

VIKING VOICE

OCTOBER 2003 VOLUME '03-'04, ISSUE 2

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*)

The year is off to a great start!

Message from PTSA Co-presidents

We are very pleased (and relieved!) to report that school opened smoothly this year and students, families, and staff are quickly adjusting to the new House structure. A survey of our PTSA Board reveals that all 6 Houses are already represented by 3 or more PTSA Boardmembers. This means that we do not need to immediately re-structure PTSA to ensure House representation. We are looking forward to increased parent participation and connectedness in every House while we still maintain a strong overarching PTSA to serve all of Samohi.

Please make sure you have turned in your PTSA membership dues, direct donation contribution, and communication/volunteer forms. Your prompt donation response enables us to provide support to staff and students right away! We hope you will be involved throughout the year. Please join us at the College Fair on October 7th and at our next all-parent information meeting on Tuesday, October 14th.

We look forward to seeing you on campus.

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

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

Samohi PTSA Co-presidents

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire Samohi staff, I want to welcome you to the 2003-04 school year. We have had a smooth opening for students and staff this year. Our halls are calm, students are in class, and our house offices are fully operational. Our focus this year is on quality instructional practices focused on improving student achievement for all students. This is the first year of implementation of the redesign – the plan has several years of implementation steps toward a full redesign of our school, with a large number of initiatives that have begun this year.

This year has been a major undertaking, with all students and staff assigned to a house. Most teachers have relocated into their House area of the school. Students who are in grades 9 and 10 have some of their academic classes within their house. Next year we will continue this structure with students in grades 11, 12. Each house is led by a House Principal, a Teacher Leader and two Student Support Advisors. House offices are located in buildings convenient to students and teachers. Some services which were centralized in the Administration Building are now available in house offices, to provide students with a more personalized support system. For example, students now receive readmits to return to class after an absence by reporting to their House office. (*See page 2 for more information regarding absences and readmits.*) This system provides regular contact with the students and their advisors and will improve communication and support.

Our new tardy policy (see page 2) is focusing on students who

Samohi's College Fair on October 7th!

Samohi's annual College Fair, will take place on Tuesday, October 7 in the South Gym. The fair will feature representatives of over 150 colleges who will be available to talk informally with students and parents and provide written materials about their schools. The institutions featured at the College Fair include public and private colleges and universities from throughout the country, military services and academies, and test prep services.

The College Fair is co-sponsored by the Future Center and the PTSA. All Samohi, Malibu High, and Olympic High students and their families are welcome. **Students must bring their student IDs to be admitted.** Admission is free.

This year the hours of the College Fair have been extended in order to alleviate crowding. The Fair will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Seniors may enter at 6:30, juniors at 7:15, and all other students at 8:00. Parking will be available in the Civic Center parking lot; enter from Main Street.

For more college information, please see pages 4 and 5.

October 14th PTSA Mtg. will focus on college planning for students at all grade levels

All are invited to the next PTSA meeting on Tuesday, October 14th, at 7 pm in the cafeteria. The program, for parents of students at all grade levels, will feature a presentation followed by a Q and A session with Ada Hollie and Clara Beard, *Samohi's College/Future Center advisors*, and Joyce Smith, *PTSA College Center Liaison*. There will also be a monthly principals' update. 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!

are frequently late to an individual class rather than a total number of tardies throughout a semester. The purpose of this policy is to get students to class on time, and to address habits of late arrival with staff and parent involvement. We know that regular, on time attendance results in more successful achievement in class.

This year we have implemented many new and revised courses. We have added a *Chemistry for the Community* college prep class and a new *Honors Chemistry* course. All 9th grade students now take *Biology*, and we have added a new Honors option where none existed prior. All 9th grade students are now enrolled in some form of *Algebra*, with a 90 minute option available for students who need more support, matched with a 90 minute Biology option as well. Our goal for these courses is to have all students experience success the first time and receive teacher support along with parent communication. Literacy courses for

continued on page 2

6 Week Grading Period Ends Friday, October 17!

Please see page 2 for a full progress and report card schedule for the year and information on how to get help for your student if needed!

Samohi and the Santa Monica Police Dept. are working together to promote safety

Samohi and the Santa Monica Police Department are working together to promote the safety of students, families and staff.

Safe places to drop off and pick up your students are:

- Along the west side of Seventh Street (please do not double park or stop in the crosswalk or drive way)
- On Olympic (east bound) Blvd. West of the Circle driveway.
- The north parking lot.
- Along the curb on Michigan.

Beginning Monday, September 8, 2003 Santa Monica Police Department began citing vehicles in the following areas:

- Stopping on Pico Blvd. between Lincoln and Fourth Street
- Olympic (east bound) Blvd. East of the Circle driveway
- Double or triple parking on Olympic
- Any U-Turns at Seventh and Michigan or on Seventh Street
- Stopping on Seventh Street (north bound)

Procedures for absences and leaving early...

Please follow the guidelines below for students returning after an absence or for taking students out of school early. Our Attendance Office staff is limited and needs your help in following procedure. Also, the Attendance Office staff is being asked to contact students to provide them non-emergency messages. We are only able to make emergency contacts during the school day.

Attendance Office Procedures:

Absence from School: Students are to return to school with a signed parent note that includes the reason for the absence, date of absence period(s) absent (if less than the entire day), and a phone number where the parent can be reached for verification. The Attendance Office opens every morning at 7 a.m. Students should arrive earlier than usual to obtain a re-admit slip in order to make it to class on time.

Please note, new this year: Readmits will be issued in House Offices by Student Support Advisers from 7:45-8:45 on standard days and from 9:00-10:00 on late start days. Students needing a readmit for A period or after the time advisers stop issuing them are to go to the attendance desk for readmits.

Leaving Early: Parents are to write notes in advance for students who depart early from school. The note should include date and time for leaving school, the reason for leaving early, and a phone number where the parent can be reached for verification. Students are to leave the note in the Attendance Office between 7:15 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. so that a pass can be ready by the time of departure. If the student becomes ill during the school day the Health Office must release them first. Students who leave campus early without a pass from either the Attendance Office or the Health Office are considered truant even if they bring a parent note the following day. The Attendance Office or the Health Office must release students who leave campus early.

Principal's Message continued from page 1

students in grades 9 and 10 have also been added to each House. We have a new *Freshman Seminar* advisory course for all ninth grade students which includes a four-year high school plan, research skills and an academic focus. These new courses are part of our total school redesign focused on improved academic achievement for all students in a smaller and more personalized community for students and staff.

While Samohi has limited funding, we are continually seeking sources to support our focus on improved teaching and student achievement. Our Samohi team is working with District and site staff to look closely at our work, continue to refine our services, and get to know our students well within our setting of more than 3400 students.

The Viking Voice, October '03

Samohi's New Tardy Policy

On time attendance in class is essential for good academic progress and engagement in the learning process. Students who are frequently late to class miss essential information, which negatively impacts learning and disrupts learning for others. This progressive tardy policy is intended to apply to students who are frequently late to the same class period per semester. Please go over this with your student.

Tardy 1 Teacher warning

Tardy 2 Second Teacher warning

Tardy 3 Teacher makes parent contact either by phone or in writing
Contact is documented

Tardy 4 Teacher assigns a 30 minute detention, to be served at lunch detention or at a teacher assigned time/place – Documented

Tardy 5 Teacher assigns a second 30 minute detention – Documented

* * * * *

Tardy 6 Referral to *Advisor*, with prior documentation summarized on referral form by teacher. Parent contact by the advisor; 2 hour Saturday School

Tardy 7 Referral to *Advisor*; 2 hour Saturday School assigned

Tardy 8 Referral to *Advisor*; 4 hour Saturday School assigned

Tardy 9 Referral to *Advisor*; 4 hour Saturday School; written notification to Parent

* * * * *

Tardy 10 Referral to *House Principal*; In School Suspension Assigned

Tardy 11 Referral to *House Principal*; In School Suspension Assigned

Tardy 12 Referral to *House Principal*; In School Suspension Assigned, Parent written notification that the SARB process will be initiated along with further consequences

please also note:

Failure to serve a teacher detention results in a 2 hour Saturday School, Failure to report to the office for a referral will result in a 4 hour Saturday School,

Failure to serve Saturday School results in In-School Suspension by House Principal,

A Class Cut will result in a 2 hour Saturday School and the SARB (*Student Attendance Review Board*) process begins,

Class Cuts exceeding two hours will result in a 4-hour Saturday School,

Students returning to school after an absence must be readmitted.

Readmits will be issued in House Offices from 7:45 until 8:45 AM, except on Wednesdays when they will be issued in the House offices from 9 until 10. Students should report to the attendance office in the Administration Building at other hours, and for permits to leave early from campus.

Please stay connected to your child's progress and our work at Samohi: read the *Viking Voice* newsletter as you receive it, check our website which should be updated soon, and monitor your child's grades and assignments through Pinnacle, available beginning in October. The next *Viking Voice* newsletter and *PTSA Samohi Information Handbook* will include information to explain access to this system.

Thank you for your continued support as we guide your child's progress through the high school years. **This is an exciting time to be a member of the Santa Monica High School community.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Ilene Straus (straus@smmusd.org)

Samohi CEO/Principal

6 Week Progress Reports Mailed Home for Parents – Week of October 20th!

Samohi issues student progress reports every six weeks to help students and their families monitor student work. The first 6 weeks ends Friday, October 17th.

PTSA is paying to mail home the 6 week progress reports so that every family is aware of their student's progress early enough in the semester to contact staff with concerns and to improve grades. If you have any questions about your student's academic performance, please contact your student's advisor or individual teachers. There are multiple tutoring, academic support, and emotional support services available at Samohi! (See p. 8 for how to contact Samohi staff!)

Schedule for progress reports and semesters:

1ST SEMESTER

6th week ends Oct. 17, 2003

Progress report mailed home week of October 20th

12th week ends Nov. 26, 2003

Progress report sent home with student week of December 1

1st Semester ends Jan. 23, 2004

Semester Report Card mailed home week of February 2nd.

2ND SEMESTER

6th week ends March 5, 2004

Progress report mailed home week of March 8

12th week ends April 30, 2004

Progress report sent home with student week of May 3rd

2nd semester ends June 18, 2004

Semester Report Card mailed home week of June 21st!

Special workshop for struggling students and their parents, Saturday, October 11

There will be a workshop on Saturday, October 11 from 9 am to noon in the cafeteria for families and students who received a grade point average of less than 2.0 last year. Freshman parents already concerned about struggling students are also invited to attend. For more information contact:

Wendy Wax Gellis, *Academic Support Services*, ext 133, gellis@smmusd.org

Tere Viramontes, ext. 375, viramontes@smmusd.org

Pam Allen Jones, ext. 482, allen@smmusd.org

Community Liaisons

How to contact teachers or staff members

If you need to contact one of your student's teachers, we ask that you first attempt to do so through voicemail or email – all Samohi staff have both.

To leave a message by voice mail:

Dial 395-3204. If you know your party's 3 digit extension*, enter it. For staff member's extension by name, dial 8, For other options, dial 51.

To reach the operator at anytime, dial 0.

To leave a message by email:

Most staff email addresses are their last names, followed by @smmusd.org

* You can find phone extensions for voicemail and email addresses in the bright gold *Samohi Information Handbook* that the PTSA will be mailing home in October, or the Samohi website at www.samohi.smmusd.org

Free Tutoring is available at Samohi

• **Math Tutor, volunteer Warren Orloff, is available every day after school until 4:30** in Room H100.

• **Many teachers also provide additional help after school or during lunch.** Have your child ask their teacher if extra help is available.

• **Tutors from UCLA will begin after-school tutoring at Samohi in October.** Dates and times will be listed in the Blue Bulletin. For more information, please check with **Wendy Wax Gellis**, *Academic Support Services*, ext 133, gellis@smmusd.org

If your student needs help...

When a parent has concerns about his or her child's behavior, the first person to contact is that child's Advisor. Generally speaking, the Advisor will make further referrals for counseling, Alliance, or parent support if this is needed.

If a parent feels the need to take further steps or make a direct contact with a support specialist, the following contacts might be useful. (*Dial Samohi at 395-3204 and then the extensions listed below*)

For concerns related to parenting issues, contact *Community Liaisons* **Tere Viramontes**, ext. 375 or **Pam Allen Jones**, ext. 482.

For parents of students having difficulty in multiple areas – GPA below 2.0, frequent absences from school, frequent disciplinary referrals and/or self-destructive behaviors – contact *Alliance* staff:

Kathy McTaggart, *Case Manager*, ext. 322

Tiffany Tyler, *Outreach Specialist*, ext. 330

Juan Hernandez, *Outreach Specialist*, ext. 331

For health issues, contact **Lora Morn**, *School Nurse*, ext. 374

For emotional crisis counseling, contact **Susana Maya**, *Intervention Specialist*, ext. 371 or **Kathy McTaggart**, *Alliance Case Manager*, ext. 322

Kathy McTaggart, *Coordinator*

School and Community Partnerships, SMMUSD

Welcome from Samohi's Library! (And we would love to have you volunteer...)

The library is open from 7:30am - 4pm. There are 24 computers available with internet access. We offer the *Bigchalk*, *Galenet*, and *Newsbank* databases which are great for conducting research. The book collection is curriculum-oriented so students usually find what they need. The Samohi library is a fun place to be; that's why an average of 800 people visit each day!

We desperately need parent volunteers – please call, email or visit us!

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

Dana Bartbell, ext 262 bartbell@smmusd.org

Samohi Librarians

To be educated in any true sense of the word, a person must use the library and master the experiences of mankind. - WILLIAM T. HARRIS, 1893

Accessing Grades Online

Student PIN numbers for accessing grades online will be available in October from any of your student's teachers. In our November *Viking Voice* issue, please look for full instructions for accessing student grades online through the "Pinnacle" program.

Textbook Reminder Students are responsible for returning the same textbook that was checked out to them. Texts can get exchanged accidentally in a shared locker or in the classroom, so students are encouraged to write their names in the front of their books to help with identification.

Congratulations to the class of 2003!

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Academy of Art College | <i>Obispo, Sacramento, San</i> | ITT Technical Institute | Purdue University | University of Colorado |
| Alabama State University | <i>Bernadino, San Diego, San</i> | John Hopkins University | Reed College | University of Connecticut |
| Alfred University | <i>Francisco, San Jose, San</i> | Johnson and Wales Univ. | Rhode Island School of Design | University of Denver |
| American University | <i>Marcos, Sonoma, Stanislaus</i> | La Campana de San Luis | Rice University | University of Florida |
| Arizona State University | California Culinary Academy | Pelosi | Ripon College | University of Illinois |
| Art Institute of Los Angeles | Dartmouth College | Lafayette College | Rochester Inst. of Technology | University of Judaism |
| Azusa Pacific University | De Anza College | Lake Forest College | Rutgers University | University of La Verne |
| Bard College | DePaul University | Lawrence University | Santa Clara University | University of Miami |
| Barry University | DePauw University | Lehigh University | Santa Monica College | University of Michigan |
| Baylor University | Devry Institute of Tech. | Lewis and Clark College | Sarah Lawrence College | Univ. of New Hampshire |
| Beloit College | Duke University | Los Angeles Pierce College | Savannah State University | University of North Carolina |
| Bethune-Cookman College | El Camino Comm. College | Loyola Marymount Univ. | School of Visual Arts | University of Oregon |
| Boston University | El Tech De San Luis Pelosi | Macalester College | Seattle Pacific University | University of Pennsylvania |
| Brandeis University | Emerson College | Marine Corps | Seattle University | University of Pittsburgh |
| Brown University | Emory University | Marist College | Skidmore College | University of Puget Sound |
| Bryman College | Eugene Lang College | Massachusetts Institute of | Southern University | University of Redlands |
| Bucknell University | Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. | Technology | Southern University A&M | University of Richmond |
| California Lutheran Univ. | Fashion Institute of Design | Mercer University | Stanford | University of San Diego |
| Cal Tech | Fisk University | Michigan State University | St. John's College | University of San Francisco |
| Carleton College | Florida A&M University | Middlebury College | St. Lawrence University | University of Southern Cal. |
| Carnegie Melon Univ. | Florida Internat'l Univ. | Mission College | St. Mary's College | University of Texas at Austin |
| Case Western Reserve Univ. | Florida Southern College | Morehouse College | Stevens Institute of Tech. | University of Vermont |
| Claremont McKenna College | Fordham University | Mount Holyoke College | Swarthmore College | University of Washington |
| Clark University | Fort Valley State University | Mount St. Mary's College | Syracuse University | University of Wisconsin |
| College of the Canyons | Franklin and Marshall College | New England College | Temple University | Valpariso University |
| College of Wooster | George Washington Univ. | New York University | Texas Southern University | Vanderbilt University |
| Colorado College | Georgetown University | North Florida Comm. College | Trinity College | Vanguard University |
| Colorado State University | Georgia Institute of Tech. | Oberlin College | Trinity University | Vassar College |
| Columbia University | Gonzaga University | Occidental College | Tufts University | Villanova University |
| Concordia University | Grambling State University | Ohio State University | Tulane University | Washington Univ. at St. Louis |
| Connecticut College | Hamilton College | Oregon State University | University of California | Wellesley College |
| Cornell University | Hampshire College | PACE University | <i>at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine,</i> | Wesleyan University |
| California State University | Harvey Mudd | Paine College | <i>Los Angeles, Riverside,</i> | West Los Angeles College |
| <i>at Bakersfield, Channel</i> | Haverford College | Paul Quin College | <i>San Diego, Santa Barbara,</i> | Western Washington Univ. |
| <i>Islands, Chico, Dominiguez</i> | Hawaii Pacific University | Pennsylvania State Univ. | <i>Santa Cruz</i> | Westmont College |
| <i>Hills, Fresno, Fullerton,</i> | Hobart & William Smith Col. | Pepperdine University | Union College | Wheaton College |
| <i>Hayward, Humboldt, Long</i> | Hofstra University | Pitzer College | United States Air Force Acad. | Whittier College |
| <i>Beach, Los Angeles,</i> | Howard University | Pomona College | United States Naval Acad. | Williams College |
| <i>Monterey Bay, Northridge,</i> | Indiana University | Pratt Institute | University of Arizona | Xavier University |
| <i>Poly Pomona, Poly San Luis</i> | Ithaca College | Princeton University | University of Chicago | Yale University |

SAT Test Preparation Courses and Tutors

The PTSA is contacted by many companies and individuals interested in providing SAT preparation tutoring to Samohi students. **While we want to share these contacts, we are not making any endorsements.** Please call for prices, schedules and references.

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|---|---|--|
| IVY WEST 310/821-4343 www.ivywest.com | SAT Training at the Santa Monica YMCA 310/859-2298 | EUREKA 1/877/GO-EUREKA www.EurekaReview.com |
| ACE 310/282-6420 | PRINCETON REVIEW 310/473-3423 www.princetonreview.com | Danny Ruderman 310/358-2995 www.collegeadmission-sinabox.com |
| TAMING THE SAT 1/800/761-3086 www.use.edu/org/SAT | KAPLAN 1/800/KAP-TEST www.kaplan.com | Stephanie Avedon 310/822-9590 stephanie@avedon.net |
| REVOLUTION PREP 1/877/REV-PREP www.revolutionprep.com | SCHOLARS in PROGRESS 310/679-2133 www.scholarsinprogress.com | |

9th, 10th and 11th grade students encouraged to take the PSAT on October 18

The PSAT is the practice test for the SAT I and is administered by Samohi. 9th, 10th and 11th grade students are encouraged to take the test and can register for the test at Samohi. (Students must register for the SAT I and/or SAT II tests on their own and select a testing center - they are not given at Samohi.)

The PSAT will be given at Samohi on October 18, 8:00-11:30am. Students can register for the PSAT with Sylvia Terry in Rm B101 from now until October 10th. The fee is \$20 and checks should be made out to *Santa Monica High School*. Students on free or reduced lunch automatically qualify for financial assistance and can make arrangements with Ms. Terry. The room number of the test will be printed on your registration receipt.

For further questions about the PSAT, please call Teresa Luong at 395-3204, ext. 333. For questions in Spanish regarding the PSAT, please call Tere Viramontes at ext 375.

We asked Ada Hollie and Clara Beard, Samohi's College/Future Center advisors a few questions. Here's what we found out!

1. What is the College/Future Center?

It is a resource for students, parents and staff to explore all postsecondary options. The official title is the Future Center.

2. Where is it located? It is located in the Administration Building (the former area utilized by the Counseling Department.)

3. Is it open to students and parents? Yes, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4. Is an appointment required? It is best to make an appointment if you want to meet with a college advisor as we already have classroom presentations, appointments already scheduled and some off campus commitments.

5. Does it matter which college advisor we contact? Clara Beard, 395-3204, ext. 324, advises students in the alphabet A-K and Ada Hollie, ext. 328, advises students from L-Z.

6. What kind of materials are available in the Future Center? College catalogs, college view pamphlets, college videos and CDs, reference books on colleges and related topics, SAT, ACT, and AP preparation materials that can be checked out, career information, reference books and videos. Fee waivers for qualified students.

7. Are materials available to take home? All of our test preparation material can be checked out. Catalogs and videos usually are not checked out because of the limited supply.

8. What are the tests, ACT, SAT I, SAT II and PSAT? These are college entrance exams. The ACT and SAT I are college entrance tests needed for most college admissions. Either test can be utilized. We recommend that students take both. The SAT II is a subject matter test used as an additional college entrance test at many selective colleges. The PSAT is a preliminary or practice

SAT that helps students prepare for taking the SAT I and in addition, their junior score may qualify them for the National Merit Scholarship.

9. When does my student need to take them? Take the ACT, SAT I and SAT II in the spring of the junior year. SAT II subject tests may be taken when the student completes the relevant class (for example, after taking Biology, a student could take the Biology SAT II). The PSAT can be taken in the freshman and sophomore year but should be taken in the junior year. (see page 4 for "More about the PSAT.")

10. How does a student sign up for the ACT, SAT I and SAT II? The preferred way is on line but registration material is also available in the Future Center. To sign up online, go to www.collegeboard.com for SATs and www.act.org for ACT. (see chart below for registration deadlines and test dates)

11. Where are these tests given? The PSAT will be given at Samohi on Saturday, October 18. The other tests are given at various locations around the area. A list of available test locations is available on line or in the registration booklet. Samohi is not a site for SAT I, SAT II or ACT.

12. Please explain the College Visits to Samohi/College Hosts program. Many colleges and universities make daytime visits to Samohi to meet with students. These are scheduled throughout the school day. In order for a student to participate, they must come to the Future Center and fill out a call slip which they can show their teacher. This is an ideal opportunity for students to obtain specific information and hear first-hand about the application process and student life at a variety of colleges. A listing of Visiting Colleges is posted via email weekly and also at the Future Center. Parent volunteers are needed to attend the sessions. Parents interested in attending or volunteering, please contact Joyce Smith sheilaajs@aol.com 581-3134.

13. What is a college community visit and how do I find out about it? Many colleges and universities come to our local area and meet with students and parents to inform them about their institution. When we receive notice about these visits, we post them on the Future Center bulletin board. In addition, we receive information about college preview days and college open houses and various college onsite admissions. These are also posted on the Future Center bulletin board.

14. What happens at Samohi's College Fair and who should attend? At the college fair on October 7, 2003 starting at 6:30 p.m. for seniors, over 100 colleges will participate. Each school will have its own table where a student can obtain materials and meet with the representative. This is a great opportunity to get an overview of what a school has to offer. Students should keep an open mind and explore different schools.

15. How can I obtain information about SMC and other community colleges? A SMC representative is available to meet with students and parents about SMC and other community colleges every Tuesday from 12-1:30, contact Kathy Fairchild at ext. 350 for more information.

16. What do I need to know about financial aid? We will conduct three financial aid meetings. On Tuesday, October 28, we are hosting "Financing a College Education", (see chart below.) Our first financial aid workshop will be Wednesday January 14, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. The second is Tuesday, February 24, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. These workshop will inform parents about how to fill out the mandatory FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) that must be filed between January 1 and March 2. Scholarship information will be disseminated periodically by the Scholarship Coordinator, Ada Hollie.

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 |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| PSAT | Oct.18, 2003 | Oct. 10, 2003 | _____ |
| SAT I & SAT II | Nov. 1, 2003 | Sept. 26, 2003 | Oct. 8, 2003 |
| ACT | Dec. 13, 2003 | Nov. 7, 2003 | Nov. 8-20, 2003 |
| SAT I & SAT II | Dec. 6, 2003 | Oct. 30, 2003 | Nov. 12, 2003 |
| SAT I & SAT II | Jan. 24, 2004 | Dec. 22, 2003 | Dec. 31, 2003 |

*SAT I & II are also given Oct. 11, but both registration dates were in September.

The Future Center invites you to "Financing a College Education"

featuring Stephanie Hancock, on Tuesday, October 28 at 7 pm in the Samohi cafeteria. Please contact Ada Hollie at ext. 328, (hollie@smmusd.org) for more information.

Los Angeles Performing and Visual Arts College Fair

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center, Los Angeles
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

This National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) College Fair is especially designed for students interested in music, dance, theater, visual arts, graphic design and related disciplines. It is open to the public with no admission fee. For more information and directions, please go to <http://www.nacac.com/exhibit/exhibit.cfm?code=03PLA>

Communication and Dates *Save this page for future reference!*

The Samohi Information Handbook is Coming!

Please be on the lookout for the Samohi Information Handbook, put together by the PTSA! **We'll be mailing it home to you this month.** Familiarize yourself with the contents and keep it all year long as a handy reference to the many fine programs and staff members here to help. **Phone extensions and email addresses for the entire staff are included.**

Binder Reminders are full of useful information!

The Administration has redone the introductory material in your student's "binder reminder." It is full of useful information regarding school policies, requirements, and important dates. Take a look!

Community Liaisons – we're here to help!

Community Liaisons help families become more familiar with the school system. They facilitate parent interactions with Samohi through the parent advocate mentor program, the Parent Center, the SOL/BAC Latino parent group, and the African-American Parent Student Staff Support Group (AAPSSSG). In times of family troubles, the liaisons help with their experience and knowledge of community resources and referrals.

Pamela Allen-Jones, 395-3204, ext 482 allen@smmusd.org
Tere Viramontes-Gutierrez, ext 375 viramontes@smmusd.org

Receiving communication online

To receive **PTSA email announcements** of school events, please sign up for the PTSA elist by emailing your email address to lcbkhutch@aol.com

SamohiPALS, an online discussion forum for the Samohi community, is volunteer-owned and operated. **It is not an arm of the PTSA or the school district.** The e-group distributes items of interest to parents, students, teachers and friends of the high school, and welcomes discussion and feedback from list members. Comments may be edited, for length and other reasons, at the discretion of the moderators.

For more information and to join SamohiPALS please email Samohi-PALS-owner@yahoo.com
 Contact: **Elizabeth Van Ness**
 (elizabeth@blue-linemusic.com 310/393-0497)

Samohi Website: www.smmusd.samohi.org

Please note that there has been a delay in updating the Samohi website this year due to a change in staffing. PTSA is working closely with the administration to get this resolved quickly.

Are you a Two Household Family?

In some families, a student may live in more than one residence, such as divorced/separated parents with shared custody. One parent should already be receiving both dialer messages and school and PTSA mailings (like this Viking Voice). However, both parents may receive them, if desired. **If you are interested, call Gloria Davis (395-3204, ext 41) to find out what documentation is needed.**

Congratulations to new Site Governance reps

Congratulations and thanks to Dave Tillipman and Joyce Smith who will be joining Janine Avner and Brian Stecher as PTSA Representatives on Site Governance. The next Site Governance meeting is Tuesday, October 21 at 5 pm in Rm E113.

Contacts:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------|
| Janine Avner | 392-9898 | bearro@earthlink.net |
| Brian Stecher | 393-0411 | Brian_Stecher@rand.org |
| Dave Tillipman | 392-9903 | dtillipman@aol.com |
| Joyce Smith, alternate | 581-3134 | sheilajs@aol.com |

October

- 1 - 24 Sign up for School Photo Appt. in Activities Office
- 6 **Admission Day - No School**
- 7 **College Fair, 6:30 - 9 p.m., South Gym**
- 8 Late registration (with fee) deadline for Nov. 1 SAT I & II
- 10 Last day to register for PSAT at Samohi
- 11 **SAT I & SAT II – off campus**
Workshop for families and students with under 2.0 GPA, 9 am-noon, Student Cafeteria
- 14 *Coffee with the Principals, 6 p.m., Student Cafeteria*
PTSA Mtg., 7 p.m., Student Cafeteria
- 17 **End of First Grading Period**
- 18 **PSAT given at Samohi**
- 21 Governance Mtg., 5 p.m., E113
 Special Education District Advisory Comm. Mtg, 7 pm, Cafeteria
- 25 **ACT – off campus**
- 27 **SOL/BAC Mtg., 7 p.m., Student Cafeteria**
- 28 *Financing a College Education, 7 pm, Student Cafeteria*
- 30 School Picture Photo Day
 Registration deadline (without late fee) for Dec. 6 SAT I & II
Coffee with the Principals, 8:30 a.m., Student Cafeteria

November

- 1 **SAT I & SAT II – off campus**
- 7 ACT Registration Deadline
- 8-20 ACT Late w/ fee Registration period
- 11 **Veteran's Day - No School**
- 12 Late registration (with fee) deadline for Dec. 6 SAT I & II
- 14, 15 Fall Play, Humanities Center
- 17 Grad Nite Committee Mtg.
- 18 Governance Mtg., 5 p.m., E113
Coffee with the Principals, 7 p.m., Student Cafeteria
PTSA Mtg., 7 p.m., Student Cafeteria
- 21 *Coffee with the Principals, 8:30 a.m., Student Cafeteria*
- 21, 22 Fall Play, Humanities Center
- 24 **SOL/BAC Mtg., 7 p.m., Student Cafeteria**
- 26 **End of Second Grading Period**
- 27 & 28 **Thanksgiving Holiday - No School**
- 30 **UC and Cal State Applications due**

African American Parent Student Staff Support Group Meetings are currently being rescheduled due to calendar adjustments. For the next meeting date, please contact Pam Allen Jones, Community Liaison, ext. 482, allen@smmusd.org

Special Education District Advisory Committee Mtg. at Samohi on October 21
 Members of the Special Education District Advisory Committee invite all parents, teachers and students interested in special education issues to join us. Meeting participants will include Cindy Atlas, Director of the Department of Special Education, Board of Education Liaison Maria Leon-Vasquez, and Samohi special ed teachers. The next meeting will be held Oct. 21 at 7 pm in the cafeteria. If you will require accommodation to participate in the DAC meeting, please notify the Special Education Office at 450-8338, ext. 210 at least two days prior to the meeting.

Student Photo Day is Thursday, October 30th

Student Photo Day is for 9th-11th grade students who wish to purchase photos packages. This is not to be confused with Student I.D. photos that are taken at Registration and used in the school yearbook or with Senior portraits. Student Photo day will take place all day Thursday, October 30, 2003 in the Student Cafeteria by appointment only. From October 1 to 24, students can sign up for appointments in the Activities Office.

Samohi Administrator Responsibilities

Keep this list for future reference
Samohi phone: 395-3204

Administrator, Responsibilities, Assistants

Location

Dr. Ilene Straus, Chief Educational Officer/Principal, straus@smmusd.org
Administrative Assistant: Sue Kuwano, ext. 302, kuwano@smmusd.org
School Vision, Instructional Program, Staffing, Governance, House Leadership,
Administrative Team, Parent Groups, Community, Media

Administration Bldg.

Ms. Catherine Baxter, Dean Administrative Services, cbaxter@smmusd.org
Senior Office Assistant: **Jana Emhardt**, ext 494, emhardt@smmusd.org
Activities, Athletics, Attendance, Calendar, Bulletin, Security
Saturday School, In-School Suspension Program

Administration Bldg.

House Administrators, Responsibilities, Assistants and Advisors

Location

S House

Mr. Gregory Runyon, House Principal, runyon@smmusd.org
House Assistant: **Terry Morris**, ext. 250, morris@smmusd.org
Physical Plant, Grounds and Facilities, Technology,
Emergency Plan, Staff Parking, Keys
Advisors: **Mrs. Michelle Kenney**, *Advisor, 9, 11*, ext. 267, kenney@smmusd.org
Mr. Al Trundle, *Advisor, 10, 12*, ext 169, trundle@smmusd.org

Language Bldg., House
Office: L200

A House

Mr. Anuar Shalash, House Principal, shalash@smmusd.org
House Assistant: **Sylvia Terry**, ext. 171, sterry@smmusd.org
Guidance, Testing, Data Analysis, Registration,
Academic Records, Pinnacle Grading System
Advisors: **Mrs. Susan Dresher**, *Advisor 9, 11*, ext. 475, dresher@smmusd.org
Ms. Wendi DeMorst, *Advisor 10, 12*, ext. 474, demorst@smmusd.org

Business Bldg,
House Office: B101

M House

**Dr. Mark Kelly, House Principal/Associate Principal
Second in Charge**, mkelly@smmusd.org
House Assistant: **Leslee McGee**, ext. 198, mcgee@smmusd.org
Master Schedule, Budget, Staffing,
Student Newspaper, Nurse's Office
Advisors: **Mrs. Amanda Audet**, *Advisor, 9, 11*, ext. 187, audet@smmusd.org
Ms. Kelli Spriggs, *Advisor, 10, 12*, ext. 189, spriggs@smmusd.org

Downstairs History Bldg.,
House Office H118

O House

Ms. Patty Flynn, House Principal, flynn@smmusd.org
House Assistant: **Anette Bolan**, ext. 289, bolan@smmusd.org
Secondary Literacy, Professional Development,
Course Alignment and State Standards
Advisors: **Ms. Laura Simone**, *Advisor 9, 11*, ext. 291, simone@smmusd.org
Mrs. Lisa DeMirjian, *Advisor, 10, 12*, ext 292, demirjian@smmusd.org

Upstairs History Bldg.,
House Office H209

H House

Mrs. Ruth Esseln, House Principal, esseln@smmusd.org
House Assistant: **Angela Anthony**, ext. 244, flores@smmusd.org
Redesign Implementation, Accreditation,
Textbooks and Library, Summer School, Grants
Advisors: **Mrs. Linh LeCassidy**, *Advisor 9, 11*, ext. 134, lecassidy@smmusd.org
Mrs. Wendy Wax-Gellis, *Advisor 10, 12*, ext 133, gellis@smmusd.org
Coordination of Student Intervention Programs

English Bldg.,
House Office H209

I House

Dr. Kathleen Martin, House Principal, kmartin@smmusd.org
House Assistant: **Chanae Washington**, ext. 210, cwashington@smmusd.org
Accreditation, State and Federal Projects, AVID, Student
Teachers, Grants, Coordinated Compliance Review
Advisors: **Mr. Frank Gatell**, *Advisor 9, 11*, ext. 218, gatell@smmusd.org
Ms. Jami Orłowski, *Advisor, 10, 12*, ext. 216, orłowski@smmusd.org

Upstairs Technology Bldg.,
House Office T210

You can help Samohi! *Get involved, make a donation, receive communications!*

Volunteers are needed!

Volunteers needed in the Nurse's Office

There will be hearing and vision testing for all 10th graders from October 20 -27. If you are able to help, please contact **Lora Morn**, School Nurse, at 395-3204, ext 374, morn@smmusd.org

The Library is looking for volunteers

who can commit to working on a regular basis. Please contact **Ann McKechnie**, 395-3204, ext 437 mckechnie@smmusd.org
Dana Bartbell, ext 262 bartbell@smmusd.org
Samohi Librarians

Wanted: Skilled Carpenters, Contractors, Handy Dads and Moms...

to assist in the assemblage of 25 new round tables with benches that will be coming to the campus in the coming months. **This work day will be on a weekend**, so please give of your time and help to beautify the campus and provide much needed seating for students. Please email **Bonniegoleta@aol.com** or call cell: 310/869-7072, or **rhutchinson@vknj.com** and we'll contact you.

Donations are needed!

Samohi's Teen Parenting Program needs diapers and toy donations

The on campus Teen Parent Center promotes academic achievement and parenting skills for enrolled expectant/parenting students and provides a quality on-site childcare and development program for their children during school hours. Formerly known as SAPID, this program is funded by the CA School Age Families program, Cal-Safe.

Diapers and Toys are needed for the infants and toddlers in this program. Please deliver your donation to the Nursery in "H" House Room L117. Tutors are also needed for the teens.

If you would like to tutor or make a donation, please contact **Melissa McRitchie**, *Social Worker*, 395-3204 ext 167, mcritchie@smmusd.org

Samohi's Art Dept calling all gardeners – and tools!

Do you have old tools that you no longer use? Samohi art students are looking for shovels, hoses, trowels, rakes and other garden implements for the garden begun last year. We have received donations of seeds, but would love plants (preferably flowers, natives and/or herbs). If you have any questions or would like to contribute, please contact **Amy Bouse**, *Art Department Chair*, at **bouse@smmusd.org** or 395-3204, ext. 443

Have you returned your bright yellow Communication and Involvement form?

If you haven't already returned this form, please do! On this form, you can join the PTSA, be contacted by various parent groups, subscribe to the student newspaper, *The Samohi*, join a Samohi online discussion group and much more! We hope to hear from you soon so you can begin to be more informed and involved with Samohi.

Thanks for the Welcome Lunch!

PTSA thanks Wendy Roskin, professional caterer and parent, for her delicious Chinese Chicken Salad for this year's Welcome Back Staff Luncheon on August 29. Also, thanks to Bay Cities for a 10% discount on their sandwiches and antipasto platters. Let them know we appreciate their generosity the next time you are shopping there! Finally, thanks to the parents who donated desserts and drinks and for phone-calls, set up and clean up. We couldn't do it without you!

What PTSA has done for Samohi... already!!

PTSA parent volunteers have been hard at work throughout the summer and beginning of this school year. Thank you to all those who made the following events, services, and mailings possible!

- Creating, collating, mailing registration packet materials to all families
- Organizing and running four registration days
- "First Day Greeters" helping students find classes on the first day of school
- Planting, cleaning, and painting on the first Beautification Work Day
- Hosting "Welcome Staff Luncheon" to welcome back Samohi staff
- Joining staff full-time for two weeks of checking out textbooks to all students
- Organizing and mailing of Direct Donation Drive to fund communication and classroom supplies
- Researching, writing, printing and mailing two issues of *Viking Voice* Newsletter
- Organizing September PTSA Parent meeting to introduce house leadership
- Providing hospitality for Coffees with the Principal

If you would like to volunteer, please send in your bright yellow Communications and Involvement form and you will be contacted.

Beautification at work...

Thanks to 14 Pepperdine students and PTSA Beautification volunteers, both students and parents, for all their work on campus, Saturday, September 6th. These wonderful volunteers:

- weeded, pruned, mulched, installed fencing at the Australian Garden
- installed temporary fence along Australian Garden
- weeded, pruned and mulched the 4 planters of agapanthas in History/Admin. Quad and organized ongoing weekly watering
- weeded and pruned the student "03" garden at Barnum Hall
- weeded, pruned and mulched rose garden
- collected general debris around campus

Very special thanks to parents, Alvaro and Julietta Anaya and their professional crew, Samohi parent Rodolfo Gonzalez, Gorgonio Santiago and Leonardo Vargas, who volunteered both supplies and their talents, spending **all day** sanding and varnishing the four wooden benches around the tree wells in the science quad. They also sanded and varnished the new rose garden fence, and painted the cement benches and walls around the big tree planters adjacent to the new grassy quad.

Thanks to all these volunteers, Samohi is looking great!

Judi Bloom, JABLOOM1@aol.com

Randi Hutchinson, rhutchinson@vknj.com

Samohi Beautification

Your "Direct Donation" will make a difference

Direct Donation letters were mailed to all families at the end of August. Thank you to the many families who have already responded. If you have not sent in your direct donation, it is not too late!! 100% of all direct donations are tax-deductible, and directly benefit every Samohi student. Donors will be thanked individually in the next issue of the *Viking Voice*.

With direct donation funds, we plan to fund classroom supplies for every teacher, give grants to many departments, send home seven issues of the *Viking Voice* (this is the second issue) and much more. Please remember that every donation, regardless of size, is important and will help make a difference to students, staff and families at Samohi.

Please make checks payable to: Samohi PTSA
and mail to: Santa Monica High School, attn: PTSA
601 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90405

An Unforgettable Fourth

How do you get to march in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, DC, AND open a nationally televised Fourth of July celebration, sharing the stage with Broadway stars and the National Symphony? Practice?

This past July, at the invitation of parade organizers, the United States Department of the Interior, and the National Park Service, eighty-two members of the Santa Monica High School Viking Marching Band and Color Guard traveled to Washington, D.C., in what was the opportunity of a lifetime.

On July 4, under the direction of Terry Sakow, assisted by Carl Hammer, the band and color guard represented the state of California in the National Independence Day Parade, and marched down Constitution Avenue as thousands of spectators lined the street. Wow. Wait, it gets better.

That evening, on the West Lawn of the Capitol, in front of a live audience of at least half a million, with millions more watching at home, the group shared the bill with Dolly Parton, Barry Bostwick, composer John Williams and the National Symphony, and opened the PBS broadcast, "A Capitol Fourth", performing "Seventy-six Trombones" with Broadway stars Kristin Chenoweth and Craig Bierko. Initially skeptical of using a high school band, the producers of the broadcast were blown away by the talent and professionalism this group demonstrated. For their part, the students were thrilled to be a part of the show, to meet John Williams, try to meet Dolly Parton (large bodyguards), and to watch a dazzling fireworks display with the Washington Monument as a backdrop. Wow.

So, then, how do you get to Washington, D.C. for the opportunity of a lifetime? It takes more than practice. It takes talented and dedicated students and teachers. It takes determined parents. It takes a generous and supportive City Council, and it takes a community and a school district committed to providing outstanding music instruction from elementary school through high school. **Wow.**

I'm Really Happy When...

The Reflections program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. It provides an opportunity for the student to be creative with original works of art that have been inspired by this year's theme: "I'm Really Happy When...". Entries are accepted in the fields of Photography, Visual Arts, Music and Literature. There are specific rules for each category that need to be followed precisely. Entry forms and rules are available in each House Principal's office and in the Activities office in the Administration Building.

All entries are due Monday, November 3, 2003 in the Activities Office. For more information, call *PTSA Reflections Co-Chairs*: **Joyce Smith**, 581-3134, sheilajs@aol.com
Donna Block, 829-4692, donnablock@earthlink.net

As you read this...

please appreciate how fortunate we are to live in a community with the commitment, the resources, and the leadership to continue to improve our public schools. We would be facing a very different situation had we failed to pass the June school funding measure. Support from the Santa Monica City Council continues to be essential to Samohi. Our schools cannot depend solely on the State, we must continue to act locally!

October 7 is Election Day!

Your Vote Matters – Please Vote!!!

Red Ribbon and Teen Substance Use

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated October 23rd-31st, to promote a safe and drug-free America. The PTA supports the Celebration, although it is run by a separate organization (go to <http://www.cadfy.org>).

At the high school level, parents need information about the realities of teen substance use in an effort to help them deal with these issues. Parents continue to exert a strong influence, despite what you may think. All youth are "at risk". Parents need to keep their eyes and ears open and give a clear "no drugs" message.

Let's educate ourselves to what Samohi students say, regarding substances. The HiPlaces student questionnaires from last Spring gives us valuable information. (Available online at: <http://131.128.163.235/SMMUSD/Default.asp?ProjectC=410>)

Students responded about their own use as well as peer attitudes. Information from the 8th graders in the Middle Schools (this year's 9th graders) and Samohi are reported. This is not an "official" interpretation. Check the website for more information.

Alcohol

The most prevalent substance reported by Samohi students is Alcohol: 39% of this year's freshmen (8th graders last spring) reported drinking alcohol in the previous 30 days. About 1 in 4 drank 1-5 times in the past month, with the remainder drinking more. By spring of 12th grade, 53% of students report drinking alcohol.

30% - 53% of students reported that if they had 5 or more alcoholic drinks once or twice each weekend, their CLOSE friends would *approve* or *would not care* (note: 5 drinks at one time is considered "binge" drinking for males; for females, binging is 4 drinks). Youth are bombarded with media (especially music videos) with alcohol and drug messages, glamorizing and normalizing consumption, rarely showing the negative consequences.

Alcohol is a drug; it is a "depressant". Underage drinking is a growing problem across the country, associated with academic and relationship problems, later problems with alcohol and other drugs, fights, injury (self and others), vandalism, and unprotected and unwelcomed sex. Alcohol poisoning can be life-threatening, and has occurred in our community. Alcohol plays a role in many traffic accidents and fatalities: no level of alcohol is "legal" in anyone driving under 21.

Other illegal drugs

The HiPlaces survey lumps drugs together ("marijuana, uppers, downers, etc."). The great majority of students (71-77%) reported **no** "illegal drugs". Peer attitudes seem to reflect a disapproval of cocaine experimentation, but 40-53% believe if they used marijuana "regularly", their close friends would approve or would not care. Marijuana today is much stronger than that available "in the 60's". Marijuana can be associated with memory problems, depressed response times, and difficulties concentrating.

Cigarettes

Overall about 18% of students report smoking cigarettes, but in the 12th grade 27% did. Cigarette smoking is on the rise among youth. It is highly visible on youth oriented TV channels as well as movies. Studies show that youth think they can stop "anytime". But when surveyed later, many want to stop but have not been able to.

Talk with your students about these issues. Try to understand what is going on in their lives, what their friends are doing. Watch their TV programs and movies with them. What does your teen see and think about these issues?

We will have some education materials available at the October PTSA meeting. Some excellent websources include:
<http://www.theantidrug.com> - "Parents: The Anti-drug"
<http://www.parentingresources.ncjrs.org/>
<http://www.drugfreeamerica.org>

– PTSA Health & Safety