



The Phoenix

DECEMBER 2011



Principal's Pride

Welcome to the Inaugural edition of the Learning Options Newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about upcoming events in your son or daughter's school year and to make you aware of the wide variety of programs offered by Learning Options. I am very proud of the services we offer and hope that, with our help, your child will be back on the path to graduation. We believe in our students and believe that we can help them find success. I hope you find our newsletter interesting and informative.

Sincerely,

Dane Caldwell-Holden,

Important Dates To Remember

December 19-30 Winter Break

January 2, 2012 No School for Students (Staff Development)

January 24, 2012 Parent Advisory Committee at the District Office. All parents welcome.

Teacher Spotlight

Chris Austin is a compassionate, humorous, energetic, and creative educator. She is a life long learner who brings her passion for learning into the classroom everyday. She celebrates differences as well as the importance of what unites us all. She treats each and every student with respect, and expects the same. She attempts to put herself in the position of the student to better understand the challenges they have faced and natural skills they possess. She encourages students to advocate for themselves and to be compassionate classmates, and community members. Chris defines what it means to be a true educator.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

Ms. Austin is the best teacher I have ever had. She always helps me with my work and she is nice to all of us. She is the greatest teacher— Christian

Ms. Austin is a tough teacher! She works out to get muscles like the HULK and rock climbs! I've never met a female teacher that's so active!!!! – Diego

I think this program is awesome because the students have another opportunity and I am very glad I do. – Jessica

Ms. Austin is one of the best teachers you can possibly think of. She gives you enough time to get all your work done. – Antoinette

Ms. Austin is very patient, understanding and always does a good job in keeping us on track. – Selena



Pioneer Plus: Pioneer celebrates College Day



Ms. Karen Perez and her students created their college themed door in celebration of College Day at Pioneer Plus.

Gunderson Plus: On December 2nd the Gunderson Plus staff took the students on a field trip to tour San Jose State University's campus and to The Tech Museum. Gunderson Plus had five girls participate in the NextGen field trip, a program for young girls interested in science, technology, and math as a career. It was nice to meet so many great, inspiring, intelligent, and caring women. Jocelyn Goldfein, Facebook Director of Engineering, spoke to the high school students.

Learning Options Programs:

Gunderson Plus
408-972-8629

Leland Plus
408-535-6100

Lincoln Plus
408-292-3794

Pioneer Plus
408-264-4428

San Jose High Plus
408-287-1631

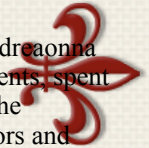
Willow Glen Plus
408-264-4422

Career Academy
408-947-2852

Middle College
408-298-2181 (3996)

Liberty High School
408-229-0722





PHYSICIANS' SYMPOSIUM



Adreaonna Jansen and Janae Gaines

Career Academy: On Saturday, October 29, 2011, Adreaonna Jansen and Janae Gaines, two Career Academy students, spent their day at Good Samaritan Hospital, members of the "Careers as Physicians Symposium" audience. Juniors and seniors listened as several physicians discussed the preparation needed for medical school and beyond.

Adreaonna and Janae, both seniors, could identify with much that was presented, as both students work on site at O'Connor Hospital and are used to seeing the medical field up close and personal. Adreaonna, who works with computers in her Biomed jobsite, was impressed with the computer application that allowed for virtual autopsy, an almost hands-on anatomy experience. Janae, who works in the Cath Lab at O'Connor, has had the opportunity to watch both a pacemaker change and the placement of a catheter through an artery in the groin. She sees medicine as a very worthy challenge.

When asked what they took away from the symposium, Janae said she was convinced that becoming a doctor was "a lot of hard work, but it pays off. There are so many options for you after medical school." Adreaonna agreed, saying that the overriding message was to keep moving forward and to stay focused.

Thanks to the San José Rotary Club, Good Samaritan, and Stanford University School of Medicine, both girls were encouraged to stay on course with their goal of entering the field of health care.

LIBERTY ALUMNI UPDATES:

Former Liberty student, Irene Lopez, ^{Type to enter text} is now a junior at U.C. Berkeley!! Irene graduated from Liberty in 2008. Before coming to Liberty, Irene had attended five different high school programs. She was a student with former teacher and now co-coordinator, Gilda Rall. Ms Rall says she always knew she was headed for a great future. She couldn't have been more accurate.

While at Liberty, Irene attended CCOC and was in the Law Enforcement class. I remember that she told me her goal was to become a dispatcher with the police force. Irene was awarded for her strong commitment and work while she attended CCOC and she was recognized at the Award assembly at the end of her senior year. In the fall Irene enrolled at Evergreen Community College in the Administration of Justice Program. A lot has happened in the last couple of years.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Irene showed up at Liberty asking the Registrar for an official transcript. The transcript is a part of the application and documentation required of her to enter a mentor program at UCLA. This opportunity will ultimately prepare her for entering Law School when she graduates from U.C. Berkeley.

In the brief conversation that I had with Irene who was waiting for her official transcript, she related with much enthusiasm, the challenge of being a university student and being a mom at the same time. Her daughter is 3 years old and the two of them live on campus in family housing. The experience for both of them is working out well. Irene is the energetic and positive person I remember from three years ago. She has sought out the individuals who have mentored her along the steps that will ultimately lead to the goal of entering Law School. She is deserving of a career that will honor her and her hard and consistent work.



Career Academy Success Story

Two of our Career Academy students, **Janae Gaines and Adreaonna Jansen**, were chosen to be on the Youth Task Force with Santa Clara County under Supervisor Dave Cortese. There were 25 applicants and only 12 students were chosen from across the county.

Community Service Opportunities

San Jose Unified School District requires completion of 40 community service hours.

What to say when you call:

- “Hi, my name is _____, and I’m a student at _____ High School. I am interested in finding out about community service opportunities at your agency.”

- 1) Read to children at the library <http://www.bayarea.readingpartners.org>
- 2) Help build community gardens www.veggielution.org/digcrew 408-634-3276
- 3) Big brothers- Big sisters 408-244-1911
- 4) Second Harvest Food Bank 408-266-8866
- 5) Volunteer positions for teens ages 14-17 at www.volunteersanjose.org/forteens.html
- 6) YMCA 408-226-9622

