



Principal's Message

Welcome to the new semester! It is hard to believe that 2010 is already upon us. Where does the time go? As we begin the second half of the school year, we ask that you take this time to re-establish home routines that support academic success. These would include: checking your student's planner on a daily basis, ensuring that your student's homework is completed accurately and regularly, and communicating often with your student's teachers. Because we have just come off one of the busiest times of the year, these good habits sometimes get sidetracked. By re-establishing these good habits, your child will be off to an academically successful start to 2010.

May you be happy, healthy and prosperous in the New Year!

Louise Milner, Principal

LQ AVID IS CERTIFIED!

La Quinta's AVID program has been recognized by the national AVID center. Ms. Sarah Housepian, La Quinta teacher and AVID coordinator, has worked with the La Quinta AVID site team, comprised of La Quinta teachers, a counselor, administration, and a student, to fulfill requirements outlined by AVID center to become certified. Schools must be recognized on an annual basis to ensure program integrity and implementation of [AVID Program Implementation Essentials](#).



AVID is a fourth- through twelfth-grade system to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students, and in closing the achievement gap. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination.

AVID targets students in the academic middle - B, C, and even D students - who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but are falling short of their potential. Typically, they will be the first in their families to attend college, and many are from low-income or minority families. AVID pulls these students out of their unchallenging courses and puts them on the college track: acceleration instead of remediation.

This is La Quinta's third year of implementing this wonderful program. We have 9th, 10th and 11th grade classes with approximately 250 AVID students. You may learn more about La Quinta's AVID program on the school website or contact Ms. Housepian at shousepian@ggusd.us



AZTECS OF THE MONTH

September



October



November



December



January



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

September



October



November



December



January



Athletics

Most teams have already started league play and are doing very well. The spring sports (Baseball, Softball, Track, Badminton, Boys' Tennis, Boys' and Girls' Swim, Golf, and Boys' Volleyball) are underway. If your student is interested in playing one of these sports, have them stop by the Athletic Office and pick up a clearance packet immediately. Go Aztecs!



Activities

We had a full schedule at the end of 2009. The La Quinta ASB Cabinet conducted a Holiday Canned Food Drive which again was a tribute to the generosity of the student body with nearly two tons of food going to the Garden Grove Elks Club. This was then distributed to needy families in the community. Our efforts were so great that we were mentioned in the latest issue of the Westminster Journal. We also hosted a Holiday Teacher Luncheon, where we served lunch to the staff and faculty to the accompaniment of the LQ string quartet and vocal ensemble for entertainment. Our music department hosted a Holiday Concert at Don Wash Auditorium, where orchestra, band, vocal ensemble, and choir performed holiday favorites. We started 2010 with another event by attending the Basketball Homecoming on January 22, against Santiago. The La Quinta ASB Cabinet will be performing a wonderful Half-time Show, with Aladdin as its theme. And as for February, Girls' League will be hosting Winter Formal at the Hilton Waterfront Hotel. Also on February 24, the Westminster city government is hosting Youth in Government Day in which students will be able to do some job shadowing for city positions such as the Mayor, police officers, firefighters, judges, and many more.

Open House 2010

Come and experience all that is great at La Quinta High School! On Wednesday, March 24, 2010 we will be having Open House at La Quinta. The evening will be filled with entertainment, visual displays from award-winning departments, and open classroom visitations, where you can visit with teachers at your own pace!



There will be opportunity to buy food and dessert, so mark your calendars and make plans on visiting one of the top schools in Orange County and the state!

<u>Schedule</u>		<u>Location</u>
6:00—6:30 P.M.	Food and Entertainment	Quad
6:30—7:00 P.M.	LQ Spirit Performances & Information	Gym
7:00—8:00 P.M.	Classroom Visitations	Open Campus



Parent Portal registration is coming to L.Q.! Come to Open House and receive information on how you can register to go on-line to view your child's progress. Personalized letters will be distributed with your **verification code**, as well as an easy to use guideline sheet. We're looking to launch in the fall, so come and find out what a valuable tool this will be in your child's education!

Spring 2010 Credit Recovery

Our Credit Recovery program is up and running again for the Spring semester. Students who failed English 1, Biology, Algebra 1, Geometry, and/or World History will be enrolled in one of the after school classes. See below for the schedule of classes.

Students will be meeting with the counselor to enroll in a class. Students will be informed of the class dates, times, and are required to return a completed a registration form with a parent signature. Questions can be directed to Joann Le at 714-663-6375 or email: jle@ggusd.us

Classes began the week of February 16.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
**WORLD HISTORY sem.1 3-5pm MR. CLARK ROOM 319	**ENGLISH 1 sem. 1 3-5pm MR. GEIL ROOM 216	**WORLD HISTORY sem.1 3-5pm MR. CLARK ROOM 319	**ENGLISH 1 sem. 1 3-5pm MR. GEIL ROOM 216
**GEOMETRY sem.1 3-5pm MR. TUCCARONE ROOM 313	**GEOMETRY sem.1 3-5pm MS. DANG ROOM 312	**GEOMETRY sem.1 3-5pm MR. TUCCARONE ROOM 313	**GEOMETRY sem.1 3-5pm MS. DANG ROOM 312
**ALGEBRA 1 sem. 1 3-5pm MS. WANG ROOM 312		**ALGEBRA 1 sem.1 3-5pm MS. WANG ROOM 312	* BIOLOGY sem. 1 3-7pm MR. LAI ROOM 315
* 1 day a week ** 2 days a week		* BIOLOGY sem. 1 3-7pm MR. ALCARAZ ROOM 314	

Check out the school website for credit recovery updates.

Laquintahs.org

SAT Prep Courses

La Quinta High School is pleased to announce that all 11th grade students have the opportunity to take Princeton Review's \$500 group course for a discounted rate of \$50.00. The course begins on Saturday, March 13th and will meet every Tuesday for 6 weeks from 3:00-6:00 **OR** 6:00-9:00, with additional SAT practice exams on Saturdays. The course will prepare students for the May 1st official SAT by providing them with 3 full-length practice exams, the most up-to-date resources, and strategies to control test-taking anxiety. Students who are interested should sign up in the bookstore no later than February 26th. This is the best deal for SAT preparation in the state, and we strongly encourage all juniors to sign up. If you have any questions regarding the course or how to sign up please, see Mrs. Esquivel in the guidance office. For additional background information on Princeton Review feel free to go to www.PrincetonReview.com

Don't miss a great opportunity!



Yearbook

Help your child preserve his/her high school experiences with over 250 full-color, glossy pages of beautiful photographs and memories. Get one now for only \$90.00 Prices **WILL** go up after Spring Break. Contact the LQ Bookstore at 663.6339 for more information.



Scholarships

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY! If you are the parent of a senior this year, please encourage your son or daughter to look for scholarships! Scholarships are the ideal form of student aid. It's the best kind because you don't ever have to pay it back! The best way to start is to make sure your son or daughter is reading the Senior Newsletter. It's full of scholarships! The La Quinta Senior Newsletter is updated with new scholarships every month. You can read the latest issue on the La Quinta web page at www.laquinta.org.

The next step is to research local scholarships. In general, the smaller the area a scholarship covers, the better your child's chances of winning. Then check membership organizations and employers. Here's an area where you, as a PARENT, can really help out! Start thinking of all the organizations you have an affiliation with – religious, community service, fraternal, military, union and professional – and find out if any of them sponsor scholarships for children of members. Don't forget your employer. Many large companies offer scholarships or tuition reimbursement programs for dependent children of employees. Check with your human resources department to see if your company offers such programs. Employers of students such as fast food chains, department stores, and supermarkets often provide scholarships

Use a free scholarship search service. A scholarship search company collects information on hundreds of awards and compares your child's student characteristics with scholarship restrictions. Based on answers to a questionnaire, your child will receive a list of possible scholarships. It is up to your child to decide which ones to try for. You should never have to pay for scholarship information. If you are asked to pay a fee for "exclusive" scholarship leads, there's a good chance the scholarship service is really a scholarship scam. Here are some free scholarship search services: scholarships.com, collegeanswer.com, meritaid.com. Happy Searching!!

FAFSA— FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

Apply for Financial Aid starting **January 1, 2010 –March 2, 2010** to qualify for federal and state financial aid. ALL seniors should apply for financial aid regardless of where they will be attending college after high school graduation. The counselors will be working with both parents and students to assist them through the financial aid process.

A **Financial Aid Workshop for Parents of Seniors** was scheduled for **THURSDAY, JANUARY 27 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**. Representatives from the University of California Irvine and Fullerton College helped parents understand the financial aid process and review the steps necessary in filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The workshop was presented in English, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

The counselors hosted a Financial Aid Workshop for all seniors on Thursday, January 7, 2010 during the school day. During this time we reviewed the financial aid process and introduced the students to the FAFSA website. The students received the Fund Your Future publication from the California Student Aid Commission which explains all of the ways to pay for your college education.

File a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) @ www.fafsa.ed.gov starting January 1, 2010—March 2, 2010.

Remember your ABC's when keeping kids safe!

What can my child and I do to help make La Quinta a safe school?

- A) **Always** observe traffic laws on and around La Quinta High School. With over 2000 students enrolled at L.Q., traffic is always a concern before and after school. Please look out for pedestrians and bicyclists in parking lots and near school exits. Don't stop in areas where curbs are painted red and remind students to cross at all crosswalks.
- B) **Be** mindful of what your child wears to school. Our students know the rules, intruders don't! Hoods hide key features needed to identify an intruder or someone intending to harm someone. Hats take on various meanings to specific people, especially in various communities. It's easy to identify non-L.Q. students, especially when they try to gain access wearing non-L.Q. hats. Once identified, they are escorted off campus. L.Q. beanies can be purchased or earned through athletic awards and academic awards. Also, check your child's clothing to make sure it's appropriate for school. Items bearing sexual content, profanity, drugs, graffiti, or resembling gangs will be confiscated.
- C) **Communication** is the key! Find time to talk about your child's day at school. Don't accept one word responses and ask them about homework, tests, or if they are having any problems outside of school work. Know who your child's friends are and ask to meet them. If they won't bring them by to meet you, let that serve as a red flag and dig deeper. Ultimately, establishing and maintaining open lines of communication promotes a healthy relationship and keeps kids safe!

California High School Exit Exam

According to state law, beginning with the Class of 2006, no student will receive a public school diploma without having passed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), as well as having met our district's requirements for graduation. Sophomores in the Class of 2012 will have their first opportunity to take the test on March 16 (English-Language Arts-ELA) and March 17 (Mathematics). Students who do not pass the exam in tenth grade will have additional opportunities in grades eleven and twelve to retake the part(s) not passed.

The CAHSEE is divided into two parts: (1) English-Language Arts (reading and writing) and (2) mathematics. All questions are aligned to California content standards. The purpose of the CAHSEE is to improve student achievement in our public high schools and to ensure that students who graduate can demonstrate competency in reading, writing, and mathematics. Students must earn a score of 350 or higher on each part to pass the exam.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	MATHEMATICS	ADMINISTERED TO
October 6	October 7	12th grade
November 3	November 4	11th, 12th, Adult Ed, and Non- Graduates
December 5	December 12	Grade 12 (who did not attempt the CAHSEE in July)
February 2	February 3	12th grade
March 16	March 17	10th, 11th, 12th, Adult Ed, and Non- Graduates
May 11	May 12	Grade 10th make-ups only

Parent Power School

Our Parent Power School program goes from strength to strength and continues to be a great success. Again this year the series of presentations are available in Vietnamese, Spanish, and English, and are presented at three different times for your convenience.

Parent Power School provides a wealth of information on a wide variety of education topics, which will help parents better understand how school works and how they can provide additional support for their student (s) to experience success at La Quinta.

The number of people attending this year has grown steadily and we are thrilled to say we now have over 100 parents attending these informative presentations.

For more information please visit our website and click on the "parents" section. You will see "Power School" there.

We look forward to seeing you at the presentations.

PPS

Seniors +Grad Nite = Disneyland!

Parents, with graduation just around the corner Grad Nite is in full swing and making arrangements for Grad Nite 2010. Disneyland was a big hit last year and students want to go back this year. The committee is working to lower the price from last year and you can help in the process by joining our Grad Nite committee. Feel comfortable knowing your graduate is safe celebrating at the happiest Place on Earth! If you are interested in being a part of the planning committee, the next meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 2010 @ 6:00 PM in the administration office lounge. For more information contact Tom Duggan @ 714.663.6372.



Please join us!

Vietnamese Culture Night

Friday March 12, 2010 @ 6PM

A very special family event that has been years in the making is coming to La Quinta this month. La Quinta will be hosting its first Vietnamese Culture Night on Friday March 12th at 6:00 PM. Come to our exciting family event full of fun and entertainment and watch our very own La Quinta High School students act, sing, & dance! They will be performing alongside special guest singers: Trish Thuy Trang, Quoc Khanh, and Tam Doan from ASIA music. Vietnamese Culture Night will be a blockbuster and the first of its kind hosted by La Quinta High School's Vietnamese Student Association and sponsored by our parents and the community.

Tickets can be purchased from the bookstore starting February 24th during break and lunch and also in Mr. Leon Nguyen's room 336 after school. Be sure to purchase tickets in advance for \$5 or pay \$7 at the door. This is a family event and students are required to bring a parent or guardian to the show and share the experience. Food and refreshments will be sold before the opening act so make it dinner and a show. Please join us in support of our community and for the LQ students working hard to bring the Vietnamese culture live to you and making it a memorable experience.



VIETNAMESE CULTURE NIGHT
Friday March 12th, 2010
in LQHS GYM @ 6PM
(714) 663-6045

 **La Quinta**
High School
ADMIT ONE

TICKET

10372 McFadden Ave. Westminster 92683