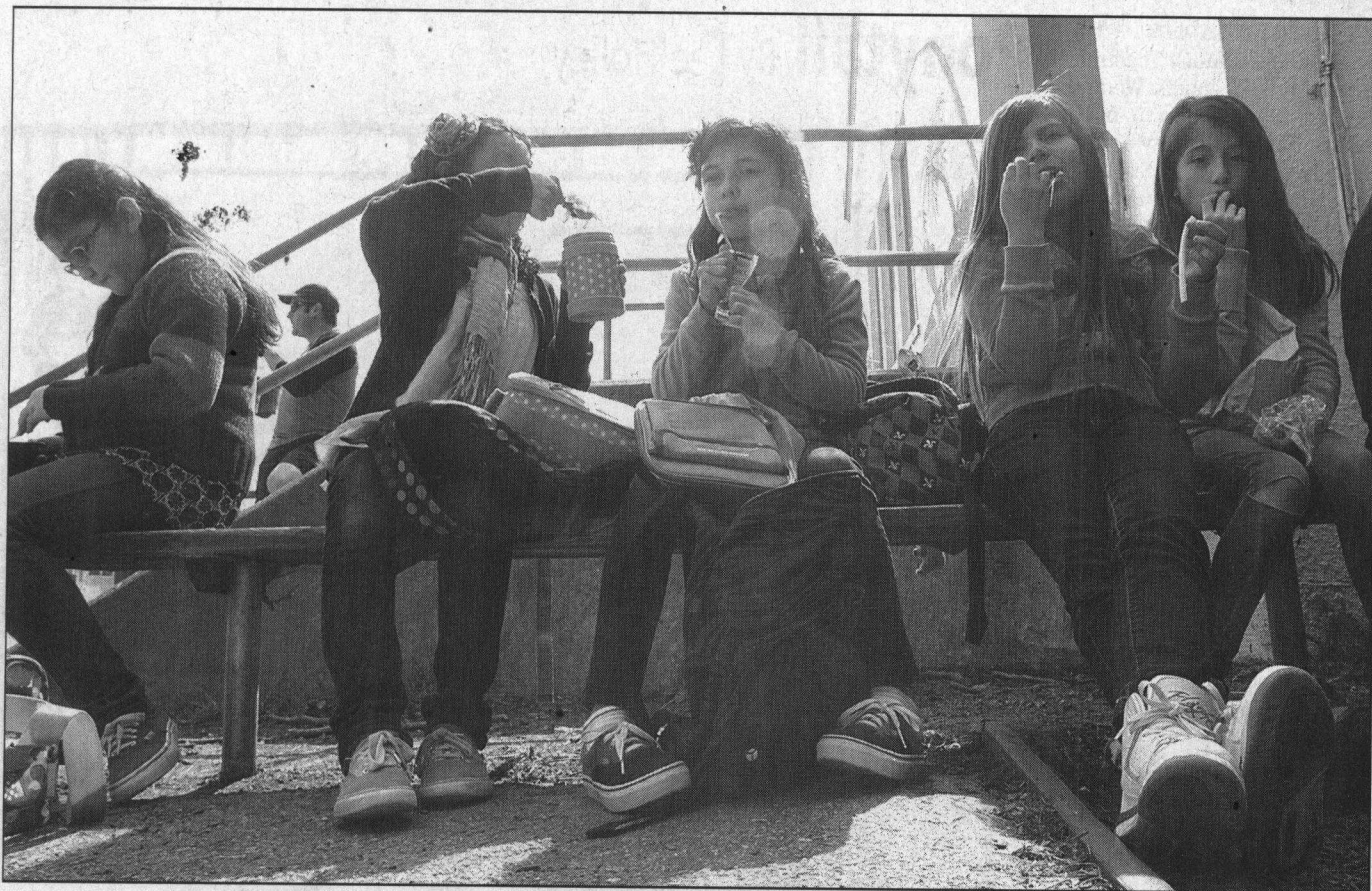


# Linscott Charter School named Distinguished School



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Students at Linscott Charter School enjoy lunch Thursday. The school was recently awarded the 2012 California Distinguished School award.

Schools - Misc

R.P. 3-31-12

## Only such honor in Santa Cruz County, one of 387 statewide

By TODD GUILD

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

**WATSONVILLE** — To the students at Linscott Charter School, Thursday was an ordinary day, with some students scampering on the playground and some chatting excitedly over lunch. Still others were sitting in the classrooms, waiting for their lunch period to begin.

But the teachers and administrators were holding their heads a little higher after an announcement by the California Department of Education that the school has been named a California Distinguished School for 2012, an honor that

means the school met a variety of eligibility criteria that includes keeping high state and federal test scores.

"We're very proud," principal Robin Higbee said. "I feel really good for our parents, teachers and students. They do a lot of work, and having it recognized is validating to them."

Linscott joined 387 California public elementary schools that received the honor. Next year's awards will go to secondary schools.

"The schools we are recognizing today demonstrate the incredible commitment of California's teachers, administrators, and school employ-

ees to provide a world-class education to every student, in spite of the financial hardships facing our state and our schools," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack Torlakson said. "Their dedication is inspiring, and I applaud and admire their passion and persistence."

Higbee said the application process included describing in detail two of the school's "signature practices," which in the case of Linscott was the school's use of parental engagement and its focus on outdoor education and environmental awareness.

The process includes a visit

by county education officials, who also interview parents.

Schools earning the Distinguished School title agree to share their signature practices with other schools and serve as mentors to other educators who want to replicate their work. Schools selected for recognition will be honored as Distinguished Schools at award ceremonies where Torlakson will present each school with a 2012 Distinguished School plaque and flag.

The list of California Distinguished Schools may be found on the California Department of Education website at [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/cs).