



**Director's Report
Presented to the GPA Board of Directors
March 20, 2018**

Academic Events and Achievements

English/Language Arts (ELA)

Students continue working with Achieve 3000 to improve non-fiction reading levels and to learn how to track their own reading growth. Teachers use this actionable data to make instructional decisions on the spot and to differentiate instruction accordingly. The Playwrights Project is underway in both 9th and 10th grade ELA classrooms, and student plays will be performed in mid-April by local actors. Karely O (11th grade) won the Lions Club speech contest at her “club” and “zone” levels, and now moves onto the “regional” level on March 26th at the North Park Lions Club. On March 3rd, eight teachers attended the Spring SDAWP Conference at UCSD, adding new skills to their writing instruction across grade levels. Thanks to our Education Committee, the Director of SDAWP, Kim Douillard, is working with the ELA team to provide 60 juniors with a mock AWPE (writing placement exam) test on March 15th. These essays will be scored by AWPE readers, critical feedback will be given to students, and professional development opportunities will be provided to teachers in an effort to analyze data and promote growth for all involved. GPA’s first “Family Literacy Night” of the year took place on March 15th where students, families, and community members were invited to the GPA library to enjoy the Book Fair, crafts, read alouds, raffles, and displays of student art.

History

Author Bill Busch visited GPA to share his 3-day workshop on economics titled, “The Money Ride.” All seniors and several staff members were also given a copy of his book to continue their learning. GPA’s Class of 2018 participated in our annual living museum “March on Washington” on February 28th. Students emulated the historic event and shared powerful speeches from the time period. Three additional teachers (5 total this year) attended professional development in Los Angeles at the Museum of Tolerance. Each teacher shared his/her powerful learning with the department, and each teacher expressed that this was a “life changing” experience. Both ELA and History departments are now using the resources from “tolerance.org” as a regular tool to build better lessons and be more mindful when planning in regards to teaching for tolerance.

On March 8th, thirty-one 8th graders who participated in the debate “We the People” in December, along with their families, and four GPA staff members were invited to spent the day

at Grossmont College for a VIP experience touring the college, writing elevator speeches, watching a drone demonstration, and supporting a new art installation.

Science

Over 200 sixth grade students participated in the mobile “Splash Lab” that visited our school this month. The students learned about water pollution, conservation, and other watershed issues. They engaged in several hands-on stations aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. Several of our ninth grade students participated in the Annual GPA Science Fair last month. Two of our students qualified for the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair at Balboa Park on March 14th, 2018. Their projects researched the effects of music on bacteria growth and the expanding gas forces of a potato that create pressure in an enclosed environment.

Math

Math intervention efforts continue to strengthen, as the 6th Grade Math Enrichment Program enters its fifth month. Sixth grade participants showed an average of .5 years or more of growth as of January, and final assessment results at the program’s end in April will reveal the full extent of academic acceleration in Math. Recent data from Learning Upgrade, the web-based learning program used across middle school classrooms, shows 13,915 hours logged so far for the 2017-2018 school year in Math Upgrade, with students spending an average 25 total hours on the program. Six GPA staff members attended the San Diego Math Network event, “Mindset Revolution.” The all-day workshop featured experts Cathy Williams of YouCubed and Stanford University’s Dr. Jo Boaler and tackled the topics of mathematical mindsets and “complex instruction.”

Spanish/Language Other Than English (LOTE)

The GPA Spanish team continues to work collaboratively to prepare our students to continue with their language development starting from 8th graders in Spanish 1 all the way through AP Spanish Literature as seniors. As the leading department of our AP success rate, the Spanish team meets regularly to plan instruction and provide consistent vertical alignment. They are role models for collaboration and organization of their content on a continuum. In the summer of 2018, two of our AP Spanish Language teachers will attend training to become “readers” of AP Spanish essays through the College Board in an effort to elevate their understanding and their teaching practice.

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)

To kick off second semester, students in our high school Art course, were able to attend various art museums in Balboa Park free of cost through the Mingei Museum Transportation grant. Students were able to bring art to life touching on a variety of VAPA fine art units of study. At the Mingei Museum, students covered The Americas, Central America, South America, ceramics, textiles and weaving. At the Timken Museum, students were able to study Medieval Art, Christian Art, Byzantine Art, Celtic Art, Medieval Pre-Romanesque Art, Impressionism and Realism. At the San Diego Museum of Art, the Renaissance, Cubism, Modern Art, Impressionism, and the Age of Enlightenment were brought to life through various exhibits. Docents, museum personnel and community members were so impressed with our students, that we are currently in the works of developing a partnership with the San Diego Art Institute.

Middle School and High School Honor Roll

On Friday, February 23, a total of 150 middle school students were honored for making Semester 1 Honor Roll. On Thursday, March 8, a total of 155 high school students were honored for making Semester 1 Honor Roll.

Counseling Guidance Lessons

On March 5th, all 7th grade students were introduced to the meaning and significance of empathy. Students were actively engaged in exercises where they practiced demonstrating empathy by giving fictional characters' advice, listening to their circumstance, and relating. This lesson was focused on teaching students the importance of how we interact with others and maintain healthy social connections.

Hippocrates

Thirteen 8th grade students are participating in the Hippocrates Program this year. The Hippocrates program is designed to empower and build awareness among ethnically diverse middle school students about the need for educational and career planning and to provide a supportive environment for students to explore the medical field.

7th and 10th Grade Hearing Exams

7th and 10th grade hearing exams were held on Thursday, February 8, Wednesday, February 14 and Thursday, February 15. All 7th graders received a vision and hearing test and all 10th graders received a hearing test.

Class of 2020 (10th Grade) Field Trip

On Wednesday, February 21st, 35 students from the Class of 2020 had the opportunity to attend an informational session and college tour of the University of San Diego. Students were able to tour Founders Hall where undergraduate classes are held, take in the breath-taking views from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (KIPJ), and gain a glimpse of collegiate life at the Hahn University Center (UC) which houses a hub of student activities such as student dining and the bookstore.

UCSD Comienza con un Sueño Conference

Twenty-seven middle school and high school students had the opportunity to attend the University of California San Diego annual Comienza Con Un Sueño conference on Saturday, March 3rd hosted by EAOP-UCSD. This Conference is a college outreach event held every year by UCSD in an effort to encourage first-generation low- income students from Spanish speaking families to continue and pursue a higher education.

FAFSA/Dream Act

All 138 of our seniors submitted a financial aid application before the March 2 deadline. Students who are US Citizens and Permanent Residents submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students without citizenship status submitted the California Dream Act application.

San Diego City College Application Workshop

San Diego City College representatives came to GPA on Friday, March 2, 2018. Representatives assisted all seniors with completion and submission of the application for the 2018-2019 school year.

SAT Preparation Program

All 11th grade students are registered to take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Students were provided with various opportunities to prepare for exam including two workshops.

Monday SAT Prep Workshop [January 22 - March 5, Weekly]

Vince Kotchian Test Prep representative provided after school SAT prep workshops for our top 30 juniors who scored highest on the PSAT from October 2017.

Tuesday SAT Prep Workshop [January 23 - March 6, Weekly]

UCSD Extension Cal SOAP representative provided after school SAT prep workshops. This workshop was advertised to all 11th grade students registered to take exam in March.

Wings Ceremony

96 students from the senior class participated in the Wings Ceremony on Friday, March 8th. They were honored and received the traditional GPA wings pin for having been accepted to a 4-year university.

Class of 2018 College Acceptances

Gabriela A.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Bakersfield
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Benjamin A.	CSU Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona
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Adriana A.	CSU San Marcos, CSU Los Angeles
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Allison A.	San Francisco State University, CSU Dominguez Hills, Grand Canyon University
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Alejandra A.	CSU Humboldt, CSU Fullerton
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Lizbeydy A.	Grand Canyon University
Miguel A.	CSU Long Beach, CSU Fullerton
Joselynn B.	University of Redlands, CSU Chico
Alina B.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Bakersfield
Jonathan B.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Fullerton, CSU Los Angeles, UC Merced
Dairie B.	CSU Dominguez Hills, Grand Canyon University
Marshawn B.	CSU Bakersfield
Jose C.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Katherine C.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Marlen C.	Grand Canyon University
Valeria C.	CSU Dominguez Hills, Grand Canyon University, CSU Bakersfield, UC Merced
Brianna C.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Paolina C.	CSU Fullerton, CSU Los Angeles
Jazmin C.	San Francisco State University, CSU Fullerton
Esteban C.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Jacari C.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Rayonna D.	University of Nevada Las Vegas, CSU Channel Islands
Jacquelyn D.	CSU San Bernardino
Muhammad E.	CSU Fullerton
Amaris E.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Bakersfield, Grand Canyon University
Jazmin E.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Edgar F.	CSU Fullerton, UC Merced
Ruby F.	CSU Fullerton
Jennifer F.	CSU San Marcos, CSU Long Beach
Josselin G.	CSU Fullerton
Jennifer G.	CSU Los Angeles, UC Merced

Joshua G.	CSU Long Beach, CSU Monterey Bay, UC Merced
Raul G.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Briana G.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Fullerton
Jesus G.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Bakersfield
Yurika G.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Asa H.	CSU Long Beach, Cal Poly Pomona
Brisa H.	CSU Dominguez Hills, Grand Canyon University
Esmeralda H.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Los Angeles
Kayla H.	UC Merced
Amaree J.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Channel Islands
Jameia J.	Grand Canyon University
Jasmine K.	CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach
Kevin L.	CSU San Bernardino, CSU Fullerton, UC Merced
Jazper L.	CSU Bakersfield
Jeremiah L.	CSU Monterey Bay, CSU Fullerton
Nyayiel L.	Grand Canyon University, CSU Channel Islands
Maricela L.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Bakersfield
Alondra L.	CSU Bakersfield, CSU Chico, CSU Fullerton
Noemy L.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Julie M.	Grand Canyon University, CSU Fullerton, UC Riverside
Savanah M.	Grand Canyon University
Marelyn M.	CSU Bakersfield
Elias M.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Bakersfield
Karen M.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Channel Islands, CSU Los Angeles
Melisa M.	Grand Canyon University, CSU Bakersfield, UC Merced
Joana M.	San Francisco State University, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU San Marcos
Miriam M.	CSU San Marcos
Jonathan M.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Leslly M.	CSU Bakersfield

Povhwjhuaj M.	CSU Stanislaus, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Fullerton
Anthony O.	CSU Bakersfield
Alonso P.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Anthony P.	CSU Bakersfield, UC Merced
Candelaria P.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Antonyio P.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Steven P.	San Francisco State University, CSU Los Angeles
Carolyn R.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Fullerton, UC Riverside
Viridiana R.	CSU Bakersfield
Xiomara R.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Fullerton, UC Merced
Bryan R.	CSU Bakersfield
Emanuel R.	San Francisco State University
David R.	CSU Monterey Bay, CSU Fullerton
Ashley R.	CSU Channel Islands, CSU San Marcos
Marybeth R.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU San Marcos, CSU Los Angeles, UC Merced
Litzzy S.	CSU Bakersfield, CSU Fullerton
Starla S.	CSU Bakersfield, CSU Dominguez Hills
Anthony S.	San Francisco State University, CSU San Marcos, CSU Fullerton
Kevin S.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Kaylene S.	San Francisco State University, CSU Humboldt, CSU Fullerton
Lizabeth S.	CSU Fullerton, Cal Poly Pomona
Lizzeth S.	CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach
Makyla S.	CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU San Marcos, CSU Los Angeles, UC Merced
Amanda S.	San Francisco State University, CSU Fullerton
Lavelle T.	CSU East Bay
Bryan T.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Bibiana T.	CSU Dominguez Hills
Raul V.	CSU Fullerton, CSU Los Angeles
Elaine V.	CSU Dominguez Hills

Saul V.	CSU San Marcos
Lawrence V.	CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach
Gloria V.	CSU Bakersfield, Grand Canyon University, CSU Los Angeles
Kenny V.	CSU Fresno, CSU Fullerton
Emily V.	CSU Fullerton, CSU San Marcos, CSU Los Angeles
Eliza W.	Grand Canyon University
Justin X.	CSU Los Angeles

Facilities:

- Our Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) project has had some delays due to rain and resulting roof leaks. Projected completion date has been shifted to September.
- Our Annex offices across the street are coming together, with cubicles being installed over Spring Break. Once phone and Internet services are up and running, we will start moving over staff from Talent Services, Business Services, and Philanthropy/Athletics.
- Our new Athletics buildings have received approval from the Department of the State Architect and the District will be seeking construction bids and awarding the contracts in the coming months. Projected start date is early summer.