



Gossip: When words are used as weapons.

See page 18.



A life sentence: Across the world, women are prisoners of discrimination.

See center spread.



Girl's water polo: creates a splash as they take their 5th undefeated championship.

See page 23.

CHS considers benefits of block scheduling

Katrina Romanowsky

News Editor

Due to the recommendation of several Cabrillo High School staff members, a new schedule is being considered for implementation in the 2001-2002 school year.

The proposed block schedule will cut the number of classes a student has in a day from eight to four. The student's seventh period will remain

constant while the other six rotate from day to day.

This will lengthen class periods from 45 minutes to around 90 minutes, allowing

teachers ample time to lecture as well as conduct additional activities such as labs and other project-based learning tools.

"It helps teachers get away from the lecture mode," said CHS Principal Jeff Carlovsky. "Students will have to get more involved in the learning."

Another advantage of the new schedule would be the extra time that a student would have to do

homework. Homework that is assigned on a Monday, for example, could not be collected until the following Wednesday.

"It makes for a much calmer day," said Carlovsky.

He added that the block schedule would also allow the time designed for lunch to be lengthened.

However, some teachers have expressed concerns that they

will not be able to reinforce ideas effectively if they are only able to teach every other day.

7 Period A-B Block Schedule			
Periods - 1/2	7:45	9:13	88 min.
Tutorial	9:18	9:48	30 min.
Periods - 3/4	9:53	11:21	88 min.
Lunch	11:21	12:11	50 min.
Periods - 5/6	12:11	1:39	88 min.
Periods - 7	1:44	2:28	44 min.

"What looks good on paper may not be what's good for the students," said computer technology teacher Steve Haskins.

The switch to block scheduling is still being discussed, and no decision has yet been made.

"We are looking at options to try to slow down the school day for students," said Carlovsky. "We're always looking to better ourselves."

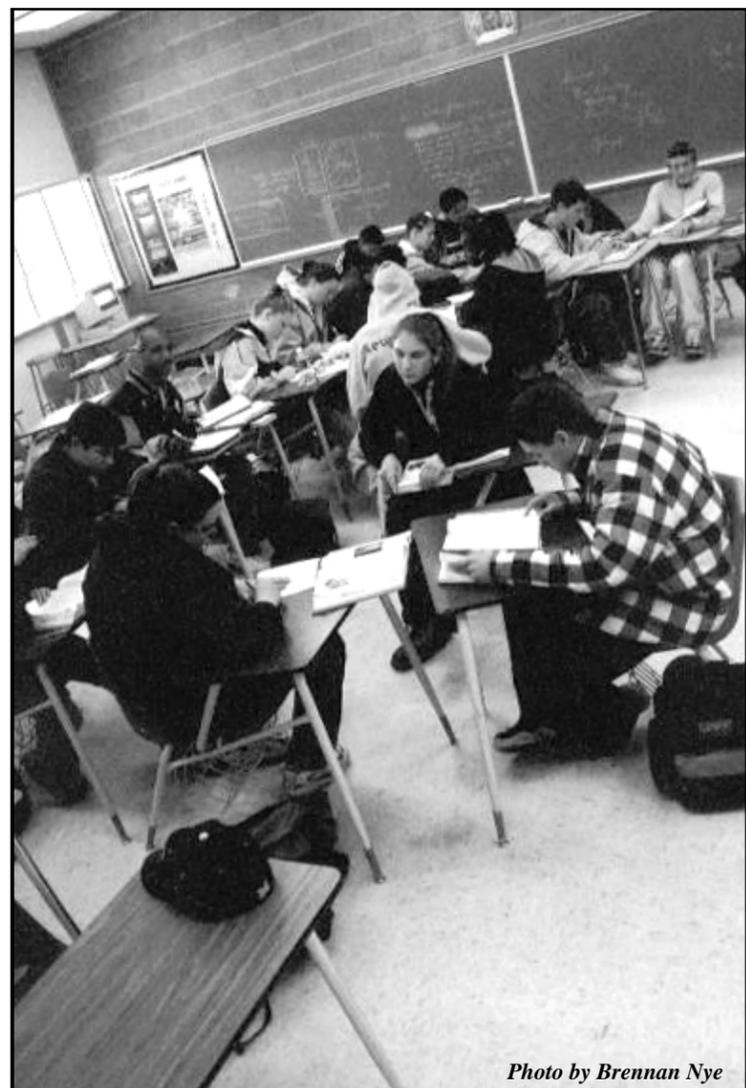


Photo by Brennan Nye

Raising the bar: Cabrillo High School considers block scheduling and different methods of preparation for SAT 9 in order to improve the school's academic standing.

“It helps teachers get away from the lecture mode. Students will have to get more involved in the learning.”

Jeff Carlovsky
CHS Principal

Will SAT-9 scores soar? Only time will tell

Katrina Romanowsky

News Editor

Last year, Cabrillo High School was the only school in the district whose scores on the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 9) dropped.

This year, in order to bring the scores back up, CHS is setting up a new system with both consequences and rewards to encourage students to do better.

At the beginning of this school year, Principal Jeff Carlovsky formed an assessment committee to determine what had caused the drop in the scores and what could be done to bring them back up.

Members of the committee include Assistant Principal Tom Klepper, Assistant Principal

Catherine Ulrich, and various teachers.

The members meet throughout the year to discuss ideas and attend different workshops on assessment.

"We're going to be doing what's best for the kids during testing days, and not what's best for the schedule or for the teachers," said Klepper.

This year, the testing period will be spread out over a period of four days as opposed to the three that it normally comprises.

This extra day is intended to allow students to take fewer tests per day so that they remain fresh and focused.

The tests will be given in smaller classroom settings, instead of in crowded, disorganized rooms such as the library and the cafeteria

where students are easily distracted.

Seniors will be removed from the classrooms during testing, since they are not required to take the test. They will be allowed to work on their senior projects or participate in other productive, non-distracting activities.

Another decision that the committee has reached is that any student who does not reach the fiftieth percentile on the test will have to spend six weeks in summer school, taking classes in English and math to make up for the sections that they were weak in on the test.

SAT 9 results may be used to determine if students will be required to take double periods of math and/or English, thus limiting their elective options for the following year.

An option of including the SAT 9 results on students' official transcripts is being discussed as well.

The committee is also considering positive incentives for students, such as longer lunch periods and food vendors on campus.

An example of this is having coffee carts from Coffee Beans & Things and Southside Coffee Shop for students to visit during breaks.

"We don't want to make it a punitive issue," said Klepper. "We want to help kids. This will be an important test for students."

The committee is optimistic that Cabrillo's scores will increase this year.

"I think that a more serious effort will be made by students to do as well as they possibly can," said English and Journalism teacher Suzanne Nicastro, chairman of the assessment committee.

SAT 9 Statistics

- CHS's scores dropped 15 points last year.

- Cabrillo's Academic Performance Index (API) was 697 points out of a possible 1000 points.

- 630 identifies an average performing school

- 800 designates a high performing school

- Cabrillo has a statewide rank of 8 out of 10

- Cabrillo's 2000 growth target was 5 points; it was not met.

CLUB CORNER

Art club is planning a trip to SLO and is fund raising for the month of March. Members can come in at lunch in Art 1 to work on the art activity of the month. Members should start thinking of artwork to turn in for an upcoming art show to be held in May at the South Side Coffee Shop.

Black Student Union President Nicole Walker is working on fundraising for future trips. The dance team is currently preparing an "awesome" routine which they will present in an assembly sponsored by the cheerleaders. Meetings are held every other Wednesday in room SS-4.

Cabrillo's newest club, the Writer's Guild, will be having its first meeting March 5th in room E-3. The club is open to anyone who has an interest in writing or reading. At club meetings, members will have the opportunity to share their writing and discuss it with others.

Debate Club is expanding its horizons in the month of March. It is now the Debate/Speech Club. The members will give improvisational speeches throughout the month, in efforts to improve their quick-thinking abilities. The members will also be researching and preparing for an intramural debate.

Every Wednesday, the Maniacal Anime 'N Gamers Association meet in room Art-1 to discuss and share. During March, club members will continue watching movies at lunch. A video game tournament is tentatively scheduled for March or April. New members are always welcome.

One fish, two fish, red fish, new fish

• Cabrillo High School Aquarium prepares for a better hands-on approach of marine life

Chris Montes
Staff Reporter

Cabrillo can now proudly claim the only high school aquarium in the U.S. with the expansion from a single classroom and storage room to a vast 3,000 square foot aquarium

“ A new aspect of learning will be introduced at our high school.

Chris Ladwig (12)

masterpiece.

With the construction of the new facility starting in late August, 1999, the facility is expected to be completed some time this year (2001). The estimated cost of the project will be above 1,000,000 dollars.

Several years ago, science teacher and aquarium founder Dave Long

thought up the notion of a bigger and better aquarium. Once he saw that the room had become too small to hold all the sea life that had been acquired, he adjusted his long term plan. He then came up with an idea to build a facility where students could be inspired by a more hands on approach. The new aquarium is going to have two 800-gallon water filters, producing artificial seawater for the marine life in the building. The cold water sea life that the aquarium holds is from the bay and tide pools, while

most of the warm water sea life is either bought from the store or donated to the high school. The new aquarium

aquarium, but it will enable all the sea life to be viewed and displayed far easier than times in the past where creatures and exhibits were crammed into small spaces.

Senior Headcurator Chris Ladwig is excited about the new facility “ A new aspect of learning will be introduced at our high school,” Ladwig said. Cabrillo will also have a higher public profile given that this aquarium is the only one of its kind located in any high school around the world.

ners showing their corporate logos for a price.

Funding for the new aquarium was made possible by a \$350,000-dollar expansion approval by a two-house U.S. conference committee along with donations and grants that helped finance the construction for

“ This aquarium is the only one of its kind located in any high school around the world.”

the newly expanded aquarium.

If interested in purchasing a tile, please contact the high school at 733-4538.

Field trips from local elementary schools and other events happening at the aquarium are to begin again weekly once the aquarium is open to students and visitors.

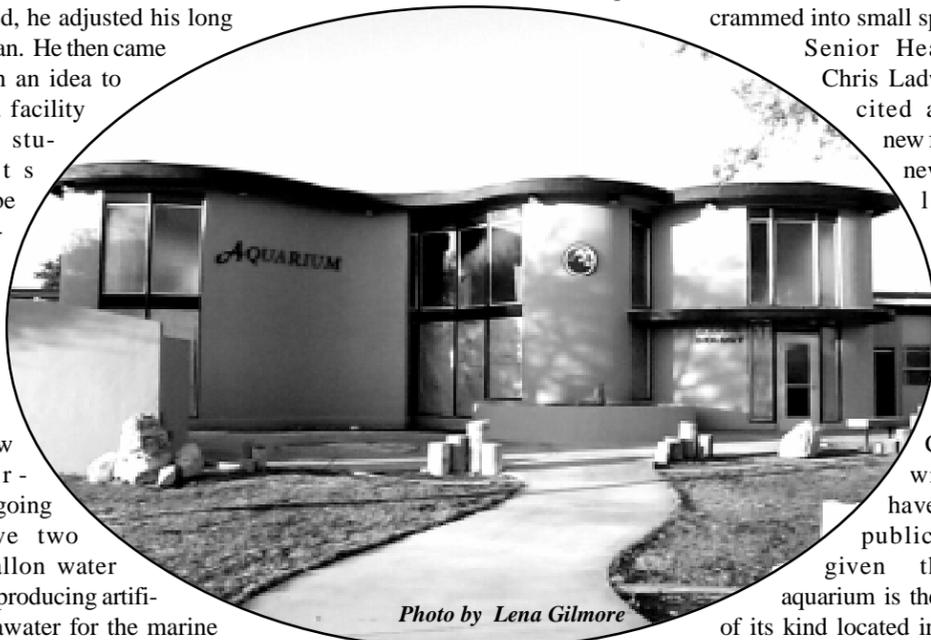


Photo by Lena Gilmore

The floors of the new facility have available tiles to all pro-active part-

New marquee: A sign of the times

Aimee Corser
Staff Reporter

On January 4, 2001, excitement was in the air as the roar of a bright orange “Specialty” truck lifted a large black square into its new resting spot.

That black square, weighing in at 1,276 pounds, was ASB’s latest addition to the Cabrillo campus.

The marquee was made in Rancho Cordora (near Sacramento) and was delivered to CHS on January 3.

“When we ordered it we had no idea it would be this big,” said Activities Director, Dave Benchoff.

The multi-colored board contains 22,528 lights. The board can display letters from one to four lines

in height with a four-line letter being 45 inches.

“I think the marquee is cool because CHS students will be able to know what’s going on around campus,” said sophomore Adam Drake.

“ The marquee is a good thing because we have one and Lompoc doesn’t.

Jennifer Wienk (12)

The Cabrillo ASB purchased the digital screen for \$20,000. The money came from past graduating classes and senior gifts, accumulated over the last seven years.

The marquee at CHS is one of a kind, being the only one of this size operating in a California high

school. Most high schools operate using a two-line board, while Cabrillo’s is four.

“The company we ordered it from hasn’t done anything like this before. They do mostly scoreboards,” said Benchoff.

The marquee will display time and temperature along with CHS activities for the day. The screen can be seen by students entering the student parking lot and by motorists driving down Constellation Road.

“The marquee is a good thing because we have one and Lompoc doesn’t,” said Senior Jennifer Wienk.

Currently, there is an unsightly water tank located under the marquee. Soon, school officials hope to cover it with a tarp so as not to obscure the marquee.



Photo by Brennan Nye

Bright lights, small city: Cabrillo High School received a new scrolling line marquee board on February 4. It cost \$20,000 and was bought using donations from past graduating classes. The board is left on until 10 p.m., which has raised considerable controversy among Cabrillo’s neighbors. See page 1 for more details.

PROJECT continued from front page

“The teachers grade really hard; you really have to work to write a solid, ‘A’ paper,” said Cabrillo senior Alyson Young.

Now that papers have been done and turned in, seniors are starting work on the actual project which is due May 21 and presented May 23.

Since the first senior projects, the general feeling of the staff is that they just keep getting better. Everything from building a car to job shadowing a teacher have been attempted.

“[Senior projects have improved] really well over the years. Projects are wide and varied showing students interests,” said Cabrillo English teacher and senior project advisor Roderick Schmidt.

Readers of senior project papers said they had their expectations met and the general consensus continues to be that senior projects are a worthwhile program at Cabrillo.

“...we are pleased; there are a lot of interesting projects,” said Schmidt. “We expect [improvement] to continue; I think the program is really beneficial.”



IN THE NEWS

Katie Eden
Staff Reporter

Here is what is going on at Cabrillo during March and April

Tuesday, March 6: Class Elections before school and during lunch in Library 1.

Friday, March 9: Spring Sports Assembly. 45 minutes

Friday, March 16: Sadies 8-11:30 in the Cafeteria.

Saturday, March 17: Proficiency Test 9-12:00 p.m. at Lompoc High School

Friday, March 23: End of 3rd Quarter

Saturday, March 31: SAT I & II

Monday, April 2-23: Prom Tickets go on sale before school and during lunch in Library 1 for \$20. Tick-

ets are free for Seniors if picked up the first week.

Thursday-Sunday, April 5-9: Journalism travels to San Francisco for National Journalism Convention.

Saturday, April 7: ACT Test

Monday-Friday, April 16-20: Spring Break

Wednesday, April 25: Prom King and Queen voting before school and during lunch in Library 1.

Friday, April 27: Prom Assembly, 45 minutes

Saturday, April 28: Prom 9-1:00 a.m. at the Pacific Coast Club on VAFB.

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