



201 Covington Road • Los Altos, CA • 94024  
650-947-1152 (tel) • 650-947-0118 (fax)

**Jeffrey Baier**  
Superintendent  
jbaier@lasdschools.org

## **Los Altos, CA - October 15, 2012**

United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has announced that Oak Avenue Elementary School, in the Los Altos School District, has been named one of 219 National Blue Ribbon public schools. A total of 269 public and private schools have been recognized. Only twenty-four schools in California were honored with this prestigious award this year. Oak School was one of only three elementary schools to be recognized in Santa Clara County.

“This recognition is very exciting for the students, teachers, staff, and parents. Academic success begins at home and is built with a strong primary grade foundation. We are lucky to be part of a district where every initiative puts students and their learning first,” said Amy Romem, principal of Oak Avenue School. “Our collective achievement comes from student success measured one by one and is made possible with the effort of our whole team – teachers, parents, the students themselves, and our wonderful support staff members.”

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels. The program is part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals.

“We are proud to see national recognition of the success of Oak School. The Oak students are very fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from such an experienced and professional staff,” said Mark Goines, president of the Board of Trustees of the Los Altos School District. “Neighborhood schools are the backbone of our communities in Los Altos, and the Blue Ribbon Award is truly a testament to the dedication of Oak’s community.”

To be nominated and ultimately qualify for the Blue Ribbon Award, Oak Avenue School has maintained excellence in State test scores over a sustained period of time. The Academic Performance Index (API) score at Oak has steadily increased in the past ten years from a score of 952 in 2002-03 to a score of 983 in the current year. Oak regularly ranks as one of the top scoring schools in the State of California. State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson nominated Oak School for the federal award.

“Oak School is a shining example of excellence in our community thanks to the tireless efforts of the teachers, students, staff members, parents and the administration,” said Jeffrey Baier, superintendent of the Los Altos School District. “Just like every LASD school, Oak is focused on the academic, social and emotional needs of each and every student and work diligently to ensure their success. The school culture is one of total commitment, strong parent involvement, collaboration among teachers, high expectations, and, ultimately, success for students.”

Principal Amy Romem and a staff representative have been invited to Washington, D.C. to receive their award from the United States Department of Education. In a press release announcing the Blue Ribbon schools Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated, “Our nation has no greater responsibility than helping all children realize their full potential. Schools honored with the National Blue Ribbon Schools award are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers. Their work reflects the conviction that every child has promise and that education is the surest pathway to a strong, secure future.”

#####

For more information, contact Jeffrey Baier, Superintendent, at [superintendent@lasdschools.org](mailto:superintendent@lasdschools.org)