SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

YOLANDA GARDEA
PRINCIPAL

As I write this I am basking in the glow of recent accomplishments earned by our students and staff. The long anticipated Federal Program Audit has come and gone. Five members of the California Department of Education visited our campus and reviewed all of our federally funded programs. The lead of the group was astonished by the amazing work being done by our students and teachers. He loved the beauty of our school, both the buildings and what filled those buildings. All staff members worked so hard and it paid off. There were no findings, A+!

On February 18, 2017, our vocal program performed the oratorio, In America. The performance was a culmination of 20 weeks of work done in collaboration.

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FANNY ARANA
PERFORMING ARTS COORDINATOR

There’s always something great happening at Van Nuys Performing Arts Magnet!
The charming tale of an intellectual ingénue and a prince-turned-creature comes to life when the Van Nuys High School Performing Arts Department performs “Beauty and the Beast.” Bringing together the collaborative efforts of the entire Performing Arts Department, this exciting musical, originally based on an 18th Century French fairy tale, will be sure to captivate the entire audience!
The brainy and beautiful Belle yearns to escape her provincial life and her brute of a suitor, Gaston. However, Belle gets more adventurous than she wanted to when she becomes a captive in the Beast’s enchanted castle. Dancing at awe, menacing wolves, and singing furniture fill the stage with thrills in this beloved fairy tale about two very different people bonding strength in one another and learning how to love.

“Beauty and the Beast” runs for two weekends! Performance dates are March 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 & 25 at 7:00 pm (tickets $10.00 presale/$12.00 at the door), with

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DAWN BROWN
MEDICAL CAREERS AND SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MATH
MAGNET COORDINATOR

Second semester is in full swing and the calendar is jam-packed with performances and competitions. We are approaching that time of year when all students who have been laboring and practicing to prepare for academic competitions will have their day to shine. The Academic Decathlon team competes the weekend of January 28th and February 4th. AP Biology students will be taking the Biology Olympiad exam on February 15th. Students in AP Chemistry are preparing to take the Chemistry Olympiad exam and students in the Math Club will be taking the American Mathematics Competition exams on February 15th. Good luck to all participating students!

Graduation will be here before we know it, so seniors must remember the important dates and information. The assembly was held on January 24, 2017. Information regarding Grad Night tickets, Senior Breakfast, attendance requirements, Senior Prom was announced. Make sure that all your payments are in by the deadlines.

Parents please remember to attend parent conferences during

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CIRCULATION: 2,000
Distributed to all the Van Nuys High School Magnet Families, the LAUSD Board of Education and all of the Administration.
### VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL
**IMPORTANT SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION**

- **Main Number:** 778-6800, 778-6847
- **Yolanda Gardea,** Principal: 778-6808
- **Magnet Office:** 778-6854
- **Dawn Brown,** MM/MS Magnet Coordinator: 778-6871
- **Fanny Arana,** PA Magnet Coordinator: 778-6803

**Counselors**

- **Nicole Kim,** Counselor, MS: 778-6885
- **Marci Pellegrini,** Counselor, PA: 778-6836
- **Evan Zekofsky,** Counselor, MS/MM: 778-6862

- **Mary Charlton,** College Counselor: 778-6831
- **Nurse:** 778-6819
- **Health Office:** 778-6832
- **Attendance Office:** 778-6801, 778-6802

**VNHS Website:**
http://www.edline.net/pages/Van_Nuys_Senior_High

### BELL SCHEDULE
**REGULAR DAY**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>10:08 AM to 10:23 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>10:29 AM to 11:24 AM</td>
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<td>VI</td>
<td>11:30 AM to 12:25 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>12:25 PM to 12:55 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>1:01 PM to 1:56 PM</td>
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<td>IX</td>
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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

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<td>III</td>
<td>9:28 AM to 9:39 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>9:39 AM to 9:54 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>10:00 AM to 10:46 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>10:52 AM to 11:38 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>11:38 AM to 12:13 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>12:19 PM to 1:05 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>1:11 PM to 1:57 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL MAGNET PARENTS ASSOCIATION
**MPA Board Members 2016-2017 Roster**

- **Maggi Hernandez:** President (PA) (323) 438-2129 maggivnhsmpa@gmail.com
- **Lisa Policarpo:** Treasurer (PA) (323) 983 9898 lispolicarpo@gmail.com
- **Angel Zobel-Rodriguez:** Member (PA) (323) 793-9615 mochabowter@gmail.com
- **Anna Camille Espinosa:** Member (PA) (323) 793-9615 camille.espinosa@gmail.com
- **Midalisa Jasmin Ramirez:** Member (PA) (818) 469-5498 bonniebarks@gmail.com
- **Bonnie Pierne:** Member (MS) farana@lausd.net
- **Jasmine Ramirez:** Member (PA) deb068@lausd.net
- **Fanny Arana:** Magnet Coordinator, PA ygardea@lausd.net
- **Dawn Brown:** Magnet Coordinator, MS/MM
- **Yolanda Gardea:** Principal

### LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education can be reached individually at the following e-mail address and phone number.

- **George McKenna,** Dist. 1 george.mckenna@lausd.net (213) 241-6382 Fax: (213) 241-8441
- **Monica Garcia,** Dist. 2 monica.garcia@lausd.net (213) 241-6180 Fax: (213) 241-8459
- **Scott Schmerelson,** Dist. 3 scott.schmerelson@lausd.net (213) 241-8333 Fax: (213) 241-8453
- **Steve Zimmerman,** Dist. 4, President steve.zimmer@lausd.net (213) 241-6387
- **Ref Rodriguez,** Dist. 5 ref.rodriguez@lausd.net (213) 241-5555
- **Monica Ratliff,** Dist. 6 monica.ratliff@lausd.net (213) 241-6388 Fax: (213) 241-8451
- **Dr. Richard Vladovic,** Dist. 7 richard.vladovic@lausd.net (213) 241-6385 Fax: (213) 241-8452

All Board of Education Members receive mail at: 333 S. Beaudry Ave. 24th floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017. (213) 241-6389, Fax: (213) 241-8953

**Superintendent Michelle King**
Superintendent@lausd.net
333 S. Beaudry Ave. 24th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 241-1000

**Office of Student Integration**
(Oversees Magnet Programs)
333 S. Beaudry Ave. 16th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(877) 462-4798
**word from Ms. Yolanda Gardea continued**

Teaching artists from the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Students wrote the lyrics and music to a 45 minute piece on the topic of Japanese internment camps. The audience was in tears as our students, conducted by Mrs. Arevelo, brought the plight of these citizens to life on stage! All involved will always remember the amazing work of our students.

On March 2, 2017, there were two other accomplishments. Van Nuys High School was awarded a Distinguished Magnet Program distinction by The Magnet School Association of America. Then, at approximately 8:30 P.M., the Boys Basketball team won the Division III City Section Championship. Wow what a day of great accolades for our school! The Boys Basketball Team will now compete in the CIF Southern Section State playoffs.

Our next big event will be our Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) visit. The team will be on campus from April 23-26 visiting classrooms and interviewing members of all stakeholder groups. We will be ready for them and look forward to another successful visit.

If that were not enough, VNHS will participate in the National Magnet School Conference, as a visitation site for members of the conference. This visit will take place on April 27, 2017.

I am so proud of our VNHS community, and all that is done to make this the best school we can for students. We have the best students and they deserve all we can do for them.

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**WORD FROM MAGNET PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

Thank you students of Van Nuys High School. It is with pleasure to know that you have chosen to make Van Nuys High School a place where you want to soar and have a special learning experience, the (PTA) would like to officially say that we are grateful that your high school experience will be a time to make great strides and open your mind to fresh ideas in order to obtain the success you deserve. The Parent Association wants you to know that your limits are boundless and you will do great for the entire year because all of us stand with you 100%. If any student has feelings of being overwhelmed by schoolwork, peer pressure, bullied, or stressed, please do not hesitate to let faculty members, parents or guardians know. We are here for you, and we thank you for all your accomplishments and more of the best to each and every one of our students.

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**word from Ms. Fanny Arana continued**

(tickets $10.00 presale/$12.00 at the door), with two matinee performances on March 16 & 23 at 3:45 pm (tickets $7.00 at the door). All shows take place in the Donna Hubbard Auditorium on the campus of Van Nuys High School, located at 6535 Cedros Avenue.

Come see Beauty and the Beast, a tale as old as time for children of all ages!

Check out our Spring 2017 Performance Schedule and save the dates on your family calendar!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/16/17</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast Matinee</td>
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<td>3/17/17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/18/17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/23/17</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast Matinee</td>
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<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Beauty and the Beast</td>
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<td>4/6/17</td>
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<td>Spring Choral Recital</td>
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<td>Spring Chamber Recital</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5/25/17</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Spring Dance Matinee</td>
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<td>5/26/17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Spring Dance Showcase</td>
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<td>5/27/17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Spring Dance Showcase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/2/17</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Pops Concert Extravaganza</td>
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</tbody>
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**WORD FROM THE LIBRARIAN**

Our Annual Book Fair is from
March 17, Friday, to March 24, Friday.
Stop by and pick up some books!

We will also be open for business during Open House on the evening of March 23.

The library needs parent volunteers to help ring up orders and supervise the shop. If you can spare a few hours during the week of March 17-24, please email or call me, Ms. Osman, at sosman@lausd.net or 818-778-6828.

I need to cover morning and afternoon shifts the whole week for students who come to the fair with their class during their English periods and on their own during nutrition and lunch. I am so grateful for any time you can provide to support the library book fair that encourages our students to read and raises money for literacy programs!

Thank you!
word from Ms. Dawn Brown continued

The Amgen Biotech Experience allows students to complete a series of genetic engineering labs. They create a recombinant plasmid containing the rfp gene, which encodes for red fluorescent protein, and use it to transform the bacteria E. coli. The bacteria are then grown on plates of agar. Those colonies expressing the rfp gene appear red. The final step is purifying and collecting the red fluorescent protein in a manner similar to production of human proteins, such as insulin. I am proud of the students for successfully completing the labs! Our annual Biology and Math camps are quickly approaching! I want to remind families that AP Biology Camp will be held at Camp Bloomfield in the Malibu Canyons on March 30-April 2, 2017. AP Calculus and AP Statistics will be at Camp Bloomfield April 21-23, 2017. Both weekends are loaded with curriculum reviews, mock exams, and lots of memory-making fun. We are looking forward to memorable weekends.

Advanced Placement and Smarter Balance testing is just around the corner. If you have not already purchased an AP review guide for your test subject, I highly encourage you to do so now. Complete your study guide and swap with a friend to review again. AP exams take place during the first two weeks of May, the 1st-12th, 2017.

Immediately following AP exams will be the state exams, referred to as Smarter Balance. We will be on block scheduling for two weeks in order for the 11th grade students to complete the English Language Arts and Mathematics tests. The new California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) System will have a direct impact on the California State University’s (CSU) Early Assessment Program (EAP). The CSU will use CAASPP English language arts/literacy and mathematics performance level outcomes to provide grade eleven students, their families and their high schools with early signals about student readiness for college-level coursework. Depending upon achievement level, students may qualify to be exempt from taking the CSU placement exams. I want to emphasize these exams are important for your student and Van Nuys High School. Van Nuys High will also be administering the pilot state exam for a friend to the California Science Test (CAST). This exam is also given on the computer and tests students according to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This exam will be given to all 10th grade students during science class on April 20th.

Seniors will soon be receiving college admission acceptance letters. Please remember that these acceptances are entirely provisional. Students must maintain the same level of academic performance throughout the spring semester or risk losing their admission. Also remember that violations of the Honor Code can result in disciplinary action. Seniors may lose senior privileges, such as the senior breakfast, prom, or even walking the stage for graduation, as a result of violating the Honor Code. Stay strong and overcome senioritis to celebrate your hard work over the last three and a half years!

WEEK 1 OF AP TESTING

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017
(7AM) Chemistry
(7AM) Environmental Science
(11AM) Psychology

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017
(7AM) Computer Science A
(7AM) Spanish Language
(11AM) Art History
(11AM) Physics I

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017
(7AM) English Literature

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017
(7AM) Government and Politics

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017
(7AM) United States History
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017
(11AM) Computer Science
(11AM) Studio Art

WEEK 2 OF AP TESTING

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017
(7AM) Biology
(7AM) Music Theory
(11AM) Physics C

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017
(7AM) Calculus AB
(7AM) Calculus BC
(11AM) French Language
(11AM) Spanish Literature

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017
(7AM) English Literature
(11AM) Macroeconomics

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017
(7AM) World History

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2017
(7AM) Microeconomics
(7AM) Human Geography
(11AM) European History
VAN NUYS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS MADE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL OUT OF A LESSON IN AMERICAN HISTORY

BY CATHERINE WOMACK, LA WEEKLY

“Even though our department is full of creative people, it can be a little bit hard to get original ideas out of us,” says Lucy White, a senior in the Van Nuys High School choir. “We are teenagers, so we have some self-esteem things,” she explains.

Luckily the L.A. Master Chorale’s Voices Within team knows a thing or two about drawing self-conscious teens out of their shells.

Since the beginning of the fall semester, composer David O, librettist Doug Cooney and singer Alice Kirwan Murray have worked with Van Nuys High choir students on an ambitious project. Together (and with more than a little help from VNHS chorale director Brianne Arevalo) the students have researched, written and composed "In America," a dramatic 45-minute oratorio about the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II. This week, accompanied by a band of student musicians, the choir is giving the piece its world premiere.

White didn’t know what an oratorio was at the beginning of the school year. She also didn’t know much about Japanese-American internment camps beyond what was covered briefly in her U.S. history class. Now, she speaks fluently and passionately about both subjects.

“An oratorio is like an opera but not an opera. I think of it as musical theater mixed with classical music,” she explains correctly (the difference between an opera and oratorio is simply that an opera is staged and an oratorio is not).

Before they wrote a word or composed a note, White and her classmates delved into the history of Japanese-American incarceration. On a field trip to the Japanese American National Museum they met docents who had been interned in camps and heard their stories first-hand. At home, the students researched their own family’s immigration stories.

Olivia Rodriguez is a senior and president of the VNHS choir. “My family comes from Mexico,” she says. “My great-grandmother came here with just her daughter to start a new life. When I talked to her for this project, she said she just really wanted her family to have a better chance. It was really cool for me to be able to relate that to what happened to the Japanese-Americans who came here for the same reason.”

WORD FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SCIENCE BOWL

The LADWP Science Bowl is an official, regional qualifying tournament of the United States Department of Energy National Science Bowl. More than 15,000 high school students compete in 68 regional Science Bowl competitions in 41 states making the LADWP Science Bowl the nation’s largest science competition. Science Bowl is a fast-paced game-show style competition in which two teams of 5 students answer complex college level biology, physics, earth science, chemistry, astronomy, and mathematics questions. Our team competed in a round robin/double elimination tournament that challenged their knowledge of science and math. The two teams that represented Van Nuys High School 2017 are the following students: Team Captain Keshan Huang (MS), Claire Lee (MS), Tyler Jung (MM), Woo Han (MS), and Daron Excel (MM) for Team A; Team Captain Micaela Soria (MS), Gavin Groode (MS), Arif Latif (MS), Joseph Yoon (MS), and Teresa Thomas (MS) for Team B. Our students did a wonderful job of representing the talent of Van Nuys High. Team A and B placed in the top 20 out of 42 schools on Saturday February 25, 2017 at LADWP in downtown Los Angeles. Team B also placed second out of 32 teams on the hands-on competition where students were to build a mechanical arm. Five of the team members won a two hundred dollar gift card to Office Depot. A job well done! I am always looking for strong students that have a love and aptitude for Math and Science to compete next year. Please visit room 220 if you are interested and have any questions.

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

The Chemistry Olympiad competition takes place every year in March with an exam administered nationwide to all interested U.S. high school students nominated by their teacher. This exam is given to recruit high school students to participate at the national level where they are selected based on this test. Qualifying students will represent the United States and compete against other high school students from other countries on the subject of chemistry. The Chemistry Olympiad will be administered on March 22, 2017 and this will be a two-hour multiple choice test. All of our AP Chemistry students have registered to take this exam. We are hoping to have as many of our students make it as semi-finalists. If our students perform well on this exam, another will be given at a leading university to qualify for nationals. We wish them well!!!
COLLEGE COUNSELOR
MS. CHARLTON'S COLLEGE CORNER

March is a busy month.
All AP Students: The 2016 AP Exams will be administered over two weeks in May: May 1 through 12. AP testing fees are $5 per test. Please note that juniors taking AP exams should enroll for the corresponding June SAT Subject Test. Fee waivers are available in the College Office.

- March is best known for regular admission decisions to be returned to students. You have waited months for answers and they are starting to come in. For those of you who have not visited campuses on your list that you have been admitted to, this is the time to make those plans. Spend the time and money to get this decision right. Be sure of your thinking and rationale and make sure you really do fit the campus and surrounding community and not just the name or rank of the college that admitted you.
- Continue to check for internships, scholarships, and other opportunities by checking the school’s website and following the College Office on Twitter@VNHSCollegeOff

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM FOR PLACING 8TH IN THE CITY COMPETITION!

GOOD LUCK ON THE STATE COMPETITION!

TO STAY UPDATED WITH SCHOOL NEWS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE “WWW.VNHSMIRROR.COM”

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS GUIDE: MARCH

SENIORS,
The culmination of all your hard work and dedication is quickly approaching. As your last semester of high school grinds on, please remember:

1. It’s imperative that you make sure that your financial aid documents are being submitted on time. Additionally, you should be reviewing financial aid scholarship offers with your parents. And naturally, continue to research scholarship opportunities.

2. Once you’ve been admitted to a school, you should aim to schedule a campus visit if at all possible. You want to get the best sense of all of your options before you make the ultimate decision. If you’re confident about your number one choice (and you’ve been admitted), send in your enrollment and housing forms/deposits asap!

JUNIORS,

1. All right, it’s time to bite the bullet and register for either the May SAT or the April and/or June ACT. By sitting for the exam now, you’re leaving yourself with time to retake either test (if need be).

2. You should be in the thick of your college search now. Once again, we recommend attending any college fairs being held in your area. The alumni and university reps will provide great insight. Additionally, reach out to individuals you know who have attended colleges you are considering. Ask about the quality of academic programs, student life, financing options, etc. After all, current students and alums are the real experts!

- To ensure you have as many options as possible, continue to research scholarship opportunities online.

Email us at: vnhsmagnetnewsletter@gmail.com
Produced by The Mirror Staff: Esther Choe