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## **School Site Dedications**

Amidst blue and yellow balloons at Thurston Middle School and dolphin balloons at Top of the World Elementary School, cheering students at dedication ceremonies signaled the end of construction and the beginning of school in the newly remodeled and refurbished school sites.

At Thurston Middle School, students tapped out a “drum roll” on their laps as the ribbon was cut and the Dedication Plaque was unveiled by Board of Education Clerk, Jan Vickers. Dr. Joanne Culverhouse, Principal, expresses the enthusiasm for the October 14<sup>th</sup> ceremony, “The dedication was a wonderful celebration of the completion of an intense project and an opportunity to express appreciation to staff, students, and neighbors for the inconvenience and interruption throughout the last two years.” She further adds that, “It was very rewarding to come together to see completed facilities.” The program concluded with music from the Thurston Chorus and Jazz Band.

Ron La Motte, Top of the World Elementary School Principal, illustrated the importance of the day “Our goal over the past three years of construction was to make the facilities equal to the excellence of our social/academic environment. Our celebration on October 15 was the culmination of that achievement.” At TOW’s ceremony, students read samples from their thank you notes to the ICOC (Independent Citizen Oversight Committee), and William Habermehl, County Superintendent of Schools, addressed the crowd, spoke of the respect Laguna Beach Unified School District maintains in Orange County, and promised to return for a formal tour in the spring of 2005. Their program concluded with the entire elementary school singing “I Can See Clearly Now” and “Top of the World” as students blew bubbles across the newly renovated campus.

Dignitaries and guest speakers attending the ceremonies included former and current members of the LBUSD School Board, district staff, faculty, parents, community members, representatives from Orange County Department of Education, McCarthy Construction, LPA Architects, TOWNA, PTA, and ICOC.