

## SUBSTITUTE/EXTRA DUTY PAYROLL PERIOD/PAY DATES 2008-2009

Payroll Period	Pay Date
06/07/08 – 07/02/08	07/31/08
07/03/08 – 08/01/08	08/29/08
08/02/08 – 09/03/08	09/30/08
09/04/08 – 10/03/08	10/31/08
10/04/08 – 10/29/08	11/26/08
10/30/08 – 11/26/08	12/19/08
11/27/08 – 01/02/09	01/30/09
01/03/09 – 02/02/09	02/27/09
02/03/09 – 03/02/09	03/30/09
03/03/09 – 04/03/09	04/30/09
04/04/09 – 05/04/09	05/29/09
05/05/09 – 06/03/09	06/30/09

## SUHI HOSTS COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Everyone is invited to the Sweetwater High Health Fair on Tuesday, Aug. 12 from 10 am – noon in the new gym. More than 80 organizations and companies will offer a look at their services including National City Adult School and Southwestern College. Visitors can get their hair done by stylists from Bay Vista Beauty School. There will also be a blood drive and art contest. Stop by Sweetwater High at 2900 Highland Ave., in National City.

## STUDENTS PREPARE FOR RAINBOW GRADUATION

The annual Rainbow Graduation recognizes district students who have completed their high school graduation requirements through summer school courses. As many as 250 students are expected to participate in the ceremony on Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Hilltop High School Dodds Stadium.

## SWEETWATER SPELLS OUT PRIORITIES FOR 2008-2009

Employees at traditional calendar school sites will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 26 for a close-up look at new districtwide initiatives. The "Welcome Back" meeting will take place in the auditorium at Eastlake Community Church at 2355 Otay Lakes Rd., Chula Vista. There will be no district bus transportation from school sites to the meeting site. Dr. Gandara will outline the district's mission, goals and priorities for the new academic year. A complete agenda and details will be mailed out.

## GET READY TO SAVE LIVES!

Learn American Heart Association approved CPR/First Aid techniques and earn a 2-year-certification from AmeriMed in a one-day training session. The course will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6. The cost is \$25 cash, payable at the door. All educators are welcome but priority will be given to ASES, ASSET's and 21st CCLC program staff. To register online go to:  
<http://ems.sdcoe.net/showmore.asp?EventID=35598>  
or call (619) 582-5259 for more information.

## TEACHER CREDENTIAL DOCS ONLINE

Starting Sept. 1, the California Teachers Commission will allow teachers to view and print duplicate and replacement teacher credentialing documents online, free of charge. The CTC documents will be available at the following website: <https://teachercred.ctc.ca.gov/teachers/PersonalSearchProxy>

## EAT OUT AND SAVE IN CHULA VISTA

Chula Vista has more dining choices than ever and several restaurants are offering extra savings. Coupons for 20% off will be honored Sept. 11-18 and December 4-11 at several eateries including: The Brew House at EastLake Via Lago Trattoria, The Brigantine, Chili's, California Pizza Kitchen, Frida Mexican Cuisine, King's Fish House, Sushiya, Romano's Macaroni Grill and Panera Bread. Pick up a Shop/Dine Guide at any participating restaurant or download the coupon on the city's website at [www.chulavistaca.gov](http://www.chulavistaca.gov)

## HARNESS SOME SCIENCE STAR POWER

Teachers, how would you like to have a top scientist talk to your students? Fifty of San Diego's most elite, inspiring researchers will be visiting schools in the new academic year. These are famous genetics researchers, astrophysicists, oceanographers, bioengineers and other cutting-edge scientists. You can harness some science star power by hosting a top scientist in your classroom. For details and an application go to <http://www.sdsciencefestival.com/htmls/2009festival/nifty.htm>

## COUNTDOWN TO ONE CALENDAR

The Chula Vista Elementary and Sweetwater Union High School districts are working to create a calendar with the same beginning date, same vacations and same ending date for all schools in both districts. Over the last six months, a task force of representatives from throughout the community created criteria for a balanced calendar. The goal was to find a calendar that would: maximize student achievement, be family friendly and maximize school services while minimizing costs.

The proposed new calendar—for the 2009-2010 school year—includes two week breaks in the fall and spring, and a three-week break in the winter. You can view the proposed common calendar online at <http://www.suhd.k12.ca.us/> and post your comments online or by calling (619) 585-6050.

## RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH

August 26 = Women's Equality Day

### AUGUST

Rainbow Graduation.....	13
Board Meeting.....	18
Welcome Back Meeting (Traditional).....	26



## Reversing the State and Local Drop-Out Trend

The numbers are in and they show that Sweetwater schools are doing a far better job of keeping students in school than most public schools across California.

Statewide nearly 1 in 4 students attending public schools drop out. The county average? That's 28.8% But, in the Sweetwater Union High School District, the overall drop out rate is 12.1%—less than half the state percentage.

Even one student dropout is a tremendous loss. These children pass into adulthood with reduced earning power, fewer work and lifestyle options and much lost potential. What makes Sweetwater's rate significant, however, is that our district serves a large proportion of students traditionally considered at risk—English language learners and children of poverty.

Sweetwater is the largest secondary district in the state, with more than 42,000 students from Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, National City and the communities of Bonita and San Ysidro. Our district's southern boundary ends at the U.S.-Mexico border.

We serve a student body that is 72% Hispanic. One of every two students speaks a language other than English at home, 30% are classified as English learners and nearly 40% qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches.

Up and down the state, this is a population that has fallen through the cracks of our public education system. Alarming, 30.3% of Latino students in California and 28.8% of Latinos in San Diego County drop out. At Sweetwater, the dropout figure for Latinos is 12.9%, just slightly higher than our district average.

We believe our dropout rate is much lower than other districts throughout the county and state because we have created many individualized programs to give our students a personal connection to school and the best chance at success.

Like other high school districts, we have a continuation high school. Palomar High has been named a model continuation high school by the state four times. But having a separate campus for struggling students doesn't meet all students' needs.

Sweetwater was a pioneer in offering a special program to help students who are falling behind. Learning Centers on each campus offer failing students an independent study program and individually-tailored help to make-up missing academic credits.

Today, an average of 150 to 300 students attends each of these Learning Centers, meeting weekly with their teachers to work on their make-up or acceleration plan and lessons.

Districtwide, we have also adopted the philosophy of creating Smaller Learning Communities at our high schools. We take a campus with 2,400 students and break it into groups of 600-800 students focused on an academic/career pathway. This approach allows students to build stronger relationships with their teachers and counselors, as well as receive curriculum with concentrated rigor and relevance to their academic and career interests.

Finally, we make a concentrated effort to recover those students who stop attending school.

Our Alternative Education division receives a monthly list of students who have dropped out. These children get a home visit and counselors make an effort to enroll them in the Bounce Back program. Students attend the program for three-hour daily school sessions. Each student is assigned two teachers who instruct and also serve as truant officers, tracking down absent students and bringing them back to the classroom.

Each of these programs is time and labor intensive. But as educators, we have no greater duty than to provide every student who begins in our system with a quality education—and the tools to complete it.

At the Sweetwater Union High School District, we don't let students who want to quit school just walk out the front door. They have to fight off our intervention efforts first.

## KUDOS

**Jesus Ulloa-Higuera, ELH Teacher**, was chosen as a Project Lead the Way Master Teacher in Pioneering and Digital Electronics Course that will affect more than 225,000 Project Lead the Way Students Around the United States.

**Robert E. Jackson, SUH Marine Instructor**, Led a team from Sweetwater High to win a division of the National Junior ROTC Youth Physical Fitness Championships.

**Gus Valdez, NCA Teacher**, received the Leadership in Bilingual Award from SD County Superintendent of Schools, Randolph E. Ward, for his commitment to the promotion of bilingual education.

**Oscar Medina, LAASP Director**, has been recently elected as President-Elect for CABE (state Level) and will serve as one year as President-Elect, two years as President and one year as Immediate-Past-President.

**Daniel Topete, MVH Teacher**, Led the Ballet Folklorico Nahuatlan to win 1st place in the categories of Veracruz, Northern Mexico and Central Mexico at the USA National Folklorico Finals Competition.

**Hector Arias, SOH Teacher**, his students won second place in the San Diego County - Robotics Contest at San Diego City Community College.

**SYH baseball team**, made the 2008 CIF playoffs.

**ORH**, finished first in San Diego County's mock trials and proceeded to State finals and finished 23rd out of 34 total teams.

**SYH**, the naming of the new Performing Arts center will be the "Dr. Maida Torres-Stanovik Performing Arts Center".

## ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

**Diego Ochoa**, Principal, **CPH**  
**Maria Armstrong**, Principal, **SOH**  
**Linda Carlton**, Principal, **SYA**  
**Adriana Sanchez-Aldana**, Principal, **MOA**  
**Griselda Delgado**, Assistant Principal, **MOH**  
**Alfonso Melendrez**, Assistant Principal, **RDM**  
**Georgina Meza**, Assistant Principal, **HTH**  
**David Mitrovich**, Assistant Principal, **SUH**  
**Christianna Adams**, Assistant Principal, **OLH**  
**Nadia Mares**, School Psychologist, **SSS**  
**Mary Rose Peralta**, Coordinator of Academic Support, **Academic Growth**

**2008 SUMMER SCHOOL**  
**Mary Lawlor**, Principal, **HTH**

**2008 FALL INTERSESSION**  
**Luciano Alvarado**, Principal, **MOH**  
**Elaine Elefante-Leano**, Principal, **OLH**  
**John Davidson**, Principal, **RDM**  
**Juan Neria**, Assistant Principal, **MOH**  
**Ana Muñoz**, Assistant Principal, **MOM**  
**Victor Tapia**, Assistant Principal, **NCM**  
**Martha Villegas**, Assistant Principal, **OSS**  
**Sabino Muro**, Assistant Principal, **OLH**  
**James Bogart**, Assistant Principal, **RDM**  
**Manuel Narvaza**, Assistant Principal, **SUH**

**2009 SPRING INTERSESSION**  
**Michael Govea**, Principal, **ELM**  
**Brahim Wahib**, Principal, **ORH**  
**William Walsh**, Principal, **SYH**  
**Jennifer Currie**, Assistant Principal, **ELM**  
**Esther Wise**, Assistant Principal, **MOM**  
**Marissa Gaucin**, Assistant Principal, **NCM**  
**Monica Lehpamer**, Assistant Principal, **OSS**  
**Lee Price**, Assistant Principal, **ORH**  
**Erika Taylor**, Assistant Principal, **SYH**  
**Sergio Quintero**, Assistant Principal, **SUH**

