



# Oceanside Schools

## Anchored Together

### BY PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PEOPLE

September 2016

## Superintendent's Message



Dear Families and  
Community Members,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. This newsletter has traditionally been our opportunity to share with the community the goals that will be the focal point of the new school year.

As you review the goals on pages 2 and 3, you will see that many are a natural continuation of the great work already in place. We continue to establish new goals and objectives to build upon the excellent education and positive experiences we provide for our students.

In the coming year, we want to focus especially on how the people around us impact what we do and how each of us can make a difference for others. Our theme for this year, therefore, is based on a quote by the poet Maya Angelou: *Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.*

Since coming to Oceanside, I have seen that this is a remarkable community of people who truly care about their neighbors and their community. I know that you live these values each day. Together, we can teach our children how all of us benefit when we try to be a rainbow for others.

I look forward to seeing our students and staff on September 1 and wish everyone a happy and healthy school year.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## Welcome Back to School!

It's our pleasure to welcome all of our students, staff and families back to school!

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year at school events and hope you will also attend Board of Education meetings to learn more about our school district and our progress towards the goals outlined in this newsletter. Please note that Board meetings have been moved to Wednesdays.

In an effort to improve consistency and maintain transparency, we have decided to hold our public Board of Education meetings in the newly renovated School #6 auditorium. This venue is perfect in terms of size, room temperature and parking accessibility. Our hope is that it makes it easier for the public to participate in our meetings. Of course, individual schools will continue to be highlighted each month at the opening of our meetings by selecting students to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Please feel free to call us with your questions and concerns at 678-1226. Have a terrific school year!

Sincerely,  
*Oceanside Board of Education*  
Kimberly Grim Garrity, *President*  
Sandie Schoell, *Vice President*  
Seth J. Blau  
Michael D'Ambrosio  
Donald Maresca  
Mary Jane McGrath-Mulhern  
Robert M. Transom



# Goals and Objectives

*At the core of the Oceanside School District are essential beliefs that drive our school culture and commitment to excellence. Goals established annually help foster the overarching conviction that we are all learners who work collaboratively in an environment of educational excellence.*

**At the Core** We believe that curriculum, instruction, and assessment must be developed in a manner that provides a challenging, engaging, and meaningful education for all students.

**Goals 16/17 New Course Offerings:** To implement and monitor new course offerings at Oceanside High School that will provide students with additional opportunities to explore their learning in areas that will support future college, career and personal development, including *Virtual Enterprise, Project Lead the Way, Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles, Advanced Theatre, Dance Choreography, and Child Development.*

**AP Experience:** To continue to develop and expand the AP Experience program from the pilot of eight teachers and 169 students, as an opportunity for students enrolled in Advanced Placement courses to focus on self-designed projects or internships as a way to pursue interests aligned with potential career paths, service to the community or other areas of interest.

**Algebra II:** To implement the new Algebra II curriculum into our high school program, thus completing the transition of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) as it applies to high school Regents coursework.

**Project Extra in the Classroom:** To expand the 4th and 5th grade

Project Extra for All program to the 6th grade, thereby providing all students in these grades with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematical (STEM) educational experiences while supporting our teachers' professional learning in the essential components of a STEM program.

**Exemplars:** To introduce and support the use of Exemplars as a layer of additional, deep problem-solving to work in concert with our Envision Math curriculum in grades K-5.

**Independent Reading:** To encourage greater levels of independent reading through individual classroom and building-wide initiatives to further foster students' love of reading.

**At the Core** We believe that our programs should be designed to address the needs of all learners so that Oceanside's students will perform at their highest potential with equitable educational opportunities consistent throughout the district.

**Goals 16/17 Career & Technical Education (CTE):** To promote alternative graduation pathways for students by fostering high quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs which will allow flexibility in the attainment of graduation requirements.

**Castleton:** To create the process by which all Castleton students will receive a "Personal Education

Plan" that will include the academic, career, and social-emotional goals of the student.

**Academic Planner/Parent Portal:** To implement the use of the Academic Planner in the Parent Portal as a tool for parents/students to monitor graduation progress.

**At the Core** We believe that communicating timely and accurate information is a critical component of fostering a positive relationship with all school and community members.

**Website Re-design:** To re-design the current school district website to conform to new technology standards, simplify browsability, and provide additional access to information for community members and school personnel.

**Parent Ambassadors:** To work closely with our PTA leaders to enhance our district's ability to communicate the positive happenings of our school district through the effective use of social media.

**At the Core** We believe that by providing our residents with intellectual, social, and recreational opportunities, we enhance the lives of our community members.

**Goals 16/17 New Horizons:** To provide greater access to Adult Education services (TASC, ABE, ESL) to community members through increased community outreach, altering hours of services,

# ctives 2016-17

*We provide experiences that develop the diverse talents and abilities of our students to prepare them for successful lifelong learning as contributing, responsible citizens.*

and targeted instruction in the classroom.

**Camp Invention:** To launch Camp Invention as a means of providing elementary students with an opportunity for an engaging, hands-on STEAM experience and to evaluate its success.

**At the Core** *We believe that all district facilities must be safe, secure learning environments and that district operations must be continually strengthened to provide the appropriate resources to support and enhance the educational experience for all.*

**Goals 16/17 Bond - Planning Phases 3B & 4:** To plan this portion of our bond referendum; construction is scheduled for the summer of 2017.

**At the Core** *We believe that the skills associated with Social and Emotional Literacy (SEL) promote physical, mental, and social well-being, that allow children to grow to be healthy and productive citizens in their community.*

**Goals 16/17 Social & Emotional Literacy (SEL):** To highlight the importance of social and emotional literacy through the introduction and further enhancements of digital citizenship programs that emphasize students' conduct in a digital setting, to expand the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) program "No Place for Hate" to additional schools in our district, and to

reinvigorate the use of the anchors of the RULER program.

**At the Core** *We believe that professional learning is the cornerstone of the growth and development of our faculty and staff committed to continual improvement.*

**Goals 16/17 NT3 Grant -** To implement the NT3 grant as a means of supporting student teacher development, promote teacher development, and to encourage teacher-led professional learning.

**At the Core** *We believe that technology should be used to maximize and enhance learning by becoming a natural integration into existing best practices.*

**Goals 16/17 12th Grade Bring Your Own Device (BYOD):** To evaluate the efficacy of providing wireless internet access to students who choose to bring a computer, tablet or phone to school for educational purposes.

**6th Grade Chromebook Implementation -** To provide access to technology to our 6th grade students which will increase access for all students in the building, engage students in an online learning environment and better prepare them for their future education in the district.

**Techsperts -** To develop a cadre of student technicians who will contribute to their school community by repairing and trouble-shooting electronic devices while building

experience in a college and career pathway they may wish to pursue in future years.

## Summer Programs Serve More Than 1,000 Students

From learning to drive to creating inventions from everyday household objects, students had plenty of options to keep them busy and engaged this past summer. *Below are photos from the Early Childhood Parade and students in Camp Invention showing off their Crickobot.*



## Oceanside Union Free School District Board of Education

Kimberly Grim Garrity, *President*  
Sandie Schoell, *Vice President*  
Seth J. Blau  
Michael D'Ambrosio  
Donald Maresca  
Mary Jane McGrath-Mulhern  
Robert M. Transom

Dr. Phyllis S. Harrington  
Superintendent of Schools

Donna Kraus  
Public Information Coordinator; Editor

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Please call 678-7525 with any questions  
about our schools.

Visit our website @ [oceansideschools.org](http://oceansideschools.org)

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## ECRWSS POSTAL PATRON

# Save the Date: Upcoming Events

*See district calendar on our website for more events*

### October 6, 7 pm

#### ***Don't Press Send***

A workshop for parents on helping pre-teens and teens develop responsible social media behavior. Featuring Katie Schumacher, author of *Don't Press Send A Mindful Education to Social Media; An Education in Cyber Civics*

### November 5, 8:30 am to noon

#### ***Middle Level Parent Institute***

featuring **Rosalind Wiseman**, author of *Queen Bees & Wannabes* and *Masterminds & Wingmen*.

*This event will include a keynote address by Ms. Wiseman as well as workshops about issues facing middle school students and how parents can help.*



**UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:** September 14 - School #6 Aud.; September 21 - Board Room; October 19 - School #6 Aud.; November 2, Board Room. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.