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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Relentless Effort on Student Achievement Leads to Fairhaven's Success

ORANGE, Calif., September 30, 2010 – According to the Orange County Department of Education, the Orange Unified School District boasts one of only four Program Improvement (PI) Schools in Orange County to exit Program Improvement Status this year – Fairhaven Elementary School. Only 2% of PI schools statewide exited Program Improvement last year. Fairhaven accomplished this by meeting Annual Yearly Progress targets two consecutive years on the California Standards Test (CST).

Andrew Fisher, Fairhaven Elementary Principal, said, “This is a huge validation of the hard work that our teachers, students and parents put forth in a coordinated effort to help students succeed. Our teachers are relentless in their focus of direct instruction, student engagement, differentiation, strategies for English learners, and setting measurable goals connected to standards.”

Joclyn Rabbit, Fairhaven 2nd grade teacher, stated, “We have a positive culture here at Fairhaven. Our students feel they are achieving and making progress. If they fall, we are here to encourage and support them.”

Parent involvement has also been an additional strategy at Fairhaven Elementary. Nancy Kvalstad, 4th grade teacher, said, “Our test chats with parents have also been successful. We have moved away from the typical parent conferences to ones that include goal setting for their child.”

Students at Fairhaven understand the importance of standardized testing. Karen Rizzo, 6th grade teacher, stated, “Our students are so excited about their progress on the CST's that my sixth graders who moved onto Portola Middle School actually came back to see how well they did on last year's test.”

Fairhaven is sharing their success with the OUSD Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation Departments as well. They will be provided with a barbeque lunch this Friday thanking them for their support throughout the school year. Mr. Fisher said, "We did not do this alone. We could not have accomplished this without their hard work as well. They are an important part of our team. By them doing their job so well, they have allowed us to focus on ours. They are the unsung heroes on our team."

Also, two additional schools, Cambridge Elementary and West Orange Elementary, met all components of AYP criteria for the 2009-2010 school year and will be eligible to exit PI if they make AYP for 2010-2011.

The Orange Unified School District is located at 1401 North Handy Street in Orange, CA

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