

# VIKING VOICE

MAY 2005 VOLUME '04-'05, ISSUE 6

SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL 310/395-3204

601 PICO BOULEVARD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, *Santa Monica-Malibu Council, 33rd District*KAREN DICKERSON & CHERI ORGEL, *PTSA Co-Presidents*; ILENE STRAUS, *CEO/Principal*; GRETCHEN GOETZ, LOUISE JAFFE & MARIA RODRIGUEZ, *Co-Editors*

## Our last issue this year!

The next Viking Voice will be mailed to families in July with Registration and Back-to-School information.

### Message from Karen Dickerson, PTSA Co-President

As an African American parent, I was apprehensive and cautious when I began working closely with the Samohi PTSA several years ago. I wasn't at all certain that the school's administration, parent groups, including PTSA, and community organizations were working together toward our common goals: the safety and welfare of our children and the opportunity for all to receive a high quality public education. I believe this apprehension is how some of our parents are feeling now.

Since April 15th, many parents have told me their feelings of fear, anger, hurt, and frustration. They want to strike back at someone. They are uncomfortable with those outside what they perceive as their own group. There's a lot of finger pointing.

**Our fears and uncertainties as parents are felt by our children.** Our fears and uncertainties also feed misunderstandings, exaggerate our doubts, and create a climate of conflict.

**How did we ever get here? There are many reasons, some of which have nothing to do with the school and its administration.** The fighting incident itself has proved less significant than its role as the convergence point for a variety of concerns in the community. In fact, it has brought into the light things that have been unspoken and unacknowledged among us in the larger community, things many would like to have addressed and have not found a way to do so. Now that I've worked closely with Samohi administrators, staff, teachers and PTSA, the apprehension and caution that I initially felt is gone. Even though we do not agree on some levels, I am comfortable that my input and participation is welcome and valued.

**As adults and parents, we have an obligation to model for our children constructive ways to deal with our fears and our differences.** We have an obligation to model a genuine willingness to work together and then to demonstrate the skills for doing so.

**Right now, our children are watching how we handle our differences. They are learning from us how to manage their own differences.** If we do not set aside our personal and political agendas, then we will surely fail our children and they in turn will fail to learn this life lesson. We cannot allow the adult baggage that we all carry, our fears, our past hurts and bad experiences, or our anger, to infect our children. If we cannot forgive, forget, and trust and respect each other, how can we expect our children to do it?

**Samohi PTSA is a tireless advocate for the safety and welfare of all of our children. Every adult in our community has a responsibility to ensure that our children have the opportunity to learn. Learning does not begin and end in the classroom, it begins and ends at home.**

**Karen Dickerson**, 216-6723, akiwwest2000@yahoo.com  
**Cheri Orgel**, 451-1938, clorgel@aol.com,  
*Samohi PTSA Co-presidents*

Enclosed is "Our Public Schools," a community newsletter from the Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs. This issue focuses on Samohi.

### Message from Dr. Straus

Dear Samohi Parents,

All of us at Samohi know that you have been concerned about the recent student conflicts and fighting on the high school campus. We share your concerns. Whether we are parents, teachers, advisors, administrators, or community members, we have a common goal: to ensure that every student at Samohi has a rewarding and successful high school experience that prepares him or her for further learning and for work.

**The April 15th incident has become a catalyst for positive discussion and change at the school.** Students, parents, faculty, staff and community members are examining past and current practices to understand what provoked the tension. We will continue to share our findings with you as they become available. At this time, our discussions and meetings have led to some decisions that I want to describe very briefly in this letter.

*continued on page 2*

**Thank you to the staff of Samohi's student newspaper, *The Samohi*,** for their thoughtful and thorough April 26th issue: "*Special Edition: Lockdown at Samohi.*" If you have not seen it, you can access it at <http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/thesamohi/lockdown.pdf> It is full of information, photos, a timeline, and opinions regarding events at Samohi on April 15th. It is well worth reading.

### PTSA Mtg: Student Panel on College Choice Tuesday, June 14th at 7 pm in the student cafeteria

For all Samohi students, especially current juniors and their families! Our panel of Samohi seniors and graduates will answer these questions:

- *What was the most important factor in making your "short list" of colleges to apply to?*
- *What was the tipping point in your final decision?*
- *What was the hardest part of the college application process?*
- *What do you know now that you wish you had known before you began the process?*
- *What advice would you give to current Samohi students to prepare for college?*

**Dr. Straus will also speak.** Spanish translation is provided. All are invited!

### Important Summer Registration Dates: Thursday, August 25 – Tuesday, August 30

*Large white Registration info envelope will be mailed home in July*

During summer registration for next year, students will have the opportunity to pick up their class schedules, meet with an advisor to make scheduling adjustments, get their student ID and take care of other important items for the fall. **It is strongly recommended that students attend summer registration. Dates for each grade are:**

**Incoming 12th Grade- Thursday, August 25th**  
**Incoming 11th Grade- Friday, August 26th**  
**Incoming 10th Grade- Monday, August 29th**  
**Incoming 9th Grade- Tuesday, August 30th**

*continued on page 3*

# Things you need to know *Testing, classes for students and parents, dates*

## Message from the Principal, Dr. Straus

*continued from page 1*

To provide some context, I'll begin by saying that these decisions are concurrent with the ongoing planning that many schools, including ours, undertake regularly. The redesign process, which resulted in the house system, has been underway for two years at Samohi. During the current academic year, we have continued the redesign process and have been involved in an intense internal and external review that has three goals:

- maintain accreditation by the *Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC)* and set goals for the next 3-6 years
- continue to implement our *Smaller Learning Communities* grant and meet the goals for years 3 - 5
- continue our own ongoing efforts to improve Samohi by improving student achievement and knowing our students well.

**After the fighting incident a few weeks ago, parents and members of our larger community joined faculty, administrators, and staff to address campus tensions.** Key students also convened and made constructive proposals, such as reinstating peer mediation, to help students learn to resolve conflicts peacefully. These students are actively participating in our overall decision-making and improvement efforts. On the academic side, the freshman seminar course will be redesigned to include cultural studies, and history courses will include lessons that help students link historical events with current issues of diversity. **Faculty, staff, advisors, and administrators will receive specialized in-service training emphasizing cultural awareness and effective ways of working with Samohi's large and diverse student body.** Through the house system, faculty and staff continue their efforts to enhance student achievement and to know our students well. In addition, house teams are seeking ways to support students and their families, develop house identities and communities, improve teaching and evaluation, and enhance communication among staff, students and parents. We intend to ensure that Samohi is a safe, harmonious school with opportunities for growth and achievement for every student who seeks them.

**We know that we must continue to reevaluate our efforts and change to meet the needs of our students. Your participation is welcomed.** I encourage you to participate in any of the many ways that are available to our parents, either through PTSA, AAPSSSG, SOL/ELAC, other volunteer opportunities or simply by maintaining close contact with your son or daughter's teachers and advisor. Please help us to include you by keeping your address, email, and telephone contact information current so that we can provide you with information about your child's activities, attendance, and academic progress. We want to make sure that you have information about important meetings and school issues.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We want to encourage you to participate directly in the work of our community.** This summer you will receive a listing of parent group meetings for 2005 - 2006. (*Please see the calendar on the back of this newsletter for parent meetings and events in May and June.*) Meanwhile, our parent leaders and community liaisons are available to you. If you have questions regarding student matters, please contact your student's House Office. If you need further assistance, you can call my office or email me.

Very truly yours,



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

### Summer Registration Information *continued from page 1*

**Tips to make your student's registration as smooth as possible:**

- 1. No schedules will be issued if obligations are not cleared.**
- 2. ID photos and Binder Reminders:** You must purchase both, \$5 each.
- 3. Schedule pick up:** Students may not pick up schedules before the date assigned for their grade level. You may come during your assigned date but at a different hour. You may pick up your schedule on a subsequent registration date. A parent or guardian may pick up the schedule. Someone other than a parent may also pick up your schedule if he or she brings a signed note of permission from you and goes through all the registration stations. For more information, please contact: **Catherine Baxter**, 395-3204, ext 490, cbaxter@smmusd.org

## Finals are coming... *(finals are June 20-23, see calendar)* it's not too late to get tutoring right here at Samohi

- **Many teachers provide additional help after school or during lunch.** Have your child ask their teacher if extra help is available.
- **College student tutors** are ready to help Tuesdays and Thursdays after school 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. in Room T207 and T208 for tutoring and peer advising. **Come for help in Math, English, Biology, and other subjects.**
- **Math Tutor, volunteer Warren Orloff,** is available every day before school in Room H100.
- **There is always a librarian on hand to help students use the library** (open from 7am-5pm Monday through Thursday and from 7am-4:30pm on Fridays.)

**If you have any questions about tutoring,** please call

**Wendy Wax Gellis, Administrator,** 395-3204 ext 472 or email at gellis@smmusd.org.

### Counseling and support

**Counseling is available on campus for students experiencing problems which are interfering with their ability to be successful at school.** Speak with your child's House Advisor if you would like your son or daughter to receive such services. For more information, please contact: **Kathy McTaggart, Alliance Program Director,** 395-3204, ext 322, mctaggart@smmusd.org, **Tiffany Tyler, Student Outreach Specialist,** 395-3204, ext 330, tyler@smmusd.org, **Roberto Morales, Student Outreach Liaison,** 395-3204, ext 331, roberto.morales@smmusd.org

### Keep checking grades online with Pinnacle

Parents and students can check grades and student progress online throughout the school year by using Samohi's Pinnacle Internet Viewer at <http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/scripts/piv.exe>

All you need is your student's school ID number and their Pinnacle PIN number. **Both the student ID number and the PIN number were printed on your student's progress reports, or you or your student may get this information from their advisor.**

### All are invited to the Senior Art Show on May 19th 6-8 p.m. in Samohi's Roberts Art Gallery *(in the History Bldg)*

**The show will feature approximately 50 artists who have taken two or more years of visual arts.** You can see examples of previous shows on our website [www.samohi.smmusd.org/art/htmls/roberts.htm](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/art/htmls/roberts.htm)

If you have any questions, please contact:

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

### Library News Hours: *Mon-Thurs 7:30am-5pm, Fri until 4pm* Summer Reading 2005

Following the *Santa Monica Citywide Reads* concept, this year's Summer Reading List will consist of a minimum of one book for everyone: "*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*" by Mark Haddon. Some classes will have additional required summer reading books. For the complete list of 2005 summer reading, go to: [www.samohi.smmusd.org/english/htmls/summer\\_reading.htm](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/english/htmls/summer_reading.htm)

### Please Return Overdue Text and Library Books

Hundreds of library and textbooks are overdue. Other students need them. Please make sure they get returned or paid for.

**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*

### Volunteers Needed For Registration 2005-06

We need your help at Registration. Here's when and how!

- **On July 26th and 27th,** we will be preparing the registration packets which are mailed to all students over the summer.
- **On August 25th, 26th, 29th, and 30th** we need LOTS of people to help with the registration process. Volunteer an hour, a day (or all four!) Thanks! Contact **Janine Brownstone,** 393-9174, [JanAndBobo@adelphia.net](mailto:JanAndBobo@adelphia.net)

# Volunteers and donations make a big difference at Samohi...

**Thanks for your Direct Donations** to the following additional families that have contributed to Samohi as of April 18, 2005 through PTSA's Direct Donation:

Baine Mead	Frumkin	Lumsden	Romero
Blitz	Green	Martin	Smith Jackson
Coffman	Hall Lindsay	Miller	Vivanco
Daly Southam	Heineman	Mesuro	Voss
Eliason	Inoue	Nani	West
Fabrikant	Lai	Nunez	Wrobel
Weingarten	Levin Gruber	Rogers	

**Direct Donations make a huge difference at Samohi (see below)! Please continue to give to the Direct Donation Drive, it's never too late.** Make checks of any amount payable to *Samohi PTSA* and mail to 601 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

## Your Direct Donations and PTSA made a difference!

- produced and mailed home *Registration Packets* to all Samohi families in July, organized and staffed *4 Registration days* in August
- hosted a *Welcome Staff Luncheon* for all staff in August
- organized and staffed the *Samohi College Fair* in October
- produced and mailed home 6 issues of the *Viking Voice newsletter*
- produced and mailed home the *Samohi Information Handbook*
- reprinted and distributed the *Samohi Course Catalog* to incoming 9th grade students
- hosted *9 parent information/PTSA meetings*
- provided funds for the *Samohi webmaster* stipend for full year
- provided *funds for classroom supplies* to all classroom teachers
- provided *grants for the Athletic, Music, Drama, Art, English, Science, and Special Ed Departments*, and the *Library, Parent Center, Advisors, and Nurse's Office*
- provided *funds for House Support, Principal's fund, office supplies*
- provided *funds for a new teacher "Mini Grants"* for special projects
- provided *funds for financial aid for AP tests and scholarships*
- provided *funds for Tech Support, to keep the Library open after school and for after school Tutoring*
- provided *funds for custodial supplies and bathroom upgrades*
- provided funds for postage to mail home *6 week Progress Reports* to all families both semesters
- *organized campus workdays for bathroom clean ups and beautification efforts* including graffiti removal, kiosk painting, planting, weeding, and bathroom tile scrubbing
- hosted a *Staff Appreciation Luncheon* and *Honorary Service Awards*
- *sent a student and parent representative to Sacramento* as part of advocacy training for adequate state funding for our public schools
- worked with PTA Council and the Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS) *Caravan for Kids* project to *lobby the Governor and legislators to increase funding for public schools for next year*

**A huge thank you to all who donated and volunteered!**



## "It's All Greek to Me" at Grad Nite

**Grad Nite, the fun-filled, safe and sober, all-night graduation party for Samohi and Olympic seniors, is just a few weeks away.** Thank you to everyone on the Grad Nite Committee who has been working all year planning Grad Nite 2005. And a big thank you to our donors: the Samohi Alumni Assoc, the City of Santa Monica, service clubs and organization, and Samohi families who have made generous contributions.

This event would not happen without their financial support.

**TICKET SALES:** Has your senior purchased a ticket? Tickets are **\$60 through noon June 23 - \$75 cash at the door.** If your ticket has already been purchased, check the guest list posted on the website, in the Activities Office and in the Admin Breezeway. Full refunds must be

**Baja Fresh is Fantastic!** Samohi PTSA would like to thank Baja Fresh for their generosity on behalf of our *Staff and Faculty Appreciation Luncheon* May 18th. Let them know at the Lincoln and Wilshire Boulevard location that Samohi appreciates our partners in the community.

*The Viking Voice, May '05*

## College!

Samohi's Future Center is open to all parents and students, Monday-Friday 7:30 am-4 pm in the Administration Bldg., Room 500. Please call Clara Beard (*last names A-L*),

## From our Future Center Advisors

### 9th, 10th, and 11th graders

• It is important to spend the summer productively in an enriching activity. There are numerous opportunities available. Please come and check the resources in the Future Center.

### Attention Seniors!

• The **graduating seniors have one last step in the college process.** You must have a **FINAL transcript sent to the college you will attend.** Please submit a business envelope addressed to your college with a 37 cent stamp.

The return address is *Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405.* In the lower left corner of the envelope write, "Final Transcript for...." then your name and Samohi Student ID#. You must submit this with **\$2.00 to the Future Center,** see Ms. Flores. **Please make this request by June 1st, in order to keep your name off the obligation list.** We are open at lunch to accept your envelopes.

It has been a pleasure working with the class of 2005. Please keep us informed about your progress next year!

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

## Other Important Dates for Seniors:

**Graduation Ticket Lottery:** May 31-June 6

**Senior Honors Ceremony:** June 7, 7 pm, Barnum Hall

## When is the best time to prepare for the SAT?

The SAT is given 7 times per year and you can take the test as often as you like. On average, students take the test 3 times before they apply to colleges. Unfortunately, a lot of students are under the misconception that schools average their SAT scores – this is not true. Some schools (like the UCs) take your highest score in an individual sitting, while other schools (like USC) take your highest math and highest verbal score regardless of the sitting. As such, there is no penalty for taking this test numerous times.

So when should you prepare for it? Some students use the summer before their junior year as a chance to get a head start. These students take the PSAT and SAT in October of their junior year. Other students wait until the spring of their junior year to take their first SAT. It is offered at the end of March and at the beginning of May and June, so students can prepare in winter. The last group of students prepare over summer and take the test in the fall of their senior year. The test dates in the fall of senior year are the last chance before college applications are due.

*excerpted from a letter to the PTSA from Eureka, One-on-One Review (636-0100 or www.EurekaReview.com)*

applied for by noon June 23, 2005. Contact Chris Thornton with ticket sale questions: [chthornton@earthlink.net](mailto:chthornton@earthlink.net) 310-450-2978.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Be looking for your volunteer confirmation that will be mailed home in early June. Due to security concerns, only confirmed volunteers will be admitted to Grad Nite. Very limited volunteer slots may still be available. Please contact Kim Eyler to be added to the volunteer wait list: [eyler6@aol.com](mailto:eyler6@aol.com) 310-391-0782.

**PRIZES:** We still need prizes for our prize booth! Can you help solicit prizes or make a donation – gift cards, passes to restaurants and movies – anything that a graduating senior might enjoy or need. Donors will be acknowledged in the brochure included in every grad's Goodie Bag. Contact Val Glick regarding prizes: [fiveluck@aol.com](mailto:fiveluck@aol.com) 310-392-5970.

For more Grad Nite information go to [www.samohi.smmusd.org/Grad\\_Nite/index.htm](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/Grad_Nite/index.htm)

## ¡Nuestra última publicación por este año escolar!

*Mensaje de una de las Presidentas de la PTSA,*  
**Karen Dickerson**

**Como una madre Afro-Americana yo me sentí con ansiedad y cautela cuando comencé a trabajar íntimamente con la PTSA de Samohi hace varios años. No estaba segura que los administradores de la escuela, los grupos de padres, incluyendo la PTSA, y organizaciones de la comunidad estaban trabajando juntos hacia unas metas en común: la seguridad y el bienestar de nuestros niños y la oportunidad para que todos reciban una educación pública de alta calidad. Yo creo que esa ansiedad es como ahora se sienten muchos padres.**

**Desde el 15 de abril, muchos padres me hablaron sobre su temor, enojo, y frustración.** Ellos quieren vengarse con alguien. Ellos no se sienten cómodos con esos que ellos ven como fuera de su propio grupo.

**Nuestro temor e incertidumbre como padres también lo sienten nuestros hijos.** Nuestro miedo e incertidumbre también provee mal entendimiento, exagera nuestras dudas, y crea un clima de conflicto.

**¿Cómo llegamos aquí? Hay muchas razones, algunas no tienen nada que ver con la escuela y su administración.** El incidente del pleito en sí ha sido menos significativo que su papel como punto de fusión para una variedad de preocupaciones en la comunidad. En realidad, a traído enfoque sobre las cosas que no se hablaban y no se reconocían entre nosotros en la comunidad grande, cosas que muchos les gustaría enfrentar y no habían encontrado cómo. Ahora que he trabajado íntimamente con la administración de Samohi, el personal, los maestros y la PTSA esa ansiedad y cautela que originalmente sentí han desaparecido. Aunque no estamos de acuerdo a cierto nivel, me siento que mi participación y contribución son bienvenidas y valoradas.

Como adultos y padres, tenemos la obligación de modelar para nuestros hijos maneras constructivas de enfrentar nuestros temores y nuestras diferencias. Tenemos la obligación de modelar con un deseo genuino de trabajar juntos y luego demostrar la habilidad de hacerlo.

**Ahora mismo, nuestros niños están observando cómo resolvemos nuestras diferencias. Están aprendiendo de nosotros cómo ellos van a resolver sus propias diferencias.** Si no ponemos aparte nuestras agendas personales y políticas, entonces pueden estar seguro que le hemos fracasado a nuestros hijos y ellos fracasarán en aprender esta lección de la vida. No podemos permitir que los problemas que llevamos de adultos, nuestro miedo, nuestras heridas del pasado y malas experiencias, que infecten a nuestros niños. Si no podemos perdonar, olvidar y confiar y respetarnos uno al otro, ¿Cómo podemos esperar que los niños lo hagan?

**La PTSA de Santa Mónica aboga por la seguridad y bienestar de todos los niños. Todos los adultos en nuestra comunidad tienen la responsabilidad de asegurarse que nuestros hijos tengan la oportunidad de aprender. La enseñanza no comienza y termina en el salón de clase, comienza y termina en la casa.**

**Karen Dickerson**, 216-6723, akiwwest2000@yahoo.com  
**Cheri Orgel**, 451-1938, clorgel@aol.com,  
*Samohi PTSA Co-presidents*

### **Fechas Importantes en el verano para la Matriculación:**

*Jueves, 25 de agosto – martes, 3 de agosto*

Se le enviará un sobre grande a la casa en julio con información sobre la matriculación. Se le recomienda fuertemente que los estudiantes asistan a la matriculación de verano.

**Cada grado tendrá un día diferente para la matriculación:**

**Entran al 12 Grado- jueves, 25 de agosto**

**Entran al 11 Grado- viernes, 26 de agosto**

**Entran al 10 Grado- lunes, 29 de agosto**

**Entran al 9 Grado- martes, 30 de agosto**

## Mensaje de la Dr. Straus

**Estimados Padres de Samohi,**

**Todos aquí en la escuela Samohi sabemos que usted ha estado preocupado sobre los recientes conflictos y pleitos en el campo escolar.** Nosotros compartimos sus preocupaciones. Ya sea un padre, maestro, consejero, administrador, o miembro de la comunidad, tenemos unas metas en común: des asegurarnos que cada estudiante en la escuela Samohi tenga una experiencia agradable y con éxito que lo prepare para seguir aprendiendo o para trabajar.

**El incidente del 15 de abril a sido un catálisis para una conversión positiva y cambios en la escuela.** Los estudiante, padres facultad, personal y miembros de la comunidad están examinando las practicas actuales y pasadas para tratar de comprender qué provocó la tensión. Continuaremos compartiendo los que encontremos con ustedes cuando sea disponible. Ahora, nuestras conversaciones y reuniones nos han llevado a algunas decisiones que deseo describir brevemente en esta carta.

Para ponerlo en contexto, comenzaré diciendo que estas decisiones concurren con los planes que muchas escuelas, incluyendo la nuestra, hacen regularmente. El proceso del nuevo diseño, que resultó en el sistema de casas, ha estado en vigencia por dos años en Samohi. Durante el año académico corriente, hemos continuado el proceso empezado con el nuevo diseño y hemos estado involucrados en un intenso repaso interno y externo que tiene tres metas:

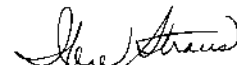
- mantener la acreditación vía el Western Association for Schools and Colleges (WASC)- Asociación del Oeste de Escuelas y Universidades y hacer metas para los próximos 3-6 años
- continuar implementando las becas y metas de Comunidades de Aprendizajes más Pequeñas para los próximos 3 - 5 años.
- continuar con nuestros esfuerzos para mejorar la escuela Samohi mejorando los logros académicos y conociendo a los estudiantes mejor.

**Después del incidente de pleitos de hace varias semanas atrás, los padres y miembros de la comunidad se unieron a los administradores, y personal de la escuela para hablar de la tensión en el campo escolar.** Varios estudiantes se reunieron para hacer propuestas constructivas, como instituir de nuevo la mediación entre compañeros. Estos estudiantes están activamente participando en las decisiones que se hacen generalmente. En la parte académica, el taller de los estudiantes de primer año será diseñado de nuevo para incluir estudios culturales, y las clases de historia incluirán lecciones para ayudar al estudiante a conectar eventos históricos con temas actuales sobre diversidad. **La facultad, el personal, consejeros, y administradores recibirán entrenamiento especial que da énfasis a conciencia cultural y maneras efectivas de trabajar con la gran población diversa de Samohi.** Mediante el sistema de las Casas la facultad y el personal continúa haciendo los esfuerzos para mejorar los rendimientos académicos de los estudiantes y a conocer bien a nuestros estudiantes.

**Sabemos que tenemos que continuar reevaluando nuestros esfuerzos y cambiar para satisfacer las necesidades de todos los estudiante. Su participación es bienvenida.** Los ánimos a que en las muchas maneras que hay disponibles para nuestros padres, en la PTSA, AAPSSSG, SOL/ELAC, otras oportunidades de voluntarios o simplemente manteniendo un estrecho contacto con el maestro o consejero de su hijo/a. Por favor ayúdenos a incluirlo manteniendo su información de contacto, dirección, correo electrónico, y teléfono al día para así poder proveerle con información sobre actividades, asistencia, y progreso académico de su hijo(a). Queremos estar seguros que tengan información de reuniones importante sobre reuniones y temas de escuela.

**Gracias por leer este boletín. Queremos animarlos a que participe directamente con el trabajo de nuestra comunidad.** Este verano recibirá una lista de las diferentes reuniones de los grupos de padres para 2005 - 2006. Nuestros padres líderes y las Intermediarias de la Comunidad están disponibles para ayudarlos. Si tiene cualquier pregunta sobre su estudiante, por favor contacte a la Oficina de la Casa de su estudiante. Si necesita más asistencia, puede llamarme a mi oficina o vía correo electrónico.

Atentamente,



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

*Samohi 395-3204*

## Vengan a la reunión de la PTSA! Un Panel de Estudiante Sobre Cómo Escoger una Universidad

Martes, 14 de junio, a las 7 p.m. en la cafetería de los estudiantes

Graduados de Samohi y estudiantes en el último año hablarán cómo escogerán una universidad para el próximo año y reciente graduados compartirán sus experiencias en su primer año en la universidad. Para todos los estudiantes de Samohi, especialmente los estudiantes que ahora se encuentran en el tercer año y sus familias. Nuestro panel de estudiantes contestarán preguntas. La Dr. Straus hablará. **Se provee traducción al español en todas las reuniones de la PTSA.** ¡Todos son invitados!

## SOL/ELAC Grupo Latino de Padres

*Spirit Of Love/Comité Consejero de Estudiantes que Aprenden Inglés*

Grupo de padres Latino se reúne mensualmente los lunes a la 7pm en la Cafetería de Samohi. Las siguientes Juntas de SOL/ELAC serán los lunes, Mayo 23. Las Juntas son en español. Todos son bienvenidos. Para más información, por favor llamar a **Tere Viramontes-Gutiérrez**, *Enlace Comunitario*, 395-3204, Ext. 375, [viramontes@smmusd.org](mailto:viramontes@smmusd.org)



**Grad Nite** La noche de los graduados será un evento sano y formal para los estudiantes de Samohi y Olympic High, será dentro de unas cuantas semanas.

**VENTA DE BOLETOS:** ¿Ha comprado su estudiante el boleto? Los boletos cuestan \$60 hasta el mediodía del 23 de junio – cuando costarán \$75 en la puerta. Si ya ha comprado su boleto puede consultar la lista de invitados en la Red Mundial, en la oficina de actividades o en el pasillo al aire libre del edificio de la administrativo. Si desea cancelar el boleto y recibir su dinero tiene que hacerlo no más tarde del mediodía (12:00PM) del 23 de

junio, 2005. **Contacte a Chris Thornton para preguntas de boletos:** [chthornton@earthlink.net](mailto:chthornton@earthlink.net) 310-450-2978.

**VOLUNTARIOS:** La confirmación de voluntarios se enviará a principio de junio por correo. Debido a consideraciones de seguridad, solamente los voluntarios confirmados serán admitidos a Grad Nite. Puede que haiga espacio limitado para voluntarios. **Por favor contacte a Kim Eyler para ser adicionado a la lista de espera de los voluntarios:** [eyler6@aol.com](mailto:eyler6@aol.com) 310-391-0782.

**PRIZES:** Todavía necesitamos premios! Ayúdenos a solicitar premios o hacer donaciones. **Contacte a Val Glick sobre los premios:** [fiveluck@aol.com](mailto:fiveluck@aol.com) 310-392-5970. Para más información sobre Grad Nite: [www.samohi.smmusd.org/Grad\\_Nite/index.htm](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/Grad_Nite/index.htm)

**Universidad** Centro Futuro de Samohi está abierto para todos los padres y estudiantes de lunes-viernes 7:30 am-4:00 pm. Localizado en el edificio administrativo, salón 500.

**Grados 9º, 10º, y 11º** Es muy importante que pasen el verano haciendo actividades productivas y de enriquecimiento. Hay muchas oportunidades disponibles. Por favor visite los recursos del Centro Futuro.

Atención estudiantes en el último año (Seniors)

• **Los estudiantes que se gradúan tienen un paso final en el proceso para la universidad.** Tienen que enviar los archivos FINALES a la universidad a donde asistirá. Por favor traiga un sobre largo con la dirección de la universidad y una estampilla de 37 centavos.

La dirección de regreso es Santa Monica High School, 601 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405. En la parte izquierda baja escriba, "Final Transcript for..." luego su nombre y el número de ID. Tiene que entregarlo con \$2.00 al centro futuro, vea Ms. Flores. Por favor solicite esta información el 1 de junio o antes para quitarlo de la lista de obligaciones. **Ha sido un placer trabajar con la clase del 2005. Por favor manténganos informados sobre su progreso el próximo año.**

Otras fechas importantes para los estudiantes en el último año:  
**Lotería para los boletos de graduación:** 31 de mayo al 6 de junio  
**Ceremonia para los graduados con honores:** 7 de junio, 7 pm, Barnum Hall

**Clara Beard** (last names A-L), 395-3204, ext 324 and **Ada Hollie** (last names M-Z), ext 328, *Consejeros del Centro Futuro en Samohi*

**El horario de la Ceremonia de Reconocimiento de SOL/ELAC y la Ceremonia del AAPSSSG & BSU Rites of Passage no estuvieron disponibles cuando este boletín fue enviado a prensa. Por favor contacte a las Intermediarias de la Comunidad Tere Viramontes o Pam Allen Jones para más información sobre estos eventos especiales en junio.**

## Vienen los exámenes...

(los exámenes finales son del 20-23 de junio, vea el calendario)

**no es muy tarde para recibir ayuda con las tareas en Samohi**

- Muchos maestros proveen ayuda adicional después de clase y durante el almuerzo. Pídale a su hijo que le pregunte a su maestro ofrece ayuda extra.
- **Estudiantes universitarios** vienen a ayudar a la escuela los martes y jueves después de clase de 3:30 hasta las 5:00 p.m. en el salón T207 y T208. Asistencia en **matemáticas, inglés, biología, y otras materias.**
- **Asistencia en matemática, el voluntario Warren Orloff**, ofrece asistencia en matemáticas todos los días después de clase hasta la 4:30 en el salón H100.
- **Siempre hay una bibliotecaria disponible para asistir a los estudiantes en la biblioteca** (abierta de 7am-5pm lunes a jueves y de 7am-4:30pm los viernes.)

Para preguntas sobre esta asistencia por favor contacte **Wendy Wax Gellis**, *Administradora*, 395-3204 ext 472 o [gellis@smmusd.org](mailto:gellis@smmusd.org).

## Apoyo y Consejería

La consejería está disponible en la escuela para estudiantes que tengan problemas que estén interfiriendo con su habilidad de tener éxito en la escuela. Hable con el consejero en la Casa de su hijo.

Para más información contacte: **Kathy McTaggart**, *Alliance Program Director*, 395-3204, ext 322, [mctaggart@smmusd.org](mailto:mctaggart@smmusd.org),

**Tiffany Tyler**, *Especialista en Participación de Estudiantes*, 395-3204, ext 330, [tyler@smmusd.org](mailto:tyler@smmusd.org)

**Roberto Morales**, *Enlace en Participación de Estudiantes*, 395-3204, ext 331, [roberto.morales@smmusd.org](mailto:roberto.morales@smmusd.org)

## Siga consultando el programa Pinnacle

Los padres y estudiante pueden consultar sobre el progreso de las calificaciones usando la Red Mundial (internet) con el programa Pinnacle <http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/scripts/piv.exe>

Todo lo que necesita es el número de ID del estudiante y el código PIN. Puede encontrar ambos números en el reporte de progreso del estudiante o se lo puede pedir al consejero.

## Todos están invitados a la Exhibición de Arte de los estudiantes en el último Año el 19 de mayo

6-8 p.m. en la Galería de Arte Roberts en Samohi (*edificio de Historia*) La exhibición tendrá más de 50 artistas con dos o más años en las artes visuales [www.samohi.smmusd.org/art/htmls/roberts.htm](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/art/htmls/roberts.htm)  
**Amy Bouse**, *Departamento de Art*, 395.3204 ext 443, [bouse@smmusd.org](mailto:bouse@smmusd.org)

## La Biblioteca lunes-jueves 7:30am-5pm, viernes asta las 4pm

**Lectura de Verano 2005** Siguiendo el concepto que toda la ciudad de Santa Mónica lee el mismo libro, este año la lista de lectura consiste de por lo menos un libro leído por todos: "*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*" por Mark Haddon. Algunas clases tienen lectura adicional requerida. Para una lista completa vea:

[www.samohi.smmusd.org/english/htmls/summer\\_reading.htm](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/english/htmls/summer_reading.htm)

**Por favor regresen los libros y textos vencidos a la biblioteca.** Hay cientos de libros que están vencidos, hay otros estudiantes que lo necesitan. Por favor regréselos o pague por ellos:

**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*

## Necesitamos Voluntarios para la Matriculación 2005-06

Necesitamos su ayuda para la matriculación: **El 26 y 27** de julio, estaremos preparando los paquetes de matriculación para ser enviado a la casa del estudiante. **El 25, 26, 29 y 30** de agosto necesitamos muchas personas para ayudar en el proceso de la matriculación: Ayude una hora, un día (o dos). ¡Gracias! Contacte a **Janine Brownstone**, 393-9174, [JanAndBobo@adelphia.net](mailto:JanAndBobo@adelphia.net)

See back for calendar and parent meeting information

Look inside this issue for:  
 Student Panel on College Choice PTSA Mtg page 1  
 Summer Registration Information, Dr. Straus page 2  
 Samohi Tutoring and Counseling, Pinnacle, Senior Art Show page 2  
 College, Grad Nite update page 3  
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May 2005

# VIKING VOICE

Parent Teacher Student Association



## Calendar Please check the Samohi website at [www.samohi.smmusd.org](http://www.samohi.smmusd.org) for more complete and updated information.

### May

- 17 Site Governance Meeting, 5 pm  
**AAPSSSG Meeting**, 7 pm, Cafeteria
- 18 PTSA Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 19 Senior Art Show Opens, Roberts Gallery, 6-8pm
- 20 ACT Late Registration Deadline for 6/11/05 test
- 20-21 "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf", Humanities Center, 8pm
- 23 **SOL/ELAC Meeting**, 7pm, Cafeteria
- 26 **Coffee with Dr. Straus, 8:30am, cafeteria**
- 26-28 "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf", Humanities Center, 8pm
- 30 **Memorial Day – no school**

### June

- 7 Seniors Honors Ceremony, 7 pm, Barnum Hall
- 14 **PTSA Meeting**, 7 pm, cafeteria, *Student Panel on College*
- 15-17 **Seniors Finals**
- 20-23 **Finals Week**  
 20: *Period 1 Final, regular day*  
 21: *Period 2 & 3 Finals, shortened day*  
 22: *Period 4 & 5 Finals, shortened day*  
 23: *Period 6 & A Finals, shortened day*
- 23 **Commencement 5:30 pm, Greek Theatre**
- 24 **Grad Nite**, 9:30 pm to June 24, 5:30 am  
**Last day of school**

**July** First day of Summer School is Tuesday, July 5 (ends August 12)

**August** For Registration Schedule see page 1

**September** First day of 2005-06 school year is Wednesday, September 7

*Please note:* As we go to press, the schedule for both the **SOL/ELAC Latino Senior Recognition Ceremony** and the **AAPSSSG & BSU Rites of Passage** were not available. Please check Samohi's website or contact Community Liaisons Tere Viramontes or Pam Allen Jones for more information about these special events in June.

### Mark your calendars: Parent Meetings

#### AAPSSSG

*African American Parent Student Staff Support Group*  
**Upcoming AAPSSSG meeting dates are the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. The next meeting is May 17. All are invited to the Rites of Passage Ceremony, June 12 at 3 pm.**  
 For more information, please contact: **Pam Allen Jones**, *Community Liaison*, 395-3204, ext 482, [allen@smmusd.org](mailto:allen@smmusd.org)  
**Barry Snell**, 621-9961, [bsnell-cpa@earthlink.net](mailto:bsnell-cpa@earthlink.net)  
**Robbie Jones**, 399-8575, *AAPSSSG Co-presidents*

#### PTSA Parent Teacher Student Association

**The last PTSA meeting of the year is Tuesday, June 14th at 7 pm in the cafeteria. Please see page 1 for more PTSA information and contact information.**

#### SOL/ELAC Latino Parent Group

*Spirit Of Love/English Learners Advisory Committee*  
**Latino parent group meets monthly, on Mondays at 7 pm in the Samohi Cafeteria. The next SOL/ELAC meetings is Monday, May 23.** Meetings are conducted in Spanish. All are invited. For more information, please call: **Tere Viramontes-Gutierrez**, *Community Liaison*, 395-3204, ext 375, [viramontes@smmusd.org](mailto:viramontes@smmusd.org)

**This is the last issue of the Viking Voice for this school year.**

Producing and distributing the *Viking Voice* is a huge yearlong effort and we hope that you have found it useful. Thank you to co-editors, Gretchen Goetz, Louise Jaffe and Maria Rodriguez – and to Linda Engel and her crew of parent volunteers for mailing out each and every copy to each and every one of you. The next *Viking Voice* will be mailed home in the summer registration packets.