

# VIKING VOICE

JANUARY 2004 VOLUME '03-'04, ISSUE 4

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*)

## Happy New Year!

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the first semester, the next few weeks will be very important to your child. The final weeks of the Fall semester will include assignments due, culminating activities, and final exams the week of January 20th. To provide additional support for students, we have added regular tutorials Monday through Thursday, for both regular and AP courses. These begin on January 5th and are open from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. The tutorials are staffed by certificated teachers and will meet in the Language building classrooms adjacent to the library. Please encourage your child to take advantage of additional support during this time to help review important concepts, complete projects or papers, or complete a difficult assignment. Extra effort and consistent work can make a difference in a final semester grade.

In addition, the library will now be open until 5 pm Monday through Thursday, courtesy of our generous PTSA and until 4 pm on Friday. We also offer Tuesday and Thursday tutorials after school with UCLA students in the Technology building. Our staff is committed to providing additional support for students to ensure that they understand concepts and are successful in classes. We are also continuing to mail each grading report home and to provide daily online access to our Pinnacle grading system, so you can monitor missing assignments and class progress for your child. As we work with you and your child, it is our hope that all of our students will pass their classes, master concepts and be able to make consistent strong academic progress in their high school years. If you need assistance, please be sure to contact your academic advisor or house principal.

Please continue to join us for our monthly PTSA meetings, which provide essential information to help you guide your child through the challenging high school years. In addition to regular meetings, the Pinnacle on line grading program, the PTSA email list, the *Viking Voice* newsletter and our updated website are great sources of information to help you stay connected to the daily life at Samohi.

Sincerely,

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

### First Semester Ends Friday, January 23rd!

Semester Report Cards will be mailed home the week of February 2nd.

### Samohi Website Reminder!

The Samohi website is now updated daily and is full of useful information including staff directories and school calendars.

Check it out at [www.samohi.smmusd.org](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org)

### Message from PTSA Co-presidents

#### Major Money Worries Continue...

California schools are funded by the state and continue to be handicapped by the state's fiscal crises and projected \$14.6 billion deficit. California is now ranked 35th in per pupil spending in the nation and, as we go to press, no clear plan or consensus has emerged from Sacramento to restore adequate funding for excellent public schools; nor is one likely as the state grapples with a growing debt.

Here in Santa Monica, we are fortunate to be part of a community with both the means and the will to support public education. Passage of *Measure S* in June provided funding to restore 91 pink-slipped teachers. Financial contributions from the City of Santa Monica have been and continue to be essential in maintaining the quality of our schools. Last year, in the face of deep cuts in school services, our City Council allocated \$5.25 million to SMMUSD. Our school and our students need the Council to continue, and to build upon that level of commitment. There is no financial alternative to continued City support.

From now until January 27th, the Santa Monica City Council will take public input to determine funding priorities for '04-'05. Quality at Samohi and throughout SMMUSD depends upon continued ongoing funding from our city. Please, please, please write, email, or fax your City Councilmembers! Urge them to continue to invest in our students and our schools, and to make ongoing funding for public education their top budget priority!

Email: [Council@santa-monica.org](mailto:Council@santa-monica.org) Fax 310-458-1621

Mail: Santa Monica City Council, 1685 Main Street, Rm 200, SM 90401

Cheri Orgel, 451-1938, [clorgel@aol.com](mailto:clorgel@aol.com)

Louise Jaffe, 450-2487, [lcjaffe@aol.com](mailto:lcjaffe@aol.com), *Samohi PTSA Co-presidents*

(See page 2 for related information, *Money Matters* and *News Flash!*)

### Schedule change for Coffees with the Principals

Morning Coffees with the Principal will now be held on THURSDAY mornings to accommodate families with Friday late start schedules. Please note these new dates: Thursday mornings at 8:30am on January 29, February 19, March 25, April 29, May 27. Attendance at evening Coffees with all the House Principals has been low. We will begin the January coffee at 6:30 pm in hopes that more parents will be able to attend. Our next evening date is Tuesday, January 13th, 6:30 - 7 pm, before the PTSA meeting.

### January 13th PTSA/All Parent Information: Come learn about our English Department!

Everyone is invited on Tuesday, January 13th, at 7 pm in the cafeteria for a presentation led by Samohi English Dept. Chair, Carol Jago. Dr. Straus will give an overview of what to expect for Second Semester. Spanish translation is provided at all PTSA meetings.

## **More money matters...**

*continued from Message from PTSA Co-presidents, page 1*

### **From Samohi's Nurses Office**

**Editor's note:** This year's increased one-time funding from the City of Santa Monica enabled our district to maintain school nurses!

**We see more than 800 students a month!** In September, we did vision and hearing screenings for all 10th graders and new students. We provide free vouchers for students in need of glasses, vision exams, and dental care. We provide a free clinic for students without insurance through Venice Teen Clinic on campus on Thursdays. Recently, I did 3 "inservice" trainings to various staff members in bloodborne pathogens, a CAL OSHA requirement. We trained our athletic coaches in CPR, first aide, crisis intervention and various other tasks related to special ed.

**Lora Morn, Samohi Nurse, 395-3204, ext 374, morn@smmusd.org**

### **Samohi lost two custodians in last year's budget cuts**

**and there are no longer district substitute janitors.** Depending on what happens with the state and city budgets, more cuts "away from the classroom" may be on the way! Samohi is a big campus to keep clean and our students need to do their part. Please encourage your students to **throw away their trash!!!**

### **The PTSA is hoping to extend Samohi library hours until 5pm**

**We need your financial support!** Last year the Samohi library had two aides and was open until 5pm Monday through Thursday. This year, thanks to funds from the Santa Monica City Council, we have at least managed to keep one aide, but library hours have been cut back to close at 4pm. The Samohi library is an important resource for our students. It provides textbooks, teacher support, and computer access for over 800 students a day!

**Please help us keep the library open. Send your contributions to: Samohi PTSA, 601 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405**

### **News Flash!!!!**

**At their final meeting for 2003, the Santa Monica City Council directed staff to:**

- 1) Pursue a long-term contract with the school District rather than the current year to year arrangement;
- 2) Explore with District staff the adequacy of the valuation of the District properties currently used by the City;
- 3) Pursue community access to additional District facilities;
- 4) Explore the use of facilities held by other public and/or private entities for community benefit; and
- 5) Include as part of the Community Priorities discussion on January 27th, 2004, a preliminary strategy in response to the answers to the above questions.

Your communications with our City Council **do make a difference!**

**Keep those emails, faxes, and letters coming! And attend the Public Hearing for City Budget Priorities, January 27th, 7 pm at City Hall!**

### **City Council Mtg regarding Preferential Parking**

**The City Council will be scheduling a public hearing to consider expanding Preferential Parking Zone MM to the east side of 9th Street, between Michigan Avenue and Pico Boulevard.** At press time, we do not know when this item will be agendaized. We urge interested parents and students to communicate with Councilmembers. **Comments may be emailed to all Councilmembers at Council@Santa-Monica.org or faxed to 458-1621.**

### **Summer School Session at Samohi**

**Samohi offers a six-week summer school that typically starts the week after the regular school-year ends. The 2004 Summer School will begin Monday, June 28 and end Friday, August 6.**

Summer school provides students an opportunity to repeat classes, correct deficiencies and "get ahead" in their coursework. Registration begins Spring Semester. Space is limited.

An application for summer school is required. Information will be posted on the school web site ([www.samohi.smmusd.org](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org)) when it is available and will be available through the advisors. Students need administrative approval prior to taking classes at other school sites.

### **Dropping/Adding/Transferring Classes**

**Students desiring to change classes must go through their academic advisor.**

**For the first two (2) weeks of the semester,** students may be able to transfer into other classes or drop classes. Students must meet and discuss the impact of this decision with their advisor.

**Between the 2nd and 4th weeks of the semester,** students must petition, in writing, to drop or transfer to another class. All such petitions will be handled by a review committee. Contact should be made with the academic advisor and department chair for appropriate form.

**After the 4th week, no changes to schedules are allowed** without permission from Dr. Straus, Chief Educational Officer.

**DROP DATES Second (Spring) Semester '04**

**Feb. 6, 2004** without review

**Feb. 20, 2004** with review

### **End-of-Semester Library and Textbook Reminders**

**As the end of the first semester approaches, please remind your students to return any overdue library books, and to resolve any textbook obligations.** If your student still has literature texts from earlier in the semester or is changing classes at the semester, those textbooks need to be returned to the Textbook Room before the second semester starts. Second semester students will need these texts the week that classes begin. **Failure to return library and textbooks may also result in delays in picking up second semester schedules.**

### **California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)**

**Beginning with the class of 2006, students must pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in order to graduate!**

**Testing Options for Tenth Graders:** Tenth graders may only take the CAHSEE once while in tenth grade. Tenth graders who are absent during the scheduled administration of the examination will be provided with a make-up opportunity in either March or May.

**Testing Options for Eleventh and Twelfth Graders:** Beginning with the class of 2006, students in grade 11 and 12 who have not yet passed one or both sections of the CAHSEE can have up to two opportunities per year to take the section(s) (English and/or Math) not yet passed. Students may have one opportunity to pass the examination after completion of all other graduation requirements.

**CAHSEE Testing Dates in 2004:** February 3, February 4, March 16, March 17, May 11, May 12. For more information on the CAHSEE at Samohi, please contact **Theresa Luong, Testing & Tutoring Coordinator, 395-3204 ext#333 or [luong@smmusd.org](mailto:luong@smmusd.org)**

**Calling all artists! Participate in Samohi's challenging Advanced Placement Art program** and work with the most dedicated and talented artists at Samohi. Screening takes place during the last week of February. You will need to submit a portfolio of 10 works. Please see any art teacher for details.

**Amy Bouse, Art Department, 395-3204, ext. 443, [bouse@smmusd.org](mailto:bouse@smmusd.org)**

## Samohi's Library *(New Hours! M-Th from 7:30am-5pm, F til 4pm)*

AP English students can now pick up their UCLA library cards at the UCLA Powell Library. The library is open afternoons and evenings. For information: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/>

Twelfth-grade AP English and African American Literature students at both Samohi and Dorsey High are discussing Invisibility as a Human Condition after reading Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. Samohi students visited Dorsey High and hosted Dorsey students.

Government and Economics term papers are due. Seniors spent countless hours in the library researching their topics. We are asking parents to check for plagiarism. One library media teacher found a student ready to print out a term paper from the internet. Fortunately she noticed and worked with him on organizing his OWN thoughts.

Tenth-grader Desiree Flores has won the Samohi Library Reading Award, given once a semester to a prolific reader.

The library continues to attract an average of 800 students a day, either as whole classes or as individual drop-ins. Before and after-school library use is critical for many students who do not have resources at home.

Ann McKechnie, 395-3204, ext 437 [mckechnie@smmusd.org](mailto:mckechnie@smmusd.org)

Dana Bartbell, ext 262 [bartbell@smmusd.org](mailto:bartbell@smmusd.org), Samohi Librarians

## AAPSSSG (African American Parent Student Staff Support Group)

On January 20th, everyone is invited to the College Planning and Financial Aid AAPSSSG Meeting from 6-8:30pm in the cafeteria.

On February 20th at 7pm, we will be hosting a Black History Month Celebration in Barnum Hall. All parents, student and staff are invited!

Other upcoming AAPSSSG meeting dates are the first Tuesdays of the month at 6 pm: February 3, March 2, May 4, and June 1.

For more information, please contact

Pam Allen Jones, Community Liaison, 395-3204, ext. 482, [allen@smmusd.org](mailto:allen@smmusd.org)

Barry Snell, 310/621-9961, [bsnell-cpa@earthlink.net](mailto:bsnell-cpa@earthlink.net)

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

## More Tutoring now available!

### Tutoring in AP subjects

We are now offering after school academic support in three AP subjects. Have your student talk to their AP teacher if interested.

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

### Tutoring by Samohi students available in Math, Science and English

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

### Great news! New after school - drop in tutoring

We are starting another after school drop in tutoring program Mon.-Thurs., run by teachers and volunteers from 3:30- 4:30pm. Flyers will be posted around campus and in House offices with location. Please encourage your child to attend these sessions for extra help, especially to get assistance before finals!

If you have any questions about tutoring, please call

Wendy Wax Gellis, Advisor/Administrator, 395-3204 ext 133 or email at [gellis@smmusd.org](mailto:gellis@smmusd.org).

## SOL/BAC\* Latino Parent Group

\*Spirit Of Love/Bilingual Advisory Committee

Latino parent group meets monthly, on the fourth Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. in the Samohi Cafeteria (except for March). The next SOL/BAC meeting is Monday, January 26: Understanding Transcripts and Required Credits. Meetings are conducted in Spanish. All are invited and welcome.

For further information, please call Tere Viramontes-Gutierrez, Community Liaison, 395-3204, ext. 375.

## SMMUSD Release of Directory Information Información Sobre el Ceder del Directorio de estudiantes del distrito SMMUSD

To the Principal of Santa Monica High School/Al Director/a de la escuela Santa Monica High School:

I am requesting that directory information about my child not be released to the following entities (please check)

Estoy pidiendo que la información del directorio de mi hijola NO sea cedida a la siguientes organizaciones (por favor marque.)

News Media/La prensa

Prospective Employers/Empresas para empleos

Parent Name (please print)/Nombre de Padre (Letra de Molde) \_\_\_\_\_ Date/fecha \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature/Firma de Padres \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Dirección \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone/Teléfono \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name/Nombre de Estudiante \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth/Fecha de Nacimiento \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID/# de ID del Estudiante \_\_\_\_\_

## Important Dates for seniors:

FAFSA application deadline: *January 1 -March 2, 2004*  
 Financial Aid Workshops for FAFSA: *Jan. 12 (new date) & Feb. 24, 2004*  
 California Grant info due: *January 15, 2004*  
 Samohi Scholarship applications due: *March 1, 2004*  
 Senior Scholarship and Honors Evening: *June 1, 2004*

## College Entrance Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

**Online registration (payment by credit card) for:**

**SAT I & II tests:** [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) **ACT test:** [www.act.org](http://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 & SAT II	Jan. 24, 2004	Dec. 22, 2003	Dec. 31, 2003
ACT	Feb 7, 2004	Jan 2, 2004	Jan 16, 2004
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

## Previewing the Journey to Success

**February 21 and 28, 2004, California State University, Northridge**  
*A 2-day workshop for High School Students with Disabilities and their families*

**Topics will include:** Preparing for College: Understanding the Curriculum, Developing Realistic Expectations, Campus Resources - Where do you go for Help?, The ADA and you - How it differs from IDEA, Understanding Assistive Technology, Meet a Panel of Students with Disabilities attending CSUN. **Registration Information will be available January 5, 2004. For more information call (818) 677-2684.**

## Join an online information group all about college

**University Parents** is an informal e-mailing list which distributes information and news about issues of interest or importance to college (and college-bound) students and their families.

To join the list, go to <http://www.universityparents.com/> or send email to [universityparents-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:universityparents-subscribe@yahoo.com)

## Helpful College websites:

**CSU site:** [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

**UC site:** [www.ucop.edu/pathways/](http://www.ucop.edu/pathways/)

**for other colleges:** use college name + .edu, or search by college name on [google.com](http://google.com) or [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com)

### General College Search:

<a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	<a href="http://www.embark.com">www.embark.com</a>
<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>	<a href="http://www.usnews.com">www.usnews.com</a>
<a href="http://www.collegenet.com">www.collegenet.com</a>	<a href="http://www.collegeview.com">www.collegeview.com</a>
<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com">www.princetonreview.com</a>	<a href="http://www.campustours.com">www.campustours.com</a>

### Financial Aid and Scholarship Info:

<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>	<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>
<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>	<a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a>
<a href="http://www.collegenet.com/mach25">www.collegenet.com/mach25</a>	<a href="http://www.salliemae.com">www.salliemae.com</a>
<a href="http://www.collegeispossible.org">www.collegeispossible.org</a>	

### Listing of Colleges visiting Samohi:

<http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/Calendars/visits.html>

## From our Future Center Advisors

### Important FAFSA workshops January 12 (new date) and February 24th

**Attention Parents and Seniors!**

**Please be reminded that starting January 1, 2004, you can file a FAFSA (Free Federal Application for Student Aid) form.** It is currently available online. This is an obligatory form for receiving financial aid of any type: scholarships, loans, grants, work study. All colleges and many scholarship sources will need this information. The priority deadline for filing the FAFSA is March 2, 2004.

**We will be conducting two workshops to take parents and students through the FAFSA form line by line. They will be at 7 pm in the Samohi library on: January 12 and February 24, 2004. Please plan on attending. Your questions will be answered!**

**Clara Beard** (last names A-L), 395-3204, ext 324

**Ada Hollie** (last names M-Z), ext 328

*Samohi Future Center Advisors*

## Calling all Art Students!

**National Portfolio Day** (to view portfolios and discuss careers-in-the-arts) is held this year on **Sunday, January 18th from 12-4pm** at Art Center College of Design 1700 Lida Street, Pasadena, 91103 626-396-2373.

National Portfolio Days help further the artistic development of young artists by bringing together experienced college representatives to review work and offer critique. National Portfolio Days are about the exchange of information: about your work, yourself, your college plans, your concerns. They are not an examination or a competition. **Visit the National Portfolio Day website** at <http://www.npda.org> to learn more.

## 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 National Portfolio Day or the College Fair, contact Samohi parent, Sara Jane Boyers, at [sjzb@earthlink.net](mailto:sjzb@earthlink.net) or 459-0977.**

## 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.

IVY WEST  
310/821-4343  
[www.ivywest.com](http://www.ivywest.com)

SAT Training at the  
Santa Monica YMCA  
310/859-2298

EUREKA  
1/877/GO-EUREKA  
[www.EurekaReview.com](http://www.EurekaReview.com)

ACE  
310/282-6420

PRINCETON REVIEW  
310/473-3423  
[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

Danny Ruderman  
310/358-2995  
[www.collegeadmissionsinbox.com](http://www.collegeadmissionsinbox.com)

TAMING THE SAT  
1/800/761-3086  
[www.use.edu/org/SAT](http://www.use.edu/org/SAT)

KAPLAN  
1/800/KAP-TEST  
[www.kaplan.com](http://www.kaplan.com)

Stephanie Avedon  
310/822-9590  
[stephanie@avedon.net](mailto:stephanie@avedon.net)

REVOLUTION PREP  
1/877/REV-PREP  
[www.revolutionprep.com](http://www.revolutionprep.com)

SCHOLARS in  
PROGRESS  
310/679-2133  
[www.scholarsinprogress.com](http://www.scholarsinprogress.com)

# Congratulations and thanks!

## Thanks to the following additional families

that have contributed to Samohi as of 12/14/03 through PTSA's Direct Donation:

<i>Ajnassian</i>	<i>Engel</i>	<i>Hards</i>	<i>Stricklin</i>
	<i>Benjamin</i>	<i>Heimbuch</i>	<i>Love Corn</i>
<i>Altman Polon</i>			
		<i>Herron</i>	<i>McConkey</i>
<i>Avolio</i>	<i>Everett</i>	<i>Ishler</i>	<i>Murphy</i>
<i>Bolan</i>	<i>Garczynski</i>	<i>Jodelsohn</i>	<i>Mulvaney</i>
<i>Brooks</i>		<i>Mazey</i>	
<i>Brown</i>	<i>Golden Penn</i>	<i>Meyer</i>	<i>Orsini</i>
<i>Davenport</i>		<i>Kaunitz</i>	<i>Paparella</i>
	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Kleeman</i>	
<i>Deasy</i>	<i>Guberman</i>	<i>Levine</i>	<i>Rosen Prinz</i>
<i>Diaz</i>		<i>Loopesko</i>	

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.

## Congratulations to Samohi's National Merit Semi-Finalists!

<i>Gillian M. Brunet</i>	<i>Sunil D. Parekh</i>	<i>Kevin R. Wiseman</i>
<i>Olga V. Levin</i>	<i>Geoffrey Thais</i>	<i>Corwin S. Abbott</i>
<i>Emily M. Martinez</i>	<i>Daniel H. Weingarten</i>	

## Congratulations!

### Samohi AP Results Are Looking Good

More and more Samohi students are taking Advanced Placement (AP) Classes and doing well on the AP exams.

<i>Year</i>	<i>1996-97</i>	<i>2001-02</i>	<i>2002-03</i>
<b># of students tests taken</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>758</b>
	<b>-</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>1,522</b>
		<i>(1.88 tests per student)</i>	<i>(2.01 tests per student)</i>
<b>scored 4*</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>32.5%</b>	<b>42.5%</b>
<b>scored 5**</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>

\*scores of 3 and above are passing

\*\* 5 is top score possible, indicates mastery, may qualify student for college credit

"These results are the highest in the school's history," said School Superintendent John Deasy. "We have had some phenomenal leaps last year... There has been a targeted focus around achievement at all levels to increase APEs (Advanced Placement Exams)."

APE courses are offered and exams taken in public and private schools throughout the nation. The curriculum is determined by the College Board. APE success rates are used as a measure for rating high schools and according to the Jay Mathews's Achievement Index, SAMOHI's scores place us among the top 125 schools in the country. "We aim to be in the top 100," Deasy said. "We track this data very carefully because they are an indicator of the general health of the highest quality of the work in the school."

This year's students will be taking their AP exams from May 3-14th. For more information about enrolling your student in AP classes in the future, please contact your student's advisor.

## Recycling has finally come to Samohi!

Thanks to the efforts of the remarkable **Bonnie Freeman** and a grant from the City of Santa Monica's Environmental Affairs Dept., Samohi now has 6 beautiful steel recycling containers. In addition, ASB Environmental Affairs Commissioner, student Keisha Ram, has created the Incentive Program and the Environmental Affairs Council.

## Save these dates!!

**February 10th:** The PTSA meeting will focus on Sports at Samohi!

**January 27th:** Public Hearing for City Budget Priorities, 7 pm at City Hall!

## Samo Students are Finalists in 2003 Twilight Dance Series Poster Design Contest

Eight of the twelve finalists in the design competition for the *20th Annual Twilight Dance Series* poster contest are Samohi students enrolled in ROP's UC approved Digital Design course! Congratulations to Ariana Aguirre, David Laufer, Max Preston, Paul Yesowitch, Ik-Rae Hwang, Sandy Luis, Eric Spicher, Will Stockwell and their instructor Richard McGee. To view the entries, go to "What's Happening" at [www.santamonicapier.org](http://www.santamonicapier.org). For more information on the Digital Design course go to <http://www.samographics.com/pages/1/index.htm> or contact **Richard McGee, ROP/Graphics** 395-3204, ext. 466, [www.samographics.com](http://www.samographics.com)

## Samohi's Symphony Orchestra to Perform in Europe during Spring Break

The Samohi Symphony Orchestra has been invited to participate in an opportunity of a lifetime: to perform in the Dvorak Centenary Celebration in Prague in April 2004. Our student musicians will also participate in a symposium at the Janacek Conservatory and play Haydn, Mozart and Dvorak in such distinguished history-filled halls as the Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna, the New Hall in Brno and the Rudolfinum in Prague. 93 Samohi students will be traveling, along with orchestra director, Joni Swenson, and several other staff members and parent chaperones. Extensive fundraising events have been organized in order to ensure that no symphony orchestra member is left behind. If you or anyone you know would like to make a (tax deductible) donation to help us on our way, please contact orchestra parent **Amy Van Pelt** at [abvp@aol.com](mailto:abvp@aol.com) or (310) 451-3211.

## Bathroom Clean-up Task Force Strikes Again!

On December 6th, parents, students (yeah!!!!), and administrators from O-House worked together to beautify the girls bathroom in the History Building. The results look great and everyone actually had fun! The Task Force is looking for a few more helpers, including dads (and moms) who like operating power machines to tackle the next bathroom. Participating students can receive community service credit.

Please contact *Bathroom Clean-up Task Force Chair Extraordinaire: Inese Verzemnieks*, 452-5959 or [iverzemn@ucla.edu](mailto:iverzemn@ucla.edu) to find out how and when you can help.

PTSA is hoping to further enhance these bathroom beautification efforts by purchasing and installing new mirrors, soap dispensers, towel dispensers, and trash receptacles. If you would like to make a financial contribution for this purpose, please send a check to the *Samohi PTSA* and note *Bathroom Improvement Fund* on the memo line!

## District's New Gift Policy

The SMMUSD Board of Education will be considering a new Gift Policy which calls for fundraisers at all district schools to contribute 15% into an equity fund to be distributed throughout the district according to a needs-based formula. Details are still being worked out with input from community members but the first draft proposal is available online at [www.smmusd.org](http://www.smmusd.org) under "From the Superintendent." The Samohi PTSA Board has adopted the following resolution: "The Samohi PTSA Board applauds the effort of the Superintendent and the School Board to improve equity throughout the district and supports the spirit of the proposed gift policy. We look forward to a collaborative effort to create a workable plan to be implemented by Fall 2004."

## Mensaje de la Directora

Estimados Padres,

En las últimas semanas del semestre de otoño habrá asignaciones que los estudiantes tienen que terminar, actividades culminantes, y exámenes la semana del 20 de enero. Para proveerle apoyo adicional a los estudiantes hemos adicionado asistencia de estudios de lunes a jueves, para las clases regulares y avanzadas de AP. La ayuda comienza el 5 de enero de 3:30 - 4:30 pm. Esta ayuda es proveída por maestros certificados en el salón alado de la biblioteca en el edificio de Lenguaje. Por favor anime a su hijo/a que aproveche esta ayuda adicional.

Atentamente,

**Ilene Straus, Ed.D., Oficial Ejecutivo de Educación/Directora**

## Mensaje de las Presidentas de la PTSA

### Siguen las Preocupaciones de Financiamiento a las escuelas...

Las escuelas de California siguen sufriendo de la crisis de déficit creado por el Estado.

Aquí en Santa Mónica, tenemos la suerte de ser parte de una comunidad con la manera y deseo de apoyar la educación pública. Al pasar la Medida S en junio esto proveyó fondos para retener a los 91 maestros que estaban en riesgo de perder su empleo. No existe otra alternativa, necesitamos el apoyo de la ciudad.

A partir de ahora hasta el 27 de enero, la junta directiva de la ciudad de Santa Mónica estará escuchando del público las prioridades para el año '04-'05. La calidad de la escuela Samohi y las otras escuelas del distrito de SMMUSD dependen de una continuación de fondos de nuestra ciudad. Por favor les pedimos que le escriban a la ciudad urgiéndoles que nos den fondos continuo para nuestras escuelas públicas. Vengan a la municipalidad el 27 de enero a la 7:00 PM.

**Correo electrónico:** Council@santa-monica.org

**Fax** 310-458-1621

**Dirección:** Santa Monica City Council, 1685 Main Street, Rm 200, SM 90401

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

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

*Samohi PTSA Co-presidents*

## Examen del Estado de California para Graduarse de la Preparatoria (CAHSEE)

**Examen de California para Graduarse de la Preparatoria (CAHSEE) ¡Comenzando con la clase de 2006, todos los estudiantes tienen que pasar el examen de graduación (CAHSEE) o no se pueden graduar!** Es totalmente critico para su hijo y la escuela que su estudiante tome y haga bien en el examen CAHSEE.

**Opciones de exámenes para los estudiantes en el décimo grado**  
Los estudiantes en el décimo grado pueden tomar el examen CAHSEE una vez solamente cuando sean administrado en las fechas asignadas. Los estudiantes que están ausentes se les ofrecerá otra oportunidad en marzo o mayo.

### Opciones de exámenes para los estudiantes en los grados undécimo y doceavo

Comenzando con la clase 2006, los estudiantes en grado 11 y 12 que todavía no han pasado una o ambas secciones del examen CAHSEE pueden tener dos oportunidades por año de tomar la(s) sección(s) del examen que no han pasado. Los estudiantes en los grados 11 y 12 que faltan cuando la escuela de el examen CAHSEE esperan la próxima vez que el distrito administre el examen.

### Las fechas designadas para el examen CAHSEE en el 2004

martes: 3 de febrero, 16 de marzo, 11 de mayo  
miércoles: a de febrero, 17 de marzo 12 de mayo

## Cambio de Horario para Café con los Directores

La reunión de Café con la Directora ahora será el JUEVES en la mañana. Por favor anote las nuevas fechas: jueves en las mañanas a la 8:30am el 29 de enero, 26 de febrero, 25 de marzo, 29 de abril, y 27 de mayo.

Café con los Directores de Casa comenzara en enero a la 6:30 pm. La próxima reunión en la noche es el 13 de enero a la 6:30 - 7 pm, antes de la reunión de la PTSA.

## Reunión de la PTSA para Todos los Padres el 13 de enero:

### Información del Departamento de Inglés

Todos están invitados el martes, 13 de enero a la 7 pm en la cafetería para una presentación por la coordinadora del departamento de inglés, Carol Jago. Se provee traducción al español en todas las reuniones de la PTSA. También habrá antes de esta reunión Café con los Directores de Casa empezando a la 6:30 pm en la cafetería.

Note la fecha de la próxima reunión de la PTSA: 10 de febrero y se hablará de los deportes en la escuela Samohi.

## ¡El Primer Semestre Termina el viernes, 23 de enero!

**Las calificaciones del semestre serán enviadas a la casa la semana del 2 de febrero.**

## Recordatorio de información de Samohi en la Red Mundial

El sitio en la Red Mundial de Samohi está al día y lleno de información importante incluyendo el directorio del personal y calendario escolar. **Visítenos al [www.samohi.smmusd.org](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org)**

## La PTSA Espera Extender las Horas de la biblioteca Hasta las 5 pm

¡Necesitamos su apoyo de dinero! Este año gracias al apoyo de la ciudad de Santa Mónica hemos podido mantener la asistente en la biblioteca, pero tuvimos que reducir las horas y cerrar a las 4pm. Por favor ayúdenos y envíe su contribución: Samohi PTSA, 601 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405

## Escuela de Verano en Samohi

La escuela Samohi ofrece escuela de verano por seis semanas y típicamente comienza la semana después que termina el año escolar. La escuela de verano 2004 comenzará el lunes, 28 de junio y terminará el viernes, 6 de agosto. La matriculación comienza en la primavera y habrá información en el sitio de la escuela: web site ([www.samohi.smmusd.org](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org))

## Dejar/Adicionar/Transferir Clases

Durante las primeras dos(2) semanas del semestre, los estudiantes pueden transferirse a otra clase o dejar la clase. Los estudiantes primero tienen que ver a su consejeros.

Entre la segunda y cuarta semana del semestre, los estudiantes tienen que pedir los cambios por escrito. Un comité hará la decisión del pedido. Para el formulario apropiado contacte al consejero académico o el/la coordinadora del departamento. Después de la cuarta semana, no se permiten cambios en el horario sin el permiso de la directora de la escuela, la Dr. Straus.

**FECHAS PARA DEJAR CLASE Segundo Semestre (primavera)'04:**  
**6 de Feb., 2004** sin permiso especial  
**20 de Feb., 2004** con permiso especial

## Información importante:

Los padres que no desean ceder el directorio de información de su hijo/a a representantes del servicio militar, la prensa, etc. Llenen la forma en la página 3.

**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 (apellidos A-L), ext. 324 o Ada Hollie (apellidos M-Z), ext. 328 si le gustaría una cita. Está abierto para que los estudiante visiten en el recreo, almuerzo, o después de clase, también con citas.**

## Fechas Importantes para Estudiantes en el Ultimo Año

Fechas para la solicitud de FAFSA: **1 de enero – 2 de marzo, 2004**  
Taller para ayuda con la solicitud de FAFSA: **14 de enero & 24 de febrero, 2004**

Ultimo día para la beca de California Grant: **15 de enero, 2004**

Ultimo día para la beca de Samohi Scholarship: **1 de marzo, 2004**

Ultimo día para la beca de Senior Scholarship y Honors Evening: **1 de junio, 2004**

## Departamento de los Consejeros del Centro Futuro

### Talleres Importantes para FAFSA 12 de enero y 24 de febrero

#### ¡Atención padres y estudiantes en el último año!

Por favor recuerden que empezando el 1 de enero, 2004 pueden llenar la solicitud de FAFSA (Solicitud Federal Gratis para Asistencia al Estudiante). Está disponible en la red mundial. Esto es una forma obligatoria para poder recibir asistencia financiera de cualquier clase: becas, prestamos, trabajo y estudio, etc. Todas las universidades y muchas fuentes de becas necesitan esta información. El último día para llenar el FAFSA es el 2 de marzo, 2004.

Tendremos talleres para ayudar a los padres a llenar el FAFSA línea por línea. Serán en la Biblioteca de la escuela a la 7:00PM el 12 de enero y 24 de febrero, 2004.

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

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

### ¡Felicitaciones, los resultados del AP de Samohi se ven muy bien!

Más y más estudiantes están tomando cursos avanzados (AP) y están rindiendo bien en los exámenes.

Año	1996-97	2001-02	2002-03	
# de estudiantes	314		678	758
Tomando el examen	–	1,273	1,522	
marcas 4*	16.6%	32.5%	42.5%	
marcas 5**	8.6%	13.2%	19.9%	

\*marcas de 3 en adelante pasan \*\* 5 es la más alta posible, indica maestría, puede calificar al estudiante para crédito universitario.

“Estos resultados son los más altos en la historia de la escuela” dice el Superintendente John Deasy. El curriculum está determinado por La Junta Universitaria. Las marcas de Samohi ponen a la escuela en las más altas (125) de todo el país.

Los estudiantes de este año tomarán los exámenes de AP del 3-14 de mayo. Para más información de cómo inscribir a sus estudiantes en estas clases contacte al consejero de su hijo/a.

## SOL/BAC\* Grupo de Padres Latinos

*\*(Espíritu de Amor/Comité Consejero Bilingüe)*

Un grupo de padres latinos que se reúnen mensualmente, el cuarto lunes de cada mes a las 7:00 p.m. en la cafetería de la escuela (excepto en marzo.) Mediante a SOL/BAC, los padres se animan a explorar varias maneras de participar en la educación de sus niños. También se comparte información de los recursos y servicios disponibles para los padres. Las reuniones son conducidas en español. Todos son bienvenidos. Para más información, por favor llame a **Tere Viramontes-Gutierrez**, Encargada de Relaciones Entre Padres y Escuela, 395-3204, ext. 375, [viramontes@smmusd.org](mailto:viramontes@smmusd.org)  
**Las próximas reuniones del SOL/BAC: Lunes, 26 de enero:**  
Cómo Entender las Copias record y Créditos Requeridos

## ¡Tenemos Más Asistencia para los Estudiantes!

### Asistencia para las materias AP (cursos avanzados)

Estamos ofreciendo ayuda académica después de escuela en tres materias AP. Si están interesados dígame a su estudiante que hable con el maestro AP.

<b>AP Cálculos</b>	martes	3:30 – 5:00	Salón H215
<b>AP Historia</b>	miércoles	3:30 – 5:00	Salón H218
<b>AP Inglés</b>	jueves	3:30 – 5:00	Salón L206

Hay asistencia ofrecida por estudiantes voluntarios de la Sociedad Nacional de Honor de la escuela Samohi en Matemáticas, ciencia e inglés. Los estudiantes que necesitan ayuda pueden ir al salón S207 durante el almuerzo los jueves.

### Asistencia después de clase- cuando lo necesitan

También tenemos asistencia después de clases de lunes a jueves con maestros y padres voluntarios de 3:30- 4:30 pm. Habrá volantes en la escuela y en las oficinas de los consejeros. Para más información llame a **Wendy Wax Gellis**, *Advisor/Administrator*, 395-3204 ext 133 o por correo electrónico: [gellis@smmusd.org](mailto:gellis@smmusd.org).

## Recordatorio de Fin de Semestre- Textos y Libros de la Biblioteca

Por favor recuérdelo a su estudiante que hay que regresar los libros de la biblioteca y resolver si tienen obligaciones de textos. Si su estudiante cambia o deja una clase tiene que regresar los textos para que otros estudiantes puedan usarlos. Pueden regresar los libros al salón de textos antes que comience el segundo semestre.

## El Programa de Alianza está para Ayudar

El programa de Alliance (Alianza) tiene consejería, ayuda con tareas, desarrollo de empleo y actividades sociales y culturales para los estudiantes y sus padres que estén fuera de la cultura y comunidad escolar. Por favor llámenos si Ud. cree que podemos ayudar a su estudiante

**Kathy McTaggart**, *Directora del Programa*, 395-3204, ext. 322

**Tiffany Tyler**, *Especialista en afiliación de Estudiantes*, ext. 330

**Juan Hernandez**, *Especialista en afiliación de Estudiantes*, ext. 331

## ¡Le Llama a Todos los Estudiantes de Arte!

El Día Nacional del Portafolio (para ver su portafolio y hablar de carreras en las artes.) Será el Domingo, 18 de enero de 12-4pm en el Art Center College of Design 1700 Lida Street, Pasadena, 91103 626-396-2373. Visite el sitio del Día Nacional del Portafolio al: <http://www.npda.org>.

**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.

## Felicidades a los estudiantes de Samohi por ser SemiFinalistas de Meritos Nacional

*Gillian M. Brunet*

*Sunil D. Parekh*

*Kevin R. Wiseman*

*Olga V. Levin*

*Geoffrey Thais*

*Corwin S. Abbott*

*Emily M. Martinez*

*Daniel H. Weingarten*

**Premio de Lectura de la Biblioteca de Samohi** La estudiante en el décimo grado, Desiree Flores se ganó el Premio de Lectura de la Biblioteca de Samohi por su excelencia en la lectura. Este premio es otorgado a cada semestre a un lector prolífico.



January 2004

**WIKING VOICE**  
Association  
Parent Teacher Student



**2004 Calendar** Please check Samohi website at [www.samohi.smmusd.org](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org) for updated information.

**January**

- 6 **AAPSSSG Meeting**, 6 pm, Rm AD 501
- 9 & 10 "Noises Off", Fall Play, 8 pm, Humanities Center
- 13 **PTSA Meeting**, *English Department presentation*, 7 pm, cafeteria  
**Coffee with House Principals**, 6:30 pm, cafeteria
- 15 Campus Tour at 8:45am
- 17 **FAFSA Workshop** (*Free Federal Application for Student Aid*), 7pm, Samohi Library
- 19 **Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday - No School**
- 20 **AAPSSSG Mtg**, *College Planning & Financial Aid*, 6-8:30pm, cafeteria, **Site Governance Meeting**, 5pm, Rm 113
- 20 **Period 1 Final**, Final Exam Schedule\*
- 21 **Period 2 & 3 Final**, Final Exam Schedule, *no late start today*
- 22 **Period 4 & 5 Final**, Final Exam Schedule
- 23 **Period 6 & A Final**, Final Exam Schedule, *First Semester Ends*
- 26 **Pupil Free Day - No School**
- 27 *First Day of Second Semester*  
City Council Budget Hearing, 7pm, City Hall
- 29 **Coffee with the Principal**, 8:30am, cafeteria (*note: new day!*)

**February**

- 3 **AAPSSSG Meeting**, 6pm, Rm. AD 501
- 3 **Grad Nite Meeting**, 7pm, cafeteria
- 6 Last Day to drop classes without review
- 10 **PTSA Meeting**, *Sports at Samohi presentation*, 7pm, cafeteria  
**Coffee with House Principals**, 6:30pm, cafeteria
- 14 Cafe Samo, 7:30pm, Humanities Center
- 16 **Presidents' Day - No School**
- 17 **Junior Parents Meeting**, 7pm, cafeteria  
**Site Governance Meeting**, 5pm, Rm 113
- 19 **Coffee with the Principal**, 8:30am, cafeteria (*note: new day!*)
- 20 **Black History Month Celebration**, 7pm, Barnum Hall  
Last day to drop classes with review
- 23 **SOL/BAC Meeting**, 7pm, cafeteria

**\*Final Exam Schedule: January 20- 23, 2004**

**Final Exam Day 1 - Tuesday, January 20**

- Period A 7:12 - 8:08
- Period 1 Final** 8:15 - 10:27
- 2 10:37 - 11:21
- 3 11:27 - 12:11
- 4 12:17 - 1:01
- Lunch 1:01 - 1:36
- 5 1:42 - 2:26
- 6 2:32 - 3:16 (*regular dismissal*)

**Final Exam Day 2 - Wednesday, January 21 (no late start)**

- Period 2 Final** 8:15 - 10:27
- Period 3 Final** 10:53 - 1:05 (*early dismissal*)

**Final Exam Day 3 - Thursday, January 22**

- Period 4 Final** 8:15 - 10:27
- Period 5 Final** 10:53 - 1:05 (*early dismissal*)

**Final Exam Day 4 - Friday, January 23**

- Period 6 Final** 8:15 - 10:27
- Period A Final** 10:53 - 1:05 (*early dismissal*)

**Look inside this issue for:**

- A message from Dr. Straus . . . . . page 1
- New Coffee with Principal dates . . . . . page 1
- Summer School dates . . . . . page 2
- Adding/Dropping classes dates . . . . . page 2
- New Tutoring at Samohi . . . . . page 3
- African American and Latino Parent Mtgs . . . . . page 3
- Release of Directory Information Form . . . . . page 3
- College Information . . . . . page 4
- Thanks to donors . . . . . page 5
- En Español* . . . . . page 6-7