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CONTACT DR. JOANNE CULVERHOUSE, PRINCIPAL, THURSTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL
(949) 497-7785

THURSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL IS A STOP IN THE ROAD FOR TRAVELING DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

“We hold these truths to be self-evident” “All men are created equal” Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”

These familiar phrases from our Declaration of Independence that created our everyday freedoms will be traveling to Laguna Beach Thurston Middle School December 2nd as a part of The Declaration of Independence Road Trip.

One of twenty-five original Dunlap Broad sides still in existence, this copy of our nation’s birth certificate is one of 200 copies printed by John Dunlap in July 1776 that were requested by our Founding Fathers in an effort to rally American troops to take up arms and earn their freedom from England. The Declaration was posted on trees, printed in newspapers, and read out loud in town squares all over the thirteen original colonies.

This Broad side was discovered in 1989 when a bargain hunter purchased a painting at a flea market for four dollars because he admired the frame. Upon inspection of a tear in the back, he found the declaration folded between the canvas and the frame. After authentication, and two more purchases, producer Norman Lear and his wife, Lynn purchased it 2000. Their vision of the people’s document traveling across America resulted in the Declaration of Independence Road Trip.

Laguna Beach became a stop on this trip thanks to El Morro students Jack Clark, Alec Loechner, and Mr. Klapman’s 5th Grade class who made a student video about this amazing document whose relativity is as current today as when it was first written.

Students will be able to view the Declaration along with two audiovisual productions. Reese Witherspoon, who is a descendent of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, recounts our struggle for independence, equality, and our freedom and the responsibility of every American to uphold these basic liberties. Twelve well-known actors perform a dramatic reading of the people’s document in the Old State House in Philadelphia and students will be able to hear these powerful words as they were meant to be delivered.