

# IUSD Board Briefs

Highlights from the Irvine Unified School District's Oct. 9 Board of Education meeting

## The Irvine Company donates latest installment of \$20 million pledge

Representatives from The Irvine Company presented the Irvine Unified School District with a check for \$2 million – the latest installment of Donald Bren's pledge of \$20 million over 10 years for enriched curriculum in art, science and music.

Robin Leftwich, vice president of Community Affairs for The Irvine Company, presented the funds to the IUSD Board of Education and expressed confidence in the program's impact. She reaffirmed that Mr. Bren, chairman of The Irvine Company, is passionate about art, music and science education.

"That's the good news," Ms. Leftwich said, alluding to this year's donation, "but the better news is there's \$16 million more to come!"

This is the second straight year in which students have benefited from The Irvine Company's Excellence in Education Enrichment Fund, which pays for art, music and science specialists in IUSD's fourth-through-sixth-grade classrooms.

Following Leftwich's presentation, students took part in a science demonstration and a music performance in front of an audience that included many of the more than 50 specialists employed through The Irvine Company's donation.

Mark Sontag, IUSD's coordinator of math and science, first introduced Kate Higgs, a science specialist at Turtle Rock Elementary. Four of Ms. Higgs' students – Austin Coull, Mike Scott, Clarissa Wu and Caroline Werth – then showed Board members how to build an electromagnet.

Next, Fine Arts Coordinator Brad Van Patten introduced music specialists Kaii Lee and Ashley Hanna, who led a chorus of fifth-graders from Alderwood Basics Plus, Eastshore, Turtle Rock and Oak Creek elementary schools. The young singers performed "Giovanni Lieti" from *The Marriage of Figaro*, "The Music Speaks For Me" and "Popbottle Hoedown."



Photo courtesy of David Bradshaw, The Irvine Company

**Austin Coull, a fifth-grader at Turtle Rock Elementary School, teaches IUSD Board of Education members how to build an electromagnet.**

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*IUSD ... providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision.*



# Board Briefs (Continued)

During the meeting, Board members noted that IUSD's Education Services team has completed an impressive assessment of the Excellence in Education Enrichment Fund. Authored by Mr. Sontag, Mr. Van Patten and Assessment & Evaluation Coordinator Irene Brady, the report outlines the benefits of enriched curriculum in art, music and science during the 2006-07 school year. The document will also serve as a baseline to measure progress in subsequent years.

## **Public addresses the Board regarding a second district stadium**

During the time set aside for public comments, several individuals addressed the Board regarding a stadium at University High School. While some residents voiced concerns about the location, others expressed strong support. Nearly all agreed that the district, which currently has only one stadium at Irvine High, is in need of a second venue for outdoor events. IUSD is still in the early stages of exploring the feasibility of a stadium at University High. An environmental impact report, expected to be completed in the spring of 2008, will allow for public input and answer questions related to noise, traffic, parking and other potential impacts.

## **Coming Up:**

*Regular Meetings:*                      *Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007 in the Board Room*  
*Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007 in the Board Room*