



## HUMAN SERVICES ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2015



### SAFETALK TRAINING

Dr. Williams volunteered his time to train twenty-eight juniors in Safetalk techniques. He uses a model that begins with heightening their awareness of the various things that may trigger problems. Generally, suicidal people are depressed. Many do not know that there are treatments for this problem. The training encouraged these juniors to learn the art of simply listening. Not necessarily responding verbally.

People with suicidal thoughts believe that they cannot handle the overwhelming challenges in their life. Basically, they think that there is no hope for their future. The H.S.A. students viewed video clips that showed methods of offering support to others in this situation.

The Assistant Principal had them practice scenarios with positive techniques that can be used in various situations. Several mental health providers are available to provide free assistance. This program is a call for action on the part of these young adults.

They were provided a certificate of completion for the training. This is just one step closer to meeting their career goals of providing human services.



### PUPPET SHOWS

Sophomores began an integrated project involving their vocational and English 10 classes. They began by drawing the type of puppets that would be used: endangered species, fairy tales, farm animals, insects and bugs, sea life, or zoo animals. Step 1: In groups of 5-6 students, Ms. Page assisted in the development of a five minute script. Step 2: One Saturday, they came in to work on the most creative props made from cardboard boxes. The largest was a castle with a draw bridge attached. Another group designed three different habitats. A school house and church was the most detailed. Step 3: They practiced manipulating the puppets and using a variety of voices while sitting on the floor behind two tables. Step 4: They added songs and sound effects to enhance the presentation.

On Wednesday, February 25th, thirty-four preschoolers walked onto the SPHS campus. Once the 3-4 year olds were seated in the auditorium, six puppet shows were presented. Audience participation was encouraged. At the conclusion, the children were able to put puppets on their hands and photos were taken. It was a successful project that was enjoyed by the children, 10th graders, and the adults involved.

Presentations were evaluated and then ranked by the preschool teachers from St. Sebastian and parents of the preschoolers.

## SANTA PAULA CITY GOVERNMENT

Richard Cataneiro worked directly with Future Leaders of America to line up a full day field trip in the Criminal Justice pathway. On a day off from school, Friday March 13th, twenty-seven students boarded a bus. First stop was Santa Paula City Hall. They were



greeted by former Mayor, Gabino Aguirre. The current major, John Procter, gave words of

encouragement and distributed pins from the city. Santa Paula Chief of Police, Steven McLean, has recruited 21 new officers and expanded the force to 30 employees. Police Officer Alan Macias was a 1979 SPHS graduate



and is dedicated to "Making a Difference in Santa Paula." Wyatt Gates spoke about taking their education seriously and the challenges of being the "Rookie".



Officer Michael Hoppin toured the forensic lab area, dispatch, and police records departments.

Officer Manning gave a tour of the vehicle fleet.



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE PATHWAY FIELD TRIP



Students were able to walk through the Jury Room. The tour guide explained the commitment behind citizenship responsibilities and important duties in order to protect our law given rights.

They sat in on a criminal case with the District Attorney representing the people and a Defense Attorney standing up for the rights of the accused in a Driving Under the Influence case. A police officer testified about the arrest. The Forensic Scientist was drilled about his background and the

implications of behavior as it related to a Blood Alcohol Concentration graph. During the break for lunch, the bailiff reviewed his job of protecting the judge and maintaining order in the courtroom.



Students did a Mock Trial where fourteen jurors were escorted up to the stand by a bailiff and sworn in by the clerk. Everyone stood up when the judge appeared. Opening statements were read by both attorneys. Witnesses were called to the stand. Closing statements were read and the jurors were led into a room to render a verdict. They could not come to an unanimous decision and had a hung jury.

Sheriff John Bradley escorted the group down a hall where the history of law enforcement was documented back to 1873 when they rode horses. He mentioned about search and seizure activities. Drones are now being used to help maintain safety of officers and the public. Police records were secured.



Bryan Wilson and Jim Schmitt discussed how the job of a probation officer is to hold criminals accountable, rehabilitate, and with the help of social workers to make positive changes in the life of people that have made poor decisions in the past.

## CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY CONFERENCE



Ten adults from Santa Paula Unified School District attended the 3-day event that focused on Career Technical Education. On Sunday, March 1, pre-conference seminars were attended.

Gisla Negrete, H.S.A. 2012 alumni, met the team for dinner and updated them on college life at UC Davis. Jaime Casap, member of Google for Education Team, was the keynote speaker on Monday. Educators had 225 breakout sessions to choose from depending on their specific educational needs: academic or vocational. The Share Fair and Networking reception allowed time for team members to converse with other partnership academy members. Dr. Randal Pinkett, Business Pathway, was the motivational speaker on Tuesday.

## MOCK TRIAL



- ◆ Luis Velasquez 12th
- ◆ Larry Renteria 10th
- ◆ Matthew Ramirez 12th
- ◆ Isabel Mondragon 9th
- ◆ Crystal Mendez 9th

Congratulations for a job well done for a five-person SPHS Mock Trial team that consisted totally of students from the Human Services Academy. They competed on February 23 & 24 at the Ventura County Superior Court against La Reina High School with a judge overseeing the proceedings. The scenario simulated art theft case that involved attorneys and witnesses. A big thank you to the advisors and volunteer lawyers that made this event possible.