

CHOLLA PARENTS

PARENT NEWSLETTER

A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Senior tributes
- Yearbook purchase deadline
- AIMS testing dates
- Senior class calendar of events
- Senior class important contact numbers

MR. FRANK ARMENTA
PRINCIPAL

Phone: 225-4004

Email: Frank.Armenta@tusd1.org

Welcome Back Chargers and Community.

Our first quarter is going well. I want to thank parents and teachers for all their support with Cholla's academic interventions which include: Freshmen Academy, Cholla After-school Program, literacy and math companion-courses, and common formative assessments. These academic interventions are all part of Cholla's Response to Intervention Plan for students who need academic support.

As mentioned in the welcome letter for the 2011-2012 school year, the RtI model has a three tier approach:

tier I focuses on the teacher's instruction in the classroom

tier II focuses on math and/or literacy companion-courses

tier III focuses on specific targeted academic interventions during our after school program.

The RtI model is driven by math and English common formative assessments administered at the end of each academic quarter/semester to ninth and tenth graders.

It is vital that your child is actively participating in each of the tiers; teachers are targeting the appropriate instruction intervention for your child's learning. Parents, as we move towards full implementation of our academic intervention plan, it is imperative that we work together for your child's academic and personal success. If you need further information on RtI or our CAP program please contact Mr. Moraga or Dr. Cunningham.

Another program that is going well is our Freshmen Academy. Our freshmen teachers, academic support staff, and administrators have been working together to ensure that your child is receiving the appropriate academic and

social support their first year here at Cholla. If you if have questions and /or concerns please contact Mr. Rasool (Assistant Principal of freshmen), or Ms. Saczko (Lead Teacher).

This school year Cholla High Magnet School and all TUSD high school will be going through an accreditation process in November. The accreditation process will ensure all TUSD high schools have the required academic infrastructure and course credentials to be an accredited academic institution which colleges and universities require. Site Council members will be overseeing our process. If you wish to be a part of the accreditation exit meeting on November 15, 2011, please contact my office for details.

Finally, I want to remind you of our commitment to you and your child; ***Every Student, Every Day, Charging Fearlessly Toward Academic and Personal Excellence!***

Frank Armenta,
Principal

CHOLLA YEARBOOK

It is that time of the year again: time to buy your yearbooks. The 2011-2012 Cholla Yearbook is on sale now in the Business Office. The book is only \$55 and can be purchased with

cash, check, or money order. Please see Ms. Karla Kramer to pay for it or Mr. Whitmore with any questions. Parents please don't let this memory-filled book pass your students by

this year. Books will only be on sale this year through December 16, 2011. Students will not be able to purchase them after this date. DO NOT MISS OUT!

DEADLINE
to purchase
yearbook:
**December
16th!**

SENIOR TRIBUTES

Parents, if you want an opportunity to make this school year very memorable for your graduating senior then purchase a page in the school yearbook. Senior Tributes are on sale now for only \$160. Please contact Mr. Whitmore (dale.whitmore@tusd1.org) with any questions or to place an order. Deadlines and prices are as follows:

Now through November 16:
Full page ad= \$160 and a half page ad=\$95

November 19 through December 16:
Full page ad= \$170 and a half page ad= \$100

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity.

Do you have a picture of a senior and would like to include it in the end of year slideshow? Please email to:

cholla.high2012@yahoo.com



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Cholla Career and Tech Ed is offering 16 programs this year to help start students on the pathway to career success. Each of these programs is either a 2-year or a 3-year program. The programs and their instructors are:

- Allied Health – Sports Medicine: Jenny Adams
- Allied Health – Pharmacy Support: Dr. Janelle Hunter
- Business Management: Mike Christman; Lucy Swift; Tom Ayers; Martha Mooney (new to Cholla); Dale Payne
- Business Management – Entrepreneurship: Dale Payne
- Business Operations: Dale Payne; Lucy Swift
- Construction Technology: Caesar Romo
- Drafting – Mechanical: Caesar Romo
- Early Childhood Education: Jenny Elkins
- Financial Services: Dale Payne
- Graphic Design: Mike Hensley
- Hospitality Management: Martha Mooney (new)
- Information Technology – Web Design: Mike Hensley
- Law Public Safety and Security: Armando Pacho (new to Cholla)
- Marketing Management: Tom Ayers
- Transportation Technology – Automotive Repair: Wes Marsh (new to Cholla)
- Welding Technology: Tad Strickland

What's new this quarter in CTE?

We are in the process of hiring a Career Center Coordinator and a CTE Counselor to assist students with career planning and to give them more information about the JTED programs offered at the Central JTED campuses.

Our second-year Early Childhood Education students are doing practicum time at the daycare center at the Archer Community Center near Cholla.

Students in the Graphic Design classes are preparing promotional brochures for our program to give them practical experience in working with clients.

All programs are beginning their CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organizations) by electing officers and delivering leadership training for the students. The Cholla CTSO's which students can get involved with are: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); DECA (an international association of marketing students); FCCLA (Family, Career Community Leaders of America); FEA (Future Educators of America); SkillsUSA (Welding, Construction, Drafting, Automotive, Graphic Design).

Advanced students in Welding are beginning their final year of training before they test for AWS (American Welding Society) certification.

The Tucson Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

VISIT 

www.thegraduation.com

**This site is for parents/
students to order grad
supplies and pay online!**

INTRODUCING TITLE I

Cholla High Magnet School has become a "Targeted Assistance" Title I school this year and this empowers the school to service students in a larger capacity. This has enabled the school to provide a variety of Title I support classes for students. The Title 1 Program at Cholla High Magnet School provides support services in math and/or reading to students in grades nine and ten. Title 1 provides support through resources and research-based instructional training, enabling the school to develop high quality, enriched programs that meet the individual needs of all children, families, and staff.

Intervention Opportunities

Students involved in the program are identified as needing additional assistance in certain academic areas. Each program focuses on reinforcing and supporting the students' academic progress. Students will receive targeted support in either or both reading and math.

What Is Title 1?

Title 1 is short for the "Title 1, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Re-authorized by the No Child Left behind Act of 2001." It is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools.

What the Law Says About Title 1

Title 1 is the largest federally funded supplemental education program. It cannot replace what the school already does; instead it gives students additional instruction.

Cholla High Magnet School Is A Targeted Assistance School

A "targeted assistance program" is when a school identified students who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet the State's challenging performance standards. It then designs, in consultation with parents, staff, and district staff, an instructional program to meet the diverse needs of the students.

How Are Students Selected For Title 1?

All Freshmen are administered the Arizona Instrument of Measurement exam in eighth grade and this along with teacher recommendation and various factors such as attendance and grades determine how the students are chosen.

The sophomores have the Stanford 10 administered at the end of their freshman year and this along with teacher recommendation and various factors such as attendance and grades are how students are chosen. The students who are identified as being the most at-risk academically are eligible for services.

Programs Offered At Cholla High Magnet School

- Math and reading for Freshmen / Math and reading for Sophomores

Parental Involvement

At Cholla, we hold strong emphasis on parent involvement in the Title 1 program. We are aware as educators, that parents and families are a child's most important teacher. Communication between home and school is critical for a child to have the best learning experiences. We feel that we share the responsibility with you for your child's Education. There are many ways in which a parent can become involved in their child's education. The school district values both at home contributions and those that take place at school and in the community. Opportunities for Involvement are available through Parent Team and through the District Advisory Council. The District Advisory Council

Meets on the following dates at Manzo Elementary School from 10:30 to 12:00:

September 13

November 8

December 13

January 10

February 14

March 13

April 17

May 8

CHILDCARE PROVIDED

**If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact the
Title I specialist Jennifer Petroskus Haley at 520-225-4000**

CAP'S STUDENT SUCCESS!

The Cholla After-school Program CAPs Student Success! Save \$200 on Summer School!

The 21st Century Cholla After-school Program (CAP) is a unique and free opportunity for Cholla students, their parents, or students attending private schools who are from our neighborhood community. Students will work with certified teachers and volunteer community members to enhance their understanding of basic skills in reading, writing, and math as well as engage in creative activities, such as pottery, poetry, karate, music, American Sign Language and environmental science (the Cholla Green Team), just to name a few of our available activities. We will also offer homework help Tuesdays through Thursdays in the cafeteria. Students will gain leadership skills, greater appreciation of diverse cultures, and move toward career and college goals. Participating students also receive a free snack in the first fifteen minutes of the program, and we have the after-school activities bus available at 6:00 p.m. if students have no other way home.

An example of our wonderful after-school programs is our karate program. The CHS Spiritline team has been involved in the Cholla After-school Program's karate class from the start. Last school year the team's coaches, Head Coach Luna and Assistant Coach Burket, decided to have the team join karate in order to improve the team's focus and sharpen the girls' movements for stunting and routines. Within the first few weeks, the coaches started seeing gradual improvements in movement and major improvements in focus. So, this year the team is continuing its karate training and helping lead the class with several members who have earned their orange and yellow belts: (orange) Ashley Burket, Kristina Burch and Kiminera Eastman; (yellow) Veronica Casanova and Alondra Valdez. Coach Luna has also earned her orange belt and is now assisting Assistant Principal Rasool in teaching the class, which has now grown to more than 40 participants.

The Cholla After-school Program still has room for students, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 2:45 to 5:30, and Wednesdays from 1:45 to 4:30. If you would like for your student to participate in academic and crea-

tive activities that will support their graduation and enrich their lives, be sure to contact Dr. Cunningham at 225-4048 for more information.

Enrollment forms are available at the B-pod office, and if students attend 30 days of the after-school program by December 8th, the last day of the program, they may participate in summer school for free, a \$200 savings! In addition, those students will be invited to an exclusive Drivers Education Review activity after school in the spring, just to brush up on their skills prior to taking their test. They will also be rewarded with a pizza party in December, so tell them to be sure to come out regularly!

Parents are welcome to participate with their students, side-by-side; however, if you are unable to attend the after-school activities, parent workshops are also available to provide parenting strategies, financial literacy, information about scholarships, and skills in helping students be successful in school. Our funding depends on adult family-member participation as well as regular student participation. Please contact Paula Garza at 225-4048, and make sure you mention her name if you would like more information. Mrs. Garza is our new parent/community liaison for the program. If you want these opportunities to continue, grow, and expand your students' lives, please be sure to register today!



AIMS TESTING, FALL 2011

The following are mandatory testing dates for any juniors or seniors who need to retake the AIMS tests. Please be aware that any student who has not met the standards on the AIMS tests will not

graduate, so it is necessary to ensure your student attends school these days and reports to their testing locations. Please contact Lupita Cabral at 225-4197 with questions!

**AIMS Writing Test:
October 25, 2011**

**AIMS Reading Test:
October 26, 2011**

**AIMS Math Test:
October 27, 2011**



FRESHMAN ACADEMY UPDATE

The freshman are off to a great start this year! Freshman Academy kicked off the school year with an exciting freshman assembly that included words from Mr. Armenta and Mr. Rasool, a karate demonstration, cheerleaders and of course a presentation by the Freshman Academy teachers. Our freshman are currently participating in the Impact

program with the upperclassman. They each have an Impact mentor to encourage success in their first year here at Cholla.

AVID freshman are participating in an essay contest in which first prize is \$500 cash! This contest involves an essay about the "Four Keys to Financial Success" and is sponsored by the

Tucson Association of Realtors.

Dinora Conwill, Learning Support Coordinator, is the new Freshman Class Sponsor this year. In the coming weeks, she will have a contest for Freshman to create a T-shirt design for the Class of 2015! Go Chargers!

Sky Saczko
Freshman Academy
Lead Teacher

**AIMS
Testing
Dates**

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR AVID CLASSES

The AVID classes are preparing students for college through several venues this fall. The upperclassmen will be exploring the college admission essay process and obtaining scholarships this fall. They are also taking on leadership roles through the IMPACT program by mentoring the freshman on high school success. The AVID students are involved in a four session workshop with Tucson Association of REALTORS regarding future financial success. The workshops end with an essay contest sponsored by Tucson Realtors with cash money as prizes. Our AVID Parent Pot Luck is being planned by our AVID site team. Last year the pot luck was a great success. We are hoping for an even bigger turn out this year.—Judy Stoner

GERMAN CLUB

This summer, the German Club traveled to Germany for three and a half weeks as part of the GAPP program. The German American Partnership Program has been in existence since 1972. German students traveled to Tucson in April, and the German students stayed with Cholla families and attended Cholla High School. While the German exchange students were in Tucson, they participated in a huge picnic at Kennedy Park, visited the Desert Museum, drove out to

Biosphere Two, and hiked in Saguaro National Park. The German students also had a great time hanging out with their host sister or brother at the Tucson mall and local restaurants.

At the end of May, The American students left for their 3 and a half week stay in Heilbronn, Germany. While in Germany, Cholla students stayed with their German families and participated in school activities, took a trips to Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, and

Stuttgart, Germany. At the end of their three and a half week stay, students took a 3 day trip on the Rhein River, exploring the castles and vineyards on the way. Cholla students departed back to Tucson, Arizona, on June 21, with heavy hearts, as saying "good-bye" is very hard.

Frau Martini is planning another exchange in 2013. Please look out for details soon, if you are interested in participating in this "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity.



CHINESE

September 12 was the Chinese Mid-Autumn festival. Our Chinese class celebrated this second most important festival in China by learning about what we usually do during this festival .We learned the story about Chang-er and enjoying some mooncake.

September 28 is Confucius's birthday(551-479 BC). Confucius was the most influential educator in Chinese history. His teaching and philosophy had tremendous impacts on China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam . We learned some quotations from Confucius. Confucius said, " What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others"

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The International Baccalaureate Programme continues to grow. This year Cholla has 33 seniors preparing for exams, 67 juniors, 84 sophomores and 87 freshmen are also in the program which resulted in adding several new classes. The ultimate reward for a student's hard work is the IB Diploma. However, the biggest prize has been the scholarships and success of our former graduates, who repeatedly report how well prepared they are to meet university expectations with high academic performance. In 2011, thirteen of the sixteen seniors receiving Wildcat Scholarships were IB Diploma students. For the past two years, the class valedictorians Valeria Valdez and David Sotelo completed their IB Diploma requirements and were both English Language Learners. Other students' scores gave them college credit for their hard work in the program. In 2010 we had one diploma awarded and in 2011 we had four. This summer at the IB Conference of the Americas, we learned that many schools have never had students awarded diplomas, so it shows that all our hard work is paying off. Our students' success is aligned with international academic expectations and the skills and attitudes necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. This year we welcomed new faculty to the Diploma Programme: Mrs. Angel- English; Mr. Parra and Mr. Collin-History; Mr. Gonzales-Chemistry; Mrs. Bachman-William and Ms. Angela Walker-Biology; Mr. Van Cleve-Math Studies; and Ms. Sult-Theory of Knowledge. We also welcomed Ms. Tara Bulleigh, Assistant Principal, who works closely with the coordinator, Joyce Meyer.

The use of computer technology is imperative for students to succeed in the program. With our budget and classroom restraints, many of our students do not have the availability of a computer to do their assignments. We are, therefore, asking community members willing to donate new or used laptop computers to contact Joyce Meyer, IB Coordinator, at 225-4010. If a computer is malfunctioning, Mrs. Meyer's husband has been refurbishing the computers and students have received the computers to use as long as they stay in the Diploma Programme.

SENIOR CLASS—CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 28th- Movie Night in the Auditorium from 5-7pm, wear a costume as the movie will be frightening!

April_Prom to be announced at a later time

May 4th- Senior Luau in the amphitheater from 6-9 pm. All free event for the senior class and family

May 9th- Parent Meeting for seniors- cafeteria at 6:00pm

May 11th- Top Scholar's Night

May 18th- Senior Memories and Honors Night in the auditorium from 7-9pm

May 23rd- Breakfast for the seniors at 7:30am followed by graduation practice Graduation on the field at 7pm.

SENIOR CLASS—IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

Senior Portraits- contact Fairchild Photography at 622-3885

Caps and Gowns- contact Herf Jones at 745-5289

Senior Advisor- Lynne Hoover at 225-4128

Cholla Student Finance Office- Karla Kramer at 225-4156

ARIZONA TAX CREDITS

**Don't forget to send your
donations by
December 31, 2011**

[http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us/Cholla/
TaxCredit.htm](http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us/Cholla/TaxCredit.htm)

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Welcome from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction to the 2011-2012 school year. The following are highlights of up coming events:

- AIMS will occur during October 25 (Reading), 26 (Writing), and 27 (Math) for Junior and Senior students who have not met the requirements or those students who have signed up with Dr. Cunningham and wish to retake the exams in order to exceed the requirements.
- On October 12th there will be a school-wide testing where Seniors will take the ASVAB exam, Juniors and Sophomores the PSAT exam, and the Freshman the Explorer exam.
- October 21st is the last day to sign-up for AIMS academy. Please contact your counselor for a referral.
- Senior graduation checks are ongoing to insure that your student is on track to graduate. Each senior will have their counselor review their completed class credits and their present schedule to insure completion of district and state graduation requirements.

Scholarship opportunities are available at the College and Career Center as well as help with preparing to submit information through FAFSA. This information is a requirement for most scholarships. For information about College, careers and scholarships go to Collegeisaplan.blogspot.com

- **Van tour to Grand Canyon University Oct. 18, sign up in the Career Center.**
- **Cholla College Week will be Oct. 31- Nov.4 sponsored by club TAPE**

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Rick Luna and Lisa Justiniano both work with our Exceptional Education students teaching them valuable job skills that they will use once they graduate and locate a job. The Work Experience Program attempts to provide students with an opportunity for visual observation, social interaction, verbal interaction, job responsibility, and task performance outside the normal school setting.

Rick Luna trains the students in the cafeteria. This year 16 students have worked in the Cholla Cafeteria as Food Service Worker Trainees. Student Workers will obtain basic work skills that will help them when they exit high school. Some of these valuable skills are:

- Being responsible by following a work schedule, being on time, completing timekeeping paperwork
- Working with others to accomplish a common goal
- Following verbal and written instructions
- Reading menus and production charts
- Communicating work needs
- Working in a fast paced environment
- Learning how to deal with stressful work situations
- Learning how to adjust their work pace to meet production needs of the cafeteria
- Learning how to get along with co-workers in a work setting
- Using appropriate socializing skills in a work environment
- Appropriate customer service

Students will have a good understanding of how to keep and maintain a job

Food Service provides training sites under their student helper program.

Students perform the following duties:

- Setup of serving lines; prepare serving trays, package or cup side items, setup drinks.
- Food prep of side items; salads, vegetables, fries, pizza sauces for finger foods, salsa, fruit items.
- Food prep of warm foods; pan personal pan pizza, prepare large six slice pizza fusing all the product and materials necessary to make a pizza, fill serving containers with hot foods, put hot foods in appropriate holding warmers at appropriate holding temperatures.
- Perform sanitation duties; dish washing, cleaning of

large food preparation equipment and tools by hand following all department of health regulations, clean all kitchen surfaces following all department of health codes and procedures.

Lisa Justiniano takes her students off campus. The students work at various job sites. They are learning how to ride the bus and eventually ride the bus independently. Their schedule is as follows:

- Monday - St. Vincent De Paul and Rescued Helpers
- Tuesday: El Pueblo Center (Senior Center)
- Wednesday: El Pueblo Center (library)
- Thursday: Tucson botanical Gardens
- Friday: St. Vincent De Paul.

Rescued Helpers is an organization that trains animals/dogs to work with veterans and civilians who have PTSD. They also work with mentally, physically, and emotionally challenged individuals. This class is preparing and assisting students with disabilities to make the transition from high school to community life. Because many individuals with disabilities have difficulty transferring and generalizing skill learned in the classroom to real life situations, teaching those skills in the environments where they occur enhances students' general functioning in all environments.

The students are learning a lot and are enjoying their new experiences!

*Together Everyone
Achieves More!*

Kelly Nasta
Parent Team President
kellynasta@aol.com

TUSD

Parent T.E.A.M.

“Together Everyone Achieves More!”

Parents being active at Cholla Get INVOLVED!



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