



# Aztec Newsletter

OCTOBER 2006

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Students:

It is hard to believe that summer has drawn to a close and fall is officially upon us. I hope that you had a wonderful summer and return to school refreshed and ready to work hard.

Throughout the summer we have worked hard painting and carpeting classrooms, disposing of old furniture, cleaning floors and windows, upgrading facilities and preparing enthusiastically for the new academic year. Now, having welcomed new and returning students, our focus is on continuing the academic excellence that resulted in an academic performance index of 822. You can all be very proud!

Back to School Night was a resounding success providing opportunities for you to come and see La Quinta, to meet or reconnect with our fine faculty, to check us out and to give serious consideration to all we have to offer - academically, athletically and through our myriad of performing arts programs and clubs.

If you are an alumni, past parent or friend, consider stopping by or joining us at an upcoming event. Your presence will add to the spirit of this school and will strengthen the bonds that unite us.

This is an important time at La Quinta High School as we celebrate forty-four years of continued excellence. Very fine people have walked through the doors of La Quinta in the past and have moved on to extraordinary careers and lives that have made a difference. Wonderful students are currently walking through those same doors and we need to work together to ensure that their experience is equally challenging and life-changing. No wonder I am so happy to be a part of this community!

Sincerely,



*Louise Milner, Principal*

## Achieving Academic Success

- ◆ Be encouraging and supportive; your student needs positive reinforcement during this time.
- ◆ Together with your student, please carefully review curriculum letters for all of your student's classes. It is important to understand the expectations for each course.
- ◆ Check your student's agenda daily for assignments, tests, and upcoming projects.
- ◆ Verify the timely completion of class assignments.
- ◆ Together, clean out your student's backpack and organize papers into binders; pack the backpack at night to ensure that all work is there for the next day.
- ◆ Look for correspondence from the school and read about what is happening on campus and in the classroom.
- ◆ Utilize the after-school tutoring Monday through Thursday.
- ◆ Have the tutoring teacher sign his/her agenda to verify where your student spent his/her study period.
- ◆ Set a regular homework period of at least 2 to 2 1/2 hours per day, to build discipline and routine.
- ◆ Grade check forms can be picked up by your student from the Counseling Office.

## Late Start Days

<b>Collaboration</b>	7:30—8:50
PERIOD 0	8:55—9:25
PERIOD 1	9:30—10:10
PERIOD 2	10:15—10:55
<b>BREAK</b>	10:55—11:00
PERIOD 3	11:05—11:55
PERIOD 4	12:00—12:40
<b>LUNCH</b>	12:40—1:10
PERIOD 5	1:15—1:55
PERIOD 6	2:00—2:40

- ◆ September 27
- ◆ October 11 & 25
- ◆ November 15
- ◆ December 20
- ◆ January 24
- ◆ February 14 & 28
- ◆ March 14
- ◆ April 25
- ◆ May 30
- ◆ June 13

## Performing Arts

Members of the La Quinta Band, Guard, Advanced Orchestra and Vocal Ensemble will be traveling to Oahu, Hawaii to present several special performances. The group was invited because of their strong association and involvement with the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association. The musical Aztecs will perform at the USS Missouri/USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, at Bishop Square in Honolulu, and at a special parade in Waikiki. The group will represent our community and state as they carry a memorial banner of the USS California. Mr. Mal Middlesworth, President of the National Pearl Harbor Survivors Assn. and himself a Pearl Harbor survivor, will travel with the students. The Musical Aztecs are still accepting donations to help offset the cost. The goal is to raise \$20,000 before November!



- Oct. 18,19—Choir and Drama Fall Concert @ 7:00 PM (LQ Theatre)
- Oct 24—Orchestra Fall Concert @ 7:00 PM in the cafeteria
- Nov 8—GGUSD Showcase of Bands @7:00 PM (Bolsa High School)
- Dec 14—Music Dept. Holiday Concert @ 7:00 PM (GGHS)

## Counseling Corner

All these wonderful La Quinta students have been named “Commended Students” in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. These commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered in the 2007 competition by taking preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



From left to right: Samuel Kwon, Pham T. Nguyen, Alan M. Priester, Johnny T. Nguyen, and Nancy H. Nguyen are proudly displaying their **2007 National Merit Scholarship Program certificates.**

## College Night & Senior News

Every year Garden Grove Unified School District hosts College Night. All students and parents, including special education students are invited to attend this evening where they will have the opportunity to speak to college representatives from across the nation. This year College Night will take place on Monday, October 16, from 6:30—8:30 PM at Los Amigos High School. La Quinta will also host its first Financial aide night tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2007.

Every month all seniors receive a “Senior Newsletter in their Government and Economic classes. Included in the newsletter are important monthly updates as well as an extensive list of scholarships that are available. The senior newsletter is an important resource for both students and parents. If you have any questions please contact the Guidance office at 663-6375.



# Athletics

Fall sports are in full swing. La Quinta High School has 225 student-athletes participating in five different sport programs this fall. The Aztecs have varsity, JV, and freshman football teams. We field a freshman, JV, and varsity girls' volleyball team. La Quinta has varsity and JV girls' tennis. We have cross country for boys and girls and varsity water polo for boys.

The first step to participating is "Athletic Clearance." The clearance process includes a physical exam, medical insurance, emergency information, Athletic Risk Form, the La Quinta Athletic Code, the CIF-SS Sportsmanship Code, residence verification, and an ASB card. All forms should be picked up and returned to the Athletic Office.

Winter sports will begin on November 11th and end on February 9th. Student-athletes may participate in boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' soccer, and girls' water polo. Try-outs will be held for each of these programs beginning in October.

The Aztec Family is grateful to all our teachers that give of their time and energy to coach our student-athletes. Here is a list of our remarkable teacher-coaches for the fall sports programs.

Richard Bradarich	History/Boys' Cross Country
Laura Westphal-Stoskopf	Physical Education/Girls' Cross Country
Bob Hill	Physical Education/Freshman Football
Jeff Nadeau	History/Freshmen Football
Lou Persichina	Science/Freshmen Football
James Stewart	History/Varsity Football
Paul Neeld	Special Education/JV Girls' Tennis



We encourage parents, family, and friends to support the Aztec family of student-athletes as they learn life lessons that include teamwork, goal setting, dedication, physical education, mental focus, and dealing with success as well as failure. Athletics provides every athlete an opportunity to test themselves in every practice and game.

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## P.T.S.S.O

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**Join La Quinta's Parent Teacher Staff Student Organization (PTSSO) for only \$10.** Help support our school and students. Also, help us earn \$\$\$ for our school by participating in Ralph's and Albertson's Supermarket Community Contribution Programs. To start contributing, use your own Albertson's Preferred Saving Card and Ralph's Club Card to register online. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the PTSSO secretary, Jenifer Do at [jeniferdo2003@yahoo.com](mailto:jeniferdo2003@yahoo.com).

### **RALPH'S**

1. Log on to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com).
2. Click on "Community Contribution"
3. Click on "Participant"
4. Type in the La Quinta High School ID number. It is "82143"
5. Type in your Ralph's Club Card membership number that is on the back of your card.
6. Remember to scan your card every time you shop.

### **ALBERTSONS**

1. Log on to [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com).
2. Enter your home Zip Code.
3. Click on (at the bottom right) "In The Community"
4. Click on "Community Partners"
5. Click on "Log in or Register with Your Preferred Savings Card First"
6. Type in your Preferred Saving Card number on your card.
7. Type in your phone number.
8. Login and then click on "My Account", then "Add a Partner".
9. Enter our Community Partners Card number "49000104089".
10. In your account you can click on "Update Partners" to allocate 100% of your contributions to La Quinta.

Thank you so much for your contributions.

## Parent Talk

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Adolescent years bring about new kinds of stress to teenagers. The stressors that impact the teens often adversely affect their relationships with those who are close to them. Parent Talk will provide an outlet for parents at La Quinta to openly discuss the issues, obstacles, and sometimes the frustrations pertaining to parenting adolescents. This support group will hopefully empower parents to continue to bridge the relationship gap that exists among adolescents and their parents. This particular support group will meet bi-monthly and will be facilitated by Mark Hung Nguyen, a school psychologist within our district. Scheduled dates : September 27, 2006, November 29, 2006, February 28, 2006, and April 25, 2006. Groups will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 PM at La Quinta High School. We encourage all parents to participate in this dynamic open forum discussion



## Safe Schools

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### *It's our home, let's keep it safe!*

If we were to add up the hours that students, faculty, and staff spend a week at La Quinta High School the total would range somewhere between 35 to 70 hours per person. When you consider that we all spend somewhere between 40 to 60 hours sleeping each week, it's evident that most of our awake time is at school, not home.

La Quinta High School is our second home. As a parent, I want my children learning in a safe and secure learning environment. As a teacher, I want to know my school is safe, as well as my classroom. As an administrator, I want to ensure everyone feels safe and secure, empowering all stakeholders to treat the Aztec Empire as their second home.

Parents — I encourage you to talk with your children each day. If you have a concern or your child expresses a concern, please bring it to the attention of the administration immediately. La Quinta High School is a great place to learn and work. I encourage all parents to attend our Principal's Breakfasts and join our PTSSO. We want to make our parents feel at home as well!

Tom Duggan, Assistant Principal

## Activities

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The newly-elected officers, President, Huy Pham; Vice President, Nancy Hoang; and Secretary, Van Duong along with the appointed members of the 2006-2007 ASB cabinet worked diligently since June preparing for leadership camp in Santa Barbara and the upcoming school year.

Upon returning to La Quinta, the ASB members, along with the Boys' and Girls' League members, assisted with registration and freshmen orientation.

ASB activities began on September 15th with the Welcome Back Assembly and the dance.

Freshmen officer elections were held on September 20th and 21st. Also during this month, club rush was held in the quad at lunch which will allow students to obtain information and to join some of the numerous organizations on the Aztec campus. Fall activities will reach their zenith during La Quinta's homecoming week from October 30th thru November 3rd, with the football game against Los Amigos being played on November 2 and a dance to follow the next evening.



## R.O.P

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The fall schedule for the Regional Occupational Program (ROP) is now available. Students 16 years of age and older may enroll in the variety of classes offered by Central County ROP. Those interested in gaining experience and preparation for occupations in areas such as automotive, banking, and computer applications can get hands on training through the ROP program. Students can also explore new careers and beef up that resume or college application while earning school credit with classes like medical or dental assistant. Classes are offered at locations in Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and Orange. Five credits are awarded for every 54 hours of attendance in a class. Up to 15 credits may be earned in one semester. Classes are available after school and on Saturdays. Students who are under 16 may obtain a waiver and obtain special permission to attend ROP classes.

Schedules of classes and registration materials are available in the Career Center. If you have any questions or would like more information about R.O.P. classes please contact Mrs. Cornett in Room 228.

Mrs. Cornett is available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30a.m.—1:00p.m. and Thursday from 11:30a.m.—3:00p.m.



## AZTEC OF THE MONTH



Anna Huynh and Huy Pham

## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Steve Washington - *Football*, Bryan Vaughn-*Cross Country*, Deanna Nguyen-*Cross Country*, Jenny Gibson-*Volleyball*, J.Khanh Le-*Waterpolo*, Anh Nguyet Vu-*Tennis*, Kimberley Nguyen-*Tennis*

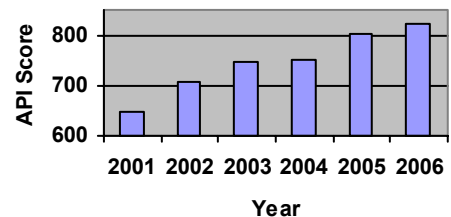
## La Quinta's Academic Performance Index



La Quinta High School has attained an API of 822! API stands for Academic Performance Index (API) and its purpose is to measure the academic performance and growth of schools. API is the cornerstone of California's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999. It is a scale that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. A school's score on the API is an indicator of its performance level. The statewide API performance target for all schools is 800. La Quinta has surpassed this target by 22 points!

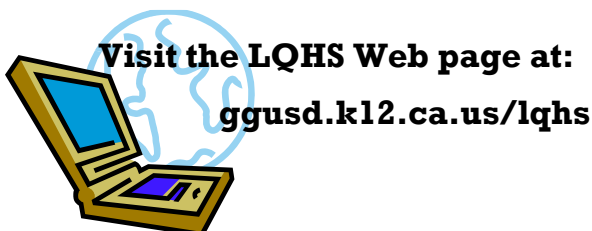
A school's API is measured by students' performance on the California Standards Tests (CST) in English-language arts, mathematics, history, and science as well as their performance on the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). For more information on measurement of API visit the California Department of Education website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/>

La Quinta's API



In the spring of 2001 La Quinta received its first API score of 648. Our API has increased every year, and has increased by a total of 174 points over the past six years.

La Quinta has the highest API in the Garden Grove Unified School District and has the twelfth highest API in Orange County. We are very proud of our students, teachers, and families who support our school and help our students accomplish their goals to be the best they can be.



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**10372 McFadden Ave**  
**Westminster, CA 92683**



On Monday, September 18, La Quinta High School implemented a new parent involvement program called TeleParent to inform you of your student's behavior, performance, and achievement on a daily basis.

Each day you may receive an automated call that will tell you any information that your student's teachers feel is important. This may include an update on how your student is behaving in class, whether or not your student is completing daily assignments, and how your student is doing on tests and quizzes.

La Quinta teachers are excited about this new ability to connect with parents. We look forward to increased students success. If you have any questions about our new TeleParent program, please feel free to contact La Quinta by calling 663-6315. If you need assistance in Vietnamese or Spanish, please call 663-6345.

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## *Title I*

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Once again La Quinta has been named a Title I Academic Achievement Award winning school making it three years in a row we have achieved this status. We at La Quinta are very proud of this achievement and will strive to make it four years straight by continuing to provide great service and support to La Quinta students and families through Title I.

This year we would like to introduce two new coordinators taking charge of Title I programs and activities, Huy Tran and Sarah Teran. Mr. Tran is currently also a La Quinta counselor and Ms. Teran is an ELD teacher. Together they will lead our current Title I programs and research new ways to support our students.

Coming back to help are our two great community liaisons Rocio Rodriguez and Kim Trinh. Ms. Rodriguez speaks Spanish and Mrs. Trinh speaks Vietnamese and together they provide families a way to connect to La Quinta and its activities. The Title I office can be contacted by phone at 663-6345. Please call if you have any questions or concerns about your student or La Quinta.