



NEWS FLASH

Dana Changes Leadership

Wiseburn School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Wunder as Dana Middle School's new principal. Beginning July 1, he will be taking over for Dr. Robert Bruce who will retire at the completion of the school year.

Dr. Bruce has served as Dana's Principal since 2000 and has done an outstanding job in unifying the staff and building on the solid foundation he inherited.

Since the summer of 2001, Mr. Wunder has served as Dana's Assistant Principal. Prior to that he

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8th Graders Heading to the Nation's Capitol

From June 3-7 a group of 42 Dana 8th-graders and four teachers will visit Washington, D.C. for the annual 8th grade trip. At press time, the students are scheduled to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, and Representative Maxine Waters' Washington office was making arrangements for a visit to the White House. The students are also scheduled to visit the bureau of printing and engraving (which was closed until recently) and several museums.



Dana 8th graders are scheduled to visit The White House during their trip to Washington D.C.

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In order to address security concerns, Vice Principal Matt Wunder and Program Director Kathy Ory held meetings for all parents/guardians and students slated to attend the trip. "The general consensus from the parents I spoke to is that the United States is not the safe haven we thought it was prior to September 11, 2001," said Mr. Wunder. "However, parents are quite confident in how the trip has been organized thanks to Kathy Ory and the high quality of the chaperones. Teachers Sheila LaCour, Sharon Jansta, Anglesey Thomas and Pam Spriggs have the respect and trust of the parents."

"We were pleased by the optimistic responses of our parents and students, and with the parents' strong support of this activity," said Kathy Ory.

8th graders at Dana have been participating in the trip since June 1997. To be eligible students are required to maintain good citizenship grades with no less than a 2.0 GPA.

MESSAGE



*Dr. Don Brann,
Superintendent*

Would you believe that I have an association with the Wiseburn School District that exceeds 50 years? How can that be? Well, in the spring of 1953, my mother enrolled me as a third grader at Cabrillo School. And now, in 2003, I am completing my 10th year as Wiseburn's Superintendent.

The past five decades have been marked by an incredible personal journey from student to District Leader. And just as I have changed during the past half century the Wiseburn School District has changed, too.

Finishing my 33rd year in education and 22nd as Superintendent (in four school districts), I have been fortunate to have been given the opportunity to lead a wonderful district and give back to this community that supported me so long ago.

In this issue of the Wiseburn School District newsletter you'll read several interesting articles. Change is in the air. Helen Bell is retiring after a remarkable career. She surely will be missed and remembered for the positive difference she made here. She makes "Anza School—A Place Where Everyone Is Someone Special!" I'll find a principal to follow her, but no one could ever replace her.

Matthew Wunder has been selected as Dana's new leader and he promises to make our award winning middle school even better for the students. I believe he will.

These are exciting times in the Wiseburn School District and even after a 107-year history, I can honestly say the best years lie ahead.

Keep the Air Force Base in El Segundo

With recent talks of the possible closing of the Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo the Wiseburn Board of Trustees has responded with the following:

Retaining the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) in El Segundo is of paramount importance to the Wiseburn School District Board of Trustees. Any workable solution—residential or commercial—is acceptable to the District as long as this goal is accomplished. The key outcome that the District wants to see is retention of this regional economic powerhouse which impacts so many significantly. Joint efforts by city officials in El Segundo and Hawthorne to keep the LAAFB, located within the Wiseburn School District, off an upcoming base closure list and relocation to another state are fully supported by our Board.

Aged buildings housing Air Force offices, south and east of Aviation and El Segundo Boulevards, no longer meet minimum safety requirements and need to be replaced. A plan being considered calls for new Air Force office facilities, which house the Space and Missiles Systems Center, to be built on government land diagonally across from the present site, west and north of the aforementioned intersection. When the new construction is completed, present buildings on the old site would be demolished. The vacated area then could become a residential or varied business development.

Should a residential development be the preferred solution, the Wiseburn School District can positively respond to the increase of students within its boundaries. The District is currently planning development of two replacement schools in HollyGlen, one for Cabrillo Elementary and one for Dana Middle School. These new construction projects can be planned and powered in such a way to facilitate development of future phases. Also, the District maintains and leases out a former elementary school approximately two blocks north of the present Base location on Isis Avenue. If necessary, this campus could be converted to an elementary school to serve the nearby new gated community.

The Board has made it quite clear it has no interest in acquiring the site for any purpose, now or in the future. Closure or relocation of the Base to another state would result in a long-lasting, devastating, economic impact on the entire South Bay. Such a move would very likely cost the South Bay one of its most valuable sources of employment and commerce—the LAAFB.

Update: Effort to Unify Wiseburn

The effort to unify Wiseburn as a K-12 district is still ongoing. On April 18 the District and the Chief Petitioners were sent a letter stating that the issue is currently scheduled to be addressed at the State Board of Education's October meeting—October 8 and 9. If approved by the State, the reorganization will be scheduled for an election. The area or scope of the election (who votes) will be determined by the state board. Meanwhile, the District and Chief Petitioners are focusing their efforts on limiting the vote to Wiseburn area voters only. This will increase the chances for a unified Wiseburn.

If put to a vote, the issue will possibly be up for a spring 2004 election. If passed, Wiseburn would become a unified school district effective either July 1, 2004 or 2005.

You can find out more information about the Wiseburn Unification effort, including how to contact the Chief Petitioners, by visiting the unification web site at: <http://www.geocities.com/unifywiseburn>. Chief Petitioners Tony Nakamura, Lydia Rodriguez and John Peterson are available to address any questions or concerns community members may have.



Bonnie Ladendecker Recognized for 30 Years of Service

Bonnie Ladendecker will be recognized at the May 27 Board meeting for 30 years of service with the Wiseburn School District. Currently she is an instructional aide at Juan Cabrillo School, where she has worked since 1980. Prior to Cabrillo she was employed at Peter Burnett School.



Way to go, Bonnie!

Helen Bell—Leaving Wiseburn after 37 Years



Helen Bell and Dr. Don Brann enjoyed the grand opening at Anza Elementary.

Helen Bell, Anza's beloved principal, has announced that this will be her last year at Wiseburn as she will be heading into retirement.

In 1966 Mrs. Bell began her first job with Wiseburn as a second grade teacher at Anza School. She held that position for six years.

"I can't think of a more rewarding profession than teaching," said Mrs. Bell. "Being in wonderful Wiseburn has afforded me a wealth of opportunities and has allowed and encouraged me to grow professionally."

In the fall of 1972, Mrs. Bell began working with third through fifth grade students at Burnett School in the area of reading and at Smith School, until it closed, as a District Reading Specialist. "Teaching reading and helping struggling readers became a passion of mine," said Mrs. Bell.

During this time Mrs. Bell received her Masters in Reading/Psycholinguistics from Pepperdine University. When Burnett closed in 1980, the entire staff went to Cabrillo where it became a K-5 site. Mrs. Bell stayed at Cabrillo as the Reading Specialist until March, 1989.

"Working with both teachers and students was very gratifying, but I was ready to tackle

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Dana Changes Leadership

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Mr. Wunder will begin his new position as Dana's principal on July 1.

was Manhattan Beach Middle School's Director of Student Services.

Mr. Wunder holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development/Family Relations from the University of Arizona and a Master's in School Counseling from Loyola. He plans to pursue a doctorate in the future.

The selection of Mr. Wunder as Dana's new leader was made by the Wiseburn School Board upon recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Don Brann. Dr. Brann expressed confidence in Mr. Wunder's ability based on his past performance and his outstanding attributes.

Congratulations to Matthew Wunder on his appointment. And thanks to Dr. Bruce for his valuable contribution to Dana and best wishes in his retirement.

Helen Bell—Leaving Wiseburn after 37 Years

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another aspect of education," said Mrs. Bell. So, while teaching at Cabrillo, Mrs. Bell returned to school and, in 1988, she earned her Master's in Administration from Loyola Marymount University. On March 1, 1989, she was selected as Principal of Anza School and has had a home there ever since.

"I have treasured every day of my years here," said Mrs. Bell, "and am so grateful that I have had a chance to work in this excellent district, which puts children first. When people ask me where I work and what I do I am proud to say that I am an educator in Wiseburn. Where, but in Wiseburn, could a person leave their family in the morning, go to work during the day with their family, and go back home to their family! I will miss my Wiseburn family more than I can say, but I leave with many wonderful memories and a sincere hope that I did make a difference."

Congratulations to Helen Bell for a very successful 37 years in the District. Enjoy your well deserved retirement!



WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Calendar Highlights	
June	
10	Board Meeting
19	Dana 8th grade graduation
24	Board Meeting
Summer	
7/7—8/1	Summer School
September	
3	Back to school