



# FRESHMEN

*Monthly Newsletter*  
*January 2019*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back freshmen! We are so glad to have you back and look forward to another great semester. This semester we will be exploring the question: How can we create awareness, develop knowledge, and inspire action to minimize our impact on the Earth?

Students will explore the consequences of human life on planet Earth through dystopian fiction inspired by climate change. They will then focus in on waste and energy, some contributing factors of climate change, and attempt to create a solution for a real-world client. The culminating activity will be a community Earth Day Fair on Wednesday, April 10th, where students showcase their solutions to create awareness, knowledge, and action around saving the Earth

## LETTER WRITING CONTEST

Students wrote letters to authors about books that made an impact on them. The 9th grade teachers spent the break reading through the letters and Interim Assistant Principal, Mr. Stoll, chose the winners.

**The winners will be announced at our February 1st Community Dialogue**

### **The Grand Prize Winner**

Select up to \$50 worth of books

### **Winner from Mrs. Takashima's and Mr. White's class**

Select up to \$25 worth of books

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Jan 14-** First Day Back

**Jan 18-** Knotts Berry Farm Trip

**Jan 21-** MLK Day: No School

# Tina Hannouche

## Physics



Welcome back from break! We get to reset this semester and start again with new and improved habits. This semester we will be studying Energy!

January will focus on Mechanical Energy where students will study Potential and Kinetic Energy. The project this unit will be around roller coasters! We will kick off the unit with a trip to Knott's Berry Farm so students get first hand experience with the physics of roller coasters. Students who do not attend the field trip will be given another assignment so they are still learning the same information. This month is also the start to Honors Physics which will meet every Monday morning from 8-9am. Students taking honors will be concurrently enrolled in both classes. We will be closely collaborating on the roller coaster project with the Integrated Math 1 class where students will use their knowledge of Systems of Equations to optimize the roller coaster for maximum fun!

# Melinda Love

## Integrated Math 1



Happy New Year. I hope you all had a safe and restful break. I am proud of all the hard work students have put in this semester. Students have a fresh start this semester, so I hope that students will take advantage of this opportunity. Please encourage your student to attend office hours regularly to stay on top of their academics. We will begin this semester focusing on solving System of Equations. Students will be using their graphing skills and their algebraic skills to solve these systems. We will be closely collaborating on the roller coaster project with the Physics class where students will be applying their skills from this unit to help them design a thrilling roller coaster.

# Cari Maconochie

## Design Foundations 1



Welcome back to second semester. We have a rigorous and exciting semester planned. In January students are getting a once in a life time opportunity to create architectural concept designs for a coffee bar and sitting area that will be built on the first floor of Da Vinci. 9th grade and 10th grade students will both be creating individual design which will be critiqued and rendered into a 3D drawing program by the 11th graders. The top winning designs will be presented to the CEO, administration, and other industry partners to be considered for the final design.

# Holly Takashima and Jason White

## English and Composition



We hope everyone had a restful break and had a chance to dive into some good books! In January, students will be reading and discussing short stories, building their literary analysis skills in preparation for our next round of literature circles. Students will select their top choices for literature circle texts on Thursday, January 17th, and they will know which book they have been assigned on Tuesday, January 22nd. Students need their own copy of the book by Monday, February 4th, so please support your student in securing a copy of their literature circle book as soon as possible. Students can either check out the book from the library or purchase their own. We begin lessons and reading on February 4th, so it is important that each student has their book by then. Thank you so much for your help with this! We are looking forward to a great semester in English!

## Ivan Villanueva

### Spanish 1



¡Feliz Año DVD! Happy New Year DVD! Hopefully everyone got plenty of rest during Winter Break because the Spring Semester is always chalk full of exciting lessons, activities and projects. In Spanish class, we will begin one of my favorites units of the school year; The Spanish Civil War. In this unit, students learn about the history of Spanish Civil War, how it helped shape contemporary Spanish life and culture, while getting exposed to the target language of Spanish in proper context. This unit will culminate in the viewing of the famous film, Pan's Laberynth (2006). This film is technically rated R but only DUE to TWO scenes which are violent in nature but which I always skip. Please look for parent/guardian consent forms that I will send home with students during the first week of classes. If you choose not to have your son/daughter view the film, an alternate assignment will be given to them; I can assure you however, that I show this film every year and students love every minute of it. I also encourage you to look up the film online and peruse reviews and perhaps the film itself to assure you there are no "sketchy" scenes.

Muchas gracias!