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Message
- Principal's
Message

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Steele Canyon Parent Teacher Organization
12440 Campo Road, Spring Valley, CA 91978

PTO President's Message

Greetings Cougars

Happy New Year! Now that we are settled into the 2009-2010 school year, it is time to think about the various volunteer opportunities Steele Canyon has to offer you. I know it can sometimes feel a bit overwhelming to even think about adding one more item to your already busy schedule, but volunteering does not have to be a daily, weekly or monthly activity. It

could be just a few hours volunteering to help pass out class schedules or simply placing shipping labels on the PTO Paw Prints.

PTO, along with several other Steele Canyon organizations, has many volunteer opportunities and would be very grateful for a few hours of your time.

PTO is in need of a Board Secretary. Your duties would include attendance

at a one hour monthly PTO meeting taking the monthly PTO meeting minutes. We also look forward to your ideas and suggestions. This is a great way to get involved! Please contact me at mic.blue@cox.net if you are interested.

Michelle Blue
PTO President

Cougar Stars

The Second Quarter Cougar Star luncheon took place on Thursday, December 10th. They gathered in the outside atrium for a group photo taken by Kim Dickinson, Publications Director and EL Advisor. The staff lounge housed the festivities as Dr. Craig Rocha wowed the crowd with an inspirational welcome after which students gave themselves a well deserved round of applause! Students then greeted teachers and staff and presented them with mementos of the event, red stars bearing their student's names. Teachers are

collecting these special stars in remembrance of these remarkable students.

We had a special visit from our mascot, the original Cougar Star himself, Scratch. It was decided by all in attendance that Scratch exemplifies the qualities of leadership, service and hard work that characterize all of our Cougar Stars. He mingled with students and staff, posed for pictures, and gave lots of hugs causing students to positively swoon!

Cougar Stars and staff enjoyed pizza, salad,

cookies and soft drinks provided by our PTO. As always, we thank PTO for their generosity in providing for the Steele Canyon Student Recognition Program, Cougar Stars. If you would like to donate or become a member of PTO you may visit our website schscougars.org. Go to the parent tab, scroll down to PTO and click on membership. Your donations help fund such worthwhile events as the Cougar Star Luncheon. Last but not least, congratulations to all Second Quarter Cougar Stars and.....RAH, RAH, COUGARS!!!!!!!

Cougar Stars



Achenbach, Audrey S.
 Adame, Vannessa C.
 Adkins, Tiffanyi
 Andersen, Lise
 Arden, Elizabeth Jay
 Arias, Anthony
 Balcayo, Sayra
 Barraclough, Austen
 Blank, A.J.
 Bunzer, Courtney
 Burton, Emily
 Campbell, Stephanie
 Carter, Kendra
 Cerna, Yvette
 Clark, Caitlin
 Directo, Rudy
 Dukes, Dustyn
 Esparza, Natalie M.
 Esquibel, Irene
 Fernandez, Daniella
 Glasgow, Rebecca
 Glidewell, Sirina
 Goodrich, Brookelynn M.

Hampshire, Meladee
 Hanson, Elise
 Hartnett, Amanda
 Hartwell, Kaden
 Hess, Nathan
 Hiel, Alexandria
 Hom, Rachel
 James, Jessica
 Johnston, Evan W.
 King, Daniel
 Kleeburg, Kendra
 Krug, Michelle
 Kurkies, Eilona
 Latimer, Chanelle
 Leal, Adrean
 Lopez, Julianna
 Lujan, Britney
 Merlino, Alexis
 Mitchell, Dwayne
 Nava, Cynthia
 Pascarella, Arianna
 Proscelle, Sheldon
 Razouki, Joseph

Reyes, Reyna
 Ricciardulli, Aaron
 Row, Heather
 Ruvalcaba, Veronica
 Sandoval-Mendez, Jesus
 Semeit, Katrina
 Shoemaker, Marissa
 Thorsnes, Austen
 Thorsnes, Shelby T.
 Thorson, Alexandra
 Tolbert, D'Andre
 Troncoso-Flores, Cristhian
 Villalpando, Tanya
 Werner, Karlie
 Wilbur, Evan
 Wolzen, Taylor
 Youngers, Christian
 Zeto, Lance



Chemistry Tutorials

2:45 – 3:30

Tuesday: Room D103 (Ms. Armstead)

Thursday: Room D105 (Ms. Malanga)



Principal's Message by Dr. Craig D. Rocha

Steele Canyon High School completed its first term for the current school year on December 18, 2009! As you read this article, we will have already begun Term 2 most successfully, with all students busily engaged in their classes and the school operating on all cylinders!

Of course, as you have undoubtedly heard by now, Steele Canyon's charter renewal was approved for a full five-year term during the Grossmont Union High School District's Governing Board meeting of November 12, 2009. This means that our school's charter status will continue from December 2009 through December 2014, at which time we will have to renew.

With this acknowledgement of support, I ask our school community to celebrate itself and to continue our quest to greatness as an educational operation. I thank the Grossmont Governing Board as well as all Steele Canyon stakeholders for their support of our school mission. A special thanks goes out to the four Grossmont Governing Members who supported our charter renewal; to the many, many students who "stood and delivered" at previous Board meetings in support of their school; for the thousands of parents who have put their faith in, and supported, our operation; to a resilient staff (both classified and certificated) who never recoil from insisting on continuous improvement; to our outgoing and incoming Steele Canyon Governing Board chairmen for their effort to get our charter ready; and to our Governing Board Secretary for her

indefatigable communication with the Grossmont District to ensure our school's compliance in all areas.

To repeat what I have said in many previous messages for this publication, the most important tasks we face as a charter school include (1) ensuring measurable academic success for our students as we have done during our first two years as an independent charter operation; and (2) continuing our expert financial management during these tough and challenging times in California state educational finance. As I wrote in the last edition of Paw Prints, our school experienced a needed bump in measured student achievement during its first two charter years; thus, Steele Canyon's API (Academic Performance Index) progress proves that we are on the right track academically. In addition, we have stubbornly kept ourselves "solvent" this year in terms of our finances, even though we must look ahead to belt-tightening measures in order to maximize the dollars we spend on your children's education. Dennis Trachtenberg, our trusted and sagacious Business Manager, will continue to work with yours truly to ensure that Steele Canyon is proactive when it comes to managing a balanced budget "of less, not more."

I am sure that there will be many other interesting bits of information I can share with you in my next message; stay tuned!

Now, as is customary in these messages, please join me in praising the following

awesome accomplishments on the part of selected Steele Canyon school members:

- The National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized three members of our Senior Class as "Commended Students in the 2010 National Merit Program." These individuals scored in the top 2% of the over 1.5 million students who took the National Merit Scholarship test. Congratulations to seniors A.J. Blank, Madison Hanten, and Thomas Pompo. We applaud your achievement and appreciate your efforts as they reflect positively on yourselves, your families, and the Steele Canyon family, in general.

- Congratulations to our Show Choir for once again being selected to perform at Disneyland on the day before Thanksgiving. This is the 8th consecutive year our Show Choir has been recognized with this honor!

- Our very own family football dynasty, the Boehmke's, was featured in an article in the East County edition of The San Diego Union-Tribune back on September 24th. The article cited the special relationships between Coach Ron and his quarterback son Brad, as well as that between those two and Ron's parents who never miss a Cougar football game. While not specifically mentioned in the article, most of us know that Mrs. Laura Boehmke, in addition to being Ron's wife and Brad's mother, can also be found at every Cougar football game cheering on her men and coordinating the efforts and appearances of our beloved mascot, Scratch.



"...Steele Canyon's charter renewal was approved for a full five year term..."

- The Chargers Coach of the Week (COW) program, sponsored jointly by the U.S. Army and San Diego Chargers, recognizes high school coaches who, through their hard work and dedication to young people, have made a difference in the lives of their players, community and schools. Each week during the 2009 high school football season, the Chargers proudly announced their selection for San Diego County High School Coach of the Week as part of KUSI's Prep Pigskin Report. Steele Canyon Varsity Football Coach Ron Boehmke received this award during the last week of October, including the \$1,500 donation from the Chargers Community Foundation and the U.S. Army to the school's athletic department!

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Finance News

Winter Formal Tickets go on sale January 7th.

Winter Formal: Tickets go on sale Jan. 7. Deadline to purchase tickets is Jan. 27. All students must clear fines with the Library and the Finance Office prior to purchasing tickets to Winter Formal. Students can pick up the form to check fines in the Library.

Taking a date from another school to Winter Formal? Guest passes will be available to download from the school website or at the front desk at SCHS on Dec.

14. Deadline to turn in guest pass is Jan. 25.

Love Basketball but hate the lines? Home Basketball Pass 2010 is on sale for \$20.00 online or at the Finance Office. This season pass for parents gives admittance to all 6 home basketball games (boys or girls) plus free admittance to all home wrestling meets. Note: This does not include CIF playoffs. Senior Citizens can also benefit from the

season pass program by purchasing their pass for \$10.00.

Spring Sports Clearance will start Feb. 9. The team physician will give physicals on campus at the end of January. Dates and times will be announced in the bulletin. The cost is \$20.

Julie Uto

Finance Tech/Cheer Advisor
619-660-3537

Preventable Tragedies

This timely article was received via email from the Friday Night Live Coordinator

Since the beginning of the school year, eight San Diego County High School students have died in alcohol related crashes. These students will not attend prom, graduation, or go on to college and become productive members of society. Every family will be affected for the rest of their lives, and the consequences of these crashes will reach more than just the immediate family. Sadly, all of these crashes could have been prevented. However, preventing underage drinking takes a community....parents, teachers, law enforcement,

faith leaders, retailers, just about everyone. It is our "collective responsibility" as adults to protect young people. We all must truly believe that underage drinking is not just a harmless "rite of passage."

Data reveals that compared to their non-drinking peers, underage drinkers are more likely to:

- Drive under the influence of alcohol
- Ride with a drinking driver
- Get into fights
- Drop out of school
- Commit a violent crime
- Be a victim of a violent crime

- Commit suicide
- Become alcohol dependent

PLEASE, take the time to remind fellow parents to not support or provide alcohol to minors. What adults permit, we promote!

Written by:
Eric Maserang
San Diego County Office of Education
Friday Night Live Coordinator
5404 Napa Street
San Diego, CA 92110-2617
Phone 619-718-6667
Fax 619-682-5252

Class of 2012

"Sophomore class needs your help!"

Sophomore class needs your help! The class of 2012 has many great plans for 2010 and they will only be possible with your support. We are in the midst of putting together a great airbands group and have some great fundraisers planned. We also need supplies to make these events possible. Please look at our donations list below, and if you are able, send the items with your child and ask them to deliver

them to room F106 at lunch or nutrition break. In addition, we are also looking for parent helpers to construct the backdrops for the sophomore airbands performance. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Sarah Wolken,

Swolken@guhsd.net.

Donations Needed:

- ☺ Bottles of Paint
 - white, black, green, and any fluorescent colors

- (for airbands)
- ☺ Spray Paint
 - white, black, green, and any fluorescent colors
- (for airbands)
- ☺ Poster Boards
 - white and/or green
- ☺ Butcher Paper
- ☺ Paint Brushes
 - 2" or 3"
- ☺ Paper plates

Class of 2010

It's finally here. 2010: a year to remember and a group of students I will never forget. As one of the advisers for the Class of 2010, I am reaching out to parents for assistance with raising funds as well as planning a few important upcoming senior class activities:

Valentine's Day: The senior class is selling red roses.

Senior Banquet: March 13th at Steele Canyon Golf Club.

Senior Prom: May 15th at an un-disclosed location (to be announced at the Senior Banquet).

Grad Night: We will be sending out a survey to parents regarding this event. Any ideas or tips are very much appreciated.

If you are willing and able, donations can be made online at the Steele Canyon Web Store, which can be found at:

www.schscougars.org -- click on "Donations" then "Seniors."

Rah Rah Cougars!

Larry Da Silveira
Senior Class Co-Adviser
Humanities Teacher



Disneyland Grad Nite

Each year the SCHS PTO arranges a Grad Night or Senior Trip function. In a recent senior survey there was sentiment to attend Disneyland's Grad Nite event on June 10th which is the Thursday night FOLLOWING graduation.

Disneyland offers a special event that is only for graduates- from 11:00pm until 6:00am. The main rides and attractions are open all night along with all night special dance clubs featuring DJ's spinning hot hits from Latin, Hip Hop, Dance and

Top 40. Visit "Grad Nite" on the Disney site for more info.

While the cost of this trip has not been finalized at this point, we believe the charge per student may be around \$75 which would include admission to the park, transportation and a few other fun things.

As this is a very popular event for graduates throughout Southern California, we need to commit to Disney and arrange for transportation very soon.

We are trying to get a count on the number of students that plan on going (graduating class of 2010 students only).

Any feedback or comments you might have about the upcoming event is also welcome. We will need students to sign up for the trip ASAP.

Look for our sign up flyers in Cougar Connections!

You can also RSVP in advance via email to:

Kathy Ybarrondo @
kathybar@cox.net

Principal's Message

...Continued from page 3

Coach Ron: This is an honor well-deserved!

•On a related note, congratulations to our football team for their stellar season as they scaled the heights of local high school football to reach the CIF Division III semi-finals. Congratulations to all players and coaches for an extended season of football thrills. Special congratulations to seniors Taylor Mishler and Alex Perlin who were recognized as Union-Tribune "Athletes of the Week" for their great play during the wins over Helix and Ramona.

•Congratulations also go out to the boys and girls cross country teams for running well in Los Angeles at the Mt. SAC Invitational. Way to go Cougar runners!

•Track & Field
Coach Gary Stathas was honored on October 27 as the

CIF, Division I, Track & Field Coach of the Year at the CIF Board of Managers meeting held at the San Diego County Office of Education. Coach Gary: This is an honor well-deserved!

•Congratulations to the Girls Golf Team for winning the 18-hole league championship on November 2 at the league finals. Our team was led by Marissa Borja who shot a one over par 73; Gianna Cioe, Hunter Stiglitz, Mckenzi Hillman, Victoria Russo, and Valerie Eugenio all played great as they beat a tough West Hills team by an overwhelming 69 strokes.

•Physics teacher Dominic Dirksen was one of three people to address the Southern California Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers' Fall 2009 meeting at the University of San Diego. Mr. Dirksen participated in a panel discussion on the topic of "What can we learn

from initial experiences with Physics First?"

Yes, the Cougar beat goes on! For now, I wish all school community members a blessed and prosperous New Year in 2010! We are grateful for the opportunity to serve professionally the wondrous young people we have at our school.

Thank you to all!



Winter Formal Ticket Prices

Jan. 7 - 8	ASB \$30	W/O ASB \$35
Jan. 11-15	ASB \$35	W/O ASB \$40
Jan. 19-22	ASB \$40	W/O ASB \$45
Jan. 25-27	ASB \$45	W/O ASB \$50



Cell Phones, iPods, and Other Electronic Devices

Recently, there seems to have been an increase in the number of reports regarding stolen cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices on campus. The administration does not in any way condone stealing and will impose strict consequences upon students who are caught doing so. However, students and parents should be reminded that students bring these items on campus at their own risk. The school will not be responsible for the loss or theft of cell phones or other electronic devices. This information has been communicated to students in class and via the *Parent/Student Handbook*.

Electronic devices are often popular holiday gifts. They can also be expensive. It is important that students learn to exercise personal responsibility over their valuables. Please take the time to remind your student that just as you would not walk away from your wallet or purse and leave it unattended, they should not leave their valuables unattended, even for brief periods of time.

Steele Canyon High School

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.steelecanyonpto.net

Paw Prints Calendar

- January 7th Classes Resume for Quarter 3, Term 2
- January 7th Winter Formal Tickets go on sale
- January 14th Curriculum Night (Parent Back-to-School Night)
- January 18th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed---School Closed
- January 27th Deadline to purchase Winter Formal Tickets
- January 30th Winter Formal at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Quivera Road in Mission Bay
- February 8th Lincoln Day Observed – School Closed
- February 15th Washington Day Observed – School Closed
- February 18th Open House 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- February 20th Open House 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
- March 12th Quarter 3 Ends – Minimum Day for Students
- March 29th – April 9th Student Spring Recess

STEELE CANYON PTO
12440 Campo Road
Spring Valley, CA 91978

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