



# MURRIETA VALLEY

Unified School District

Community Newsletter

[www.murrieta.k12.ca.us](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us)

Fall, 2006

## Outstanding Results

### California Establishes Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day

Murrieta Valley Unified School District is the first district in Riverside County and one of only a handful in the state to place Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) in district schools. The program came out of one parent's quest to implement a statewide mandate to require the installation of AED's in all California schools.



In May 2005, Travis Roy, an eighth grader, collapsed on the playground at Thompson Middle School as a result of

sudden cardiac arrest. District nurse, Barbara Shuman, responded immediately and performed CPR until an ambulance arrived. However, it took 23 minutes and an AED to get Travis' heart beating again. Travis lapsed into a coma and died on June 25th, a death that may have been prevented if an AED had been available sooner.

In the months that followed his son's death, in the midst of his own grief, Robert Roy approached the District and urged officials to install AED's in district schools. Roy also began a fund-raising and public

awareness campaign to prevent other families from suffering the same loss.

On November 16, 2005, the district's Board of Education approved an agenda item to spend \$25,000 to place AED's at all district high schools and middle schools. The first unit, purchased with donated funds, went to Thompson Middle School.

By January, 2006, thirteen AED's had been purchased by the district and staff were trained and certified in AED use. The district now has seventeen units deployed, including two at each middle school, three at the two high schools, one at the District Support Center and one each at Buchanan Elementary, Monte Vista Elementary, E. Hale Curran Elementary and Cole Canyon Elementary. The ultimate

objective is to install an AED at the remaining seven schools.

On September 28, 2006, District Superintendent Stan Scheer commended Robert Roy for his efforts to place AED's in district schools and increase public awareness by establishing Travis' birthday, September 12, as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day throughout the state of California. Roy told district Trustees, "I will hold this district up as a role model as I go around the state promoting a mandate for AED's in schools so people can see what happens when people put their heads together to work on a common cause."

One fully-outfitted AED costs approximately \$2,500 and Murrieta Valley Council PTA has asked site PTA's to continue fund-raising efforts to purchase the additional AED's needed. Donations towards the purchase of AED's may be sent directly to the District Support Center, Attention Risk Management Specialist Barbara Hughes. Hughes may be reached by phone at (951) 696-1600 ext. 1134 or via email at [bjhughes@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:bjhughes@murrieta.k12.ca.us).



