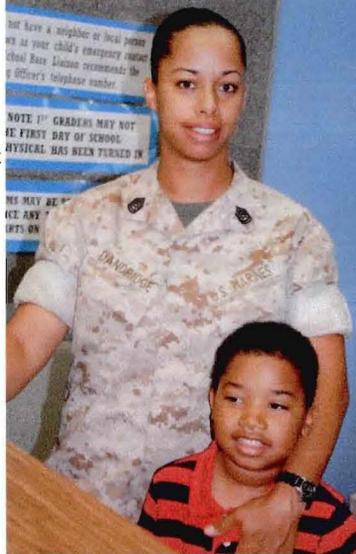




Back to School

It's that time again...one of those rare days when parents are as excited as their children—the first day of the 2009-2010 school year. In Oceanside USD, the first day was August 27. At both Fallbrook districts, FUESD and FUHSD, the initial wake-up day was Monday, August 31. For Capistrano Unified SD, serving high school students at the north end of the Base, the start-up day was after Labor Day, on Tuesday, September 8. Observations at Santa Margarita Elementary and



Potter MS indicated that students were energized and ready to learn. First graders carried hot color backpacks depicting popular characters like Tinker Bell, Hannah Montana and Spiderman and third graders sported stylish new

haircuts. Seventh graders attempted to fit in to the middle school scene, while obtaining important information like when 'Nutrition starts' and the location of the Snack Bar. One fourth grader complimented her principal on her

'good principal outfit' and eighth graders casually posed for photos with their friends. Although California education funding has suffered, students, parents and staff were enthusiastic and ready to get scholastic.

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Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence - MCBCP & OUSD

There were 1013 attendees at the 11th Annual Military Child Education Coalition Conference this past July in the City of Brotherly Love. MCBCP and OUSD won the 2009 outstanding partnership award. An excerpt from our summary follows: "MCBCP is the sole base on which California public schools reside. The arrangement has caused the creation of a vibrant, collaborative partnership between OUSD and the leadership of MCBCP. The alliance endures and progresses through transitions of leadership and times of increased military action and deployments. Developing strategies and programs that are responsive to the needs of military students is the common goal. Through sharing of information and combined efforts, the MCBCP OUSD partnership increases resilience and enhances the academic success of "kids who serve too."



Commanding General George W. Casey Jr., Army Chief of Staff presents Oceanside Unified School District and MCB Camp Pendleton with the 2009 Pete Taylor Partnership of Excellence Award.



Tips for a Terrific Trick or Treat

Halloween ranks right up there with Christmas as far as the younger set is concerned. This year it falls on Saturday which allows for a long and spooky night. Dressing up in crazy costumes, showing off the ghoulish creations to friends and being handed candy all night is pretty exciting so its our role to keep them safe. Below are some **Happy Halloween** helpful hints:

- *Plan costumes that are bright, reflective and short enough to avoid tripping.
- *Use non-toxic makeup and decorative hats instead of masks so that vision will not be obstructed.
- *Make sure 'weapons' are clearly toys and not sharp or dangerous.
- *Do not allow older children to go

alone. Establish a time that they should return home.

*Wait until returning home to sort and check treats. Decide on daily amounts.

*HAVE FUN!!!



Calling all 6th, 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Scientists... You can win \$\$\$

E cyber mission is launching their 2009/10 Science, Math and Technology Challenge.

Who: US Army sponsors a national web based competition. Eligible students must be in grades 6-9. Teams consist of 3-4 students (in the same grade) and 1 advisor.

What: Teams decide on their solution to a real problem in their community and compete for regional and national awards.

Region awards are \$3000.00 each, national award winners receive an additional \$5,000 in US savings bonds. Proposed solutions must fit with this years *mission themed challenges—sports and recreation, scenario challenge, environment and health and safety.*

When: Online registration is now open for teams. Final submissions are due February 26, 2010.

Where: Solutions to problems in your

community.

2008/09 winners proposed solutions to the following: making Halloween costumes less flammable, flood water contamination issues, adaptive sports lessons for special needs students during PE, carbon dioxide monitoring in schools.

For more information go to

www.ecybermission.com

Federal Impact Aid Components

Many local school districts across the United States include within their boundaries parcels of land that are owned by the Federal Government or that have been removed from the local tax rolls by the Federal Government, including Indian lands. These school districts face special challenges — they must provide a quality education to the children living on the Indian and other Federal lands and meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, while sometimes operating with less local revenue than is available to other school districts, because **Federal property is exempt from local property taxes.**

Since 1950, Congress has provided financial assistance to these local school districts through the Impact Aid Program. Impact Aid was fully

funded until 1970 when funding was cut in the middle of the school year. **Since 1970, the program has faced severe cuts and is currently funded at 60% of need, as defined by law.**

Impact Aid is the only DoED program not forward funded. While congress works on appropriation, school districts have to do their best to “guessestimate” what they will receive in Impact Aid. School boards have hired teachers, purchased textbooks, computers, etc. and the school year will be underway before they know what funding they will receive for the current year.

Most Impact Aid funds are considered general aid to the recipient school districts and are therefore deposited in the general fund. School districts use Impact Aid for a

wide variety of expenses, including the salaries of teachers, purchasing textbooks, computers, and other equipment; after-school programs and remedial tutoring; advanced placement classes; and special enrichment programs.

According to the Military Impacted Schools Association: **“Impact Aid has been flat funded or cut for the past four years. Based on the consumer price index it will take over 50 million to bring back the Impact Aid appropriation level back to the FY 04 level. This does not take into account the increased cost of education”** and current CA budget crisis. For more information go to www.militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org.

**CA AB-343 has passed
unanimously in the House and
Senate at Sacramento!**

Interstate Compact

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is an agreement among member states designed to address specific school transition issues faced by mobile military children. The Interstate Compact has been adopted in 25 states and is currently awaiting Governor Schwarzenegger’s signature.

The Compact focuses on four transition issues and does not impact state curriculum. The key issues are:

1. Student Records: Allows parents to receive an “unofficial” copy of their students records (*not every page in their students folder and not free of charge*). The definition of unofficial has yet to be determined by the Commission of States. The receiving school must accept the unofficial records to enroll and place the student; pending the arrival of the official records. The sending school should send the official records within *10 days; this timeframe may be adjusted by the Commission.*

Immunizations: Incoming student have 30 days (from enrollment date) to receive required immunizations or begin a series of immunizations. *This excludes TB testing which may be required before enroll-*

ment.

Kinder/1st grade Enrollment: A student can continue in the same grade (regardless of the new states age req.) if they have been enrolled in that grade in their sending state (*school must be accredited). A student may go into the next grade level (regardless of the age req.) if they have successfully completed the previous grade (*school must be accredited).

2. Placement & Attendance/Special Ed: the receiving state will initially provide the same level of services that the student has identified in the IEP of the sending state; however, the exact programs are not a requirement. The receiving state may perform their own evaluations to insure appropriate placement. Extended services above IDEA requirements are not included.

Placement Flexibility: The Local Educational Agency (LEA) would have the flexibility to waive course or program requirements if a similar course has been completed. Mandatory waivers or prerequisites are not included.

Absences: There is some flexibility for additional excused absences to visit with the parent/legal guardian due to deploy-

ment. (Deployments must last at least 6 months). There is a “reasonable accommodations” clause here for states to decline these requests during state testing periods or if there is already a high absenteeism pattern.

During deployments school districts can not charge tuition to military children that are placed with a non-custodial parent. Also a student can continue to go to their current school even if they are living with the non-custodial parent (during deployments). The power of attorney given to the care-givers is sufficient to register students into a new school and covers any other education related parental consent.

3.Extracurricular Participation: Deadlines for activities can be waived if the student is qualified. Privately run student athletic associations do not fall under the Compact umbrella.

4. Graduation: Course waivers allowed if student has taken a similar course—this is not a mandate. Flexibility in accepting previous end of course exams/or nationally standardized tests in lieu of receiving states testing requirements. Students may receive a diploma from the sending state under specific circumstances.



CONTACT OUR OFFICE

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[www.pendleton.usmc.mil/services/
SchoolLiaison.asp](http://www.pendleton.usmc.mil/services/SchoolLiaison.asp)

*The following are some terrific **resources** to support your student's learning, including some opportunities to gather valuable post-secondary information.:*

***GREAT FREE WEBSITE**~~~www.kidsknowit.com - this is a multi-media, wide range of subjects site that students and parents can use to access resources, watch a short educational film or play a game. CHECK IT OUT!

***FREE TUTORING**~~~*Is your student's math homework causing you stress,?* Take advantage this service through Tutor.com for grades 4-12, provided as a resource to military families. Visit your area BASE library to obtain your password.

***COLLEGE EVENT**~~~Many vocational schools and colleges will be at the Promenade Mall in Temecula on September 26. *Come meet with representatives to find out about schools of interest to your student.* Download the flyer:

<<https://succeed.naviance.com/download.php?id=TFZYYmRxVW1IN009>>

HS Seniors College Countdown ...

The senior year in high school is the culmination of hard work, determination and validation of goals and dreams come true for students and their families. However, lots of hard choices still need to be made and problem solving is of the essence for all involved. In the fall of their senior year students should be in their counselor's office any time they have a question related to college admissions. Your high school counselor possesses the knowledge and the resources to guide you towards the correct sources of information. Make sure you continue to take a full course of college-prep courses, keep working on your grades, and continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Talk to your parents, counselors and teachers about your final college thoughts and narrow your choices to between 5 and 10 and fill out applications and financial aid from each. If possible visit as many colleges of your choice as possible or take advantage of college rep visits at your school or in the community. The benefits of meeting with college reps and attending Fall College Fairs are

plentiful. During their visits, college reps meet with interested students in small groups to discuss topics such as academic programs, campus life, financial aid programs, and admissions procedures of their college. In many cases, the reps are admission officers from the college, and students will have a unique opportunity to get acquainted with a person who may be evaluating their application. It is extremely important that parents are present during those college reps visits as they can gather additional information crucial to making an educated decision about their children's choice of college.

Seniors Time Management Tips - Combat "Senioritis" by staying organized:

Make a master calendar with test dates, fees and deadlines

Mark college application due dates, and financial aid application deadlines

Gather recommendations, transcripts and other necessary materials

Write application essays and ask teachers, parents and friends to read first drafts

Apply early, November 1 for early admissions

Attend financial aid info in your area-use scholarship search at collegeboard.com, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources

Submit your FASFA as soon after January 1(W2 required) as possible. Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything.

Important Deadlines :

University of California Application Deadline—November 30, 2009
www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions

ROTC Scholarships Deadline -- December 1, 2009

www.nrotc.navy.mil