

ACACIAWOOD SCHOOL NEWS

2005-2006 Issue 5

May 25, 2006

YEAR END SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The end of this school year is right around the corner. Below are reminders of holidays and final exams.

- May 26th - Friday - No school
 - May 29th - Monday - No school
 - June 2nd - Friday - 1:10 dismissal
- Final Exam Schedule - June 5th - 7th**
- June 5th - Monday - 1:10 dismissal
 - June 6th - Tuesday - 1:10 dismissal
 - June 7th - Wednesday - 2:00 dismissal
 - June 7th - Wednesday - Awards Ceremony, 1:00pm in MPR

SUMMER CAMP 2006

Dates for Summer Camp 2006 have been set to begin July 24 and end on August 19. Host families are again needed for lodging and care of the students. The host families are a priceless part of the experience of living in America and learning English. Acaciawood School is seeking families to serve as host families for summer camp as well as during the regular school year. Host families have the option of receiving remuneration or tuition credit for caring for foreign students.

ACACIAWOOD STUDENTS TAKE A STAND AT HISTORY DAY IN CALIFORNIA!

On May 13, 2006, 29 Acaciawood students competed at History Day in California in Sacramento, CA. Of this number 11 were winners and 2 more were finalists. Five of the winners reached the top level of their competition and will not move on to the national competition in June. The remaining six winners will travel to Washington D.C. to compete June 11-15. Congratulations to all the participants, finalists, and winners! We're very proud of your accomplishments

Finalists:

Mary Fok, Angela Lee *Senior Group Exhibit*

Elementary Division Winner:

Andrew Snyder *Individual Poster*

Senior Division Winners:

Jonathan Ewing *Senior Individual Website*

Jon Allison, Samuel Fok, Ian Pan *Senior Group Website*

Alex Kim, David Moon, Samuel Woo *Senior Group Exhibit*

Eric Romero, Daniela Romero, Jordan Permantier *Senior Group Performance*

ASB OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007

Elections for school officers were held on May 22nd. The school thanks all the candidates that ran during the exciting races:

President
Secretary

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 still seeking a number of teachers for the 2006-07 school year.

- Elementary: Second grade
- Junior High: Language arts, reading
- High School: US History, Fine Arts

Anyone who is qualified and has an interest in teaching is encouraged to e-mail a resume to: office@awschool.org.

NEW AWS WEBSITE

Throughout this school year, the 10th grade Computer Applications class has been creating a new website for the school. It is nearing completion and should be available soon. It represents a major upgrade to the current site. It greatly expands the information about the school that will be available online both for those outside the school who may be interested in applying for admission and for current students and parents. It will include a school calendar on which the office can post school event information and a page for posting announcements.

The students were organized into teams. Responsibilities for developing the various segments of the site were divided up among them. Students also had project-wide responsibilities such as home page design, copy editing, and setting up the site menu. The new website is something the school and particularly the 10th grade class can be proud of.

Thanks for the great website!

CHEMISTRY AWARD

Brez Liang is the AWS recipient of The American Chemical Society Award. The competition was held at CSU Fullerton on the 28th of April. Congratulations, Brez!

BOARD-TEACHER-PARENT MEETING

The Board-Teacher-Parent meeting held on May 15th was a time of highlighting the accomplishments of our students and discussing changes to the curriculum that took place this school year. Several families in the upper school felt that the homework load reduction left our students with too much free time. A need for a yearly college prep workshop was discussed. Standardized test scores (3rd to 8th grade) indicated an improvement with each grade and our students are performing two to four years above grade level. We attribute much of the improvement in test scores to the elementary program. Only ten families were represented at the meeting. More families will be

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A STARRY NIGHT IN PARIS

Produced by the junior class and their parents, the *Senior Banquet* was held on the 19th of May, at the *California Plaza*, in Buena Park which was beautifully decorated by the junior class, their parents and homeroom teacher Mrs. Dutta. The seniors were bid a tearful ADIEU "Under a starry sky in Paris", which was the main theme of the event. Congratulations to all the seniors on graduating from AcaciaWood School and best wishes for your upcoming ventures.

Many, many thanks to all the juniors, Mrs. Allison, Mrs. Pan, Mrs. Lee, Lily Yuan and especially Mrs. Dutta and all the other junior parents for all the hard work for making the event such a successful and memorable one.

PARENTS: DID YOU KNOW?

It is a proven fact that students regress in their academic skills over the summer. Students of all ages lose ground over the summer if not actively engaged in learning. Researchers calculated that summer vacation can result in three months of loss in achievement. "Some students 'lose' more than others," as stated in the June, 2006 issue of *Instructor Magazine*, and "some academic areas show more loss than others, with math, spelling and writing especially susceptible." The most direct way to address summer loss is to create opportunities for students to continue developing their knowledge and skills over the summer.

Reading during the summer may be the best thing you can do to prevent a summer slide and prevent your child from falling behind. Summer reading is essential for students' success so every student should take advantage of the AcaciaWood Suggested Summer Reading List that will be mailed with the end-of-the-year report card. Encourage frequent trips to the library so students can choose books that peak their own interest. Younger students can join the library summer reading programs.

"Real luxury is time and opportunity to read for pleasure."

Jane Brody, NY Times columnist

To increase writing over the summer months encourage students to write letters to their relatives, friends, or pen-pals. For the cost of stationery and stamps, your child can learn the joy of "staying in touch." Also students can keep a summer journal, especially if taking a family trip. Students can branch out and try other creative forms of writing during their free time such as songwriting, cartoons with dialogue, or writing in code. They can even try their hand at writing their own version of Mad Libs...just visit <http://rinkworks.com/crazylibs> to access free Mad Lib-style puzzles based on familiar literature.

Here are a few activities that are full of summer fun that will help with success in school when the new year begins.

- Take a field trip. Museums, zoos, and historical sites offer lots of opportunities to read and learn new information.
- Build a model airplane or doll house. Or anything else with detailed instructions that perks your child's interest. Be sure they read all the steps and identify any words.
- Pick

many pages each family member has read. Reward the winner or those who reach their goal.

- Visit www.scholastic.com/summerreading. You will find lots of cool games, message boards to talk about good books, and best of all, free shipping on books ordered from The Scholastic Store.
- Organize an old toy sale or garage sale. This is great for math computation.
- Have your child write to some of their favorite authors or government officials.
- Younger students can run a lemonade-stand. This way they use math in the real world.
- Teens can create and design original games—have them write an instruction book to complement their creation.
- High school students might enjoy *52 Projects: Random Acts of Everyday Creativity*, by Jeffrey Yamaguchi. It is a fantastic and unusual resource for reading and writing activities for older students and adults.

JUST REMEMBER - TO HAVE FUN WHILE STAYING ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN LEARNING ALL SUMMER LONG!

COLLEGE PREP CORNER

"A Students Schedule for College Success" by CollegeBoard (www.collegeboard.com):

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEAR;

- Meet with high school counselor to be sure academic courses are on track
- Discuss honors courses with teachers
- Find out about PSAT/NMSQT (given 10/14/06)
- Get informed about college costs and financial aid options. Use the online *College Savings Calculator*.
- Read as much as possible throughout the year. Get ideas from the College Board website's 101 Great Books. Summer reading is important too.

JUNIOR YEAR;

- Visit college campuses and try to meet with admissions officers. Do it this summer!
- Create a resume of your high school accomplishments including activities and awards as well as work experience.
- Mark your calendar with key dates and deadlines for senior year. Use the online *College Application Calendar* and the *Financial Aid Calendar*.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

- May 26-29 Memorial Day Break
- June 2 1:10 Dismissal, all grades
- June 2 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- June 5-6 1:00 Dismissal, all grades
- June 5-7 Final Exams, upper school
- June 7 Awards Assembly 1:00pm
- **Last day of school**
- June 8 Graduation 7:00pm, Anaheim Downtown Community Center
- July 24-Aug. 19 ESL Summer Camp
- Aug. 21-Sept. 1 Teacher Orientation/Workshops
- August 26 School Cleaning. All parents

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