

VIKING VOICE

AUGUST 2003 VOLUME '03-'04, ISSUE 1

SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL 310/395-3204

601 PICO BOULEVARD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, *Santa Monica-Malibu Council, 33rd District CCPTS, Inc.*LOUISE JAFFE & CHERI ORGEL, *PTSA Co-Presidents*; ILENE STRAUS, *Chief Educational Officer/Principal*; GRETCHEN GOETZ, *Editor*; MARIA RODRIGUEZ (*Spanish*)

Welcome to Samohi!

Message from the Co-PTSA Presidents

We are looking forward to a great year...

for all Samohi students, staff, and families as we continue efforts to improve communication between home and school. This is the first of seven newsletters that will be mailed to your home. We hope that these frequent newsletters will help every family benefit more fully from all that Samohi offers.

In this Summer Registration packet, you will find a *Samohi Communications and Involvement Form*. Please fill out this form and have your student return it at registration. This will allow us to keep you informed about Samohi throughout the school year. We encourage you to volunteer for everything and anything that sounds interesting to you. Volunteering is a great way to meet staff, new parents and students, and to spend meaningful time on campus.

PTSA is proud to have been a key player in the successful passage of Measure S which prevents the layoff of 25 Samohi teachers and the elimination of 100 class periods. Additional support from the cities of Santa Monica and Malibu provide funding to restore our full time library aide, school nurse, additional teachers, the textbook coordinator, and additional key support staff. However, Samohi will still rely on PTSA to provide much-needed financial support for school and classroom supplies, department grants, after school tutoring, technology, beautification, communications and much more. Please be on the lookout for our *Direct Donation drive letter* and give as generously as you can.

Lastly, we are excited by the changes on campus and the implementation of Redesign. We are grateful to the many teachers who moved classrooms during the summer. We believe that the 6 new houses will provide smaller and more personal learning communities for all of our students.

We are eager to help Samohi to become a better and better school for more and more students and look forward to working with you!

– *Cheri Orgel* (451-1938, clorgel@aol.com)
and *Louise Jaffe* (450-2487, lcjaffe@aol.com)
Samohi PTSA Co-presidents

New this year...

Late Start on Wednesday mornings!

We will begin a banked time schedule, with a late start schedule on Wednesdays, to provide time for staff to meet, both for professional development, and for student support. **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, school begins at 8:15, with AM beginning at 7:10. On Wednesdays, school begins at 8:45 for AM and 9:36 for all students. School will end each day at 3:16 pm.**

Please note that the first day of school is late start schedule.

Samohi Registration Dates: August 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd

12th grade students register Tuesday, August 19th
11th grade students register Wednesday, August 20th
10th grade students register Thursday, August 21st
9th grade students register Friday, August 22nd

Students with July through December birthdays register in the morning from 8:30 to 11:30am.

Students with January through June birthdays register in the afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00pm.

If your student is unable to pick up his/her schedule at the assigned time, a parent or friend can pick up the schedule at the student's assigned time by going through the full process (with written permission from the student or student's parent). Parents or friends can also pay in advance for the ID picture and there will be ID picture make-up days scheduled once school has started. ONLY the student, student's parent or legal guardian can make changes to the schedule. If a parent or legal guardian is not available to pick up the schedule, any schedule changes will be made during the first 15 days of school through your student's advisor. If you have special registration concerns, please contact Anuar Shalash at 395-3204, ext 321, shalash@smmusd.org.

Does your student still have textbooks or library books at home?

Remind your students to bring texts and library books back to school, including books that were not returned at the end of the spring semester, or books used during summer school. Failure to return these books will hold up your student's registration process. Please look for a form in this registration packet that lists any books (or other financial, attendance or detention obligations) that your student owes – and plan to return or pay for them *before* registration day. Obligations may be cleared prior to registration from July 28 - August 18th with Ruth Esseln in the Administration Bldg, Rm 200.

Has your address changed?

Please be sure to make any appropriate corrections to the '03-'04 *Information Update Sheet* in this packet and bring it along with 2 utility bills (gas, water, or electric) to registration. If form is correct, simply sign and return at registration.

September 9th PTSA Mtg. to introduce houses

All are invited to the first PTSA meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 9th, at 7 pm in the cafeteria. Dr. Straus will introduce the leadership for all six Houses and will present an overview of this year's plans for Samohi. Spanish translation is provided at all PTSA meetings. *Please note that there will be a Coffee with the Principals before this meeting at 6 pm in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome!*

Save the Dates!!

Back to School Night, Tuesday, Sept. 30th

Please mark September 30th on your calendar and please attend!
More information will be coming home in September.

Samohi's College Fair, Oct. 7th

Samohi's annual college fair, featuring representatives from over 150 colleges, will take place on October 7 from 6:30 - 9 pm. More details to come in the next newsletter!

– *Lynn Naliboff*, College Fair co-chair (lgnaliboff@earthlink.net)

Practice SAT test at Samohi, Sept. 20th and 21st

Revolution Prep will be offering a practice SAT exam on Saturday, September 20th and Sunday, September 21st from 9am-12pm in T-109 the Technology building at Samohi. The cost of the practice exam is \$15. All proceeds go to the Samohi PTSA. Students will be given a log-in code and password at the exam with which to access their scores at revolutionprep.com and receive detailed feedback and analysis about their results.

Details about the fundraiser and Revolution Prep's SAT course will be mailed to students in mid-August. In the meantime, please contact Revolution Prep with any SAT related questions.

– *Jake Neuberg*, Revolution Prep (478-2780, jake@revolutionprep.com)

Site Governance Candidates Speak Out

Thank you to the following candidates for PTSA Site Governance Representative. Everyone is invited to the September 9th PTSA meeting to vote for two of these representatives, who will serve for a two year period and help make important decisions for Samohi. (It's not too late to submit your name if you would like to be considered.)

Please send a statement to *Louise Jaffe* at LCJaffe@aol.com and attend the September 9th PTSA meeting for the election.)

Randi Hutchinson

Dear Fellow PTSA Members,
I feel very deeply that we need to raise the academic standards and achievement at Samohi for all students, and I would like to be actively involved in furthering this goal. My history with this community is a long one. My family first came to Santa Monica almost a hundred years ago; my daughter is the third generation of our family to attend Samohi. I served on the Board of the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library as Publicity Chair, taught at SMC after receiving my Master's degree in English from UCLA, and am currently on the Samohi Beautification Committee. For the past 22 years I have worked in managerial and executive positions in advertising, marketing, and merchandising. I feel that I can bring a wide breadth of experience and many creative ideas to the Site Governance Committee that will help in making the Redesign successful.

Thank you for your consideration,
Randi Hutchinson - Class of '69

Joyce Smith

My name is Joyce Smith. My son, Stephen Jackson, graduated from Samohi in 2001; and my daughter, Sheila, is a member of the

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class of 2005. Having served on Site Governance during 2000-2002, I am extremely interested in serving as Samohi's PTSA Representative for the 2003-2005 term during which Samohi will take on the daunting task of restructuring. I was a member of the Redesign Team and feel strongly that this is the best way to confront the achievement gap as well as the feeling of disconnection that many of our students experience. What lies before us is not the final solution but it is a beginning. Albert Einstein once said that "you can't solve a problem with the same consciousness that created it". It is time to execute a real change in order to make a real change.

In addition to my participation on Samohi's Site Governance Committee, I served as Co-Chair of the College Fair, as a member of Dr. Rousseau's Parent Advisory Committee and chaired a Gala Benefit for Restore Barnum Hall. I have been involved with PTA in Santa Monica for the past 11 years as PTA President at both Roosevelt and Lincoln and as a member of PTA Council's Executive Board. District-wide, I was a member of the Technology DAC, the Annenberg Grant Executive Council and participated in this past year's District Strategic Plan process. I am currently Co-Chair of the Community Gifts Committee of the "For The Arts" campaign under the direction of the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation.

Trish Soodik

My name is Trish Soodik and I have a tenth grader at Samohi. I am a writer and a teacher of playwriting to children with learning disabilities. I also work with a group called The Virginia Avenue Project and I have taught creative dramatics and playwriting to a number of Samo kids so feel quite con-

Grad Nite '03 a Huge Success; Get Ready for '04!

On June 19, 2003, 610 '03 Samohi grads set sail for the 13th "Samohi Grad Nite", our traditional all-night graduation celebration! Parent volunteer chairs Val Glick and Paige Coleman oversaw the incredible volunteer effort of parents, staff, and community, to put on a memorable "Moonlight Over Maui" cruise destination.

Preparation for the "cruise" for this year's seniors has already begun. **Be a part of this magical event!** There are openings on committees and as chairs: read the flyer included in this registration packet, and contribute every way you can! It is a fantastic event and we need YOU to help make it a continued success! Students have called it "the best kept secret at Samohi" and a wonderful memory as they go out into the world. Check out the web page on the Samohi website. Attend the general meetings. If you have questions, please contact me! Welcome to all!

– *Inese Verzemnieks*, Grad Nite '04 chair (452-5959, iverzemn@ucla.edu)

Welcome Back Staff Lunch volunteers needed

We need volunteers to bring salads and desserts for the **Welcome Back Staff Lunch** on August 29th. Please email or call us! Thanks!
– *Janine Brownstone* (390-9174, JanAndBobo@aol.com)
and *Deb Love* (Deamlo@aol.com)

ected to the school. I am a child of public education, having grown up in Chicago and gone to K through 12 in the public system. I believe in it, I believe in the dedication of the teachers, the commitment of the parents and the hearts and minds of the kids. I would love to be on the Site Governance committee so I could participate to the best of my ability in making Samohi the great school we all imagine it could be. I want to do this for my son, for all the kids I know who go here, and for all the kids I don't know who deserve the chance to be educated in a fun, safe, exciting atmosphere. Thank You.

Dave Tillipman

I am the parent of an incoming 9th grader, and a 6th grader. I have previously been involved as a parent volunteer on the PTSA Council, middle school PTSA Board, and elementary school Site Council during the past years. In addition, I have served on numerous Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District committees. Professionally, I have been involved in education for over 25 years. I have a Ph.D. in Education from UCLA, and am currently the Director of Administration and Development at RAND Education. Prior to these positions, I have been an elementary school teacher, a school director, a director of evaluation, and numerous other formal and voluntary school roles. My reasons for wanting to get involved as a PTSA Representative to Site Governance are to play an active role, working with others, to make Santa Monica High School a center of true educational excellence that we can all be proud of. I believe that my long time professional, and voluntary, involvements will bring a set of skills and experiences to SAMO that will help make this happen. It would be an honor to play this role.

PULL OUT THIS PAGE... and save these Parent Meeting Dates and Holidays!

PTSA Meetings (*Parent Teacher Student Association*)

All meetings are on Tuesday at 7pm in the Student Cafeteria

Every **2nd Tuesday** of the month, we have a PTSA meeting. We use these meetings to provide information that we and the administration believe is of interest and use to all families. They also include a report from Dr. Straus. Simultaneous Spanish translation is provided and so are refreshments! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

September 9	December 9	March 9
October 14	January 13	May 11
November 18	February 10	June 8

AAPSSSG Meetings

(African American Parent Student Staff Support Group)

The AAPSSSG would like to welcome all new and returning parents to Samohi. The officers encourage each of you to get involved in the education of all our students. Please join us on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm in the cafeteria.

September 8	January 12	May 10
October 13	February 9	June 11
November 10	March 8	
December 8	April 19	

SOL/BAC Meetings

(Spirit of Love/Bilingual Advisory Committee /Latino Parent Group)

The SOL/BAC holds meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 pm in the cafeteria. The group's purpose is to help Latino parents support their children in making every day a success. Meetings are held in Spanish. Please join us!

September 22	December 15	March 22
October 27	January 26	April 26
November 24	February 23	May 24

Coffee with the Principals

Coffee with the Principal is another forum for communication.

Beginning at 6pm prior to the PTSA meeting – and also on the last Friday of the month, beginning at 8:30am – Dr. Straus meets with parents for an informal question and answer discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend these sessions located in the cafeteria.

Tuesday evenings at 6pm

before PTSA meetings

September 9
October 14
November 18
December 9
January 13
February 10
March 9
May 11
June 8

Friday mornings at 8:30am

September 26
October 31
November 21
January 30
February 27
March 26
April 30
May 28

Thanksgiving Holiday: Thurs., November 27 - Fri., November 28

Winter Break: Monday, December 22 - Friday, January 2

Spring Break: Monday, April 5 - Friday, April 16

Other holidays/no school:

Admissions Day: Monday, October 6

Veteran's Day: Tuesday, November 11

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday: Monday, January 19

President's Day: Monday, February 9

Memorial Day: Monday, May 31

Back to School Night: Tuesday, September 30

Open House : Tuesday, March 23

Samohi Bell Schedule

Standard Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Period	Time	Minutes
A	7:12 – 8:08	(56)
1	8:15 – 9:11	(56)
Homeroom	9:18 – 9:28	(10)
2	9:28 – 10:24	(56)
Break	10:24 – 10:29	(5)
3	10:36 – 11:32	(56)
4	11:39 – 12:35	(56)
Lunch	12:35 – 1:10	(35)
5	1:17 – 2:13	(56)
6	2:20 – 3:16	(56)

Late Start Schedule: Wednesday

A	8:45 – 9:30	(45)
1	9:36 – 10:21	(45)
2	10:28 – 11:13	(45)
3	11:20 – 12:05	(45)
Lunch	12:05 – 12:40	(35)
4	12:47 – 1:32	(45)
5	1:39 – 2:24	(45)
6	2:31 – 3:16	(45)

September

- 3 **First Day of School** (First Semester Begins) - Late Start
- 8 **AAPSSSG Mtg., 7 p.m., Student Cafeteria**
- 9 SAT I & SAT II Registration Deadline
Coffee with the Principals, 6pm, Student Cafeteria
- PTSA Mtg., 7 p.m., Student Cafeteria**
- 16 Governance Mtg., 5pm
Senior Parent Mtg., 7pm, Student Cafeteria
- 19 ACT Registration Deadline
- 22 **SOL/BAC Mtg., 7pm, Student Cafeteria**
- 26 *Coffee with the Principals, 8:30am, Student Cafeteria*
Last day to drop classes with review
- SAT I, SAT II Tests Registration Deadline
- 29 AVID Parent Mtg. # 1, 7pm, Location TBA
- 30 **Back To School Night - Early Dismissal Schedule**

October

- 6 **Admission Day - No School**
- 7 **College Fair, 6:30 - 9pm, South Gym**
- 11 SAT I & SAT II Test
- AAPSSSG Mtg., 7pm, Student Cafeteria**
- 14 *Coffee with the Principals, 6pm., Student Cafeteria*
PTSA Mtg., 7pm, Student Cafeteria

House Leadership and Location

This year all students will be assigned to one of six houses (labeled S A M O H and I). Each house will be led by a House Principal, a teacher leader, and two advisors (one with grades 9,11, and one with grades 10,12). The house leadership will stay intact for your child during the four years of high school, so that your child will be known well by a group of teachers who teach the core academic classes (English, Social Studies, Math, Science). The houses are located in specific areas of the campus, and the house offices will be located there as well, to provide supervision, regular contact, and a smaller more personalized learning community. For more information about Samohi's new house structure, please read the enclosed article from the *Santa Monica Mirror*: Samohi Goes Where Many Have Gone Before.

Name of house <i>Nombre de Casa</i>	S	A	M	O	H	I
Principal/Director	Runyon	Shalash	Kelly	Flynn	Esseln	Martin
Building <i>Localidad del Edificio</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Business and Technology</i>	<i>History- 1st floor & Language</i>	<i>History- 2nd floor & Language</i>	<i>English & Language</i>	<i>Technology- 2nd floor</i>
Two advisors and grade level <i>Dos consejeros y nivel de grado</i>	Kenney 9/11 Trundle 10/12	Dresher 9/11 DeMorst 10/12	Audet 9/11 Luddy 10/12	Simone 9/11 Demirjian 10/12	LeCassidy 9/11 Wax 10/12	Gatell 9/11 Orlowski 10/12
Teacher Leader <i>Maestro Líder</i>	Louria	Serratore	Lunt	Beeman-Solano	Hadlock-Piltz	Mayoral

How to Navigate the First Day of School on Wednesday, September 3rd

As early as 7:30am on Wednesday, September 3rd, rosters will be posted in the Science Quad, in the Main Quad and by Barnum Hall. These rosters list students alphabetically by last name, indicating the students' AM and first-period classes. Students need to proceed to their assigned first period classes. First period teachers will have official schedules for students enrolled in their first period classes. Teachers will distribute schedules to students. Students who are NOT on the alpha roster need to report to the Greek Theater.

Students who still owe "obligations" (overdue texts or library books, financial, attendance, or detention) will not receive schedules. Teachers will give them obligation notices, and they are to report to the Greek with these forms.

Students with "holes" (periods without assigned classes) in their schedules should report to the Greek during the period in which they have the hole. The advisors will attempt to fill holes during that period.

Students desiring schedule changes will need to watch for announcements of dates when they can make appointments to make schedule changes. The last day for schedule changes without the Review Board is September 12th.

Summer Reading

Samohi summer reading list can be found at www.samohi.smmusd.org/Library/2003_Summer_Reading.pdf
For families with younger children, the complete Reading List for Kindergarten-12th grade can be found at www.smmusd.org/reading/

Other Online Resources

District, Samohi, and Samohi PTSA Websites

Bookmark these web pages for frequent easy reference!

- SMMUSD website - home page
www.smmusd.org/
- SMMUSD policies & administrative regulations
www.smmusd.org/web/smmboardpolicy.htm
- Samohi's website - home page
www.samohi.smmusd.org/
- Staff directory
www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/staff_directory.htm
- Blue bulletin (student announcements)
www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/bulletin.htm

- Calendar of Samohi events
www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/calendar.htm
- Redesign Information
www.samohi.smmusd.org/houses/index.htm
- PTSA (budget, calendar, donor list, parent groups, etc.)
www.samohi.smmusd.org/PTSA/index.htm
- Freshman transition information
www.samohi.smmusd.org/freshmen/index.htm
- Graduation requirements
www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/graduation_requirements.htm
- College Center
www.samohi.smmusd.org/College/index.htm
- College requirements
www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/college_requirements.htm
- Samohi Course Catalog
www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/guidance_office.htm
- Senior Information
www.samohi.smmusd.org/senior/index.htm
- Grad Nite
www.samohi.smmusd.org/Grad_Nite/passenger.htm