



# Options for Youth Star

Volume 1, Issue 3, September 24, 2008

If you have any event, news, star student or teacher, or teaching tip or tool you would like to share, please submit to [eharris@ofy.org](mailto:eharris@ofy.org) by December 1

## President's Message

Dear OFY Leaders:

Having an amazing effective school is something that has been created by many throughout the world. When asked what makes the schools great, founders often have a clear sense of the “magical components”. Difficulty presents itself when they are asked the second question; “Can you replicate this?”...If this school is so wonderful, let's copy it. A current study out of Harvard University has been drawing preliminary conclusions about what makes replication successful. The researchers are finding that the key components have nothing to do with instruction, textbooks, or structures and systems...it has everything to do with passionate leadership. Who a leader is and the values that they live everyday is the magic that creates success.

The “Be” of Options for Youth started with John and I following our passion “Dream” and identifying the values that we hold both as people and passionate leaders. Each of you is a passionate leader as well, as you work with students. You all lead from the chair in which you sit. Whether you are a center coordinator, a teacher, or a staff who supports our students and teachers out of Pasadena, Monrovia, or Irwindale, you all hold these leadership qualities and values near to your heart and use them in your daily tasks. This is what allows OFY to replicate and open additional centers to serve students...it is about the people and the leadership that you all exemplify each and every day!

When I think about the staff that is here to serve students in northern and southern California, I am always filled with gratitude and respect for who you are and the work that you do. Thank you so much for being leaders at OFY, leaders in your centers, and leaders to those who will lead in the future.

*Jean Hall*

## Greetings from the Department of Education

Fall is and always will be a “Back to School” time in my heart. My birthday is at the end of August and there was nothing better than getting gift wrapped school supplies, crisp new clothes, and the hope and excitement that went along with a New Year. As an adult, I now get to experience this time of year with my little girl as she starts school the day after Labor day. It is a time of reflection for me...a time to look at my goals...a clean slate...a new start.

I was thinking about our students and our year round schedule. There is never a “time” or a “month” to talk about a fresh start with our students...You all have that conversation on a regular basis. I would like to challenge you this month to re-connect with all of your students' dreams. Have they changed? Are they actively pursuing a path that will lead them to this outcome? How can you give a few words of encouragement or gentle direction? While you are in the spirit, buy yourself a new box of crayons and remember what it was like to start school all over again!

*Jennifer Kliever*

## SPORTS REPORTS



### San Juan

**Congratulations San Juan!** They recently concluded their basketball season in which the Arden center won the league championship. Spring athletics in the charter will include a bowling team from each center.

### Burbank

Students in the Burbank charter will be participating in a co-ed softball team, the 'DRAGONS'. The season will conclude with a potluck and student vs. teacher game on April 2.

### Victorville

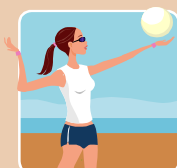
Victorville recently began its soccer season and coaches Burt Clark and Julian Bhebhe believe this year's team is stronger than ever. However, it will be difficult to outdo the softball team which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the league for alternative schools. **Way to go Victor Valley!**

### Upland

Upland's basketball coach, Patrick Enman, is attempting to coordinate a softball season for the charter. Girls' Volleyball began September 12 and the season ends November 7.

### San Gabriel

San Gabriel is planning a new sports program. October and November will be busy months with basketball, softball, and soccer activities getting under way as the season for each sport begins. The first soccer match at the San Gabriel Center is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> and the same day there will be a basketball game at Pomona 2 where teachers will challenge students.



## HEAR YE...HEAR YE... 3 New Centers Open at OFY

The San Gabriel Charter has added 2 new centers to its roster. The Chino Center opened on June 30, 2008 and is located at 5475B Philadelphia Street, Chino, CA. The new Ontario Center, located at 3130-A Inland Empire Blvd., Ontario had a grand opening on August 22, 2008. Victorville has added Victorville 5, which opened July 14, 2008, located at 13801B Rodeo Drive, Victorville, CA 92395. Stop by if you are in the neighborhood and see how Options for Youth continues to grow and increases the number of students it serves.

## *Congratulations Victorville*

OFY Victorville was honored to be chosen the June Business of the Month by the Hesperia Chamber of Commerce because of their continued service to at risk students and their families, as well as their involvement in the community. OFY Victor Valley has had an increase in enrollment, improved API scores, has a Smart Talk program, and they provide space for community meetings.

## *ALOHA Pomona 1 & 2*

The Pomona 1 and 2 centers held a joint Back to School Luau for their students on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Students and staff played volleyball and water balloon games, and performed their hearts out on "Rock Band". Special thank you's go out to: the event organizer extraordinaire, Christine Lee (Math SGI teacher), the resident chef who labored in front of a grill for nearly 4 hours, Chris Torres (Master Teacher), the lovely snow cone fairy, Joan Morse (Student Progress Specialist), all of the San Gabriel staff, and our special guests Cheryl and Ron Portillo and Pam Hall.





## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### HALLOWEEN



Veterans' Day

November 10

Thanksgiving



November 27-28

Southern CA Holiday Party December 5

Northern CA Holiday Party December 11

Upland Winter Graduation December 11

Winter Recess December 22 to January 2

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Victor Valley Charter received a 6 year WASC accreditation with a review?

The San Gabriel Charter term of WASC accreditation has been extended an additional 3 years?

The Upland Charter term of WASC accreditation has been extended an additional 3 years?

All 5 OFY Charters increased their API scores?

In Outlook – Public Folders – All Public Folders – Department of Instruction - you can find information on field trips, graduation, master calendar, policies, programs, safety and emergency information and spending plans?

In Outlook – All Public Folders – General Info there is an All Centers List?

## PX 2 Will be Coming To Your Neighborhood

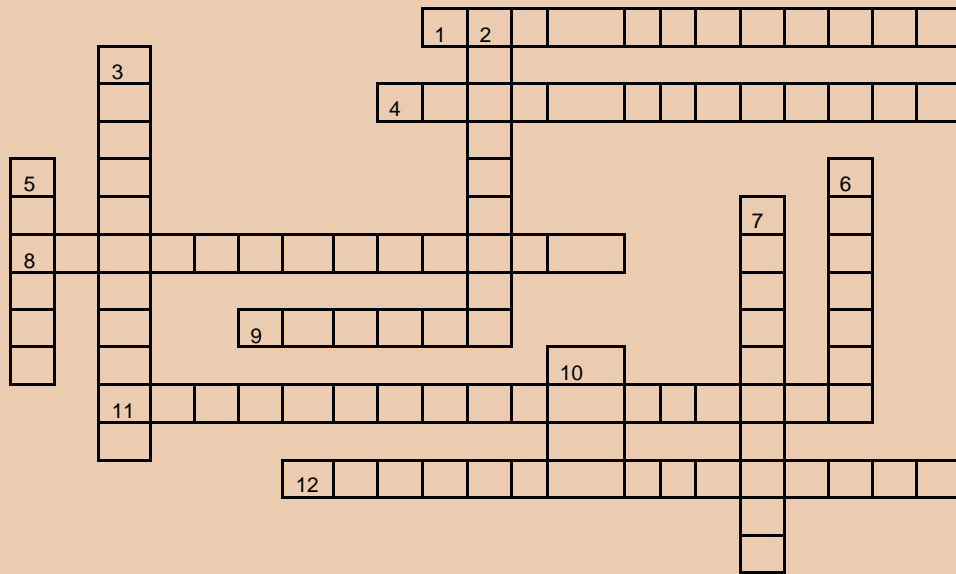
In August, Joe Pace and his team from the Pacific Institute came to the Pasadena Hilton to do PX2 training. PX2 was created to help young people recognize that they have choices in life. This was a lesson in understanding how the human mind works and how our students can learn to control the way they think. Those staff members who completed the training were certified facilitators and will be sharing what they have learned as they roll out PX2 in their centers.

## *Dr. Ruby Payne* Under Resourced Learners

Many of our staff was privileged to hear Dr. Ruby Payne this month when, with her Texas drawl and straight talk, she gave practical lessons on how to think about teaching our students from a different angle. Dissecting a sentence and finding the area of a triangle will never be the same. She demonstrated how using graphics instead of words make understanding concepts more attainable for our students. In her book, *Under Resourced Learners*, she identifies the 8 strategies that help raise student achievement and best practices and interventions that address the needs of today's students.

# STAR CHALLENGE

## KNOW YOUR OFY



### ACROSS

1. The first OFY charter
4. An OFY core value
8. Where did John Hall teach before OFY?
9. What number anniversary did OFY just celebrate
11. Where was the holiday party held in 2007?
12. Who is OFY Deputy Superintendent?

### DOWN

2. An OFY core value
3. An OFY core value
5. The test all students must pass to graduate in CA
6. Employee who has been with OFY the longest
7. An OFY core value
10. Number of charters in OFY

**Answers**  
**Across:** 1. Victor Valley; 2. Mutual Respect; 8. Hollywood High; 9. Twenty; 11. Sheraton Universal; 12. Jennifer Kliever  
**Down:** 2. Integrity; 3. Mutual Trust; 5. CAHSEE; 6. Pam Hall; 7. Compassion; 10. Five

Please submit information about any event, picture, news, teaching tip, profile of special student or teacher, or anything you would like to share, to Ellen at [eharris@ofy.org](mailto:eharris@ofy.org). We welcome your input.

