

Avid Continues to Excel

By Angelica Mora
Reporter

Many students are planning ahead by asking themselves what they want to do after high-school. Some plan to get a job immediately. Others suggest going straight to college or taking a year off then going to a Community College before transferring. A sure way to get ahead in your game is the AVID program. What is AVID may you ask? AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination.

In AVID, students work collaboratively twice a week to solve problems that they face in certain situations from their other classes. The other days we learn how to apply and get accepted quickly into a 4-year University. They get tutoring twice a week from well paid college tutors. Also, they receive training in: organization, note-taking, essay writing, time-management, SAT and ACT preparation, career and college planning assistance, working on speaking/interview skills, goal setting, applying for colleges, scholarships, financial aid, and much more. AVID prepares the student for collage by both this and the next question go back to what we do in an AVID class. Basically everything we do in class helps them excel in H.S. or prepare them for college. Everything AVID does in preparation for college; we use methods of Inquiry and Collaboration, as well as writing and reading strategies; we also teach the "hidden curriculum" that students must navigate in

order to be prepared for college including when and how to apply, and exactly what students need to accomplish in order to be eligible for University. AVID also helps the average student in high school by AVID requires students to take a rigorous A-G curriculum, but supports them with tutorial time and Cornell note taking. AVID is what's on many students' minds. Either if I am right for the AVID program, or how can I get in the AVID program. Many students are right for the AVID program but unfortunately it's not for everyone. There are many ways a

person could join. One specific way is the student must have at least a 2.5 GPA and be on track for the A-G requirements. They need to be prepared to commit to participation on campus in extra-curricular activities as well. There are just over 200 students in the AVID program. The AVID program was first established at Valencia High School in 1998. Teresa Shermer was the first teacher at Valencia to teach the avid program. The first person ever to teach AVID is Mary Catherine Swanson from San Diego in the 1980s.

Modern Day Slavery: Prevention

By Ben Cercea
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Slavery. Though it was once abolished in 1865, it still is currently happening in the world. Human trafficking, the modern-day form of slavery, is now the second largest criminal industry in the world right behind the number one, drugs.

If this is the first time you have heard about it, don't be ashamed. Many are unaware that slavery still happens in the world; it occurs through various methods including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Many of the victims

are exploited for purposes including prostitution and pornography. Others are used to pick the cocoa beans companies such as Hershey's, who only has one product on the market that is Fair-trade. These children, yes children are the ones who are tricked at young ages to work, are beaten, overworked, and malnourished. If they try to escape, their feet are chopped off as a consequence for running.

Live2free, is a group that spreads awareness to the unaware. By raising awareness to consumers who are completely unaware that the items

we, as consumers, buy are cheap for one main reason, because they cut off the pay for the people who are actually doing the work. They profit the money and leave the workers starving, or dead. Founded by Sandra Morgan in 2001, the Live2free organization's mission is "to challenge a generation to make personal choices...and the responsibility of consumers to slow the demand that drives modern day slavery; and to network with others to rescue, rebuild and restore broken lives of victims worldwide." As consumers of products that are not always Fair Trade Products, we are promoting the slavery business. By standing up and raising awareness, we will end the horrid process of human trafficking.

Companies are using this tech-

nique to make money because it is easy for them to get away with it. By purchasing items of fair-trade and asking as a society for change in their business ways by boycotting, or even purchasing the fair-trade items instead of the non free trade, we will be heard and they will be forced to change.

If you are interested in joining the group, visit the website www.live2free.org. stand up and make a difference and help raise awareness about this modern form of slavery. Once you stand, others will and pretty soon follow. It only takes one voice to make a difference and that voice, combined with the many, will force the companies of these markets to put an end to their mischievous ways.

New Smartboards

By Hinal Patel
Contributing Reporter

One of the characteristics of technology that we can all agree to is that there are constantly new technological advancements being implemented in society. Starting from computers, to internet, to iPhones, society has experienced a wide range of technological growth. With these advancements, Valencia Tigers now have the opportunity to learn with SMART technology in their classrooms. New SMART technology was recently placed in Nancy Watkins's classroom, in the Social Science building. A process to obtain a SMART classroom includes expressing an interest, being chosen by the district and school board members, and going through training. The teachers with SMART Board classrooms on Valencia's campus are Donna Bartelli, David Chung, Mindi Foote, Jason Gray, Mike McCall, and Nancy Watkins. According to Nancy Watkins, Social Studies Department in Chair, SMART Board helps students to learn better through constant student engagement and immediate feedback, as well as

the ability to watch videos conveniently. "They [SMART Boards] are designed to be interactive, and students manipulate the information. Teachers can design lessons to allow technology in class to show what the students know," said Watkins. The SMART technology implemented in the classrooms include a SMART Board, a response system, a wireless slate, the blue tooth tablets, a document camera, a microphone, a DVD/ VCR and many more applications that come along a SMART Board. Additionally, the SMART Boards, also known as Promethean Boards, provide a large space for all students to experience hands-on interaction with multimedia resources. The SMART technology helps to enhance the overall learning process in classrooms and provides a less stressful environment for teachers. SMART technology contains different aspects that a teacher can use for all types of learners. Many students are visual learners who learn best by watching videos, drawing pictures, and taking notes. With the SMART Technology, teachers cannot only stimulate learning for visual learners but help to enhance learning for all students by using multimedia. "It [SMART Board] is a process for teachers to learn to use them and there is something with SMART technology to benefit all teachers and students," concluded Watkins.

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TALENT SHOW: ARE YOU READY?

By Angelica Mora
Reporter

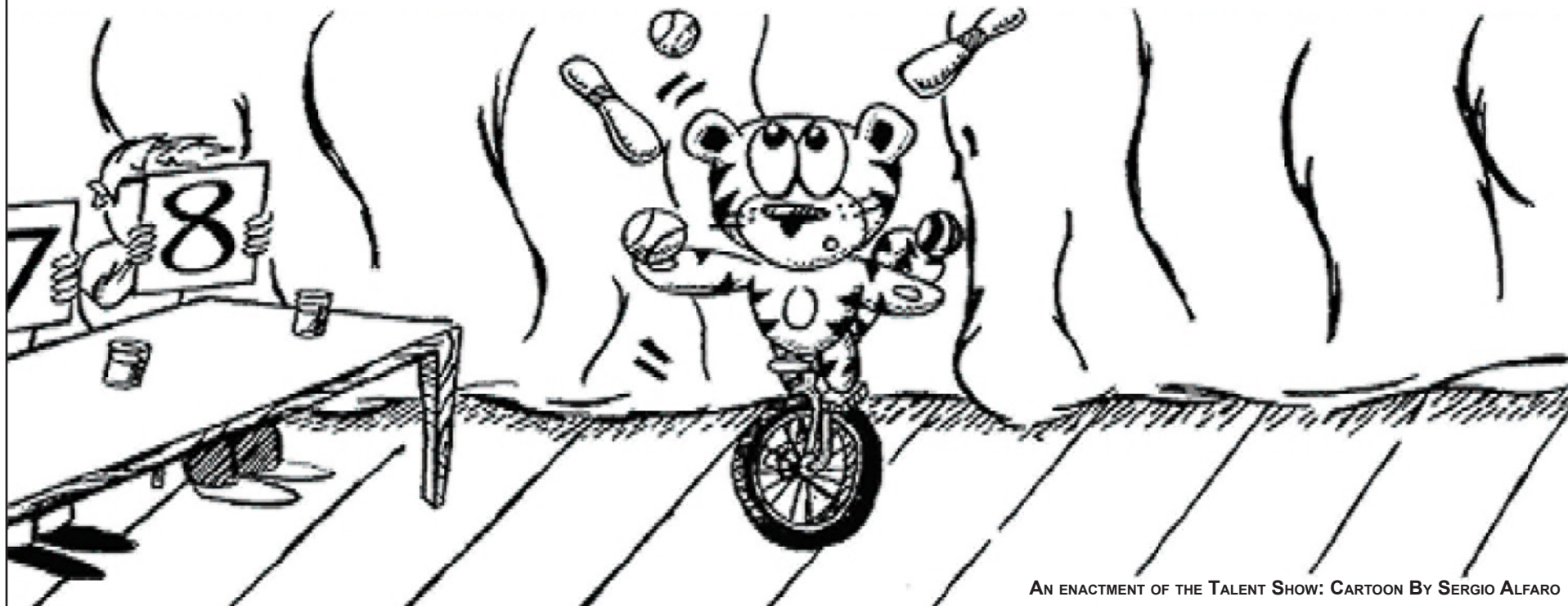
Today, in Valencia, many students hide their exceptional talents to themselves but there is now a way to bring them out to shine. Josh Sumahit, grade 12 is hosting a talent show that is scheduled for this January. This talent show is to raise money for the B.I.T.A also known as Woodshop. "We're trying to raise more money so we can contribute more things around school such as projects,

playhouses, snack shacks and many more activities that will soon be apart of Valencia's history," says Sumahit. The talent show will showcase the many different talents here at Valencia. The talents that will be shown vary from musical, dancing, skits, and humor to among many other things that will entertain those who are watching the show. There is not an estimate to as how many kids will be showing the entire school what they have to offer, the show is

actually random as to if a person with a hidden talent can sum up the guts to even come close to showcasing some of their talent. We asked Josh if he is going to show us any talents at the show that he has to offer and his reply was, "Since I am hosting the show I will not be showcasing any talents I have. I will be in many skits to help keep the audience entertained while acts/actors are getting prepared and ready for their performances." The interview lead on to me asking Josh what B.I.T.A club is about

and his response is unanimous. "This club is basically a construction club. This year we have projects emerging left and right. They vary from buildings, to benches, chairs, and tables among other things as well. We've done numerous projects around school and this year we are looking to leave a mark on VHS. You will see new library counters, a snack shack, and something that will make you want to hang out down near the science buildings quite soon." Then I asked him what

is the reason you are trying to raise money for this club and he responded, "Any of the material that we need is provided either by the school, donations we have received, or fund-raisers we have held. If we were to raise money for our club, it would not only help out future generations who stick with the B.I.T.A program, but it would also give room for more projects and more complicated projects." If anyone is interested in the talent show then talk to Josh Sumahit around school or in room 802.



AN ENACTMENT OF THE TALENT SHOW: CARTOON BY SERGIO ALFARO

CHALK ART

By Madison Tang
Reporter

During October 12 to 16, Valencia High celebrated Red Ribbon Week with enthusiasm. Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and most prominent drug prevention program in the nation, and Valencia has been an avid participant for years.

Starting on Monday the 12th, the traditional red bracelets were passed out for students to wear to their classes. These bracelets represent students' self-control and commitment to not participate in any drugs or alcohol on Valencia's campus.

On Tuesday of that week, students were instructed to wear red to school to show their support of this drug-free cause. The winning classes of this year's competition were Mrs. Slater's class, Ms. Ferreiro's class, and Mr. Yoshimura's class. In honor of this occasion, Valencia's campus was filled with various inspirational posters around the school to remind the students and faculty to take a stand against illegal and unhealthy drug use. When asked her opinion on the school's advocacy of Red Ribbon Week, once student, Sonali Patel stated, "I think that Red Ribbon Week was ultimately a success, but I hope that next year we can do

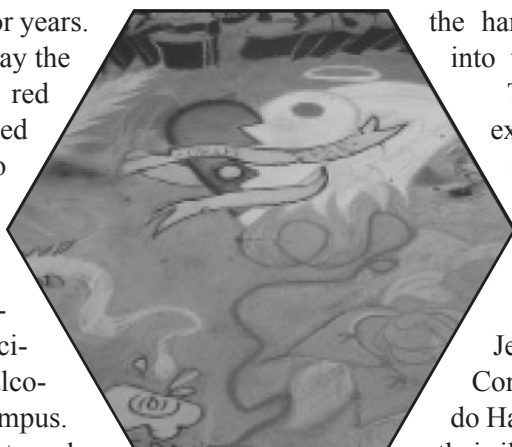


Photo By: Jack Dauley

even more to spread awareness about its cause."

Another Red Ribbon Week tradition for Valencia is to hold a chalk art contest in the Memorial Garden. The contest provides an opportunity for kids to take initiative against drug use in high school. Not only is it a creative alternative outlet for students, but it also produces an important and relevant message. This year the entries

were both original and influential, and the hard work the participants put into their drawings was apparent.

The chalk art participants were excused from their first three periods in order to plan out and illustrate their creations and slogans. After much deliberation, it was decided that the winners of the contest were Jennifer Cruz, Debbie Cruz, Ben Correa, David Gonzalez, Fernando Herreria, and Gilbert Luna, with their illustration of elaborate flowers and designs, surrounding the words "Live Above" and "Drug Free."

The 2nd place team consisted of Adrienne Shultz, Annelise Cohen, Stephanie Song, Monica Stanford, Daniel Treviño, and Ryan Osborn. The third place team included Elephziba Ramirez, Uly Munos, marina Mora, Alex Mora, and Lucio Morales. Overall, Valencia had another successful year of participation in Red Ribbon Week and its noble and highly relevant cause.

For Red Ribbon Week is more than just an average school week in which people wear little colored bracelets; it is a unified declaration of our students' commitment to a drug-free and healthy lifestyle.

ELD STUDENTS INCREASE TEST SCORES

By Hinal Patel
Contributing Reporter

ELD (English Language Department) students have increased their California Standards Test (CST) scores for 2008-2009 school year. The teachers set a benchmark for each level, and the students who met or excelled the benchmark were rewarded for their hard work and determination to surpass the goals.

The two different tests express the progress of English language learners—CST and CELDT. CST tests the state tests given to students to measure the students' progress towards the academic standards developed by the state. Further tests include CELDT (California English Language Development Test) which are specifically taken by the students whose home language is other than English. Similar to CST, the goal of CELDT is to identify the progress of English learning students.

ELD students are prepared with different activities based on the state standards for the test. More than 40 of ELD students have met or exceeded the goal. "ELD Department's goal was to increase CST scores and reward students with a party," said Luis Garcia, one of the ELD Department teachers. Last year, ELD students were rewarded with a party, organized by the ELD Language Arts Department, in the library last year. Moreover, the students were rewarded by certificates for their achievement of the goal.

Thank you to all the ELD Department teachers who worked hard to help students to achieve the goal.