

SWEETWATER CURRENTS



CHULA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL
NATIONAL ASB OF THE YEAR 2013-14
NASC GOLD COUNCIL OF EXCELLENCE

CURRENTS ON THE GO! SIGN-UP NOW & STAY UP TO DATE WITH SWEETWATER

CONTENTS

04 START A CYCLING TEAM

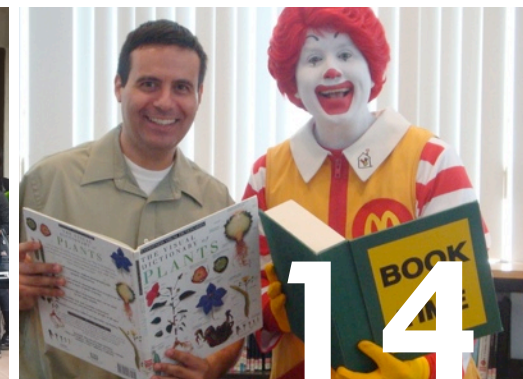
05 MONTH OF MAY

07 2014 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

10 NEW SOFTBALL FACILITY AT CASTLE PARK HIGH

12 CHULA VISTA HIGH ASB RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

14 SWEETWATER SCHOOLS CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA

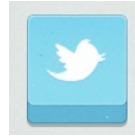


Board of Trustees
Jim Cartmill • Bertha J. López • John McCann
Dr. Edward M. Brand Superintendent

Produced by:
Grants & Communications



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NEWS & VIEWS



✦ **Join** our email list to receive every issue of Sweetwater Currents.

✦ Keep up with the latest **Board updates and current minutes**

✦ Keep the 2013-14 Student Calendar handy! Download it **here.**



FOLLOW OUR BOARD MEETINGS LIVE AND DIRECT
twitter.com/SUHSD



STAY INFORMED!

CATCH UP ON ALL THE NEWS - VISIT THE DISTRICT WEBSITE NEWS PAGE



Be a Communication Liaison

Do you want to contribute to spreading the good news going on at your school site or department? The Grants and Communications Department is looking for self-motivated individuals who will serve as the voice of their site. In this role, the liaison is responsible for acting as a bridge between their site and the Communications office. The purpose of this role is to enhance the flow of information provided to the Communications office for publication content (Currents) and website/media spotlight opportunities.

If you are interested in serving in this role, please contact the Grants and Communications Department at (619) 691-5578 or gcomm@sweetwaterschools.org.

Submitting to Currents is getting easier!

In order to capture all the wonderful things going on in the Sweetwater district, the Grants and Communications Team has developed a new Currents Submission Form for your convenience! Click on the link below to submit all Currents story ideas, events, kudos etc. in a simple and convenient format!

Visit <http://www.sweetwaterschools.org/currents/>



EASTLAKE CYCLING TEAM INVITES SWEETWATER SCHOOLS TO START A CYCLING TEAM

Eastlake High School has fielded a Mountain Bike team for the past 5 years. They were the first to field a team in San Diego and are only one of 4 teams in the county. Their team races among 48 teams of the SoCal Interscholastic Cycling League.

The Eastlake Cycling Team can assist other Sweetwater High Schools with the guidance necessary to start up a team.

Please contact

AJ Ronacher, Director of Eastlake Cycling Team

Email: Andrew.Ronacher@sweetwaterschools.org

Visit www.socaldirt.org for more information.



CALENDAR MAY 2014



6 School Principal's Day and
National Teacher Appreciation Day

7 National School Nurse Day

11 Mother's Day

14 California Day of the Teacher

19 Board of Trustees Meeting
Monday, May 19 - 6:30pm to 10pm
District Office Board Room
1130 Fifth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91911

26 Memorial Day

William Virchis
Visual and Performing Arts Department



2014 VAPA CALENDAR

Click [here](#) to view list of
upcoming events.

COMMUNITY
EVENT
CALENDARS

STAY INVOLVED AND SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN THE SWEETWATER
COMMUNITY





Hilltop Middle School Campus Beautification Earth Day - 2014

MAY 3, 2014



Lessons about maintaining a healthy environment and recycling accompanied by the annual Campus Beautification at **Hilltop Middle School** in celebration of Earth Day May 3rd, 2014.

For the third consecutive year, the Hilltop Middle School students, teachers and parents will gather at the front of school on Saturday, May 3rd 2014, for a morning of maintaining the school's environment.

Click [here](#) for flyer and more information.

WEEKS OF APPRECIATION IN MAY

5-9

National Teacher Appreciation Week

18-24

Classified School Employee Week

19-23

National Educational Bosses' Week

SWEETWATER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

2014 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

On April 28, 2014 we celebrated the contributions Sweetwater employees make everyday in providing a world-class education for all our students. Each and every honoree here demonstrates an exemplary commitment to excellence.

We applaud your dedication and service. We are proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in enhancing the success of thousands of students. Congratulations to all!

Click [Here](#) to view and download photos from the event!





2014 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



**MASD Administrator
Maria Castilleja
Curriculum & Instruction**



**SEA Teacher
Amy Cruz
Bonita Vista Middle**



**SEA Teacher
Eric Esperon
Sweetwater High**



**SCGA Counselor
Luis López
Eastlake Middle**



**NAGE Supervisor
Michael Martin
Nutrition Services**



**Confidential
Imelda Genovese
Superintendents Office**



**CSEA Chapter 471
Troy Johnson
Office Technical &
Business Services
Special Services**



**SEA Teacher
Edward Gillet
Eastlake High**



**SEA Teacher
Helen Keeran
Alternative Education**



**SEA Teacher
Viana Rodriguez
Olympian High**



**SEA Teacher
Hayley Salazar
Otay Ranch High**



**CSEA Chapter 258
Robert D. Russell
Operation Support
Services
Maintenance**



**CSEA Chapter 731
Rosalind Jimenez
Paraprofessional
Castle Park Middle**



SUHSD Technology Showcase

MAY 17, 2014 - Granger Junior High School

Join teachers, administrators and students from across SUHSD for a morning full of celebration and learning! All are invited to attend to see how technology is being used at the middle schools.

(Lunch will be provided)

Don't forget to bring your iPad!

Click [here](#) for flyer and more information.



New Softball Facility at Castle Park High

In conjunction with senior day, the Castle Park High softball team inaugurated its newly renovated field with a game against San Ysidro on Tuesday afternoon.

With students and fans in attendance, ceremonial first pitches were thrown out simultaneously by a group that included former Trojans softball great Dawn Wood and Ed Brand, Superintendent of the Sweetwater Union High School District.

Click [here](#) to read more...





CONSTRUCTION CORNER

The Eastlake High School Amphitheater and Observatory project approved by the Board in 2012 is under construction. The project includes several academic and community oriented enhancements for the 20-year old campus.

The amphitheater will be developed on the north side of the Campus quad as envisioned in the original ELH plan. It will be used for films, lectures, concerts and plays and will have a box office to serve the amphitheater, Gym and performing arts center. The Amphitheater will seat 228 on tiered seating below a custom shade structure and over 200 more on the surrounding lawn.

The new observatory building is under construction on the south side of the campus. It will house the existing campus telescope which will be upgraded as part of this project to add a high resolution camera which can broadcast images to classrooms or on the web.

The project includes widening the main driveway to allow better entry and exiting from the campus. Upon completion there will be two lanes of traffic into the campus and three out of the campus at the main school entrance. Also included is storage for the band program and maintenance and grounds.

The project will be completed in late 2014 for a total cost of \$2.2 million from Mello-Roos Community Facilities District funding.

Visit the Planning and Construction Department and Prop O for more info:

<http://planningandconstruction.sweetwaterschools.org>

<http://buildingpropo.sweetwaterschools.org>



CHULA VISTA HIGH ASB RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The Chula Vista High School Associated Student Body (ASB) was recognized recently by the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) as being among the best in the nation.

The CVH ASB was given the prestigious National Gold Council of Excellence Award for their strong, well-rounded student council program. There are several criteria that CVH had to meet to qualify for the award including leadership training, teacher/staff activities, student recognition programs and several other factors.

“NASC applauds the work of the National Gold Council of Excellence and challenges them to continue their leadership and service to their schools,” said Ann Postlewaite, Director of NASSP Student Programs.

This award was made possible through the efforts of several students and staff members, including the now retired Assistant Principal of Student Activities, Scott Tanner.

“This is a tribute to the conscientious commitment and dedicated efforts of 50 young adults who worked tirelessly for the cause of improving the school culture of Chula Vista High,” said Tanner.

Well-deserved and congratulations Spartans!

KUDOS!

Andrea Arroyo & Lucy Rivera

Andrea Arroyo, Visual Art Teacher at EastLake Middle and **Lucy Rivera**, Visual Art Teacher at Palomar High have been selected by the San Diego County Art Education Association (SDCAEA) to receive an Artissimo Rookie of the Year Award.

The Artissimo Rookie of the Year Award is given to visual art teachers who have proved themselves to be exemplary classroom instructors. Ms. Arroyo and Ms. Rivera are two of three teachers in San Diego County to receive the 2014 honor!

Awards will be made at the **ARTISSIMO: Awards of Excellence** event on Monday, May 12th, 2014 at Marina Village on Mission Bay. The event will begin at 5:30 pm and will end around 7:30 pm.



KUDOS!

Sweetwater High School Fire Science Academy

Sweetwater High School was featured on Cox Channel 4 in a segment for Salute to Education.

Sweetwater High is giving their students a jump start on their future with a unique program that's getting them ready for a very hot career.

Their Fire Science Academy is a 3-year program that incorporates academics and professional training, giving students the skills they need to become professional firefighters.

Click [here](#) to watch the video!

SWEETWATER SCHOOLS CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA

A little fun was added to the school day during the first week of March as students and staff helped to celebrate the important role of reading in their lives.

Read Across America, sponsored by the National Education Association, is a yearly birthday party for Dr. Seuss, whose birthday was March 2.

Schools sponsored door decoration contests, poster contests, reading challenges, a Cat in the Hat skit, trivia contests and parties with birthday cakes. One school even had a breakfast party for their students!

Reading can be fun!



MAY
12-18

National Children's Book Week

KUDOS! Dina Herrera

The San Diego Foundation awarded a \$1,000 grant to **Mrs. Dina Herrera**, **ELD teacher** at **Castle Park High**. Students worked on a project on how to improve our community. They visited Villa Bonita Senior Living.

Students met residents ages 74 to 102! Students sang, danced, played cards and made cheese appetizers. They learned from the residents past, including WWII, the Depression and the Roaring Twenties. Students shared their posters about their lives. Chalyn Gross, Activities Director, gave us an overview of senior care. "It was a wonderful experience, I want to give them love and go back."



“U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT” NAMES SWEETWATER SCHOOLS AMONG BEST OF 2014

Annual Study Ranks America's Best High Schools

In its annual ranking of schools, U.S. News & World Report magazine has named the best schools in the nation. Seven of the 12 comprehensive high schools in the Sweetwater District were named medal winners, placing them among the top 12 percent of over 19,000 eligible schools in the U.S. One school, Olympian High School was named a Gold Medal winner, placing them among the top 3 percent of all high schools in the nation.

Click [here](#) to read more...

KUDOS! Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab

SUHSD Robotics program Team 4616 would like to thank Qualcomm for letting them attend the **Qualcomm Thinkabit Lab**. Only 7 teams were invited by Qualcomm to participate!

Qualcomm is working on bringing middle and high school classes of students to Qualcomm to enjoy the Thinkabit Lab. We have had 2 groups participate already from our district and it's just in the pilot stage!

KUDOS! VAPA's Digital Media Showcase 2014

Congratulations to all the winners and students who participated in this years **Digital Media Showcase** presented by SUHSD's **Visual and Performing Arts Department**. Student work in photography, computer art, graphic design, video, and music technology was celebrated.

Click [here](#) to view the list of award recipients!

Click [here](#) to view the showcase slideshow.

BOARD MEETING UPDATES

The Sweetwater Union High School District Board of Trustees met on April 21 and took action on several important items including:

- ✓ Approved the contract between the Sweetwater Education Association (SEA) and the district.
- ✓ Approved several parent events and conferences including the 16th Annual Bi-literacy Symposium, the DAC Title 1 Awards recognition and trainings to be held at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.
- ✓ Approved the 2014-2015 student calendar.
- ✓ Approved planning and construction items for projects at several schools, including Castle Park High, Chula Vista High, Montgomery Middle, National City Middle, Palomar High and Sweetwater High.
- ✓ Passed several resolutions that included honoring the Day of the Teacher, School Bus Drivers Day and Asian American Heritage Month.

For more details on these, and all other items on the agenda, visit <http://boarddocs.suhsd.k12.ca.us/>



Superintendent's Hotline

A reminder that Dr. Brand is accepting calls at the Superintendent's Hotline on Tuesday, May 6. If you have a suggestion or concern, call 691-5570 between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. to talk directly with the superintendent. The hotline is open the first Tuesday of every month.



SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

SWEETWATER CONTINUES TO SHINE



Right around this time of the year I take time to look back at the year that is almost behind us and reflect on what we have accomplished.

Each year we not only shine as a district, but we continue to outshine ourselves. Students, staff and community alike continue to outpace themselves in terms of recognitions, awards and accomplishments.

I want to thank everyone for their efforts. Testing is a major undertaking and once again, we came through it with flying colors. Your hard work will ensure that Sweetwater students will outpace themselves yet again.

In these last few weeks of school, let's take a moment to celebrate our success and take stock on what we would like to improve upon for next year.

Out of only 1,000 students in the entire U.S., our district has at least four Gates Millennium Scholars. These students are the best of the best. In the coming weeks we will continue to hear about the great accomplishments of our students and the new and exciting paths that they will be taking next year.

Our staff has continued to perform on the highest levels possible. Earlier this week we celebrated our district employees of the year and we hope that they will continue on in the County and State recognitions. Our own Dr. Milena Aubry, Linda Carlton and Griselda Delgado were named among the administrators of the year by the Association of California School Administrators.

In addition, US News & World Report just named seven of our comprehensive high schools as Silver Medal winners for the third year in a row, placing our schools in the top 12 percent of all schools in the entire nation. In addition, for the first time ever, Olympian High was named a Gold Medal winner, placing them among the top 500 schools in the entire nation.

As a district we've taken on some tough challenges and strived for new heights. We've continued our commitment to improving school facilities and are close to opening new facilities at National City Middle and Montgomery High and breaking ground on new projects at several schools throughout the district.

I know that we will continue to achieve at an amazing pace. I am proud of the work that we have done this year and I look forward to celebrating our collective and individual accomplishments at our school promotion and graduation ceremonies in the weeks to come.

Thank you and let's finish the year strong!