



► MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, PG. 1



► MESSAGE FROM A STUDENT, PG. 2



► CCCS UPDATES, PG. 1



► CCCS ANNOUNCEMENTS, PG. 2



*An Afternoon and Evening High School Individualizing Success*

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# Dear Friends of CCCS

*April, 2017, Issue 3*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Making Progress

Progress does not happen in a straight line lifting us upward. Progress is uneven and uncomfortable. It is full of gaps and waiting. Sometimes we think we are stuck and then we suddenly leap forward. Sometimes we think we have made it and we suddenly fall backward.

As we approach the end of another school year, some are pushing to attain goals. Some are working to take each step up the mountain, each step toward becoming who they really are. And, undoubtedly some are tired and feel like giving up. Some want to find a good reason to quit.

I believe our progress depends on lots of things, including our own thinking. How many times have we caught ourselves thinking, "It's not worth it, It doesn't really matter, It would be easier if . . . , It's too late, I already screwed it up, It's too hard, It takes too long, I can't do this"? There are so many ways that we can stop our own progress. We forget about why we are doing what

we're doing. We forget about the people who believe in us. We forget to cheer each other on, to cheer ourselves on. We forget that each one of us is an important part of our community, and each day is a fresh start.

Cesar Chavez knew, "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about *progress* and prosperity for our community." Cesar Chavez knew that sometimes we have to push ourselves, and sometimes we have to step back and give to someone else. As the annual CCCS Graduation ceremony approaches we pause to recognize the great progress each of our graduates has made, the obstacles each one has overcome, and the ways in which each person has been a gift to others. We remember that we are all in this together. We celebrate our accomplishments together and we cheer each other on. Congratulations to the CCCS Class of 2017! May you continue to find the courage for each next step!

—Tani Arness, Principal



### **We are proud of our students' academic opportunities and growth!**

- ◆ Sign up NOW for Summer School Driver's Education Class!
- ◆ Ask Ms. Courtney (Counselor) about Dual Enrollment opportunities to earn College and High School credit for FREE. We have more students enrolling than ever before!
- ◆ Short Cycle Assessments show students averaging **over 20% growth** from fall to spring! Good job teachers and students!

# MESSAGE FROM A STUDENT

## Never Let People Bring You Down

By Jonathan Reyes

I was at work one day and I was deciding to come back to school. I was tired of living the “bad life,” so I told my mom I was going to enroll in another school. I had heard of Cesar Chavez Community School from a friend. She told me it was nice so I thought I would give it a try. But, the truth is I wasn't really planning on going back to school, I just wanted my mom to stay quiet about it.

So when I got here, to CCCS, I asked, What are the requirements to enroll? And they told me an ID and birth certificate. So when I gave it to her, she told me, “You're starting next week.” I was like, Wait am I really going to start school again? That's crazy. I didn't know if I wanted to come back but I wanted to stay out of trouble. I was tired of being in trouble all the time. I got in the classroom and thought, Finally I made a good choice. Since that day, I've had my ups and downs but I'm being smart about my decisions and I stayed in school.

When I came to CCCS, I had been out of school for two years because I dropped out of Highland High School. I dropped out of school because of drugs, really bad drugs, parties, and all that. I got involved in gangs and fighting and living life in a bad way. My mom told me, “I don't want you to be like your dad, and you're acting like him.” And that kinda hurt me and changed my mind a little bit. Another thing that changed my mind is when I got involved in a shooting and my friend got shot in the back. It wasn't worth it for all that. Both of us could've been dead.

That shooting shifted everything around. I remember I got to work after that and I was looking at everything in a different way. After seeing a gun in your face and seeing a lot of blood you start asking yourself, “What was I doing there? What was I doing that was worth that? What's going on?” For the first time ever, I was scared of dying.

So after that I started kind of appreciating more things around me. This spark in my heart kind of turned on. And I was looking to get out of that place before one more thing happened. And I started thinking of my family and my sisters and the place where I came from, a poor part of Durango, Mexico. Where I came from we barely had anything to eat in a day, sometimes only a tortilla with salt and a weenie. I never knew what it was to sleep in a bed until I was thirteen. I just had one small pair of pants, two shirts that were ripped and a pair of shoes that were too small. That's why I'm very grateful for the things I have in life now. I asked myself, if I came from Mexico for nothing, am I just here wasting my time doing bad stuff instead of being more than the person people told me I would be? People always told me I was going to be nothing in life. “You're never going to graduate from school.” “You're never going to stop being a trouble maker.”

I decided I was going to prove everybody who doubted me wrong. I've learned that when everybody doubts you, you're either going to take it as a motivation to get better or as a curse to bring you down. And now look where I am. God has blessed my life, and I'm getting ready to graduate from high school.



Jonathan Reyes, To Graduate 5-24-17

**WOULD YOU  
LIKE  
TO PARTNER  
WITH CCCS?**

**CONTACT: TANI ARNESS**

**TARNESS**

**@CESARCHAVEZCHARTER.NET**

**TEL. 505-877-0558, EXT. 102**

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## CCCS Announcements!

**You are invited to Family Fun Day!**

**When: Fri. May 5, 2018, 1:45-5:00 pm**

**Where: CCCS**

**Bring the family for FREE food,  
games, and fun!**

**Congratulations Class of 2017!**

**Senior Dinner**

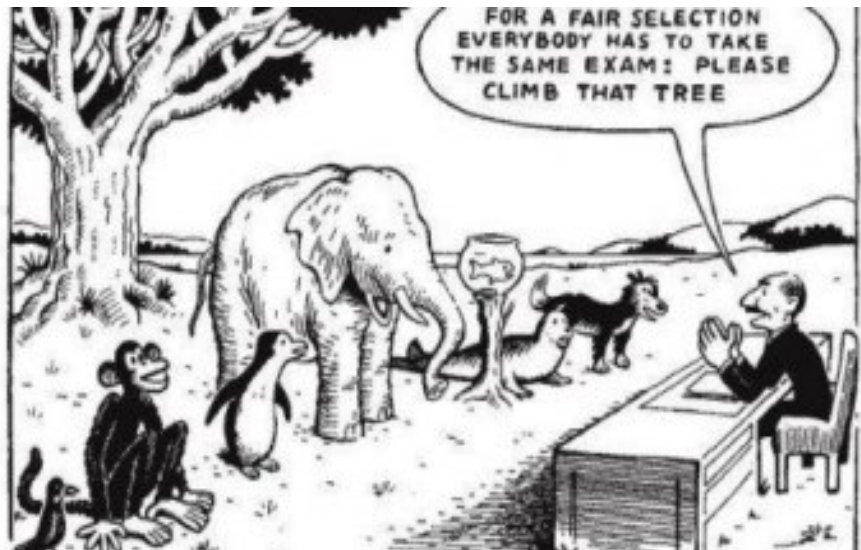
**Fri. May 19, 4:30-6:30 pm,**

**by invitation.**

**Graduation Ceremony**

**Wed. May 24, 2017, 5:30 pm**

**at NHCC, Tickets required**



Cesar Chavez Community School

1325 Palomas Dr. SE

Albuquerque, NM 87108

Tel. 505-877-0558; Fax. 505-242-1466