



Arcadia High School Newsletter

Arcadia High School PTSA

February 2009/March 2009

Principal's Message



Together We Succeed

Starting the New Year with the state budget problems looming over our head, like a dark cloud, presents some challenging times. I find myself watching the morning news and feeling pulled down by the negative stories of doom and gloom. No one will argue that tough times are ahead of us with the wavering economy and its impact on the business of educating kids.

As all of this negativity continues to build, I find myself attending the many Arcadia community events and celebrations like the Chinese New Year celebration hosted by the Chinese Parent Booster Group. Each of these events are filled with families that are proud to be Arcadians and committed to this community and supporting the Tradition of Excellence that exists in our schools.

I am reminded that it was not a governor, state legislator or budget that built this community, but instead it was the people that chose to call Arcadia home and ensure that it would endure through the good times and the bad. I am more confident and optimistic than ever that together this community will pull together during the tough road ahead to continue providing the best possible education for our kids. We can only give our best when we work together to support Arcadia High School.

I encourage you in the days ahead to look for opportunities to serve the community and support the students who will be the future leaders of Arcadia. Together we will succeed in protecting and growing the Tradition of Excellence!

David Vannasdall

David Vannasdall, Principal
Kay Kinsler, President

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President's Message

Happy New Year & Happy Lunar New Year!! May this year bring peace, prosperity and good health to all!

All the Parent Booster groups are working with the PTSA this year to raise money for the senior scholarships and for a diversity and tolerance program for all AHS students. We have decided to hold a "Make Believe Tea Party." Every family will receive an invitation to the non-event. You are being asked to donate a minimum of \$5.00 to this fundraiser. Please donate generously to help us maintain our programs that our school depends on. If extra funds are raised, the monies will be gifted to the school. All money raised will be used for student programs. This is extremely important with the reduction in state funding that all schools are experiencing. Please send the donation with your student to school. The replies will be collected in their homeroom (4th period.) The class with the highest percent participation and the highest money collected will receive a pizza party at lunch.

We are continuing to host parent education programs following each PTSA meeting. I was to thank Scott Bramley for the fabulous internet safety program in January and Larry Peralta and Luis Viscuna, who are Arcadia Police Department and School Resource Officers spoke to us about crime activity in Arcadia. Much was learned from both programs. Coming up look for the following programs:

- February 5 Mei-Li Sun, speaker **How to Get into a Great College!!**

With decreasing number of openings and budget cuts, getting into UC or Cal State universities takes planning and preparation

- March 5, Nancy Martin, counselor will speak on **Parenting Teenagers and Young Adults.**
- April 2, **Personal Finance for Teenager and young adults heading off to college.**

The February and April programs are appropriate for both parents and students. We look forward to having everyone attend these programs.

The PTSA is continuing to work to incorporate all the booster organizations under one umbrella. Each booster group provides essential services, yet if we work together on the big items we will save time, energy, and do a better job.

As you know, my goal for the year is "Building our Future Together." There are many reasons that I feel strongly about this goal. First, we are one community. Working together we can do so much more than working alone. We all struggle with the same issues: how to raise responsible teenagers into mature, wise, thoughtful, happy, productive, well adjusted adults – no easy task. We all struggle with the same environment – movies, TV, electronic games, social pressures,

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Some cyberbullying facts

- 43% of kids age 13-17 have been cyberbullied.
- Most victims know the person bothering them.
- 53% of teens admit sending a hurtful message.
- Only 10% of bullying victims tell their parents.
- The #1 form of cyberbullying? Making private information public.
- Several states have made cyberbullying a crime.



Please turn to page 19 to read more about cyberbullying.

President's Message (continued from previous page)

academic issues, extracurricular activities, and more. There are more similarities than differences between each of us. We each get the results in different ways – yet we can learn from each other.

Second, our school needs us to work together – Arcadia remains one of the lowest funded school districts in our state! The district and our administration work diligently to get the most out of every dollar. Just imagine how much money we could raise if we collectively worked together – and imagine the programs that our administration could implement. It would be awesome.

In today's workplace, essential skills include problem solving, creativity and **teamwork**. Children learn from our example. If we do it – they will know that they too can work together and will be expected to do it!

Kay Kinsler

AHS PTA President

Thank you to:

- Suzanne Davis for our newsletters
- Jeff Laun for our weekly email updates a.k.a. "Listserve"
- Theresia Liem for hospitality and refreshments at all of our meetings
- Ruth Lagace and Lori Phillipi for their work as Grad Night Liaisons
- Lisa Lucas for the bylaws update
- The Nominating Committee for their hard work in putting together a slate of officers to lead AHS PTSA next school year
- Lisa Lucas and Kathy Yamane for helping put together our monthly parent education programs

How to Get into a Great College!!

With decreasing number of openings and budget cuts, getting into UC or Cal State universities takes planning and preparation

On Thursday, February 5, 2009
At 8:00 p.m.
Following the AHS PTSA meeting

Location: Arcadia City Council Chambers
240 West Huntington Drive
Arcadia, CA

Mei-Li Sun will discuss the complete process including:

Academic Preparation

- Reviewing a-g requirements for any deficiencies
- Community college courses/summer school

Extracurriculars

- Summer opportunities
- Lining up leadership positions for senior year
- Educational Preparation Programs
- Putting together your brag sheet

Standardized Testing

- Scheduling to take SAT/ACT plus Writing at least once before the end of the school year
- Difference between SAT/ACT

Thinking About College

- Consider the different types of colleges (public, private, out-of-state)
- Start thinking about how to pay for college (many scholarships have October deadlines)
- Short spiel about Berkeley and UCLA

Questions and answer period will follow.

This presentation is geared for students and parents of freshman, sophomore, and junior students

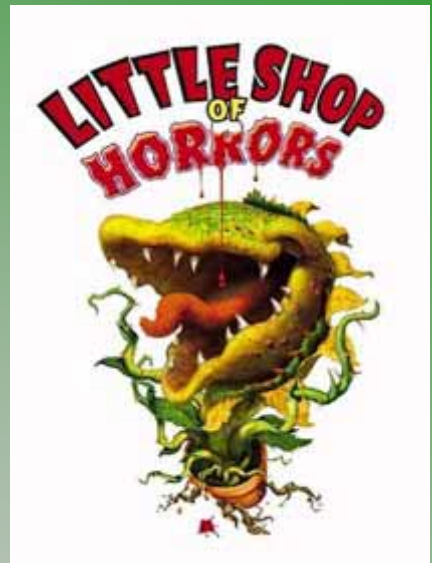
Arcadia High School Theatre Department

A Musical Comedy:

A down-and out skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon "Audrey II" grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite, finally revealing itself to be an alien creature poised for global domination

March 24-28, 2009, 7PM

AHS Little Theatre



Choral Music News

The show choirs begin their competitive season with Chanteurs' entry at the prestigious 34th annual "Aztec Sing" at Citrus College on January 30th. This is the oldest continuously running show choir competition in the nation and Chanteurs has won first place nine times. New Spirit opens their season at the Brea Olinda "Ladies Night Out" competition where they have won first place three out of the past four years. Other competitions are sponsored by Diamond Bar HS, Los Alamitos HS, Hart HS and the SCVA. For ticket information, call the choral music office at 821-1785.

Arcadia HS hosts the 15th annual Arcadia Show Choir Invitational, or "The Big Pow Wow XV" at San Gabriel Mission Playhouse on March 20th. All of the top show choirs from Southern California will be competing. Contact the choral music office for information.

Many thanks to all of those in the community who supported us during our big fundraising events in the fall. The "Spookbuster" and Cheesecake sales earned over \$12,000 towards our large expense account.

Visit our website at www.arcadiachoral.com.

Dear Members,

Please see the following California State PTA Legislative Alert. You are encouraged to call or email our state assembly member, state senator and the governor to deliver a strong message that our responsibility to children and their future cannot be compromised in bad economic times. You may write or call the following legislators:

Senators

<i>Member</i>	<i>District Number and Office</i>	<i>Capitol Office</i>
Huff, Bob	29 2605 E. Foothill Blvd. Suite A Glendora, CA 91740 (626) 914-5046	State Capitol Room 3048 Sacramento, CA 94248-0001 (916) 651-4029
Liu, Carol	21 710 S. Central Avenue Suite 310 Glendale, CA 91204 (626) 683-0282	State Capitol Room 5061 Sacramento, CA 94248-0001 (916) 651-4021

Assembly Members

<i>Member</i>	<i>District Number and Office</i>	<i>Capitol Office</i>
Adams, Anthony	59 540 West Baseline Road Suite 16 Claremont, CA 91711 (909) 625-1038	State Capitol Room 4015 Sacramento, CA 94249-0059 (916)319-2059
Eng, Mike	49 9420 Telstar Avenue Suite 103 El Monte, CA 91731 (626) 450-6116	State Capitol Room 4140 Sacramento, CA 94249-0049 (916) 319-2049
Portantino, Anthony	44 215 N. Marengo Ave. Suite 115 Pasadena, CA 91101 (626) 577-9944	State Capitol Room 2003 Sacramento, CA 94249-0044 (916) 319-2044

Ophelia Ha
VP Legislation, AHS PTSA

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Legislative Alert

California State Budget

Our responsibility to children cannot be cut in bad economic times

Action Needed

Please call or email your state assembly member, state senator and the governor right away and deliver the following messages:

- We must find a balanced approach to the budget crisis that includes sufficient new revenues to protect children and the future of California.
- Support continued funding for programs and services that help ensure that all children can succeed, such as smaller class sizes, arts and physical education, science, counselors, nurses, librarians, and health and social services for children.
- We cannot build a world class public education system by going backwards in funding for education and other children's services.

Background

With a worsening economy, state legislators and the Governor are faced with difficult decisions to adopt a balanced state budget. The Governor's 2009-2010 budget proposal includes deep cuts to education, health and human services as well as tax increases and borrowing.

In releasing the proposed budget last week, the Governor stated:

"California, like the rest of the nation is in the midst of a severe economic downturn. The combined effect of the state's continuing structural budget deficit and the loss of revenues resulting from the economic downturn results in a budget gap of \$41.6 billion, just under half of the revenues projected for 2009-10. This is the most challenging budget in the state's history. It demands quick action and calls for every type of solution possible, including major spending cuts, revenue increases, borrowing and cash management strategies."

California State PTA issued a press release in response to the latest budget proposal. In the release, Pam Brady, President, states:

"Don't think for a minute that we don't understand the magnitude of the current financial crisis. Families throughout California are living each day with the realities of the economic downturn. But families also understand that we have a responsibility to children and their future which cannot be compromised in bad economic times.

"We believe the smartest economic stimulus plan for California right now is to invest in the future by investing in the education, health and welfare of our state's children."

The Governor's latest budget proposal would cut an additional \$6 billion to public schools over the next 18 months. When combined with cuts already made to our schools in the current year and proposed accounting maneuvers to delay other payments owed to schools, the total cuts are nearly \$11 billion -- not including other cuts to vital children's services.

A recent national study revealed that California recently slipped from 46th to 47th in the nation in terms of per-student funding -- funding which goes to hire and train teachers, provide instructional programs and materials, ensure smaller class sizes, and provide all other aspects of a quality education to every student.

Next Steps

The Board of Managers of the California State PTA has voted to launch an aggressive campaign to protect children. In the coming weeks we will be providing additional information, resources and advice to help you communicate a strong message for a greater investment in children and against deeper budget cuts.

Budget Details on the Web at capta.org

ROP NEWS

What is the ROP Program?

ROP is an exciting part of the public education system in partnership with 23 school districts which includes Arcadia High School. ROP classes offer career preparation and high standards for students planning to enter the workforce or attend college. Many classes at Arcadia are UC approved and offered to students in a variety of formats. Instruction varies from classroom only training, un-paid community classroom experience (internships), and paid cooperative vocational education (work experience) classes for students who are employed. ROP supports students in learning skills, gain confidence and reduces apprehensions about entering the job market. The Los Angeles County Regional Occupational Program (LACOROP) is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and is governed by the Los Angeles County Board of Education.

Why should your student enroll in ROP ?

- ROP will expand your teenager's educational options
- ROP will "re-test" career interest before college
- ROP will help your son/daughter pay for college
- ROP will help your teenager acquire lifelong skills and habits
- ROP will help improve problem solving and decision making skills

ROP is School to Career?

School to Career is an educational initiative that provides students of all ages with a wide range of educational and career development options. The goals of School to Career are to make classroom learning more relevant, inspire students to commit themselves to lifelong learning. ROP helps prepare students for successful, high-skilled, well-paid career options with today's competitive job market.

During the month of March the counseling staff will begin scheduling students for fall 2009 classes. A fall schedule of ROP classes will be given with the scheduling in March. ROP classes do fill quickly and space is limited, so if you are choosing an ROP class be sure to include it in your selection of classes. Look for our summer class schedule in our May-June newsletter.

Continued on next page...

ROP NEWS

...Continued from previous page

Greatest Hits on the Web for Career Planning:

www.cacareerzone.org/index.html - The California Career Zone is an interactive Web site designed with students in mind. It provides self assessment instruments, 15 industry sectors with 900 occupations and 300 career videos, a reality check section for financial calculations, a search option for finding your favorite career, and a variety of additional resources.

www.californiacareers.info- This site provides career information and resources, including self-assessment for Californians.

ROP Classes incorporate three positive learning environments:

1. Classroom only-instruction which takes place in a classroom setting with hands-on-skills with training using industry-standard equipment.
2. Community classroom- (CC)-instruction is a combination of classroom instruction and unpaid on-the job (internships) training at business, industry, or public agency sites.
3. Cooperative Vocational Education - (CVE) or more commonly known as Work Experience instruction which is a combination of classroom instruction and paid on-the-job training. Students participating in CVE must attend related classroom instruction a minimum of 2.5 hours per week.

Work Experience:

If your student is currently working in the Retail industry, they can receive elective credit for working. Come to the ROP office P-12 for work permit and credit information.

Cindi Franz

ROP Counselor

COUNSELORS' CORNER

2009-2010 COURSE SELECTION AND INFORMATION

Believe it or not, it's almost time for students to begin thinking about next year's classes! Starting the week of [March 2](#), Counselors will conduct Orientation and Programming sessions with all 8th grade, freshman, sophomore and junior students and parents.

The process involves the following steps:

Course Selection Assembly – students receive:

- Curriculum Guide
- Course Selection Draft Sheet
- Grade level information sheet

Students and Parents research and review classes:

Read class descriptions in the Curriculum Guide.

Talk to teachers and students about classes in which they are interested.

Choose carefully – there is a **“No Drop”** policy for all students.

Students meet with Counselors to select classes:

- Students come to Career Center with their English class.
- Students receive their transcript and high school graduation status report.
- Students bring completed Draft Course Selection Sheet to meeting.
- Counselors meet individually with all students to review their transcript, graduation status report, future educational plans and options, summer

school recommendations and attendance. Together they will fill out the final Course Selection Sheet and complete a thorough review of their high school progress.

- Students take Final Course Selection Sheet home for **parent signature**.
- Students **return the signed** Final Course Selection Sheet to the Counselor of the Day desk by due date indicated on the Course Selection Sheet.
- Eighth grade students return the Final Course Selection Sheet to the Middle School office by stated due date.
- Once the signed Final Course Selection Sheet is returned, no changes will be made and classes will be scheduled.

[2009-10](#) Course Selection/Information Assemblies for students:

March 2 – Current Juniors

March 3 – Current Sophomores

March 4 – Current Freshmen

March 5 – ELD Students

March 31 & April 1 & 2 – current 8th grade students

RSP students should attend their grade level assembly

Parent Course Selection Information Meetings:

March 2 – 7:00 p.m. AHS North Gym – current Junior parents

March 3 – 7:00 p.m. AHS North Gym – current Sophomore parents

March 4 – 7:00 p.m. AHS North Gym – current Freshman parents

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March 5 - 7:00 p.m. AHS Cafeteria - ELD -
*interpreters will be available in various
languages.

April 16 - Incoming Freshman Orientation
Night

Parents of RSP students should attend their
grade level parent meeting

Counselor powerpoint presentations used for
both the student assemblies and parent
evening meetings will be posted on the AHS
Counselor website one week following each
presentation.

INCOMING 9TH GRADE STUDENTS

At the beginning of April, Counselors will
conduct assemblies at the Middle Schools for
incoming 9th grade students to introduce them
to Arcadia High School and the many courses
and programs available. Course selection
appointments will occur after Spring Break.
During these appointments, a Counselor will
meet one-on-one with each student to assist
them in choosing classes for ninth grade.
There will be a Freshman Orientation evening
event for incoming 9th grade students and
their parents on Thursday, April 16 at 7 pm, in
the Arcadia High School North Gym (detailed
information will follow). At this orientation,
we will provide the student assembly
information to the parents as well as have
presentations by various AHS departments
and programs.

SENIORITIS

*Senioritis is a drop in motivation common
among senior students at this time of year.
Parents need to be aware of the symptoms
which include procrastination, lack of focus
and slipping grades. If you observe these
behaviors in your student, we recommend that
you stay in contact with their teachers and
closely monitor their daily attendance through
the ISIS system. Instructions on signing up
for the ISIS program can be found in the
Academic Success section of this newsletter.*

Attendance is critical during the second
semester of the senior year. **All students are
expected to attend regularly.** Good
attendance contributes directly to good
grades. Poor attendance can result in missed
assignments, missed exams, and poor grades.
Most students need to pass every class in
order to graduate, and **MUST** pass the state
mandated English and Government/ Economics
courses. **Also, seniors who are already 18
years of age may be involuntarily
transferred to an alternate educational
setting for poor attendance.**

*Admissions offices of four-year colleges
expect seniors to maintain their GPA. D's and
F's in required college prep courses make
students ineligible for college admission. A
significant lowering of GPA may result in
colleges rescinding a previous offer of
acceptance.*

In most cases, students who are short credits
after the first semester of the senior year
have the opportunity to make up those credits
at the Arcadia Adult School second semester.

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However, there is no opportunity to make up credits lost during the second semester of the senior year and still be eligible to participate in graduation activities, including the graduation ceremony. The Arcadia High School graduation policy states:

Students must complete 225 credits, as well as pass Algebra 1, the health requirement, the swim survival requirement and the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in order to earn an Arcadia High School diploma. If a student ends the senior year short credits for graduation, he/she will be given 18 months in which to make up not more than 15 credits at the Arcadia Adult School to obtain an Arcadia High School diploma.

Please help your child stay focused and finish strong. The single most important factor for a student's academic success is parent support. As always, we are here to support your student with their personal, academic and career/college needs.

Ms. Winnie Chin and Ms. Jennifer Oku
Counselors, Class of 2009

RESOURCES FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

If your child is struggling in class, please refer to the following resources. We encourage you and your child to take advantage of one or more of these opportunities for success.

Teacher Conferences - students are strongly encouraged to work with their teachers to improve their grades. Formal student/parent conferences can be scheduled by calling Mrs. Harvey at 821-1754.

Friday Cards - a Weekly Progress Report is available at the Counselor of the Day desk, at the Attendance Office counter, and on-line at www.ausd.net/ahs (click on Counseling, then click on grade level).

After School Study Hall ("The Zone") - Arcadia Youth Master Plan provides a study hall to help students Monday through Thursday in the AHS Library from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Due to budget cuts, certificated teachers are no longer available in The Zone. However, students needing more individual assistance still have access to Free Peer Tutors (see program below).

Free Peer Tutoring - available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the AHS Library from 3:00-4:00 p.m. All subjects are covered.

Private Student Tutoring - a list of student tutors is available by calling Mrs. Nichols in the Counseling Office at 821-1795.

ISIS - parents can access grade reports, progress reports, attendance and teacher e-mail through the Internet by registering on-line at <http://www.ausd.net/ahs>. For questions, contact Mrs. Harvey at 821-1754.

E-mail - all teachers have been assigned an e-mail address and can be reached via e-mail at www.ausd.net/ahs.

Community College Preparatory (CCP) Program (previously Alternative) /Rancho - There are other opportunities available to your student to complete their educational goals including our CCP and Rancho programs. If you would like to discuss these programs, please contact your child's counselor for more information.

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NAVIANCE

Naviance is now playing! at a computer close to you! By now you should have received a letter from the Counseling Office introducing you to our latest state of the art service for you - NAVIANCE! Naviance is an all inclusive web based software program that connects students and parents to the counseling office, to assist students in high school and college planning. If you haven't received your log-on password and account information, please have your student stop by the COD desk to get the details. It is our hope that all students will use NAVIANCE in their college planning process.

STUDENT CREDIT CHECK

Now that you have received your student's first semester report card, it is an important time to review those grades and the impact they will have on his/her academic future. Please look over the following notes as they pertain to your child's semester grades:

If your child received an "F", he/she earned no credit for that class.

Your child must repeat any required subject course to make up credit if he/she received an "F".

Semester "F's" in any English and Social Studies must be made up in the AHS State Funded Summer School to meet graduation requirements.

If your child earned an "F" in a course that is not a required course (an elective), he/she does not have to make up that exact course. They

may earn elective credit by taking a different elective course.

If your child received a "D", he/she earned credit toward high school graduation, but in all cases, this class will not count toward college admission.

If your child received a "D" in math or foreign language at the semester and is hoping to advance to the next level in that course (i.e., Spanish 1 to Spanish 2...or Algebra 1 to Geometry), they will have to earn a "B" during the second semester so that they have a combined "rising 'C' average" for the whole year. (Check Curriculum Guide for rules on advancement in Honors and AP courses).

Semester "D's" in college prep English and Social Studies must be made up in Summer School in order for students to meet college entrance requirements.

In most cases, Summer School will be available to make up credits and improve grades.

Students and parents, please consider this information carefully when selecting classes for next year. Programming decisions will be dependent on a student's success during this academic school year.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

Now that the PSAT has come and gone, what next? Juniors who are planning to apply to four-year colleges and universities should be thinking in terms of taking the ACT college entrance exam and/or the SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests (the Subject tests are necessary for UC applications) this coming

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spring. Tests are given in February, March, April, May and June - depending on which test you are signing up for. Dates, registration and details are at www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org. Students should plan on some kind of preparation if they are hoping to improve from their PSAT scores and know the colleges they are interested in require higher entrance scores. This preparation can be in the form of a class, a book, computer software, individual tutoring, or a study group. Test preparation materials are abundant. In fact, AHS is hosting three different Test Prep companies on our campus this Spring. The Princeton Review, Revolution Prep, and Ivy West all have classes right here at AHS to assist students with their preparation for the SAT. Prices and services vary, so investigate which class best meets your need. Scholarships are also available. If anyone is interested in applying for a scholarship for one of these test prep classes, please see Mrs. McQuaid in P17.

The AHS Counseling Department does not recommend taking tests a multitude of times. Students rarely raise their scores simply by taking the test over and over. We feel that thorough preparation and taking the SAT and ACT one time each, and then a second attempt on whichever test the student scored higher should suffice. Due to the fact that much of the curricular material has not been covered, students in the 9th and 10th grades should wait until their Junior year to take the actual SAT or ACT tests, with the exception of certain language Subject Tests. 10th grade students completing an AP course will want to take the AP exam for that course.

ACT Dates: April 4; June 13

SAT Dates: March 14; May 2; June 6

COLLEGE FAIR

Now is the time to start thinking about your post high school plans. There will be hundreds of college and university representatives available for you to speak with at one of the Spring 2009 National College Fairs:

Anaheim Convention Center

Sunday, April 19

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Ontario Convention Center

Thursday, April 16

9:00 a.m. - 12:00noon

Pasadena Convention Center

Greater L.A.

National College Fair

April 20 & 21, 2009

Pasadena Convention Center

For more info and other fair dates:

www.nacacnet.org

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Monday, April 20 & Tuesday, April 21

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

This is your opportunity to ask questions and to obtain information from many schools throughout the United States. In addition, a variety of workshops will be offered with information on college admissions, financial aid, ACT/SAT prep, etc. For more information and fair hours: www.nacacnet.org, click on "Events Calendar" then "College Fairs".

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH SERVICES DO NOT AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship search services may charge a fee to compare your profile with a database of scholarship opportunities and report a list of matching awards. They do not provide awards directly to applicants, nor do they help you apply for the awards. The guarantees offered by these services are usually worthless and refunds are often very difficult or impossible to obtain. Read the fine print before paying money for a scholarship search.

Most scholarship search services are franchises of a handful of large national databases. Before using a scholarship search service, ask them whether they compile their own database. If they don't, find out the name of their database provider. If two franchises use the same database, the cheaper one will report the same matches as the more expensive one. Charging a fee of more than \$50 for a search is excessive.

The success rates reported by scholarship search services usually refer to successfully

finding a match in their database, not successfully winning a scholarship. Ask the scholarship search service how many students have actually won scholarships as a result of using their service, and if they can give references.

"Very few students receive money as a result of using a scholarship search service," notes Kantrowitz. "Less than 1% of the financial aid awarded each year comes from the private sector." He adds, "Don't believe claims that \$6.6 billion in student aid goes unclaimed every year. Such figures are based on an estimate of untapped employee tuition benefits that was published in a study over 10 years ago. These funds went unclaimed because they couldn't be used."

Why pay a scholarship search service to use their database when you can get the same information for free? The information provided by scholarship search services is available at no cost in your local public library and the financial aid offices of many schools. The Financial Aid Information Page also lets you search several scholarship and fellowship databases online for free, including FastWEB (www.fastweb.com), a database of more than 180,000 private sector scholarships, fellowships, grants, and loans.

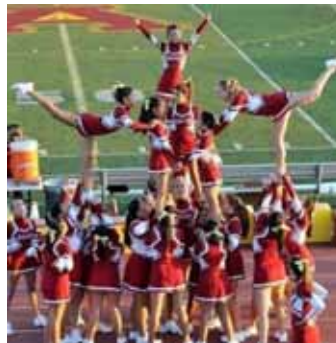
\$\$\$ AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

Did you attend Baldwin Stocker? Are you of Italian Heritage? Have you been involved in local community service? Students - if any of these,... and many more profiles match you, then you may be eligible to apply for some of

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our "local" scholarships. Local organizations, our CollegeBLASTER email system. And new families, estates, and groups donate money to this Spring, Scholarships will be posted on our AHS Students every Spring Semester in the new NAVIANCE Computer Family form of scholarships. To learn more about our Connection. If you find a scholarship that you local scholarships, Students and Parents need think you might be eligible for, you are to watch for the Arcadia High School encouraged to find out the details regarding Scholarship bulletin. The bulletin is produced application. Some scholarships use our once or twice a month in the early months of "Universal Application" which is posted on the the school year. During the second semester, AHS Counseling Website. Others require the Scholarship Bulletin becomes very popular, their own, specific applications. All students a new edition is generally posted in the Career are encouraged to review the bulletin because Center every Friday afternoon. In addition - there might be a scholarship that matches you the Scholarship bulletins are 'blasted out' on just perfectly!

WANT TO JOIN AHS PEP SQUAD?



Calling all guys and girls! Want to be part of everything but be in one thing?

We have fun! We go to athletic games! We compete! We perform in assemblies and rallies!

We get PE credit!

We support all Apaches!

Got spirit? Then join pep squad!

The teams include **Song, Cheer, and Flags**. If your interested in becoming part of the 09'-10' pep squad then you must attend the **informational meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2009** in the Arcadia High School Little Theater at 7:00 P.M. Come and learn about all the things we do!

Arcadia Musicians Take Wing and Set Sail

By Dan Bump, Arcadia Music Club

The four components of the Arcadia Music Club are on the go heading into 2009, both literally and figuratively. Like most aspects of the instrumental music program at Arcadia High, everything is done on a grand scale.

Early on the morning of December 29th, 326 members of Band, Color Guard and Percussion took off for Florida to represent Arcadia at Gator Bowl and Walt Disney World festivities. Boy, did they ever represent. At the awards banquet held on New Year's Eve in the Jacksonville Convention Center, Drum Major Kyle Terry accepted 12 1st place trophies in the 12 categories they competed in. For those of us in attendance that night, the term "embarrassment of riches" became manifest. By winning the title of "Grand Champion" of the parade and field show competitions, Arcadia won the right to perform part of their field show as the sole high school band during pre-game activities at the Gator Bowl on New Year's Day. They also performed in a mass-band halftime routine with over 1,500 other musicians and guard members from across the country, in front of a crowd of 67,000 spectators.

As soon as uniforms were changed out of, and instruments were loaded onto the trailer, it was off to Orlando and Disney World. On January 2nd, the band performed their parade march one final time on the street, in this case, Main Street, USA in the Magic Kingdom! I thought one of the highest compliments the band received on the entire trip was from a member of the Clemson band staff. Clemson was one of the competing universities in the bowl game, and their band ended up being next to Arcadia's in the parade staging area. In his rich southern drawl, this gentleman commented, "It's nice to hear a traditional march played so well." Representing Arcadia proudly indeed.

Not to worry though if you missed out on that trip, because you can join the equally impressive three Orchestras of Arcadia High School as they perform at the annual Orchestra Benefit Dinner on Saturday, February 28. In keeping with the travel theme this year, dinner organizers promise to recreate the glory days of cruising, by transforming the Arcadia Community Center into a grand ballroom like one would have encountered on the Queen Mary in its heyday. I challenge you to find another high school anywhere that is able to deliver music of the caliber of these orchestras, or another school that would even come close to the number of students involved in our three orchestras!

Along with a delicious dinner, student ensembles and a guest soloist will entertain the audience throughout the evening. But wait, there's more! The highlight of the entire event always takes place at the end of the evening. That's when the audience is completely surrounded by all of the orchestra members, hundreds of students playing together, in a spectacular finale.

For information about obtaining tickets to this event (hurry, before they sell out!), contact any orchestra member, or go to the music club website, www.arcadiamusic.org.

You will also find photos of the Florida trip there, as well as competition schedules for Color Guard and Percussion as they begin their indoor season this winter. We hope to see YOU at a music event soon!

Computer Tools for Families

There are many tools available that parents can employ to guide their children to safe and rewarding online experiences. There are also many different types of tools that may fit your family's needs and values. There are a lot to choose from. Here are some tips for choosing the tool or tools that are right for your family.

There are several types of tools that parents often look for. Examples include:

- **Filter sexually explicit graphic descriptions or pictures:** These tools block your child from viewing most sexually explicit material on the Web. But be aware, no filter is perfect.
- **Monitor your child's online activities:** These tools allow parents and caregivers the ability to monitor your child's online activities through a variety of methods.
- **Limits the amount of time your child spends online:** These tools can limit the amount time you child spends online. Some tools allow parents to block out times of the day when the child can or cannot go online.
- **Block the child's personal information from being posted or emailed:** These tools prevent a child from giving strangers their personal information (e.g. name, home address, etc.) while they are online.
- **Browsers for kids:** These are Web browsers that serve as a gateway between your computer and the Internet. Browsers for kids generally filter sexual or otherwise inappropriate words or images. They are often designed to be easier for kids to use.

There are hundreds of software choices available to monitor and/or control your computers. Just search for them on this internet.

A family member who has young kids and is very tech savvy recommends web watcher (webwatchernow.com). It covers email, chat, web pages, browsing history, keystroke logger. It is easy to install (they do it remotely) and is not easily detected by most scanners. The best part is that once it is installed you can view the information from anywhere by logging into a web site.

You can enter your own search terms in the GetNetWise Tools for Families database. The database allows you to tailor your search with many variables such as specific operating systems (e.g. mac, windows, linux), types of content (e.g. sexually explicit, hate, violent), and type of technology (e.g. Web, instant messaging, peer-to-peer). You'll be surprised at how many choices there are.

Third: Check with your ISP or online service provider.

Chances are that your ISP or online service provider offers tools that you can use to protect your children while they are online. Most ISPs offer discounted rates for child safety software and some online service providers provide child safety features as part of the service. Check with your ISP to see what options and recommendations they provide. Here is a list of some of the child safety tools offered by responsible ISPs.

From GetNetWise.org

Cyberbullying

Parents: I am putting in some articles about cyberbullying and Parental Control Software for computers. It is a fact that bullying and cyberbullying are occurring on our campus. It is important that we talk with our children about this issue. The Golden Rule can be applied here. Never write or say anything that you would not want written or said of yourself. – Kay Kinsler, AHS PTSA President

The facts: 43% of teens have been victims

- Cyberbullying begins as early as the 2nd grade for some children
- 53% of teens admit sending a hurtful message
- Most victims know the person bothering them
- Only 10% of bullying victims tell their parents

Hurting someone with a simple click.

A second at the keypad can cause long-lasting damage. As more and more kids discover new ways to share information, they have unfortunately found more and more ways to harm each other. Just as nasty comments in a playground can cause a lot of pain, cyberbullying can really hurt our kids.

What is cyberbullying?

It happens when kids use their phones or the Internet to create and send harassing or humiliating messages and images. Nasty comments, lies, and embarrassing photos, videos, and polls can be spread widely through instant messaging (IM) or phone texting, and by posts on social networking sites. It can happen anytime – at school or home – and can involve large groups of kids. The combination of the boldness created by being anonymous and the desire to be seen as “cool” can cause a kid who normally wouldn’t say anything mean face-to-face to show off for other kids.

Why it matters

Nothing crushes kids’ self-confidence faster than humiliation. And just imagine a public humiliation sent instantly to everyone they know. Sadly, hurtful information posted on the Internet is extremely difficult to prevent or remove, and millions of people can see it. Most cyberbullying happens when adults aren’t around, so parents and teachers often see only the depression or anxiety that results from being hurt or bullied. This emotional damage can last a lifetime.

Parent tips for all kids

- Give them a code of conduct. Tell them that if they wouldn’t say something to someone’s face, they shouldn’t text it, IM it, or post it.
- Ask your kids if they know someone who has been cyberbullied. Sometimes they will open up about

others’ pain before admitting their own.

Parent tips for elementary school kids

- Keep online socializing to a minimum. Let them use sites like Webkinz or Club Penguin where chat is pre-scripted or pre-screened.
- Explain the basics of correct cyber behavior. Tell your kids that things like lying, telling secrets, and being mean still hurt in cyberspace.
- Tell kids not to share passwords with their friends.

Parent tips for middle school kids

- Monitor their use. See what they’re posting, check their mobile messages.
- Tell your kids what to do if they’re harassed. They shouldn’t respond or retaliate, they should block bullies immediately, and they should tell you or an adult they trust. They shouldn’t delete the messages because in persistent cases, the content should be reported to a cell or Internet Service Provider.
- If your kid is doing the bullying, establish strict consequences and stick to them. That goes for mean or sexual comments about teachers, friends, and relatives.
- Remind them that all private information can be made public. Posts on friends’ walls, private IMs, intimate photos, little in-jokes can all be cut, pasted, and sent around. If they don’t want the world to see it, they better not post or send it.
- Don’t start what you don’t want to finish. Game chat can get ugly fast. Make sure your kids are respectful because hurtful retaliation happens all the time.

Parent tips for high school kids

- Tell kids to think before they reveal. At this age, kids experiment with all sorts of activities, many of which should not be made public. Remind your teens that anything they post can be misused by someone else.
- Remind them they aren’t too old to ask for your help. There are things some kids can handle on their own, but sometimes, they just need help. Coming to their parents isn’t baby-ish, it’s safe.

Arcadia High School Reflections Program Winners



Pictured front: Kevin Kuo, Torie Jee, Scott Fairbanks, Justin Dong. Back: Jeremy Chau, Jackie Keith, PTSA President Kay Kinsler, Emily Wilkins, Elliott Lee. Not pictured: Michelle Zhang, Peter Petkov.

The Reflections Program is a national art contest sponsored by the PTA offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Entries are judged and awards given at the local, state and national levels. This year's theme was "Wow!"

The Arcadia High School PTSA announced their Reflections winners at its December 4th meeting. The winners were:

1st - 3rd, Literature: Torie Jee, Peter Petkov, Jackie Keith

1st - 3rd, Visual Arts: Kevin Kuo, Michelle Zhang, Justin Dong

1st - 3rd, Photography: Scott Fairbanks, Elliott Lee, Jeremy Chau

1st Video/Film Production: Emily Wilkins

In addition to the winners, several students received Honorable Mentions from the judges. They were: William Denapole, David Knaak, Michael Tam - Literature; Tiffany Hayashi - Visual Arts, and Elisa Carino - Photography.

The first place entries went on to the next round of judging, First District PTA, which includes other San Gabriel Valley schools. Scott Fairbanks won third place in the Photography division, while Torie Jee's essay took first place in the Literature category and it has gone on to compete at the state level.

From the Attendance Office

Dear Parents,

Please note: April 6 through April 10th is our Spring Vacation.

If your student will be missing any school before or immediately after our Spring Vacation please contact the attendance office in writing 2 weeks before your planned trip.

Friendly Reminders

The Attendance Office has moved to the portables along with the Administration. We are in P 19. AHS now has a Drop Off Table, **outside** P19. There is a sign above the table to identify it. **Note: none of the items will be delivered to students by the office.**

This table is for:

All Personal Messages and items....

Including forgotten lunches, homework, keys, locks, musical instruments, PE clothes, and classroom treats . Please note that only money is to be brought into P-19. (In case of rain, items may be brought into P-19) Please notify your students of any left items. AHS and AUSD employees are not responsible for any items.

At the beginning of the school year, your son/daughter received an AHS Daily Planner. Inside their planner, starting on page 2, is a wealth of important information that you and your child should read and be familiar with. Please pay special attention to Part II ATTENDANCE which starts on page 4.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance Office

626 821-1770

Arcadia High School PTSA Calendar

February 2009

2-13 AP Sales at lunch in the ASB Office.

2 - March 17 AEF Drivers Education - 7:00 a.m. - 7:53 a.m. - AHS, Room C-2 - Cost: \$160.00

For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsDriversEd>

2 Grad Night meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the AHS Cafeteria/Apache Pit

For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsGradNight>

5 AHS PTSA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Arcadia City Council Chambers

7 ACT Test Date - <http://www.actstudent.org>

9 Lincoln's Birthday Observed - no school

12 Hispanic Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria..

For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsHispanic> ..

16 Washington's Birthday observed - no school

17-20 Late AP Sales in the ASB Office..

26, 27 Drama - Coffee House in the LT..

28 Orchestra Benefit Dinner 6 - 10 p.m. (Arcadia Community Center)..

March 2009

2 Junior Parent meeting 7:00 p.m. - N. Gym..

2 Grad Night meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the AHS Cafeteria/Apache Pit..

For Details:

<http://ahspta.com/DetailsGradNight> ..

3 Sophomore Parent meeting 7:00 p.m. - N. Gym..

4 Freshman Parent meeting 7:00 p.m. - N. Gym..

4 Swim Test at lunch..

4 Orchestra Vertical Concert (OR3) - 7 p.m. - PHS

5 ELD Parent meeting, 6:40 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Cafeteria..

5 AHS PTSA Meeting - 7 p.m. - Arcadia City Council Chambers..

10-11 CAHSEE (Exit exam) ..

12 Hispanic Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria..

For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsHispanic> ..

13 Chinese Parents Booster Club Meeting - 7:00pm in AHS Cafeteria..

For Details:

<http://ahspta.com/DetailsChineseBoosterClub> ..

14 SAT Test only - <http://www.collegeboard.com>

21 Sadie Hawkins Dance - 8 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. - North gym (Corrected Date)..

23-27 Traffic Safety Week..

24-28 Advanced Drama: Little Shop of Horrors, 7:00pm Little Theater..

For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsDrama> ..

26 Band Vertical Concert - 7 p.m. ..

31 Quarter Finals - English, ELD, Science, & Foreign Language

April 2009

1 Spring Concert 7 p.m. - OR1, OR2, CB1, CB3 (North Gym)..

1 Quarter Finals - Art, Performing Arts, Physical Education, & Other

2 AHS PTSA Meeting - 7 p.m. - Arcadia City Council Chambers.

2 Quarter Finals - Social Science, Career & Technology, Math

3 End of third quarter..

4 ACT Test Date - <http://www.actstudent.org>

6-10 Spring Vacation

10 Chinese Parents Booster Club Meeting - 7:00pm in AHS Cafeteria..

For Details:

<http://ahspta.com/DetailsChineseBoosterClub> ..

10-11 Arcadia Invitational Track Meet - AHS..

13 Grad Night meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the AHS Cafeteria/Apache Pit..

For Details:

<http://ahspta.com/DetailsGradNight> ..

15 Swim Test at lunch..

16 Hispanic Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria..

For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsHispanic> ..

16 Public Schools Luncheon at the Arcadia Masonic Lodge 11:30-1:30 ..

16 Incoming Freshmen Orientation Night - 7 p.m. - North gym..

21-23 California State Testing..

29-5/2 Orchesis Show, 7 p.m., Little Theatre..

STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE By John Finn

Tardy Sweeps. The tardy sweeps began on the first day back from Winter Break, January 5, 2009. This process has reduced the number of students late to class. When students are late to class they disrupt the learning process and, on a more individual scale, they are developing a bad habit for themselves. This is not acceptable in school or in the working world.

The basic process of the Tardy Sweeps is:

-The beginning of class an announcement is made for teachers to lock their doors and not let students in to class until the next all call.

-The students who are tardy are sent to the ASB office, given a tardy slip and checked in.

-Once all of the students who are tardy are accounted for an announcement is made for teachers to let students in possession of tardy slips return to class. This means there is just one time when students enter class late, minimizing disruption.

-Students who are caught in the tardy sweep serve detention at lunch that day or the next day, whichever they are assigned based on the class period in which the tardy sweep was conducted.

-Student who do not attend lunch detention are assigned detention after school for one hour on that day or the next day.

-Multiple violations will increase the severity of the consequences which may include Saturday School, Loss of Activities, and in extreme cases suspension and possible transfer to the Opportunity Program.

-Students who arrive after the tardy sweep will be kept out of class for the entire class period so they will not disrupt class.

Please do not excuse students for being tardy except in emergency situations such as a medical situation or a legitimate car trouble situation. Getting up late, alarm clock not working and other similar situations are not excuses.

Thefts on Campus. Please emphasize to your sons and daughters the importance of keeping their valuable items on their person, not in their backpack. Cell phones, Ipods, etc. are the main items that disappear when backpacks are left unattended. Money and wallets also fall into this category.

It is also important that your sons and daughters do not purchase items, electronic or otherwise, from other students. Unfortunately in most cases when an item that is valuable is being sold for a substantially reduced price there is a good chance it is stolen. The repercussions for receiving or purchasing stolen property can be more severe than actually the theft of that item. It does not matter if you knew the item was stolen. If you are purchasing from an individual and not a business it is assumed that you should know it could be stolen.

Confiscated Items. A reminder, all confiscated items must be picked up at the Student Services Office, J9½, by a parent or guardian between the hours of 7:30 A. M. and 4:00 P. M. Students will not be allowed to pick up their own confiscated items. This can be avoided if students remember that electronic items must be kept out of view and turned off during class time.

Skateboards. A reminder, skateboards cannot be ridden on campus at any time. If a student violates this they take the chance of having the skateboard confiscated in which case it would then have to be picked up by a parent. The same rules apply that are utilized for confiscated electronic items.

Updates. The Student Services Office is not just here for discipline, we are here to assist students. This includes assisting and preventing potential incidents. The more students and parents are willing to let us know of a potential problem the better chance we have of addressing the problem.

On a very positive note, I will be out of the office from the afternoon of Tuesday, February 3, 2009 until the morning of Monday, February 9, 2009. I am going to Sacramento in support of our Government Team which has made it to the State Finals, which they have done for many consecutive years. I was fortunate to go last year as the administrator and are students are very impressive with their analytical skills as well as their knowledge of our Government.

Arcadia High School PTSA

180 Campus Drive
Arcadia, California 91007
Phone: 626-821-8370
Email: ahsnewsletter@ausd.net



"Building our Future Together."

Please visit our website @
<http://ahspta.pbwiki.com/>

Staying Connected!

- AHS website: www.ausd.net/ahs Gives you student bulletins, teacher e-mails, counselors and administrators, bell schedules, daily updates on what's happening at AHS, phone numbers, ISIS, Library, ASB, etc
- Counseling Center website: <http://www.ausd.net/ahs/Counseling/> Provides information on all aspects of the Counseling Center. View PowerPoint presentations and all documents here!
- E-mail listserv: listserv.ahspta.com Weekly updates for activities, parent resources, calendar of events, volunteer opportunities.
- Read PTSA newsletter : www.ahspta.com and click on newsletters or go to www.ahspta.com/Newsletters
- Calendar of PTA events: www.ahspta.com and click on calendar or go to www.ahspta.com/calendar
- Input to PTSA Newsletter: ahsnewsletter@ausd.net E-mail articles for the quarterly newsletter about campus activities, counselors tips, administration's message.
- Arcadia Choral: <http://www.arcadiachoral.com>
- Athletics: <http://athletics.ausd.net/>
- Music: www.arcadiamusic.org
- CPBC: www.arcadiachineseparents.org

Arcadia High School's Apache Pow Wow Student Newspaper is having a fundraiser at Souplantation on 301 E. Huntington Dr. in Arcadia.

The fundraiser will be held on February 12th, from 5:00-8:00 PM. Pow Wow gets 15% of the profits, but only if you purchase a drink with your meal. Your support keeps us printing!