



Correia Cougar News

April 2006

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Correia Cougar News

is a quarterly
newsletter of the

Steven V. Correia

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Linda Taggart,
Principal

Kris Spathas,
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Principal's Message

by Linda Taggart

As you may know, I had back surgery in November. I do not wish that experience on anyone, but I am feeling 100% better now and as full of energy as ever. I can't tell you how happy I am to be back at school. There are so many positive things happening at Correia. We were able to send ten staff members to the Computer Using Educators (CUE) Conference this year. The CUE Conference is the largest and oldest education technology show in California, and among the largest in the United States. Thousands of teachers, administrators, students and parents, and other professionals attend the three-day conference. Teachers came back with so many technology ideas to implement in the classroom. Every administrators' dream is to have staff so engaged that they will lead the professional development at a site and I am pleased to say that is happening here. The staff and I are also excited about all of the new software we are piloting for the school district.

This week we are beginning a pilot of "My Access.™" Kristin DeBlois, English teacher, saw this program at CUE and asked me if we could begin using it at our site. Coincidentally, we were requested to pilot it last year. I gave the representative a call and he agreed. Mission Bay High has been piloting this program for a year and is seeing good results. MY Access instantly scores student essays and provides immediate feedback in either English or Spanish about the writing's focus, style, content, conventions and organization, clarifying both the broad mechanics and the subtle nuances of writing and turning secondary language interference into learning opportunities. I will give you an up-date later this year.

We are using "Cognitive Tutor" software. The students are really enjoying it and it is helping students with some of the more difficult math concepts. Carnegie Learning is a leading provider of core, full-year math curricula as well as supplemental intervention applications for middle school and high school students. The Cognitive Tutor® curricula help students to succeed in math by integrating interactive software sessions, text, and teacher-led classroom lessons into a unique learning platform that delivers scientifically based improvement. If you would like to see this program in action or see our students in action using this program, please call Marcia Abbott our librarian (new job title for the technology age) for times the program is being used in our media center.

I would like to congratulate Ryan Bardelli, Katie Russell, Kellen Stewart, Sten Walker, Miles Murphy, Julia Greer, Laura McKinstry, Davis Callejon, Andrew Melone, Bobby Ogle, Steven Kennedy, Alex Pitta and Chelsea Clark for their award winning work in the Greater San Diego Science Fair and Laura McKinstry, Miles Murphy, Katie Russell, Kellen Stewart for going to the next step to defend their projects in Los Angeles in May. Want to thank teachers, Go Ozendi, Jennifer Dzedzic, and Sean Gardinier, for their hard work and dedication to the Correia students. It takes hours and hours of work for students, teachers and parents to get to this level. I thank you.

You see why I am so excited to be at Correia. There is never a dull moment.

President's Message

by Kris Spathas

My message this month must be to commend our schools' administrative staff and the teachers for making the Correia campus safe during the protests that took place earlier in the month. There was forethought and the one lunch session was divided into three for the week; there was action taken to make this a learning opportunity for everyone by having an assembly early that week that focused on the facts of the immigration issue; there was additional learning and growth in the classroom as many teachers had open discussions with their students; and on Friday, when more rallies were anticipated, additional adults presence was requested and the school district office sent five of their staff to Correia. All in all, the students felt comfortable attending school and parents I have spoken to felt good about sending their students that week.

I wish the entire community knew first hand what a tremendous school there is right in their "own backyard". The dedicated teachers and staff are already looking toward next year with excitement as their commitment to the kids continues. Speaking of community, I know that many grade school families are thinking ahead with trepidation, as we all did. Not until you experience something can you truly know the merits of it and areas that need improvement. We who have children at the middle schools and even the high school know firsthand that there are great parent involvement opportunities, teachers who are dedicated to our kids and facilities that have improved from years ago, especially at Correia with the relatively new state-of-the-art science rooms and library. At Dana, though some families felt the children were

Continued on page 2 . . .

Update on the Science Fair Winners!

By Go Ozeni

The Greater Science and Engineering Fair at Balboa Park concluded on May 2nd. Correia students were well represented with all students receiving an award.

- Ryan Bardelli: Second Place
- Davis Callejon: Third Place
- Chelsea Clark: Third Place and San Diego Science Educators Association Award
- Julia Greer: Fourth Place
- Steven Kennedy: Second Place
- Laura McKinstry: First Award
- Andrew Melone: Third Place
- Miles Murphy: First Place and San Diego County Optometric Society Award
- Robert Ogle: Second Place
- Alex Pitta: Fourth Place and American Society for Nondestructive Testing Award
- Katie Russell: First Place
- Kellen Stewart: First Place
- Sten Walker: Third Place

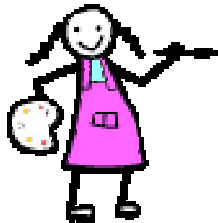
Further, four of these students,
**Laura McKinstry,
 Miles Murphy,
 Katie Russell, and
 Kellen Stewart**
 were selected to represent Correia at the California State Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, May 22-23.

Please congratulate all the students on a terrific job!!

SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

By Lilly Rosa, Correia Art Teacher

Congratulations are in order to 10 of our Correia art students! Their artwork was selected and was on display in the 2006 San Diego City Schools Art Exhibition at the Eugene Brucker Ed Center, 4100 Normal Street. There were seven Correia 8th graders exhibiting: Jessica Ruiz, Lisette Romero, Alexandra Waclawski, Erick Navarro, Gabriella Vasquez, Nick Forte and Judy Ann Negron. The three 7th graders exhibiting were: Sarah Robinson, Marco Vargas and Kenny Dugdale. The opening reception honoring these students was on Tuesday, March 21. Parents, family, friends and all interested supporters for the arts were invited. The exhibit extended through April 7.



The new visual arts program at Correia is going strong! The students are demonstrating some incredible talent. There are ongoing mini art exhibits of student work which can be viewed throughout the year at the front of the auditorium entrance in the main patio area. I am so very honored to be a part of the Correia educational team. Together we are developing student literacy, both visually and verbally. The arts are vital, developing discipline, responsibility, problem solving skills and healthy self esteem.

I am looking forward to beginning an advanced art program next school year for my second year art students. Please come and visit the art room, #402 and witness for yourself the exciting artwork being created by your magnificent children!

Sincerely, Lilly Rosa

President's Message . . .continued

By Kris Spathas

too young to be in a school of 960, if you ask the students, they would tell you that they have had an opportunity to make new friends, take classes such as drama, art, musical theatre, digital-age learning skills, etc. and have a little more freedom as they change classrooms a few times during the school day which adds to their growing experience. I was hesitant about the cluster configuration when it was first proposed because I felt fifth graders belonged in grade school, but now that my four children have experienced these transitions, to me the benefits far outweigh any disadvantages. Most of our children are more ready for the changes than we are, just like with my 18 year old— he is far more ready to go to college than I would like to think he is!! The natural tendency is to try to hold them back, control their environment and keep them "safe". Hopefully the community is seeing that their children can be "safe" within the walls of our neighborhood schools and also inspired and excited about the learning opportunities our configuration presents. For information on the incredibly productive, positive Point Loma Cluster Community Meeting, go to page 5

8th Grade Promotion Requirements

By Rick Colandrea, 8th Grade Counselor

Attention Eighth Grade Parents & Guardians,

The end of the school year is upon us and it is now time to start focusing on Promotion and the End of the Year Activities. In years past we have put together four days of activities for our eighth grade students. Things will be no different this year and the End of the Year Activities will include; Field Day (students get the opportunity to participate in various games and activities against their teachers), Eighth Grade Boat Trip (a cruise around San Diego Harbor that includes food, music and dancing), another off campus Educational Activity (last year we took students to see the Science Fiction/Adventure movie Star Wars Episode III), and our Promotion Ceremony that will be held on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University. As we get closer to June you will be notified about the specifics of each event.

NOW, in order for students to participate in these activities they have to meet certain requirements. We have gone over these requirements with ALL eighth grade students numerous times through out the school year (assemblies, letters home, four year plan presentations, parent/teacher conferences).

Here are the requirements for Participation.

- Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 in academics and citizenship (first semester and fifth quarter grades will be averaged)
- Have no referrals or discipline issues in the last six weeks
- Have no major discipline issues throughout the school year
- Be free of all school indebtedness: library fines, book charges

If your son/daughter does not meet these requirements then they will not be able to participate in any of the above activities. If you have any questions about the requirements, or if you are unsure if your son/daughter has met them, feel free to contact me at 619-222-0476, ext. 2188. These activities are a fun time for all and it would be shame for a student to miss out.



Rick Colandrea, Eighth Grade Counselor

Testing News

By Vice Principal, Debra Penfold

April is testing month. Our 7th graders completed the CST Writing Test on March 7th with make-up tests on March 8th. Now it is time to get ready for the STAR CST and Cat 6 tests in April. This mandated statewide student assessment program requires 7th grade students to take the CST content standards tests in English and math and the CAT 6 tests in math, reading and spelling. 8th grade students take the CST content standards tests in English, history, science and math. At Correia we will be testing on Thursday, April 27; Tuesday, May 2; Wednesday, May 3; and Thursday, May 4. We will be on a block schedule for the 4 days of testing to maximize student learning. School hours will be the same as usual: 8:45a.m. - 3:35p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday and 8:45a.m. - 1:30p.m. on Thursdays.

Our goal is to have scores which accurately reflect your student's achievement. Here are some test-taking strategies to review with your child:

- Have a positive attitude. If you encounter a difficult question, stay focused and do not allow a difficult item to ruin your performance. Don't give up.
- Read directions carefully. Watch out for words like not and except.
- Read each answer before marking your choice. Answer "E" may be a better choice than "A".

If you are unsure of an answer, eliminate answers you know are wrong and make an educated guess using the remaining choices.

Please do not schedule any activities that require students to be absent April 27 – May 4. Any student who is absent will be required to make-up the test. It is extremely important that we encourage all students to do their best on these tests for the following reasons:

- Student scores are used for placement consideration for many programs such as Honors, AVID, AP, Advanced Science, Reading Academy and Math Academy.

Each school's Academic Performance Index is calculated primarily on the results of this testing. Please help us in our efforts to raise the Correia test scores in all categories.

On the testing days the school will be serving a free breakfast to all students. Please make sure your child gets a good night's sleep on the testing days and comes to school ready to succeed. Please call Debby Penfold at X2103 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the testing schedule.

WaMoola for Correia from Washington Mutual !!

Washington Mutual, the Rosecrans Branch, donated \$4000 to our school last week. The money was from WaMoola for schools. Correia families who have a Washington Mutual debit and/or credit card and have designated Correia as the school to receive points made this happen!! Thank you. If you open an account you can designate a school and every time you make a purchase on your debit or credit card the school gets a point. Points are converted to a cash balance and the money is donated to the school at the end of the year. If any of you have a Washington Mutual account and have not designated a school please designate Correia. If you are thinking of opening account the Rosecrans branch has adopted us and we get credit when new accounts sign up through the program.

SPIRIT WEEK AT CORREIA— May 8-12

This is a fun week in which the students can show their spirit and be creative.

Monday—Crazy hair day Wednesday—Superhero day
 Tuesday—Pajama day Thursday—Jersey/Sports Day
 Friday—White t-shirt/Jeans

How to Easily Get Your Student from School for an Appointment . . .

We have all had times when we've needed to pull our child out of school in the middle of the day for one reason or another. It can be SO SIMPLE if you do the following:

1. Call the school the night before the appointment and leave a message on the attendance line, 619.222.0476. Tell what day and what time you will be picking up your student. Please give your name, the student's name and a phone number.
2. You can also call the day of, but you must call at least an hour before you arrive at the school or you will have to wait.
3. When your message is received, a staff member looks up the class your child is in, writes a pass, and sends a monitor with that pass to your student.
4. Your student is then able to leave his/her class to meet you at the office at the arranged time.
5. The office staff must have this time to arrange this for you and your student, especially if the student is in P.E. It is very difficult to pull a student from PE at the last minute.

If these steps are taken, it will be easier for everyone and it will help you get to your appointment on time!



**Honorary Service Awards
 Nomination Form**

It's time to nominate your picks for this year's Service Awards. A Service Award is given every year to a teacher, a Correia staff member, and a parent or community member who has gone above and beyond in contributing to the greater good of Correia Middle School. This is your chance to nominate someone who you have appreciated this year. Think of teachers and staff who have given 110% and the parents who have generously given their time to support our school. The awards will be presented at the end-of-the-year Social on June 2nd.

All teachers, staff, and parents will be invited.

Nomination Deadline is May 10th

You may nominate someone for each category if you would like to.

Name of Nominee _____ (Select a Category): Teacher ___ Staff ___ Parent ___ Other ___

Reason for Nomination _____

Name of Nominee _____ (Select a Category): Teacher ___ Staff ___ Parent ___ Other ___

Reason for Nomination _____

Name of Nominee _____ (Select a Category): Teacher ___ Staff ___ Parent ___ Other ___

Reason for Nomination _____

Your Name (Optional) _____

Please return completed forms to the Correia office or contact Lucy DeVito at ldevito@pacbell.net to submit your nomination by May 10th. Thank you.

Create a Lasting Memory at Correia



Buy a brick, write a message, and the message will be engraved and set in concrete outside the beautiful Correia library for you to view for years to come! Go to the Correia homepage and access a brick fundraiser form or pick one up at the Correia office.

Sign up for weekly e-mails from Correia by e-mailing Kris Spathas, kspathas@gmail.com, and ask to be added to the list. Informational e-mails go out weekly.



Positive Energy at Point Loma Cluster Community Meeting

by Matt Spathas

Over 100 parents attended the Point Loma Cluster Forum on April 20th at Correia Middle School. Principals Diane Ryan (Dana), Linda Taggart (Correia) and Bobbie Samilson (Point Loma High School) shared their vision. Parents packed the Correia "i-brary" to attend this Point Loma Cluster Community Forum to learn more about the three schools. The Principals discussed their schools and vision with parents. School Board Member, John DeBeck, also attended. Parents heard from teachers about the innovative initiatives at these schools, such as Light Speed (Digital Classrooms, Parent Connect, School Web Site and Web Lockers for Students). Special thanks to our principals and staff for making this happen and to Diane Sullivan and Jenny LaRocco for their vision in organizing this. For more information, go to <http://correiamiddle.com>, scroll down from "Association" to "Digital Filing Cabinet" and access "Cluster Events".

*** Remember. . . . National Day of the Teacher is Tuesday, May 9th ***

Library News

by Marcia Abbott, Correia i-brarian

Spring in the library! We celebrated National Library Week April 2-8, and now we begin to think about gathering in our library books and textbooks for the summer. All library books will be due June 2, and the library will be closed except for return of books from Monday, June 5.

8th grade will return textbooks Tuesday, June 6th during their science classes and 7th grade will return textbooks on Wednesday, June 7th through their science classes. If you would like to help with this event and can offer a morning or afternoon on either day, please contact me at mabbott1@sandi.net.

Please continue to save General Mills BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION over the spring and summer. It gives the library a small but mighty funding source for purchasing new books!!

We are ready to submit our spring commemorative brick orders. If you wish to honor your student with an engraved brick in the library courtyard, order forms are available in the library or online at <http://correiamiddle.com>

Correia Connection – Correia's parent/student book club plans to continue in the fall. If you are interested in reading a book a month with your student and meeting one night a month at school for some fun, snacks, and lively discussion – then join us! I am looking for meeting night preferences as we begin to make plans for the fall.

The library remains open after school Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays until 4:15 as a homework center. The library is open at 8:15 each morning except Tuesday and every day at lunch.

Thanks for a great year two in our spectacular new library!

If you don't have a library card for MFEMFEMFE Public Library, now is a good time to take care of that! Applications are available in the Correia library as well as at all branch libraries. They are FREE!

Marcia MFEMFE
Library Media Teacher



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CORREIA CALENDAR

May 3	Wednesday	Internet Safety Presentation	Library	6:30—8:30 p.m.
May 4	Thursday	Correia Association Meeting	Library	6:00 p.m.
May 8-12		Teacher Appreciation Week & Spirit Week		
May 15-19		Scholastic Book Fair at Correia		
May 17	Wednesday	Spring Open House		5:00—7:00 p.m.
May 29	Monday	No School, Memorial Day Holiday		
June 20	Tuesday	Last day of school for students		

(remember, there are no minimum days in June except for June 19th and 20th.)

correiamiddle.com Check it out . . . and pointlomahigh.com