

TIDINGS



A Winning Team

Many of this year's staff were able to break away for this impromptu picture on the first day of school. Back Row: Jess Bowman, Jr., Stephani Halloran, Marisa Martin, Johanna Weber, Joan Boyle, Stephanie Cole, Kristina Harvey, Cathy Wallace, Allison Carpenter; Middle Row: Valerie Burt, Yolanda Brumfield, Debbie Balmat, Nancy Rice, Suzanne Howard, Melissa Wood, Meagan Hood, Lori Zeichner, Erin Lewis, Irene Akiyama; Front Row: Marta Thiele, Holly Frank, Jessica Sandoval, Donna Tripi, Kelly Wiskus, Courtney Sakai, Julie Greathouse, and Michael Naylor. Not pictured: Gisela Baranda, Carilyn Bosworth, Sonya Devine, Kate Dyer, Matt Fowler, Angel Garcia, Cassandra Joseph, Sigurd Kallhovde, Diane Leffler, Jeri Lindberg, Matt Lyons, Aspasia Nicolaidis, Susie Payne, Lisa Popovich, Kelly Skommessa and Trissa Stanton.

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Tripi Outlines Essential Skills Plan

By **Donna Tripi**, *Principal*

We have had such an exciting start to the new school year. At the start of the school year, test scores were released by the state and we celebrated the great achievement of our students on the end of year standardized testing (CST/STAR testing) that resulted in significant gains in our school wide test scores. Our API (Academic Performance Index) is calculated on a formula based on the percentages of students in each of the proficiency bands. Because we had most of our Proficient/Advanced students in the Advanced band (68% of the 92% in ELA and 78% of the 95% in math), our index increased 57 points over last year's score to reach an amazing total of 971 out of 1000 points. This score puts us second highest in the district, fourth highest in the county and 44th highest in the state (9800 schools).

I am proudest of the fact that our scores increased due to strong instruction in the classroom through the year and not on intensive test preparation. The teachers work collaboratively at their grade levels to study the best instructional

practices and the best resources to teach students the rigorous California standards at their grade level. In the 2008-2009 school year, we found more ways to assess student understanding of grade level content and skills and used

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Friends of LJE: Let's Hit the Target ... One More Time

By **Haleh Bolour**, *President of Friends of LJE, Inc.*

A warm, heartfelt welcome to both new and returning LJES Families. Having a 4th grader, and a 9th grader (a LJES alum), I know how exciting (and stressful) the new year can be.

As you may know, I represent our school's fundraising group, Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc. a non-profit organization established in 1984. Comprised of LJES parents and community volunteers, it serves as LJES's

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PTO News

We're Off to A Great Start

By Fran Shimp, PTO President

Knowing how busy you all are, I've decided to skip the eloquently written welcome back letter filled with lyrical prose and detailed descriptions, and go with the quick bullet points filled with new information and brief reminders. If you'd prefer my long-winded version, I'd be happy to forward you a copy...

- PTO Meeting DATE CHANGE! Due to scheduling conflicts, PTO meetings will now be held at 8 a.m. on the third Wednesday of every month in the auditorium.

- The school directory should be out by now; if not, it will be soon! Please remember to only use the listed contact information for school or play-date purposes.

- REMINDERS (many of the following can be done through our website, www.LJES.org): Sign up for eBlasts, join the PTO, enter your volunteer interests on PTOManager.com, fax over your back-



ground check, sign your child up for After School Wednesday Programs, After School Science and Knowledge College, bring in your Box Tops, and enroll your business in Partnerships With Local Shops.

Service Learning Program Debuts

By Cynthia Kronemyer

Life's most persistent and urgent question is,
"What are you doing for others?"

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year all of the students at La Jolla Elementary School will be learning about doing volunteer work and being of service to others. This is a new and evolving program here at La Jolla Elementary.

As the chair of the PTO's new Service Learning Program, I would love to hear from any of you who have ideas about topics we may focus on, activities that might be fun and beneficial for our students to participate in as well as organizations that we might consider supporting. As with all LJES programs, I'd also appreciate hearing from parents who would have an interest in helping us with our service projects.

Since September was Disaster Preparedness Month and we are still not safely out of fire season, our first activities were related to that topic. We are asking all students to bring in items (see below) that would be needed by people if our area were to be struck by a disaster. These can be brought to your child's classroom anytime this month. We are also asking that each student learn more about disaster preparedness by going on-line to www.ready.gov "Ready Kids" and do the fun

Partnerships With Shops Grows

By Julie MacDonald and Laurie Ellsworth

If you would like to introduce your business to the almost 600 students and their families at La Jolla Elementary, we invite you to participate in our "Partnerships with Local Shops" program. This great marketing opportunity is designed to mutually benefit the school and your business as we encourage our families to seek out partner businesses, which in turn contribute a percentage of each LJES family transaction back to the school. Proceeds of the program directly benefit your children by supporting various programs operated by the PTO.

LJES mom, owner of Harmony Home Organization, and author of the newly published book *Organizing Do-It-Yourself for Dummies* Sandra Munson says, "Home Organization has long been my passion, and now it's my vocation as well. I love that Partnerships with Local Shops allows me to reach my target community without any out of pocket expenses. The perk? Dollars earned as a result of this program will directly support my children's education. Two birds with one stone!"

You can directly reach a large group of new and existing consumers through placement in our various school correspondence including Tidings, monthly eBlasts, our webpage and more. We will also provide a placard for display in your business that lets customers know about our partnership.

Some of the businesses which are currently benefiting from this program include: Vincall International Calling Service, Harmony Home Organization, Cartridge World Ink and Laser Cartridges, Studio m/Michael Spengler Photography, Kore Pilates, Careers with Wings/Manpower, and Secrets to Successful Parenting/Redirecting Children's Behavior.

If you are looking for a great way to increase sales while giving back to the community simply fill out the Partnerships with Local Shops form located on the LJES webpage under "Partnerships with Local Shops."

Support our California Distinguished School!!

For more information, please contact Julie MacDonald at jmacdonald@san.rr.com

activities that they find there. If your child completes the activities, they will be able to download a Certificate of Readiness which they can turn in to their teacher for a sticker. We'd like to have all of our students who earn a sticker wear it to the flag-salute assembly on the fourth Friday in October.

Another need that has been expressed to us is for the donation of gently used Halloween costumes for the children of local military families. We would like to collect these as well as the emergency kits. If you have any in your closets, please bag them up and have your children bring them in as well. We need these by Friday, October 16th so they can be distributed in time for Halloween.

I'm excited to have the opportunity to help educate, train and prepare our next generation of volunteers. If you have any input regarding our new Service Learning Program, please feel free to contact me. I'd love to hear from you. Disaster Preparedness Month

Please bring the following items in a sealed Ziplock Bag:

1. Toothbrush
2. Toothpaste
3. Soap
4. Comb
5. Shampoo

...AND any gently used Halloween costumes. :-)

Special Thanks

The PTO thanks (*in no particular order*):

- Susan Ruddick Walker, Valerie Juboori and all their helpers for organizing all the refreshments at the back to school PTO events such the Kindergarten BBQ, the welcome back parent coffee, and the PTO Teacher's luncheon.

- Dolores Hickman and her helpers for planning and hosting our always fun Back to School Family Picnic and to Wahoo's Fish Tacos on Girard Avenue for sponsoring it.

- Cindi Stratton and all the parents who helped prepare our Back to School folders the Friday before school started.

- Laney Beres for once again organizing the highly popular After School Wednesday Programs.

- Jen Snyder for successfully taking on the big role as Pizza Chair.

- Janna Elliot for continuing her role as the beloved Ice Cream Chair.

- Monica Simpson and her volunteers for their much-needed help in the school office.

- Mara Martin and her helpers for keeping our kids safe at pick up.

- Sally Martin and Jenna Wittkow for organizing and instructing all our new and former room parents (and to all you room parents who signed up for the job!)

- Marie Browning for making sure all our kids have a Comfort Kit in case of a disaster AND for organizing all the volunteer paperwork.

- Cindy Hickman for putting together our much-needed School Directory.

- Garth Conboy for putting together our informational School Handbook.

- Kiley MacDonald for organizing the ad sales for both the Handbook and Directory.

- Sharon Jones for sharing her editing expertise with Tidings, our school newsletter.

- Dolly Webster for collecting, cutting and counting hundreds of Box Tops.

- Michelle Campagna for chairing PTO membership.

- Julie MacDonald for getting Partnerships With Local Shops up and running.

- Cynthia Kronemyer for starting a Charity Program to help teach our children the importance of giving back.

- And finally, the PTO Executive Board, Shi Deng, Sandra Munson, Hiroko Wilson, Laney Alexander, Cindi Stratton, Michelle Campagna, Julie MacDonald, Sharon Jones, and Debbie Balmat, for all their hard work in making LJES the best school it can be.



► Tripi: We Need Your Help Building "Essential Skills"

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our grade level meetings to focus on analyzing the results of these assessments and planning ways to reteach individuals, small groups (and sometimes the whole group), concepts that they haven't learned securely.

At all of the Back to School Nights, I shared two initiatives that we think will make a difference in our students attitudes and skills levels this year – the Star Behaviors and La Jolla Elementary's Essential Skills Work Plan. While I talked at length about the Star Behaviors, I wanted to address our Essential Skills Work Plan with you in this issue of the Tidings.

Why an Essential Skills Work Plan?

As students go from one grade to another, they demonstrate an understanding of the concepts in each subject area and earn proficient and/or advanced grades. However, each year teachers have commented that students come to them without having some of the foundational skills they need for the next grade. For example, although students understand the concepts of multiplication and division at third grade, they have often not memorized the multiplication and division basic facts. If this is the case, they will find fourth grade work with

multi-digit multiplication and long division quite difficult and teachers will waste valuable instructional time reteaching basic facts.

The teachers at each grade level worked on what they felt were the most important skills for students to have for the next grade in reading, writing and mathematics. We came to agreement as a teaching staff on how the essential skills document increases in its demands from one grade level to the next.

How will the teachers be addressing these essential skills in the classroom?

Teachers will use the document along with the standards as a guide for planning instruction. They will be assessing these skills through the year and have established benchmarks to mark progress toward the end of year goals. Teachers will be reteaching skills that students are not fluent in through the year and will provide practice time for those areas that just need drill, e.g. addition and subtraction facts, sight word recognition. We will also provide computer programs that give students extra reinforcement.

How can parents help at home?

All parents should have received the Essential Skills Work Plan at the Back to School Night. Our hope is that we can work together to provide some of the practice that students need. We will be sending home some Essential Skills homework and ideas for you at home specific to your grade level. We hope that you will take some time at home to utilize the suggestions to work with your child consistently until they have the foundational skills. Achieving the skills can only happen with consistent daily practice both at home and at school until your child internalizes the skills (or knows them automatically).

We thank you for your support and look forward to another great year of partnering with you to help our children achieve success at their new grade level.

Ms. Tripi practically lives on campus, but she also can be reached at dtripi@sandinet.net.



After School Fun

Students play and learn for fun at various after-school programs. Chess, cooking, yoga, soccer, keyboarding, flute/recorder, Chinese, art and drawing are the programs currently being offered. Visit ljes.org to learn more about Wednesday after school programs.



Articles, Letters, Photos Wanted

Tidings is always looking for photos and articles to illustrate what is happening on campus. So keep us in mind when you go on a field trip or attend a class presentation. We'd like to see those fun photos that you took and to read the article by your child about a particular activity. Submissions should be sent to Tidings Editor Sharon Jones, sharonlj@san.rr.com.

Advertise in Tidings

To place an ad in Tidings, please contact Sharon Jones at 858-456-2039 or HYPERLINK "<mailto:sharonlj@san.rr.com>" sharonlj@san.rr.com. Rates: \$50 for a business card size ad, \$75 for a quarter page, \$150 for half page, and \$300 for a full-page ad. A 25% discount is offered to advertisers who pay upfront to advertise in 6 or more issues in this academic year. 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 (go to ljes.org and find the online store and Tidings Advertising). 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 post-script file or a 300 dpi (minimum) raster image. Email lisastarr@cox.net if you have questions about formatting.

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► Friends of LJE: Let's Hit Target – One More Time

continued from page 1

primary fundraising organization.

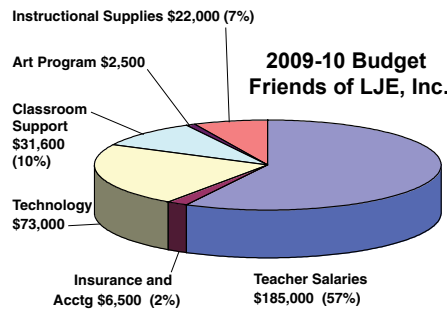
Without a doubt, the future belongs to the nation that best educates its children. We believe we have this legacy of excellence with our innovative principal, Ms. Donna Tripi, our wonderful, passionate teachers, our gifted students, and our incredible parents who make their child's education a priority.

With your help and generosity, Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc. raises the much-needed funds to implement programs that enhance the educational experience of every child. Last year, we raised over \$300,000 despite the economic downturn. Recent cuts in our budget due to the state fiscal crisis make it imperative that we increase our fundraising efforts.

Friends organizes and runs four main fundraisers:

Annual Giving Campaign:

This is where we ask you candidly for a tax-deductible, direct contribution to LJES thru pledge forms or online (www.ljes.org). It is chaired by Sabrina Nelson (sabnel@pacbell.net). Last year, this campaign brought in \$83,000, although only 37%



Fundraising Needed: \$320,000

of LJES families participated. We would like 100 percent participation this year.

Annual Gala/Auction:

This is one amazing night when parents come together for entertainment, food, music and raise funds through auctions and underwriting opportunities. Last year, we raised \$102,000. This year's theme is "A Night at the Oscars." Please save the date and join us on Saturday, March 20, at the La Jolla Marriott. Chair Christina Andrews can be reached at Chrisandrews@san.rr.com.

Open Aire Market:

Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the upper field of LJES, this community market offers fresh produce, flowers, gourmet foods, and artisans featuring clothing, jewelry and art. All net proceeds benefit LJES. Last year the market brought in over \$100,000. Please come and support your school. The OAM subcommittee includes Sherry Ahern, Dawn Villela, Donna Scurio, and Janine Davey.

EScrip:

This is a simple and powerful fund-raising tool that costs you nothing. Just register your Vons Club and/or credit cards and a percentage of all your purchases will be automatically credited to LJES (www.escrip.com). Last year, our school earned \$14,000 for the whole year. We can do better. Last year, some schools earned as much as \$15,000 in just six weeks. Dina Buckley is the acting chair (dinab1@mac.com).

La Jolla Art and Wine Festival:

This year we have added a fifth fundraiser, the La Jolla Art and Wine Festival. This unique two-day event (Oct 10- Oct 11 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) on Girard Street features artists, tastings from local and Northern Baja wineries, a children's art center, live music & entertainment, gourmet food, and more. There is something for everyone in the family to enjoy. Net proceeds from ticket sales and silent auctions will benefit the three La Jolla public elementary schools: ours, Bird Rock and Torrey Pines.

So, what do our fundraisers pay for at LJES? A lot. An additional teacher to lower class size in grades 4-5. The technology program and a technology instructor. The Choral Music Program and instructor. The art program and instructor. The full-time library/media technician. The EveryDay Math Program. Funds to support teachers' classroom needs and instructional supplies.

Which of these programs do you want to see cut? None, of course.

Please refer to the budget detail in the chart to see what we need to raise in 2009-10 for Friends to be able to continue providing these programs at LJES. We are counting on you for any support you can give. If you want to join our efforts, please attend our monthly meetings (typically the third Tuesdays at 8 a.m., in the library), or sign up for fundraising-related activities thru PTOManager. Every dollar you donate and every hour you volunteer makes a difference and builds a better future for our kids.

Haley Bolour can be reached at halyamini@hotmail.com.

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

Now in Season:
Apples, Carrots, Pears, Figs, Green Beans,
Sweet Potatoes, and so much more!

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

Every Sunday 9am-1pm, rain or shine
La Jolla Elementary School, upper playground
Girard Ave. & Genter St.

All proceeds benefit La Jolla Elementary School

LA JOLLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Open Aire Market
10th anniversary



LA JOLLA
ART & WINE FESTIVAL

LJAWWF

OCTOBER 10 & 11 • 2009 • 9am-5pm • UPPER GIRARD AVENUE BETWEEN PEARL & GENTER
 CELEBRATING LA JOLLA'S ARTIST COLONY ROOTS & SUPPORTING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 JURIED ART | CHILDREN'S ART CENTER | LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT | GOURMET FOOD | LOCAL WINERIES & BREWERIES

experience something new in la jolla

explore the world of emerging & established artists
 enjoy local talent with live music & entertainment
 taste the finest from local wineries & breweries

adults : \$7 | kids 12 & under : \$3 | kids 2 & under : free | www.lajollaartandwinefestival.com

Created by the founders of the Open Aire Market, this event will donate all proceeds to underfunded programs at three area public

New Vendors, Website Family Days at the Open Aire Market

By Dawn Villela

We hope that you have visited the Open Aire Market to see the many fabulous new vendors and the extension of the market with a seating area on the grass. If not, here's what you are missing. New food vendors include Springfield Cheese, which offers a huge variety of artisan cheeses; Basil Tops, with its yummy pestos; Terra Bella Ranch, with its healthy walnuts and almonds; CJ's bakery, with its banana bread, cookies, and pies; a delicious smoked salmon vendor, and a made-to-order Woodfired pizza vendor and PrepKitchen.

On the artisan side, we have introduced Twinkle Baby Couture, a line coveted by celebrities for their ultra-hip daughters, and Artlexia, specializing in south-of-the-border imports. Also look for our upcoming website re-launch at www.lajollamarket.com. The colorful new site was designed by LJES parents Peter and Carrie Morris of Smashing Designs, and features photography by LJES parent Michael Spengler of studio m photography.

Finally, mark your calendars for our annual Harvest Festival, taking

place this year on October 25th. We will have FREE pumpkin decorating, hats, games, and more. So grab your friends, neighbors and family and head over to the market, we've got tons of great things going on!

Dawn Villela, a Friends board member, is reachable at donatellavillela@hotmail.com.

Donate Today To Annual Giving Campaign

It's that time of year again. School's back in session, fall is in the air and it's the kick off of our Annual Giving Campaign. We hope you looked at the AGC packet in your back to school folder. We are hoping for 100 percent participation at each grade level. Let's make this year a smashing success and continue to provide our children with the best LJES has to offer. Any questions please e-mail Sabrina Nelson at sabnel@pacbell.net

La Jolla Art and Wine Festival Needs Support

Set aside Oct. 10-11 for the first annual La Jolla Art & Wine Festival, a premier fundraising and community event.

This unique two-day festival will be held in the Village of La Jolla on upper Girard Avenue from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., Oct. 10, and Sun, Oct. 11. It will showcase outstanding artists from Southern California and Northern Baja. The event will also feature performances by local singers and interpretive dancers, a silent auction, a wine and beer garden, and a children's art center.

Created by Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc., as an extension of its well-established Open Aire Farmers' Market, this event will distribute its proceeds to the parent foundations at La Jolla, Torrey Pines, and Bird Rock Elementary Schools. All three foundations pay for art, music, science, physi-

cal education, technology, and on-site medical care by a school nurse.

This event hopes to raise funds through corporate sponsorships, ticket purchases, artist exhibition fees, and the silent auction. For two days, upper Girard Avenue will be transformed into an art and wine festival that takes on the flair of a modern European street fair, while celebrating La Jolla's artist colony roots. We are confident that this event will not only benefit La Jolla's public elementary school children, but also create energy and enthusiasm within the La Jolla community.

This article was submitted by the following Friends board members: President Haleh Bolour, Treasurer Donna Scurio, and Arts and Wine Festival Chair Sherry Ahern.



I Pledge Allegiance

Come to the Upper Field on Friday mornings for the weekly Friday Pledge. One class leads the student body in a patriotic song and in saying the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Donna Tripi congratulates each class for the stars they have earned that week. Friday Pledge starts at 9:05 a.m. every Friday. Students are encouraged to wear patriotic colors or school logo wear.



Daily Attendance is Critical to Your Child's Success in School

By Donna Tripi, Principal

The district is looking closely at attendance in all of our schools again this year for several reasons. The first and most important reason, (and as is no surprise) school attendance is directly linked to academic achievement. At our school, we pride ourselves on the fact that teachers provide rich instructional experiences daily:

- rich literary read alouds and discussions,
- small group work in literacy and math,
- whole class exploration of essential concepts

in math where students share their strategies for solving problems,

- daily science instruction that is 95% hands-on experiments, and
- cooperative group projects across disciplines.

This kind of work cannot be made up or sent home. Even in districts where more paper/pencil work is prevalent, research estimates that for every day of school a child misses, it takes two days for him/her to catch up to his/her peers. In our case, the work can never be made up, but the feeling of

being behind is present for your child for days to weeks upon returning to school depending on the length of absence. It also takes the teacher's time – to prepare the student work, to grade the student work and to catch the student up when he/she comes back – time that takes away from planning and preparing for the class as a whole.

The second reason that we all must take a closer look at attendance is the fact that the district receives state funds for daily attendance. For each day a student is absent, the district loses \$45. In these budget times, any loss of funds is too great.

I ask that you look closely at the school calendar provided to you on our web site and in the parent handbook. Please plan your vacations during the regular school vacation periods. Please help me and our teachers send the message that school is important and that it is your child's job to get here each school day (and on time!). We only have your children for 180 days and, as always, we plan to make the most of each of those days. I appreciate your continued support and look forward to wonderful attendance for the remainder of the school year.

Please Help Us Reduce Parking Madness

Increases in our student population has increased the drop off/pickup challenges. Please help us streamline this process by doing the following:

CARPPOOL: Create a neighborhood carpool system. Parents/nannies/guardians can take turns driving on different days.

WALK/BIKE/SCOOTER TO SCHOOL: If you live near campus, try to come by human power at least once a week. It's better for your health – and for the planet.

PARK 2 BLOCKS AWAY AND WALK: Even a short walk is good for your health.

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UNATTENDED IN THE DESIGNATED PASSENGER DROP-OFF/PICK-UP LANE ON MARINE STREET. Lots of people have been doing this in the morning, and it really messes up the drop-off process. Please park your car somewhere else if you have to walk your child into school. If you see your friends do this, please remind them not to.



Fifth graders were full of smiles and laughter on Crazy Hat and Tie Day.

3rd Graders Get Laptops, Thanks to San Diego Voters

All LJES 3rd graders this year will have their own laptop for classroom use.

The classroom laptops are part of a districtwide technology upgrade that is being paid for by Proposition S. The \$2.1 billion initiative, called the San Diego School Repair and Safety Measure, passed last November with the support of nearly 69 percent of voters.

In addition to making much-needed repairs and improvements to campus facilities, Proposition S promised "to improve every neighborhood school by....providing up-to-date classroom technology."

The initiative is funding the San Diego Unified i21 Interactive Classroom, which has brought WiFi to all campuses and provided teachers with laptops, printers, interactive white boards, an application system and projector systems as well as laptops to students.

At the elementary level, all 3rd

through 5th grade students are expected to use a laptop for daily learning activities across the curriculum at school. This program is being phased in, with 3rd grade receiving laptops this year, 4th grade next year, and 5th grade the following year. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade will be covered after 5th grade, so all students will have access to this by the end of the five years.

Other site improvements are planned at LJES as at all schools. Principals and site committees help determine priorities from a list of projects listed in Proposition S.

Proposition S extends the previously voter approved Proposition MM tax rate (\$66.70 per \$100,000 assessed value of taxable property), from 2029, to 2044.

For more information about the i21 Interactive Classroom, see www.sandi.net/i21



The Marine Street entrance to the school was transformed over the summer by BLOOM. Photo by Michael Spengler.

Back To School Full Of Beautiful Surprises

By Jennifer Spengler

You may have done a double-take as you approached school on the first day of the new year. Thanks to Bloom, LJES's privately-funded site improvement committee formed by three moms committed to designing, implementing and maintaining mind-inspiring hardscape and landscape throughout the school, the entire campus has been transformed.

"We've grown used to the Bloom committee projects revitalizing our campus over the past few years," said Donna Tripi. "But the completion of the Marine Street Entryway and painting of the entire campus will truly take your breath away."

The summer project originally was slated to be a renovation of the hardscape and landscape of the school's front entrance, but state guidelines for plan review and approval were prohibitively costly and time-consuming. So the committee

turned to Plan B, the renovation of the landscaping on the Marine Street entry side and the repainting of the entire campus.

"While we were initially disappointed to have to change our plans for the Marine Street Entryway, we soon realized that we could apply the funds we'd raised to transform the entire campus," explains Bloom Chairperson Dina Buckley. "We truly have changed the cover of the book of La Jolla Elementary School to match the incredible story of our academic community."

The exterior painting, which was expertly performed by Ariel Lopez and his team from M. Chavis Painting, is not the only extraordinary transformation. The Marine Street Entryway also features new seating benches, large decorative planters and refuse containers, a wealth of new California native, drought tolerant plants and a lawn area replanted with high-traffic turf and properly irrigated.

Other successful Bloom projects include the Girard Welcome Plaza, a complete refurbishment of the LJES campus on the Girard Avenue side of the school including the Girard Avenue Courtyard, a beautiful circular seating area, and the Auditorium Promenade; improvements to the sidewalk leading from Marine Street to Girard Avenue along the school's edge to form the Legacy Walkway; and the Kindergarten Terrace, a wonderful new green lawn/outdoor classroom for the kindergarten featuring the Kindergarten Terrace Neighborhood Playhouse and the Kindergarten Terrace Gathering Wall, a seating wall for parents and siblings to gather during pick-up and drop-off.

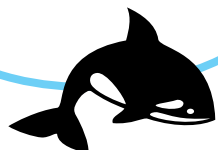
Further information about Bloom can be found on the committee's website, www.ljes-bloom.com or by contacting Bloom Chairperson Dina Buckley at dinab1@mac.com.

Jennifer Spengler works on the Bloom committee, an arm of Friends of LJE Inc.

Friends of LJES Board

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September Snaps

The first month of the 2009-2010 year has flown by. Images from the month are seared in memory: parents and students eagerly crowding the front office windows to find class assignments, the good-bye hugs of parents and occasional don't-go sniffles, a large turn-out for the back-to-school coffee, daily drop-off/pick-up traffic jams, the moment of silence in memory of Sept. 11th victims at the first Flag Friday, the wackiness of 5th graders on crazy-hat and tie day, and the ever cool Ms. Donna Tripi at the microphone. Here are some of these moments captured by digital cameras.

