

Upcoming Events

March 12: MAHS Blood Drive

March 17-18: CAHSEE, A-Track

March 21: CEAC Meeting from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

March 23-26: CST Testing, C Track

March 26: ONEManual Café

In honor of the legacy of Cesar Chavez, all parents, staff, and students are welcome to attend the next ONEManual Café to be held on March 26, 2009, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Teachers' Cafeteria. Food and refreshments will be provided.

March 27: Cesar Chavez Assembly from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day

April 2: Parent Conference Night (A Track) and Open House Night (C Track)

April 3: College and Career Fair, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

April 4: ELAC Meeting



April 9: Parent Center Meeting from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

April 18: CEAC Meeting from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

April 24: Senior Picnic at Six Flags Magic Mountain

April 29: Last Day for C Track Students

April 30: B Track classes begin

May 12-13-CAHSEE Testing, A and B Tracks

A Message from Your Network Partners

In 15 years of service to Manual, I had never seen the campus more united and on the verge of a dramatic turnaround than one year ago, when the push for autonomy was in full swing. I know that for many of you who fought so hard to get into iDesign, it's difficult to keep your hopes up right now. It's true: a lot of our new freedoms are now being threatened. An increase in budgetary autonomy is threatened by \$400 million in district cuts. The opportunity to choose our own principal is threatened by the possibility of administrator bumping. And the right to develop our own curriculum and assessments, plan our own PD and create our own instructional vision is threatened by a massive reduction in force.

Entry into iDesign came with a lot of promises. MLA and West Ed are committed to realizing those promises, even in the face of these threats. We expect to roll out a new budget model for the school this summer. We expect to retain Manual's right to choose its principal. And we are fighting to preserve school-site jobs so we can continue the momentum we have gained toward transformation.

The greater Manual community has been hard at work and this newsletter identifies a number of reasons we should remain optimistic. As we move into Manual's 100th year, there is much to celebrate, much to anticipate. Your Network Providers are privileged to stand alongside you in the good, challenging work ahead.

-Mike McGalliard



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When I first came to Manual Arts nearly two years ago I spoke with people about key elements of a Tipping Point approach to school redesign. One of these elements is the emphasis on a school's assets rather than its deficits. Too often outsiders (and even insiders, at times) assume that people in low-performing school are not doing anything right—that everything must be changed for the school to improve.

I have a different view—that the successful transformation of a school starts by recognizing its strengths and assets. At Manual Arts there are countless examples of programs that are working, a few of which are described in this newsletter. You will read about an undefeated cross county team; an ROTC program earning top honors in the district; and several award-winning robotics projects. Of course, there are numerous other success stories that too often go unnoticed—a student who once hated to write produces an essay that captivates her classmates; students and faculty collaborating for months on powerful dramatic productions; Manual graduates who return to the school as teachers.

Yes, we face enormous challenges and much work lies ahead to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. But this ONEManual newsletter serves as a well-deserved celebration of what is working here—a reminder of what's good about Manual Arts. Each story is a testament to the extraordinary things students can achieve when thoughtful people come together and dedicate themselves to excellence. I hope it inspires all of us to join in and to imagine new and better ways to serve students. I am confident this will happen because, after all, Excellence Loves Company.

-Dr. Ken Futernick

