

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Uschi De Rose

(714) 524-1350 ex.111

Monday, January 22, 2007

Heritage Oak's Pen Pals

“Heritage Oak” is definitely no stranger to the 5th grade boys and girls of the Napi Elementary School in Browning, Montana. Both the 5th graders from the Montana School and Heritage Oak started their correspondence earlier this school year under the guidance of teachers Mrs. Jennifer Lindenstein (Heritage Oak) and Mrs. Lindenstein’s niece, Ms. Angela Thompson (Napi Elementary).

The communication grew out of a desire to apply the writing skills students have been learning throughout the years at Heritage Oak. “In addition, it is a wonderful experience for both classes since they come from such different cultures and environments” says Mrs. Lindenstein. The Napi Elementary School is located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Tribal Life for these 5th graders is completely different from the Orange County Life Heritage Oak’s 5th graders are used to, and so a mutual respect and great friendship has developed between both classes.

Throughout the years, Heritage Oak has implemented several programs to enhance the writing skills of students. The most recent one being the addition of the MY Access! program for all 5th graders. With My Access!, students are motivated to write more and attain higher scores on writing assessments, including standardized tests. This online program provides students with the practice they need to improve their writing skills. In most cases, the program’s scoring engine grades students’ essays instantly and gives targeted feedback, providing students with opportunities to revise and improve their writing and giving teachers more time to conduct differentiated instruction and curriculum planning.

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 Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.