



Arcadia High School Newsletter

Arcadia High School PTSA

April 2010/May 2010

David Vannasdall, Principal

Ruth Lagace, President

Editor: Suzanne Davis

Translations:

Spanish: Laura Corral and
Elia Amaro

Chinese: Ophelia Ha

Korean: Jeannie Kong

Principal's Message



Stand Up and Be Counted!

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The 2010 Census will help our community receive part of the \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels, and other public works projects
- Emergency services

The census counts all residents regardless of citizenship and all information is confidential and protected by Title 13 of the U.S. Code.

What's at stake? California stands to lose \$3 to \$5 billion in federal funding and a congressional seat.

The 2000 Census found 33.9 million people in California. It is estimated that California's population will exceed 38 million in 2010. California will lose approximately \$3,000 a year for each Californian not counted in the 2010 Census.

**Do your part and be counted for Arcadia and California.
When we all answer the Census, our needs will be heard.**

* californiacompletecount.org

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President's Message

Spring is here! Spring Break, Prom, Graduation and Grad Night are just around the corner and will be here before we know it. But before our students participate in these fun activities there is still much to be done. In order to raise money for student scholarships and programs, a fundraising letter was mailed out in March. It is a collection drive to gather money from every AHS household - a minimum donation of \$5.00 was asked. The fundraiser will finish on Friday, April 16th and a Pizza Party will be awarded to the class that collects the most money. If you have forgotten to donate, we will continue accepting donations until the end of the school year. Please turn in cash or check, made out to AHS PTSA, to the school office. Thanks so much.

Thank you to Suwannee Chew and Estela Valle (and all those who donated food or money) to provide the AHS staff with a delicious and festive Teacher Appreciation Luncheon; Carla Heer for organizing our 3 months worth of daily volunteers to input the students' programming information; to Suzanne Davis for our newsletters; to Jeff Laun for our website and weekly email updates, a.k.a. "Listserve"; to Ophelia Ha and Christy Wong for their hard work as Grad Night Chairmen; to Monica Carrasco, Hospitality Chairman, and all who have brought treats to our PTSA meetings; and to Kathy Yamane our "Smoke Signals" editor. Thank you to the Nominating Committee - Karen Tom, Suwannee Chew, Laura Corral, Fenton Eng, and Lori Kodama - who worked hard to bring together a wonderful slate of officers. Thank you also to Principal Vannasdall for his valuable input. We are very proud to present a strong and dedicated 2010-2011 PTSA Executive Board. Thank you and best wishes to our newly elected Executive Board:

President	Fenton Eng
Executive Vice President	Lee Callander
1 st VP - Legislation	Kim McElwee
2 nd VP - Programs	Suwannee Chew
3 rd VP - Publicity	Dan Jee
4 th VP - Membership	Ruth Lagace
Assistant	Mary Beth Haney
5 th VP - Ways & Means	Gina Kerfoot
6 th VP - Newsletter	Tina Rodriguez
7 th VP - Hospitality	Monica Carrasco
Recording Secretary	Leigh Chavez
Corresponding Secretary	Sara Ho
Treasurer	Dana Beckon
Financial Secretary	Castalia Chan
Auditor	Debbie Beveridge
Historian	Carol Misakian
Parliamentarian	Lisa Brock

We need you!!! There are many chairman positions still available. Please contact me if you are interested in helping next year. Again, thank you to each and every one of you for your help and support this year.

The May 6th PTSA meeting will be held at Matt Denny's at 10:00 a.m. It is our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Honorary Service Program, Installation and meeting. I hope to see you there!

Ruth Lagace
AHS PTSA President
r2lagace@roadrunner.com

Arcadia High School PTSA Calendar

April 2010

- 5 - 9 Spring Break - No School
- 5 - 9 AEF - Driver Education - 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - AHS, Room C-2 - Cost: \$160.00
<http://www.ahspta.com/DetailsDriversEd>
- 8 - 10 Arcadia Invitational Track Meet
- 12 Grad Night meeting - 7:00 pm - AHS Cafeteria/Apache Pit
<http://ahspta.com/DetailsGradNight>
- 12 Korean Parents Booster Club Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - 1832 Chantry Dr
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsKorean>.
- 13 Hispanic Parents Booster Club Meeting - 7:00 pm - Apache Pit/Cafeteria
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsHispanic>
- 15 Incoming Freshman Family Orientation Night. 6:00 for special education and ELL students 6:30 is the general meeting in the North Gym for everyone.
Parents will then be rotating through academic sessions for the remainder of the time
- 15-24 Host a French Exchange Student, this will be a fun family experience
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsExchange>
- 16 Articles due for Smoke Signals newsletter - May/June issue
- 21 College Night! 5:30 - 9:00 PM
In the Lunch Pavilion and the North Gym - with workshops in designated classrooms
<http://ahspta.com/f/FlyerCollegeNight.pdf>
- 21 School Starts Late at 9:42am (for teacher WASC meeting)
- 27 Choral carousel at Arcadia Presbyterian Church 7:00 p.m.
- 27-29 CST testing, 8:00 am-12:00 pm
- 28 - 5/1 Orchesis Spring Dance Performance - evening shows each day, plus a matinee on Saturday - Little Theater - Cost: \$8.00 For More Information: Liza Tedford, orchesis@ausd.net
- 29-5/2 PTA Convention in Sacramento..

May 2010

- 1 Orchesis Spring Production (2 pm & 7 pm)
- 3 Grad Night meeting - 7:00 pm - AHS Cafeteria/Apache Pit
<http://ahspta.com/DetailsGradNight>
- 3 - 14 Auditions for 2010-2011 Choral Groups. Information in MB3 or call 821-1785..

3-12 AP Testing..

Note: During AP testing. Regardless of where the test is being given, on or off the campus, all students who are taking the AP test(s) are required to attend their previous or remaining classes on the days they are taking AP tests. Students are only excused from school during their testing time. ..

- 6 PTSA Installation/Honorary Service Lunch @ Matt Denny's 10:00 am..
- 6 Chinese Parents Booster Club Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Apache Pit/Cafeteria..
<http://ahspta.com/DetailsChineseBoosterClub> ..
- 12 Korean Parents Booster Club Meeting - 10:00 a.m. - 1604 Holly Ave...
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsKorean>
- 14 Newsletter deadline for June/July issue - articles due..
- 15 Prom, 8:00 pm - 12:00 am..
- 17 School Starts Late at 9:42am (for teacher WASC meeting)..
- 18 Pops Concert, 7:00 pm, (N. Gym)..
- 19 Pops Concert, 7:00 pm..
- 20 Senior Awards Night, 6:00 pm, (N. Gym)..
- 26-29 Chanteurs May Show in AHS Little Theater. 7:00 p.m... Call 821-1785 for ticket information)..
- 28 School Starts Late at 9:42am (for teacher WASC meeting)..
- 31 Memorial Day Holiday - No School

June 2010

- 2 Grad Night meeting - 7:00 pm - AHS Cafeteria/Apache Pit..
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsGradNight>..
- 3 PTSA Meeting - 8:45 am @ Church of the Good Shepherd (Fellowship Hall)..
- 4 Senior Activity Day and Yearbook Distribution..
- 6 Baccalaureate - 5 pm..
- 8 Finals - minimum day Students will be excused at 12:29 pm (No off campus permits these days)..
- 9 Finals - minimum day Students will be excused at 12:29 pm..
- 10 Finals - minimum day Students will be excused at 12:29 pm..
- 10 Last day of school
- 11 AHS Graduation, 6:00-8:00 pm, (Santa Anita Track)..
- 11/12 Grad Night - 11:00 pm to 5:00 am.

ROP NEWS

Outstanding Students:

ROP is committed to honoring our exemplary students from Arcadia High school. The following students were nominated by their teacher for character, attitude, attendance, leadership and community involvement. We are proud to acknowledge the following students: Babette Horner for Cross-Age Literacy, Isabella Urrea for Civil Law, Shadman Chowdhury for Biotechnology, Daniel Chu for Medical/Therapeutic Principles of Sport Fitness, and Ray Guerrero for Food Science. These students advanced to the Los Angeles County ROP competition on March 23, 2010 where they competed for medals and monetary stipends.

Reminder:

Summer is around the corner and students should start thinking about their summer plans. ROP is now busy planning our summer program and ROP classes are open to incoming sophomore, junior or senior students. The following classes will be offered; Computer Programming C++, Computer Program JAVA, Digital Photography and Retail Marketing. Enrollment will begin at lunch on Monday, March 22nd in the ROP office P-12, classes are *FREE* to high school students. Space is limited and because of high demand, enrollment is based on a first come first serve basis. Gain a valuable skill and earn some credits towards graduation at the same time.

Something to consider in finding your career:

Get a job or do some volunteer work in your community. A part-time job can teach you many valuable skills you will later need in a career. It can teach you to be dependable, improve your ability to get along with others. Having a job requires you to plan your free time between study and fun and teaches you how to budget your money. The ROP office has a volunteer book that consists of non-paid opportunities for students in many private and public agencies throughout the San Gabriel Valley. We also have a job book, which is updated with posted employment opportunities from the local community business professionals. If you are a business that would like to hire Arcadia High students please give us a call at (626) 821-8370 X 1104 and we would be glad to post your job request.

Work Permit Reminder:

If you have a student under 18 years old who is currently working, the law requires that he/she have a work permit. Work permit applications can be obtained in the ROP office P-12 and are *FREE*.

Cindi Franz
ROP Counselor

Together

We are 1 Million Strong

“The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families. As part of this mission, the association promotes, supports and engages in *advocacy* at all levels on issues related to education, community concerns, health and parent involvement.”

So what does this really mean?

It means being involved in your child’s education process. It means letting Congress know that you are concerned about our children and their experience in school.

There is power in volume And together, PTA represents 1 million voices.

This February I attended the California State PTA legislative conference in Sacramento. The first day of the conference was dedicated to educating and preparing us as PTA Legislative representatives to address our State’s Legislators. As you well know, California is facing tough economic times. But did you know – Education is 40% of our state’s budget and yet we took on 60% of the budget cuts last year. And did you know that Arcadia Unified is ranked in the top 10 for academic scores but yet we are one of the lowest funded unified school districts in Los Angeles County? On the second day of our conference we personally met with our State Legislators at the State Capitol and shared the following message:

“We understand that the state of California is currently facing financially difficult times but we would like to ask our elected representatives to support and uphold the agreement from our initial budget proposed by our Governor in July of 2009. We would like to call on you, our elected representative, to provide additional stable revenue in the 2010-11 state budget to invest in children and in California’s future.”

As a parent and a voter in the Arcadia Unified School District, you, too, have a voice.

How to Advocate for your child:

1. Sign up for PTA Legislative Alerts and respond when requested with letters to your legislators.
<http://www.capta.org/sections/advocacy>
2. Write to your local legislators about PTA legislative priorities.
3. Educate your local legislators about how their actions impact your children and schools (Senator Bob Huff, Assemblyman Anthony Adams and Assemblyman Anthony Portantino).
4. Attend PTA, school board meetings and city council meetings.
5. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper about local issues that impact children.

I have attached a few sample letters on our PTSA website: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsLegislation> Please feel free to use the letter.

Thank You for your support,

Ophelia Ha, PTSA Legislative Representative

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SENIORS

Points of interest for the last months of school:

April

Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid awards you receive from various colleges.

Check with the college you've chosen to attend about the details of signing and returning your financial aid award letter.

Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, financial aid, etc).

Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.

Notify the schools that you will not be attending of your final decision.

May

Advanced Placement (AP) exams are given in high schools nationwide. Make sure to send your AP grade report to your college.

If you have not received a notice regarding your Cal Grant application from the CA Student Aid Commission, contact them at 1-888-CAGrant as soon as possible.

May 1 is usually the deadline for notifying colleges of your decision.

Submit on-campus college housing forms and payment.

June/July

Submit request for your final transcript to be sent through docufide (www.docufide.com) to the college you will be attending in the fall (as well as to the NCAA Clearinghouse for Div I or Div II athletes).

Notify the college you will be attending of any private scholarships or grants you will be receiving.

Know when the payment for tuition, room and board meal plans etc. are due.

PARENTS: Don't forget to take your child to the doctor for a complete physical and immunizations.

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. Register for ISIS on-line at <http://www.ausd.net/ahs>. For questions, contact Stephanie Harvey at 821-1754.

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

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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; 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.

Mrs. Kathy Rapkin and Mrs. Sharon Sandoval
Counselors, Class of 2010

FOR JUNIORS ONLY

ATTENTION ALL JUNIORS: NOW is the

time to start finalizing your College Application plans. Final research on colleges you would like to attend should be done now and over the summer. Consider all variables:

- Location
- Major
- Public or private
- College size
- Transportation
- Financial situation
- "Match" for your GPA and SAT/ACT scores

Have you visited each school to which you have applied (when possible)? Do you know what the school has to offer you?

You should be applying to one REACH school, a REALISTIC school, and a 'SAFETY' school (one where you will be one of the top applicants). Consider if you want to attend a private university vs. one of the very fine public universities in the State of California. AHS counseling statistics and data show that many of our students apply to as many as 20 schools, including private universities, UC's and Cal States. This can be a tremendous waste of energy and resources, especially when you are quite certain you'll stay in California and go to a public school.

Students who 'OVER-APPLY' (apply to schools just to see if they can they get in) are actually skewing the numbers for AHS Students. Most private universities get to know trends from high schools across the country. We do not want AHS to be a high school from which students apply but never enroll. Those schools

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will stop accepting our students. So please, think critically and carefully about the schools to which you will apply for admissions. Make certain you are a good match before you go through the entire application and decision making process. You will save yourself time, energy, worry, stress; and you will help yourself and all of AHS in the long run. A good rule of thumb is to apply only to private schools that you truly will attend if admitted.

Student Data Packet

All Juniors who anticipate needing a counselor letter of recommendation next year for private colleges or scholarships should attend the College Knowledge Workshop on May 27 at 3:00 in the Band Room. At the workshop counselors will describe the process of applying to colleges. They will review the Student Data Packet, which **MUST** be filled out in order to request a counselor letter of recommendation. The Student Data Packet will be available on the counseling website immediately following the workshop.

The forms are electronic. Students will fill in the blanks by typing responses, or using a drop-down menu when available. Students are encouraged to print a copy of the form and answer questions off-line first. Answers can be put into a WORD document and copied and pasted into the on-line form in one sitting. Data input into the form cannot be saved and retrieved for later editing.

www.ausd.net/ahs

Click on Counseling (bottom left)

Click on Junior or College Information section

Select 2010-2011 Student Data Packet

Please be advised that all requests for private college recommendations and scholarships from the counseling department will be due according to the following schedule:

College or Scholarship due in the fall before
October 1, 2010: Must be in this spring by
June 7, 2010.

Early Decision College Application Deadlines:

Counselors must receive a minimum of 4 weeks advanced notice (not including holidays) prior to the deadline. For example, students applying to colleges with a November 1st Early Decision Deadline, must submit their request for letters of recommendation by October 1st.

Regular Decision College Application

Deadlines: October 1, 2010 - October 29, 2010;
\$10 processing fee - includes two official transcripts, one for the initial Secondary School Report form and one for the Mid-year Report form.

Penalty for Late Requests: \$20 processing fee for each official transcript which is requested late.

Mrs. Fox and Ms. Tran

Counselors, Class of 2011

ACT Dates: June 12

SAT Dates: May 1

(Registration closes about one month in advance of each test date)

COLLEGE NIGHT! -

AHS students and parents **SAVE THE DATE!!**

College Night 2010!

Wednesday evening, April 21st

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The Counseling Department at Arcadia High School is pleased to present College Night, 2010! The evening will be devoted to bringing you and your students the very latest information in post-secondary education options for our students.

A local College/Resource Fair will launch the evening festivities in the Lunch Pavilion area at 5:30 PM. Speakers and workshop sessions will run from 6:30 through 8:50 PM. A detailed letter and program will be mailed home to you. We have planned a wealth of workshops. These will include: Community college and UC options for all students, Why Cal State - a great option!, College admissions testing, College Athletics, scholarships and the Recruiting process, Financial planning, Career options, Naviance/FamilyConnection and more! There will be a few raffles and give-aways from some of our vendors. Please calendar this date - and stay tuned for details!

COLLEGE Knowledge! - for Junior Students!

In addition to College Night, all Junior Students will want to calendar and attend this important meeting. Your Counselors are offering an afterschool information workshop on the College Search and Application Process which actually begins now! You will hear important details about requesting Letters of Recommendation, and completing a personal Student Data Packet. You will also receive an essential timeline for the entire process. Juniors, we hope you will calendar this important meeting on Thursday, May 27th, immediately after school; location and more details to follow.

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 these Spring 2010 National College Fairs:

National Orange Show Events Center
San Bernardino, CA
Thursday, April 22
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA
Sunday, April 25
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 pm

Pasadena Convention Center
300 E. Green St., Pasadena, CA
Thursday, April 27
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Wednesday, April 28
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Greater L.A.
National College Fair
April 27 & 28, 2010

Pasadena Convention Center
For more info and other fair dates:
www.nacacnet.org

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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".

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Congressman David Dreier's Office is offering a Service Academy Information Night on Wednesday, March 24th, at 7:00 PM. It will be

held at the La Verne Community Center at 3680 D Street, in La Verne. Representatives of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the U.S. Military Academy, and the U.S. Naval Academy will be in attendance to discuss educational and career opportunities available at the Academies as well as the steps involved in the admissions process. The event is open to parents and all interested young men and women who are residents of the 26th Congressional District. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Congressman Dreier's San Dimas Office at (909) 575-6226 or (888) 906-2626.

Grad Night 2010

Our next three parent planning meetings will be held on April 12 (Monday), May 3 (Monday), and June 2 (Wednesday) respectively, at 7:00 pm in the AHS Cafeteria. Please come and join us to plan this fun-filled party for the graduating class. If you cannot come to the meeting but would like to help out at the party, please call or email us.

Ophelia Ha 254-8396 opheliaha@hotmail.com

Christy Wong 445-4256 ytsirhc@earthlink.net

2010 Grad Night Co-Chairmen

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@ausd.net 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

