



Verdugo Hills Update



www.verdugohs.org (818) 951-5400

October 12, 2013

Vision is...the ability to see beyond our present reality, to create, to invent what does not yet exist, to become what we not yet are. It gives us capacity to live out of our imagination instead of our memory.

--Stephen Covey



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

One thing that always seems to be a constant in education is change. We

change all the time. Whether it's a new program, a new set of standards or curriculum, or a new group of people to work with and learn from each year, change is part of our way of life in education. This year is no exception for us at Verdugo. While I will still be called the "new principal" at times, this is, in fact my third year at Verdugo and what a year it has already been. Change is in the air, and it is exciting. We are implementing a new set of standards which should prove to prepare our students better for college (Common Core State Standards), we have a new form of state assessments for the most part replacing the California Standards Tests (Smarter Balanced), and we are implementing a new evaluation

system for teachers, administrators, and staff. Graduation requirements have changed beginning with this year's 10th graders. We are ecstatic to have opened our new Visual and Performing Arts Academy Magnet with a class of 9th graders this year and will be adding a new class every year. Already, the new magnet has many performances and experiences under their belt including recitals, concerts, and showcases. We are starting a new animal science/FFA program and restarting our video production program in the Spring. As the good news continues to roll in, we did make our enrollment prediction on the district's official attendance count day ("norm day") and while we will not have confirmation until March, it looks like we have also met our goal to qualify for additional categorical funding. It is turning out to be quite a year! Please keep in touch through our website, social media including Facebook and Twitter, or simply drop in for a visit to check in! See you at school!



Back to School Night Rocks

On Sept. 19, Verdugo hosted the 76th Annual

Back to School Night Event. Classes were packed as parents rushed from class to class to get all the info they need for the coming year. Clubs had an opportunity to participate in the event by providing refreshments and the band and new choir performed. The evening was capped off by a PTSA meeting.



Concerts in the Glen Debuts

Starting with an Open Mic event featuring Karol Paz and others Concerts

in the Glen debuted on September 13. Future concerts include Open Mic program, Alan's Breakfast and the Verdugo Voices Glee Club. Mr. Finch and Mr. Lopez are the CITG promoters/ coordinators.



Cheer, Football, and Glee Camps Return

For another

summer, Verdugo again provided an outstanding program to develop young local talent in athletics and the arts through the camp program designed specifically for K-8 students.

Enrollment was up for the camps with Glee Camp jumping from 7 to 17



campers Camp counselors were current cheerleaders, glee club members, or football players, and alumni.



Jr. Glee Club

The fun continued as the "Glee Campers" from the summer

performed as the new Jr. Glee Club at the Watermelon Festival on August 15. The Jr. Glee Club performed for other events in the Fall and have more performances scheduled. The Jr. Glee Club counselors are Beth Blackwell and Amanda Brooks.





**Dons
Football-
2013**

One thing to
always look

forward to in the Fall is the return of Football! Our fighting Dons returned with games against Crescenta Valley High School (9/6), Muir (9/20), and Village Christian (9/27) before facing league competition. Of course, any game would not be complete without the award-winning cheer team and Verdugo Band and Color Guard bringing additional spirit!



New Coaches

We saw some changes in our coaching staff for some of the teams this year. Congratulations to new head tennis coach Lindsay Young, Boys Water Polo Coach Michelle Roth-Daniels, and head Football Coach, Chad Runnels.



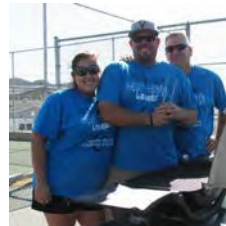
Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Karyn Buchanan who was selected as one of only 21 teachers of the year from all of LAUSD. Ms. Buchanan was honored at a luncheon in Universal City on September 27.



Link Crew Returns

Verdugo brought back one of the wonderful programs from years past this fall, *Link Crew*. *Link Crew Leaders* had training this summer, led the new freshmen through their orientation on Aug. 6, and hosted a Tailgate Party on Sept. 6. Link Crew is coordinated by Daryn Fitzgerald and Tami Revel.





Visual and Performing Arts Academy Magnet



Opens at Verdugo

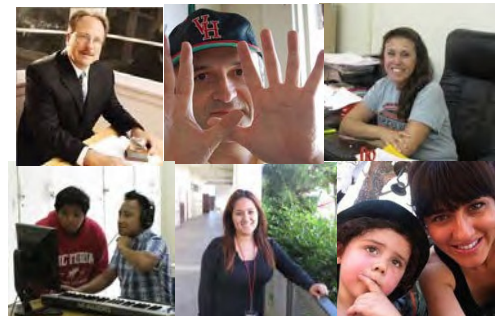
On August 13, Verdugo not only opened the school year, but raised the curtain on a new program and era for arts education at Verdugo, the Visual and Performing Arts Academy Magnet. Building on the success of the Multimedia/Communications Magnet and Dr. Trimis' experience in opening arts academies and programs at several other schools, the new magnet has already made an impact at Verdugo with VAPA



students demonstrating a high level of involvement in school-wide performing groups including Glee Club, Choir, and Play Production and programs such as the Trashion Show and the Music Center Spotlight Awards in addition to showcases and recitals specifically featuring the VAPA students. Several Verdugo VAPA signature programs are being established



this year including the one-week arts exploration wheel, the arts emphasis course sequence (arts majors), the VHHS VAPA Digital Portfolio, the Freshman Showcase, Junior and Senior Recitals/Art Shows, and Arts Job Shadows and Internships. VAPA Magnet teachers include Alicia Fuschillo (English), Paulina Duran (math), and Daniel Lopez (music). VAPA adjunct teachers include Tina Staley (art), Nancy Meraz (dance), Deidra Fitzpatrick (drama), and Vicky Lopez (music). The VAPA Magnet Coordinator is Paul Mc Glothlin and the counselor is Griselda Lepe. The program advisor and executive director is Dr. Trimis.





Volleyball Digs In and Digs Pink

Once again, the Verdugo Hills Girls Volleyball team is having an amazing season! Each year fans can look forward to many exciting games including both league and non-league games against such teams as Eagle Rock and Poly High School.



One of the wonderful traditions is the "Dig Pink" game and fundraiser when the team raises funds for breast cancer research. This year's Dig Pink game was against Arleta HS on Sept. 26. Another volleyball tradition at Verdugo is the annual Faculty vs. Varsity game. This year the game was on Sept. 16.



New Choir Joins with Glee Club for 9/11

Remembrance

On September 11, 2013, the new Verdugo Choir directed by Daniel Lopez performed along with the VHHS Glee Club at Sunland Plaza in a special Sept. 11 ceremony. Following selections by both groups, the combined choirs sang God Bless America to a welcome crowd and several police officers and firefighters in uniform along Foothill.



Unified Soccer Success

Verdugo is proud of the several ways we include our exceptional and diverse students throughout all of our programs including academics, arts, and athletics. One example of this is the new Unified Soccer Team who had their first season this year, Congratulations to coach Nick Chavez and players from our soccer program who worked closely with the team as co-players and peer coaches. We are proud of you!

Check out the Verdugo Website for tons of info at

www.verdugohs.org

"Like" us on Facebook!

"Follow us" on Twitter!

Homecoming Parade and Game, 2013



Calendar-Fall, 2013

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Nov. 25-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday/Fall Recess | Dec. 19 | Winter Concert |
| Dec. 7 | LAUSD Band and Drill Team Finals | Dec. 20 | Last Day, Term B (Fall Semester) |
| Dec. 12 | VAPA Magnet Showcase | Dec. 20 | Faculty Breakfast |
| Dec. 14 | LAUSD Army JROTC Drill Competition | Dec. 21-Jan. 12 | Winter Recess |

Thank You to All of our Sponsors
We appreciate what you do with us and for us!



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Please send any questions or comments about the Verdugo Hills Update to Edward Trimis, Principal at etrimis@lausd.net