in continuing to offer a resource of quality service-learning information.

Tustin Memorial Academy



Tustin Memorial Academy (TMA) recently celebrated receiving the California Service-Learning Leader Schools Award. Tustin Memorial Academy, a public elementary school in the Tustin Unified School District,

was one of 11 California Schools selected for this award based on the ability of teachers and parents working together to help their students meet their Academic Performance Index growth targets while teaching children about civic responsibilities. TMA had an opportunity to share many of their special projects and lessons through a written application process and an on-site validation visit. During the visitation, Bette Wineberg observed the Outdoor Learning Center with children and parents watering the seedlings for the "Seed to Harvest" program for the Second Harvest Food Bank. Mrs. Mulligan's second grade students participated in a gingerbread assembly line as children learned the importance of working collaboratively.

Tustin Memorial Academy is committed to helping students succeed academically while developing a strong sense of civic responsibility and moral character. Programs and activities such as Character Counts, running club, jog-a-thon, canned food drives, Red Cross support, ASPC awareness and many more use the service-learning model as a school-wide instructional method.

TMA was extremely honored to receive this special award.

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Principal Cindy Agopian and parents Monique Nelsen and Marci Maietta-Wineberg attended the February 10th California Service-Learning luncheon where TMA was recognized by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell.

A plaque and a flag is proudly displayed at the school to remind students that they can make a difference in their school and the community.

California Department of Education Announces Winners of Service-Learning Leader School Awards

Student Project on Smoking Ban

Student Project Influences Vote on Smoking Ban at Laguna Lake.

By Barbara Giasone

FULLERTON - An elementary school science project to ban smoking at Laguna Lake influenced at least one City Council member Tuesday to include the site in the panel's approval of a draft no-smoking ordinance.

Mayor Don Bankhead said he didn't feel strongly about the location until representatives from Janny Meyer's combination fifth-sixth-grade class at Hermosa Drive School reported on four years of cleaning cigarette butts from the lakeside trails. Meyer used the monthly field trip to show students the effects of smoking on ecology.

[To view the full article click here.](#)

Student Learning Develops Conservationists at an Early Age



Galt school children will be lending a hand to nature by gathering acorns at the Cosumnes River Preserve this autumn. It's been a banner year for acorns, and the kids play a crucial role in the Conservancy's

restoration efforts by collecting and planting the seeds.

"The younger ones come through first and collect the acorns - only the whole ones," explains John Durand, the Galt Schools' service learning coordinator, based at the preserve. "We reject any acorns that are split or cracked." Kids fill buckets holding up to 2,000 acorns. Anywhere from 10,000 to 12,000 acorns will be collected this season.

[To view the full article click here.](#)

Philanthropy Enters the Curriculum



Students discover what it means to be charitable.

By Alexandra R. Moses

The next time your students organize a service project, ask them whether they know how a homeless shelter gets money to operate or what would happen if a youth-mentoring program didn't get enough volunteers.

Chances are, they don't know the answers. Even though more and more students do charity work as part of school requirements or to beef up college résumés, they don't necessarily get it.

[To view the full article click here.](#)

Learning by Giving: Community Service as Classwork



Schools add the Golden Rule to the curriculum.

by Fran Smith

To graduate from high school in Maryland, students must do more than memorize the parts of the nervous system and master quadratic equations. They have to fulfill seventy-five hours of community service --

and babysitting doesn't count.

As school-based volunteering soars nationwide, educators are fine-tuning their service initiatives to create serious community-based projects and tie them to academic standards. Hundreds of school districts require elementary, middle, and high schools to build community service into the curriculum. Although Maryland is the only state that mandates service, a growing number, including California, Florida, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, South Carolina,

and Wisconsin, actively encourage it.

[To view the full article click here.](#)

Engaged For Success Service

Service-Learning as a Tool for Dropout Prevention

By John M. Bridgeland, John J. DiIulio Jr., & Stuart C. Wulsin

The promise of a nation rests in its youngest generation. The skills they develop, the habits they form, and the communities they build will determine the future of the nation and hold the keys to its progress. All of America's institutions - neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, workplaces, and our democracy itself - are enriched by well educated people with skills to contribute to their communities and country.

With these goals in mind - to engage children in education and prepare them to address our nation's challenges - two reports released in 2006 cast a dispiriting light on the reality facing our country.

[To view the full article click here.](#)

Global Youth Service Day



GYSD is an annual global event that highlights and celebrates the contributions of youth to their communities through volunteer service. GYSD is celebrated in more than 100 countries in every region of the world.

Each April, millions of young people participate in and lead service projects, working with their families, schools, community organizations, faith-based communities, and businesses, to improve their communities by addressing critical issues such as global climate change, education & illiteracy, poverty, health, hunger, and homelessness.

Get Started Planting Trees with [E RTHNXT](#) Here you will find tools and resources that will help you begin planting trees that will grow properly.

[Click here for further information](#)

Grants

Do Something and Mountain Dew Announce New Group Grant Program for groups of youth working to improve their

communities.

[Click Here for Details](#)

Nominations Invited for Gloria Barron Prize for Youth Heroes. The Gloria Barron Prize honors outstanding young leaders who have made a positive difference to people and the planet

[Click Here for Details](#)

Funding Sources

Educational grants from Dominion and the Dominion Foundation provide elementary and secondary educators with the tools they need to revitalize math and science programs through the study of energy and the environment. Deadline is May 1, 2009.

[Click Here for Details](#)

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K- 12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and other youth-focused non-profit organizations for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. Deadline May 1, 2009.

[Click Here for Details](#)

Center for Substance Abuse Prevention Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to current Drug-Free Communities programs that can provide mentoring services to new or developing community anti-drug coalitions. Deadline April 24, 2009.

[Click Here for Details](#)

Another funding option is "Donors Choose". At this not-for-profit web site, teachers submit project examples and requests for materials or experiences their students need to conduct projects. Concerned individuals then donate money or resources to the project to make it happen.

Go to www.donorschoose.org to access Donors Choose.

Calendar of Events

April 14th - Spirit of Volunteerism [Volunteer Center of Orange County](#)

April 19th- 25th - National Volunteer Week: Inspire by Example

[Click Here for Details](#)

April 22nd - Earth Day

[Click Here for Details](#)

April 24th - 26th - Global Youth Service Day

[Click Here for Details](#)

Check out [Volunteer Center of Orange County](#) to participate in a local KaBoom project on April 26th.

May 2nd - Join Hands Day: Youth and Adults
Volunteering Together
[Click Here for Details](#)

email: bweinberg@volunteercenter.org
phone: (714) 953-5757 x135
web: <http://www.volunteercenter.org>

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