

VIKING VOICE

MARCH 2004 VOLUME '03-'04, ISSUE 5

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*)

Second Semester is underway!

Message from PTSA Co-presidents

Your support is needed – for your student and for the Excellent Public Schools petitions

We are well into second semester now and coming down the home stretch for this school year. March is the time when PTSA elects new officers for the coming year so it is also a time for taking stock of what we have accomplished and what we have yet to accomplish!

We feel like it's been a pretty good year at Samohi; the transition into the new House system has gone smoothly and we expect the integrity of the Houses and their effectiveness to increase. But while many students are getting a great education at Samohi, many other students continue to do poorly. PTSA has worked hard to make information and resources more available for all students and their families but we are disappointed to hear that afterschool drop in tutoring services are underutilized. Six week progress reports will be mailed home soon; if your student is not doing well, it is not too late to do better. Please, please, please contact your student's advisor, remind your student to utilize teacher office hours, tutoring services and the library and help organize your student to succeed.

Passage of Measure S and an increased contribution of funds from the Santa Monica City Council were critical in making this school year possible. PTSA worked hard for both. Now we are engaged in a signature gathering campaign for a measure that will require the City to provide \$6 million in predictable annual funding to the school district. That contribution will grow over time as the City's budget grows. Without increased City support, the quality of our schools will deteriorate. It's that simple.

We believe that good public schools are an essential component of our very wonderful community and that both are in jeopardy. Please support the signature-gathering effort to bring the *Excellent Public Schools* measure before the voters in November. We must collect 13,000 signatures from registered Santa Monica voters by May 5th. Please see the article on page 3 to find out how you can help!

Cheri Orgel, 451-1938, clorgel@aol.com

Louise Jaffe, 450-2487, lcjaffe@aol.com, *Samohi PTSA Co-presidents*

(Please see the article on page 3 to find out how you can help!)

Second semester's first grading period ends March 5th

Progress reports will be mailed home to all families after March 5th, funded by PTSA direct donation funds. Please look for your student's progress report in the mail.

Samohi Website Reminder!

The Samohi website is now updated daily and is full of useful information including teacher contact info, school calendars and student grades. Check it out at www.samohi.smmusd.org

Mark your calendars for OPEN HOUSE!!

Tuesday, March 23, from 6:30-9 pm

Parking at the Civic Center

Please plan to attend Open House. It is earlier in the year than usual, to give parents an opportunity to meet teachers and see student work before the year is over. Please note that there will be a very brief PTSA meeting in Barnum Hall at 6:30 pm and Dr. Straus will speak. Visits to classrooms will begin at 7 pm.

Spring Break is April 5th - 16th.

No April PTSA meeting, next mtg is May 17th

Please note that there is no April PTSA meeting. All are invited to the PTSA meeting on May 11th at 7 pm in the cafeteria. The program will focus on upcoming state testing – why the tests are such a big deal and what you can (and can't) learn from the results!

Message from the Principal, Dr. Straus

Dear Parents,

We are well underway in Spring semester, with plans already being drafted for the coming school year. We are working to enhance our first year of redesign efforts focused on improving student achievement and personalizing the educational experience for students. We are also working to improve the organization and operations of our large school.

The upcoming school year's redesign efforts will continue to focus on our youngest students, those in grades 9 and 10. We will be working to build house integrity to ensure that students have most of their core courses in the house, thereby allowing a group of teachers to provide more cohesive support to students as they get to know them well. In addition, **we are proposing the addition of honors Biology for grade 9 and AP History for grade 10. Both of these options are under discussion with the respective departments at this time.** Freshman seminar and health, important components of our 9th grade program, covering required research, college planning and preparation and health topics are also being proposed into a modified course taught by house teachers, to ensure a smoother transition for ninth grade students into our large comprehensive high school. This is also under discussion, along with academic support programs aimed at all levels of coursework.

Currently the State of California is reducing funds the District is receiving for class size reduction, eliminating our small English and math courses for ninth graders for next year. In addition, we are told that summer school funding has been drastically cut by the State, which will limit our courses and offerings for this summer. We are committed to teaching required courses for graduation, repeat courses

continued on page 5

First-ever Samohi Course Catalog!!

The first-ever Samohi Course Catalog will be arriving in your mailbox in March! A joint effort of the PTSA, administration and faculty, the catalog should be an indispensable aid to students and families. The catalog contains a listing, by department, of all courses offered, including grade levels, prerequisites and course descriptions. It also has sections on graduation requirements, four-year course planning, standardized testing, grading, alternate enrollment opportunities such as independent study and taking classes at SMC, honors and AP courses, summer school, and planning for college. It is a rich resource the PTSA is proud to sponsor.

The catalog will be mailed in March to all families with entering 9th through 12th graders in the fall. It will also be posted on the Samohi website, along with periodic updates. The catalog itself will be updated and published every two years. Please keep it in a good place! Limited extra copies may be available for a fee. Use the catalog when your student meets with his or her advisor in the spring to plan next year's courses. It will also be helpful for looking ahead and doing long-term curriculum planning.

Many thanks to everyone involved in this major undertaking: I -House Principal Kathleen Martin, I -House Assistant Chanée Washington, the department chairs, and parents Diane Kuntz, Inese Verzemnieks, Lynn Naliboff and Louise Jaffe.

The Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is here

It is that time of year again for students to take the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) exam on March 16th and 17th. The class of 2006 are required to pass this exam in order to graduate as mandated by the state.

In preparation, 10th grade Math and English teachers have issued practice test booklets provided by the state to the students. Teachers will either review the materials in their classes with the students or the students will be given the practice booklets to take home and practice on their own. If there are any students who have not received these materials they should ask their teachers.

The test is now two days but each day will consist of four hours of testing. Samohi will have a special schedule that will most likely be a block scheduling. While 10th graders are taking the exam, all other students will attend their classes as usual. The final testing schedule has not been set at press time. If there are any further questions, please contact: Theresa Luong, Testing Coordinator, 395-3204 ext 333, luong@smmusd.org

Samohi Grad Nite preparing to Party in Jamaica!

The Class of 2004 has less than 4 months until the long awaited extravaganza, Grad Nite, will unfold before them on the tennis courts on campus. This is the 14th Samohi Grad Nite, an all-inclusive, all-night party for Samohi and Olympic graduates, held the night of June 17th. The goal is to provide a way for our seniors to celebrate on their graduation night (historically, over 90% of the class usually attends) while keeping them sober and safe on what is statistically the most dangerous night of their lives.

Information, volunteer forms and ticket reservation forms were mailed to ALL senior parents in February. Please complete your form and return it ASAP as some volunteer time slots fill quickly. We welcome all volunteers but cannot guarantee requested time slots. Included in the same mailing was a reminder for Ticket Reservations. Purchase your student's ticket NOW for \$60 (still below "cost"). This price goes up to \$75 (CASH ONLY) at the door. Don't delay!

All undergrad parents are also encouraged to get involved. Grad Nite cannot be done by a small group of parents - please come join us. Make a financial and time "donation" now! Please check out our webpage for forms and information:

www.samohi.smmusd.org/Grad_Nite

Thanks in advance for your participation!

Inese Verzemnieks, Grad Nite Chair, 452-5959, iverzemn@ucla.edu

The Viking Voice, March '04

Plan Ahead! Summer Schedule at Samohi

Summer School

The 2004 Summer School will begin Monday, June 28 and end Friday, August 6. Summer school provides students an opportunity to repeat classes and correct deficiencies in their coursework. "Get ahead" offerings will be limited. Registration for Summer School will be after spring break. For more information, please contact: Ruth Esseln, H House Principal, 395-3204 ext 246 esseln@smmusd.org

Registration for next year at Samohi!

Registration will take place on:

Tuesday, August 24th for incoming seniors

Wednesday, August 25th for incoming juniors

Thursday, August 26th for incoming sophomores

Friday, August 27th for incoming freshmen

PTSA will mail registration information and forms home to all families this summer and will include instructions for students who will not be in town during their registration dates. In making your summer plans, please note that students are strongly encouraged to register in person on their assigned day.

For more information, please contact:

Anuar Shalash, A House Principal, 395-3204 ext 472 shalash@smmusd.org

First Day of School 2004-5

As we go to press, this date has still not been determined, subject to contract negotiations between the Classroom Teachers Association and the Board of Education.

Find out about Samohi's ROP Classes and "hands on" experience!

Very soon your son/daughter will be selecting classes for the 2004-05 school year. They can speak with their advisor about the many classes offered by ROP during the school day or after school. Please encourage them to jump-start their future by exploring a career or gaining job skills that will assist them in obtaining real world knowledge that can lead to them finding their passion.

ROP courses add a new dimension to learning - "hands-on" in addition to "eyes-on." Many students learn better this way. ROP courses also reinforce basic academic skills and relate them to the "real world," showing students their importance in everyday work situations. Some courses also offer workplace-learning opportunities for students, with paid or unpaid internships.

Call the ROP office at 395-3204, ext 457 or 395-9493 for further information. You can also visit the school website and under departments, select ROP and see all of the classes offered and class descriptions.

Mary Kay McCray, ROP (Regional Occupation Program) Counselor 395-3204 ext 329, mccray@smmusd.org

Art Shows at Samohi in Roberts Art Gallery

Please come and support Samohi's Art Department and enjoy students' artwork at the following two shows!

AP Art Student Show opens March 4th

All are invited to the third annual AP Art Show featuring AP Art students' work, opening March 4th with a reception from 6-8 pm. There will be snacks!

Senior Art Show opens March 20th

The Senior Art Show, featuring students who have taken at least 4 semesters of art, opens on March 20th with a reception from 6-8 pm. The evening will also include an Awards Ceremony.

The Roberts Art Gallery is located in the History building, at the top of the stairs. If you have any questions, please contact:

Amy Bouse, Art Department Chair, 395.3204 ext 443, bouse@smmusd.org

More things you need to know

PTA Urges You to Sign the *Excellent Public Schools* Petition!

The Santa Monica Malibu Council of PTAs strongly supports the efforts of *Community for Excellent Public Schools* to place a measure on the November 2004 ballot and urges all PTA Units and members to participate in the petition-signing campaign. This petition will give Santa Monica voters the chance to ensure at least \$6 million a year for the school budget from the city, without raising taxes. The city's contribution to the schools will increase over time as the city budget increases.

Ensuring a Stable, Predictable Local Source of Desperately Needed Funding for Our Schools

The *Excellent Public Schools* measure will require the City of Santa Monica to provide a minimum of \$6 million in annual revenues to the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District - or 4% of the designated City General Fund Revenues. (This year, the City provided \$5.25 million to the District.) That amount will grow by 1% a year if the City's General Fund grows by 3.5%. The measure will help stave off future education cuts and improve academic achievement for all students, without raising taxes. It means our schools and our children will share in the prosperity of the City.

Carefully and Responsibly Drafted

The *Excellent Public Schools* measure includes provisions to protect the City's fiscal authority and its ability to maintain City services, while also helping our schools. The City provides top-notch fire and police protection, environmental protection, libraries, affordable housing, public transit, and social services. We believe good public schools are also a basic quality of life issue for Santa Monicans and that the City should formalize a commitment to provide increased stable funding for our schools to preserve high quality public education.

A Small Portion of the City's Budget - A Great Benefit for Our Schools

The City of Santa Monica is one of the most prosperous cities in the state with a General Fund of over \$175 million, and a total budget of more than \$350 million this year alone. This measure will commit a small portion of City funds while greatly benefiting our children.

We Need YOUR Help!

We need everyone who cares about our schools to help qualify this measure for the ballot. We need you to sign a petition, to ask your friends to sign a petition, and to help circulate petitions. We will need LOTS of volunteers in the next 6 weeks. We must collect and submit 13,000 signatures by May!!

To find out how you can help, please log on to the excellentpublicschools.org website or contact any of the following:

Samohi PTSA Co-presidents:

Louise Jaffe 450-2487 lcjaffe@aol.com

Cheri Orgel 451-1938 clorgel@aol.com

Samohi PTSA Legislation Co-chairs:

Laurie Yehia 829-9106 lyehia@aol.com

Nancy Schmidt 398-3548 nmschmidt@aol.com

Excellent Public Schools Volunteer Coordinators

Lauri Crane 395-2665 ojai5@aol.com

Rick Gates 450-4192 reekgates@verizon.net

We believe that strong schools are integral to a strong city. Please help us preserve the quality of our public school system!

New Beginnings! Take advantage of Drop-in Tutoring with Samohi Teachers!

Help your student get off to a good start this semester. Most Samohi teachers now have "office hours" – this time is provided so that students who are having trouble can get specific help from their own classroom teacher. This is the best first step for students with questions.

Samohi teachers are also now offering After School Drop in Tutoring! Mondays through Thursdays, from 3:30-4:30 in room E101

(*new location*). This valuable resource is currently under-utilized. Drop in and get help from a teacher!

Is your student really going to tutoring?

Samohi can let you know if your student is really attending drop-in teacher tutoring sessions. Call your student's House Office and say you want to know if your student is attending. Staff is keeping track of attendance to monitor the utilization and effectiveness of our tutoring services.

For information on how to contact your student's teacher or advisor, please refer to your Samohi Information Handbook or go online to http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/staff_directory.htm

Tutoring in AP subjects

Afterschool tutoring in AP Chemistry has been added along with sessions

for students in AP Calculus, AP History, and AP English. Attendance has been good for Chemistry and Calculus but space is still available for History and English. Please encourage your student to take advantage of this support.

AP Chemistry Mondays 3:30 – 5:00 Room T202

AP Calculus Tuesdays 3:30 – 5:00 Room H215

AP History Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:00 Room H218

AP English Thursdays 3:30 – 5:00 Room L206

Extended after school library hours

The Samohi library, home to **30 computers**, is now open until 5pm on Mondays through Thursdays and staffed with a Samohi teacher who can help students with questions and research.

Tutoring by Samohi students available in Math, Science, English

Students can come to Room S207 at Lunch on Thursdays to be tutored by National Honor Society volunteers.

For more information about tutoring services at Samohi, please contact **Wendy Wax Gellis**, *Advisor/Administrator*, 395-3204 ext 133 or email at gellis@smmusd.org.

News from the Library

New Hours: Monday-Thursday from 7:30am-5pm, Friday until 4pm

Evaluating Sources

When involved in research in the library, we're asking students to carefully evaluate their sources, especially electronic information. Who produced the site? Is it accurate? Is it authoritative? We recommend using databases rather than search engines. **Our district makes several excellent databases available to students: Galenet, elibrary, Magill on Literature, and Newsbank.** The information in these databases has been reviewed and checked for accuracy and non-bias.

Accessing Databases from your home computer!

From the library webpage, scroll to "online subscriptions," and click on the database you want. At home, students will be asked for passwords

to access these sites.

Elibrary (Bigchalk): *User Name:* 58-5879 *Password:* bigchalk

Galenet: *User Name:* Sant86396 *Password:* Sant86396

Newsbank (LA Times archives and Noticias en Espanol):

User name: 7948 *Password:* 7948

New! Magill on Literature: *User Name:* Samohi *Password:* Viking

How to Create a Bibliography (the easy way)

Go to Google; type in Slate Citation Machine, select Slate Citation Machine, select MSLA format, select the type of resource from the left side of the page, fill in the blanks, cut and paste it into a Word document. The Slate Citation Machine puts the information in the correct order and supplies the required punctuation.

Ann McKechnie, 395-3204, ext 437 mckechnie@smmusd.org

Dana Barthell, ext 262 barthell@smmusd.org, *Samohi Librarians*

Springtime for College Seekers!

Submitted by *Joyce Smith* (collegecompass@aol.com)

SENIORS

1. Keep up your GPA during this last semester. Even if you are admitted to a college, they will rescind your admission if they see a major drop in your grade.
2. Once admitted to a college go and visit it before you make your final decision.
3. And don't forget to have a meaningful summer – working, studying or volunteering!

JUNIORS

1. Now is the time to start seriously thinking about college.
2. Use the Ruggs Recommendations on the Colleges to start your search. This book lists colleges according to area of interest and selectivity. Copies are in The Future Center.
3. Visit different kinds of colleges here in the LA area:
 - Big and public* – UCLA, CalStateLA, CalState Northridge
 - Big & private* – USC, Loyola Marymount
 - Small & private* – the Claremont colleges (Pomona, Claremont McKenna, Scripps, Pitzer), Occidental
4. Plan a visit to colleges outside of California over Spring Break – most colleges are in session during Samo's 2-week Spring Break (April 5-16).

Tip: The following airline mileage programs offer the ability to make a stop-over at an additional city:

 - American & Delta* – for minimum mileage award you can stop at an additional city, i.e LA to NYC to Chicago to LA United – for the minimum mileage award you can fly into one city and return from a different city ...but you have to get yourself to the return city. For example, fly to NYC visit colleges in New England and return from Boston or fly into NYC visit colleges in the Philadelphia-Wash, D.C. area, take a shuttle to Chicago, visit colleges in Mid-west and fly to LA from *Chicago Northwest* – for 37,000 miles you can make a stop-over US Air – no allowance.
5. Think about next year's course selection and make sure that it is as rigorous as your past three years.
6. UC's and private colleges want SAT II's – plan to take some of these this spring and schedule them around any AP exams you are taking.
7. "Think about who you might want to write your teacher recommendations - private colleges ask for two recommendations from teachers you've had only in either your 11th or 12th grade years....your favorite 9th or 10th grade teacher can't write a letter for you ...unless, of course, he/she taught one of your 11th or 12 th grade classes."
8. And don't forget to have a meaningful summer – working, studying, camping or volunteering!

SOPHOMORES

1. Think about your schedule for next year – choose courses that demonstrate your willingness to challenge yourself.
2. Add to your file of your activities and honors and awards.
3. Go to www.collegeboard.org and see what the changes are for the new SAT I test as of May 2005 (that's when many of you will take it).
4. READ, READ, READ.
5. And don't forget to have a meaningful summer – working, studying, camping or volunteering!

FRESHMEN

1. Relaxthere's plenty of time.
2. Think about your schedule for next year – choose courses that demonstrate your willingness to challenge yourself.
3. Start a file of your activities, honors and awards.
4. READ, READ, READ.
4. And don't forget to have a meaningful summer – working, studying, camping or volunteering!

From our Future Center Advisors

- Ms. Hollie and Ms. Beard will start visiting the Junior English classes in March and start scheduling Junior appointments.
- A reminder to all Seniors that the local Scholarship Booklet/Application is due now! The deadline is March 1, 2004.
- If you did not file a FAFSA you may still do so, but you will have missed the March 2, 2004, priority deadline.
- If you are a senior who is looking for more or new options about colleges, there are schools who offer rolling admissions and you can still apply. Come to the Future Center for more information.
- If students are looking for a summer enrichment program we maintain a box with many wonderful opportunities.

Clara Beard (last names A-L), 395-3204, ext 324
 Ada Hollie (last names M-Z), ext 328
 Samohi Future Center Advisors

College Admission Representative Visits

Sign-up in The Future Center

CSU Dominguez Hills: March 3 at 10 am

UC Riverside: March 4 at 8:30 am

Explanation of UCR's "Guaranteed Admission Program" (GAP) for qualified current high school juniors who will have by June 2004:

- completed all a-g requirements except 4th year English
- 3.5 GPA
- 1000 SAT Score (Min Scores on 3 SAT II Exams will be announced
- Juniors file a GAP application June 15-July 31 2004

Free Scholarship Search Service websites:

submitted by SMC Financial Aid

- <http://www.fastweb.com>
- <http://www.finaid.org>
- <http://www.wiredscholar.com>
- <http://www.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/ssrchttop.html>
- <http://apps.absolutelyscholarships.com/>
- <http://www.collegenet.com>
- <http://www.college-scholarships.com>
- <http://www.srnexpress.com/index.cfm>
- <http://www.freschinfo.com/search-main.phtml>

Save the date! Greater Los Angeles College Fair

Wednesday, April 28, 2004, Pasadena Center, Pasadena

Visit the website now at

<http://www.nacac.com/exhibit/exhibit.cfm?code=04SLAN>

For more information about College Fair, contact Samohi parent, Sara Jane Boyers, at sjzb@earthlink.net or 459-0977.

College Entrance Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

Online registration (payment by credit card) for:

SAT I & II tests: www.collegeboard.com ACT test: www.act.org

The Future Center has practice materials and paper applications and can help you determine which tests to take.

Upcoming Tests*	Test Date	Registration date ends	Late Registration with late fee by
SAT I only	Mar 27, 2004	Feb 20, 2004	March 4, 2004
ACT	April 3, 2004	Feb 27, 2004	March 12, 2004
SAT I & II	May 1, 2004	Mar 25, 2004	April 7, 2004
SAT I & II	June 5, 2004	April 29, 2004	May 12, 2004
ACT	June 12, 2004	May 7, 2004	May 21, 2004

Congratulations and thanks!

Message from the Principal, continued from page 1

Thanks to the following additional families

that have contributed to Samohi as of February 6, 2004 through PTSA's Direct Donation:

Abraham	Field	Foundation	Rothman
Avner	Fleischer	L.A.Leggors	Sarnat
Baquet	Gelbard Zell	Ladish	Shapiro
Beltran	Gentile	Leason	Shih
Berek	Fonda-	Gemmill	Simpson
Blanke	Bonardi	Leavitt	Valdivia
Blower	Haiem	Lee	Van Etten
Freimer	Haines	Lim	Vargas
Bourget	Harrison	Liu	Walker
Brown	Heineman	Lopez	Whittaker
Castellano	Jacobs	Luis	Glenn
Ettenger	Jelinek Bonilla	Martin	Whittenburg
Chan	Jellen	McGrew	Yamamoto
Chavez	Johnson	Moon	Phillips
Chen	Wright	Morton	Yamashiro
Clifton	Jones	Naylor	Yehia
Cline	Kim	Nik	Yu
Derhy	Kulick	Oblath	Zokaeem
Ditchev	Rosenberg	Oseberg	
Dixon	Kuyama	Polanco	
Dresher	L.A.Hanson	Ramirez	

Please continue to give to the Direct Donation Drive, it's not too late! Make checks of any amount payable to Samohi PTSA and mail to 601 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

PTSA Nominated Executive Board Officers 2004-5

The following are the Nominated Officers for the PTSA Executive Board for next school year:

Co-Presidents	Cheri Orgel, Karen Dickerson
Executive VP	Louise Jaffe
Communications Co-VPs	Gretchen Goetz, Maria Rodriguez
Education Co-VPs	Debbie Mulvaney, Lauri Crane
Organization VP	Janine Brownstone
Health & Safety VP	Cynthia Cottam
Recording Secretary	Leslie Frischer
Corresponding Secretary	Helene Phipps
Treasurer	Chris Thornton
Financial Secretary	Kim Eylar
Auditor	Roshan Nozari
Historian	your name here?!
Parliamentarian	Amy Van Pelt

We will hold elections at the brief March PTSA meeting before Open House on March 23rd. Thank you to all the above for their willingness to serve on the Samohi PTSA Executive Board and their commitment to make a difference at Samohi.

We still need committee chairs and always need volunteers. Please contact Cheri Orgel or Karen Dickerson if you would like to play a more active role with next year's PTSA.

Barnum Hall Landscape and Volunteer Donations

The next time you're on campus stop by to see the beautiful new landscaping at Barnum Hall. Special thanks to Beautification volunteers Bonnie Freeman and Judi Bloom for their vision, commitment, and perseverance in landscaping Samohi. Special contributors to the Barnum Hall Landscaping Project include:

Santa Monica landscape designer Mary Effron for design, Aaron J.Landworth, owner of LanDesign West, Inc for donating many of the plants and providing the larger trees and labor at cost, and Steve and Norman Hammer from The Hammer Company.

Many thanks to Boy Scout Team 16 for cleaning, painting and changing the water in Samohi's Earthquake Bin!

Lora Morn, RN, Samohi School Nurse, 395-3204, ext 374

The Viking Voice, March '04

and intervention programs, which are currently funded by State budgets. We are awaiting finalization of the State budget situation to publicize course offerings for summer school. As soon as we know, we will communicate with both students and parents. Watch our website for updated information as well as upcoming Viking Voice newsletters.

This Spring we will be hiring a new athletic director, replacing Mike Griswold, who is stepping down after nine dedicated years of service in that role. As part of the selection process, we are currently surveying parents and students to determine issues and areas needing attention in our athletic program, which currently serves more than 950 students. Parents and community members participated in a PTSA meeting in early February where focus groups discussed desirable qualities of an athletic director as well as issues to focus on in our program. Issues of equity among boys and girls programs, training and guidelines for the coaching staff, communication among coaches, students and parents were among many of the topics discussed. A subgroup is currently sorting through the surveys and group charts to itemize themes and areas needing focus. In addition we are updating a job description for the athletic director, searching for funds to hire a full time rather than a part time director, and are developing a comprehensive process for selection, which will include parents, coaches, administrators and students. We expect the final selection to be made in early May. We will keep you posted through the Viking Voice.

Finally, please welcome Mr. Steve Cannell, interim O House Principal (ext 299, cannell@smmusd.org), standing in for Patty Flynn who has taken a short personal/family leave of absence, Amy Estabrook, replacing George Acosta English/ELD teacher, Kirsten Quass replacing Claudia Bautista-Nicholas, who is on maternity leave and John Harris replacing Bryan Sanders, who is on family-care leave. They are talented educators who join a committed faculty at Santa Monica High School and are working with house and department leadership to ensure a smooth transition for students as well as the new staff.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's educational progress through high school. Please be sure you are regularly checking Pinnacle on line to see grade progress of your child, and follow up if there are missing assignments which could negatively impact an upcoming grade. Join us for Open House in late March and ensure a strong academic Spring semester for your child. Contact your child's advisor if you need guidance, resources or support in guiding your child through these challenging and important years. It is our work together that helps us provide a rigorous and engaging high school education for your child.

Sincerely,
Ilene Straus, Ed.D., Chief Educational Officer/Principal

SOL/BAC* Latino Parent Group

*Spirit Of Love/Bilingual Advisory Committee

SOL/BAC's next meetings are March 22nd and April 26th.

Tere Viramontes-Gutierrez, Community Liaison, 395-3204, ext. 375.

AAPSSSG (African American Parent Student Staff Support Group)

Upcoming AAPSSSG meeting dates are the first Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm: March 2, May 4, and June 1.

Pam Allen Jones, Community Liaison, 395-3204, ext. 482, allen@smmusd.org

Barry Snell, 310/621-9961, bsnell-cpa@earthlink.net

Robbie Jones, 399-8575, AAPSSSG3@aol.com, AAPSSSG Co-presidents

New Samohi Club for Dads!

Barry Snell, President of the African American Parent Student Staff Support Group (AAPSSSG) has started a Dads Club for Samohi Dads. All Dads are invited to come. Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month, from 9 to 11am at IHOP, 20th and Santa Monica Blvd. Dads, please join us for our March 6th meeting! For more information, please contact:

Barry Snell, 621-9961 or bsnell-cpa@earthlink.net

Samohi 395-3204

Mensaje de la Directora, Dr. Straus

Estimados Padres,

Los planes del nuevo diseño continúan para el próximo año y seguiremos enfocándonos en los estudiantes del grado 9 y 10. Trataremos de que los estudiantes tengan la mayoría de sus cursos académicos en la "Casa" que les pertenece. Además, estamos adicionando una clase de honor en biología para el 9º grado y una de Historia AP para el 10º grado. Ambas, opciones se están conversando con esos departamentos.

También nos han dicho el los fondos para la escuela de verano han sido reducidos dramáticamente por el Estado. Esto limitará lo que podremos ofrecer este verano. Estamos esperando que se resuelva la situación del presupuesto del Estado para poder anunciar los cursos que se ofrecerán en la escuela de verano. Tan pronto tengamos más información, nos comunicaremos con los estudiantes y los padres.

Gracias por su continuo apoyo en el progreso educacional de su niño en la escuela secundaria superior.

Atentamente,

Ilene Straus, Ed.D., Directora Ejecutiva Educacional/Directora

Mensaje de las Presidentas de la PTSA

¡Su apoyo es necesario!

La PTSA ha estado trabajando duramente para hacer la información y los recursos más disponibles para todos los estudiantes y sus familias pero estamos decepcionados de oír que los servicios de ayuda para las tareas después de clase son poco utilizados. Si su estudiante no le está yendo bien, todavía no es tarde para mejorar. Recuérdele a su estudiante que use los servicios para después de clase y la biblioteca también ayúdelo a organizarse para que tenga éxito.

Creemos que las escuelas públicas buenas son componentes esenciales para nuestra gran comunidad y que ambas están en peligro. Sin el aumento en apoyo de la Ciudad, la calidad de nuestras escuelas se deteriorará. Es muy simple. Por favor ayude en el esfuerzo de coleccionar firmas para poner la medida de Escuelas Públicas Excelentes al frente de los votantes en noviembre, 2004. Necesitamos coleccionar 13,000 firmas para el 5 de mayo de votantes registrados en Santa Mónica.

Cheri Orgel, 451-1938, clorgel@aol.com

Louise Jaffe, 450-2487, lcjaffe@aol.com,

Presidentas de la PTSA de Samohi

(Por favor vea la página 3 para ver cómo puede ayudar)

El primero periodo de calificaciones termina el 5 de marzo

El reporte de progreso será enviado por correo a todas las familias después del 5 de marzo, patrocinado por los fondos de la Donación Directa de la PTSA.

¡Se les recuerda de la Página de Samohi en la Red Mundial!

La Página de Samohi en la Red Mundial está al día y está llena de información incluyendo el directorio del personal de la escuela y el calendario escolar. La dirección es www.samohi.smmusd.org

¡Por Primera Vez Catálogo de Clases Samohi!

Por primera vez el catálogo de clases de la escuela Samohi le llegará a su buzón en marzo. Una Con la colaboración de la PTSA, la administración y la facultad, el catálogo se hará indispensable para los estudiantes y sus familias.

También el catálogo se encontrará vía la Red Mundial en la Página de Samohi, y será puesto al día periódicamente.

Gracias a las siguientes familias que han hecho contribución a la escuela (12/14/03) mediante a la Donación Directa de la PTSA. *Por favor vea la página 5 para la lista de nombres.*

Por favor continúe contribuyendo a la Donación Directa, nunca es tarde. Haga el cheque por cualquier cantidad a nombre de la Samohi PTSA y envíelo al 601 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Marque su calendario para la NOCHE DE CASA ABIERTA!!

martes, 23 de marzo, de 6:30-9 pm

Estacionamiento en el Estacionamiento Municipal

Por favor planee en asistir a la Noche De Casa Abierta. Por favor asista a la breve reunión de la PTSA en Barnum Hall a las 6:30 pm y Dr. Straus hablará. Las visitas a los salones de clases empiezan a las 7 pm.

Las vacaciones de Primavera son en abril 5 - 16.

No habrá reunión de la PTSA en abril, la próxima reunión será el 17 de mayo.

Todos están invitados a la reunión de la PTSA el 11 de mayo a las 7 pm en la cafetería. El programa será sobre los exámenes del estado.

El Examen de Salida (CAHSEE) ya Llegó

Este es el tiempo del año que los estudiantes toman el examen CAHSEE (El Examen de Salida de la Escuela Secundaria Superior en) se ofrecerá el 16 y 17 de marzo. La clase de 2006 se espera que pasen este examen para que se gradúen como es mandado por el Estado. En preparación, los maestros del 10º grado de matemáticas e inglés le han dado libretos para practicar el examen. Si su estudiante no ha recibido los libretos pídale que hable con su maestros. Por favor para más información contacte:

Theresa Luong, *Coordinadora de Exámenes*
395-3204 Ext 333, luong@smmusd.org

Fiesta de Graduación de Samohi en Jamaica!

"Grad Nite", la fiesta de graduación para la clase de 2004 será en las canchas de tenis el 17 de junio. Se envió información en febrero por correo a TODOS los estudiantes en el último año. Compre los boletos para su estudiante AHORA por \$60. Este precio subirá a \$75 (EFECTIVO SOLAMENTE) en la puerta. La noche "Grad Nite" necesita la ayuda de los padres. Puede enviar una contribución o donar su tiempo.

www.samohi.smmusd.org/Grad_Nite

Inese Verzemnieks, *Grad Nite Chair*, 452-5959, iverzemn@ucla.edu

Horario para la Escuela de Verano de Samohi

Escuela de Verano

La escuela de verano del 2004 comenzará el lunes 28 de junio y terminará el viernes 6 de agosto. Summer. La matriculación para escuela de verano será después de las vacaciones de primavera.

Para más información puede contactar a:

Ruth Esseln, *Directora de la Casa H*
395-3204 Ext. 246, esseln@smmusd.org

Matriculación para el próximo año escolar en Samohi

La matriculación se harán en:

Martes, 24 de agosto para los que comienzan su último año

Miércoles, 25 de agosto para los que entran a su tercer año

Jueves, 26 de agosto para los que entran al segundo año

Viernes, 27 de agosto para los que entran al primer año

Para más información puede contactar a:

Anuar Shalash, *Director de la Casa A*
395-3204 ext. 472, shalash@smmusd.org

Servicios de Encuestas en la Red Mundial para Becas Gratis:

Escrito por SMC departamento de Asistencia de Financia

Por favor vea la página 4.

Los Nominados a la Junta Directiva de la PTSA 2004-05

Los Ejecutivos Nominados para la Junta Directiva de la PTSA para el próximo año se pueden ver en la página 5. Vamos a tener las elecciones en la reunión de la PTSA de marzo antes de la "Casa Abierta" el 23 de marzo. Todavía tenemos posiciones como directores de comités y siempre necesitamos voluntarios. Por favor de contactar a Cheir Orgel o Karen Dickerson si desea participar más en la PTSA el próximo año escolar.

Future Center "Centro Futuro"

(antes llamado Centro Universitario y profesional) esta abierto para todos los padres y estudiantes, lunes - viernes 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. Localizado en el edificio de la Administración, Salón 500. Por favor llame a la consejera Clara Beard o Ada Hollie si le gustaría una cita. Está abierto para que los estudiante visiten en el recreo, almuerzo, o después de clase, también con citas.

Departamento de los Consejeros del Centro Futuro

- Recordándoles a todos los estudiantes en el último año que el libreta/aplicaciones de becas debe de ser entregado AHORA. Se vence el 1 de marzo, 2004.
- Si no aplicó para FAFSA todavía puede hacerlo, pero pierde la prioridad que tienen los que hicieron antes del 2 de marzo, 2004.
- Si su estudiantes está interesado en un programa de enriquecimiento para el verano, nosotros tenemos una caja con una variedad de oportunidades.

Clara Beard (Apellidos A-L), 395-3204, ext 324

Ada Hollie (Apellidos M-Z), ext 328, *Consejeros del Centro Futuro*

Visitas de Representantes de las Oficina de

Admisión de Universidades *Apúntese en el Centro de Futuro*

CSU Dominguez Hills: 3 de marzo a las 10 am

UC Riverside: 4 de marzo a las 8:30 am

Explicación de UCR (Programa de Garantía de Admisión) (GAP) para estudiantes en el tercer año que cualifican y que para junio 2004 tendrán:

- completado todos los requerimientos del a-g excepto los 4 años de Inglés
- 3.5 GPA
- resultado de 1000 en el examen SAT (Resultado mínimo en 3 exámenes de SAT II)
- Estudiantes en el tercer año llenan una solicitud GAP del 15 de junio al 31 de julio 2004

La Primavera para los que Buscan las Universidades

Escrito por Joyce Smith (collegecompass@aol.com)

ESTUDIANTES EN EL ÚLTIMO AÑO

1. Mantenga su GPA en el último semestre. Aunque sean admitido a una universidad, pueden negarle la admisión si el estudiante baja los grados en el último semestre
2. Cuando sea admitido a una universidad visítela antes de tomar la decisión fina.
3. Y no se olvide de tener unas vacaciones significativas – trabajar, estudiar o hacerse voluntario

ESTUDIANTES EN EL TERCER AÑO

1. Ahora es el tiempo de comenzar a pensar seriamente en la.
2. Use las Recomendaciones de Ruggs Recommendations sobre las universidades para que comience su encuesta. – Hay copias en el El Centro Futuro (The Future Center)
3. Visite diferente clase de universidades en el área de Los Angeles:
Grandes y públicas – UCLA, CalStateLA, CalState Northridge
Grandes y privadas – USC, Loyola Marymount
Pequeñas y privadas – Las universidades de Claremont (Pomona, Claremont, McKenna, Scripps, Pitzer), Occidental
4. Planee una visita a universidades fuera de California durante las vacaciones de primavera – la mayoría de universidades están abiertas cuando la escuela Samohi tiene vacaciones de primavera (Abril 5-16).
5. Piense en las clases que debe seleccionar para el próximo año y asegúrese que sean tan rigurosas como en los años pasados.
6. Las universidades UC y universidades privadas quieren los resultados de los SAT II – planee en tomar estos exámenes en la primavera y planee en tomarlo cuando tome los exámenes de AP.
7. "Piense a qué maestros le van a pedir que le escriban las recomendaciones – las universidades privadas piden dos recomendaciones de maestros que ha tenido en los grados 11º y 12º. tu maestro favorito de 9º o 10º no puede escribir la recomendación a menos que también sea tu maestro en el 11º y 12º grados."
- 8 Y no te olvides de tener un verano significativo – trabajando, estudiando, yendo de campamento o haciéndote de voluntario.

¡Otras Oportunidades! La ayuda con maestros de Samohi para las tareas NO se está utilizando.

Ayude a su estudiante que comience el semestre bien. La mayoría de los maestros tienen "hora de oficina" - este tiempo está disponible para los estudiantes que tienen problema y pueden obtener asistencia de su propios maestros. Esta es el mejor paso para estudiantes que tienen preguntas.

Asistencia con las Clases de AP

Se han adicionado ayuda después de clase para la clase de AP Química al igual que sesiones de AP Cálculos, AP Historia, y AP Inglés. Todavía hay espacio en las clases de Historia e Inglés. Por favor anime a su estudiante a que tome ventaja de este apoyo.

AP Cálculos	martes	3:30 – 5:00	Salón H215
AP Historia	miércoles	3:30 – 5:00	Salón H218
AP Inglés	jueves	3:30 – 5:00	Salón L206
AP Química	jeves	3:30 – 5:00	Salón T202

Horas Después de Clase Extendidas en la Biblioteca

La biblioteca de Samohi tiene 30 computadoras y está abierta ahora hasta las 5pm de lunes a jueves. El personal de la biblioteca puede ayudar a los estudiantes con preguntas o encuestas.

¡Los maestros de Samohi también están ofreciendo ayuda!

De lunes a jueves, de 3:30-4:30 en el salón E101 (nuevo sitio). Este recurso importante está inutilizado por los estudiantes.

¡Visite a los maestros y reciba la ayuda que necesita del maestro!

Asistencia por estudiantes de Samohi está disponible en Matemáticas, Ciencia e Inglés. Los estudiantes pueden ir al salón S207 a la hora del almuerzo los jueves para recibir ayuda de estudiantes voluntarios de la Sociedad de Honor Nacional.

¿Está su estudiante en realidad yendo a buscar ayuda?

La escuela Samohi le puede informar si su estudiante está yendo a recibir la ayuda. Puede llamar la oficina de la "Casa" de su estudiante y preguntarle si su estudiante asistió. El personal está tomando la asistencia y supervisando el uso y que tan efectivos son los servicios de asistencia. Para más información en cómo puede ponerse en contacto con el maestro o consejero de su estudiante puede referirse al manual de información de la escuela o en la Red Mundial en la página de la escuela al

http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/Admin/staff_directory.htm

Para más información sobre los servicios asistencia de en la escuela puede contactar a **Wendy Wax Gellis**, *Consejera/Administradora*, 395-3204 ext. 133 o por correo electrónico al gellis@smmusd.org

¡Necesitamos SU ayuda!

El Concilio de las PTAs de Santa Mónica y Malibú fuertemente apoya los esfuerzos y le urge a todas las unidades de la PTA y sus miembros que participen en la campaña de coleccionar firmas de *Comunidad Para Escuelas Públicas Excelentes*. La medida *Escuelas Públicas Excelentes* requerirá que la ciudad de Santa Mónica provee un mínimo de \$6 millones en ingresos anuales al Distrito Escolar Unificado de Santa Mónica y Malibú. Este año la Ciudad otorgó al Distrito \$5.25 millones. La medida va a ayudar a prevenir cortes y a mejorar los logros académicos de todos los estudiantes, sin aumentar los impuestos. Esto quiere decir que nuestros niños compartirán en la prosperidad de la ciudad. Los necesitamos para que firmen una petición, pedirle a sus amigos a que firme la petición, y ayude a circular la petición. Vamos a necesitar MUCHOS voluntarios en las próximas 6 semanas. Necesitamos coleccionar y entregar 13,000 firmas en mayo Para aprender como puede ayudar contacte

excellentpublicschools.org o las siguientes personas:

Samohi Presidentas de la PTSA: **Louise Jaffe** 450-2487 lcjaffe@aol.com or **Cheri Orgel** 451-1938 clorgel@aol.com

Samohi PTSA Legislation Co-chairs: **Laurie Yehia** 829-9106 lyehia@aol.com or **Nancy Schmidt** 398-3548 nmschmidt@aol.com

Coordinadores de Voluntarios de Excelencia en las Escuelas Públicas:

Lauri Crane 395-2665 ojai5@aol.com

Rick Gates 450-4192 reekgates@verizon.net

March 2004

WIKING VOICE

Parent Teacher Student Association



Calendar

Please check the Samohi website at www.samohi.smmusd.org for updated information.

March

- 2 FAFSA applications due
AAPSSSG Meeting, 6 pm, Cafeteria
- 4 AP Art Show, 6-8 pm, Samohi Roberts Gallery
- 5 End of first 6 week grading period of Second Semester
- 6 Samohi Dads Club, 9 am, IHOP at 20th and Santa Monica Blvd.
Spring Musical "Kiss Me Kate", 8 pm, Barnum Hall
- 9 **** Coffee with Principals and PTSA Mtg postponed ****
- 12 Spring Musical "Kiss Me Kate", 8 pm, Barnum Hall
- 13 Spring Musical "Kiss Me Kate", 2 & 8 pm, Barnum Hall
- 16-17 CAHSEE (California Exit Exam) testing
- 18 Campus Tour, 8:45 am
- 18-19 Stairway to the Stars, 7 pm, Civic Center
- 22 **SOL/BAC Meeting**, 7pm, Cafeteria
- 23 Special Schedule – Early Dismissal at 1:05 pm
OPEN HOUSE & PTSA, beginning at 6:30 pm in Barnum Hall
- 25 **Coffee with the Principal**, 8:30am, Cafeteria
- 27 SAT I test given, 8 am (various locations, not Samohi)

April please note Spring Break is April 5-16

- 3 ACT, 8:30 am (various locations, not Samohi)
- 5-16 **Spring Break – no school**
- 20 Site Governance Meeting, 5 pm
- 22 Campus Tour, 8:45 am
- 26 **SOL/BAC Meeting**, 7pm, Cafeteria
- 28 National NACAC College Fair in Pasadena
- 29 **Coffee with the Principal**, 8:30am, cafeteria
- 30 End of second 6 week grading period of Second Semester

May

- 1 SAT I & II test given, 8 am (various locations, not Samohi)
- 3 AP testing begins (see Samohi website calendar for specific tests and dates)
- 4 **AAPSSSG Meeting**, 6 pm, Cafeteria
Grad Nite General Mtg, 7 pm, Cafeteria
- 11 **Coffee with the Principals, 6:30 pm, cafeteria**
PTSA Meeting, 7 pm, Cafeteria
- 14-16 Santa Monica-Malibu Ed Foundation "Celebration for the Arts" at the Santa Monica Pier

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