Greater Anaheim SELPA Community Advisory Committee Award
CalKIDS is a new program from the State of California that provides eligible public school students up to $1500 in free money for college.* CalKIDS was created to help families kickstart their college savings plan and increase access to higher education.

CalKIDS can help kickstart a child’s future.

With free money for college!

To learn more and to find out if your child qualifies, visit CalKIDS.org today!

*Student eligibility is defined by the Local Control Funding Formula. The California Kids Investment and Development Savings Program (CalKIDS) is a children’s savings account program, administered by the ScholarShare Investment Board, an agency of the State of California. CalKIDS will provide eligible participants with college savings accounts, including seed deposits and other potential incentives, to help pay for future qualified higher education expenses. To learn more about CalKIDS or opt out of the program entirely, please see the Program Information Guide at CalKIDS.org.
The pride I feel in all of our students and staff this year cannot be contained! I’ve witnessed first-hand the learning and excitement that has occurred this year. In a year filled with challenges, our staff and students have risen to the occasion and embraced learning in a myriad of ways. We’re proud that we’ve been able to provide a strong instructional program focused on grade level standards as well as address the social-emotional needs of students with our smaller class sizes this year. We’re proud of our continuing focus on the implementation of our new English Language Arts/English Language Development program, taking a ‘deeper dive’ into data to drive the instructional program and our continuing commitment to STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics! A combination of a rich, well-rounded curriculum, highly qualified and caring staff and a long-standing commitment to excellence is continuing to prepare our students to be successful 21st Century citizens.

I’m proud to announce that our new after-school W.I.N.G.S. (Wonder • Inspire • Nurture • Grow • Succeed) program has been an overwhelming success, with nearly one-third of our students participating. During the after-school program, students have opportunities to complete homework assignments and participate in a wide-variety of clubs. From art projects to science experiments, from performing in the WINGS choir to performing readers’ theatre plays, from working with big brother/big sisters to learning to play the violin, from programming tiny robots to creating mechanical hands, from learning basic sport skills to competing in intra-mural tournaments, students couldn’t be more excited about the program! It’s not unusual for students to request to stay longer when parents arrive to pick them up at the end of the day. Many students don’t want to leave until at least 5:30 pm—a true testament to their excitement for all they are learning and how much they enjoy the program. We’ve been able to ensure counseling and nursing services are part of the WINGS program. Knowing that feeding our students during the after-school program will provide them with the stamina they need to participate at a high level, we’re proud that we’ve recently been able to add the Supper Program to the day. We’re committed to building healthy habits in all children, but most specifically those children who would otherwise go hungry. We are so proud of the tireless efforts of our students and staff for their ingenuity, commitment, and innovation in the face of adversity.

See Superintendent • Page 5

CyberPatriots Award.
Dr. Johnson begins this issue with her message on page 3 with an update on this school year and plans for next school year. It is an exciting time to be a student in the Savanna School District.

Have a wonderful summer and please remember to include the library among your activity choices.

Our next issue is September 20.

Have a FUN summer!
As we reflect on the success of the after-school W.I.N.G.S. program, I'm proud to announce that we will be providing a district-run on-site preschool program at each of our schools next school year. As we welcome younger children into transitional kindergarten, we realize that there is a need to provide opportunities for younger children to participate in learning experiences at school. The preschool program will be structured for two, three, and four-year-old children born between May 3, 2019 and August 7, 2021. The preschool program aims to provide our youngest learners with opportunities to engage in stimulating educational activities that will promote their curiosity, creativity, and love for learning. As we transition our preschool programs from outside agencies to district-run programs, we hope to create a seamless transition for families, children and students from preschool through sixth grade.

I’m so proud of the effort on the part of our staff to ensure on-campus events for students, parents, and our community throughout the year. It has been heartwarming to see and feel the excitement as parents, students, and staff flocked to school Open Houses this spring! Parents have been eager to share in the students’ joy of learning. From sixth graders who proudly posed next to their life-sized mannequins of themselves to fourth graders who enthusiastically displayed their missions, from fifth graders who shared what they had learned about the Founding Fathers to second graders who excitedly shared their owl pellet projects, from third graders who eagerly shared their memory books filled with writing and projects from the year to kindergartners who...
Mental Health in Children

By: Ioana Pal, Psy.D., clinical psychologist, Stramski Children’s Developmental Center, MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital Long Beach

Mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and self-harm among children have risen in recent years, and can have long-lasting effects on a child’s physical, emotional, and social development.

Factors that can affect a child’s mental health include genetics, environment, and life experiences. Common mental health disorders in children include anxiety disorders, depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and behavior disorders. These conditions can impact a child’s ability to learn in school, interact with others, and develop healthy relationships.

Parents and teachers play a crucial role in promoting positive mental health among children. Some strategies for support include providing a safe and supportive environment, encouraging open communication, promoting healthy habits like exercise and good nutrition, and seeking help when needed.

Recognizing the warning signs of mental health issues in children is important. These may include changes in behavior, mood, sleep, or appetite. Additionally, a child may express feelings of sadness, worry, or fear, have difficulty concentrating or completing tasks, or exhibit physical symptoms such as headaches or stomachaches. They may also isolate more than before.

It’s important not to minimize their feelings. Children need to feel safe coming to parents with their issues, and as parents it’s important to ask them how they feel if there is a change in behavior.

Early intervention and treatment can significantly improve a child’s mental health outcome. Treatment options may include therapy, medication, lifestyle changes or a combination tailored to each child’s needs. By supporting their mental health, we can help children develop into healthy, resilient adults.

It takes a village.

At just seven weeks old, Athena’s heart stopped. MemorialCare Miller Children’s & Women’s Hospital saved her life. Our cardiac specialists, nurses and therapists all worked together. Reassuring her family. Helping her grow strong. And forging a successful path forward. Because we knew, to help Athena, it would take a village. Dozens of highly trained pediatric specialists across our network. Giving families access to exceptional, specialized care. Now Athena can be a kid again…and her heart is full.

Learn more, millerchildrens.org/care
Cerritos Cheetahs Celebrate World Book Day in April. Students and teachers dressed up as their favorite book characters and shared their favorite books. The creativity was endless; there were several students dressed as Pete the Cat, Harry Potter, and a fan favorite, the mouse from “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie”. Some students and teachers made it into a group affair and dressed up as One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. One teacher and an instructional assistant dressed up as the class' favorite characters, Piggie and Elephant. Students spent the day reading and examining different works of literature. Several classes partnered with their reading buddies and could be found enjoying the beautiful weather in the Outdoor Learning Center as they shared their favorite books and stories. The day inspired students to foster a love of books and shared reading.

Cerritos Cheetahs also participated in Academic Olympics. All students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades were invited to participate. The events included mathematics, spelling, oral interpretation, composition, and art. Students competed against other children within the same grade level. The events took place over several days and students were excited to show off their skills and compete. Students and teachers especially loved the spelling competition. The cheers and applause after a student spelled an incredibly challenging word could be heard throughout the campus. After all the competitions were complete, Cerritos Cheetahs came together to celebrate all those who participated and those who placed first, second, and third in each grade level category. The winners of the art competition had their art work displayed in the office for everyone to see. The students who won the oral interpretation were given the chance to present in front of the entire Cerritos student body. Students are already excited about competing again next year.
Ask Dr. Shari

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of “pursuit of personal happiness,” too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, “The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of The Brainpower Programs for Schools, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIn: Dr. Shari Sweetnam
Time for Kids

Q. We feel like bad parents because it seems like we just don’t have time to actually “parent” our children, since we both work. How can we make time for them so that they don’t feel left out, or worse, that they’re not important to us?

A. Face it, our smartphones take a lot of our time. One way we can manage our time for our kids is by simply putting them down or turning them off for a while. A self-imposed “no phones allowed” rule, if you will. Take a vote to decide on some special activities and maybe do one each week. Try not to put off important actions like taking the time to discipline your kids. They need this to learn life skills like being fair, knowing the value of listening to others, limitations, etc. Read, play, cook and talk with them regularly and without interruptions.

When talking to your kids, if you don’t have time to answer a question and your response is “just a minute,” be sure to go back to the question and talk with them without rushing through it. Make time to give them your full attention. If you need to schedule time for them, do it. These things will be showing them that they are important, heard and loved.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author.

www.ParentToParent.com
Hansen Huskies “Glow” with P.R.I.D.E.

At Hansen, our students know how to show their P.R.I.D.E. Our Positive Behavior Inventions and Supports (PBIS) model encourages students to display the following characteristics: Politeness, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Enthusiasm. Hansen PRIDE cards are given to students that exhibit these characteristics by staff members. These cards are saved and turned in for fun incentives, prizes, and experiences. The weekly school P.R.I.D.E. store offers fun prizes which include one-of-a-kind Hansen items such as school supplies, light-up yo-yos, and a picnic with a friend to name a few. The students can also play in our “Spin-to-win” game which includes various prizes. Fourth through sixth grade students have the opportunity to join the Upper Grade Experience, which has included Minute-to-Win-It games and Glow in the Dark Bowling. The students truly enjoy these prizes and activities, and are excited to collect their PRIDE cards throughout the week.

Hansen Dance-a-Thon

After a 3-year hiatus, the Hansen Dance-a-Thon was back and bigger than ever. This school-wide fundraiser helped raise money for activities and programs that support student learning. This included assemblies and field trips. For all their hard work, each grade level was treated to a fun Glow in the Dark Dance Party, where our Hansen Huskies showed us their best dance moves. The joy on the students’ faces was priceless as the music played and the students followed along to fun choreography. We sure do have some talented Huskies! We are excited to continue this wonderfully exciting opportunity and to give back to the students we serve at Hansen School.
Learning Outside the Classroom

As the school year is coming to a close and the weather is improving, teachers and students have been taking advantage of opportunities to learn outside of the classroom at a variety of different venues. After a three-year ‘pause’ on off-campus trips, we were excited to once again provide these valuable learning opportunities for students. Students have had fun visiting and learning at aquariums, college campuses, science centers, museums and California missions just to name a few of the fun and educational locations they have visited this year. In many cases, the field trips were culminating activities that built on science, social studies and math lessons that had been previously taught in the classroom. The lessons were truly brought to life through hands-on interactive activities.

It was awesome to see our Holder Hawks spreading their wings and exploring, playing, experimenting and making memories with their classmates. Teachers and students alike enjoyed seeing lessons come to life in a variety of venues. A first-grade teacher remarked, “The field trip to the Natural History Museum was a first for the little ones. It was exciting and informative.” To quote a sixth-grade student, “I didn’t know colleges were so big! Did you know that you get to pick the classes you want to take?” After visiting the San Juan Capistrano Mission, one fourth grade student said, “It was cool! I’ve seen the pictures in our books but being there was way better.” However, the best was the excitement expressed by a second-grade student who exclaimed “I saw a fish that was bigger than me!” Field trips our Hawks participated in provided enriching learning experiences for the students. A big “thank you” goes out to our families for supporting our students and making these fantastic experiences possible.
Let the Olympics Begin!

Academic Olympics have officially begun at Twila Reid! This is the first year that upper grade students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades will have the opportunity to voluntarily sign up for one or two Academic Olympic events. We began with our Academic Olympic Kickoff Assembly that was lead by our fifth grade teacher Ms. Hewitt. At this assembly students were encouraged to sign up for at least one event; a description of the events, timeline, and process were described to all the students. Categories in our Academic Olympics are Spelling, Mathematics, Composition, and Oral Interpretation.

Students competing in the Composition category will have one hour to write about a topic assigned to them, to be completed immediately; essays will be judged on content and mechanics. Students competing in the Spelling classification will be given a list of words to practice before they face off their peers in an official Spelling Bee. Those students competing in the Oral Interpretation category will recite a poem that they have practiced, preferably performed by memory. Students will be judged by how well they can recite the poem, including expression, voice, articulation and accuracy. In Mathematics, students will be tested in common core math skills including geometry, word problems, measurement, money, place value, etc. in an electronic format.

First, second, and third place winners in each category, for each grade level, will receive ribbons for their achievement. Winners will be acknowledged at our Academic Awards Assembly in the Outdoor Learning Center on Friday, May 19th. We can’t wait to see our Rams demonstrate their academic and scholastic skills during this Academic Olympics! No matter how our students place in these games, they are all certain to be winners with their increased knowledge. Reid Rams, let the academic games begin!
WINGS Spring Camp

The Savanna WINGS program held our first ever WINGS Spring Camp! We brought together nearly 200 students from all four of our school sites for a week of engaging activities. Students spent Monday through Thursday of Savanna School District’s Spring Break from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm engaged in a variety of STEM, Art, and outdoor activities.

Students completed several STEM challenges such as the ever-popular egg drop where they created a device that would protect a plastic egg from breaking upon being dropped from the top level of the play structure. They challenged themselves to build the tallest structure possible with a set of 50 index cards. Art activities for the week were based around Social Emotional Learning and are referred to as our SEAL (Social Emotional and Art Learning) activities. They created self-portraits after learning ways to appreciate the unique and special person they are. They created art chains after learning skill to communicate with others when they are disagreeing. This included acting out scenarios of common disagreements students experience with peers both in and out of school.

Although the rain tried to keep the students indoors, staff were able to get students out for a few hours every day. Students participated in a variety of activities that got their bodies moving. From practicing for the upcoming soccer tournament to learning how to jump rope (a classic schoolyard activity that many students had not participated in until this week), students enjoyed making new friends while building healthy habits. Of course, the favorite outdoor activity of the week was a massive egg hunt made up of more than 1,000 plastic eggs. Students and parents alike expressed how much they appreciated the chance to join in the fun at the Savanna WINGS Spring Camp!
passionately shared recordings of their reading, it was obvious how much students have learned this year! Our sixth graders will participate in our time-honored Junior Olympics competition between schools this spring and will savor the experience of a district-wide sixth grade field trip. Parents have been welcomed back to campus to witness awards assemblies, field days, class presentations, and more. This demonstration of community support for our schools, our students and continued learning has been gratifying, highlighting what amazing things can happen when we work together.

I’m proud of the successes of our students and staff that have been recognized throughout the school year. Students have been recognized for their commitment to school ideals of integrity, perseverance, trustworthiness, honesty, fairness, and respect at classroom and school awards assemblies throughout the year. We’ve celebrated students for their persistence through difficult circumstances and challenging situations. I am filled with pride when I see the countless ways in which our students and staff have excelled and been recognized. Most recently, our sixth grade CyberPatriots teams from Hansen and Cerritos Schools were recognized for their dedication to learning how to secure virtual networks; they truly demonstrated their commitment to helping to lead future generations of high-quality cybersecurity professionals. I’m proud of the teams of students who have demonstrated sportsmanship and skills during kickball and soccer intra-mural tournaments as well as individuals who won ribbons during our annual district Jr. Olympics competition. I’m also proud of accomplishments of our staff. Recently, Dr. Vanessa Valenzuela and Ms. Anaiza Valladolid were honored for their ongoing commitment to ensuring the emotional safety and security of students as they received the Greater Anaheim SELPA Community Advisory Committee Award. I’m also proud of Mrs. Julie Martin, first grade teacher at Hansen School, on her selection as Savanna School District’s 2024 Teacher of the Year. We can’t wait to recognize our sixth-grade students for their academic and leadership skills during our sixth-grade promotions at the end of the school year.

I’m proud that we will once again offer Summer Academy for our students currently enrolled in transitional kindergarten through grade five. Our 2023 Summer Academy Program will focus on assisting with potential setbacks in student learning and academic achievement over the summer. The program will provide scholars with foundational skills in language arts and math as we prepare them for success in the upcoming school year. In addition, we are proud to offer the W.I.N.G.S. program for students enrolled in Summer Academy who are currently enrolled in W.I.N.G.S. Children will have the chance to participate in a wide array of learning activities, including field trips to local destinations that will expose them to new and exciting experiences.

When I reflect on what makes a good school district a GREAT school district, I recognize that it is “people;” people like our staff who are committed to what they do each day to ensure student success that we can be proud of; people like our parents who provide the home support for our students so that they can reach their potential; and people like all those in our community who have contributed to our successes in so many ways. Because of the commitment, perseverance, and resilience of our students, staff, and parents, the 2022-23 school year has indeed been a successful one in which we take tremendous pride!
Day at the Beach—Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com. Please put Savanna in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2023
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a $20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

SUN BLOCK  SURF BOARD
TOWELS     FLOAT
SWIM SUIT   SHIRT
SUNGLASSES SANDWICHES
UMBRELLA   SHORTS
HAT        CHAP STICK
FLIP FLOPS FIRST AID KIT
PAIL       COOLER
SHOVEL     DRINKS
BLANKET    SNACKS
BOOK

MAPS  BLANKET  GPS
SUNGLASSES  WATER  SUNSCREEN
PIZZA  CLOTHING  CELL PHONE
HUMOR  RADIO  MONEY
HOTEL  CREDIT CARD  BOOTS
CAMERA  SPARE TIRE  SNACKS

Road Trip—Word Search Contest

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When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com. Please put Savanna in the subject line.

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BOOK