

ACACIAWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

2005-2006 Issue 4

April 10, 2006

THIRD QUARTER AWARDS ASSEMBLY AND TALENT NIGHT, APRIL 17TH, 7:00PM

Come celebrate the accomplishments and talents of our students! We invite you to attend the third quarter awards assembly and talent night on Monday, April 17th. The evening will begin with a family dinner (\$3 per person) at 5:45 pm and continue in the MPR from 7pm-8:30pm with the evening program. The evening will showcase student talent and will feature a variety of individual and group musical pieces as well as History Day highlights. All family and friends of the Acaciawood community are invited to join us for this special evening. Refreshments will be served following the program.

WINTER OPEN HOUSE, SCIENCE FAIR, AND SECOND QUARTER AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Students and their families were recognized for their achievements at the second quarter awards assembly held on February 13, 2006. The evening also served as an open house for families considering AWS and awards ceremony for the AWS Science Fair. Results are listed below.

Music Performance: The Elementary School delighted us with an educational and extremely entertaining performance called "The Inventors Hall of Fame." We were all reminded that 'overnight success just doesn't happen overnight.'

AGATE: 41% of the upper school students were awarded AGATE.

Junior AGATE: 72% of the elementary students were awarded Junior AGATE.

Honor Roll: 32% of the upper school with a gpa of 3.5 – 3.99

Principals List: 28% of the upper school with a gpa of 4.0 or greater.

Faculty Commendation Award: Sarah An, Jonathan Huang, and Ian Pan

Golden Eagle: Jeffrey Kerr

Science Fair: In 1st to 3rd place order;

5th Grade: Andrew Snyder, Juan Viana, Jeremy Hsu

6th Grade: Jessica Miao, Rachel Kim, Ben Hsu

7th Grade: Henna Shin, David Montiel, Rachel Nash

8th Grade: Nicole Miao, Katherine Ampaw, Eric Romero

Class of 2006 Valedictorian: Aletheia Miyake

ASB Commendation Awards:

Teacher: Mrs. Lawson; Parents: Mr. Martinez and Mrs. Pan; Student: Wonju Shon

Congratulations to all for all their toil and effort!

REGISTRATION FOR 2006-2007

Registration contracts have been mailed to all AWS families. Contracts along with the \$200 fee for each student were due on April 5th. Please send in your contracts as soon as possible to help with planning the upcoming school year. In addition, we will reopen second grade. If you know someone who is interested in having their children attend AWS please inform them that we are currently registering for next year.

TEACHERS NEEDED

We are seeking a number of teachers for the 2006-07 school year. The immediate needs are:

- Elementary: Second grade, language arts, social studies
- Junior High: Social studies, math
- High School: English, US Government, US History, Fine Arts

Candidates do not necessarily need a teacher's credential but should have experience teaching. From time to time, teachers leave AWS, so the office is always collecting resumes of qualified teachers in all subjects. Anyone who is qualified and has an interest in teaching is encouraged to contact the office. Please have them e-mail a resume to: office @awschool.org.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ORANGE COUNTY HISTORY DAY WINNERS!!!

On Saturday March 18, 2006 Acaciawood students competed against other Orange County students at all levels and in almost every category of the National History Day competition. We had a fine showing at every level, with the following students receiving awards:

Andrew Snyder *Elementary Individual Poster*
John Good, Joshua Montiel, Juan Viana
Elementary Group Poster

Katherine Ampaw, Henna Shin
Alternate Junior Group Documentary

Kathryn Johnston *Senior Historical Paper*
Curtis Barber *Senior Historical Paper*
Emma Lee *Senior Individual Exhibit*
Stephen Barber *Senior Individual Exhibit*
Susie Kim *Alternate Sr. Individual Exhibit*
Mary Fok, Angela Lee *Senior Group Exhibit*
Alex Kim, David Moon, Samuel Woo
Senior Group Exhibit

Anna Cheung, Isel Lee, Leslie Martinez
Alternate Sr. Group Exhibit

Jordan Permantier, Daniela Romero, Eric Romero
Senior Group Performance
 Brez Liang *Senior Individual Documentary*
 Hugo Martinez, John Oh, Shaun Pan
Senior Group Documentary
 Jonathan Huang, Noah Shin
Senior Group Documentary
 Jonathan Ewing *Alternate Senior Individual Website*
 Jonathan Allison, Samuel Fok, Ian Pan
Senior Group Website

The winners will represent Orange County at the California State Finals May 11-14. This year senior alternates will also compete at state finals. We're proud of all the hard work and we wish our students well in Sacramento!

**"WHERE BEST BUDS MEET"--YOUTH EXPO
 EDUCATIONAL FAIR**

The elementary classes toured the Science Fair at the Youth Expo for their annual field trip on April 7th. As always, there were gleeful grins when we visited the exhibit hall and the students saw their writing work posted bearing first and second place ribbons. Clip art honors went to Kathy Flores, David Kayekjian, Ben Hsu, Rachel Kim, Sara Montiel, Joana Morales, Dana Martin, Juan Viana, and Taylor Vannavong for their "best buds" illustrations. The day was filled with many activities including the physical fitness challenge, magic show, reptile display, and viewing of the police helicopter and S.W.A.T. team from the Costa Mesa Police. It was another day well spent by the young AcaciaWood students.

RECYCLING CONTINUES

The elementary playground project has been postponed due to the shortage of funds, but recycling continues and donations are still being received. Our new goal is to have the equipment purchased and installed by the beginning of the 2006-07 school year. Let's persevere to reach our new goal!

DENNIS UNIFORM SPECIALS

Dennis Uniform will be holding its annual "Early Bird Sales". During June all in-store purchases will be 10% off. July is *Polo Shirt Month* buy two polo shirts at the regular price and the third shirt is 50% off.

WASC ACCREDITATION REPORT

Thank you to the faculty, staff, parents and students! The Visiting Committee conducting the accreditation review for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) gave all the stakeholders a strong commendation for their effort by stating, "All stakeholders are commended for the thoroughness in the preparation of the *Focus on Learning* document. All stakeholders assisted the Visiting Committee in the collection and clarification of data that was needed in

order to analyze the existing status of the school. The Visiting Committee found that students were congenial and appreciative of the efforts made to improve the quality of educational opportunities available to them." The entire WASC Self-Study process has strongly affirmed our purpose and vision here at AcaciaWood School. It gave opportunity for much dialogue among all the stakeholders and a thorough review of our entire curriculum and academic program. It was apparent to the Visiting Committee that the program we offer at AcaciaWood is outstanding. Many comments by these educators encouraged us in our endeavors here. During the 3-day visit the Leadership team met with them twice a day and heard many comments such as:

- "Students in all the classrooms I saw were very engaged in the learning process."
- "It would be a dream for a teacher to be able to teach at a school such as AWS."
- "What you have here in your character education is very special. I loved what I saw in the elementary Half-Time Huddle. More schools need such a program."
- "The best school I have visited." A remark in the closing statement given at the assembly by the chair of the visiting committee after stating he had visited twelve other schools for accreditation.

All the interaction with the Visiting Committee left us confident that AcaciaWood School has many areas of strength, which were also noted in the written report. Several times their report recognized our small school size as a strength. We were commended again and again for our qualified and dedicated staff that share the same purpose and vision. Their report also recognized our strong academic curriculum producing a high percentage of college-bound students.

The progress we have made since the first accreditation six years ago was commended in their report by stating "all critical areas of follow-up were fully addressed and given appropriate attention." As always we recognize there are areas of growth and have an action plan in place for our future progress. Overall, we are pleased with the Visiting Committee's report and what we gained by passing through this process of re-accreditation. We await the official written accreditation from the Western Association Schools and Colleges which can take up to six months.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

- April 17 Family Dinner 5:45pm
- April 17 Awards /Talent Night 7:00pm
- May 12-14 State National History Day
- May 19 1:10 Dismissal, all grades
- May 26-29 Memorial Day Break
- June 2 1:10 Dismissal, all grades
- June 5-6 1:00 Dismissal, all grades
- June 5-7 Final Exams, upper school
- June 7 Awards Assembly 12:30pm
Last day of school
- June 8 Graduation 7:00pm, Anaheim
Downtown Community Center