



Eye on Acaciawood

The Bird's Eye View: Acaciawood Academics, Athletics, and Accomplishments

A Quarterly Report of Acaciawood School and College Preparatory Academy ~ 2001 Fall Quarter

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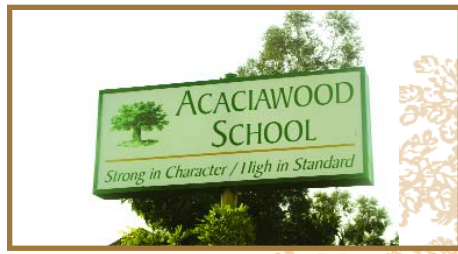
ACACIAWOOD MOVES TO NEW FACILITY

On the weekend of February 17, 2001, after nearly five years of searching and waiting, Acaciawood moved to its new facility at 2528 W. La Palma Avenue in Anaheim, and our hope for an adequate facility for the school was realized. The 2.1 acre site is less than half a mile south of the 91 Freeway and Interstate 5 interchange; making it easily accessible from most of the Southland.

There are five buildings on the site, totaling nearly twenty thousand sq. ft. of floor space. Acaciawood utilizes just over half of the total floor space exclusively for classrooms, a library, administrative offices, computer lab, and restrooms. A new science lab is presently under construction. An additional three thousand four hundred sq. ft. multipurpose room (MPR) and two thousand sq. ft. are being



leased to two Christian groups on some evenings and weekends. The MPR includes an elevated stage area and a commercial-grade kitchen. Acaciawood uses the MPR for special events and all-school assemblies. The site has parking for one hundred thirty vehicles. Parts of the parking lot are striped as regulation-sized basketball and volleyball courts. Extensive landscaping, and facility improvements, including paint and fencing have been installed. Our new site facility represents a major step forward in providing a proper learning environment for our students. ☐



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOUNDATION SELECTS ACACIAWOOD STUDENT DOCUMENTARIES

Two groups of Acaciawood students won first prize in a state-wide competition, entitled *Free Expression in a Free Society*, sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. In the Junior High Division, Grace Liau and Grace Pester were awarded \$500 for their video documentary entitled *To the Mountaintop: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Struggle for Civil Rights*. In the Senior High Division, Walter Liau, Andrew Miller, and Ryan Pester were also awarded \$500 for their documentary entitled *The Nuremberg Trials: A*

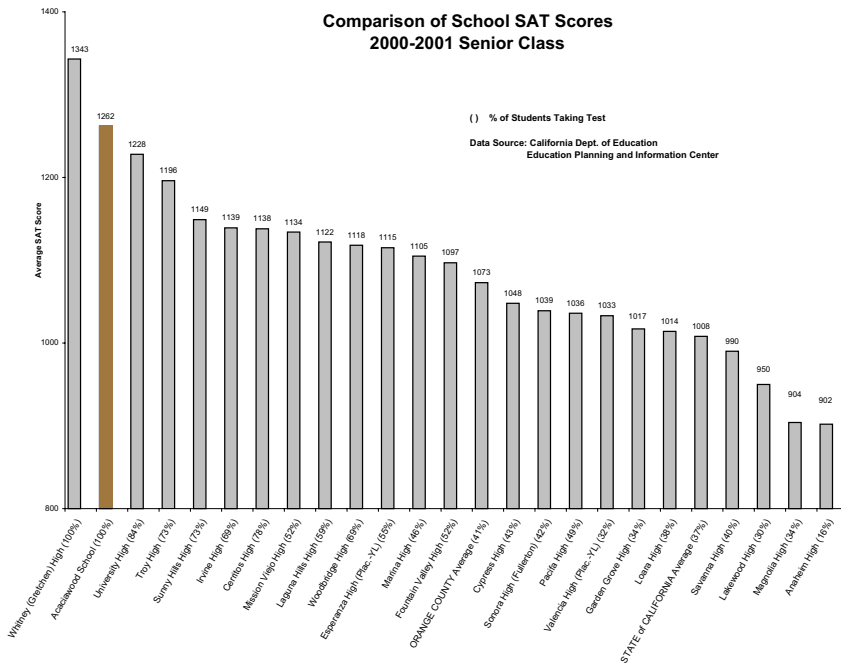
Frontier in International Law, Awakening the World to Human Rights. The students and their parents and coaches, Hallie Williamson and Sandra Yang, have been invited to attend an awards banquet in January with the Board of Directors of the Constitutional Rights Foundation. One of the winning videos will be shown at the banquet. The video on the Nuremberg Trials also won first place at the national contest for National History Day, held at the University of Maryland in College Park, Maryland, in June, 2001. ☐

TOWN HALL MEETING GIVES STUDENTS A VOICE

Through an outstanding effort by the Acaciawood Board of Directors and the Associated Student Body, Acaciawood School had its first and very successful Town Meeting. During the Town Meeting, students gathered to discuss issues proposed by their student peers. To be placed on the meeting agenda, each item of discussion had to be sponsored by at least ten percent of the student body. On the agenda for the first meeting, there were items in three categories related

SAT SCORES TESTIFY

ON THE BALL: GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL ACCOLADES



At the annual end-of-season Acacia-wood Girl's Volleyball Banquet held Thursday evening, November 15, four varsity players were awarded Honorable Mentions in the All League California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) ratings. Sophomores Henna Cheng, Christina Hernandez, and Anita Yang along with Freshman Shenandoah Yang received this honor for their fine play on the court.

Seven of the girls have been recognized by the CIF as athletes with grade point averages above 3.5: Gabby Chavarria, Henna Chen, Jessica Higashi, Joanna Hodges, Karis Miyake, Phoebe Park, and Anita Yang. The entire team has also been entered into a CIF competition for high scholastic achievement as a team. Winners will be announce later in the year. We applaud our "lady" Golden Eagles. 🏆

When comparing the average SAT scores of Acaciawood's 2001 seniors with other seniors in Orange and Los Angeles counties, our seniors had the second highest average test score: 1262! The average scores for Orange County and the state were 1073 and 1008. 100% of AWS seniors took the SAT. Great job seniors!

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

ACACIAWOOD VISITOR

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND HONORS

In 1998 Acaciawood completed the requirements for accreditation, as set forth by the principal educational organization on the West Coast, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). After a rigorous three-day on-site examination, Acacia-wood was accredited for six years, the maximum length that can be granted to any institution. Our curriculum is now recognized by every major college and university in the United States. In addition, many of Acacia-wood's high school courses are recognized by the University of California as being "UC course approved." To achieve this status, Acaciawood submitted detailed course descriptions of its courses at both the honors and non-honors levels. Acaciawood has received approval for eight honors courses, courses that can award 5.0 GPAs. This is the maximum number of honors courses that the University of California will recognize at any institution. 🏆

On Tuesday November 6, Deborah Granger, Orange County Coordinator for History and Social Sciences, toured Acaciawood School and observed our award-winning National History Day program in action. She visited classes, talked with students, and took pictures of the students preparing for National History Day, which will begin in Orange County on March 23, 2002. Ms. Granger's enthusiasm and interest was apparent in all of her contact with our students. She indicated that Acaciawood has established a reputation as the school to beat at History Day after three years of competition at the county level. She will return in a few months with a camera to get footage for an instructional video on incorporating National History Day into humanities curriculum. She is also planning to get media coverage for the county competition in March, to be held at the Orange County Department of Education complex in Costa Mesa. 🏆

On Tuesday November 20, Hallie Williamson and Sandra Yang conducted a workshop at the Association of Christian Schools International Convention, entitled "Integrating Academic Competitions in the Humanities Curriculum." Over the last five years, our school has built up a strong reputation among educators and institutions for the performance of our students in academic competitions. We carefully select competitions that support the standards of our curriculum in order to motivate our students to excel.

In October, the University of California at San Diego, selected Diane Owen as an outstanding teacher in its Teacher Recognition Program. Each year, freshmen can nominate teachers who have inspired them to pursue excellence in academic and personal endeavors. Leah Hage, a 2001 AWS graduate, nominated Mrs. Owen for her dedication and selfless labor in preparing her for college academics. 🏆

to: 1) Displaying patriotism and support of our country; 2) Improving student life at Acaciawood; 3) Making Acaciawood School a better school.

After a formal presentation of an idea, students with differing views were given an opportunity to speak. Usually, these arguments were well thought out, prompting the students to develop a feasible course of action for each item.

Some of the specific details under these categories included sending messages of condolence to Brother Alex Chiang's family, who has suffered because of his death in the World Trade Center attack on September 11, fundraising for a school flagpole, instituting a "Casual Dress Day" as a fundraiser, and building a gym. Time ran out for discussion on the gym, but the other topics generated a lively interchange among the students.

The Town Meeting resulted in students taking action. Each class wrote and sent letters to the Chiang family in New York. Through fund raising projects by each class, Acaciawood students have raised nearly a thousand dollars for a school flagpole. Finally, the first "Casual Dress Day" was held on November 15th. The Town Meeting also allowed the faculty and staff of the Acaciawood to hear and respond to the opinions and concerns of the students. We look forward to many more such Town Meetings. ☒

A MOTHER SPEAKS

A sister told me that her son transferred to Acaciawood and became a new person. She said the teachers were excellent, loving and patient, having much wisdom in how to instruct the children. Besides academics, the school also emphasizes character development. She told me in detail how her son changed. I discussed this with my husband, and we decided to transfer our son from a public school to Acaciawood. I truly have seen the

Acaciawood is a veritable Ferris wheel of work and fun. It has its ups and its downs, but one learns to enjoy the ups and tolerate the downs. The ups are having friends as classmates, the student-centered atmosphere, and the bond shared by students through group projects. Throughout the year, I experience many downs; however, I can always count on a friend and/or teacher to encourage or cheer me up. Acaciawood is not only centered on learning, but also on a caring environment. The best thing about making friends at Acaciawood is that these friends can be companions in the Lord, and that we will be able to see each other throughout our lives at trainings and such. Acaciawood means life-long friends.

Brad Veale, 12th grade

Acaciawood School is perseverance. The atmosphere encourages kindness and care for others, rather than animosity and spite. Most of all, Acaciawood is heart. Acaciawood has taught me quite a bit since I've been here. It has taught me that simply doing all my work is a great key to success. Our level of skill is not determined by the external tools we have, but by the motivation we have within.

Evan Chan, 11th grade

I feel genuinely alive whenever I hear the voices of people saying, "Hi" or "Good morning." Acaciawood motivates me to love others, because others love me. By destroying hate, depression, distress, and pain, love from Acaciawood flows a life into me.

Phoebe Park, 11th grade

change in our son since he came to Acaciawood. He no longer needs prompting to do his homework. With calmness, he completes his work in an orderly manner. When he encounters something that he does not understand, he tries to find the answer himself, and failing that, calls schoolmates for help. Before going to bed, he puts

In my years at this school, I have seen growth, development, and expansion beyond my wildest dreams. I know that I have grown much in my years at Acaciawood School. When I came here, I was a procrastinator, in essence, a lazy slob. Alas, I am still a procrastinator, but my late hours of pressing work are getting the better of me, and I am gradually growing out of this habit as others and I grow with Acaciawood.

Andrew Miller, 11th grade

Acaciawood's school,
so it cannot be perfect,
Yet of everywhere else,
it sure seems the closest.
The first day I came here,
I wasn't so sure.
I wanted to turn back,
not wanting the change.
They'd think I am weird
or awful or strange.
I made up my mind
I was leaving right then.
But, after a week,
I couldn't be more content.
I came from a place
so different from this.
We'd sing about demons
and witches with sticks,
But, now I sing songs
of salvation and love.
There is no comparison,
they're words from above.

It's safe from the world,
It's a wonderful place.
Acaciawood's special,
It is our place.

Philip Combiths, 9th grade

his uniform and book bag in order. He has a sense of responsibility. He is no longer quick-tempered and does his tasks in an orderly manner. He is obedient to the teachers' regulations, and his grades have vastly improved. We are so fortunate to have chosen an educational environment that is high in standard, comfortable, and cheery. ☒



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 4** Awards Assembly and Elementary Musical Program; 5th—8th Science Fair
- Mar. 4** High School Science Fair
- Mar. 23** National History Day Competition, Orange County

COME AND VISIT US

Parents who are interested in enrolling their children in Acaciawood School are welcome to come and visit us at any time. Please call and schedule a visit to see our facilities, talk with our faculty, and meet our students. Call 714.995.1800.

ACACIAWOOD ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SOAR IN ORANGE COUNTY YOUTH EXPO ART CONTEST

Shouts of joy could be heard as these words were read to our elementary students: "Congratulations! Your drawing has been selected as the Grand Prize Winner for the Elementary School Division in the 2002 Youth Expo Theme Clip Art Contest. You have helped make this upcoming year's competition handbook very unique in commemorating your tribute to *Ponds, Pools & Ocean Jewels—A Salute to a Healthy Planet.*" This honor was awarded to fourth grader, Clare Lin. In addition, out of over 400 entries, the drawings of five other students were selected to appear in the *Youth Expo Handbook*. A salute to you all—Lizeth Arteaga, Katie Lee, Morgan Massey, Bing O'Dowd, and Yung-En Perng. Our elementary students will compete in other divisions such as creative writing and wall murals. This work, as well as their science fair projects, will be on display April 19-21, 2001 at the Youth Expo, Orange County Fair & Exposition Center. ☐

Eye on **Acaciawood**

is published by Acaciawood School, a non-profit, public benefit corporation dedicated to the development of the character, intellect, and physical well-being of children. The corporation is organized to train and educate children through the rigorous promotion of high standards of academic excellence in the essential components of a college preparatory curriculum, both in the arts and sciences. Acaciawood is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and currently offers instruction in grades 3 through 12. For more information, contact us at:

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