



# SMOKE SIGNALS

FEBRUARY 2008

Editor: Kathy Yamane

## FROM THE DESK OF DAVID VANNASDALL

### Apache Pride

When leading businesses and organizations are asked for the characteristics they most look for when hiring employees, the ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and contribute in a team approach to a project is always in the top ten. I believe this skill starts in school and can be mastered through participation and an understanding of the greater good of the school and community. Making the connection between personal success and the contribution to Arcadia HS is a lesson that will serve the school and students throughout their life. Students are encouraged to connect with school through clubs, athletics, activities and academic teams. This involvement gives students a support network of



David Vannasdall, Principal

friends and adults who share their interests. As parents and staff, we have many layers of coaches, advisors, boosters, and volunteers to support the many successful club and teams on our campus. We encourage you to "get connected" at Arcadia High School.



## Do you have more questions?

Let us know! We are going to put together another Smoke Signals. We want to address your concerns. Call or e-mail us!

- Kay Kinsler  
kaykinsler@altrionet.com
- Kathy Yamane  
mikatyam@aol.com

**Parent Tip:**  
**Stay**  
**Involved!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

- AHS has a graduation rate of 99.9%
- 99% of our students go on to further education.
- AHS has the highest rate of admission to the University of California system in the nation.
- There are 61 chartered clubs
- There are over 50 athletic teams currently at AHS
- Our Music Program includes:
  1. Three Concert Bands
  2. Nationally Recognized Marching Band
  3. Three string orchestras
  4. A symphony orchestra
  5. Freshman treble choir
  6. Men's choir
  7. Girls show choir (New Spirit)
  8. Mixed show choir (Chanteurs)
  9. Concert Choir
- Average class size of 32 students
- 100% of our AHS teachers are credentialed.
- 8 award winning academic teams. These include Constitution Team, Speech and Debate, Science Decathlon, etc.

## HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Believe it or not, it's almost time for students to begin thinking about next year's classes! Starting the week of **March 3**, Counselors will conduct Orientation and Programming sessions with all 8<sup>th</sup> 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 receive 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 Course Selection Sheet home for **parent signature.**
- Middle School students return the Course Selection Sheet to the Middle School office by stated due date.

Once the signed Course Selection Sheet is returned, no changes will be made and classes will be scheduled.

### **2008-09 Course Selection/Information Assemblies for students:**

March 7 – ELD Students

April 1-3 – current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

### **Parent Course Selection Information Meetings:**

March 10 – 7:00 p.m. AHS Cafeteria – ELD – \*interpreters will be available in various languages.

April 17 – Incoming Freshman Orientation Night

## Orchestra Benefit Dinner

Do you want to see what the Music Program is like at Arcadia High School?

The 14th annual Orchestra Benefit Dinner and Concert will be held on February 23rd in the Arcadia Community Center, starting at 6:00 p.m. This year's annual fundraising event is themed "Mardi Gras Magic." It begins with a delicious catered dinner, followed by entertainment featuring string ensembles of AHS Orchestra students, and guest artist Tom Sauber, accompanied by veterans Mark Graham and Patrick Sauber. A master musician of Bluegrass and Cajun music, Mr. Sauber plays a variety of instruments including banjo, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin, in addition to being a fine vocalist. The grand finale will showcase 350 orchestra performers surrounding our

guests. It will be an exciting and memorable evening for you to enjoy.

Please contact (Tickets) Beatrice Lin 626-446-0507

beatrice191007@yahoo.com

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS

The single most important factor for a student's academic success is **parent support**. The outcome is positive for all involved when students know that parents value education and help them to develop study habits that suit their style of learning.

The following services are available at AHS:

**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, on the Attendance Office counter, and on-line at [www.ausd.net/ahs](http://www.ausd.net/ahs) (click on Counseling, then click on grade level).

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

**After School Study Hall** – Arcadia Youth Master Plan provides a study hall with certificated teachers available to help students Monday through Thursday in the AHS Library from 3:00-6:00 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** – access to grade reports, progress reports, attendance and teacher e-mail through the Internet by registering on-line at [www.ausd.net/ahs](http://www.ausd.net/ahs). Once you have registered on-line, you can come to the AHS front office between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. to pick up your user information from Mrs. Harvey.

**E-mail** – teachers have been assigned an e-mail address and

can be reached via e-mail at [www.ausd.net/ahs](mailto:www.ausd.net/ahs).

**Alternative/Rancho** – There are other opportunities available to your student to complete their educational goals including our Alternative and Rancho programs. If you would like to discuss these programs, please contact your child's counselor for more information.

We encourage you to take advantage of the services available to you and your student at Arcadia High School. We look forward to working with you to help make the experience at the high school a positive one.

**Student Tip:**

**Look for opportunities!**

SPORTS AT AHS



INTERESTED IN GOING OUT FOR A SPORTS TEAM?

While not required, the summer AEF athletic classes are a great way to get introduced to the high school athletic program. If your child is interested in sports, please consider signing him or her up for AEF summer sport program. Also, summer is the time to take care of the physical exam required for athletic participation. Don't wait until tryouts are announced. Tryouts for the fall teams begin in August. Most of

the winter and spring teams have their tryouts in September and October. Please check <http://teachers.ausd.net/athletics/> for the try out schedule. To try out for a team, a student must be cleared through the athletic office. Clearance packets can be picked up from Ms. Ottaviano.



On January 1st, arcadia marched in t he Rose parade





ARCADIA SMOKE SIGNALS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
AHS PTSA

Want to receive regular e-mail updates of what is happening at AHS? Contact [ahspta@ausd.net](mailto:ahspta@ausd.net) to be added to the AHS List Serve.

LIST SERVE

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING AHS EVENTS FOR INCOMING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

### February 2008

7 PTSA Meeting - 8:30 a.m. -  
Apache Pit

10 Chinese New Year Party - 6:30  
pm - Arcadia Community Center -  
Cost: \$40 per ticket (fixed date)

For Details: [http://ahspta.com/  
DetailsChineseNewYear](http://ahspta.com/DetailsChineseNewYear)

12 Korean Parents Booster Club -  
6:30p.m. - Apache Pit

For Details: [http://ahspta.com/  
DetailsKorean](http://ahspta.com/DetailsKorean)

13 Pep Squad 08-09 Squad try outs  
are here!!!

15 Holiday - No School

18 President's Holiday - No School

23 Orchestra Benefit Dinner "Mardi  
Gras Magic" - 5:30 p.m. - Arcadia  
Community Center

For Details: [http://ahspta.com/  
DetailsOrchestra](http://ahspta.com/DetailsOrchestra)

26-3/1 Winter Drama Produc-  
tion, 7 p.m., Little Theatre

### MARCH 2008

1 SAT Test only - [http://  
www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

6 PTSA Meeting - 8:30 a.m. -  
Apache Pit

6 Band Vertical Concert - 7 p.m.  
- PHS..

11-12 CAHSEE (Exit exam)

12 PTSA Teacher Appreciation  
Luncheon..

13 Smoke Signals newsletter dead-  
line for May/June issue..

15 Sadie Hawkins Dance - 8 p.m.  
to 12:00 a.m. - North gym..

26 Orchestra Vertical Concert - 7  
p.m. - PHS ..

27 Spring Concert (Band 1&2,  
Orchestra) - 7 p.m.

28 Band Vertical Concert - 7 p.m.

### April 2008

1-3 Eighth Grade Course Selection/  
Assemblies by AHS Counselors

3 PTSA Meeting - 6:30 p.m. -  
Apache Pit

3 Spring Concert (B1, B2, O1, O2)  
- 7 p.m.

7-11 Spring Break

11-12 Arcadia Invitational Track  
Meet - AHS

17 Incoming Freshman Orientation  
Night

22-5/1 STAR testing

30-5/3 Orchesis Show, 7 p.m., Lit-  
tle Theatre

### MAY 2008

1 PTSA Meeting/Installation/Hon  
Service-10:00 a.m. ..

2 Athletic Boosters Golf and Dinner  
- 6 p.m. - Community Center

3 SAT & Subject Tests