Walnut Valley is an Extraordinary Place!

Our Walnut Valley students, teachers and staff members received numerous awards during the 2011-12 School Year.

Walnut Valley Unified School District

This has been an incredible year for the students and staff in the Walnut Valley U.S.D. In this year-end edition of Outlook, we highlight some of the many achievements and accomplishments that took place in 2011-12.

Evergreen was named a 2012 National Mix It Up Model School for its exemplary efforts to foster respect and understanding among students throughout the campus. Evergreen is one of 77 schools nationwide to receive the honor.

Four schools - WHS, DBHS, South Pointe, and Suzanne competed and all mediated in the Southern California State Science Olympiad competition.

South Pointe students Leslie Sim and Brendon Houng won 1st Place awards at the 32nd annual History Day competition and qualified for History Day California.

Thirteen WVUSD Schools were named 2012 CBEES Honor Roll Scholar for Academic Achievement.

Suzanne drama students won highest honors in a prestigious London University of Music and Dramatic Art exam. All 23 passed the exam; 11 passed "With Distinction" the highest mark possible! Walnut High senior Brian Yu brought home numerous 1st Place speech contest awards this year including the Guilen Foundation International Competition.

South Pointe 7th grader Harrison Chang was named a 1st Place winner in the City of Los Angeles’ African American Heritage Month “Our Inventors - Stepping Back into the Future” Poster Contest. Walnut High’s Dance Team won top awards at the USA Dance National competition including 1st Place in Open Lyric Dance.

This year 113 middle and high school students were named to the 2011-12 regional and state honor ensembles.

WHS junior EJ Cabasal was named a Finalist in the August Wilson Monologue Competition. He competed among 15 finalists in the inaugural Los Angeles County Regional Finals.

Forty elementary “young artists” were named winners in the 2012 “Draw a Cover for Music K-8 Magazine” contest sponsored by the Eastern Los Angeles Journalism Association.

Suzanne math and drama teacher Helen Papadopoulos was saluted as a 2012 BRAVO Award Winner.

Seven Walnut High senior girls of 6-7 in the Doodle 4 Google national competition. High School athletes won 10 team and 19 individual League Championships, 3 CIF titles, over 40 1st Team All-Academic Awards, and 8 college scholarships.

WHS was awarded the CIF Kenny Fagans Sportmanship Award. Tisa Shavers (DBHS Girls Tennis) and Tony McCabe (DBHS Girls Golf) won Coach of the Year awards.

Over 2,400 participants and donors supported our 3rd annual 1K and 5K Fun Run, Wheel Food Fest & Student Showcase held March 3 & 4. On behalf of the District and the Walnut Valley Educational Foundation thank you to all participants, runners, volunteers, and sponsors!

DBHS students Anjali Iyer, Sarah Pak, and Brandon Chou were named winners of the 2011 STEM Contest sponsored by the Chinese Institute of Engineers.

Walnut High’s 2011 Cayuse yearbook received the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's highest honor, the Gold Crown.

Walnut High’s Dance Contest.

This was an incredible year for the students and staff in the Walnut Valley U.S.D. In this year-end edition of Outlook, we highlight some of the many achievements and accomplishments that took place in 2011-12.

Also this year, as the result of a retirement incentive, 54 certificated and classified employees representing a total of more than 1,300 years of exemplary service to our students will be retiring from the District. We wish them all the best!

Have a restful and relaxing summer! Remember, the 2012-13 school year begins on August 20.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dean Conklin
Superintendent

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Suzanne Middle School Instrumental Music Director Ami Garvin was selected to represent the State in a profile of the “50 Directors Who Make a Difference,” a report featured in the School Band & Orchestra Magazine.

Suzanne 8th grader William Widjaja received the Exceptional Talent Award for scoring above 700 on the SAT before the age of 13 by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.
Over 1,500 students took part in high school commencement ceremonies on May 31. Here are profiles of just a few of our stellar students!

**Diamond Bar High School**

Kathleen Torres,
Stanford University – 4.0 GPA

**Walnut High School**

Yulan ‘Alun’ Zhang,
Yale University – 3.87 GPA
Tapped 13 AP Courses. Physics Bowl 6th Place, National Chemistry Olympiad Honors Award, National AP Scholar, National Merit Scholar Finalist, Stanford Math Tournament 9th Place Individual Calculus, Science Olympiad Regionals 3rd Place Power & 6th Place-Chemistry Laboratory. Co-Captain, FBLA Sectional 4th Place Entrepreneurship. Science Olympiads and Future Scientists and Engineers of America for 3 years, current President: Science for Middle and Elementary Education for 2 years, current President: National Institute of Health: STEP-UP Research Internship at UC San Francisco & published research in peer review scientific journal.

**Ron Hockwalt Academies**

Dimiri Lopez,
Mt. San Antonio College – 4.0 GPA
Earned Honor Roll and Eagle of the Week awards. Received Kiwanis Award in Social Science, Diamond Bar Women's Club, and Walnut Valley Educational Foundation Scholarships. Every teacher and staff member on campus nominated Dimiri as the school’s Superstar Senior. He is an exemplary student and school leader. Dimiri is intelligent, diligent, responsible, and motivated. He is respectful to all, and mentors and supports his classmates. Dimiri is committed to his goal of becoming a fireman and will pursue an Associate of Science degree in Fire Science at Mt. SAC, and then transfer to a four-year college. His athletic abilities combined with his helping nature make this an excellent career choice for him!

**Impressive Grad Stats from the Class of 2012**

81 International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidates
30 Students with 4.0 GPA all four years


Some of our grads have been accepted to...

Brown University, Claremont McKenna College, Cornell University, Harvard University, Harvey Mudd College, Johns Hopkins University, Rice University, Stanford University, Vanderbilt University, Yale University, Columbia University, University of Chicago, Boston University, and New York University.

441 students going to UC’s and 223 going to CSU’s.
60 going to UC Berkeley and 41 going to UCLA.
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
Your Bond Dollar$ at Work!

Cyrus J. Morris Elementary School will be moving to the Ron Hockwalt Academies (RHA) campus for the 2012-13 school year.

Yes, everything – including our students, teachers and staff members, desks, books, paper, and pencils will re-locate prior to the exciting School Modernization that is scheduled to begin in August. WCCR Construction has begun the façade replacement, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Minor construction of C. J. Morris East (RHA), site work and the installation of the new relocatables will begin around the first week of June and is scheduled to be completed late July in time for the new school year.

“The move was a unanimous decision by every staff member. Our school community has been wonderfully supportive of this huge endeavor,” said Principal An Nguyen. RHA and Independent Study students and staff will be relocated to Walnut High School and the District Education Center.

Walnut High School Band Building

The Mustangs are excitedly watching this project’s progress. The exterior plaster has been completed and scaffolding has been removed to prepare the site for exterior concrete work around the building. The interior building, insulation, drywall, HVAC ductwork, rough plumbing and electrical have been completed. All hollow metal doors and window frames have been installed, and the metal ceiling framing has been completed in the large storage rooms.

“The new band and orchestra building will play a major role in supporting the students and teachers in these programs. We are thankful to the community for supporting the Bond Measure to build this and know that great things will come in the future with the use of this facility.”

– Walnut High Principal Jeff Jordan

Diamond Bar High School Aquatic Center and Classroom Building

Novus Construction is in the process of completing concrete retaining walls in the area of the new 2-story modular classroom building. Scaffolding has been installed, waterproofing has begun and the installation of the reinforcing steel will be installed and ready for the installation of the concrete. The temporary shoring wall along building “D” has been completed. Novus Construction is in the process of installing the waterproofing at the new shoring walls. After the waterproofing is completed, they will begin to install the reinforcing steel at the shoring walls and get ready to spray the shotcrete. The grading contractor has finished the removal of dirt at the shoring walls including excavation and re-compaction for the building pad of the new 2-story building.

The plumbing contractor is in the process of installing the underground site utilities, storm drain, sewer and gas in the area of the new 2-story building.

The concrete contractor will begin digging footings and forming the ramp walls.

“We are extremely excited about the daily changes happening on the hillside. Our long-awaited aquatic center is becoming a reality and we can’t wait to dive in!”

– Diamond Bar High School Principal Catherine Real

Chaparral Middle School One Science Building

The Board of Trustees awarded the Chaparral One Science Building at their April 25, 2012 meeting. The notice to proceed for the construction of the 14 Classroom Science Building has been issued to ESR Construction. This is a 365 calendar-day project.
A Resounding Success!

They practiced side-by-side during four rehearsals in March and April. Young musicians from Collegeview, C.J. Morris, Vejar, Westhoff, and Walnut Elementary performed with their WVS “buddies” a Spring Concert on April 25 held in the Performing Arts Center.

“We want them to get a taste of high school band so that they continue to be excited about band in middle school and beyond,” said Band Director Corey Wicks. “And they had a wonderful experience performing on stage with the high school band.”

Sophomore French horn player Sirena Chu said the program also introduced them to different instruments. “And that playing music is a cool thing to do!” The most rewarding things are seeing how the 5th graders improve and knowing that they do continue in the middle school music programs, said co-founder junior flutist Katie Takahashi.

for high school band section during the concert.

C.J. Morris Teacher “Flips The Classroom”

This year’s event once again brought the community together under the common goal of giving back. “We thank everyone that helped make this year’s event such a resounding success!” Gayle Pacheco said.

Outlook

Dr. Dean Conklin
Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Larry L. Redinger, President
Helen M. Hall, Vice President
Nancy A. Lyons, Clerk
Cindy M. Ruiz, Member
Philip Chen, Member

MONDAY, AUGUST 20
2012-2013 School Year Begins

Sixteen years ago, Walnut Valley Educational Foundation (WVEF) President Gayle Pacheco and husband Bob were grocery shopping and bumped into a teacher buying items for her classroom. They learned annual teacher stipends didn’t cover all the needed expenses, and many of the items were being purchased out of her pocket.

That chance meeting sparked the idea of mini-grants to help Walnut Valley Teachers.

The 16th annual Teddy Bear Tea held April 21 funded 50 mini-grants totaling over $15,000. Teachers appreciate the additional support. C.J. Morris teacher Carol Martindale will buy Reading Skills Listening Activity packets with the $300 mini-grant. “My students and husband Bob were

C.J. Morris Elementary teacher Tara Noelte is head over heels about using a new teaching style in her fourth grade classroom.

In March, she piloted the “Flipped Classroom” model, a concept where the teacher videotapes and posts lessons online for students to watch at home on their laptops. Noelte’s students each have personal MacBook laptops for both school and home use through the school’s innovative ilmagine One-2-One laptop program. At school the next day, they engage in activities based on the lesson that they viewed the night before. The positive results and benefits to students are evident in their math chapter assessments.

“After comparing the 2nd trimester (traditional teaching) to 3rd trimester (flipped teaching) the results were very impressive,” Noelte said. She credits the successes to the simple and effective methods of the program. Students are able to watch the videos without the normal classroom interruptions. They are also able to pause, stop and rewind the video, which allows them time to process the information. Noelte creates the video on her iPad. “I’m teaching and walking them through the steps of the lesson,” she said.

To learn more about Walnut Valley Schools visit our website at www.wvusd.k12.ca.us