



Spotlight on Manual Arts

MAHS Cross Country Teams Go Undefeated...Again

The Manual Arts Cross Country team returned to competition during the 2007-2008 school year with four complete teams: Boys Varsity, Boys Junior Varsity, Girls Varsity and Girls Junior Varsity. All 26 team members completed the regular season with undefeated records in the Coliseum League. Every Senior runner graduated and enrolled in college last fall. Our top senior boys runner, Kevin Garcia, is now the #2 runner on the Santa Monica College cross



country team. Team captains were Victor Rojas and Dayana Montejo. Nearly all runners continued training after the season ended and ran the 2008 LA Marathon.

This year, nearly all students who didn't graduate last year returned to the team and the team rosters expanded to 31 runners. Both Girls Varsity and Girls JV were again undefeated in the regular season. The boys teams had only one loss, to Locke High School, which the boys JV lost by less than one second. This year's team captains were Romeo Garcia and Elizabeth Cruz. Team members are again continuing to train in preparation for the upcoming LA Marathon.

Science Club to Tackle Human Rights Issues

The Science Club is working on a yearlong project that focuses on Human Rights violations. Students employ a variety of disciplines such as science, history, math, art, dance, drama, poetry, song writing, storytelling, computer skills, and fashion to share knowledge about the many issues past and present that have affected minority populations all around the world.

They are organizing an Earth Day Celebration for March 8 which seeks to educate students and the public about the many issues currently affecting our planet and how the individual can minimize their carbon footprint. Lastly, they are planning a trip to Utah to study the geology, ecology, petroglyphs and history of its National Parks.

English Teacher Published in California English

10th grade English teacher Thomas Roddy Jr. was published for the sixth time in the February issue of *California English*, the professional journal of the CA Association of Teachers of English. His essay entitled "How to Be a Positive Deviant" can be found online at www.cateweb.org/california_english/ce_2008_february.htm

MAHS Student Researchers Present on Theme of Civic Agency

On February 6, 2009, a group of students participating in UCLA's Council of Youth Research presented their policy findings to a group of civic and community leaders in a roundtable discussion followed by Public Service Announcements created by the students. The students came from Manual Arts, Locke, Cleveland, Wilson, and Roosevelt high schools and conducted extensive research



on the theme of civic agency.

Each group of students formulated different methodologies to gather research and had the opportunity to share their findings with several top civic, education, and policy leaders. Manual Arts students, led by Social Studies teachers Katie Rainge-Briggs and Tony Terry, conducted interviews and surveys to determine teachers' teaching methods and how often they discussed pressing social and community issues in their classrooms.

Youth Researchers included: Aaron Armstrong, Gabriela Dominguez, Richard McClain, Maurice McCoy, and Rebecca Torres.

Drama Department Gearing Up for More Productions

Drama Club competed in CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Long Beach and CA State Thespians. Students in Advanced Acting performed 2 plays in 2 months including "The Colored Museum" by George C. Wolfe and "Women of Manhattan" by John Patrick Shanley.

The Drama Club presented "Zoot Suit" by Luis Valdez in May 2008. Senior students in SPAA began a big brother/big sister service learning project and helped 9th graders transition to high school.

This year Manual Arts Intermediate Acting Class, offered to all tracks, will be performing *Hair*, the tribal love rock musical, on June 4, 5, and 6. We have begun an intensive rehearsal process with over 35 students, 8 faculty members and 4 classes, sponsored by the Woodcraft Rangers.

Speech and Debate Team Brings Home Championship Trophy

The Manual Arts Speech and Debate team continued their momentum and brought home two trophies in one weekend. During the first ever USC Neighborhood Debate League Championship, debaters competed against top teams from Foshay, Bravo, and Crenshaw high schools. After three preliminary rounds of debate, juniors Ali Kayes and Terry Gray advanced to the final round and defeated Bravo High for the championship trophy. Manual Arts also won three of the Top Eight Speaker Awards, with 2nd place going to Senior Rosemary Sandoval.

The team also participated in the WBFL Speech State Qualifying Tournament at El Camino College, with senior Daniel Anderson taking home the third place trophy in Dramatic Interpretation, and first-year Vanessa Holden making it to the final round in Original Prose and Poetry. Daniel will be Manual's first ever competitor for his event in the State Tournament April 25-27 at Culver City High. Manual Arts has now emerged as a frontrunner vying for the L.A. Urban Debate League City Championship to be held April 17-18.