

March-April 2010



CLAS

CLAS

HIGHLIGHTS

Culture and Language Academy of Success • Aspire. Affirm. Attain.

Dates to Calendar

March 29-April 2 – Spring Break – No School

April 5 – Pupil Free Day – No School

School Resumes on April 6

April 10 – Auction Moved

April 14 – Shortened Day Wednesday – Early Dismissal

April 19-23 – Parent Conference Week

April 24 – Rescheduled Parent Education Workshop

April 28 – Shortened Day Wednesday - Early Dismissal

May 10-May 21 – STAR Testing

May 28 – Sports Day

Museum Reinforces What CLAS Students Learn Daily

CLAS Attends America I Am Exhibit

Our students, grades 2-8, had the honor of attending an once in a lifetime experience when they saw the highly lauded Tavis Smiley produced American I Am Exhibit at the California Science Center this month. The exhibit will be in Los Angeles until May 2nd and then it will continue its 10-city tour across the country. A critic in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* said the following, “What the exhibition does present is a basic primer, which will, perhaps, serve as a popular introduction. The problem is that most of the history here is so well known in outline that it could serve as the foundation for a show rather than its main point, a frame for explanation rather than the object of attention. At any rate, though, this show succeeds in its original purpose. It makes the question, “Would America have been America without her Negro people?” seem superfluous. For our students much of it was a review as they were reminded of many of the historical elements that have studied here at CLAS. “For those people familiar with the Traveling African American Museum from the old days of AEMP, this exhibit was that on steroids,” said one parent attending the field trip.



CLAS students are so schooled in our history, which is so connected to our heritage. For many students, the exhibit brought to life aspects that they had read about in books or discussed in class. Some of our students could have been tour guides probably. “It was cool to see what we have been studying and to see our history in a museum,” commented a middle school student on the way back to the bus. Thanks to Heaven Cisse for proposing the idea as a school-wide trip as well as all the chaperones.

Looking Forward to Next Year

Re-registration for 2010-2011

Re-enrollment packets will be sent out upon returning from spring break. The due dates for the packets are at the end of April. However forms must be completely and accurately filled out. The ongoing question is always does each returning family have to complete all the forms all over again and the answer is yes. Even if you have been with CLAS multiple years. Yes. Even if your information has not changed. Yes. Each year, we are obligated to keep our records current with the most updated information. Families who do not return the forms at all or incompletely will be considered not returning to CLAS for next year. Families who have not completed the 42 hours of family participation time may be considered as not returning as well. We want and need each of you to return to CLAS and in doing so show support not only for your child’s education but also for the movement for educating our children like we know best. Your support begins with completing the re-enrollment forms completely and on-time.

State Standardized Testing is Six Weeks Away

IT'S BIG GAME TIME!

The NCAA men and women basketballers are immersed in March Madness right now. *May Madness*, CLAS' big game against the test makers, is near and we have to start intense and collective preparation.



The California Standards Test is an annual event that is the one time snapshot that supposedly shows how well our students are performing in relation to the state standards. In many ways, this is a make or break opportunity for us as we have not made gains in the past two years. A third year of no gains could put us in program improvement status. Our first line

of victory comes by simply making point gains on our Academic Performance Index or (API). But we can score a blowout if we reach our long-time goal of 800 points, which would make us an official highly performing school. We need 65 points to reach 800. In this type of high stakes testing atmosphere, every test question for every child counts. Bring it on test makers! The Scribes are ready for the Big Game!!!



SCHOOL SITE HIGHLIGHTS

- Pleasant Hill attended a site-wide field trip Kidspace Museum in Pasadena on Friday, March 19.
- Our graduating 8th graders have begun to be accepted into the various high schools. So far, our most senior Scribes are considering Serra, St. Bernard, Vista Mar, Los Angeles County High School of the Arts, Charles Drew, and others. Congratulations, Scribes! Where ever you decide to go will make us proud.
- CLAS alums, Anjail Bakeer, Robert Mason, David Hughes, and Katherine Eason competed in the NAACP ACT-SO performing arts competition. Good luck, former Scribes! Thanks to Dr. Norfleet for recruitment, coordination, and mentoring.
- The CPO had a very successful Shakey's Night Fundraiser on Thursday, March 18. The CPO earned \$575 during the evening. Way to go CPO! Extra special thanks to Bridgette Wooten for providing banners at each school site that were instrumental in successfully publicizing the Shakey's Night Fundraiser.
- Hope you are enjoying your Spring Break! Rest. Relax. Rejuvenate for the last quarter term.

“Home affairs are not talked about on the public square.”

- Kenyan Proverb

Want to receive CLAS Highlights electronically? Just send an e-mail to yourclascommunity@cultureandlanguage.org with the subject “Subscribe”. Likewise to be removed from the email list, enter the subject “Unsubscribe.”