



GATE News

Spring 2008

From the DAC Chair

2008 PHONE A THON GREAT SUCCESS

Students and teachers are extremely grateful for the tremendous effort put forth by our secondary parents who volunteered to make this year's fundraising effort a huge success. This year, we had over 60 volunteers who worked on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights in mid-March to call other parents, requesting support for our GATE and AP classes. So far, their efforts have resulted in raising over \$60,000.00. All donations go directly to classrooms for supplies, materials, and technology to ensure that GATE and AP students receive the highest quality education.

Special thanks go to Mike Zoradi, parent of two SBHS students, who organized the volunteer sign-up and communication effort. Parent volunteers submitted their emails to Mr. Zoradi, who entered them in our Parent Directory and then communicated with everyone via email. This saved hours of phone-call reminder time, and proved an efficient way to work. As we've said for several years, and as the common expression has it, we need to "work smarter, not harder." With Mr. Zoradi's help, we're doing just that.

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Dos Pueblos Win Econ Challenge State Championship

For the fifth year in a row, and for seven out of the last eight years, Dos Pueblos High School has won the Econ Challenge State Championship.

The NCEE/Goldman Sachs Foundation National Economics Challenge applies the excitement of an athletic competition to academic excellence. In each competition, teams of students answer rigorous questions on microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international economics. The most exciting round of the state and national competition is the final round conducted in an oral quiz-bowl format. Only the top two teams from the first three rounds compete in the final round.



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Student Voice

Better Learning Through Chemistry

by Lisa Smith

Chemistry at San Marcos High School offers GATE students an outstanding education due to the quality of the teachers and the availability of supplies, as well as the depth of material learned. The experienced teachers, like Mr. McLaughlin, dedicate their time during as well as after school and on weekends to help their students master the material. They offer students not only the necessary course material but also fun and creative analogies to everyday life, thus facilitating the learning process.

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Better Learning

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Teacher demonstrations and humor engage the students in the technicalities and the excitement of chemistry. But what use is learning chemistry if you don't know how to apply it? Here at San Marcos, students are taught to think for themselves throughout the courses of general, honors, and especially AP chemistry. They learn how to successfully apply chemistry theory they read in the textbook to real laboratory problems.



The department itself offers students over 320 chemicals resulting in infinite possible combinations for student experiments. Appropriate safety protocols are found in the MSDS on every computer. In the AP chemistry course, students are able to roam the chemical supply room freely to design and run their own experiments. According to Mr. McLaughlin, "There is no other high school chemistry program in the district, and perhaps the state, that allows students free rein of the staff chemical supply room." Students from any chemistry course leave the chemistry department with a breadth of knowledge and experience which they can then apply to their future education as well as their everyday lives.

Lisa Smith is a GATE student in her Junior year at San Marcos High School

Interdisciplinary Collaboration at La Colina

by Karen McBride

In GATE education, we are always talking about looking at content through various "lenses." So, at La Colina we created a collaborative project in 8th grade English and history to help kids look at history through a "lense" of their choice and then to focus in on an era or event between 1600 and 1920 in American History. For instance, students have looked at the Civil War through the advent of photography and the Westward Movement from a pioneer woman's perspective. This project called "American Voices" is modeled after



"Living Voices," the Seattle-based equity education program that performs in some of the local schools. The final product that the students are responsible for creating in small production teams is an on-stage presentation that includes their content presented in an historically accurate, dramatic, and entertaining multi-media presentation.

The students first conduct library research on their topic and write a research paper. Then, within their production teams (4 students who have chosen related topics), they collaborate to entwine their findings and write their presentation. The teams write their own script, create their own costumes and props, and compose a video presentation that serves as a backdrop for live actors who present their performance. Students are required to include primary sources and are encouraged to use historically relevant music, speeches, dances, and more from their era.

This project was developed last year at La Colina to incorporate the theatrical, collaborative nature of the previous *Americana* project with student-centered research and writing. Last year's students came away with a great sense of pride in their final product and they were enthusiastic about the opportunity to learn about theirs and other topics in depth. Students this year are putting the finishing touches on their projects and will perform them in front of their peers and parents in the first week of June.

Karen McBride is an 8th grade Social Studies teacher at La Colina

La Colina GATE Science / Math Report

La Colina GATE student Brenna Hensley was the top-placing 7th grader at the regional Mathcounts junior high school math competition in Ventura on Feb. 23, 2008. Brenna finished in a tie for 11th place overall out of approximately 80 students competing from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. All of the students who placed ahead of Brenna were 8th graders, so we're very excited about her prospects for next year's competition. Other La Colina GATE students competing this year were Jake Moghtader, Jake Wiener, and Jannie Velez.

La Colina held their annual Science Fair in March. Students present and display the results of their Independent Research and Self-Designed Experiments in which they generate and analyze data to discover patterns and relationships between variables.

Students were selected to represent La Colina at the Santa Barbara County Science Fair at UCSB on Friday April 18, 2008. La Colina GATE students won many Medals, Awards and Prize Money, along with entrance into the California State Science Fair, held in Los Angeles in May. Most notably, La Colina students won the Best in Division awards for the two largest categories-Junior Biological and Junior Physical.

Our next project will be the ENERGY DEBATES: Students will be researching the top four Renewable and Non-renewable energy resources in use today and will use their research to Debate the merits of each.

Please join our email list.

Send your student's name, school and grade level plus your contact information to gatedac@rain.org

ECON - *continued from page 1*

To qualify for the California State Championship, over 100 four-person teams from the entire state took an online exam consisting of multiple-choice questions covering microeconomics, macroeconomics, international trade, economic history and current events. DP entered four teams in the AP/IB Division. Three of these teams finished in the top seven.

DP's top Advanced Placement team of Angela Dai, Jacob Kovacs-Goodman, Joseph McDaniel, Michael Reveles, and Michael Brand (alternate) qualified for the state championship by being in the top four.

On April 9, they traveled to CSU San Bernardino to compete against the other qualifying teams for the state title, and the right to advance to the West Regional Finals. In a close competition, our students advanced to the quiz bowl round, demonstrated poise under pressure, and beat Long Beach Poly to claim the state championship.

Each of our students won a \$150. The West Regional Finals was held on April 29, 2008. In the regional, DP, representing California, went against the state winners of 10 other states. In six trips to the regionals, DP has never finished lower than second. Once again DP placed second in the regional quiz bowl losing to Texas. A win would have sent DP to New York for a chance to win the national championship.

This is the fifth year in a row that DP has been 2nd in the region, and it is the 2nd year in a row that we have had the highest score in the nation going into the regionals. (Maybe more years, but that data was not previously released.) The scores from the regional can be found at www.regionalchallenge.org.

This competition provides a great incentive to learn for all of our participating students. Generally, all participants find the AP exams quite easy after all of the preparation that they have done for this competition.

Attention DP parents of hard working sophomores and juniors: Have your students sign up now for AP Economics this fall, and have them learn all they need to know to help DP reach the final four in New York next year. (In 2002, Dos Pueblos went to the final four and finished second in the nation.) Roland Lewin teaches AP Economics at Dos Pueblos, and coaches the Econ Challenge teams.

Eleven Santa Barbara School District Students to Attend Westmont Leadership Conference

“Making a Difference,” the annual Westmont Leadership Conference, scheduled for May 15-17, 2008, seeks students who demonstrate leadership potential, have a positive attitude, can be self-disciplined, and show a willingness to participate actively in group tasks. This year, Santa Barbara School Districts’ junior highs are sending the following students who meet these criteria:

Sophia Spann	8th grade	Santa Barbara Junior High
Conner Kerns	8th grade	Santa Barbara Junior High
Joskua Carrillo	8th grade	Santa Barbara Junior High
Danika Morgan	8th grade	Santa Barbara Junior High
Sandra Lopez	7th grade	La Cumbre Junior High
Will Powell	7th grade	La Cumbre Junior High
Patrick Kennedy	8th grade	La Cumbre Junior High
Jordan Degraffinreid	7th grade	La Colina Junior High
Grant Schroeder	7th grade	La Colina Junior High
Robert Bertha	7th grade	La Colina Junior High
Ryan Montag	7th grade	La Colina Junior High

Dos Pueblos High School Art Department News

The Dos Pueblos High School Art Department would like to share some news about things going on this year. On Friday, April 25 we had the pleasure of working with traveling Japanese artist, Hiroshi Uero. He came to DPHS as part of his tour to the United States to teach a class on Japanese watercolor techniques. Students and staff had a great time and learned some new things about the Japanese culture and their methods of painting.

The Dos Pueblos High School Art Department will be holding its annual art show this year on May 29 from 5:30- 7:00 PM. We would like to extend an invitation to all students, parents, administrators and community members. The show will highlight the work of all students currently enrolled in art. Awards will be given out to the students that have achieved the greatest success in their work. We will also be recognizing our “Artist of the Month” for the year and many other artists that have won competitions throughout the year.

We are just beginning to hear from students who have been accepted into college to pursue their dreams. Jeannette Senn has been accepted into Cal Poly to study architecture and Stephanie Um has been accepted at Rhode Island School of Design. We wish them good luck and are looking to hear from more students as letters come out.

On the GATE website – Check out the GATE website at <http://www.sbceo.org/~sbhsgate> for information about the GATE program, book reviews on the gifted, educational information, legislative announcements, a list of GATE, AP and IB classes offered at the Santa Barbara secondary schools, summer program information, upcoming events, and much more.

Santa Barbara Junior High Science Students

The Santa Barbara county science fair took place Friday, April 18, and the following representatives from Santa Barbara Junior High School participated.

Shana Bird
Sophie Sterling
Sophia Spann
Connor Kerns
Elliot Kingston
Mackenzie Taylor
Ben Reisman
Kelley Drechsler
Dena Slaff
Tanner Wolf
Irvin Lazaro
Olivia Fanaro
Savannah Stelzer

The following students were awarded medals/prizes for their division:

Shana Bird - Bronze medal
Ben Reisman - Bronze medal
Elliot Kingston - Silver medal, \$50 from Assoc. of Old Crows, selected as alternate for State Science Fair;
Connor Kerns - Silver medal, \$50 from Assoc. of Old Crows; Irvin Lazaro - \$50 from Lake Cachuma group (will be invited to present at their 25 anniversary meeting in late August!)

GATE funds were used to support the registration fees for each of these students. Congratulations to all for their success, and to their science teacher, Marilyn Garza.

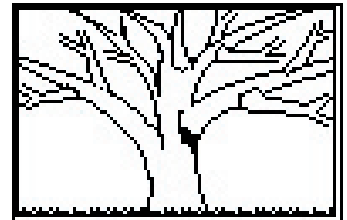
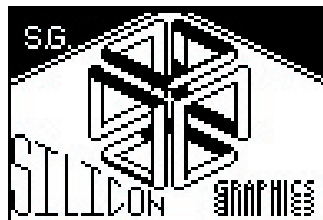
Dos Pueblos AP Student Gets National Award

Twenty-one Dos Pueblos High School students distinguished themselves in this year's French Grand Concours (the National French Contest). They are National Award Winners, as they ranked among the top ten on this competitive exam, which was taken by 81,622 students. Among them is Gabriel Li, who ranked fourth nationwide in the Advanced Placement level category. Felicitations, Gabriel!



Dos Pueblos High School Math Department News

Second semester GATE Algebra/Trig students at DPHS have begun working on their CalcArt. This is a computer program that they write on their graphing calculators. The program is a complex list of code that creates a picture on the view screen. Equations for curves are employed to produce the precise shape of particular portions of their picture.



If you know one of these students, ask them to show you their masterpiece; they will gleam and you will be impressed.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at Dos Pueblos High School

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme at Dos Pueblos High School offers students an opportunity to excel as individuals. In order to obtain the IB Diploma, students will complete several rigorous criteria: 1. Six IB courses: three “Higher Level” (two year) courses and three “Standard Level”(one year) courses; 2. The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course; 3. One hundred and fifty hours of Creativity/Action/Service (CAS); and 4. Students must write an extended, 4000 word essay on a self-selected topic. Students engage in in-class activities and assignments for their “Internal Assessments” and in May, sit for IB exams as their “External Assessments”. Both Internal and External Assessments are sent to international examiners throughout the world where students are held to an international standard of grading. Upon passing all of the above criteria, students receive an “IB Diploma” as well as their California high school diploma. (Students also have the opportunity to receive an IB Certificate in one or more curricular areas).

The International Baccalaureate Organization was established in 1968 with the vision to create an academic experience that emphasizes critical thinking, provides exposure to a variety of viewpoints, and fosters tolerance and intercultural understanding among young people. Originally it was established to create a common curriculum internationally and to provide a university entry credential for geographically mobile students. With its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and its Curriculum Office in Cardiff, Wales, the IBO has 1,740 authorized schools in 122 countries, 900 of which are in North America, with only 64 in the state of California.

Dos Pueblos High School has been associated with IB for eight years. After three years of research, planning, training, and applying to the IBO, DP became an authorized IB Diploma school offering its first classes in the fall of 2003. Currently in its fifth year of offering IB classes and the IB Diploma Programme, DP offers twenty classes in twelve curricular areas: World Literature, History of the Americas, Theory of Knowledge, Economics, Psychology, Biology, Mathematics, Spanish, French, Latin, Visual Arts and Music.

The advantages of this program are threefold: (1) favored acceptance by select colleges and universities, (2) prospective college credit for IB coursework, and (3) complete preparation for the demands of postsecondary academic and professional life.

For more information on college acceptance rates, universities with International Baccalaureate policies, and student commentary go to the school’s website at www.dphs.org. Additional information can be found at the California International Baccalaureate Organization website at www.c-ibo.org, or the International Baccalaureate Website at www.ibo.org.

Royals Excel

by Frankie Victoria

San Marcos High School strives to give students the best education and high school experience possible. As the school celebrates its Fiftieth Anniversary (1958 to 2008), Royals have already swept the senior division at the Santa Barbara County Science Fair. Students excel not only in sports by finishing in first place in many competitions in Southern California but also in academics in the Academic Competitions.

One truly outstanding aspect of San Marcos High is the Vocal Music Department. The choirs at San Marcos, the mixed groups A Cappella and Madrigals Singers and the women's chorus, Enchante, and the men's chorus, Royal Knights, are taught by Carolyn Teraoka-Brady. Last year, Teraoka-Brady and Enchante received first place at the Heritage Festival in Anahiem, and along with the Madrigal Singers received first place at a festival in San Francisco.

This year's busy choral festival season has brought Teraoka-Brady to the Cuesta College Festival in April where, under her direction, Royal Knights, Enchante, and the Madrigal Singers received rave reviews, and to a Heritage Festival in London, England, where Enchante won gold and had the trip of a lifetime. In addition, Teraoka-Brady and the Madrigal Singers traveled to New York in March to participate in Carnegie Hall's National Choral Festival and perform their own pieces and Brahms' German Requiem in the famous performance space.

Although choir is a big part of their lives, the choir students not only attend sectionals and practices to prepare for these festivals, but they are also part of San Marcos High School's performing arts department, participating in the fall play and spring musical, participating in school sports like volleyball, cross country, baseball, soccer, and basketball, participating in the award-winning Mock Trial Team, are a part of the school clubs, and take AP, Honors, and GATE classes. The Vocal Department is filled with well-rounded individuals who enjoy singing and enjoy being part of such a great and fulfilling environment.

Frankie Victoria is a GATE student in her Junior year at San Marcos High School

by Kelsey Fernandez

At San Marcos High School, we have one of the most prestigious music programs in Southern California. In the fall semester, we have Marching Band, Pep Band, and Percussive Theatre. In the spring semester, we have Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra. All of these groups compete against rival schools at competitions up and down the California coast and consistently bring home gold. All of the participants and musicians put in long hours and dedicate entire weekends to polish the performances and presentations.

In 2006, the Marching Band traveled to Long Beach for the Southern California Marching Band Championships. We performed our rendition of "War of the Worlds" and were awarded First Place: we were the number one marching band in Southern California. Then, during the Spring Break of 2007, the Concert Band was invited to New York City to perform on-stage at Carnegie Hall for the New York Wind Band Festival. We took home the Gold Award for our performance.

Last semester, 2007, the Marching Band traveled to Murrieta for the fall season's Marching Band Championships. We presented our show; "Journey of Dreams," to great effect and were once again crowned Southern California Champions. After the end of the season, the Marching Band was also invited to perform at the 2008 Orange Bowl in Florida. We traveled across the country and performed ZZ Top's "Crossfire" with a mass band in front of a crowd of 27,000 fans. And last, but not least, the Concert Band has been invited once again to perform at the 7th Annual New York Wind Band Festival in 2009.

In order to prepare for these numerous and demanding events, each and every band member must put in long hours every day in order to polish the performances. The Marching Band practices 1½ hours every weekday, four extra hours on Tuesdays, and devotes entire Saturdays and Sundays to travel to competitions. We also practice the week before school begins for five days (Monday – Friday) from 9:00am till 9:00pm. The Concert Band practices for 1 ½ hours every weekday, then gives an extra 3 hours to after-school Orchestra practices once rehearsals for the Spring Musical commence. In short, a day in the life of a musician at San Marcos High School is never a dull one.

Success - continued from page one

It should also be noted that funds raised through this effort are allocated by formula to each secondary school site, and approval of how funds are spent is granted by the parents on the District Advisory Council. All secondary parents are invited to join this group, which meets once a month (excluding December and June) during the school year. Please call the GATE Office (730.7775) for further information, or visit our web site for minutes and agendas (www.sbceo.org/~sbhsgate/).



Again, a very warm "thank you!" to all volunteers who helped with this year's phone-a-thon.



EPGY Education Program for Gifted Youth

e-learning courses for gifted and talented students

The Education Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) at Stanford University is a continuing project dedicated to developing and offering multimedia computer-based distance-learning courses. Combining technical and instructional expertise, EPGY provides high-ability students of all ages with an individualized educational experience, optimized in both pace and content. Through EPGY, students have access to courses in a variety of subjects at levels ranging from kindergarten through advanced-undergraduate. Since its inception over 50,000 students from 35 countries have taken courses from EPGY.

Stanford offers year round courses for gifted students:
<http://epgy.stanford.edu/courses/index.html>

GATE District Advisory Council

** site coordinator * delegate

Goleta Valley Junior High - 967-3486

** Paul Campbell, ext. 152
* Carol Genetti

La Colina Junior High - 967-4506

**Kurt Bergthold, ext. 502

La Cumbre Junior High - 687-0761

**Kate Pelle, ext.123
* Sherlene Allen
* Denna Zamarron

Santa Barbara Junior High - 963-7751

**Sandy Robertson, ext. 102
* Cherie Demopoulos
* Chris Speer

Dos Pueblos High - 968-2541

**Lindsay Woodard, ext. 396
* Laura Cyr * Katie O'Reilly-Rogers

San Marcos High - 967-4581

**Joan Cotich, ext.340
* Mike Brashears
* Lindsay Hernandez

Santa Barbara High - 966-9101

**Patty Ruth, ext. 318
* Jill Feldman * Jane Patterson

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Blia Yang - Cal Soap Director

Marisa Miller - Girls Inc.

Teresa Koontz - District Office Elementary
Coordinator

Annette Makwana - GATE District Office Manager

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