

Dana Hills High School PTSA Newsletter

Phone:
949.496.6666

Attendance:
949.496.6935

24 Hour Call In:
949.493.7685

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

Visit the PTSA website
www.dhhsptsa.com

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Principal's Message by Jason Allemann, Ed. D

Welcome back to school

parents and students! I hope all of our Dana Family members were able to have a restful and relaxing summer. I am excited to kick off the 2015/2016 school year and know that our current students will, one day, look back on their time here at Dana Hills with fond memories and remember a supportive group of faculty and staff that assisted them in their academics and their overall development. As our first semester gets underway, I wanted to take a moment and thank ALL of the PTSA/Parent volunteers that made registration, book distribution and freshman orientation a smooth process. We have registered over 2650 students this year. This year's freshmen class is made up of 684 students. Many of them (along with their parents) attended our Freshman Link Crew Orientation where they met our amazing group of ASU students who gave them information and a campus tour; a little taste of DHHS in preparation for the first day of school. Additionally, freshman parents had an opportunity to get accustomed to DHHS with the PTSA sponsored "Breakfast with the Principal" event. During our time together, the administration team shared general information about the school, how incoming students and parents can get involved and, hopefully, eased some of that first-time high school parent anxiety.

Academics:

Dana Hills continues to rank as one of the top high schools academically in the district, county and state. Most recently a national report found Dana Hills High School (and all other CUSD high schools) among the top 5% of all high schools in the country. Over 1,600 AP Exams were taken by our students last year, through the hard work of our teachers and students, our pass rate continues to exceed the global, national and state averages. All of these successes are attributed to our ability to work together as a group of educators, parents and students toward excellence. Our goal, as a staff, is to ensure a classroom environment where students are actively engaged and teachers deliver a relevant and rigorous curriculum.

School Community Involvement:

There are numerous avenues for our students to be involved and connected to Dana Hills outside of their classroom. Athletics, student organizations,

and clubs of all varieties exist on our campus for your student to have a connection to their school other than academics. We have all read the research that supports our students being involved in extracurricular activities and how it can influence their academic achievement. So encourage your student to do something! On the parent front, the PTSA and the Dolphin Force Foundation offers amazing opportunities for our parents to get involved in our school at a variety of levels.

I am looking forward to a great 2015/2016 school year. Please know that we are always available to assist you and your student.

Go Dolphins!

Jason Allemann, Ed.D.
Principal



Student Expectations:

As we opened the 2015/2016 school year, the Administration team has visited classrooms to discuss general expectations as it relates to student conduct. Most of our student discipline issues are related to inappropriate student dress and tardiness. Our goal is to reduce these incidents this year. Please help support the expectations we have with our dress code and attendance policies. There are clearly outlined dress code guidelines established by the district. On the dress code front, please be reminded that our students **should not:**

- wear hats
- any clothing that exposes midriffs
- wear any clothing that is too tight or revealing
- wear clothing which allows underwear to be exposed

Additionally, please help us stress the importance of our students being in class on time. We realize that on occasion students will be late to school or may have to leave early. If this happens please be sure to contact the attendance office in advance. Students should always check in and out of the attendance office in these instances. You may contact the attendance office at 949/493-7685 or 496-6935. More information on student expectations can be found at www.dhhs.net.

PTSA President's Message by Bonnie Small

Welcome back! Even with our short summer, the return to reality was actually pretty darn smooth. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the army of parent and student volunteers (140+) that staffed our packet pick-up days in July and six registration days in August!

By this point I hope that all of the students have settled back into the school groove! I want to especially welcome the Class of 2019 – we are always thrilled to meet our new pod of Dolphins each fall! All around campus there is so much potential for success academically, artistically, and athletically.

Thank you to everyone who contributed toward our “Shower the Library” fundraising campaign – we have raised almost \$2,700 to help us purchase updated books, research materials, and general updates for our campus library. We will continue to accept donations toward our library modernization efforts all year – if you'd like to contribute, please drop off (or mail) a check payable to DHHS PTSA to the front office and put “library” in the memo section. Any amount helps, and we are grateful for your support!

I'm thrilled to announce that we will be able to provide \$1,000 grants to each department on campus this year (up from \$500 in previous years). Departments are eligible when 100% of teachers from the department become PTSA members. So far we already have five out of seven departments completed – way to go DHHS teachers!

During registration days we rolled out our new DHHS Spirit wear – gray and royal Dolphin zip sweatshirts, flannel PJ pants (“test-wear”), sweat pants, and our super popular Columbia blue pullover! We were overwhelmed by the response and have just received additional stock – so if your size was sold out, now is a great time to get some spirit! For a “refresher” on the options, please visit our PTSA website at dhsptsa.com/links/spirit-wear/. Orders can be placed through the front office year-round.

Our next PTSA meeting will be on **Tuesday 11/17 at 9:30 am** – stop by the staff lounge and join us!

Fondly and with GREAT BLUE!

Bonnie Small

Thank You!

The DHHS PTSA would also like to extend a special note of gratitude to Jim Miller, owner of Coffee Importers in Dana Point Harbor, who generously contributed four urns filled to the brim with flavorful coffee for our Breakfast with the Principal!



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**, which is typically held in March. Please consider volunteering...if you have not already submitted your contact information, please send an e-mail ASAP to **kerrykeen@pacbell.net** and you will be notified about our ongoing planning meetings.



SOCSA Events

On Broadway | Thurs, Oct. 15 & Fri, Oct. 16 | 7pm in the Porthole

Broadway Night 2015 – This entertaining show, which is sold out every year, features virtually the entire SOCSA Performing Arts Department in outstanding selections from the Broadway stage. Vocalists, Dancers, Theater Students, Instrumentalists, and our Musical Theater classes are all included in this exciting performance.

A Piece of My Heart | Thurs, Nov. 12 & Fri, Nov. 13 | 7pm in the Porthole

This award-winning play by Shirley Lauro, follows several women’s enlistment, service, and recovery from the Vietnam War. Veterans will be admitted for free at all performances.



Little Shop of Horrors

Wednesday, Dec. 9 – Saturday, Dec. 12 | 7pm in the Porthole
 Sunday, Dec. 13 | 1pm in the Porthole

The wacky, fun-filled, world of Seymour and his man-eating plant Audrey II comes to live in our Fall Musical. Don’t bleed when you take your seat, or you may end up on the menu!

Holiday Concert | Tues, Dec. 15 and Wed, Dec. 16 | 7pm in the Mall



All of our SOCSA Departments collaborate to present this evening of great holiday entertainment. Complimentary beverages and dessert items are included at intermission. Make your plans early to attend the Tuesday or Wednesday performance, as each will feature a slightly different program.

Our program cannot exist without parent and outside donor support.



PATHS (formerly SOS club)

The Dana Hills High School SOS/PATHS club has served our community for several years now. In the last 12 months the members of the club have provided 2,154 hours of service to the City of Dana Point, Doheny State Beach, and Dana Hills High School. Our most recent efforts were set-up and clean-up for Summer Concerts, Beach Clean-up after Doheny 4th of July, and helping our football team with water

and filming crew. These are just a few of the things we do. Oh, and we have fun too with beach parties, bonfires, bowling, etc.

See www.danapointpaths.org for more information for students and parents.

Mike Darnold

City of Dana Point/DHHS

(949) 395-7275 | darnoldmike@gmail.com



SOCSA Academy Partners

with the Friends of SOCSA Booster Club

With the support of the entire SOCSA faculty, the new Friends of SOCSA Booster Club has been busy planning fundraising activities for the upcoming school year! At registration we garnered much needed support in way of monetary donations which helps Friends of SOCSA fund the performing & instrumental arts, dance and visual arts programs led by SOCSA Artistic Director, Ray Woods. Our program cannot exist without parent support and outside donor support which we are hoping to grow this year by partnering with SOCSA families, nearby corporations and the community.

As parents of SOCSA Academy students, you are automatically members of the Friends of SOCSA Booster Club. We would like to encourage you to become involved in your child's activities with your time, talents, and resources. Please contact Susan Hahn, Chairperson/ Volunteers at partyhahn@aol.com if you are interested in helping out.

The Friends of SOCSA Booster club is comprised of dedicated members that are committed to communicate with parents through the SOCSArts.org website, email and on the "Friends of SOCSA" Facebook page. We will be keeping you informed about events, upcoming important dates, items needed and highlighting the accomplishments of the students!

Speaking of bringing exciting new opportunities for your kids – last month both Vocal Jazz Choir and the SOCSA Musical Theater teams had the honor of performing at South Coast Plaza as part of the Festival of Children which is a special foundation that strives to improve the lives of children by strengthening the charities that serve them.

In addition, this month our talented kids had the opportunity to participate in a Broadway Master Class series working with Tony and Grammy nominated Jeremy Jordan (of Newsies and Smash fame) and Broadway veterans Jared Gertner (Book of Mormon) and Alli Mauzey (Wicked, Glinda; Hair-spray, Brenda). These exciting master intensives took place in our very own porthole!

SOCSA Academy with Friends of SOCSA is committed to offering exciting opportunities for our students to learn and grow as performers. We believe these opportunities are essential to young artists.

Friends of SOCSA will be partnering with the academy teachers to help sponsor new programs and some of the time honored traditions that the students in the SOCSA Academy can look forward to all year!

Finally, we hope you get involved with Friends of SOCSA, and be a part of the community experience that SOCSA striving to achieve. If you have any questions, fundraising ideas, or just want to connect please contact Pia Patrick at PiaPatrick71@gmail.com.



Booster Club Members

Pia Patrick
President

Sonal Mehta
VP of Communications

Scott Green
Webmaster

Lisa Fry
*VP of Dept. Liaisons &
Drama Dept.
liaison*

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.*



Cultures of the Mediterranean Tour!

Students in AP European History and AP World History are taking a trip next summer and YOU'RE invited!

Spain, France, and Italy | Bring your family & friends!

Ten days: LAX--Barcelona--Rome--LAX; through ACIS, the leader in student travel

Depart: July 11, 2016 **Return:** July 20, 2016

Cost: \$4,654

To download a brochure for this trip: go to www.acis.com

Click on "students" at very bottom.

Under "find your trip"

Teacher: Fenstermaker / ID: 51036

Click on "View this trip" and then click "print tour flyer"

(This is not a CUSD sponsored activity)

>>> For more info, see Ms. Fenstermaker (Social Science teacher at DHHS) in Room 925 or send an e-mail to mafenstermaker@cox.net



ASU Hard at Work - WELCOME BACK DOLPHINS! by Emily Rhodes

The 2015-2016 school year is already in full swing and ASU is hard at work to ensure you have the best year!

Kicking off with our first "Blue Out" pep rally as well as two home football games, Dana Hills Dolphins transitioned from carefree summer days to early morning, crowded corridors, and full schedules.

As a start to Dana's 2015 "Book it to Homecoming" themed dance to be held Saturday October 24th, ASU is conducting a two week "gently used book drive" benefiting RH Dana's elementary school library. Donations are encouraged at the front of the school, and a big "Thank You" to all our generous Dolphins who have already contributed.

Dana Hills High School will also be hosting our annual carnival on October 17th from 2-10pm. Expect eight hours of music, thrilling rides, mouth-watering food, and more! You don't want to miss out on the event of the year. Please contact dhscarnival@gmail.com for further questions.

Our seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshman have been hard at work practicing

for this year's homecoming halftime show. With record numbers of students signing up to select the music, perform the dance, and contribute to paint the backdrops, this year's "Book it to Homecoming" halftime show promises to rival prior years!

Additionally, our newly elected Student Senators have begun to discuss concerns and suggestions they've heard from fellow students. Student Senate has already contributed through installing new hand dryers located in the restrooms.

Finally, to support weekly 'Fins Up Friday,' represent Dana Hills by purchasing your spirit wear at Dolphin Outfitters. A wide selection of hats, shirts, sweatshirts, and more are being sold. Be sure to make a purchase to increase your school spirit.

There are many exciting events going on at DHHS. Take advantage of the excitement...buy a ticket to the carnival, attend football games, and invite extended family to cheer us on at our famous homecoming!

Remember, FINS UP!

There are many exciting events going on at DHHS. Take advantage of the excitement...

SRO's SOAPBOX - Walking Billboards

So, I must say, this is one of those articles that I wish I didn't have to write, but in order to keep the reality truthful, I have to speak up about it. When propositioned to write these articles to parents, to inform them of current trends, cultures, attitudes, and behaviors that I'm seeing on school grounds, I knew it would be an interesting road; however difficult, it's a wonderful opportunity to tell you what I'm seeing in order to help you protect, encourage, and raise your children through these critical years. My hopes are that you're doing more than simply reading them...I hope you're acting on them and implementing these virtues into your home.

I know the world we live in is no longer considered black and white, concrete right or wrong. Countless amounts of shades of gray have filtered into the mix over the decades, and now days, someone might be convinced that the yellow you're looking at is purple, or the red is green. I'm disturbed by this because I believe in moral absolutes. I believe there's good in this world and I believe there is evil amongst us, too. I believe in the letter of the law on most criminal statutes, and I believe in the spirit of the law on most infractions. However, what I believe in might not be your thoughts, beliefs, or ideals. I understand the First Amendment and the freedoms it provides, and I'm truly grateful to all who have served to protect our freedoms in this amazingly blessed country we live in. God Bless America!

So with this introduction now out of the way, and your curiosity perked, I want to talk to you about the clothing your kids might be wearing to school. According to Merriam-Webster, a "Billboard" is defined as "a large panel designed to carry outdoor advertising." In my opinion, we are all Waking Billboards. I wear a police uniform while on duty. It tells others my profession, my purpose, and my authority. Doctors wear their medical coats, judges wear their robes, and mechanics wear their uniforms, etc. These uniforms/clothes represent a profession, a skill, and usually the person wearing them. Even "off-duty" clothes represent, or advertise, specific messages. What we say about ourselves through the clothes we wear might send the right message, the wrong message, or even an obscene and offensive message; regardless, of whether there was, or was not, the intent. And worse, our clothes have the potential to solicit trouble, pain, and lifelong devastating consequences.

Reality check: What messages do others receive when they see a young man wearing a Pendleton long sleeved shirt buttoned up to the neck, un-tucked, and hanging over baggy khaki pants? What about a young lady wearing a midriff tank top shirt and jean frayed shorts cut so close, like a bathing suit, that you can see the lining of the front pockets sticking out the sides? What type of lifestyle, morals, or personality traits do you believe these clothes say about their owner? What does their billboard say?

So, as we are enter the 2015/2016 school year, here is an excerpt from Dana Hills High School's dress code:

Students are prohibited from wearing the following:

Any clothing apparel which is considered unsafe, dangerous, or is a health hazard, including but not limited to:

- Dangerous jewelry, including spiked or dangerous collars (chains, ball bearings, etc.), spiked piercings.
- Excessively baggy, frayed, or torn clothing.
- Bare feet.
- Clothing which is ripped or torn excessively.
- Safety pins or sharp objects in clothes or pierced in skin.

Any attire or grooming disruptive to the instructional process, including but not limited to:

Clothing which contain offensive, illegal, violent, obscene symbols, signs, slogans, or words degrading any gender, culture, religion, ethnicity, race, or anything that may incite a negative response or conflict including references to sex, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

What we say about ourselves through the clothes we wear might send the right message, or the wrong message whether that was, or was not, the intent.



- Bare midriffs or clothing which exposes the student’s midsection.
- Sheer/see-through blouses, dresses, tops, or skirts.
- Halter, strapless, “tube” tops, single shoulder, off-shoulder or tank tops that are excessively revealing, reveal undergarments, or have scoop or deep sides are not permitted. Tops must have two straps.
- Excessively short shorts or immodest shorts or skirts.
- Tight or potentially revealing clothing (especially ones with no undergarments)
- Clothing which allows underwear to be exposed or resembles undergarments (i.e., slips, boxers)
- Hair styles or hair coloring that is disruptive or has letters or messages shaved into the hair.

Gang-related apparel, including but not limited to:

- Hats, beanies, hooded sweatshirts (worn with hood on) or headgear during the school day. This includes headgear worn as part of an athletic team or co-curricular activity during the school day.
- Chains, wallet chains, hair nets, monikers or other gang markings, bandanas which signify gang membership, jewelry with gang symbols, gang related overalls, or trench coats.
- Web, untied, or dangling belts, especially long belts with monikered belt buckles.
- Combat type boots (with more than 8 eyelets) and/or steel toes.”

Moms and Dads, I understand clothing is important to your children. I understand the confidence, or stress, it creates with their peers and their self-perception. I understand what it means to “fit in”. However, when you send your child off to school, or out into the world, what does their billboard read (what do their clothes say about them)? What will the thousands of people (YES, THOUSANDS) see when they see your child standing either at the front of the school, or on a street corner, while waiting for you to pick them up at the end of the day? What will the criminal mind, the wolves in our society, see as they pass by? Will your child’s clothing ignite dangerous emotions in others, which could later lead them to being victimized? If you haven’t considered this, please realize the truth in my words.

I WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO BE SAFE!

Moms and Dads, your child should never be called into a school’s administrative office because they violated the dress code. I understand it’s your home, your values, and your attitude; however, please understand you can control the billboards your children wear and represent. You can control what others will see. You can and should say “No” to all the items represented on the dress code list. You have the power to save your child from a lot of pain. Imagine if the wrong person (the wolf) couldn’t control their emotions based on what they saw...and they had to act on their impulse. What if it was the shirt, the pants, the shorts, or the “style” of your child’s billboard that ignited the wolf to choose your child? How would you feel...because if it does happen, you will feel it!

What’s in your kid’s closet? What your child wears speaks louder than you think. Be a parent. Protect them.

It’s what I’m seeing...

By Deputy Mike Woodroof

School Resource Officer, OCSD – DPPS srosoapbox@gmail.com

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.



Dolphin Pride

Dolphin Pride kicks off this year with a new partnership. DHHS PTSA will now be partnering with Ken Nedler, Activities Director, to oversee and run the Dolphin Pride program. While the program parameters are the same, exciting new senior awards for the third and fourth year recipients are being planned. More info to come!



Stand with us to support our children

Thank you to the many Dana Hills families who supported Dolphin Force Foundation (an independent, parent led non-profit organization) during the Fall 2015 membership drive. Congratulations to drawing winners: the Aplin Family (CC Prep SAT/ACT Study package); the Neuharth Family (Picnic set); and the Albert Family (DHHS Sweatshirt).

Dana Hills Parents are invited to join Dolphin Force Foundation to help promote fundraising activities, including Ralphs Community Rewards, E-Scrip 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.

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.



2015-2016 PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Student Seating

Plans are underway for the purchase and installation of benches to provide additional student seating throughout the Dana Hills campus. Dolphin Force Foundation is working with Dana Hills administrative staff to create a multi-phased project and student input is needed. Visit www.DolphinForce.com for more information.

Dolphin Force Foundation supports Dana Hills Science and Math Departments

Dolphin Force grants provide software and lab supplies for math and science classes, offsetting supply costs not covered by CUSD. Most recently, Biology classes used Dolphin Force grant money to purchase gel electrophoresis equipment and supplies so freshman could experience college level DNA sequencing and forensic science. The Science Department has wanted to add this lab to instruction for almost 10 years, and last year, was able to meet this need because of Dolphin Force.

E-Waste Event a Success!

Each year, All Green E-waste events raise thousands of dollars for Dana Hills High School, while also supporting responsible recycling. Thank you to the Dana Hills Robotics Team members for supporting the August E-waste collection event, collecting electronic waste for recycling and raising funds for Dana Hills High School!

All Green Electronics Recycling is a certified e-steward and never allows E-waste to be dumped or exported for processing. Electronic

waste is the fastest growing sector of solid waste in the world. In the United States, 500,000 mobile devices are discarded each day. Currently, only 19% of all electronic waste is responsibly recycled.

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.

SHOP AMAZON.COM USING THE e-Scrip ONLINE MARKETPLACE at www.escrip.com. Choose Dana Hills HS Dolphin Foundation e-Scrip Group ID 6649671.

PURCHASE DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL 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.

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.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

November 4 & December 2, 2015

Counselors' Corner

Welcoming our new school counselors!

The counseling department at Dana Hills has two new members this year. **AJ Holdsambeck** earned her BA in Anthropology from UCLA and her MA and PPS in School Counseling from Chapman University. Before becoming a Dolphin she worked at Woodbridge High School in Irvine and McFadden Intermediate in Santa Ana. AJ also helped develop a counseling program at a continuation school in La Habra. Prior to being a school counselor, she worked at private learning center helping students with reading remediation, tutoring, and executive functioning. AJ takes care of students with the last names that start with A-K.

Jessica Wing earned her BA in Psychology from UCI and her MA and PPS in School Counseling from Azusa Pacific University. Jessica tutored high school students for over 5 years, managed academic services at a private company that provided comprehensive support to college students with learning disabilities and autism, interned at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach and ran an intervention counseling program at Northwood High School in Irvine. She takes care of students with last names that start with L-Z.

As a counseling department we manage all students who are on a 504 plan, while also addressing social-emotional needs, and performing crisis counseling. We also provide classroom guidance lessons on a variety of topics including stress management, relationships, and school success strategies. Our goal is to be a resource for all students at Dana Hills High School and to contribute to a positive school culture. We look forward to working with you to support students so that they can have an excellent high school experience!

Our goal is to be a resource for all students at Dana Hills High School and to contribute to a positive school culture.



PTSA Back to School Night Bake Sale & School Supply Drive - *Bountiful Successes!*

The two PTSA functions held during Back to School Night raised funds and supplies which will benefit DHHS student scholars and fabulous teachers.

Our Dolphin family members enjoyed sweet treats at the PTSA Bake Sale and donated almost \$800 toward our PTSA Senior Scholarship Fund! We would like to thank all the student bakers who made dozens of cookies, brownies, muffins, cupcakes and breads. There were treats in every shape and flavor.

Many thanks to everyone who donated so generously to our PTSA School Supply Drive! We piled mounds of much needed supplies on the tables in the teachers' lounge. There were stacks of paper towels, tissues, dry erase markers, cleaning supplies and writing utensils. Our wonderful teachers were thrilled as they went "shopping" to stock their classrooms.

With all of us continuing to work together, we can make a significant contribution to classroom and student focused programs!



Guidance News

ATTENTION Seniors

Be sure to check out the Senior Scoop either on the Guidance page of our school website, dhhs.net or you can pick up a hard copy in Guidance. This newsletter will be available monthly with as much current information as possible. We receive scholarship information, national and local, throughout the year. This publication is our way of passing this information along to you. At times we receive information late in which case we will make announcements. We encourage students to listen to these announcements so that they do not miss out on any opportunities

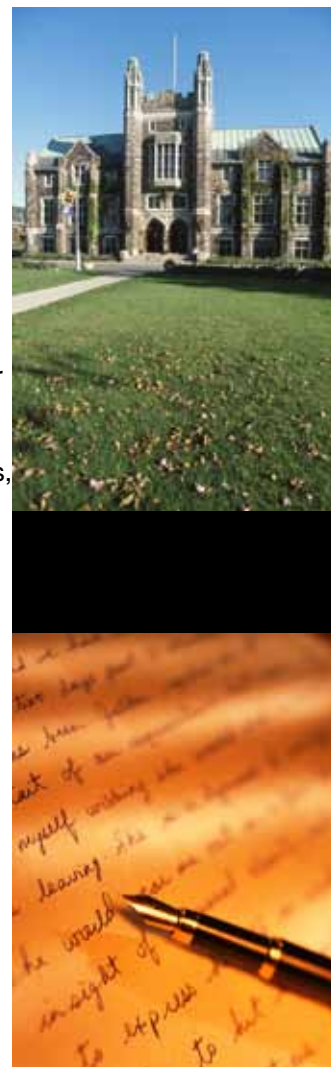
Teachers and advisors recognize that many private schools require students to have letters of recommendation. Composing a letter requires background information from the student including a review of their plans and goals for college. Students need to realize that composing an initial letter takes one to two hours to complete. Therefore, we request a minimum of three weeks lead time, especially when deadlines are near. Applications that are due Jan. 1, 2016 should be in the guidance office by December 1, 2015. Students requesting letters of recommendation MUST meet with their Academic Advisor.

College Visits

This year we are fortunate to have over 50 college admissions representatives visiting Dana Hills. The college visits are announced weekly and can also be found posted on the College Board in Guidance as well as listed on our website, dhhs.net. Due to the large number of visits, many are being held during class time in addition to Tutorials and at lunch. If you would like to attend a session held during class, please make arrangements with your teacher ahead of time to get their permission. You will be issued a pass back to class if required. We will have a college information file in Guidance for any materials that the representatives leave with us in case you were unable to attend their informational meeting. All visits will be held in Room 501.

Naviance Parent Workshop

We have an exciting new program available to us at Dana Hills! Please plan to attend our Naviance Parent Workshop on Tuesday, October 20th from 6-7:30 PM in the Library. At the session you will learn about resources for college and career options for your student as they navigate through their high school experience.



PTSA RECYCLING PROGRAM

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.** on the following dates - 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!



Saturday PTSA Recycling Dates:

November 7 & 21
December 12
January 9 & 23
February 6 & 20
March 5 & 19
April 2 & 23
May 7 & 28

Instrumental Music Foundation

By Cindy Spencer, Foundation President



The foundation promotes the growth and development of instrumental music at Dana Hills – the bands, orchestras, and guitar class.

Instrumental music at DHHS is a vast branch of the SOCSA Academy – with four bands, three orchestras, drumline and color guard, and beginning guitar class, playing popular music, classical music, and jazz.

We support the school in activities including:

- Pep rallies & football games (and basketball games in the winter!)
- Symphonic concerts
- Accompaniment for musical theater and choral groups

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

To Parents of Music Students: If you have not been receiving either emails from Mr. Wade, or from the IMF, please contact me, and we'll connect you! Email is the primary way we communicate music activities essential for your student, as well as organize parental support for our students.

To Parents considering music for your student: Music has been shown to match increased school grades and increased test scores. It exercises unique parts of the brain, as well as math and language regions. **And it's fun!** The Marching Band (including drumline and color guard) even counts as Physical Education credit! Finally, Band Kids tend to be a great bunch of kids to hang out with.

If you want to discuss a music class for your student, please contact Mr. Wade (srwade@capousd.org). If you want to discuss parental involvement, please contact me.

To Parents of non-music students: Instrumental music is thrilled to be one of the core spirit groups within Dana Hills, and we hope your student enjoys cheering and singing with the Band at football games and pep rallies. You're certainly welcome at all our concerts and events, and I hope you'll see our See's Candies and Poinsettia Sale fundraising events – but I want to give you **a special invitation!**

First – band and orchestra units perform at various local events as part of our fundraising efforts. We've played at the Rainbow Sandals Battle of the Paddle (marching band), the Alzheimer's Walk fundraiser start line (drumline), the Nixon Library (herald trumpet quintet), and Dana Point Turkey Trot ("Star-Spangled Banner"), as well as smaller groups at private events. If **you** are hosting or organizing an event, for which our musical groups could provide a special atmosphere, please contact Mr. Wade (srwade@capousd.org).

Secondly - If you want to **sponsor**, or **financially support** these activities, please contact Mr. Wade, or our VPs of Ways and Means, Shauna Atchity or Rhonda Ciolek at DHHSIMF@gmail.com. DHHS IMF is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit foundation benefitting youth music programs.

Fins Up!

Cindy Spencer

DHHSIMF@gmail.com



Legislative Update

by Linda Fong and Julia Walsh

LOCAL CUSD UPDATE:

Boards Votes to Re-consider Calendar for 2016-17

At its September 23 regular meeting, the CUSD board of trustees voted to reconsider the school calendar previously approved for 2016-17 and to consider amending the process by which calendars are set starting with the calendar process for 2017-18. Staff has been asked to prepare two new calendar options for the board to consider at their next meeting for the 2016-17 school year: one which will largely mirror the current 2015-16 calendar, and one that will differ by having the first semester end before winter break and thereby likely include instructional days the Monday-Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving.

Board Votes for Retroactive Honors Credits

At a special meeting on September 23, the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees voted to retroactively recognize Honors English I, Honors English II and Honors Algebra 2-Trigonometry courses on the transcripts of current students who have successfully completed these courses.

The vote was held during a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to ensure that this change could take place prior to the approaching deadlines for college and scholarship applications for high school seniors. These three high school courses were previously approved by the Board, however, the original board item did not grant retroactive recognition of these courses as Honors courses, putting these students at a comparative disadvantage with students from other districts that may have these Honors courses, thus providing them the opportunity to have a higher grade point average.

In addition to retroactively recognizing these courses, the Board also voted to grandfather in all students from the classes of 2016 through 2019 who took Algebra 2-Trigonometry Accelerated while in middle school by including that course as an official high school course on their transcripts and factored into their grade point average along with the credits earned.



CUSD to Close Crown Valley Elementary and Grant Campus for Charter Expansion

At its September 23 regular meeting, the CUSD board voted to close Crown Valley Elementary as a neighbor school before the start of the 2016-17 school year. Community Roots Academy (CRA), a charter school previously approved by the board and operating in CUSD, will be granted the campus in order to expand its enrollment to the nearly 700 students originally approved in its charter.

A transition plan is currently under development by district staff for those students who would have attended Crown Valley next year. Crown Valley was one of several under-enrolled neighborhood schools considered by the board for CRA's expansion request.

STATE UPDATE:

SBAC Results Released

As part of the implementation of the Common Core State Standards that emphasize critical thinking, problem-solving and analytical thinking, California along with many other states joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). The consortium created a series of tests to measure how well students are mastering the new standards. In the spring of 2015, more than 3 million students in grades 5-8 and 11, for the first time, took a full set of assessments, or tests, in English language arts/literacy and math aligned with the Common Core.

The state publicly released the first results from the Smarter Balanced assessments on September 9, 2015. Student scores are categorized by four "achievement levels" that indicate whether a student has exceeded the standard, met the standard, nearly met the standard, or did not meet the standard at different grade

levels. According to state education officials, the 2015 scores set a baseline to measure how well students progress in the future. Officials warn against comparing the results from previous assessments.

For California as a whole, 33% of students tested met or exceeded the standards, while 67% nearly met or did not meet the standards. CUSD's achievement results were higher than the statewide average with 55.6% meeting or exceeding the standards in math and 68.4% meeting or exceeding the standards in English language arts (ELA). CUSD ranked the highest in scores among the state's 10 largest districts, and ranked fourth in ELA and fifth in math among OC districts.

Two Bills on Governor's Desk for Career Technical Education

SB 148 (McGuire) allots additional funds beyond the governor's budget for grants available to local education agencies (LEAs) for the development and enhancement of high-quality career technical education programs.

AB 288 (Holden) authorizes a partnership between community colleges and school districts to develop direct pathways for career technical education.

Background: California State PTA supports the strengthening of Career Technical Education (CTE). We believe building better partnerships between schools, community colleges and businesses is a wise investment in California's future economy. Employers continue to struggle to find competent, highly-skilled workers and CTE programs can help alleviate that struggle.

High-quality CTE courses give students real-world, relevant learning opportunities. They can also keep kids in school. Many adolescents see little relevance in school. They have trouble making the connection between their schoolwork and the real world. CTE connects the two. In fact, 81 percent of dropouts say relevant, real-world learning would have kept them in school. National data also show that students who concentrate in CTE programs are much more likely to graduate. Further, over 70 percent of CTE concentrators pursued some kind of postsecondary education after graduating from high school.

Despite these successes, California's investment in CTE is at an historic low. When school districts were facing budget cuts, enrollment and instructor retention plummeted. We lost nearly 50,000 students and 1,400 CTE courses

between 2011 and 2013. Since CTE courses were not part of graduation requirements, there was a disincentive for districts to fund CTE.

Bill to Update Health Ed on Governor's Desk
The California Healthy Youth Act, AB 329 (Weber), is a broad-concept bill that will update the Education Code section that addresses comprehensive sexual health education. Its provisions are consistent with California State PTA's position that quality sex education is critical for all our young people's health.

Currently, California law distinguishes between HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) prevention and sex education. This causes confusion for schools, school boards and teachers. Educators need support to teach this sensitive topic and students need to have medically accurate, age-appropriate information. AB 329 (Weber) will update the Education Code and provide better guidance to schools, teachers and families.

HIV prevention education has been mandated since 1992. This bill will correct outdated information and integrate sexual health education into the current HIV prevention mandate, thus creating a unified curriculum that will support both students and their teachers. The bill calls for a broader foundation for sex education that addresses issues like gender and sexual identity, promoting healthy dating relationships and preventing other sexually-transmitted infections (STIs), and unintended pregnancy.

Key provisions of the bill include:

- Students will receive medically-accurate, age-appropriate information on HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and pregnancy prevention that includes – but is not limited to – delaying sexual activity.
- Requirements for instruction and materials that are appropriate for students of all genders and sexual orientations.
- Retention of the passive consent feature of previous legislation: a written parental opt-out of the class.

The California Healthy Youth Act addresses the many aspects of youth sexuality, but only in high school health classes is the curriculum focused on the students themselves. It gives students the knowledge to act responsibly and safely, thus helping to prevent HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, dating violence and pregnancy, plus acknowledging and affirming sexual orientation and gender identity.

The DHHS PTSA Fights Back Against Cancer!



Thank you to the Dana Hills High School PTSA Relay for Life Team for their participation in the annual Laguna Niguel Area Relay for Life held on August 22, 2015.

The Laguna Niguel Area Relay for Life is a unique 12-hour run/walk event that celebrates cancer survivorship, remembers those who have lost their battle, and fights back against a disease that has taken too much from too many. Funds raised by this event are used to provide services for local cancer patients, community education programs and national cancer research projects.

This year's event had 24 teams, more than 240 participants, and raised more than \$38,000! The DHHS PTSA is a founding team of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Laguna Niguel. This year, our team placed 7th out of 24 teams by raising almost \$2500!

Student volunteers were an integral part of the Relay as they are each year. They helped to set up the event on Friday, they decorated and sold luminarias throughout the day on Saturday, and they ran the games and crafts at the DHHS PTSA Team booth. Without these dedicated student volunteers, this event would not have been as successful as it was.

The DHHS PTSA team will be back on the track next summer for the 2016 Laguna Niguel Area Relay for Life, so that we can continue to support the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. We look forward to seeing you there!



SAT Prep Boot Camp at Dana Hills High!



A one-day program **Sunday, October 18th** to prep for the December or February ACT.

A one-day program **Saturday, November 21st** to prep for the December or January SAT.

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**)*

ACT Prep Class Oct. 18, 2015

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**

SAT Prep Class: Nov. 21, 2015

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**

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 **New SAT/ACT Combo Practice Test** date is Saturday, November 14th 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 November 23rd. **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

PTSA Hospitality Committee News

By Kerry Keen, PTSA Hospitality Co-Chair

During the recent flurry of back to school events, the DHHS PTSA Hospitality committee was hard at work with two annual events. Following the mini-pep rally in the gym on August 19th, parents of incoming freshman and other new DHHS students, were treated to a 'Breakfast with the Principal' coinciding with new student orientation. Following the continental breakfast, parents joined Dr. Allemann and his administrative staff in the Porthole Theater for a presentation about DHHS.

Early the following week, all teachers and staff were invited to a special welcome back luncheon, held in the mall. The western-themed luncheon featured giant sub sandwiches from Tutor and Spunky's of Dana Point along with other summertime foods. A favorite activity at the luncheon is the annual PTSA membership raffle – and this year's treasure trove of prizes did not disappoint!

Thanks to our great team of volunteers for making this year's events memorable:

Alison Baker, Karin Campbell, Raylene Davis, Mike Keen, Beth O'Brien, Melinda Schultz, Yunja Song, Kathryn Takach and Beth Tonini.

Capistrano Unified Council PTSA
Dana Hills High School PTSA
PO Box 2183
Mission Viejo, CA 92690-0183

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Dana Hills High School PTSA Newsletter

Home of the Dolphins!



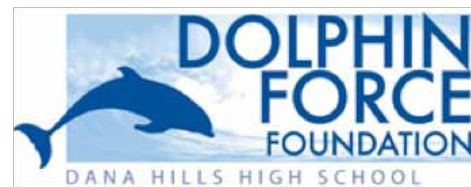
Phone: (949) 496-6666
Attendance Office: (949) 496-6935
24 hour call in: (949) 493-7685

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

Visit the PTSA Website at:
www.dhsptsa.com

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

NOT PRODUCED AT CUSD EXPENSE



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!

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

