



Aztec Newsletter

Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that summer has drawn to a close and fall is officially upon us. I hope that you had a wonderful summer and return to school refreshed and ready to work hard. Throughout the summer we have worked hard painting and carpeting classrooms, disposing of old furniture, cleaning floors and windows, upgrading facilities and preparing enthusiastically for the new academic year. Now, having welcomed new and returning students, our focus is on continuing the academic excellence that resulted in an academic performance index of **865**. You can all be very proud!

Louise Milner, Principal

National Merit Scholarship Program

Sophomores and juniors are in the midst of signing up to take the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) on October 14th at La Quinta high school. Juniors taking the PSAT are automatically entered in the National Merit Scholarship competition (PSAT/NMSQT). This test has two purposes. One, it is a kind of rehearsal for students who plan to take the SAT, which is the test most colleges require for admission. Two, it is used to select students seeking National Merit Scholarships which are awarded in the spring term of their senior year.

Great News!!! Out of the 1.5 million students in the United States who took the PSAT, 50,000 students, (the top five percent), scored high enough to be recognized! Twelve of these students attend La Quinta High School! Nine of these students are named Commended Students and three made it to Semifinalists!

Congratulations to La Quinta's 2010 National Merit Scholarship Commended students: Ivy Dang, Kim C. Dang, David Duong, KietTuan Khuu, Bryan V. Ngo, Mary T. Nguyen, Serenity T. Nguyen, Terry Nguyen and Ashley E. Truong.

Congratulations to La Quinta's 2010 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: Peter Doan, James D. Nguyen and Tiffany V. Tonnu
Semifinalists have the opportunity to be considered for a National Merit Scholarship!

Campus Safety ~Dropping off and Picking up

School is under way and we want you to remember your child's safety is our greatest concern. During the first few days we noticed parents have been ignoring the "red" curbs and continue to drop kids off in front of the school and in "no stopping" zones. For the safety of our students, your children, and other motorists, please drop your students off in designated areas. The Westminster Police Department and the city have been made aware of the problem, and citations will be given in the future. Please do your part to prevent an accident or tragedy!



Tutoring



Title I has always focused on developing and implementing programs to aid and improve students who are struggling in one or more content areas, and this year is no exception. This year's Title I coordinators will be analyzing school data collected last year to find students who can benefit from after-school instruction. Within the next couple of months, the coordinators will be diving into school data, and from there will develop after-school programs which use the best instructional strategies to help students succeed. Parents of these students will be notified of these programs and an open line of communication will be maintained throughout the rest of the year. The coordinators are looking forward to working with both parents and students so that the students can achieve success in areas with which they have previously struggled. Here's to a great new school year!

Grad Nite 2010

Well, the school year has just begun, but believe it or not, it's time to start planning for Grad Night 2010. Grad Night 2010 will be held at Disneyland for the second year in a row on Thursday, June 24, 2010.

If you are interested in serving on this year's committee please contact Tom Duggan at (714) 663-6372 and he will put you in contact with other committee members. We want to provide a safe and secure environment for our seniors to celebrate that special day! This is your chance to be a part of something special.

Volunteers Needed!



Athletics

Welcome to the start of another exciting year for La Quinta athletics. We have some new coaches and coaches that are coaching a different sport this year. Wes Choate is our new football coach and he is doing a great job. David Tran is our girls volleyball coach (after guiding our boy's team last year) and has the girl's ready to defend their league championship. Leon Nguyen is our new cross country coach and doing a great job preparing our student-athletes to compete—they won 3rd place in the Dana Point Invitational. Water polo is headed by Matt Schubert for his third season. Lastly our girl's tennis team is lead by Jim Blanchard who always does a great job preparing our student athletes. I would like to encourage you to come and support our student athletes.



Attendance Office

Absences

If your student is absent for one day, please send a note when he/she returns. If your student is absent for more than one day, please notify the attendance office by calling 663-6344 and send a note when he/she returns. Arrange appointments outside of school hours so your student does not miss school.

Off Campus Passes

Leaving Campus: Students who need to leave campus early should bring a note from a parent indicating the reason for leaving and the release time. Students should bring the note to the attendance office before going to their first class.

Senior Privilege: Students who have Senior Privilege to leave campus at lunch must return to campus at the end of lunch. **Seniors who do not return from lunch while on senior privilege will be considered truant and will be assigned a Saturday school.** If a senior cannot return to school, a parent must call the attendance office the same day.

La Quinta High School has the highest attendance in the Garden Grove Unified School District!

By sending your children to school every day you are teaching them responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline, and the value of hard work. Thank you for your support!

Senior Newsletter

The Senior Newsletter was distributed to all seniors in their English class on Monday September 21. This important newsletter will be distributed to all seniors every month and includes information regarding scholarships, financial aid, university deadlines, SAT and ACT deadlines, dates on LQ's college application workshops, and more! Remember to ask your son or daughter about this important newsletter. You may access this on the La Quinta web page. www.laquintahs.org go to Guidance and click on Senior Newsletter.



Welcome to the La Quinta Family



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH



La Quinta would like to welcome Mr. Wes Choate to the Aztec family. Mr. Choate received his B.A. from Cal State Long Beach and his M.A. from University of Phoenix. He has been working as a substitute teacher in Garden Grove schools for the last four years. In addition to teaching U.S. History, he has taken on the Head Football Coaching position. The football players and staff have been working hard and having fun. See if you can catch a glimpse of Coach Choate's secret air guitar skills.



Ms. Kimberly Balazs is one of our new teachers in the science department. She is teaching Chemistry and Physical Science. Ms. Balazs got her degrees in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Philosophy from University of California, Irvine and completed her teaching credential and MAT there as well. Ms. Balazs is bringing many experiences with her, which includes an opportunity to edit academic journal articles, conduct research on coral reefs, and tutor in writing at the university level, special education math, and several other subjects as well as a position at the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut as a resident assistant. When she isn't busy planning exciting science lessons, she enjoys spending her down time hiking, camping, and going to Disneyland.

Ms. Katherine Cline is teaching sophomore and senior level English classes for the Aztecs. She earned her undergraduate degree in literature at Seattle Pacific University and recently finished her Masters Degree in education at University of California, Irvine. Ms. Cline would "rather go a day without food than a day without music."



The science department also welcomes Ms. Sandra Valencia, who is teaching Biology and Physical Science. She received her degree from Cal State Fullerton. Taught for nine years at a middle schools in La Mirada and South Whittier before coming to La Quinta. Ask Ms. Valencia about her astronaut training at the US Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama. She was one of three California teachers selected to represent California. Ms. Valencia is also working with Virginia Tech University, National University and various high schools on a Bioinformatics grant funded by the National Science Foundation.

Ms. Sherri Grelle is our newest addition to the Guidance department. She is the counselor for stu-



dents whose last names begin with A - Hoa. She worked as a Counselor at Los Amigos High School for 10 years. Prior to school counseling, she worked as a Marriage and Family Therapist at St Joseph Hospital in Orange. Ms. Grelle received her Bachelor's and Masters Degree from Cal State Fullerton and her PPS Credential from University of La Verne. In her free time, she is interested in residential and commercial real estate investing.

Fall 09 Credit Recovery

The afterschool Credit Recovery program allows students to retake courses they previously failed. The Fall 2009 Credit recovery schedule is shown below. Courses La Quinta High School is offering are English 1, Biology, Geometry, and World History. Enrollment for Fall credit recovery is currently closed. More information can be found on the school website at www.laquintahts.org

Questions can be directed to Joann Le at 714.663.6375 or jle@ggusd.us

Classes began the week of September 21, 2009



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Wrld Hist Sem 2 3-5pm Mr. Clark** Room 220	English1 Sem 2 3-5pm Mr. Salazar Room 223	Wrld Hist Sem2 3-5pm Mr. Clark** Room 220	English1 Sem 2 3-5pm Mr. Salazar Room 223
Geometry Sem 2 3-5pm Mr. Fulton Room 314		*Biology Sem1 3-7pm Mr. Alcaraz Room 324	Geometry Sem 2 3-5pm Mr. Fulton Room 314
*1 Day a week **Teacher from McGarvin Int.			*Biology Sem2 3-7pm Mr. Lai Room 315

Activities

Welcome back Aztecs, we hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer vacation! With the marvelous announcement of our API score of 865, the Aztecs have maintained a successful growth. With a new year coming and many new faces, La Quinta ASB would like to congratulate Andrew Nguyen for being elected freshman class president. In anticipation of another great year, here are some activities that follow:

October 7th&8th - Parent Power School

November 25th—Fallfest

October 12th—GGUSD College Fair at Bolsa

November 26th & 27th—Holiday (No School)

October 21—Fall Choir/Drama

December 4th—Non-Student Day

Parent Power School—October 28 & 29

December 10th—Holiday Concert

October 29th—Homecoming Assembly/Game

December 16th & 17th— Parent Power School

October 30th—Homecoming Dance, Fall Concert

December 18th—Winter Assembly

November 3rd-4th—CAHSEE Exam

December 21st—January 1st—Winter Break

November 11th—Holiday (No School)

November 18th—19th—Parent Power School



Hopefully everyone is positively energized for this upcoming 2009-2010 year. As an Aztec family we will strive to make this a fantastic school year.

La Quinta College Information Night



When: Thursday, October 8, 2009

Where: La Quinta Gym

Time: 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



~ Juniors, Seniors, and parents come meet with high school counselors and college representatives

UCR and CSUF will present! Information will be available on college requirements and the admission process, curriculum, college expenses, scholarships, financial aid, and student activities. Information will be available in Vietnamese, Spanish and English.

District College Fair

When: Monday October 12, 2009

Where: Bolsa Grande High School

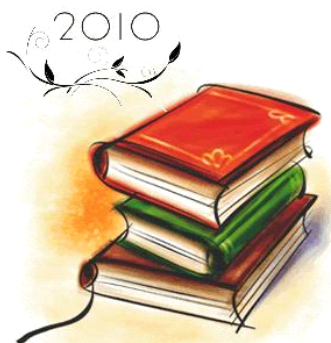
Time: 6:30 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.



Take part in this unique opportunity to meet with college representatives, college alumni, and other representatives from a variety of postsecondary options. Stop by and get information from your favorite colleges!

Representatives from both California and out-of-state colleges and universities will set up booths to share information about their programs. Over 44 colleges and universities will be there including 5 CSUs, 7 UCs, Yale University, University of Notre Dame, and USC!

Yearbook — Seniors buy your yearbook today!



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 \$85. Prices WILL go up after Winter Break. Contact the LQ Bookstore at 663-6339 for more information.

Back-on-Track Night

Supporting freshmen and helping their transition to high school from middle school has always been a focus for La Quinta. Every year La Quinta hosts Back-on-Track Night for students who may be having difficulty adjusting to the rigors of high school. Parents of 9th grade students who struggled academically during the first quarter will be invited to come and listen to a presentation presented by counselors and administrators on how to help their students turn things around and improve their grades. This year Back-on-Track night will be held after the first progress report on November 10th. We at La Quinta hope that by providing parents and students the opportunity to come to this event earlier in the year will help students succeed in their first year at La Quinta.



PSAT/NMSQT Early Participation Program

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. The test measures critical thinking skills that are important for success in college. These skills include math problem-solving, critical reading and writing.

This is the third year the Garden Grove Unified School district will be participating in the College Board's Early Participation Program. This program increases the student's readiness for college at an early age while there is still time for further instruction and learning. Students will receive detailed Score Reports that provide feedback on their academic progress and areas that need improvement. There is no fee for 10th grade students to participate in the program.

Tests will be available for 11th grade students who want to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship and for 9th grade students for practice. The test fee for 9th and 11th grade students is \$18.00. Tickets may be purchased in the bookstore. Applications for test fee waivers for 11th grade students are available with Mrs. Esquivel in the Guidance Office.

