



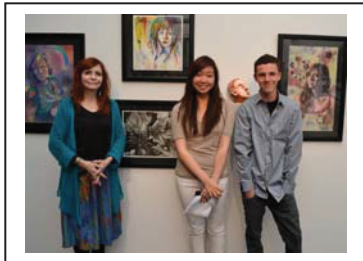
# What's Good in Education - Briefs

March 16, 2011

Vol. XI, No. 14

## COC Hosts High School Teacher and Student Art Exhibition

In a collaborative effort between art instructors at six Hart District high schools and College of the Canyons Valencia campus, the Art Gallery is showing nearly 100 pieces of art and creative media by Hart District students and teachers. A grand opening reception was held unveiling the artwork to educators, students and the community. Artwork in various mediums is displayed, including oil, acrylics, charcoal, pencil, mixed media and ceramics. The Exhibition continues through April 7. For additional info visit: [www.canyons.edu/artgallery](http://www.canyons.edu/artgallery) Admission is free. \$2 Visitor Parking Permit required, in Lot 15. Gallery hours: Mon – Thurs., 10:30 am – 5 pm.



## Talented Students Perform at 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Band Concert

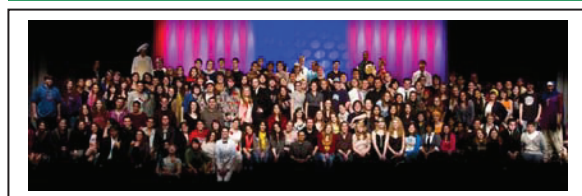
One hundred and eighty junior high and high school students showcased their amazing musical talents at the Hart School District Honor Band Concert, earlier this month. Students representing all Hart School District comprehensive schools, along with students from Castaic Middle School, performed to a packed house of parents and community supporters in the 800-seat Hart High School Auditorium. This program saw 900 highly talented students audition for one of the 85 junior high positions and 85 high school positions. Students had the unique opportunity to perform under the direction of guest conductors, who are highly regarded in their field. Both bands performed difficult musical pieces with precision, maturity and grace. Performing arts are an integral program in the District. Schools offer students the opportunity to try their hand at a variety of classes, including theater arts, choir, music appreciation, marching band, drum line, jazz band, orchestra, dance, color guard, cheerleading and more. The Governing Board recently approved building Performing Arts Centers at Saugus and Canyon High Schools, with Measure SA funds earmarked for these projects.

Students had the unique opportunity to perform under the direction of guest conductors, who are highly regarded in their field. Both bands performed difficult musical pieces with precision, maturity and grace. Performing arts are an



integral program in the District. Schools offer students the opportunity to try their hand at a variety of classes, including theater arts, choir, music appreciation, marching band, drum line, jazz band, orchestra, dance, color guard, cheerleading and more. The Governing Board recently approved building Performing Arts Centers at Saugus and Canyon High Schools, with Measure SA funds earmarked for these projects.

## Shakespeare Festival Showcases Student Talent



Students from all six Hart District comprehensive high schools participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Theater Festival, in February. Two hundred students were involved in the



festival, which featured two dramatic and hilarious days of costumes, scenes and monologues. The event, which brings students together from across the Santa Clarita Valley, is unique and has not been done in any other California school district. Students were judged by theater professionals from College of the Canyons and professional actors. Students enjoyed morning workshops in Shakespeare, fencing, movement and mask work. The festival took place at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at COC and Golden Valley High School.

## **ROP Students Host Special Sheriff's Department Visitors**



Deputy Jonn Eidem from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department K-9 detail for the Custody Operations Division, visited the Regional Occupation Program's Law Enforcement students, earlier this month. Deputy Eidem's partner, "Gunner," a K-9 trained to detect drugs and alcohol, performed several demonstrations for the students.

Students were able to see firsthand, not only how friendly these dogs are, but the importance of using specially trained dogs to better search persons and vehicles for contraband.



## **West Ranch ASB Hosts Elementary School Leadership Day**

West Ranch High School Associated Student Body hosted more than 120 elementary school student council members from Stevenson Ranch, Oak Hills, and Pico Canyon Elementary Schools. Students learned about reaching out and including all students on their campus and how to make all students feel a part of their school. Later, students participated in team building activities organized by West Ranch ASB students. After watching a live broadcast of West Ranch Television (WRTV), students were grouped by grade level and worked with West Ranch ASB students on coming up with lunch activities that could be organized by their student council leaders at their schools. The elementary students enjoyed spending time with the high school student leaders, and the high school students enjoyed sharing their knowledge with the future ASB leaders.

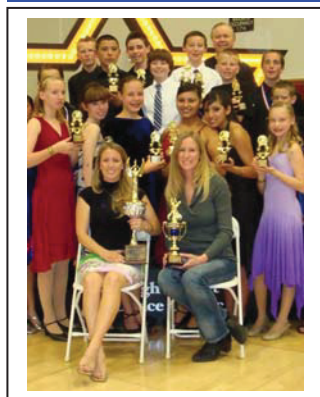


## **SOAR Students Benefit from "Mardi Gras Madness" Fundraiser**

Nearly 300 runners and walkers donned a battalion of beads in a dash to complete the inaugural Mardi Gras Madness 5K at Bridgeport Marketplace, earlier this month. Organized by members of the Santa Clarita Track Club, this annual race benefits Hart District students participating in the club's Students Off And Running (SOAR) program, whose mission is to provide fully supported LA Marathon training experience to local youth in need at no cost to student participants or their families. SOAR students will participate in the LA Marathon on March 20, 2011 and have spent many months training and participating in shorter races to prepare for the big marathon. SOAR is not about recruiting seasoned high school athletes; the program seeks any high school student who is willing to commit to a truly life-changing experience. For more info on SOAR, visit [www.soar-sc.org](http://www.soar-sc.org) or contact Program Director Kevin Sarkissian at 661.877.7024.



## **Placerita Students Ballroom Dance to First Place**



Placerita Junior High School students competed at the High Desert Dance Classic in the Dancing Feet Youth Ballroom program held at Antelope Valley College, earlier this month. The Placerita Ballroom Team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the competition. The Dancing Feet Program is a youth ballroom program designed to teach 7<sup>th</sup> grade students ballroom and Latin dances. This was Placerita's third year in the competition joining the group of Antelope Valley schools participating in the program and competition. Professional ballroom teachers provided dance instruction to the teachers at each participating school. The teachers were then responsible to teach their students the five ballroom and Latin dances. Teachers Tammi Suheck and Kristin Burrill instructed the team of 12 students. The team consisted of Sydney Allen and Corey Burrill dancing the Waltz, Megan Mekelburg and Evan Murray dancing the Tango, Kimberly Gonzalez and Luke Peckham dancing the Merengue, Paulina Lopez and

Kris Walters dancing the Samba, and Clairra Speight and Mauricio Ledesma dancing the Cha Cha; alternates were Kristiana Adrian and Ryan Shouldice.