

Orcutt PIONEER



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Orcutt Schools Update



Notes from All Around the District

By Dr. Sharon McHolland Superintendent, Orcutt Union School District

For November, here are some notes from all over the Orcutt Union School District ...

Congratulations to Kathy Meissner and Jan Zilli on their re-election as members of our district board of trustees! Because they ran unopposed, Mrs. Meissner and Mrs. Zilli did not appear on the November 4 local ballot. They will be serving four-year terms. ...

All of Orcutt's campuses participated in the Great Southern California Shake-out, a regional earthquake drill on November 13. The drill, based on the scenario of a catastrophic earthquake on the southern San Andreas Fault, included schools, colleges, and governmental agencies all over Southern California. It was the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S. history. ...

Congratulations to the K-Kids service club of Ralph Dunlap School! The K-Kids, who are advised by teacher Michelle Boyd and by Gary Gross of the Nighttime Kiwanis Club of Santa Maria, have been selected to

receive an "Awesome Kids" award from the Santa Barbara County KIDS Network. The K-Kids perform lots of good deeds in support of their school, community, and world. They are very deserving. ...

Save the date: The annual gala fund-raiser for the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation will take place on Saturday, February 21, 2009. OCAF's honoree will be Café FX, the local computer graphics firm that has supplied special effects for many major movies and TV series. ...

Orcutt's six K-6 elementary schools competed this fall in an after-school flag football league run by the Boys & Girls Club of the Santa Maria Valley. The Orcutt league champion, May Grisham School, was narrowly defeated by the Santa Maria titlist, Ontiveros School, in a "City Championship" game November 5. ...

While we are on the topic of flag football, special thanks to Bill Libbon, Roberto Rodriguez, and Ernie Cuevas of the Boys & Girls

Club for an amazing job of organizing the league, refereeing games, and encouraging our youngsters! ...

Thinking about alternative forms of energy? A number of Orcutt students and teachers are! In three recent classroom contests on energy conducted by the Education Collaborative, our district made a strong showing. In a poster contest, Ralph Dunlap School sixth graders taught by Tamara Black, Denyse Cole, Jim McManus, and April Viau shared first and second places, and Pine Grove School teacher Kelly Van Allen's fifth graders were third. In a lesson plan competition, the Orcutt Academy's Dona Kintzi won first place. In a PowerPoint contest, Ty Fredriks' high school science students at the Orcutt Academy won first and third places. ...

In addition, five Ralph Dunlap teachers recently earned grants from the Education Collaborative. Dee Ann Clopton and April Viau were awarded funding for a shed for a

school garden, Denyse Cole earned a grant for two classroom computers, Abel DelValle received funding for a school set of science DVDs, and Jim McManus won a grant for an ELMO document camera. We all can be grateful for the support our students and teachers are receiving from the Education Collaborative, which is funded by the Society of Petroleum Engineers.

Special thanks to the County of Santa Barbara for ordering and installing a new play structure for the Orcutt Academy's campus at Winifred Wolman School in Casmalia. The new structure has been a wonderful addition to both the school and the Casmalia community. ...

Here's wishing everyone in Orcutt a Happy Thanksgiving

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