



THE LEONA FAMILY TIMES

January 2010

100 COMPUTERS

for



One-hundred netbooks arrived at César Chávez Academy's High School campus, Detroit. The seniors were ready and waiting and the mood was high as the computers were presented to seniors on Thursday, Nov. 19 at an assembly.



"This program will help to ensure all seniors remain on track to graduate in June 2010 and will help keep our students in touch with this 21st century technology tool, helping to bridge the digital divide."

- Juan José Martinez, CCAHS school leader



The primary purpose of the netbooks is to assist seniors academically. The computers will be used for daily instruction in all subject areas, including credit recovery. Students will also be able to access online textbook resources, online classes through the school's partnership with Brigham Young University (BYU), college applications, financial aid, virtual college tours, Michigan's virtual library and unlimited online academic resources. The computers will also be used to promote fluency with Microsoft Office 2007 programs.

This will enhance the school's highly successful academic program:

- This year's seniors posted the top MME/ACT scores in the immediate Detroit area, spring 2009
- All four campuses made AYP in 2008-09
- César Chávez was selected as an "Aspiring" high school by the Skillman Foundation in 2009 and thus awarded a \$7,500 grant
- César Chávez High School is entering into online academic programming with Brigham Young University
- César Chávez High School's student daily attendance rate is approximately 90%
- César Chávez High School's graduation rate is 75% and improving



A Note from our CEO

Dr. William Coats,
Chief Executive Officer
for The Leona Group

Making progress

We at The Leona Group understand the complex nature of child growth and development, and are committed to educating the whole child. Nevertheless, an essential part of our mission is to help our students achieve academically. We are proud of our progress in improving test scores, raising graduation rates and narrowing achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged and minority students. In Detroit last year, Allen, César Chávez and Consortium high schools boasted graduation rates of 100%, 72% and 95%, respectively - and almost every graduate went on to college. Congratulations to these schools and many of our other schools which have similar successes.

William Coats



Celebrating TEN Years of Service

In appreciation of our boards

Vision is the art of seeing the invisible.
- Jonathan Swift

School board members are dedicated community volunteers who come from many different backgrounds and bring a wide array of strengths and talents to each school's governing body. It is the school's board that drives its vision and mission. It is with much gratitude that we recognize January as Board Appreciation Month.

Of special note we would like to recognize the following board members who celebrate 10 years of service this fiscal year:

- Queen Dooley-Randall
- George Crockett Academy
- John King
- George Crockett Academy
- Rose Murphy
- Northridge Academy
- Penny Lichon
- Francis Reh Academy
- Marsha Wilson
- Francis Reh Academy
- Daryl Carson
- Pierre Toussaint Academy

Leona Group team members celebrating 10 years this school year:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Janet Allen | Michele Kaye |
| Zenaida Bermudez | Randall Kirby |
| Aurelia Berrocal | Suzanne Kirshman |
| Traci Boyd | Delia Laing |
| David Bugallo | Judith Johnson Light |
| Becky Carns | James Linn |
| Nathalia Chacin | Raymond Lopez |
| Jennifer Cisneros | Belinda Lowrance |
| Karen Clark | Brian Meter |
| Ricardo Cotto | Edward Morykwas |
| Garry Coulter | Lisa Nahrgang |
| Winifred Cronce | Prentiss Norris |
| Inger Davis | Florencia Paden |
| John Diegel | Rachael Parks |
| Shira Dunson | Jovon Potter |
| Marcus Englund | Diana Richards |
| Christina Enriquez | Steven Rios |
| Jeff Fett | Terrence Robinson |
| Lorenza Galvan | Manuel Rosales-Smith |
| Belinda Gipson | Glenita Rubin-Shelton |
| Keiona Gresham | Rena Short |
| Ruthanna Hall-Battilana | Marianna Smith-Robinson |
| David Harris | Jeffrey Stanton |
| Jim Hayne | Keith Stephens |
| Mary Hirth | Jean Stuwa |
| Linda Hopkins | Cynthia Taraskiewicz |
| Audrey Hunter | Michael Tyler |
| Michael Jackson | Kirk Wheeler |
| Delores Jones-Bell | |

MILDRED C. WELLS ACADEMY

Mildred C. Wells Academy, Benton Harbor, Michigan, has been selected to receive the 2010 Martin Luther King Legacy of Freedom Award, from Andrews University. The school was selected based on criteria including actively demonstrating the universal ideals of freedom, justice, service, equity and peace-making.

The school will receive the award at a ceremony on the campus of Andrews University on Sunday Jan. 17,

2010 Wells Academy honored for "Legacy of Freedom"

IN SPORTS



Apache Trail High School has claimed the Arizona Charter Athletic Association Class B State Championship! The Wolfpack defeated Heritage 28-26 to claim the title in the exciting season finale.

The Apache Trail Wolfpack scored with 1:30 to go on a fourth-down and goal from the seven yard line to tie the game against Mesa Heritage Academy at 26. Apache Trail punched in the two-point conversion a play later to take the lead 28-26. After several heart-stopping plays and with only six seconds to go, Heritage Academy had third down and goal from the Wolfpack five yard line. The Wolfpack defense sacked the Heritage quarterback as time expired.

The César Chávez Academy High School cross country team in Detroit took first place in their league meet. They are coached by parent Robert Aguilar, who has two sons in the high school and a daughter at the elementary campus.

Students from Voyageur and César Chávez academies, Detroit, had a special visit from the Wayne State University men's basketball team. The collegiate players ran a basketball clinic for the academies' students. There were over 50 students in attendance along with 13 WSU players and two coaches. This event is one of the many collaborative projects between WSU and the CARES counseling program.

Teacher of HONOR

Kathy Lindstrom



Kathy Lindstrom, language arts teacher at Desert Hills High School, earned the "Teacher of Honor" designation from Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. She joins a small group of remarkable educators recognized with this honor and is the first teacher to receive the award for 2010.

With more than two decades of teaching experience, Lindstrom is a key contributor at Desert Hills High School. Ms. Lindstrom has been at Desert Hills for nine years and serves as English department chair. She has mentored new English teachers and led the curriculum development of courses, with specific attention to Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) preparation. She has helped boost student test scores by 40 percent and she played an integral role in assisting Desert Hills meet full national North Central Accreditation through AdvancED.

"It is because of her passion and leadership that Ms. Lindstrom has achieved such success with students in helping them achieve. With her assistance, Desert Hills has reached the highest level of state testing achievement."

- Art Madden, principal

Lindstrom has been an active volunteer at Phoenix Rescue Mission, a non-profit organization that cares for the poor and needy through homeless emergency services, addiction recovery, and family and community outreach. She is also vice president of the Arizona Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, where she manages, recruits and maintains organization membership.

Lindstrom is currently pursuing her Doctor of Education at North-central University, and holds her Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction and a Bachelor of Arts in English.

Award Winning Lesson Plans



SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Congratulations to Skyview High School teacher Brenda Bonine, who was recently named the second-place winner of the University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies lesson plan competition. The competition is held in response to the need for creative and unique lesson plans related to the Middle East that adhere to high academic standards. Bonine taught high school in Zimbabwe, Africa, until 1999 and has taught history, government and geography at Skyview for 10 years.



Pony Tales

Students at Coral Bay Charter Academy love reading to their Personal Ponies, therapeutic ponies used to make a positive difference in children's lives. The national non-profit charity launched Pony-Tales, a unique reading program where students select a book and engage in one-on-one reading time with their special miniature UK Shetland pony. This is when the magic begins!

"It's amazing what this program has done for our students. The impact that animals can have on children is underestimated and reading is so integral to growth and development. It's a tremendous pairing. I'm excited to continue the program this year with my students."

- Mrs. Fernandez, grade 1 teacher

"We observed an increase in comprehension, fluency, pragmatics and social cues. Improved self-esteem was obvious. Most importantly, the program is setting the foundation for a life-long love of reading."

- Sandra Seiden, Florida state director for Personal Ponies

Mrs. Fernandez' grade 1 class looks forward to monthly visits from their reading buddies. The ponies dressed for their first visit and made instant bonds with the children. Self-confidence was immediately evident in the children's broad smiles and eager participation. The children also participated in pony crafts and completed writing activities centered on the ponies' visit.



FAMILY TIMES

THE LEONA



THE LEONA GROUP, L.L.C.

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- ★ The **Voyageur** Middle School Student Council collected over 300 pounds of food for the holiday season and the school's Michigan Youth In Government Team won the title for Top Negative Team, Way to go, Voyageur!
- ★ **Alta Vista's** students, faculty and staff collected over 118,000 pop tabs for the National Honor Society (NHS) chapter fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House. The tabs weighed in at 66 pounds, enough to supply electricity to a home in need.
- ★ On November 12, **Estrella High School** and the student government held a blood drive through United Blood Services. Estrella has earned a platinum achievement in donations.
- ★ University Day at **South Ridge High School** gave students a lot to think about. Universities and colleges from across the country spent the afternoon in the courtyard and students had the opportunity to talk individually with representatives.
- ★ Twenty participants from **Consortium College Preparatory High School** raised \$744.00 in the Breast Cancer Walk for a Cure.
- ★ Several students who participate in the CARES Mentoring program at **George Crockett Academy**, Detroit, enjoyed a day at St. Leo's Soup Kitchen. The students assisted with cooking, cleaning, stocking, folding clothes and pitching in. The soup kitchen members were very pleased to see the young students working so well as a team.
- ★ Marketing students at the **Academy for Business & Technology** experienced great customer service first-hand – along with warm bagels, fresh juice and hot coffee – at the Allen Park Panera Bread. The manager demonstrated customer service skills, provided an explanation of Panera Bread's customer service philosophy and marketing strategies, and gave impromptu tips on interviewing for a job.

In the
Spotlight

On the front panel

This month we feature the newly crowned CAA Class "B" Arizona State Football Champions from Apache Trail High School in Apache Junction, Arizona.

Contact us!

The **Leona Family Times** is a quarterly newsletter published throughout the school year for Leona Group employees. If you have comments, suggestions or story ideas, send them to:

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