



# Dolphin Digest



## A Great Year of Recycling!



Our PTSA/CSF recycling program continues to raise much needed funds for school-wide programs and keeps recyclables out of our landfills. When the final container is swapped in late June/early July, we anticipate raising close to \$4,000 during the 2014-2015 school year. Funds raised remain consistent year-to-year.

We are thankful for the support from our local communities. Our Saturday events continue to be popular and our final event of the school year was held on Saturday, June 6. Please remember to collect your plastic bottles and aluminum cans over the summer. Our first recycling event will be held in early September.

Thank you to all of our phenomenal parent volunteers for all of your hard work this year! Without you, we would not be able to manage and run this important school and community program.

## SOS Honored by City Manager and Mayor



The Dana Point Assistant City Manager handed out Proclamations from the Mayor of Dana Point to 11 Dana Hills students for providing over 1,500 hours of community service. Eneida Bustos, Ariel Chavez, Chiara Murdock, Ana Perez, Marianne Zerquera, Oscar Estrada, Robert Quechol, Yeimi Guttierrez, Veronica Mendoza, Monica Mendoza, Gissel Salgado, Ximena Bustos.

Volume 8, Issue 4

Summer 2015

### Key Articles

- Principal's and PTSA President's Messages
- 2015-2016 Registration
- PTSA Awards
- Student Recognition
- Guidance News
- PTSA Scholarships
- New Board

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## Principal's Message By Jason Allemann, Ed.D

As we close the 2014/2015 school year, I have been impressed with the Dana Hills school community and the support it creates for our school and the students. It is getting close to the time where we will celebrate the accomplishments of the class of 2015. I have loved sharing the trials and triumphs with our senior class, they are moving towards promising futures. Our commencement ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. A BIG thanks to the parents of this great class for all that you have given to your students and to Dana Hills High School over the past four years.

During the last few weeks of school we recognized students at a wide variety of events: Achievement Awards, Senior Awards, HMO Awards, and athletic banquets, to name a few. We should all be proud of the outstanding accomplishments of the class of 2015. Congratulations to each and every student who has demonstrated poise, character and excellence.

In closing the 2014/2015 school year, I would like to thank ALL of our incredible

parent volunteers who have helped the Dana school community in a variety of ways. We would not have an amazing environment for our students without the support from our parent groups. I would like to thank PTSA for their countless volunteer hours with the registration process, staff appreciation, and parent education and information nights. Dolphin Force Foundation has also been an amazing source of support for our students and families. The DFF has helped us improve our student experience by consistently supporting the integration of technology in our classrooms and among our administrative team to allow us to be more efficient in the work we do. Dana Hills High School, the students and the staff are lucky to have the amazing support of our parent organizations.

I would like to personally thank Bonnie Small, our PTSA president. Bonnie always keeps me "honest and on-time" with all my principal/PTSA duties. More importantly, she and her team of amazing PTSA parents has been an amazing supporter of teachers and an incredible advocate for

kids in the work they do here at Dana. While I am thanking parents for their support, I have to mention Lynne Conger our Dolphin Force Foundation president (pro-tem) during the 2014/2015 school year. Lynne has been an amazing support to DHHS raising (and spending) countless dollars in support of our numerous needs. I am hopeful that Dolphin Force Foundation can continue to have amazing parents participate in the support of our teachers and students. If any parent is interested in being a part of the DFF board please visit [www.dolphinforce.com](http://www.dolphinforce.com).

My hope is for our Dana Family to have a restful, relaxing and productive summer. I encourage all of us to "re-connect" to the important things in life that the hustle and bustle of the school year often makes us neglect. Enjoy your summer!

Regards,

Jason Allemann, Ed.D.  
Proud Principal of Dana Hills High School

## ASU Hard at Work, By Thomas Tonini

ASU has plethora of activities coming this summer and for the next school year!

Over this summer, our student leaders will travel to UCSB to attend Orange County leadership camp. They will learn what it takes to have a successful stu-

dent government and engage other schools' student leadership teams.

Immediately after registration days are over, on August 19, we are hosting the New Student Orientation for our incoming Dolphins. The orientation begins at 10:00

AM and includes a mini pep rally, tours of the school, and ends with lunch.

School begins on Tuesday, August 25 and ASU is already working on the Welcome Back Rally set for Friday, August 28.

**Continued Next Page**

## PTSA President's Message, By Bonnie Small

Another school year has come to a close and my garage is piled with household projects that were moved aside during the whirlwind from September to June! Our summer is a little shorter this year as we begin the transition to a pre-Labor Day start date. It's a bit of a change for most of us, but we're joining the ranks of school districts nationwide who realize the advantage it gives our students and teachers.

With your support, the Dana Hills PTSA has had a wonderful year! During registration in the fall you all really stepped up and we received over \$3,400 in donations toward replenishing our classroom emergency supplies. So our classrooms and other critical campus areas are all prepared should a disaster or emer-

gency strike. Thank you!

In addition, we were able to implement the first phase of our "spirited" campus beautification plans with the purchase of three fabulous DHHS logo windscreens. (Take a walk or drive by the corner of Stonehill and Golden Lantern to see one of the examples!)

We are so proud to have provided over \$5,000 in senior scholarships, \$4,000 in department grants, and \$3,500 worth of new books for our library revitalization during this school year and we have even bigger goals for 2015-2016!

On behalf of the Dana Hills PTSA, I want to offer our sincere congratulations to the Class of 2015 - we look forward to hearing about all that you will accomplish!

And at the other end of the spectrum - we also look forward to welcoming our new pod of Dolphins - the Class of 2019!

Most importantly, I want to thank the army of faithful PTSA volunteers and donors who make our work both possible and enjoyable. What an amazing community we have!

Have a wonderful summer—I look forward to seeing you all in August!



## ASU Hard at Work, continued from Page 3

New to Dana Hills will be our very own Student Store. The outlet will feature spirit wear, P.E. clothes, lots of Dolphin spirit accessories and a few surprises that parents will love. The store will be primarily online, and purchasers will have the option of shipping to their home for a nominal shipping fee, or free delivery to your child's 4th period class. We will be open for business online before registration, and in the Mall during registration.

It might seem early to talk about this, but Homecoming is right around the corner. October 10th and 11th

mark the beginning of the festivities with the Top 15 dancers to introduce the court nominees and we finish up on October 23 with the now world famous halftime show. (No, we're not making this up; we actually have become famous, thanks to YouTube.) Our theme this time is "Book it to Homecoming" where each class will travel through different novels to rescue the Homecoming Queen from the villain.

The dance follows the game on October 24 at the Dana Hills campus. The other big Homecoming event is the return of Dana Dolphin Days

and the revival of the school carnival on Saturday, October 17. This year's version will see nearly three times as many thrill rides and multiple activities for families and kids alike.

Finally, we have followed the lead of our new football coach Phil Skinner and adopted a new spirit slogan for our athletic teams. Our student section will now be known as The Pod, as in a "Pod of Dolphins." Oh, and that spirit slogan...

**FINS UP!**

## Counselor's Corner by Rebecca Pianta

### Help Your Teen Maintain Healthy Habits This Summer

If they had it their way, most teens would probably stay up until 2 AM sleep until noon, live on nothing but pizza and soda, and maybe—occasionally—head outside into the sunlight. Without the routine provided by school, many teens spend their summers exactly like that! This summer, make sure your teen sticks to a healthy routine. After all, they will be heading out into to the real world soon.

That's where the 9-5-2-1-0 initiative comes in. It encourages teens to aim for:

- 9 hours of sleep each night.
- 5 servings of fruits and vegetables each day.
- 2 hours of screen time (or fewer) each day.
- 1 hour of physical activity each day.
- 0 sugar-sweetened drinks each day.

To make it a little bit easier for your teen, stock your fridge with healthy snacks and make sure they have an alarm clock. By following the 9-5-2-1-0 initiative, your teen will be maintaining healthy habits and practicing self-discipline. After all, you're not always going to be watching over them to make sure they don't drink half their body weight in soda!

### Team Up With Your Teen to Combat Negative Peer Pressure

Summer often means less supervision for many teens. If you are concerned about your teen spending so much time unsupervised, you have good reason.

Surveys show that teens are more likely to try drugs and alcohol during the summer than they are during the school year. To help your teen resist pressure from peers:

- **Talk about the dangers** of drugs and alcohol. Teens who are under the influence do things they simply would never do otherwise. If your teens stay sober, they have a much better chance of staying healthy and safe.
- **Give examples.** Pick up your local newspaper and you'll likely find a story about teens in trouble. Talk with your child about what happened. Ask what he/she would do in that situation. Talk about ways to avoid trouble.
- **Set limits.** Make sure your teen knows what time you expect him/her home. Suggest that he/she use you as an excuse: "I can't—my mom is sitting in the front hallway right now waiting for me to walk in."
- **Encourage healthy activities.** Suggest that your teen find a place to volunteer over the summer. They can also look into getting a summer job, joining a summer sports league or taking a summer class. As a bonus, any of these activities would help strengthen their résumé and college applications!

Thanks

Communication

PTSA

PTSA Listserv  
PTSA Website  
Newsletter

## Student Planners—Back by Popular Demand!

We are pleased to announce that DHHS Student Planners will be available for purchase beginning at fall registration on a first come, first served basis. These spiral bound academic calendars are a must for students balancing a busy schedule! Look for more details on the flyer in the registration packets!

## Library Donations By Kevin Knoot

The Library is looking for ways to update its collection and provide better services. We rely on donations for all new materials, and we use the PTSA's annual cash donation to buy new books.

With this year's generous PTSA donation of \$3,500, the library was able to order over 250 new books which have already been checked out nearly 700 times this year! We have seen a 70 percent increase in library usage over last year - in large part due to the funds provided for buying new, popular, teen fiction to draw students in and provide

something more stimulating than smartphone apps!

We still have a long way to go in updating our collection. We are always looking for donations. Common Core requires students to be proficient in library and research skills, and we are trying to update our nonfiction research collection so students have the books they need for their assignments.

Right now, we could really use more biographies, especially ones about historical characters from the past, which are used in class re-

search projects. We also welcome donations of newer popular teen fiction. They are always in high demand - especially the novels the latest popular movies were based on! Paperbacks are fine as long as they are in good condition.

Please keep the needs of the library in mind for donations and during registration. The District does not provide funding for new books or electronic resources, and anything you donate goes directly to the students in the form of new books.



Check out the Library's website! We will be regularly updating it with library news, textbook information, and important online resources and links: <http://www.dhhs.net/Library>

## College Information Evening

**Juniors and Seniors – Save the date!**  
Wednesday, September 16, 2015

There will be a college information evening at 6:00 p.m.

Juniors and their parents are invited to meet in the Porthole Theater for a review of the junior year calendar and preparation for the college application process. Seniors and their parents will meet in the Mall to learn more about college application process, obtaining letters of recommendation, scholarships, and financial aid.

## Rotary Recognition of DHHS Seniors

Congratulations to the recipients of the Monarch Beach Rotary Club Student 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.

*April*

**Tove Benyard**  
**David Johnson**

*May*

**Madison Killebrew**  
**Ben Borovinsky**

## Wave Rider Program

The following students have been recognized for their random acts of kindness, outstanding good character, or hard work:

Emily Davis  
Kevin Martinez  
Sabrina Aguirre  
Dylan Connolly  
Sydney Toole  
Hiromi Lee  
Paul Tucker

Tony Andraca  
Ryan Jacob  
Kyle Watkins  
Myriam Sanchez  
Madison Albert  
Cassidy Fry  
Bridget Koper

Eric Aguilar  
Noelle O'Brien  
Nathan Cohen  
Edwin Santiago  
Emma Bunim  
Jassime Medrano

Thanks

**Educational Programs**

PTSA

Reflections  
Parent Education  
Turn It In.com  
Teen Driving Safety



## 2014–2015 Dana Hills PTSA Awards

**California State PTSA Service Awards:** The National PTA Service Awards Program is coordinated by the California State PTA and is designed to honor individuals for outstanding service to children and youth. Local PTSA's, such as ours, make donations in honor of these individuals to the California State PTA Scholarship and grant programs. Scholarships are available through the State PTA to students, teachers, school nurses, volunteers, and others who serve the needs of children and youth in California.

### **Golden Oak Service Award**

California's most prestigious PTA award recognizing an individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the welfare of children and youth in a school and community

#### **Judy Cohen**

Thank you, Judy, for your many years of outstanding service to the children and youth of the Capistrano Unified School District.

John Malcom Elementary School PTA, 1996 – 2008  
Niguel Hills Middle School PTSA, 2002 – 2006 and 2008 – 2011  
Dana Hills High School PTSA, 2005 – 2015  
Capistrano Unified Council of PTSA's, 2004 – 2005, 2006 – 2007, 2011-2014

### **Honorary Service Award**

Recognition for outstanding service to children and youth in our school and community

#### **Lisa Hatch Wendy Siegel**

**Starfish Award:** Recognition of an individual for outstanding accomplishments and long-time contributions to Dana Hills High School

#### **JR Longdon**

**Dolphin Service Award:** Recognition of significant accomplishments in support of the library, students and Dana Hills High School

#### **Kevin Knoot**

**Dynamo Dolphin Award:** Recognition of a graduating senior parent for outstanding contributions to Recycling, Fundraising and Programs at Dana Hills High School

#### **Gayle Paride**

**You Make a Difference Award:** Recognition of significant contributions and commitment to the Dana Hills High School Recycling Program

#### **Donna Bolton Maryam Yazdi**

And a **HUGE THANK YOU** to all of the faithful "worker bees" who so generously share their time to support our PTSA programs and events. We know that you prefer to work behind the scenes, but your consistent contributions are just as important. If you are "graduating" this year, please know that we deeply appreciate all that you have done for the DHHS students!



*Judy Cohen and JR Longdon receive their awards.*

Thanks

**Departmental  
Support**

PTSA

Department Grants  
Senior Scholarships  
Library Support  
Health Office  
Support

## Important Registration Information

### PACKET PICKUP

**Tuesday, July 28, 2015**  
**9 A.M. to 12 PM**

**Wednesday, July 29, 2015**  
**4 PM to 7 PM**

**Thursday, July 30, 2015**  
**9 A.M. to 12 PM**

### SUMMER WALK-THROUGH REGISTRATION FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS

Registration begins at 7:30 AM and closes at 11:30 AM each day. In an effort to avoid long lines, we are scheduling students by day and time, according to birthdates. **Please arrange your schedule to be here during your scheduled time.** If you are unable to attend registration on your assigned date or time, you may come to any of the **assigned days after yours** and you will be able to fill in at the end of the line after the students with assigned times have entered. If you are unable to do this, you must hand in all information on the first day of school, Tuesday, August 25, 2015 at the designated tables.

On registration day you may take your ID picture and pay for various items such as yearbook, ASU card, etc. Textbooks may be checked out during registration this year. Lockers will be issued during registration. Students must have a locker partner and both students must have their current ID card to obtain their locker. Upperclassmen may not share lockers with underclassmen unless they are siblings.

### **SENIORS (12)**

**Wednesday August 5, 2015**

**7:30 AM – Jan., Feb.**

**8:00 AM – March, April**

**8:30 AM – May, June**

**9:00 AM – July, Aug.**

**9:30 AM – Sept., Oct.**

**10:00 AM – Nov., Dec**

### **JUNIORS (11)**

**Thursday, August 6, 2015**

**7:30 AM – Jan., Feb.**

**8:00 AM – March, April**

**8:30 AM – May, June**

**9:00 AM – July, Aug.**

**9:30 AM – Sept., Oct.**

**10:00 AM – Nov., Dec.**

**Doors will close promptly at 11:30**

### **SOPHOMORES (10)**

**Friday, August 7, 2015**

**7:30 AM – Jan., Feb.**

**8:00 AM – March, April**

**8:30 AM – May, June**

**9:00 AM – July, Aug.**

**9:30 AM – Sept., Oct.**

**10:00 AM – Nov., Dec.**

### **FRESHMEN (9)**

**Monday, August 10, 2015**

**7:30 AM – January**

**8:00 AM – February**

**8:30 AM – March**

**9:00 AM – April**

**9:30 AM – May**

**10:00 AM – June**

### **FRESHMEN (9)**

**Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

**7:30 AM - July**

**8:00 AM - August**

**8:30 AM. - September**

**9:00 AM - October**

**9:30 AM - November**

**10:00 AM - December**

**Doors will close promptly at 11:30**

### **MAKEUP DAYS**

**Monday, August 10, 2015 and Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

Registration begins at 7:30 AM and closes at 11:30 AM

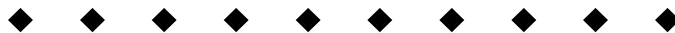
Thursday, August 20, 2015

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM \***Guidance will not be available.**

### **NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION**

**Wednesday, August 19, 2015**

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM



### **Volunteers Needed for Registration**

**August 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11**

**7:30 – 11:30 AM**

If you or your student(s) might be available to help, please email Mara Hornby at [mhornby@cox.net](mailto:mhornby@cox.net)



## SOCSA Foundation, Denise Erkeneff, Foundation President

### SOCSA has had an exciting and award-winning 2015!

Our highlights included:

#### Stars of Tomorrow Competition Winners:

Jason Rothman, First Place Musical Theatre  
Kyla Stone, Second Place Musical Theatre

#### Forum Music Festivals:

Women's Ensemble, Gold Award  
Vocal Ensemble, Gold Award  
Blue Lantern Jazz Choir, Gold Award

#### Forum Music Festivals Individual Musicianship Awards:

Katelyn Keen  
Conner Kupferberg  
Sarah Tupper

#### Orange County Register Top 10 Artists in Vocal Music:

Kyla Stone

Kudos to our Artistic Director, Ray Woods and our SOCSA Academy teachers and master class instructors for their instruction and mentorship of our all our SOCSA students.

In June, SOCSA celebrated 20 years of arts education at SHOWCASE 2015 with performances and art exhibition at the San Juan Hills High School Theatre. This spectacular event highlighted the year-end work of all of our SOCSA Academy Departments including vocal performances, dance, instrumental and visual arts. This year's theme, "Puttin' on the Ritz", made for a glitzy affair with volunteers wearing roaring twenties attire to some amazing food stations. To cap off the year, many SOCSA patrons took home a large array of silent auction items as well as the evening's Grand Raffle drawing. A huge thank you to our event chairs, Lisa Fry, Lynn Lindborg, and Sonal Mehta and their committee for hosting this grand event!

#### 2015 Senior Scholarships

SIMA Foundation/Councilman and Former Mayor, Dana Point, Scott Schoeffel Scholarships totalled \$5,500 this year:

- \$1,500 awarded to **Christopher Tusan** who is headed to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a career goal in medicine

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## Join Our Team! Support the Fight Against Cancer

DHHS PTSA is a founding team of the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Laguna Niguel. This year, we are collaborating with the City of Aliso Viejo for the event on **Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** at Niguel Hills Middle School, 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. This year the relay will only be a one-day event, with no overnight camping. All Laguna Niguel and Aliso Viejo residents are encouraged to participate!

New this year is a change to a 12-hour run/walk event that celebrates cancer survivorship and honors those who have lost their battle. Funds raised by this event will be used to provide services for local cancer patients, community education programs and national research projects as we fight to defeat this dreaded disease.

Join the DHHS PTSA team or start your own team by registering at <http://www.relayforlife.org/lagunaniguelca>. There is **NO FEE** to join the team! For more information, please contact DHHS Team Captain Mara Hornby at [mhornby@cox.net](mailto:mhornby@cox.net).





## SOCSA Continued

- \$1,000 awarded to **Robyn Takeshita** who is off to Westmont College. Her career goal is to obtain a BS in Biology and a Masters/Teaching Credential.
- \$1,000 awarded to **Luke Quintanilla**
- \$1,000 awarded to **Athena Hosek**  
(Both Luke and Athena excelled in SOCSA's Instrumental Program!)
- \$500 awarded to **Melissa Bindi** who will be attending UC Santa Cruz with a career goal to work in the film industry.
- \$500 awarded to **Shelby Grebbin** who will be heading east to attend Emerson College. She will be pursuing a career in writing for film and television.

### SOCSA Foundation Scholarships, \$2,000 this year:

\$1,000 awarded to **Amy Menendez** who will be attending Chapman University, majoring in Business Admin w/minor in Art.

\$250 scholarships were awarded to:

**Taylor Earl**, DePaul

**Andrew Fajardo**, University of Arizona

**Olivia Gheradini**, University of Washington, Seattle

**Elizabeth Nee**, Saddleback College

The Woods Family Scholarship of \$1,000 this year was awarded to **Sophie Pieri** who will be attending Arizona State University's Herberger School of Music.

### Our SOCSA Foundation Board would like to thank the following corporate donors for their ongoing support:

Aha! Marketing

Mrs. Ruth Denault

Hon. Scott Schoeffel

Sunrise Rotary of Monarch Beach

On behalf of the SOCSA Board, we thank all the volunteers, families and local businesses who have donated time, talent and treasure to support our programs, fundraisers and "wish list" requests during the year. I would like to personally thank our SOCSA Foundation Board for all their hard work and accomplishment this year. Courtney Zani and incoming Scott Green revamped the SOCSA website with our new branding as well as functionality; Kimberly Kovacs who spearheaded an overhaul of our accounting system; Miriam Guthary for her oversight and direction to our SOCSA Fundraisers Opera Night and SHOWCASE; Dawn Wood for taking on our corporate donor program; Heidi Argent for serving as our Secretary; Wendie Newman for taking on Membership, which we hope may be automated by this summer!

See you all next year and enjoy the summer!

Denise Erkeneff  
President, SOCSA Foundation

## Upcoming SOCSA Events

July 8-11 <sup>th</sup>	High School Musical in the Porthole Theatre
August 17-21 <sup>st</sup>	Jazz Workshops
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	"Little Shop of Horror" Auditions in the Porthole Theater at 3:00pm
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	SOCSA Picnic at Sea Canyon Park 12:00 - 3:00pm
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	"Musical Competitions of America" Informational Meeting will be in the Porthole Theater at 6:00pm
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	"Broadway Night" Auditions in the Porthole Theater at 3:00pm

Thanks

**School  
Improvements**

PTSA

Campus  
Beautification,  
Emergency  
Preparedness  
Supplies



*“Stand with us in supporting our children”*

## Dolphin Force – Stand with Us

**“Stand with us in supporting our children”**

**Thank you to the Dana Hills High School community for a very successful year. With your generous support, Dolphin Force Foundation (an independent, parent led non-profit organization) has implemented many campus improvement projects in 2014-2015, with more planned for the 2015-2016 school year, including:**

- Installation of campus benches and tables for student lunchtime seating
- Continued upgrade of classroom computers, scanners and projectors (\$20,000 donated last year)
- Continued support of all Academic Departments, including Science Labs and equipment (\$14,000 donated last year)
- Additional Library Improvements - furniture and electronic media resources, (\$2,000 donated last year)

### **E-Waste Event a Success!**

Thank you to our March, 2015 E-waste event volunteers (students- Carson Schwegmann, Connor Martindale, Matt Tonks, Kyra Smith, and parent Kathleen Wong-Smith) for a very successful event. Over 12,000 pounds of electronic waste was collected for recycling, raising \$700 for Dana Hills High School!



### **Dolphin Force Foundation is seeking parent volunteers for 2015-2016**

Board and committee positions available:

- Communications and marketing
- Accounting, Tax Preparation, Auditing
- Silent fundraisers- Ralphs, Amazon, Communities for Causes, EScrip, Class Photo Fund, Microsoft Matching Funds
- Membership promotion- Registration (August); Back to School night (September);
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Open House (March)
- Volunteer recruitment- students, parents and alumni

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## Dolphin Force, Continued

- Fundraising events- Graduation press box auction (June); E-waste events (October, March);
- Brick Walk (December)
- Event planning- Father/Daughter Dance (February); Mother/Son event (April)

### All parents are welcome to attend Dolphin Force Foundation meetings

First Thursday 4:00 p.m. monthly, in staff lounge at Dana Hills High School. Please contact Lynne Conger [lynneconger@gmail.com](mailto:lynneconger@gmail.com).

### Thank you to the 2014-2015 Dolphin Force Foundation Board members and volunteers

for sharing your time and talent to support all students at Dana Hills High School. A very special thank you to Diana Sittler, outgoing Dolphin Force Treasurer for her years of dedicated service. You will be missed!

### Help Dolphin Force Raise Funds With No Effort! Visit [www.dolphinforce.com](http://www.dolphinforce.com)

### 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](http://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](http://communitiesforcause.com).

### PURCHASE DANA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI PHOTOS (over 3,000)

at [www.classphotofund.com](http://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](http://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.

## Class of 2016 – Get a Jump on Your College Essays!

Preparing a strong college application takes time and organization. Higher Applications will present an **Essay & Application Boot Camp** as a PTSA fundraiser at Dana Hills High School on **Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00am-3:00pm in the 900 Portables. This one day 6 hour boot camp is a practical, affordable and fun way to get a head start on your college essays and applications. Learn what colleges are looking for in an essay, work with experienced college counselors to select essay topics and receive guidance while you write. The boot camp focuses on University of California and Common Application essay prompts. All students receive instructive hand outs and an application organizer. Cost is a discounted DHHS price of \$225. Questions? Contact [www.mycollegeplan.net](http://www.mycollegeplan.net).



Get Details on All Dolphin Force Activities at:  
[www.dolphinforce.com](http://www.dolphinforce.com).

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/dolphinforce](http://www.facebook.com/dolphinforce)

### 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.



## CUCPTSA: Our Government and Our Kids

By Linda Fong

### Local: Future Planning

#### CUSD Strategic Planning

Superintendent Vital, Board of Trustees and CUSD have participated in multiple strategic planning workshops that resulted in a draft of a new CUSD Vision, Mission Statement and WIG's (Wildly Important Goals).

**CUSD Vision:** An unwavering commitment to student success.

**CUSD Mission Statement:** To prepare our students to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

The Wildly Important Goals fall into three key areas:

**(1) Teaching and Learning:** *Engage students in a meaningful, challenging and innovative educational experience resulting in increased post-secondary options for all students.*

**(2) Communication** *Increase community outreach by actively engaging students, parents, employees and community members with District-wide and community-specific decisions.*

**(3) Facilities:** *The facilities and infrastructure of CUSD will be designed with community engagement to optimize student learning in a safe and sustainable environment that outlines both long and short term plans.*

#### LCAP Update

Also at the June 10th board meeting, there was a Public Hearing on the Draft version of the 2015-16 LCAP. Reviewed annually, the Local Control Accountability Plan

is developed by CUSD with input from students, parents and employees. The plan is a blueprint for CUSD's goals over the next three years and includes metrics to measure progress each year towards goals. Final approval of the LCAP by the Board of Trustees will take place at the June 25th Board meeting.

The proposed five goals in next year's LCAP did not change from the current year LCAP. The goals remain:

- Students will demonstrate academic growth and proficiencies needed to ensure they leave the TK-12 system ready for college and career.
- Provide interventions for academically, behaviorally, and social/emotionally at risk students.
- Increase the number of K-12 student offerings reflecting a broad course of study to ensure students are on-track to graduate from high school, college and career ready.
- Expand parent and community engagement to include representation of all students.
- Develop a multi-year plan to enhance facilities that are clean, safe, healthy, functional and appropriate to foster academic achievement. Increase the number of student and staff technological devices required to support 21st

century learning.

#### CUSD Budget News for 2015-16

With an improving California economy, revenue for California public schools will increase overall in 2015-16. Overall revenue is expected to increase in CUSD by approximately 7.1%, for a total of \$431 million in total revenue and \$8,897 per student funding, which is inclusive of all State, Federal and Local revenue.

#### Community-wide CUSD Facilities Forum

A committee process for engaging the community is being developed to look at the District's need for safe, cool, warm, and dry facilities. At the May 27th board meeting, there was an information presentation by staff and the District's financial advisor, Government Financial Strategies that discussed key features of the suggested committee process, the syllabus of topics to be discussed, a schedule of events, and the goals for the committee process.

Suggested timeframe for this Facilities Forum is the month of September 2015. Process would include four meetings, once per week, over a month-long period. Community members from throughout the district are needed for this forum. If interested, refer to the CUSD website over the summer for more details as to how this Facilities Forum is shaping up.

Thanks

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PTSA

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## State: Funding Increases for K-14

As anticipated, Governor Brown complied with the requirements of California's Proposition 98 guarantee and increased funding for education in his state budget update, known as the May Revision. The increases included one-time dollars that were owed to schools from past years as well as ongoing funds.

The May Revision increases ongoing dollars for the 2015-16 budget year by \$2.7 billion, which brings the total Proposition 98 funds for schools to approximately \$9,667 per pupil. Keep in mind that is an average, and districts vary in how much they receive. (See Local section for what CUSD will be receiving) The proposal adds \$2.1 billion to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), increasing the ongoing unrestricted dollars schools have available. Parents should talk to their school boards about how much their district is

receiving and how the additional dollars will be spent in the coming year.

Special Education, career technical education and school transportation are other areas receiving more funding. School districts also will be getting \$3.1 billion in one-time money. This is money the state has owed to schools but that won't be provided in future years. During the recession the state did not meet its Proposition 98 obligation to schools, creating a debt called the "maintenance factor." In this budget, most of the money owed under the Proposition 98 maintenance factor will be paid back.

During the recession, the state also deferred some funding from one budget year to the next, causing many districts to take out loans in order to meet expenses. These deferrals are all repaid under this pro-

posal.

The one-time funds include \$1.1 billion to pay schools back for extra costs they incurred related to certain state mandates. The governor is calling for this money to be spent on implementation of new California standards for teacher preparation, instructional materials and technology. These payments are one-time dollars which should not be used by school districts for ongoing expenses.

While the May Revision shows increased funding for schools, this will only continue as long as the economy grows. Much of the added money is related to taxes raised by the passage of Proposition 30. We should never forget that those are temporary taxes that will expire soon.

## Federal: Reauthorization of ESEA is Closer

Federal categorical funding makes up about 10% of California's total K-12 education funding. Much of it comes from programs created by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, which was part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society legislation.

The 2002 ESEA reauthorization was called the No Child Left Behind Act, as proposed by President George W. Bush. The main function of ESEA, and then NCLB, is to provide extra support to schools that serve low-

income children. New features added by NCLB made that funding contingent upon states adopting content standards, administering standardized test in English and mathematics, and holding schools and districts accountable for the results on those tests. Under NCLB, the goal was for all students to score at the proficient level on those tests by 2013-14. ESEA/NCLB was up for reauthorization in 2007, but Congress has not acted until this session.

In April, Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions

Committee Chair, Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Member Patty Murray (D-WA) announced an agreement on "fixing No Child Left Behind." The bill is titled Every Child Achieves Act (S.1177) and was passed out of committee.

National PTA supports a comprehensive, bipartisan reauthorization of ESEA. While PTA applauds several provisions of H.R.5 and S.1177, we also express concerns with certain provisions in both proposals.

Thanks

**School Loop**

PTSA

PTSA Listserv  
PTSA Website  
Newsletter



## SRO's Soapbox

"The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that among high school students, during the past 30 days, 35% drank some amount of alcohol and 21% binge drank" ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))

### Student Support Family Intervention

**Mike Darnold**  
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(949) 395-7275

Darnoldmike@gmail.com or  
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*This program funded through the generosity of the City of Dana Point*

I stood next to my Papa on the driveway near the carport of their one story house in the State of Oklahoma as we watched the cars drive by on the highway. I was eight years old. We were standing outside the house because Nanny wouldn't allow Papa to smoke inside their home. As Papa smoked, I just stood in silence next to him because I loved and adored him so much. I always felt comfortable around him. Love was always within his arms.

Papa turned to me with a concerned look on his face and said, "Mike, do you know what a promise is?" I told him I did and he asked me to explain it. In a young boy's vernacular, I told him it's when you do what you say you'll do. Papa held up his lit cigarette and with a stern voice said, "I want you to make your Papa a promise. Don't ever put one of these to your lips. I wish I never would have put one to mine. Do you understand?" I looked at the emotion filled countenance on his face as he turned and looked at me. I simply said to Papa, "Okay, I promise."

That was thirty years ago and my Papa's promise stands tall to this day. The power of a loving parent, grandparent, family member, or friend is hard to measure. After all, how do you place a value on a life? Their extremely valuable while they are here, but how fast do they become priceless when they're gone?

There are many false substitutes to relationships. The

most notorious criminals are those dangerous relationships that will devastate your children's lives: alcohol and drugs. Unfortunately, the issue/epidemic is so large that this article is just a speck of sand upon the beach of information that's out there and available. Regardless, we still need to talk about it.

Here are a few statistics:

- "1 in 6 teenagers admit to taking prescription drugs to get high or change their mood." ([www.drugfree.com](http://www.drugfree.com))
- "90% of addictions start in the teenage years" ([www.drugfree.com](http://www.drugfree.com))
- "Narcotic pain relievers now cause or contribute to nearly 3 out of 4 Prescription Drug overdoses and about 15,500 deaths." (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

What do you say to the father of a twenty-five year old son who didn't show up to his own wedding rehearsal dinner because he overdosed on prescription drugs? How do you console the mother, the bride, and their friends? Regardless of my words, it didn't bring these children back into their arms.

Moms and Dads, you **MUST** talk to your children about alcohol and drugs. These issues aren't hard to discuss. I started role playing with my kids about alcohol and drugs when they were about two years old. I don't

want them to ever think its cool, accepted, or allowed in their lives. Now that they're ten, eight, and six, our conversations about drugs and alcohol feel normal. They know they are dangerous and this knowledge will allow them to make wise decisions when we are not around to protect them.

***"Teens who consistently learn about the risks of drugs from their parents are 50% less likely to use drugs or alcohol."*** Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, 2010

Consequences seem to be the most difficult part of logic for a child to comprehend. There are studies that show that the human brain is not fully developed until the age of twenty-five. In other words, Moms and Dads, YOU are your children's frontal lobe, their judgment/logical thinking. It is a crime if you fail to talk with, educate, train, and develop your children toward a life of sobriety. Teach them the consequences of drug and alcohol use. If you haven't started yet, then start the second you finish reading this article.

Parties are going to happen this weekend and the next. You know it as well as I do. Alcohol, pills, smokes, and other drugs will be there with the hopes to befriend and eventually betray your children. ***What are you going to do about it?***

Deputy Woodroof

School Resource Officer  
Parent Project Facilitator



## 2015 PTSA Scholarships Awarded by Karen LaBella, Chairperson

Each year the California State PTA, the Capistrano Council of PTAs (CUCPTSA), and Dana Hills High School PTSA all offer scholarships to graduating seniors. This year the Dana Hills PTSA was able to award a total of \$5,250 in scholarships to six exceptional DHHS seniors in the class of 2015! The DHHS PTSA also presents one Teri Lynn O'Brien Memorial Scholarship in memory of a former PTSA president and fierce supporter of education for all CUSD students. Each student will receive \$750 to be used for continuing education at a four year university, a community college or a trade/technical school.

In addition to those seven recipients, we are proud to announce that DHHS boasted two winners of the State PTSA scholarships and three winners of the CUCPTSA Senior Scholarship!

Congratulations to all our 2015 Senior Scholarship Recipients!

### DHHS PTSA Senior Scholarship Recipients (\$750 each):

Jared Cohen  
Cierra Djokovich  
Kendra Djokovich  
Alec Fong  
Grant Galloway  
David Owen Johnson II

### Teri Lynn O'Brien Scholarship (\$750)

Megan Drossel

### CUCPTSA Senior Scholarship Recipients (\$500 each):

Melanie Albert  
Jared Cohen  
Alec Fong

### California State PTA Senior Scholarship Recipients (\$750 each)

Jared Cohen  
David Johnson

## Summer...a Perfect Time to Reflect on Reflections

### PTSA Reflections

**2015-2016 Theme: "Let your imagination fly"**

**Entries Due in early October 2015 Questions? Contact [president@dhhsptsa.com](mailto:president@dhhsptsa.com)**

Over the summer get a head start on next year's PTSA Reflection's Art Program!

Think about how to express what would make our world better and then create an original piece of art in one (or more) of six categories:

*Literature*

*Musical composition*

*Photography*

*Visual arts*

*Dance Choreography*

*Film/Video Production*

Whether you like to take photographs on a vacation, paint a picture on a lazy summer day, or make up a song or dance in your spare time - summer is the time to start thinking about working on your Reflections entry!

For more information go to [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) click on programs and then on Arts in Education-Reflections.



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**Visit the PTSA Website At:**  
[www.dhhsptsa.com](http://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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**Welcome to the 2015-2016 PTSA Board!**

President	Bonnie Small
Executive V.P.	Kara Ahmann
Secretary	Mara Hornby
Treasurer	Kathleen Wong
Auditor	Patty Wallin
Historian	Melina Pellini
Parliamentarian	Eileen Bradley

These officers, along with over 30 committee chairmen, have graciously volunteered their time in support of the DHHS community. Thank you all for your service and dedication to our students!

We still have several open committee positions available – if you'd like to join the PTSA fun, please email Bonnie Small at [president@dhhsptsa.com](mailto:president@dhhsptsa.com) for more information.