



Volume Two • Issue Two
October - December, 2009

CV Connected

CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MESSAGE FROM JOSE A. FERNANDEZ, SUPERINTENDENT

I welcome everyone back and hope that you had a very happy and safe holiday season. Our diverse community celebrates many different cultures and holidays in December and I want to recognize them all and hope that each of you spent a happy and warm holiday with your loved ones.

This time of year is a time to plan and reflect. Reflect on the past years' accomplishments we have achieved and plan on new goals and dreams we have for the New Year.

Our district has undergone many challenges during the past year and I am happy to share with you that things are looking up!

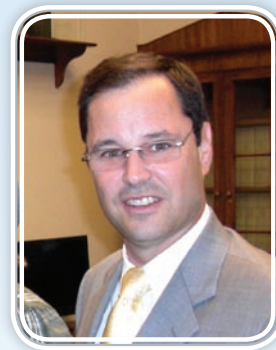
All of our teachers who were laid off were offered re-employment, our fiscal status is strong despite severe budget cuts from state and federal sources, our campuses are looking clean, and our cafeterias are serving healthy food to our students for both lunch and breakfast. The construction at our school sites is moving at a rapid pace with many projects completed.

Important infrastructure items such as plumbing and electrical have been addressed and completed making our schools safer and more inviting to student learning.

The most important thing is our students. **Student achievement remains a priority at our schools.** Creating atmospheres that encourage learning, expanding our existing academies that provide students with smaller learning communities is tailoring learning to help our students succeed in this competitive world.

Maintaining student attendance is a task we all take seriously. Not only does it affect the safety of our students, it also means money for our schools. I urge parents to help us with the task of making sure your student attends school. My staff is rigorously working on programs to ensure that our students graduate and that classes are geared to keep students in school.

We welcome the New Year with our newly elected school board members and we all look forward to the coming year with assurance and resolve that **Centinela Valley Union High School District remains committed to providing the best educational opportunities for all our students.**



CONGRATULATIONS! NEW BOARD MEMBERS INSTALLED

Two new Board members, Hugo Rojas, II, and Maritza Molina were installed on the Centinela Valley Union High School District Board of Education on December 1, 2009. **Rocio Pizano, incumbent, was re-elected** and also installed on the same day.

The honorable Jerome E. Horton, Vice Chair, California State Board of Equalization, installed all board members in front of family and community leaders. **The three members join current board members, Gloria Ramos and Sandra Suarez.** The board meeting and Oath of Office ceremony was attended by over 200 community, staff, and business leaders.



DISTRICT NEWS

To read about the **latest great achievements** turn to page 4.



OUR CAREER ACADEMIES, SMALLER LEARNING COMMUNITIES, SPECIAL PROGRAMS

There are currently four Career Academies and two Smaller Learning Communities, in addition to our Special Programs offered at each high school. The Career Academies are: the **Engineering Academy** at Hawthorne High School; the **Biomedical Careers Academy** at Lawndale High School; the **Multimedia Careers Academy** at Leuzinger High School; and the **Environmental Careers Academy** at Leuzinger High School.

The Smaller Learning Communities are: the **Marine Science Academy** at Lawndale High School and the **Cougar Academy** at Hawthorne High School. The Special Programs currently being offered are: **Robotics** at Hawthorne High School; **High School Involvement Program (HIP)**; **International Business Academy** at Hawthorne High School; and **Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)** at all high schools.

The Academies, Smaller Learning Communities, and Special Programs provide advanced learning opportunities, technology acquisition in the selected field, career path development, mentoring relationships, college preparation, and the mastery of learning skills. All of this is acquired within a more personal "school within a school" environment. The students are enrolled in core curriculum classes such as English, science, math, and social studies, while also exploring career technical electives in their chosen field. The programs are voluntary and application can be made at the individual school.

We will be highlighting activities happening in our Academies, Small Learning Communities, and Special Programs with each newsletter. If you have any submissions, please send them to springerp@centinela.k12.ca.us.



**Biomedical
Careers Academy**

Lawndale High School

LEUZINGER MULTIMEDIA CAREERS ACADEMY

MCA students have been enjoying being back to work in their Video Production teams for LTV, Leuzinger High School's closed-circuit television station. In addition to Video Production, MCA students have been developing their skills in



Digital Art, as well as Digital photography in preparation for the first annual MCA Gallery 2010.

Students in 11th and 12th grade English have been working on interdisciplinary projects involving film, literature, and power points on topics including juvenile justice, the Salem Witch trials, Shakespearean sonnets, and the politics of food.

MCA students in World and US History have created skits on a range of topics from colonization in US History to ancient Greece and Rome in World History. Students designed projects that reflected their comprehension of key historical events, such as global exploration in World History and the Civil War in US History. **Students engage the curriculum with a multimedia approach by learning from power points and documentaries as well as historically relevant films.**

The end of winter break will kick off the MCA field trip series, which includes exciting adventures to the USC School of Cinematic Arts, Paley Center for Media, Otis School of Art and Design, Universal Studios, and more!

BIOMEDICAL CAREERS ACADEMY, LAWDALE HIGH SCHOOL

The new Biomedical Careers Academy at Lawndale High School has been very busy so far this year! With a **focus on preparing students for careers in the health and medical fields**, the BCA has students working as athletic trainers with the varsity football team, providing free health screenings and information to sporting event patrons, and working with UCLA's blood & platelet center to organize and run blood drives.



The BCA was recently featured in the Daily Breeze for its unique Biomedical Science series of courses to give students hands-on, real-world preparation for working in the health field. Earlier this year, BCA students enjoyed learning about Health Occupation Preparation Programs during a field trip to our local CV Adult School and they look forward to future field trips to UCLA, and to El Camino College's Ella Rose nursing simulation lab.

The Biomedical Careers Academy could use your help! If you or someone you know would be a good speaker, or can provide field learning experiences, community service opportunities, mentors or internships, please email Molly Nellman: NellmanM@Centinela.k12.ca.us. You can also stay up to date on the BCA by visiting our website: www.lawndalehs.org/bca.



MIX IT UP DAY



Teaching tolerance is important at Lawndale High School. With so many problems plaguing schools with bullying, harassment, and student conflicts, Lawndale was among hundreds of schools throughout the United States that observed "Mix It Up Day" on November 10, 2009.

The program is sponsored by "Teaching Tolerance", a National project of the Southern Poverty Law Center and is celebrated throughout the United States. **The program teaches students to understand differences with diverse groups and interact with each other in positive ways.** Over 4 million students in over 9,000 schools participated in Mix It Up Day last year during lunch!

Jaime Chavez, a counselor at Lawndale, has been coordinating this program for 4 years. He uses students as peer mediators and trains students who have participated in the program to work with incoming students. He worked with students at Hawthorne this year and hopes to expand the program to include all the high schools in Centinela Valley.

This year the Daily Breeze, the L.A. Times, and even Channel 7 Eyewitness News came out to cover the events. Look on the following links for more information.

- ➔ Teachers can go to www.tolerance.org for free classroom activities and materials that they can use in their classrooms all year long
- ➔ <http://www.tolerance.org/mix-it-up>
- ➔ http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/ci_13785017
- ➔ <http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/video?id=7111501>
- ➔ <http://www.tolerance.org/blog/creating-unity-lawndale>
- ➔ <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-cliques8-2009nov08,0,7712553.story>



HAWTHORNE STUDENTS PRESENTED WITH CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Alexandria Neimroozi and Komal Qazi, both seniors at Hawthorne High School, were presented with certificates of appreciation from California State Senator Curren Price for their community service in organizing the annual Urdu Markaz International Mushaira that took place on November 7, 2009 at Fullerton College.

Komal Qazi is a senior at Hawthorne High School and is a volunteer for the

Los Angeles Sheriff's department and an active member of the Los Angeles Department Muslim Community Affairs and offers tutoring and guidance to young boys and girls in the Muslim Community. She plans to enroll in a four-year college and has hopes of becoming a naturopathic doctor or forensic pathologist.

Alexandria Neimroozi, is also a senior and varsity cheerleader and an advanced dancer. She volunteers as a vocalist for various school functions and is a member of the choir at Hawthorne High School.





DISTRICT NEWS

- A completed **financial multi-year projection shows our district as certified (with a carryover) for the next few years** even though the district has been dealing with a 20% cut from the state and additional cuts from the federal level.
- The **district has contracted to allow a company to place signs on our land by the freeway that will generate funds** for the district.
- **Safety and security is a top priority and surveillance cameras have been installed on all school campuses.** Collaboration with local police departments and community workshops are being planned for community involvement in the district's efforts.
- **Elimination of the use of consultants** such as VTD Financial Consultants **has saved the district about \$700,000 a year.** This is huge since it can certainly be used to save jobs in the district.
- **A credit recovery program is currently being formulated** that will help students achieve their high school diplomas.
- **The district warehouse is currently being cleaned and cleared of many toxic materials** that have been unsafely stored. The waste has been properly disposed of and the warehouse is being organized to better serve schools.
- **A new system is being developed that will make it easier and more efficient for staff to order supplies.**
- **The clean-up process district wide continues in order to ensure that our students attend a clean and safe school.**

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PREPARATION/ CONSTRUCTION CLASS

DO YOU WANT A CAREER?

Centinela Valley Adult School is offering a free class that prepares men and women to enter the construction trades.

Proposition CV, passed in 2008 by the voters in Centinela Valley is providing monies for improvements to Centinela Valley Union High School District schools. **The Board of Education Trustees, recently passed a project labor agreement that will make sure that at least 30% of the work done on the construction projects at the schools will be done by local residents.**

Take advantage of this free class, change your life and start a new career. **The classes are held at Centinela Valley Adult School, 4953 Marine Avenue, Lawndale, California. You can call Hank Springer at (213) 220-8285 for more information.**



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ^{United States} Census 2010

BE A PART OF THE 2010 CENSUS TEAM

- ✓ Earn good pay & get paid weekly
- ✓ Work flexible hours
- ✓ Receive paid training
- ✓ Receive reimbursement for authorized mileage and other work-related expenses
- ✓ Help your community have a successful 2010 Census

APPLY TODAY!

More information, including a practice test, is available at: www.2010censusjobs.gov
OR CALL THE TOLL-FREE JOBS LINE: (866) 861-2010

Centinela Valley Adult School is a testing site.
Wednesdays, 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm in Room 5.
Call (310) 263-3165 for more information.



CV CONNECTED

**NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent**

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Board of Education: Gloria A. Ramos, President, Sandra C. Suarez, Vice-President, Rocio C. Pizano, Clerk, Hugo M. Rojas II, Member, Maritza R. Molina, Member
Jose A. Fernandez, Superintendent