

SCHOOL WATCH

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014 Edition

Shakespeare by the Sea presents


HAMLET
PRINCE OF DENMARK



Sunday, July 6 at 7 pm
Oak Canyon Community Park

5600 Hollytree Dr, Oak Park

Free parking and shuttle service to and from
Oak Park High School

ADMISSION IS FREE
(donations gratefully accepted)



SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

Everyone is invited to see Hamlet, Prince of Denmark on Sunday evening, July 6 at 7:00 PM at Oak Canyon Community Park. This is a free event that is jointly sponsored by Oak Park USD and Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks Department. The acting troupe is the professional Shakespeare by the Sea. They present in public parks all over Southern California each summer and receive rave reviews. We are sure you will enjoy the show in the beautiful setting of Oak Canyon Park. Come and bring a picnic dinner and your own lawn chairs and blankets.





CLASS OF 2014 STATS

We are very proud of our 2014 graduates this year. 97.3% will be attending college in the fall. 63.5% will attend a 4-year college and 33.8% will attend a 2-year program. Students were admitted to a wide array of colleges around the nation and around the world. Students will be attending Stanford, Yale, MIT, Brown, Brandeis, Boston College, Cornell, Duke, Emory, NYU, Northwestern, Penn, USC, UCLA, UCSB, UCSD, Cal, UC Davis, UC Irvine, the Air Force Academy, the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and many more highly selective schools. More importantly, we feel that our counselors have worked hard to find schools that are the right fit for our students so they can look forward to finding themselves in a good place next fall. The class of 2014 submitted 2071 college applications or 6.2 per student. 59% of these applications were returned with ACCEPTED letters.

SCHOOL SAFETY

We are installing surveillance cameras with infrared detection (night vision) at all of the schools this summer to keep an eye on things day and night. We are installing over 104 cameras in addition to those that we already have. The cameras will be able to be monitored from iPads by our campus supervisors and administrators and will record 24/7.

A new system for campus visitors will be in place in the fall. All visitors will be required to obtain a badge/pass in the office before proceeding on campus. In order to print a badge/pass, visitors will use a kiosk system that will scan their driver's license and issue a personalized pass that will expire at the end of that day.

MEASURE R PROJECTS

There are major construction projects going on at the schools this summer to improve the learning environment for our students. Most of these projects are thanks to the Measure R bond approved by the community in 2008. The projects underway this summer include:

- Remodel of the Multipurpose Room and classrooms in the 100 Building at Brookside Elementary School and playground resurfacing.
 - Replacement of portable classrooms on the Great Lawn at Oak Park High School with new GrowthPoint structures. These new structures are highly innovative new buildings made from recycled shipping containers. This project will be a model of sustainability that will be 180% above the federal LEED Platinum rating. These new structures are much less expensive than new construction and have much better 'curb appeal' than traditional modular classrooms. They have the best insulation and most efficient heating and cooling systems used in schools today. They allow abundant natural light inside as one side is a full wall of glass. Abundant natural light is equated with higher levels of student well being and academic performance. They will feature energy saving LED lighting, as well as low emission carpets and paints to ensure exemplary indoor air quality.
 - Remodel of the gymnasium at Oak Park High School including new locker rooms and offices.
 - The entire OPHS campus will be painted and refreshed.
 - Parking lot repaving, more new roofing, and new handball walls at Red Oak Elementary School.
 - Refurbish the field at Red Oak.
 - Remodel of student restrooms at Oak Hills Elementary and new restroom ventilation systems at Red Oak.
 - All of the schools will have new cabling for wireless device access and network upgrade.
 - Exterior lighting will be upgraded at all of the schools with new high efficient LED lighting.
 - Building signage and addresses will be added or upgraded across the District for both practical and safety reasons.
 - Several rooms at each of the schools will be receive new carpet.
- ...and more.



NON-MEASURE R PROJECTS INCLUDE :

- A new 6000-square foot solar shade structure will be built at Oak Park High School near the gym and cafeteria. In addition, solar panels will be added to the new classrooms mentioned above that will comprise a 160 kilowatt system that will generate 15% of the school's electricity.
- Five of the modular classrooms that are being replaced at Oak Park High School are being moved to the Education Services Center on Conifer Street to house the Oak Park Independent School, which is currently located in similar classrooms at Red Oak Elementary School. These buildings will be refurbished for their new purpose. As part of this project, a major re-landscaping project is being conducted on the side that faces Medea Creek Lane that will feature a model of native and drought-tolerant plantings including native sycamores and ironwood trees. The ironwood trees were ubiquitous over the Southwest millions of years ago and now live only in the wild on Santa Cruz Island, just offshore. Our hope is that this landscape project will demonstrate how landscaping can be water sensitive, provide plenty of housing for birds and wildlife, and beautify our community. Native plants are highly resistant to disease and pests and are suited to the climate and require less water than most non-natives.

KANAN SHUTTLE NEWS

The Oak Park USD Board voted to spend \$50,000 per year to help keep the Kanan Shuttle free. The Shuttle is funded by a major state grant to the county and one of the conditions of the grant require 20% local funding. Supervisor Linda Parks has been working with local entities to raise the funds so that the service is kept free. OPUUSD made the contribution because the Shuttle services many of our students and helps mitigate traffic. The MAC voted to fund \$25,000 and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks Community Committee also voted to recommend that the RSRPD Board put \$25,000 toward the Shuttle for next year. Oak Park USD is pleased to be in this partnership providing a valuable asset to the community.



FOSSIL EXHIBIT AT OAK PARK LIBRARY

An exhibit of fossils that were found during the construction of the water tank above Oak Canyon Park are on display in the foyer of the Oak Park Library. These fossils were excavated by the archeologist/paleontologist who was onsite during the construction. The Triunfo Sanitation District donated these fossils to the Oak Park USD. Two students from Oak View High School, Allison Borg and Dakota Blaylock have created a display of the best fossils, including fish and plants. Most of the fossils are from the early and middle Miocene epoch (5-15 million years old).



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THANKS FOR THE FURS!

Thanks very much to everyone who donated their furs for Wildlife Care of Southern California as part of a drive organized by the Oak Park High School club, S.P.A.E. (Students for the Protection of Animals and the Environment) – Rachel Cohen, president. The rescued coyotes, bobcats and other animals appreciated your donations. Here is a picture of Bobby the bobcat enjoying his new full-length mink generously donated by an Oak Park community member. The care center located in Simi Valley is able to use these furs in the rehabilitation process of injured, abandoned, or otherwise rescued wild local animals and birds.