

SWEETWATER CURRENTS

Common COREner
Teacher Resources

SDSU Fellowships
For Math and Science
Teachers



ALBERT EINSTEIN
Distinguished Educator
Fellowship Program

Otay Ranch High School Teacher Named

**VEX ROBOTICS
TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**LA PASTORELA
DE CREENCIA**

December 15, 16, 22 & 23

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Otay Ranch High School Teacher Named VEX Robotics Teacher of the Year

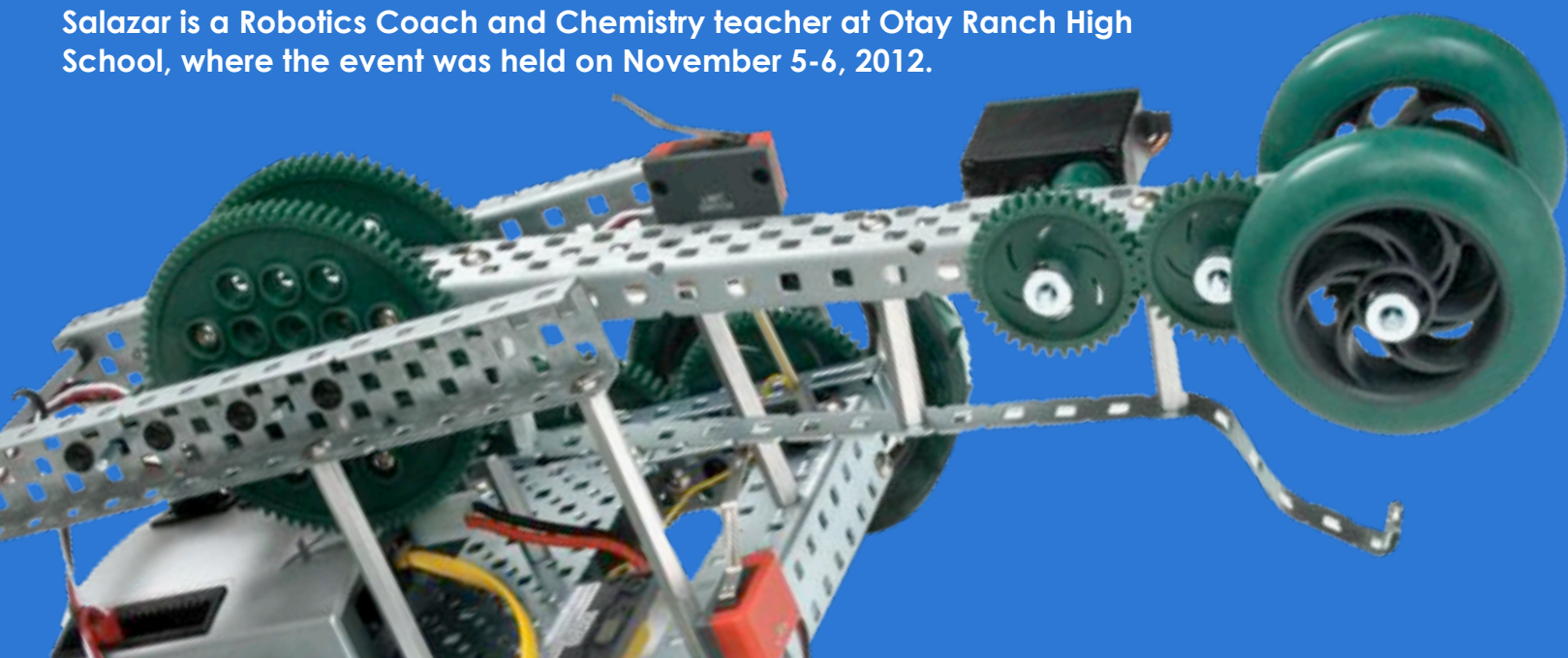
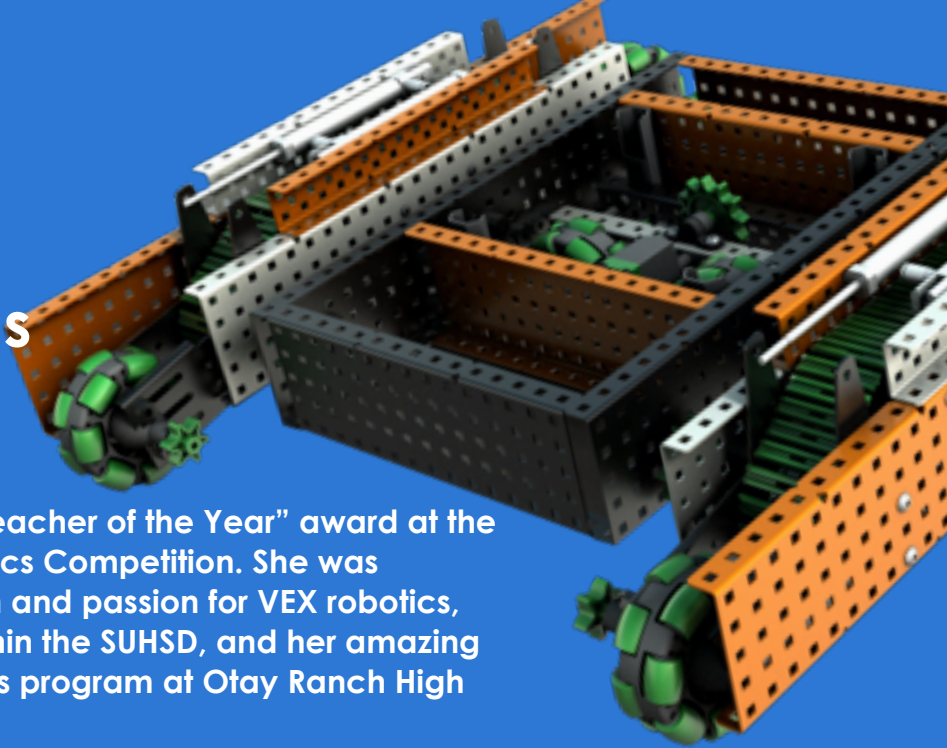
Hayley Salazar was honored with the “Teacher of the Year” award at the 6th Annual San Diego County VEX Robotics Competition. She was recognized for her unending enthusiasm and passion for VEX robotics, her keen leadership in its expansion within the SUHSD, and her amazing talent to build an award winning robotics program at Otay Ranch High School!

Coach Salazar Inspires Students

“Gracious Professionalism,” a value emphasized by FIRST/VEX Robotics was truly exemplified by the Otay Ranch Mustangs during Saturday’s heated competition. “Gracious Professionalism” is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions.

Instead of taking the automatic win when an opponent’s time out expired, Salazar’s team allowed the opponents to finish their repairs so they could compete in the last round. Otay Ranch and their alliance team ended up losing in the last round and not advancing to semi-finals. Nevertheless, they exhibited no regrets with their decision or the results. For them, they wanted the best machines to win. Hayley Salazar has truly inspired her students to live the value of “Gracious Professionalism” as demonstrated in this weekend’s competition.

Salazar is a Robotics Coach and Chemistry teacher at Otay Ranch High School, where the event was held on November 5-6, 2012.



Common COREner

Great Resource, brought to us by Ana Banos, Southwest High Librarian

This newly update resource from the [Library of Congress](#) has a great [teacher resource page](#) that now correlates to the Common Core Standards! Their [new search tool](#) allows you to search by state content standards, Common Core Standards and the standards of national organizations. [The LOC page](#) has other great resources too such as [lesson plans](#), [primary source document sets](#), [presentation and activities](#), [collection connections](#) and [analysis tools](#). [The LOC page](#) not only has historical documents it also has film, audio and art resources. And, it's not just for history teachers. Check them out.

Common COREner CCSS Update: New Common Core Resources from CDE

• SBAC Webinars Site •

View recordings of webinars presented by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) on a range of topics including consortium progress updates, sample items and tasks, computer adaptive testing, etc., on the [Webinars | Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Web page](#).

• Professional Learning Module •

The California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to announce that the [Mathematics: Kindergarten through Grade Eight Learning Progressions](#) professional learning module is now available online on the [Brokers of Expertise California Common Core State Standards Professional Learning Modules Web page](#). This module is part of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for California Educators series and was developed in collaboration with the San Mateo County Office of Education. The module is available in two formats: online independent use and on-site blended group facilitation. For more information, please visit the [CDE CCSS Professional Learning Modules for Educators Webpage](#)

• Professional Learning Opportunities •

The **CDE Professional Learning Opportunities Web page** allows users to post and find in-person and online statewide professional learning opportunities sponsored by the California Department of Education (CDE), COEs, local educational agencies, institutes of higher education, and State Board of Education-approved providers, as well as other not-for-profit agencies. Select the “Common Core Standards” topic on the search form to find current Common Core State Standards (CCSS) professional learning opportunities.

• Parent Flyer Translations •

The CDE CCSS and Parents and Guardians Handout has been translated into six languages, and additional translations of the Informational Handouts are also available. These and other resources are available on the **Student/Parents Tab of the CDE CCSS Web page**.

Excerpted from **CDE’s External Linking Policy**: The CDE is providing these links only as a convenience, and the inclusion of any link does not imply endorsement by the CDE or any association with the sites’ operators.

To view past CCSS Updates, please visit the **CCSS Resources Listserv Archive**. If you would like to receive information and updates via e-mail notification, subscribe to the CCSS Update from the CDE listserv by sending a “blank” message to **join-commoncore@mlist.cde.ca.gov**.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Jeff Kover

Director

Visual & Performing Arts

DECEMBER 2012

Universal Human Rights Month

25

Christmas Day



10

Board Meeting

24-25

Winter Holiday

31- JAN 1

New Year's Holiday

Sweetwater Mathematics Students Complete First Common Core-Aligned Performance Task

Writing is not just for English Class anymore! Writing across the Curriculum has been a growing movement for decades, and a well-recognized best practice for ensuring student academic success. With the California Common Core Standards (CCCS), writing across the curriculum is not only a goal, but it will actually be measured on high-stakes assessments in the years to come.

To prepare our Sweetwater students, Mathematics teachers have administered the first round of writing-centered performance tasks. Samples were collected from multiple sites and teacher leaders determined which papers exemplified the best work. **Here is a sample from Geometry.** Go Math! Go Writing! Go Sweetwater!



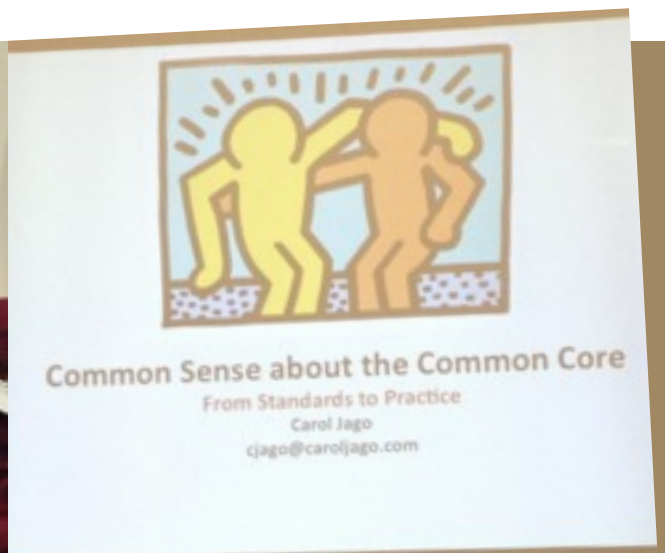
Olympian High Teachers Attend CATE Conference

Olympian High English teachers got to hear the newest information about the upcoming 2014 implementation of the Common Core. Thanks to teacher Carrie Danielson, teachers got funded to attend the Promising Practices conference that took place on Saturday, October 27th at the Marina Village Conference Center. Carol Jago was the keynote speaker; Jago is arguably THE voice for Language Arts professionals in the state.

She was speaking about the upcoming implementation of the Common Core Standards. Carol, past president of NCTE, author of many books on the subject of teaching Literature and Academic Language, is the editor of the quarterly English journal, CALIFORNIA ENGLISH, and co-director of the UCLA Writing Project.

As for Carrie, she is one of the district's Nationally Board Certified teachers, and has served as president of the Greater San Diego Council of Teachers of English (GSDCTE). She still serves as secretary of the state CATE (California Association of Teachers of English) Board. One of her colleagues, Steve Rodriguez, is also a Board member and oversees the CATE Creative Writing contest.

Promising Practices has both a Fall and Spring conference and this was an extraordinary opportunity for these teachers. Ms. Danielson is to be commended for encouraging her Olympian administration and fellow English department colleagues to attend this extraordinary opportunity.



Pictured: Carrie Danielson, Steve Rodriguez, Alicia Pentz-Lopez, Kitty Cancino, Sharon La Vie, and Craig Collins.

Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program

The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program is now accepting applications for the 2013-2014 Fellowship Year. The Einstein Fellowship Program is available to current K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educators with a demonstrated excellence in teaching and leadership.

Selected teachers spend 11 months in Washington, D.C., sharing their expertise with STEM program directors or policy makers. Einstein Fellows may serve in a Congressional office or in one of several government agencies such as the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Fellows receive a monthly stipend and an allowance for professional travel and relocation. The fellowship year begins in late August 2013.

For more information about the program and to learn how to apply, visit www.einsteinfellows.org. Applications for the 2013-14 Fellowship program are due by 11:00 pm (EST) December 5, 2012.



KUDOS!

Christina Birchfield and Students

of the **CTE culinary arts** class at **Southwest High School** created a 4 course meal for 40 students and their parents on Thursday November 15, 2012. Suzie's Farm donated Vegetables, Kiwanis Club donated 4 Turkeys, SOH art club did the centerpieces, and through donations from staff and community members raised over \$300.00 for the event.

KUDOS!

Julie Tandon

Hilltop High School Teacher Julie Tandon has received the title of National Board Certified Teacher. Congratulations on this well-deserved and prestigious certification!

Community Members Needed for Mock Interview Panelists

Volunteers needed for 2nd Annual TPP Mock Interviews



Looking for a meaningful way to make a big contribution to the future success of a Sweetwater Student? The Transition Partnership Program (TPP) is looking for dedicated community members to serve on mock interview panels on December 5, 2012.

The panels will be assembled to provide Senior Special Day students in our TPP classes and opportunity to develop communication skills necessary to successfully interview. Students will arrive in professional attire, complete with resume and a firm handshake. The mock interviews will provide TPP students with much-needed experience as part of a course designed to prepare students for college and career readiness.

TPP Volunteer panelists are needed for both morning and afternoon sessions. For more information, contact Joseph Prosapio in Student Services at (619) 796-7526.



NEWS & VIEWS

- UCSD Chancellor Visits Southwest High - See it Now!
 - See the latest Sweetwater Spotlight
 - Read the latest Budget Updates [here](#)
- See Video of the latest Community Forums
 - Keep up with the latest Board Updates and recent minutes

KUDOS!

Magdalena Cerda-Baez

Congratulations to **Magdalena Cerda-Baez**, former **Montgomery Adult School** student who received the Outreach and Technical Assistance Network (OTAN) Students Succeed Award at the state ACSA Conference in San Diego. Since March 2000, she has been working with Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an advocacy group dedicated to supporting "the right of all people and communities to live, work, and play in a clean and safe environment."

Sweetwater Students Lauded at Countywide VEX Robotics Competition

Congratulations to our SUHSD VEX Competition Robotics Teams that participated in the 6th Annual

San Diego County VEX Robotics Competition

Held on November 9-10, 2012 at Otay Ranch High School
(36 teams from California, Nevada, and Arizona participated)

Excellence Award

Team 507D Otay Ranch Mustang Robotics

The highest award possible and an invitation to compete in the 2013 VEX World Championship

Programming Skills Champions

Team 507D Otay Ranch Mustang Robotics

Team Rankings

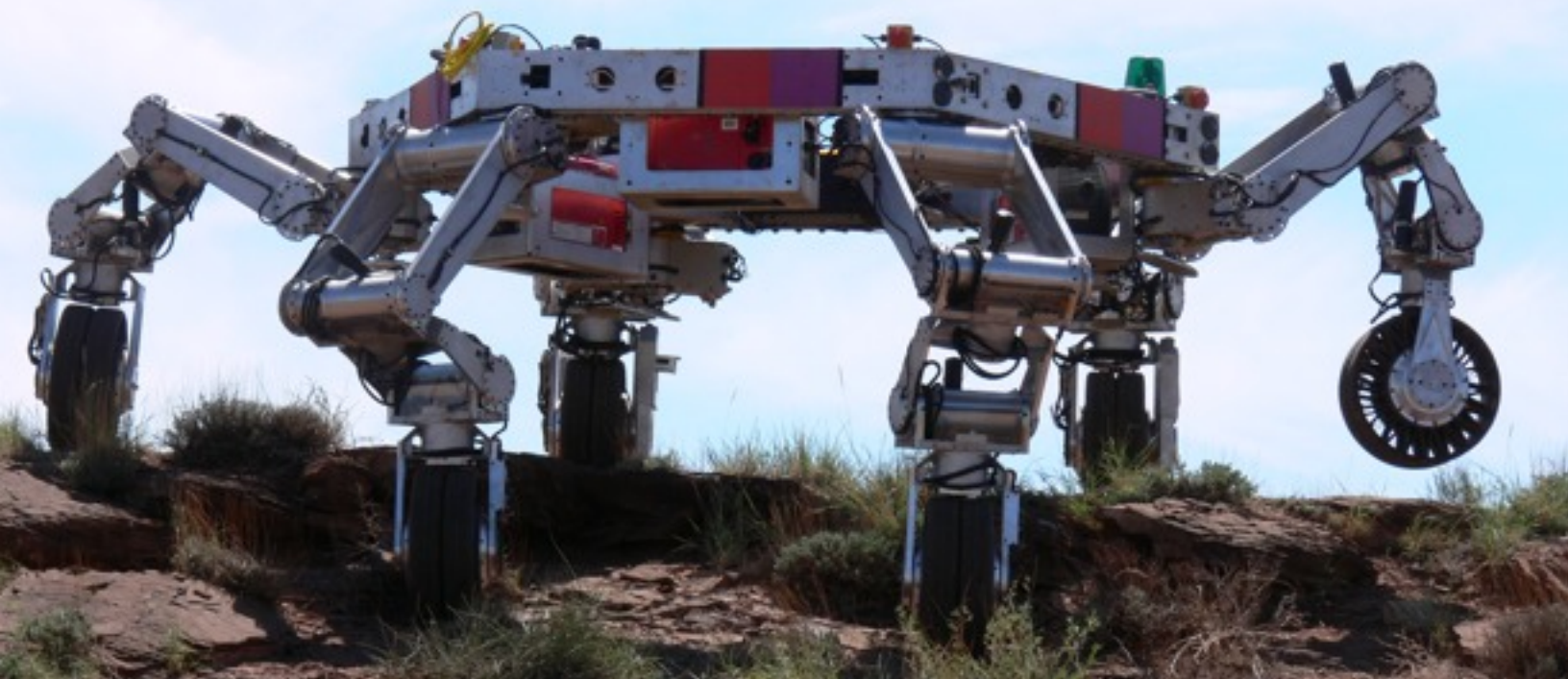
Team 507C Otay Ranch Mustang Robotics – Ranked 4/36

Team 507D Otay Ranch Mustang Robotics – Ranked 6/36

Team 507P Otay Ranch Mustang Robotics – Ranked 8/36

Design Award

Team 507P Otay Ranch Mustang Robotics



Sportsmanship Award

Team 4918 San Ysidro Robotics (Coaches Judy Liang/Bob McPhail)

Teamwork Award

507A-B-C-D-P Otay Ranch Mustang Robotics (Coach Hayley Salazar)

Additional Hoorays to SUHSD Teams in Attendance

Chula Vista High VEX Robotics – Coach Alain Garnica-Mendoza (participated)

Montgomery Middle Mayan VEX Robotics – Coach Joseph Amaro (participated)

Castle Park High School VEX Robotics – Coach Judy Sypnier (assisted)

Hilltop High VEX Robotics – Coaches Paul Koniarski/Alec Harley (assisted)

Mar Vista High School VEX Robotics – Coach Thomas Ultican (assisted)

Montgomery High School VEX Robotics – Coach Bernardo Escobedo (assisted)

Sweetwater High School VEX Robotics – Coach Hiram Villafana (assisted)

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Edward Brand and the SUHSD School Board

Alex Anguiano and the SEA Union

Mayor Cheryl Cox and the Chula Vista City Council

Liza Flowers, Categorical Programs, for her incredible behind-the-scenes support

Grants & Communications

Financial Services

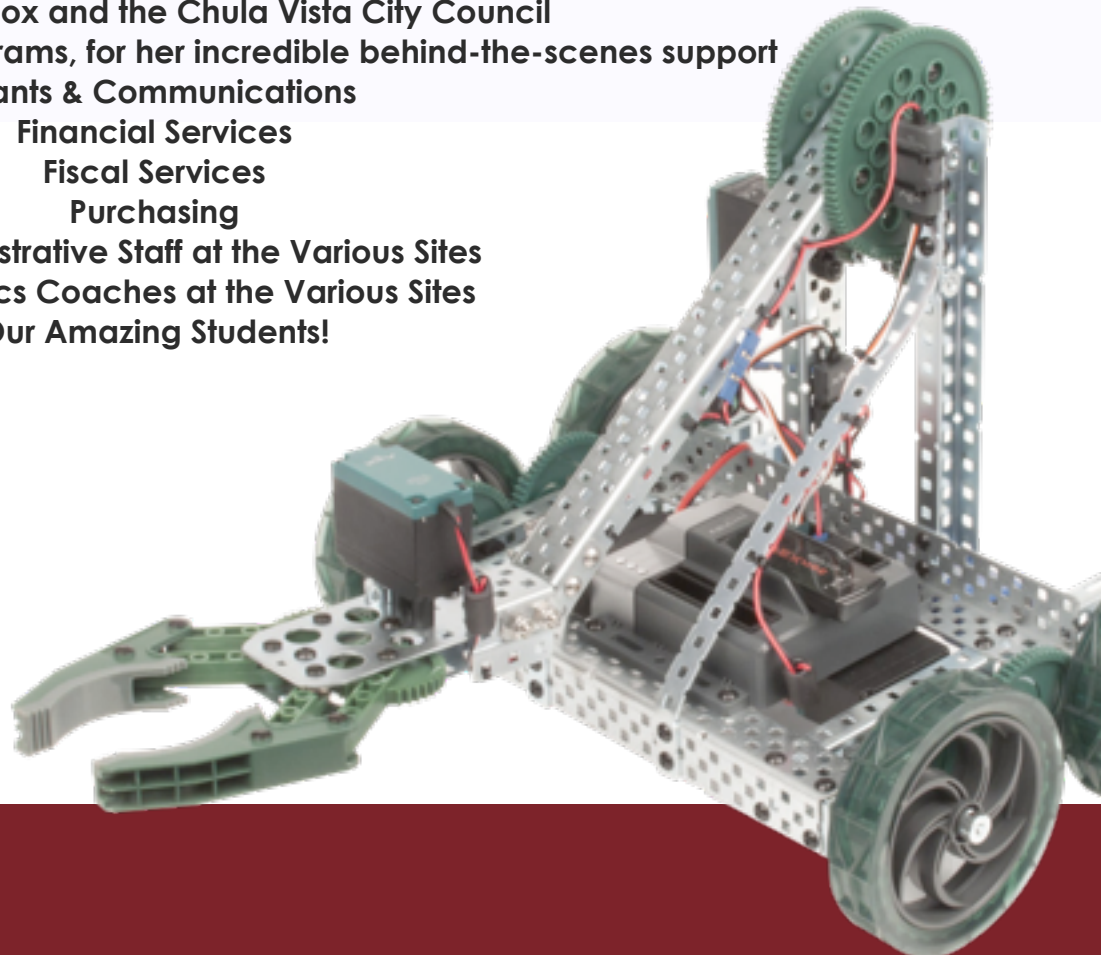
Fiscal Services

Purchasing

The Administrative Staff at the Various Sites

The Robotics Coaches at the Various Sites

Our Amazing Students!





\$5,000 Meet My College Scholarship Opportunity

Do you know a student who can talk about how Social media has impacted their generation? Then direct them to MeetMyCollege's FREE services and scholarships. Through their website www.meetmycollege.com, students can get their academic information in front of 1,400 colleges even before the application process begins and apply for our amazing scholarships. It is FREE for your students and the high schools.

Below is information about the scholarship. MeetMyCollege is offering seven scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to high school students. Unlike most scholarships, this isn't GPA, SAT or need based... students simply create a quick profile and answer a short question about how social media impacts their generation.



All they need to do is follow the links at <http://www.meetmycollege.com/Account/Register/Student>

and...

1. Fill in their academic info
2. Submit their answer to the short question

The deadline is coming up on December 31, 2012! For more information contact:

Ryan Hall
Account Manager
Email: ryan.hall@MeetMyCollege.com
Phone: (714) 389-7755 ext. 106
MeetMyCollege.com



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SDSU Fellowships for Math & Science Teachers

SDSU is now accepting applications for a prestigious five-year mathematics and science teaching fellowship program. Sweetwater mathematics and science teachers are encouraged to apply!

The goals of this fellowship are:

- To support strong mathematics and science teachers in enriching their practice through engaging with content and students' thinking so that they can emerge into extraordinary teachers, and
- To support these teachers in becoming teacher leaders who then support teachers at their school site, teachers in the district and county, and student teachers.

Fellows will be provided with:

- Opportunities to become part of a community of teachers to improve their teaching practice;
 - Experiences to emerge into teacher leaders;
- Support to attend and present at local mathematics and science conferences;
 - \$10,000 per year for each of five years, and an iPad.

Eligible teachers must:

- Teach middle or high school mathematics or science in a public school;
 - Work in districts where SDSU places or has placed student teachers;
 - Have a Master's degree OR earn one within the next three years;
- Have a science/mathematics major OR have passed CSET exams for science/math.

Mathematics Teaching Fellows must commit to teaching at least one course of Algebra or Intermediate Algebra throughout the project. For Science Teaching Fellows, preference will be given to those who teach at least one course in Biology or Life Sciences. Mathematics teachers will work with SDSU's faculty members Randolph Philipp, Susan Nickerson, and Lisa Lamb. Science teachers will work with SDSU's faculty members Donna Ross, Kathy Williams, and Meredith Houle Vaughn.

For more information contact:
Dr. Lisa Lamb, Associate Professor
Mathematics Education
School of Teacher Education &
Center for Research in Mathematics and Science Education (CRMSE)
San Diego State University
Telephone: 619-594-0774
Fax: 619-594-1581
EMAIL: Lisa.Lamb@sdsu.edu

See *La Pastorela* for Half Price!

Great deal for a Holiday Classic! Teátro Máscara Mágica and The San Diego Repertory Theater is offering all Sweetwater teachers and administrators an opportunity to enjoy *La Pastorela de Creencia* for HALF price.

When you call (or go in person to the box office) the San Diego Repertory Theater (619) 544-1000 for the tickets please use the code word "Sweetwater" for ½ price tickets.

Ticket Prices:

\$15 Adults

\$10 Seniors, Students, Military

\$7.00 Groups of 10 or more and Children under 12 years

The San Diego County Community Enhancement Fund presents

The City of San Diego's Most Popular Theatre Tradition
Teatro Máscara Mágica's Award-Winning production of

LA PASTORELA DE CREENCIA



BY MAX BRANSCOMB

DIRECTED BY WILLIAM VIRCHIS

San Diego REP
(619) 544-1000

Dec. 13-16, 19-22
at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 15, 16, 22, 23
at 2 p.m.

Buy See's Candies, Support "The Portal" Students

The Portal's Senior class of 2013 is conducting a Christmas Fundraiser. OSS seniors are selling See's CANDIES to defray the cost of their Grad Nite transportation. Being one of the smallest graduating classes of the Sweetwater District in these uncertain economic times it is difficult for all of our seniors to come up with the out of pocket expenses needed to pay for their senior activities.

Therefore, we are calling on your Holiday Spirit, to lift up your hearts and contribute to a motivated senior class who is eager to participate in the Grad Nite fieldtrip to Magic Mountain.

How to Order and Pick-up:

You can e-mail or call us at 796-7320 to place your orders. Orders must be placed by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10, 2012. All orders will be available to be picked up on Monday, December 15th, 2012 between 11:00 am and 6:30 p.m. at 467 Moss St room 501. Postdated checks are accepted. Please make your checks payable to "OSS ASB." We look forward to receiving your orders.



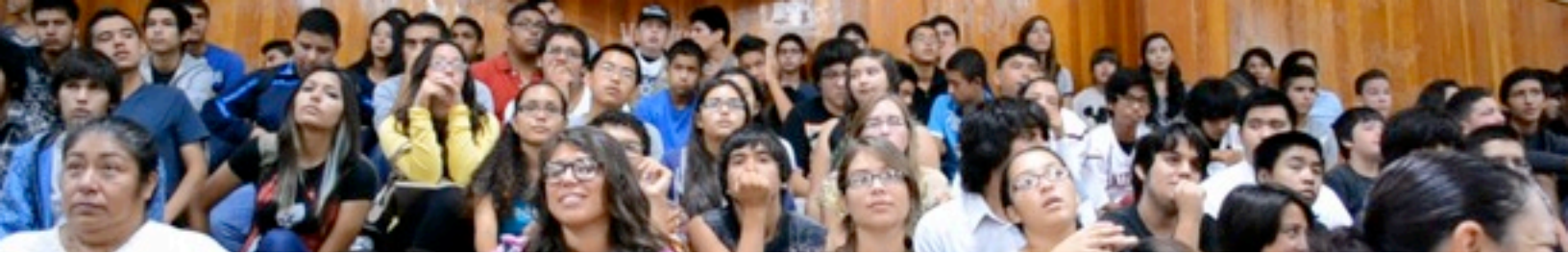
For more information, please contact:

Shelly Poliska

Senior Class Advisor

OSS – The Portal

shelly.poliska@sweetwaterschools.org



SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

Planning for the Future by Taking Action Now

The Sweetwater District is rich with history, tradition and success. Over the years we have accomplished many great things together and we've learned a lot along the way.



As your Superintendent, it's my responsibility to take stock in where we are and in what direction we are going. Over the past few months, I've asked the leadership in the district to take some time to reflect on what guides us and what ultimately leads us to being a successful organization.

We've all seen the District Delta and the elements that make up the Delta – Teamwork, Compact for Success, Fiscal Stability with the goal of serving our Community, Staff and most importantly, Students, to the best of our ability.

To accomplish our goals, we've developed a set of principles that guide our work. They are:

1) We will engage what we can afford.

While this statement is directed at "Fiscal Stability" in the Delta, it also means that we will engage in work that makes sense as far as our time, our existing commitments and in doing what is best for the district and for our students.

2) We will focus on student learning and make education Job One.

Students are our main focus each and every day. What happens in the classroom is the top priority for all of us – from teachers to counselors to support staff to administrators. Student learning is what we strive to do to the best of our abilities.

3) We will accentuate the best practices for teaching.

We have a long history of excellent teachers in the Sweetwater District who base their craft in proven, research-based teaching practices. We have had back-to-back San Diego County Teacher of the Year Finalists in Yolanda Sherard and Emily Jimenez – not to mention the dozens of others who were nominated and also moved forward in that process.

On any given day in classrooms across the District, teachers are doing many amazing things. We want to celebrate those best practices, learn from one another and continue to improve.

4) We will use data to drive decisions and monitor performance.

As with any successful practice, we want to ensure that we can tell others how we were able to succeed. We want to show what works and what doesn't. Data helps tell that story. It isn't the only factor in making a decision, but it should be a tool that helps us make informed, proactive decisions. It's also a tool we should rely on to keep track of how we are doing and help to guide us through the process.

5) We will motivate students to be exceptional.

There is no shortage of great things that our students have accomplished and will continue to accomplish. Students with exceptional academic and extra-curricular accomplishments can be found on each and every one of our campuses. We will continue to celebrate that and find ways to motivate others to achieve at their highest potential.

6) We will reward and acknowledge excellence.

This applies to everyone in the district – staff and students - because we know that greatness is a part of our daily culture. We want to make sure that we thank you, celebrate your accomplishments and share with the community what you do. We encourage you to continue to share those stories with us so that we can acknowledge them. No accomplishment is too small to warrant recognition.

While there are many more principles that could be added to this list, we think that this is a good place to start. Sometimes by getting back to basics of what we do and why we do it, we learn about who we are and how we can get better.

By taking time to take stock in where we are now, I know that we can continue to build an even stronger organization that is fully prepared for the challenges of the future.

