

The Stallion Round-Up

Tony Ferruzo, Principal
Mary St. Onge, PTSA
Debbie Worley, Editor

San Juan Hills High School
PTSA Newsletter



November 2007
San Juan Hills High School
29211 Vista Montano
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Upcoming Events

PTSA Meetings

Nov. 7th - 7pm

Dec. 5th - 7pm

Veteran's Day Holiday

Nov. 12th

9th Grade Parent Night

Nov. 15th-7pm

CUSD District Office

Talk with Tony

Nov. 16th

7:30 am

Thanksgiving Recess

Nov. 19-23

Minimum Days 2007-2008

Wednesdays: Dec.

12, Mar. 19 & May 21

School Day ends at 11:10 am

SPECIAL

THANK YOU

THANKS

to our PTSA Hospitality team - Kay Winckel, Becky LaForge and Nadim Khalaf, for all their hard work.

Principal's Message

By Tony Ferruzo

Wherever we turned as we readied to open San Juan Hills High, students, parents, and staff were talking about what the new high school would offer to students in academics, athletics, electives, and performing arts. The list of important questions sometimes seemed endless. The SJHHS Leadership Team and staff appreciated the patience of every parent and student, as we came together as a new team. Our opening product for our entering freshmen class seems to be well-received by students and parents alike, rich in academic, elective, and performing arts offerings, and successful in our first fall sports program.

Community Participation

As we embarked on the journey to develop the different academic and extra-curricular components of the school, the Leadership Team invited students, parents, and the community to participate on a variety of items. Topics for discussion and input ranged from the school philosophy and goals to the organization of the school day, curriculum, use of tech-

nology, the athletic and extra-curricular programs, and the school mascot and colors. Multiple meetings for parents and students continued up to the opening of our school, this past September. We owe Marco Forster, Ladera Ranch, and Shorecliffs middle schools and the district office our sincere gratitude for their hospitality, as most large group meetings took place in their multipurpose rooms. Principal Carrie Bertini and the Marco staff went above and beyond the call of duty sharing their space and allowing us to become part of their campus for almost a year.

As we opened, our Parent Committee transitioned into a hard-working, energetic PTSA; and supportive, action-oriented Athletic and Performing Arts Booster Clubs quickly formed. Our school has already become rich in parent volunteers providing critical support to our students and staff. Our Student Task Force coordinated our first ASB elections, and our students are already represented by strong ASB Leadership students who are beginning to develop a vibrant activities program.

President's Letter

By Mary St. Onge

I am very excited to say, **Welcome to San Juan Hills High School.** What an incredible experience this has been. It's hard to believe we are already 6 weeks into the school year. The PTSA has been working to plan programs and activities for our students, staff and families. Thank you to all parents who volunteered to participate as members of the PTSA executive board.

If you have suggestions for programs or activities you would like to see at SJHHS, contact me at stongerm@cox.net or 949-661-5398. We are always looking for new volunteers. If you have not already done so, please go to the PTSA website www.sjhhsptsa.org and complete a volunteer form. Volunteering at

your child's school shows them that you care about them and the school. **Volunteer & make a difference in your child's life.**

Many parents support the following areas:

Library setup ▪ Registration ▪ Student Store ▪ Planning fabulous welcome lunches for our teachers and staff ▪ Reflections Art Program ▪ Student Directory ▪ PTSA Website ▪ Attending Legislative meetings to advocate for our students & school ▪ The Stallion Round-Up newsletter ▪ Talks with Tony ▪ Office volunteers ▪ Teacher Wish List ▪ Red Ribbon Week

**San Juan Hills
High School
PTSA 2007-08**

President

Mary St. Onge

Executive Vice President

Ann Marie Hendricks

Vice President Membership

Kathrine Lee

Recording Secretary

Marcy Backhus

Treasurer

Margie Tinsley

Financial Secretary

Crystie Bock

Historian

Alicia Hoover

Auditor

Aaron Perryman

Parliamentarian

Nadim Khalaf

Legislation

Erin Kutnick

Corresponding Secretary

Anne Copley

Programs & Assemblies

Alma Mesa

Volunteer Coordinator

Marcela Salazar-Hudgins

Newsletter

Debbie Worley

Publicity

Joe LaRosa

Fundraising/Ways & Means

Nadim Khalaf

Red Ribbon Week

Collene Ortiz/Christene Didier

Teacher Appreciation

Becky LaForge

Swallows Day Parade

Erin Kutnick

Library Support/Volunteers

Tracey Morris

Athletics Liaison

Aaron Perryman

Performing Arts Liaison

Joe LaRosa

Spirit Wear/Student Store

Collene Ortiz/Christene Didier

PTSA Webmaster

Joe LaRosa

Planners

Debbie Worley/Tracey Morris

Registration

Elvia Gustavson/Kelli Merdi

Community Outreach

Aida Gurrola

Principal

Tony Ferruzzo

Attendance Office ABC's

Notes from the Assistant Principal

By Ms. Soto

Now that we've settled into the new school year, I wanted to take a moment and revisit attendance procedures and the use of the attendance office.

If your child is going to be absent for the entire day, please call our 24-hour attendance line at (949) 234-5592 to report the absence. However, if your child needs to be picked up early for an appointment, please send a note with your child to school and ask them to stop at the attendance office before heading to their first class to obtain an "Early Out" slip. Not only will your child be dismissed at your requested time, we will be able to limit the class interruption when your child is released. Please remember to please stop by the attendance office and formally sign your child out of school. A driver's license or similar form of identification is needed for San Juan Hills High School to release your child out of school.

Also, we've been working really hard with the Stallions to check the attendance office if they believe a parent is dropping off a forgotten item like a lunch or a much needed homework assignment. Parents, if you could label your child's name on any items, it makes it easier for the students to locate their items. Please remind your children that we do not want to interrupt classes to deliver items and have them check the attendance office for items dropped off.

PTSA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Erin Kutnick

LOCAL: The SJHHS PTSA passed a resolution on October 15, 2007 in support of the completion of the remaining facilities for San Juan Hills High School. That resolution was presented to the Board of Trustees at their regular October meeting. **The final facilities for San Juan Hills are not approved yet and will be voted on at the November 5, 2007.** You are encouraged to attend.

STATE: Just weeks after lawmakers enacted a state budget, finance officials say revenues are slipping below projections making it likely that next year's budget problems will be worse than expected. Based on major tax receipts collected in the first two months of the new fiscal year, California could face an \$8.6 billion operating deficit or more in 2008-09 if the state's economy and soft housing market continue at the current pace.

FEDERAL: The House Committee on Education and Labor's efforts to reauthorize No Child Left Behind continues as committee staff pours over hundreds of comments submitted in response to the Discussion Draft. As of now a date has not been set for further consideration by the House Committee on Education and Labor but it may be in late October. PTA at CUSD conducted a letter campaign in September to be sure our voices are heard. Over 875 letters were sent to five Federal Representatives.



**MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD....
REGISTER TO VOTE.**

It's Not to Late to Join SJHHS PTSA...

PTSA Membership Forms Online...

Click on www.sjhhsptsa.org

If you didn't get a chance to join PTSA before, you can access our membership forms online. Our NEW website also offers information about PTSA events, officers, and publishes all our newsletters electronically. You can also sign up for the PTSA listserve and be notified about important events and legislative actions. Please visit our website today!

Stallion Student Store

Open for Business

By **Collene Ortiz**

San Juan Hills High School is one of the most unique high schools in the district. Did you know we are the only high school in the district with a student store? The student store is open everyday at lunchtime. We carry school supplies, spirit wear, and more.

We have ordered new merchandise, so please come in and check out all of the new items. Some of the new merchandise includes beanies, new style sweatshirts, mesh backpacks, beach towels, pennants, books that the students are required to read in their English class, and more. Parents are welcome to come and shop at lunchtime as well. Make sure you sign-in at the office first when you visit. The student store helps support SJHHS PTSA.

Guidance Tips for Freshmen

Grading, ABI Internet Access & Study Habits

By **Maureen Scherf**

A special "thank you" to the Class of 2011 for helping our Guidance Staff conduct a smooth transition from the spring 2007 8th grade course enrollment, to a great kick off and opening of San Juan Hills High School. We are thrilled to be working with you and your children and look forward to providing guidance for a successful and rewarding high school career.

Grading during high school is based on a semester system: 1) Fall semester (runs from September until the end of January); and, 2) spring semester (runs from February until June). Within each semester, progress grades will be posted and mailed home to parents at the end of 6 weeks and again at the end of 12 weeks. **Two important upcoming dates are Friday, Nov. 30th when the 2nd Progress Report period ends and Friday, Dec. 14th which is the last day to drop classes.** Final grades for the semester, those posted after final exams, will become part of the student's official high school transcript. In order to earn a high school diploma, students must successfully complete 220 credits (each class is worth 5 credits), meet specific subject requirements and pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

By now, you should have received information via mail on how to access ABI (Aeries Browser Interface). **ABI provides the opportunity for parents and students to have internet access to necessary information to help monitor success in the classroom (grades and assignments)** and progress toward high school graduation. If you need assistance on how to access ABI, please contact Maureen Scherf or Ellen Oxales at 234-5900.

Mark your calendar for **SJHHS 9th Grade Parent Night, on Thursday, November 15th**, at 7pm in the CUSD District Office Board Room. Topics of discussion will include: CUSD Graduation Requirements, the high school academic "Four-Year Plan", Post secondary options including access to California Community Colleges, A-G Requirements for CSU and UC college admissions, private universities and more.

Counselor's Corner

Hello, San Juan Hills High School Stallions and Parents! My name is **Gayle Con-tonis**, and I am proud to be your school counselor. My experience lies in elementary school teaching for 2 years and counseling for 5 years. I am proud to be a CUSD employee and equally thrilled to be working for the students, families and staff of SJHHS. My job is to see to it that each student achieves growth both academically and personally.

Parents, students, and staff may refer anyone to me for *any* of the following reasons:

- 1) Experiencing poor peer relations
- 2) Low self-esteem,
- 3) Expresses concerns about home life
- 4) Performs below potential academically
- 5) Appears shy and withdrawn
- 6) Has experienced death in the family, divorce, or other significant family disruption.

As a parent, you know your child best. However, a school counselor can help you better understand your child as an adolescent and student. Therefore, I need YOU to help ME learn more about your son/daughter so that I can better assist him/her at school. I invite you to contact me about your child or a particular situation in which your child may need assistance.

Resources are readily available if you or your family would like outside referrals that are not school-based. Please contact me at 949-234-5513 or email gcon-tonis@capousd.org. Here's to a happy, healthy and successful opening year!

Six Habits of the Successful High School Student

- **"Complete" and "Turn In" all homework and classroom assignments**
- **Develop good study habits – Commit to at least ONE or more hours of homework and study time each day**
- **Attend your classes every day and be "on time!"**
- **Strive to be "organized" and "planned"**
- **Choose your friends wisely – Be Responsible!!**
- **"Get Connected" & "Stay Involved" in school activities**

San Juan Hills High School Theatre Department
presents.....

FOOL's
a Comedy by Neil Simon

Dec. 5, 6, 7, & 8
7 pm

Don't miss this premiere production . Tickets on sale soon!
Sponsorship and advertising opportunities available .
Contact RErigg@capousd.org for more information.



School Contact Information

Main Office: 234-5900, Fax: 488-9727
Attendance: 234-5592
Web: www.sjhhs.org
District web: www.capousd.org

**'Tis the Season to
Support Athletics
at SJHHS**



The Stallion Booster Club is selling Christmas Trees to the San Juan Hills High School community. Proceeds benefit Stallion Athletic programs. These beautiful Christmas Trees are offered direct from the grower, cut fresh and shipped to our school. **The deadline to purchase a tree is November 9.** The Boosters have also teamed with the City of San Juan Capistrano to support a Marine Battalion from Camp Pendleton. You may purchase a tree to donate to a Marine family. Trees will be available for pick up at school on December 1, 2007. Stallion Boosters and the City of San Juan Capistrano will arrange delivery to Marine families .

Please contact your favorite Stallion athlete, or download forms Booster Tree Fundraiser Flyer and Booster Tree Fundraiser Order Form from the San Juan Hills website at www.sjhhs.org. If you have any questions, contact Erin Kutnick (erinkutnick@cox.net) or Ann Marie Hendricks (auntbips@aol.com). ***THANKS for your generous support of the SJHHS Athletic programs.***

The Stallion Round-Up
Capistrano Unified Council PTSA
SJHHS PTSA
P.O. BOX 2183
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

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