



SWEETWATER

CURRENTS

JUNE 2010

FOUR SWEETWATER SCHOOLS NAMED AMONG NATION'S BEST

"Newsweek" magazine's annual ranking named BVH, ELH, ORH and SUH among "America's Best High Schools." Rankings are based on a formula that combines the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Cambridge tests taken at a school in 2009 and divided by the number of graduating seniors. The list included approximately 1,600 schools and represents the top six percent of schools in the nation.

INFO SYSTEMS OFFICE GOES GREEN

To cut down on wasted paper, the Information Systems office will be sending documents to school sites electronically in PDF form. School sites will be able to access documents such as Student Schedule Listings in an electronic file that can be shared with employees via email. The PDF documents can also be searched for specific terms and can be easily downloaded for printing as needed. For additional questions, contact Doris Easterly, Information Systems Supervisor, 585-7920.

ADULT ED EARNS ACCREDITATION

Congratulations to the Division of Adult Education for earning a six-year term of accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The visiting committee was impressed with the high quality learning experience being offered in Sweetwater adult classes.

According to the WASC website: "An accredited school is focused on a mission and goals for students; it is student-oriented and examines its students' performance continuously; it accepts objective evaluation from a team of outside peer professionals trained by WASC; it maintains a qualified faculty within an effectively organized school; it collaboratively assesses the quality of its educational programs on a regular basis; and it plans for the future."

SWEETWATER CURRENTS



DISTRICT DRIVER SHINES IN SCHOOL BUS “ROAD-EO”

Sweetwater bus driver Kathleen Bends represented the district with pride at the 2010 State Championship California School Bus Safety Roadeo. Bends was one of just 50 competitors who qualified through regional contests to enter statewide competition. She made a great showing at the state finals, although she did not bring home the trophy.

A STAR-SPANGLED PARTY

The EastLake Educational Foundation is hosting a 4th of July VIP Fireworks Reception. Festivities will take place at the Olympic Training Center starting at 6 pm with a gourmet BBQ. Tickets include VIP parking, food and beverage, a DJ and entertainment for kids. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets and stay to enjoy the sky show.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children 15 and younger. Only 150 tickets are available and must be pre-ordered by calling (619) 997-6470.

JULY

July 4, 2010	Holiday - Independence Day
July 5, 2010	Independence Day (Observed)
July 26, 2010	Board Workshop - 5:00 p.m.
July 26, 2010	Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
July 21, 2010	School begins for students

SWEETWATER CURRENTS



SMILE AND SAY "CHEESE!"

Get ready to smile for the camera, employee picture day is near. Pictures for the 2010-2011 employee ID cards will be taken, Wednesday, July 7 in the Board Room. Each department has been given an appointment time. Please be prompt as the photographers will be working to get through this tight schedule.

7:30 AM	Educational Technology, Information Technology, and Maintenance Substitutes
9:00 am	Transportation
9:30 am	Accounts Payable, Auditing, Adult Education, Alternative Programs, Board of Trustees, BTSA, Fiscal Services, Finance, Mandated Costs, Grants, Mail Services
10:30 am	Academic Support Team, Assistant Superintendents' Offices, Curriculum, Human Resources, Benefits, Labor Relations, Payroll, Superintendent's Office, VAPA, Fine Arts
11:30 am	Categorical Programs, OLA, Duplicating, Food Services, GEAR UP, Post Secondary Initiatives
1:00 - 1:30 pm	LUNCH
1:30 pm	Planning, Professional Development, Purchasing, ROP, Student Support Services, Safe Schools, Attendance & Student Welfare, Substitutes
2:30 pm	Research & Evaluation, Special Support Services, Substitutes

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

SWEETWATER CURRENTS

KUDOS

Congratulations to **Pamela Gutierrez**, teacher at **HTH**, for taking First Place for the HTH yearbook entry at the San Diego County Fair (third year in a row) and Best of Class (second year in a row) with a score of 995 out of 1000 points.

Congratulations to **GJH's AVID program** for being chosen to present on Middle School Equity at the AVID's National Conference "College Readiness for All: Delivering the Dream" in Grapevine, Texas. GJH's AVID program will also be getting a \$200 donation.

Congratulations to **Derick Moreno**, student at **OHS**, for winning first place in the Congressional Art Contest, his work was chosen to represent Congressman Bob Filners' district. His drawing will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol for an entire year and Derick and his parents were flown to Washington D.C. for a special ceremony.

Congratulations to **Lori Lin Freiermuth**, teacher at **OHS**, on her recent appointment to the Academic Content Standards Commission by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Congratulations to **HTH**, **MVM** and **RDM** for receiving the "California Certificate of Student Support Accountability".

WELCOME NEW LEADERS

The new school year will bring new leadership to several campuses. Congratulations to the district's newest principals and best wishes for an excellent 2010-2011 year!

Steven Lizarraga

Chula Vista High

Elaine Elefante-Leano

Olympian High

Roman del Rosario

Sweetwater High

Maribel Padilla

Hilltop Middle

Derelynn (Bonney) Kalafer

Mar Vista Middle

William Walsh

Southwest Middle

SWEETWATER CURRENTS

TEAMING UP FOR SUCCESS

It's summer and we've crossed another finish line.

As we enjoy the break, it's a good time to pause and reflect on where we want to go in the next academic year.



All of us in the Sweetwater Schools have been working on the goal of raising student achievement. There is power in teamwork. By uniting behind the common purpose of improving education and learning for all of our students, we vastly raise our capacity to succeed in this mission.

Our district has more than 5,500 employees. And each person from the bus drivers, to the office workers to the teachers and administrators has a daily opportunity to play a role in putting students on a path to fulfill their potential.

Recently, I spoke to our principals, administrators and managers about applying the business principles of Total Quality Management to education.

The concepts created by Dr. W. Edward Demings have been used to shape the success of companies such as Proctor & Gamble, Ritz Carlton and Harley-Davidson in a competitive global marketplace.

We can also adapt these proven methods of business success to help our students develop their abilities to compete in a changing world. Deming's outlined "14 points for Management" that can be combined into five objectives to create an approach for achieving Total Quality Schools.

1. **Customer Focus:** We need to talk to staff members, parents and community members to identify and understand their needs and expectations. This interactive process helps us determine what we need to do to meet those needs and expectations. This isn't about just reacting to complaints, but about setting high standards based on the needs of the people we ultimately serve.
2. **Total Involvement:** This is based on the belief that all staff members share the responsibility to solve problems as they develop. At all levels, employees need to be empowered to take the initiative, rather than waiting for management and others to solve problems. This concept recognizes that we are all on the same team, committed to the shared mission of educating 21st century learners. As partners with a common goal, we work together to solve problems.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

SWEETWATER CURRENTS

3. **Measurement:** At each school site, teachers and administrators use data to measure our improvement and develop solutions. Data drives instruction and decision-making. We refine our practices based on outcomes so we can better fulfill our mission. This is the way we tackle raising student achievement, decreasing the drop-out rate, increasing the number of students who meet college-entry requirements, improving teaching and developing effective leadership.
4. **Commitment:** Administrators make it their mission to understand their school and the district as an educational system or community. Managers see their job as improving the system by providing people with the training, systems and processes they need to raise quality and improve outcomes. This is the way that leadership helps people do a better job and strengthens the organization.
5. **Continuous Improvement:** Because we are part of a team, united behind a common purpose, we individually embrace opportunities to make the system better. Each member of the organization is constantly looking for ways to improve every educational process.

What I like about Deming's model is that these elements all speak about how each of us, individually, can make a key difference in improving our organization.

Total Quality Education is about each of us taking the initiative and responsibility for finding better ways to do our jobs, to make our departments function more effectively and for improving our schools and our district.

Together we can deliver a great education for our students and enjoy the satisfaction of a job well done.

Together, we can make a difference.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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