

RANCHO PTA

Teacher Spotlight | Impact Stories | Upcoming Events | Volunteer Opportunities | and More....

Principal's Message

Thank you for your **ongoing support of Rancho and its programs**. We are 2/3 of the way done with this school year – I can't believe it!

I have to **thank PTA for partnering with us** in the Biennial **Jog-a-thon**. This event helps keep our **PE program in tip-top shape** by funding much needed repairs and to replace equipment that gets daily use by over **800 students every day**. Whether you are **"paying it forward"** as a family with an **8th grader** who benefited from Jog-a-thon's past, or if you are a family with a **7th grader** who will be with us next year, we hope that **all of our students** will be able to **participate and support** the cause... and have some fun doing it.

How your donations made an impact?

Rancho's Electives department story...

Rancho PTA has been so **supportive** of the Electives department. With their support the school was able to **purchase** a much needed **tenor saxophone**. We had been borrowing one from the high school. **4 new iPads and apple pencils** were purchased to be used as a digital resource for drawing and stop motion projects. The **last of the iMacs were purchased** finishing out a much needed update in the Mac Lab. The **Elective teachers** are so **thankful** for **all your support** in keeping our classes on the cutting edge.

Welcome to the Rancho PTA February Newsletter!

In this edition, we bring you a special feature called **"Teacher Spotlight"**. You will also find all the important information about our **upcoming events, volunteer opportunities** and much more! Hope you enjoy reading it and we look forward to meeting you at one of the upcoming events...

If you have any **feedback or suggestions**, please write to us at rancho.pta.webmaster@gmail.com or contact any of the **Rancho PTA board members** @ www.ranchomspta.org

Teacher Spotlight!

"Congratulations to **Mr. Brendan McBrien**, who has been selected as Rancho's **"teacher of the year"**! - Rancho PTA



Brendan McBrien

Brendan McBrien grew up in Sunnyvale, California where he **began** his musical training on the **French horn in 4th grade**. He moved to Southern California and received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music composition and conducting from California State University, Long Beach.

For **over 30 years** he was a **professional** French horn player in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas played for symphony, television, and movie orchestras. Brendan's numerous compositions and arrangements for band and orchestra are performed worldwide and published with the Alfred, Kendor, Kjos, and Wingert-Jones Music Companies.

Brendan is an active adjudicator, clinician, and honor group conductor who has served four terms on the board of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. He has presented many workshops at both state and local conventions and has received several awards including **Middle School Teacher of the Year for the Irvine Unified School District**. Brendan began teaching in Irvine in 1988 and is currently the **director of bands and orchestras** at **Rancho San Joaquin Middle School**. He also teaches Music Arranging at California State University, Long Beach. Decidedly, Brendan's greatest joy is being married to his wife Karen, and father to his sons Kevin and Patrick, and daughter Megan.

Upcoming March Events!

Several Volunteer Opportunities..

- ♦ **Rancho's PE Department Jog-A-Thon** for the 2019-2020 school year will be on **Friday March 13, 2020!** Jog-a-thon is an **all day event** that takes place **each PE period**. Students will be running as many laps as they can to raise money for our PE department. We need **many parents to help** pass out water and popsicles, as well as count the laps our kids run, and **cheer them on!** Whether you are a 7th grade parent or an 8th grade parent you don't want to miss this **wonderful opportunity** and make a difference. [Sign-Up here](#) for an available spot.
- ♦ Each year, the **Rancho PTA** organizes a **Spring Luncheon** to show our appreciation to the **Rancho teachers and staff**. We welcome you to share a special dish and be a part of this wonderful experience **on Friday March 20th**. We are looking for many **parent volunteers** for the setup, cleanup and serving. If you would like to volunteer, [Sign-Up here](#) or contact our Hospitality VP Elizabeth Rho [@elizabethsrho@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethsrho@gmail.com)

Meet our Guest Speaker!

We are excited to let you know that dynamic **guest speaker, Greg Kaplan**, is returning to **Rancho** to educate our community about the college admissions process at our next PTA meeting. Please come join us for this informative evening on **March 12th 6:00pm @Rancho MPR**. Open to all Rancho Community.

Rancho Counseling Corner

Rancho Career Talks:

We held our **monthly career talk** with surgical **oncologist, Dr. Senthil**. Students were **engaged** and **captivated** by her passion for her work as she shared her journey into the **field of medicine**. We were fortunate to have her here to share her breadth of knowledge with our students.

Be Nice to People:

We held our **second trimester Be Nice to People Luncheon** on **2/19/2020**. At Rancho we place a significant emphasis on a simple phrase—"Be Nice to People." This **mantra** has not only been echoed and adopted by **our staff, but also by our student population**.

Our "**Be Nice to People**" luncheons are held **three times a year** with the purpose of recognizing students who have demonstrated kindness towards others. These students are nominated by their peers. It is powerful to witness students recognizing one another for the characteristics we encourage so whole-heartedly at our school. At the luncheons students are **celebrated** for being **leaders**, receive a **Be Nice to People t-shirt**, **commit to continuing their efforts in making our campus a kinder place**, and "**pay it forward**" by recognizing **additional students** who have also demonstrated kindness on campus. We would like to thank **PTA, the City of Irvine and Stonefire Grill** for donating food, water and other items to make our event a success.



Counseling Guidance Lessons:

Prior to the end of trimester 2, counselors will be visiting all classrooms to provide counseling guidance lessons. 7th and 8th grade lessons will cover college and career options and pathways.

Important Dates:

March 16, 2020, 6PM – 8PM: IUSD College & Career Fair in the Portola High School Gym

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit with over 40 college and university representatives, attend college and career readiness breakout sessions, experience a Career Pathways showcase, and see IUSD students participating in a robotics scrimmage. Make sure to mark this important event on your calendar!

March 26th, 2020, 5:30PM – 7PM: Rancho's Open House. Open to All Rancho 7th and 8th grade parents!

Did you know?

Rancho PTA March edition newsletter will be available on Friday March 27th!, if you have Rancho event pictures and would like to publish within the Rancho PTA newsletter, you may email a couple of pics with a short description to PTA communications **no later than March 17th** at "rancho.pta.webmaster@gmail.com".