

OUR STUDENTS

Superintendent's Report



BY STEVE VAN ZANT,
SUPERINTENDENT

The Thanksgiving holiday often marks the quarter mark for schools and gives us a chance to review the road before us for the rest of the year. It also gives us a chance to take a deep breath and count our blessings for the past year and to acknowledge those who have helped us achieve so much this past year.

Despite the fact we are suffering from a bleak time in our economy and funding to our little district has been cut by a million dollars, we are still very fortunate in many ways. Through consolidating funding sources, reorganizing some departments, and creating other revenue streams, we have managed to suffer no layoffs, our employees have not had to take furlough days or pay cuts – In fact, we have even managed to provide better health care rates for our employees. This may change if the state economy worsens.

For right now, though, I am thankful we have managed so well to this point.

I would also like to thank all 248 of our hardworking employees for working through some tough situations to provide our students the type of schools they deserve. Many of these people have taken on extra duties and volunteered to change hours in order to make our schools work better. Some, like bus drivers, arrive to work well before the sun rises each day to do safety checks on their busses in the freezing cold to ensure their bus is safe for our students to ride in to school. Many of our teachers spend money out of their pockets to purchase supplies that we just can't afford to buy this year.

Many of you have helped as well. Members of the community have donated many things and have helped do everything from helping to coach our football team to donating hundreds of dollars to help buy PE equipment.

A great example of this was several weeks ago when we held a flag football game between the after school programs at Campo and Jacumba at the High School before the last Redhawk game of the year. There

were easily 150 people there to cheer on our teams and cheerleaders. Most of those who helped that day were volunteers or employees doing a little extra to help our students participate in this great event.

The game ended with Campo Elementary scoring a touchdown to earn a well deserved tie. But, the enthusiasm of the children, their parents and volunteers who made this event possible made the entire day an inspiring example of what happens when people do a little more to help make things better for our students. This is just one example. Events like this happen each day at nearly all of our schools. If you don't believe me, go to Potrero and look in the preschool room sometime and see the number of Moms who 'pop-in' to help.

I am enormously proud of our employees and this community. I am thankful for being allowed to be part of your lives and honored by the great responsibility you have entrusted in me.

Thank you, again, for your inspiration and your efforts on behalf of our students. We are truly appreciative and thankful for all you do.

Pre-Schools Report



BY BARBARA COWLING

PRESCHOOLERS AND HOLIDAYS

During our week just before Thanksgiving break, our theme for that week was "Thankfulness." Throughout the week, we've been talking with the students about what being "thankful" means and what they might be thankful for. Many responses were given to the question, "what are you thankful for," but there were too many to include in this article. Below are some random examples of our student's answers.

At Campo Preschool: Justin was thankful for "pancakes;" Katrina was thankful for "Jehovah;" Juli was thankful for "Kitty Cat;" JW was thankful for

"My dog, Sage, and my neighbor, Kenny;" Wyatt was thankful for "the Bible;" Edgar was thankful for "my friends;" Brisa was thankful for "leaves and pumpkins;" and McKenzie was thankful for "all my teachers and my friends."

At Potrero Preschool: Valeria was thankful for "Spongebob;" Emilio was thankful for "getting to come to school;" Axel was thankful for "his daddy;" Eduardo was thankful for "his big brother, Esteban;" and Giada was thankful for "her mom, dad, brother and cousin."

At Boulevard Preschool: Joanay was thankful for "my dad making macaroni and cheese;" Angela was thankful for "conejos [bunnies];" and Marcus was thankful for "food... apples."

And I am thankful for being given the opportunity to participate in the lives of all our preschool students and their families.

The holiday season is rapidly approaching, and the preschool children are anticipating the days to come. Try to remember back to the days when you were in school and were

anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, or the arrival of a special holiday or event in your family's life. Remember how the days seemed to drag on endlessly? Now zip forward to how you feel today. You are probably still feeling the days zooming by, but perhaps your anticipation has been replaced with stress. Since most of us sense some sort of stress during the holiday times we need to remember to take extra special care of our health and understand that our children will sense our stress and perhaps act a bit differently during the holidays.

Some suggestions on ways to survive the holidays with small children include keeping your routine the same at home, and making sure all members of the family (especially you) get plenty of sleep. Holiday times can be hectic and exhaustive, so try to take some time out to play and enjoy life. Try some cozy quiet times as well, such as reading a favorite book at bedtime or after dinner.

The staff at all our preschools wishes you a very happy and safe holiday!



Governor Signs Anderson Work Permit Reform into Law

Schwarzenegger signs bill that streamlines education bureaucracy, protects kids

Assembly Bill 66, authored by Assemblyman Joel Anderson, has been signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger. AB 66 fixes serious flaws in the system for issuing student work permits by creating a flexible, locally-controlled system that gives every school the authority to issue permits to their own students.

"Thank you to all the parents, teachers, public school districts, private schools and homeschool families who took the time to send a letter of support for this important legislation," said Assemblyman Anderson. "Because of your support, we have changed the way

schools issue student work permits, giving control of the process to the educators who know their students best."

The old system required all students to apply for work permits through the local public school. While this requirement was well intended, many homeschool, private school and charter school students were denied work permits or required to follow a work schedule that conflicted with their school schedule. AB 66 gives every school, private or public, the authority to issue these permits to their students.

Local Education leaders expressed their gratitude to Anderson for introducing AB 66, and to Schwarzenegger for signing it.

"This law protects the welfare of students and ensures those educators that know their students best are making these important decisions – plus it removes an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy in the education system," said Rob Shield, President of the Grossmont Union High School District Board of Trustees.

A similar piece of legislation was vetoed by the Governor last year when he summarily vetoed several pieces of legislation during budget negotiations. Anderson's office said that the letters of support that were sent in by constituents drew much more attention to the bill and likely helped the Governor see how important this issue was to California students.

This Month at Julian Charter School-Pine Valley Academy

BY CONNIE MASTERS
PINE VALLEY ACADEMY
COORDINATOR

Seniors from the JCS Pine Valley Academy attended a seminar entitled "Justice 101" in downtown San Diego on November 4th. This informative program, offered by the San Diego Superior Court District, discusses important life choices for high school seniors and also introduces students to the court system. During the seminar students met with a superior court judge who

discussed important topics for high school seniors such as drinking and driving, relationships, appropriate use of technology, domestic violence, and the real-life consequences of poor decision making. Students also had the opportunity to observe real-life court cases where some of these topics are addressed. What a great way for our government students to see the judicial system in action!

November 17th, ASB students attended the CADA leadership conference at the Del Mar fairgrounds.

Hundreds of students from around southern California come to learn valuable team building techniques and receive leadership training. The energy level was amazing and will be brought back to school to benefit other students and the school culture.

Pine Valley Academy is a Julian Charter School program. The academy offers a classroom experience with credentialed teachers for grades 7-12. JCS is fully accredited with college prep classes available.

Important Messages to Teens

1 This holiday season, please don't drink or drug! If you ignore this advice please, at least, don't drive! The life you save could be your own or that of someone you love!

2 Don't ride with a person who has been drinking or drugging and always wear a seat belt, even if it's just a few blocks. If you can't get your driver to give up the keys, ride home with someone else or call a

friend to come and get you. Encourage your friends to do the same.

3 Watch your drinking friends for signs of alcohol poisoning! These symptoms require emergency action be taken immediately. Call 9-1-1.

- * Confusion, stupor
- * Vomiting
- * Seizures
- * Slow breathing (less than eight breaths a

- minute)
- * Irregular breathing
- * Blue-tinged skin or pale skin
- * Low body temperature (hypothermia)
- * Unconsciousness ("passing out")

It's not necessary for all of these symptoms to be present before you seek help. A person who is unconscious or can't be roused is at risk of dying. Call 9-1-1 immediately.