

December 2, 2019

Greetings,

I hope you have taken time last week to celebrate our national holiday of Thanksgiving. Though we celebrate once year, the happiest people I know, are grateful every day.

Just a few things from November, and with a short month of December, the 1st Semester is nearly over.

Noteworthy:

Gmail Transition for Certificated Staff. Please refer to Mr. Avelar's Email on Nov 12. Here are a few key points:

- We will be migrating all existing Gmail accounts to a new domain: @mycuhsd.org. At this time, we expect that our transition will be finalized in December 2019. We will provide an exact cut-over date soon.
- We also highly recommend that you use this as an opportunity to begin 'Kondo-ing' your inbox. If some of your email messages are not critical or do not 'spark joy', consider deleting them. Here are a few options for cleaning out your inbox:
 - Clean out the junk. Begin removing messages that you do not need, including all those 'blasts' from educational companies that want to update you on new products.
 - Utilize 'folders'. Categorize your emails into folders, and consider a folder for all those emails you are unsure about, but want to hold onto.
 - Flag important messages. If you have important emails in your inbox, consider adding a 'flag' so they are easier to identify and save.
- Student Gmail will also be activated.

Perfect Attendance for the Month of October There were 58 Classified employees and 66 Certificated employees with Perfect Attendance (28% of all employees). Wow! Great example to our students!

The 22nd Halftime Show hosted at CUHS was a true delight to watch. I loved the demonstration of the weeks and years of practice and the precision that will transfer into the many parts of our students' lives.

AVID programs are helping our students perform well above the national averages!

https://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/school-district-touts-success-of-avid-program/article_510023fa-0734-11ea-9e77-b7762e2b2695.html

\$100 Teacher grants from the CalRTA (Retired Teacher Association) <https://calrta.org/teacher-grants/> Check out their quick way to register for a drawing for \$100 for your classroom, a 30 second application.

Save the Date:

State of Our Schools	January 15, 6:00 PM at SHS
Parent Forum on Vaping	March 11, 2020 6:00 PM at SHS Theater

Take Care:

Colleagues and children at Saugus High School experienced an active shooter where students were killed on November 18th. The 16 year-old student turned the gun on himself and he later died of his injuries. Two students were killed and three others injured. I watched the day's news report as the students were being evacuated, accounted for, relocated to a nearby park and then reunited with family. I was impressed by the resilience of the students as they spoke about their reactions and what they did to stay safe and help others. They were rightly scared, but knew what to do, took shelter with peers and teachers, barricaded the doors and checked in with parents via text on silent. Teachers and staff also responded, followed their training and pulled students into safe places and followed procedures. It went as well as it could have.

Later, as the day progressed, reactions from students, parents and teacher came in. As I listened to teachers, their reactions were powerful. They took care of any and all students they could gather into safe places. They remembered

all their training and were professionals. But once the children were back with parents the emotions could not be contained. As educators and school employees, we work with children because we like them and we believe what we do as a school is making them better. So when we feel for our students, we feel it deeply and in powerful ways.

School shooting preparation is not the job any of us signed up for, but is our job. Each day, we agree to care for children *en loco parentis* (in place of parents) and therefore must step in on occasion. We see children that come from broken homes, poverty, traumatic experiences, parents in prison, deceased parents, and more. Much of it weighs heavily on us as we often share the burden of our students. Hopefully, we will never see a shooting in our schools, but we will prepare in the event it happens. As our world has changed, so has our role and duties. In order for us to do this, we need to care for ourselves. Find appropriate and healthy ways to deal with the stresses we experience too.

One of the memorable quotes from a Saugus parent who is also a teacher nearby, "...hold on to your loved ones... hold on to them a little longer and a little tighter."

Resources:

<https://www.apa.org/monitor/2018/09/survivors>

Sincerely,

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Superintendent

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