

MANN REPORT



MLK Day at Horace Mann

By Donna Sievers

What an honor it was to serve the community in tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 16. Dr. King's legacy was alive and well at Horace Mann Elementary School as Principal Donna Robertson, PTA members, students and parents, the Rose Park Neighborhood Association, the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association, and 2nd District City Council staff collaborated to enhance the school grounds and plant seeds in the garden.

Families were able to visit with the principal and complete various tasks around the campus. Banners that had fallen down during the storms were re-hung, the gardens were weeded and seeded, and the kids had such fun helping out. Participants also brought non-perishable donations for those in need in our community.

The most important activity was the opportunity for the students and parents to brainstorm and write down what they would like to see in the future at Horace Mann. Lots of folks commented that the school needs more grass for soccer, more trees for shade, more varied physical education activities, a more efficient and safer pick-up and drop-off area, and perhaps even solar panels.

It was clear that Horace Mann families are thriving at the school and being supported by the community...even on a holiday. Many thanks to all who participated and made MLK Day a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community. As Dr. King stated, "Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?"



Donna Sievers is a Board Member of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC). She was raised in Long Beach and taught at Stanford Junior High, Bolsa Grande High, Pacifica High, and CSULB before leaving the classroom for administrator duties in Garden Grove USD. She and her husband live in Bluff Heights, where their retirement activities include volunteering for the Joyful Child Foundation in Memory of Samantha Rynnion, gardening at the Bembridge House, bike riding, walking to the ocean, and maintaining a 107-year-old house and garden.