

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Last week, fifty fourth grade students from Heritage Oak embarked on an Amtrak train ride to visit the Mission in San Juan Capistrano. This field trip concluded the children's "California History" classes for which each child was required to write a report. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to enjoy a hands-on experience touring the grounds that Father Junipero Serra established in 1776, as the 7th of 21 missions statewide. The mission is a monument to California's multi-cultural history, embracing its Native American, Spanish, Mexican and European heritage and is set on 10 acres of lush gardens, cool fountains, cloistered by old adobe walls. Students visited the Serra Chapel, Padres Quarters and the Great Stone Church.

After the informative Mission tour, students and teachers, Mrs. Purvi Holmes and Mrs. Lynette Bowen, enjoyed a superb lunch at L' Hironnelle, the local French restaurant, which means "Swallow" in French. Swallows are San Juan Capistrano's mascots as the birds have been returning to the Mission for centuries to nest and have their young ones in the valley. At the restaurant, students practiced conversing in French and indulging in delicious French cuisine.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeking a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are just part of a program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 "Blue Ribbon" award. The "Blue Ribbon", our Nation's most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.