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PLACENTIA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY RUNNING NEWSPAPER, EL TIGRE IS A STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER IN THE PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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A NIGHT OF ANTICIPATED MEMORIES

By: Nathaly Romanes
Reporter

Saturday March 13 was the Happiest Sadies on Earth, held right here in our very own campus. Hundreds of Disney advocates dressed up in clever costumes that depicted a Disney character, such as Tinker Bell and Peter Pan, Mr. and Mrs. Incredible or singles like Snow White and other Princesses.

Entering the Happiest Sadies on Earth was like entering a mini Disneyland in the gyms. Disney characters were artistically drawn and posted on the walls. In the new gym, a castle was built which was the wedding chapel for couples to get “married”, there was a moon bounce obstacle course, and pictures were being taken there. The old gym is where all the moves went down. Couples and friends danced the night away with great music, dim lights and of course a fog machine. Great artists like Lady Gaga and Jay Sean

were part of the rhythmic music that kept people dancing, almost non-stop. Eduardo Hernandez shared that “dancing was very fun, exciting and energetic with my girlfriend and other friends. Also, the moon bounce was very enjoyable and entertaining, to jump first through the opening and slide down and return back up and slide again.” People were only leaving the dance floor to buy refreshments to cool down and quickly returned back to dance. Throughout the night there were battles that grasped dancers’ attention, it gave a special spark on the dance floor. Many talented V.H.S. students



LEEANN AGUIRRE (12) AND DEVON GRAY (11) POSING FOR THE CAMERA. PHOTO BY: LEEANN AGUIRRE

showed off their moves break dancing. The moon bounce obstacle course added some fun aside from the music and dancing. Not only young men benefited from the fun, even the ladies were jumping in there with their pretty costumes. The Happiest Sadies on Earth also had a happy ending with the last song being Blah Blah Blah by Kesha who caught the attention of many and made them enjoy the dance as it ended. As the crowd sadly walked out, ASB quickly began cleaning up the gyms ripping down the artistic posters off the walls and picking up people’s waste. This year’s Sadies made hundreds of guests anxiously anticipate next year’s dance. Sadies ended with a happily ever after.

JSA OPENS MINDS FOR DISCUSSION

By: Isabel Hsu
Editor

Junior State of America (JSA) is an on-campus club that allows students to express their concerns and thoughts in an encouraging environment. Students convene every Wednesday after school to engage in discussions, debates, and thought talks over current and world events. “We usually have debates, in which two people present arguments supporting their side, pro or con,” explains Jasmine Aimua (12), JSA member. “We also have thought talks, in which we discuss different topics and share our opinions.” Debate topics that have been covered this year include the legalization of marijuana, UC tuition costs, patents on DNA, the death penalty, and the legal drinking age.

Junior State of America activities are not just limited to on-campus activities. On February 19, the club held a JSA social, in which members met outside of school to view and discuss movies related to topics that have been discussed during previous club meetings. State-wide conferences and conventions are also held, in which Junior State chapters from all over Southern California gather in a common location for debates and other related activities. Winter Congress, held once a year, gives students the opportunity to write their own bills in a Congressional simulation. There are also student-run, one-day conferences that are typically held on a Saturday on the campus of a major university. These conferences involve debates, thought talks, guest speakers, and simulations, and are a great way to prepare JSA members for overnight conventions. These overnight conventions,

Fall State and Spring State, happen two times a year. “Fall State is when many schools come together to debate many topics during a weekend,” says Aimua, relating back to November, when she attended Fall State. “I heard many interesting debates and opinions of many of the students there.” Club members are also in the process of preparing for Spring State, which is coming up on the weekend of April 16 to 18. Aimua adds, “Spring State is soon, and I hope to go and participate in the many interesting debates that our bound to be there.” JSA is an active, enthusiastic club that has offers students a forum to express themselves and to allow their thoughts be heard. There have been many successful events and activities, and there are still more to come. With its debates, conventions, and other exciting activities, there is sure to be stimulating topics up for discussion.

A FINANCIAL RISK WORTH TAKING?

By: Reetu Inamdar
Reporter

The economic crisis is calling for a big reform in schools all over the country. The budget crisis, which is greatly affecting our economy, calls for limited supplies, shortages of government loans, and the dismissal of teachers. Reduction in force (RIF) is the process of laying off teachers. Reasons that cause this dismissal include inability to complete required qualifications, budget cuts, department reorganization, and other business reasons. Seniority is a determining factor of the dismissal of teachers partly because it gives an advantage to those who have worked longer. The more experience a person has in their field adds upon the reasons to why they should not be laid off. Performance is also a key factor, but a difficult one, in which justifiable means must be measured. Employees must be evaluated and judged based on their work experience and the way they perform their given tasks.

Employees are given several different letters that can vary from situation to situation. One letter may explain

the need to relocate; another can explain the movement to a lower position. Many other letters may also explain the separation from the district. These letters can also be a warning and may or may not be implemented. The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN Act) is a law that requires employees to be notified in advance of their removal from their position. The WARN Act requires workers to have at least a sixty day notice prior to their discharge. The purpose of this law is to protect the employees, their families, and their communities by giving the employee a transition period in which they can adjust to losing their job, look for another job, or train for other work.

There are six procedure codes to which the school board’s policies must cover. The first is the non-renewal of probationary teacher’s contracts, second, is the dismissal grounds of teachers, third, is the teacher dismissal procedures, fourth, the reductions in force caused by enrollment decline, financial problems, or reorganization, fifth, the dismissal of the superintendent with a contract for a certain term, and lastly the dismissal of assistant or associate superintendents with contracts for particular terms. The six procedural codes are the basis of the rules and conducts

in which the school can make its own rules. Many employers must undergo many procedures before they can warn the employee of the possible layoff.

Schools also recognize the procedure by calling it a pink slip, which is usually notified by March 15. Many teachers may receive this pink slip, but it doesn’t mean that they necessarily will get fired. It’s just a notification to the teachers that they might be subject for being discharged. Other alternatives to layoff are early retirement and reduction of hours satisfactory to some companies as well as schools. Teachers may be notified two years in a row and may never get to the initial point of being laid off. Teachers get notified early so they could step-by-step plan out their financial plans and assess their financial situations as well. The economic crises and budget cut is causing more teachers to start looking for other teaching jobs, due to fear of the possibility of being dismissed. Hopefully none of the teachers have to go through this scare. We wish every Valencia teacher the best of luck and hope that this situation does not apply to any of them. So “beware of the Ides of March” (March 15), and hopefully our district can recover from this fiscal year. Hopefully soon, this scare will be over.

FURLOUGH DAYS: SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?

By: Sargun Singh
Reporter

Our new year was kicked off in a situation of economic distress in which money is being saved from every side possible. The economic distress not just affects the population of our country but our state and national government as well. The state government is facing many financial difficulties and therefore is making budget cuts wherever possible. Education was one of the areas targeted for these cuts. California has already made over 40 million dollars worth of budget cuts in the past 5 years and plans to make a budget cut of 15 million dollars more from our Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. In order to make these budget cuts, the state is initiating mandatory furlough days to save approximately 6 million dollars. Furlough days are temporary leaves of absences taken by teachers in order to save a days' worth of pay for our District. When a furlough day is ordered, it is perceived as a non-student day.

To find out more about these mandatory furlough days, we interviewed Mr. Pike, the attendance administrator of our high school. The older teachers are affected more harshly and receive the worst of

these pay cuts due to their higher salary. However, according to Mr. Pike, the attendance director, "furlough days are a necessary evil because of our district and financial and state situation." By making these pay cuts some new teachers are spared from losing their jobs which hurts them the most. These absences from school will also alleviate the financial burden which will greatly help our district get through the fiscal year. Dr. Myovich describes this situation as "the best of bad options." Therefore, in many aspects we can consider the furlough days as something that spares many from a more detrimental result like losing their jobs. They also lessen the school district's burden.

Nonetheless, the disadvantages of these furlough days outweigh the benefits. The furlough days affect teachers as well as the students. Mr. Pike explained that some teachers have opted to sacrifice their summer vacation for summer school, if any space is available, in order to compensate for the loss in their paychecks. Furlough days are detrimental not only financially but academically as well. With the days off students attend school less which takes away from their teaching time. The AP curriculum is greatly affected because teachers are now forced to cram in massive amounts of curriculum in a smaller period of time when each minute of instructional

time is of great value. When Dr. Myovich was asked about the affect on the AP curriculum, he states, "Time in the classroom is the most important time for learning that cannot be made up; the furlough reduced work days but not work load for students and teachers." We should take in consideration that most motivated students are self-driven and can compensate for the time lost. This is sometimes not the case for the less academically driven due to their specific circumstances. By losing instructional time, where most of these students do most of their learning, a hole is carved into their education. If we look at this issue in global point of view, many may wonder if we are starting to fall behind academically in comparison to the fast developing countries such as India and China. According to teachers such as Dr. Myovich, there are going to be definite consequences because of the budget crisis that hurts education.

The Budget crisis is no longer a local issue. It surpasses the state level and has evolved into a federal issue that has no immediate solution aside for a temporary bandage on the wound caused by the lack of funds. The state and district's financial situation is a direct reflection of our national economy. If our economy doesn't find a way out of this recession, the crisis will prove to worsen in times to come.

LITERACY CLUB RAISING BOOKS FOR A NOBLE CAUSE

By: Reetu Inamdar
Reporter

A colossal of new and benefiting clubs have started this year, but one club in particular shines above these all due to its excellent involvement and approach in the vast community. The club which has exceeded not only mere expectations, but has triumphantly surpassed the level of competence. This club is the Literacy in Action Club. The Literacy in Action Club was started to promote the importance of literacy. Cara Ta(10), the president of the club, mentions "Literacy is relative to everyone and the ability to read can open doors and opportunities." The club tries to promote access to literacy in terms of raising money for books and donating them to local libraries. The members of the club promoted various items, such as T-shirts and donation boxes to raise money and support their cause. The prestigious Literacy in Action club sold a myriad of delectable food items at the food faire hoping to raise money for buying new books. By doing this, the club hopes to buy books in order to help and inspire the youth of today and the attending teachers as well. Mr. Chung, the Language Arts teacher at Valencia stated his excitement over the book drive. He says, "This really reminds me of a grass roots movement, students are starting to take part in these practical purposes, such as a great cause like this." The club not only hopes to prosper this year but also in the upcoming years to come. The club has a bright future ahead of itself and with the support of the student body like ours; it will surely take root in many different schools. Ms. Filowitz has been a great advisor to the club and has worked feverishly to help the club flourish and take root. She has been a great attribute to the club and has done a great deal to make the club come to life. This being said, the school is being very active in the community, as well as making a big impact on the society itself, which further out play as the years go by. A book drive for various types of books was recently held at the school by the Literacy in Action Club. The book drive took place around the week of Feb.12. Class competitions were held for the most books donated in the classroom. The club hoped to receive a thousand books and five hundred dollars from food fairs so they could give it to the Melrose elementary school, along with our own Valencia High School. In total, the club received two thousand books, which is higher than they expected and caused much satisfaction within the club. They hope to raise the five hundred dollars they wanted for the two schools as well, and continue to keep their aims and visions high. The lucky winners, Mr. Shenton's homeroom class, won a donut party along with the satisfaction of helping many children out. The club was very successful in doing this book drive. Cara Ta(10) says, "The book drive was an amazing achievement as well as a great success and we are excited about making a difference in our community." Cara also mentioned her hopes to distribute the new arrival of books from the donations and bought books to other schools, as well as read to many young children. The club hopes to hold more book drives next year. So keep all of your stacks of books out, because you can make a difference!

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