



News & Views

William S. Hart Union High School District

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Canyon Celebrates 40 Years, Completion of Modernization

Canyon High School celebrated its 40th year anniversary and the rededication of its newly modernized campus with a ceremony in the campus amphitheatre on May 20. Guests gathered in the school library for breakfast, then joined the school's senior class for the actual ceremonies.

It is appropriate that the senior class be invited to the ceremony, since these students have had to live with the throes of construction from the day they walked onto the campus, according to Assistant Principal Pete Getz, who coordinated the event. Other guests included students and staff from the school's earliest years as well as recent graduates and community leaders.

Canyon High School first opened its doors in fall of 1968 to serve students on the east side of the Santa Clarita Valley. As the Hart District's second high school, Canyon relieved overcrowding at Hart High School and eliminated a cross-valley commute for eastside students.

Contractors are still putting the finishing touches on some elements of Canyon's \$50 million modernization program, which includes a new administration center, two-story science classroom building, Associated Student Body office and food service facility. [\(more\)](#)

Hart District Schools Rate Among Highest in State

Eight Hart District schools rank among the top 20 percent of schools in the State of California based on a statewide ranking released this spring by the California Department of Education. The ranking is based on standardized test results from spring 2007 which were released last August.

Six Hart district schools already have achieved the state goal, with API scores above the 800 level. [\(more\)](#)



Sierra Vista Named Fitness Demo Center

Sierra Vista Junior High School has been recognized by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the President's Challenge as a Physical Activity and Fitness Demonstration Center. The school received a letter from Washington, D.C., confirming the appointment and a Demonstration Center Banner to be posted in the school's Fitness Center.

The school's physical education program is moving away from the traditional sports skills model to a curriculum that focuses on overall health and fitness. [\(more\)](#)

Letter from the Superintendent

Safe Graduation, Construction, Budget and Potential Bond Issue on Tap

By Jaime Castellanos, Superintendent

Congratulations to graduates in the Class of 2008 for all of your hard work, education and focus on your studies. We are very proud of you and wish you the best of luck in whatever you do—continuing education, the military or the workforce.

At this time of year when families are looking forward to graduation, I urge parents and students to have a dialogue about alcohol and driving. We want to know that, at the end of every graduation, no students will be lost or injured due to alcohol-related accidents. Open dialogue between students and their parents can make all the difference.

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This past year has seen the completion of three successful modernization projects at Arroyo Seco Junior High and Saugus and Canyon high schools. Parents, students and staff can all be proud of what are essentially “new” schools. We are currently looking forward to starting the modernization process on Hart High and Placerita and Sierra Vista junior high schools.

The first phase of modernization construction for Placerita, Sierra Vista and Hart will begin as we start the 2008-09 school year and by next fall we will be in high gear on all three schools. [\(more\)](#)



Estrada Named Alliance Director

Adriana Estrada, the former assistant director of career services for the Graduate School of Education and Psychology at Pepperdine University, has been named executive director of the SCV School & Business Alliance.

The Alliance serves as a liaison between local schools and the business community and sponsors a number of programs to help local students prepare for the world of work after graduation.

The Alliance is introducing a new Web portal that will make school-to-career information available to students, parents, teachers and counselors across the district.

The district-wide effort includes programs that are classroom based, community based and Web based, and every high school in the district is expected to have programs in place utilizing each of the three elements by next fall. [\(more\)](#)



Two New Principals Appointed

Salvador Frias Jr., who has been an assistant principal at Golden Valley High School for the past two years, has been named the school's new principal, replacing founding principal Jacque Snyder, who is retiring this June. The appointment was confirmed by the Hart District Governing Board, along with the appointment of Kathy Hunter as new principal of Sequoia Charter School.

Both positions are effective July 1, 2008. [\(more\)](#)



Hart District Stretches Local Bond Dollars

In 2001, Santa Clarita Valley voters passed Measure V, a local bond issue which provided \$158 million for construction of new schools and modernization of existing facilities in the Hart School District. The district has also tapped into a number of state funding sources and made optimal use of developer mitigation fees. The result is more than \$370 million in school construction through today, including four new schools, three major modernization projects and some work at almost every district school.

The Hart District has done much since the passage of Measure V in 2001 to create better learning opportunities for district students. The district is excited about several future projects, including both modernization and new construction, and continues to search out ways to multiply the financial resources available.

[\(more\)](#)



Rancho Pico Gymnasium Dedicated to LeBarron

Students, staff and officials from the Hart district office filled the new gymnasium at Rancho Pico Junior High recently to dedicate the new building to the school's founding principal, David LeBarron. The program included a DVD with campus scenes, including some with LeBarron before he became the district's Director of Curriculum. [\(more\)](#)



Hart District to Launch Three Major Modernization Projects

The Hart District will launch major modernization programs at Hart High School, Placerita and Sierra Vista junior high schools this summer and fall, the first part of a multi-phase program to bring the facilities up to par with the district's new and recently modernized campuses.

Once the projects go to bid, actual costs can be projected, which will determine whether all of the proposed work can be accomplished in the first phase.

When funds become available, later phases will replace portable classrooms with new permanent facilities to relieve overcrowding on those campuses.

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The first to begin construction will be Placerita Junior High School, whose plans have already been approved by the Department of State Architects. Work is expected to begin this summer and take one year.

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Sierra Vista Junior High School's actual construction is slated to begin this fall and is expected to be completed during a "summer sprint" period of intensive construction during the summer of 2009.

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The most extensive modernization program, at Hart High School, is scheduled to begin in late October/early November of 2008 and will require two years. [\(more\)](#)



Sergio D'Agustini from Canyon Engineering talks with young visitors to the Discovering Careers fair.

Hart District Teams Record Virtual Stock Market Fortunes

Parents interested in investing in the stock market might do well to ask their teenagers for advice! Teams from a number of local schools have been turning virtual investments of \$100,000 into substantial profits, while earning slots in the top 10 in recent Stock Market Game contests.

Winning teams came from Academy of the Canyons, West Ranch High School and La Mesa and Rio Norte junior high schools. The top Hart District team turned its \$100,000 virtual nest egg into a virtual \$130,071.46, doing research on potential investments and making "trades" in real time using stock exchange figures. ([more](#))



Top Hart District teams show off their stock market savvy.



News & Views Goes Digital

The tabloid version of "News & Views" previously circulated in The Signal has fallen victim to state budget cuts. This new electronic version is available from the Hart District Web page at www.hartdistrict.org or by e-mail. If you are not already receiving District publications, send your e-mail address to pat_willett@hartdistrict.org.

Youngsters Discover Careers At College of the Canyons

More than 1500 students from five to 20 years old converged on College of the Canyons this spring for the first Discovering Careers-2008, a hands-on approach to career exploration sponsored by the SCV School & Business Alliance, the Wm. S. Hart Union High School District, all local elementary school districts and business volunteers from more than 40 companies. Many of the students came with parents, swelling the crowd to well over 2,000 participants.

The students came to find out what people do in a multitude of careers, and businesses did not disappoint them. Exhibitors represented a broad spectrum of career-technical fields. ([more](#))



Mike O'Connor and Dan Hamrick from O'Connor Photography show off their Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual Business Recognition dinner.

Hart District Honors Schools' Outstanding Business Partners

Sixteen local businesses received awards from the William S. Hart Union High School District at this year's Business Partners Recognition dinner hosted by the district's Student Communications Council.

A total of 86 businesses were nominated by local schools for the awards, and all were recognized at the dinner and presented with a Certificate of Recognition and a souvenir memo holder with the Hart District logo. ([more](#))

Teen Brain Topic for Teen Scene Unplugged

Parents looking for answers in working with their teen sons and daughters have found a welcome resource in the City of Santa Clarita's annual Teen Scene Unplugged.

The year's program is scheduled for 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 24, at the Valencia Hyatt. This year's focus is "Understanding/Parenting the Teen Brain." Guest speaker is Tina Bryson, Ph.D., lecturer, parenting educator and director of parenting and development at the Mindsight Institute. The program is open to teens and their parents free of charge.

Hart Student Artwork Goes To Washington, D.C.



Artwork by Yeon Whan Yoon from Hart High School will be on display in an alcove at the nation's Capitol for the next year as winner of the 2008 Congressional Art Competition. The contest is part of "An Artistic Discovery," a program sponsored by members of Congress to honor the artistic talent of America's youth.

This year's theme was "Patriotism," and Yeon's winning entry is a mixed media painting, entitled "For Which She Stands." [\(more\)](#)

District Students Win Prizes in SCV Essay, Poster Contest

Fifteen Hart District students have received cash prizes as winners in a poster and essay contest sponsored by the City of Santa Clarita's Human Relations Forum. Theme for the contest was "A Celebration of Differences," and entries depicted what the term "cultural respect" means to each entrant. [\(more\)](#)



High school (l) and junior high (below) poster contest winners depict the meaning of "cultural respect."



Extraordinary Students Earn Student of the Month Honors

Hart High School senior Joonyoung Hwang, Valencia High senior Amber Gaines, and Canyon High senior Phil Bennett are the final recipients of the Lockheed Federal Credit Union Student of the Month award for the 2007-08 school year.

The three recipients have been selected because of overall performance, including academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities and leadership abilities. [\(more\)](#)



Parent Volunteers of the Year accept their awards at the annual recognition reception.

Parent Volunteers Honored for Service

A record number of husband/wife teams have been recognized for volunteer service to schools in the Wm. S. Hart Union High School District in the district's recent Parent Volunteer Recognition reception. The annual event is sponsored by the District Advisory Committee to salute parents who have made a marked contribution to their children's education.

The DAC received a record 118 nominations for Parent Volunteer awards and invited all honorees and their families to attend a reception in their honor. Awards were presented by Taylor Underwood and Nicole Bergantino, co-chairs of the DAC's Parent Recognition Subcommittee. [\(more\)](#)



Bowman Poets, Artists In Festival Spotlight

Poets from Bowman High School's creative writing classes and student artists put their work on display and bared their souls at the school's annual Day of the Artist and Poet Festival.

More than 90 poets and their poems are featured in the school's literary magazine, "The Phoenix," and many were read by their authors at the festival. Special guest was retired teacher Richard Weekley, who created Bowman's literary magazine and launched the first Day of the Artist and Poet 15 years ago. [\(more\)](#)

Parents Go 'Back to School' for Open House

