

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Improved GI Bill transfer benefits to your kids.
- Important transportation changes for 2009/2010 school year.
- Finding the right school
- Special Summer Opportunity—OUSD Military Reg.

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New GI Bill - Kids 2 College

The anticipated changes and transferability of VA benefits to spouses and children of service members are still on the drawing board, however rules have emerged and resolutions to the bill will soon be finalized. These new guidelines are a result of the Secretary of the Military Department goal of recruiting, retaining and promoting of members of the Armed Forces. The following information is an excerpt from the latest news in IAVA (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America)



New GI Bill—Benefits \$\$\$

www.gibill2008.org
Military Dependents Transferability Guidelines

Chapter 33 allows the Secretary of Defense to provide currently serving troops the opportunity to transfer edu-

cation benefits to a spouse or on or more dependent children. Baseline requirements are:

1. Servicemember must be eligible for benefits
2. Serve at least 6 years on Active Duty or in the National Guard or Select Reserves.
3. Agree to commit to 4 more years of service starting Aug. 09 **Exception: preliminary reports from DoD's pending rules state that if a veteran is retirement eligible, then no additional service will be required.**
4. Have a spouse/dependent to whom benefits may be transferred. The ability to transfer benefits will begin in August 2009.

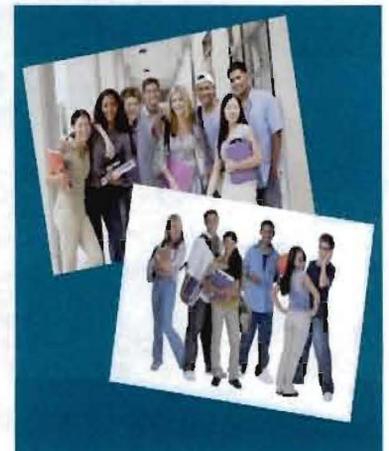
Moving Out, Moving Up, Moving On

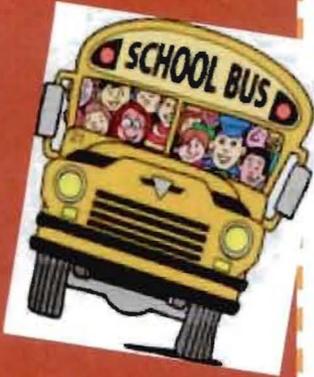
Launch of the New Military Youth on the Move Website

<http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/myom>
 Moving can be really exciting, but it can also be pretty hard. Do you worry about losing your old friends? Do you dread starting over at a new school?

Do you wonder what you'll

ever find to do there? If so, then you're not alone! This site was designed with you in mind covering topics specifically for military youth... Excerpt from the above mentioned website





The road ahead may be bumpy. Better buckle up!

Families—stay tuned. This information is current as of June 5, 2009, however, more changes may follow.

Please read if you would like to save money on soaring college tuitions.

Budget Woes Burden Busing

The California state budget crisis is in the news nearly every day and it is directly affecting our local school districts. For decades, Oceanside Unified School District (OUSD) and Fallbrook Union Elementary S.D. have provided free transportation for all elementary students. Additionally, aboard the Base, middle and high school students have enjoyed this benefit.

Aligned with a State Supreme Court ruling in the mid-80's that busing students was not a requirement of public education, many school districts in California have eliminated transportation services altogether or have provided transportation for a fee. The Camp Pendleton community has been fortunate to have our students delivered to and from school through prior years of budget deficits but the present severe problems have caused the districts to make many difficult decisions.

Currently, the OUSD school board has decided to serve the same group of students—all K—5 students and those in

6-12 who reside on the Base but there will be a fee to ride the bus. One or two students will pay \$360 each per year with a maximum of \$900 annually for families with three or more children. Payments can be made yearly, quarterly or monthly and will be pro-rated for those children who do not attend the district for the whole school year. Methods of payment include cash, money order or ATM/Debit cards. Families who are eligible for free and reduced school meals will also qualify for free and reduced bus costs, although the Transportation Department must require different forms to be submitted. (The Federal School Lunch Program does not allow information to be shared.)

For OUSD, the busing radius will remain the same so eligible students who live more than one mile from school will have this option. OUSD Base elementary schools include North Terrace, Santa Margarita and Stuart Mesa.

Fallbrook UESD will continue to provide free transportation to students within this K-8 district. The School Board has recently determined that a 1.5 mile radius, as 'the crow flies' will be applied for determining eligibility for transportation. This distance means that most Base housing areas will not have transportation services. The MCBCP Child, Youth and Teen staff is working to modify School Age Childcare services to assist parents with transportation issues. In recent years, Fallbrook Union High School District implemented fee-based busing. Families with high school students, grades 9-12, pay \$270 per student with a maximum of \$450 per family.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL OF THIS INFORMATION IS TENTATIVE AS ADDITIONAL FUNDING CUTS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA MAY OCCUR IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. STAY TUNED!

Kids 2 College

Continued from page 1

The VA recently announced that in order for dependents to qualify for transferred benefits, they must be under the age of 23. If they are over 18 years, they must be currently enrolled in college, however, IAVA is currently working to expand eligibility to adult children. Please note that criteria

differ between servicemembers spouses and children. The website listed below will be helpful in understanding specific requirements. www.gibill.va.gov

- ◆ May - You can go the above website and register for your benefit eligibility.
- ◆ June - (estimated) You can

delegate your benefits to your dependents.

- ◆ August -Benefits can be dispersed to institutions.

For updates and information check out the two websites mentioned above on a regular basis.

Finding the Right School



It is that time again, the cardboard boxes are scattered throughout each room. Your family's voices echo all over your home. Suitcases are packed, personal family records are tucked away in that special place. You eagerly (or not) await the moving van that disrupts our lives habitually every three years. What is left on your lengthy list? Finding the right school is one of the critical components of many of our PSC preparations. How that is accomplished varies for each family. The information below contains a variety of sources that can assist as you research schools here at Camp Pendleton:

Accountability Progress Reporting (APR)

Reports both the state **Academic Performance Index (API)**, and the federal **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)** and Program Improvement (PI). The **API** is a number/score that reflects a school's performance level

based on results of statewide testing. This score ranges from a low 200 (reflecting a poorly performing school) to a high of 1000 (high performing school). A score of 800 is the goal for schools to reach. The **API** score from one year is used as a point of reference to measure growth for the following year in order to determine **AYP**. The school therefore has to show improvement in test scores from the previous year in order to make **AYP**. Subgroup accountability is an important factor in the **API** score, and all subgroups are expected to meet a certain performance level. Schools are also ranked with other schools statewide that have similar demographic characteristics. A parent guide to assist parents understand this reporting system can be accessed through the following link <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/ap/index.asp> California public schools annually provide information about themselves to the community allowing the public to evaluate and compare schools for student achievement, environment, resources and demographics.

School Accountability Report Card – The State of California requires that each school publish a **SARC** report annually. The information includes *demographic data, school safety and climate for learning, academic data, class sizes, teacher and staff information* (I especially notice how many teachers are certified and how many

are in their first year of teaching), curriculum & instruction descriptions, fiscal and expenditure data, school completion rates, postsecondary preparation information. The link for parents to use in obtaining **API** scores and to the parents guide describing how to understand the **API** report is included. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/sa/parentguide.asp>

Another source to understanding a **SARC** report can be found on the following on the School Wise Press website. It is a publishing company that provides this service to school districts in California. You can obtain specifics by accessing the website and taking a look at the **Fact Sheet**. There is also a **Parents Corner** that has other important information about school reporting. www.schoolwisepress.com

For high schools, a significant portion of the API is based on student performance on the exit exam. Like most other states, students in California must pass an exit exam in order to earn a high school diploma. The test is called the **California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)**, and includes a Language Arts portion and a Math portion. Students must pass both sections with a minimum of 350 on each.

ACTION PLAN: HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Plan Ahead for the Summer & Senior Year

1. Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor. Challenge yourself with honors and AP classes and stick with sequences you've begun, in the languages, for example. Read about how to select your courses at the college board website.
2. Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or in-

ternship, or signing up for special summer learning programs.

3. Summer—Keep your momentum up this summer.
4. Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admissions counselors. Be sure to bring your checklist.
5. Request applications from colleges to which you'll apply. Check important dates; some

universities have early dates or rolling admissions. Consult the College Application Calendar and the Financial Aid Calendar for a basic idea of the application timeline.

Information compiled from the College Board Website:

www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/action/juniors.html



Free to Military Families \$\$\$

**eKnowledge Corporation & NFL
Players Tackle SAT & ACT Test Prep**

**Military families interested in ordering
FREE SAT/ACT PowerPrep Programs
should visit: [www.eknowledge.com/
military](http://www.eknowledge.com/military)**

\$23,000.00 Awarded!

**The School Liaisons are honored to announce
that three Camp Pendleton high school seniors
were chosen as scholarship recipients by the
GREAT FRIENDS FOUNDATION. This Founda-
tion is dedicated to supporting youth
through educational and sports programs and
scholarships. Eligible students must be children
of active duty or retired military parent(s).
The MCBCP scholars included one first place
winner and two runners-up for a total of
\$23,000!!! All three students received laptops
from GREAT FRIENDS also. We are proud of
your hard work and accomplishments!!!**

www.pendleton.usmc.mi

**School Liaison Office in partnership with O.U.S.D offer...
2009-10 School Registration for Military Families
Grades K - 8**

***For NEW Students into
Oceanside Unified School Dis-
trict***

**DATES: July 29 & 30
August 4 & 5
at the
Educational Support Services
Office
2080 Mission Avenue
Oceanside CA 92058**

HOURS: 8:00 A.M – 4:00 P.M.

**Reminder: Kinder students must
turn five**

**on or before DECEMBER 2ND
WHAT TO BRING:**

- ◆ Original birth certificate, baptism certificate or pass-

port (*the state will not allow us to accept hospital issued birth certificates*)

- ◆ Immunization records—all shots must be documented by a physician and/or clinic.
- ◆ **Two** proofs of address (Base Housing Contract, Letter of Intent for Base Housing, rental agreement, utility bill, cable bill, phone bill, etc.)
- ◆ At least **one local** emergency contact.

- ◆ A physical examination is required for first grade.
- ◆ Dental exams required for incoming kindergarteners.

**The first day of school
will be Thursday, August
27th.**

