

PENDLETON POST

SPRING 2010

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Blue Bus Greatest Adventure

by Maria Swanson

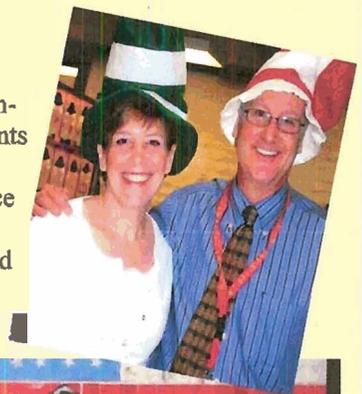
Recently, teachers from Fallbrook Union Elementary School District embarked on a Base guided bus tour. They giggled and exuded “kid like” enthusiasm while hopping on the blue bus in route to the unknown territory of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The impetus for the bus tour came from the creative genius of Mary Fay Pendleton’s principal, Wendy Hill. As the new principal for the 2009-10 school year, Ms. Hill knew that she and her staff needed to have a better sense for the daily lives of her military children and their families. Operations and Training live fire range project planner Roy Montoya (USMC Gunner-Retired)

along with LtCol Sam Pelham were the star tour guides and did an outstanding job in their historical, topographical, environmental, and operational description of the base. The highlights of the tour were Kilo-2 Combat Town, a mock Iraqi village where “stimulus response training” occurs, the Infantry Immersive Trainer building, and the Ranch House. In Kilo-2, teachers watched live Marine units in training through high tech computers and cameras. While at the IIT, teachers interacted with native Afghani role players. They participated in scenarios that replicated the sights and smells of an Afghani town. At the Ranch House, teachers received a didactic, personal tour of the histori-



O900— Teachers board the bus for their base tour.

cal site. Wendy Hill, principal at MFP, summarized the experience beautifully when she said, “This experience has given us all a greater appreciation and understanding of our families and life on base. This knowledge will definitely enable us to do a better job at relating to our families and our students. Our goal is to provide an environment where our students and families feel safe and able to view us as a resource to help support them. The field trip definitely provided us with additional background to support our goal.”



Caught Reading On “Mulberry Street”

And To Think That I Saw It On Mulberry Street was the book selection read during Mrs. Ellyn Dunford’s visit to San Onofre School on March 2. Mrs. Gertie Seymour, San O School librarian, arranged Ms. Dunford’s visit to celebrate Dr Seuss’s birthday. A brave soul, Mrs. Dunford stood “heroically” in front of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Transformers, Marvel Comics characters, Ariel and Snow White pajama-clad audience of Preppy K-1 children, captivating their attention with a lively

narrative. The young crowd was enthralled by Dr. Seuss’s first book, written in 1934, and responded enthusiastically when Mrs. Dunford prompted them to participate. Their tiny hands shot into the air immediately when asked a question about the story line. Unexpectedly, some found the limelight too much to handle and had their first experience with stage fright when chosen to share their knowledge. The understanding visitor gently and reassuringly offered to come back to those who couldn’t quite recollect why



they had volunteered to answer and redirected the question to another highly excited classmate. The children were either by the dynamic reader or mesmerized by her unusual, Seuss-classic, green and white striped hat. They remained attentive through the ...

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Compassion Fatigue In-Service for Teachers

by Rose Ingersoll



Chaplain Mikstay explains the Operational Stress Continuum to OUSD teachers.

Friday, January 29th, 2010, 1MEF Chaplain (Father Michael Mikstay) in conjunction with G-2 staff provided a workshop for teachers from Stuart Mesa Elementary School, North Terrace Elementary School and Santa Margarita Elementary School. The main topic: *Combat Operational Stress Control: The Family Dynamic and Self Care For The Caregiver/Teacher*. Major Victor Pastor gave teachers a presentation on Afghanistan which included information on the area's terrain, weather, and ethnic composition featuring

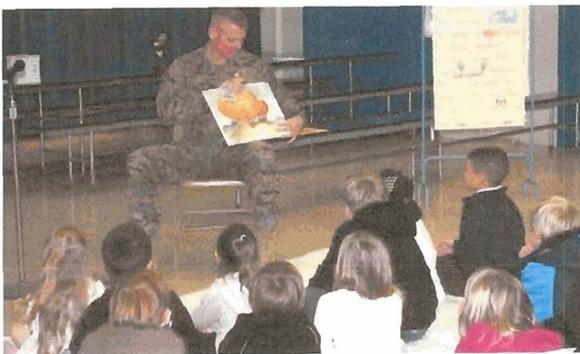
unique cultural perspectives. Teachers gained insight on how operational stress impacts family members, specifically children before, during and after deployments. Teachers are in a unique position as secondary caregivers to our children. As such they are also exposed to the trauma and loss that affects their students. This can occur daily whenever a student expresses their own pain and sadness to their teacher. Consequently, the teacher as an active listener and concerned adult internalizes some of this anxiety and sadness. Our base teachers are particularly susceptible to this type of fatigue, known as *compassion fatigue*.

Self-care for the teacher included tips on recognizing compassion fatigue symptoms, along with hints on managing that particular

type of stress. This in-service was well received by teachers and administration.

Betsy Wilcox (Principal at North Terrace) remarked, "It allows us to be more informed, and therefore more empathetic and supportive. This way we can be even more proactive. Teachers found it refreshing to know that we're not alone and that our "sister" schools are sharing similar challenges and joys".

OUSD Board of Education President, Ms. Emily Ortiz Wichmann attended the brief and commented, "Chaplain Mikstay gave us exceptional information on the social, mental and emotional aspects of the military family in constant flux with deployments. I feel we were taken aboard and truly feel that we are part of the team in helping the families at Camp Pendleton".



Fifteen families returned to school on a Tuesday night to participate in a special literacy event. **Tell Me A Story: Making Connections and Finding Support Through Literature** is a Military Child Education Coalition initiative "created to empower our military children by using literature and their own stories in a way that fosters skills for resilience, strong peer and parent con-

Family Literacy Night, by Rose Ingersoll

nections, a sense of pride and accomplishment, and a caring community."

Tell Me a Story was hosted at Santa Margarita Elementary School by first grade teacher Chris Woodard. The evening's activities were based on the book *How to Bake an American Pie*, by Karma Wilson. This story depicts a dog and cat, working together to bake a classic American dessert, a pie. The text is ripe with metaphors and visual images describing the patriotic recipe: "A giant melting pot on the shores of a great shining sea." Students began by watching Mr. Woodard, core and slice the

apples with an apple corer, then mix the actual ingredients used to bake apple pies. SgtMaj Barry Morgan read the book to students as they sat in front of him inside the school cafeteria. A mapping activity prompted the students to place a sticker on the location of their previous duty station, and incited discussions related to their own experience with schools and moving. Each family received a copy of the book, and a slice of warm apple pie. Students enjoyed the time spent at their school with their parents, and made numerous connections to the story from their own experiences. I would give the night an A+.

Tutor.Com To the Rescue

By LtCol Sam Pelham

These days, the last thing I imagined I might be doing was encouraging my teenage daughter to spend MORE time logged into an on-line chat room, but that was before the other night. I arrived home late at 7 PM and was tired and hungry when I was hit with, "Dad, you need to help me with my Algebra homework." Only steps away from heating my dinner up in the microwave, I resigned myself to the fact that I was going to be contemplating polynomials before being allowed to focus on my pasta.

That's when I remembered "TUTOR.COM" – a DoD-funded contract that provides expert one-on-one tutoring assistance for math, science, social studies and English for K-12 students (and even adult

learners). I had recently attended the Grand Opening of the program at the mainside library only days before and had seen a brief demonstration of how it worked. I was eager to try it...especially if it meant I could get back to my dinner!

Despite the initial eye rolling and dragging of feet, I managed to coax my daughter to the computer and logged into the website. Initially, I worked the keyboard demonstrating how the program worked and was quickly "chatting" one-on-one with a tutor who was willing to assist us in solving polynomial equations. There is even a whiteboard that allows you to draw and write practice problems with great ease. Suddenly, the reluctant teen

was intrigued by the state-of-the-art program (and perhaps a bit perplexed that an "old guy" like myself could really offer something quite hip). I was quickly admonished for typing too slow, willingly turned the keyboard over to the 7th Grader, and happily headed for the microwave to start my dinner.

To find out more about tutor.com, visit their website at: <http://www.tutor.com>. It only takes a minute at any Base library to sign up your family and start this FREE opportunity.

To sign up, call any of the base libraries to get started: Mainside (760) 725-5996
Seaside (760) 725-7325
South Mesa (760) 725-2032



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- 24/7 ONLINE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP
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"Where Will My Child Attend School Next Year?"

by LtCol Sam Pelham

This is likely the number one question asked by PCS'ing families who have school-aged children. On the surface, it appears to be a fairly basic and straightforward question and for roughly 95% of all cases, it is...but what about that other 5%?

California law requires school districts to provide an education to any student who resides within the district's attendance area. Students have the right to a free, public education, but this may not guarantee placement at a particular school.

Typically, children attend their "neighborhood school." Districts go to great lengths to accommodate the enrollment of a community and often add/drop teachers and classrooms as

necessary to provide adequate staff and space for all who might attend.

In some cases, however, children may not attend the local school. This may be at the request of the family. Some families may request "INTRA" or "INTER" – district transfers for their child based on where the parents work or where child care providers are located. Another means of requesting to attend a school other than your neighborhood school is "School Choice" – an option made available if your local school has been identified for program improvement. To find out more about these options, go to this CA Dept of Ed website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/fq/districttransfers.asp#Choice>

Families with students who have special

needs may also find that certain support services are not available at their local school and that their child may be transported to another school that can offer the appropriate support for their child. Fourteen local districts participate in the North County Consortium for Special Education (NCCSE) and work collaboratively to provide a continuum of programs and services for students with exceptional needs. These include local programs such as the resource specialist program and local special day classes. To find out more about NCCSE go to their website: <http://www.nccse.org/home/aboutus/school-districts.html>

School Liaisons can assist you in helping to answer your questions.



Continued from p.1 Caught Reading On "Mulberry Street"

Dr. Seuss masterpiece without too much giggling and wiggling, honoring the memory of the beloved, timeless author. Mrs. Dunford, whose three (now grown) children attended San Onofre Elementary School stated that, "It was my pleasure and honor to be included. It brought back great memories." It was indeed an entertaining, literary experience, exploring the comings and goings of The inhabitants of "Mulberry Street".

Military Outreach Ministry is Sponsoring a OneSight® Clinic from May 24-28, 2010 OneSight will be providing free prescription glasses to military dependent children

Requirements:

- Recipients must be a military dependent child
- Recipients must have a valid eye prescription

Registration:

- Registration opens March 1, 2010—go to: www.mom4usa.org to register
- Recipients will not be allowed to register without a valid eye glass prescription (which must have an expiration date of May 30, 2010 or later)
- Registration will close after the first 1,000 registrants or on April 30, whichever comes first

Questions: Email: OneSightCampPendletonClinic@gmail.com

Phone numbers:

LtCol Pelham 760 725-6513
Maria Swanson 760 763-7386
Rose Ingersoll 760 763-7385

**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
WWW.PENDLETON.USMC.MIL/SERVICES/SCHOOLLIAISON.ASP**



2ND Annual Scholarship Workshop Residual Materials



Quote from NROTC presenter - "Failure to Prepare is Preparing to Fail"

Our sincere thanks to Base Commander, Colonel Nick Marano for his insightful opening remarks, which paved the way for an extremely informative evening. Gratitude to our presenters for traveling from afar to be with our military families and heartfelt appreciation to the parents and students who attended this year's Scholarship Workshop. Below are Scholarships still available to our military Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) PowerPoint presentation assembled by John Benefield from financial aid office at MiraCosta College.

Camp Pendleton School Liaison Office Website
www.pendleton.usmc.mil/services/SchoolLiaison.asp

Military Dependents Scholarships 2010

Alexander Kreiglowa, Navy & Marine Corps Dependents Education Foundation Scholarships

www.navyleague-sd.com

Great Friends Scholarships for the offspring of active or retired Marine or Navy members attending a high school in San Diego County. <http://thescottandbrshw.com> and <http://thegff.org>. Marine Corps League Scholarship

<http://www.mcleague.com>

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, INC.

www.mcsf.org

Naval Officer's Spouses Club, San Diego

www.noscsandiego.com/scholarships.html

College Board Scholarship Search

www.collegeboard.com