Guide to the Collection of Materials Relating to Public Education on the Palos Verdes Peninsula 015

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The Palos Verdes School District (PVSD) formed on January 26, 1925 as an elementary school district officially when unincorporated Palos Verdes withdrew from the Los Angeles City Elementary School District. The District began by serving 26 students from kindergarten through 8th grade in its first facility set up in two rooms above a drug store in Malaga Cove Plaza. High school students were sent out of the District to attend Los Angeles City schools in Redondo Beach. The first official school on the Peninsula, Malaga Cove School, opened in 1926 followed by Miraleste School in 1929. The school district continued to grow and, between 1955 and 1965, enrollment went from 2,285 to 13,204 students.

Attempts to form a unified school district on the Peninsula, which would provide an educational program for all K-12 students to attend school on the Peninsula failed to pass in 1953, 1954, and 1957. Finally, in October of 1960, voters elected to form a unified school district. On July 1, 1961, PVSD officially unified and became the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD). In September 1961 Palos Verdes High School, the first public high school on the Peninsula, opened with an enrollment of 2,043 students.

By 1973 enrollment in the District reached a high of 17,836 students resulting in serious overcrowding. Various measures were used to address the issue including redrawing attendance boundaries. The District also studied the viability of a year-round schedule with double sessions, extended-day sessions, reduction of high school graduation requirements and the purchase of portable classrooms.

PVPUSD changed greatly in the 1970s largely due to changes in the way the District was funded. Prior to 1972, most District income came from local property taxes which were based on assessed property value. In 1974 however, student enrollment became the most important factor in determining District income. While the District had a high enrollment in 1973, the next year enrollment started to drop thus reducing the District's funding.

Due to budget shortfalls, the District cut student programs and started to lay off its teachers in 1975. Local efforts to increase revenue limits per student were defeated. Through 1979, the District made further reductions in its staffing, closed facilities and cut student programs including sports. In 1992, Miraleste High School and Palos Verdes High School were closed and all high school students on the Peninsula were funneled to the former Rolling Hills High School campus, re-named Peninsula High School.

As of October 2016, the PVPUSD serves the four cities on the Peninsula as well its unincorporated areas with enrollment of approximately 11,500 students. The District includes: two early childhood centers, ten elementary schools, three intermediate schools, two high schools and one continuation school. PVPUSD has repeatedly been recognized as a top performing school district in California.
Jeanne Van Note was appointed to the PVSD Board of Trustees in 1956. She was elected as President of the Board in 1958 and was President at the time of the school district unification election in 1960. Van Note retired from the school board in 1961.

**Arrangement**
Arranged into ten series alphabetically and thereunder chronologically. Series 10 is further arranged into subseries alphabetically and thereunder chronologically.

Series 1: Correspondence 1955-1983; Bulk 1955-1960
Series 2: Reports and printed materials by Palos Verdes School District (PVSD)/Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)
Series 3: Committees and associations
Series 4: Unification
Series 5: School Bond/Tax Elections
Series 6: Survey, 1957
Series 7: Reports on the Palos Verdes School District (PVSD)/Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)
Series 8: School Board/Board of Trustees
Series 9: Research materials and clippings
Series 10: School Materials
  2. Lunada Bay Elementary School, 1959
  8. Pointe Vicente Elementary School, 1991
  10. Rolling Hills High School, 1968
  11. Silver Spur Elementary School, 1984
  12. Unidentified School Materials

**Scope and Contents**
The collection includes correspondence, reports, clippings, research materials, drafts and results of a parent survey in 1957. Much of the correspondence, survey materials and research notes are written by Jeanne Van Note.

Public schools noted within the collection include: Dapplegray Intermediate, La Cresta, Ladera Linda, Lunada Bay, Malaga Cove, Malaga Cove Intermediate, Mira Catalina, Margate Intermediate, Mar Vista High (on the campus of Palos Verdes High), Miraleste High, Miraleste Elementary, Montemalaga, Palos Verdes High, Pedregal Elementary, Peninsula High, Point Vicente, Portuguese Bend, Rancho Vista Elementary, Ridgecrest Intermediate, Rolling Hills High, Rolling Hills Primary, Silver Spur Elementary, Soleado Elementary, Valmonte, and Vista Grande Elementary.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**
Assembled from various donations and materials collected by the Library.

**Processing Information**
Initial rehousing and stabilization of materials by Stella Castillo. Final arrangement and description by Stella Castillo, October 21, 2016. The arrangement scheme for the collection was imposed during processing.

**Related Materials**
- Palos Verdes Bulletin
- Palos Verdes Homes Association Photo Collection Boxes 3, 28, 29, 30
- School District Clippings Files
- Yearbook Collection

Newport Beach, CA. Local History Room R371.6 Commercial
Committee to Study Impact of Declining Enrollment. “Final Report of Committee to Study Impact of Declining Enrollment.”
December 1979 Local History Room R379.1535 Pal
East Peninsula Education Council vs Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District: Transcript of Proceedings. May 10,
1988. LHR R379.1535 East V.1
East Peninsula Education Council vs Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District: Appendix of frequently cited documents
filed... May 10, 1988. LHR R379.1535 East V.2
February 18, 1988. LHR R379.1535 East V.3
23, 1988. LHR R379.1535 East V.4
February 26, 1988. LHR R379.1535 East V.5
February 29, 1988. LHR R379.1535 East V.6
"Establishment of a permanent location for the Rancho del Mar Continuation High School: Program commencing 1985-86
school year.” Michael Brandman Associates. Costa Mesa, CA. 1985. Local History Room 374.8 Mic
"Feasibility study of year-round education and other alternatives: prepared for Palos Verdes Peninsula School District.”
"Final Report of Committee to Advise on the Disposition of Unneeded School Buildings.” Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA. April
1980. Local History Room R379.1536 Com
November 1990. Local History Room 371.6 Final
1988. Local History Room R371.6 Palos
1989. Local History Room R371.6 Palos
Master Plan.” December 1981. Local History Room R379.1535 Pal
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. "Staff Report on Educational and Financial Implications of EIR project and
Alternatives.” Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA. 1990. Local History Room 371.6 Palos
R371.7949 Pal
history Room R379.1535 Palos
"Residential development school fee justification study for Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District.” December 19,
2001. Local History Room 371.6 Residential

Bibliography

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Public schools
School districts
School districts--California--Palos Verdes Peninsula
Public Schools--California--Palos Verdes Peninsula
Palos Verdes School District (Calif.)
Education
Correspondence 1955-1983; Bulk 1955-1960

Scope and Contents
The bulk of the correspondence is dated May 1955-November 1960. Topics covered include bond votes, annexation, unification, the Board of Trustees, 1957 survey, and the 1959 search for a school superintendent. Jeanne Van Note is the correspondent and recipient of much of the correspondence in her capacity as President of the Board of Trustees. Correspondence also includes a complete mailer from the John Birch Society in 1960 mailed to the Van Note residence.

Box 1
Correspondence 1955 May-1983 Jun
Correspondence - John Birch Society 1960

Reports and printed materials by Palos Verdes School District (PVSD)/Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)

Scope and Contents
Reports and Printed Materials by Palos Verdes School District (PVSD)/Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) include directories, annual reports, Course of Study Supplement, Guide to the PVSD, report to the community, statistical reports, committee reports, scheduling and curriculum reports, test results, fiscal summaries, class of 1975 follow-up summary, and a real estate bid packet. PVSD/PVPUSD newsletters include "The Green Sheet," School District newsletters to teachers and staff, Superintendent Fortnightly Reports, School Board newsletter, and "Your Schools" newsletter.

Box 1
Palos Verdes School District Annual Report 1960
Palos Verdes School District Course of Study Supplement 1960
The Green Sheet 1975 Apr-1978 Jun

Physical Description: 3 Folders

Box 1
Box 1
Box 1
Box 1

Palos Verdes School District Directories 1960; undated
Palos Verdes School District Newsletters 1958 Jan-1960 Apr with gaps
Report to the Community - A Profile of Palos Verdes Peninsula School District 1969

Box 2

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Box 3
Office of the Superintendent Fortnightly Reports 1959 Jul-1962 Jan
Palos Verdes School District Newsletters 1954 Sep-1961 Mar with gaps
Your Schools Newsletter 1964

Committees and associations
Scope and Contents
Committees and associations include materials from the Good Schools Association, the Lay Advisory Committee, the Augmented Los Angeles County Committee of the Palos Verdes District, the PTA, Save Our Schools Committee, and the Palos Verdes Faculty Association Newsletter.

Box 3
Good Schools Association 1950-1956
Lay Advisory Committee 1955-1957; undated
Augmented Los Angeles County Committee of the Palos Verdes District Area 1956 May-1960 Jun
Parent Teacher Association (PTA) 1956-1996
Committees and associations

Save Our Schools Committee 1957
Palos Verdes Faculty Association Reporter 1959 Oct-1961 Dec
East Peninsula Education Council 1987-1988
Good Schools Association flyers 1954

PTA thanks Jane Bailey 1959

Unification

Scope and Contents
Unification materials include a timeline of Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) unification, voter materials and mailers, proposals, voter information pamphlets including arguments for and against unification of the Palos Verdes School District.

Unification 1953-1960; undated

School Bond/Tax Elections

Scope and Contents
School Bond/Tax Elections materials include voter materials and mailers, agendas and strategy for the 1955 vote and minutes from a meeting of the Citizen’s Committee for School Bonds.

School Bond/Tax Elections 1954-1960; undated
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unifier 1957

Survey, 1957

Scope and Contents
The Survey in 1957 includes drafts of the survey including handwritten notes by Jeanne Van Note, tabulation instructions and survey returns, results and final summary of findings.

Drafts 1957
Tabulation, Results, Summary 1957

Reports on the Palos Verdes School District (PVSD)/Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)

Scope and Contents
Reports on the Palos Verdes School District (PVSD)/Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) includes materials generated by the Los Angeles County Superintendent, the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization, the League of Women Voters, and the Fourth City Movement. Materials include reports on attendance boundaries and school district finances, surveys of voter opinion, analysis of results on a test of mental maturity, Malaga Cove curriculum and planning, assessments of school district performance, and special education planning reports and materials.


Physical Description: 4 Folders

Analysis of Results, California Test of Mental Maturity 1957 Sep
Malaga Cove Curriculum and Planning 1961-1962
Special Education Planning Reports and Materials 1983
High School Possibilities and El Segundo High Curriculum 1954
Map of Los Angeles City High School District showing boundary of Palos Verdes Elementary School District and Torrance School District 1956
Palos Verdes Peninsula Community Study maps 1968 Jul
School locations and tentative attendance boundaries within Palos Verdes School District 1960-1961; undated
Materials Related to and by the Board 1947-1985; undated

School Board election supplement by League of Women Voters 1965

Research materials and clippings

Scope and Contents
Research materials and clippings regarding the Palos Verdes School District (PVSD)/Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD) and also of education trends and developments. Many clippings from 1950-1960 feature annotations by Jeanne Van Note.

Clippings 1953-1961
Research Materials and Notes 1955-1962

School Materials

Scope and Contents
School materials include sporadic class photos, commencement, and event programs from Dapplegray, Lunada Bay, Malaga Cove, Miraleste Elementary, Miraleste High, Palos Verdes High, Point Vicente School, Ridgecrest, Rolling Hills High and Silver Spur. Malaga Cove materials include school commencement program, handbook and school calendar from 1937, time capsule letter and photos from the class of 1940, and copies of the time capsule letters from the classes of 1965 and 1990.

Dapplegray Intermediate School, 1961-1967

Lunada Bay Elementary School, 1959

Malaga Cove School, 1937-1965

Box 2 Malaga Cove School - Class of 1937 1937
Box 2 Malaga Cove School Programs 1938
Box 2 Malaga Cove School Class of 1940 Time Capsule Letter and Photos 1940
Box 2 Malaga Cove School - The Seaside Scribe Newsletter 1963-1964


Box 2 Malaga Cove Intermediate School Handbooks 1964-1965
Box 2 Malaga Cove Intermediate School Class of 1965 Time Capsule Letter and Clippings 1965
Box 2 Malaga Cove Intermediate School Programs 1965
Box 2 Malaga Cove Intermediate School Student Drawings of Current Events 1965
Box 5 Malaga Cove Intermediate School Yearbooks 1965
Box 5 Malaga Cove Intermediate School Commencement Programs 1965; 1990

Physical Description: 2 Folders
Box 5
Malaga Cove Intermediate School Visit from 1940 and 1965 graduates 1990 Feb 27

Scope and Contents
Contains photographs and correspondence

Box 5

Box 5
Malaga Cove School Brochure and Art Postcard undated

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**Miraleste Elementary School, 1960-1982**

Box 5
Miraleste Elementary School Faculty and Class Photos 1962-1968
Physical Description: 5 Folders

Box 6
Miraleste Elementary School Faculty and Class Photos 1968-1978
Physical Description: 10 Folders

Box 7
Miraleste Elementary School Faculty and Class Photos 1978-1981
Physical Description: 3 Folders

Box 7
Miraleste Elementary School History, Fifty Years 1980

Box 7
Miraleste Elementary School Student Council Photos 1979-1981
Physical Description: 2 Folders

Box 7
Miraleste Elementary School Student Council Photos undated

Box 7
Miraleste Elementary School Yearbook 1980-1982
Physical Description: 2 Folders

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**Miraleste High School, 1969; 1971**

Box 7
Map_Case 1, drawer 8, folder 6
Miraleste High School Programs 1969; 1971
Miraleste High School Torreon 1968 Oct 16; Oct 30

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**Palos Verdes High School, 1961; 1972; 1976**

Box 7
Palos Verdes High School Student Guide 1961

Box 7
Palos Verdes High School Program 1972

Box 7
Palos Verdes High School Western Association of School and Colleges Report 1976 Mar

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**Pointe Vicente Elementary School, 1991**

Box 7
Point Vicente Elementary School "Famous People in Our World" 1991

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**Ridgecrest Intermediate School, 1983**

Box 7
Ridgecrest Intermediate School Yearbook 1983

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**Rolling Hills High School, 1968**

Box 7
Rolling Hills High School "Satori" 1968
Silver Spur Elementary School, 1984

Box 7

Silver Spur Elementary School Yearbook 1984

Unidentified School Materials

Box 7

Unidentified School Program undated