



Health and Science Investigation Pathway

First Quarter Update 2011-2012

Our three-year amazing program is off to a great start ! We have doubled our enrollment in the first two years and boast a following of 140 students! However, we still maintain a quality program, as you will see by our quarter updates below. Some students were unable to get into the program but rest assured, we are working out the particulars so that you will have ample opportunity to enroll in the future ☺

Year I : Mr. Mantoani...Who did him in ? Students in first year are busy examining forensic evidence from



a crime scene where Mr. M was the victim...upon completion of their analysis they will uncover the true assailant ! Their training includes doing a DNA extraction, separating these extracts through a technique called gel electrophoresis and then amplifying the DNA to create a fingerprint that will help narrow down the suspects.

Experts from the community are helping in this endeavor and providing career and college advice as well. Dr. Geist, a genetics professor from SSU shared his career path as well as his current research endeavors into genetics of Wild dogs and Madagascar Ants. His graduate student, Meredith Pearson (and PHS alumni ☺) works every week with our Year I students to help guide them through these tricky procedures and clarify the results (she too is eager to know who the guilty party is). And if that wasn't enough-our first years have officially received their First Aid certification using instructor Allan James from the Red Cross.

Year II: Meanwhile next door...**Mr. DePaola** and the second year class has wrapped up the Nutrition and Healthy Habits project that included food label awareness & analysis ,fad diet exploration and the creation of a healthy living plan for each student. That transitions well to their highly academic Anatomy and Physiology unit where students are grilled on medical terminology twice a week. This class is excited to be using our online supplemental curriculum, the highly innovative Health Center 21 to help them prepare for future medical careers especially with regards to college level vocabulary. Next up for this class is to work through the A& P of the nervous system and polish off the unit with an in depth dissection of the brain.



Year III: The capstone kids... with **Ms. Barcelon** are busy exploring career options using a variety of methods such as personality surveys, Holland codes and other tools to see exactly where their futures might lead them. We have a strong animal science component this year which has prompted our first field trip to the Canine companion Training center. Also on the books is a trip to the UCSF campuses to see what their post graduate options might be after hearing a classroom talk from Pharmacy instructor Kristen Ballano. Over half of the students will attend the upcoming Latino Health Fair getting scholarships from the community and providing service to the event as ushers and workshop moderators. Other speakers include Gaye Kimmel from Empire college to advise in decision making and career choices and Laurie Nimmo, a guidance counselor to assist with the process of completing college applications and researching financial aid. Many of our fabulous and favorite speakers are on the docket as well- Dr. Abdul Harris as spokesperson for surgical careers and Dr. Wilbur for pathology.

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HOSA News- The Piner High chapter aligned with Health Occupation Students of America has started with a large and enthusiastic group. This week we broke into committees for fund-raising, community service and competitive event preparation. As a group we try to volunteer at Health related events in the community such as the Alzheimer's walk coming up in October, serving as moderators at the Latino Health conference and helping our amazing boosters with events such as Surf n Turf and snack shack duty. Our funds will be used for activities such as a

Piner High health fair, contributions to Juvenile Diabetes Research foundation and of course for students to

attend and compete at the state conference in Anaheim this spring. See Ms. Barcelon for meeting times and dates- **all are welcome.**