



# HISTORY OF LOMA PORTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1914-2014

## **1914-1964**

Written by  
Louse Dyer

Former PTA President and School Board Member

## **1964-1994**

Written by  
Jill Brogan  
Former Principal

## **1994-2014**

Written by  
Molly Crabtree and Vanessa McFarland  
Retired Teachers

Compiled and Edited by  
Leigh Burdine, PTA President  
Karla Lopic, Foundation Secretary  
Elaine Fotinos Burrell, Centennial Chairperson  
June, 2015

Loma Portal Elementary School, 3341 Browning Street, San Diego, California 92106



## LOMA PORTAL PRINCIPALS

1914-1917	Miss Grace Farley (Mrs. John Goodwin)
1917-1918	Miss Winifred Eldred
1918-1943	Mrs. Maude McKim
1943-1944	Mr. E. Russell Alkire
1944-1946	Mrs. Irma Doughty
1946-1958	Miss Sydnie Higgins
1958-1960	Dr. Peter Snyder
1960-1963	Dr. Norman Wollitz
1963-1970	Mr. David Anfangar
1971-1975	Mr. Kauffman
1975-1978	Mr. Smith
1978-1982	Mrs. Foelber
1982-1983	Mrs. Vesta Crittenden
1983-1984	Mr. Rodger Cunningham
1984-1987	Dr. Jeannie Steeg
1987-1989	Mrs. Pat Rath
1989-1991	Mrs. Fran Tolbert
1991-1995	Mrs. Jill Brogan
1995-1997	Ms. Christina Baca
1997-1999	Mr. Duane Stevens
1999-2004	Ms. Robin Stern
2004-2007	Dr. Dina Pacis
2007-2014	Ms. Glenda Gerde
2014-2015	Ms. Rebecca Penh

## LOMA PORTAL'S FIRST CLASS - 1914

Mary Aso	Gladys Emerick*
Robert Burns	Geraldine Emerick*
Helen Burnham	May Emerick*
Ben Burnham	Helen Hart
Virginia Burnham	Robert Hills
Percy Burnham	William Justice
Lawrence Burnham	Lyman Munger
Madeline Brewster	Edwina Naylor
Roy Doan	Fredrika Sinclair
Robert Dunn*	William Sinclair
Ayliffe Elliott	Roger West

## ENTERED DURING THE FIRST YEAR

Robert Decker*	Betsy Reynolds
Alice Hendrickson	Mabel Smith
Eva Hendrickson	Teddy Terwilligar*
Jessie Hendrickson*	Page Wright
Altje Manney	
Dorothy Munger	
Richard Rafelty	

\* Left during the year

## LOMA PORTAL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

1928-1929	Mrs. J.R. Garrison, Jr.	1969-1970	
1929-1930	Mrs. J.E. Shreve	1970-1971	Mrs. Winkler
1930-1931	Mrs. A.L. Mundo	1971-1972	
1931-1932	Mrs. F.A. Malchien	1972-1973	
1932-1933	Mrs. E.H. DePew	1973-1974	
1933-1934	Mrs. George Abel	1974-1975	Diana Pontius
1934-1935	Mrs. Howard Eddy	1975-1976	
1935-1936	Mrs. J. Earl Sigler	1976-1977	
1936-1937	Mrs. William Gamble	1977-1978	
1937-1938	Mrs. Charles Sieck	1978-1979	Judy Tuggle
1938-1939	Mrs. Tom Allen	1979-1980	
1939-1940	Mrs. William Shanahan	1980-1981	
1940-1941	Mrs. Oscar DeBeck	1981-1982	
1941-1942	Mrs. Gordon Thompson	1982-1983	Beth Granby
1942-1943	Mrs. G.W. Bradley	1983-1984	
1943-1944	Mrs. T.D. Marks	1984-1985	Barbette Wood
1944-1945	Mrs. Jean DuPaul	1985-1986	
1945-1946	Mrs. John Conzelman	1986-1987	
1946-1947	Mrs. James Noel	1987-1988	
1947-1948	Mrs. Cecil Adams	1988-1989	
1948-1949	Mr. Andrew Chamberlain	1989-1990	
1949-1950	Mrs. Jack Knight	1990-1991	Deborah Wood
1950-1951	Mrs. Clarence Stockton	1991-1992	Marilyn Thoman
1951-1952	Mrs. J. Monroe Jones	1992-1993	Marilyn Thoman & Eileen Lazar
1952-1953	Mrs. Harold C. Smith		Cathy Jorgensen
1953-1954	Mrs. Melvin Long	1993-1995	Lisa Vieira & Sandy Grove
1954-1955	Mrs. Leonard Allen	1995-1997	Lori Bettencourt
1955-1956	Mrs. Charles McCabe	1997-1999	Teresa Hartman
1956-1957	Mrs. George R. Callahan	1999-2000	Brandi Eide
1957-1958	Mrs. William T. Kearns	2000-2001	April Dorman
1958-1959	Mrs. G.Gage Wetherill	2001-2002	Christy Scadden
1959-1960	Mrs. John F. Keilch	2002-2004	Stephanie Fimbres
1960-1962	Mrs. Robert W. Dyer	2004-2005	Christy Scadden
1962-1963	Mrs. Everett Galbraith	2005-2007	Gia Stuckey
1963-1964	Mrs. Leslie L. Siemers	2007-2008	Michelle Huber
1964-1965	Mrs. Earl I. Jones	2008-2009	Sunny Richley/Gia Stuckey
1966-1967		2009-2010	Gia Stuckey
1967-1968	Mrs. E.G. Zozaya	2010-2013	Leigh Burdine
1968-1969		2013-2015	

## LOMA PORTAL FOUNDATION PRESIDENTS

1996-1999	Jody Marshak/Lisa McKay (Playground 2000 Committee)	2008-2010	Dinisa Valadao
		2010-2011	Karen Barton
1999-2000	Gene Levine (Foundation Established)	2011-2012	Donald Valadao
		2012-2013	Elizabeth French
2000-2002	Gene Levine	2013-2014	Elizabeth French
2002-2004	Steve Hall	2014-2015	Moira Clark
2004-2008	Maria Gibson		

## LOMA PORTAL PTA HONORARY SERVICE AWARDS

1930	Mrs. R.H. Hunt	1973	Charlotte Peachy	2001	Lisa Viera
1932	Mrs. George Abol		Mr. R. Cause		Mindy Fenska
1935	Mrs. Maude McKim	1974	Ann Verhoye	2002	April Dorman
1945	Mrs. Irma Doughty		Dottie Dring		Jody Marshak
1946	Mrs. Marjorie Bater	1975	Mrs. J. Jehl		Lisa McKay
1947	Mrs. Margaret Lee		Joannie Barrancotto	2003	Candy Snell
1948	Miss Sydnie Higgins		Mr. G.H. Kauffman		Christy Scadden
	Mr. John Lamott	1976	Dee Bergen	2004	Liza Ovietto
1949	Mrs. Dolia Fouquotte		Penny Pohl		Debbie Thorn
	Mrs. Dorothy Smith		Mr. R.J. Rehms	2005	Stephanie Fimbres
1950	Mrs. Cecil Adams	1977	Min Betsworth		Jennifer Hall
1951	Mr. George Edwards	1978	Margita Munck		Steve Hall
	Mrs. Gerald Lowe	1979	Charlene Bradshaw		Suzanne Smith
1952	Mrs. Corrine Brandt		Lena Ross	2006	Sue Hall
	Officer Stuart Smith	1980	Judy Tuggle		Janelle Helms
1953	Mrs. Leone LeMairo		Barbara Keiller		Debbie Smith
1954	Mrs. Jack Knight	1981	Kathie Hare		Christina Smith-Rios
1955	Mrs. George Hughes		Jean Durgan		Caitlin Snell
	Miss Pearl Metcalf	1982	Beth Granby	2007	Maria Gibson
1956	Mrs. Desmond McNary		Blanch Welch		Christy Scadden
	Mrs. Leroy Wright	1983	Joy Martin		Jon Scadden
	Mrs. Harold Smith	1984	Peggy Loper	2008	Sue Hall
1957	Mr. C. Walker Smith		Dell Schroeder		Diana Brand
	Mrs. Sol Schultz	1985	Barbett Wood	2009	Annette Phillips
1958	Mrs. Charles McCabe		Bob Wood		Laura Verhees
	Mrs. Helen Anderson	1986	Jane Slater		Andrea Phillips
1959	Mrs. Bernice Vendervort		Dr. Jeannie Steeg	2010	Caitlin Snell
	Mrs. Verne Sutherland	1987	Joann Zolezzi		Meta Stevenson
1960	Mr. William Smith	1988	Cheryl Boren		Michelle Huber
	Mrs. William Kearns		Dee Bergen		Christina Gilmore-McKay
1961	Comdr. M.D. Van Ordon	1989	Patricia Wise	2011	Martha Hall
	Mrs. Robert L. Craig	1990	Christine Brannen		Karen Barton
1962	Mrs. Robert W. Dyer		Roberta Dyer		Jan Blevins
	Maj. Gen. Victor H. Krulak	1991	Sue Sharp		Angelica Wilson
	Mr. James Wright		Randi Holmes	2012	Monica Folsom
1963	Mrs. Frances Seaver	1992	Kathy Morrison		Leigh Burdine
	Mrs. John F. Keilch		Sara Hayes		Dinisa Valadao
1964	Mrs. J.R. Giantvalley	1993	Jill Treppa		Amy Kinseth
	Mr. Wayne Zook		Bill Cobb	2013	Gia Stuckey
1965	Mrs. H.K. Doerr		Jill Brogan		Bridget Curran
	Charles Fish	1994	George Uzdavines		Kate Lubsen
1966	Miss A. Flemming	1995	Nancy Padilla		Renee Buchauser
	Officer D. Runnells		Cate Romer		Candy Szalay
1967	Mrs. M.E. LeBarron		Marilyn Thoman		Pete Mechalas
	Dale Lovell	1996	Bernard Wright	2014	Nesha Zalesky
1968	Mrs. R.D. McKay		Kathie Quatrochi		Bobby Taft
	Claire Shull	1997	Sandy Grove		Vernice Branch
1969	Mrs. J.D. Conner		Mark Kelley		Kathee Weisenberg
	Carmen Small	1998	Linda Cobb	2015	Tim Jollett
1970	Mrs. M.E. Philippi		Regina Tupuola		Kimberly Carr
	Mr. Leonard Philippi		Marty Rossi		Treylla Orzel
1971	Miss M. Bogan	1999	Joel Kalmonson		Heather Nelson
	Donald Hartley		Cheryl Louie		Elaine Fotinos Burrell
1972	Pat Horvath	2000	Brandi Eide		
	William Connor		Cate Romer		

# Loma Portal Song

Our school is Lo - ma Por - tal, the fin - est in the west. Our

pu - pils are fine ci - ti - zens, and as stu - dents are the best. We're

proud of our fine rec - ord, and our best we'll al - ways do. So we'll

cheer for Lo - ma Por - tal School, and to her we will be true!

Arranged by Miss Music Nerd  
missmusicnerd.com

## **History of the Surrounding San Diego Area**

A campaign, shortly after the Civil War, to develop Point Loma into the “heart of the city” was led by Mr. Louis Rose. He promised that the final stop for the Texas and Pacific railroads would end in Roseville (now the Shelter Island and Ballast Point area of Point Loma). A rapid land boom followed and collapsed, but not before projected streets were laid out on plot maps in 1869. To revitalize the area, in 1871 the Mutual Land Company was formed by Mr. Rose. The organization offered 300 lots free, if settlers agreed to erect a \$250 home.

Mr. Albert G. Spaulding, of sporting goods fame, was first attracted to San Diego by the Universal Brotherhood and Theosophical Society (now Point Loma Nazarene University) and Madame Tingley. He was so impressed by the surrounding area, he began to acquire property. Spaulding, a big 6’6”, 300 pound man, is credited for referring to this section of Point Loma as “Loma Portal.”

From Spaulding’s personal wealth, he built Chatsworth Boulevard between 1908 and 1910. San Diegans could now reach the area by ferry (from the foot of Broadway to the Roseville landing), by horse drawn tallyhos or auto. Many Sunday caravans are reported to the scenic Spanish Light House. When pioneer real estate developer, Col. D.C. Collier succeeded in having the railroad extended to Ocean Beach, land was purchased because people began seeing the residential possibilities of the area.

In 1913, to generate more interest about the Loma Portal area, Mr. Spaulding built the Point Loma Golf Club, about 200 yards northeast of the present intersection of Rosecrans and Lytton. A beautiful white clubhouse stood on the knoll of the 18 hole golf course, at the approximate spot Shadowlawn and Locust streets intersect today. The white columned “mansion,” commanded a panoramic view, and was a landmark from across the bay in San Diego.

George Burnham, a business associate of Mr. Spaulding through his San Diego Securities Company, was one of the first to build in the Loma Portal area. His home on Chatsworth was occupied by his wife and six children. Mr. Burnham was not pleased with the commute his children were forced to make to their current overcrowded Roseville School (now Cabrillo Elementary), and he actively sought to have a school built in the Loma Portal area. Virginia Burnham, one of his children, recalls in school interviews (1964), “tagging along behind her older brothers to have petitions signed.” She also credits her father as having “selected the site of the new school where they would always have a lovely unobstructed view of the bay.”

## **History of Loma Portal Elementary School**

### **1914-1964**

Loma Portal Elementary School opened on October 26, 1914 to approximately 18 students in grades 1-8. Two days later, four more students enrolled. These students transferred from Roseville School, just as Mr. Burnham had vowed they would. It was described in early newspaper accounts as “commodious”...a two-room stucco building, costing \$12,000 with a long hallway so that future classrooms might be added. Each room had a wall of french doors which opened onto the play yard.

Early graduates of the eighth grade (there were four that year), attended the city’s only high school, San Diego High, commuting via the electric street car, on Rosecrans.

Miss Grace Evelyn Farley served for the first three years as the school's principal/teacher with a beginning annual salary of \$912. Miss Farley's class records show that one of the supplementary reading texts was "Birds and Bees." In addition to core academic subjects (taught in 10 minute blocks) she lists instruction in agriculture ("at irregular periods"), quotations on Fridays, poetry, talks on morals and manners, singing, cooking, sewing, drawing, gardening, manual training and work for the Red Cross. Miss Farley's response to a question in her annual report, "Have you followed the course of study prepared by the County Board of Education?" was as follows, "Yes, almost."

Imagine the excitement Miss Farley had to contend with the first few months of school. The Panama-California Exposition opened in Balboa Park on January 1, 1915. A few days later, on January 9, the Exposition committee held a 300 mile race around the Point Loma Course. With a loop nearly six miles in length, the starting line was near Elliott Street on Rosecrans. Grandstand seating for more than 6,000 people was one continuous structure (opposite the race pits) fronting Rosecrans between Dumas and Goldsmith.

Since children went home for lunch, and drivers were allowed to practice the course daily between 10:00AM-12:00PM, one can only imagine the safety lectures students received from Miss Farley as well as their parents.

In the fall of 1917, Miss Winifred Eldred became the principal, and Mrs. Maude McKim was added to the faculty to teach the first four grades. In April that year, Miss Eldred left, and Mrs. McKim (a widow with two small children) became the teaching principal. When she turned to teaching in 1917, Mrs. McKim had a promising career as an opera singer before that opportunity was thwarted by an illness. Miss Elizabeth Callaway was assigned to teach primary grades in April, 1917. Former students tell us that Miss Callaway's favorite sport was basketball, but it was Mrs. McKim who was considered the "star athlete," because of her skills in baseball.

During the 1920's, many changes took place at Loma Portal. The first kindergarten class was formed on January 2, 1924. Among students in that first class was Florence Chadwick, the future swimming champ. A year later, Point Loma Junior-Senior High School was opened, and Loma Portal no longer kept students past sixth grade. In 1928, the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) was established.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's, streets were paved and sidewalks laid. Alcott Street was closed from Plum to Willow Street according to blueprints. A city bond issue for \$2,315,000 passed in 1929, and more classrooms were added to the school site. In 1936-37, two more land acquisitions were made to extend Loma Portal to its present day size.

Growth in the Loma Portal community was rapid during the prewar years. In 1942, the school had to be reorganized three times as new Navy housing was opened. The school was put on double session during this period. Mrs. McKim, the principal, reported having 25 teachers, with an average class size of 55 children. It was not until 1944, when Dewey Elementary was built, that the overcrowding eased, and Loma Portal returned to a staff of 8 teachers.

During the war years, Loma Portal's PTA members assisted school officials with rationing while Point Loma High School students ushered. There was also a Red Cross Surgical Dressing Workroom located on site. Every "healthy, otherwise unemployed woman with no preschool children" was to volunteer one day per week. Area women volunteered three days per week, and produced over 10,000 surgical bandages per month.



In October 1943, the students of Loma Portal were given jeep rides around the playground as a reward for their part in over subscribing the war bond quota of San Diego Schools (the students subscribed \$900 for a jeep).

A former student recalls that once during the war years, they accidentally raised the American flag upside down. Shortly after school began, about a dozen fully armed naval personnel raced up the hill from the Naval Training Command on Rosecrans to see if our school was “under distress.”

An old issue of the PTA newsletter (Nov. '45 Loma Lines) asked the children, “not to bring ammunition or shells to school because office staff have to call the Navy to see if they are fired and harmless - there’s an epidemic of this kind of behavior lately - leave shells and ammunition at home.”

In 1951, there was scarcely a vacant lot in the Loma Portal area. The school’s enrollment was well over 700, and construction of another six room edition was delayed. To avoid having to once again go on a “double session” situation, 125 youngsters were housed in the Education Center of Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church on the corner of Chatsworth and Voltaire streets for four months. Knowing the turbulent political times nowadays, one can only wonder if there was an issue about the separation of Church and State!

#### **1964-1994**

In the late 60’s, earthquake rehabilitation was prevalent throughout the district to address State legislation known as the “Field Act.” This law provided for the establishment of structural standards both in the design and construction of school buildings. Following an unsuccessful bond election to rehabilitate buildings, the district found there were 26 schools that were constructed pre-1933, that required immediate attention.

In 1967 and 1968, amendments to the “Field Act” were passed, and ruled that any buildings classified as “unsafe” could not be used for classroom purposes after July 1, 1975. Unfortunately, Loma Portal’s two original classrooms were both declared “high risk.” In his report to the School Board, structural engineer George Saunders defined “high risk” buildings as being legally “unsafe.” In his example of a “high risk” structure: Saunders said, “moderate earthquake or wind can bring material down upon people or cause collapse.”

Between 1975 and 1977, when the buildings were demolished, the two original classrooms were used for staff activities (a lounge and office). The joke among former teachers who were on site during that period was, “The buildings weren’t safe for kids, but they were safe for teachers.”

In the 1970’s, other environmental issues came into play in the community. The ecology movement was taking hold, and Loma Portal was caught in some “political fallout” for a brief period. The school had a large eucalyptus tree in the kindergarten play yard. It had become over grown, had a shallow root system, and was a danger should it ever become uprooted. The tree was so large that an adult couldn’t wrap their arms around the base of the tree. There was a great deal of controversy about the removal of the tree. Public meetings were held in the auditorium. Opponents against the tree’s removal circulated petitions to “Save the Tree.” The day gardening crews came to cut down the specimen, a neighbor had chained herself (and her child) to the base of it. Administrators in City School’s Gardening Department who were around

back then indicate that the tree was not cut down at that time, and that a full three years passed until it was finally removed (and only after the parent had moved from the neighborhood).

In the 1978-79 school year, in response to Judge Welsh's ruling to integrate minority and majority isolated schools, Loma Portal became a VEEP (Volunteer Ethnic Enrollment Program) site. That year, three youngsters were bussed to the site to enhance cultural diversity among the students.

At the same time District integration efforts were beginning, Loma Portal's enrollment was declining. In 1981, only 205 students attended the school, and the School Board was discussing possible closure of the site. Loma Portal had graduated the "baby boom" generation, and older families now populated the neighborhood. The Board believed that younger families with children could not afford the price of homes in the area.

During this period, Principal Jeannie Steeg and the PTA worked diligently to get enrollment figures back up. They conducted "door-to-door" appeals, opened a child care program, and recruited more integration students. The Point Loma schools held collaborative meetings to address the enrollment issue. Ultimately, the School Board made the decision to close Dana Middle school, thereby reconfiguring the grade-level structure of the cluster schools. By 1986, Loma Portal's enrollment was at the 400 mark, and the "closure crisis" was over.

Fortunately, a local resident singlehandedly boosted enrollment by sending all 11 of her children to Loma Portal! Charlene Bradshaw not only gave the school her family to educate; she also contributed hours of dedication. Mrs. Bradshaw started the *Holiday Gift Shop* with homemade items that children could purchase and give to their family members on Christmas. Her love of music was generously shared with Loma Portal in the form of hand bells. She taught countless students how to perform songs while using these bells.

The 1990's were a time of site restructuring at Loma Portal. A governance team was formed in which parents and staff have an equal voice in all aspects of school policy and overall operation.

Not only did the internal structure of parent involvement take on a new dimension, but Loma Portal's external structure underwent major renovation as well. Considered the most noise impacted school in the city due to Lindbergh Field, Loma Portal received a \$1.2 million dollar soundproofing renovation courtesy of the F.A.A. and Port Commission during the 1992-93 school year. A prototype for the rest of the United States, the noise abatement project included the installation of double paneled doors and double paned windows, a new extra thick insulated roof, and additional insulation throughout all areas of the school. Skylights were closed and plastered over. Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems were installed to allow the rooms to remain closed to outside airplane noises.

In 1994, Loma Portal boasted a staff of 22 teachers, working with 510 students. The integration program expanded to 94 students. A computer lab, science lab, and P.E. program were added, in addition to a before-and-after-school program (Walden's Kids on Campus) which served 50 students each day.

The PTA was still a prominent and influential part of the school and students' education. Efforts continued to focus on Fine Arts in each classroom, just as in previous decades. Students were provided art, music, and dance lessons each year. The parent group sponsored field trips

to concerts, museums, and special cultural events, as well as a student chorus and a student-produced opera.

Loma Portal's business partner, Submarine Development - Group One, assisted the school with after school tutoring programs, expertise in technology and science, and recognized student leaders from each classroom on a monthly basis.

Grades 3-6 offered academically challenging curriculum, taught by teachers certified to instruct "gifted and talented" (GATE) youngsters. As such, all classrooms at these levels received supplemental State funds (\$44 per GATE student) to provide enriched programs/activities for students.

In K-2 classrooms, developmental learning continued to be stressed. Emphasis was placed on teaching "the whole child," academically, socially, and emotionally. Real life experiences were incorporated with "hands on" learning in all classrooms. Interestingly, education continued to go full circle; this "new way" of teaching students was very similar to the methods outlined in Loma Portal's annual report of 1914.

Loma Portal has seen some dynamic changes in the past 30 years. We have developed a wonderful relationship with our military neighbors; we have had some major renovations to the school buildings, and have staffed our library and computer lab to ensure that all of the students have access to books and technology. There is so much to be thankful for and to be proud of as we look back on these years.

#### **1994-2014**

Who knew 20 years ago that we would have a website for our school? Who knew that the parents could communicate immediately with the staff with the click of a keyboard? The farsighted Loma Portal Foundation knew and made sure we were equipped to move into the next century. But let's go back to 1995 when a parent, Lisa McKay and a teacher, Jody Marshak started the "Playground 2000 Committee" in response to the removal (by the District) of all of the playground equipment. Imagine no slides, no swings, and no monkey bars. Well that didn't sit well with the staff because it all sounded like NO FUN. The tiny committee wanted to make some money for safer equipment. Voila: the first silent auction was born. It wasn't elegant or catered, but it made money. Around \$6,000 was the grand total made that year, and this yearly event took off from there. From the inelegant school auditorium, to the hospitality of the Portuguese Hall, to the view of the San Diego harbor at the Yacht Club, the yearly auction allowed the "Playground 2000 Committee" to morph into a strong Foundation with some real money-making power. The Foundation was able to buy safe playground equipment, computers for a computer lab, and books for our soon to be built library.

The school lost its library in the early 1990's because there was a shortage of classrooms and the library space had to be utilized for a third grade class. All of the books were boxed up, stored away, and the librarian retired. In about 1998 or 1999 the PTA began to raise funds for a librarian. The PTA was so successful in increasing membership that they were recognized by the 9<sup>th</sup> District of PTA for the wonderful job they had done. A school librarian, Mindy Fenska, was hired. Boxes were unpacked, a few new books were purchased and Mrs. Fenska gamely set up shop in a bungalow in the parking lot. San Diego voters passed Prop MM and plans for the new library building started to take shape. Blueprints were approved, paint colors chosen, indoor-outdoor designs were perfected and a beautiful new library opened in 2000! The PTA generously funded the librarian. Due to the generosity of the taxpayers, hard

working staff and parents, and the dedication of Mrs. Fenska, the library continues to be a joy to behold.

Loma Portal has always had a strong relationship with the military. The school's proximity to the Naval Training Center and the Naval Submarine base make for a natural partnership. Some of the partnership activities include: *The Holiday Food and Toy Drive* for some of the school's needier families, helping to staff a "*Homework Club*," assisting with a "clean-up the campus" weekend campaign, providing student awards assemblies with the much coveted *Leadership Award* and inviting a teacher and the principal to ride on a submarine! The school's contribution to this partnership has been preparing personal items and sending them to the troops during their deployments. The school also hosts *Take a Veteran to School* day in November as a tribute to Veteran's Day. This tradition was started by teacher, April Dorman (the same teacher who rode in the submarine). Veterans, both active and retired, are welcomed warmly into each classroom, to share information about their military careers and experiences. Decorated WWII veterans, Korean War veterans, Gulf War and Iraq War veterans as well as those who have never seen combat, have been guests of the school on this special day. Because some students come from military families, sometimes their own parent visits the classroom to share: a moment of tremendous pride for both the student and the parent. This is a tradition we hope to keep alive for many years to come.

Music continues to be heard all year long at Loma Portal. Under the direction of classroom teacher, Bill Cobb, students, parents, and the whole community enjoyed productions such as *Bye, Bye Birdie* and *Oklahoma* to name a few. Coincidentally, Loma Portal had just finished performing *Oklahoma* in April 1995, when a domestic terrorist bombed the federal building in downtown Oklahoma City. One hundred sixty-eight people were killed and more than 600 injured. A desire to extend a hand to not only our local community, but to the nation as well, Loma Portal responded to the rescue and relief effort by putting on a benefit show for the victims affected by the bombing. In the 2000's Mr. Cobb moved on to Dana Middle School where the fifth and sixth grades were transferred, but a music teacher from the neighborhood came and filled the position. Ms. Alicia McMillan started a school-wide music program that is alive and well today. Students learn rhythm, timing, harmony and how to work together during their weekly music class. Students showcase their musical skills at a Spring Music Festival each year. Fourth-grade students participate in a District-funded instrumental music program, during which students learn some basic skills of playing four different instruments throughout the school year: string, wind, brass, and percussion. Both music programs are much-loved additions to the school curriculum. The PTA still generously pays for the music teacher.

Unfortunately, there have been some violent acts upon schools and communities throughout the nation over the past 20 years. As a result, tighter security measures for the school have been established. In recent years, a security gate was installed around the periphery of the school, and visitors and volunteers are required to sign in and out of the main office. Background checks are performed on staff and volunteers before they are cleared to work with students, and the school routinely practices "lockdown" drills, along with earthquake and fire drills. These measures are a normal part of the school's culture now, and have been accepted as a necessary part of keeping our students safe.

As of June, 2015, enrollment is 432 students, with 18 classroom teachers, 8 other teachers, and 18 staff members. Seventy-five students are English Language Learners, and 16 students are transported to the school by bus, through the VEEP program. Students come from a variety of backgrounds: local neighborhood families, military families, and families who choice into the school from other neighborhoods. In some cases, three or four generations of students

have attended Loma Portal! The redevelopment of the Naval Training Station into Liberty Station in the early 2000's, along with the restructuring of the school's boundaries after the closure of Barnard Elementary School site in 2012 broadened Loma Portal's reach in educating the children who live in those neighborhoods. The before-and-after-school program, Klassic Kids (administered by Harmonium) is an essential part of campus life for working families. Currently, the program serves 95 students in their 6 to 6 program.

The parent organizations (PTA and Foundation) have been an important part of the success of the school. In the past 20 years, the school has seen tremendous cuts in State and District funding, due to many factors, including contractual obligations and an economic downturn. In response, the parent groups have increased their role in supporting the school through volunteer efforts in the classroom, funding of special programs, as well as routine school needs, and the maintenance and installation of campus-wide improvements.

The Foundation's mission has always been fundraising to pay for necessary items or improvements no longer funded by the District. Since its inception in 1999, the Foundation has raised funds for playground and P.E. equipment; Personal Computer (PC) lab; library materials; classroom technology, such as iPads for students; classroom printers and supplies; software for student learning; microphones and audio equipment for the auditorium; building of the amphitheater; window shades for security and beautification throughout the campus; replacement of the custodial cart; professional development for teachers; and many other varied needs of the school. The Foundation raises money for these programs primarily through the funds raised at the annual parent auction and other smaller programs like Original Works, Family Dinner Nights, eScrip, Amazonsmiles, selling legacy bricks to adorn the amphitheater, etc.

The PTA's role has evolved over the years. Initially, per the National PTA guidelines, the PTA focused on service projects for students and the community. But over time, and due to changing needs of schools, the National PTA guidelines were changed, which permitted the school organization to fundraise, supporting the salaries of the music teacher and librarian. Some of the annual programs the PTA sponsors include: Jog-A-Thon, Veteran's Day Celebration, Food Drive, Monster Bash, Holiday Gift Shop, Everyone-A-Reader tutoring program, Literacy Night, Family Dance, Talent Show, Home & Garden Tour, and Spring Music Festival.

Recognizing that the efforts of the parent volunteers and the funds raised in these two organizations overlapped and could be more efficiently organized, in school year 2014-15, parents and teachers of the PTA and Foundation voted to merge the groups into one entity: The Loma Portal Foundation. Next year will mark the first year that the newly formed Foundation will be the primary parent organization supporting the school. In general, the parents and faculty are excited about the new organization and are optimistic about its strength in its ability to support the school.

The fundraising goals which once focused on providing current technology for students, now focuses on transforming the campus into an Ecological School Yard. This ambitious and innovative goal is shepherded by parent volunteer and landscape architect, Ilisa Goldman. To date, a campus-wide vision plan has been designed, and the installation of 10 benches and 17 shade trees is in the planning stages. This multi-phase project includes the installation of a habitat garden, outdoor classroom space, and much-needed seating areas and shade, which will further enhance the school alongside the newly installed turf field and running track. Nevertheless, providing the students with current technology remains an important priority, and

this year a new Mac Computer Lab replaced the PC lab, through funds received from a large Jimmie Johnson grant, pursued by parent volunteer, Heather Nelson. Through the use of tablets in the classroom and weekly practice on the Mac computers, students of Loma Portal are both Mac and PC proficient.

In the past 20 years, the school has seen 7 principals lead Loma Portal, 6 superintendents lead the district, and the implementation of two Federal educational initiatives: “No Child Left Behind” and “Common Core,” each with their own strengths, deficiencies, and controversies. Yet, Loma Portal prospers, and has received many special distinctions, such as *The California Distinguished School Award* and the *California Business for Education Excellence Honor Roll*. The legendary successes and accomplishments of the school continues to draw more awards, recognitions, and grants to Loma Portal.

The 100th birthday of this wonderful neighborhood school has been celebrated in a variety of ways throughout the 2014-15 school year. In October 2014, all students participated in a Living History Day on campus; a day of school as it was in 1914. Partnering with the docents of Old Town State Historic Park, students and teachers dressed in period clothing and shunned the use of electronics for the day. Activities included making pioneer dolls, playing marbles on the blacktop, and using a slate board. Students and teachers were encouraged to use more formal and old-fashioned language and behavior in the classroom. Even the bake sale after school served old-fashioned snacks, such as giant pickles, popcorn, and chocolate-dipped pretzels!

In March, 2015, a Centennial Gala (auction) took place at the Corky McMillin Event Center in Liberty Station. The community, alumni, and current parents attended, enjoying an evening of cocktails and dining, viewing a memorabilia display, as well as bidding on exciting auction items to raise funds for the school. Council member Lorie Zapf attended the event, proclaiming March 20, 2015 “Loma Portal Elementary School 100 Year Anniversary Gala Day.” This special gala raised over \$43,000, a record for the auction committee.

The Centennial celebrations concluded with a Spring Musical/Centennial Birthday Party for the school during the evening of May 29, 2015, on campus. Again, the community and alumni were invited to attend this special celebration. Students sang songs from every decade of the past 100 years, directed by music teacher, Candace Szalay. The music program was followed by a festival of carnival games, food, and crafts. Mayor Kevin Faulconer, whose children previously attended Loma Portal, gave a proclamation, naming May 29th, 2015 “Loma Portal Elementary School Day.” An alumni reception took place in the auditorium, which included a memorabilia display, slideshow, and of course, birthday cake!

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As Loma Portal’s first 100 years are behind her, we look ahead to the future with tremendous excitement, hope, and optimism for our children and future generations. We feel fortunate to be a part of a school with rich history, great patriotism, community loyalty, academic excellence, and distinguished alumni. May this written history serve to honor her legacy, and the important service she has provided to our community.

Happy 100th Birthday, Loma Portal Elementary School!

**This history was based upon the following:**

Facts from the Historical Society, Title Insurance Company, and newspaper articles

Scrapbooks and minutes of the Loma Portal PTA

Minutes of the Loma Portal Foundation

Accounts and recollections of former students, teachers, and parents

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