A message from

Dr. Ron Williams

Happy Holidays to our Victor Valley Union High School District family! As we reflect on this past semester, we are aware of those who have worked side by side with us to shape and grow our district. We hope all of you enjoy and truly feel the spirit of the holiday season. This break should be met by everyone with a cheerful and appreciative heart, because we have the unique opportunity to shape the future of our outstanding students every day.

Silverado's thriving culinary program wins competition; student designs Hawk Burger

Silverado High School culinary arts students were victorious last week in the inaugural Sweet Genius Regional Baking Competition. Each team of students made three competition.

Board of Trustees

New officers chosen; meeting days change

Norton named board president; meetings now on Thursdays starting Jan. 19, 2017

In its final meeting of 2016, the Victor Valley Union High School District Board of Trustees swore in a new member, named new officers and set a new schedule for the coming year.
Jobe, Quintero selected as latest VVUHSD Employees of the Quarter

The Victor Valley Union High School District recognized the latest Employees of the Quarter at the Dec. 14 board meeting.

Heath Jobe (classified) and Jackie Quintero (certificated) are the honorees for the second quarter the 2016-17 school year. The winners are nominated by their fellow employees each quarter.

A total of 60 nominations were received this quarter (30 each for classified and certificated), with each of the winners receiving three nominations. The winners are selected by a panel of district personnel, who read the nominations with the nominees’ names redacted.

Jobe, who has been with the district for nearly eight years, performs campus security duties at Goodwill Education Center. Nominators wrote that he “goes way above and beyond his job assignment” and is “a valuable asset to our school.”

Another nominator wrote that “it is always a pleasure to know that I have a staff member that I can always depend on.” Nominators said Jobe will perform any tasks needed throughout the day to support staff and students.

Quintero is an English, reading and history teacher who has spent eight years with the district, teaching at Lakeview Leadership Academy since the school’s inception. Nominators noted her dedication to students, particularly those with special needs.

“She is always working late to ensure her students are successful and goes above and beyond to be a great special education teacher,” a nominator wrote. Another called her a “wonderful teacher” who does “an exemplary job.”
LAKEVIEW LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Students spearhead food drive that nets 3,000 items

Lakeview Leadership Academy students and staff have collected more than 3,000 food items to be donated to those in need this holiday season.

The food drive was conducted by Lakeview’s Associated Student Body students with their advisor, math and science teacher Ramona Aceves.

Aceves said this is the largest amount of food the school has ever collected for the annual effort, with donations coming from students and staff at the grade 7-9 school and from the community at large. She said the items would be passed on to the Victor Valley Union High School District’s Central Enrollment Center, which conducts an annual food drive.

“I think the students really understood what we were trying to accomplish with the drive this year,” Aceves said.

But the teacher says the effort will go beyond the holidays. She says the students will help put together care packages including blankets, food and hygiene kits that will be distributed to local homeless next month.

“Everyone wants to help during the holidays,” Aceves said. “We want to help all year.”

COBALT INSTITUTE OF MATH AND SCIENCE

AFRICAN CULTURE: Cobalt Institute of Math and Science social studies teacher Angela Powers’ seventh-grade students recently created colorful masks as part of an African history culture project. (Photos submitted by Angela Powers)
CONSTRUCTION STANDOUTS: Victor Valley High School’s CTE Construction Team took second place at VVC’s regional construction competition, coached by instructor Brock Baziak. The students, from left to right, are Noah Kirkpatrick, Dakoda Nemeth and Nathan Dunson. (Photo submitted by McKenzie Tarango)

ROBOTICS SHOWCASE: Lakeview Leadership Academy seventh-grader Jeffrey Yash, in the left foreground of the photo, shows his robotics project to Endeavor School of Exploration students during the recent Robotics Showcase at Lakeview. The event, organized by LLA teacher Sherri Osterberg, gives sixth-graders from Endeavor (which is located near Lakeview) a chance to check out the robotics projects of LLA students. Both schools employ the VEX robotics education program.

FESTIVE GETUP: Lakeview Leadership Academy Principal Kent Crosby was spotted wearing a spirited outfit on the last day before break. (Photo by Carol Cronk)

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Our district truly appreciates the efforts of our hardworking and dedicated employees. New and existing employees have done truly admirable work this year. Our enrollment significantly exceeded our expectations this school year, and many of you took on additional assignments to accommodate the additional students.

We are truly pleased with the technology advancements for students and staff, transition to the California Common Core State Standards, and job-embedded professional development. Through your efforts, our district bridged the gaps with minimal distractions for students, creating unprecedented opportunities to build transition bridges and fully prepare students for success in school and beyond to college and careers.

We still have many opportunities to align programs, strategies, and practices to better serve our students; however we are on the right path to accomplish our goals.

The team effort and cooperation that you displayed is instrumental in our success, and we are very appreciative. Simply put, we would like to thank you for your dedication.

You deserve to take some time off to relax and appreciate the heartwarming celebrations of this season, and we look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Sincerely,
Ron Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Jose Berrios, a retired VVUHSD teacher and former Victor Valley Teachers Association President, was sworn in at the Dec. 14 meeting after winning a seat in the November election.

Longtime board member Barbara Dew won reelection last month, and Superintendent Dr. Ron Williams swore in Dew along with Berrios at the meeting.

The board also elected its new officers, with Tim Norton named president, Dew selected as vice president, and Berrios named clerk and representative to the county committee.

They are joined on the dais by Penny Edmiston, who served as president for the past year, and Tim Hauk.

The board also set a new schedule, moving its meetings from Wednesdays to Thursdays. The board will meet the first and third Thursdays of each month, with closed session beginning at 6 p.m. and open session starting at 7 p.m. The first meeting of 2017 is set for Jan. 19.

types of sweets which were judged by Deborah Hunt and Guylene Lawler from Guy’s Cake Supplies and More in Victorville.

All teams had two hours to create their confections using ingredients such as German dark cocoa, almond extract, fresh vanilla bean and fresh strawberries.

Granite Hills finished second, and Barstow took third place while the Hawks took home the trophy, which was designed for the competition by Apple Valley High metal shop students.

Hawks seniors Erik Quintero and Cleo Gomez joined juniors Nicholas Shila and Kimberly Rodriguez in creating the winning sweets. They made a red and green puff pastry Christmas tree; a traditional wedding-style shortbread cookie with a blast of almond extract, topped with hand-piped designs; and buttermilk-based red velvet cupcake, with a heavy whipping cream and strawberry shaped a designed to look like a Christmas tree with presents, served with cinnamon hot cocoa.

The young bakers are learning the craft from culinary arts teacher Geovanni Sanchez, who came to Silverado this year. Sanchez has opened the Hawk Cafe, an on-campus restaurant that also delivers food to staff members on campus.

As part of the cafe’s launch earlier this school year, Sanchez held a contest to design the cafe’s signature sandwich, the Hawk Burger. Rodriguez, a third-year culinary arts student, won the contest with her creation, a spicy burger featuring Serrano peppers, jalapeno powder and bacon.

Principal Heather Conkle said Sanchez has been a great addition to the staff, and the students echo that sentiment.

“Mr. Sanchez is always willing to help encourage students to achieve bigger and better things,” senior culinary arts student Samuel Lopez said. “He makes the kids feel like family and that everyone matters. He always wants to make us laugh to see us smile.”

The baking contest was organized by the Mountain Desert Regional Career Occupational Pathways JPA and is the second round of regional culinary competitions this school year, with the first being High Desert Chopped in October.

The competitions were created to help students get ready for the SkillsUSA national competition later this school year. Victor Valley High School won High Desert Chopped, which was held at the VVHS campus. Silverado and VVHS were chosen as host schools because they have the largest kitchens, organizers said.

Student Kimberly Rodriguez designed the Hawk Burger for the launch of the Hawk Cafe at Silverado. (Photo by Heather Conkle)