

DOLPHIN DIGEST

Principal's Message by Jason Allemann, Ed. D



Dana Hills High School PTSA Newsletter

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School Hours:
Monday-Friday
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

Visit the PTSA website
www.dhhsptsa.com

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... and more

As the principal of DHHS I have the luxury of seeing numerous teachers and students in action when visiting classrooms. I am comforted about student learning when I see and hear their interactions and perspectives; I am always impressed by comments and inquiry that they throw out to their peers and teachers. The teachers of DHHS are consistently reflecting on practice and honing their craft. This is done via personal reflection, informal conversation, as grade level/subject teams, and weekly during professional collaboration time. Through the many transitions we face as educators, one thing remains a constant among our staff and that is our quest to improve delivery of instruction to our students and engage them in their learning.

On our non-student days, the CUSD provides us time to team with one another to discuss these topics and develop plans and strategies to implement in the classroom. We all know there are many aspects of the "high school experience" that are meaningful and important to students and

parents alike. Nothing is more important that what happens in our classrooms. I am grateful that we are afforded these days to develop professionally again after a number of years without that opportunity. I am also thankful at this time of year when I reflect on the work that our teachers and students do...together...for the sake of learning.



Our winter break takes place from December 21st through January 1st, with students returning to school on Monday, January 4th. Upon their return, students and teachers will be working hard in classrooms with the close of the 1st semester on the horizon. This year's first semester finals schedule is as follows:

- - - FINALS SCHEDULE - - -		
Tuesday, January 19th	Wednesday, January 20th	Thursday, January 21st
0 6:42-7:47	0 6:42-7:47	No Zero
3 7:56-10:06	1 7:56-10:06	2 7:56-10:06
Tutorial (4) 10:15-10:56	Tutorial (6) 10:15-10:56	Tutorial (5) 10:15-10:56
Break 10:56-11:01	Break 10:56-11:01	Break 10:56-11:01
5 11:10-1:20	4 11:10-1:20	6 11:10-1:20

Please help support your students in finishing strong with their first semester of the 2015-2016 school year.

Our students, parents and greater school community continue to perpetuate the great reputation of DHHS by working together to make a difference. Our students continue to do amazing volunteer work in our greater community individually and in groups. Our outstanding SOCSA performers have displayed their talents at a variety of venues and organizations by volunteering their time.

I am truly blessed and thankful to be the principal of an amazing school, in an amazing community, filled with amazing people. Our people and the efforts that our greater school community makes certainly lend to making Dana Hills High School a great place to come to work and learn. Thanks to all the students, staff, parents, and community members for your support!

Go Dolphins!
Jason Allemann, Ed.D.
Principal

PTSA President's Message by Bonnie Small

Happy New Year! I hope that you were all able to spend some time relaxing and enjoying your families during or winter break. Parents of the senior class are hopefully exhaling now that most college applications have been submitted, and now we anxiously await the responses.

Some of you may have been through college application process before with an older child, but for most of us it can all seem very daunting. The advice I have given both of my kids is this: no matter the results, don't take it personally. This probably sounds crazy because, of course, for each family it is very personal, but it's important to keep some perspective on the process.

First – it's a numbers game. If a university's freshmen enrollment limit is 10,000 students and it receives 50,000 applications, then 40,000 students are just not going to be accepted. Period.

Second – colleges and universities are absolutely paying attention to your student's academic record, activities, and test scores, but it's important to remember that each campus is also focused on an "x-factor." One year a school may be interested in boosting enrollment in their earth sciences department, while the next year their focus might shift to the fine arts department. They may also be balancing in-state, out-of-state, and international

student enrollment to create a varied student population. Unfortunately, students and their families are not privy to that internal process and can only hope that the stars align between college and applicant.

Rejection is part of life, it's an opportunity to cultivate humility, and it's often a blessing in disguise. So put on your armor and forge ahead – in hindsight, it may be the best thing that could have happened.

Current freshmen, sophomores and juniors and their families can get way ahead of the curve by attending our Naviance presentation on Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30pm in the Porthole. The DHHS guidance office will share their knowledge of this valuable fabulous tool which organizes and streamlines the pathway to college applications!

Fins UP!

Bonnie Small



In October, Albertson's (Marina Hills) manager, Jeremy Peck, presented the DHHS PTSA with a donation of \$1,000 in celebration of the store's grand re-opening."

Grad Nite and Taste of Dana are seeking awesome parent volunteers!

**A Dana Hills High School tradition continues!
The Grad Nite—Taste of Dana committee is seeking interested parent volunteers for Grad Nite 2016.**

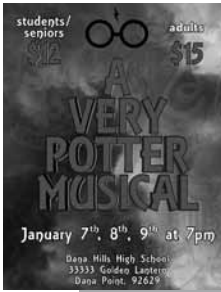
Grad Nite is a drug and alcohol-free, all-night celebration for the DHHS graduating seniors. It's always a memorable night of activities, food and fun. Class of 2016 Grad Nite will be held on June 9-10, 2016.

Our primary fundraiser is Taste of Dana, scheduled for Thursday, March 31st. Please

consider volunteering - we have all types of jobs, big and small - there is something for every skill set! If you have not already submitted your contact information and would like to join us at our ongoing planning meetings, please send an e-mail ASAP to kerrykeen@pacbell.net.



SOCSA Events



Harry Potter The Musical | January 7-9 | Porthole

Harry Potter The Musical - A musical parody of the wildly successful Harry Potter Book Series. Directed by Senior Julianna Guthary and Musical Director Katie Kivinski.

SOCSA Dance Concert | January 28-30 | 7pm in the Porthole

SOCSA Dance Concert – “dystorshun” - An evening of eclectic dance performances by SOCSA Dance Ensemble and SOCSA Dance Production

Musical Theater Competitions of America | February 5th-7th

Students will attend workshops and compete with musical theater students from all over the country. Last year SOCSA students took home many top awards.

Top 40 Hits | February 10th

A concert featuring today's hits performed by SOCSA students



Bourgeois Gentleman | February 18-20 | 7pm in the Porthole

This hilarious comedy involves the outrageous attempts of the bourgeois personality to climb the social ladder and the ingenuity of love to overcome all obstacles.

Golden Oldies | February 26th

Students Perform songs of their choice of any genre through the year 1999.

Festival of Whales “Art in the Park” Art Show (Visual Arts)

March 12, 13 | Dana Point Harbor

Opera Night Events

Preview Performance | March 19 | 7pm in the Porthole

Opera Night Gala Event and Visual Arts Showcase

March 20 | Soka University Performing Arts Center

Encore Performance | March 22nd at Casa Romantica, San Clemente



Our program cannot exist without parent and outside donor support.



Broadway Nights



Piece of My Heart

SOCSA Academy

*Partners with the Friends
of SOCSA Booster Club*



The first half of the year proved to be very busy for our talented SOCSA students! From Vocal Choir, Drama, Musical Theater, Dance to Instrumental Music and Visual Arts – the Porthole had a packed schedule of events. Highlights included the fall vocal and instrumental concerts; Broadway Night which showcased time honored Broadway tunes; Piece of My Heart – the emotionally powered drama centered around the Vietnam war; Little Shop of Horrors made its debut to the Porthole stage with 4 packed nights of musical theater entertainment. Finally to cap off the year and bring in the holiday cheer – SOCSA students put on a magnificent Holiday Concert that also hosted SOCSA’s first-ever Holiday Boutique – the holiday spirit was definitely in the air!

Friends of SOCSA continues to support the SOCSA Academy by providing support and raising the necessary funds provide an enriched, diverse educational experiences for our SOCSA students.

The Friends of SOCSA is now officially a federal non-profit foundation (501c3) which means giving to SOCSA is even easier. You can support our efforts by donating online: friends-of-socsa.cheddarup.com or make a direct donation to Friends of SOCSA Booster Club. Remember, you can designate which department you want to support with your generous donation.

The SOCSA Academy, in partnership with Friends of SOCSA, has many wonderful events planned for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year and we are invite more parents to join in the fun!

Volunteering is another great way to be involved with SOCSA and supporting the shows/ events – contact Susan Hahn for volunteering opportunities at volunteer.coordinator@friendsofsocsa.org.

What's Ahead?

Vocal Choir is gearing up for their biggest night of the school year – the Opera Night Gala Event!

In its 18th year, Opera Night has proved to be a SOCSA tradition that brings talented high school singers from Southern California together for an intensive 11-week program with specific courses designed to inspire greater knowledge of the Operatic Arts. Student vocalists develop their voices by focusing on opera arias, art songs and opera choruses. This collaborative event will include performances by Vocal Students, Orchestra and Dance Production while showcasing a beautiful art show featuring student artist from the Visual Arts program. As in past years, the program concludes with Opera Night concerts in three South County venues. Additional information can be found at <http://www.socsarts.org/socsa-opera-night> or opera@friendsofsocsa.org.

Booster Club Members:

- Pia Patrick - *President*
- Sonal Mehta - *VP of Communications*
- Lisa Fry - *VP of Dept. Liaisons & Drama/
Musical Theater Dept. Liaison*
- Scott Green - *Webmaster*
- Carol Taylor - *Vocal Music Liaison*
- Jennifer Golden - *Dance Liaison*
- Trish Rissling - *Visual Arts Liaison*
- Kevin Reeve - *Instrumental Music*
- Susan Hahn - *Volunteer Coordinator*
- Miriam Guthary - *Hospitality*
- Amy Betonte- *Community Fundraising
Coordinator*
- Lisa Wright - *Corporate Donation and
Grants Coordinator*
- Kerry Keen – *Grand Raffle Chair*
- Maria Cassareto – *Snack Cart*

GRANT WINNER!

DHHS Teacher Wins “Innovations in Education” Grant

Congratulations to Ms. Katrina Streza who won a \$4,000 Cox Communications Innovations in Education grant.

Cox Communications has awarded \$52,000 in “Innovation in Education” grants to 15 Orange County schools in the Orange County Cox service area to help fund innovative programs for students in grades K-12. The grant program invited principals, administrators and teachers at eligible schools to submit a grant application for innovative classroom projects that focus on skills-based learning, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design, and Mathematics), digital literacy, or cyber citizenship (responsibly using the Internet).

Katrina Streza teaches AVID, an elective course for highly motivated students who wish to graduate from a four year university despite dealing with negative external factors.

Ms. Streza will use this grant to pay for a subscription to the EBSCO Research database for Dana Hills High School.

“All Dana students and teachers will have access to a vetted database of newspapers, journals, books, and magazines that can be used for research projects and papers in class. Wikipedia and Yahoo Answers have been outclassed.”

EBSCO is an online research database used by most colleges and universities around the country, including Saddleback College and the University of California system.

“Our coaches don’t wait until CIF Finals to practice the nuances of form. They spend countless hours reviewing the basics before a big game. When our students write their first research paper in college, I want them to know the ins and outs of research.”

Kevin Knoot, the school librarian is very excited by the award. “Continuing education beyond high school is so important in today’s world. One of the most important things we can do is to make sure our students are prepared for success at the next level of education. Having the same tools available here that students will use in college is a very valuable preparatory tool.”

Ms. Streza will be featured in Cox Communication’s “Salute to Educators” television broadcast in Spring 2016.

ASU Hard at Work - CONGRATULATIONS DOLPHINS! by Emily Rhodes

UPCOMING...

Coat Drive:
February 1-12

Pennies for Patients:
March 7-28

Clothing Drive:
April 18-29

Congratulations Dolphins, you have successfully completed the first semester of your 2015-16 school year! Thank you to all who participated in the December gift drive, your donations made the holiday season special for many children of the less fortunate. Special recognition goes to Grace Tuohey, the Commissioner of Community service. She has been working diligently to bring community service drives to Dana Hills and give the students the chance to give back to the community. If you weren’t able to partake in the last drive, don’t worry because you will have more opportunities to help!

For more information, refer to the heartfelt short video concerning the community service drives featured on the Dana Hills home page.

Another exciting announcement... Winter formal is just around the corner! Get hyped Dolphins - this year’s theme is **GLOW IN THE DARK!** Come ready to experience an array of flashing lights, colors, and endless excitement! The memorable night will take place on January 23rd at Pacific View Club at Camp Pendleton. Purchase your tickets with the early bird discount for \$40 with an ASU card and \$55 without until January 8th. You don’t want to miss out on making memories at this year’s Winter Formal! See you all there!

Remember, FINS UP!

Guidance News

Upcoming Important Dates to Remember

January 19-21	Semester Finals
January 21	End of Fall Semester
January 22	Pupil Free Day
January 25	First Day of 2nd Semester

Naviance – Family Connection

Thank you to those of you who attended the Naviance Information Night at the District Office on November 17th. If you missed it, there will be similar events hosted at Dana Hills High School at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 13th. CUSD has started the process of introducing Naviance to our students. All high school students have access to the program and will find that it is an incredible tool to explore college and career options. Naviance tasks will be assigned throughout the 4 years of high school. A limited number of Naviance brochures are available in the Guidance Office, for interested families.

All parents/guardians with an email address listed in our student system should have received an email from our Guidance Office the last week of October with instructions on how to setup your Naviance parent account. Your registration code was also included. If you have more than one student at Dana Hills, please contact the Guidance Office if you would like your students to be linked on your account.

Students do not need a registration code; students login using their CUSD network ID and their password is the student's 7-digit ID number.

This is the link DHHS parents and students will need to login to Naviance:

<https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=danahills>
It might be helpful to add this link to your favorites.

Saddleback Freshman Advantage Program

Seniors, the Saddleback College Freshman Advantage Program for the fall of 2016 begins December 1, 2015. If you are planning to attend Saddleback College in the fall of 2016

please see your Academic Advisor for details. The deadline for the program is April 15, 2016. Saddleback Senior Day 2016 is Thursday, March 17, from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Flyers and information are available in the Guidance Department for the Freshman Advantage Program and Senior Day.

Saddleback College Visits

The representative from Saddleback College will resume Friday visits outside our Guidance office beginning on Friday, January 22 to answer any questions you may have regarding concurrent enrollment, Freshman Advantage Program, the application process etc.

FAFSA Filing Period Begins January 1, 2016

Parents of college bound seniors: Don't forget that the window to submit your 2015-2016 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will open on January 1, 2016. For information regarding FAFSA please visit the FAFSA website directly at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Q: When should I file the 2015-2016 FAFSA?

A: As early as possible! The state Cal Grant program and many state college and university financial aid programs have a March 2 filing deadline - but many schools and programs have earlier deadlines.

Some colleges ask that the FAFSA be filed as soon after January 1 as possible! The California Student Aid Commission advises students to file as early as possible. The 2015-2016 FAFSA is filed online at www.fafsa.gov

Q: How can I find out whether my college has an earlier financial aid and scholarship filing deadline?

A: Visit the college financial aid website. The federal and state program deadline will be the same at most schools but institutional scholarships frequently have deadlines in January.

Q: What else is required to meet financial aid filing requirements?

A: For the state Cal Grant program, a school certified GPA must also be submitted by March 2, 2016.



TEXT-A-TIP



Guidance News, con't.

FAFSA Tutorial: <http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/FAFSASimplification/index.html>

The FSA ID: Your Electronic Passport to Federal Student Aid Online.

An FSA ID is a username and password that you must use to log in to certain U.S. Department of Education (ED) websites. Your FSA ID identifies you as someone who has the right to access your own personal information on ED websites such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®). To create your FSA ID and find out additional information visit: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid#fsaid-intro>

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®

CSS/Financial Aid Profile is the fast, easy, convenient secure way to apply for financial aid. The CSS Financial Aid Profile is a national, not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Many of the member colleges, universities, graduate and professional schools, and scholarship programs use the information collected on PROFILE to help them award nonfederal student aid funds. For more information visit <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>

Senior Scoop and Scholarships

Visit the dhhs.net website on a regular basis to read the Senior Scoop and find opportunities to help you finance your college education. Pay close attention to deadlines. Please see your Academic Advisor to obtain a local scholarship application package.

CAL GRANT INFORMATION

There are three kinds of CAL Grants: Cal Grant A; Cal Grant B; and Cal Grant C. Cal Grants can be used at any UC, CSU, California Community College, almost all independent colleges, and many career and technical schools in California.

To be eligible for a Cal Grant you must:

- Submit a FAFSA application by the deadline (usually in March)
- Meet any minimum GPA requirements (Your GPA will automatically be submitted to the California Student Aid Commission by DHHS per Assembly Bill 2160)
- Be a US Citizen
- Be a California Resident
- Have a Social Security Number
- Attend a qualifying CALIFORNIA college
- Have financial need based on your college costs and your EFC (Expected Family Contribution)
- Be in a program leading to an undergraduate degree or certificate
- Be enrolled at least half time

To find out more about the Cal Grant program please visit www.calgrants.org

Text-A-Tip

Anonymously report harmful situations: (949) 415-8479

Text-A-Tip is an opportunity for students to anonymously get their peers assistance in harmful situations and report abuse, theft, fights, threats or drug use.

FAFSA Wednesday at Saddleback College

Meets each Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Financial Aid Office at Saddleback College. All parents and students welcome!! For more information visit <http://www.saddleback.edu/fao/events/fafsa-wednesday-0>



Stand with us to support our children

Thank you to the Dana Hills High School community for your generous support. With your support, Dolphin Force Foundation (an independent, parent led non-profit organization) has provided classroom support for Science, Math and Physical Education departments this year.

Physical Education Department

Frisbee golf, Boccia Ball, Spike Ball, Turbo Football supplies

Science Department

Lab supplies for Anatomy, Biology/AP Biology, Chemistry/AP Chemistry, Biotech, Forensics, Physics/AP Physics, AP Environmental Sciences and Science Research classes. DNA, Dissection, Water Quality, GMO and Psychrometer kits; Hot plates, Beakers, and Test tubes.

Math Department

Calculators and math curriculum software

Plans are underway for the purchase and installation of student seating and upgraded computer labs.

Student Seating Campaign

Dolphin Force has launched its ambitious campaign to provide additional student seating on the Dana Hills campus. As part of the multi-phase project, Dolphin Force will provide funding for the purchase and installation of benches and lunch tables around the school. For additional information or to participate, please visit our website at www.dolphinforce.com

Support E-Waste Event on February 20, 2016

Dolphin Force Foundation is partnering with the City of Dana Point and Goodwill Industries for E-Waste collection on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the City's Bulk Item collection event. Goodwill Industries will be donating all proceeds from E-Waste recycling to Dana Hills High School.

Dolphin Force seeking parent volunteers

Dana Hills Parents are invited to join Dolphin Force Foundation to help promote fundraising activities, including Ralphs Community Rewards, EScrip and Communities for Cause sign ups.

Volunteers are needed to assist with social media promotion, volunteer recruitment and event planning. Contact lynneconger@gmail.com for more information.

BRICK WALK - Leave a Permanent Memory at Dana Hills High School with a personalized brick on the Dolphin Brick Walk

Pre-orders are currently being accepted – when 40 orders are received, payment will be collected and brick installation will be scheduled. The brick walk begins at the entrance of the school and

wraps around the main building. Purchase a brick for your Dana Hills scholar, outstanding faculty member, special coach or team. Requests for group placements are accommodated. Bricks start at \$125. Contact Connie Norland at rcnorland@cox.net for more information.

BUY GROCERIES - Shop at Ralphs!

A percentage of your purchases will go to Dolphin Force when you shop at Ralphs using your registered Ralphs Club Card. Register your card at www.ralphs.com by going to Account (red center of screen) Sign In, Community Rewards, Enroll, enter 81536 (Dolphin Force), and Enroll again. You will need to re-register every September!

USE COMMUNITIES FOR CAUSE (CFC) Website or App

Simply download "Communities for Cause" App on your iPhone or Android, and select "Dana Hills HS Dolphin Force Foundation" as your cause to support. Then, when you are shopping or dining at local, participating merchants, register your purchase subtotal on the App, take a picture of your receipt and the App automatically processes the donation to DFF! In addition, you can shop using the on-line marketplace found on communitiesforcause.com.

PURCHASE DANA HILLS HS ALUMNI PHOTOS

(over 3,000) at www.classphotofund.com 40 years of archived class, athletic and club group photos are available to download, raising funds for Dana Hills High School projects.

JOIN MICROSOFT "FAMILY MATCH" program at www.dolphinforce.com

Thanks to a generous Dana Hills High School family and Microsoft match, we have the opportunity to double donations, supporting technology initiatives at Dana Hills High School.

Business sponsorships are available - support Dana Hills High School, while promoting your business at the same time. Sponsorship packages include promotional opportunities for school banners, website placement and electronic/print media exposure.

Thank you for standing with us in supporting our children!

All parents are welcome to attend **Dolphin Force Foundation** meetings, First Wednesday 4:00 p.m. monthly, in staff lounge at Dana Hills High School.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

February 3 & March 2, 2016

Help Dolphin Force Raise Funds With No Effort! These on-line fundraisers take only a moment to register for, and raise money for Dana Hills High School.

Visit: www.dolphinforce.com for more information.

SHOP AMAZON.COM using the e-Scrip Online Marketplace at www.escrip.com

www.dolphinforce.com
<https://www.facebook.com/dolphin.force>

Counselors' Corner

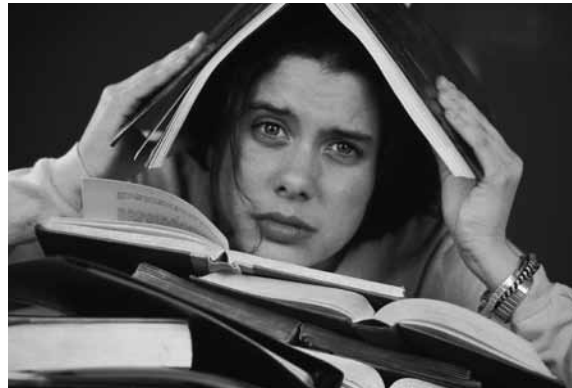
By Jessica Wing, MA PPS and AJ Holdsambeck, MA PPS

Managing Student Stress

During the 2014-2015 school year the counseling department conducted a needs assessment at DHHS. The greatest area of need identified by staff and students was excessive stress. 64% of students surveyed reported that they needed help in learning how to cope with stress. 84% of staff surveyed reported that students need tools to cope with stress more effectively.

A cornerstone goal for the counseling department for the 2015-2016 school year is to provide education and direct support regarding stress management. To address this, a presentation on stress and coping skills was provided to all freshman health classes.

In addition to classroom presentations, the counselors are providing direct support to students in need of stress management.



209 individual counseling referrals have been made since the beginning of the school year. Students are provided with research based stress management techniques and resource materials to better educate them about stress and coping tools. There are many ways to provide support to students who are stressed.

After talking with students we have found that this is what they need to reduce the stress in their lives:

- Encourage balance
- Depth of involvement over breadth of involvement
- Focus on effort rather than achievement
- Make sure there is time for activities that are just for fun
- Make sure they are getting enough sleep
- Encourage time management- it is better to do a little bit of work every day rather than rushing at the end
- Practice Mindfulness- focusing on the present
- Encourage an appropriate amount of physical activity
- Have set aside screen free time

AJ Holdsambeck serves students with the last names A-K and can be reached at ajholdsambeck@capousd.org.

Jessica Wing serves students with the last names L-Z and can be reached at jlwing@capousd.org.

Math Department News

By Jake Schwartzberg

Greetings to all the Dolphin Digesters from the Mathematics Department!

We are hard at work teaching our content in as many ways as we know how. Research indicates that while students are best served by having a structured environment in which they “know what tomorrow looks like”, it also indicates that, within our lengthy block schedules, we should try to “vary” our activities. We are lecturing, doing group work, encouraging discovery learning, and engaging in fun and competitive games. All of this, to best serve your child.

We completed “benchmark” assessments in December that will be used to show students what they may see on the end of the year Common Core test, and to show teachers where their students currently need additional help. These tests will not affect the students’ grades, they are merely a diagnostic tool.

The fabulous PTSA has granted our department enough money to solve all of our technology needs as we complete our project of getting LCD projectors and Document Cameras in every Math classroom. Thanks again to Bonnie Small and the amazing parents of PTSA.

Tears are already starting to flow as we begin to imagine a school without Mark Degen who will retire at the end of the year after 39 years of amazing service. If you run into him, thank him for an amazing career.



Library News By Kevin Knoot

We are almost halfway through the year, and will soon be emailing student checkout records to both parents and students. It is important that all students and parents understand what their current textbook obligations are, and have the opportunity to compare the books in their possession against what is on their record.

We are using email whenever possible to cut costs. One mailing to all students' homes can cost the district over \$1,000. Please make sure that the school has regularly checked email addresses on file for both you and your student.

What you should be looking for:

Check books for any damage, even if they are seldom used. It is important that all books be regularly inspected or moved to make sure there is no hidden damage that you may have to pay for later. This is especially true of seldom used books that have been sitting in the bottom of a locker, or on a shelf at home. Any damage should be reported to the library immediately, as we can sometimes make repairs before it gets to the point where a fine has to be assessed.

Also closely check all books with solid colored covers for damage. We've found that a number of books from our last batch of rebinds have had loose pages or their spine split. If these are brought in right away, we can send them back to the bindery for repair.

Check barcode number, usually on back cover or inside front cover against number on record (usually looks like this: X 0123456). Books sometimes get switched around, so if there is a difference, please bring the book in to the library.

Note any books that are overdue or marked lost. Many AP books that were checked out for summer assignments were due for renewal by 11/30, and may show as being marked lost on a student's record. Please bring those books to the library to renew them for the rest of the school year. You should also bring to our attention anything else that appears to be incorrect or that you have questions about.

Errors happen, and the sooner we know about them, the faster they can be resolved. I can be reached at (949) 496-6666, or kwknoot@capousd.org.



PTSA RECYCLING PROGRAM



Saturday PTSA Recycling Dates:

January 23

February 6 & 20

March 5 & 19

April 2 & 23

May 7 & 28

Through the joint efforts of students and parents collecting and recycling plastic bottles and aluminum cans, the DHHS PTSA Recycling Program helps to reduce waste and provide extra funds which benefit and enhance the education of all DHHS students.

Students provide the man power by collecting and sorting the recyclable items twice a week during lunch time, after school, and twice on month on Saturday mornings. All student volunteers earn school hour credit which they can apply towards three school sponsored programs, California Scholarship Federation (CSF), National Honor Society (NHS) or Dolphin Pride.

Parent volunteers help by supervising the students. The time commitment for parent helpers is just 45 - 60 minutes per shift, and each parent volunteer can choose the days that work best for their schedules (once a week, once every other week, during Monday and Thursday lunchtimes, after school on Tuesdays or Fridays, or on Saturday mornings). If you're interested in volunteering to supervise the student workers, please contact Karen LaBella at karenlabella@att.net - we can schedule a quick training session, or arrange for "on the job training" by tagging along with a current volunteer.

Mark your calendars for our **Saturday recycling "Curbside Drop Off" from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** (dates listed on the left)- rain or shine, drop off your plastic bottles and/or aluminum cans in front of the gym. Help us keep the environment waste free and earn funds for programs benefiting all DHHS students!

Thank you in advance for volunteering to help us continue the success of this PTSA sponsored program!



Instrumental Music Foundation

By Cindy Spencer, Foundation President



DHHS's Marching Band had a banner year! In the Southern California Judging Association's marching band field show competitions, the Band made it into the post-season semifinal round, performing the **Heroes & Villains** show that we've all seen at Dana football half-time shows this fall. The Band has been working to qualify for the post-season over many years! They qualified by achieving an average score of 77 points during the competition season, and were judged on music performance & effect, visual performance & effect, percussion, color guard, and timing. The 2015 Marching Band show was conducted by Drum Majors Adam Peterson and Andrew Andraos. The Drumline Captain is Shane Jones. The Color Guard Captains are Kiersten Reeve and Mikaela Besseling.

Dana's Orchestras went an overnight musical retreat at the Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center. Students got to know their fellow musicians not only in rehearsals in this scenic wilderness setting – but over meals, at the campfire social, on the zip line, at the archery range, and up the climbing wall!

All the bands and orchestras gave a fabulous **Fall Concert** on October 28th. Both intermediate orchestras, advanced orchestra, concert band, wind ensemble, jazz band, and the marching band performed! The hours of music ran the gamut from classical music to popular music from Broadway, Disney, and the movies. It was a fabulous show, and their **holiday concerts** were so big they took two nights, December 15 & 16 in the Porthole Theatre.

The **DHHS instrumental music program** is part of the South Orange County School of the Arts (SOCSA). It offers a wide variety of musical ensembles, orchestras, color guard, and percussion groups. The instrumental music program has an excellent reputation in the community through participation in local district music festivals, concerts, parades and competitions.

The program aims to broaden the musical experiences of all students with performance trips, full orchestra productions and small ensemble playing. Each year ensembles perform four major concerts on campus, and participate in numerous community events. The program has provided the national anthem for the Dana Point Turkey Trot, drum battery to spur on participants in many Alzheimer Walks, and other community performances. Each year, groups audition for and perform in the Disneyland Community Arts Showcase, and collaborate with SOCSA vocal and theater programs in joint performances. Additionally, the program offers an annual trip to a destination that is rich in musical performances.

The **DHHS Instrumental Music Foundation (IMF)** enables Dana's instrumental musical activities by gathering both financial and volunteer support. We have a website – www.DHHSMUSIC.com – where you can get LOADS more information, check the calendar, and see photos of past events.

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Mr. Steve Wade (srwade@capousd.org).

Fins Up!

Cindy Spencer

DHHSIMF@gmail.com



On December 7th, the PTSA hosted a holiday dinner for our fabulous DHHS custodial staff.



Legislative Update

by Linda Fong and Julia Walsh

LOCAL CUSD UPDATE:

CUSD Board to Hear Report from Community Committee on Facilities

Earlier this year, the District invited all stakeholders in the school District to serve on the Community Committee on School Classrooms and Campus Facilities. Volunteering to participate in the meetings were people who live and work within the District, and many are also parents, students, teachers, and staff. Each person serving on the committee only represented themselves as individual community members and not on behalf of any organization.

Four meetings were held on consecutive Thursday evenings from October 15 to November 5, 2015. One meeting was held on each of the following four topics: District facilities, school funding, public information research, and the development of a consensus report. The Committee divided its working time into meeting with all participants together and meeting in smaller break-out groups with focus on Accountability and Finance; Athletics, Outdoors, and Physical Education Class Areas; Classroom Learning; Safety and Security; and Technology (two groups). Collectively, the committee dedicated over 1,000 hours to learning about the District's facilities and coming to consensus. At each Committee meeting participants studied the issues, shared thoughts in break-out groups, and came back to the Committee to report out their discussions.

A report reflecting what the Committee agreed upon is expected for presentation to the Board at their December 9 meeting.

Board to Vote on Petition for New Charter School

Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts (OCASA) submitted a petition on October 19, 2015, seeking approval of a charter school to open in the fall of 2016, with an approximate enrollment of 255 students serving students in kindergarten through sixth grade. OCASA plans to expand to include grades 7 and 8, with an enrollment of 580 students in the 2020-21 school year.

In accordance with Education Code and Board Policy, the Board held a public hearing on November 18, 2015, to consider the level of support for the petition by District teachers, other employees, parents, and community members. Following review of the petition and the comments made at the public hearing, the Board is required to either grant or deny the charter petition within 60 days of the receipt. A thorough review of the OCASA petition was conducted by District education, finance and operations staff, as well as legal counsel, which revealed numerous concerns regarding the OCASA petition, which form the basis



of the staff recommendation that the Board of Trustees deny the petition to establish the OCASA.

Board to Consider Revised School of Choice Policy

After implementing the 2014-2015 revisions of Board Policy 5119, School of Choice, staff identified several unintended consequences of the revision.

The updated policy, which the Board will consider approving at its December 9 meeting, removes Two-way Immersion program enrollment, addresses priority for employees, school closures, siblings of those students placed in specific special education programs, and adds language to address moving after the application window. The proposed revision mitigates those issues among others and also incorporates the recommended policy language outlined in the California School Boards Association's sample Board Policy on School of Choice. Additional revisions requested by Trustees during the second reading of this item have been made.

Board to Consider Revised Admissions and Residency Policies

The new admissions policy addresses enrollment of homeless and foster children, while the revised residency policy includes very specific procedures related to the investigation of suspected fraudulent addresses. It also addresses the use of an outside investigator and the parameters of the investigation. This proposed policy is in alignment with Education Code. Additional revisions requested by Trustees during the first reading of this item have been made.

STATE UPDATE:

California and the State of Standardized Tests
When President Barack Obama declared that "unnecessary testing" is "consuming too much instructional time" and creating "undue stress for educators and students," it was another sign that the dominant strategy over the past 15 years to use standardized tests to hold children and schools "accountable" in education reform may have reached a tipping point.

California is on course to have a major impact on reshaping the national discourse – and practice – on

this issue. The state is in the middle of devising a new accountability system, a massive and complex undertaking in a state as large and diverse as California that is intended to go far beyond a narrow preoccupation with test scores.

Governor Jerry Brown and other prominent California education leaders have been at the forefront of questioning how tests have been used in the national education reform agenda. But California has done more than talk about the issue. The state has suspended – and is considering permanently abolishing – the Academic Performance Index, which for 15 years ranked schools based almost entirely on the test score results of students.

This past summer the Legislature suspended the California High School Exit Exam, at least for the next three years – and has even told districts to award diplomas retroactively to students who did not pass the exam and were denied a diploma because of it during the decade the exit exam was in place.

Also gone, for now, are standardized tests in 2nd-, 9th- and 10th-grade math and English language arts, end-of-course math tests in Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, general math and integrated math; all history tests; and end-of-course tests in high school in biology, chemistry, physics and integrated science.

One unresolved question is whether California will permanently eliminate these end-of-course standardized tests permanently or whether they will be replaced with ones that are aligned with the new California state standards. For now at least, the only standardized tests left that are administered by the state are the Smarter Balanced tests in math and English language arts, which all students in 3rd through 8th grade and 11th grade are expected to take. Students still take a science test in 5th, 8th and 10th grade because they are required to do so under the No Child Left Behind law, which is now being revised by Congress. (Students with special needs take a variety of tests designed to take into account their specific disabilities). Source: EdSource.org 12/2/15.

New Study Confirms Difficulty Facing California Public Universities

California's public universities can no longer accommodate the increasing number of college-ready students because the state has failed to invest the needed resources in higher education, according to the report, "Access Denied: Rising Selectivity at California's Public Universities." The report found that the University of California and California State University systems are now too small to serve the state's growing population, forcing campuses to turn away a large number of eligible applicants. For fall 2015, CSU admitted about three-quarters of all applicants, while UC admitted just over half. Large-scale budget cuts prompted by the recession are the primary reason for the decrease in access, the report said; between 2006 and 2014, each system lost \$1 billion in state funding.

Key findings of the report include:

- The gap between the number of Californians applying to the UC and CSU systems and those who have been accepted has doubled since 1996.
- To be admitted to UC, students need near perfect grades and SAT or ACT scores to get in, something that was not expected of applicants in previous generations. Freshman students admitted to six of nine UC campuses had an average GPA of 4.0.
- Six of 23 CSU campuses are fully impacted, meaning they have more applications from eligible students across all majors than they can accommodate. As a result, these campuses have significantly raised admissions standards for all applicants.
- Between 2009 and 2014, CSU campuses turned away 139,697 eligible students.
- California ranks 49th nationally in the percentage of high school graduates who go on to enroll at four-year universities.

The report's release coincides with the November 30 application deadline for fall 2016 admission to UC and CSU campuses. CSU expects to receive close to 800,000 applications for admission for next fall, while UC anticipates nearly 200,000.

FEDERAL UPDATE:

House Votes to Approve Reauthorization of ESEA
On November 30, a U.S. Senate and House of Representatives conference committee released the final text of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (ESEA/NCLB), the primary law governing the federal role in K-12 education. On December 2, the House voted overwhelmingly to approve the bill (359-64). The bill will be considered by the Senate by mid-December and it is expected to be approved. President Obama is expected to sign it.

The bill includes improvements to Title I that would require districts to conduct family engagement activities that are proven to make a difference for students and schools.

Additionally, the bill contains provisions that would:

- Establish state-designed accountability systems that allow for multiple measures of student achievement
- Increase access to STEM education and the arts for all students, ensuring they receive a well-rounded education
- Authorize funds for activities to improve school climate, school safety and address bullying and harassment

The bill does not include a voucher program or any public or private school portability.

Special Education Department News

Education That Works Includes Work That Educates

By Rob Harris, STEPS Teacher

Community based instruction and work experience are two important components of the STEPS program at Dana Hills High School. Each week students in the STEPS program go out into the community to practice some of the concepts taught in class: socialization, stranger danger, functional reading, mobility training on the OCTA public bus, money skills, and an introduction to jobs and careers. Students enjoy these outings as they get to demonstrate the skills learned in class in a real world setting. Participating students take the OCTA bus to various locations throughout the year requiring them to come prepared with bus money to purchase a bus pass. On the bus they are taught to recognize important landmarks to assist them in notifying the driver to stop at the appropriate destinations.

Once students arrive at their destination, they are able to practice street crossing in a protected environment, building self-confidence along the way. Students practice using communication and social skills as well as money skills as they pay for recreational services and or food for lunch. In addition to reinforcing these three skills, they are also exposed to many jobs in the community.

Some community based instruction destinations include The Dana Point Harbor, Ocean Ranch, Mission Viejo Mall and Saddleback Lanes. Recently students took a tour of the Crown Valley

The STEPS Program is designed specifically for students with moderate to severe disabilities or students who require specific care within their educational program.

Animal Hospital to learn about jobs. Future instruction will include a tour of Ralph's and the Ritz Carlton Hotel. To expand on this, the STEPS program took the Amtrak train to Horton Plaza in San Diego in December. Students practiced what they have learned and demonstrated that they can generalize the skills in an unfamiliar setting while experiencing another mode of travel. Later in the year the STEPS program will join with Best Buddies to spend a day at Disneyland.

In addition to community based instruction, STEPS students get to experience working at Trader Joe's in Ocean Ranch. For the past ten years, Trader Joe's at Ocean Ranch has provided work experiences for our students. There, students get to wear Trader Joe's uniforms, place product on shelves, organize shelves, answer customer questions, retrieve shopping carts and work within the Trader Joe's team. Following the work experience at Trader Joe's, students are treated to Yogurtland to reinforce that work pays. Each Tuesday and Thursday you can find a STEPS student hard at work at Trader Joe's. Capistrano Unified School District's Workability program worked to develop this job site and continues to support participating students by providing bus passes and the Yogurtland gift cards that the students earn.

STEPS



Upcoming STEPS Events:

January 29

STEPS students perform in the SOCSA Dance Concert

February 5

Best Buddies Disneyland Trip

2016 PTSA Senior Scholarships Available

The California State PTA, the Capistrano Council of PTSAs (CUCPTSA), and Dana Hills High School PTSA all offer scholarships to graduating seniors. All high school seniors who are PTSA members and have met certain minimum academic requirements are invited to apply (different due dates and requirements apply, see below for specifics).

Teri Lynn O'Brien Memorial Scholarship

In recognition of her dedication to the students of CUSD and Dana Hills High School (DHHS PTSA President 2005-2007) and her strong commitment to education, her family and friends have established the Teri Lynn O'Brien memorial scholarship. A minimum \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior with financial need, a commitment to advancing their education, a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, and who has demonstrated a

commitment to their school and community through volunteer service. Recipients will be recommended by the academic advisors from those students who completed the "Local Scholarship Application" which are available from the DHHS Guidance Office. Local Scholarship Applications are due on December 15, 2015.

California State PTA Scholarships

This scholarship recognizes volunteer service in the school and community and does not have a grade point average requirement. An application may be obtained from the California State PTA office on their website: <http://capta.org/programs-events/scholarships/graduating-high-school-seniors/>

Applications are due in their office on February 1, 2016 by 5:00pm.

CUCPTSA Scholarships

CUCPTSA maintains a scholarship fund to acknowledge deserving seniors in the areas of academics, community service and personal achievements, with an emphasis on community service. To qualify, applicants must have maintained a 2.0 grade point average. All high school seniors in CUSD who are PTSA members as of February 23, 2016 are eligible. An application may be obtained in January from the CUCPTSA website at www.cucptsa.com. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 25, 2016.



SAT & ACT Prep Boot Camps at Dana Hills High!

A one-day program **Sunday, February 28th** to prep for the March or May SAT.

A one-day program **Sunday, March 27th** to prep for the April or June ACT.

DB Academics will host their SAT and ACT prep boot camps as a PTSA fundraiser designed to provide students with the best test-taking strategies, techniques and problem solving approaches. Students will become more confident test-takers and will learn:

- Test layout and scoring
- When to guess
- How to avoid common mistakes that students make
- How to analyze answer choices to effectively eliminate incorrect answers
- Most frequently tested concepts
- How to identify and approach tricky questions

On the math side, students will work on problems that are appropriate for their skill level.

*(make checks payable to **DHHS PTSA**)*

SAT Prep Class Feb. 28, 2016

English and Math (9:00 – 4:00pm) **\$135**

Math only (9:00 – 11:00am) **\$50**

English only

(11:30am – 4:00pm with a 30-min break) **\$99**

ACT Prep Class: March 27, 2016

English/Reading/Essay and Math/Science (9:00 – 4:00pm) **\$135**

Math/Science only (9:00 – 12:00pm) **\$75**

English/Reading/Essay only (1:00pm – 4:00pm) **\$75**

Flyers can be downloaded at www.dhhsptsa.com or can be picked up in the main or guidance offices. You may also register the day of the boot camp, space permitting, however, advance registration is recommended.

DB Academics is a professional test prep company located in Palos Verdes, providing SAT Prep Programs for over 20 years. Questions? Please contact DB Academics at 310-377-4509 or daacad777@yahoo.com or check out their website at www.dbacademics.com.

The **Kaplan ACT Practice Test** date is Saturday, January 9th from 9:00am - 1:00 pm (arrive by 8:45am), DHHS 900 Portables. Cost is a \$20 donation benefiting the DHHS PTSA. Advance registration is recommended. Flyers can be downloaded at www.dhhsptsa.com, or can be picked up in the main or guidance offices. Test results will be emailed home the week of January 18th. **Questions?** Contact john.peterson@kaplan.com.

How would you score on the New SAT and ACT? Come and find out!

A practice test is one of the best ways to get ready for the real thing. During this combo practice test you will:

- Learn exactly what to expect on Test Day
- Get a complete analysis of your results
- Learn strategies to improve your score

DHHS PTSA Scholarships

The Dana Hills High School PTSA Scholarship program recognizes the achievements of graduating DHHS seniors for volunteer service in the school and/or community. The minimum award will be \$500. Eligible students must be a member of the DHHS PTSA by March 1, 2016 and have a minimum overall GPA of 2.0. Applications will be available in December 2015 from the DHHS PTSA website, www.dhhsptsa.com or in the Guidance Office. Applications are due *April 1, 2016*.

Reflections Winners Announced!

Congratulations to Dana Hills' students **Emily Forster, Ethan Hall, and Noah Wagner** for earning the Award of Excellence (1st Place) in their categories in the Dana Hills PTSA Reflections Program in October!

Their winning entries were forwarded to the district level to be judged and displayed at the Capistrano Unified Council Gallery Night which was held on Friday, November 13th.

UPDATE: Big PTSA congratulations to sophomore **Ethan Hall** for earning the Award of Excellence (1st Place) in photography at the district level Reflections competition! Ethan's entry "Microscopic Mars" now moves on to the county level and will be displayed at the Orange County Department of Education during their Reflections Gallery night on January 30th! Nice work Ethan!



Capistrano Unified Council PTSA
Dana Hills High School PTSA
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Dana Hills High School PTSA Newsletter

Home of the Dolphins!



Phone: (949) 496-6666
Attendance Office: (949) 496-6935
24 hour call in: (949) 493-7685

School Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:00AM to 3:30 PM

Visit the PTSA Website at:
www.dhhsptsa.com

The Dolphin Digest is a publication of
Dana Hills High School PTSA, Capistrano Unified
Council, Fourth District PTA

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Rotary Recognition of DHHS Seniors

*Congratulations to the recipients of the
Monarch Beach Rotary Club Students of the Month!*

These standout *senior students* are nominated by teachers and the school leadership team at the beginning of the year. A male and female senior student is chosen each month.

September	October	November	December
Emily Forster	John Stafford	Thomas Tonini	Elizabeth Sorensen
Michael Slade	Kathryn Querner	Jennifer Thompson	Cole Smith



PATHS NEWS!

In October, (44) PATHS students worked Halloween Events at City Of Dana Point and Doheny a State Park. Another 400 plus hours of service to our community!