From Mrs. Fournier…….

We are officially into the 4th quarter and gearing up for the end of the school year! I know it's still April, but once May 1st hits, it is a wild, activity filled, all too quick race to the finish line in June. As I looked back over the 3rd quarter, the CONNECTIONS on campus were constant! Take a look at the highlights on the following pages, and you will agree that both students and staff were ready for a well earned Spring Break! From Boat Races to Scholar Quiz to Dancing with the Staff, our teachers and students are working together to put on amazing activities for our entire school.

The challenge before us in these final 10 weeks is to keep everyone motivated to finish strong. Our focus now turns to buckling down, prioritizing academics and ending the year successfully. Second semester grades, AP and CAASPP testing results are all important indicators of how well we are doing as a school. Please work with us to encourage your students to do their bests on these tests, and remind them to use Spartan Seminar to get the extra help they need from their teachers in the upcoming weeks. Here's to a great ending!!!

May & June Testing Calendar

In this edition:

- 3rd Quarter News
- Senior Activities
- Some standard-ized testing information

May 6 AP Testing week	7	8	9	10
13 AP Testing week	14	15	16	17
20 CAASP Math	21 CAASP Math	22 CAASP Math	23 CAASP Math	24
27 MEMORIAL DAY NO SCHOOL!	28 CAASPP English	29 CAASPP English	30 CAASPP English	31 CAASPP English
June 3 CAASPP make-up day	4 CAASPP make-up day	5 CAASPP Science	6 CAASPP Science	7 CAASPP make-up day

THIRD QUARTER NEWS

- Congratulations to Karrin Chiamulon, Victor Gallardo, Kevin McCarthy, Kathy Cvitanovich and Brandi Krueger for receiving the Southwest SELPA Staff Recognition Award. This is a parent nomination based award recognizing outstanding teachers who made a difference in the life of a child with disabilities.

- Congratulations to Erica Esquivel on receiving this years PTA Honorary Service Award! South just wouldn't be the same without Erica as her connection with students goes above and beyond in all ways. She has volunteered to supervise 3 college trips, attends almost every athletic event on campus, and is respected by students and staff alike.

- Welcome to Lisa Kooi who has accepted the position of our new Librarian! Lisa is currently at North High, but will be making the move over to join us in the next 2 weeks.

- Tom King and Bekki Salazar hosted a successful South Area Music Festival and South Area Choir Evening. Over 100 Middle School students joined South High Band and Choir for two great evenings of music collaboration.

- Fine Arts hosted their first ever Celebration of the Arts Week! Cranes were made, mugs were painted, and jazz band, dance, choir and theater all performed. This was a hugely successful week for all students planned by the Fine Arts Department and ASB!

- Boat Races are back! With 20 boats, 100 students, 50 teachers, and 600 tickets sold, Michele Malone and Marine Science Club pulled off an amazing event!

- Theater had an excellent run of The Great Gatsby. This was their last ever play in the Black Box, as we move into the new auditorium in the Fall!!

- Scholar Quiz continues to grow and the competition is getting heated!! 14 student teams and 2 Faculty teams competed over 5 days to crown a champion. Faculty team "Why did we think this was a good idea?" walked away with the win! Congratulations Jenna Akin, Nikki Parsons, Stephanie Perez and Bekki Salazar on an awesome victory!

- The campus was buzzing Saturday March 30th with students and parents for the annual Campus Beautification Day! Keith Musick and his crew showed up bright and early to give the campus a little face lift, while Jon Kaneshiro did all the heavy lifting! Thanks to all for the great work!

- Our new Bluegrass Picnic was a huge success! 8th grade students toured classrooms, participated in a Club/Activities/Athletics Rush and were treated to a pizza feast.
- Another Dancing with the Staff is in the books! Aaron Saldana walked away with the victory but everyone who participated is a winner!!
- 1 administrator, 2 buses, 3 days, 5 chaperones, 6 colleges and 76 students equals a very successful Northern California College visit! Congratulations Teresa Maldonado and Nichol Leone for planning this great trip, Lavena for getting it funded, and Erica Esquivel, Nikki Parsons, Lindsey Chudley, Jon Kaneshiro, Teresa Maldonado and Thomas Pham for chaperoning.

TESTING INFORMATION

Testing season is right around the corner, with AP testing starting May 6th and our CAASPP State Testing starting on May 20th. The State of California tests every Junior in English, Math and Science to determine how both the students and the schools are doing. I'm often asked by students why they should take a test that they don't get credit for. It's a legitimate question from a high schooler, but the answer is much larger than just their grade in one class. So I went digging to find some information to share with you in hopes that we can work together to help students better understand the very significance impact their tests scores really have.

The CAASPP Test and California's School Accountability System Overview

With new state standards, students are working harder, thinking more critically, and applying their learning to the real world. To measure these new standards, our high school students take The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (**CAASPP**) in English and Math and the California Science Test **(CAST)**. CAASPP Information

Under California's School Accountability System, all schools are rated based on 6 categories; Suspension Rate, English Learner Progress, Graduation Rate, College and Career Readiness, ELA and Math. (You can find these ratings on the California Department of Education School Dashboard.) These ratings are published yearly and are released to the public.

(continued on next page)

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

April 29
Graduating Seniors may purchase additional commencement tickets for $5 each, until sold out

May 22
Spartan Laurels & Achievement Awards Night 6:00 pm

May 29
Prom bids go on sale for senior and guest ONLY

May 31
Grad night last day to sign up, permission slips and final payments DUE

June 4
Cap & gown distribution

June 5
Last day to purchase prom bids

June 8
Junior/Senior Prom

June 10
Annuals distributed to seniors

June 11
Graduation clearance forms issued through Econ/Govt. classes

June 12
Per 0-2 Final exams for Seniors ONLY

June 13
Per 3-4 Final exams for Seniors ONLY

June 14
Per 1-2 Baccalaureate Practice
Per 5-6 Final exams for Seniors ONLY

June 15
Baccalaureate — El Camino's Marsee Auditorium — 1:00 pm

June 17
Graduation Clearance Day

June 18 — 9:00 am
Commencement Practice

June 19
Commencement
South High Stadium

June 20
Grad Night party — 9:00 pm

June 21
pick up Diploma at Counseling Office — 9:00 am

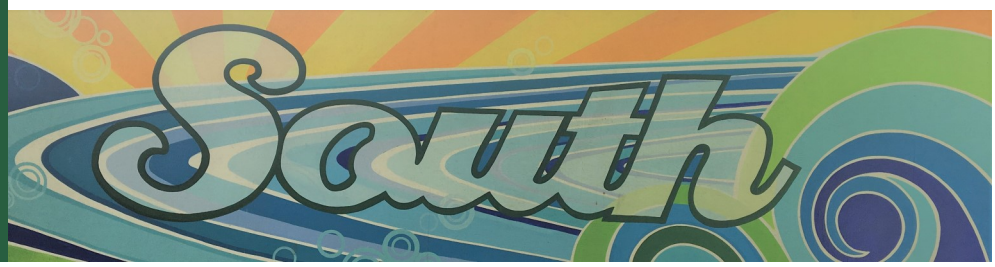
CSU and Junior College College Readiness

The California State University is now using incoming freshmen test scores on the state's new standardized tests to decide if students are ready for college level Math and English or if they need to take remedial classes. The new requirement is leading CSU officials to urge 11th graders to take the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (Smarter Balanced) tests more seriously. "It does in fact give them an opportunity to determine how ready they are to take college level English and math courses once they enroll in the CSU," said Carolina Cardenas, CSU's director of academic outreach and early assessment. https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/eapindex.asp

School Ratings and Real Estate

While the old real estate adage may have been, "location, location, location," perhaps today's real estate motto should be, "schools, schools, schools," as high-ranking school districts have been increasingly hitting home buyer's wish lists. A 2017 study by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) found 26 percent of home buyers considered the quality of schools when looking for a new home. https://www.opendoor.com/w/blog/how-school-ratings-impact-home-prices

What Parents and Students Should Know about CAASPP

Better Information for Teachers and Parents — Teachers can check students' progress throughout the year, and end-of-year tests measure what students know and how much they've improved.

* Customized to Each Student — Using computer adaptive technology, our tests are **customized** to every student. When a student answers correctly, the next question will be harder, and a wrong answer will lead to an easier question. This format lets students show what they know.
* Accessible to All Students — All students, including students with disabilities and English language learners can take the test. Extra features allow *all students to demonstrate what they know.*
* Relevant for Life after High School — Students take the test **online** and must research, write, and solve problems. These questions measure the **critical thinking skills** students need for college and careers. http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents/