



Ocean View School District

Press Release

Dr. Edward A. Sussman
Interim Superintendent

17200 Pinehurst Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 • 714.847.2551 • www.ovsd.org

CONTACT: Holly Marvin, District Communications, x1305

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTRAORDINARY REUNION SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

In an interesting twist to the traditional reunion, former grade school classmates are coming to Huntington Beach from as far away as Texas 30 years after leaving eighth grade. Alumni and teachers of the District's MGM Program from the early 1970's are gathering in Central Park on Saturday, September 15, 2007, to share memories, rekindle grade school friendships, and reflect on the impact the nationally renowned program had on their lives and career choices.

Patti (Doke) Henkhaus and Lana (Briggs) Miller, class of 1976, hatched the idea of this modern-day reunion to bring together classmates and teachers from Rancho View School, the magnet school for the MGM (Mentally Gifted Minors) Program. Using the Internet to find former classmates and setting up a Yahoo Group online for alumni to join and share memories, yearbooks, and photos from the five years they were in the Program, Patti and Lana have connected with over 160 former students and teachers who registered and are posting messages online. Over 1400 messages have been posted – who knew these “Generation Jonesers” would be so technologically adept!

The former MGM program, currently known as GATE (Gifted and Talented Education), was an advanced program designed to capture both the intellectual and emotional potential of students, promote creativity, success, and divergent thinking. Judging from the online postings, the approach was memorable and incredibly successful. Beginning in 4th grade at Robinwood School, students fundraised, including trash-a-thons and recycling drives, to pay for annual week-long field trips to Death Valley. Continuing in 6th – 8th grades, the students attended Rancho View. There the group continued their advanced studies with each year culminating in a week-long educational trip to Yosemite National Park. These former students all agree that their lives, like those depicted in *The Wonder Years*, were changed by the educational and personal experiences they had in the District Program.

The reunion starts at 10 a.m. at Central Park, on the east side of Edwards Street, just south of Inlet Drive and north of Ellis Avenue. Former students and teachers will meet at the picnic tables and lunch is being brought in. Saturday evening alumni and teachers are gathering at Lana's home.

All media are welcome to the reunion at the park and the evening gathering.

Contact Holly Marvin at the District Office or Lana Miller at (714) 848-0716.

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