



ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY DRIVE

You can make the difference for a Sweetwater family in need this holiday season by donating to the Adopt-A-Family drive. Dr. Julia Smith and her staff at Student Health Services are seeking donations of non-perishable foods; new unwrapped gifts for middle/high school students; holiday ornaments; stocking stuffers and gift cards for groceries, Walmart or Target. Of course, gifts of cash or checks will also be gladly accepted. Families will be referred by school sites and will be selected based on severity of need. Call (619) 585-6020 with questions regarding the holiday drive.

CAR DONATED FOR DISTRICT ATTENDANCE GIVEAWAY

The [RE]Connect. Miss School. Miss Out. campaign to boost student attendance shifted into high gear with the donation of a convertible sports car.

Tom Moynahan Towing of National City delivered a 1997 Ford Mustang convertible to an excited crowd of students and district staff at Southwest High. Students in SOH's Automotive Technology classes will put the car into top working order. They they'll send it over to Adult Education classes for fresh paint and a new interior.

At the end of the school year, one lucky junior or senior student with perfect attendance will win the revamped ride as the grand prize in the attendance campaign.

Mission Federal Credit Union has also stepped up its support to the campaign with a \$15,000 donation. Mission Federal is also hosting breakfast at the two sites with best staff attendance.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT CONFERENCE "STANDS AND DELIVERS"

More than 700 Sweetwater parents are registered for the "Parents as Partners" Conference. Scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1 at Hilltop High, the conference will feature a keynote speech by legendary math teacher Jaime Escalante, who inspired the movie "Stand and Deliver."

The conference is part of the district's effort to ramp up parent involvement by helping parents understand the school system and how they can help their children succeed. The half-day conference includes break-out sessions on parenting and communication, getting students ready for college, family resources and help for English learners.

OPEN ENROLLMENT BENEFITS FAIR

Sweetwater's Benefits Office invites all employees to this year's Health and Wellness Fair. Representatives from the health companies serving SUHSD employees will be on hand to assist you with open enrollment changes. Vendors will host demonstrations and health screenings. You can pick up food samples, win raffle prizes and participate in wellness activities. Free flu shots will also be offered. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 5, from noon to 6 p.m. at Rancho del Rey Middle School's Cultural Arts Center.

BUILDING A DIVERSE HEALTH SCIENCE WORKFORCE

Across California, Latinos are seriously under-represented in the healthcare workforce. To address that need, the San Diego Science Alliance is hosting an afternoon workshop designed to support school site staff in developing culturally-relevant Health Science curriculum. You'll receive resources and access to curriculum that you can put to use at your school site. Teachers and counselors will also receive a \$50 stipend for attending. The "Building a Diverse Workforce" workshop will be held Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley from 3 to 6:30 pm. For details or registration, contact the project director at mickiebeyer@cox.net or call (619) 303-0968.

INTERGENERATIONAL GAMES FOCUS ON WELLNESS

The Seventh Annual South County Intergenerational Games are coming up Wednesday, Nov. 19. The games pair older adults with 3rd grade students from Chula Vista Elementary in "partner matches" for educational activities and games of skills that promote an active, healthy lifestyle. Activities will include basketball toss, hockey hit, soccer shoot and tennis hits. Knowledge stations will feature nutrition and health information aimed at increasing wellness for all age groups. The event will be held from 9:30 am to 1 pm at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista. For more information contact anabel.kuykendall@sdcounty.ca.gov or call her at (619)476-6223.

SWEETWATER'S 9TH ANNUAL AVID PARENT NIGHT

Sweetwater parents are invited to an evening filled with useful information about how to assist their children in making their college dreams a reality. The 9th annual Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Parent Night will be held at Mar Vista High School on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 5:30 to 8 pm. Representatives from four-year universities will be on hand and a panel of AVID students and alumni will describe the college-prep support offered at Sweetwater schools. Parents will be able to choose from a variety of break-out sessions on topics such as college readiness skills, completing the financial aid application, scholarship opportunities and the AVID program itself. Food and childcare will be provided. For more details, contact Elizabeth Hernandez at (619) 600-3315.

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH

November 10 - 14 = California School Psychology Week

NOVEMBER

| | |
|--|---------|
| In lieu of California's Admission Day..... | 10 |
| Veterans Day Holiday..... | 11 |
| Board Meeting..... | 17 |
| Thanksgiving Holiday..... | 27 & 28 |



Pathways Ready Students for Life's Challenges

Those of us who work in the Sweetwater Union High School District are proud of the diversity of the students we serve. Where others may see students with high needs, we see students full of promise and potential.

That's why we are so committed to fulfilling the mission of our strategic plan: "100% of the students in the Sweetwater Union High School District will graduate and succeed in postsecondary education and/or in the career of their choice on a pathway to fulfill their promise."

It's this vision that has led our district leadership to embark on an ambitious High School Redesign effort focused on making sure that all graduates are college and career-ready.

My hope is that we will achieve this by establishing career pathways at each high school. The curriculum would blend challenging academics that align with college-prep requirements with career/technical instruction that targets growing career fields.

Students will be free to choose pathways that match their interests and aptitudes as well as feed directly into their career choices. The pathways will also teach students the analytical thinking, problem-solving, communication and teamwork skills they will need to succeed in an increasingly competitive and global economy.

Most valuable for our young people will be the real-life connections offered. There will be ample opportunities for mentoring by working professionals, workplace internships and other hands-on learning opportunities.

Sweetwater students are already exploring the leading edge of science through an exciting work-based learning project. Through the district's outreach to business and post-secondary partners, students at Castle Park High are creating the same fluorescent proteins that won the Nobel Prize for University of California, San Diego professor Dr. Roger Tsien this month.

Dr. Tsien has worked with district science teachers, teaching them how to use the proteins in their science labs. And Castle Park High students are creating a business producing these proteins for use in labs in classrooms across the district. Through this project, students learn the valuable scientific skills and are introduced to the connection between jobs, productivity and economic growth.

Another example of how High School redesign might work is found in Southwest High's Automotive Technology classes. There, teacher Heriberto Sanchez is making sure his instruction on auto mechanics tie in core lessons that incorporate college-prep math, science and English.

His students will be fixing up a car donated to the district attendance campaign. Over the next few months, the Mustang convertible will be restored to excellent working order by the auto tech students. Then they'll send it over to adult education classes for fresh paint and a new interior.

This combined career-tech/college prep approach will also serve business and industry by increasing the supply of well-prepared, skilled workers who have a strong foundation in mathematics, science, reading and writing and who are ready for entry-level work. When our auto tech students graduate, they'll be ready not just to repair car engines but to manage or own a car repair business.

These are just two exciting examples of how students can explore career options within broad industry sectors while becoming better prepared for both the world of work or college.

The Sweetwater leadership is committed to high school redesign as a strategy that will increase students' engagement with school, boost student achievement, reduce drop out rates and increase the earning power of graduates.

In preparing students to meet life's challenges after high school, we want to blur the line between a path to college or career. Our goal is that they won't need to choose one or the other. They'll be prepared for both.

Board of Trustees

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KUDOS

Ian Cumming, ORH Coach, has been recognized by CIF as the 2007-08 Boys' Cross Country "Coach of the Year."

Bruce Groff, HTH Teacher, has been awarded with the "CAEA Southern Area YAM Award" by the California Art Education Association (CAEA) State Art Council and the Youth Art Month (YAM).



Eric Byers, CPH Teacher, will host attendees from the State After School Summit who will be visiting the "Clubs of Troy" after school program.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Mark Maddell, Acting Assistant Principal, **ELH**

Jennifer Mojica, Acting Assistant Principal, **HTH**

Sergio Quintero, Assistant Principal, **ELH**