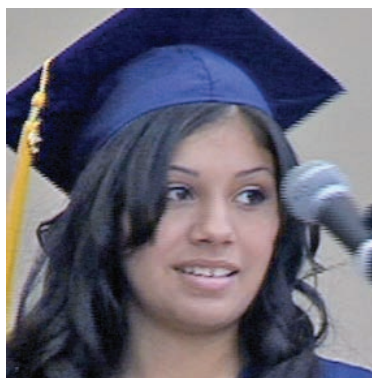




RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Riverside County Office of Education

Kenneth M. Young
Riverside County
Superintendent of Schools



2008 Report to the Community

The mission of RCOE is to ensure the success of all students through extraordinary service, support and partnerships

www.rcoe.us

About RCOE

Established in 1893, the Riverside County Office of Education provides 23 local school districts with extraordinary service to help students succeed. RCOE and the Riverside County Board of Education approve local district budgets, provide administrative and fiscal support, oversee teacher credentialing, and provide hundreds of administrator and teacher trainings each year. RCOE offers alternative education, special education, and vocational and career technical education programs.

RCOE TV

RCOE TV (Channel 96 in the Riverside area) continues to add new local features to its lineup. Launching this summer: A second season of Focus on Education, the studio discussion show featuring Riverside County Superintendent of Schools Kenneth M. Young and top

education policy makers in the guest's chair. Other exclusive new features coming this fall: Awesome Educators, taking a look at some of the county's top teachers; a recurring examination of Inland PTA programs for parents; and features on RCOE programs like Career Technical Education and the offerings at the growing network of regional learning centers.

RCOE E-Bulletin

RCOE has launched the Riverside County Education Bulletin, sent via email and highlighting educational issues and events. Each edition features a message from Kenneth M. Young, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, discussing current focus in education.

To subscribe, go to www.rcoe.us and click on RCOE's Education e-Bulletin in the right navigation bar. Complete the subscribeform at the bottom of the e-bulletin page, and you will be registered to receive the next edition.

Dad's Day In The Park

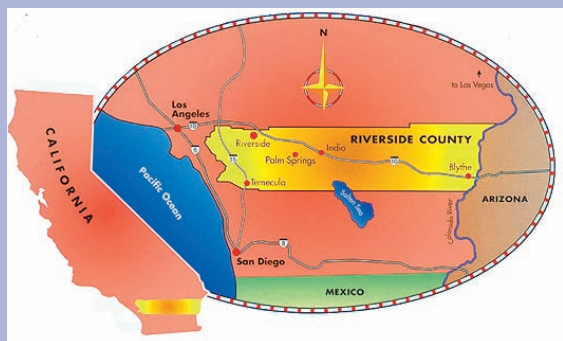


More than 600 people attended the Sixth Annual Dad's Day in the Park sponsored by the Riverside County Office of Education's Division of Children and Family Services June 21 in Fairmont Park. The event celebrates fathers in the lives of their children.

This year's event had a literacy focus and was held in conjunction with the City of Riverside Parks and Recreation Family Fishing Derby. The theme for this year's

event was "Catch a Good Book". Despite record breaking high temperatures, attendance was good and there were 57 food, resource and entertainment vendors.

About Riverside County



- The county was formed in 1893 from a small portion of San Bernardino County and a larger part of San Diego County and named for the city of Riverside. RCOE was created the same year.

- 7,200 square miles, equal to the size of the state of New Jersey.
- Population 2,070,315.

Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit

Superintendent's Message



Completing School Is Worth It

The California Department of Education (CDE) has released a new report on student dropout and graduation rates in California. For the first

time, dropout and graduation information has been compiled using individual student-level data, providing the most complete statewide information available to date.

This newly available data enables school districts and the state to better understand what happens to students who leave school prematurely. The new data system allows school districts to determine whether students marked as transfers do actually enroll in another school. If the student does not show up at another California public school, their home district can try to determine what happened to the student and target additional efforts to help them complete their education.

For the 2006-07 school year, 67.6 percent of students in California public schools graduated from high school, 24.2 percent dropped out of school, and 8.2 percent either completed four years of high school but did not graduate, withdrew from school and transferred to a private school, left the state, or earned a General Education Degree (GED). Riverside County's dropout rate of 23.7% is below the state average, including our numbers for African American, Hispanic and other minority students, but the numbers are unacceptable. (A complete chart of the drop out numbers can be found at www.cde.ca.gov.)

Not finishing high school has large negative

implications for students. Research shows that more than half of those who drop out of high school will be unemployed or collect welfare during a significant portion of their adult life, and they are three and a half times more likely to commit crimes than those who remain in school and receive a high school diploma. Those who drop out of high school have a higher likelihood of having children who will, in-turn, drop out of high school and perpetuate the poverty-crime cycle, thus exacerbating the problem.

The Riverside County Office of Education is deeply committed to do all that we possibly can to stem the tide of student dropouts in our county. We are focusing our efforts in two ways:

One is by providing a variety of proven leadership and instructional strategies to school districts to help create an effective learning environment for students attending public schools in Riverside County.

The second is by tracking down as many students as possible who have dropped out of school and bringing them back into a completely different educational setting through custom programs operated by the Riverside County Office of Education.

The first program for returning dropouts will begin this fall at the recently dedicated Riverside County Office of Education Regional Learning Center located on the Mt. San Jacinto Community College campus in San Jacinto. This program will be replicated for students in the Riverside, Perris and Banning areas through our existing Regional Learning Centers.

This is a huge undertaking—one that is deserving of our best efforts, and as the Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, I have fully committed our office to this important work. - *Kenn Young*

Mt. San Jacinto Regional Learning Center Dedication



The Riverside County Office of Education dedicated its new Mt. San Jacinto Regional Learning Center located at 1251 Eagle Road in San Jacinto on July 9, 2008.

The regional learning center, one of seven being built by RCOE in different areas of the county to bring more services to students, was created through a partnership between RCOE and Mt. San Jacinto Community College. MSJC provided land for the facility and will operate programs in conjunction with RCOE during evening hours.

Construction began on the 26,436-square-foot complex in May 2007 and was completed on June 11, 2008. The cost was estimated at \$8 million. Classes include Alternative Education, Career Technical Education, Special Education and State Preschool. A total of 200 students will be served during daytime classes



for infants to 12th-graders.

Other regional learning centers include the Milo P. Johnson Regional Learning Center in Banning, the Arlington Regional Learning Center in Riverside, and the Val Verde Regional Learning Center in Perris. RCOE has plans for new centers in Moreno Valley, Murrieta, and Jurupa.



Two Riverside County Students Named To Governor's All-State Academic Team



Maryanne R. Ibrahim and **Albert Liu** of Riverside County were among 25 students named to the Governor's All-State Academic Team in Sacramento during March for their outstanding academic, extra-curricular and volunteer achievements. Ibrahim (GPA: 4.58, SAT: 2230, Class Rank: 1) was a senior at Poly High School. Her activities and honors include: Rensselaer

Medal for Excellence in Math and Science, research assistant at University of California, Riverside, biomedical sciences lab and varsity tennis. Liu (GPA: 4.72, SAT: 2370, Class Rank: 1) was a senior at Centennial High School. His activities and honors include: Corona-Norco Youth council, Claremont Young Musicians Intermezzo Orchestra and captain of varsity math team. Both were on the Riverside County All-Start Academic Team. For a complete story on the award, please go to <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?/press-release/8990/>.

All County Academic Team • 2008

Student Name	District	School Name
Alexandria Hall	Hemet High School	Hemet Unified School District
Maryanne Ibrahim	Polytechnic High School	Riverside Unified School District
Jessica Jensen	Palm Desert High School	Desert Sands Unified School District
Albert Liu	Centennial High School	Corona-Norco Unified School District
Andrew Marnell	Chaparral High School	Temecula Valley Unified School District
Jordan Roloson	Centennial High School	Corona-Norco Unified School District
Sharon Wu	John W. North High School	Riverside Unified School District

Hemet High Wins Academic Decathlon For The Tenth Time In A Row

Hemet High School has won the Riverside County Academic Decathlon for the tenth time in a row on February 5. Students from 17 high schools were honored at the Riverside Convention Center. Second-place honors went to La Sierra High School (Red Team) from Riverside and third to Great Oak High School from Temecula. The theme this year was the Civil War. There were 20 teams of students in the competition. (A complete list of team and individual winners is available at www.rcoe.us/studentevents)

Distinguished Schools Announced

Twenty elementary schools in Riverside County were on the list of California Distinguished Schools in 2008. The complete list is at www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs/. Alvord Unified, **Promenade Elementary**; Beaumont Unified, **Brookside Elementary**; Corona-Norco Unified, **Benjamin Franklin Elementary**; Corona-Norco Unified, **Eisenhower Elementary**; Corona-Norco Unified, **Lincoln Alternative Elementary**; Corona-Norco Unified, **Prado View Elementary**; Corona-Norco Unified, **Temescal Valley Elementary**; Desert Sands Unified, **Amelia Earhart School**; Hemet Unified, **Idyllwild Elementary**; Jurupa Unified, **Sunnyslope Elementary**; Lake Elsinore Unified, **Tuscany Hills Elementary**; Menifee Union Elementary, **Callie Kirkpatrick Elementary**; Menifee Union Elementary, **Menifee Elementary**; Murrieta Valley Unified, **Antelope Hills Elementary**; Palm Springs Unified, **Rio Vista Elementary**; Riverside Unified, **Lake Mathews Elementary**; Temecula Valley Unified, **Abby Reinke Elementary**; Temecula Valley Unified, **Nicolas Valley Elementary**; Val Verde Unified, **Avalon Elementary**; Val Verde Unified, **Lasselle Elementary**.

Outstanding Graduates



Denise Banks arrived at the Moreno Valley Cal-Safe program with only 135 of the 200 credits she needed to graduate.

"I wanted to graduate as quickly as possible," said Banks, whose baby was in the room next door being cared for as part of the program operated by the Riverside County Office of Education.

She caught up and graduated on time in June, and now plans to attend Riverside Community College. "I want to be a medical assistant, then transfer to UC and study to become a veterinarian," she said.

Denise was chosen to be the speaker for her class.

"I felt really honored," she said. "I never figured I would be a valedictorian."

Cal-Safe allowed Denise to finish school while feeling secure about her baby. "I tried an online program, but I couldn't concentrate (taking care of the baby). It was so great here, and I just loved it."



Emanuel Ocampo surveyed his life one day and didn't like what he saw.

"I thought to myself, why am I doing this?" he said. "I knew I was screwing up."

He had been forced to leave his high school in Riverside because of behavior problems. He was behind in credits. What he was looking forward to, he said, "was probably ending up on the streets."

That's when he landed in the Community School at the Arlington Learning Center, offered by the Riverside County Office of Education. Things changed.

"If you ever wanted to see a student do a complete 180, it's him," said his teacher, Jose Bustos.

Ocampo arrived at the RLC just as the school opened, about two years ago. He worked hard to complete his credits. "It was hard," he said. "You work by yourself. But I had Mr. Bustos to help me out."

Why did he do it?

"There were many reasons," he said. "Mostly though, my mom wanted to see me graduate."

Now 18, he not only graduated, but he was chosen to speak for his class at graduation.

"That was a big surprise," he said. "I saw myself going in a different direction." His parents, he said, "were really, really proud."

Now he is enrolling at Riverside Community College. He hasn't chosen a career goal. He would eventually like to transfer to the UC system and obtain a four-year degree.

"I have choices now," he said. "I have a lot of choices and opportunities."



Bianca Bravo attended nine different schools before she and her baby arrived at the Riverside County Office of Education Cal-Safe Program in Coachella.

"I knew right away that this place was different," she said. "My baby was right next door and I knew they were taking good care of him. That let me concentrate. I learned more here than anywhere else I have been."

Bianca, 18, focused on making up lost credits and obtaining her high school diploma.

"It wasn't hard, I just had to work at it day and night," she said, laughing.

Her hard work paid off. She has her diploma and is enrolling in the College of the Desert. Her parents came to her graduation ceremony and were very proud of her. She was chosen to speak for her class.

"I want to be a nurse," she said. "I am talking to counselors at COD right now."

What does Bianca think of Cal-Safe?

"Cal-Safe gave me the opportunity to get my life back on track."

Temecula Wins Mock Trial Competition

Temecula Valley High School finished ahead of the team from Murrieta Valley High School in March to win the final round of the 2008 Riverside County Mock Trial competition at the Riverside Historic Courthouse. The 26 teams began preparing for the competition in October with more than 400 students involved in regional competitions in February. Riverside's Woodcrest Christian High School and Hemet High School took third place honors. The Riverside County Bar Association and Riverside County Office of Education each donated \$1,000 to the winning team. (A complete list of winners is available at www.rcoe.us/studentevents.)



Sign Up Now For Veterans Diplomas'



Fifty-two veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam were awarded high school diplomas in front of comrades, families and friends May 21 during the Second Annual Operation Recognition Ceremony. The program allows veterans and internees to receive diplomas in recognition of their service to their country. The program is sponsored by the Riverside County Office of Education,

with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veteran's Services. Veterans stood as the Martin Luther King High School Chamber Singers sang a medley of songs honoring different branches of service, and dabbed tears as the Elsinore High School Air Force JROTC performed an honor guard detail. The next Operation Recognition awards program is scheduled for Friday, November 14, 2008. In order to be recognized at the ceremony, completed application forms and supporting documentation must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2008. For a complete list of veterans and information on how to apply for a diploma, go to www.rcoe.us/operationrecognition

Desert Sands Employee Named California's Classified School Employee Of The Year

Laura (Lori) L. Klingensmith from the Desert Sands Unified School District has been named a California Classified Employee of the Year. Klingensmith is an Administrative Assistant at Andrew Jackson Elementary School in Indio.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell named a total of six outstanding school employees as California's 2008 Classified School Employees of the Year, the inaugural year of the recognition program. Klingensmith was nominated in the Office and Technical Services division.

Eighty-one applicants competed from 25 counties.

Math Teacher From Corona-Norco Unified Chosen For Prestigious Presidential Award

Santiago High School Teacher Jeffrey Mark Luscher was named a 2008 award winner for the prestigious Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Program.

His numerous prior awards include being named twice as the Corona-Norco Teacher of the Year, three times as the Riverside County Mathematics Teachers' Association Outstanding High School Teacher, and once as the City of Corona Award of Excellence in Education honoree. Luscher was one of two California mathematics teachers selected as 2007 California State PAEMST nominees in mathematics. His application was reviewed by a state panel of content experts and outstanding teachers by the California Mathematics Council and forwarded to the National Science Foundation that coordinates the national PAEMST program on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. More information about the national program may be found at www.paemst.org.

2008 Riverside County History Day Competition



Fifteen school districts with students from across Riverside County competed on Saturday, March 22, 2008, in the Riverside County History Day competition. Riverside County History Day is the county level competition of the larger National History Day program and competition. History Day is one of the rare programs that helps students refine critical thinking and research skills used in all subject areas.

For a complete list of winners, go to www.rcoe.us/studentevents.

Romoland Student In National Spelling Bee



Austin Pineda navigated seven rounds over two intense days, spelling dozens of words correctly before striking out on "tralatitious," a word to describe things passed down over generations. He finished 12th in a field of 288 in the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee. During the competition, classrooms at Boulder Ridge Middle School in Romoland erupted with applause when school administrators

issued "Austin updates" over the school's public address system. The 2008 Riverside County Spelling Bee winners were: Austin Pineda, eighth grade, Boulder Ridge Middle School, Romoland School District; Alternate, Rachel Okey, eighth grade, River Springs Charter School, Temecula; Third place, Gleveen McBeth, eighth grade, Villegas Middle School, Alvord Unified School District; Fourth place, Ramakrishnan Kumaran, sixth grade, Acacia Middle School, Hemet Unified School District; Fifth place: Raymond Galloway, fifth grade, Lasselle Elementary School, Val Verde Unified School District.

Riverside County Teachers Of The Year Selected

The 2009 Riverside County Teachers of the Year are:



Sunny Kaura has taught science at Centennial High School in the Corona-Norco Unified School District for 10 years. He is currently teaching Oceanography, Natural Science, AP Environmental Science, and Astronomy. He has a bachelor of science and master's degree in science from UCR, a teaching credential from University of Redlands.



Katie Kearney teaches 7th Grade Language Arts at James Day Middle School in the Temecula Valley Unified School District. She has 22 years of teaching experience, 10 of them at James Day. She has a bachelor's degree from CSU Sacramento, and a master's degree in school administration from National University in San Diego.



Loredana Wicketts teaches third grade at Eisenhower Elementary School in the Corona-Norco Unified School District. She has 12 years of teaching experience, four of them at Eisenhower. She has a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly Pomona, and a master's degree in education from the Claremont Graduate School.

These three teachers will represent more than 20,000 teachers from Riverside County's 23 local school districts in the 2009 California Teacher of the Year competition. Winners are typically announced in November. Five state winners will be chosen. One of the state winners will enter the National Teacher of the Year contest, to be announced next May.

County Educators Selected For Outstanding Contributions

The 2008 Riverside County Administrators, Principal, and Classified and Confidential Staff Members of the Year were honored in May: Administrator of the Year (Certificated), Diana M. Asseier, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support Services, Alvord Unified School District; Administrator of the Year (Classified), Terri Moreno, Director, Categorical Projects, Jurupa Unified School District; Principal of the Year, John L. Simonson, Principal, Citrus Hill High School, Val Verde Unified School District; Confidential Staff Member of the Year, Mary Jo Ivy, Credential Analyst, Personnel Services, Desert Sands Unified School District; Classified Staff Member of the Year, Sandra E. Denkers, Instructional Aide ACP, Corona Fundamental Intermediate School, Corona-Norco Unified School District; 2008 Teachers of the Year, (announced June 2007), Tim Hively, Agriculture Science, Teacher, Norte Vista High School, Alvord Unified School District; Scott Lockman, AVID Teacher, Ramona High School, Riverside Unified School District, Monica Murillo, AVID, Sociology, English 3 Teacher, Desert Mirage High School, Coachella Valley Unified School District. To read about this year's winners, go to www.rcoe.us/newsroom/educators.html.

Help Children Succeed In New School Year

With summer break ending, here are tips for parents to start the new school year:

1. Teach your child to become a lifelong learner:

Model the love of learning by talking to your child about the interesting things you learn each day. Show excitement about what your children are learning in school.

2. Read to your children often: A child who has a passion for reading can explore the world through books.

Reading also improves writing skills.

3. Be a partner with your child's teacher:

Get to know your child's teacher early in the year and learn what is expected of your child at school. Support your child's teachers by checking homework, ~~knowing when assignments are due~~ and asking questions of the teacher to make sure your child is on track and on schedule.

4. Incorporate learning into daily tasks:

Beginning with back-to-school shopping, include your child in the tasks of budgeting and using math when making purchases.

5. Make sure your child is well rested: Students who are well rested do better in school. If your children are tired, they can't think clearly. Set a consistent bedtime.

6. Provide healthy meals, especially breakfast:

Breakfasts high in sugar cause students to run out of energy halfway through the morning. Protein will give your children the energy they need to keep them focused until it's time for lunch.



7. Establish a special place and time for homework: A quiet, well-lit area in the home dedicated solely to homework will help your children concentrate on their work. Plan a consistent time for homework every day.

8. Find ways to help your child's school:

If possible, spend time at your children's school. Even if you can't provide regular assistance in the classroom, before or after school, ask your child's teacher and school staff about other ways you can help. Donations of supplies, help with fundraisers, and communicating with other parents can be done outside of school and work hours.

9. Teach your children at an early age to embrace California's rich diversity:

Learn about other cultures as a family, and teach your children about respect

for people of other races and backgrounds. California's classrooms are the most diverse in the nation. Our diversity is our strength in a global economy, and all California students must learn to work cooperatively with people who are different from themselves.

10. Expect your child to achieve: California's public schools need parental support in holding students to high expectations. Expect your children to do their very best each day. Hold them accountable for doing homework and working hard to achieve in school. When you expect your children to achieve at high levels they will rise to the challenge. *Source: California Department of Education.*

School District Calendars 2008-09

District	School Opens	Admissions Day	Thanksgiving/ Thanksgiving Break	Winter Recess	Lincoln's Birthday/ Presidents' Day Break	Spring Recess	Last School Day
Alvord*	8/25/08	12/31/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/9/09	4/6-10/09	6/10/09
Banning	8/25/08	--	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	02/20/09	4/13-17/09	6/12/09
Beaumont	8/25/08	11/28/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	02/20/09	3/30-4/3/09	6/11/09
Coachella Valley	9/2/08	11/28/08	11/26-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/13/09	4/13-17/09	6/12/09
Corona/Norco*	9/2/08	--	11/27-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/9/09	4/6-10/09	6/12/09
Desert Center	8/25/08	--	11/27-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/13/09	4/10-17/09	6/12/09
Desert Sands	9/2/08	--	11/26-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/13/09	4/13-17/09	6/12/09
Hemet	8/25/08	--	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	02/20/09	4/6-10/09	6/12/09
Jurupa	9/3/08	11/26/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/9/09	4/6-10/09	6/18/09
Lake Elsinore	8/13/08	12/22/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/12/09	2/13/09	4/6-10/09	06/04/09
Menifee**	--	11/28/08	11/27-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/9/09	--	6/26/09
Moreno Valley*	8/13/08	11/26/08	11/26-28/08	12/22/08-1/9/09	2/13/09	3/23-4/3/09	6/12/09
Murrieta Valley	8/13/08	--	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/13/09	2/13/09	4/6-17/09	06/12/09
Nuvview	8/26/08	3/16/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/9/09	4/6-17/09	6/17/09
Palm Springs*	9/2/08	--	11/26-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/9/09	4/13-17/09	6/15/09
Palo Verde	8/25/08	--	11/27-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/13/09	4/10-17/09	6/12/09
Perris Elem.*	8/18/08	--	11/27-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/23/09	4/6-17/09	6/16/09
Perris UHSD	8/12/08	12/26/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/12/09	2/13/09		6/5/09
RCOE						--	--
Riverside	8/25/08	1/2/09	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/13/09	4/6-10/09	6/12/09
Romoland	8/20/08	11/26/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	--	4/6-10/09	6/10/09
San Jacinto*	8/25/08	--	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	--	4/6-4/10/09	6/12/09
Temecula Valley	8/18/08	11/10/08	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/2/09	2/9/09	3/23-4/3/09	06/12/09
Val Verde	8/14/08	--	11/24-28/08	12/22/08-1/5/09	2/9/09	4/6-13/09	6/3/09

Most districts will observe the following holidays on the same day:

Labor Day (9/01/08) Veterans Day (11/11/08) Martin Luther King Day (1/19/09) Washington's Birthday/Presidents' Day (2/16/09) Memorial Day (5/25/09)

*Also has Year Round / **Year Round Only (refer to District for Year Round Calendar)

County Office Phone Number 951-826-6530 • www.rcoe.us

Riverside County
Superintendent of Schools

Kenneth M. Young

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