

O HOUSE PARENT BULLETIN

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

Notes from the Principal

In the last O House parent bulletin, I began a new column in which I shine a spotlight on an O House teacher. I hope you'll enjoy getting to know the outstanding faculty with whom your students learn each day.

This week, Carmen Paul is the featured O House teacher. A 31 year veteran, Carmen teaches Spanish IV and V, and during the summer, ELD. Herself a Samohi graduate, Carmen went on to UCLA, where she earned her BA and credential. In addition to praise from her students and colleagues, Carmen has received numerous formal honors: Teacher of the Year, Most Inspirational Teacher, and Konold's Principal Trophy. When she's not teaching, Carmen enjoys traveling (50 countries so far!), hosting political and social events, going to the theater, and walking with her husband. Carmen is one of nine children, and she has two grown children herself who have become a second grade teacher and a financial representative. One of Carmen's favorite parts of teaching is, "My job gives me the opportunity to share what I feel in my heart in Spanish. I have the opportunity to share life lessons which hopefully will influence my students in a positive way and make them better human beings." If you stop by Ms. Paul's class, you might try to make it a Social Friday when groups of students bring "comida sabrosa" and "musica tipica" to share as part of their study of Spanish and Latin American cultures. Fiesta!

What's Happening in O House?

O House student advisory committee

Our student-led O House student advisory committee recently met and decided to challenge other houses to compete in several fun activities including a pie eating contest. Stay tuned for more details!

Parent Involvement

During a recent professional development session, O House faculty shared strategies for increasing parent involvement. O House teachers strive to involve parents in the education of your son/daughter but we are never complacent. We are eager to hear what you, the parents, have to say regarding parent involvement with Samohi and/or O House. If you have any ideas/suggestions, please let us know.

College Tips

ACT/SAT

Is your teenager in 11th grade? If so, do not forget to remind them to take the SAT and/or ACT before the end of the school year. This experience/practice is invaluable in helping prepare students to take the SAT/ACT during

their senior year. Regardless of how many times your teenager takes either test, she/he may submit the highest score. Please see the SAT/ACT schedule below:

January 26 2008, 8:00 AM

SAT & Subject Tests

Deadline: December 26 - Late Registration: January 4

February 9, 2008, 8:00 AM

ACT Test

Deadline: January 4 - Late Registration: January 18

March 1, 2008, 8:00 AM

SAT only

Deadline: January 29 - Late Registration: February 7

April 12, 2008, 8:00 AM

ACT Test

Deadline: March 7 - Late Registration: March 21

May 3, 2008, 8:00 AM

SAT & Subject Tests

Deadline: April 1 - Late Registration: April 10

June 7, 2008, 8:00 AM

SAT & Subject Tests

Deadline: May 6 - Late Registration: May 15

June 14, 2008, 8:00 AM

ACT Test

Deadline: May 9 - Late Registration: May 23

PSAT

Is your teenager interested in taking the PSAT? Princeton Review will host a PSAT, at the Main Library Multipurpose Room, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard, on Saturday, February 9 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Princeton Review will also hold a follow-up session on Wednesday, February 20 to go over test results and provide some tips on SAT study strategies. Registration is required for this program. Limited seats are available (no 9th graders). Please sign up at the Youth Reference Desk or call (310) 458-8621 during library hours to reserve a spot. For more information about this free public program, call the Youth Services department at (310) 458-8621 during library hours.

Extra curricular activities

It is never too late for a student to begin participating in extracurricular activities. Many clubs on campus provide students with excellent options to increase their extracurricular participation. College admissions officers inform us that extra curricular activities are valued most when students participate in the same extracurricular activity over the course of their high school tenure.

Scholarships \$\$\$\$\$

As students begin to hear from universities/colleges regarding their acceptance status, please keep the following website in mind:

SchoolSoup.com. This website includes a comprehensive student scholarship database. Other useful websites include, www.fastweb.com and www.finaid.org. Also, do not forget to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information is available at: www.fafsa.ed.gov or pin.ed.gov.

Important Events

Martin Luther King Day

In observation of Martin Luther King Jr., students are not to report to school on Monday, January 21. King helped lead the fight for civil rights in the South for twelve years. During this time, King led many marches and gave numerous famous speeches. His leadership in the fight for civil rights won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Someone shot King on April 4, 1968. He was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital in Memphis but a bullet severed his spinal cord leading to his death.

Finals Week

We're in the home stretch of semester 1! Please do not forget to check your teenager's grades using Pinnacle. Below is the testing schedule for semester 1 finals:

Tuesday, Jan 22- Period 1 final 8:15-10:27 (Dismissal at 3:15pm)

Wednesday, Jan 23- Period 2 final 8:15-10:27am, Period 3 final 10:53-1:05pm (Dismissal at 1:05pm)

Thursday, Jan 24- Period 4 final 8:15-10:27am, Period 5 final 10:53-1:05pm (Dismissal at 1:05pm)

Friday, Jan 25- Period 6 final 8:15-10:27am, Period A final 10:53-1:05pm (Dismissal at 1:05pm)

College Financial Aid Workshop

Please join us in our library on Saturday, February 9 beginning at 9am for a college financial aid workshop.

High School Graduation/College Entrance Workshop

Please join us in our student cafeteria on Saturday, February 23 beginning at 8 am for a presentation regarding the basics of high school graduation, college entrance, and post-graduate opportunities. This presentation is part of a two-

step plan to focus on your teenager's college preparedness. Parents are asked to schedule individual meetings with your teenager's advisor subsequent to this presentation to prepare a 3 year education plan.

Senior Parking Applications

Senior parking applications for semester 2 will be available beginning Jan. 22. Applications are available in the activity center.

Best,

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