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Pendleton Post

MCBCP SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICE

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- STUDENT INTERVIEW
- MILITARY IMPACTED SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION TIPS FOR PARENTS
- ARTICLES INCLUDE OCEANSIDE HIGH SCHOOL, SAN ONOFRE SCHOOL& LA VORGNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Twinkling Blue Eyes

All I want for Christmas… is my Dad to come home for my birthday in May, and my brother to come back safe to spend "guy time" with me in the garage. Those are the wishes of two sixth graders at San Onofre School. Victoria (Tori) Sego and David Garlipp sat down with me in front of an oversized map of the world and talked frankly about their thoughts and fears about being a military child while having a loved one deployed to Afghanistan. Their blue eyes shined and twinkled with emotion when expressing what they missed the most about their deployed father and brother. However, they became almost apologetic when a glimpse of self-pity came up in their speech. They were mature beyond their years; their resilience, sense of pride and understanding of the situation at hand was honorable. As children of Marines serving in a war torn country, both children spoke of a feeling of being left behind. Yet it was evident that they had developed an incredible stoicism that rivaled their military loved ones. I sat humbly in front of these children, purely listening to their upbeat account of being a military child. A sense of respect and admiration came pouring down into my mundane Friday morning. Their positive attitude, deeply-felt patriotism and sense of pride for being connected to the military were inspiring. Below are their thoughts and wishes for this Holiday season:

S.L.What are some of the benefits of being a military child? And the worst

T.S. Go to different places. Get discounts on amusement parks. Talk to friends about common things such as parents ranks and deployments. **Worst:** My dad deploying a lot and missing our birthdays.

D.G. To be able to see military "things" and be involved in Young Marines.

Worst: My brother being deployed and training for long periods of time.

S.L. What has been your favorite place to live and what do you like the best about Camp Pendleton?

T.S. I loved 29 Palms. Always warm and people were very nice there. What I like the most at CPen is the beach and that I have lots of friends.

D.G. I like CPen a lot because it has lots of beaches, sandbars and a surf camps.

S.L. What do you miss the most about your deployed father/brother?

T.S. Hanging out with him because he jokes a lot and he spoils me. Him helping my mom with my brothers so that she has more time to spend with me and take me to soccer. I have to take rides from my coach now. But I am used to it.

D.G. I miss "guy time" in the garage fixing our dirt bikes and cars.

S.L. Who do you talk to when you get worried about your father/brother?T.S. I talk to my best friend Maddie because I've known her for a long time and she understands what I am talking about. I also talk to my Mom.

D.G. I talk to my sister, because I get worried when he goes on missions. But my sister says he has been deployed many times and nothing has happened before so he will be fine this time too.

S.L.What are your wishes for the upcoming Christmas season?

T.S. Wish for Dad to come back home for my birthday and be able to visit family in Washington.

D.G. I wish my brother comes home for Christmas to be here when my sister has her baby and maybe get another dirt bike.

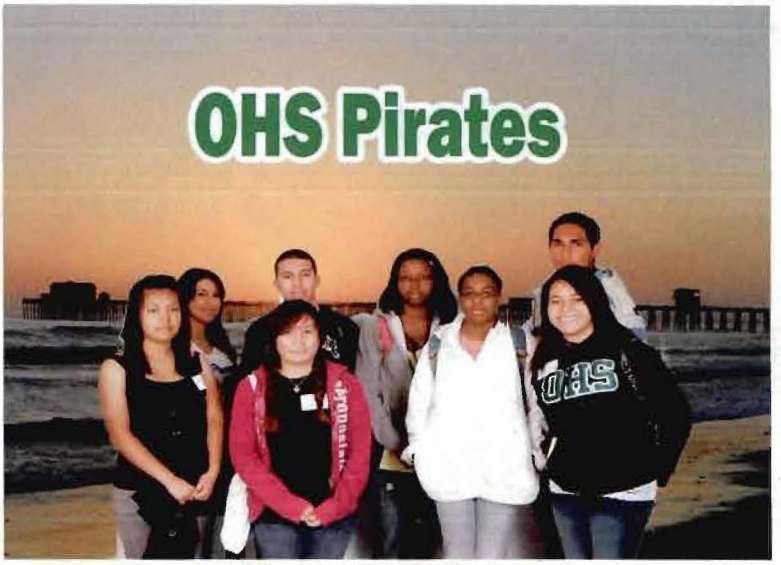
JOEY MEYERS FOUNDATION
IN JOEY'S NAME GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN

Extraordinary acts of kindness and generosity can be generated from heartbreaking tragedy. Such is the case with Mr. George Meyers; father and founder of The Joey Meyers Foundation. Last spring, I had the good fortune to pick up the phone and speak to Mr. George Meyers. This gentleman is a determined, outgoing individual who connected with our office to gain assistance for his benevolent quest. His goal was to organize a fundraiser to benefit military children in his son, Joey's, memory. Mr. Meyers wanted to honor Joey's generous spirit and joy for living. During Joey's short life, he continually showed compassion for others which motivated his dynamic father to establish this foundation.

"The Joey Meyers Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to making a difference by generating broad-based support for children's organization, programs and schools." To learn more about the foundation, visit the site at www.joeymeyersfoundation.org

Mr. Meyers and approximately 100 other individuals participated in a golf tournament on October 19, 2009 at the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Course generating nearly $15,000 and achieving the Foundation's objective "in support of children of the brace men and women that serve in our military". Three base schools are recipients of this years golf tournament fundraiser; demonstrating once again that ... In Joey's name, good things will happen.

Mr. and Mrs. George Meyers with photo of their son Joey



OHS students create beach picture at Combat Camera during S2C

THE WORLD OF WORK AT MCB CAMP PENDLETON

Big yellow school buses roll into the 22 Area and School Liaison staff are standing by to meet the students. It's a School to Career (S2C) day at the Base. This fall 332 teenagers from El Camino, Ocean Shores, Oceanside and Fallbrook Union high schools have participated in the Base's career awareness program. Students learn that active duty Marines have been trained in a wide range of jobs that support the Marine Warfighters and their families. There are presently 22 different departments who participate in the program and volunteer personnel to work with students.

Feedback from the high schoolers indicates that they thoroughly enjoy the experience. Many commented that they wished their session had lasted longer because it was a 'great experience'. One student shared that it was cool to hang out with-Marines and they were really friendly.

The next School to Career day is scheduled for February 9, 2010 with Fallbrook High School.

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

Marines from 1st Maint. Bn.,students and Principal Bill Billingsley, AP Julie Hong from San Onofre School

'Tis the season for kindness and giving. For two FUESD schools, the spirit of giving started early this Fall when a group of 1st Maint. Bn. Marines volunteered to support the Fall Festival at both San Onofre School and Mary Fay Pendleton. A dedicated, energetic group of Marines volunteered to donate their Friday afternoon and evening for service to the community. This partnership between our Marines and the schools located on base is a win-win situation for all. According to assistant principal at San Onofre School: "The Fall Festival was a huge success. All the families had tons of fun and the Marines were such a big help." In far away lands like Afghanistan or at home in Southern California, Marines are invaluable and their dedication makes enhanced quality-of-life a reality aboard Camp Pendleton. Special thanks to 1st Maint. Bn. Command and Chaplain for making this community outreach event a successful endeavor.

Veterans Day Display at Susan La Vorgna Elementary School

A Place for Our Kids: Temecula School has a Big Heart

You know that you are in a caring, patriotic place when you enter **Susan LaVorgna Elementary School** of the Temecula Valley Unified School District. AMERICAN HEROES, U.S. veterans' photos and stories from several decades, adorn the main wall of the front office. Even more impressive is the dedication of the school's principal, Jona Hazlett, and the students' supportive parents. At this elementary school, an entire classroom is reserved for military-connected children. The space, decorated by parents, displays Marine, Army and Navy posters and artifacts. The Navy and Marine moms worked well together and there was no inter-service rivalry, except for a joke about the size of the Marine display as compared to the Navy's small corner.

This Friday, December 11, Principal Hazlett will meet with military-connected students and provide a pizza lunch. T he school has already completed a military family survey and a directory will be produced for for families to share and connect with each other. Military moms have other great ideas too, like a Deployment Wall and a photo board of students with their military mom or dad. Our students are fortunate to have such a thoughtful principal and involved parents.

WWW.PENDLETON.USMC.MIL/SERVICES/SCHOOLLIAISON.ASP

MCBCP SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

Phone numbers:
R. Ingersoll 760 763-7385
M. Swanson 760 763-7386
J. Davis 760 763-7387

Tips for Parents During Times of Stress
Excerps from Military Impacted Schools Association

- Provide children with a normal, predictable routine.
- Children need the opportunity to ask questions and express their feelings when they feel confused and uncertain.
- Give direct, simple answers.
- Be a good listener but don't dwell.
- Children will often respond the same way adults respond to a situation-model calm, controlled behavior.
- Remember the value of laughter and fun
- Extensive television viewing is discouraged, especially for younger children.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

It's a Wonderful Life, Location: Cygnet's Old Town Theatre Old Town,
Date: November 27, 2009 through December 27, 2009
Admission: $17.00 - $42.00 Contact: cygnet@theatre.com or (619)337-1525
Annual holiday classic at the Old Town Theatre.

***Dr. Seuss'* How the Grinch Stole Christmas** Location: The Old globe Theatre
Date: Now -- December 27, 2009 Prices vary for showtimes from $33.00 - $79.00
Special showing on December 8th and 9th - $20.00 child/$39.00 Adult
Contact (619) 234-5623
www.theoldglobe.org
Enjoy a favorite holiday fable.

Surfin Santa at Seaport Village, Location: 849 West Harbor Drive, SD
Date:Saturday, November 28, 2009
1:00pm to 6:00pm
Free – Surfing Santa arrives in his board shorts aboard the pirate ship. He will pose with his surf-board for holiday photos. Patrons can exchange old holiday lights for LED lights (free of charge) sponsored by SDG&E. Enjoy the gas lamp district, crafts and unique shopping. At 5:00pm, the Port of San Diego's Green Holiday Tree will be light- ornaments are made from recycled materials by visitors at the event.
Contact: mcapizz@terramaroenters.com
(619) 235-4014

Christmas at the Mission- An Evening of a Thousand Lights
Location:Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
Date:December 19, 2009 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Admission: $35.00 per person (includes food and complimentary beverage)
Cocktails at the Mission with community members, stroll the gardens. Finger food is delish. Dress warm. Adults only.

Holiday of Lights – Del Mar Fairgrounds I-5 at Via de la Valle
Date: Now – January 3, 2010, Open nightly at 5:30 pm
Drive through light show with more than 400 light displays. For more info go to
www.sdfair.com/holidayoflights

MCCS Holiday Concert & Expo
1st Marine Division Band Concert
Date: December 8th
Location: Base Theatre
Expo 3-6pm
Concert 6:30pm
Admission: Free