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Testing Helps Us Plan Individual, School-Wide Needs

By Donna Tripi
Principal

It is **TESTING** time once again and all of the students in our school in grades 2-5 are currently taking the CST's (California Standards Tests) or STAR Testing. These standardized tests, given in reading/language arts and mathematics (and an additional test in science at fifth grade) are part of the state's accountability system and are used to assess how well our students are learning the California State Standards at their grade levels.

I know that all of you recently attended parent conferences and that you are very much aware that we work through the year to ensure that our students are proficient or advanced in the standards in all subject areas. This expert instruction throughout the year will prepare your students well for the state testing.

In addition to aligning our curriculum and instruction to the standards, we also teach the students the strategies that they will need to do well on the tests. Test passages and questions truly are a "genre" of reading like no other. The strategies involved in completing standardized tests are very different from those the children are asked to use

See Tripi, Page 7



Where's the gold?

4th graders dressed and acted the part of miners and prospectors during the recent '49er Day. See page 7 for more photos.

PTO Needs Your Skills, Your Talents, Your Time

By Maia Clewley
VP of Volunteers

There are so many exciting events going on at LJES at this time of year, it makes it difficult to think about next year. However, we must. We need to find people to lead PTO programs for 2009-2010. Remember, it is parental commitment and volunteering that help to make La Jolla Elementa-

ry School a wonderful place to send your children to school.

Here are the PTO General Board Positions that are still open (the following list does not include positions that were filled at the Volunteer Fair as this issue went to print before that event):

Art Show Coordinator: The Chair would coordinate an art show in the spring with art teachers and art room volunteers.

Assembly Photographer 4th & 5th grade: This person is in charge of photographing students at the grades 4 and 5 recognition assembly. The parent would then download the photos and give a set to the office. (All supplies will be reimbursed.) There are six assemblies in the year (approximately every six weeks).

Database Communications: The job responsibilities include sending out eblasts to the LJES community through our web-based program, Constant Contact.

Ice Cream Sales: The Chair is in charge of orga-

nizing volunteers to sell ice cream at Pizza Wednesday. Volunteers are responsible for purchasing the ice cream once a month (to be reimbursed), selling ice cream, and counting the money twice a month for deposit.

Readers are Leaders: This program brings in members of the community to read to the students at LJES. The Chair will work closely with Susie in the office, helping her mail letters and confirm attendees.

Read Me a Story Coordinator: This program gives teacher-picked students at LJES the extra read aloud time they need to succeed at school. The Chair will have the administrative job of matching the children with volunteers who will read to them on a regular basis. This person will communicate between the volunteers and the teachers to make sure everything is running smoothly.

Public Relations: Help get the word out about how wonderful our school really is! Communicate

See PTO, Page 2

AMIGOS FIESTA

Friday, May 8

3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Game bracelet: \$5 in advance,

\$10 at door

Purchase online at ljes.org



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► PTO Needs You!

continued from page 1

with local newspapers and other outlets regarding upcoming events and school accomplishments. Update brochures and mission statements as needed. This job can be as big or as little as you want!

Partnerships With Local Shops (new position): This exciting new program has the potential to bring in much needed funds to LJES while providing advertising for parents' businesses and community stores. Volunteers would solicit new vendors, make sure their correct information is up to date on our new website, send out eblasts to LJES parents advertising the participating stores and track monies that are donated to the school.

Charity Chair (new position): The students, parents and staff of LJES believe in giving back to our community and helping those less fortunate. We encourage charities to use our school as a way to help their causes. The Charity Chair would organize our year of charitable giving with the principal and Student Council advisors. They would help the non-profit coordinator eblast to our parents about what they are doing/collecting and communicate with teachers if a classroom pitch is desired.

If you are interested in any of the above positions please contact me at kevin_maia@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for helping to run one of these exciting programs.

Maia Singer Clewley is VP of Volunteers for the PTO and parent to Matthew, 4th grade, and Daniel, 1st grade.

Help Wanted

Tidings is looking for several people to help out for the 2009-2010 year. Contact Sharon Jones at sharonlj@san.rr.com if you are interested in any of the following volunteer positions.

Advertising Manager: This person would communicate with potential advertisers, answer questions about deadlines, make sure advertisers pay for the ad space, and make sure the ad they submit is good enough quality to print.

"Meet the Parents" Columnist: This person would write a regular column called "Meet the Parents," which would have tidbits about parents whose kids attend LJES.

Photo wrangler: This person would encourage class photographers and teachers to submit photographs to Tidings for publication.

Class Notes Columnist: This person would write a regular column about what is going on in the classrooms, with info taken from teacher letters to parents.

Advertise in Tidings

To place an ad in the Tidings, please contact Sharon Jones at 858-456-2039 or sharonlj@san.rr.com. Rates: \$75 business card size (3.5" x 2"), \$100 quarter page (3.75" x 5"), \$175 half page (7.5" x 5"), \$300 full page (7.5" x 10"). Checks should be made out to LJES PTO, Inc., and mailed or dropped off at the school office: 1111 Marine St., La Jolla, CA 92037, attention Sharon Jones. Or you can pay via the online store on the school's website (www.sandi.net/ljes). Payment must be received PRIOR to publication. Ads must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Submit ad graphics in digital format, either as a postscript file or a 300 dpi (minimum) raster image. Email lisastarr@cox.net if you have questions about formatting.



In honor of National Children's Dental Health Month, 20 classrooms enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Jennifer Still and Mrs. Lisa D'Angelo regarding proper oral hygiene and the importance of visiting the dentist.

Special Thanks

The PTO thanks:

- Lisa Goodin, Debbie Balmat and all their helpers for creating such a fun-filled evening of hands-on experiments at the Annual Family Science Night.
- Maia Clewley for organizing the much-needed Volunteer Fair.
- Maia Clewley for speaking at the budget cut public forum at Bird Rock Elementary.

Upcoming Events in May

1, 4-8 Testing

8 Amigos Fiesta

3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A fun filled afternoon of games, refreshments, food and live entertainment. Buy bracelet online.

11-15 MARE Week

Family Science Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

11-15 Teacher Appreciation Week

17 17th Annual Junior Olympics

Sponsored by Kiwanis Club, Edwards Stadium, La Jolla High. To register, talk to coach Kelly Wiskus.

17 MARE Habitat Parade

17 Voting Day

25 Memorial Day

School Closed



Help Us Improve Drive-Through Lane At Pick-Up

By Donna Tripi
Principal

The Traffic Committee met recently and discussed the safety and efficiency of the new traffic procedures implemented in January. Though we still have refinements to make, we hope you agree that the situation at pick-up is much improved over the system in place prior to winter break.

We appreciate your cooperation thus far and want to bring to your attention a few items that will make our drive-through lane more effective.

A Year of Friends

By Haleh Bolour
President of Friends of LJES

A warm-hearted thank you on behalf of Friends of LJES, to you wonderful, generous parents, who supported Friends' initiatives and fundraisers throughout this academic year. With your support, we have been able to continue providing programs that offer an improved educational experience for our kids at LJES. Of course, this would not have been a job well done without the dedication, commitment, and solidarity of the Friends group themselves – who are devoted parents, just like you and I - with much perseverance and passion, to help our children at LJES. I am privileged and grateful to have been working alongside them, towards this cause.

With this recession and economic hardship upon us, you amazing families could not have been more involved in supporting our mutual mission.

I'd like to highlight again the Friends' four fundraisers and give much-deserved recognition and thanks to their chairs and members. All of these programs required a great deal of organization, and collaboration, which brought together many LJES volunteers who worked relentlessly to make these programs a success for LJES.

- Annual Giving Campaign (AGC) – yearly cash drive, chaired by Sabrina Nelson, our “inspiring, dedicated” member
- eScrip – chaired by Dina Buckley, our “passionate and energetic” member
- Gala – chaired by Christina Andrews, our “cool, calm, and collected” member, and her terrific subcommittees & team of volunteers
- Open Aire Market – Sundays 9-1 upper field; OAM subcommittee members: Sherry Ahern, Dawn Villela, Aaron Roberts, Donna Scurio, Janine Davey

Needless to say, that there are those Friends members who work incessantly, and passionately behind the scenes to support the above programs as well. My sincere thanks and gratitude to:

Melinda Mahony for organizing the classroom art projects; Donna Scurio, our Treasurer who keeps us in line with budgets and expenditures; Kelley Al-bence, our much-admired Secretary who keeps our organization's minutes & records current and intact; Janine Davey for handling the teacher accounts, in addition to diligently counting and validating OAM monies weekly alongside Dolly Webster, Monica Simpson, and Martha Thiele; Dina Buckley for organizing a remarkable Gala Donor Thank you Party on a lean budget (and of course, the Riveroll family for graciously hosting the event at their house); Dawn Villela and Sherry Ahern for organizing and directing an astounding celebration for the Open Aire Market's 10th anniversary; Aaron Roberts for his sound, valuable counsel on the organization's legal affairs; Randi Hegeler for her supportive and guiding role as our Historian; DeAnna Andrews for her attentive advisory role to the Chair; Kristina Harvey, our awesome teacher “ambassador” as the link between Friends and LJES teachers; and of course, Sigurd Kallhovde ... well, what can I say about our beloved Mr.”K” who has bridged the gap between learning & technology with so much fun for the kids.

On Behalf of Friends, I thank you from the bottom of my heart, and look forward to your continued support and generosity to keep the programs alive and thriving for our kids' education at LJES.

Bolour is the President of Friends and the mother of 3rd grader Cameron.

- Please talk to your children about the line-up area. **We need children to wait in their alphabetical line, watching for their cars.** It is their responsibility to be in their spots and ready to come when called.

- **Please make plans in advance of pick up and let children know whether they should be on the drive through lines or walker lines.** We have many parents walking to the driver lanes to retrieve.

- Students must be picked up in the drive-through lane that begins at the gate opening where they are let out. **Students are not to walk on the sidewalk (Hershel) to jump into cars outside of the pick up area.** This leads to drivers who already have their students driving past cars as they are pulling away from the pick-up area curb.

- **Please do not get out of the car to assist your students with backpacks, seatbelts, etc.** The volunteers, teachers and principal are happy to help your child into the car so that you can remain in the driver seat ready to move out of the lane when your children are situated.

- **Please always show your sign (last name of children) in the window.** This helps the volunteers match students to cars. If you have lost the sign, please let a volunteer know and we'll get you a new one or, of course, you can make your own.

- **You will be asked to drive around the block if your child(ren) are not in the pick-up area.** We have been allowing parents to wait and it is slowing down the line. The line will move more quickly without stopped cars, so it should not cause a very long wait for you if you need to go around.

- Please practice courteous driving. Please watch other cars so that you are not cutting them off as you pull up in the line. **U-turns in the middle of the street are extremely unsafe and should not occur.**

- Please pay careful attention to pedestrians while driving, ensuring that you are not distracted by phones, pets, etc.

- **Morning Drop Off :** We have people who are parking on the curb to either walk children into school or to do business in the office (e.g. pay for lunches). You can not leave cars on the curb unattended as it creates unsafe traffic practices for the other parents dropping off their children.

Thank you for your help and cooperation!

Ms. Tripi can be reached at dtripi@sandi.net.



Slimy Fun

From cups of slime to rocket competitions, everyone had a blast at this year's Family Science Night. There were more activities than ever, and tables run by cool teen-agers who make up the LJHS Science Team (thanks to Ben Foroozan and Martin Teachworth of our Rendezvous Science partnership).



LJES Art Projects Selected for High-Profile Show

By **Maia Clewley**
VP of Volunteers

Many LJES students' amazing artwork is being exhibited in the biennial Young Art Show sponsored by the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park. Congratulations to all the students selected.

The Young Art 2009: Expressing Literature exhibition runs from April 18th - May 31st.

This premier show honors the best K-12 artwork in San Diego's city and county public and private schools. Mrs. Sonya Devine and Mrs. Avril Butbul submitted student work to the show, as did teachers from 64 other schools. A group of teachers and artists well-versed in art compared the submissions on the basis of visual appeal, age-appropriateness and originality. Over 150 works were selected for the San Diego Museum of Art exhibition and an additional 150 works were selected for display at eight branch libraries throughout San Diego County.

"I wish more kids could have gotten in. There were so many amazing pieces," said art teacher Ms. Devine.

LJES-produced artwork will be shown in two locations: The San Diego Museum of Art and the Pacific Beach Branch Library.

LJES student artwork will be featured at the San Diego Museum of Art from April 18th to May 31st as part of the exhibition Young Art 2009: Expressing Literature

Those selected to have their work exhibited in the museum include: second-grader, Talia Freund, third-graders, Lukas Bohannon and Jason Hickson, fourth-grader, Matthew Clewley, and fifth-graders, Stephany Garcia, Claire Andrews, and Kara Whang. In addition, ALL of the Ocean Poems from Mrs. Aspasia Nicolaidis's third-grade class are displayed at the museum. Matthew Clewley and Claire Andrews have chosen to participate in a special interactive program on Sunday, May 10th or 17th. They, along with other young artists from the exhibit, will answer questions and discuss the process they used to create their artwork.

The students whose artwork was chosen for the Pacific Beach Library are: second-graders, Antonia Lacerdo and Sophie McCormick, third-grader, Mone Fukushima, fourth-graders, Griffin Young and Chloe Dore-Gomes, and fifth-grader, Lucian Knock. ALL of the ocean poems from Ms. Carolyn Ruzsala's third-grade class are displayed.

A huge thanks goes out to Ms. Devine and Ms. Butbul for everything they




Art Teacher Sonya Devine stands with some of the artists being recognized in the Young Art Show.

did to submit so many pieces to the competition. It took a tremendous effort to fill out all the paperwork and go through the right processes to make sure nothing was damaged. Ms. Devine even went to an educator's art fair beforehand to learn more about the kind of projects that were being sought.

All of the funds for the LJES art program are donated by parents through Friends of La Jolla Elementary School, Inc. If you are interested in supporting the visual arts, simply go to www.LJES.org and click on donate to "Art for a Year."

Maia Singer Clewley is VP of Volunteers for the PTO and parent to Matthew, 4th grade, and Daniel, 1st grade.




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Teacher Feature

Ms. Lisa Popovich: Bond Trader Turned 1st Grade Teacher

By Barbara Hagey

Some people have always known they wanted to teach. And some discover their love of the classroom after experiencing a completely different career. Ms. Lisa Popovich made her way to LJES by way of the stock market world. Surprised?

Ms. Popovich grew up in Pacific Beach and attended Crown Point Elementary, Pacific Beach Middle School and Mission Bay High. Her mother was school librarian and a teacher's aide. "It was really fun to see my mom during the day while I was in school," Ms. Popovich recalled. "During junior high I would sometimes help her after I got out of class."

Sadly, Ms. Popovich was orphaned in her late teens. Her cousin invited her to Philadelphia and got her a job as a bond trader, where she stayed until the stock market slump of 1989. She moved back

to San Diego and became an aide for Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Allison Carpenter, an experience that completely changed her career direction.

"I took the job not because I was planning to become a teacher, but because it was something I could do while I got another degree. But once I was in the classroom I loved it and couldn't imagine doing anything else," she said.

Ms. Popovich worked with Ms. Allison and 4th grade teacher, Ms. Debbie Balmat for six years while she completed her education degree and teaching credentials. She taught for four years at two other district elementary schools before returning to LJES 12 years ago.

Ms. Popovich feels that parents can best support their child's school experience by setting a good example -- by reading and continuing to learn, just



Lisa Popovich

like their kids. She likes to have her 5-year old son, Alex, observe her doing homework (she's currently working on a Masters degree in education).

She tells her son, who will enter kindergarten in the fall, "I'm doing my homework now -- it makes you smarter and helps you read better."

She also hopes that parents show enthusiasm for the projects their children bring home. "I know all of the school work piles up and becomes clutter so sometimes a parent's first inclination is to get rid of it. But this is their child's work -- it has value. Keep it around for just a little while and ask your child about it," she said.

Ms. Popovich also tries to make sure the children in her class feel encouraged and have a positive experience each day. "I still remember my early school years -- the days when I felt great about school and the days I felt bad," she said. "I don't ever want a child to have a bad memory of my classroom." The best thing a parent can tell her during parent/teacher conferences is, "My child loves coming to school."

Outside of school, Ms. Popovich likes to cook and to spend time outdoors with Alex and her husband, Scott. As a family, they bike, go to the park, and love to spend weekends camping in the desert and riding quad bikes. It seems those days as a bond trader in Philadelphia are far away.

Ms. Hagey is the mother of Carolee, a second grader. To submit an idea for a Teacher Feature, email her at bhagey@pisces.cts.com Kelly's column

Public Schools Need Your Vote On May 19th

The California State PTA urges you to vote on May 19th. The PTA's official position on various propositions is listed in the chart below. For details about how these propositions will help or hurt public schools, visit the California State PTA website -- www.CAPTA.org. Look for the link in the "What's New" section of the home page.

"If Proposition 1C (Lottery Funds) does not pass, California's budget deficit will immediately increase by \$5 billion," said Lorene Joosten, Vice President of Legislation for the 9th District PTA. "This is in addition to the \$8+ billion shortfall already identified by the Legislative Analyst since the 17-month budget was enacted in February."

State PTA Positions on May 17th Propositions:

Proposition	Position
1A Spending Cap/Rainy Day Fund	Support
1B Education Funding	Support
1C- Lottery Funds	Support
1D- Proposition 10 Funds	Oppose
1E- Proposition 63 Funds	Support



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Kelly's Column

Be Kind to the Earth Every Day

By Kelly Wiskus
P.E. Teacher

We have been having a ball in PE working on basketball and volleyball skills as well as learning about muscular strength and endurance.

Congrats to the 5th graders for completing their tryouts for the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. All students will receive a certificate for one of the three award levels: Participant, National, or Presidential. In May, we will focus on Track & Field (in preparation for the Junior Olympics) and Baseball.

Hope to see you at the Junior Olympics! Entry forms can be picked up and dropped off at the office. I am also still looking for ideas for the LJES Team T-Shirts!

In celebration of Earth Day, which was April 22, here are some tips on making EVERYDAY Earth Day by raising your child to be eco-centered.

1. Be the kind of person you want your child to be. Model the behaviors that you want to instill in your child.

2. Introduce your child to the source of the food they eat. Take a trip to a local farm and include your child in the family meal planning and grocery shopping. Become a community supported agriculture (CSA) member and have fresh, local produce delivered regularly (see [HYPERLINK "http://www.sandiegoroots.org/csa.html"](http://www.sandiegoroots.org/csa.html) www.sandiegoroots.org/csa.html for more information).

3. Choose better treats. Processed foods typically have more packaging, which creates more waste and are usually high in sodium, sugar & fat.

4. Don't take your paper products for granted. This includes napkins, paper towels & toilet paper.

5. BYOB: Bring your own bag. Most stores sell reusable bags or use some you already have at home.

6. Clean green. This will not only keep harmful chemicals out of the environment, but also makes it safer for your children to be a part of household chores.

7. Re-use regularly. Children grow out of

clothes, shoes & toys quickly. Collaborate with relatives, friends and even use websites to coordinate clothes & toy "swapping".

8. Throw a smart party. Think about all of the birthday and holiday parties you will host over a lifetime and how much waste the paper products, balloons & decorations will generate. Involve your child in picking out reusable items that will last.

9. Play naturally. Choose simple toys for your children that are free of possible toxic plastics and paint. These toys will also stimulate more creativity and imagination.

10. Limit screen time. This includes TV, computer & video games which will decrease your energy use and promote more reading & physical activity time!

These tips were taken from Marisa Belger's "Ga-ga-goo-green? 10 Tips to Raise an Eco-Kid." To read the article in full please go to today.msnbc.msn.com and click on the Parenting link.

Ms. Wiskus can be reached at kwiskus@sandi.net.

Spring Harvest
at the **La Jolla Open Aire Market**

Now in Season:
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Beautiful Artisans, Food Court, Fresh Cut Flowers, Live Music, Weekly Fun for the Whole Family.

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Advertisements now being accepted for the June 2009 issue of The Tidings

see page 2 for details



► Testing Results Released in August

continued from page 1

in their classrooms (and in life) each day.

They are taught to read in class and at home for enjoyment as well as to gain information. They use strategies to help them read and understand the text. **The purpose of reading test passages is to answer very specific comprehension, grammar or word usage questions.** Some of the questions ask them the main idea of their reading, some ask for specific information in the text, some ask how sentences should be written, how paragraphs should be started or ended, etc. **For some children, reading the question before reading the passage is helpful, for others it is more helpful to do a careful read of the passage and then to read the questions and go back in the text to find the answer.**

In testing, students should not rely on their own background information or inference to answer a question, **but must instead identify direct evidence in the text.**

Students are taught the language of standardized tests – terms, questions, or words that may be

unfamiliar to them. They are taught to be mindful of trick language in test questions, i.e. “Which statement is NOT true about . . . ?” Once they think they have an answer, they should reread the question to ensure that they have answered it correctly.

They have also been taught how to pace themselves and how to check their answers when they complete the test.

We used test preparation booklets that are approved by the state to give us good examples of the types of questions students will see on the tests. We also used test questions from prior tests that have been publicly released on the California Department of Education (CDE) website. We also did a practice test, provided by the state, before the actual test administration.

We hope that our students will be able to show what they have gained in the year. Test results are not released by the state until late August. We use them to plan individual and school wide needs for the fall.

Ms. Tripi can be reached at dtрпи@sandi.net.



4th Graders Go Back In Time

California history came alive at LJES recently as 4th graders celebrated ‘49er day. They dressed the part of people from the era and explored the challenges of the time. The 4th grade social studies curriculum requires students to demonstrate an understanding of how the Gold Rush period changed the population and economy of California, and how it affected the environment and the people already living here.



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Teacher Appreciation Week To Be Celebrated May 11-15

Flowers and cards will be showered on LJES teachers this month as part of the annual Teacher Appreciation Week, which will be celebrated May 11-15th.

The goal of Teacher Appreciation Week is simple: to show teachers that you value their work. Gifts that are always appreciated by educators include:

- Homemade gifts, such as small plants in pots decorated by students
- Notes of appreciation from students (for example, a class photo with the children’s comments written around the edge)
- Certificates for practical gifts (like car washes, groceries, and dry cleaning) or indulgences (coffee treats, restaurants, movie theater passes)
- Classroom supplies or gift cards to a store that sells them

“The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life.”

—Plato

“Genius without education is like silver in the mine.”

—Benjamin Franklin



LJES Unveils New Website at LJES.org

By Fran Shimp
PTO President

Hopefully by now everyone has had a chance to sign on and check out the new school website, www.LJES.org. Our goal in designing this site was to make it as easy as possible for parents to obtain information about La Jolla Elementary School, including event descriptions and dates, available programs, teacher and staff contact info, parent involvement possibilities, even registration.

The Hotlinks section, located in the left column of the home page, will be updated throughout the year for direct access to current happenings. The right side of the home page displays our Upcoming Events. All program start and end dates, school closures, events, parent group meetings, minimum days and more, will be listed, hopefully eliminating the excuse of "I didn't know when it was..." If you click on an Upcoming Events item, you will be taken to our school's Google calendar where you can view all entries by week or month. Another highlight of our site are the roll-over, drop-down menus on the top tool bar allowing users to get to the page they want in one click.

We hope the website will be able to answer most of your school-related questions through-



out the year. If not, please don't hesitate to email a teacher, a staff member, or a parent group board member, as all of their contact information can now be found online. If you have any questions, comments or feedback regarding the site, please email Fran Shimp at FranandTodd@aol.com.

A special thank you to Peter Morris at Smashing Designs for donating his graphic design talents and making our new website so extraordinary.

Fran Shimp is PTO president and mother of Tanner, Kindergarten, and Roxy, second grade.

Proposed Budget Cuts Draw a Crowd at Bird Rock

A recent public forum at Bird Rock Elementary gave La Jolla parents an opportunity to address district leaders about proposals to raise class sizes and make smaller elementary schools share principals.

The forum, organized by Bird Rock parents, included presentations from nearly all of the La Jolla public schools. Maia Clewley, the Vice President of volunteers for the LJES PTO, spoke on behalf of La Jolla Elementary.

Speaking on behalf of the district was John de Beck, who sits on the district's governing board, and Superintendent Terry Grier. The parents and teachers who spoke made it clear that La Jolla is united in its opposition to a proposal to have Bird Rock Elementary (467 students) and Pacific Beach Elementary (308 students) share a principal.

La Jolla parents also presented their arguments why school administrators should not follow through with plans to raise class size to 24 students in Kindergarten through third grade.

On Tuesday, the day after the public hearing, the board unanimously voted to drop the idea of having the smallest elementary campuses share principals. They also voted to keep busing students to 31 themed magnets as part of an integration program.

"Three board members (including de Beck) spoke of how parents and teachers demonstrated a great deal of concern about the issue of shared principals," wrote Lisa Bonebrake, a parent organizer of the Bird Rock forum. "They did the right thing."

At the public forum, Grier said the district faces a \$140 million shortfall for the 2009-10 year, but DeBeck put it at \$200 million. They said it would be even higher if voters reject Proposition IC (State Lottery) on May 17th.

De Beck said San Diego Unified School District, the state's second largest district, is facing a budget crisis so severe it may drive it into bankruptcy by next summer. Grier urged parents to lobby state lawmakers to create a new funding system for the state's pub-

lic school system, which is currently one of the most poorly funded education systems in the country.

Maia Clewley was among several who suggested the district re-examine the costly OCILE program, which offers field trips to Old Town, Balboa Park and Palomar Mountain (Camp Palomar) that mix children of different ethnicities from across the district.

De Beck urged parents to contact the three board members who are currently controlling the district board: Shelia Jackson (sjackson@sandi.net), Richard Barrera (rbarrera1@sandi.net) and John Lee Evans (johnleeevans@sandi.net).

De Beck urged parents to help him separate La Jolla High and its feeder schools and two other high school clusters from San Diego Unified School District. He said that if the district was split, more money could be spent in the classroom. He urged people interested in joining the secession campaign to contact him at sdebeck1@san.rr.com.