



Photo: Yollie Vollmar

Students' Victories!

**PAWSitive Reflections**  
 News and Information for Families, Staff, & Friends  
 WINTER 2013-14



**DEAF ACADEMIC BOWL**

—Above: CSDR High School team wins the championship in the Western Regional Academic Bowl.  
*Photo: Coach Mitch Kurs, Christian Jacobs, Mavrick Fisher, Karina Baker, Coach Sharon Vollmar, Brendan Busch, Superintendent Mal Grossinger*

*READ MORE ON P. 4*

**ATHLETICS**—Above: CSDR High School Wrestling team wins the Arrowhead League championship, for the first time after the program was re-founded three years ago.  
*Right: CSDR High School Girls Basketball team defeats a powerhouse school after 31 years, and enters CIF playoffs with only 4 to 5 available players (Photo: Kathleen Lopez, Alexandra Monge, Calyssa Yepez, Sara Wnek, Jarita Bustamante)*

*READ MORE ON P. 18*



**Superintendent:**

Malcolm Grossinger  
( VP ) 951-824-8050

**Director of Instruction:**

Alyce Berard  
951-248-7700 Ext. 6563

**Director of Student Services:**

Jennie Machado  
951-248-7700 Ext. 1118

**Director of Residence:**

Farley Warshaw  
( VP ) 951-824-8060

**Director of Business Services:**

Gloria Hernandez  
951-248-7700 Ext. 4193

**Newsletter:**

Published Quarterly  
Email articles and photos to:  
[ethompson@cldr-cde.ca.gov](mailto:ethompson@cldr-cde.ca.gov)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Erika Thompson  
Community Resource Specialist

**Copy Editor:**

Denise Hamilton

**Publicity Committee:**

Elizabeth Durham  
Joshua Foronda  
Darrin Green  
Kelly Gunderson  
Susan Stewart  
Terri Vincent  
Ryan Zarembka

**Article and Photo Contributors:**

Leah Adelsberger  
Fadi Alberre  
Melissa Brown  
Mike Anderson  
Kevin Croasmun  
Elizabeth Durham  
Rebecca Gleicher  
Shelly Gravatt  
Mal Grossinger  
Denise Hamilton  
Stacey Hausman  
Youlandean Johnson  
Jon Kessel  
Amy Kimmerele  
Mitch Kurs  
Laurie Lewis  
Nancy Moore  
Mikhael Rosenberg  
Erika Thompson  
Scarlett Valencia  
Terri Vincent  
Yollie Vollmar  
Sharon Vollmar  
Laurie Waggoner  
Farley Warshaw  
Fred Weiss  
Allen Young  
Melanie Zakrosky

## Message from Mal

When I was first approached about accepting the position of CSDR Superintendent, my wife and I had already begun making our retirement plans. However, there were things I always wanted to see accomplished in Deaf Education before I left my beloved field. So, after much discussion and careful consideration with my wife, we agreed that I should spend some five years or so pursuing my educational goals for both CSDR and the field of Deaf education—only then would we continue on with our own personal plans. That was seven years ago.

When I arrived at CSDR in 2006, there was a large turnover in both administrative and staff positions, the WASC accreditation had been delayed, parents felt their concerns were not being addressed, and, most importantly, student achievement had begun to suffer. Together with a talented cabinet and excellent leadership at the supervisory level (both old and new), we worked as a team to implement new goals for the school. It has taken a little longer than my original estimate of five years, but as I look at CSDR today I see that we were successful in achieving our goals. So now it is time for me to pass the reins of leadership to someone who can take the school to the next level.

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement, that I announce my retirement from CSDR as of June 30, 2014. I am confident that the next phase of CSDR excellence will be heralded in by a skilled team of leaders, parents, and students. While I am sad to leave the school, I am excited to focus on my long-awaited retirement knowing that I will always be part of the CSDR family.

As for CSDR's transition to new leadership, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson is committed to making this change as seamless as possible. Sacramento will be overseeing the interview process and will be on campus to share that information with all CSDR Stakeholders.

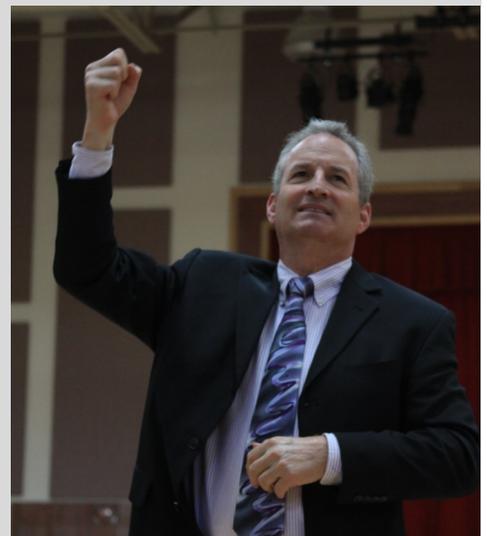
I would like to thank all of you for making my time here at CSDR memorable. We have accomplished a great deal through your hard work and efforts. I would also like to thank my wife and children for their undying support and patience in putting our personal plans on hold while I focused on the school.

I look forward to seeing great things from this school in the future!

Sincerely,

Mal Grossinger

Superintendent 



**CSDR Mission: California School for the Deaf offers comprehensive educational and extra-curricular programs that prepare students to achieve their full academic, social, and career potential.**

## Input from CSDR Community

*Written by Erika Thompson, Accreditation Co-Chair*

What would most help all students at CSD Riverside learn and thrive? CSD is in its first year of a periodic self-study process that involves evaluation by staff, students, parents, and community. Staff participants gather every two weeks to review data on school performance, including student scores, and decide on strengths, growth needs, and priorities of focus for the school. Parents and community were recently invited for question sessions on parent-community involvement. A survey will come out later in spring to help confirm our findings. We aim for a full 6-year accreditation again with full commitment from all stakeholders. 🐾



*One of the five staff Focus groups discuss Instruction at CSDR to list priorities*

## Deaf Education Resource Center and DeafTEC

*Written by Denise Hamilton, DeafTEC Site Coordinator*

CSDR has established the Southern California Deaf Education Resource Center, to provide resources and services to all deaf children in Southern California. CDERC-South is overseen by our Assessment supervisor, Dr. Natasha Kordus and a select core team.

As part of the CDERC, our school partnered with RIT/NTID and the National Science Foundation to provide DeafTEC.

Through this grant, we are able to provide workshops to teachers in

California on best practice and universal design to meet the needs of all deaf and hard of hearing students. We will be presenting workshops for school districts, here at CSDR and at their district site.

The primary focus of DeafTEC is to get more DHH students educated appropriately in STEM fields, transition them into college programs that are STEM related, and ultimately into the workplace in technology fields.

CSDR is one of three high school partners selected along with TSD and FSDB. 🐾

## Special Education Task Force

*Written by Laurie Waggoner, Public Information, Volunteer, and Events Coordinator*

CSDR was the host site for this year's Statewide Special Education Task Force meeting, co-chaired by Dr. Carl Cohn and Mr. Fred Weintraub. The Task Force duties are to examine California's complex systems for serving students with disabilities and then forward those recommendations to the State Board of Education, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and the California Department of Education.

California's current policies, including funding, credentialing, and a range of

service delivery options, tend to "bolt on" special education to general education. Transforming our understanding of special education from being a place where students go to receive more or different services, to a viewpoint that includes special education services as one of many programs of support under the umbrella of general education, requires transforming the policies California has in place that serve as direction, incentives, and supports for local implementation action. 🐾

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## Middle School Wins Entry to National Battle of the Books!

Written by Rebecca Gleicher, Middle School Teacher and Coach



*CSDR Green team attending nationals at Gallaudet University: Nicole Aguirre'19, Jahaidia Brown-Love'19, and Emma Salazar'18*



*CSDR Buff team attending nationals at Gallaudet University: Nathaniel Humpal'18, Jared Herman'19, and Jacob Weiss'18*

The Battle of the Books competition came to a close with the Playoff round for both the Buff and Green teams. Our Blue team did not advance to the playoffs; however, it was on very good authority that they were VERY close.

To start, each team had to play preliminary matches against other schools in their pool. Buff Division had a total number of participating schools at 20, Blue Division also had 20 schools, and Green Division had 17 schools in the division.

Only the top 16 Buff teams, top 8 Blue, and top 8 Green teams were selected as a result to participate in the playoffs.

Our Buff team did a fantastic job in their playoff game! They missed only two questions in Round One and hit every question in Round Two for a perfect score! At one point they answered correctly

to 21 questions consecutively. Round Three was more individualized when the students were shown three questions, one for each book that was read, and had to decide among themselves who was going to take which question to answer within a two-minute period. They could not discuss the answer among themselves unlike during Rounds One and Two. For Round Three, Buff team earned most of the points! That is really fantastic!

Green team did a great job during their playoff match as well! They correctly answered the majority of the questions! Green team also scored many points.

Days later, Gallaudet University announced which schools made it to Nationals. BOTH our Buff and Green teams made it! What AWESOME news!

Please be sure to congratulate all the players for participating in the Battle of the Books event. 🐾

## CSDR Victorious in the Deaf Academic Bowl (*Front Cover*)

Written by Sharon Vollmar and Mitch Kurs, Coaches

CSDR is at the top again. Our team won the championship match at the Western Regional Academic Bowl competition hosted by Gallaudet University last weekend. Eighteen schools across the Western states including Hawaii competed. In addition, CSDR's Karina Baker was selected the Most Outstanding Player out of 72 players. Edmond Woodway High School in Seattle



held 2<sup>nd</sup> place; CSDF was in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and 4<sup>th</sup> place went to University High School in Irvine. Those teams included Seniors, whereas our CSDR team did not. CSDR's team's next step will be to participate in the National Deaf Academic Bowl competition, April 5 through April 8, at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. 🐾

## Academic Bowl Reflections: From 1997 to 2014

*Written by Scarlett Valencia, Western Regional Academic Bowl Coordinator and Former CSDR DAB Champion*

As most of you have known, CSDR won the very first National Academic Bowl championship in the spring of 1997.



*1997 CSDR Champion Team:*

*Scarlett Valencia (Bernstein)'97, Octavian (Sara) Robinson'97, Rebecca Rydstrom (Goldenbaum)'98, Megan Walsh'97, Matt Ellis'97 (not pictured)*

Now you find that CSDR has just won the most recent West Region Academic Bowl championship!

What many of you don't know is how similar the stories are that led both teams to win championships. Let me share this fascinating tidbit with you all. When the 1997 CSDR Academic Bowl (AB) team competed in the nationals at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., they were up against four other schools. The first match started at 8 am EST time, which meant it was actually 5 am to the westerners. As a result, the CSDR team didn't do well and lost. They also lost the next match. By lunchtime, the team was feeling dejected. Fortunately, though, they had a bye round after lunch which allowed them to rest and rejuvenate. The coaches, Mitch Kurs and Gena Fischer, analyzed the competition results from the morning and then called a team meeting. They informed the team that if all went well and they won the next two games, they could still qualify for the championship. How? If they kept on scoring higher amount of points than the other teams, and several of the teams ended up having the same win-lose records, then the team with the highest amount of points would advance. With that in mind, the CSDR team won the next two matches. True enough, only one team remained undefeated and automatically entered the championship match. The other four

teams all had the exact same record of 2 wins, 2 loses. The Gallaudet University AB committee added everything up and CSDR had the highest number of points, so they entered the championship match. As a result of that, CSDR was able to win the national championship.

Now, in 2014, the CSDR AB team had a similar situation happen. They were undefeated the first day of competition, but on the second day they lost to CSD Fremont. They knew that CSDF was now the only undefeated team and would undoubtedly advance to the championship match, so they felt like they were ready to give up and accept that they would at least be in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place match. But wait just a minute! Out of nowhere, Taft HS played against CSDF next and pulled off a shocking upset, beating the only remaining undefeated team in the Buff pool. As a result, three teams were in a three-way tie- CSDR, CSDF, and Taft. As a member of the 1997 team, I quickly pulled together the members of this year's team and explained to them what happened to my team and how we ended up winning it all in the end thanks to the high amount of points we earned. After the pep talk and the coaches' continued encouragement, the team went on to demolish the opponent during the final match and then we waited to see if CSDR's total points would help them advance to the championship. And you can probably guess what happened next.

Now we have a championship team who is ready to move on to the nationals at Gallaudet University in April! What a story, and what a feeling! 🐾



*2014 CSDR Champion Team:*

*Karina Baker'15, Brendan Busch'15, Mavrick Fisher'16, Christian Jacobs'16, Mitch Kurs and Sharon Vollmar (coaches)*

## Beauty and the Beast ASL Production by Middle School

Written by Elizabeth Durham, Middle School Teacher

The line goes out the door and onto the grassy lawn outside the auditorium. The admission personnel are in a frenzy to get the people in as quickly as possible, while the volunteers are in a rush to find enough chairs to match the unexpected turn-out of the audience. Finally, the house lights go dim. The audience goes silent. The spotlight comes on, and the production of *Beauty and the Beast* begins!



Adonis as "Albert" and Richard as "the Beast"

The ASL production team, led by Georgette Visco, produced its second annual play with a Deaf culture twist. *Beauty and the Beast* was performed on February 20, 2014 by students in Middle School as well as its Special Needs program. Last year the performance of *Snow White* for students was such a

success, it was decided to perform the annual play before the public this year. While there are lessons to be learned and a few kinks to work out for next year's play, overall the audience was thrilled and excited about the sensational performance.

The play was only a sensation due to the hard work of students, staff, and volunteers. Beginning six weeks before showtime, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students auditioned for roles in the play. Every student who wished to be in the play was given a part. Students, such as Adonis Tauvalaau (the Beast) and Brenda Vargas (Beauty), worked hard under the expertise coaching and direction of Ingrid Christianson, Becca Gleicher, Shari Kido, and Georgette Visco, and even received an

## A Native of Syria as Guest Speaker in History Class

Written by Amy Kimmerle, Middle School Teacher

We were so lucky to have a guest speaker come to our classroom during our study of the Middle East during the Middle Ages. Fadi Alberre '03, a residential life counselor and a CSDR alumnus, talked to the students about his native country of Syria. He explained about its history, architecture, and culture, and he even brought some homemade hummus! The students really enjoyed seeing

pictures and learning about life in a different part of today's world. This guest visit came at the right time, since the students had recently finished learning about the Syrian conflict in our Cultural Literacy presentations. Mr. Alberre's first-hand knowledge gives him a unique perspective and opened up our students' minds to the realities of our world; which is what history education is all about! 🐾



Fadi Alberre fondly remembers this monument in his home country of Syria



Fadi Alberre'03 enrolled at CSDR after his family moved here from Syria

## *Beauty and the Beast (Continued from page 6)*



*Brenda as "Belle" grieves over Adonis "the Beast"*

additional class instruction by Peter Trzesniewski, CSDR's expert on theatre.

Additional students who did not wish to act in the play still made important contributions to the production. Some created costumes under the guidance of Amy Kimmerle. Others joined the technology crew, with the supervision of Elizabeth Durham. A few students learned the art of make-up under the care of Lisa Chute while other students designed the set and props, with the help of Katie Nicholson and Marty Stoil.

In addition to student and staff involvement, Middle School had outside volunteer assistance from Sharon Wilson, who worked on the final touches for costumes at home late into the night, and Ken and Sharan Gregory, who baked the cupcakes and cookies which were sold at the performance. Organizations such as Riverside Children's Theatre, CSDR CAN, and Parents and Staff Work Together donated much appreciated items, make-up, and money to fund the production.

Through the help of lighting and tech by Mike Anderson, and additional printing help from Career Technical Education, the final touches to the play were arranged. Finally, Teresa McDonald-



*Alexandra as "Belle" dances with Bailey as "the Prince"*

Fishler baked her famous brownies to distribute to the hard working and hungry students after the play! The only way a major production such as this one could have been such a success was with the combined work of everyone.

The student collaboration amongst each other (which should be noted is a common core standard) was incredible! As the deadline for the play drew nearer and nearer and the stress level elevated, the students worked more intensely and cooperated even more to ensure the night was a success-and a success it certainly was! The students felt fantastic about being in the spotlight and performing before VIPs Scott Kerby from the California Department of Education, Superintendent Mal Grossinger, and Principal Tammy Mitchell. Middle School raised over \$1,000.00, a whopping outcome!

One of the parents, Jenni Kysella, sent an email stating, "Hands-waving! I only wish you could do

another performance school-wide." We agree! Keep an eye out for next year's Middle School ASL production, which we hope to be even bigger and better! 🐾

*Students as "the Villagers" in the production*





Photos: Laurie Lewis

# Silent Sleigh Performances, Parade, and Pomp!

*Written by Erika Thompson, Newsletter Editor*

The 26th annual Silent Sleigh marked the beginning of the 2013 holiday season at CSDR. Deaf and hard-of-hearing children from mainstream programs in Southern California gathered into the Multi-Purpose Activity center for performances by CSDR Elementary students.

Holidays around the world inspired the performance theme this year with skits and stories about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and Los Posadas. A live Video Phone conversation with Deaf Santa Claus was portrayed on the stage screen for the whole audience!

“Santa, when are you coming?? We are all waiting for you!” Emcees Jayda Norris and Enrico Miller implored, facing

Deaf Santa on the TV screen.

Decorated carts by various departments paraded by the excited crowd. Students voted for their favorite cart. Some very important people riding in the fancy classic cars in the parade included Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey signing “Merry Christmas”, CSDR Superintendent Mal Grossinger, the kings and queens from middle and high schools, and Mr. and Miss CSDR. And for the parade finale, the children saw Deaf Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus in a beautiful horse-drawn carriage, smiling and waving to everyone.

A BBQ lunch, outside in the beautiful Southern California weather, followed the ceremony. In the picnic area visitors enjoyed a bake sale by Elementary students, inflated bouncers for jumping, drawings for prizes, and invitations for children to sit on the horses for photos. Lastly, children lined up to tell Santa Claus through American Sign Language what they wanted, knowing that their holiday wishes were clearly being “heard”. CSD Riverside wishes you all a Happy New Year! 🐾



Brittany Williams



**Decorated Cart Winners:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> place - Career  
 Technology Education  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place - Middle School  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place - Student Services  
 4<sup>th</sup> place - Health Services



# Students Go to the Orange County Zoo

Written by Melanie Zakrosky, Special Needs Teacher

Special Needs third and fourth grade students went to the Orange County Zoo in January.

We went as part of our unit on habitats. We saw and identified animals and plants that live in the

desert and forest. We got to touch the fur of a deer, bear, coyote, and raccoon— animals we would not normally get to touch when alive! Before we left, we hand-brushed the fur of some happy goats as a farewell gesture.

What a memorable day the zoo trip was for us! 🐾

*Ooh! Ahh!*



# High School Special Needs Students Host a Winter Feast

Written by Mikhael Rosenberg, Special Needs Teacher

The Special Needs High School department had our Annual Winter Feast on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We worked hard to make this event successful. We created the menu, and designed the invitations for the feast. We also worked hard with learning how to read recipes, and accurately measuring and preparing food items for parents, staff, and community members.

We learned that it takes a long time to

prepare for the Winter Feast. It requires the participation and support of all classmates to make this event

happen. We were challenged to communicate and ask questions to many people who we do not know well, and some who don't even sign! We got to meet and sign with most of the staff members, we were excited to have parents and family come and share in this event. We are already looking forward to next year's Winter Feast! 🐾



Superintendent Mal converses in ASL with a student waiter to order his meal

## Middle School Chess

Written by Elizabeth Durham, Middle School Teacher



Walking down the middle school hallway, you typically would expect to see students conversing over topics such as “The Walking Dead,” “Call of Duty,” or even “One Direction.” That is why some people rub their eyes in shock when they strolled down CSDR’s middle school hallways only to see students discussing topics with “knights,” “pawns,” and “checkmates.”

Yes that’s right... Chess! Students voluntarily spent their Tuesday lunches competing in a twelve-week chess tournament. The tournament began with over 30 middle school students participating in a “basic” group, in which students new to chess were able to play, while also learning the rules and receiving extra guidance from staff. The participants’ progress was tracked online, allowing students, staff, and parents to follow the tournament from their smartphones, tablets, or computers. Dylan Duarte, Tanner Wilson, Randall Blandon, and Juan Orozco, the top four winners of the basic

group continued into the “advanced” group, which included an additional 30 students. These students competed in a fierce but friendly competition, until only one remaining student claimed the honor as the 2013 Middle School Chess Tournament Champions: Tanner Wilson! There were no hard feelings from Erik Murillo, Marvin Salyer, or Adonis Tauvalaau (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place winners respectively), as all of them enjoyed the pizza and soda, compliments of the middle school staff.

Middle school students no longer view chess as a difficult game, played only by the elite few. That was *once upawn a time* (pun intended)! Now students perceive chess as a fun, mind-challenging game enjoyed by all. So next time you venture into the middle school department, do not be surprised to see that all the rave is not about the newest video game or the latest YouTube video gone viral; it’s about the good, old, classic game of chess. 🐾

## Health Services: Measles in Southern California

Written by Youlandean Johnson, RN BA, Supervising Registered Nurse, CSDR Health Services

Measles cases that have been reported in Riverside County. Reports of measles have also been reported in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties. Our last outbreak of measles was back in the 1980’s. So many parents may miss the signs of a measles infection. Monitor family members of all ages for the following symptoms:

**A Rash With Fever** – this rash usually starts at the hairline then spreads down the rest of the body. Look for red blotchy patches and a finer bumpy rash over the body. Temperatures can rise up to 105 degrees.

**Runny Nose, Feeling Tired, Tiny White Spots-** inside the mouth **Caution** – patients can be contagious four days before the rash begins.

**Recommendation** – If your child has not had both of their MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccinations, make an appointment as soon as possible with your health care provider. Some parents like to wait until their child enters Kindergarten to get the 2<sup>nd</sup> MMR. Please reconsider waiting and take this time to bring your child’s immunizations up to date now.

**Immunization Exempt Children** – Take extra caution during this time to avoid exposing your child to anyone you may suspect of having a measles-like illness. You may want to consider limiting your attendance to public activities and events. If an outbreak occurs at school, you may be required to keep your child at home for their safety. 🐾

# Student Leadership Summit at Forest Falls

Written by Mike Anderson, HS Organizations and Shelly Gravatt, CTE Principal

Forty high school students and a handful of staff attended the first Leadership Summit in Forest Falls at the end of November. Forest Falls is located about 40 miles northeast from our school in the beautiful forest of the San Bernardino mountains. The crispy and cool fall air made the experience more memorable. On Friday, students divided into groups, created team names, and participated in various activities and games. At night, they watched a movie and had s'mores afterwards at the outdoor fire pit. Saturday morning was filled with outdoor activities such as hiking, rock climbing, and walking on a zip line. Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning were dedicated to workshops and fun activities. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner

meals were exceptional! Gary Rudin and Bill Cortus of Thrivent Financial, the original founders of Deaf Camp and who made the generous donation for use of the facility, were also present with us, for an opportunity to talk about the history of the facility. The leadership team is very grateful for the special opportunity and their generosity. Thanks also go to the full time CSDR staff who were on hand all weekend: Mr. Mather, Ms. Kononenko, Ms. Maxwell, Mr. Warshaw, Ms. Poblete, Mr. Anderson, and Ms. Gravatt, and to parent officers Ms. Zarembka (Jr.NAD) and Ms. Bella-Adams (CAC). Also Superintendent Grossinger, Mr. Kerby, and Ms. Kordus participated, as well as many other staff members. We hope to go back next year! 🐾



# Discussion Topics and Workshops

- 🐾 ASBG By-Laws
- 🐾 Student/Parent Handbook
- 🐾 Our school, input for accreditation
- 🐾 Athletics & Residential Life
- 🐾 "Glove" Movie Fundraiser
- 🐾 California Deaf Education Resource Center
- 🐾 DeafTEC through Rochester Institute of Technology
- 🐾 Community Advisory Committee
- 🐾 Parents and Staff Work Together organization

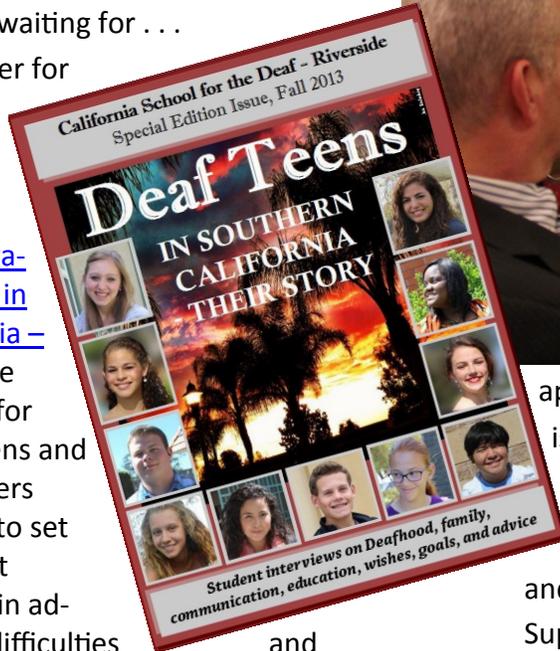


# A Deaf Teens Party at the Superintendent's House

Written by Erika Thompson, Newsletter Editor and Community Resource Specialist

On Friday evening, December 13, at the house of Superintendent Mal Grossinger and his wife Linda, was the moment the featured "Deaf Teens" had been waiting for . . . meeting each other for the first time!

The teens' stories were published in the [Fall 2013 magazine](#), "Deaf Teens in Southern California – Their Story" by the California School for the Deaf. The teens and CSDR staff members have been trying to set up a date for a get together months in advance, and after difficulties



Terri Vincent

and schedule conflicts in the midst of the students' appetizers and dessert, about the newsletter issue and their own life stories.

Afterwards, the students exchanged "White Elephant" holiday gifts with a lot of laughter and carefree joking. Parents approached Superintendent Mal with sincere thanks for

**"My father fought for me to help me come to this school. I wish other parents would know that they, too, can fight for their kids."** - Karina

and schedule conflicts in the midst of the students'

**"I wish I had learned ASL a long time ago for my educational benefit, rather than wait until the eighth grade."** - Tyler

**"I am thankful for what CSDR has done for me. If it wasn't for this school, my life would have been different."** - Alana

**"I saw what a huge impact the deaf program has made on my son's happiness. Social skills are a very important part of the child's education."** – Garret's hearing mother

**"We want everyone to read about the truth from us, especially the hospital staff and early intervention providers."** – Elena

very active and busy lives, the December date was finally determined and most could make it! By the time most of the teens met each other, along with their accompanying families, they bonded instantly. The students, staff, and families had heartfelt talks together over



Terri Vincent

welcoming everybody into his home for this opportunity to unite, regardless of different schools or backgrounds. This special, memorable evening touched the hearts of the school staff, teens, and their families who had the privilege of being present. 🐾

## Pizza and Story Night with Parent Workshops

*Written by Melissa Brown, Literacy Curriculum Specialist*

Students in ECE and Elementary have enjoyed the storytelling talents from the elementary department staff. On November 12, Ms. Stecher read *The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza*, on January 14, Ms. Metroka read *Snowmen at Night*, and on March 5, Ms. Ruiz read a Dr. Seuss story. Both events were held during the evening at the California School for the Deaf. Each time, a free pizza dinner was provided and students also received free copies of the books. The funding for this series of events is generously provided by Target Corporation.

In addition to the dinner and the books, students engaged in art activities related to the stories, while their parents participated in trainings or meetings at the other side of the room. In November, parents learned about reading and math computer programs from CSDR Technology Specialist, Rene Visco. In January, PSWT president Jeannette Zarembka led a discussion about how parents can work together to help our children succeed. In March, Erika Thompson solicited input from parents and community for the school's accreditation process. The events were well attended and we look forward to seeing more people involved on the last date May 13 at 5:30pm in the Social Hall.

*\*PSWT= Parents and Staff Work Together organization*



*A presentation to parents (above) while children (below) are engaged in follow-up literacy activities after having pizza and storysigning*



## Assemblymember Medina's Involvement in Deaf Education

*Written by Erika Thompson, Newsletter Editor and Community Resource Specialist*

Assemblymember Jose Medina knows what deaf students need— high standards in language acquisition, particularly American Sign Language, in addition to written English.

In the Assemblymember's efforts to raise expectations among deaf children in California, he met with the staff and children at the California School for the Deaf. He also met with officers of the California Association of the Deaf's Riverside chapter at his office, and participated as a guest speaker at the biennial state-wide California Association of the Deaf conference, held in Riverside last November. 



# Installation of the Multisensory Sound Lab

Written by Leah Adelsberger, ECE Speech Language Pathologist

What is sound? How do sound waves travel? What do different noises sound like? For many of our Deaf students, sound is an abstract concept that has been difficult to understand, until now. With the installation of the "Multisensory Sound Lab", a new



understanding and experience of sound is possible. In the lab, sound is not just perceived through your ears, but through your whole body.

The idea for this project started with a former CSDR speech-language therapist, Ashley Renslow, who worked diligently to make this dream a reality for our students. As a Colorado native, Ashley was familiar with the Colorado-based company, The Oval Window. She collaborated with the founder of the company, Norman Lederman, a former audio-engineer at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, DC. She also worked with various CSDR staff members to get the funding and installation of the Multisensory Sound Lab approved. In Fall 2013, the Multisensory Sound Lab was finally installed in one of CSDR's Middle School classrooms and the response from students was amazing.

## What is the Multisensory Sound Lab?

The Multisensory Sound Lab is a specially designed room that converts sound energy into other mediums that can be experienced by Deaf individuals, such as vibrations and lights. There are eight

interlocking floor panels on top of foam blocks that vibrate when sound is transmitted through the system. Students can sit or stand on the floorboards to feel the vibrations. A light tower, laser, speech analyzer, and television screen are some of the visual

displays to show the loudness, pitch, quality, and rhythm of sound. There are also loudspeakers to amplify the sound. The room is equipped with a CD player, microphones, and musical instruments, as well as audio jacks to plug in with various technological devices (mp3 players, computers, phones, etc.).

Small groups were brought into the lab to experience it first hand. The younger elementary students were invited to practice making various sounds with the microphone and speech analyzer such as a cat saying "Meow," a pirate saying "Arrrrghh!" and a pumpkin laughing "Hee-hee-hee." After learning about how sound traditionally travels through the ear, middle school students had their first multisensory musical experience in the sound lab with Michael Jackson's song *Thriller*. The students were intrigued by the different sensations of sounds on the CD track such as doors creaking, foot-steps approaching, thunder crashing, and the maniacal laughter at the end of the song. Both the staff and students enjoyed seeing, feeling, and moving to the beat in a newly discovered way! 🐾

## Applications of the Multisensory Sound Lab

### **Self Awareness/Advocacy:**

understanding audiograms, types of hearing loss, different hearing levels & terminology (dB, Hz, etc.)

**Science Instruction:** learning the anatomy and physiology of sound, understanding sound, vibrations, waves, and intensity

**Speech-Language-Listening Therapy:** vibrotactile and visual feedback for information that is not perceived through listening and speechreading

**Understanding Music/Dance:** rhythm, movement, and timing

### **Multisensory Access to Media/Technology:**

watching educational films, understanding sound in media

# Construction: New Career and Technical Education

Written by Allen Young, California Department of Education

As you have already noticed, the most visible part of the campus at Arlington Avenue and Horace Street has been swept to ground level. Allen Young from the California Department of Education explained the plans and goals of the construction. Two new Career Technology Education (CTE) buildings will be located on the grounds of the old Superintendent house and existing 1950's Career Technology Education building. The new buildings are designed to meet LEED "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" silver certification and comply with the California Green Building Initiative issued by Governor Arnold

Schwarzenegger. We are to reduce energy use in state-owned buildings by 20% by the year 2015 and to meet other environmentally-friendly requirements. The project consists of replacing the existing vocational education building in two phases. The first phase is to construct a new shop building "B". Once building "B" is completed, the existing CTE will be razed and a new CTE classroom and office building "A" will be constructed.

CSDR anticipates the completion of the new and improved CTE buildings, to meet the educational, health, and safety needs of our students. 

\*Bldg. A is 23,727 square feet and includes offices, classrooms, FEAST and the TV studio.

\*Bldg. B is 12,504 square feet and includes shops for construction trades, auto repair, and horticulture.

\*The LEED designed projects at CSDR incorporates:

- 1) energy efficiency goals,
- 2) water conservation with use of low flow bathroom fixtures,
- 3) landscaping that utilizes native plants and drip irrigation to lower water use,
- 4) low VOC emitting paints and adhesives used to improve the indoor air quality, and
- 5) construction waste recycled and/or reused.



*Drafted image of the Career Technical Education building after construction, facing Arlington avenue*



*Drafted image of the Career Technical Education building after construction, facing Horace street*



*Drafted image of the Career Technical Education building after construction, inside the school facing Cubs way*

Photos from Allen Young, CSDR, shown at the evening meeting with neighborhood surrounding CSD

## Youth Sports Photo Collage

Contributed by Nancy Moore, ECE/ES/MS Sports Coordinator



*1st to 2nd Grade Junior Division Basketball Team*



*3rd to 4th Grade Basketball team won a very close, heated game*



*Middle School Basketball leads in victories in current season*



*Middle School Cheerleaders Win State Championship & Most Enthusiastic*

## Clerc Classic National High School Basketball Tourney Results

At the XIV tournament, both our CSDR basketball teams started out strong. The boys team ended the first half of their first game with the lead, but eventually relinquished it in a gut-wrenching game. The team made us proud in that they played hard in every game and kept the games competitive. The girls team won their first game, which was the first time since the inaugural tournament in 2002. They eventually succumbed to the other teams that utilized a full court press, which was used to wear down the five available players suited up to play. Regardless, the players remained upbeat throughout the games and demonstrated CSDR class. Both Sara Wnek and Alexa Muller were selected as all-stars and the team was awarded the Best

Sportsmanship award. With the noted perseverance and positive attitude, the team still came away as winners. The Cheerleading competition was fierce, but CSDR came away with a 3rd place finish. Almost everyone was nursing an injury, and some have never been in a competition before. However, that did not stop them from doing the best they could and representing our school well. The spirit they exhibited during all of the basketball games was a joy to behold. Cheerleaders Dominic Cade-Brown and Jeanyssa Caboteja were selected to the All-Star Cheer team. Their spirit and leadership were essential for our new members and helped keep the team motivated the whole tournament. Congrats to our amazing student-athletes! 🐾

## Willigan Wrestling Tournament

*Written by Anthony Barksdale, CSD Riverside Athletic Director*

Our CSD wrestling team did a great job competing in Willigan Wrestling Tournament hosted by our school. It was a long, grueling day on Friday competing against Texas, Model, Fremont, Indiana and Maryland and follow up with individual matches on Saturday.

I'm proud of our grapplers as they placed third in team duals.

Here are the team results:

1<sup>st</sup>–Model , 2<sup>nd</sup>–Indiana,  
3<sup>rd</sup>–Riverside, 4<sup>th</sup>–Texas,  
5<sup>th</sup>– Fremont, 6<sup>th</sup>– Maryland.



We also have place winners in individual brackets and they are: Kendall Merrill – 3<sup>rd</sup> in 113 lbs. class, Rogelio Maciel – 1<sup>st</sup> in 152 lbs. class, Edward Larizza – 3<sup>rd</sup> in 160 lbs. class, Giovanni Sanchez – 3<sup>rd</sup> in 170 lbs. class, Hiroshi Nakama – 2<sup>nd</sup> in 285 lbs. class

Please send congratulations to CSD-Riverside wrestling team and their coaches (Jon Kessel, Fred Weiss, Kevin Croasmun and Arthur Rodriguez). I also would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who made this tournament a success. 🐾

## Wrestling League Champions (Cover)

*Written by Wrestling Coaches Jon Kessel , Kevin Croasmun, and Fred Weiss*

Our wrestlers wrestled hard enough to win the Arrowhead League title! We battled against Hamilton, Crean Lutheran, Nuvview, Saddleback Valley, and Excelsior. The result of the Arrowhead League Wrestling Tournament:

**1st- CSD-Riverside, 2nd- Hamilton, 3rd- Excelsior**

The students are thrilled that we qualified for the CIF Southern Section Team Tournament. Please take a moment to congratulate our wrestlers, especially our three seniors! Congratulations and farewell to Alexandero Morales, Majhedi Matthews-Well, and Jose Zandoval. We are proud of all our players! 🐾

## HS Girls Basketball (Cover)

*Written by Farley Warshaw, Director of Residence and HS Girls Basketball Coach*

The CSDR girls basketball team closed the season with a series of exciting games!

The first brought us our long-awaited victory over Sherman Indian! Trailing 23-20 at halftime, the girls made the necessary adjustments in the second half and surged ahead, never relinquishing the lead. The CSDR girls finished with a 46-37 win on their rival's court! It was 31 years ago, when current CTE principal Shelly Gravatt (Freed) and current youth sports coordinator Nancy Moore led CSDR to a victory over Sherman Indian.

In the following game, our team started off fast against Pomona Catholic and raced to 31-4 lead at halftime. With such a big lead, the team had an opportunity to experiment with various offensive and defensive plays

in the second half and the game ended with a score of 55-10.

The girls earned a spot in the CIF Division 5A playoffs, facing Tarbut V'Torah in the first round. The girls started strong and took a 29-19 halftime lead. They held a 15 point lead until a man to man defense was utilized against them with 4 minutes to go in 4th period. Even with the added pressure, the girls kept their composure and finished the game with a 49-38 victory. The girls advanced to the 2nd round for a home game against Holy Martyrs Armenian. Although they lost, 38-24, they made the entire CSDR community proud.

What an amazing season it was with great team effort among just five players who worked hard with great passion and heart! 🐾

**PAWSitive Reflections**

News and Information for Families, Staff, & Friends



The donated bricks will mount on the outside wall of Social Hall, around the wall letters "CSDR." Your brick will be a permanent reminder that you or someone you loved was here. Each brick will have a personalized message and no two will be the same.

**STUDENT TESTING DATES— STUDY AND SLEEP WELL!**

**Student Interim Assessment Dates in the Classroom:**  
 March 26, May 28 for K-2 only

**California High School Exit Exam:** May 13-14 (Seniors)

**Measures of Academic Progress Test (Grades 2-12):**  
 Mar 4-29, and for HS Grades (continued until April 18)

**CAPA:** Apr 14-May 9

**STAR Science Test:** April 14 week (Grade 5), April 15 week (Grade 8), April 21 week (Grade 10)

**Smarter Balanced Test (Grades 3-8, 11):** April 7-May 22 🐾

The brick is 4x8 and costs only \$100.00. All donations will support programs for our students.

**YOU CAN MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:**  
**California School for the Deaf, Riverside**

3044 Horace St, Riverside CA 92506

CSDR CAN/ Attn. Laurie Waggoner

If you have any questions, please call Laurie Waggoner

951-248-7700 ex. 4361 or VP 951-824-8055. 🐾

**Mark Your Calendar!** *View latest event details at [www.Facebook.com/CSDRiverside](http://www.Facebook.com/CSDRiverside)*

3/24	ASL Silent Night- Deaf World	6:30pm	MAC
3/28	Show of Hands Movie Premiere & Red Carpet	5:30pm	MAC
3/30	Deaf Teen America Pageant	7pm	MAC
4/7	Community Advisory Committee Meeting	3:15pm	A Bldg
4/8	PSWT Meeting	6:30pm	Social Hall
4/11	PSWT ECE/Elementary Family Dance	6pm	Social Hall
4/18	ASL Films "In the Can"	7pm	MAC
4/19	ASL Films "In the Can"	2pm & 7pm	MAC
4/22	SN Math Olympiad	8am-3:15pm	Social Hall
4/23	SN Awards Ceremony	12:30-3:15pm	Social Hall
5/1-5/2	HS Drama Production "Unplugged"	7pm	Social Hall
5/3	HS Drama Production "Unplugged"	2:00pm	Social Hall
5/5	Community Advisory Committee Meeting	3:15pm	A Bldg
5/5-5/9	Teacher Appreciation Week	All week	CSDR
5/9	MS Math Olympiad	8am-1pm	MAC
5/8	CSDR Movie Night	6-10pm	MAC
5/12	ECE Math Olympiad	8am-3:15pm	Classrooms
5/12	HS Math Olympiad	8am-3:15pm	MAC
5/13	PSWT Workshop & Pizza / Storytelling Night	5:30pm	Social Hall
5/18	Mopars in May Car Show	8am-3:30pm	Football Field
5/31	Happy Days Reunion Car Show	8:30am-3pm	TBD
6/5	MS & HS Graduation	TBA	MAC
6/6	Last Day of School	12pm	
6/7-6/8	Riverside Relay for Life- American Cancer Society	9am-9am (24 hrs)	Football Field