



Dolphin Digest



Volume 8, Issue 1

Fall 2014

Homecoming Pep Rally Starts the Year Right



Key Articles

- Principal's and PTSA President's Messages
- ASU Director of Communications Message
- New Staff at DHHS
- Dolphin Force
- Legislation
- Guidance News
- Thank You DHHS Supporters

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The 2015-2016 School Year starts August 25, 2015.

Welcome our New CUSD Superintendent



Dr. Allemann with Trustee Anna Bryson and our new Superintendent Kirsten Vital.

The New School Year is Upon Us 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.

As a DHHS alum, I am excited to kick off the 2014/2015 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 we kick-off the 2014/2015 school year, I wanted to take a moment to thank ALL of the PTSA/Parent volunteers that made registration, book distribution and freshman orientation a smooth process.

We are expecting close to 2750 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 percent of all high schools in the country. Additionally, our California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) pass rates continue to impress with first time test takers (sophomores) passing at a rate of 94% in mathematics and 93% in English.

Over 1,400 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 2014/2015 school year. Please know that we are always available to assist you and your student.

Go Dolphins!
Jason Allemann, Ed.D.
Principal

PTSA President's Message, By Bonnie Small

The fall is a whirlwind of activity and I hope that everyone has survived the initial flurry and is back in the swing of things for the 2014-2015 school year.

I would especially like to welcome the Class of 2018 and their families to the Dana Hills nation! I owe a debt of gratitude to the legion of volunteers that began their behind the scenes efforts in August distributing registration packets and preparing for registration days. It takes an army of 125+ volunteers to get 2,700 students and their families successfully through the "winding river" of registration stations over four days! I also appreciate everyone's patience and good humor throughout the process (especially when something goes off course.)

Our SAT and ACT Boot Camps have been very popular this fall and I'm glad that the selection of prep classes are helpful to our

rising juniors and seniors. These one day sessions offer some great insight into the mechanics of each test, where the pitfalls are, and the importance of pacing. We will be offering more boot camps in the spring for students planning to take the tests during April, May and June 2015.

I am especially excited to welcome our new DHHS library team - Kevin Knoot and Marian Blue! They bring a wealth of knowledge and some great insight and enthusiasm about how to bring our campus library into the 21st Century with more effective and up-to-date research methods and resources. I look forward to hearing more about their plans in the coming months. The PTSA has already allocated \$3,500 to assist them in their efforts this year and we will continue to offer our support.

As always, your support of our Community Recycling

program continues to make a huge impact on our annual fundraising efforts! Please encourage your friends and family to participate as well. We will have Saturday collection dates once or twice a month throughout the year. Keep those recyclable plastic bottles and cans coming all year long!

As we head into the holiday season I would like to remind everyone not to let the turkeys get you down! I'm making a concerted effort this year to enjoy the family time *between* the "big" days and to look at the preparations as "bonding" instead of chaos. All too soon I will be sweeping out my empty nest.

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

Go Blue!
Bonnie Small

ASU Hard at Work, By Jared Cohen, ASU Director of Communications

School Spirit was in the air early this year as your student government welcomed in the Class of 2018!

Students showed off their school spirit by wearing their kitschiest Hawaiian attire to the football game and to the following mall dance hosted by ASU.

ASU has been hard at work all summer preparing for Homecoming. The work commenced in July and wrapped up with The Home-

coming Dance. Saturday, September 27th students and their guests "tooned" in to a fabulous dance that wrapped up a very busy week.

The Homecoming festivities began September 11 and 12 with the Top 15 Dancers introducing the homecoming court candidates. The following week the Top 6 dancers were featured. The week of September 22nd culminated with Dolphin Pride Week, a week of spirit

dress up days, lunch time activities, and the Homecoming Pep Rally.

The featured event was the legendary halftime show on Friday, September 27th. Once again the halftime show did not disappoint and everyone had a great time at the dance.

Seniors, Jostens will be back on campus soon to take class ring orders. Additionally, Jostens will be

Continued Page 14



Next PTSA meeting will be on **Monday 11/17 at 9:30 am** - stop by the staff lounge and join us!

Thanks

School Loop

PTSA

PTSA Listserv
PTSA Website
Newsletter



Download PTSA membership forms
www.dhhsptsa.com

Guidance News: Testing Information

PLAN

ACT is transitioning to a new test. We will however be able to offer the PLAN one last time before the transition. Information coming soon.

PSAT

The PSAT exam will be administered on Saturday, October 18. If you paid to take the PSAT please pick up the Student Guide that is in the hallway outside of Guidance. The Student Guide is a fabulous resource that includes tips for doing well, information for Juniors on the National Mer-

it Program and a full-length practice test.

CAHSEE

Juniors and Seniors who have not yet passed the CAHSEE; your next opportunity will be on November 4th and 5th.

Sophomores your first opportunity will be on March 17th & 18th.

Freshmen your first opportunity will be during your Sophomore year.

SAT and ACT

Seniors—If you plan on attending a 4-year university,

you must complete the SAT or ACT by December. (By the November sitting if you are applying to San Diego State).

All students interested in taking the SAT or ACT should register for the tests online. You cannot sign up through DHHS.

SAT—www.collegeboard.org

ACT—www.actstudent.org

Remember, all students applying to a 4 year college need a full year of a fine art.

Expectations of Students at Dana Hills High School

As we open the 2014/2015 school year, the Administration team would like to share with students and parents our 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:

1. Should not wear hats or any head coverings.
2. Should not wear any clothing that exposes midribs.
3. Should not wear any clothing that is too tight or revealing.
4. Should not 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.

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.



TEXT-A-TIP

Helping Teens with Time Management

Using time wisely is one of the best lessons in responsibility that a teen can learn. It will lead to a smoother, less stressful life by keeping your teen from missing deadlines and appointments and it will insure they stay up-to-date with school-work.

To help your teen better manage time this school year:

- **Use a planner and/or calendar.** Your teen should write down everything on a weekly schedule and check it every day.
- **Limit screen media.** Televisions, computers, tablets and smart phones are usually the biggest offenders. Don't ask your teen to give them up completely, but ask them to find ways to limit their use.
- **Say *no* to overload.** If your teen already has homework, football practice and a part-time job, they probably don't have time to participate in another after-school activity.
- **Schedule a "catch-up day"** once a week to complete tasks and assignment that they have been putting off.

Q: My daughter is taking full honors classes this year, plays three sports, has a part-time job and volunteers in a homeless shelter. She says she needs to do all this to get into college. How can I tell if she's doing too much?

A: Your daughter's schedule sounds typical, today's teens carry a full load. Between their schoolwork and their extra-curricular activities, many of them have no time for themselves.

The toughest thing for you to remember is that it is her life. She is making choices and learning how to set priorities.

You can help by asking two questions:

- 1. Does she have any downtime?** All teens need to have some unscheduled downtime every week to relax, hang out with friends or just listen to music and daydream.
- 2. Is she doing these activities because she enjoys them?** Colleges aren't looking for someone who has plodded through activities they didn't like in order to build a résumé. They are more interested in seeing a connection between your teen's activities and her passions. Ask your teen to think about the things she does. If there are any she is doing only because she thinks she has to, those may be the ones to drop.

If your teen's grades start to slip, help her rethink what she's doing. Keep the lines of communication open and let her know you love her for who she is, and not what she does.

Grad Nite and Taste of Dana Need Help!

A Dana Hills tradition needs a leader! The Grad Nite—Taste of Dana committee is seeking a chairperson for Grad Nite 2015.

Grad Nite is a drug and alcohol-free, all-night celebration for the DHHS graduating seniors. It's always a memorable night of dancing, games and fun. Grad Nite will be held on June 19, 2015.

Our primary fundraiser is Taste of Dana which is typically held in March. Please help continue our DHHS tradition, contact Terri Virgil at ctvirgil@cox.net for more information or visit our website at www.dhgradnite.com

Student Planners

A limited number of 2014-2015 DHHS Student Planners are still available. Students can pick one up at the main office for \$5, cash or check.

Thanks

**Educational
Programs**

PTSA

Reflections
Parent Education
Turn It In.com
Teen Driving
Safety

Welcome our New School Counselor, Rebecca Pianta



My name is Rebecca Pianta and I am the new School Counselor at Dana Hills High School. I am a graduate of California State University, Long Beach where I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Science in School Counseling. I have worked as a

Counselor at the Elementary, Middle and High School level for the past nine years, eight of which have been with CUSD. My main goal is to help promote success in academic, personal, social, and career development. I provide short-term crisis counseling

together with collaborating and consulting with teachers, parents and community agencies to help achieve this goal. I love being a School Counselor because I have the opportunity to be a part of such a great district and community in a helping role as an advocate for students and families.

Rebecca Pianta can be reached Monday-Friday at (949) 496-6666 ext. 2886 and is available by appointment.

Substance Abuse Interventions and Advice

Mike Darnold

Available on Campus Daily

Stop in any time, Dana Hills High School Room 300

Providing 24/7 Hot-line Crisis Response and Website Staff Training, Parent Education, Mentoring

**Any Day – Any Time
949-395-7275**

darnoldmike@gmail.com

This Program funded through the generosity of the City of Dana Point

SOS: Making the Community a Better Place



SOS starts the year off with some fun at their first beach party.

Thanks

Departmental Support

PTSA

Department Grants
Senior Scholarships
Library Support
Health Office Support

Welcome Our New Librarians, Kevin Knoot and Marian Blue

The library has gotten off to a great start this year. First, we have all new library staff! I am Kevin Knoots and I am new, not just to Dana Hills but to California as well. I previously was a school librarian in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our other new librarian is Marian Blue, who recently received her graduate degree in Library Science. We both are excited to be at such a great school, and have found the parents, students, and staff here a joy to work with.

Our first big project this year was to check out textbooks to students during registration. This was a new process for both the library staff and the school, and involved a lot of planning. Its success wouldn't have been possible without the time and hard work volunteered by the PTSA! The new process was well received by both staff and students, and allowed in-

struction to begin on day one without having to deal with the disruption of textbook distribution. All of us here at Dana are exceedingly grateful to the PTSA for their support in this and the entire registration process.

New technology! The district is in the process of updating the library circulation system. Our library will finally be going online later this fall! This is a major improvement, but is still just the first step in providing our students access and familiarity to the electronic resources they need in order to be successful in their future education and careers.

Textbooks! Of course the major issue this time of year is textbooks. Please remind your student they are borrowing the textbooks from DHHS and to take special care of them so they will be in good condition for the

next student:

- Put a cover on each book. It helps protect the book as well as make it more distinctive to keep it from being lost.
- Keep the books dry and away from food and water bottles! If a book is damaged by water or food, we must charge the replacement cost for that book for health reasons.
- Don't loan your books to friends, and never leave them unattended where they may be confused with another student's books. Write your name inside the cover.

-View the district textbook policy here: <http://dhhs.schoolloop.com/file/1410071107516/1410071107253/2124309349889343195.pdf>



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>

School Heroes

A special shout-out for our reliable and hard working copy room volunteers. The school wouldn't function without you. Not least due to the fact that our harried and frantic teachers would probably have had the machines battered into oblivion by now in their haste to make copies during their infrequent prep periods and the narrow windows between classes. I have received many anxious queries as to when the next volunteer would be in. You are school heroes!



We are in need of donations for incentives!

Wave Rider Program Recognizes Character

The Wave Rider is a positive incentives program recognizing students who exemplify good character or show random acts of kindness. The program is aligned with the Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship) and recognizes students who display character by taking a stand against bullying, for example.

All staff members are encouraged to recognize deserving students by submitting a Wave Rider ticket to

the office. The ticket is then included in a weekly random drawing.

We strive to recognize as many students as possible throughout the year. Prizes include gift cards to Regal Theaters, In-N-Out Burger, Jamba Juice, Hobie's, Panda Express, Starbucks, Golden Spoon, Pick Up Stix, cafeteria items and more. The program is funded by the PTSA and parent donations. Recipient names are included in the newsletter and announced in the morning bulletin.

We are in need of incentives donations! To contribute to The Wave Rider incentives program, (\$5-\$10 gift card prizes); please contact Rebecca Pianta (School Counselor), at 496-6666 ext. 2886 or rgpianta@capousd.org.

Thank you!

PTSA Bountiful Successes

PTSA Back to School Night Bake Sale and School Supply Drive

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

Our Dolphin family members enjoyed sweet treats at the PTSA Bake Sale and donated over \$1,000 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.

We 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 and delightful iced tea!

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, reams of paper, 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!



Fight Back Against Cancer

Thank you to the Dana Hills High School PTSA Relay for Life Team for their participation in the annual Laguna Niguel Relay for Life on May 31, 2014.

The Relay is a unique 24-hour run/walk event that celebrates cancer survivorship and remembers those who have lost their battle. Funds raised by this event are used to provide services for local cancer patients, community education programs and national cancer research projects.

The DHHS PTSA is a founding team of the American

Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Laguna Niguel. The 2014 team had 17 registered team members and even more volunteers, both students and parents. In addition, the team raised more than \$900. The Dana Hills High School Drum Line started off the 24 hour event by leading the Survivors' Lap. Later that evening, the Dana Hills String Quartet performed during the Luminaria Ceremony.

Student volunteers were an integral part of the Relay this year. They helped to set up the event on Friday. They decorated and sold

luminarias throughout the day on Saturday to help raise even more money for the American Cancer Society. Finally, students helped to tear everything down and clean up on Sunday morning. Without those dedicated volunteers, this event would not have been as successful as it was.

The DHHS PTSA team will be back on the track next spring for the 2015 Laguna Niguel 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!



Dana Hill Drum Line leads the Survivors' Lap

2014-2015 Recycling Events

Mark your calendars!

Please bring your plastic bottles and aluminum cans to Dana Hills and help raise funds for our school.

Drop-off curb side near the pool entrance and tennis courts from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on the following Saturdays:

October 4 and 18
November 1 and 15
December 13
January 10 and 24
February 7 and 21
March 7 and 21
April 4 and 25
May 16 and 30
June 6

Thank you for your continued support!

As a reminder, Dolphin Pride and National Honor Society members may volunteer at our Saturday events only for school hours. Please sign-up outside Mrs. Coghill's room, English 603.

Thanks

**School
Improvements**

PTSA

Campus
Beautification,
Emergency
Preparedness
Supplies



Dolphin Force Foundation, Enabling excellence as an independent, parent-run 501(c)3 non-profit organization to support high-priority projects benefiting all students at Dana Hills .

Dolphin Force Foundation, 20 Years of Service

As my final year at DHHS has arrived, I want to take a moment and reflect on all the wonderful things Dolphin Force Foundation has accomplished since my first year here in 2009!

I have had the pleasure of working with talented, dedicated and wonderful parents that have supported our children through volunteer work as well as generous donations.

Thank you to all the Dolphin Force board members that served Dana Hills High School in the last 20 years! We celebrate all of you as we celebrate our 20 year anniversary as an independent, parent run 501(C)3 non-profit organization that raises money for improvements benefiting all students at Dana Hills High School.

Our primary job has been to raise money for campus

enhancement projects. We meet with Dr. Allemann once a month and discuss what improvements take priority. In the last few years, thanks to one generous DHHS family, we have established a Microsoft Family Matching Fund and were able to make major improvements and add security cameras as well as new computer labs.

We organize many fundraising events and need parents and students to help us out. These are effortless money makers such as Ralphs Community Contribution program.

In the 2012-2013 school year contributions were **\$414.60** (based on less than 50 households). Last year in order to increase the numbers, our dedicated volunteers stood outside Ralphs stores and handed out flyers to shop-

pers who would then simply had the cashier scan at the barcode on our flyer at check out. Our contributions for the 2013-2014 school year were **\$11,376.44** (based on over 400 contributing households)! Please step up and help. Re-enroll at Ralphs every September.

Dolphin Force is also responsible for creating lasting memories by organizing the annual Father Daughter Dance and Mother Son Casino Night fundraisers! These events are only possible with the help of our parent volunteers.

I truly look forward to 2014-15 to be the best year for Dolphin Force and I hope more parents join our foundation so together we can support our children.

By Shani Moslehi

Dolphin Force in Action

Fundraisers:

Ralphs: Please renew your subscription as they will expire every September. Re-enroll online or get a Ralph's flyer with the barcode from front office and present to cashier.

Communities for Causes: Great new app. To download on your smart phones and each time you use the participating vendors/restaurant DFF earns a percentage.

Class Photo Fund: Another new fundraiser which was added thanks to dedicated help of our volunteer Lynn Conger for scanning 40 years of DHHS class photos! You can go online and buy them and each time you make a purchase, DFF will receive a donation. Spread the word to all Alumni students!

Amazon: Log in from DFF's website each time you make a purchase from Amazon and they will donate a percentage of your purchase to us.

Brick Walk: Leave a legacy! Purchase a brick to be installed in your student's name for only \$125.

Save The Date:

E-Waste: Bring used electronics to DHHS senior parking, Saturday 10/25/15 (9:00-3:00)

Father-Daughter Dance: Saturday 2/28/15

Mother-Son Casino Night: TBD

Thanks

Communication

PTSA

PTSA Listserv
PTSA Website
Newsletter

SOCOSA Begins the 2014–2015 School Year



The new SOCOSA Foundation Board has been busy at work through the summer and into registration! We have reached two-thirds family memberships which helps the foundation fund our SOCOSA theatre and performing arts, instrumental music and visual arts programs led by SOCOSA Artistic Director, Ray Woods.

Our program cannot exist without parent support and outside donor support which we are consistently looking to grow both on campus and in our nearby communities!

We have a talented group of board members

Denise Erkeneff, President
Wendie Newman, VP Membership
Kathleen Wong, Treasurer
Heidi Argent, Secretary
Courtney Zani, VP Marketing & Communications
Dawn Wood, VP Corporate
Miriam Guthary, VP Ways and Means

If you would like to make a corporate donation, or make in-kind donations for our department needs, please contact Dawn Wood, VP Corporate at

dwood@homgroup.com

Also, we strongly encourage parent volunteers for our SOCOSA programs - please contact Susan Hahn, Chairperson/Volunteers at parthyahn@aol.com if you are interested in helping out.

You can find us and friend us on Facebook "SOCOSA – South Orange County School of the Arts" or at www.socsarts.org.

Welcome New Additions to the SOCOSA Team

Gary Horimoto, Orchestra

"My name is Gary Horimoto and I am taking over the orchestra program. I have taught for 38 years and began my full time career at Dana Hills from 1978-1981 teaching both band and orchestra. I have taught at the middle school, high school and college levels. I am glad to be back and have great expectations."

Amanda Denison, Ceramics

"Ms. Amanda Denison joins our Visual Arts team this year. She comes from Chaparral High School in Temecula, CA and has high expectations for our Ceramics program. She is glad to jump into the school year and join the SOCOSA team."

Upcoming SOCOSA Performances

Crimes of the Heart:

Nov. 13-15. 7pm in the Porthole. \$12/students and seniors; \$15/adults (\$5 student rush on Thursday night only!)

Fall Band Concert:

Nov. 17. 7pm in the Porthole

Urinetown:

Dec. 10-12. 7pm in the Porthole.

Dec. 13. 2pm and 7pm in the Porthole. \$12/students and seniors; \$15/adults

Holiday Concert:

Dec. 16 and 17. 7pm in the Mall. \$12/students and seniors; \$15/adults

Dance Concert:

Jan. 22-24. 7pm in the Porthole. \$12/students and seniors; \$15/adults



Superintendent's
Back to School
Video

http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1232963476040

Local Control
Funding Formula
Information:

http://capousd.ca.schoolloop.com/cms/page_view?d=x&piid=&vpid=1392894044236

Thanks

Support

PTSA

School and
Community
Outreach,
Wave Rider
Program,
Testing Snacks

CUCPTSA: Our Government and Our Kids

By Linda Fong

Local: New Superintendent, LCAP, Budget, School Year

New Superintendent

CUCPTSA and the entire community of Capistrano Unified warmly welcome new superintendent, Kirsten Vital, who began her tenure as Superintendent this summer. See her back to school video online (sidebar).

LCAP Adopted

CUSD's first Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is part of a new California school funding law called the LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula), which requires all school districts to involve parents and students in planning and decision-making, as well as in developing Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAPs). In addition, the new structure provides extra funding for students with greater challenges, and the LCAP must include specific

goals and metrics that outline how additional monies will be spent and results measured. The LCAP serves as a framework for all stakeholders, teachers, administrators, parents and students to work towards common goals. More information on CUSD's LCAP can be found online (sidebar).

Budget News

In June, CUSD adopted a budget for the 2014-15 school year that includes an approximately 2% increase over 2013-14 revenues, and an approximately 2% increase in expenditures. Key changes in the adopted 2014-15 budget include:

- Restored 180 day school year (last year was 177 days, prior year was 175 days)

- Decreased class size across all grades
- Increased books, supplies and capital outlay expenditures

School Year Calendar:

The 2015-2016 calendar has already been approved by the Board of Trustees, which includes a pre-Labor day school start date of Tuesday, August 25, 2015. This shift is becoming more common so students can have more classroom and instructional time before key testing periods, especially high school students and teachers who are bound by national testing schedules with AP/IB and SAT/ACT tests. Complete CUSD 2014-15 and 2015-16 calendars can be found at the District's website.

State: Common Core, Absenteeism, Teacher Dismissal

State Awards Common Core Test Contract to SBAC

With the State Board of Education's approval, California became the eighth state to officially award a contract to the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) for the Common Core based standardized tests that students will take next spring. With federal money running out this year, Smarter Balanced is now self-funded. California will pay \$9.55 million annually for three years for a total of \$28.65 million. California students will take the online English language arts and math tests for grades 3

through 8 and grade 11.

Chronic Absenteeism Bill In Jeopardy

Assembly Bill 1866, by Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (D-Pacoima), would require the state student data system, known as CALPADS, to add reports on chronic absenteeism using attendance data on individual students that districts would upload. Districts are required to set goals to reduce chronic absenteeism as part of their Local Control Accountability Plans. The bill has received strong support in the legislature, but the Department of Finance reports that Governor Brown is not likely to

sign it, due to extensive start up and maintenance costs.

State Will Appeal *Vergara v. California*

The lawsuit challenged three statutes laying out the teacher dismissal process, two laws establishing tenure – the due process guarantees given teachers after two years on the job – and layoffs by seniority, known as LIFO for the “last in, first out” process. Superior Court Judge Rolf Treu ruled that teacher protection laws disproportionately deny poor and minority students' ac-

Continued next page

State: Expanded Apprenticeships

cess to a quality public education. The judge agreed with the claims from nine students in five districts that teacher tenure and dismissal laws result in “grossly ineffective teachers” being hired and retained and that these teachers are “disproportionately situated in schools serving predominantly low-income and minority students.”

Bill to Expand Apprenticeships Awaits Governor

Senate Bill 923, by Sen. Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills, would create a grant program called the Educational Apprenticeship Innovation Prize, or EdPrize, to allow school districts and community colleges to expand apprenticeship programs - where students are paid to work in their chosen field while simultaneously going to school to learn the craft.

The grants would be made available under the California Career Pathways Trust, a \$250 million fund for career programs in schools. The grants would be tailored toward expanding apprenticeships in fields such as manufacturing, health care, biotechnology, early childhood education, and entertainment. SB 923 has passed the Legislature; Gov. Jerry Brown has until Sept. 30 to take action on the bill.

Federal: Call to Action

Save School Lunches

The House of Representatives will be voting on the Fiscal Year 2015 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, which includes language that would allow a waiver from updated nutrition standards for some schools. Despite the fact that 90 percent of school districts are reporting implementing healthy school meals, Congress now wants to roll back nutrition goals around salt, whole grains, and access to fruits and vegetables and nutritious snacks. And they're attempting to do it through an appropriations bill. Instead, Congress should be working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to identify any necessary changes, or debate changes through a revision of the School Lunch Act, which is scheduled for reauthorization in 2015.

National PTA Convention Resolutions

1. Inclusive Schools Build Stronger Communities: Goal is to integrate children with special needs and their fam-

ilies in local public schools

2. Effects of Media on the Development of the Female Self Esteem: Goal is to educate parents, schools and teens about how media images and messages readily damage young females' view of their bodies and encourage efforts to counter serious health issues that commonly result, including lower self-esteem, depression and eating disorders.

National PTA Policy Agenda

1. Education

- Promote Family Engagement
- Reauthorization of ESEA -NCLB; proficiency standards that measure growth as well as performance
- Increase Funding for IDEA, Head Start, Title I, III and IV
- Early Education – quality, public pre-K for all kids 0-5
- Special Education – proper transition planning no later than age 14

2. Child Health & Nutrition

- Maintain nutrition standards for National School Lunch and Breakfast programs
- Implement nutrition standards for all food served on school campuses

3. School Safety

- Infrastructure improvements around schools as included in Safe Routes to Schools bill
- Bullying education for teachers, parents, kids and school employees to prevent and intervene
- Gun Violence Prevention

4. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – update 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) to keep non-criminal, truant kids out of juvenile detention centers and instead implement school/home-based interventions.

SAT and ACT Prep

SAT Prep Boot Camp at Dana Hills High!

A one-day program **Sunday, November 16th** to prep for the December or January SAT. DB Academics will host an SAT prep boot camp 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
- Most frequently tested concepts
- How to analyze answer choices to effectively eliminate incorrect answers
- When to guess
- How to identify and approach tricky questions
- How to avoid common mistakes that students make

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

Cost: *(Make checks payable to DHHS PTSA)*
 English and Math (9:00 – 4:00pm) \$135
 Math only (9:00 – 11:00am) \$50
 English only (11:30am – 4:00pm) \$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.

How would you score on the 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

The SAT/ACT Combo Practice Test date is **Saturday, November 22nd** from 9:00am - 1:30 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 December 1st. Questions? Contact john.peterson@kaplan.com.

ASU Hard At Work, Continued From Page 3

back visiting senior social studies classes to pass out order forms for caps and gowns. Jostens will then return to collect the cap and gown orders and deposits and continue taking the ring orders. Check the dhhs.net

website for details.

Finally, ASU will be hosting recognitions of National Red Ribbon Week (drug abuse), National Blue Ribbon week (bullying awareness) and

Pink Ribbon Week during the month of October and the first week in November. Respecting ourselves and fellow classmates should be core to our personal value system and how we conduct ourselves every day.

Thank You to Dana Hills High School Supporters

The DHHS PTSA is grateful to the Dana Hills families for their donations which support our many programs serving the DHHS students and campus! Thank you so much for your generosity!

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Newsletter**

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

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



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Visit the PTSA Website At:
www.dhhsptsa.com

The Dolphin Digest is a publication of Dana Hills High School PTSA, Capistrano Unified Council, Fourth District PTA
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Vive La Manche Tour!

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

England, Belgium, France

Ten days; out of LAX to London; through ACIS, the leader in student travel.

Depart: June 29, Return: July 8, 2015

Cost: \$4,440

Bring your family & friends!

See Ms. Fenstermaker in Room 925 for more info or send an e-mail to mafenstermaker@capousd.org