



# Hawks Headlines!

100 Honors ~ Irvine, CA 92620 ~ [www.iusd.org/sg](http://www.iusd.org/sg) ~ 949.936.6450

### Come to our next PTA meeting:

- January 24th @ 6:30pm
- We will have a pot luck dinner; a quick meeting and a GATE presentation
- Upper grade teachers and Mr. Machesky will present the ways we attend to our gifted and accelerated learners.
- Let's increase our active participation in Stonegate's PTA so... **BRING A FRIEND!!**

### Upcoming events In January

January 16	ALL DAY
Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday	
January 18	11:30 a.m.
DARE Graduation/MPR	
January 23	7:00 p.m.
Dad's Club Meeting at First Class Pizza	
January 24	6:30 p.m.
PTA Meeting/Gate Presentation	
January 27	11:55 a.m.
Winter Music Concerts	
January 28	All day-SAT
Astounding Inventions at Irvine Valley College	

## Congratulations to Mrs. Rahmann ~ Stonegate's Teacher of the Year!

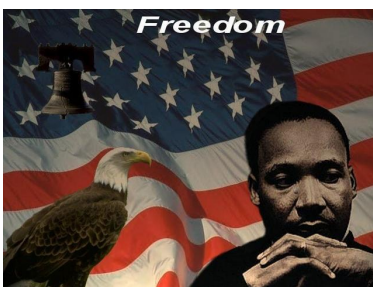
For the 2011-12 school year, the staff of Stonegate has selected Mrs. Hilda Rahmann as our Teacher of the Year!

We are all very proud of all the diligent work and tremendous dedication Mrs. Rahmann demonstrates in an effort to support not just her classroom, but all students and staff here at Stonegate. She has been a teacher leader in our work with providing student interventions, she represents our teachers as a GATE coordinator, and is a key player in our ongoing staff development. Not much is missed with this wonderful teacher and she does it all with grace and humility.

The Stonegate staff and community salute Mrs. Hilda Rahmann as our Teacher of the Year and look forward to celebrating her achievement at the IUSD Teacher of the Year Event in May! Congratulations Mrs. Rahmann!!



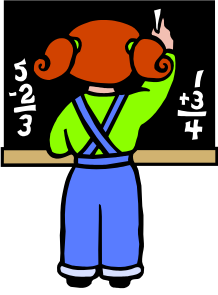
## Sprouting News from Green Team



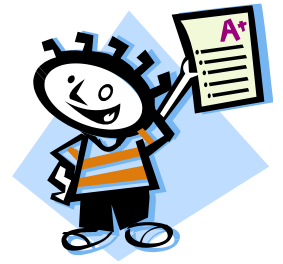
"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stonegate's boundless Green Team has been working hard to continue their efforts on campus this year! An application was submitted to *Green Up Our Schools* program and we were accepted into this national elementary school waste reduction and recycling program! With the assistance resources received from this program, our goal is to launch waste reduction activities. This year, Green Team has decided to promote two campaigns: 1) paper towel usage reduction and; 2) double-sided copying. Currently, we are encouraging the "3 Pump Rule" asking all students and staff members to use 3 or less pumps of paper towels from the dispensers. The less we use, the more forests are preserved for wild animals. Also, we know paper towels can't be recycled. Every time we use one, it goes into a landfill. We can make a difference so that one day, our children will ask, "What's a trash can?"



## What's up with Stonegate's GATE Program?



At Stonegate we strive to meet the diverse needs of all our students. This is especially true of our GATE students, who are clustered in groups among all 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Below we have illustrated a few examples of the work presented to and by our GATE and accelerated students.

### Reading and Language Arts:

In Reading and Language Arts Gate students, along with other high achieving classmates, are placed in flexible groups designed to meet their need to participate in stimulating discussions with questions from the highest levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. GATE students examine literature in grade level anthologies, novels, and non-fiction readers using elements of depth and complexity developed by Sandra Kaplan. For example, in fourth grade all students are currently reading the novel *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. GATE students are being challenged to consider various literary elements such as foreshadowing and symbolism in greater depth through discussion and responses to literature. In addition, GATE students will participate in the *Junior Great Books* program. They will gain exposure to great works of literature and will ponder and analyze literary elements such as theme, conflict, characterization, and point of view.



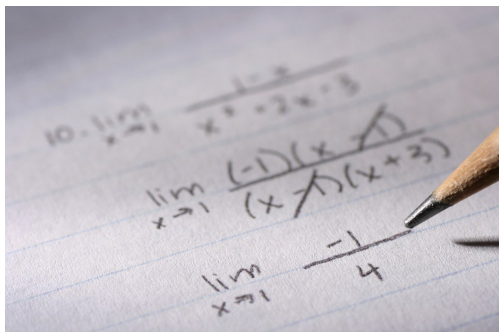
In 5<sup>th</sup> grade, GATE students are analyzing the literature within the *Houghton Mifflin* series and novels on a deeper and more complex level utilizing the specialized icons developed by Dr. Sandra Kaplan. Utilizing these strategic icons allows gifted students to develop a more profound and intricate understanding of subject matter. Gifted students are also participating in the *Junior Great Books* series. The selections within this text expose students to a rich vocabulary and provide opportunities to discuss the literature with their peers in an open forum setting. Students use their debating skills and gain experience questioning the opinions of their peers while supporting their own opinions with evidence from the literature.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, GATE students are excited about opportunities to work through project-based menu contracts that supplement stories read in our Houghton Mifflin anthology. They are also motivated to read more challenging and exciting books through the *Junior Great Books* program.

Furthermore, all GATE students in grades 4-6 are working on expanding their vocabulary with the *Wordly Wise* program during their available Language Arts time and are encouraged to use that higher level vocabulary in their writing.

# What's up with Stonegate's GATE Program?

## Mathematics:



In Math GATE students who show mastery of the concepts being taught in each unit are provided with various opportunities for applying and extending their skills through an assortment of differentiated math activities. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, for example, students are allowed to work independently or in small groups on *Singapore Math* complex word problems, enrichment math pages in the concepts being covered with the whole group, and on the *SRA* independent math kit.

Similarly, in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, math skills are assessed and analyzed at the beginning of each unit, and then fluid, flexible groups are formed for each lesson. Students who have proven mastery of fifth grade math standards participate in one or more of the following math extension activities: 1) *Math Expressions Challenge* activities which provide a variety of methods for students to apply strategies and skills, 2) *Challenge Math Handbook (aka Einstein Math)* which provides students an opportunity to engage in higher level thinking and strategy application and 3) technology activities such as graphing on EXCEL which provides students the opportunity to apply and communicate math information.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, GATE students showing readiness participate in pre-Algebra small groups designed to help students further develop their mathematical reasoning and computational skills. This group explores an acceleration of concepts using a faster pace and higher level materials (comparable to pre-algebra). These students are also placed into flexible groups to complete challenge extensions as part of the *Holt* math series.

In addition, all GATE students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> are enrolled in *ALEKS Math*, an individualized web-based program that allows students to work through the software at their own pace and go as far as they want. Students love the program which individualizes learning in all the strands of the California Math standards. It is interactive, and it provides practice, explanations, and assessment based on each individual student's needs. Students work through as many levels of difficulty as they are able to. Finally, some GATE and high achieving math students are currently preparing for the *Rubik's Cube* competition at the upcoming Math Field Day by practicing, teaching each other, and forming a Rubik's Cube club.

## Summary:

We feel that our enrichment activities are an important component of our GATE cluster program at Stonegate and are proud of the efforts of our students. They are motivated by high expectations, choice, and complexity. Our GATE and high achieving students take advantage of their numerous opportunities to grow through a rigorous and exciting curriculum and we look forward to continuing our focus on challenging our accelerated students!

## OUR STONEGATE TEACHERS AND STAFF DESERVE "P.A.T.S." ON THE BACK!

### **Irvine Public Schools Foundation's Par- ents Appreciating Teachers and Staff (PATS):**

- A great way to recognize teachers, principals, administrative staff, the school nurse, counselor, or custodian....anyone who makes a difference in your child's education.
- Your tax-deductible donation goes directly back into the classroom through IPSF's Innovative Teaching Award Program (ITAP), which provides grants to IUSD teachers.
- Teachers and staff receive a personalized CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION with a small GIFT expressing your thanks!

### ***Appreciate your favorite teacher or staff member today!***

- \$25.00 donation recognizes one (1)
- \$50.00 donation recognizes three (3)
- \$75.00 donation recognizes five (5)
- \$100.00 donation recognizes seven (7)
- \$125.00 donation recognizes nine (9)

All Donations Must Be Received By March 2, 2012. Certificates will be distributed during Teacher Appreciation Week in May 2012

Download the form from: [http://www.ipsf.net/docs/PATS\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ipsf.net/docs/PATS_2012.pdf)



**IRVINE PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION**

## STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR IUSD POSITIVE PARENTING CLASSES!

IUSD's Irvine Family Resource Center is pleased to offer the following support groups and classes for parents. Take advantage of this great opportunity to better manage communication, problem-solving, behavior challenges and resiliency-building in your family. There's still room in most classes – call today – 949-936-7502

**ACTIVE PARENTING NOW** – parents of ages 2-12 - Tuesdays – 6:30-8:30 – 7 weeks – starts January 24, 2012

**ACTIVE PARENTING OF TEENS** – parents of ages 12-18 – Thursdays – 6:30-8:30 – 7 weeks – starts January 26, 2012

**POSITIVE DISCIPLINE** – parents of all ages – Mondays – 6:00-8:00 – 7 weeks – starts January 23, 2012

**FREE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP** – all ages - meets weekly on Mondays – 10:00-12:00 – Starts January 16, 2012

**HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL** – ages K-6 – Fridays – 10:00-11:30 – 4 weeks – starts January 20, 2012

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER: CALL Susan Holt at 949-936-7502

Class fees: \$50 per person/\$65 couples – some scholarships available

# Kindergarten Registration

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**EMINDER.....**have you filled out a school choice request card for **siblings of current students** who will turn 5 years old on or before November 1 and will start **Kindergarten in September, 2012?** If not, please come by our office to fill out a card and insure a seat for next fall.



**NOTE: Welcome to Kindergarten**

Parents interested in learning more about the Irvine Unified School District's kindergarten program and enrollment process are invited to attend a free workshop at the Irvine Civic Center on **Wednesday, Feb. 8.**

The session will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Civic Center, which is located at 1 Civic Center Plaza. Because seating is limited, organizers are encouraging participants to arrive by 6:45 p.m. and requesting that only adults attend.

The presentation will also be available on the City of Irvine's website beginning Feb. 15. For more information, call 949-724-6632.

**Kindergarten Round-Up at Stonegate—Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the MPR.**

## **TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN.....A YEAR OF DISCOVERY.**

California is moving the cut-off age for kindergarten enrollment, and that means some children won't be starting kindergarten as early as their families had planned.

To accommodate children impacted by the shift, and to give younger 5-year-olds an extra year of academic readiness, school districts are now required to offer **Transitional Kindergarten** programs, which will start in the fall of 2012.

To fill out a brief online form indicating your intent to register your child for Transitional Kindergarten, please go to : <http://www.iusd.org/InputForm/IntentToRegister/>







For more information about the program, go to:

[http://www.iusd.org/education\\_services/transitional-kindergarten/index.html](http://www.iusd.org/education_services/transitional-kindergarten/index.html)



Online enrollment begins on **March 2, 2012** for **NEW STUDENTS ONLY** (grades K-6) to IUSD. Current students at Stonegate do not need to enroll online or turn cards into the office.

# JAN/FEB 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>January 15</b>	16 <b>MLK Holiday No School</b> 	17	18 6th Grade DARE Graduation 11:30 a.m. Young Rembrandt's Art 1st-3rd begins 1:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22	23 Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser Begins to 2/3	24 PTA Meeting 6:30-7 p.m. MPR GATE INFORMATION NIGHT 7-8 POT LUCK Dinner 8 p.m.	25	26	27 Mid-Winter Music Concert 4th, 5th, 6th During Music	28 Astounding Inventions Irvine Valley College
29	30	31 APAAS Orienta- tion Meeting 6-8 p.m./MPR	<b>February 1</b>	2	3 Progress Reports Fundraising Ends 	4
5	6	7	8 Kindergarten Info Night At City Hall 6:45 p.m.	9	10	11
12	13 Lincoln's Birthday <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <i>Lincoln</i>	14 Primary Science Little League begins 	15 Award Assembly Times TBD	16 JUMP ROPE FOR 	17	18
19	20 Washington's Birthday <b>NO SCHOOL</b>  <i>Washington</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 PTA Meeting 8:30 a.m. IUSD Science Fair UHS	29	<b>MARCH 1</b>	2	3



## UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS AT STONEGATE

MARTIN LUTHER KING  
HOLIDAY

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY,  
Jan. 16th



### 6TH GRADE UPCOMING EVENTS

DARE GRADUATION: January 18th, at 11:30 a.m./MPR

MAI-HAGER TOWN: February 23rd (Parent Volunteers Needed)



Jump Rope for Heart

Fundraising Event Begins

January 23rd through February 3rd

Join us on January 24th

PTA Meeting: 6:30-7:00 p.m./MPR

GATE Information Night: 7:00-8:00 p.m./MPR

Pot Luck after PTA Meeting

8:00 p.m.

Pot Luck Sign Ups: January 16th

(MPR Doors)



POTLUCK DINNER



Winter Music Concert

4th, 5th, 6th Grades during mu-  
sic times

January 27th

January 31st

APAAS Orientation Meeting

6-8 p.m. at Stonegate MPR