



# Dia de los Muertos Friday, Nov. 1.

Day of the Dead combines the ancient Aztec custom of celebrating ancestors with All Souls' Day, a holiday that Spanish invaders brought to Mexico starting in the early 1500s. It is a rare holiday for celebrating death and life. It is unlike any holiday where mourning is exchanged for celebration.

# Forest Street Journal

Curiosity • Ownership • Unity

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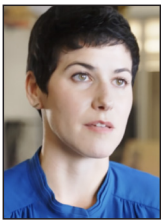
Respect • Ganas • Equity



Whitaker Lab Summer Program  
<https://vimeo.com/1011080413/47dc277271?share=copy>

## Skateboarding Success

Recruitment for the summer partnership between Menlo High School and The Forest High School Center kicked off in early 2024, aiming to engage a dozen youth. Jamien Formato, emphasized that building a skateboard involves many steps, aiming for a fully customized board that reflects individual interests and creativity. C'Nia, a BGCP teen member and alumni of the program, sought "something fun to do" and successfully helped complete two skateboards alongside other BGCP participants.



Maren Wolf  
DIRECTOR OF  
ACADEMIC INNOVATION



Jamie Formato  
UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE  
TEACHER AND SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

The video above showcases highlights of the summer partnership.

## C • E • L • E • B • R • A • T • I • N • G Hispanic Heritage Month

### Redwood City Teens Create Cultural Memories

Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15 to October 15, began in 1968 as a week-long event under President Lyndon B. Johnson and was later extended to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. It commemorates the independence anniversaries of Latin American countries like Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The celebration educates the public on the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities in the U.S.

At The Forest High School Center, (TFHSC) teens celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with interactive stations: a piñata and papel picado workshop, games of Lotería, dominos, FIFA, and trivia like Jeopardy, Kahoot, and Guess the Flag. Participants enjoyed hot chocolate and pan dulce, while learning about Hispanic cultural contributions, including notable figures such as César Chávez, Frida Kahlo, Roberto Clemente, Sonia Sotomayor, and many more, who have made significant impacts on American culture and society, and exploring the diversity within the Hispanic community across 20+ countries; including Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.



Teens immerse themselves in creative, DIY projects to craft culturally significant memorabilia, fostering a deeper connection to heritage and traditions. Through hands-on activities, they explore and celebrate the rich cultural history while making meaningful, personalized creations. Upper left, Pablino and Cesar make conchas to compliment the meal served during the celebration.

Highlighting the contributions of Hispanic Americans to American history, culture, and society, including achievements in the arts, politics, science, and beyond is one way TFHSC creates a sense of belonging with the

members.

Each year, there is a theme that reflects the focus of that year's celebration, with events ranging from parades, festivals, art exhibits, and educational activities held across the country.

## Leadership and Athletics Departments Join Forces

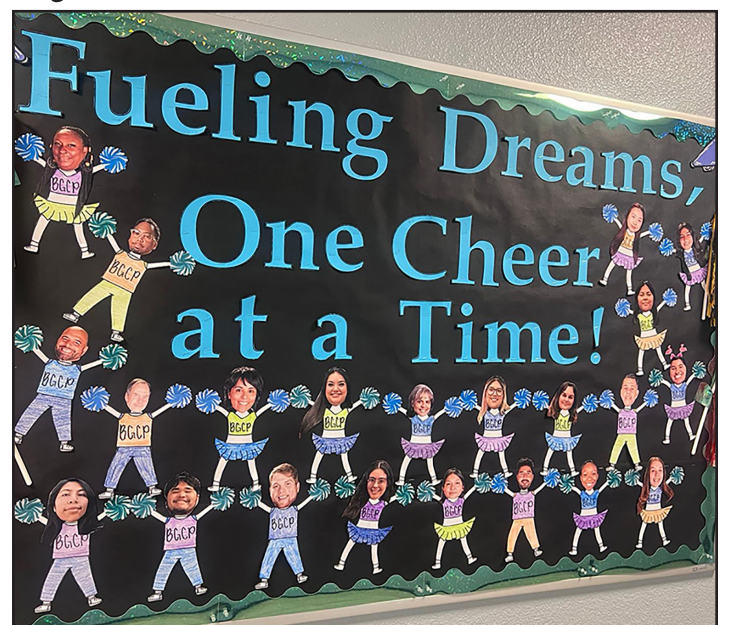


Photo by Miguel DeTrinidad

Leadership Director Sandra Sanchez led a focus session with the Athletic Teen staff, helping coaches refine their elevator speeches. The session aimed to equip the coaches with concise, impactful messaging to effectively communicate their role and mission within the Athletic Teen program.

## Creativity At Its Best!

Cynthia Valencia is a dynamic High School Youth Program Leader at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula / The Forest High School Center (BGCP), where she has been making a significant impact for the past three years. Known for her keen sense of creativity, Cynthia stands out as a valuable team member due to her unique ability to bring visualizations to life, transforming ideas into engaging experiences for the youth. Her innovative approach and passion for creative expression make her an integral part of the BGCP team.



This bulletin board, located in the first hallway of The Forest High School Center, showcases Cynthia's creativity. Drawing inspiration from internet images, she blends her own imaginative ideas to design truly magnificent displays.