

[Print Page](#)

## News > Schools

### Coombs Middle School implements modern communications

*By Gail Papanian  
For the Banning Unified School District*

True to his word, Banning Unified School District interim Superintendent Ron Franklin made a visit to the Susan B. Coombs middle school recently. After checking on some plumbing problems at New Horizon, Franklin visited with Coombs principal Mark Baldwin.

After discussing some administrative issues, Baldwin told Franklin and Gordon Fisher, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, about a wonderful new communications device recently implemented at Coombs. It's a blend of modern computer technology and messages can be sent to telephones, cell phones or email. The greatest use is currently through regular telephones. It's called Teleparent.

At the beginning of each school year, parents or guardians are requested to give the school district current contact information for each student. Even with these requests, at least 14% do not keep this information current or give wrong numbers. Some parents use their cell phones as their primary phone number but many are on monthly minutes. This means if there is an emergency, the schools or the district will be unable to reach a substantial number of parents.

"Thanks to Teleparent," Principal Baldwin pointed out, "we can be in touch with parents almost immediately." Within fifteen minutes, a message can be recorded and sent out to all involved in a given situation. Other than emergencies, this efficient form of communication is used for parent notifications.

"It is fantastic," Baldwin said enthusiastically. "Parents are pleased as punch."

The benefits to administrators, Teleparent points out: "more informed, aware parents, more satisfied teachers, less students sent to dean's office, better attendance and high student performance."

Students are the ultimate beneficiaries. Teleparent points out, "Š the program gives students an immediate reason to perform their best in class.

[Print this story](#)

[Email this story](#)