

Seacliff Sea Star News



Vol. 12 No. 3

Huntington Seacliff Elementary School PTA

November 2009

A Message From Principal Ann Sullivan



From the Principal's

Desk



Off to Another Great Start!

The 2009-2010 school year is underway and off to a terrific start, due to a dedicated and talented staff, involved and active parents, and most importantly, scholarly students. We began the school year with 680 students, which is approximately 22 more students than last year. School life is always busy, but the enthusiasm of staff and students makes for an atmosphere that encourages both academic learning and an enjoyment of extracurricular activities.

Seacliff's Academic Performance Index (API) results from the Spring, 2009 state testing have arrived and we have improved our scores once again. Overall, Seacliff increased its score by seven (7) points school-wide to 940! Since the inception of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program in 1999, Seacliff has grown by 95 points. In the second through fifth grades, 85.2% of our students are proficient and above in English Language Arts (ELA), while 92.6% of our students are proficient and above in Math.

The following article from the *O.C. Register* lists **Seacliff Elementary** among **the top ten** Orange County schools in math proficiency (#9 –this would have been a higher ranking if high schools were not included). It also lists the breakdown by grade levels in both ELA and Math. Our second and fifth grade math scores found a place among **the top five** Orange County schools. <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/school-links-2532105>

As the *O.C. Register* notes, "Five of the ten schools in the county with the highest improvement on API scores use the MIND Institute's (JiJi) math program as part of their curriculum." We are proud that Seacliff was one of the first schools to implement this program six years ago.

We also are proud particularly of our fifth grade science results, with 94% of our students proficient or above. The *Just for the Kids* website, <http://www.jftk-ca.org/> ranks Seacliff tenth in science compared to schools in, not just Orange County, but Southern California. This very rigorous test is an excellent reflec-

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Greetings from our PTA President

Dear Seacliff Families,

Well, how was your first couple of months of school? Did you complete "the mountain of paperwork" that was in the First Day Packets? Did you remember to sign up to be included in the school directory before the reminder note came home in your child's backpack? Did you manage to meet your teacher(s) - I mean your child(ren)'s teacher(s) - at Back to School Night?

I am constantly amazed at what our children learn in school. Do you know which famous artist all the children "met" during Meet the Masters in October? The second, third, and fourth graders are continuing with the MIND program already. Have you heard about JiJi? Also, for the first time, the MIND program has been extended for our fifth graders. If you have not seen these programs yet, you have to stop by Seacliff one day and just see it for yourself.

All of the programs mentioned above and many more programs are completely sponsored by the PTA. These programs exist to benefit each and every child at Seacliff. Without the generous support of our parents and community, our children would not have access to the technology and many of the resources

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Ann Sullivan, Principal

Hermine Rule, PTA President

Huntington Seacliff Elementary School

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A Message From Principal Ann Sullivan

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tion of how well our students have mastered a balanced program of basic skills, application, and problem solving. Congratulations to our talented students and to their teachers and parents for working so diligently to help them achieve high academic standards!



We continue to examine our practices in challenging times with increasing scarcity of resources. As we do, we are faced with making difficult decisions about our priorities. However, as with all great organizations, we are resilient by being adaptable, focused, innovative, creative, and seeking the expertise of those around us. What remains constant is our commitment to excellence and a high quality of instruction for all of our students. I am confident that together, we will find solutions to our challenges ahead and will continue to provide a top-quality instructional program.

Ann Sullivan
Principal



Our "Beach Party" Fall Fundraiser "splashed off" on September 25 with a wave of excitement! The students were out hanging ten, selling delicious cookie dough from Otis Spunkmeyer and beautiful gift wrap from Sally Foster, in hopes of earning a tidal wave of fantastic prizes. Our sale ended on October 12 and we want to thank our volunteer counting crew, who did a fabulous job tallying all of the orders. While we await the official numbers, we thank all those who participated in making a difference in our children's education. Without your support, we would have to do without staples, such as art, P.E., field trips, and much more!

The delivery date is set for November 10. It is imperative that all orders be picked up on that day! The cookie dough will not keep overnight and we do **NOT** have room to store it. If you are unavailable on November 10, please make arrangements to have a friend or neighbor pick up your order. We will begin distribution at 12:00 noon and continue until 5:00 p.m. We could use some volunteers to help that day. If you are available, please contact Victoria at 714-658-8337 to sign up for a shift.

A special thanks for Mrs. Sullivan, Coco, and Timarie for handling the drawings! Also, a "Big Kahuna" thumbs up to Janine O'Toole, DeEtte Kirkconnell, Jackie Jernigan, Stephanie Franklin, Julie Katayama, Kim Webb, Patricia Pelc, Sevil Le, Joanne Bradley, Patty Iba, Brenda Adams, Anna Simitian, Carol Peterson, and Paula Car-gasacchi for the wonderful lunch, and lastly, to all of our wonderful teachers for their help and support!

Sincerely,

Kathie Sitton and Victoria Barbisan
Fall Fundraiser Co-Chairs



(continued from page 1)

Greetings from our PTA President

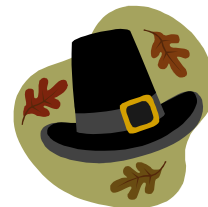
that is so readily available to them.

I want to thank you for supporting the Fall Fundraiser. I also want to thank Victoria Barbisan and Kathie Sitton, the fabulous Fall Fundraiser organizers, for all of their hard work. Every dollar that is earned through all of our fundraisers, goes right back to our children. If you can generously donate your time, expertise or resources, rest assured that it will be greatly appreciated. It is hard to ask for help from our parents and community for these enrichment programs, but it is even harder to have to cut back on these programs during these challenging fiscal times.

Every little bit of your help is needed. So, when you get those requests for your time or for donations from the PTA, whether it is in the form of gift wrap, cookie dough or items for an auction, please know that it is your generosity that keeps these wonderful programs in existence for our children. Without our volunteers who spend countless hours working behind the scenes to orchestrate the functions of the PTA, these programs would not exist. Also along the way, we are building a stronger community for our children and ourselves.

As always, please come to one of our upcoming PTA meetings to learn more about what it is that these wonderful volunteers do for all of our children.

See you soon,
Hermine Rule



Promoting Sally Foster



Sydney Sitton and Sammie Sitton



Cole Kennedy, Sydney Sitton,
Lindsay Bogott and Sammie Sitton.



PTA Board Members for 2009-2010

Front Row (from left): Marianne Morton, Kathie Sitton, Hermine Rule, Kecia Van Mechelen, and Barb Heine. **Back Row** (from left): Paula Cargasachi, Susanne Wagner, Ann Petty, Dana Twining, Janine O’Toole, Susan Petersen, Tracy McKelvey, Suzanne Hayek, and DeEtte Kirkconnell.

Keep Clipping Your Box Tops!

Our ongoing Box Top campaign will be hi-lighted by a contest upon our return from Winter Break. The top two classes that bring in the most Box Tops will win a Robeks Smoothie party. Please keep your fundraising efforts in mind during your holiday shopping!



Shauna Quezada and Patricia Pelc
Community Partnerships

Skating Parties - Save the Date!



The next Skating Party is on December 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Fountain Valley Skate Center. Keep in mind that this is a fundraiser for Seacliff. Not only will the kids be socializing and exercising, but the school will be earning money, too! All ages and ability levels are welcome with a chaperone. There is a \$5.00 entry fee, which includes skates.

Kecia Van Mechelen

Student Store Update!



Have you noticed all of the new spirit wear on campus? Thank you for visiting us at the student store! The response for spirit wear was tremendous! All orders should have been filled by the end of October. Please let us know if you have not received your order or if you have any questions. Remember, Spirit Days are every Friday. However, don’t hesitate to let your children wear their Huntington Seacliff spirit wear EVERY DAY! Also, field trips, skating parties, and Author’s Day are all great times to show your school spirit. We have a limited supply of extra items left for those who would still like to place an order.

Karen Wooten and Carol Sakamoto
Student Store Chairs



ASSEMBLIES:

Seacliff Has the Best Seats in the House!

This year, we have made arrangements for some wonderful assemblies for the students at Seacliff. On October 22, we were treated to “Zip’s Great Day,” a magical musical with a healthy message. Through singing, dancing, drama, and puppetry, important information was shared about nutrition and exercise. This educational theatre program was provided to our school through Kaiser Permanente.

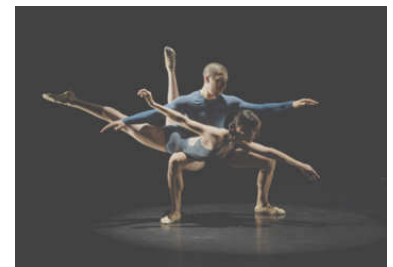


In December, the children will celebrate the holidays with Backhausdance, a contemporary dance company. Backhausdance is described as having “a diverse repertory that is entertaining, as well as artistic. Repertory works include powerful, athletic dances, emotionally charged dramatic pieces, and whimsical, humorous glimpses at the human experience.” We are excited about bringing these artists to Seacliff on December 11.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our assemblies. Our goal is to provide our children with well-rounded experiences in the arts and sciences through quality programs. These events are possible because of PTA fundraising efforts. We will present two additional shows during the second semester. More details to come!

Bravo, Seacliff!

Laurie Benson
Assemblies Chair



Spotlight On Our “New” Staff

This feature in our PTA newsletter highlights our new staff members and welcomes them to the Seacliff family. Thank you to everyone for supplying their personal information, so that we may get to know you better.



Ashley Arriola

Meet Seacliff Elementary’s new first grade teacher! Ms. Ashley Arriola, who formerly taught at Smith Elementary, is Seacliff Elementary’s new first grade teacher in Room 7. While entering her third year in her teaching career, she feels that one of her favorite things about teaching young children is watching the students grow and inspiring them to learn.

Aside from Ms. Arriola’s role as an educator, she enjoys playing the volleyball. Another one of Ms. Arriola’s hobbies includes shopping.

When asked about her experience at Seacliff thus far, Ms. Arriola indicated that, “The staff has been awesome. I feel right at home!”

Welcome to Seacliff, Ms. Arriola!



Stacy Britton

Mrs. Britton, who previously taught at Eader Elementary, is Seacliff Elementary’s new kindergarten teacher in Room 3. As she begins her tenth year in teaching, she feels that one of her favorite things about teaching young children is seeing the excitement in a child’s eyes when he/she learns something new. (continued on next section)



Mrs. Lakoff, Ms. Arriola, and Mrs. Britton



Alison Lakoff—Resource Specialist

Mrs. Lakoff, who previously taught at Seacliff during 2006-2008, has returned to Seacliff Elementary as our Resource Specialist Program (RSP) teacher, after having taken a year off to travel. After being a teacher for six years, Mrs. Lakoff cherishes those moments when she sees and hears her students smile and laugh.

On a personal note, Mrs. Lakoff is originally from Chicago, Illinois. She loves baseball and is a big Chicago Cubs fan! Some of Mrs. Lakoff’s hobbies and interests include surfing, yoga, walking, swimming, and spending time with her husband. Recently, Mrs. Lakoff and her husband got a desert tortoise as a new pet. Apparently, desert tortoises have a long life span, and can live up to 60 years old!

When asked about she feels about returning to Seacliff after taking a year off, Mrs. Lakoff remarked that, “I love it so much and am thrilled to be back!”

Welcome to back to Seacliff, Mrs. Lakoff!

(Mrs. Britton cont.)

In addition to Mrs. Britton’s dedication to educating children, she enjoys playing the piano, soccer, traveling, and spending time with her family. She is the busy mother of two young daughters, ages two and four.

When asked about her experience at Seacliff thus far, Mrs. Britton commented that, “The staff and community have been very welcoming...and the students are super stars! I really appreciate the involvement of the parents and their willingness to help out in any way they can.”

Welcome to Seacliff, Mrs. Britton!

GATE TESTING

The district provides a special program for students who are intellectually gifted. Children in grades 1 – 7 who perform extremely well on the district-administered Otis-Lennon School Ability Test and other standardized measurements may qualify for placement in the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program. If you think your child might qualify for this program and would like to have him/her assessed, please contact Debbie Bartlett in the GATE Office at (714) 964-8888, Extension 2036, beginning on Monday, November 2, 2009 to request a Permission-to-Test Form.

The last day to request permission forms
is on Thursday, December 10, 2009.

Please note that district policy limits the number of times a student may be assessed. Students may be assessed a maximum of two times between first and seventh grade. Due to the limited opportunities to test for the GATE program, you might want to discuss with your child's teacher at your parent conference in December if this would be an appropriate time to have your child assessed.

Testing will take place during January and early February 2010. Children who qualify for placement in the program will be placed in the fall of the 2010-11 school year.

EDUCACION TALENTOSA

El distrito proporciona un programa especial para estudiantes que son intelectualmente talentosos. Los niños del primer grado – 7 que realizan muy bien las pruebas administradas en el distrito en la Habilidades en la prueba de la Escuela de Otis-Lennon y otras medidas estandarizadas pueden calificar para la colocación en el Programa de la Educación Talentosa. Si usted piensa que su niño quizás califique para este programa y querría que a él/ella le hagan una evaluación, por favor pongase en contacto Debbie Bartlett, Servicios Técnicos del Program de Educacion Talentosa, al 964-8888, ext. 2036, empezando el 2 de noviembre de 2009 necesitará la Forma de Permiso de Pruebas

El último día para solicitar las formas de permiso
es jueves, el 10 de diciembre de 2009.

Note por favor que esa política del distrito limita el número de veces que un estudiante puede ser evaluado. Los estudiantes pueden ser evaluados un máximo de dos veces entre primero y séptimo grado. Debido a las oportunidades limitadas de evaluar para el Programa de Educación Talentosa, usted quizás quiera discutir con el maestro de su niño en la conferencia de padres en diciembre, si es el tiempo apropiado de evaluar a su niño.

La pruebas se llevarán a cabo durante enero y el principio febrero 2010. Los niños que califican para la colocación en el programa serán asignados en el otoño del año escolar 2010-11.



Art Reflections



Our PTA-sponsored Art Reflections program concluded on October 16. We had more than 60 submissions this year with 21 of them going onto the District PTA for the next level of judging. Art Reflections is a wonderful program that encourages students in the arts and gives them recognition for their endeavors. With this year's theme was, "Beauty is..." Seacliff students submitted entries in visual arts, photography, musical composition, and literature.

Thank you to everyone who participated. We have a very talented group of artists here at Huntington Seacliff Elementary. The top three entries in the visual arts and photography categories are now on display in the Children's Wing of the Huntington Beach Central Library through November 30. The outstanding entries in each category are:

<u>Art Category</u>	<u>Primary Age Division</u> (K – 2nd Grades)
Visual Arts	Kristin Adams - " <i>Light Up the Night</i> " Trae Morton - " <i>Power of Nature</i> " Whitney Slome - " <i>Beauty & The Beach</i> "
Photography	Justin Khan - " <i>Beauty is a Sunset</i> " Emma Krajewski - " <i>The City & The Tower</i> " Trae Morton - " <i>Flying High</i> "
Musical Composition	Melayna Lasky - " <i>What's Beautiful</i> "
Literature	Alexandria Nazareno - " <i>Family</i> " Whitney Slome - " <i>Beauty & The Beach Poem</i> "

<u>Art Category</u>	<u>Intermediate Age Division</u> (3rd - 5th Grades)
Visual Arts	Luke Heine - " <i>Underwater Beauty</i> " Rachel Leou - " <i>Running Wild</i> " Beau Morton - " <i>Beauty is Outer Space</i> "
Photography	Wyatt Benson - " <i>What You Don't Always See</i> " Annabel Hwang - " <i>Beauty is New Life</i> "

(See next section)

(Photography cont.)

Isabelle Krajewski - "*Good Morning Sunshine*"

Music Composition



Darius Moaddeli - "*Feelings*"
Susan Nguyen - "*Beautiful Spring*"
Anika Van Mechelen - "*Beauty is in Our Souls*"

Literature



Luke Heine - "*Mt. Rainer Nat'l Park is Beautiful*"
Julia Petty - "*Acrostic Poem*"
Gabrielle Ross - "*Beauty*"

Congratulations! Good luck on going all the way to the National PTA! Look for all of the beautiful Sea Star entries on display at Seacliff. Students can start thinking about next year's theme, "Together we can..."

Marianne Morton
Art Reflections Chair

From the Nurse...



Flu and Flu-like Illness



This year, we are expecting a higher than usual spread of flu and flu-like illness. You can help prevent the spread of the flu by washing your hands frequently, covering your mouth, avoiding close contact with sick people, and by getting a flu shot. If either you or your child does become ill, please keep your child at home until he/she has been fever-free for 24 hours.

If your child should become ill at school, we will need to have him/her picked up immediately, in order to avoid spreading the illness to other children and staff. You may want to consider donating an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to your child's classroom. Thank you for your help in keeping our children healthy. For more information, please go to the district web page.

Melissa Giles RN, MSN
District Nurse
Huntington Beach City School District
20451 Cramer Lane
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

Seacliff on the High Seas

Spring Gala—April 24, 2010



Welcome aboard, Seacliff families! We are truly excited for you to join us this year as "Seacliff on the High Seas" sets sail on April 24, 2010 for our annual Spring Gala. As our Captains prepare for a fun-filled night, we need **many** volunteers to make it all come together! Our committee heads are in place and they will need a lot of support from our Seacliff families. Please contact Stephanie Franklin or DeEtte Kirkconnell to find out how you can help to chart a successful course on the Seacliff Seas!

At Back to School Night, we had sign up sheets for anyone interested in helping with the class baskets. Thank you to those of you who signed up. If you are interested and have not signed up, please contact Tracy McKelvey.

The Spring Co-Chairs would like to give a big thank you in advance to these wonderful stewards for embarking on this adventure with us!

Advertising Yvonne Palmer (714) 843-9321 - yvnpalmer@aol.com and Roseanne Ross
Baskets Tracy McKelvey (714) 843-1199 - tracy@mckelvey-family.net and Cathy Dean

(see next column)

Three Cheers For Our Volunteers!



Thank you to everyone who jumped right in to get the 2009-10 school year off to a great start! We had a fantastic first few weeks of school thanks to the enthusiastic support from our parent and student volunteers, as well as our incredible front office staff!

Our volunteers were responsible for assembling the First Day Packets you received; they assisted families in finding their classrooms on the first day of school; and they kept the traffic moving while ensuring the safety of our families and students in the parking lot.

We send you all great big hugs and endless thanks!



Sincerely,

Susan Petersen and Jane Gardner
Volunteers Co-Chairs

(Spring Gala cont.)

Bid Paddles Terri Yost (714) 969-6669 — myost@socal.rr.com and Tracy Pelletier
Decorating Jamie Donovan (714) 374-2846 — cdonovan@socal.rr.com and Sherry Kennedy
Procurement Hope Partch (714) 539-0544 - hope@partchfamily.com
Tickets Nikki Schutz (714) 536-4947 - nikschutz@hotmail.com
VP of Operations Carol Hunneyman (714) 960-6270 - ch@c-systems.com

Best regards from your Spring Gala Co-Chairs,

Stephanie Franklin (714) 960-2743 — sfranklin7@socal.rr.com &
DeEtte Kirkconnell (714) 969-0049 — dkjewels@yahoo.com



Remington, Matisse, O'Keefe, Cassatt, and Chagall-- Can you identify why each of these artists are "masters"? If not, your Seacliff student will be able to tell you! Through Seacliff's P.T.A. funded Art Masters program, students will "meet" each of these master artists at monthly assemblies, when a visiting Art Master lecturer "introduces" each of these masters through interactive slide presentations, music, games, and storytelling.

But, it doesn't end there! The students will then be treated to a monthly studio art lesson in their classroom using artist quality materials. With each of these art lessons, the students are challenged to create their own masterpiece, utilizing the featured master's art element, which they are most famous for. Plus, an experienced studio art instructor will teach each classroom an art lesson!

The first Art Master lecture was on October 13, and the students learned about Frederic Remington. They were introduced to a visual history of the American West through Remington's exciting paintings, drawings, and sculptures, while learning of his quest to record America's Old West. Then, in the art activity, students created beautiful desert landscapes using Remington's techniques of chalk staining and line drawing. Please take the time to ask your child about this art master.

When you visit Seacliff, you will notice some of the student's beautiful master recreations displayed on the walls along the hallways of the school. Take a good look! Who knows?! One of our very own Seacliff students may someday become a featured art master themselves!

Jeanne Woltman
Meet the Masters Chair

Huntington Seacliff PTA Calendar November 2009 - February 2010

Nov. 6	Picture make-up day	Jan. 5	Meet the Masters
Nov. 6	Board Meeting (8:30 a.m.)	Jan. 8	Board Meeting (8:30 a.m.)
Nov. 9	PTA Meeting (7:00 p.m.)	Jan. 11	PTA meeting (7:00 p.m.)
Nov. 11	Veteran's Day (Holiday)	Jan. 18	Martin Luther King (Holiday)
Nov. 17	Meet the Masters	Jan. 27	<i>Author's Day</i>
Nov. 23-24	Staff Development Days (Non-pupil days)	Feb. 2	Meet the Masters
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Recess	Feb. 3	Kindergarten Round-Up (6:30 p.m.)
Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Book Fair	Feb. 3	Skating Party
Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Parent Conferences Week (Non-pupil day on Dec. 2)	Feb. 4	Kindergarten Round-Up & Tour (9:00 a.m.)
Dec. 8	Skating Party	Feb. 8	Lincoln's Birthday (Holiday)
Dec. 11	Assembly - Anaheim Ballet	Feb. 12	Valentine's Day parties
Dec. 18	Holiday parties - last day of school before Winter Break	Feb. 15	President's Day (Holiday)
Dec.21-Jan.1	Winter Recess	Feb. 18	Open House
Jan. 4	School resumes	Feb. 23	G.A.T.E. Night @ Peterson
		Feb. 25	G.A.T.E. Night @ Seacliff
		Feb. 26	Board Meeting (8:30 a.m.)

Seacliff Sea Star News
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