



TROJAN TRACKS



BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Petaluma High School
201 Fair Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

BRIAN HOWARD

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Dear Parents and Students,

I hope you all had a joyous and relaxing holiday season with your family and friends! The holiday season allows us the time to rejuvenate and reflect upon our prior accomplishments over the first semester and begin to plan for the next. In this issue, I am highlighting some of the key events that will be happening to finish this semester and begin the next and some important information about course sign-ups for the following school year 2010-2011.

Final Semester Grades:

Students should receive their final grades of the first semester around January 9th exemplifying the personal effort and time they have spent studying and learning from their teachers.

8th Grade Parent Night and 8th Grade Tours

On January 14th we will be holding our 8th grade tours for students and parent night for the parents of incoming 8th graders. The intention of the day is to familiarize the incoming freshmen with the courses they can take and requirements of the 9th grade program. Similarly, the evening is intended to further introduce teachers to students and their parents and to familiarize parents with the choices available for the 2010-11 school year and the required course of study. We look forward to this day every year and getting the opportunity to share with you our 9th grade program!

Course Selection Process for the 2010-2011 School Year

Upon return from vacation, students will need to make decisions about next year's classes. While this may seem early, it is necessary to help plan for the 2010-11 school year. Counselors will visit classrooms to discuss with your student(s) their course selections for next year. Please take some time to review the course selections with your student(s) to help them make the best informed decision as they bring this information home. Once you have had the opportunity to discuss course selections with your student(s), you will need to sign the course selection form and your student(s) will need to return it to school to expedite the selection process. We appreciate your help in completing this process.

Students entering grades 11 or 12 in 2010-11 school year will continue to choose English and Social Science classes that are aligned with electives of their choice. For example, a student who has interest in the arts and chooses an Art Elective will be placed in an English and Social Science class with other students who share the same interest. This enables teachers to include students' interests further in their classroom curriculum and provide opportunities for job shadows and internships in related fields of study. Teachers will continue to collaborate to provide students real world learning experiences designed to prepare them for academic success in high school and for colleges and careers beyond high school.

California High School Exit Exam, CAHSEE, for 10th Grade Students will be held on February 2 & 3

On Tuesday, February 2, 2010 our 10th grade students will be taking the CAHSEE Language Arts test and on Wednesday February 3, 2010 they will be taking the Mathematics test. The Schedule for this test is listed on Page 5.

For the past three years our students have averaged an 85% combined pass rate on their first attempt of the CAHSEE for English Language Arts and Mathematics. While we are encouraged by these results, we are working toward improving them further.

Our English and Mathematics classes cover concepts and standards that are included on the CAHSEE test. Additionally we have CAHSEE classes for students who do not pass the test. Moreover the California Department of Education releases practice test questions and provides study guides to assist students with further preparation for the test. The study guide and

release questions are available at the California Department of Education Testing and Accountability site: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>

We recommend that all students who have not taken the test yet review the guide and release questions to help prepare them further for the test. Additional support is available on site through our tutoring programs. Please contact your student's counselor for further information on tutoring if they need assistance.

We look forward to teaching and supporting your student(s) in this coming semester and to their continued success at Petaluma High School. Thank you for all of your support and have a wonderful New Year.



NEWS FROM COUNSELING

Counselors Teri Schmidt, Fran Rietveld-Nolden, Cimon Selhorst, Joan Walsh
Secretaries Jackie Stavish, Gail Yeager
Project Success Shannon Rogge **Safe Schools** Teresa Hall
Career Center Janet Parmer

name begins...

A-Di	Ms. Selhorst	tselhorst@pet.k12.ca.us
Do-K	Ms. Schmidt	tschmidt@pet.k12.ca.us
L-Ra	Ms. Rietveld-Nolden	frietveld@pet.k12.ca.us
Re-Z	Ms. Walsh	jwalsh@pet.k12.ca.us

Student's last

CAHSEE: There is an after school class to assist students who have not yet passed the California High School Exit Exam. The next opportunity for seniors to take this test is on March 16th and 17th. In order to receive a diploma, student must have 220 credits in the required subjects AND pass the exit exam. Students who have not yet passed the test, but have the necessary 220 credits will receive a certificate of course completion and may still participate in the graduation ceremony.

Senior Schedules: Seniors must be enrolled in a minimum of 4 classes second semester, and should only have a shortened day schedule with parent approval and a counselor/student/parent review of the transcript.

Financial Aid \$\$: In December, Petaluma High and St. Vincent's High School co-hosted a Financial Aid Night for students and parents. FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online should be up and operating now. Apply early, the deadline is March 2nd. The CSS Profile is a financial aid form used by private colleges.

Cash for College workshop for seniors and their parents will be offered on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 11 am to 2 pm at Santa Rosa Junior College (Santa Rosa campus, Plover Building). Financial Aid staff will be on hand to offer personal assistance completing the FAFSA online in English and Spanish. This is free to participants.

Mid-year Reports: Students who have filled out *The Common Application* for a private college must also turn in a mid-year report. Please have all the necessary information typed in prior to submitting it to your counselor for mailing. We ask that you submit addressed, stamped envelopes with the prepared report.

Community Service: Seniors who have volunteered in the community should submit their hours to their counselor on a form that is signed by the community representative. Forms are located in the counseling office.

TROY's Student Store

Visit . . .

New Sweatshirts Coming
Smoothies \$3.00
Spirit Items . . . School Supplies . . . Snacks . . .
Gift Cards Available
Get Ready for the Holidays!
Open Every Day at Tutorial and Lunch
email: dfitch@pet.k12.ca.us

SENIOR NEWS (12TH Grade)

This is the start of the final semester of high school for your students. We hope that all the seniors make it a memorable, successful and satisfying end to their high school career. Counselors will continue to "pop in" to Government and Economics classes to keep seniors current on important dates and events during this last semester. Please encourage your student to continue to complete all class assignments, make good use of Tutorial and do all the other things that have contributed to good grades throughout high school. We want to see *all* seniors at the graduation ceremony.

Grades: Counselors will be checking senior grades and making recommendations for repeating a class required for graduation. If a senior has failed multiple classes, a parent conference will be requested to review options for receiving the high school diploma.

Scholarships: Seniors, please check in frequently with the career center regarding NEW scholarship opportunities for you. The 2010 PEF Scholarship list was handed out to seniors in December in Government and Economics classes. This year application procedures, specific requirements for scholarships and all necessary forms are online at www.pefinfo.com. Application packets are due to Ms Parmer in the Career Center by Thursday, February 2. Remember, there are scholarships for those planning to attend 4-year universities, 2 year programs and SRJC.

JUNIOR NEWS (11th Grade)

HAPPY 2010

Report cards will be mailed out the second week of January. These grades will appear on your student's transcript as a permanent record. Since senior year is just around the corner, it is more important than ever that student's make up any failed classes and stay on track to graduate.

Registration for the final year in high school: Incredibly, this class is moving that much closer to the graduation stage and in January, students will choose classes for their senior year! Counselors will be making presentations in their English classrooms to inform students of their choices for next year, including career clusters, graduation requirements, and college entrance requirements. At this time, students need to make selections for their courses for next year,. Just a reminder, seniors are required to take a minimum of 5 classes during their first semester of their senior year and parent permission for a shortened day will be required. Parents also need to sign their course request sheet before we can enter their data. Since this is happening so quickly, the counselors want to assure you that each junior will have an **individual appointment** with his/her counselor in the spring to review the courses they have chosen, review their transcript for any deficiencies, and look at their overall goals. Letters will also be mailed home during that time so parents can review with their child the choices they are making.

For **college bound** students, counselors recommend that juniors take college admissions tests which are the SAT, SAT Subject Tests (for UC only), or ACT in the spring of their junior year, but no later than December of their senior year. The registration for these tests is generally one month in advance of the test date. The registration is online. For SAT it is through collegeboard.com and actstudent.org for the ACT.

Helpful Hint: Working hard until the very end of your junior year will make the entire senior year better.

SOPHOMORE NEWS (10th Grade)

Final grades for the first semester will be mailed out the second week of January. These grades will appear on your student's transcript as a permanent record. If grades are less than stellar, you may see your counselor for make-up options. At this time, we don't know if the district will be offering summer school. Also, keep in mind that if your student is college-bound, colleges will not accept any grades lower than a "C" in any required subject.

Many sophomores participated in the PSAT this fall. Results were distributed to students through their counselor in December. If your student did not receive their results they can be picked up in the counseling office.

In January, students will be given course selection forms for their 2010/2011 courses. Counselors will be giving presentations to students addressing graduation and college application requirements, elective choices, career clusters, and other pertinent information. In junior year, students have fewer required courses (for high school graduation) and need to make more decisions about which classes they will take. Your student will be bringing their course registration form home in January for your review. Please discuss your student's choices with him/her, sign the form and return it to the school by the date indicated. It is very important that we receive these forms back promptly.

There is an application process required for placement in Honors and Advanced Placement courses. Announcements will be made at school during the month of February to let students know when to begin the application process for specific classes.

In February, sophomores will take the California High School Exit Exam. Students must pass both the English and Math portions to receive a high school diploma. The test will be on February 2nd and 3rd. You will be receiving more detailed information as the date draws closer. This is the first of seven opportunities your student has to take and pass the exit exam. Counselors will meet individually with any student who does not pass one or both sections of the exam and discuss the options available for help and extra preparation before the next testing.

FRESHMAN NEWS (9th Grade)

We hope that students and their families had a restful winter holiday.

Grades: Freshmen will be receiving the first grades of their high school career. Congratulations to those who worked to the best of their ability and earned good grades. We encourage those who are eligible to join the California Scholarship Association (CSF). Ms. Dietrich, CSF advisor in room C-11, will make announcements regarding the sign up period to join CSF.

If your student's grades were disappointing, we remind you of strategies for success: 1) Use tutorial to get help from teachers 2) Math homework help is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15 – 4:30 in room C-9 ; 3) Weekly progress forms are available in the Counseling and Attendance office. Don't wait for the 6-week school report card if you have concerns. Implement rewards and consequences for your child's success.

4-Year Plans: Our goal is to ensure that every student is aware of high school graduation and college entrance requirements. To meet this goal, counselors will be making a detailed presentation in the Freshman English classes. At the same time, we will be asking students to look ahead to their sophomore year and choose classes that are in alignment with their 4-year plan. PARENTS, please review

the course registration sheets that will be coming home with your student. Your 9th grader will also be given a copy of the 4-year plan they created in their English class.

Should you have any questions or would like to meet with a counselor, please call or e-mail for an appointment. We look forward to working with your student.

CAREER CENTER

Janet Parmer, Career Specialist

The Career Center is a fantastic resource for students looking to get more information about colleges and careers. We have catalogues and brochures for colleges, trade and vocational programs.

We are also a source of information about places students can volunteer in the community, summer programs and study abroad opportunities. Representatives of various colleges and careers hold information sessions during tutorial and lunch.

Our computers have software that can help students research possible careers, and they can receive help getting started with their computer search.

We also get national and local college scholarship announcements, and have spoken with seniors about scholarships administered by the Petaluma Educational Foundation. Last year, PHS graduating seniors received more than \$100,000 in locally-funded scholarships.

The PEF application deadline is **February 2**. All of the details, plus the application, are online at www.pefinfo.com. Katy Verke of PEF can be reached at 778-5063.

There are additional scholarships for seniors administered by PHS, and the application deadline is **March 4**. Applications will be available in the Career Center in January. For further information, contact Janet Parmer in the Career Center at jparmer@pet.k12.ca.us or phone 778-4857.

The Career Center is open Monday through Thursday, 8:15-1:15.

PEER TUTORING by CSF students
Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays
During tutorial (10:15-10:45)

See flyers around school for specific rooms & subjects

Student's last name begins...

A-Di	Ms. Selhorst	cselhorst@pet.k12.ca.us
Do-K	Ms. Schmidt	tschmidt@pet.k12.ca.us
L-Ra	Ms. Rietveld-Nolden	frietveld@pet.k12.ca.us
Re-Z	Ms. Walsh	jwalsh@pet.k12.ca.us



Students of the Month

Congratulations to all our **Students of the Month**:

Verenice Garcia Arango & Taylor Lee were our September Students of the Month

Anebel Brinkmann & Jay Thomason our October Students of the Month

Olivia Gray & Patrick Malaret our November Students of the Month and

Valerie Rustad & Rocco Cunningham are our December Students of the Month.

Students are selected based upon their outstanding academic achievement, community service, leadership, and citizenship.

These students were honored as the Students of the Month at the monthly School Board Meetings.

THE SATs ARE COMING! ARE YOU READY?

Getting into the college of your choice is becoming tougher and tougher for high school students today. In response, two of our staff members, Mr. McHugh and Mr. Cox, team teach a math workshop that is designed to help students maximize their scores from the math sections of the SAT test. Each four-hour workshop includes the latest test-taking strategies from the test makers, plus detailed descriptions and solid practice for every type of problem using real questions from recent SAT exams. Additional topics that will be addressed include goal setting, reducing anxiety, time-saving approaches, and enhancing familiarity with the test. The workshop is offered from 8:30 AM to 12:45 PM on **Saturday, February 27, 2010 or Saturday, April 17, 2010**. If you would like to register or get more information, please visit their website at <http://teacherweb.com/CA/PetalumaHigh/Cox-Math> . Space is limited so register early.



SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) for ALL STUDENTS FEB. 2 & 3 – IMPORTANT! ALL PARENTS PLEASE READ!

David Stirrat, Assistant Principal

On February 2nd and 3rd, Petaluma High School will administer the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to all sophomores. The exam consists of two parts: English Language Arts and Mathematics. The English Language Arts exam will be given on Tuesday, February 2nd. The Mathematics exam will be given on Wednesday, February 3rd.

The purpose of this article is to provide details related to the testing in February as well as to encourage all sophomores to make special plans to attend school on February 2nd and 3rd and to do their very best on the exams.

In each of the last six years, the percentage of sophomores who have passed the test and scored proficient in English Language Arts and Mathematics has risen. We hope that this year's test results will continue the positive trend.

The sophomore session of the Exit Exam is February 2nd (A day) and 3rd (B day). We will use the proctoring schedule below. Below are the daily schedules for the two days of testing in February. **Sophomores will begin school at 8:15.** Freshmen, juniors and seniors will start later—at 11:00 AM on Tuesday and 10:45 AM on Wednesday because it is a shortened day.

Tuesday, 2nd February – A Day		Wednesday, 3rd February – B Day	
No Zero Period		No Zero Period	
8:15–10:45	English Language Arts Exam*	8:15–10:30	Mathematics exam*
11:00–12:05	Period 1**	10:45–11:35	Period 4**
12:05–12:40	Lunch	11:35–12:15	Lunch
12:45–1:50	Period 2	12:15–1:05	Period 5
1:55–3:00	Period 3	1:10–2:06	Period 6

*Because the California High School Exit Exams are un-timed, any student requiring additional time to complete an exam will be given whatever time is necessary, provided that the extra time is utilized that same day. Special arrangements are being made to provide extra time and a quiet place for students to complete their tests; teachers will direct them to that location. All other students begin classes at 11:00 AM on Tuesday and 10:45 AM on Wednesday.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Lee Boyes, Chair



We want to remind everyone that school counselors will be going around in January to begin the process of signing up students for next years classes. Don't hesitate to call current teachers or counselors if you wish to be better informed about the options available. Given the current budget concerns our options may be limited.

We would like to put out a call for presenters in our yearly "science career fair". In this event we spend a day with people from our community speaking to small groups of students about what they do in their work life, and how it may relate to students' ongoing science education. We have had engineers, masseuses, research biologists, solar panel technicians, firemen, and many others present, and would like to see many more. It helps students get a feel for the opportunities available after graduation, and gives them direction for planning.

Our next fair will be on March 18 and 19. If you have something to offer (most everyone does) please contact Ms. Lee Boyes at chemphs@aol.com. Your contribution is very valuable.

This beginning of the second semester marks the beginning of an important part of our 9th grade Physical Science curriculum, namely Earth Science. It is that part of the course that focuses on matters that most directly impact peoples lives. The work we will do regarding meteorology (weather) and geology will give background for student discussions of climate change, water conservation and earthquake preparedness. It is also the focus that our department chooses for the 9th grade science portion of the state STAR test and is thus important for both our students, our department and our school as a whole.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Jae Tillinghast, Chair

Coming to the end of the semester, much has changed. Students enrolled in AP Art are finishing up the breadth section of their portfolios. The photo lab is officially running and completed. In the darkroom we have four stations to process film and eight stations to enlarge prints. In the photo classroom we have eight brand new wide-screen monitors for our eight brand new PC computers. Thanks for the technology committee's grant. Anyone interested in auditioning or participating in the upcoming dinner theatre contact Mr. Knox, drama and film teacher.

Enjoy your winter break see you next semester,

BOOSTER & GENERAL INFORMATION

PTSA

Bonnie Koagedal, President

Greetings From PTSA:

WE are busy gearing up to put on our holiday teacher appreciation lunch. Thank you if you have volunteered a salad to help. Contact Cynthia Machado in the future if you want to help. 794-8444.

We had two fundraisers and are looking for another for February 2010. We raised \$200 at an Aqus Café all day dine out. Thanks to John and Anne Crowley. We raised \$160 at a candle party held at my home. Thanks to Christine Hough of Partylite candles.

Please consider finding out what supplies your students favorite teachers needs for the New Year and donate anything you can.

Please contact Bonnie Koagedal if you have a business or a fundraising idea so we can contribute back to the teachers and our school.

Blessings, to you and your family in this Season of Peace and Giving.

LIBRARY BOOSTERS

Susan Rose, President

The Library Boosters Club raises money to fund cultural events, books and library equipment that normally would not be affordable. November 30 and December 1, it had the pleasure of hosting Joe McHugh, professional story teller and thinker, who presents big ideas in accessible ways.



Mr. McHugh's thought-provoking and lively one-and-half-hour presentation, organized by librarian Connie Williams, looked at what stories are and why we have them. He started out by showing how humans try to discover patterns in the chaos of life, and then create stories around those patterns to increase our chances of survival. As an example, he told about a tribe of Thai fisherman who had a myth about a giant hand that comes out of the ocean, 'eats' all the little waves and destroys people. This myth actually saved the

tribe when the Tsunami of 2004 hit. They saw the waves receding and instead of going out pick fish, ran for the high hills. Creating stories out of patterns also applies to human interaction, as Mr. Shakespeare so well demonstrated.

Mr. McHugh spent time illustrating to students how stories arise from, and operate on, a different level of experience than school. Stories are "mythos thinking" while school is based on "logos thinking".

He also challenged students to see parallels between our current culture and other periods of history, most notably the Middle Ages, when mythos thinking was very prevalent. His selection of slides combined humor and information: A photo of a Medieval European castle juxtaposed to an aerial view of Steven Spielberg's compound; a royal landowner from the feudal ages next to a photo of Ted Turner, largest land holder in the US today were just two.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Please remember when dropping students off for zero hour classes to drop them off in front of the school by the flag pole. Please do not drive through the parking spots in front of Counseling as these are reserved for parking for our staff. It can create an unsafe situation if parents are parked across the parking spots and staff members are waiting in the street to pull into their spot. Thank you for your cooperation!





IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION

PHS DIRECTORY

Administration	778-4652	Fax	778-4767
Admin/Students	778-4671	Information	778-4651
Athletic Director	778-5074	Library	778-4662
Attendance	778-4670	Museum	778-4787
Bilingual	778-4646	Nurses	778-4651
Cafeteria	778-4660	Registration	778-4650
Career Center	778-4857	Student Center	778-4651
Counseling	778-4779	Transcripts	778-4650
Discipline	778-4671	Voice Mail	778-4926
Facilities Manager	778-4938		

DATES TO REMEMBER – Please Mark Your Calendars

January '10

- 5** **2nd semester begins**
- 6 PTSA Mtg.
- 12 Music Boosters Mtg.
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No school
- 20 Project Grad Mtg.
- 25 Athletic Boosters Mtg.
- 28-29 No School for students

February '10

- 3 PTSA Mtg.
- 8 Lincoln's Holiday – No school
- 9 Music Boosters Mtg.
- 15 Washington's Holiday - No school
- 17 Project Grad Mtg.
- 19** **4th Grading Period Ends**
- 20 Campus Clean-Up, 9:00-12:00
- 22 Athletic Boosters Mtg.
- 24 Affording College Presentation, 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Athletic Booster Crab Feed