



NEWS FLASH

Wiseburn Enrollment Reaches 2,000

On September 8 Wiseburn hit a milestone as student enrollment rose to 2,000. Throughout its history the District has had an enrollment of 2,000 only three times. Once in 1953 (on the way to 3,000), once in 1973 (on the way to 1,000) and now in 2003.

The enrollment increase is largely due to the high number of permit students who are attracted by the small class sizes and quality education at Wiseburn. Rising test scores and fully credentialed teachers also serve as a magnet. Even with enrollment up more than 5 percent over last year we continue to keep school sizes relatively small and less than 20 kids in a classroom (K-3).

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Wiseburn Begins Vocal Music Program



Neil Goldman and Wendy Ostensen from the Wiseburn Education Foundation present a donation check to the School Board at the October 14 board meeting.

Sounds of music are coming from Wiseburn's classrooms. Thanks largely to the efforts of the Wiseburn Education Foundation a new vocal music program has been put into place for 4th-8th graders.

The new vocal music teacher, Kristie Summers, teaches classes in vocal music on the Anza, Burnett and Dana campuses. Ms. Summers has been teaching music for the past four years. Prior to coming to Wiseburn she was a K-3 Music teacher in Fort Irwin (near Barstow). Her student teaching was completed at Hunter School of Performing Arts in Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from Montana State University where she majored in K-12 vocal and instrumental music.

Ms. Summer's visits the 4th and 5th grade classrooms at Anza and Burnett, teaching the skills of reading music, rhythms and pitches. On Monday and Wednesday Ms. Summers teaches Anza's 4th and 5th graders and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings she visits Burnett's 4th and 5th grade classrooms, teaching in 45 minute blocks.

At Dana, Ms. Summers teaches a 6th grade elective in vocal music and leads the 7th and 8th grade choir. She hopes that her students will eventually put on performances within the District so they can share their voices with the community.

MESSAGE



*Dr. Don Brann,
Superintendent*

Another Fall season has arrived highlighted by yet another smooth school opening. For the first time in thirty years, Wiseburn schools are serving approximately 2,000 students. It's a milestone!

Wiseburn pupils are continuing to achieve at increasing levels. All our schools met their required goals or targets in each grade level. Students are learning and they can demonstrate their success on the State-wide tests. Teachers take a bow!

Although California has severe budget problems, we've found a way to add to our fine programs and services. For example, Spanish is now available as an elective at Dana Middle School. Also, upper grades now have a vocal music program.

Wiseburn schools are working very well. More and more others are taking notice of their successful record. We're in a spiral of success and going forward. Our challenge is to preserve the gains and build upon them.

Our main concern this school year and the next is simply money. It is very difficult to do more with less. At some point the financial crisis California is experiencing impacts us here in Wiseburn since approximately 93% of our revenue comes from the State. Our level of reserves is being diminished quickly. To hold on here and balance next year's budget will be very difficult.

Every California public school district is faced with unpleasant choices. You've read/heard about the "pink slips" and program/service reductions elsewhere. So far Wiseburn has avoided these unfortunate cuts, but the day may arrive soon when we too must "go there." I dislike thinking about that, let alone writing about it to you, but I want to level with you about how tough this situation really is right now. Rest assured we will do the best we can going forward to protect all we can. Thank you for your understanding and continuing support. Send money!

Wiseburn Welcomes New Teachers

Wiseburn welcomes 15 new teachers as the 2003-04 school year begins.



Anza's New Faces

Amber Franco joins Anza as a kindergarten teacher. Having previously student taught in Anza's kindergarten classrooms (Connie Elliott), she is no stranger to the school. Amber earned her Bachelor's degree from Loyola Marymount University.

Kristi Duchouquette earned her Master's degree from Pepperdine University. She also joins the Anza staff as a kindergarten teacher. Familiar with the District, Kristi was previously a tutor for Wiseburn's remedial reading program (Code Breakers). Prior to that she taught in Texas and has worked in a first grade classroom in Santa Ana.

Suzanne Guidi comes to Wiseburn from Mark Twain Elementary School in Lawndale where she was a student teacher in a second/third grade classroom. Suzanne earned her Master's in elementary education from Loyola Marymount University. She is teaching 3rd grade at Anza.

Burnett's New Faces

Andrea Kabwasa rejoins Wiseburn as a special education teacher at Burnett. Andrea earned a Master's from Bowling Green State University and a Master's from Art Center College of Design. She returns to the same class at Burnett that she worked with the last few months of the 2002-03 school year. In the past she was an adjunct art professor at Bowling Green State University.

Carolyn L. M. Elder is familiar with Wiseburn, having previously worked in the district's gifted and talented education program. Carolyn earned her Bachelor's degree from UCLA and her Multiple Subject Credential from Loyola Marymount. She joins the Burnett staff in a job share partnership with Melissa Matthias in grade 3.

Elizabeth Jen Wong earned her Master's in Special Education from Cal State University Los Angeles. She joins Burnett as a part-time special education teacher. Previously she was a resource specialist for LAUSD.

Erma Bisignano joins Wiseburn as the new P.E. teacher at Dana. Currently working on her Master's of Education at CSU Dominguez Hills, Erma was formerly a physical education teacher at Manhattan Beach Middle School.

Cabrillo's New Faces

Jami A. Kae comes to Wiseburn from Cabrillo School in the Laguna Salada School District (San Francisco area). She has a Bachelor's degree in Child Development from CSU Northridge. Jami is teaching 2nd grade at Cabrillo.

Gina Crews can be found teaching 7th grade science at Dana. Gina earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. Previously she taught Life and Earth Science at Manhattan Beach Middle School.

Shannon Kuhn joins Cabrillo's staff teaching a kindergarten class. Previously she was a co-teacher of the special day class at Burnett. Shannon earned her Bachelor's degree at CSU Dominguez Hills.

Kris Torrey rejoins Wiseburn after a year at Lynwood Middle School. Kris has a Bachelor's degree from UCLA and received her credential from Chapman College. She is teaching 8th grade science at Dana.

Dana's New Faces

Aileen Harbeck joins Dana as a 7th grade Humanities teacher. Previously she was the Vice Principal of student personnel services and English teacher at Saint Joseph High School. Aileen earned her Master's in Education Administration from Mount St. Mary's College.

Kristie Summers joins the Wiseburn staff as a vocal music teacher at Anza, Burnett and Dana. Previously she was a music teacher at Jerry Lewis Elementary School in Fort Irwin, California. She earned her Bachelor's degree at Montana State University.

Christine Carpenter is working on her Master's at CSU Dominguez Hills. Previously she was a student teacher in an English/Language Arts classrooms at Magruder Middle School and North High School. She joins Dana as a 7th grade Humanities teacher.

Molly Rogers is teaching college bound skills at Dana. Molly earned her Bachelor's degree at the University of Washington and has 40 years of teaching experience.

Dana Starts New HIP Program After School

This fall Dana Middle School starts a new after school program —HIP (Highlighting Individual Possibilities). HIP consists of homework assistance and time to complete homework, snack time, HIP time— where individual Program Leaders take a group of 20 students and teach their class, and recreation time.

"The purpose of the program is to create a safe environment for students after school while providing structured, disguised learning and building self-esteem, leadership, and academic skills," said Dana Vice Principal Karen Mohr.

The HIP program, overseen by physical education teacher Erma Bisignano and Mrs. Mohr, will be held at Dana in the gymnasium, classrooms, and auditorium.

Recreational activities will include, music/voice lessons, dance, gymnastics and basketball. The program also encompasses the drama club and other after school activities at Dana such as the intermural middle school sports programs. Currently the search is on for a competent Program Leader who can teach an enriching mathematics program that is also geared toward learning math in a fun way.

HIP runs after school from 2:45 until 6 p.m. and Dana students have an opportunity to join the program. Parents are charged \$5 a day or \$100 a month for the HIP program. The charge helps cover the costs of running the program and is less than many other programs in the surrounding community. To get more information on the HIP Program contact the Dana Middle School office, 643.6165.

Update: New Schools

With Anza's grand opening now over a year ago the focus has moved to the new campuses at Dana Middle School and Cabrillo Elementary School. Earlier this year Flewelling & Moody and C.W. Driver were chosen as the architect and construction management firms for both schools.

While the actual construction of the schools isn't set to begin until May of 2005 there is much progress being made in the planning of the two school campuses. Currently the Design Teams are reviewing the schematic designs for both campuses, which are scheduled to be constructed simultaneously.

Presently students are scheduled to move-in to the new buildings around the winter holidays in 2006. We should see the completion of our new beautiful campuses in spring of 2007!

Lora Benedict Retires



Later this month long time Anza third grade teacher Lora Benedict will retire. Ms. Benedict has been teaching third grade at Anza since 1978, prior to that she taught 4th grade at Anza. She has been teaching at Wiseburn since 1965 and will truly be missed! She has helped hundreds of students learn the basic skills. Congratulations on your well deserved retirement!



"Our Superintendent at Work!"



WISEBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT
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<u>Calendar Highlights</u>	
<u>November</u>	
18	Board Meeting
26-28	Thanksgiving Holiday
<u>December</u>	
9	Board Meeting
22- Jan. 2	Holiday Break (No School)
<u>January</u>	
3	Back to School