Celebrating 65 Years of Our CSDR Legacy

Events were held as the school community celebrated the school’s rich 65-year past, the present, and the future. On Friday, every student and staff assembled outside in front of the renovated cafeteria to sing Happy Birthday and enjoy a cake prepared by the school cafeteria staff. Saturday, February 3rd, on the school’s birthday, the CSDR Alumni Association held a movie viewing of the CSDR alumna star Heidi Branch (Ramborger) ’92 “Hedy and Heidi: The Lost Sister”. CSDR now looks to the future, seeking to raise funds to start a literacy foundation to support enrichment and after school programs, with a literacy gala hosted by the community on Friday, May 4th. Superintendent Dr. Nancy Hlibok Amann invites the community to join us at this exciting gathering, the first of many. Tickets are available at www.CSDRLitGala.eventbrite.com. The Lit Gala speaks to the power of compassion and encourages the fact that “One person can make a difference!” See you there! If you cannot attend, please consider making a donation to help achieve our goal. Onwards to elevating literacy!
Mission:
Students at the California School for the Deaf are engaged in a positive environment where ASL and English are valued, cultures are embraced, learning is relevant, and self-worth is uplifted. In collaboration with families and school communities, Southern California students prepare for college and careers with academic rigor, innovative technology, and extracurricular opportunities.

News from Nancy

Many wonderful and inspiring things have happened with our students and staff during the past few months. Our very own California Deaf Educational Resource Center (CDERC) staff coordinated the 2nd annual Family Fun Weekend here where we had over 42 families attend. Together, we learned so much through workshops, presentations, and activities. I had the privilege of giving a workshop on promoting the love for reading at home. Reading opens a world where the opportunities are endless. We also had our annual Enrichment and Empowerment retreat (E2) in Oceanside for high school students chosen on their ability to thrive as future young leaders in the community. It was a pure joy to watch them do team-building activities, recognize their own strengths, and to build confidence in what they can do as young adults. Every year, E2 students go back to school with pride and motivation in doing even more as students.

Besides these two events, students have had the opportunity to participate in different kinds of competitions such as the Deaf Culinary Bowl in Fremont; Regional Academic Bowl in Irvine; and the National Academic Bowl and the National Battle of the Books, both in Washington, DC; and the Math Competition in Rochester, NY. In our eyes, all students who participated in these competitions are winners!

With that said, I cannot emphasize how important it is to promote a passion for learning outside of classroom. Like the Partnership for 21st Century Learning stated in one of its publications: Between first through twelfth grade, kids spend less than 20% of their waking hours in school. That means they spend more than 80% of waking hours outside of school. This is the 80/20 Rule. Our mindset has to change – not about the importance of school – but about the value of learning that happens outside of school. Eighty percent of learning happens informally in families and in communities!

Thank you for being part of our amazing community. I look forward to you joining us at our inaugural Literacy Gala on May 4th!

-Nancy Hlibok Amann, Ph.D., Superintendent

The state of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right to family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.
The CSDR Family Takes on the Great Kindness Challenge!

Ms. Anders’ PE students use ASL to show: Sun, Heart, K-I-N-D-N-E-S-S, ILY

Abbie’s shirt fingerspells “K-I-N-D”

Landen tells Stephanie that she is sweet

Madelain guides newcomer Amaya through the activity

Mr. Hause’s door shows kindness quotes from History

Ethan gives Principal Ms. Green a cookie for working hard on IEPs

5th Graders come up with hashtags on CSDR kindness
Literacy: Read Across America and Battle of the Books
Contributed by Ms. Alyssa Romano’s class, ECE Literacy Learning and Laughter, and Ms. Lisa Chute

For the “Read Across America Door Decoration Challenge”, Ms. Alyssa Romano’s classes created a Bilingual Door:

**English**—These book covers show the novels and stories that the students have read this school year.

**ASL**—For each book cover, a QR code is triggered to an ASL version summary of the story, done by the students. Visitors were able to use their camera app scanner for an automatic video link to enjoy viewing!

Students in Early Childhood Education were enamored with the stories presented by alumni visitor and talented performer, Tommy Korn ’03, coincidentally during a student’s birthday. What a great treat!

Elementary students, dressed in pajamas comfortable enough for all-day reading at school, assembled in the Social Hall for a spectacular, theatrical prop-filled storysigning of *Green Eggs and Ham*, by teachers Ms. Elizabeth Foronda and Ms. Lori Stecher. Afterwards, children either cuddled on blankets with their books, or engaged in reading craft activities.

Six Middle School students qualified to represent CSDR at the national Battle of the Books competition held at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. to compete in the Buff and Blue divisions. The Blue team placed 4th overall. Congratulations to our students who were selected as an All Star player: Daniel Soudakoff (Buff), and Ambria Goldstein (Blue)!
Reading and Telling Stories the Deaf Way with Dr. Roz Rosen

High school students and the community were delighted with a special visitor, Dr. Roslyn “Roz” Rosen. She authored a book of Deaf Culture Fairy Tales, adapted from the classic fairy tales. At school, Dr. Rosen asked the HS students “What’s the tallest building in the world?” One student technically answered correctly, “Burj Khalifa” in Dubai. Roz, however, replied “The Library - it has the most ‘stories’ in the world.” How funny, but true! Staff and the community had the opportunity to purchase autographed books, of which proceeds went to LEAD-K to prepare deaf children for kindergarten. Books are also available at www.savorywords.com/books. Only the students were honored with a free book, courtesy of Bummy Burstein, TinaJo Breindel and Joe Dannis, Trudy Suggs, and Roz Rosen! Thank you for your support in elevating CSDR Literacy!

Not-So-Grimm Tales Presented by 8th Graders
Contributed by Ms. Arianne Hendrix and Brittany Wink-Zuniga of bwink Photography

On February 21st, the 8th graders gave a stellar performance, “Not-So-Grimm Tales”. They gave two shows, one to the whole school and then in the evening to families and community. The students did an amazing job performing to portray a positive and twisted modern version of three stories: Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White and Cinderella. The stories portrayed how important it is for women to empower themselves and be appreciated for their intelligence instead of beauty, that everyone should be treated fairly, and that money does not buy happiness. Deaf Photographer, Brittany Wink-Zuniga took the pictures and created the collage.

“The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think but to give you questions to think upon.”
Brandon Sanderson, The Way of Kings
Academic Bowl Regional Champion and Nation’s Top Three

Scarlett Valencia, HS Principal: The Academic Bowl team won the West Regional competition held in March, undefeated against 15 other schools and programs in the Western states. In April, the championship team was sent to Washington, D.C. for the National Academic Bowl competition, where the top 20 teams from all across the United States vied for the national championship. CSD Riverside is not new to this as our team has traveled as finalists to the nationals every year since 2010. This year, we won 3rd place, which is a huge honor especially when considering the number of schools that began competing for the national championship- 80 teams in total. Congratulations to our Academic Bowl players- Hailey Burton, Nathaniel Humpal, Dakota Ronco, and Spencer Willey, and our two coaches, Mr. Darren Hause and Ms. Alyssa Romano. As principal, I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful Cub community! - Scarlett Valencia

Left: Noah Valencia ‘16, alumnus Academic Bowl player champion, tweeted, 21 Dec 2017: “During the (Alumni) game as (Nate) started to shoot his free throw, I asked him ‘Who’s the 45th President of the United states?’ He stopped and thought, and said “Donald Trump, clown,” then he made the free throw. I’m impressed with his ability to think academic bowl during the game.”

Right: Hailey Burton, ‘18 wrote: “It was a long weekend in DC at Academic Bowl Nationals, and to come home to see the entire student body waiting out front for us, it meant a lot. Granted, I was surprised, even overwhelmed at first, but when I got home, it hit me: three years ago, we got third place, the same as this year. What was different about this year was that it was met with community. At 2:31pm, we came home to see my senior class, and the student body, cheering for us.”
Qualcomm’s Thinkabit Lab
Written by Ms. Tammy Mitchell, Middle School Principal

7th grade visited Qualcomm’s center in San Diego for a learning experience at their Thinkabit Lab. At Qualcomm, an early producer and innovator in the worldwide telecommunications industry, students had a day filled with self-discovery, innovation, basic coding and incorporation of the Design Process.

In the morning, students looked inward to discovering their strengths, interests and values in order to guide them into employment possibilities. Next, they worked in small teams to talk about what kind of problems in the world might be solved using innovative technologies. Students dreamt big! From flying cars to portable gaming systems to video technology for drive-thru ordering for ASL users, there was no problem too big to hope to tackle!

The world is ready to have these students dive in and redesign life as we know it.

After lunch, students finally moved into the Thinkabit Lab. A classroom setting designed to challenge creativity as a Makerspace environment filled with almost anything imaginable to build anything they can imagine! In a brief attempt to create a vision related to or resolving the problem they had previously brainstormed, students were taught basic coding skills, accompanied by a hands-on opportunity to see coding in action.

Following the coding instruction, students were challenged to create something that tied into their brainstorming ideas and something within their designed project had to utilize the movement created by the circuitry of the coded information. Finally, they were let loose in the Lab to find any materials necessary and design a model. Following the design process, it was built, tested, and redesigned again. The creativity of every student was astounding and every student was fully engaged. It is a memory that hopefully they will never forget.

Guest Speaker Treshelle Edmond, a Broadway Actress
Contributed by Ms. Arianne Hendrix, Middle School Teacher

Deaf actress and singer Treshelle Edmond gave a workshop to students at each grade level in middle school on what it means to be a leader. “We need the courage to succeed even in times of challenge or fear because this is how we learn more about ourselves,” said Ms. Edmond. Students also were fortunate to receive her tips and ideas toward their 8th grade play, which was a huge success. Treshelle is known as the ASL singer for the national anthem at the Super Bowl. She also acted in TV shows and in the Broadway shows Spring Awakening and again in Children of a Lesser God, currently playing this spring. Thank you, Treshelle!
Ooh! Close-Up Views of Famous and Historical Automobiles
Written by Mr. Brandon Bowdidge, Automotive Technology Teacher

The CTE Automotive Technology program students really enjoyed the field trip to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles last December. The museum is richly filled with historical cars, from 1886 to the recent past.

A tour guide took the class throughout the museum, highlighting on the history of each vehicle and how it arrived at the museum. Among the unique displays were a Mercedes Benz made in 1886 as the first car ever made in the world, a Ford Model T which was the first car made on the assembly line, the one and only motorcycle from the original Batman TV show series, a few top of the line Bugattis that are worth at least one million dollars, and many more! A special exhibition on the first floor displayed a wide-range of lowrider vehicles. Many of these were featured in the famous Lowrider magazine. The museum also has a secret vault in the basement, housing the very rare vehicles for which we were required to pay extra to be able to explore! This was a great opportunity to learn the rich history about how automobiles started, how they have grown and evolved, and what the future will be like. The tour lasted only an hour and a half, resulting in the students wanting to go back again on their own to see more. It was definitely a worthwhile trip!

CTE and Technology K-12

This school year saw the first implementation of CTE instruction extended to younger students in Elementary and Middle Schools, in addition to the current offering as part of the High School program. Middle School classes go to the CTE teachers with their middle school teacher, to learn foundational skills as part of their electives. CTE teachers visit Elementary classrooms on a scheduled unit rotation to teach art, construction, coding, computer literacy, and other skills.
Deaf Talent in the Magical Realm

For the annual Silent Sleigh winter celebrations, CSDR invited renowned Deaf magicians to perform for the Elementary students. The enthusiastic crowd was awed by the disappearing acts and resolved puzzles. A few of them were lucky to have been called onstage to act as witnesses to the amazing tricks! Thanks to the talented Deaf magicians Sammy Ruiz ’88, and the duo, Steve Longacre, and Greg Koppel for showing the students that nothing is impossible and that “A little magic can take you a long way!”

Student-Prepared Feast

As a part of thematic learning with real-world application, students in the Alternate Curriculum Education program hosted an annual Winter Feast for the school staff and administration. Many weeks were spent planning the menu, preparing the food, learning about measurements, and reading and following instructions. During the feast, students interacted with staff as host or hostesses, waiters, or servers. This year was the best!
Students who are new to California School for the Deaf or have been here for a while know that anything is possible! New students are welcomed by the leaders with organized activities. Students from elementary, middle, and high school perform their art and present their views in school and national pageants, and are empowered to express their voice during national crises, most recently on their wishes for a safer campus and stricter gun laws.

Left: Homecoming Queen Alexandra Monge and Homecoming King Jack Hocog, crowned on the day CSDR won all their games and matches in Academic Bowl, Volleyball, and Football. A day to remember for Riverside!
Right: Miss CSDR Serenity Fry and Mr. CSDR Elijah Andrade, 3rd place winners of Mr. & Miss Deaf Teen America hosted in Arkansas!

Left: Students new to CSD were welcomed at an orientation party run by the student leadership organization, and were gifted new red CSD shirts Welcome to the Family of the Cubs!

Left: All the pageant participants
Right: Mr. & Miss Youth Ambassador Court of Honor: First-runner up Abigail Barrett, Winner Darius Zarembka, Winner Enza Visco, and First-runner up Christian Jimenez

HS student leaders hosted their March 14 National Walk Up on Anti-Gun Violence: They held moments of silence, gave a brief speech on each departed victim of the Parkland, FL school shooting, and released biodegradable balloons with their names written on each. “We are with you all,” said Karla Menedez ’18 (top right).
Boys Basketball Highlights:

CSDR has been named in the Deaf Digest Sports for the 2018 Deaf Digest Sports All-American boys’ basketball team: Riverside – Elijah Watters; Player of the Year – Big Schools – Elijah Watters; Riverside; Coach of the Year – Big Schools – Jeremias Valencia, Riverside. Congratulations to Elijah Watters and Jeremias Valencia!

In the annual Battle of California, we broke the 19 years drought! Such an exciting win for Riverside. It was a very hot game between both teams! Riverside 55 - Fremont 53 in overtime.

CSDR Head Coach Jeremias Valencia has been selected as an All Star Coach for the Riverside Sheriff’s Association 215 Basketball All Star Classic! This is the first ever for any coach from CSD Riverside to have this honor, along with our three All Star players, Nathaniel Humpal, Elijah Watters and Jacob Weiss! Kudos!

@csdrathletics

The mission is to prepare student athletes to practice ethical behavior, including fair play, integrity and obedience to rules.
Professional Filming in Riverside with CSD

In March, students at CSDR had hands-on work experience in the professional film industry as assistant directors, actors, extras, and crew, in collaboration with Communication Service for the Deaf. CSD is a national non-profit company based in Austin, Texas. With the film writer and producer, Ryan Commerson, film director Dickie Hearts, and assistant director Bellamie Bachleda, CSDR students Dylan Duarte and Sebastian Detrell-Buenrostro, who aspire to work in the film industry, worked hard for a full week as members of the crew, and learned so much on the job. For the actors, CSD held auditions on campus and selected supporting actors from High School: Jared Herman, Jacob Weiss and Hannah Weiss. Also selected was a younger version of the main character, Cherish Talamantes from Elementary. Many other students served as extras. Students in the Student Life residential program participated in a house party scene and a classroom scene on campus. Other students came on a Sunday to do a volleyball scene in the gym at another school across from CSDR. The CSD film project was a wonderful learning experience for everyone involved, and we look forward to seeing its release in May: www.CSDVisionFilms.com

Sebastian and Dylan as paid crew: Cherish bonding with actor parents

Students in the Student Life program as extras in the House Scene

Jacob Weiss & Hannah Weiss as supporting actors facing ‘Alba’

HS students as extras in a classroom scene

Hannah Weiss & Jared Herman as supporting actors in the library scene

CSDR volleyball players as extras at Gage Middle School gym

Sebastian and Dylan as paid crew: Cherish bonding with actor parents

Students in the Student Life program as extras in the House Scene

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HS students as extras in a classroom scene

Hannah Weiss & Jared Herman as supporting actors in the library scene

CSDR volleyball players as extras at Gage Middle School gym
March 2-4, 2018 California School for the Deaf hosted the 2nd annual Family Fun Weekend. The 3-day event was filled with educational workshops for parents and family members, as well as support groups and opportunities to socialize and connect with others. No weekend event would be complete, however, without lots of playing so both Friday and Saturday night families had fun with Reagan Anders (PE Teacher extraordinaire) and then Jr. NAD members led by Erica Hossler. This event was a success because of the hard work and devotion of many who volunteered their time and efforts. CSDR is already looking forward to next year’s Family Fun Weekend!

Counseling Department presented to parents and community at the Community Advisory Committee on Anti-Bullying. Counselors shared resources on how to identify whether children have been bullied, how to provide support, and how to work with school staff in reducing bullying behaviors.
Full School Accreditation by WASC
Written by Ms. Erika Thompson, WASC Accreditation School Chair

The external accreditation committee from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) came to the school for a Mid-Cycle Visit to continue CSDR’s full accreditation status. The visitors were able to validate in their tours and interviews what they read in the report on the school’s progress toward the 6-year action plan. The emphasized priorities are: 1) student e-mail system as part of a purchased Learning Management System, 2) an enhanced system of collecting and analyzing student data to drive instruction, 3) continuance of increasing academic rigor and relevance in all classes, 4) and expansion of extracurricular learning activities after and during school based on student-expressed interest. These areas are paramount in helping students thrive in academics and personal growth, with help from all staff and stakeholders. Next accreditation visit will take place in spring of 2021.

Collaboration with Local and State Communities

Educational Roundtable hosted at CSDR with the Riverside Mayor and Superintendents of Riverside public schools, with an elaborate lunch prepared and served by students in the FEAST program, a component of the school Career and Technology Education program.

CTE Principal Ms. Shelly Freed and Public Information Officer, Ms. Erika Thompson, give a presentation at the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce about CSDR gym construction project and the CTE program.

Students and staff painted the life-size spheres that will participate in the Riverside Art Float at Fairmont Park in May and June of 2018. Thanks to Tammy Blackmoore and a representative from the Scrapbook Club who purchased all of the spheres for CSDR!
Professional Development

All school staff assembled together for a professional development session with inspirational guest speaker Laurene Simms, who came from Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. A co-founder of the national retreat “Teachers of Social Justice for Deaf Learners”, Laurene explained how change begins with ourselves in order to change the world.

CSDR teacher specialists and ASL teachers attended UC Riverside for a special presentation in ASL by UCSD post-doctoral linguist, Dr. Lynn Hou who is Deaf. Dr. Hou shared her research on theoretical and socio-cultural aspects of signed languages, based on her studies on Deaf and hearing signers in remote areas in Nicaragua.

Guest presenter Butch Zein, from Deafhood Foundation, presented to CSDR staff the historical perspective on the Deaf community. We recognize the influences of the system on the perceived abilities and self-image of Deaf individuals.

Curriculum Department Assists in Elevating Literacy

Written by Ms. Nanci Shrager, Curriculum Supervisor

The Curriculum department at CSDR is supporting literacy in all departments. Teachers in the Elementary and High School departments implemented new state adopted reading curriculum while the Middle school Bilingual Language Arts teachers began their evaluation process.

To motivate reading, the curriculum specialists lead book clubs, organize ASL storytelling and Elementary Author’s Chair, and provide an academic word of the week school-wide. They will implement Accelerated Reader during the 2018-2019 school year.

The High School Librarian collaborates with teachers to facilitate student research and literacy projects. In addition, modernizing the library to support a 21st century, technology focus is paramount.

Supporting American Sign Language standards, instruction, literature and assessment is a priority. Much energy has been spent developing curriculum and attending to students requiring ASL immersion. These efforts include instruction on Deaf culture and community to increase student’s Deaf identity.

In tandem with the IT department, the Curriculum department distributed iPads to all Elementary, Middle School, and High School students, in this respective order throughout the past one and a half years. Newsela has been implemented as well as several apps to support student learning.

The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) testing was completed three times this school year, and scores for Fall and Winter are available to Parents and students. In addition, CAASPP testing from last Spring 2017 has shown that our students are making improvements.

For the California Alternative Assessment (CAA) tests, here are the percentages of students that scored at or above the state average on both ELA and Math tests:

Elementary (3rd-5th graders) – 91%
Middle School (6th-8th grade) – 68%
High School (11th grade) – 100%

For the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) tests, here are the percentages for students who increased their scores form last year on both ELA and Math tests.

Elementary (3rd-5th graders) – 91%
Middle School (6th-8th grade) – 68%
High School (11th grade) – 100%

Books in a small section of the large Curriculum library
BUY A BRICK!

The donated bricks will mount on the outside wall of Social Hall, around the wall letters “CSDR.” Your brick will be a permanent reminder that you or someone you loved was here. Each brick will have a personalized message and no two will be the same. The brick is 4x8 and costs only $100.00. All donations will support programs for our students.

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:
CSDR Trust Fund #212/Buy a Brick
California School for the Deaf, Riverside/Attn. Laurie Waggoner
3044 Horace St, Riverside CA 92506
If you have any questions, please call Laurie Waggoner 951-248-7700 ex. 4361 or VP 951-824-8055.

How Do I Find CSDR Information Online?

- CSDR Website: www.csdcubs.com
- E-mail: info@csdr-cde.ca.gov
- Facebook: www.Facebook.com/CSDRiverside
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/
  CaliforniaSchoolForTheDeafRiverside
- Newsletters: issuu.com/search?q=csdr
- PSWT: parentsstaffworkingtogether@gmail.com
- CSDR Alumni Association: www.csdralumni.org/
- Friends of CSDR: www.csdrfriends.org/
- California Deaf Education Resource Center: http://thrive.cde.ca.gov

Upcoming Events Now—June

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View latest school event details at www.Facebook.com/CSDRiverside and sports information on CSDR Athletics Facebook page

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