

# THE WORD



1971 - 2016

*"Let the word go forth...the torch has been passed."*

## New Year, New Fitness Center

*Improvements to the school with a new curriculum*  
by **Kathy Garcia**

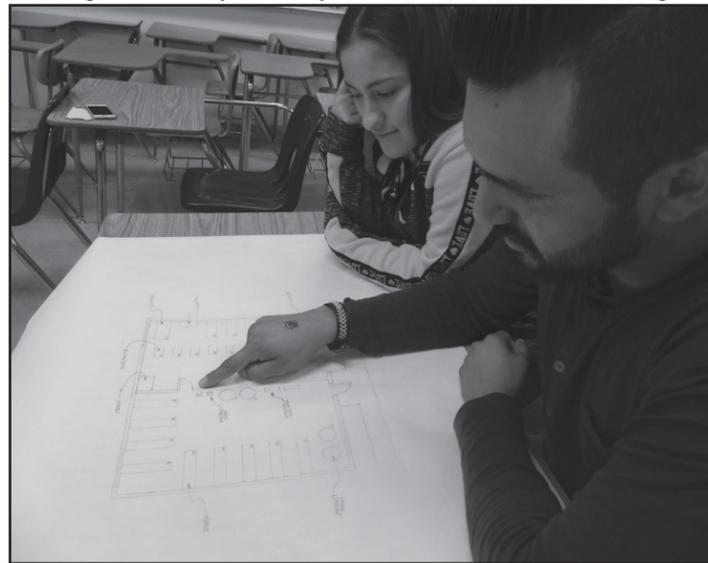
Staff Writer

The UCLA fitness center grant was received by Kennedy High School with hope that the new center will promote a healthier lifestyle. They will be constructing a \$50,000 state-of-the-art physical fitness center with equipment provided by the Sound Body Sound Mind Curriculum

Remodeling will begin as soon as possible, and one of the first steps will be combining rooms SP10 and SP11. Teachers occupying the rooms will move to empty classrooms during the winter break. Following winter break, students will have a schedule change with different classroom numbers. In January, an opening ceremony will be held, and the fitness center will officially open in February. An assembly is being planned to show off the new fitness center and have the students "walk through, in and out of the fitness center," grant coordinator Jacinto Garcia stated.

The grant is intended to develop the school in a way that allows for new curriculum based off the new equipment. "A healthier Cougar community will be created," reported grant writer Duncan Scrymgeour.

Principal Richard Chavez added it can "identify different ways to keep our body healthy."



Jacinto Garcia and Jessalyn Garcia discussing the floor plan

Staff, students, and even parents will be able to use the fitness center with the requirement of taking care of the equipment. While school is in session, the fitness center will be accessible to parents during the day along with staying open at night for the rest of the community. The hours of operation are from 7:00 in the morning to around 6:00 in the afternoon. In addition to state-of-the-

art equipment, ARC will be providing a class after school to those who want to workout. Garcia remarked, "It can give people another option as to what to do when out of shape or

environments. Students with injuries will also be able to condition without harming their injuries," explained Scrymgeour. A bigger network will be created by talking to the community about utilizing the fitness center as well as other schools that have gotten the grant before. Scrymgeour noted, "This grant is a wonderful opportunity to start working with UCLA."

September 2016 was when the application window opened for the Fitness Center Grant. Garcia submitted various forms to UCLA from the types of students there are at the school to students who get free or reduced lunch. Dr Chavez, Garcia, and Scrymgeour took a trip to the UCLA campus to meet with the administrators in charge of the grant. Following their trip to UCLA, the administrators took a visit to the campus. The PE department was shown as well as the rooms where the fitness center will be.

Architect student Jessalyn Garcia designed the floor plan for the fitness center. Included was the combined rooms and measurements of the building as well as the different type of workout objects and where they will be located. Garcia exclaimed, "The fitness center is a start, we are heading in the right direction to fight off child obesity!"

## STUDENT NEWS UPDATES

Winter Break  
(December 19 -  
January 6)

Spring Semester  
Begins  
(January 9)

MLK Day - No School  
(January 16)

Social Media  
Instagram @thewordofJFKHS  
Twitter @thewordofJFKHS



Happy Holidays

Have a  
wonderful  
winter break!  
-The Word Staff

## Do Grades Really Matter?

*The Intervention Plan is impacting Kennedy students*  
by **Gabriela Arteaga**

Staff Writer

The "Intervention Plan" is a new strategy and project Principal Richard Chavez implemented to help students' grades improve this school year at Kennedy.

Last year a similar project, named Raising the BAR, was put in place, and its intentions were similar, helping students improve academically. Unfortunately, it wasn't a success.

This year Dr. Chavez is trying to accomplish this goal and hoping to have the support of the teachers to help the students with the Intervention Plan.

Every new school year, the amount of F's and D's a student gets on their twenty-week report card increases and the graduation requirements aren't achieved, making students at-

tend continuation school to receive their high school diploma.

The school's administration has been working for the past two years to see what has been the cause of the large amounts of fails in classes and what can they do to help students improve. Before a student can graduate, they have to pass the A-G requirements, which include fifteen courses, passing those courses with a C or better to be able to attend any college or university.

Teachers from every grade level and subject will see if their classes have 10% or more students failing; if so, they will write a personal statement to Dr. Chavez explaining the students' work behavior and how they could help better the student's grade.

"We really care about our students at Kennedy and want to see

them improve and attend college. We don't do this to make you feel bad or say you're a bad student we just want to know what's going on and how can we help you," expressed Principal Chavez.

Administration will also be assigned a subject department, and they will be viewing student's Jupiter accounts, homework completion, support sources, and attendance.

"In the beginning many teachers doubted the idea but are slowly getting there and understanding this is for the best," reflected Dr. Chavez. That is a sentiment that is echoed by some of Kennedy's teachers. "I think it's excellent! At first I was hesitant on how time consuming it could be, but I realized that it's worth my time," stated French teacher Denise Dupre, who has seen grade improvements in her students.

The Intervention Plan's goal

is to successfully motivate students and encourage them to pass their classes. "If a student tries their best, keeps pushing, and receives our help but ends up getting a C, I would be proud of that student knowing that they tried their best," claimed Dr. Chavez. Daniel Gonzalez, a sophomore, says he thinks the Intervention Plan is fair enough and has seen growth in some of the classes but not all, however, now he knows that his teachers are willing to help him.

This Intervention Plan is for every student at Kennedy and it's to motivate students to pass and be encouraged at school. Dr. Chavez passionately asks students to take advantage of this new project, "I know every student could graduate from Kennedy and do great things in the future. Every student is worth every administrator's time."

## Online Articles



Best Reads

It's Dandy to be a Dandy

ITT Takedown

Let's Get Freakish

www.the.kennedyword.com

## MUST-READS



America's Nine Week Festive Binge  
Culinary Corner: Holiday Treats  
(Lifestyle)

Ultimate Frisbee: Taking Flight  
Dally Johnson's 18-Hour Day  
(Sports)

Musical Blast from the Past  
Is the Force Still with Us?  
(Entertainment)

Making Way for High Achievement  
Senior Students with Saucy Style  
(Features)

Detention Detrimental to Education  
Weakening the Dominant Sex  
(Op/Ed)

Don't Worry about Dressing Ugly  
Holidays Are Approaching Earlier  
(Special Features)

