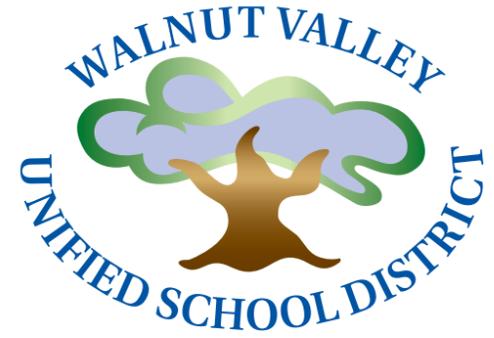


Outlook



Issue 34 SUMMER 2016

Gold Ribbon Schools Cited for 21st Century Learning

Seven elementary schools; Collegewood, Cyrus J. Morris, Evergreen, Maple Hill, Quail Summit, Vejar, and Westhoff, have been distinguished with the 2016 California Gold Ribbon award for outstanding educational programs and practices that can be replicated.

"This is a remarkable accomplishment and I couldn't be more proud of our schools!" said Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor. "Winning the Gold Ribbon is a testament to the dedication of our teachers, staff, and administrators in developing effective strategies for our 21st-century learners."

WVUSD schools are among 772 recipients across the state doing an outstanding job of preparing successful students through rigorous standards and engaging strategies that are supported by technology.

Quail Summit underscores student success through its intervention and enrichment plan that utilizes citizenship, collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity.

"Our teachers, staff, and parents are committed to ensuring our mission - educate to innovate, integrate and to inspire!" said Principal Jeanette Koh.

Westhoff's Gold Ribbon character program is a combination of best practices that have evolved through the years. The homegrown plan includes research from Dr. Michelle Borba, Frostig Center Success Attributes,



Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS), and Project Wisdom's Helping Students Make Wiser Choices.

"These programs highlight the need and priority in developing students' character and fostering lifelong success, happiness, and achievement," said Principal Denise Rendon.

Vejar's signature practice is its Grade Level Student Study Team that monitors student growth each month so that no child gets left behind.

"Our teacher teams work very closely and believe that every child is their student, not just students assigned to their class," shared Principal Jennifer De Anda.

The Gold Ribbon Schools Awards Program was created last year to replace the California Distinguished Schools award while the state transitions to new assessment and accountability systems.

Message from the Superintendent



Dear Walnut Valley family,

A few weeks prior to the end of the 2015/2016 school year, I had the opportunity to, as I often do, drive around the community and visit schools. What stood out most to me on this recent tour was the similarities and sequencing of highly rigorous

activities, from elementary to high school, in which our students were participating and fully engaged. It is so exciting to see the impact of our Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) initiative on our students. On any given day in Walnut Valley, you can observe robotics classes made up of 5th, 8th, or 12th grade students; engineering lessons, in which kindergartners participate in Think Tank environments; high school classes where students engage in high-level analytical discussions in a strand of their Bio-Med program; or Arts programs, of world class talent, at all levels of the organization. Walnut Valley's focus on STEAM education is not only engaging, rigorous, and current, but it is also our obligation to provide it! STEAM is our future. It is preparing kids for college and ultimately to possess the skills and attributes required to compete and succeed in an extremely competitive global workforce.

While I am very proud of our STEAM programs, and extremely thankful for our local community contributions, which help us maintain these programs, I do worry about our future ability to truly grow such programs, in a manner that is consistent with the distinguished history of Walnut Valley, given the low-level of funding we receive versus most other school districts in California.

With the restructuring of the California educational funding system into the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) a few years ago, the state shifted to a funding model that significantly favors school districts with high percentages of students in poverty, English language learners, and foster students. Walnut Valley has a relatively low percentage of students who fall into any one of these three categories; thus, we receive very low funding from the state and/or federal government. Furthermore, we do not receive any funds targeting new construction or essential maintenance. In fact, we have surrounding school districts that receive nearly \$75,000 per classroom, per year, more than ours.

While funding STEAM programs is a constant battle for us, we continue to reach out to local and national grants, as well as partnering with businesses and community members to supplement funding into these programs. Furthermore, our Board of Trustees is considering placing a General Obligation (GO) Bond on the November 8 ballot to provide local funding for school facility improvements. If so, and if successful, all of the funds would stay in Walnut Valley and would go towards construction and modernization of our local schools, including STEAM facilities. For example, science laboratories at both high schools would be updated to meet today's competitive educational standards; music and arts facilities would be modernized at all middle schools and high schools; essential improvement projects such as repairing roofs, flooring, and plumbing, would be performed at all schools; and safety and security measures would be enhanced throughout the district. A full list of proposed projects is available on our website at www.wvUSD.k12.ca.us.

In closing, I hope all of our students are enjoying the well-deserved summer break and spending time with family and friends. I'm definitely looking forward to another outstanding school year which begins August 15!

Dr. Robert P. Taylor

High Schools Earn National Accolades



Diamond Bar, Walnut - America's Most Challenging Schools, Best High Schools

Diamond Bar and Walnut High Schools made the listing of "2016 America's Most Challenging High Schools" by *The Washington Post*.

DBHS scored 59th in California and 537th in the nation and WHS scored 63rd in California and 568th in the nation.

Schools are ranked through the College Index formula, that is a simple rate: the number of Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) tests given at a school in 2015 divided by the number of graduates.

Additionally, both high schools made the cut in the *U.S. News & World Report* of "2016 Best High Schools" released in April.

DBHS earned a gold medal, ranking 51st in California and 338th in the United States. DBHS also took 98th in its STEM ranking. WHS earned a silver medal, ranking 105th in the state and 621st nationally.

The standout schools have been included in the report every year since the publication began its 'Best High Schools' search in 2009. *U.S. News* looked at overall student performance on state-required tests, high school graduation rates, and evaluated on how they prepare students for college using participation and performance data from AP and IB exams.

HARTT Receives a Generous Donation

This spring, the Hockwalt Adult Resource & Transition Training Center (HARTT) Center received the keys to their very own minivan. When the silver 2014 Lincoln Town and Country was delivered at the school, students immediately gave it the thumbs up.

The new car was made possible through generous donations from the Walnut Valley Women's Club, Penske Mercedes-Benz of West Covina, Dedicated 2 Learning (D2L), David Lee, and Davis Lu.

The HARTT Center, which opened in 2014, serves 18 to 22 year-old students with disabilities who are receiving a Certificate of Completion from high school. The Center teaches important life skills as students' transition into adulthood.

Partnerships with local business are helping the young adults develop job and vocational skills.

Approximately 20 students and their job coaches take public transportation to their internships four days a week. But there are some areas the busses don't go and they have to walk. And on hot or rainy days, the mile-long trek can be very challenging.

"One of the keys to the HARTT program is for students to get out into the community and have real life experiences to prepare them for life. And that's hard to do without transportation," said Superintendent Dr. Robert Taylor.





Super Star Seniors!

Over 1,400 seniors donned caps and gowns during commencement ceremonies held on May 26. We're proud to introduce eight of our stellar students!

Diamond Bar High School



Jeff Chow
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 4.0 GPA
 Completed 10 AP courses. Finalist at USA Biology Olympiad, 1st place National Biology Competition, 2nd place State Science Olympiad. Symphony orchestra concertmaster, Science Olympiad team captain, and Make-A-Wish vice president.
 "My favorite memory of DBHS was attending the National Science Bowl in Washington DC. Spending those days with some of DBHS's brightest, loveliest, and sweetest was definitely the highlight of my high school life."



Meanna Gray
UC Berkeley, 3.8 GPA
 Completed 5 AP Courses, 8 IB Courses, IB diploma candidate. IB dean's list, AP Scholar with Distinction, Regents' and Chancellor's scholarship. National Society of High School Scholars, master of sports award, and academic all-league volleyball. Senior president of DBHS IB candidates, Spanish club, and volleyball.
 "I had an amazing support system in both the faculty and IB program that allowed me to have a heightened global awareness and level of compassion to the outside world. The teachers at DBHS are the best in the world and they give you so much confidence and motivation that nothing seems impossible!"



Garrett Masuda
University of the Pacific, 3.98 GPA
 Completed 8 AP Courses. Captain of varsity tennis, co-president for EasterSeals Disability Services, CSF, founder of Stomp Out Hunger, and chairman for DB4Youth. AP scholar with honor and National Merit Scholarship commended awards. 2015 Outstanding Volunteer and Community Hero. CIF-SS tennis academic team and Palomares league honor student.
 "I felt like I was able to make a difference through Stomp Out Hunger by organizing food drives, volunteering at food warehouses, and shipping to countries in need. Since founding the organization, I never imagined it would grow to this level and receive state and national recognition!"



Hsuan-Te (Miriam) Sun
California Institute of Technology, 4.00 GPA
 Completed Taken 8 AP courses. First violin for symphony orchestra, varsity badminton, Science Olympiad, Girls' League, and vice president for UNICEF. National Merit Scholarship winner, AP Scholar with Distinction, Science Olympiad 5th place state medal, and Science Bowl national qualifier.
 "I'm very grateful for the opportunities and experiences DBHS has given me and hope that I'll carry on the lessons I've learned throughout the rest of my life."

Walnut High School



Alison Chang
Princeton University, 4.0 GPA
 Completed 9 AP courses. Back-to-back CIF team champion (golf), SGV Tribune player of the year, two-time state championship runner-up, and 1st place publications Super Sweepstakes. Captain of varsity golf, editor-in-chief for online Hoofprint, class cabinet, and vice president of UnitedMed.
 "Walnut High School provided me with a loving, nurturing support system of friends, teachers, and family alike. Without the students I've encountered and teachers I've had in the district, I'd be nowhere near who I am today."



Michelle Chang
Stanford University, 4.0 GPA
 Completed 3 AP courses, IB diploma candidate. Editor-in-chief for publications and For All Mankind. President of Simple Faith and UnitedMed. First place editorial writing at ELAJEA Write-Offs, honorable mention at Journalism Association Write-Offs. National Merit Scholar finalist and CSPPA Gold Crown for hybrid newspaper.
 "In IB classes such as "Theory of Knowledge," I have been challenged to recognize the importance of open discourse with our peers. Our responsibility as human beings is to constantly be updating our positions on the issues surrounding us and to, more importantly, be empathic towards what others think and why they think that way."



Austin Si
University of California, Irvine, 4.0 GPA
 Completed 6 AP courses. Chamber Singers for four years and current vice president social chair, National Honor Society, Leo Club, and Environmental Care Global Awareness. Gold award and Adjudicator's award at Heritage Festival. Director's and Student Choice choir awards.
 "I feel like I've made a huge impact during my four years in choir. I've always been warm and welcoming to all our members because I feel like it has a profound effect on the atmosphere of the group."



Maxwell Zhu
Harvard University, 4.00 GPA
 Completed 7 AP courses, IB Diploma candidate. Top 12 national finalist at USA Biology Olympiad, NSPA superior award in yearbook copy and caption, best delegate at Model United Nations BruinMUN conference, 4th place award State Science Olympiad. Manager of publications, yearbook, team captain for mock trial, speech and debate, secretary general of Model United Nations.
 "Through the variety of opportunities available to me at WHS, I've been able to pursue the full breadth of my academic and extracurricular interests; such intellectual versatility is becoming increasingly important in an interconnected and interdisciplinary global society."

Impressive!

GRAD STATS

- 63** IB Diploma Candidates
- 47** IB Career Related Candidates
- 42** 4.0 GPA all 4 years

National Merit Winners –
DBHS: Crystal Tin-Tin Chang, Eric Chen, Charlene L. Hsu, Betty Jung Hyun Kim, Letitia So, Jonathan Sun, Miriam Hsuan-Te Sun, and Margaret Wang.
WHS: Dalton Trinh and Angel Wong.

Future Scientists

First WHS graduating class to don white coats during ceremony

Forty-seven Walnut High School (WHS) seniors are charting a course to careers in the medical field.

The teens were presented with white lab coats and honor medallions during a ceremony marking the completion of the three-year International Baccalaureate Career-Related/Project Lead the Way (IBCC-PLTW) Biomedical Sciences Program on April 26. Walnut High is the only school in the state to offer both IBCC with the PLTW Biomedical Sciences program as its career-related component.

"We're very proud of their accomplishments!" said instructional dean Barbie Cole.

"These amazing students displayed knowledge, ability, and aptitude in the area of biomedical science."

"This is definitely a very exciting day!" said senior Kaitlyn Fujii who credits the PLTW labs and practical applications for solidifying her interest in psychology.

Students researched numerous careers, logging education requirements and job duties in journals during the course of the program.



"It gave me a taste of every type of career in the medical field," said classmate Tiffany Casarez. "Now I'm going to study biology and hope to become a pediatrician."

Emilio Triguero, 17, praised the inquiry-based program for furthering his dream of becoming a doctor. He also gained front row experience volunteering along side doctors and nurses on the surgery floor at a local hospital.

Walnut High became one of only 32 IBCC schools in the country and four in the state after completing an extensive application and authorization process in 2013.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Our students benefit from essential school upgrades thanks to our Walnut Valley community!

Walnut High Unveils New Swimming Pool

Community members caught their first glimpse of the renovated Aquatics Center at Walnut High School during a poolside event on April 20.

"It's a great day to celebrate the opening of our new pool!" said Principal Brandon Dade as he welcomed parents, students, staff, and officials that gathered for the celebration.



DIVE-IN DAY! Walnut High swimmers take first official dive in new swimming pool.

The grand reopening and ribbon cutting ceremony marked the completion of the \$2.3 million construction project.

The nine-lane competition venue and upgraded facilities were made possible by voter approval of

Bond Measures S & Y passed in November 2007.

The construction began in July 2015 with the removal of the outdated swimming pool and surrounding decking.

For the past several months Mustang swim and water polo teams practiced and competed at Diamond Bar High.

Walnut students and staff were excited to host their first competition in the new 304,603-gallon swimming pool immediately following the ceremony.

"We've had a great team for several years and now we have a pool that represents the quality of our program," said head swim coach Ed Gautreau. "I'm happy that we can call this our home again!"

"The athletic department would like to thank everyone that was instrumental in the modernization of our aquatic facility," said director Jerry Person.

After the ribbon cutting, seven swim team and water polo members took to the blocks for their first official dive.

Senior swim captain Leah Rickard said joining the swim team four years ago was one of the best decisions of her life.

"Sports programs teach respect, self motivation, time management, and how to be a team player," she said. "It is on this deck that I've not only grown as a swimmer, but also as a person and a leader."

The new aquatics center will primarily be used for the



Walnut High swim team and water polo members celebrate at the opening of the new aquatics center. Shown: Erin De Anda, Emily Honng, Leah Rickard, Jarren Peng, Garrett Gautreau, Jerry Chen, and Derek Wan.

school's swim program and physical education classes, but will soon be open to the community for recreational activities during the summer as well.

"Walnut High School Aquatics has a strong tradition that will be carried on for many years to come," Person added.



The swim complex features new decking and lighting, locker room with men's and women's restrooms, coach's room, pool storage building, mechanical room, pool equipment building and supplies, public restrooms, galvanized iron fencing, aluminum bleachers with shade structure, and scoreboard.

Walnut High swim team warms up before first match held in new pool on April 20.



Senior Derek Wan dives into the clear blue during the grand reopening at Walnut High.



Construction and modernization projects made possible by your support of Bond Measures S & Y.

News CLIPS...



Vejar Celebrates 50th Birthday

Vejar Elementary marked its 50th birthday with band and choir performances, memorabilia, and cupcakes during a special edition open house on March 24. Former students, staff, principals, and teachers returned for the milestone celebration, eager to see familiar faces, and share fond memories. "Receiving a Gold Ribbon award on the year of our Golden Birthday is the icing on the cake!" exclaimed Principal Jennifer De Anda.

Leaders in Student Achievement

Seven Walnut Valley schools have been named to the 2015 CBEE California Honor Roll for consistently demonstrating high levels of student academic achievement. Scholar schools are Evergreen ES, Quail Summit ES, Chaparral MS, South Pointe MS, Suzanne MS, Diamond Bar HS, and Walnut HS.

Chamber Singers Awarded Elite Trophies

Walnut High School Chamber Singers took top honors during the Heritage Festival in San Francisco on March 30 - April 2, including 1st place in Chamber Division, Adjudicator's Award, and Gold Award. The Outstanding Soloist trophy was awarded to senior Dana Hernandez.

South Pointe 'History Day' team going to nationals

Four South Pointe Middle School honors students headed to Washington D.C. as California champions for the National History Day competition on June 12-16. Eighth graders Joshua Chung, Raymond Cheng, Cyrus Phan, and Phillip Huynh created "NASA's Early Manned Missions."

Mustangs Score on National Chemistry Olympiad

Out of 300 Walnut High students who took the multi-tiered U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad local exam on March 16, senior Yibing Yao tied for highest overall score. Juniors Ayesha Ng and Sophia Ding competed in the national exam, with Ayesha finishing as one of the top 150 in the nation!

Game On! Evergreen 'Odyssey of the Mind' team

Evergreen Elementary's Odyssey of the Mind team clinched 2nd place in the U.S. and 5th place in the world during the World Finals in Iowa. Their 14.9-gram structure made of balsa wood held 900 pounds! Congratulations to students Ianna Lin, Annie Chen, Alexander Kuo, Alex Teng, Carrie Chen, William Qian, and Alexander Dollar.

Inspiring students to care for the environment

Collegewood Elementary implemented a Grades of Green recycling program. Kids brought reusable water bottles, lunch containers, and napkins to school, and sorted waste into recycle, compost, landfill, liquids, and tray stacking bins. By the end of the year, Collegewood decreased lunchtime waste by 95% and was named a \$1,000 grand prize winner!

Walnut El 5th grader wins national art contest

Fifth grader Michael Wu has been named the grand prize winner in the National Missing Children's Day poster contest. His entry in the "Bring Our Missing Children Home" competition depicts the silhouette of a young boy hugging his teddy bear. Michael, his parents, and teacher Seema Bagai were awarded a trip to Washington D.C.

Spring Sports Highlights

Diamond Bar High: Boys swim won the Palomares League Championship. Girls swim sisters Jenna and Kelsey Lloyd qualified for CIF state meet. Neil Tengbumroong advanced to Round 32 in CIF. Boys golf won League Championship. Badminton took its 5th consecutive CIF Championship. Justin Lam and Mirabelle Huang won the CIF SoCal Regional in mixed doubles, Vinson Chiu and Ambrose So won the CIF SoCal Regional in mens doubles

Walnut High: Boys and girls swim won the Hacienda League Championship, with individual champions Emily Honng, Jerry Chen, Brian Honng, Derek Wan, Darren Han. Boys swim won its 1st CIF Championship. Girls track and field, baseball, boys tennis, and boys golf won League Championships. Kyle Trieu was named State CIF/Farmers Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Outlook

Issue 34 Summer 2016



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IMPORTANT DATE:

2016-17 School Year Begins -
Monday, August 15

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"Best of TED" Talks at Chaparral

Haley Fetchik is opening doors to disability awareness among her peers. The subject, which is very close to her heart, was the topic during a "Best of TED" talk at Chaparral Middle School, where the 12-year-old shared about her younger sister who was born with a chromosome deletion.



"I wanted to spread awareness about special needs kids," she said. Haley, who advocates acceptance and understanding as a key life skill, ended her 3-minute speech with a challenge. "Find someone with a physical or mental disability and make a difference in their lives."

Rayna Maggelet presented an "Organ Donation" TED Talk that detailed the life-saving surgery her dad, Frank, received on January 12. "I wanted to talk about why people should donate their organs," she shared.

A total of 120 students in Sherry Robertson's Language arts classes presented TED Talks after studying the art of argumentative writing and speaking. The top four talks from each class performed an encore in the multipurpose room.

"Some were witty and clever, some were deep and moving, and all were thought provoking," she said.

Engineering Day at Maple Hill

Two-hundred Maple Hill Elementary students recently had the opportunity to talk about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and how it relates to everyday life with local college students.

Members of Cal Poly Pomona's Project Lead The Way (PLTW) and Women in Engineering visited 4th and 5th grade classes for presentations that culminated with a spaghetti tower challenge.

The youngsters raced to build structures using dried pasta and tiny white marshmallows as the "glue." The savvy students quickly demonstrated teamwork, leadership, and creativity skills to successfully shape the fragile materials.

"It was very inspiring to see the frustration turn into excitement when a free-standing structure was achieved," Cal Poly student Teresa Rodriguez commented.

"We went to the school to help the students understand how engineers play a role in society, and to help them experience the process through a hands-on learning experience," added Jonathon Roberts.

Maple Hill launched the innovative PLTW program at the beginning of the school year.

"It was a great day and our students enjoyed it a lot," said teacher Lisa Esse, who hopes to build a partnership with Cal Poly so the engineering students will visit on a regular basis.

Brahma Science Bowl Team Competes in D.C.

A stellar group of DBHS students took 3rd place in their division during the 2016 National Science Bowl held April 27 - May 1 in Washington, D.C.

Team members Miriam Sun, Jeff Chow, Leslie Sim, Ben Chen, and Brandon Hung qualified for the national finals after winning a regional competition in February.

Teams face off in a fast-paced format as they answer questions about biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy and math. Over 14,000 students from across the country participate in the bowl each year.



Swingin' the Night Away!

Walnut High jazz musicians ushered in the distinctive sounds of Big Band music, while Swing club members showed off their skills performing a Shim Sham Shimmy dance routine at the Walnut Senior Center on April 22.

"I've danced a lot of different genres, but I really like swing the most," said junior Cat Tuason.

Local seniors were invited onto the dance floor for a beginning Lindy Hop lesson. Walnut resident Leann Curren was one of the first to take the dance floor to learn steps from freshman Brian Duran.

"I love to dance! I've been married almost 48 years, but my husband doesn't dance," Curren said.

The multi-generational social dance was the brainchild of English teacher Jennifer Maletz.

Schools Team Up at Track Meet



Collegewood, CJ Morris, Vejar, and Walnut Elementary students gathered to compete in the 1st Annual Elementary Track Meet on April 9.

School track teams comprised of 4th and 5th graders paraded around the track with banners during the 8 a.m. opening ceremonies. The top winners from every track and field heat were awarded ribbons courtesy of the LA84 Foundation, and every participant went home with a souvenir t-shirt.