



Correia Cougar News

February 2007

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Correia Cougar News

is a quarterly
newsletter of the
Steven V. Correia
Middle School
Association

4302 Valeta Street
San Diego CA 92107
(619) 222-0476

www.correiamiddle.com

Linda Taggart,
Principal

Kris Spathas,
Association President /
Newsletter Editor

Pod-Casting at Correia

By John Snedden

Podcasting at Correia...

The Correia teachers, staff, and students have begun Podcasting in earnest. The Correia Middle website <www.correiamiddle.com> currently hosts twelve Podcast channels with episodes ranging from art class to science. Correia uses the Podcasts to enhance student learning, share community events, and to entertain their audience. It is the belief of the staff and students that Podcasting can have a positive impact on student performance both inside and outside the classroom.

Entertaining Podcasts, such as those done in the Sra. Olsen's Spanish class and Mrs. Hudson's Drama class have given positive feedback and learning experiences to all the students who participated in the creation of the episode. The expectation is, that, that positive learning experience will translate into increased perform-

ance in school.

The humanities teachers, like Ms. Smith, have found another use for Podcsating. Ms. Smith's class is creating fictional stories and persuasive writing on their Podcast. Using digital media to first write their story in Weblockers, students have a series of one-line scripts to read from, and soon illustrate, to create their episode. These students are seeing and hearing their own success in class and sharing it with their parents outside of class. That's right, they are voluntarily sharing with their parents what they have done at school!

In Integrated Technology and Art, students are focusing on English and Math standards to create narrative scripts, biographies and Math Movies. The skills these students are learning will help them develop an understanding of what it will take to critically think and communicate in the

21st century.

It's not all staff though. The students are handling the majority of the work in Podcasting. The Correia Book Club Podcasts are completely edited and produced by students, as are the weekly news broadcasts. Students are volunteering to take on the extra task of being the class podcaster. In many cases, students are coming in early, or competing with others for the opportunity to participate.

Podcasts on the Correia website can be downloaded to any computer with iTunes (the site has a free install link if you do not already have iTunes). Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are important skills no student should fail to develop. Podcasting gives Correia students the opportunity to develop these skills using 21st century technology. Tune in for more...

Principal's Article

by Linda Taggart

Dear Parents,

In the past, if a student failed English or math, they could go to school for four weeks in the summer and make up the work. Some students chose to do this and went on to the next grade level. Some students did not and were promoted to the next grade and given remedial classes the following year in hopes that they would catch up. Things are changing this semester. If a child fails any two or more core classes, English, math, history and/or science and does not make up the credits, they will be retained at eighth grade and could remain at Correia the following year. That is a big change.

Every student's performance in academic core subjects—English, math, history, and science—now matters more than ever before. Beginning with second semester classes which start February 5, all eighth graders face a new higher standard for admission to regular high school classes this fall. Eighth graders who fail two or more core subjects will be retained in middle school and will not go on to high school this fall. Students need to know about this consequence and can avoid it by working hard and passing all of their classes.

If parents prefer, an alternative to retention at middle school is available. The failing student will be placed, instead, in a ninth grade intervention program which would provide concentrated instruction in the core subjects as well as study skills. The Board of Education has just approved this new retention policy. The goal is to increase students' preparation for and success in challenging high school courses. The new policy is expected to reduce dropouts. Last year about 13% of the eighth graders in our district had two or more F's in core subjects at the end of the eighth grade. Correia Middle School teachers and staff are working hard to reduce that number this spring.

As an informed parent, we appreciate your willingness to encourage your student to have excellent attendance, good study habits and complete all homework assignments on time, especially in these key subjects. Students who make these efforts will get better results and earn higher grades. The results are worth the effort.

Best wishes for a successful spring semester. Sincerely, Linda Taggart, Principal

The Correia Association's Annual CRYSTAL CELEBRATION DINNER-DANCE-AUCTION is coming up on MARCH 10th! It's a fun night for adults - parents, teachers, staff and community members. Plus, money is raised for the school.

To RSVP, go to correiamiddle.com or send in the form from the invitation in this newsletter.

RSVP now!



A.S.B. Article

written by A.S.B. Students

Hi, this is Riley Hasche, Angela Mendez and Lexi Hardin reporting for the Correia Middle School ASB.

This year, ASB has organized a variety of events. We believe that overall, our ASB semester can be called a success. We held a dance and offered holiday grams. All students participated in a Food Drive, which benefited the San Diego Food Bank. In order for ASB to be successful we need the students at Correia Middle School to participate in our events and we have come to find that we have had a large amount of support from

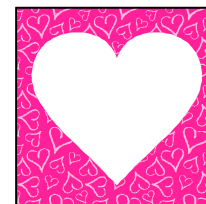
them.

Our dance was a major hit! As you may know, Correia has not had a dance in over four years. We had 140 students attend and they had an awesome time dancing and snacking at the Portuguese Hall. The music was great, and even the teachers had fun. We hope to have another one before Spring Break.

This month, we sold Valentine Grams. The flowers were delivered to students during 3rd period on February 14th. Our hope was for everyone to receive a flower on Valentine's Day. We would like to finish our article by

thanking all our school's supporters and participators. We give many thanks to all of the teachers that donated their time to chaperone the dance. Also, a thank you to parents that donated food and drink items, we could not have done it without your support.

Thank you!



Music Program—Great News!

By Marc Dwyer

The past month has resulted in quite a bit of good news for Correia and its music students. In January, Correia sent many of its students to participate in SDUSD's Middle School Honor Band, and Orchestra Auditions. We did very well in all three events.

Our first piece of good news came as Christina Colloca (8th grade) was accepted into the SDUSD Secondary Honor Orchestra. Membership into this orchestra is highly competitive and usually reserved for students in high school. Her acceptance into this ensemble is evident of her talent and diligence to her instrument and art.

Next, was the acceptance of several of our orchestra members into the district's Elementary/Middle School Honors Orchestra. Congratulations to the following for their hard work and acceptance into this ensemble: Nicholas Lilya, Eric Cibit, Tara Hall, Anna Kelley, Christina King, Morgan Fouquier.

(Continued on page 4. . . .)

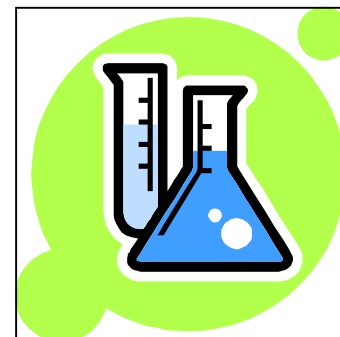


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS!!!

28 out of 32 kids have been selected to move on to the Greater San Diego Science Fair. Everyone at the Mission Bay screening were really impressed with our kids. Please congratulate these students.

- Brennan Alcantara
- Romi Attas
- Jaran Blessing
- Lexi Bohlman
- Justo Caballero
- Stephen Devito
- Gordon Hale
- Katie Gardner
- Lily Haine

- Dino Ljubovic
- Debra Miller
- Anette Ortega
- Kenny Ortega
- Christian Ostergaard
- AJ Polangco
- Hannah Robertson
- Aly Scott
- Jeff Shutt
- Sarah Wasseem
- Thomas Witkowski
- Nick O'Connor
- Duncan Swain
- Kellen Urbon
- Adrianna Pickering
- Aaron McKinstry
- Eric Cibit
- Grant Gallo



Correia Library News

During the past couple weeks, the library has housed the 4th annual Correia Science Fair. Over 440 projects were on display showcasing our 8th graders' work. We hosted an Open House on February 1 so that parents and students could visit the fair, get their grades and talk with the Science teachers.

Alan November presented at the library on February 8th, to teachers and staff during the day and to parents and community members in the evening.

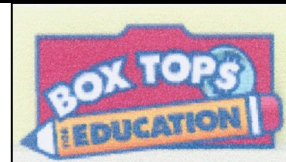
Correia Connection (Parent Student Book Club) meets once a month in the evening at the library. Our meeting this month was

by Marcia Abbott

on Feb. 13th. We read *Letters from Wolfie* by Patti Sherlock.

We continue to collect General Mills Boxtops for Education in order to purchase additional books!

Spring **Buy One - Get One Free Book Fair** will be the week of May 14th.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION . . .
Collect them from boxes of food, storage bags, paper products and so much more! Cut them off the box top and turn them into the library!

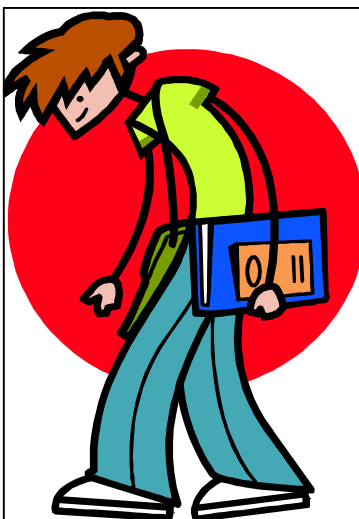
It's such an easy way to help our school!!

How We Use Technology at Correia Middle School

by Paige Pendarvis and Caitlin Snell

At Correia Middle School there is a lot of technology that students are able to use everyday. We are able to do many things with the technological resources available to us. There are many programs, such as Cognitive Tutor for math and ESL Reading Smart for English, that teach us skills that we can use in our future. There are over 120 computers in 3 labs that help us achieve the high standards Correia has given us. We are able to produce podcasts, make movies, and create news broadcasts along with many other things.

The school has provided enough technology during school time that we don't even need to have any of the equipment at home. There are video and digital cameras, laptop carts for each science and math classroom, and digital overhead projectors to make it simpler for us to learn. We even have classroom message boards for silent online classroom conversations. If you miss a day of school you can always go online and find your homework on your teacher's page. Having this technology in our school makes us want to learn and gives us initiative to go to school.



Correia Association News

By Kris Spathas

The Annual Correia Crystal Celebration Dinner/Dance/Auction is on March 10th this year and you are all invited!! The owners of *Botanica* on Kettner Blvd. have offered to let us have our event there and it is a very unique, cool setting. The great thing about this night is that Correia parents have an opportunity to get to know Correia staff and teachers outside of school. It is a great opportunity, as well, to bring together community members in celebration of our school. So, please plan to attend. You will have a great time! To RSVP, you have options: simply go online to correia-middle.com and under *News and Announcements* click on Correia Crystal Celebration or fill out the invitation enclosed in this newsletter and send it into the school with your check. The auction items will include something for everyone from student art work to sports camps, weekend getaways, fishing excursions and more. The food will include selected items from our local restaurants. Hope to see you there!

I'd like to acknowledge the Correia Association committee chairpeople who have been working hard: Niki Goodwin is the Crystal Celebration chairperson and her energy and excitement is going to make this a great success; Lucy DeVito and Chris Pickering coordinate the Correia Cash Booth which provides incentive prizes to students who have earned Correia Cash and they work hard to maintain the supply of prizes that the students enjoy; Lucy also coordinates the school logowear, filling orders as they come in; Sandy

Silverman's work on the Correia directory resulted in a great product that all of our students received mid-January; Sharlene McKinstry works many hours a week as treasurer of our group; Lisa Bishop is our wonderful secretary who attends the meetings, takes notes and writes up the minutes for our meetings which are then posted to the website; Tara Jean, a Correia teacher, is our teacher liaison and she attends every meeting, giving input from teachers which helps in our decision-making; Principal Linda Taggart, takes time every month to come speak to the Association, keeping parents up-dated on what is happening at the school, inside and outside of the classrooms; Aly Evans is our Partners in Education chairperson and she is responsible for bringing Mark Mendoza from Food Services to our meeting who had lots of great samples and was very willing to hear our questions and suggestions. Please know that everyone is invited to the meetings. We try to keep them short, but if it runs too long, you can just leave. If you have ideas for me about a guest you would like to hear from, let me know. Sue DeLira, our school nurse, was our guest at the December meeting and she is responsible for coordinating the Adopt-A-Family program at Correia that brings so much happiness to many Correia families in need.

Let me know if you have any suggestions!

Kris, kspathas@cox.net



"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and cannot remain silent."

Victor Hugo,
French Poet,
Novelist and Dramatist

"To stop the flow of music would be like the stopping of time itself, incredible and inconceivable."

Aaron Copland,
American Composer

"Music is an outburst of the soul."

Frederick Delius,
English Composer

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything."

Plato,
Ancient Greek
Philosopher



Make a Difference . . . Grassroots Opportunity! By Kris Spathas

Impact your child's educational journey through this unique grassroots opportunity. Have a voice and help create a vision to enhance the K-12 experience in the Point Loma Cluster. Parents and community members are invited to join Area Superintendents Carol Barry and Nellie Meyers, principals and teachers from the Point Loma cluster schools in an important strategic planning event. March 15, 1:00-6:00 p.m. at Correia Middle School in the Library/Media Center. RSVP to Nancy Gray, ngray2@sandi.net or 619-725-7222. Childcare will be provided for ages 3 and up, Spanish translation will be provided upon request. There will be an outside facilitator and the goal of this session will be to come up with VALUES for the Point Loma Cluster Schools, a MISSION STATEMENT and VISION STATEMENT. Subsequent meetings will focus on tasks and goals. We would love to have anyone participate who has a passion for our local cluster schools and would like to bring their "voice" to the table.

Live Homework Help is Available to All

Live Homework Help is a wonderful resource to help students and increase student achievement. A real, expert tutor is just a click away. With a quick algebra question, or an advanced chemistry concept, a student can be getting help online from a certified, professional tutor in minutes. Live Homework Help is a one-to-one online tutoring service connecting kids to qualified tutors from any Internet-enabled computer. English and Spanish-speaking tutors are available. Kids, parents and teachers connect to online tutors through a web site during the hours you choose — seven days a week, anytime between 1:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. Students can use Live Homework Help as often as they need help.

Connecting to an expert tutor is fast and easy. Students do the following: (1) Select their grade level (4th-12th or Introductory College), (2) Select their subject (math, science social studies or English), (3) Connect to a tutor in the Online Classroom

You will need a San Diego Public Library Card to connect. If you are ready to connect, and already have a library card, then just go to the San Diego Public Library web site (www.sandiego.gov/public-library), select the "Live Homework Help" icon on the right side of the home page. Tell your friends about this!!

Correia Instrumental Music Article

. . . Continued from page 2

Finally it was the band's turn to participate in the district's Middle School Honor Band Auditions. Here we did very well! Not only did we send the most students of any school in our district to the auditions (a total of 30) but 21 students were selected. This means that Correia will have the highest number of participants in this ensemble! Congratulations to the following students:

Colleen O'Brien (8th), Arianna Conger (8th), Katherine Riley (7th), Ster Finley (7th), Diana Jellison (7th), Kyle Sutter (7th), Katie Pickle (7th), Teddy Putham (7th), Spencer Jefferson (8th), Lexie Bohlman (8th), Stephen DeVito (8th), Mallory Beach (7th), Collin Walker (8th), Stephen Stapleton (8th), Edmond Brasseur (7th), Sab Redzepovic (7th), Kealoha Betanzos (7th), Zerenda Smith (7th), Lucas Evans (7th), Steven Brown (7th) and Luzdelia Caballero (7th alternate status).

This past weekend our students did it again as they participated in the district's Solo & Ensemble Festival held at Oak Park Elementary School. Four student ensembles and 12 solos represented Correia Middle School. The results were very positive: For Ensemble Performances:

Sara Fisher & Diana Jellison (7th) – Superior; Katherine Riley & Jessica Stapleton (7th) – Superior; Wendy Eifert & Christina Sardo (7th) – Superior; Chiara Mahoney & Maddison Brown (8th) - Superior

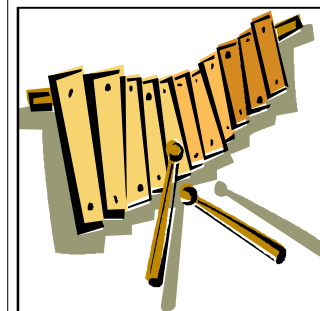
For Solo Performances:

Teddy Putnam (7th) – Good; Jessica Stapleton (7th) – Excellent; Diana Jellison (7th) – Excellent; Chiara Mahoney (7th) – Excellent; Lexie Bohlman (8th) – Excellent; Mallory Beach (7th) – Excellent; Lucas Evans (7th) – Excellent; Katie Pickle (7th) – Superior; John-Lancaster Finley (7th) – Superior;
Steven Brown (7th) – Superior;

Nathan Hoppe (7th) – Superior; Luzdelia Caballero (7th) – Superior; Matthew Vacchi (7th) – Superior.

A Special thanks goes to our student piano accompanists Aaron McKinstry and Eric Cibit. This is a thankless job (no awards) but a very important one!

All this great news is evident of the strong directors in the Pt. Loma Cluster and is a strong indication that our music programs are leading the way as a model for music in the San Diego Unified School District .



Birthday Party for Famous Artists

By Lilly Rosa

The art students researched famous artists in a non-traditional manner, that is, instead of merely writing a term paper about an artist, each student created a 3 dimensional product. Students studied about the life of a particular artist (Steven V. Correia (of course!), Leonardo DaVinci, Pablo Picasso, Mary Cassatt, Vincent VanGogh, Frida Kahlo, Claude Monet, Andy Warhol, Salvador Dali,....to mention just a few) and decorated the exterior of a 4" x 4" cardboard box to reflect the artist's individual style. On the underside of the lid, students wrote 3 important facts about the artist's life which they felt were important for the viewing public to know. The students were to place 2 objects (a.k.a "birthday gifts") inside the box which symbolically represented their artist

and a written explanation of what each object meant.

The culmination of the art box creations was a sort of "birthday party" for all of the artists, goodies and all! This event was held in the art room on February 1st. A huge inflated 6 foot birthday cake was the centerpiece of the space with the "happy birthday" song playing in the background! Students ate lots of birthday sweets and had their boxes on display for all to learn from and enjoy. The entire Correia staff were invited to attend and participate in the birthday event where they had the opportunity to look at the art boxes and question the students about their famous artists!

There is currently a podcast on the Correia Middle website showing this festive

birthday happening which will give you an idea of the celebration and a little glimpse of what some of the art research boxes looked like. Ten Correia students give a short description of their artist on this podcast and have a photo of their box for viewing. These 10 students will be representing Correia Middle by having their art boxes displayed in the upcoming 2007 San Diego Unified School District Art Exhibition, March 1 - April 9, at the Eugene Brucker Ed Center in North Park!

As always I am extremely proud of my art students, their hardwork and creative energies! I am very happy to be here at Correia implementing what I feel is a necessary and vital part of "whole" education, the visual arts.

Remember to use our school website as you first source of school and community information!

correiamiddle.com

Correia Cash Booth

by Lucy DeVito

Are you the parent of a 7th grader or new to the school and haven't heard about the Correia Cash Booth?

What is it? Throughout the school year teachers hand out Correia cash to students for **academic excellence, responsibility, team work and respect**. The booth is set up like a snack shack where

students can buy items depending on the amount of Correia cash they have. Don't worry we do have some healthy snacks and drinks to choose from! No money is involved – only Correia cash dollars. At the end of the month we hold a drawing for a special Correia cash booth prize. Students make sure your

name and a teacher's signature are on those dollars. **The booth is open from 11:30 – 12:30, every Friday.**

Where is it? The cash booth can be found across the courtyard from the Cougar Den - alongside the PE building.



The prices are so reasonable for logowear:

Boy's t-shirts,

white—\$8 navy—\$8

Girls' t-shirts, white—\$10 navy—

\$10

Hooded sweatshirts, \$20



**** LOGO WEAR ****

**HAVE YOUR CORREIA T-SHIRTS
GOTTEN A LITTLE SMALLER OR ARE STARTING TO SHOW
SIGNS OF WEAR AND TEAR?
DO YOU NEED A SWEATSHIRT FOR THE
COLDER WEATHER?**

WE HAVE LOGO WEAR AVAILABLE IN ALL SIZES!

You can order anytime online
www.correiamiddle.com look under the Association heading - Correia School Store.

Order forms are also available in the main office.

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CORREIA CALENDAR

Mar. 1	Thursday	Correia Association Mtg.	Library	6:00 p.m.
Mar. 6	Tuesday	Rubio's Night		4-8 p.m.
Mar. 10	Saturday	Annual Crystal Celebration Look for the invitation inside this newsletter!!	Botanica	6:30-10:00 p.m.
Mar. 15	Thursday	Point Loma Cluster Council Strategic Planning Session	Library	1:00—6:00 p.m.
Mar. 27	Tuesday	ELAC Meeting	St. Jude's	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 2-6	Mon-Fri	Spring Break—No School		

www.correiamiddle.com Check it out . . .