



Volume Two - Issue Three

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CV Connected

CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNIZE ACADEMIC DECATHLON WINNERS

Board President Gloria Ramos and Vice-President Sandra Suarez, with Superintendent Jose Fernandez, visited the classroom of 2010 Decathlon winners Emmanuel Bankole, Julian Giraldo, Jose Gonzalez, Melissa Marquez, Myldred Montejano, Christony Tabudio, Santos Tamayo, Jonathan Valdez, Shamoiya Washington, and coaches Mya Caruso and Laurel Dreher. Certificates of Recognition were presented to each student for their win.



Gloria Ramos commented, **"It is so important for us to recognize our students and their teachers for all their hard work. We wanted to come to them, in their classroom, to recognize them personally."**



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We are almost through another school year and I am happy to say that we are making great strides! Our new School Board has been working hard to resolve some important issues that have been looming for years but we continue to move forward and focus on the needs of our students and we are succeeding.

Giving students choices and tailoring learning so they will stay in school and continue their education is a goal we all share. The financial

challenge education is facing right now is forcing people to make very difficult decisions and decide where to make cuts. **We have decided to keep our teachers in the classroom and not furlough days so that students remain in the classroom.** I am happy to say that we are continuing 180 instructional days for the next program year. We were not able to offer a summer school program, but we are offering a credit recovery program for seniors needing credits to get their high school diplomas. We are also offering an extended year program for our students with special needs.

The responsibility of utilizing the Measure CV monies is taken very seriously and we are involving the community and our business partners by establishing the Citizens Oversight Committee. The Committee has met and will continue to meet and make recommendations to the board.

We have had meetings at each high school site to get input from community and staff for the planning and design of a plan for each site. Meetings are also being held at the district to bring all the plans developed and discussed at the school sites together and formulate a master plan for the entire district. All of this work takes effort, planning, and cooperation by everyone involved to ensure that the public's investment is safe. I am happy to report that we are succeeding in making that happen.

Our scholarship winners are beginning to get the news of their awards. At this moment, **we have a student from Hawthorne going into the Naval Academy, we have three Millennium Gates scholarship winners at Lawndale, and we also have students from Leuzinger receiving full scholarships to Stanford and Harvard Universities.** Our students have qualified for these scholarships; teachers, counselors, parents, and friends have supported and helped these students achieve their dream.

Our small learning communities are providing atmospheres where students understand the realities of the classroom to the real world. Business partners are also investing in our schools and our students through internships, scholarships, and mentoring.

The news for Centinela Valley Union High School District is positive (See page 12). I invite you to join the efforts of the staff, teachers, parents, and our community to make education our priority.

Sincerely, Jose A. Fernandez





A “CHOICE” FOR STUDENTS TO GRADUATE - ONLINE CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAM (E2020)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CVUHS DISTRICT TEACHERS



Centinela Valley Union High School District teachers gathered for a district-wide professional development day at Hawthorne High School. **The training, sponsored by the District, specifically focused on purposeful lesson design and instruction.** Subject-alike teacher teams identified the “Big Ideas” of their courses and developed “Focused Learning Targets” to share with their students that are aligned with California state standards.



In addition, there were special sessions provided for Physical Education and Special Education teachers and staff. **“It was a very positive day and our creative teachers were able to collaborate and utilize their subject knowledge to build new strategies to help their students learn more effectively,** this training strongly supports the district’s primary and ongoing goal of increasing achievement for all students in all subjects” said Laurel Fretz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

There are currently 350 12th grade students at Hawthorne, Leuzinger, and Lawndale, collectively, who, if they continue on their current path, will not “cross the stage” in June. Centinela Valley Union High School District currently offers viable options at Centinela Valley Independent Study School (CVISS), Loyde Continuation High School, and Centinela Valley Adult School to students needing to make up credits.



The lack of credits and the factor that a student may not graduate compound when students lose interest and stop coming to school. Truancy means a loss of money to the school district but more importantly it results in students being unsafe.

“We have a responsibility to our students to provide them with opportunities to succeed and achieve their dreams, says Jose Fernandez, Superintendent of CVUHS. We also need to address accountability issues with our parents, staff, and students to develop programs that will help them succeed.”



The Credit Recovery Program is an online course system (E2020) and is set up in a lab setting, monitored by a certificated employee who can assist with transcript evaluation and graduation checks.

There are 2 models: 1) Students who need only a small number of credits will be scheduled into the program/classroom as a period of their regular schedules; and 2) Students who need a large number of credits will be pulled out of their regular schedules and will be allowed to attend the program/classroom for 3.5 hours a day, on an accelerated path toward graduation.

Luitze Capodici, an 11th grader at Leuzinger High School who needs to make up 25 credits said, **“This is a second chance for me to graduate, I get it now, I enjoy learning because this is more individual.”**

Laurel Fretz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction said, **“Students are able to work at their own pace, use tutorials when they don’t understand a subject, take work home, and then come into class to take the final tests.** If they pass with 80% or better, they complete their credits and go on to the next class. This is a program that is interactive between the teacher, the student, and the computer.”

One student who failed geometry last semester, worked on the class and **tested out with an “A”.** “I couldn’t get it before because when I was in class, my friends would distract me, but now I can really understand what I’m doing and if I don’t understand, I can just go over it again or ask the teacher and she will help me with it until I get it. **It is so much better for me.”**

TRANSITION SERVICES PROGRAM READIES STUDENTS FOR “LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL”



The Centinela Valley Union High School District Office of Transition Services serves Centinela students with disabilities through the age of 22. The program is committed to empowering all students with disabilities beginning at age 14, with the requisite skills to achieve their full potential in adult living through support and collaboration with families, schools and communities.

The Centinela Valley Transition program was awarded the 2008 Grazer Outstanding Achievement in Learning (GOAL) award. **State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O’Connell said, “the Centinela Valley Union High School District Transition Services Program should serve as a model of high expectations that all schools should emulate. The programs’s unique three-tiered program is designed to provide a seamless transition of services that meet the needs of special education students with job training and by teaching them the skills they need to help them live independently.”**

The program provides special education students from eleventh and twelfth grade and beyond, access to permanent unsubsidized employment, services, and placement for non-diploma bound students.



The Transition Services offices offer the following programs:

I. WorkAbility I – The program provides comprehensive pre-employment training, employment placement and follow-up for high school students in special education, who are making the transition from school to work, independent living and post secondary education or training. It is funded and administered by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division. The program’s vision is to enable all individuals with disabilities to successfully participate in a program which will prepare them for the workplace and independent living.

II. Transition Partnership Program (TPP) – The purpose of this program is to provide valuable employment preparation and training which leads to employment opportunities. This program blends the student, school, and employers/sponsors, to provide employment training that will prepare students for independent living.

III. Adult Transition Program – This program is designed for 18-22 year old students. It is an extended 2-4 years of high school focused on vocational education. The program facilitates smooth transition from high school to adult living. It is limited to 12th grade students referred by case carriers. The program is designed for non-diploma bound students and teaches independent living skills. It exposes students to a variety of vocational and alternative programs.

Centinela is very proud of the Transition Program because it serves a population of students who need to be prepared for the real world after high school.

If you would like more information on the Transition Services offered by Centinela Valley Union High School District, please call Susan Sklar, Project Facilitator, at (310) 263-3163.

THE T3s ARE ROLLING!

As part of Centinela’s “going green” program, new stand-up vehicles are rolling onto the campuses at Hawthorne, Lawndale, and Leuzinger High Schools. **The T3 is energy efficient and has zero gas emissions. It uses about 10 cents of electricity per day** and the energy-efficient electric motor gets the equivalent of over 500 miles a gallon.



Making safety officers more visible and efficient, the vehicles will provide better service to students and increase officer safety. Dwayne Eatmon, Director of Security for Centinela Valley says, **“The T3 vehicle is an effective tool for safety officers to help maintain a safe and secure learning environment. The T3 vehicle will increase safety officer mobility and response time on campus. This will allow safety officers to respond quickly to assist students and staff.”**

The T3 is currently being used in mall security, parks, large facilities, and college and high school campuses.

Agnew Brusavich 2010 Scholarship Award

Three students from Lawndale HS received the **Agnew Brusavich 2010 Scholarship Award** for \$500 each. Evelyn Soto, Alicia Ooshani, and Edith Marquez.



Evelyn Soto and Edith Marquez

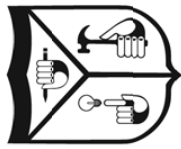





SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITIES FAIR



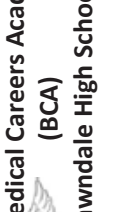


Parents and community were invited to a Fair that showed opportunities available to students in Centinela Valley. Booths such as the Engineering Academy offered examples of work done by students. Teachers were on hand to explain what students learn through the Learning Academies. Over 500 participants attended the fair!

There are currently 10 academies that will be offered for the 2010-2011 school year.



Academy Name (SLC):	Courses Offered:	Academy Benefits:
School of Engineering Hawthorne High School <small>HAWTHORNE HIGH</small>  <small>SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exploratory Engineering (Proposed) Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) Principles of Engineering (POE) Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently acknowledged as one of 15 model programs nation-wide of 2500 schools utilizing the Project Lead the Way curriculum. Robotics team is one of the best teams internationally. Project based curriculum Full integration of Core Academic courses with Engineering courses. Fully articulated Engineering courses gives potential to earn CSU credit for Engineering Classes. Preferential enrollment at CSU Long Beach and San Diego State Universities for School of Engineering Graduates.
Environmental Careers Academy (ECA) Leuzinger High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Environmental Careers Advanced Placement Environmental Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students interpret and analyze environmental, political, and socioeconomic issues. ECA members prepare for green careers and function as agent of positive change through discourse, rigorous curriculum, personal example, and community involvement. <i>"The topics that are being taught are really interesting and it encourages me to learn more."</i> – Deniset Ramirez <i>"It is a very good challenge for you..."</i> – Miguel Zamudio
School of Visual and Performing Arts Hawthorne High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal Technical Theatre and Production Music Theory and Musicianship Dance Production Applied Music Stage Directing Performing Arts in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student choice of 5 pathways: Dance, Vocals, Music, Drama and Technical Theatre, and Art The Academy will have a Capstone Seminar Class that will incorporate all pathways for a major event each year.
School of Criminal Justice Hawthorne High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations of Criminal Science Forensic Science Criminal Psychology/Sociology Criminal Law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience with a police department, fire department or law office Knowledge of the steps necessary to completing their career path Internships Explorer Program – HPD, LAPD, LASD, LACity Fire, LA County Fire



Academy Name (SLC):	Courses Offered:	Academy Benefits:
<p>Academy of Media Arts Lawndale High School</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dramatic Production ■ Digital Film Production ■ Digital Photography ■ Independent Film Projects ■ Animation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Career preparation in fields of Media and Design Arts, Performing Arts, and Production and Managerial Arts ■ Junior Internship at Pointe Studios, Hawthorne ■ Upon Graduation, students qualify for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UC and CSU Admission ○ Entry-Level Entertainment Jobs ○ Both
<p>School of International Business Hawthorne High School</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction to Business ■ Introduction to Financial Accounting/Imports and Exports ■ Virtual Business Marketing ■ International Business and Marketing Operations ■ Introduction to E-Commerce and E-Marketing/Senior Project ■ Introduction to Hospitality and the Service Industry ■ International Foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Student teams run virtual businesses and trade with students from over 42 countries ■ Earn a Culinary Arts Industry-recognized Certification ■ Business Leaders become Mentors and Advisors ■ Internships ■ 2 Pathways: Hospitality and Business/Marketing
<p>Biomedical Careers Academy (BCA) Lawndale High School</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction to Biomedical Careers ■ Biomedical Anatomy & Physiology ■ Emergency Medical Technician Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Eligible for EMT Certification after graduation ■ CPR and First Aid Certification ■ Hands-on, project based curriculum ■ Student-run blood pressure and pulse booth at all public events
<p>School of Info Tech (T-Rec) Hawthorne High School</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fundamentals of Information Technology ■ Advanced Information Technology ■ Academy Cisco I / Cisco II or Media and Design Level I and II ■ Academy Cisco III / Cisco IV or Media and Design Level III and IV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Industry recognized certification exams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ These certifications are recognized nationally and demonstrate to prospective employers that the students possess both knowledge and have the ability to perform a variety of tasks that are not particular to any one area of study. ■ Extensive employment opportunities. Those skilled in information technology are needed in all other industries.
<p>Multimedia Careers Academy (MCA) Leuzinger High School</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Introduction to Media Arts ■ Drawing and Digital Art ■ 3-D Design ■ Digital Journalism 1 ■ Digital Journalism 2 ■ Digital Film Production 1 ■ Digital Film Production 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MCA class of 2009 students were accepted to prestigious universities and art schools such as the Art Institute, Cal State Long Beach, and UCLA. ■ MCA students gain extensive experience in Adobe CS3 and Final Cut Pro, which provides them with opportunities in multimedia and entertainment-based careers such as graphic design, animation, and film and television.
<p>Marine Science Academy (MSA) Lawndale High School</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Oceanography ■ Introduction to Marine Science Careers ■ Marine Microbiology ■ Hydrology and Aquaculture / Marine Biotechnology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To gain technological expertise. ■ To develop teamwork and collaboration skills. ■ To gain work place experience in marine science fields. ■ To develop an awareness of community resources and how to avail to them. ■ To increase education and career opportunities.



CENTINELA VALLEY ADULT SCHOOL NEWS

CONSTRUCTION CLASS BUILDS ON EXPERIENCE

The construction class currently being offered at Centinela Valley Adult School recently visited a Habitat for Humanity project currently being built in Lynwood, California. The project features five duplexes that will benefit ten families.



Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller and has built over 350,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1.75 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

The construction class offered at Centinela Valley Adult School prepares men and women to enter the construction unions.

Academic assistance is provided to prepare students for the apprenticeship exams in Sheet Metal, Electrician, Plumber, and many other construction trades. **Hands-on training is also provided to help students gain experience in the trade of their choice.** Field trips expose students to various trades and Union Apprenticeship programs open their doors to show students training available to them. Day and night classes are available.



ELECTRICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE VISIT

Students from the Centinela Valley Adult School Construction class visited the Electrical Training Institute in the City of Commerce.

The Electrical Training Institute is a joint venture of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11 and the National Electrical Contractors Association. **This advanced apprenticeship program offers the opportunity to earn excellent wages and benefits while you learn the necessary skills for a challenging and rewarding career in the Union electrical construction industry.**

Additional field trips are planned to expose students to other apprenticeship programs.

Centinela Valley Adult School offers Apprenticeship Preparation classes, days and nights. These classes prepare men and women to enter the construction trades. When an individual enters an apprenticeship program, they “earn while they learn” from an experienced journeyman.



On November 4, 2008, voters residing within the Centinela Valley Union High School District passed Measure CV. Measure CV is a \$98 million bond measure that authorizes funding for needed repairs, upgrades, and new construction projects to the schools within the Centinela Valley Union High School District. On December 9, 2009 the Board of Education approved a Project Labor Agreement. This agreement is a joint agreement with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. This is a monumental step in ensuring labor harmony on job sites and provides a uniform labor regulations framework. A key component to the agreement is the requirement that at least 30% of the workers on the construction jobs must come from the Centinela Valley community.

“The apprenticeship preparation class is the key to opening the door to these opportunities, says Hank Springer, coordinator for the program. **The men and women of this community have a great opportunity to change their lives; these are careers not just jobs.”**



HAWTHORNE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MAKES IT A “FIRST” TO THE US NAVAL ACADEMY!

Mario Botero, a senior at Hawthorne High School, received his letter of acceptance for the United States Naval Academy. A process he started in his junior year, Mario was among 18,000 applicants across the United States hoping to get accepted into the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Selected applicants go through a highly competitive national selection process, and receive full tuition, books, stipend, educational fees, and other financial benefits. **“This is the first time that I know of that a student from Hawthorne High has ever gone on to the Naval Academy,”** proudly announced Chief Pedro Martinez, an instructor at Hawthorne High School.



“You don’t just decide one day, this is what you want to do,” Cynthia Strand, Blue and Gold Officer for the Candidate Guidance Office, US Naval Academy, says. “The Naval Academy is not for everyone. It takes honor, courage, and commitment, to become a midshipman.” Each year, approximately 18,000 people compete for appointments. Only 1,200 of the most qualified applicants are admitted into the Academy. “Academics are important, but the physical, medical, and moral characteristics are key components in the selection process.”



Pictured L to R: Chief Pedro Martinez; Gloria Ramos, President CVUHS Board of Trustees; Mario Botero; Sandra Suarez, Vice-President; Maritza Molina, Member; Jose Fernandez, Superintendent, CVUHS.

As part of the eligibility requirements, Mario needed a nomination from an official source. Mario received a personal nomination from the honorable Congresswoman Maxine Waters as part of his application.

Mario’s mother, Ana Vahos, immigrated to this country from Colombia forty years ago. She prides herself in keeping her children focused on education and making something of themselves. “I am so proud of my son; he is my ‘gift’ from God.”



Mario graduates in June 2010 and is off to the Navy Prep School in Rhode Island for the Fall 2010 class. He will begin the Naval Academy in 2011 and join the Class of 2015.

A straight “A” student with a 4.2 GPA, Mario said, **“My goal for the future is to graduate from the Naval Academy and become either a Naval or Marine Corps officer. I also want to motivate and encourage more students from my school to apply to this school and give it a shot. When I received my acceptance letter, I jumped with joy and there is no greater feeling than knowing you have accomplished one of your biggest goals. My mother, NJROTC instructors, Senior Chief Yancy and Chief Martinez, and Mrs. Cynthia Strand, my Blue and Gold Officer, have been so helpful in all aspects and I am so grateful I had them to help me accomplish this goal. I believe that our society would be much better if we had more students trying to be part of a solution than a problem... I believe that every single student has the capability of accomplishing a goal like I have and should put forth their best effort while in high school, even if they don’t want to go to the Naval Academy.”**

The NJROTC Program is part of the Cougar Academy, one of Centinela Valley Union High School District’s Small Learning Communities. Mario Botero is currently the Commanding Officer of the NJROTC at Hawthorne High School. Rebecca Figueroa and Monique Bonilla, previous Commanding Officers, went on to UC Davis and UC Berkeley, respectively. Chief Pedro Martinez credits the program for emphasizing academics, character, responsibility and respect. **“Our students learn what it takes to become productive members of our society,”** says Chief Martinez, himself a product of the US Navy. **“We don’t push them into the military; we give them the tools to be contributing members of their community.”**



THE “INTERNATIONAL” HAWTHORNE HIGH TEAM RETURNS!

The Hawthorne High School International Business Academy returned after competing in New York City against students from Austria, Canada, China, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Finland, Latvia, Great Britain, Indonesia, Spain, Sweden, Italy, and Romania. After working hard, many times after school and weekends, the team, led by their teachers, Kathy Givens, Arian Whitley, and Maria Eborn, began a virtual business enterprise firm named MI-Pet Re-Treats, Inc. (Most International Pet Re-Treats Inc.) The students also concentrate on business plans, export marketing, and strategies for international business.

The team won 4th Place at New York’s International Virtual Enterprise for Best E-Commerce Website with video. There were over 230 E-Commerce website submissions worldwide.

Hawthorne High was also invited to compete in the U.S. Virtual Enterprise Network and Euro-Pen Global Challenge and competed well alongside of Brazil, Romania, Belgium, and Bulgaria. Though they did not win, they were favorites among the judges and the facilitators. Nicole Shaw, from team 10 was considered to be the best Power Point presentation. Nicole Shannon was on team 9 and did an excellent job.

At the International Trade Fair, the team did about \$17,000 in “virtual sales” from other firms for their virtual business and \$20,000 from guests at the fair. The team also received a bonus of \$10,000 virtual dollars for trading.

Hawthorne High School was also invited to compete and help coordinate the 2011 International Trade Fair in Salzburg, Austria. European facilitators requested Hawthorne’s strategy model for preparation and quizzed Ms. Eborn with her solution to the 11-part Global Challenge question. They took notes on her business strategy and response, perhaps as a test of the U.S. instructor’s knowledge

in international business analysis and strategy, trade, economics, marketing, and company redesigning. After that, the Europeans considered Hawthorne High to be serious competitors and saved them a seat at every judging event and closed-door international conference.



Over 3,000 young business leaders from 30 countries presented their businesses at the 13th Annual Virtual Enterprise Trade Fair. The fair is an opportunity for students to exhibit and sell virtual products and services through virtual businesses in a competitive marketplace with their local and global colleagues and peers.

“We believe that high school students can best be prepared for whatever comes next with a rigorous curriculum that includes increasingly more challenging work and a program like Virtual Enterprises, which offers a truly hands-on experience in the work of business,” said Peter C. Davis, president of McGraw-Hill Education. “Combine academic achievement with strong performance in this program and you’ve got a recipe for success in any career in the 21st Century’s knowledge economy.” Virtual Enterprises International was launched in New York City public schools in 1996 to develop future business leaders. There are now 500 schools offering Virtual Enterprise programs representing 11,500 students.

Hawthorne High School’s School of International Business is one of the newest Small Learning Communities in Centinela Valley UHSD. Other academies at Hawthorne include: School of Engineering, School of Visual and Performing Arts, School of Criminal Justice, and School of Info Tech.



HAWTHORNE ENGINEERING ACADEMY STUDENTS TAKE THE NORTHROP GRUMMAN "INNOVATION CHALLENGE"



Northrop Grumman celebrated Engineers' Week with Education, Competition and Creativity for Southern California students in February. The Hawthorne School of Engineering took part in the first ever Innovation Challenge, "Making an Impact." The event challenged students to apply their math and science skills to a real-world engineering project by designing and building a launcher that is capable of sending a weighted projectile to a targeted area. The Innovation Challenge was inspired by the Lunar CRater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS), a spacecraft being built at Space Park, Northrop Grumman's facility in Redondo Beach.



Hawthorne students created an RC airplane that was fully designed and put together by the competition team. On flight day, the plane took off and flew a few seconds before a big gust of wind knocked it from the sky. The plane was demolished but the students are looking at how they can rebuild and fly again. "We're already looking forward to next year!" said the students.

Mentors from Northrop Grumman spend time with the engineering students and provide internships for them.

"Olympian" Peter Phan is going to Harvard University

"I'm thrilled to be given the opportunity to attend one of the best universities in the country. I owe it to my family for their unending support, my counselor for the guidance, and my teachers for giving me an awesome education. I would especially like to thank Mr. Cardenas, Mrs. Kookan and Ms. Bolton for helping me with my application. I'm very blessed and hope that I can show my thanks someday."



Leslie Montes a Leuzinger "Olympian", on her way to Harvard University

"I'm pretty excited about going to Harvard next year. It's funny because when I found out I was accepted, I was not happy at all! The distance issue bugged me for a while, but then people convinced me to get over it. I wouldn't have gotten this far without all the help I got along the way. I'd like to thank my teachers for challenging me to do better, my counselors for answering my million questions, and my friends for believing in me and making the high school experience worthwhile. I guess it just goes to show that hard work and good karma does pay off. I advise the younger students to party hard, but work harder."



Millennium Gates Scholars at Lawndale High School



Three of the 1,000 scholars announced for the Gates Millennium Scholars Program for 2010 are from Lawndale High School.

Matthew Mai, William Hoang, and Robert Castro are all graduating from Lawndale HS this year. Robert Castro is planning on attending Williams College, William Hoang Stanford University, and Matthew Mai plans on attending UCLA. Lawndale HS students have received scholarships for the past five years; however, this year three Lawndale students received scholarships. The Gates Millennium scholarships are good-through-graduation college scholarships and can be used to pursue degrees in any undergraduate major at the college or university of the recipients' choice. The Class of 2010 Gates Millennium Scholars represents 45 states, the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories. The Gates Millennium Scholars Program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999. The goal of GMSP is to promote academic excellence by providing thousands of outstanding students, who have significant financial need, the opportunity to reach their full potential. (www.gmsp.org)



LEUZINGER ALUMNI WALK THE HALLS AGAIN!



In 1998, Sandra Suarez started an event that invited alumni back to Leuzinger High School to celebrate **“Memorabilia Day.”** It was a day for old friends to get together and reminisce. The event has continued to this day. However, not only do alumni come back to celebrate the “old days” with each other, they come back to Leuzinger High School on a regular basis to speak to current students.

That is what happened on Friday, February 18, 2010. **It was Alumni Speaker Day and alumni spent the day visiting classes and speaking to students about how Leuzinger affected their lives. Jim Osborne, Council Member for the City of Lawndale and a Leuzinger Alumni shared how important it is to stay in your community.**

Hugh and Norman Wells, brothers who graduated in 1947 and 1950, respectively, became engineers and spoke to students about the importance of math and science. Another alumnus, Walt Dixon, a graduate from 1941, became an airplane pilot in WWII. Two members of the Centinela Valley Board of Education are proud graduates of Leuzinger High School, Sandra Suarez and Hugo Rojas. Harold Hofmann, Mayor of the City of Lawndale has lived his whole life in Lawndale and is a proud “Olympian.”

“Memorabilia Day” was held on Saturday, March 6, 2010 on the Leuzinger campus.



One alumnus, **Bill Nishimura, a graduate of the class of 1939,** spoke to the students about his personal experience in Japanese “Concentration Camp.” At 90 years old, he was very adamant, clarifying that Germany had “Death Camps” and the Japanese Relocation Camps were “Concentration Camps.” He spoke about the five years of his life that was spent in Tule Lake, California, Poston, Arizona, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Crystal City, Texas. He described conditions and memories of being in the camps with many other Japanese people who were sent to the camps during World War II. It was history brought to life for these Leuzinger students who watched him speak.

IN REMEMBRANCE:

Walt Dixon, a graduate of Leuzinger High School, passed away in March, 2010.



Walt was a great supporter of the students at his beloved Leuzinger; you would see him walking the halls and speaking in the classrooms to students about the importance of education.

His parents moved to Hawthorne when Walt was only 9 months old. He grew up in the city and became Hawthorne’s historian. He loved to talk about the fields and oil wells that have been replaced with streets and houses.

After graduating from Leuzinger, he joined the U.S. Navy as an aviator. He flew 55 missions over North Africa and then Europe. He was shot down during one mission and crashed into the English Channel. He came back to Hawthorne and spent the rest of his life here.

He remained active in his community and attended the last “Memorabilia Day” at Leuzinger High School with his friends and colleagues. Walt will be sorely missed.



LEUZINGER MEMORABILIA MUSEUM RIBBON CUTTING



A very special alumnus who was present at the ribbon cutting of Leuzinger High School, **Constance Bradford Goddard**, joined Sandra Suarez and Gloria Ramos for the ribbon cutting of the Memorabilia Museum. **Constance graduated from Leuzinger High School in 1933.** Her father



was on the board of education for a span of 29 years, and served as president of the board. Her granddaughter, Gloria Ramos, is currently President of the Centinela Valley Board of Trustees.

There were almost 500 Leuzinger Alumni that attended this year's "Memorabilia Day" at Leuzinger High School. The High School turns 80 years old this year and alumni from as far back as 1939 attended the event.

The Alumni Committee has been working very hard to prepare a room where alumni can share their history and accomplishments with the students of today. The room, recreated to have many of the "old" among the "new" was opened to welcome the community. "We want a place that our community can come and appreciate the hard work that many people have put into this school. We want this to be a place where our alumni can come and sit with our students and share their experiences and tell them how important high school is," says Sandra Suarez, chairperson of the "Memorabilia Day".



"Memorabilia Day" has been celebrated every year at Leuzinger since 1968. Alumni get together during the year but "**Memorabilia Day**" in March has become the event where everyone gravitates to see each other.

A program in the auditorium features current students performing; Mayor Harold Hofmann of Lawndale and a Leuzinger alumni, and Mayor Larry Guidi of Hawthorne, joined the festivities of the day.



DISTRICT NEWS

- CAHSEE tenth grade census passing rates have increased an average of 75%
- Many school districts have been forced to cut the number of instructional days by furloughing teachers. CVUHSD has not furloughed any of its teachers, therefore, CVUHSD has maintained its instructional days resulting students staying, having more time in the classroom
- Saving teacher's jobs, no Reduction In Force notices were sent out to teachers for 2010-11
- At the end of the 2009 fiscal year the district had a 17% surplus on the second interim report, based on these savings, small learning academies were expanded
- As of September 2010, 6 additional small learning communities will begin
- The International Business Academy (IBA) received 4th place at its first international competition in NYC for best E-Commerce Website
- The Engineering Academy's Robotics Team 207 competed in Washington, D.C., and received 12th place
- The Engineering Academy was recognized as one of fifteen model schools of Project Lead The Way schools
- A Citizens Oversight Committee was formed as a result of Measure CV and has held its first public meeting
- Centinela Valley Union High School District has some of the smallest class sizes in the South Bay, CVUHSD is committed to no more than 31 students in each class
- CVUHSD has low ratios of students per counselor
- Saturday School Programs have been approved for 2010-11 and will offer a variety of tutoring and enrichment classes
- District has promoted teacher collaboration in all 3 high schools
- Award Winning Sports Teams
- CVUHSD budget has stabilized and has turned around from a negative rating to a positive one
- There is currently a morning nutrition break at all comprehensive high schools
- Food service to students has been improved as well as offerings of nutritious & healthy meals
- New security vehicles have been added to each school campus that are energy efficient and more effective for school safety
- Legal costs have decreased by 50%
- Hawthorne underground repairs completed using ERP funds
- Leuzinger to receive heating and air conditioning repairs this summer with ERP funds
- District meetings continue of planning and design of master plan for district
- Site committee meetings continue at each high school to develop master plan and designs for each site
- Extended school year for students with special needs will be held at Loyde Continuation High School
- Credit recovery classes will be offered during the summer at the adult school campus for high school seniors needing to make up credits for graduation
- Completion of Performing Arts Center is scheduled for the Fall of 2010
- Lawndale High School students, for the fifth straight year, have received Gates Millenium Scholarships—this year three scholarships were awarded to Lawndale students
- Hawthorne student received acceptance into US Naval Academy, a first for Hawthorne

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

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OUR PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

“PARTNERS” HELPING CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

It takes the “whole village” to raise children, and Torrance Memorial Hospital stepped up to the plate at Lawndale High School.

Torrance Memorial Hospital conducted a Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class that provided life-saving techniques for students who are members of



the Student Safety Council at Lawndale High School. The students who participated will receive certification from Torrance Memorial Hospital for their training.

Jaime Chavez, counselor at Lawndale, said, “It’s important for young people to learn CPR techniques as well as adults. Our students are interested in being prepared in case they are ever needed in an emergency situation.” Torrance Memorial Hospital came to the school and provided the training free of charge to members of the student safety council.

The safety council is dedicated to raising awareness about safety issues and promoting a safe learning environment by educating all students about local community resources. Robe Richester, Lead Security Officer at Lawndale, spends many volunteer hours helping the students at Lawndale learn about safety issues. The Lawndale student safety council is the only student-based safety council in the area.

STATE FARM INSURANCE STANDS BEHIND THEIR SLOGAN “LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR...”



Lawndale High School received a \$5,000 donation from State Farm Insurance, Beach Cities, AFO in the form of 9 student scholarships. Students were asked to write an essay about being a good neighbor (Community Service). It was open to all seniors who attend Lawndale High School and students who were selected were each awarded a \$500 scholarship. The students receiving the scholarships were: Jessica Barajas, Valeria Carrascosa, Robert Castro, Elizabeth Fuentes, Jacqueline Herrera, Brittany Jones, Dilma Lopez, Ariel Taylor, and Kevin Tran.