

## Winter 2007

### Hermosa Drive Elementary Celebrates Service Learning!

*by Bridget McTague*

This year Hermosa Drive Elementary in Fullerton was honored by the California School Board Association with the Golden Bell Award for their Learn-Serve-Achieve Program. Hermosa Drive Elementary is the only K-6 school to implement a school-wide service learning program in Orange County. For the 2006-07 school year, Hermosa Drive Elementary School will implement 12 Learn-Serve-Achieve Projects. Students, faculty and parents work closely with community organizations to identify the needs of the community and establish partnerships.

The spirit of the Learn-Serve-Achieve Program began in 2002 with the support of Principal Jennifer Shepard, Superintendent Dr. Cameron McCune and the Orange County Service Learning Consortium. In partnership with parents and the local community, Hermosa's goal was to achieve educational excellence through service learning. The school community fosters personal self-worth, promotes citizenship and celebrates diversity. The Learn-Serve-Achieve Program at Hermosa School has made a difference in the students by focusing on the key elements of service learning: core curriculum, student voice, service to the community, civic responsibility, and reflection.

Congratulations to the entire Hermosa Drive Elementary School and community for this well deserved recognition. If you would like to learn more about the Learn-Serve-Achieve Program feel free to contact the school at 714-447-7720 or visit [www.fsd.k12.ca.us/hermosa](http://www.fsd.k12.ca.us/hermosa).

### Spotlight on Service Learning



*by Cathryn Berger Kaye*

More and more schools across the country, recognizing the important role service plays in developing responsible, caring, active citizens, are including service-learning activities as a required part of the school curriculum. Their decision to include service learning is fully supported by research that shows that service learning affects students not only throughout their school years, but well into adulthood.

To learn more about how service learning improves the performance of students, please follow this [link](#).

[Spotlight on Service Learning](#)

### Volunteer Center Orange County shows 1st graders a Spirit of Giving

*by Bette Weinberg*

Research shows when children begin volunteering at a young age, they are more likely to make volunteering a lifelong commitment. On December 8, 2006, Volunteer Center Orange County implemented Spirit of Giving, a Service-learning experience that provided over 2000 first grade students in low-income communities with backpacks filled with school supplies, books and toys. The goal of the program is to teach children to be giving people through example, stories and a specialized curriculum. Teachers are provided with a Service-learning orientation and a Teacher's Guide with lessons of giving that support them in leading their students through reading and writing lessons reinforcing state standards and the concept of giving regardless of one's financial circumstances. Volunteer storytellers read multi-cultural stories about giving to the students. Then the children are asked to "pay it forward" by volunteering their services at school, in the neighborhood, or by performing an act of kindness in their home or family environment. With Spirit of Giving, students learn that giving does not always meant giving of money. They can give of their time, themselves or their kindness to others. Over 100 teachers representing 18 Title I schools and 13 Orange County cities participated in the fifth year of this program.

## Teach students how to use skills to serve their community by Cynthia Parsons

by Cynthia Parsons, Christian Science Monitor

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. – Those so-called 3 R's (reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic) are not enough for pupils in United States public and independent schools. Our schools should be turning out small "d" democrats as well as readers and thinkers. And there's a step toward this goal that has been missing in teacher preparation for a couple centuries.

**To read more...**

**[Teach students how to use skills to serve their community by Cynthia Parsons](#)**

### Info for Grant Writers

#### Service learning in the class room

Financial services company ING seeks to help K- 12 educators and their schools fund innovative classroom projects through its annual Unsung Heroes awards program. Check out <http://www.ing-usa.com/us/aboutING/communityconnections/ineducat ion/unsungheroes/index.htm>

#### Service learning with science

A partnership between Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and the National Science Teachers Association, the Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers program offers grants to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in a school and/or school district. Check out <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/>.

**Hometown Helper**, a General Mills food brand, is looking to lend a "helping hand" to neighborhoods across the U.S. with its "My Hometown Helper" grant program.

<http://www.myhometownhelper.com/>.

**Able to serve grants** Grants support service projects for National & Global Youth Service Day 2007 (April 20-22) in which youth with and without disabilities serve their communities together. To download an application visit <http://www.ysa.org/Awards/pdf/AIKEN2007GrantIntroAndRequirements.pdf>

### Service Learning Calendar

January 15- Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
February 4- Coaches training  
March 23- Service Learning Conference  
March 28-31- National Service Learning Conference  
March 31- Cesar Chavez Day

**[Full Story](#)**