



# WEST ORANGE WARRIORS

West Orange Elementary School

November 2014

Jennifer Bourgeois, Ph.D, Principal

Dear West Orange Warriors Parents and Community Members,

With the fall season now upon us, visions of leaves changing colors, the feel of crisp cool air, and the smells of cinnamon and spice surround us! As we enter this Thanksgiving season, I would like to say thank you to the staff, parents and community members for their support for our school. There are many wonderful events happening at West Orange and it is because of everyone working together to provide the best learning opportunity for our students. For this, I am eternally grateful!

In this issue of the newsletter, there are several important pieces of information regarding our school. Please take a moment and read over this news.

During this school year we have many exciting things taking place! Every classroom has adopted a college. On Mondays, students are encouraged to wear their class college colors or shirts from their class college colors. The list of classes with their colleges can be found below. Our teachers in grades three - five are focusing on doing STEM experiments while working with an artist from the Segerstrom Center. Our STEM After-school Academies in Robotics and Engineering will be in full swing by the end of the month. We have partnered with Phoenix House. They are a nonprofit organization who work with the school and families to provide mental health/counseling support to our families. Students in fifth grade will be taught weekly lessons on topics, such as Self-Concept: Family & Friends, Managing Your Talents, Bullying Prevention, Self-Honesty and many other lessons. Phoenix House will also be working with our School Counselor and School Psychologist to support all our students. Coupled with all these exciting ventures, our teachers are continuing to bring 21st Century Learning to their classrooms by creating highly engaging classrooms that integrate technology, critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication on a daily basis.

Staff Member	College
Dr. Bourgeois	University of California, Riverside, California Baptist University, Claremont Graduate University
Mrs. Koehler/ Mrs. Newman	University of Southern California
Mrs. Donaldson	University of California, Irvine
Mrs. Draffen	University of California Santa Barbara
Ms. Williams	University of Southern California
Ms. Lonergan	Loyola Marymount
Mrs. Corpus	University of California Los Angeles
Mrs. BLT/ Miss Kelley	University of Florida
Mrs. Smith	Chico State
Mrs. Anderson	University of California San Diego
Mrs. La Morte	University of Washington and Santiago Canyon College

Staff Member	College
Mrs. Davis	University of Hawaii
Mrs. Owens	Chapman University
Ms. Wong	University of California, Berkley
Mrs. Wagner	California State University, Fullerton
Mr. Maxwell	San Diego State
Mrs. Flindt	Concordia University, Irvine
Ms. Johnston/ Mrs. Hain	University of Colorado, Boulder
Mrs. Schaack	Syracuse University
Mrs. Craig	California Poly Technic University, San Luis Obispo
Mrs. Anderson (Library)	Arizona State University
Mrs. Boyd, Mrs. Bailey, and Mrs. Ferrar	University of Nebraska

I would like to recognize and congratulate our members of three different groups on our campus:

**School Site Council (Each position is a 2 year term)**

Tatiana Amezola (Year 1 member)  
Milly Bravo (Year 2 member)  
Cindy Krise (Year 2 member)  
Dayana Moreno (Year 2 member)  
Irma Santiago (Year 2 member)  
Celeste Davis (Year 2 member)  
Cathy Lonergan (Year 2 member)  
Carri Wagner (Year 2 member) (Chairperson)  
Linda Anderson (Year 1 member)

**English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)**

President - Dayana Moreno  
Vice President – Dina Benitez  
Secretary – Silvia de Jesus

**West Orange School Association (WOSA - our parent group organization)**

President - Cindy Krise  
Vice President - Brandie Smith  
Treasurer - Ryko Yang  
Secretary - Hector Nieto

**District Advisory Council (DAC)**

Milly Bravo  
Brandie Smith

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered on the campus and with projects they have worked on at home for the teachers. We appreciate the support. You can also be involved with your son or daughter's education by talking with them every day. Ask them to explain to you what they learned each day. Expect your son or daughter explain what they have learned in complete sentences. They will love sharing all the new concepts they are learning!

May you and your families have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Warm wishes,  
Jennifer Bourgeois, Ph.D.  
Principal  
West Orange Elementary School



Fourth grade students using the “4Cs”: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.



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## Information on AB1575

On September 29, 2012, the governor signed AB 1575, a bill that codifies the State Constitutional ban on pupil fees and details. Existing law requires the Legislature to provide for a system by which a public school is required to be supported by a district. Existing law prohibits a pupil enrolled in public school from being required to pay a fee, deposit, or other charge not specifically authorized by law. This bill would prohibit a pupil enrolled in a public school from being required to pay a pupil fee, as defined, for participation in an educational activity. The bill would provide that this prohibition is not to be interpreted to prohibit solicitation of voluntary donations, voluntary participation in fundraising activities, or school districts, schools, and other entities from providing pupils prizes or other recognition for voluntarily participating in fundraising activities. The bill would specify that these provisions apply to all public schools, including, but not limited to, charter schools and alternative schools, are declarative of existing law, and should not be interpreted to prohibit the imposition of a fee, deposit, or other charge otherwise allowed by law.

## Information on GATE: Gifted and Talented Education

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction is currently beginning the GATE screening and identification process for the 2014-2015 school year. This school year OUSD will facilitate universal screening of all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students for the GATE Program. Parents who do not want their child tested may fill out an option out form, which can be obtained from the classroom teacher or the GATE office. Students in second grade and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade may be referred for GATE testing by parents, teachers, or administrators. Screening will begin on January 26, 2015 through March 6, 2015. Identification results will be mailed home by mid-April, 2015.

Identification for GATE involves a review of multiple criteria including

- SAI score on the district selected cognitive abilities test
- Student achievement records
- Lexile score
- Student Profile of Gifted Characteristics

Parents have the option for students that qualify for GATE Identification to have them attend the assigned GATE magnet school or to remain at their home schools. **Please note that students qualifying in grades 5 and 6 are often waitlisted due to lack of space at the elementary level but are then eligible for preferred enrollment for Honors courses at the middle school level.**

If a parent wishes to refer a student for consideration, please submit a Referral form online, which can be found on the OUSD GATE website, [www.orangeusd.org/gate](http://www.orangeusd.org/gate) or contact the GATE office at 714-628-5451. **All parent referrals must be submitted to the GATE office no later than December 5, 2014.**