

WINTER HOLIDAY HOURS FOR THE DISTRICT OFFICE

Closed December 22 - January 4

Accounting	Adult Education
Alternative Education	Board Office
Assistant Superintendent	BTSA
Curriculum	Duplicating
Fiscal Services	Food Services
Grants & Communications	Human Resources

Labor Relations	Legal Services
Operations	Payroll
Planning	Risk Management

Special Support Services	Transportation
Student Support Services	Warehouse

Superintendent's Office

Closed December 26

Information Technology	Maintenance
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Closed December 26 & January 2

Benefits

Closed December 29 - January 5

Education Technology	VAPA
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Language Acquisition & Academic Support (LAASP)

Open During Winter Break

Purchasing

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Sweetwater Board of Trustees swore in newly-elected Trustee Bertha J. Lopez and named new board officers for the coming year. Jim Cartmill, a board member since 1990, will serve as president of the board. Arlie N. Ricasa, now serving her third term, is the new Vice President. Continuing their roles, Superintendent Dr. Jesus Gandara will serve as Secretary and Sandi Smith will serve as the Clerk of the board.

COMMON CALENDAR APPROVED

On Dec. 15, the Board of Trustees approved putting all Sweetwater middle schools and high schools on the same calendar. All students will now begin school on Monday, July 27, 2009. The new calendar provides two-week breaks in fall and spring with a three-week winter break. During the 2009 transitional year, the summer break will be seven weeks long. On Dec. 9, 2008, the Chula Vista Elementary School District approved a common calendar that mirrors the Sweetwater District calendar.

TRUANCY SWEEP PICKS UP DISTRICT STUDENTS

Nearly 100 Sweetwater students were picked up during the latest truancy sweep. On Dec. 4, Chula Vista Police with help from National City Police, fanned out into neighborhoods surrounding high schools in National City and

Chula Vista.

Students—93 high schoolers and 3 middle schoolers—were arrested for truancy after being found in fast food restaurants, coffee shops, parks and shopping centers during school hours.

Students arrested for truancy are routinely referring to juvenile court where judges assign fines of more than \$200 and/or community service for the first arrest.

ADULT ED RECOGNIZED BY CDE

Adult Division service was named a "Program of Excellence" by the California Department of Education. The diamond anniversary recognition of Sweetwater Adult Division will continue throughout the 2008-09 school year as Currents brings you more highlights from their 75-year history.

STUDENTS TUNE-IN TO ATTENDANCE VIDEO

Sweetwater students are putting their creativity to work for the attendance campaign. Go online and visit www.re-think.us for a look at more than 20 videos that students across the district have dreamed up to showcase the Miss School, Miss Out theme. Granger Junior, Mar Vista High, San Ysidro High, Palomar, Eastlake High, Sweetwater High, Rancho del Rey Middle and Southwest Middle are just some of the schools to have posted videos. Among the best picks: Who Are You?, Coulda Had a Diploma, Whoa!

2009 MILEAGE RATE

Beginning January 1, 2009, the IRS issued mileage rate will be 55 cents per mile.

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH

January 1 = New Year's Day
 January 19 = Martin Luther King, Jr.

JANUARY

Traditional and Year Round Schools	
Return.....	5
Martin Luther King, Jr.	
Holiday.....	19



A Very Happy Holidays

As we come to the close of 2008, it is important to take some time to reflect and be thankful for what the past year has provided us and be proud of what we have accomplished.

The past year has seen some difficult times for all of us. While many corporations have been the recipients of "bailouts," schools across California continue to face increasing budget cuts and are being tasked with the prospect of providing necessary services with less funding.

Despite the economic and social challenges that face our staff, our students and their families, we should focus on the many positives that the district had in 2008 and the ways in which we have remained committed to fulfilling our vision of "100% student success."

On December 15, the Board of Trustees achieved a great milestone by adopting a Common Calendar for all schools in the district. With this new calendar, we hope to maximize student achievement and create an overall family-friendly schedule.

This year we made great strides in continuing our work with Proposition O. Community meetings were held to plan designs for nine schools that will begin construction in 2009 - Chula Vista High, Chula Vista Middle, Hilltop High, Mar Vista High, Montgomery High, National City Middle, Southwest High, Southwest Middle and Sweetwater High.

In addition, we have made substantial progress in implementing our Strategic Plan by taking action on all strategy issues outlined in the plan and creating substantive goals and objectives district-wide.

As we approach the coming year, take time to truly enjoy this holiday season and appreciate the time spent with friends and family. The Sweetwater Union High School District Board of Trustees wishes you, your family and all the members of the community all the joys of the holiday season.

SWEETWATER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim Cartmill

Arlie N. Ricasa

Pearl Quiñones

Greg R. Sandoval

Bertha J. López

Dr. Jesus Gandara
Superintendent

KUDOS

Chandra Goodnough, MVM Teacher, received her National Board Certification.

Darci Kimball, CPH Teacher, received her National Board Certification.

Chery Sias, MVH Teacher, received her National Board Certification.

Congratulations to the following schools, **Castle Park High, Mar Vista High, Southwest High, Chula Vista High, Sweetwater High, Montgomery High and San Ysidro High**, who will receive \$1,800.00 each from the Poinsettia Bowl.

Bonita Vista High was recognized by the California Business for Education Excellence for their success in raising student academic achievement and named them a Just for the Kids Honor Roll School for 2008.



ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Manuel Rubio, Grants Manager, **A/C - Grants and Communications**

Board of Trustees
Jim Cartmill • Arlie N. Ricasa • Greg R. Sandoval • Pearl Quiñones • Bertha J. Lopez
Dr. Jesus M. Gandara, Superintendent