



SWEETWATER CURRENTS

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY!

Mar Vista High is the first to receive a traveling exhibit from the Women's History Museum. The multi-cultural exhibit features women who changed the course of history through their daring art and activism. Displayed on standing pillars, the exhibit provides a photo and information of 22 women who did everything from lead the women's suffrage movement, become the first African-American congresswoman and become the first Latin American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Thanks to Mar Vista High Librarian Mary Doyle for bringing the exhibit to our schools. For more information on bringing the exhibit to your school, call Ashley Gardner at the San Diego Women's History Museum (619) 233-7963.

AFRICAN - AMERICAN STUDENT / PARENT CONFERENCE

"Maintain Your Swag...It's Your Body," is the theme of this year's African-American Student/Parent Conference emphasizing the importance of being physically fit, mentally prepared and nutritionally-mindful. The day-long event will be held Saturday, Feb. 6, from 9 am to 2 pm at Otay Ranch High School. At the conference, middle and high school students, and their parents, access resources to help them maximize their potential and an opportunity to connect with community role models.



STEVIE WONDER TRIBUTE TO BENEFIT ARTS

The Sweetwater High School Show Choir will perform in a benefit concert to help support fine arts programs in schools. The Stevie Wonder Tribute will be held Saturday, Feb. 6 at 7 pm at the Lyceum Theatre in Horton Plaza. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$20 for students, military and senior citizens. Give a boost to school arts programs and enjoy some great performances.

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JUDGES NEEDED FOR SCIENCE FAIR

The annual Sweetwater District Science Fair is happening next Tuesday, Feb. 2, at National City Middle School from 1 pm to 4 pm. We are still looking for persons interested in serving as judges that afternoon. A science background is NOT necessary. The only thing you need to volunteer for this rewarding experience is an interest in listening to talented students talk about their science projects. If you are interested, please contact district science specialist Steve Rodecker ASAP at (619) 585-6070.

POUND THE PAVEMENT FOR LITERACY

This year's Union-Tribune Race for Literacy takes place Sunday, March 7. The 8K run/walk starts in Balboa Park and ends downtown. District librarians invite you to register and join the Sweetwater District Readers team or form your own. It costs just \$25 per person to take part in this fun event that supports literacy efforts in our community. You can register and learn more about the event by visiting the website <http://www.utraceforliteracy.com>



STAY CONNECTED TO THE SWEETWATER DISTRICT

The Sweetwater District is expanding its presence online and now staying up to date with the latest news and information about our schools and the district is easier than ever.

- ❖ Check in with us on the web at www.sweetwaterschools.org
- ❖ Get our monthly newsletter, **Sweetwater Connections** emailed to you by signing up at: www.sweetwaterschools.org/sweetwaterconnections
- ❖ **Facebook:** Create a free account, search for Sweetwater Union High School District and sign up to be our fan
- ❖ **Twitter:** Create a free account and follow us at www.twitter.com/suhsd If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Grants and Communications Department at (619) 691-5578

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REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ADELANTE MUJER

Girls in grades 6 to 10 are invited to register now for the 17th Annual Adelante Mujer South Bay Conference to be held on Saturday, March 6 at Eastlake Middle School. Students will hear Latina professionals in law, business, media, engineering and other fields talk about their career educational paths. Participating students from Sweetwater schools will receive breakfast, lunch, t-shirts along with the workshop at no cost. Registration forms are available from school counselors. Contact Maria Batista or Liliana Silva on First Class for more information.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR ACADEMIC DECATHLON

The San Diego County Academic Decathlon will be held Saturday, Feb. 6 at Olympian High School. Volunteers are needed from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm to judge the speech and interview portions of the competition. No experience is necessary. For additional information contact Nicole Shina, San Diego County Office of Education at nshina@sdcoe.net or call her at (858) 292-3850.



DISCOUNT TICKETS FOR CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

The spectacle of KOOZA, the newest Cirque du Soleil show, is coming to the Del Mar Fairgrounds at the end of February. Sweetwater employees are invited to purchase tickets at a 25% discount. Tickets may be purchased online by going to <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/kooza/promo/2009/Hadley.aspx>

FEBRUARY

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

CAREER and TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL MONTH

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JIM CARTMILL • BERTHA J. LÓPEZ • PEARL QUIÑONES • ARLIE N. RICASA • GREG SANDOVAL
DR. JESUS M. GANDARA, SUPERINTENDENT

SWEETWATER CURRENTS



FEBRUARY

February 1 through 5, 2010

National School Counseling Week

February 1, 2010

National Freedom Day

February 2, 2010

Groundhog Day

February 12, 2010

Lincoln's Birthday

February 14, 2010

Valentine's Day

February 12 and 15, 2010

President Holiday (Observed)

February 16, 2010

Board Meeting

February 22, 2010

George Washington's Birthday

KUDOS

Congratulations to **Bruce Groff**, teacher at HTH, for being selected by the California Art Education Association to receive the Youth Art Month Award for "Exemplifying and Promoting Excellence in Youth Art Month."

Congratulations to **Kyle Richter** and **Nathan Concepcion**, students at ELH, for being selected into the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association - All Southern Symphonic Honor Band.

Congratulations to **Jerry Schniepp** for being honored by the High School Sports Association to receive the "Service to Sports Award."

SWEETWATER CURRENTS

GET PAID TO TRAVEL AND LEARN

The U.S. State Department is offering fully-funded professional development opportunities for teachers and principals. Short-term educational exchange programs allow participants to meet foreign counterparts and develop joint classroom projects and school partnerships. In a nationwide competition, approximately 80 teachers and principals are selected each year to participate in two- to three-week programs. Applications for principals to travel to Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Jordan or Uruguay are due March 12.



Download applications at www.americancouncils.org/es or contact Tim Hair at thair@americancouncils.org or Julia Homstad at jhomstad@americancouncils.org for details. Another program seeks to bring EFL teachers from China and Egypt to US schools for an academic year to teach Mandarin or Arabic language and culture. All host schools receive access to \$5,000 grant opportunities to support language learning projects and designated mentors receive monthly honoraria. Applications are due Feb. 12 and can be downloaded at www.tclprogram.org For more information contact Ben Dunbar bdunbar@americancouncils.org or Eliza Doton edoton@americancouncils.org

CHEER ON ROBOTICS TEAMS

Get a glimpse at the future of technology when students from four of our high schools present robot scrimmages. These short matches will allow teams from Eastlake, Hilltop, Olympian and Chula Vista high schools put their electronic creations through a final test-run before crating them up for the big competition in March. The scrimmage matches will be held over three days, from Feb. 20 through 22 between 10 am and 5pm at Madison High School, 4833 Doliva Dr., San Diego 92117. Admission is free.

“ED AHEAD”

The monthly “Ed Ahead,” which is compiled by the California Department of Education (CDE) Communications Division, contains a current schedule of upcoming events. Please note that these calendar items are subject to change. Any changes as well as additional events are announced through the regular CDE Media Advisory process. If you have any questions, please contact the Communications Division by phone at 916-319-0818 or by e-mail at communications@cde.ca.gov. This information also may be viewed on the CDE Web site at www.cde.ca.gov/nr/re/et/.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

CENSUS 2010

Think back to the arrival of the year 2000. Fears of a Y2K computer meltdown had just faded, Bill Clinton was turning over the White House to George W. Bush and the twin towers still stood on the New York City skyline.



Locally, the economy was expanding, fueled by what looked like an unstoppable housing boom. With scores of new residents, school enrollment was soaring and property taxes were plentiful to meet the growing needs. How times have changed.

In just 10 years everything is different from the size of government budgets to the cost of gas. The demographics of South Bay have changed too. Who lives here, what businesses are open and the kinds of jobs available are all different. Along with these changes, the needs of our community have also shifted.

That's why it's time to stop and be counted.

At the start of each new decade, our nation takes a census to get as clear a picture as possible of how many people are living in the United States. This becomes the nation's official population count. Census data is used to direct funds for public services and resources.

Lawmakers decide where to build new schools, libraries and hospitals and roads based on the census. How much federal money is awarded to our cities depends on the census. Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$300 billion in federal funds to cities and states, according to the census.

The census is also used to reapportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and redistricting of seats in state and local government. Being counted makes a difference in how your interests are represented.

Because the public resources to meet the needs of you and your family depend on an accurate census, it's extremely important that every single person living in our community is counted.

Leaving some people out of the census means a potential loss of dollars for our schools and community.

In recent years, the Sweetwater District didn't qualify to apply for several federal grants because existing census data does not accurately reflect the needs of the population we serve. Faulty census data has denied the district the chance to receive tens of thousands of dollars in grant funding for school libraries, teaching training and student counseling services, to name just a few missed opportunities.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

We need everyone to be counted in the 2010 census so that our children receive every opportunity for funding that is available.

In March, all households will receive questionnaires. It should take about 10 minutes to mark your answers to 10 simple questions about the people living at your address.

Be sure to count all members of your household—both citizens and non-citizens as well as relatives and non-relatives living at the same address.

It's natural to worry about protecting your personal information. But, by law, the Census Bureau must keep your answers confidential and cannot share your information with other government agencies. The data is collected only to produce statistics. Your answers cannot be used against you in court or by law enforcement.

As individuals, it can be hard to make a difference. The census provides a great opportunity for each of us to influence decisions made at every level of government. I urge you to be counted in 2010 and help ensure that our schools and community get their fair share.