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# Culver City High School

Parent Newsletter

March /April 2015

## Engaging Families at the High School Level

*CCHS First Parent Engagement Night*

Lisa Cooper, CCHS Interim Principal

Thank you to all the parents, community members, staff and administrators that attended Culver City High School's first Parent Engagement Night on February 26<sup>th</sup>. This successful event had over 400 attendees. The night was filled with valuable resources and informational sessions varying in topics such as jump-starting the college application process, social media tools for parents, middle-to-high school transition, supporting your student's art education, and many more.

*"Kudos to the CCHS staff. I am really impressed and so glad I attended last night. The 3 sessions I participated in were "411 on College Planning", "Why Consider an Out of State College" and "Social Media". All 3 were very well planned, presented and very engaging. I hope you and the staff plan to do this again." - Marla Rothfarb, CCHS Parent*

*"All of the presenters had a wealth of knowledge, many personal tips, were eager to share, were caring and are very committed to the students and families. As a parent I walked away with a sense of relief, knowledge, organized plan and most of all a sense of hope. We feel supported by the school." - Lisa Grace, CCHS Parent*

This event provided an opportunity for the school to reflect on our current parent engagement practices. One of our goals at CCHS is to ensure strong partnerships with parents. There will be parents who will be involved in their children's education without the school's guidance. But high schools that have quality partnership programs encourage more families to become involved in their students' learning and academic success.

As students transition from one level of schooling to another, parent engagement and partnership practices need to transition as well. Opportunities may include providing an age appropriate context and/or information on ways families can be involved in their students' lives. Students in high school are often seeking independence and therefore discourage parent involvement. Parents may then seek resources and means to stay informed. CCHS wants to make sure that strong and meaningful partnerships are in place to support every parent in staying involved in your child's educational experience.

Involvement at the secondary level is often much less visible, though just as valuable. *Engaging Families at the Secondary Level: What Schools Can Do to Support Family Involvement* by Chris Ferguson and Víctor Rodríguez demonstrates that family-based processes that successfully support teenage academic achievement include interactions where families:

- talk often with their teenagers about school
- help them make plans for postsecondary education
- keep them focused on learning and homework during the school year

Culver City High School will continue to promote parent engagement and seek opportunities for such events as “Parent Engagement Night” to keep parents informed, supported, and involved. The success of this event was made possible by the great presenters, our outstanding and supportive PTSA who sponsored the hospitality room and our nationally ranked Cheer team members for providing child care services.



## Welcome to the Attendance Office!



Consistent attendance plays a key role in student success. Children who are absent for even one day, or who arrive later than their classmates, miss valuable instruction time and can easily fall behind in school. Under Education Code 48205, allowable absences include a student illness, student medical appointments, attending a funeral of an immediate family member, quarantine by a county or city health officer or jury duty. Unexcused absences may include either unverified absences (i.e. when a student “skips” school) or a verified unexcused absence with the approval of their parent or guardian.

Missing school for a family vacation is considered an unexcused absence.

When your child is absent from school, please call the Attendance Office at (310) 842-4200, ext 3344 (last names beginning with A-K) or ext 3345 (last names beginning with L-Z). You may also choose to send a note with your student the day he/she returns to campus. Please use the Parent Portal to monitor student attendance and academic progress. If you do not have access to the Parent Portal, please contact Mrs. Stanis at ext 3327.



every day counts  
ATTEND TODAY -  
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

# Activities

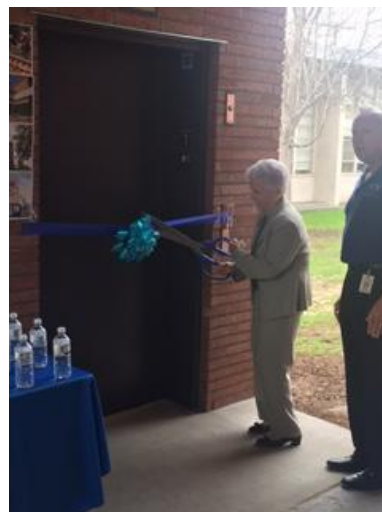
*Interim Asst. Principal, Kelli Tarvyd*

CCHS had its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Talent Show last Friday night. The show included 21 unique acts which included students, teachers, counselors, administrators and even a parent! Participants danced, shared their musical and vocal talents, demonstrated a lighted poi dance and even demonstrated their soccer talents. The show raised about \$2400 and donated 20% of their revenue to the Lemonaid Warriors, a social activism group



## CCHS Elevator

The CCHS elevator is now in operation. CCUSD Board President, Nancy Goldberg did the honors of cutting the ribbon at the ceremony and being one of the first to ride the new elevator.



Would you like to recognize your student's accomplishments in a special way? You can show them how proud you are of them by purchasing an ad in this year's Olympian yearbook. There are sizes and prices for all budgets. But don't delay as there are only a certain amount of pages and you don't want to get left out.

**Deadline: Friday March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Pennie Fien @ [penniefien@ccusd.org](mailto:penniefien@ccusd.org).



## Get Connected!

CCUSD has gone mobile. Stay in touch with Culver City Unified School District by downloading our new mobile app. Download on your mobile device today and select yes to receive push notifications with the latest news.

## Upcoming Events

- March 6-8 & March 13-14 AVPA Spring Musical
- March 13<sup>th</sup> Springfest 1:30-4pm (2:30pm dismissal)
- March 20<sup>th</sup> Multi-Cultural Assembly Minimum day Schedule
- March 23-April 4<sup>th</sup> Spring Break
- April 8<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Information Night

# Counselor's Corner

Asst. Principal, Lisa Michel

- The Guidance Office will be registering students for AP testing from March 2 – March 13. Late registration will take place from March 16-18, with a \$20 late fee added on to the cost of exam(s).
- During the month of March the academic counselors will be busy scheduling 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, graders for the 2015-2016 school year.
- During the months of March and April, English and Math teachers will be preparing their 11<sup>th</sup> grade students for the Smarter Balanced testing that will take place between April 27 and May 29. This year, students will receive results from the tests.

## 2015-2016 Registration dates have been set:

Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>  
12<sup>th</sup> grade from  
12:30 – 3:30 only

Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>  
11<sup>th</sup> grade

Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>  
10<sup>th</sup> grade

Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>  
9<sup>th</sup> grade

9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>



**Encourage your student to attend CCC Lunch & Learns to explore various careers from experienced professionals.**

**3/16- Owner of Copenhagen Pastry and Head Baker**

**4/10- Television Producer**

**4/13- Culinary Careers**

**4/17- Mechanical Engineer Career**

**4/20- Marketing Manager**

**4/24- Medical Acupuncturist**

**4/27- Politician Legislature**



**High School Information Night for  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Students  
April 8<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm**

**This evening will prepare parents and students for scheduling of 8<sup>th</sup> graders that will take place at the high school the following week.**



## 2015 Scheduling Fair

During the week of Feb. 23, counselors visited 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies classes to present the 2015-16 course description book (online version [sshs.ccusd.org](http://sshs.ccusd.org)), and what to think about when choosing courses for the next school year. The week culminated in a Scheduling Fair during lunch on Friday Feb. 2. During the fair, teachers and studented maned tables to talk about what to expect (content, work load, etc.) from their courses. A wide array of AP, Honors, and elective courses were represented so that students could ask questions and make informed choices about courses in which they were considering enrolling. The fair was well attended and well received.



# Athletics

*Interim Asst. Principal, DuBois McMillan*



## Winter Sports

We're proud of all of our Winter sports teams: boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, and girls water polo. Your valiant effort and pursuit of excellence are recognized by the entire Centaur family. Way to GO CENTAURS!!!

## Spring Sports

Get excited about our spring sports teams. There have been many upgrades to our facilities and we're anxiously awaiting the grand opening of our new fields. Come out to watch our spring teams: baseball, lacrosse (boys and girls), softball, tennis (boys), track (boys and girls), and volleyball (boys). In the classroom and on the field, our Centaurs are prepared to PURSUE VICTORY WITH HONORS!!!



Parents can access student information through our Parent Portal. Log in often to access student attendance reports, teacher grade books, and grade reports as they become available.

# CCHS Security



John Sargent, Cornell Myles, and Jim Beckham are the primary security guards for CCHS. Their primary duty is to continuously patrol their assigned areas throughout the day and help maintain school safety.



- ❖ Spring Musical- A Chorus Line March 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Sony Film Screening March 19<sup>th</sup>

<http://www.avpa.org/>

CCHS 2015  
Classified Employee of the Year

*Margaret Fujisawa*

Margaret Fujisawa has tremendous dedication, commitment and consistently selfless contributions in the service of helping students in the Culver community. Margaret goes above and beyond to build and maintain relationships with the community partners of CCUSD. She created the Culver City Scholarship Network for students of Culver High which awards over \$100,000 in scholarships annually to our students. Margaret works diligently to communicate with school staff, personnel, students and parents about various college and career opportunities available. She also works with various business partners and community establishments to develop our job-shadowing program, and arranges, coordinates and encourages students to visit college campuses. Ms. Fujisawa coordinates mock SAT workshops on the weekends. She helps students find scholarships and helps them to make the transition from high school to higher learning. Margaret is the first face you see as you enter the high school's College Career Center, and her warm presence ensures that all you will feel welcome there. She truly seeks to help all students.



CCHS 2015 Teacher of the Year

*Judy Sanderson*

Judy Sanderson has been teaching Biology at CCHS for the past 45 years and is deserving of this award for the many contributions she has made to CCHS over the years. Judy definitely embodies our CCUSD belief that "Success for ALL takes Us All.". She is a strong advocate for the safety and wellbeing of all. Ms. Sanderson not only shares her passion for biology, but also helps our students find their place in society and interact with the world around them.

Ms. Sanderson created the Tolerance Club at CCHS to provide LGBT students a place to gather and provide support to one another. This was the first club of this kind and it has been recognized for its longstanding establishment and importance. Over the years, this group has had various guest speakers, and given countless students a safe place to talk and have a sense of belonging. Ms. Sanderson has truly made a difference in the lives of these students and imparts to LGBT students that they can achieve and accomplish anything they want to in life.

Ms. Sanderson has also brought awareness to the CCHS campus of the impact chemicals have upon our bodies and on the people who have health problems such as asthma. Her efforts have implemented new policies and promoted a fragrance free environment.

Over the many years that Ms. Sanderson has served as a teacher at CCHS she has taught and supported 9th grade students through the challenging transition to high school. Ms. Sanderson embraces her interaction with 9th graders and often goes above and beyond in ensuring student success, such as making phone calls to keep parents apprised of their student's success or need for improvement. Judy has inspired countless students and held them to a high standard. CCHS prides itself on being a safe and accepting place for all students and Ms. Sanderson has played a major role in building this culture at Culver City High school.

